



# Corporate Parenting Board

## 27 November 2013

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Virtual School - Looked After Children Education Team Annual Report</b>	
<b>Cabinet Member with Lead Responsibility</b>	Councillor Val Gibson Children Young People & Families	
<b>Wards Affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable Strategic Director</b>	Sarah Norman, Community	
<b>Originating service</b>	Children, Young People and Families/Looked After Children	
<b>Accountable officer(s)</b>	Anne Foster Tel Email	Acting LACE Team Manager 01902 551039 anne.foster@wolverhampton.gov.uk
<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	Corporate Parenting Board only	

**Recommendations for noting:**

The Corporate Parenting Board is asked to comment on the Looked After Children Education Team (LACE) Annual Report for 2012/2013.

## **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To enable the Corporate Parenting Panel to have a clear understanding of the work undertaken by the LACE team. The report comments on the progress and attainment of Wolverhampton students and on the support provided to students and schools in and out of the City.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 The LACE team tracks and supports the education of Wolverhampton Looked After Children, regardless of where they attend school, to ensure that they make good progress and achieve to their potential. The report includes the current structure of the team, achievement details of pupils and details of the support that is offered.

## **3. Wolverhampton Looked After Children (LAC) Virtual School Report 2012/13**

- 3.1 This progress report summarises the academic outcomes of Wolverhampton LAC for the 2012/13 academic year and provides details of targeted work to support the progress of the current Wolverhampton LAC.
- 3.2 The main developments and changes throughout 2012/13 are as follows:
- The production of a newsletter sent to schools, MAST Teams, LAC teams and locality teams.
  - All LACE team workers have been linked to MAST Teams and/or specific schools. Regular meetings take place with a designated teacher.
  - LACE delivers a core offer to Wolverhampton Schools, this outlines the expectations and delivery of the team.
  - LACE have termly meetings with a Head Teacher Steering Group
  - LACE review and restructure has been completed.
  - Distribution of Pupil Premium.
- 3.3 At the end of the summer term there were 398 students in the LAC 'virtual school' in national curriculum years 0 to 13.
- 3.4 For those of statutory school age 40% were in external placements with 60% being educated in Wolverhampton provision. Amongst these 51% were in the primary phase and 49% in the secondary phase of their education. 13.3% were educated in special schools.
- 3.5 The following table relates to the number of LAC attending education and highlights the Ofsted rating for the schools as at October 2013.

	Number	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory/Requires Improvement	Inadequate
In city Primary	130	3	61	40	5
In city Secondary	68	3	33	32	0
In city Special	32	0	32	0	0
Out of city Prim	99	13	74	12	0
Out of city Secondary	67	6	43	10	8
Out of city Special	23	5	12	5	1

### 3.6 Results for the 2012/13 academic year

#### 3.6.1 Year 6 / Key Stage 2

At the end of Key Stage 2 / year 6 measures for the academic year included:

- The proportion of LAC achieving level 4 and above in English
- The proportion of LAC achieving level 4 and above in maths

The outcomes for students completing year 6 in 2012/13 are shown below:

	Level 4+ English	Level 4+ maths
2009/10 Results	47%	47%
2010/11 Results	50%	50%
2011/12 Results	55.5%	55.5%
2012/13 Results	40.9%	59.1%

Out of 22 children:

9 (40.9%) have a statement for Special Educational Needs

5 (22.7%) of these children attend Special Schools.

3 children have transferred to Special Schools at secondary transition.

Of the 14 children who were entered for the SATs tests; 64.28% achieved Level 4 and above in spelling, grammar and punctuation, 64.28% achieved Level 4 and above in reading, 92.85% achieved Level 4 and above in maths.

#### 3.6.2 Year 11 / Key Stage 4

The outcomes for students completing year 11/ Key Stage 4 in 2012 /13 are shown below:

- Total cohort is 33 pupils.
- 10 (33.3%) have a statement of Educational Special needs with 7 attending Special Schools.
- 21 pupils attended schools in Wolverhampton, 12 in out of city schools.

	1 A* - G GCSE	5 A* - C GCSE	5 A* - C GCSE (including English & maths)
2009/2010 Results	67%	47%	17%
2010/11 Results	88%	60%	12%
2011/12 Results	67.7%	58%	12.9%
2012/13 Results	66.7%	42.4%	24.24%

Some of this cohort found it very difficult to engage in education. However there has been an improvement in quicker allocation to provision and attendance at that provision. 29 pupils achieved a qualification.

**3.7 Raised Participation Age:** all pupils aged 16 plus are required to attend employment, education or training until the age of 17.

Out of 31 LAC aged 16 – 17:

- 27 young people are remaining at school or attending College.
- 3 young people are attending training with a provider
- 1 young person is attending army training

**3.8 Supporting the 2012/13 Wolverhampton LAC.**

Some of the ways in which these students are being supported include:

- Collection of school data to inform progression targets
- 1:1 specific interventions
- Continued provision of 1:1 tuition - typically one hour per week in maths or English
- Monitoring of use/impact of Pupil Premium
- Attendance at PEP meetings
- Liaising with other authorities.
- LACE Team linked to MASTs and directly to schools
- Training provided to key stakeholders
- Transition support for entry to secondary school
- Social story for all children starting school
- 2 year old offer for nursery
- Direct support to foster carers and social workers
- Introduction of ASDAN qualification in residential settings.
- All LAC aged 8 and over have a library card which enables them to have limited internet access.

**3.9 Wolverhampton Schools Improvement Partnership (WSIP) Core Offer**

3.9.1 WSIP fund 2 Education Support Workers in the LACE Team. Through consultation with a Head Teachers Steering Group a Core Offer has been introduced as support for all Wolverhampton Schools. This has been agreed, approved and implemented.

