

Virtual School
Interim Annual Report and
COVID Update to CPB
January 2021

Main Strengths

- 98.6% of looked after children have an up-to-date PEP.
- Arrangements are in place for the termly review of PEPs.
- Actions and activities recorded in the PEP are carefully monitored, ensuring they are implemented without delay.
- Where a RI school is used the VSH is confident of the school's ability to support the child.
- Attendance is monitored and evaluated.
- Progress and attainment are monitored and evaluated.
- Attainment, progress and attendance are reported regularly to the Governing Body.
- Details of all educational settings are up to date.
- The PP+ policy is published.
- Appropriate training is available for: DTs, school staff, social workers and carers.
- In the event of an suspension (exclusion), arrangements for the child's on going education are made.
- There have been no expulsions (permanent exclusions)



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Main Areas for Development

- Continue to improve the quality of PEPs.
- In an emergency placement ensure the PEP is initiated within 10 working days of a child becoming Looked After.
- In emergencies ensure a new educational placement is provided within 20 school days and avoid drift and delay in providing suitable education.
- For 16 – 18 year olds, liaise with the child's Personal Advisor to ensure educational goals and needs are understood.
- Ensure all children are receiving their appropriate entitlement to education, and continue to work creatively with SEND and Social Care to help achieve this.
- Work with partners including social care to improve school placement stability.
- Work creatively with schools and carers to continue to improve academic outcomes at all key stages.
- Increased attendance at training for social workers.
- Improve attendance and reduce 'Persist Absenteeism'.
- Reduce the number of fixed term exclusions.
- Increase the number of children accessing mainstream schools.
- Decrease the number of NEETs.



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COVID Update

Attendance

Guidance is contradictory; on the one hand the Government is encouraging vulnerable children to attend, and on the other it's offering parents the option of keeping them at home.

In the case of looked after children our expectation is that that should attend unless there is a very good reason not to, and this reason has been discussed and agreed with the social worker and Virtual School.

Laptops

All Foster Careers have been contacted to ensure children have appropriate ICT equipment.

Foster Career Support

- Weekly coffee mornings have recommenced.
- Regular “in the know posts” including how to support mental health needs are available.
- Virtual School contact reminder and support offer has been sent to all Carers.
- Updated online recourses available.



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