

L E A R N

Summer 2017  
Issue 12

A C H I E V E

C E L E B R A T E



**Northumberland**  
Northumberland County Council



**HELLO!!** I am delighted to tell you that we are celebrating with our Year 6 pupils who did really well in their end of Key Stage 2 tests. Five of our looked after learners achieved national expectations, so huge congratulations to them, their ESLAC worker and their Designated Teachers. Huge congratulations also to the rest of our Virtual Year 6 who all worked hard and did their best. We're very proud of you.

It has been an eventful year once again with some unexpected challenges, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ESLAC team for their continued dedication despite an increasing workload. A big thankyou to Sheila Davies who we borrowed from the Inclusion Support team. She has done an amazing job and made a real difference to our looked after learners. Thanks also to Sarah, Andrew and Jenny from Northumberland's Education Psychology team and Carol Booth who were all virtual team members this year.

The key changes for September which I want to draw your attention to in this newsletter are the introduction of a new ePEP and our refreshed and ambitious training programme for Designated Teachers for 2017-18. There are more training providers and different ways to access the learning, so please take a look and put dates in your diary before your summer break.



Enjoy your summer holidays, and I look forward to working with you all again next year.

Jane Walker, Virtual School Headteacher

## New look for 2017-18



The Virtual School will have a new look from September when we will introduce a new colour scheme and logo designed for us by Voices Making Choices (our children in care council). There are some clues in this newsletter, but we're keeping you in suspense until the new term! Thank you to Saira Park and all the young people who were involved. My Promise to our looked after children this year is to give at least one reward to each child. The rewards for VMC for this work will be my first!

# Training Programme for Designated Teachers 2017-18

To book a place please contact Adele Stevens on 01670 622779  
 Please also consult the [LSCB Training Programme for 2017-18](#)  
*Details tba will be shared with you asap next term*

What	With	For	When	Where
Briefings/ network meetings for Designated Teachers				
<b>Induction training for new Designated Teachers</b>	Learning Together	New DTs	From October 2017	On-line
<b>ePEP training for Designated Teachers</b>	Shoo-fly	All DTs	tba	tba
<b>Meeting the needs of looked after learners in Year 6</b> SATS prep, refresher, support/interventions, share good practice, ePEP training, attendance	Jane Walker Toni McGuire ESLAC Lance Hardy	DTs for Year 6 pupils	21 Sept 17	Brunel Classroom 2
<b>Meeting the needs of looked after learners in Year 11</b> GCSE/KS4 prep, refresher, support/interventions, share good practice, ePEP training, attendance	Jane Walker Toni McGuire Peter Green Carol Barnfather Andrea Johnson Lance Hardy	DTs for Year 11 pupils	27 Sept 17	Brunel Classroom 2
<b>Meeting the needs of looked after learners in Year 9</b> Options for Year 10, refresher, support/interventions, share good practice, ePEP training, attendance	Jane Walker Toni McGuire Peter Green Carol Barnfather Andrea Johnson Lance Hardy	DTs for Year 9 pupils	17 Jan 18	Brunel Classroom 2
<b>Meeting the needs of looked after learners in Year 6</b> SATS prep, refresher, support/interventions, share good practice, ePEP training, attendance	Jane Walker Toni McGuire Education Support Workers Lance Hardy	DTs for Year 6 pupils	8 Feb 18	Brunel Classroom 2
<b>Meeting the needs of looked after learners in Year 11</b> GCSE/KS4 prep, refresher, support/interventions, share good practice, ePEP training, attendance	Jane Walker Toni McGuire Peter Green Carol Barnfather	DTs for Year 11 pupils	21 Feb 18	Brunel Classroom 2

