

11 January 2016

Agenda Item: 5

**REPORT OF THE ACTING SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS
AND INCLUSION**

**AUTUMN 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 Autumn term 2015.

Information and Advice

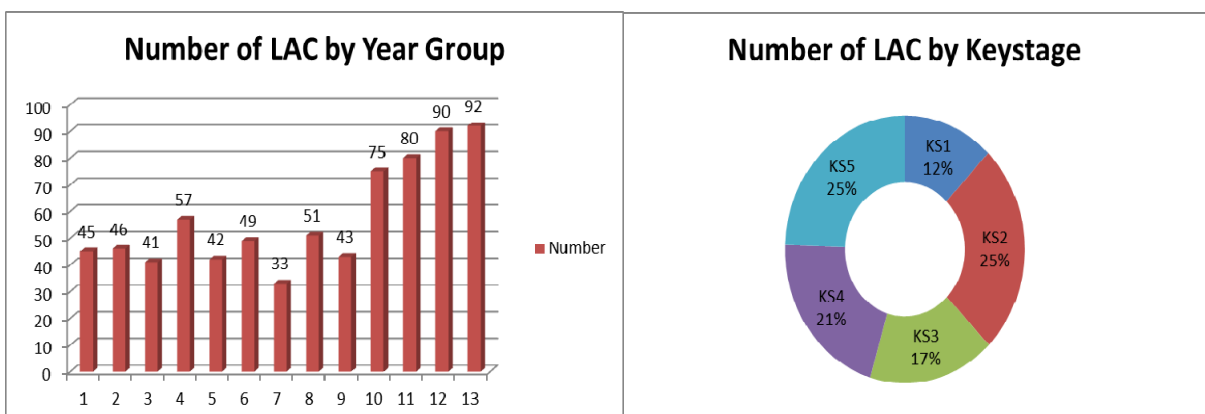
Virtual School Senior Leadership Team and Virtual School Improvement Plan

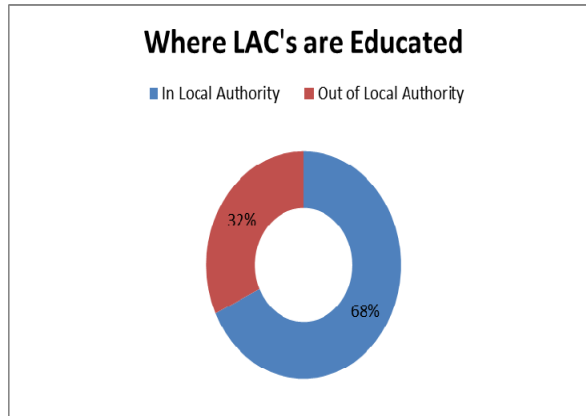
2. The senior leadership team (SLT) met on 12th October 2015 and reviewed the 2015/16 virtual school improvement plan. The current plan is fit for purpose based on the Key Stage 2 data available. At next term's meeting in March, a further review will take place when further validated data will be available.

Virtual School Staff

3. The tables below show that the number of children taken into care increases significantly from year 10. Approximately two thirds of LAC are educated in Nottinghamshire schools/settings. A key area of focus for the virtual school is to ensure that the updated data tracking system supports the early identification of LAC at risk of making less than good progress. Associate advisers have been trained and will be making focussed visits to targeted Nottinghamshire secondary schools and also to targeted out of county schools to support and challenge them to make appropriate provision for all LAC and to ensure that appropriate post 16 pathways are in place.

Number of LAC in each Key Stage, Year Group & Educational Location





4. The Data Officer for the virtual school took up post on 2nd November 2015. Mr Russell Diamond-Webb joins the virtual school from a secondary school background and will be working closely with the LA performance teams.

Designated Teacher Training

5. Training for new designated teachers will be held in April 2016. Designated teacher memos continue to be sent out.

Attachment Aware Schools

6. The virtual school is working with teaching school alliances and partnerships of schools to deliver a national project to increase knowledge and understanding of school staff to meet the needs of looked after children. The attachment aware school project involves the virtual school offering training to these groups of schools initially on emotion coaching. Further bespoke training will be offered throughout the academic year. Evaluation of the training is undertaken and supported by Bath Spa University. This approach will provide key partners in schools with the skills to offer support and training for school staff across the partnership to meet the emotional needs of this vulnerable group.

East Midlands Network

7. The East Midlands regional group continues to meet and the regional Ofsted lead for looked after children, Jan Connor, now attends the meetings when she is able. This is in response to the East Midlands Ofsted focus on a number of vulnerable groups which includes looked after children.

Social Care Links

8. The co-ordinator of the virtual school will be attending a team manager meeting for the through care team. This will be looking at the new Personal Education Plan (PEP) format and ensuring managers are confident with the completion of the document in order to support social workers.

