



Learn Achieve Celebrate

Information and guidance

for Designated Teachers of Looked After and
Previously Looked After Children in Northumberland

February 2020

Spring Conference(s) for Designated Teachers

If you haven't already booked your place, please make space in your diary to meet with us next month at our half day **Spring Conference(s) for Designated Teachers**. Dates and locations are:

- 24th March, The Fuse Prudhoe, 1-4pm
- 25th March, Berwick Workspace, 1-4pm
- 26th March, West Hartford Fire Station, 1-4pm

Further details will follow for those attending, but the main agenda items are:

- Corporate Parenting - Graham Reiter, Service Director for Children's Social Care
- Pupil Premium Plus arrangements for 2020-21
- Improving the mental health and resilience of looked after children

To book a place please follow this link to our online google form: [SPRING CONFERENCE](#)

Intensive support for pupils in Year 6 and Year 11

Please keep in touch with us about any additional support or resources which might be needed for Year 6 and Year 11 pupils to do their very best in the forthcoming tests and exams. If you want to make arrangements or discuss a pupil's presentation or progress then contact your ESLAC link worker or Tara Prescott - 01670 622779, eslac.info@northumberland.gov.uk

Reading Campaign Update

The **Reading Campaign** is underway and we have received many stories about how it is already being used in your schools to develop reading skills and boost achievement. Many thanks to our Virtual School teacher Lorna Pringle who has researched and organised the Reading Campaign for us all.

By the end of this half term you will be sent the *getting started school guide* for **myOn**, the online digital library which gives children access to over 5500 enhanced digital books. Every looked after child from reception age upwards will be receiving login details which will be sent to school and the child's home. Every looked after child has access to the internet at home.

The Virtual School is distributing 60 licences for the **Lexia Reading programme**, an excellent resource which supports reading development for children who are falling behind. Research shows that Lexia can enable children to make significant improvements within their reading skills if used consistently both at school and at home. Based on our performance and monitoring data and what you tell us, we are identifying children who would benefit from Lexia. Please do get in touch if Lexia could help a child in your school.

The training details and school guide for Lexia will be shared with the schools who we have contacted. If you require further information on Lexia, there are information leaflets for the primary and secondary programme which you can access [HERE](#).

Unpicking the PEP – advice from the acting ESLAC Team Manager

Tara Prescott, our intrepid acting ESLAC team manager, has spent a considerable amount of time since September tenaciously quality assuring the ePEPs and supporting you to make sure that they all 'get to green'. Based on what Tara has seen and heard from you, she has compiled some useful tips for all Designated Teachers.

- **Record Of Achievement:** to be filled in at the end of each Key Stage. So it's ok if there's a gap if a pupil hasn't reached the end yet.
- **Strengths:** record a range of strengths, academic or otherwise. Use this box to celebrate the positives.
- **Pupil Contribution** - what does the pupil think? Did they read through their strengths? Do they agree with what you've said about their progress?
- **Factors Affecting Progress:** include all fixed term exclusions.
- **Pupil section:** if the pupil is in alternative provision or a short term part-time timetable, please record in the PEP in this section under **additional details**
- **Outcomes:** always SMART, always child friendly. It's the child's PEP, they should be able to understand the outcomes and know what they need to do in order to achieve them. Use appropriate language to ensure the child and care team can understand what you and their teachers have written.
- Always submit the outcomes at the end of every term, even if you've just had the PEP meeting. If the outcomes and progress remain the same, state that so it's clear the termly review has taken place.
- **Pupil Views:** read their views with them, if they say they can't remember their outcomes then note on the PEP that you will go through this with them – this is evidence of school taking action (pupil said, we did). If you can't gather pupil views due to their needs (for example special schools), please write this in the text box and upload your own documentation that captures this.
- **Preparation for Adulthood:** this section is for pupils of all ages to complete to raise their aspirations by encouraging and supporting them to plan for their future.
- **Progress Reviews:** please complete the feedback section, this is very helpful to all professionals and the pupil. Remember this is the pupil's PEP - tell us any good things that have happened that term, it doesn't matter how small they are. **Pupil Premium Plus** will be paid to schools when the outcomes have been agreed and subsequently reviewed - £400 each term. PP+ will be paid to schools when there has been a multi agency PEP meeting (review) - £200 each meeting. If the outcomes are not SMART enough or haven't been reviewed, the school will not receive PP+ funding for that term. If outcomes are judged to be red through the quality assurance process then the PEP will be red overall.

Any **red PEP** needs to be reviewed and re-submitted within 10 working days.

Ofsted feedback

As you know we had an Ofsted inspection of local authority children's services (ILAC) during January. The report will be published in March and although there won't be a separate judgement for the Virtual School I can share with you that the verbal feedback was very positive. Thanks to all of you for being ready just in case, and particular thanks to those of you who were involved through the selected PEPs and telephone calls from our inspector Malcolm Kirtley. Still work to be done on attendance and progress at Key Stage 4!