Supporting Previously Looked-After Children

Support for Parents and Carers

Previously looked-after children are defined as "those who are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because they are the subject of an adoption, special guardianship or child arrangements order." (publishing.service.gov.uk)

Our role in supporting previously looked-after children

From September 2018 Virtual Schools have a new statutory duty towards children 'previously looked after'. The duty requires Virtual Schools to "promote their educational achievement through the provision of information and advice to their parents/guardians, educators and others who the Virtual School considers necessary" (Statutory Guidance 2018). In partnership with School Staff, Social Workers and a wide range of other professionals; Surrey Virtual School works to ensure the improvement of educational outcomes for Previously Looked-After Children educated within Surrey. The Virtual School isnot the corporate parent for this cohort and does not track their educational progress or takeup specific casework.

What might 'providing information, advice and guidance' look like?

- Responding to parental/carer's requests for educational information and advice, and signposting to other relevant services
- Responding to requests for advice and information from providers of early education, designated teachers in maintained schools and academies, and providers of alternative provision in Surrey
- Promoting good practice in identifying and meeting support needs of previously looked-after children and give guidance to schools and early years settings on effective use of Pupil Premium funding
- Making general advice and information available to early years settings and schools to improve awareness of the needs of previously looked-after children

Surrey Virtual School promotes the use of the Education Plan for previously looked after children (EPPLAC) within schools as good practice in supporting previously Looked- After Children. The EPPLAC is intended to be a working document to highlight the strengths and needs of the child or young person; to create a targeted plan to enhance their education and identify good use of the Pupil Premium funding. Although this plan isnot compulsory, it is hoped that the coming together of parent(s), school staff, social worker, and any other professionals with current involvement, will create better communication and transparency within a child focused education plan. Surrey Virtual School's EPPLAC can be accessed through our website or requested through contacting the virtual school directly.

Frequently asked questions:

Does the Virtual School support other groups of vulnerable children?

Yes, the Virtual School has a remit to support, monitor and act as corporate parent for looked after children (children in care) and children with a social worker. It also manages and distributes the Pupil Premium for looked after children.

Does the Virtual School accommodate and teach children?

No, all children are placed on the role of DfE registered schools. The Virtual School has a duty to promote educational achievement through the provision of information, advice, and guidance, for previously looked after children.

Does the Virtual School have Pupil Premium for Previously Looked After Children?

No, the Pupil Premium for previously looked after children goes direct to schools based on the number of children it records on its October school census. Please see our information on Pupil Premium for PLAC on our website for more details.

Surrey Virtual School PLAC Team

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Contact the Surrey Virtual School

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Phone: 0208 541 7761
Website: Our role in supporting previously looked-after children - Surrey County Council (surreycc.gov.uk)

Additional Information and Guidance

Guidance on duties and roles designated teacher in schools (Feb 2018)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-lookedafter-children

Promoting the education of looked after and previously looked after children (Feb 2018)
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-oflooked-after-children