April 2018, Issue 4

Bulletin 4

Looking afer Learning
VSLAC
OXFORDSHIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

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

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- **NEW:** New Statutory Guidance for DTs
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- **NEW**: Betsy de Thierry Training Day, and our Training Calendar of 2018-19

Welcome to Bulletin 4: Good news! The amount of PP+ you will be able to apply for, for 2018-2019 is ***£1,600*** unless you are an out of county school in which case you will be able to apply for ***£2,300***. For in county schools we operate our pupil premium policy here.

Department for Education

New duties for DTs: The new statutory DT guidance was published in February 2018 and so needs to be implemented in schools This is **essential reading** for all DTs, senior leaders, headteachers and governing bodies. DTs please make sure you share and discuss at governor meetings and senior leadership meetings as it has significant implications in terms of policy and practice in schools. Below is a very brief summary of the key areas. The guidance outlines:

- The additional duties of the DT for previously looked after children.
- Key questions for governing bodies, senior leadership teams and headteachers
- Needs of LAC and previously LAC have implications for nearly every school policy including attendance, behaviours for learning, exclusions, safeguarding and accessibility policies but the guidance includes other policies which will need adjusting to reflect how the school will ensure the needs and aspirations of LAC and previously LAC are being supported and promoted.
- Clear outline of the role of the DT. There is guidance that the DT should be a member of SLT but can be supported in the role by other teachers or by non-teaching staff.
- Advice about the PEP
- Advice about the importance of the Voice of the Child
- The role of the DT in raising awareness of staff and whole school training. In particular, it talks about DTs supporting teachers with teaching and learning so that LAC and previously LAC are fully included in all aspects of school life.
- The guidance also covers SEN, mental health, relationships beyond school, working with local authorities and working with carers and parents.
- For guidance about exclusions please refer to paragraph 77.

PEP meetings: To enable Welfare Call to make changes to the ePEP form and to be able to roll-over information we would ask that no PEP meetings are held after **30th June.** The only exception to this will be for children who are new into care as they will need to have a PEP within the statutory 20 day time frame.

Remember to upload your LAC school reports or progress data in the summer term: As we now only have a minimum of two PEPs a year and need to report three times a year we need you to upload the school report for each of your LAC to the document section of their PEP. If you have done three PEPs this school year then there is no need to do this.

Transfer from primary to secondary school: You can help ensure our Y6 LAC transferring to secondary school have a positive experience through careful planning. Please invite the DT from the receiving secondary school to Y6 PEPs held in the summer term to enable detailed discussion and planning around transition needs. For LAC with SEN, you should also meet with the

secondary SENCO to plan for any learning needs. It is good practice for the sending primary school to upload a 'One Page Pupil Profile' to the 'documents' section of the e -PEP. This should include information on the child's strengths/needs and any identified support strategies; an example 'transition profile' is available in the 'PEP Toolkit' section of our Virtual School website. Some children may benefit from extra transition visits to secondary school (but be aware that many of our children do not like to be made to feel different from their peers). The Virtual School is working with One-Eighty to run a specifically tailored summer transition project for LAC this academic year. Please contact ruth.thornburn@oxfordshire.gov.uk or elisabeth.pinckney@oxfordshire.gov.uk for further information or support.

Collecting exam results: Secondary and GCSE results will be collected by the Virtual School. We will soon be in touch with the school exams officer to set up the process, so that we have all results as soon as possible; please ensure the correct contact information is on WefareCall. Please contact Julie.sellers@oxfordshire.gov.uk if you have any questions.

Primary KS1 and KS2 SATs results will be collected by Welfare Call. Please also complete the SATS results page in the ePEPs. Phonics y1 check and y2 retake results will also be collected by Welfare Call. Please also add the scores to the ePEP attainment page. If you have any questions then please contact Sarah.hazell@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

The EYFS results for children at schools/settings in Oxfordshire will be submitted to the Education Performance Team (same as previous years). The EYFS results for children at schools/settings in other Local Authorities will be collected by Virtual School. Please also add the scores to the 'End of EYFS Results' page in the ePEP. If you have any questions then please contact Christine.grandison@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

Letterbox Parcels: We are thrilled to be able to offer Letterbox parcels to all children in years 1 to 6. The colourful parcels will be sent to the child's home and contain books, maths activities, stationery and other complementary materials. The parcels will be delivered once every month for six months, from the beginning of May 2018 to October 2018. The aim is that after being a member of the Letterbox Club for six months the child will have built up their own small library of books, a collection of number games and a variety of stationery items. We aim to develop children's enjoyment and engagement with reading. The maths games should provide fun ways to develop number skills whilst developing other skills of turn taking and cooperation.

The Letterbox Club is an award-winning programme managed by Booktrust, in partnership with the University of Leicester. This exciting opportunity is being funded by the Virtual School for all Oxfordshire Looked After Children in school years 1 to 6 living both in and out of Oxfordshire. If you require further information about the Letterbox Club then this is available on their website: www.letterboxclub.org.uk or email: sarah.hazell@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

Foster Carers Handbook: Please remember to promote this resource with carers and parents/guardians of previously LAC. Other parents might also find some of the advice useful to support home learning. The resource is designed for use with EY, primary and secondary pupils.

UASCs: The county policy is to disperse our UASCs so that they are not all in the city centre. Over the rest of this year and the next you may well be asked to take a UASC into your school. Some of our city schools have a wealth of expertise, provision and good practice and they are very happy for visits. Please contact the Virtual School for contact details. There will be a **UASC Conference** on **16th October** – put the date in your diaries and more details will follow.

GDPR duties: We will only send you information if you are a DT or have asked to be kept on our email list so you receive information about training. We will only use your school email address. Information we send you will only be in relation to your work as a designated teacher or LAC education worker. We will not share our distribution list. Please contact us if you do not wish to receive further emails, including the bulletin in future and we will remove your contact details from our list.

Egress Switch: Egress Switch is approved by the Government for the sharing of OFFICIAL SENSITIVE data, and as part of our GDPR duties, we will be implementing the usage for all OFFICIAL SENSITIVE transmissions with immediate effect. Features include:

Third parties can use the product as a web-based email or to download a small software file to their own computer, and can communicate securely with the council through the same interface.

Messages and attachments are securely encrypted meaning that unauthorised or unintended recipients are unable to `. A detailed audit trail exists, listing precisely when and who has accessed the secure email messages. There is no charge to partners or third parties for using this service. To use Switch, please refer to the instructions in the Guidance attached.

NEW – Betsy De Thierry Trauma training 22nd June 2018, Unipart House –The Virtual School are pleased to host Betsy again. She will deliver her one day training on trauma and the impact of trauma, symptoms and the approach to recovery. Recommended for everyone who works with looked after children. See attached flyer and **Click here to book**

Early Notification: for our 2018-19 Draft Training Calendar, please see attached