### 3.9.2 LACE Team Core Offer to Wolverhampton Schools 2013 – 2014:

- Each School will have an identified LACE link worker allocated via the MASTs.
- Link workers will be identified to schools at the beginning of each term via a letter.
- Link Workers will meet with their schools' designated teacher on a termly basis, 3 terms an academic year.
- Link Workers will attend the MAST/school planning meetings.
- LACE staff will attend at least one Personal Education Plan (PEP) meeting per LAC per school year and support the child, school and social worker in more complex PEPs or those not being undertaken in a timely manner.
- LACE will offer termly designated teacher training, 3 x an academic year.
- LACE will offer 1:1 support, based on a work programme to be agreed by the school and LACE worker. Support to include programmes on behaviour, anger management, self-esteem, confidence, in class support, reading, school admission meetings, college/training provider support, support in alternative provision and Special Personalised Learning Plan (SPLP).
- Schools will receive regular updates on the work programmes and a report at the end of intervention clearly identifying outcomes achieved.
- LACE will send all schools a termly newsletter, 3 x an academic year.
- LACE offer direct access to educational psychologist advice.
- LACE will offer social worker, other professionals and foster carer training and support in relation to the education and attainment issues for LAC.
- LACE will specifically monitor attendance and Pupils Not in Full Time Education Panel (PNIFTED) LAC and support both pupils and schools in these issues, targeting those with attendance of less than 85% or those not receiving 25 hours education per week.
- LACE will offer direct work with residential settings to improve attendance and educational outcomes.
- LACE will offer a transition programme for year 6.
- LACE offer continuity of support when LAC move school settings.
- LACE will engage a representative from Schools for key recruitment to educational posts within the team.
- LACE will meet termly with the LACE steering group, presenting a report detailing outcomes of this core offer and seeking feedback on progress and delivery issues
- Head of LAC and Manager of LACE will attend the Learning Community meetings on an annual basis to discuss LAC issues and the LACE core offer.

3.9.3 The core offer is monitored through a meeting each term with a Head Teachers Steering Group.

### 3.10 Pupil Premium

3.10.1 The Pupil Premium was introduced by the Government from April 2011. The amount in 2012/13 was £200 per term, per pupil, rising to £300 from April 2013. The LACE Team have to distribute this grant to all schools where there are Looked after Children from Wolverhampton. LACE distributes the Pupil Premium to each school every term.

3.10.2 The impact of this additional funding is monitored through the LAC Personal Education Plan (PEP). Schools record the impact of Pupil Premium and this is monitored through Ofsted.

3.10.3 An improvement plan for the educational attainment of LAC for the 2012/13 academic year has been approved and is now being monitored by the Children, Young People and Family Management Team.

### **3.11 Personal Education Plan (PEP)**

3.11.1 The PEP continues to provide a robust statutory process for capturing essential information and influencing improved educational outcomes for children in care. A new PEP has been devised. The new electronic PEP document was launched in September 2012. This uses information from CareFirst and is partially pre-populated. This will mean that rather than recording information that is already available during PEP meetings the carer(s), designated teacher and social worker will be able to focus fully on discussing and recording appropriate agreed actions.

3.11.2 Importantly it will enable those with a shared accountability around the PEP process to recognise where barriers to improved outcomes exist and agree appropriate actions during the PEP meeting.

3.12 LACE has been very proactive this year in working to reduce the time that children spend out of an educational provision. LACE has a good communication link with all schools within Wolverhampton and with the MAST Teams. LACE liaises closely with other authorities and prioritises the needs of the Looked After Child. LACE attends meetings and advises to minimise exclusions and work with the schools for a solution.

3.13 LACE has representation at Key Stage Panels and presents the case of the young person to improve their outcomes at provisions that best suit their needs.

3.14 The educational psychologist service is available to advise and to assess the most complex of cases.

### **3.15 Targeted Intervention**

3.15.1 Volunteer Reading Help (VRH) is a national charity that helps children who struggle with their reading to develop a love of reading and learning. Trained reading helpers support children by giving them an hour of quality, one to one time every week. Having initiated the scheme in Wolverhampton, LACE now works closely with VRH to identify individual students and schools to receive this additional literacy support.

The volunteers are currently working with 34 primary students in 10 of the city's schools. A further 7 schools are now at the planning stage to provide this additional support for up to 3 of our LAC each.

### **3.16 Star pupils and Successes**

3.16.1 Many of the Looked After Children have succeeded greatly throughout the year and make good progress, despite the difficulties that they may have. The work and dedication of foster carers, residential staff, schools and social workers deserves a special mention.

- M achieved 11 GCSEs, 7 at A grade and 4 at B grade
- T achieved 10 GCSEs, 8 grade B and 2 grade C

3.16.2 At the Achieve Your Dreams award event on February 6<sup>th</sup> 2013, over 300 Young People received awards for their success throughout the year. The many successes of Wolverhampton's LAC that were celebrated ranged from sport, academic, art and special awards. LACE were involved in the organisation and the nominations of this event

#### **4. Financial implications**

- 4.1 The total approved net budget for 2012/13 for the Looked after Children's Service is £22.9 million.
- 4.2 The net budget for the Looked after Children's Education Team is £18,000, this is made up of an expenditure budget of £257,000 which is offset by an income contribution of £239,000.

[NM/06112013/O]

#### **5. Legal implications**

- 5.1 There is a legal responsibility for the local authority to promote education for children in care and care leavers.

[TC/151113/A]

#### **6. Equalities implications**

- 6.1 The work of the LACE Team supports some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children in their education. Looked after Children, statistically, do not achieve as highly as their peers. There is an expectation that Wolverhampton City Council will contribute to raising standards of educational opportunities.

#### **7. Environmental implications**

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications