



Learn Achieve Celebrate

A bulletin for Designated
Teachers of Looked After
Children
in Northumberland

NORTHUMBERLAND
Northumberland County Council

Issue 14, Spring 2018

Hello and welcome to Northumberland Virtual School's half term bulletin for Spring 2018. Please make sure you take note of the messages here and share with your Headteacher, Governors and other members of staff as appropriate. Any questions, please contact us on **01670 622779** or visit our [Virtual School](#) webpage.

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL: Designated Teacher Training Programme



I am delighted to share with you the news that the Virtual School has established a partnership with **Achievement for All**, a not-for-profit organisation that works with education providers to improve outcomes for all children and young people vulnerable to underachievement.

- A comprehensive **Designated Teacher Training programme** has been agreed starting this month, February, with dates until the end of the academic year in July. Achievement for All (AfA) professionals will deliver the training, but myself and the ESLAC team will also be available at the training sessions to meet with you and share the experience. The full programme will be sent to you when the venues have been confirmed, as soon after half term as possible.
- The first two training sessions will take place on 21st February and 28th February from 1-4pm at West Hartford Fire Station, Cramlington, NE23 3JP. The training is:

Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Introduction to Achievement for All
- Review of DT Resource Hub including audits to understand current practice
- Exploration of links between emotional health and wellbeing and attainment
- Audit of DT training needs and forward planning based on results of DT survey
- Invitations to present case studies

- Please contact Adele Stevens 01670 622779 or adele.stevens@northumberland.gov.uk to book places on the training as soon as you can.
- Achievement for All will be working with us to establish a Designated Teacher Training Hub in Northumberland. The first stage in planning that hub is to find out from you what you think your training needs are. I have therefore included a survey with this bulletin which I am asking you to take a few moments to complete on line:

[Achievement for All Designated Teacher training audit](#)

- Achievement for All will also be running an **Achieving Wellbeing CLA Programme** for Northumberland schools, funded by the Virtual School. Those schools which expressed interest in

the programme this half term will be contacted after the holiday to make arrangements for the programme to begin. If you would like to know more about the programme then please view the video clip here: [Achievement for All – Achieving Wellbeing CLA](#)

- You can find out more about Achievement for All at <https://afaeducation.org>
- An induction and refresher training module for teachers and Designated Teachers is now available on the virtual learning platform Learning Together. I strongly encourage you to do the training which will introduce you to or remind you of 'the basics' of your role and prepare you for the extensive face to face training provided by Achievement for All.
- Details will follow about two half day conferences to launch the revised statutory guidance for Virtual Schools and Designated Teachers which is expected to be published by April 2018.
- In addition to the Achievement for All programme there will still be opportunities to engage with the Thrive attachment training and training which will be offered by our new Virtual School Education Psychologist (to be appointed this month).

Pupil Premium Plus

- **For the next financial year, 2018-19**, there will be further changes to the Pupil Premium Plus as a consequence of the new national funding formula for schools and the Family and Social Work Act 2017. The DfE has confirmed that support for looked after children and children who were previously looked will be targeted through the Pupil Premium Plus, rather than through a looked after children factor in the national funding formula.
- The total amount spent through Looked After Children (LAC) factors in local formulae in 2017-18 has therefore been transferred from the Dedicated Schools Grant to the Pupil Premium Plus budget. As a result of this transfer, the 2018-19 **Pupil Premium Plus rate will be £2 300.**
- The DfE has published the Pupil Premium 2018 to 2019 Conditions of Grant which can be viewed [here](#).
- In accordance with statutory requirements Northumberland Virtual School has a Pupil Premium Plus Policy. The policy has been updated to reflect the changes and is available on the [Virtual School page](#) of the Council's website.
- For 2018-2019 there will be no change to the way we distribute the funding or the amount retained by the Virtual School. You should therefore expect to receive £1900 of each £2300 grant for every eligible pupil on roll at your school, and the Virtual School will retain £400 of each grant to fund strategies and interventions which will benefit all looked after and previously looked after children eg the Virtual School Education Psychologist, Achievement for All and Thrive attachment training.
- Dispersal of the grant is dependent on schools completing the Pupil Premium Plus agreement in each child's ePEP to evidence that outcomes have been agreed following an assessment of educational need, and that progress is monitored to show the impact of the Pupil Premium Plus. The Designated Teacher in every school/academy should therefore ensure that every looked after child has a good ePEP in place, which is also a requirement of the revised statutory guidance.
- The impact of the Pupil Premium Plus is evaluated in the Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report.

Jane Walker, Virtual School Headteacher