

HOW WE SUPPORT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND PROVIDERS . . .

- Staff training – Virtual School Training and Support Offer + bespoke support
- Work with teachers and support assistants, children/young people and carers to support in overcoming barriers to learning
- Advice on the appropriate and effective use of Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)
- Attendance at Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings, as appropriate
- Quality assurance of PEPs and approval of PP+ requests
- Join in multi-professional meetings and action planning
- Data scrutiny with HT and DT around progress, attendance, attainment and engagement of each learner
- Intervention advice (assessment, support and planning), including SEND and behavioural challenges
- Governor reporting – advice and templates



Contact us for more information if you are a school, setting or provider of education, a foster carer or a social worker

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“Looking after Learning”



The aim of the Virtual School is to ensure that Children We Care For (CWCF), Previously Cared For Children and Care Leavers have the opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. The Virtual School comprises of a small team of professionals based at The Vibe, Didcot.

Why do we need a Virtual School?

Many individual children and young people in care enjoy and do well at school. However, as a group, children in care or those that have left care do not perform as well in their education as their peers. Since April 2014, every local authority in England has had to appoint at least one person to fulfil the local authority's statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of it's looked after children (referred to as Children We Care For in Oxfordshire), wherever they live or are educated. Within the local authority, the Virtual School Head is the statutory lead [Children and Families Act 2014] with responsibility for ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve educational experiences and outcomes.

OUR CORE DUTIES

We are primarily responsible for improving the educational attainment of all Children We Care For and Care Leavers in the authority; including those placed in schools in other authorities. Our role is to:

- Promote high aspirations and raise achievement through challenge, support and targeted intervention
- Ensure that our children and young people access and do well in education and training, which leads them onto a long-term education, training and employment pathway
- Ensure that our children and young people access high quality support which meets their needs in a timely way
- Work closely with all those involved in providing education to ensure they understand the issues and challenges facing our children and young people and their role in working together to respond to and overcome them
- Ensure challenges resulting from changes of care placement or school are reduced
- Ensure barriers to engagement and good attendance are removed
- For children and young people who have previously been cared for we offer advice, guidance and signposting around educational issues
- For more on our expanding extended duties, visit our website.



WHAT WE DO . . .

- Monitor progress, provide management information and track data so we can highlight where support is needed
- Monitor the daily school attendance of Children We Care For (CWCF) and Care Leavers
- Ensure that all CWCF For have an effective, high quality Personal Education Plan (PEP)
- Ensure that Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) is used effectively to improve educational outcomes
- Provide guidance on individual situations to achieve the best possible outcomes for CWCF and Care Leavers
- Provide high quality training and support for our partners to assist them in undertaking their roles to support care-experienced children and young people
- Provide direct support in schools/settings through designated teachers
- Seek the views of CWCF and Care Leavers, and develop new ways of communicating with them
- Provide information and guidance on current legislation and practices in relation to care-experienced children and young people
- Build capacity, through modelling best practice in settings, schools and colleges so that CWCF and Care Leavers are prepared for the next stage of their education