

L E A R N

October 2016  
Issue 7

A C H I E V E

C E L E B R A T E



**NORTHUMBERLAND**  
Northumberland County Council

Hello and welcome to the October half term bulletin with headline information which you need to know up until the full newsletter in December. You can also take a look at the [Virtual School webpage](#) on the Northumberland website.

**Jane Walker, Virtual School Headteacher (Northumberland)**

### Outcomes at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, 2016

I am pleased to be able to share with you the positive headlines about the achievement of our looked after children in 2016 at every Key Stage. Although the results are still provisional and the national LAC data is not yet available for comparison there are many good news stories for individual pupils. These achievements, and the considerable achievement of the Expert Learners, were celebrated in October at an event organised by ESLAC for learners and their foster carers. Individuals were awarded with vouchers and the Expert Learners received their iPads, as well as hearing strong and motivating messages from a care leaver currently studying at Teesside University.

Our looked after learners in Year 2 did brilliantly in their **Key Stage 1** SATs and out-performed all non-LAC Northumberland pupils in each measure. Achievement at **Key Stage 2** was in line with our expectations of individual Year 6 pupils, but it's a shame we can't compare with previous years as historically outcomes have improved steadily over time. There has been a significant improvement in performance at **GCSE** since 2015 and almost 100% of pupils who completed accredited courses in Year 11 are now engaged in further education, training or employment. For the second consecutive year 100% of our **Year 13** pupils have started University courses, having achieved good A'level results.

Full details of education outcomes for looked after children will be published in my Annual Report later this year.

### New team members for the Virtual School

We are delighted to welcome two new team members to ESLAC. Sarah Brook has been commissioned from Northumberland's Education Psychology team to work in the Virtual School for two days a week, and Andrea Johnson has transferred from the Employability team to provide careers information, advice and guidance to post-16 looked after children and care leavers who have left school. The full ESLAC team for 2016-17 is:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| • Toni McGuire     | Team Manager                                  |
| • Adele Stevens    | Data Officer/admin support                    |
| • Peter Green      | KS4/5 Personal Education Advisor              |
| • Carol Barnfather | KS4 Inclusion Support Officer                 |
| • Andrea Johnson   | Personal Advisor IAG (Information & Guidance) |

- Sheila Kirkup Senior Education Support Worker
- Linda Lynch Education Support Worker
- Julie Robson Grainger Education Support Worker
- Sarah Brook Education Psychologist

## Training 2016-17

Now that we have Sarah Brook working with us we are changing our approach to the training programme for this year. Sarah will be delivering training for Designated Teacher for Looked After Children on the following dates, with planning underway for further dates in the Spring and Summer terms:

- 9<sup>th</sup> November, 9.00am to 12.00pm, West Hartford Fire Station
- 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 9.00am to 12.00pm, West Hartford Fire Station

To book a place please e-mail Adele Stevens at ESLAC.

Sarah will also be arranging to meet with all Designated Teachers currently working with Year 6 and Year 11 pupils to discuss support strategies for tests, assessments and exams.

## Framework to evaluate the effectiveness of your school's provision for children in care

In July's newsletter we asked you to use a tool developed by the Virtual School Headteachers' National Association to evaluate the effectiveness of your school's provision for children in care. This is a reminder that you can download the tool from our webpage here, under the bullet for Communications from the Virtual School for Designated Teachers/[useful information for professionals working with looked after children](#). We will be contacting you about your experience of using the tool and its outcomes from December onwards.

## Pupil Premium Plus agreements

After half term we will be dispersing the Pupil Premium Plus funding to schools/academies/settings for each eligible pupil where the Pupil Premium Plus agreement in the PEP has been signed by your Headteacher and the Virtual School Headteacher. Any queries please contact your ESLAC support worker in the first instance or team manager Toni McGuire on 01670 810433.

## One to one support for Year 6 and Year 11 pupils

The Virtual School is providing additional after school one to one tuition in maths and English for all Year 6 and Year 11 looked after pupils, available from September 2016 until the summer term when tests, assessments and exams are over. If you haven't already made arrangements through ESLAC for your pupils to benefit from this support then please contact us straight away on 01670 810433.

## And finally, we're on the move.....

During November the ESLAC team will be moving out of their office premises at the Edzone in Ashington and moving to the Brunel Building in Blyth. This won't affect the service you receive at all but the landline phone number might well change and during the two days of the move you might have difficulty contacting the usual number (01670 810433). Please make contact using the individual mobile telephone numbers which you have or if the reason for contacting us is less urgent use e-mail.