

## Virtual School Report

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 16 November 2022

From: Claire Hiorns, Headteacher, Virtual School

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Key decision: No

Outcome: To provide an overview of the Virtual School Service.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

- a) Note the content of the report, and
- b) Raise any questions with the lead officer

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# 1. Summary

1.1 This report is to provide an overview of the Virtual School Service.

## Background

- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to detail and evaluate the work undertaken by the Virtual School from September 2021 to August 2022 and to set out the key priorities for the academic year 2022-2023. Furthermore, it is to share the outcomes of the eligible cohort (children in the care of Cambridgeshire County council for a year or more as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022). This year the report also details outcomes (as relevant) to all children in care.
- 1.3 Every local authority in England must appoint at least one person to fulfil the local authority's statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of its children in care, wherever they live or are educated. This person is called the Head of the Virtual School. Within Cambridgeshire we have a team of education professionals that supports the Virtual School Head in fulfilling these responsibilities.
- 1.4 Cambridgeshire Virtual School support children and young people in care between the ages of 2 and 18. The Virtual School brings together information about children and young people who are in the care of Cambridgeshire as if they attend a single school.
- 1.5 Additionally, Cambridgeshire Virtual School provide information and advice for children previously in care including those who have been adopted from care and those under special guardianship and child arrangement orders. Cambridgeshire Virtual School are responsible for children previously in care attending a Cambridgeshire school or education setting.
- 1.6 The Virtual School has a non-statutory strategic leadership role for children who have or have had a social worker (in the last 6 years). This commenced from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.
- 1.7 Cambridgeshire Virtual School sits within the Education Directorate. The Virtual School Head is line managed by the Assistant Director for School Improvement. The Virtual School has a 'management board' which offers both challenge and support to the work and direction of the Virtual School.

# 2. Main Issues

2.1 Please see Report.

# 3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Environment and Sustainability

There are no significant implications for this priority.

### 3.2 Health and Care

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Recovery Through Relationships (detailed within the report) is an evidenced based approach to respond to adverse childhood experiences (ACES) by being trauma responsive.

### 3.3 Places and Communities

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Recovery Through Relationships (detailed within the report) is an evidenced based approach to respond to adverse childhood experiences (ACES) by being trauma responsive.

### 3.4 Children and Young People

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- The work of the Virtual School starts when a child turns two (as detailed within the main report)
- The extension to the Virtual School remit means that there is now involvement at a cohort level where the child or young person has a child in need plan or child protection plan, or has within the last six years (as detailed within the main report)
- Education support and outcomes for early years children, school aged children and destination data for post 16 is reported in the main report
- Almost 60% of Cambridgeshire children in care have a special educational need, the main report details the work of the Virtual School to support

### 3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050

There are no significant implications for this priority.

## 4. Significant Implications

### 4.1 None.

## 5. Source documents

### 5.1 None

## 6. Accessibility

### 6.1 An accessible version of the appendix to this report is available on request from [Claire.Hiorns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.Hiorns@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)