Floor Target Schools and schools not yet good

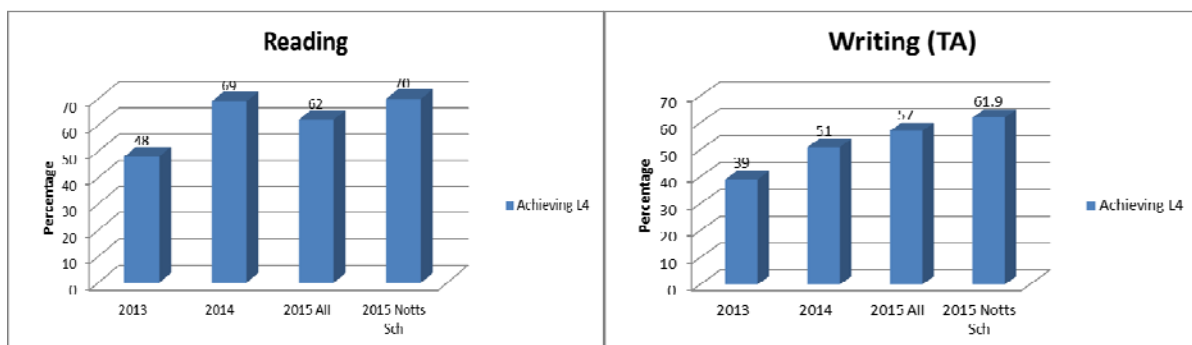
9. The virtual school continues to monitor looked after children in below floor target schools. The table below shows the number of schools in each phase with LAC against the latest Ofsted judgements.
10. It is not the Local Authority's practice to move LAC from their schools if that school moves from 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.

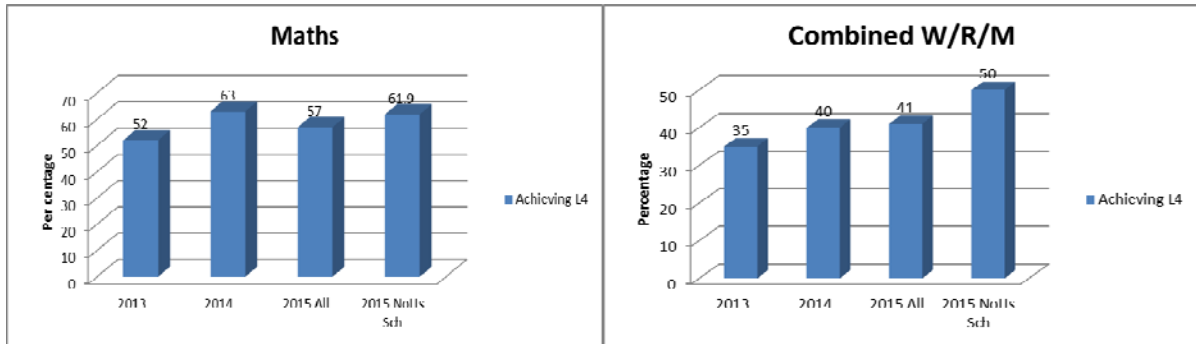
LA	PHASE	NONE/ UNK*	OUTSTAND	GOOD	REQ IMPR	INADEQ
Nottinghamshire	Primary	6	17	64	23	1
	Secondary	4	7	23	10	1
	Other	8	2	8	0	0
Other authorities	Primary	1	3	16	3	0
	Secondary	0	4	26	4	0
	Other	10	3	4	1	1
TOTAL		29	36	141	41	3

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

Data

11. The Data Officer will also be developing the tracking system to monitor and track attainment and progress of looked after children in primary schools.
12. Key Stage 2 results:





13. Overall the proportion of Nottinghamshire LAC students in Nottinghamshire schools achieving at least level 4 in combined reading, writing and mathematics (the benchmark for expected attainment in primary schools) has increased by 10% in comparison with 2014. The proportion of all Nottinghamshire LAC, including those educated out of the LA, has increased in combined reading, writing and mathematics by 1%. The increase/decrease for each individual element is as follows:

	All LAC	LAC Notts Schools Only
Reading	+7%	+8%
Writing (TA)	+6%	+10.9%
Mathematics	-6%	-1.1%

Achievement Event

14. Following another very successful achievement event at the Albert Hall the young people have agreed that it will be the venue for the 2016 event. The speaker this year will be Simon Weston. The date for the event will be 16th July 2016.

Pupil Premium

15. This is being distributed to all schools with eligible LAC in and out of the Local Authority. Plans which detail the expenditure and intended or evidenced impact are currently being used to release the funding.
16. 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

17. Evaluation of the 2015/16 project is underway. It has been agreed to continue the Letterbox project into 2016/17.

Personal Education Plan

18. The updated version of the PEP, which takes into account the changes to assessment in both primary and secondary phases, is now being used by schools and social workers.

Good News

19. Book tokens continue to be sent out to looked after children for a host of reasons including gaining most house points, making outstanding progress and sporting achievements.

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 Autumn term 2015 be noted.

Marion Clay

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Constitutional Comments

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

Financial Comments (SS 04/12/15)

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.

Summer term report of the Virtual School for Looked After children – report to Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee on 8 June 2015.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0739