





## Children & Family Support Action Plan: LAC ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN – April 2014-April 2015


In line with statutory guidance & local priorities, this action plan focusses on the following issues & objectives:

1. Data
2. Personal Education Plans (PEPs)
3. Admissions
4. Attendance
5. Learning Support
6. Inclusion
7. Transition & Further / Higher Education
8. Participation
9. Training & Partnerships

Issue & Objective	Action Agreed	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress as at 1/10/2014	RAG Rating
<p><b>DATA:</b> Maintain complete &amp; up-to-date attainment data for all LAC</p>	<p>COPE to collect attainment data for core subjects from all schools termly, including out-of-city (ooc), and historical levels.</p> <p>School Improvement to assist with primary schools and KS1/2 outcomes analysis</p> <p>All 2014 GCSE results to be recorded, analysis completed to inform priority areas</p>	<p>Database to be complete by September 2014</p> <p>October 2014</p>	<p>Darren Martindale</p>	<p>Majority of levels collected; outstanding levels being requested urgently (linked to pupil premium allocation). LAC Data Officer now concentrating on ooc schools</p> <p>Very positive improvement in KS1-2 attainment and progress for LAC in Wolverhampton schools. Reading is slightly weaker than maths/writing</p> <p>More analysis needs to be done for ooc - Information Team are assisting with further data analysis</p> <p>All GCSEs collected, analysis being completed</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>


	Schools to be recorded correctly by s/w teams on Carefirst	December 2014	LAC & CIN/CP HOS	This is weak currently – discussed in LAC managers meeting Oct & Dec 2014 – all SCSWs to instruct teams to record school correctly. DM requested the same from CIN/CP HOS. DM held meeting with Information Team Manager in Oct 2014; they have agreed to assist with this and ensure that all schools are up to date	
	VSH to analyse RAISEonline data	July 2014	Darren Martindale	VSH has access to RAISE, School Improvement assisting with data analysis. Good data now available for in-city LAC	
	Improve educational data for 16+ LAC / Care-leavers	Data completed autumn term 2014		Transitions Team are currently collecting data, to be monitored by the VSH and Transitions Team as part of the Virtual School database. 16+ PEP still to be revised & updated	
<b>PERSONAL EDUCATION PLANS:</b> Improve quality & quantity of PEPs	Revise and update PEP form, update PEP policy and procedure - clarify roles & responsibility	October 2014	Darren Martindale	Completed and live on the Carefirst system	
	Training in quality personal education planning to be delivered to all key partners	All trained by April 2015	Darren Martindale	4 sessions delivered for social workers 4 meetings held for designated teachers. Briefings delivered for IROs and managers	
	All PEPs to be audited for quality – process triangulated between COPE, key stakeholders & whole-LAC audit. 10% of PEPs audited	Implemented by October 2014, 1 PEP for every LAC audited by	Darren Martindale	Planning meeting held with Safeguarding Review & Policy/Procedures Officers. Audit forms completed	


	every month. Termly report from VSH to social care managers / schools / elected members. Overall progress to be captured in VSH annual report 16+ & Early Years PEPs to be established, key partners trained in its	August 2015	Darren Martindale	16+ PEP form currently being revised & updated	
<b>ADMISSIONS:</b> Ensure that LAC are prioritised in school admissions, avoiding drift & delay	VSH to be consulted prior to any school change for a LAC, Carefirst modified to ensure this is part of the placement process.  New Wolverhampton placement stability policy to be introduced, outlining the above changes  Termly meetings and improved links with School Improvement Team  COPE to ensure urgent priority access to temporary & alternative provision for all LAC	Implemented by October 2014  October 2014  Ongoing  Ongoing	Darren Martindale  Darren Martindale / Rachel Warrender  Darren Martindale  Darren Martindale / Anne Foster	Carefirst changes now made – new placement request form includes notification and space for input for VSH  Policy in place  Meetings being held, links clearly improving  Barriers still exist due to service restructures and numbers of LAC placed out-of-city. However places are being arranged far more quickly than they would without COPE intervention. LAC are spending less time out of school	
<b>ATTENDANCE:</b> Closely monitor school attendance & achieve benchmark of 95% +	Attendance monitored more rigorously via the PEP – benchmark raised from 85%	New PEP in place October 2014	Darren Martindale	New PEP proforma completed and added to Carefirst	

