



## Virtual School Headteacher's update: March 2018

### Activity

Established leadership has been in place for the last 18 months. The team is now complete with specialists for each age range, from birth to 18 and where relevant 25.

Children are at the heart of what we do and their opinions have been actively sought. We take a 'you said, we did' approach. The child's voice has been heard clearly through the Coram Bright Spots Survey and Personal Education Plans (PEPs). For example we include the child in making the choice, when moving to secondary school.

We offer 1 PEP meeting a year from birth until the child starts in any Early Years setting. From that point on all the way to age 16 they have a PEP meeting 3 times a year to coincide with school terms. Between the ages of 16-18 they have 2 PEPs a year. Beyond 18 they have educational support, for example through university bursary funding. Peps are attended by the child and foster carer. The children have an engaging section to fill in to hear their views. There are sections on the care status of the child; attendance and any exclusions; any SEND needs, including extra support; attainment and progress since the last meeting and the emotional health and well being of the children. From this targets are reviewed and new targets set. 96%+ of these PEPs happen and the typical PEP is now of good quality.

There has been a transformation in the quality of data held by the Virtual School and record keeping. Once systems were in place, it revealed approximately a third of our children and young people were not having their educational needs met. Those ready for mainstream are in mainstream schools. Those who need an EHCP now have one, and we will meet the conversion deadline in March 18. Children with special needs have had individual plans put in place. This approach has had impact on the outcomes for our SEND children.

Partnership working with a wide range of professionals around the child has developed markedly. Examples include the Slough schools, educational psychologists, the clinicians in the Hubs, SBC Young People's Service and the NHS. This has supported the improved performance of students in and out of borough

The offer to children has significantly developed in all age ranges and reflects the differing needs as they mature. For example the younger children are sent books related to their individual interests. Children in later Primary Years can do 11+ tuition. Year 11 have enhanced career visits. Post 16 have taster days at universities. Care Leavers have drop in sessions to re-take maths and English GCSEs

### Other successful Activity

the Awards Evening,

the 'Count Me In' Conference

Activity Days and Revision Days.

training of foster carers, new designated teachers and adopters

Visits to Brunel and Oxford universities



Attendance and exclusion tracked weekly and followed up with social workers and schools

In line with Children and Social work Act 2017 developed offer to DTs in Slough schools with Special Guardians and adopters

Virtual School held to account through regular well attended multi-disciplinary meetings such as meetings with Governors Designated teachers and cross sector professionals

Foster carer and adopter drop-ins held. Panels attended by Virtual School include SEMRAC, CME, Foster Panel, Placement Panel, Care Leavers and Joint Parenting.

Comments from survey of designated teachers very positive, Termly newsletter to DTs

Pupil Premium Plus funding paid through SMART targets in PEPs and has raised attainment

## **Impact**

Results for Slough children in the exams in summer 2017 were better than they have ever been for Slough CLA and were one of the best in the region. For example the 11 year old CLAs did better than children not in care both locally and nationally. See following report for detail

Improved attainment by those in alternative provision.

## **Priorities in Action Plan for 2018-19**

To use evidence based practice to target Virtual School work, including spending of Pupil Premium Plus and Post 16 funding

To ensure Year 12 and 13 get the same service as the rest of the Virtual School

To improve support for post 18s and care leavers for their education

To ensure Children Missing Education and NEETs are returned to appropriate provision in a timely way

To improve service offered to young people known to YOT

To be compliant with current legislation (GDPR and Children and Social Work Act)

To continue to raise aspiration for our CLA of all ages and stages

To further develop the employment Offer

To improve support to foster carers to support Education

To celebrate Children Looked After