

Briefing Note

Title: Virtual School Head Annual Report

Date: 24.1.24

Prepared by: Darren Martindale

Job Title: Virtual School Head

Scrutiny Panel: 31.1.24

Recommendation(s) for action or decision

The Scrutiny Board/Panel is recommended to:

Receive the Virtual School Head Annual Report 2023

Questions for Scrutiny to consider

There are no questions to consider.

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to highlight the educational outcomes of Wolverhampton's children and young people in care and care leavers from September 2021-July 2022, and how these have been supported by the Council, schools and other key partners. It also highlights notable successes as well as future priorities and areas for development.

Background

The Virtual School Head (VSH) for children and young people in care is responsible for ensuring that the local authority effectively discharges its statutory duty, under 22(3A) of the Children Act 1989, to promote the education of children in the care of the local authority (DfE 2014). Due to a range of barriers, the educational outcomes for children and young people in care and care leavers are statistically far poorer than those of their peers. Local authorities seek to narrow this gap through the model of the 'virtual school', with the VSH as the head teacher of that school, working closely in partnership with education settings, social care and other partners and stakeholders.

The report captures key educational outcomes for children and young people in care, and the work that has been done to support these outcomes in line with the above statutory duty. It also outlines the council's response to the wider duties of the VSH, including children previously in care, other children with a social worker and the education, employment and training (EET) of care leavers.

Progress, options, discussion etc.

The report is included as an appendix.

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any costs associated with the development of the plan or future plans that are identified as a result of this report should be contained within the overall budget for 2023-24 of £32.2 million within Children and Young People in Care service. [JG/10112023/S]

There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report. [TC/10112023/A]

Appendices

See attached document.