

## Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 27 March 2018

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

### Personal Education Plans for Lancashire Children Looked After

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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#### Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the current position around Personal Education Plans for Lancashire children looked after.

The number of looked after children (CLA) in Lancashire who have an up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP), including those in their early years and post 16, has increased. A review of the PEP template has made it more fit for purpose and the quality of PEPs has improved.

#### Recommendation

The Education Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- i. Note and comment on the report
- ii. Discuss and consider the ongoing monitoring of the number of CLA in each districts that have an up to date PEP

#### Background and Advice

All CLA from nursery age to 18, in education or training with education, require a Personal Education Plan. It needs to be reviewed once each term as a minimum. It is the joint responsibility of Children's Social Care (Social Worker) and the school/education provider (Designated Teacher/Person).

In Sept 2015 Ofsted expressed the following concerns regarding PEPs:

- **Number of essential elements missing or not adequately covered in the PEP template**

## Current position

A review of the template was made with additional sections added to increase pupil voice, use of funding (Pupil Premium Grant+), career advice and information and a rag rated progress check. In addition, sections were created for primary, secondary and post 16 to promote more specific target setting, strategies and predicted outcomes for each pupil.

- **Unsatisfactory percentage of CLA with a PEP and very low number of early year pupils (nursery) and post 16 CLA who had a PEP**

## Current Position

March 2018: CLA with PEP - 92.7%

CLA with current up to date PEP - 70.2%: this will be a higher percentage but affected by a time lag of putting most recent PEP on the LCS system.

There is a significant increase in number of post 16 (year 12 and 13) CLA/Care Leavers with a PEP.

Year group	Autumn 15	Spring 2017	Summer 2018
12 with PEP	16%	30%	51.9%
13 with PEP	9%	19.1%	55.5%

The Virtual School has appointed a member of staff to lead on post 16 and strengthen working partnerships with Children's Social Care and education and training providers i.e. colleges to support the quality of PEPs for this age group. The merger of the Employment Support Team with the Virtual School for CLA has also increased the support to both the young people and their Social Workers/Leaving Care Workers (Personal Advisors) in respect of career advice and support into employment.

A bespoke nursery age PEP has been agreed and being piloted this term.

- **Quality of planning for education (PEPs) required improvement**

## Current Position

The Virtual School read and grade each PEP (a PEP requires review each term-Lancashire now comply with this). Key factors are pupil voice, meaningful targets (realistic but with challenge), evidence of effective strategies and impact, planned use of funding (Pupil Premium Grant+) and its impact.

PEPs are graded as outstanding, good, or needs some improvement. In the autumn term 2017, 89.6% of PEPs were graded good or better (in autumn 2015 this was 63.5%).

A PEP that fails to reach any of the standard grades is returned to the author for amending and re submission. Pupil Premium Grant allocations are made on receipt of a 'good enough' PEP.

Feedback on how a PEP can be improved is given to the Designated Teacher/Person each term.

Guidance on a good quality PEP is provided by our Guide to Schools and through training for Designated Teachers in which we include moderation of sample PEPs. We have recently set up a network meeting for the designated person in Further Education Colleges to meet with the Virtual School on how to improve experience and outcomes for CLA/Care Leavers in Further Education.

The Education Scrutiny Committee is requested to note and comment on the report and to consider the ongoing monitoring of the number of CLA in each districts that have an up to date PEP.

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

#### **Legal**

The failure to ensure each CLA has a good quality, up to date PEP risks the local authority failing to meet its statutory duty and consequent impact on Ofsted judgements.

### **Equality and Cohesion**

Potential impact on a pupil/young person through inadequate planning of education, lack of aspirations and poorer outcomes.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

#### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A