



Learn Achieve Celebrate

Information and guidance
for Designated Teachers of Looked After and
Previously Looked After Children in
Northumberland
October 2020

Autumn Conference for Designated Teachers

You have all been sent an electronic calendar invitation to the **Virtual School's Autumn Conference for Designated Teachers**, on Wednesday 11th November 2020 from 1.00 to 3.00pm. We are looking forward to seeing all of you there.

The agenda is:

- **Supporting a successful return to school for looked after children**
Carol Booth, Virtual School Lead Educational Psychologist
- **Kooth and Qwell: online mental health communities**
Malcolm Connelly, Kooth Integration and Participation Worker
- **What your ePEP can now do for you**
Tara Prescott, Acting Deputy Virtual School Headteacher
- **Designated Teachers and Good Corporate Parenting**
Jane Walker, Virtual School Headteacher



Training



Our virtual Virtual School training programme for 2020-21 is underway. You will be invited to all of our conferences, and can book a place on our other courses using this [Microsoft form](#)

There are two new training modules on the virtual platform Learning Together which you and your school staff will find useful and informative when working with looked after children and care leavers. Both modules were developed in-house and have a Northumberland context:

[The Education of Looked After and Previously Looked After Children](#) which is for all professionals who have an interest in care experienced children doing the very best they can at school. The course develops important learning about statutory requirements as well as improving knowledge and understanding about:

- the education needs of looked after children and the challenges they might have to overcome to enjoy success
- what the Virtual School is
- what a Designated Teacher for looked after and previously looked after children does
- corporate parenting
- what works when intervening to support the education of looked after children
- the support available to children and schools and how to access it.

[Reducing Criminalisation of Looked After Children](#) which will help you to understand the purpose and process of the of the [Protocol for Reducing the Criminalisation of Looked After Children and Careleavers](#).

You will learn about:

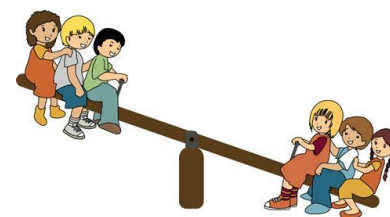
- who looked after children and care leavers are
- recognise the impact of trauma on the behaviour of these young people
- identify the key elements of Northumberland's Protocol

- recognise the difference this protocol can make in children's lives

Both courses are highly recommended by Northumberland's Virtual School Headteacher so please add it to your list of must-do training, it will only take you 30 minutes to complete!

School placement stability

The return to school for many looked after children has been positive. Thank you for preparing so carefully for the new term and for making the school environment safe and welcoming for our pupils.



Some looked after children continue to experience difficulties with their new school environments and are not coping well with the changes. Please keep in close contact with us about children who are in need of extra support.

Through the ESLAC team we can provide expertise from **teachers, Educational Psychologists, therapeutic intervention workers, education welfare and careers' guidance.**

We can also facilitate integrated working with **foster carers, SEND, CYPS, SALT, NIES and Northumberland Adolescent Services.**

For advice and to arrange support please contact **Tara Prescott 01670 629275** (acting Deputy Virtual School Headteacher) and **Toni McGuire 01670 620128** (ESLAC Team Manager).

Northumberland ePEP user guide

The Northumberland ePEP is well and truly at the centre of our support for children, helping them all to do the best they can at school. Please take a look at the new [Northumberland user guide](#) which takes you step by step through the PEP process. More of this at the Autumn conference too!

Remember that the **Pupil Premium Plus** will be allocated this term according to the policy, which requires Designated Teachers to have reviewed outcomes by the end of term and if it is due, to have hosted a 6 monthly PEP review.

Next half term you will also receive an electronic request through the ePEP to submit each child's **progress review**.

Early intervention – supporting the return to school

You already have access to Northumberland's [return to school padlet](#), and will benefit from training which focuses on the needs of looked after children at our Autumn conference. You might also find this resource useful from the Early Intervention Foundation – [supporting children's social and emotional wellbeing as they return to school](#).



Britannica Digital Learning



Don't forget that the Virtual School has bought you free access to the Britannica online learning resource. This resource about [raising resilient kids](#) is particularly helpful if you are working with looked after children during the global pandemic.

Contact Us

Here are contact details for teams and services that you might need during this school closure period. Let us know if you need any others:

- OneCall 01670 536 400
- ESLAC 01670 622779
- Email: eslac.info@northumberland.gov.uk
- CYPS 01670 502 700
- Family Placement 01670 626 262
- IROs 01670 624888

Virtual School Headteacher: Jane Walker



Northumberland
County Council