

Bulletin 3



Virtual School for Looked After Children and Care Leavers (0-25)

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to ensure that you receive the money you have requested before 31st March when remaining PP+ has to be returned to the DfE ! New funding comes in April 2018.

Once an ePEP has been completed by the Designated Teacher please only sign it off (by clicking the DT button) once you have completed any PP+ funding requests. On occasions DT are coming back to VS case holders and asking to re-open ePEPs after they have been signed off. This rolling back of ePEPs is difficult for Welfare Call and an admin nightmare we would like to avoid where possible!

Attainment data on ePEPs: It would be extremely helpful if in addition to completing the attainment and progress drop-down boxes you could add a child's actual attainment from your own tracking system to the box which



is below the drop-down box entitled: **Additional Notes for Year** as this would help us to see the progress. For Year 11s, please add Progress and Attainment 8 scores and whether they are on track for 5 GCSEs. All this information Virtual School has to report to Corporate Parenting and the DfE!

Please ensure you have **no PEP meetings after 30th June**. This is when Welfare Call will start to roll over to the new year groups. If this is a problem, please contact us to discuss. Thanks

New Publication: [Education Factsheets for Foster Carers](#)—Factsheets to support learning at home: Please have a look at the link and encourage carers to use the fact sheets to support learning at home.

Transition: It's really important that we get this right and pass on as much useful information as possible. So please...

- For Y6 ensure the transition page is completed and upload a pupil profile (passport) to the document area. A Virtual School case holder will be able to help if you have any problems or would like some examples of profiles.

Welcome to Bulletin 3 : We were so pleased to see so many of you at the DT training last term (over 100 attended). There will be a similar **'mop-up' session on 7th March** and we would still like a venue. Please let us know if you can host. For more information and to book, click [HERE](#)

We are in the process of redesigning and improving the Oxfordshire ePEP ready for September 2018, so would welcome your comments. We will be consulting with DTs in this redesign.



In the meantime...

EPEPs and PP+ funding requests: Thank you for ensuring that EPEPs are written and submitted quickly. We aim to sign them off within 2 school weeks and process the funding at that point. We want to avoid chasing late PEPs as this takes time away from attending PEP meetings, supporting case work and providing training and development in your schools.

Please ensure that all PP+ requests on your current PEPs are submitted by the **9th March 2017**. Any re-requests received after this date will not be paid. This is

- For EY or a LAC moving setting or school please complete a pupil profile. See here for an example ([Early Years Transition Pack](#))
- For Y11 transition please add a Y11 Transition Profile to the ePEP, an example is attached.

National DfE careers strategy:

The National Careers Strategy published on 4th December asks secondary schools to provide high-quality education, information, advice and guidance. It also identified that all schools need to put up information on their website by January 2018. Here are some helpful examples:



- ⇒ We offer *insert activities here for example - house Cafes, external Careers Advisers, Job Coaches, Supported Employment Provision, employer led activities, Project Search, Careers weeks, special local programmes students engage in or are offered by local employers, enterprise, Supported Internships, Volunteering, Social Action Enterprise*
- ⇒ The Careers programme delivers against the 8 Gatsby benchmarks in the following way and we use tools to establish our progress and make plans to improve further. Our Careers Leader is xxxxxxxx, a member of the senior leadership team.
- ⇒ Our named Governor for Careers is xxxxxxxx.
- ⇒ We ensure our parents, staff and pupils find out the latest news of our careers programme through regular newsletters, emails, coffee mornings and transition fairs.
- ⇒ Our Careers Strategy can be found (*insert link*).
- ⇒ If you have any questions please email our Careers Leader on xxxxxxxx

Back on Track is a free programme available for young people who are at risk of becoming NEET.

The programme will support them in enhancing their employability, improving their skills and confidence and helping them to access further learning or employment.

OCC have partnered with Activate Learning to offer this free programme to all secondary schools in Oxfordshire to help support young people who are at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). Click on the link to find out more.



Boosting achievement of children in care: FREE webinar training.



These webinars are designed to increase your knowledge of neurodiversity and specific learning differences (SpLD), helping you to identify, support, and boost the life chances of children and young people with a range of SEN.

Training for professionals

Part 1: 7th February, 12: 30 - 13:30pm

Part 2: 21st February, 12:30 - 13:30pm

Please see [Boosting achievement of children in care](#) for further information from British Dyslexia Association, and register for your **FREE** place.

Your Life Your Care Survey

(Coram Voice): Thank you for supporting your LAC to participate in this survey where appropriate.



We had an amazing response with over 1/3 of LAC responding. This will give Coram enough viable data to analyse and report back to us. The Children in Care Council will be helping to present this information in an accessible way once the report is finished later this year.

Aspiration for our LAC: We have included a couple of flyers from [VIP+](#) but would particularly draw your attention to the amazing opportunity offered to our 15-18 year old students:



Summer School 2018 - [Scholarships for VIP+ children](#)

We are looking for applications for the Oxford Scholastica Summer School and thanks to their support we are offering a small number of scholarships for VIP+ young people, worth £4,495!

This is a great opportunity for young people 15-18 who are motivated to explore a subject in detail, in order to expand interests, build on the school curriculum or explore interests ahead of university applications. See attached flyer.



Finally, as we approach exam season. Please make sure you have put in as much support for our LAC as possible. Always go over and above for these children and young people who need the additional time, care and concern a key person can offer to support, encourage and motivate. Use funding to provide interventions that give academic support but also exam and revision technique support. Give your key worker time to have frequent and regular check-ins with their student, at school and out. Care leavers tell us that this really makes the difference.

Thank you

“Looking after Learning”