

# Designated Safeguarding Lead Update

Issue 8  
Term 4,  
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](mailto:virtualschool@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

## CONTACT US

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## Training Programme 2024/25

\* **BOOK HERE** \*

Upcoming training:

Tues 4<sup>th</sup> March and Tues 29<sup>th</sup> April

Transition Workshop

Thurs 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March

Introduction to Parental Imprisonment

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> March and Tues 6<sup>th</sup> May

De-escalation Training

Tues 1<sup>st</sup> April

Best practice for schools on working with adoptive and special guardian children and families

## Relate to Educate

"Relationships matter: the currency for systemic change is trust, and trust comes through forming healthy, working relationships. People, not programs, change people." – Bruce D. Perry



For more information to support you and your school in **understanding and embedding relational approaches in your setting**, refer to this excellent guidance put together by Wakefield Educational Psychology Service [click here](#)

Contact Laura East [laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:laura.east@oxfordshire.gov.uk) to find out more about your school participating on Oxfordshire's [Relational Schools Programme](#).

## OSCB Training Courses

[Training - Oxfordshire Safeguarding Children Board](#)

Why 1:1 Support Isn't Always the Answer for SEMH Success in Schools from The Beacon School's School Behaviour Secrets Podcast

[Click here](#)

## Free downloadable resources

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

# 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%	92%	1%	92%	92%	0%
EHCP (children with open cases)	89%	90%	1%	83%	83%	0%	87%	87%	0%
LCSS	94%	94%	0%	86%	84%	-2%	92%	92%	0%
Early Help	94%	93%	-1%	76%	67%	-9%	90%	89%	-1%
Open C&FA	94%	93%	-1%	90%	90%	0%	93%	91%	-2%
ChIN	91%	92%	1%	81%	82%	1%	89%	89%	0%
CPP	89%	90%	1%	69%	68%	-1%	85%	86%	1%
CWCF	96%	96%	0%	91%	90%	-1%	95%	94%	-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

### Count of Children

	Year groups 0 - 6	Year groups 7 - 11	All year groups
EHCP (all children)	2700	2244	4944
EHCP (children with open cases)	436	411	847
LCSS	785	485	1270
Early Help	481	344	825
Open C&FA	175	124	299
ChIN	404	339	743
CPP	182	129	311
CWCF	99	138	237

Attendance of children in Oxfordshire at the start of Term 4 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!

Looking at the data circulated at the start of Term 4 (see above), you can see that the attendance of all vulnerable groups needs attention and action. This is particularly the case for secondary-aged learners open to Early Help and subject to CP planning. Where there have been improvements compared to this time last year, they are marginal.

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 3 days a fortnight;
- Secondary-aged children subject to CIN planning are on average absent from school the equivalent of 2 days 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 – 12 school weeks / 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 6 to 7 Transition

Secondary school allocations for Year 7 September 2025 entry are due to be announced on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 for children currently in Year 6 where parents/carers made an 'on-time' application to the relevant Local Authority by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 deadline. If school applications haven't been made, it is essential that families are supported with this.

Please be mindful that times of change can be more unsettling for children who have already experienced adversity.

It is helpful if you can check-in with families during the first week of March to ensure that they are aware of the secondary place allocated. Please remind parents/carers to formally accept offers within the necessary timescales along with any offers of transport. The deadline for accepting a secondary school place in Oxfordshire is 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025. Please note that children with an EHCP should already have had confirmation of their secondary school place which is typically allocated by the SEND Team by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025. That said, a small number of EHCPs will be named on type (e.g. mainstream / specialist provision), as school consultations remain ongoing.

## Are you an adopter with school-aged children who works in education?

If so, we want to hear from you! Come along to our Adoption Event!

**Date:** Tuesday, 25 March

**Time:** 6 - 7.30pm

**Location:** Westgate Library Collaboration Space (OX1 1PE)

**Hosted by:** Adopt Thames Valley, Oxfordshire Virtual School and ATTACH Team

We are seeking adopters who work in education and have school-aged children attending mainstream and special schools in Oxfordshire. This meeting aims to gather localised feedback on the lived experiences and needs of adoptive families in Oxfordshire, using the 2025 Adoption UK Barometer Survey. Your insights will help us tailor our support to better meet local needs.

**Refreshments:** Tea, coffee, and biscuits will be provided.

**RSVP:** Please email [virtualschool@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool@oxfordshire.gov.uk) to request a place **by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March**.

We would love to see you! **Please spread the word – [see attached](#) flyer for sharing.**

## Spring Term is a key time for Year 11s

Please build in time to support applications to Sixth Forms, universities, colleges and apprenticeships. Go to p.5 for a list of college open days. Parents/Carers may need extra support with options. Try to take a copy of college applications that young people make and link up with their social worker. Keeping copies makes following up applications much easier, if needed.

Please liaise with your SENDCo to make sure that any Year 11s with EHCPs have a clear destination named on their plan for Post-16 education, employment or training. For mainstream colleges, once a positive consultation response has been received, children will need to apply to their chosen course, ensuring they mention having an EHCP on the application.

If you are concerned that any of your Year 11s may be at risk of not being in education, employment and training (NEET), you must take steps to prevent this. For more information and support with this, [click here](#) to be linked up to our EET Team. Young people can look up information via this <https://www.oxme.info> website.

## Have you any children with a parent in prison?

If so, you must [click here](#)



# 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!





There are more **College Open Events** coming up. The more visits your children in Year 10 and 11 can make to the different Post-16 destinations, the easier their transition will be, so please do encourage them to go along with support.

#### **CITY OF OXFORD COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS:**

**City Centre Campus, Oxpens Road, Oxford OX1 1SA**

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

[City of Oxford College - Wednesday 23rd April 4:30 - 7pm](#)

**Blackbird Leys Technology Campus, Cuddesdon Way, Oxford OX4 6HN**

[Blackbird Leys Campus - Wednesday 7th May 4:30 - 7pm](#)

#### **BANBURY COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS:**

**Banbury College, Broughton Road, Banbury OX16 9QA**

[Banbury United Football Academy Open Event - Monday 31st March 5 - 6:30pm](#)

[Banbury and Bicester College - Wednesday 30th April 4:30 - 7pm](#)

#### **ABINGDON AND WITNEY COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS:**

**Abingdon College, Wootton Road, Abingdon OX14 1GG**

[Next date TBC](#)

**Witney College, 6, Holloway Road, Witney OX28 6NE**

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

**Bicester Construction Skills Centre, 126 Churchill Road, Bicester OX26 4XD**

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

**Common Leys Farm Campus, Pitts Lane, Witney, OX29 9UU**

[Common Leys Farm Campus - Wednesday 19th March 5 - 7pm](#)

#### **THE HENLEY COLLEGE OPEN EVENTS:**

**The Henley College, 1 Deanfield Avenue, Henley-On-Thames RG9 1UH**

[The Henley College - Tuesday 4th March 5:30 - 8pm](#)

#### **Other Neighbouring Colleges:**

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

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

[Wycombe College – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – 5 – 8pm](#)

[Moreton Morrell College Open Event - Saturday 15th Mar - 10am - 1pm](#)

[Royal Leamington Spa College Open Event - Tuesday 18th Mar 5:30 - 7:30pm](#)

[Warwick Trident College Open Event - Thursday 20th March 5:30 - 7:30pm](#)

[Northampton College Open Events – Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 10am – 1pm](#)

[Moulton College Open Event – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> March 9am – 12pm](#)

[Milton Keynes College Open Event – Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 5 – 7pm](#)