

**POLICY: LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

**PERSON RESPONSIBLE:** D.Dain / S. Buxton

**MONITORING:** D.Dain

**DATE:** September 2018

**REVIEW DATE:** September 2019

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**The Objective**

To promote the educational achievement and welfare of Children who are looked after.

**The Role**

**Within School:**

- to ensure that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are aware of the difficulties and educational disadvantages faced by Children who are looked after or are previously looked after and understand the need for positive systems of support to overcome them
- to inform members of staff of the general educational needs of Looked After Children and to promote the involvement of these children in extra-curricular activities, school councils, etc.
- to act as an advocate for Looked After Children
- to develop and monitor systems for liaising with carers, Social Workers and the Virtual School for Looked After Children
- to hold a supervisory brief for all Looked After Children e.g. to ensure all relevant educational and care information is available to school staff and carer(s), and that this information is kept up to date
- to monitor the educational progress of all Looked After Children in order to inform the school's development and provision/intervention planning, thereby ensuring that the attainment 'gap' is closing
- to intervene if there is evidence of individual underachievement, absence from school or internal truancy
- to ensure the involvement of LA Careers Advisers with Year 11 Looked After Children
- to report annually to the Governing Body of the school on Looked After Children's progress

**Work with Individual Looked After Children:**

- to enable the student to make a contribution to the educational aspects of their Care Plan;
- helping to ensure that each student has a Personal Education Plan – PEP (initiated by the student's Social Worker) to ensure that a home-school agreement is drawn up with the primary carer and signed by the Social Worker

### Liaison:

- to liaise with the member of staff responsible for monitoring children on the Child Protection Register
- to help co-ordinate education and PEP reviews so that they can inform the student's Care Plan
- to attend, when appropriate, or arrange for someone else to attend, Looked After Children Care Plan meetings
- to be the named contact for colleagues in Families First (including the Virtual School)
- to forward information on Staffordshire Looked After Children's current and target NC levels to the Virtual School (see PEP document) (and other authorities if the CLA is not Staffordshire)
- to ensure the speedy transfer of information between agencies and individuals.

### Training:

- to develop knowledge of legislation and good practice by attending training events organised by the Virtual School and cascade to school staff as appropriate

## **The Governor with special responsibility for Looked After Children**

### The role of the Governor:

The named governor will ensure reporting to the Governing Body on an annual basis:

- a comparison of NC levels/results as a discrete group
- the attendance of students as a discrete group
- the level of fixed/permanent exclusions
- student destinations.

The named governor will ensure a school's self-audit of provision for Looked After Children is undertaken (see example self-audit available from the Virtual School)

The named governor should be satisfied that the school's policies and procedure ensure that Looked After Children have equal access to:

- the full curriculum and extra-curricular activities
- public examinations
- careers information, advice and guidance
- additional educational support
- work experience.

## **Responsibility for Looked After Children in School**

It is important that all teaching staff that are in contact with the student are aware the he/she is being Looked After by the Local Authority. The responsibility for the transfer of this information should be that of the Headteacher and/or the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children.

It is appropriate for a Learning Support/Teaching Assistant to have knowledge that the student is Looked After when directly involved in the teaching of the student.

In the absence of the usual class teacher, some information regarding the student's circumstances should be shared with the teacher covering the class. The extent of this sharing should be determined by the Headteacher or the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children.

## **Admission Arrangements**

On admission, records (including PEP) will be requested from the student's previous school and a meeting will be held with carer/parent/Social Worker. A date will be agreed for a PEP meeting, taking reference to statutory timescales. An appropriate school induction will take place.

## **Involving the Student**

It is important that a student is aware that information is being recorded regarding their personal circumstances. How this is shared with them clearly depends on their age and understanding. The explanation should emphasise that the school, the Social Worker and their carer(s) are working together to promote their education.

## **Communication with Other Agencies**

Schools should ensure that a copy of all reports (e.g. end of year reports) should be forwarded to the student's Social Worker in addition to the Foster Carer or Residential Social Worker.

Schools, Families First, including the Virtual School and education services should endeavour to co-ordinate their review meetings e.g. to have an Annual Review of a Statement combined with a Statutory Care Review.

Schools, Families First, including the Virtual School and education services will need to exchange information between formal reviews if there are significant changes in the student's circumstances, e.g. if school is considering an exclusion, there is a change of care placement or there are significant attendance issues.

## **Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures**

Each Looked After Child will have a Care Plan that will include a PEP which the Social Worker takes a lead in developing. School will play an active role in contributing to those areas of the PEP that are education related e.g.

- SMART target setting
- identification of current and target levels
- how additional resources are being utilised to meet educational targets (e.g. the Pupil Premium Plus)
- attendance (inc. part time timetable and AP provisions)
- involvement in extra-curricular activities
- Special Educational Needs (if any)
- long-term plans and aspirations.

The PEP will be updated at least every six months, as part of the Statutory Reviewing process carried out by Families First.

The named governor will ensure annually reporting to the Governing Body on the progress of all Looked After Children against the key indicators outlined above.