

<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Member for Communities and Education - Councillor Mieka Smiles Director of Education, Prevention and Partnerships - Rob Brown
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Executive - 22 December 2020
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<b>Subject:</b>	Virtual School Interim Annual Report
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**Summary**

<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
No decision is being asked for. Executive is recommended to note the contents of the report.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent? <sup>1</sup>
Information	No	The report is not confidential	Non- urgent

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan		
Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration
		The report will assist the Council in ensuring that opportunities for looked after children in school are maximised and their learning is prioritised.

<b>Ward(s) affected</b>
The report covers the whole of Middlesbrough and all schools including academies and free schools.

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<sup>1</sup> Remove for non-Executive reports

### **What is the purpose of this report?**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide members with an update on the progress made by looked after children in school and provide a brief update on recent changes to the way these children are supported by the Virtual School.

### **Why does this report require a Member decision?**

2. This report is for information only.

### **Report Background**

3. The Local Authority's Virtual School is expected to publish an Annual Report. The Annual Report is usually made available in April of each year, following the final release by the Department of Education of validated examination grades and progress measures. Middlesbrough's Virtual School publishes an Interim report mid way through the reporting cycle, to provide for greater transparency and to ensure stakeholders can access up to date information.
4. The report provides information on the work the Virtual School has done to support children, training that has been delivered, research activities and steps taken during the Covid crisis.
5. The report also provides information on the financing of the service.
6. The report also provides information on how the children have performed in external examinations.

### **What decision(s) are being asked for?**

7. No decision is being asked for. Executive is recommended to note the contents of the report.

### **Why is this being recommended?**

8. Middlesbrough Council has a statutory obligation to ensure that looked after children's education is prioritised. The Interim Report will provide assurance that the Council is complying with this duty.

### **Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended**

9. No other options have been considered. The report sets out the strategy which ensures that the council fulfils its statutory obligation to prioritise the education of looked after children.

### **Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)**

#### **Legal**

10. The Report assists the Council in meeting its duty, as set out in the statutory guidance document 2018 To Promote the Education of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children.

## **Financial**

11. The Council receives delegated funding known as Pupil Premium Plus Grant with which it must use in such a way as to maximise the impact on looked after children's learning. This grant is paid on a per head basis at £2,300 per annum.
12. Much of the grant is devolved to schools so that it can be used to provide additional support in class to help meet the needs of individual children.

## **Policy Framework**

13. No Policy Framework implications have been identified.

## **Equality and Diversity**

14. An Equality Impact Assessment is to be completed.

## **Risk**

15. The report does not link to any risks on Children's Services risk register.

## **Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)**

16. The full Annual Report will be published in April 2021.

## **Appendices**

17. Appendix A: Virtual School Interim Annual Report

## **Background papers**

18. No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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