

Promoting the educational achievement of previously looked after children

Nottingham City Virtual School arrangement

Introduction

Local authorities have a statutory duty, under the Children Act 1989, to promote the educational achievement of its looked-after children. Section 4 of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 added to these duties to include the educational achievement of previously looked-after children (PLAC).

The local authority's duty to promote the educational achievement of looked-after and previously looked-after children is discharged to the Virtual School Head, in Nottingham City these duties are fulfilled by the Nottingham City Virtual School Team (overseen by the Virtual School Head).

The role of the Virtual School Head, in respect to previously looked after children, is to promote their educational achievement through the provision of information, advice and signposting.

Definition

Previously looked-after children are those children who are no longer looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because they are subject of an Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order or a Child Arrangements Order (previously known as a Residence Order).

The Virtual School duties in respect to previously looked-after children applies to children who become eligible for free early education (the start of the term following the child's second birthday) up to compulsory school age.

Nottingham City Virtual School arrangements for PLAC

Named officer: The grant funding provided by the DfE is used to fund the role of an Education Support Officer within the Nottingham City Virtual School Team with specific responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of previously looked-after children. The duties of this Education Support Officer includes providing advice and support to professionals and parents and carers of PLAC, delivering training that promotes and raises awareness in respect to the education of PLAC and ensuring the Virtual School website is up to date with relevant information in respect to the education of PLAC.

- Training:** The Nottingham City Virtual School includes in all its training information and advice pertaining to the education of previously looked-after children.
- Website:** The Nottingham City Virtual School has a website with an area dedicated to information and resources relevant to the education of PLAC.
- Requests:** In addition to having an Education Support Officer with specific responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of previously looked-after children, all the Education Support Officers in the Nottingham City Virtual School Team have appropriate knowledge and understanding to effectively respond to requests for information and advice relating to the education of previously looked-after children.

Key considerations

In line with statutory guidance, the Nottingham City Virtual School provides advice and information in respect to previously looked-after children who are **being educated** in the Nottingham City area, irrespective of where the **child lives**.

The local authority and the Virtual School Head are not corporate parents for previously looked-after children, and are therefore not accountable for their educational attainment. Neither are they required to monitor or track attendance, attainment or progress of individual PLAC.

The Nottingham City Virtual School may want to satisfy themselves that children are eligible for support prior to providing information, advice and/or training, in such instances the child's parent(s) may be asked for evidence of their child's previously looked-after status. If parents are unable to provide clear evidence of children's looked-after status it will be at the discretion of the Virtual School Head as to whether advice and support will be provided.

Further information

For further information pertaining to these arrangements please contact the Nottingham City Virtual School or visit our website:

Email: thevirtualschool@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Telephone: 0115 8764692 or 0115 8764694

Website: <http://www.nottinghamcityvirtualschool.org.uk/previously-looked-after-children/>