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Director of Children's Services Report to PDS on 3rd November 2020

All Children's Services continue to work diligently to ensure that all vulnerable children and their families are well supported. Staff across Children Social Care, Children Centres, Connecting Families and our Youth Offending Services have continued to work really hard to ensure that the Local Authority discharges all of their statutory duties and early help support. Children Social Care established a dedicated phone line to increase its offer to school colleagues.

During the lockdown, the Virtual School, expanded to offer additional support to children in need and children on a child protection plan. This expansion proved a successful way of providing additional educational support to these children and supported the role of the social worker during a difficult time. On the back of this, the Virtual School bid for additional funding to continue this expansion throughout the new academic year, from the What Works Foundation. The School was successful in this bid and has been awarded £130,000 to continue this work as a pilot. This is fantastic news and work is currently underway to deliver this expansion to 70 additional children. These children will benefit from extra planning for their education, and resources to support their educational needs, tutoring etc.

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