

8 June 2015

Agenda Item: 6

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION, STANDARDS AND  
INCLUSION****SUMMER 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 summer term 2015.

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

2. The senior leadership team (SLT) met on 27 April 2015 and reviewed the 2014/15 virtual school improvement plan and self-evaluation form (SEF). There were also discussions on amending the personal education plan document with the changes to levels in the new academic year.

**Virtual School Staff**

3. Numbers of LAC in year groups and Key Stages are as follows:

Yr1	32	KS1
Yr2	34	
Yr3	35	KS2
Yr4	36	
Yr5	43	
Yr6	44	
Yr7	48	KS3
Yr8	40	
Yr9	50	
Yr10	63	KS4
Yr11	72	
Yr12	95	KS5
Yr13	48	

4. The fourth looked after achievement officer took up post in March 2015. This officer is currently undergoing an induction programme and will be focussing for the summer term on year six transition planning.

### **Designated Teacher Training**

5. Training for designated teachers will be held in June 2015. Brian Roberts from Kate Cairns Associates will be delivering two workshops over two days on Understanding Trauma and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

### **Designated Teacher Memos**

6. 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**

7. Bespoke training continues to be delivered by LAC achievement officers to all settings. More recently out of authority schools with Nottinghamshire. LAC on roll have received training to meet these children's needs. This training has been well received.

### **East Midlands Network**

8. The East Midlands regional group continues to meet and has now made links with regional Ofsted inspectors. The East Midlands was represented at the Ofsted Conference held in March 2015, presenting a workshop on the needs of LAC and how schools can support this vulnerable group of pupils to access learning. This was very well received and work with the regional Ofsted group will continue through representatives of the East Midlands virtual head network.

### **Social Care Links**

9. The team manager and the co-ordinator for the virtual school have delivered training to district child protection teams across the County. The teams have received the same training on PEPs, the role of the virtual school and the importance of education, as delivered to the looked after team last academic year. This training now needs to be integrated into induction programmes for all new social workers.

### **Floor Target Schools and schools not yet good**

10. The virtual school continues to monitor looked after children in below floor target schools.
11. It is not the Local Authority's practice to move LAC from their schools if that school moves from outstanding or good judgements, 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
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>21</b>

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

## Data

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

## Achievement Event

- This is going ahead as planned for 25 July 2015 at the Albert Hall and Ollie Hynd MBE has confirmed his attendance. Young people who are members of the Children in Care Council will be supporting the event with the preparations leading up to the day and organisation on the day.

## Pupil Premium

- This is being distributed to all schools with eligible LAC in and out of the Local Authority. Plans have been received which detail the expenditure and intended or evidenced impact. This will be collated in order to share good practice.
- These plans will be used by the LAC achievement officers in their day to day work supporting schools and young people.

## Projects - Letterbox Club 2014

- Positive reports from the library service evaluating the 2014 scheme have been received. Once again a very successful year with 103 children receiving parcels, 30 of which were outside of the County. 74% of the children said they enjoyed the parcels 'a lot' with 66% of carers indicating the scheme encouraged reading at school. The scheme will be continued including year 1 for 2015.

## Personal Education Plan

- PEPs will need to be updated in light of the changes in national curriculum assessment. The virtual school and senior leadership team will work on this over the summer in order to have a document ready for the new academic year.
- It is proposed that this new document will be presented to head teachers at autumn term briefings and social care staff will be invited to attend a training session.

## **Good News**

19. Book tokens continue to be sent out to looked after children who have achieved outstanding grades, 100% attendance, achievements in sport or for any reason that either carers or social workers would like rewarded in relation to education.

## **Other Options Considered**

20. No other options have been considered.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

21. This report is for noting only.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

22. 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 summer term 2015 be noted.

**John Slater**

**Service Director, Education Standards and Improvement**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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## **Constitutional Comments**

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

## **Financial Comments (SS 13/05/15)**

24. 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.

Spring term report of the Virtual School for Looked After children – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 2 March 2015

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

C0637