

Designated Safeguarding Lead Update

Issue 7
Term 3,
2024-25



The aim of this publication is to share information, useful strategies and ideas to support the work you do with children subject to CIN and CP planning, children who have at some point been open to Children's Social Care and children in kinship care. Please also take time to look at these webpages [Children with a social worker | Oxfordshire County Council](#) [Children in kinship care | Oxfordshire County Council](#) to support your work with these cohorts. If you have any questions/requests regarding content, contact virtualschool@oxfordshire.gov.uk

CONTACT US

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Training Programme 2024/25

*** BOOK HERE ***

Upcoming training:

[Tuesday 14th January](#)

Formulation – Planning interventions for complex children

[Tues 21st January and Thurs 6th February](#)

PACE for School Staff

[Tuesday 11th February](#)

Speech, language and communication needs and challenging behaviour

[Thurs 6th March and Thurs 13th March](#)

Introduction to Parental Imprisonment

[OXSiT Training](#) and [SEND Local Offer tools](#)

How do we ensure safe relationships when children are ever more digitally connecting?

Safer Internet Day is on Tuesday 11th February - this is highly relevant for all children, especially children who have additional vulnerabilities.

The 2023 theme is: **'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'**.

There are lots of resources and ideas for activities on the website linked [here](#).

Free downloadable resources

[Click here](#) to view free downloadable behaviour resources from the Beacon School.

OSCB Training Course

[Training - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board](#)

Restorative Practice In Schools - Common Pitfalls and How to Avoid Them from The Beacon School's School Behaviour Secrets Podcast

[Click here](#)

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme

[Free holiday activities and food for eligible children in Oxfordshire.](#)

Attendance is everybody's business

The attendance of children with a social worker is your business

Average attendance

Status	Year groups 0 - 6			Year groups 7 - 11			All year groups		
	Last year	This year	Change	Last year	This year	Change	Last year	This year	Change
EHCP (all children)	93%	93%	0%	91%	93%	2%	92%	93%	1%
EHCP (children with open cases)	89%	90%	1%	81%	84%	3%	87%	87%	0%
LCSS	94%	94%	0%	86%	89%	3%	92%	93%	1%
Early Help	93%	93%	0%	75%	78%	3%	90%	90%	0%
Open C&FA	93%	94%	1%	85%	90%	5%	91%	93%	2%
ChIN	92%	92%	0%	81%	87%	6%	90%	90%	0%
CPP	88%	91%	3%	60%	71%	11%	85%	87%	3%
CWCF	96%	97%	1%	94%	95%	1%	95%	96%	1%

Median average. "Last year" includes entirety of last academic year. "This year" includes current academic year to date. "Change" shows difference between the two. Changes of at least +/- 5% are highlighted

Attendance of children in Oxfordshire at the end of Term 2 2024/25

Don't wait until a child's attendance drops below 90% to act! As soon as you see signs of attendance slipping, take action!

Count of Children

	Year groups 0 - 6	Year groups 7 - 11	All year groups
EHCP (all children)	2567	2166	4733
EHCP (children with open cases)	423	418	841
LCSS	778	456	1234
Early Help	487	350	837
Open C&FA	202	126	328
ChIN	393	345	738
CPP	168	124	292
CWCF	96	128	224

Looking at the data circulated at the end of Term 2 (see above), you can see that the attendance of all vulnerable groups continues to improve from the year before. This is particularly the case for secondary-aged learners subject to CP planning - thank you for all that you are doing to engage these children!

You can see from the table above that:

- Primary-aged children subject to CIN and CP planning are on average absent from school the equivalent of 1 day a fortnight;
- Secondary-aged children open to Early Help are on average absent from school for the equivalent of 2+ days a fortnight;
- Secondary-aged children subject to CIN planning are on average absent from school the equivalent of just over 1 day a fortnight; and
- **Secondary-aged children subject to CP planning (the most vulnerable) are on average absent from school for the equivalent of 3 days a fortnight – approximately 3 months!**

If children are not in school, how can you be sure they are safe? What can you do to make school unmissable?

**** CALLING ALL SECONDARY SCHOOL DSLs ****

We urge you to uphold your duties to consider every one of your young people with a social worker and work with the team around those young people to find a way forward.

Year 10s and 11s with EHCPs

Please act if you are concerned about any Year 11s with EHCPs who do not have a clear destination named on their plan for Post-16 education, employment or training. Due to the lengthy consultation process, there is often a last-minute rush in March to name somewhere, which may end up not being the appropriate destination *or* may not provide the preferred course option which can lead to confusion, disappointment and/or a young person becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training).

For those with children with a social worker and in kinship care in Year 10, especially those with EHCPs, it is a good idea to encourage them to attend Open Events this year to start getting an idea about their preferred destination. See below for a list of provisions in or near to Oxfordshire. Those with EHCPs should have their Annual Review at the end of Year 10 or very early in Year 11 to enable those early consultations to take place.