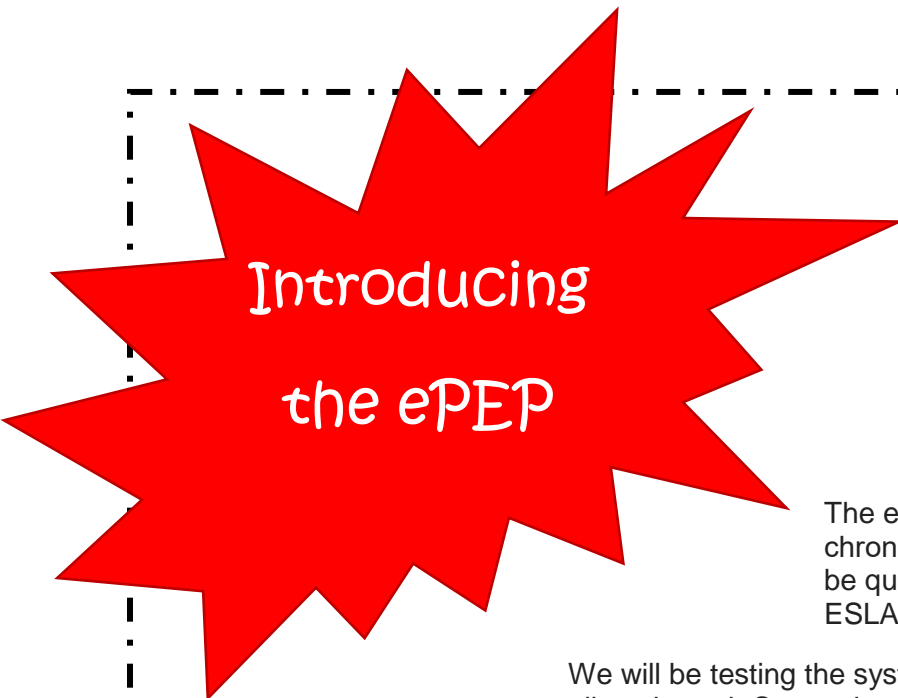
	Andrea Johnson Lance Hardy			
<b>Meeting the needs of looked after learners in Year 2</b> SATS prep, refresher, support/interventions, share good practice, ePEP training, attendance	Jane Walker Toni McGuire ESLAC Janice Woods Lance Hardy	DTs for Year 2 pupils	28 Feb 18	Brunel Classroom 2
<b>A conference for Designated Teachers for Looked After Children: roles and responsibilities in 2018</b> New role and statutory guidance (Children and Social Work Act 2017)	Jane Walker Toni McGuire	All DTs	22 March 18	Brunel Classroom 2
<b>Meeting the needs of looked after learners in Year 4</b> Transition, refresher, support/interventions, share good practice, ePEP training, attendance	Jane Walker Toni McGuire ESLAC Lance Hardy	DTs for Y4 and 6 pupils	14 June 18	Brunel Classroom 2
<b>School readiness for Reception pupils</b> Phonics, refresher, support/interventions, share good practice, ePEP training, attendance	Janice Woods Education Support Worker	DTs for Y1 pupils	12 July 18	Brunel Classroom 2
<b>Designated Teacher Network meeting</b> – Virtual School updates, use of audit tool	Jane Walker	All DTs	Autumn Spring Summer	tba
<b>Being in care in Northumberland</b> Role and perspectives of including Independent Reviewing Officer, Social Care team manager, young people	Various	All DTs	Autumn 17 Summer 18	tba
Emotional wellbeing - guidance from Education Psychology				
<b>Attachment and trauma</b>	Lance Hardy	All DTs	Autumn Spring Summer	tba
<b>Foster Carers: Years 10 &amp; 11</b>	Lance Hardy ESLAC	All DTs	June/July	tba



[Learning Together](#) is Northumberland County Council's virtual learning platform for professionals. Your school/academy should already have access to this learning resource.

If your school or academy does not have access or you are having difficulty logging in then please contact Paul Brooks on 01670 623142 in our Learning and Organisational Development Service.

During the Autumn term the Designated Teacher induction and refresher course will be available as a learning module on this platform.



## Introducing the ePEP

Over the last few months we have been working with software developers *Shoofly* to develop an ePEP which will better suit the needs of our Looked after children and allow us to link to other professionals and data capture systems.

The ePEP is web-based and accessible through Schools 360. For schools who don't use this platform an e-mail alternative will be available.

The ePep will hold historical information giving a chronology of each pupil's education. It should also be quicker to complete which will allow you and the ESLAC team more time to work directly with pupils.

We will be testing the system over the summer and will be conducting pilots through September with a view to going live for every looked after child in October.

The ePEP has been based on the current PEP document but it will be easier to gather information and for Designated Teachers to complete the half termly progress report which will now be part of the PEP, as will the Pupil Premium Plus agreement.

Training will to be available from Shoofly and the ESLAC team. You will be contacted at the beginning of the new school term with arrangements for the transfer of your looked after pupils to the new system, and this will be co-ordinated by your ESLAC worker. Some of you will be asked to be part of the pilot, your cooperation would be greatly appreciated.

## Before you go on holiday.....

We think we have identified our Expert Learners for 2017. If you have a looked after pupil who you think meets the criteria then please make sure before you go on holiday that you have contacted your ESLAC worker to let us know. The reward was very successful last year, and pupils were thrilled to receive an Expert Learner badge and iPad.

A reminder of the criteria:

**Attendance of 97%** for the academic year (average over 3 terms, exceptions made for pupils who have been absent due to illness)

**No exclusions** (fixed term or permanent, all 3 terms)

**Progress made** in English and maths for all 3 terms (based on termly assessment of progress)

**Effort** described/assessed as trying their best (all 3 terms)

**Participation in a school based enrichment activity** (at least 1 activity and sustained for 3 terms)

If you need to get in touch then call us on **01670 622779**