	<p>to 95%</p> <p>COPE to monitor attendance of all LAC - VSH/COPE to address attendance issues with school/EWO/social worker without delay</p> <p>VSH to ensure that school attendance for children entering care is regularly addressed at Admission to Care Panel</p> <p>Weekly monitoring of LAC in residential settings</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Weekly attendance – ongoing</p> <p>ongoing</p>	<p>Darren Martindale</p> <p>Darren Martindale</p> <p>David King / Darren Martindale</p>	<p>School attendance, attainment &amp; stability now routinely addressed at an earlier stage in (and prior to) care process. However <u>data for out-of-city LAC still needs to improve</u></p> <p>Closer monitoring of attendance is enabling more prompt interventions where appropriate. Attendance generally improved. However VSH now only attends panel where necessary, rather than weekly.</p>	
<p><b>LEARNING SUPPORT:</b> Ensure access to high quality, focussed learning support for all LAC with a particular focus on LAC approaching assessment &amp; transition. Ensure timely intervention where appropriate</p>	<p>VSH &amp; COPE to promote increased use of 1:1 tuition through training, PEPs and school visits, funded by PPG. All LAC in assessment years and at risk of underachieving to access 1:1 tuition, particular focus on KS4, also KS2 pupils not on target for level 4</p> <p>Increase focus on progress and attainment at KS4 through 1:1 tuition, regular progress monitoring/PEPs and increased Educational Psychology support</p>	<p>Tuition delivered by April 2015</p> <p>Ongoing through 2014-15 academic year</p>	<p>Darren Martindale / Anne Foster</p> <p>Darren Martindale / Anne Foster</p> <p>Anne Foster</p>	<p>1:1 tuition is increasing, 3 tuition providers identified locally – all centres visited &amp; quality assured.</p> <p>Additional EP support identified and funded through pupil premium – 2 Assistant EPs (.8 FTE) to start January 2015 – to focus on accelerated learning interventions at secondary school level &amp; KS4 in particular. Huw</p>	


	<p>COPE to ensure targeted support through attendance at key PEP meetings as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Every initial PEP meeting for LAC in Wolverhampton schools / PRUs</li> <li>b) At least 1 PEP meeting for LAC in assessment years and transitional stages in Wolverhampton schools / PRUs</li> <li>c) Any PEP meetings where there are concerns about a child's progress in a Wolverhampton school / PRU, or where support has been requested</li> <li>d) High-priority PEPs in schools outside Wolverhampton, where capacity allows</li> </ul> <p>Increase focus on English / literacy at KS1 &amp; 2 – continue year 3 book project / Volunteer Reading Help, 1:1 tuition and close monitoring</p>	<p>All PEPs attended by summer term 2015</p>	<p>Anne Foster</p>	<p>Williams will provide clinical supervision</p> <p>PEP attendance is increasing now that COPE team are fully staffed and new framework in place</p>	
		<p>All initiatives in place September 2014</p>		<p>Books and linked materials provided for all year 3 LAC in spring 2013, feedback was sought from carers but little was received. Closer joint working with Fostering Team required to ensure effectiveness. Further action; consider Letterbox Club as an alternative.</p>	

	<p>Provide ASDAN short course accreditation for LAC in residential settings not currently accessing full-time education</p>	<p>In place - ongoing</p>	<p>Will Piercy</p>	<p>Volunteer Reading help continued through PPG funding – 15 LAC accessing on average. Reading levels show positive outcomes, feedback &amp; case studies very positive, however more detailed reports are needed in future ASDAN established in all residential settings, overseen and managed by COPE. 8 LAC completed short course in 2013-14</p>	
	<p>Teacher Advisor to work closely with YOT, PRUs and special schools in Wolverhampton to promote inclusion and progress of LAC</p>	<p>Mechanisms in place by summer term 2014</p>	<p>Anne Foster</p>	<p>YOT: Teacher Advisor attending half-termly attendance monitoring meetings, regular LAC case monitoring meetings; social workers more involved - urgent PEP called when a LAC receives an order. Teacher Advisor holding termly monitoring meetings with PRUs and special schools - detailed progress reports provided on all LAC pupils and actions identified to tackle underachievement COPE EPs providing focussed, on-going support, consultations and advice provided as a priority</p>	
	<p>Ensure priority access to EP advice &amp; support for LAC, particularly those educated outside, or returning to, Wolverhampton.</p>	<p>Ongoing, new post in place by November 2014</p>	<p>Huw Williams</p>		
	<p>Increase EPS input for LAC at risk of underachieving, funded by pupil premium, to focus on strategies to raise attainment</p>		<p>Darren Martindale</p>	<p>2 New Assistant EPs for LAC identified and started Jan 2015– remit is access to, and training around, accelerated learning</p>	

