

TOGETHER FOR CHILDREN CORPORATE PARENTING BOARD

DATE:	7 October 2019
REPORT AUTHOR:	Linda Mason HEAD TEACHER Virtual School
SUBJECT:	Head Teacher's Report
PURPOSE:	FOR INFORMATION

1. SUMMARY

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an update on some key indicators and developments since 1 July 2019. There has only been a period of 6 weeks since the last report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Board is requested to receive the report for information

3. Context

This report provides an update on the current cohort of children looked after currently totalling 575, of which: 371 are 4 -16 years school age (162 primary and 209 secondary); 111 are pre-school age; and, 93 are post 16. Attendance and exclusion data is provided for the academic year 2018/19 school year. Updates about the restructure, governance and new accommodation are provided as well as an update on outcomes for children looked after.

3.1 Virtual School Team

Head Teacher	1 FTE	Strategic Leadership
Teaching Staff	1.5 FTE	Specialist teachers
Support Staff	2.6 FTE	Post 16 and NEET
		Intervention and Support for most complex including SEND and special schools, and, out of area LAC
		Emotional and Mental Support
Business Support	1 FTE	
Data Technician	1 FTE	

3.2 Proposed Virtual School Team

Following initial restructure proposals, the first element included the post of Deputy Head Teacher and Senior Achievement and Progress Lead being advertised internally; the interview panel were not able to appoint and agreed to advertise the Deputy Head post externally. In the meantime, the Head, with governors and TFC will continue to finalise the remaining elements of the proposed restructure with some amendments, with a view to concluding this during the Autumn Term.

3.3 Virtual School Governance

The Governing Body met on 27th June 2019 and agreed on new Terms of Reference and Scheme of Delegation. It also agreed to seek additional governors to increase numbers and to ensure a balance of representation. The meetings have been set for the coming year and it looks forward to providing both support and challenge to the school as it moves forward in its new format.

4 LAC POPULATION

Table 4.1

SCHOOL ROLL	Total	Male	%	Female	%	EHC P	SEND Support
Pre School	72	32	44	40	56	0	0
Nursery 1	24	16	64	8	36	0	0
Nursery 2	15	9	60	6	40	0	0
Total	112	57	51	55	49	0	0
Reception	19	8	42	11	58	0	2
Year 1	19	12	63	7	37	0	5
Year 2	17	8	47	9	53	1	4
Year 3	26	15	58	11	42	2	3
Year 4	21	11	52	10	48	1	4
Year 5	28	15	54	13	46	4	9
Year 6	32	18	56	14	44	5	9
Total	162	87	54	75	46	13	36
Year 7	39	21	54	18	46	4	12
Year 8	40	26	65	14	35	8	10
Year 9	51	31	61	20	39	10	14
Year 10	36	24	66	12	34	7	12
Year 11	43	22	51	21	49	4	14
Total	209	124	59	85	41	33	62
Year 12	43	25	58	18	42	7	15
Year 13	50	25	50	25	50	12	18
Total	93	50	54	43	46	19	33

TOTAL LAC Population	575	318	55	258	45	65	131
						11.2	2.7
TOTAL SEND Population							

Source Virtual School Data Sept 2019

Table 4.2

Pupils in schools by OFSTED Category

OFSTED RATING	Outstanding	Good	Requires Improvement	Inadequate	Not applicable
475	69 (14.5%)	252 (53.1%)	72 (15.2%)	55 (11.6%)	27 (5.6%)
Sunderland	28	188	63	53	NA
NE Schools	34	47	7	2	NA
Out of North East	4	7	1	0	NA

Source Virtual School Data and OFSTED September 2019

5 Attendance

We commission Welfare Call to collate this data on a daily basis (this organisation works with 112 local authorities nationally), this enables us to intervene quickly with any persistent or unauthorised absence.

Current data:

Overall attendance is 92.6% so far this term, Autumn 2019.

50 have achieved 100%

198 have achieved 95% or above

275 have achieved 90% or above

That means that 74% of the 373 children in the cohort have achieved above 90% attendance.

4 children have attendance below 50%. These children are monitored closely, have complex issues and have been supported by a variety of services.

All children who fall below 90% are monitored on a monthly basis.

6 Exclusions

The Virtual School works closely with schools to support any behavioural issues that may emerge and that could result in fixed term exclusions. Data for the academic year 2018/19 indicates that 52 children looked after have received a total of 246.5 days of fixed term exclusion. The main reasons for exclusion include: persistent disruptive behaviour; physical assault against another pupil; verbal abuse and/or threatening behaviour; and, physical assault against staff.

7 children have accumulated 90 days between them this year. These children are known to the virtual school and other services. Support and alternative package/placements have been put in place to prevent further exclusions.

We have had no permanent exclusions for children looked after.

7 Personal Education Plans (PEPS)

We are currently 92% compliant. All schools will be using an electronic PEP (EPEP) this term. They will be expected to complete a PEP each term rather than every 6 months; schools will still need to produce an EPEP within 10 working days for those children who are new to care and then termly thereafter. Our current data systems need to be adjusted to consider the new dates and the Head Teacher is currently working with colleagues across education and social care performance teams to ensure this happens.

8 Outcomes for LAC

Initial results suggest that Sunderland LAC have made improvements across all of the key indicators and compare favourably against national data, however this is unvalidated at this point. The Head Teacher will provide validated data in the statutory annual report to the Board in January 2020.

9 Accommodation

The move to the new accommodation occurred on Monday 22nd July 2019. The school is now established in outstanding accommodation and would welcome visits from the Corporate Parenting Board. The School staff are delighted with their new surroundings.

The School is based at the Springwell Dene Centre, Swindon Road, Sunderland, SR3 4EE.

10 Key areas of focus in the next 6 months

- Collate and analyse the outcomes for EYFS, KS1, KS2, KS3 and KS4
- Establishing the new structure
- Leadership and Management development
- Teaching, Learning and Assessment
- Early Years
- Post 16
- Joint Working
- Continue with EPEP development and improvement of quality and timeliness of completion

- Improving attendance
- Further reducing exclusions
- Education placement for all LAC
- No drift on admissions to new schools
- Annual training programme

10 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

Full utilisation of the Pupil Premium grant in support of improving educational outcomes

11 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

DFE Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children
Statutory guidance for local authorities February 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

DFE The Designated Teacher for looked-after children and previously looked-after children
Statutory guidance for local authorities February 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

National Association of Virtual School Head Teachers
The Virtual School Handbook 2018

<http://navsh.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/NAVSH-The-Virtual-School-Handbook-2018.pdf>

CONTACT

Name: Linda Mason
Position: Head Teacher Virtual School
Email: linda.mason@togetherforchildren.org.uk Tel: 0191 5615696

