



Learn Achieve Celebrate

A bulletin for Designated
Teachers of looked after and
previously looked after children
in Northumberland



May 2018

Northumberland Designated Teacher Essentials

- ◆ e-learning induction/refresher training - [Learning Together](#)
- ◆ training programme - [Virtual School webpage](#) and *Learn, Achieve, Celebrate*
- ◆ training hub - <https://afaeducation.org/our-projects/lift-learning-in-family-teams/northumberlanddt/>
- ◆ toolkit - <https://afaeducation.org/free-dt-resources/>
- ◆ webpage - <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Looked-after/Virtual.aspx>
- ◆ Contact us - 01670 622779 or ESLAC.info@Northumberland.gov.uk

Hello and welcome to Northumberland Virtual School's half term bulletin for Spring 2018. Please share our messages with your Headteacher, Governors and other members of staff as appropriate.

Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report 2016-17

- I am pleased to make available to you the **Annual Report of the Virtual School Headteacher 2016-17** which has now been published. You can view or download to print from the Virtual School's webpage [here](#).

Revised guidance

- As you know the revised statutory guidance for local authority Virtual Schools and Designated Teachers of looked after and previously looked after children has been published. The training events we held this half term to introduce the key points and changes to you were well attended and the feedback was very positive.
- Two additional briefings have therefore been arranged, please contact Adele Stevens to book a place:
 - **Briefing for Designated Teachers: Revised Statutory Guidance:**
 - **Friday 22nd June 9-10.30am at West Hartford**
 - **Tuesday 10th July 1-2.30pm at Haltwhistle Community Campus Middle School**

- Two questions in particular are being frequently asked:

Question: Are children who leave care and return home then known as previously looked after?

Answer: No, only children who leave local authority care on an order are then known as previously looked after. The order can be for adoption, special guardianship, child arrangements or residence.

Question: Does the Admissions Code apply to previously looked after children?

Answer: Yes it does. A previously looked after child is considered to be 'ever-LAC' with regard to the Regulations made under the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 which requires admission authorities for maintained schools to give looked after children highest priority in their admission arrangements. The School Admissions Code places this same requirement on academies. These provisions help ensure that looked-after and previously looked after children obtain a place at their preferred schools. Such children must take precedence over those on a waiting list and cannot be refused a place because of having challenging behaviour.

Designated Teacher Training Programme

- *Achievement for All* is working with us to establish a Designated Teacher Training Hub in Northumberland. On an on-going basis we would like to hear from you what you think your training needs are, and I am therefore asking you to take a few moments to complete an on-line survey so that we can properly plan a programme for you in 2018-19:

[Achievement for All Designated Teacher training audit](#)

Pupil Premium Plus

- For this financial year the Pupil Premium Plus rate is £2 300 and there will be no change this year to the way we distribute the funding or the amount retained by the Virtual School. You should therefore expect to receive £1900 of each £2300 grant for every eligible pupil on roll at your school, and the Virtual School will retain £400 of each grant to fund strategies and interventions which will benefit all looked after and previously looked after children eg the Virtual School Education Psychologist, Achievement for All and Thrive attachment training.
- In accordance with statutory requirements Northumberland Virtual School has a Pupil Premium Plus Policy. The policy has been updated to reflect the changes and is available on the [Virtual School page](#) of the Council's website.
- Dispersal of the grant is dependent on schools completing the Pupil Premium Plus agreement in each child's ePEP to evidence that outcomes have been agreed following an assessment of educational need, and that progress is monitored to show the impact of the Pupil Premium Plus. The Designated Teacher in every school/academy should therefore ensure that every looked after child has a good ePEP in place, which is also a requirement of the revised statutory guidance.

ePEP

- The implementation of Northumberland's ePEP will be complete by the end of term. By then all Designated Teachers will be able to access the ePEP of each child on their school roll to update or view as appropriate. You will also be able to download the ePEP to print a hard copy.
- If you have any queries about the ePEP then please contact the ESLAC team.
- The developer of the ePEP – Seven365 – has demonstrated to the Virtual School how the product is compliant with the GDPR. If you would like to find out more information about how we and/or the DfE collect, use and store your personal data, please contact us or visit the Information Commissioner's Office website [here](#).

SATs, GCSEs and end of year assessments

- And finally a thought for all pupils who are in the midst of end of year assessments, particularly those in Year 11. Fingers crossed that every pupil will be able to do the very best that they are capable of. Congratulations to all Year 6 pupils, I'm sure we all breathed a sigh of relief with them and I look forward to hearing how well they have all achieved next half term. Thank you to all Designated Teachers for preparing, motivating, encouraging and never giving up on our looked after learners.

Jane Walker, Virtual School Headteacher