	with KS3/4 LAC			techniques for LAC pupils, prioritising KS4. Huw Williams to provide clinical supervision, DM/AF to set the work programme.	
	Manage & distribute the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) for LAC, ensuring correct use in line with DfE Conditions of Grant and analysis of impact	New PPG policy & procedure in place April 2014		New PPG policy in place. PPG top-sliced for reading help, ICT equipment, 1:1 tuition, OSHL opportunities etc. A steady flow of applications are now being received, approx. 90% approved, resulting in increased access to tuition and other learning support. It is likely that more PPG can be allocated directly to school in 2015/16, then monitored through the PEP, as there is clear evidence of better PPG use by schools	
<b>INCLUSION:</b> Ensure that no LAC are excluded from school	VSH to tackle reported 'grey' or unofficial exclusions of LAC from PRUs & alternative provision  Early intervention of LAC at risk of exclusion via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COPE designated teacher meetings</li> <li>• strengthening links between schools and VSH</li> <li>• VSH to attend Admission to Care Panel</li> <li>• Support for the PEP</li> </ul>	Reduction in exclusions by July 2014  In place April 2014 & ongoing	Darren Martindale  Darren Martindale	VSH visited alternative provision & held a meeting between PRUs and residential managers - 'grey' exclusions have reduced, far fewer concerns raised by residential managers and better communication All meetings held & attended as planned. Interventions being made more promptly	

	<p>process and focus on quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creative &amp; proactive use of PPG funding</li> </ul> <p>Increased monitoring of out-of-city LAC in PEPs &amp; by COPE. Any LAC not accessing 25 hours appropriate education to be addressed without delay</p>	Ongoing	Darren Martindale / Anne Foster	COPE Data Officer & School Improvement providing more data on out-of-city LAC, although this remains an area for development. VSH/Teacher Advisor helping to address OOC issues in a timely manner, PPG utilised where appropriate. OLA (outside-local-authority) Principles document agreed between VSHs in the West Midlands to facilitate improved educational planning & access	
<p><b>TRANSITION &amp; FE / HE:</b> Support successful primary-secondary transition for all LAC and ensure that all 16+ LAC have EET destination prior to leaving school</p>	<p>1:1 meetings with year 6 LAC before &amp; after secondary induction sessions. Follow up with meeting in new Secondary school. Out of City: information booklet provided and additional support where required Greater emphasis on post-16 transition support on new PEP, COPE to attend at least 1 year 11 PEP for all LAC in Wolverhampton schools and OOC where possible. VSH to meet regularly with Transitions team to improve monitoring arrangements &amp; joined-up support</p>	<p>Summer term – September 2014</p> <p>Arrangements in place September 2014</p>	<p>Anne Foster</p> <p>Darren Martindale</p>	<p>LAC EET figures good &amp; improving. Transition Team contributing 16+ data onto Virtual School database. Still progress to be made in this area however – VSH to hold a joint meeting between COPE &amp; Transitions in autumn term to agree an action plan to improve joint working</p>	



Increase numbers of LAC / Care Leavers in Higher Education	VSH involved in project with Wolverhampton University to increase numbers of LAC/Care Leavers at university VSH to support in developing a learner support agreement with West Midlands VSH Network, replacing the Buttle Trust quality mark			Initial meeting held, second meeting arranged October 2014. VSH emphasising importance of carer's awareness & engagement  Initial meetings / consultation completed, on agenda for January 2015 network meeting to finalise	
<b>PARTICIPATION</b> Enable views & wishes of LAC to drive service improvement	CiCC to regularly address educational issues and raise issues with elected members. Work of the CiCC & Corporate Parenting Panel to be aligned more closely  Consultation with a representative sample of 120 LAC re 2014 refresh of the Corporate Parenting Strategy & council's Pledge to LAC - to include increased focus on educational issues	Ongoing by June 2014  Consultation by mid-October 2014. Refresh completed by December 2014	Darren Martindale / Puja Taloy	CiCC consulted re educational issues & the Pledge, then met with Corporate Parenting panel in September 2014, identified two new priorities related to education & training. VSH to attend CiCC again to discuss specific issues arising from consultation. Consultation completed, results currently being assessed with a view to updating the Pledge & strategy. CiCC Facebook page in use for on-going consultation, LAC website to be updated & launched	
<b>TRAINING &amp; PARTNERSHIPS:</b> Ensure that all key partners are aware of the educational needs of LAC and fully supported to meet	Provide training for: 1. schools in attachment awareness, supporting vulnerable learners & the care system 2. school governing bodies in understanding &	Termly D/T's forum Training conference for schools – Feb 2015, 4	Darren Martindale / Ama Bagri	3 D/T's forum meetings & 4 social worker's training sessions held Feb conference booked and at planning stage  3 briefings given to LAC/CIN/CP	