Risk of NEET

To seek help in unpicking longstanding barriers to school attendance / engagement for children with a social worker and children in kinship care who are at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training), contact extendedduties@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Year 11 Open Event dates and links

This is a reminder that all Year 11s should be submitting applications to college and Sixth Form. Even if they are not 100% sure what they want to do, it is best to get some applications in and they can make a decision later.

Open Events:

[City of Oxford College – Wednesday 26th February 4:30 – 7pm](#)

[Blackbird Leys Campus – Wednesday 5th February 4:30 – 7pm](#)

[Activate Rugby Academy Girls – Saturday 11th January 9:30am – 1pm Harcourt Hill Campus](#)

[Activate Rugby Academy Boys – Saturday 18th January 9am – 12pm Harcourt Hill Campus](#)

Abingdon & Witney College

[Abingdon College – Wednesday 12th February 3:30 – 7pm](#)

[Witney College – Wednesday 26th February 3:30 – 7pm](#)

[Bicester Construction Skills Centre – Wednesday 5th March 4 – 7pm](#)

[Banbury College – Wednesday 12th February 4:30 – 7pm](#)

[Reading College – Wednesday 5th February 4:30 – 7pm](#)

[Berkshire College of Agriculture – Saturday 1st March 10am – 2pm](#)

[Moreton Morrell College - Saturday 11th January, 10am to 1pm](#)

[Royal Leamington Spa College - Tuesday 14th January, 5:30 to 8pm](#)

[Warwick Trident College - Thursday 16th January, 5:30 to 8pm](#)

[Northampton College – Tuesday 4th February 5 – 7:30pm](#)

[Aylesbury College – Saturday 15th March – 10am – 1pm](#)

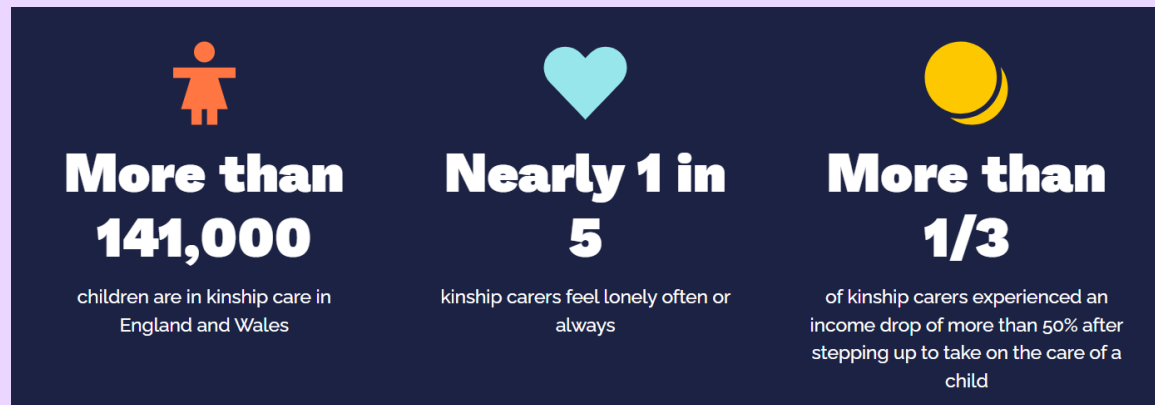
[Wycombe College – Tuesday 18th March – 5 – 8pm](#)

Focus on Kinship Care

Kinship carers are family or friends who step up, often during an unexpected crisis, to care for a child when their parents aren't able to. This may be because the parent has died, is unwell, has gone to prison, is experiencing problems with drugs and alcohol – sadly, the list goes on.

Kinship carers are usually grandparents, aunts or uncles, brothers or sisters, a stepparent, stepbrother or stepsister, or someone who isn't related but knows the child well. Whatever their relationship to the child, in that moment a commitment is made. To bring love and hope to a child who has experienced trauma, no matter what.

A short film about kinship care: <https://youtu.be/-IDYP3lrmvE> – please share via your school communication channels.



There are many different types of kinship care: informal arrangements, foster care, private fostering, special guardianship, child arrangement orders, testamentary guardianship and adoption.

Since April 2024, the government have commissioned a new national offer of advice, information, training and peer support for all kinship carers via [Kinship](#). Kinship is the leading kinship care charity in England and Wales who work with all kinship carers. Visit the Virtual School's webpage [Children in kinship care | Oxfordshire County Council](#) for more information.

BE THE DIFFERENCE.

As educators, you hold the incredible power to shape the futures of your students. The Virtual School want to emphasise the importance of having high aspirations for every child, especially children with a social worker.

Children who are supported by social workers often face unique challenges. These challenges can sometimes overshadow their potential, but it is crucial to remember that every child has the capacity to achieve greatness. Your belief in their abilities can be the catalyst that propels them towards success.

Believe in every child's potential - your high aspirations can transform their future!

