

# The RHELAC Team and The Virtual School

The RHELAC Team is a multi-agency team whose purpose is to raise the health and educational outcomes for Looked After Children.

RHELAC stands for, Raising Health and Education for Looked After Children.

The team consists of:

- The **Virtual Headteacher** for Looked After Children – Jane Pickthall
- **Senior Teacher** for LAC – Frances Brady
- **Primary Teacher** for LAC – Christine Petty
- **Clinical Psychologist** – Rob Johnson
- **Designated Nurses** for LAC – Gill Robinson and Judith Capstick-Meredith
- **Counselor** – Karen Logan
- **Consultant Pediatrician** – Belinda Bateman
- **Health Administrators** – Jan Southern and Rachael Murray
- **RHELAC Administrator and Data Manager** – Wendy James
- **Education Administrator** – Joanne Burt
- **Education Administrator** – Caroline Cobb
- **Educational Psychologists** – Wendy Jackson, Amelia Taylor, Victoria Hall
- **Apprentice Classroom Assistant** – Lauren Shields
- **Connexions Personal Adviser** – Gail Waldon

## Tasks undertaken by the team include:

Arranging and carrying out health assessments for LAC.

Providing academic support in schools.

Promoting the education of looked after children through a variety of projects and initiatives.

Giving advice to schools, social workers and carers on health and education matters.

Monitoring the progress of all LAC.

Celebrating the achievements of LAC.

Coordinating the Pupil Premium Plus funding for LAC

Carrying out Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) to screen for mental and emotional health issues.

Providing Educational Psychology input.

Providing psychological advice and support.

Providing training for teachers, social workers carers and other professionals.

# The Virtual School

The Virtual School for Looked After Children is a concept rather than a concrete place. It sits within the RHELAC Team. The Virtual School monitors the educational progress of all looked after children from nursery through to university.

The Virtual School is managed by Jane Pickthall, Head of the Virtual School.

## Personal Education Plans

It is a statutory requirement for all **Looked After Children** aged from age 3(attending nursery) to 18 to have a Personal education Plan (PEP). The PEP is part of the child's care plan. It is an important tool in ensuring your foster child gets the support they are entitled to in school. If a child has a Statement or EHCP this paperwork should be included with the PEP.

**There are two types of PEP form:**

- **Nursery Age (September after 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday) to Year 11**
- **Post Year 11 to 18 Years of Age (Looked After Children)**

The PEP should be completed at a meeting involving the following people:

- The school's **Designated Teacher** for Looked After Children
- The **foster carer**
- The child's **social worker**
- The **child** (if appropriate)

The initial PEP should be completed within 10 school days of the child becoming looked after.

It then needs to be reviewed every 6 months. The PEP review should also be completed at a meeting including the people mentioned above.

## Pupil Premium Plus

### Looked After Children

Pupil Premium Plus money goes to the Virtual School for Looked After Children to be allocated to schools to promote the education of looked after children.

Funding is allocated at £1900 per looked after child.

Around half of this money is given directly to the schools to use to support Looked after Children in their education. The rest is held by the Virtual School to provide

funding for crisis situations, additional resources and to provide centrally managed resources. Over the past two years the centrally held fund has been used to provide:

- a counseling service for LAC
- additional educational psychology support
- a teaching assistant apprentice
- funding support and educational provision for children in crisis

This year we are hoping to further increase the support on offer by extending the counselors role from 3 days a week to full time, appointing a pool of tutors and other talented people to help Looked After Children in their education and to appoint a part time education welfare officer to promote good school attendance. We are also hoping to be able to provide more support around attachment issues in schools.

The fund can be applied to via the Personal Education Plan (There is an application form at the back of the PEP). Schools and social workers can also apply for funding between PEPs using the form from the back of the PEP. All Pupil Premium Plus applications should be discussed with the child's care team prior to being submitted.

Applications for Pupil Premium Plus funding are considered at a monthly panel chaired by the Virtual School Head.

## **Adopted Children and Children Permanently Placed under SGO**

The Pupil Premium funding for adopted and other permanently placed children is currently allocated directly to schools and is to be used to improve educational outcomes for this group of children. Schools will usually send out a letter asking parents to declare if their child is adopted or under a residence or special guardianship order. The school can then apply for the Pupil Premium funding for that child on that basis via the annual school census.

### **Contact details for RHELAC and The Virtual School:**

Education – 0191 643 8366

Health – 0191 643 8368