

Information for Designated Teachers for Looked After Children – Spring Term 2018

Welcome to the Spring Term 2018 edition of our newsletter, providing key information, training offered and action points for Designated Teachers and Head teachers in relation to Norfolk Looked After Children placed in their schools.

If you would like to contribute to a future edition or have any suggestions for future content, please contact the Virtual School for Children in Care, telephone 01603 303323 virtual.schools@norfolk.gov.uk

1. Invitation to Spring Term Designated Teachers Network Meetings

We continue to host our termly Network Meetings which are proving popular with Designated Teachers. They focus on improving outcomes for looked after children, sharing good practice and contribute to the continuing professional development of Designated Teachers for Looked After Children. We look forward to seeing you at one of these events.

All meetings are currently offered at no cost to delegates, commencing at 4.00pm with an end time of 5.00pm. Refreshments are provided.

| Date | Venue | Address |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 21st February 2018 | Thetford Academy | Croxton Road, Thetford IP24 1LH |
| 22nd February 2018 | Parkside School | College Road, Norwich NR2 3JA |
| 27th February 2018 | The Green Britain Centre | Turbine Way, Swaffham, PE37 7HT |
| 1st March 2018 | Lynn Grove Academy | Lynn Grove, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, NR31 8AP |

If you are interested in coming along, please let us know and we will reserve your place. Email virtual.schools@norfolk.gov.uk or telephone us on 01603 303323.

2. Norfolk Youth Parliament elections are coming!

Do you have students aged 11 to 18 in your school who enjoy standing up for their peers and being involved in national youth campaigns? Then standing for Norfolk Youth Parliament might be something they would like to get involved in. Elections take place in March 2018, you can find out more information here at [Norfolk Youth Parliament](#)

3. Celebration of Achievement awards for Norfolk's Looked After Children & Young People – nominations now being accepted!



If you know of a pupil who has made a real effort in their personal or educational life in order to achieve or make progress in the last year and you would like to nominate them to receive an award read on:-

This year the nomination form is available within the online PEP. As discussions about a young person's progress and any significant achievements made during the year is an integral part of the Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting, this seems an ideal time to think about putting forward a nomination. You can find it in the 'Documents' section of the child's or young person's PEP. All you need to do is simply download it, complete and return to Linda Golder, Business Support Officer, Virtual School for Children in Care linda.golder@norfolk.gov.uk

Nominations can be made from the beginning of January until the end of the Easter break. **The final deadline for nominations is Friday 13th April 2018.**

To be eligible for an award the child or young person must:

- a) be between 4 and 24 years of age
- b) have been looked after by Norfolk for at least 3 months in the last year
- c) have made a real effort in their personal or educational life in order to achieve or make progress.

Please can we ask that you:

- only include positive comments and do not disclose any personal information, but the nomination must be for a significant achievement. What you write is the citation that is read out on the afternoon - therefore it needs to be short and to the point. (if you feel that you need to qualify the nomination in any way to add to it's weight please use a continuation sheet)
- **do not tell the young people at this stage that they have been nominated (to avoid possible disappointment)**

UEA Award

Our partners at the University of East Anglia (UEA) are sponsoring two additional awards, presented to students who have demonstrated outstanding progress in education, as follows:

- pupils in Y7 to Y11
- 16 plus students

Award winners in both categories will receive a package of bespoke support from the UEA, intended to further encourage aspirations. Nomination forms are available from Linda Golder at the Virtual School for Children in Care.

4. Training opportunities for Designated Teachers - Spring Term 2018

The Virtual School provides an ongoing timetable of training to support Designated Teachers for LAC, thus ensuring children are supported to achieve the best outcomes. For the Spring Term 2018 the following training is offered:-

- **Statutory Training for Designated Teachers for Looked After Children**

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| TLS-0118-T037 | 23/01/18 13:00 to 16:30 | Norwich Professional Development Centre |
| TLS-0118-T039 | 25/01/18 13:00 to 16:30 | Kings Centre, 30 Queen Anne's Rd, Great Yarmouth NR31 0LE |
| TLS-0118-T038 | 31/01/18 13:00 to 16:30 | Green Britain Centre, Turbine Way, Swaffham PE37 7HT |

- **Producing quality PEPs – a workshop and forum – 2 hour course**

| | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|---|
| TLS-0118-T040 | 18/01/18 14:00 to 16:00 | Norwich Professional Development Centre |
| TLS-0218-T025 | 28/02/18 14:00 to 16:00 | Kings Centre, 30 Queen Anne's Rd, Great Yarmouth NR31 0LE |
| TLS-0318-T030 | 15/03/18 14:00 to 16:00 | Green Britain Centre, Turbine Way, Swaffham PE37 7HT |

For more information, and to book on, please go to the training section at:- <http://www.educatorsolutions.org.uk/> and enter the course number (listed above) that you require.