<p>those needs</p> <p>Develop effective partnership working to raise the achievement of LAC between all key partners</p>	<p>prioritising the needs of LAC</p> <p>3. Social workers, IROs &amp; carers in educational issues (supporting learning at home, national curriculum/attainment, SEND, PEPs, PPG)</p> <p>4. Briefings for LAC &amp; CIN/CP management teams in relevant statutory guidance and related policies</p> <p>Partnership arrangements to be regularly reviewed with key partners</p> <p>VSH to attend WCC headteacher's conference and visit Wolverhampton secondary schools to meet with head teachers</p> <p>Teacher Advisor to provide educational advice and scrutiny on Fostering Panel</p> <p>VSH to develop strategic links &amp; deliver training to regional Ofsted inspectors to improve their understanding of LAC &amp; increase Ofsted's scrutiny of</p>	<p>locality-based half-day workshops March-July 2015</p> <p>Bi-monthly training for social workers</p> <p>Termly training for carers &amp; input into Skills-to-Foster</p> <p>Termly &amp; ongoing</p> <p>December 2014</p> <p>Ongoing – every 2 weeks</p> <p>Initial meeting</p>	<p>Darren Martindale</p> <p>Darren Martindale</p> <p>Anne Foster</p> <p>Darren Martindale</p>	<p>managers, 1 to IROs, CYP&amp;F Management Team briefing on new statutory guidance booked October 2014</p> <p>Termly training being delivered, now considering separate sessions for KS1-2 &amp; KS3-4 issues.</p> <p>VSH attended conference &amp; spoke to head teachers re the Virtual School &amp; VSH role</p> <p>Partnership arrangements with schools reviewed in COPE designated teacher meetings and new revised PEP</p> <p>Disappointing response from schools - 4 secondary, 2 special &amp; 2 primary visited – resubmit meeting request to other schools</p> <p>Teacher Advisor attending every 2 weeks - greater emphasis on educational issues leading to improvement in school stability</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. VSH had held meeting between regional lead inspector and 4 VSHs December 2013</li> <li>2. VSH delivered training presentation to Ofsted WM inspection team July 2014</li> <li>3. Lead HMI for LAC in West Midlands established &amp;</li> </ol>	
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<p>As chair of the West Midlands Virtual Schools Network, VSH to lead in developing improvements in policy &amp; practice to raise achievement of LAC. To also align local &amp; regional work with national work of the national VSH Steering Group, as the regional representative</p>	<p>support for LAC in school inspections - linked to work between Ofsted &amp; the National VSH Steering Group</p> <p>All VSHs in West Midlands region to agree coherent principles &amp; procedures in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross-border placements</li> <li>• Data / tracking</li> <li>• PPG arrangements</li> <li>• Quality assurance of education provision</li> </ul> <p>Strengthen links between VSHs &amp; ADCS to ensure a strategic lead in an increasing focus on education and school stability in care planning</p> <p>VSH leading WM consultation on new national handbook for VSHs</p>	<p>Cross-border agreement – summer 2014</p> <p>Other agreements in place by April 2015</p> <p>Initial meeting by Feb 2014</p> <p>Publish Feb 2015 approx</p>	<p>Darren Martindale</p> <p>Darren Martindale</p> <p>Darren Martindale</p> <p>Darren Martindale</p>	<p>meeting regularly with VSH</p> <p>4. VSH organised &amp; chaired a 1-day meeting between the LAC HMI &amp; WM VSH Network October 2014. <u>HMI agreed to propose that additional questions, re support &amp; progress of LAC, are put to schools in future inspections</u></p> <p>Outside Local Authority (OLA) principles agreed July 2014</p> <p>Other items on agenda for February 2014 network meeting</p> <p>Meeting with ADCS chair - Feb 2014 – followed by further discussions between ADCS &amp; VSH Steering Group. VSH flagged up educational stability; invited to work with ADCS as co-opted members of focus groups Initial meeting with rep from Reece Research Centre-Oct 2014 Consultation complete, VSH contributed content related to attachment, trauma and resilience</p>	
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Progress with recommendation shows no cause for concern – it has been or is likely to be delivered within the identified timescale



Progress with recommendation is of concern. Management action may be necessary to deliver it within the timescale.



Recommendation is very unlikely to be delivered within the timescale