

Virtual School Head Teacher's Annual Report

To: Corporate Parenting Sub-Committee

Meeting Date: 17 November 2020

From: Virtual School Head Teacher

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: n/a

Key decision: No

Outcome: Promote the education outcomes of care experienced children.

Recommendation: The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

a) note and comment on the report

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1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to detail and evaluate the work undertaken by the Virtual School from September 2020 to August 2021 and to set out the key priorities for the academic year 2021-2022. It is also to share the outcomes for children in care. This includes where children are placed in the country, the OFSTED ratings of the schools, attendance, exclusions, destination data for post 16 and information on personal education plans. This year information on attainment and progress is not reported. This is inline with government recommendations. This is because of the changes to assessments and exams owing to COVID.

There is also information in the report on the work of the Virtual School for children previously in care. For these children and young people the Virtual School is a source of advice and information.

2. Background

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.

Cambridgeshire Virtual School support children and young people 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.

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.

The Virtual School has a non-statutory strategic leadership role for children who have or have had a social worker. This was introduced in September 2021.

Cambridgeshire Virtual School sits within the Education Directorate. The Virtual School Head is line managed by the Director of Education. The Virtual School has a 'management board' which offers both challenge and support to the work and direction of the Virtual School.

The Virtual School Headteacher's report is a statutory requirement.

3. Main Issues

3.1 Please find the full report attached

4. Alignment with corporate priorities

4.1 Communities at the heart of everything we do

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.2 A good quality of life for everyone

The report above sets out the implications for this

4.3 Helping our children learn, develop and live life to the full

The report above sets out the implications for this

4.4 Cambridgeshire: a well-connected, safe, clean, green environment

There are no significant implications for this priority.

4.5 Protecting and caring for those who need us

The report above sets out the implications for this

5. Significant Implications

5.1 Resource Implications

- Resources are provided through the Virtual School core budget, dedicated schools grant funding, pupil premium plus and previously in care funding.

5.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

- There are no significant implications within this category.

5.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

- The role of the Virtual School Head Teacher is statutory
- The Virtual School Head Teacher's report is a statutory requirement. All requirements for reporting have been met within the content of the report.

5.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

- The report above sets out the implications for this

5.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

- The report above sets out the implications for this

5.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

- There are no significant implications within this category.

5.7 Public Health Implications

- There are no significant implications within this category.

5.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

- There are no significant implications within this category.

6. Source documents

6.1 None

7. Accessibility

- 7.1 An accessible version of the appendices to this report are available on request from virtualschool@cambridgeshire.gov.uk