



Report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services to the meeting of the Corporate Parenting Panel to be held on 12th May 2022.

Subject:

L

Annual Report of the Virtual School on promoting the education of children in care

Summary statement:

This report presents an overview of the education outcomes for children in care during the academic year 2020/21 as required by statutory guidance.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

No issues identified

Marium Haque
Strategic Director
Children's Services

Portfolio:

Children and Families

Report Contact: Jonathan Cooper
Phone: (01274) 436401
E-mail: Jonathan.Cooper@bradford.gov.uk

Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Children's Services

1. SUMMARY

1.1. This report is the 2020/21 annual report of the Virtual School which is a statutory function of the local authority in promoting the education of children in care.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. See attached report

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. None

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1. For the financial year 2020/21 the pupil premium plus amount allocated for a child in care was £2345 per child. Arrangements for allocation have been agreed to ensure maximum impact and value to support children in care with their education in line with the conditions of grant from the Department for Education.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

5.1. Promoting the educational achievement of children in care is reliant upon them attending a provision which can meet their needs and maximise progress as noted in this report. This is supported by the Virtual School as a statutory function of the local authority.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

6.1 Under section 22 (3A) and 23ZZA of the Children Act 1989 (as amended by section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017), local authorities have a specific duty to promote the educational achievement of Looked After, Eligible and Previously Looked After Children. Section 99 of the Children and Families Act 2014 imposes a requirement for an officer to be appointed to discharge this duty – sometimes referred to as a 'Virtual School Head' ('VSH').

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

NA

7.5 TRADE UNION

NA

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

NA

**7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

NA

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children in care sometimes start with the educational disadvantage of their pre-care experiences and often may have special educational needs. These children are disproportionately represented among those who have disrupted learning experiences and underachieve in relation to the academic potential. It is a key priority for Corporate Parents that these children are supported to make rapid progress in education and achieve education outcomes in line with all children and young people.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

NA

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Corporate Parenting Panel are requested to give consideration to the report and approve the Virtual School Priorities for 2021/22 outlined in the report.

11. APPENDICES

Virtual School Annual report for 2020/21

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

This page is intentionally left blank