5. Deadline for applications for Pupil Premium for Looked After Children

A quick reminder regarding Pupil Premium funding for LAC. For funding to support intervention activity to improve academic outcomes for Looked After Children on your school roll, for the current financial year, you must apply **by 23rd February 2018**. Application forms and guidance are available within Perspective Lite. If you have any queries please contact clare.farrant@norfolk.gov.uk

6. New statutory guidance – new duties for Local Authorities and Schools regarding formerly looked after children

The [Children and Social Work Act 2017](#) sets out new duties for local authorities, maintained schools and academies. It has extended the role of [virtual school heads](#) and [designated teachers](#) to certain previously looked-after children as they continue to experience educational challenges after leaving care.

School Responsibilities

The governing body of a maintained school in England or the proprietor of an academy must designate a member of staff at the school to have responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of *formerly looked after pupils* and ongoing appropriate training. These duties will be incorporated into statutory guidance for designated teachers.

Currently, there will be no requirement for *formerly looked after children* to have a personal education plan (PEP). Schools may decide to continue with the plan if appropriate, however, there are no plans to extend the electronic PEP record in Norfolk.

Local Authority Responsibility

A local authority in England must make advice and information available to promote the educational achievement of each relevant child in their area to the following:

- a) any person who has parental responsibility for the child
- b) the designated member of school staff (Designated teacher)
- c) any other person that the local authority consider appropriate

The legislation specifies what is meant by a ‘relevant child’ as follows:

(a) a child who was looked after by the local authority or another local authority in England or Wales but ceased to be so looked after as a result of:

- (i) a child arrangements order which includes arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or when the child is to live with any person,
- (ii) a special guardianship order, or
- (iii) an adoption order within the meaning given by section 72(1) of the Adoption Act 1976 or section 46(1) of the Adoption and Children Act 2002, or

(b) a child who appears to the local authority—

- (i) to have been in state care in a place outside England and Wales because he or she would not otherwise have been cared for adequately, and
- (ii) to have ceased to be in that state care as a result of being adopted.

Included are children and young people in early year's provision or those attending school in the LA area or, if not attending school, receiving all or most of their education in the LA area.

Norfolk Virtual School for Children in Care will:

- Ensure that all core training, including training for designated teachers, is inclusive of formerly looked after children
- Provide information and advice to parents, carers and colleagues and work in partnership to further develop services
- Work in partnership with the Regional Adoption Agency and Virtual Schools in this group to share best practice and produce information which will be available across the region
- Ensure the views of children formerly in care are reflected in service development and improvement
- Continue the collection and analysis of accurate data to evidence progress in closing the gap and identify areas of priority

A [DfE consultation](#) has been published in relation to the statutory guidance: "Promoting the education of looked after children" and "Roles and responsibilities of designated teachers for looked after children".

7. GCSE Strategy for Years 10 and 11

As part of the KS4 Strategy for Children in Care aimed at raising attainment, the Virtual School continue to work with PET-Xi and offer a range of inspirational and engaging workshops.



PET-Xi have over 20 years' experience working with hundreds of schools across the UK to deliver intensive, results-based interventions for young people. Their highly trained team include subject experts, motivational leaders and learner supports.

Key areas of support have been identified for students and the Virtual School, with PET-Xi, have structured a programme of workshops that are immersive and motivational with the aim of having a positive impact on learner progress.

Maths and English workshops were held over October half term where a number of young people enjoyed fun and innovative days that taught them techniques and strategies to prepare them for their forthcoming exams.

The next session to be held is on Friday 16th February at Norwich Professional Development Centre and will focus on getting "Exam Ready". Year 11 students will learn how to plan and develop revision strategies whilst covering topics such as mindfulness and resilience. Further dates include;

Wednesday 11th April – Year 11 Science Workshop

Thursday 12th April – Year 11 Maths Workshop

For further information about the KS4 Strategy contact Maxine Blocksidge, LAC Adviser 01603 307738 maxine.blocksidge@norfolk.gov.uk or if you would like details on how to book a student onto a PET-Xi workshop contact Vanessa Fish, LAC Educational Enhancement Coordinator 01603 303366 vanessa.fish@norfolk.gov.uk

Find out more:-

The Norfolk Virtual School for Children in Care, is now located within the recently formed Education Vulnerable Groups Achievement and Access Service (EVGAAS), which is part of Children's Services and is situated at the Professional Development Centre in Norwich. The Head of Service is Mark Adams.

Keeley White is Head of the Virtual School for LAC, Adopted and Special Guardianship.

You can contact us on:-



01603 303323



virtual.schools@norfolk.gov.uk

You can also find out more at:-



www.virtual-school.org.uk



Virtual School
for **Children in Care**