

2 March 2015**Agenda Item: 4****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****SPRING TERM REPORT FOR THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL FOR LOOKED AFTER
CHILDREN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To update the Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on the virtual school for the spring term 2015.

Information and Advice**Virtual School Senior Leadership Team and Virtual School Improvement Plan**

2. The senior leadership team (SLT) met on 20 January 2015 and reviewed the 2014/15 virtual school improvement plan and self-evaluation form (SEF).
3. Data was shared which is an improving picture once again this year. Writing for boys and mathematics were identified as areas for improvement and the virtual school undertook to explore strategies to support schools to support Looked After Children (LAC) to improve their mathematical and writing skills. This will be discussed at future meetings.
4. Numbers of LAC in year groups and Key Stages in 2014/15 are as follows:

Yr1	33	KS1
Yr2	32	
Yr3	36	KS2
Yr4	32	
Yr5	43	
Yr6	42	
Yr7	51	KS3
Yr8	41	
Yr9	48	
Yr10	61	KS4
Yr11	69	
Yr12	108	KS5
Yr13	76	

Virtual School Staff

5. A fourth Looked After Achievement Officer was recruited in December 2014. This will allow more capacity for managing out of county children and young people as well as extending to the post 16 sector where appropriate.

Designated Teacher Training

6. Training continues for designated teachers new to post, delivered by the virtual school co-ordinator and the team manager for the virtual school. The first event in December 2014 was well received with excellent feedback and the event on 15 March 2015 has over 20 participants registered to date. The session covers the role of the designated teacher (DT), information on the virtual school team and their role in support of LAC and schools. DTs will receive useful resources, an update on the attainment and progress of LAC from the latest data evaluation and effective use of the pupil premium.

Designated Teacher Memos

7. These continue to be sent out regularly, minimally half termly. The coordinator uses this method to communicate information, news and events to designated teachers across the County. Feedback from designated teachers and head teachers has been positive and encourages contact from all schools with the virtual school.

School Links

8. Individual requests continue to be received for training from the virtual school on the needs of looked after children cross phase. The virtual school continues to offer bespoke training sessions to schools and FE colleges as a result.
9. Visits to secondary schools which have Nottinghamshire LAC on roll continue. The purpose of these visits is to check on year 7 pupils new to the schools and their transition plans and the progress and attainment of LAC in other year groups. Reports are prepared following the visits and forwarded to the head teacher, designated teacher for LAC and the governing body. Further senior officer visits will take place in the spring/summer term 2015 where any concerns are raised from the reports. Two visits took place to out of county schools in the autumn term and further schools will be visited by the co-ordinator and the team manager for the virtual school during the spring term.

East Midlands Network

10. The East Midlands regional group attended the National Conference for virtual school heads with all colleagues facilitating group discussions on the day. It was a very well received event with a good attendance from across the country.

Social Care Links

11. The team manager and the co-ordinator for the virtual school will be delivering training to district child protection teams across the County. These events will be in the spring and summer terms. The teams will receive the same training on PEPs, the role of the virtual

school and the importance of education as the looked after team received in the autumn term 2014.

Floor Target Schools and schools not yet good

12. The virtual school continues to monitor looked after children in below floor target schools.
13. It is not the Local Authority's practice to move LAC from their schools if that school moves from outstanding or good judgements to a lower Ofsted category, as this is unsettling and detrimental to LACs' progress. Therefore the virtual school will ensure that, should there be the need, the children/young people will have input from the LAC Achievement Officers to ensure their educational needs are addressed.

LA	PHASE	NONE/ UNK*	OUTSTAND	GOOD	REQ IMPR	INADEQ
Nottinghamshire	Primary	4	17	112	29	3
	Secondary	0	33	75	33	4
	Other	16	5	18	1	6
Other authorities	Primary	1	10	44	15	0
	Secondary	1	8	35	10	8
	Other	5	9	5	1	0
TOTAL		27	82	289	89	21

*Unknown School or Alternative Provision or Academy Convertors with no Ofsted Judgment to date.

Data

14. The Local Authority is preparing a new data tracking system for the virtual school.

LAC Strategy Performance Measures

15. The LAC outcomes are based on the DfE's first statistical release for Nottinghamshire looked after children (December 2014):
 - attainment of Nottinghamshire LAC in KS1 (20 pupils) is good in terms of the proportion reaching age related expectations. Performance is above national in reading, writing and mathematics and the gap compares favourably with the national gap in reading, writing and mathematics
 - attainment of Nottinghamshire LAC at KS2 (35 pupils) in terms of the proportion reaching age related expectations (ARE) is good. Performance is above national in reading and mathematics and the gap compares favourably with the national gap in both subjects. Attainment in writing is improving but is below national and the gap is wider than the national gap. This correlates with the high proportion of boys in the cohort (65%) and boys with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) (54% of the cohort are boys with SEND) in this cohort. This is, nevertheless, an area for improvement

- 74% of LAC at KS2 have special educational needs. This has impacted on the proportion of pupils reaching ARE in reading, writing and mathematics combined. The outcome on this measure correlates broadly (40%) with the proportion of pupils with no SEND or who are supported at school action (46%)
 - attainment of Nottinghamshire LAC in terms of the proportion reaching ARE (5A*-C including English and mathematics) (61 pupils) requires improvement although in terms of the outcomes for first entry, results have improved and are above national. The gap compares favourably with the national gap.
 - attainment of Nottinghamshire LAC in terms of the proportion attaining 5A*-C in KS4 is good. Performance is above national LAC on first and best entry.
16. 75% of LAC at KS4 have special educational needs. The 25% with no SEND and the 8% supported at school action correlates exactly with the proportion of LAC attaining 5A*-C. (32.8%). However, not enough of these pupils reach 5A*-C including English and mathematics.

Achievement Event

17. This is going ahead as planned for 25 July at the Albert Hall in Nottingham and Ollie Hynd MBE has confirmed his attendance.

Pupil Premium

18. This is being distributed to all schools with eligible LAC in and out of the Local Authority.

Projects - Letterbox Club 2014

19. The parcels have now all been distributed and an evaluation will be available for the next Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee meeting on 8 June 2015.

Personal Education Plan

20. Completed PEPs will be forwarded to the co-ordinator for quality assurance purposes. This is now embedded in social care practice.

Good News

21. Book tokens continue to be sent out to looked after children who have achieved outstanding grades, attendance, achievements in sport or for any reason that either carers or social workers would like rewarded in relation to education.

Other Options Considered

22. No other options have been considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

23. This report is for noting only.

Statutory and Policy Implications

24. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the update on the virtual school for the spring term 2015 be noted.

John Slater

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Constitutional Comments

25. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (SS 22/01/15)

26. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Autumn term report of the Virtual School for Looked After Children – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 1 December 2014

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0567