



Learn Achieve Celebrate

Information and guidance

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

October 2019

Provisional education outcomes 2019

There is good news about the achievement of our looked after pupils for 2019, but also some areas where we know we need to support individuals to do better. It is fantastic that so many care-experienced learners are now achieving university degrees, but a concern that some pupils might not be doing the very best they can at school by the end of Year 11. Here are some of the headlines, the full details will follow in my annual report for 2019 later this year.

- ✓ 62.5% of children achieved a good level of development in the Early Years Stage which is better than last year (25%).
- ✓ 50% of our looked after children at Key Stage 2 met the expected standard in the combined measure of reading, writing and maths (from 30% in 2018). This is better than looked after children in our region (49%), and nationally (36%) and is getting closer to the achievement of non-looked after children in Northumberland (66.5%).
- ✓ Three care leavers passed their A'level courses in 2019 and will progress into higher education.
- ✓ A record number of five care leavers successfully completed their university degree courses.
- ✓ No looked after children have been permanently excluded from school since 2008.
- At Key Stage 1 some pupils achieved age related expectations in either reading, writing or maths, but several of the 6 children in the cohort found the writing and maths too challenging and no pupils met the standard in the combined measure.
- Not enough of our Year 11 pupils achieved at least grade 4 in English & Maths GCSE combined (the Basics). However it is great news that 85% of these pupils are now in education, training or employment.

Autumn Conference(s) for Designated Teachers

You can still book a place at one of our half day Designated Teacher conferences – just follow this link to the [google booking form](#).

The conference will be delivered 3 times in different locations:

- Tuesday 12th November, The Fuse Prudhoe, 1.00-4.00pm
- Wednesday 13th November, West Hartford Fire Station, 1.00-4.00pm
- Thursday 14th November, Berwick Workspace, 1.00-4.00pm

The agenda is diverse and includes a keynote session from Carrie Hughes, Speech and Language Therapy Clinical Lead (Northumbria Healthcare Trust) called *Giving Voice to Looked After Children* and the launch of our Virtual School Reading Campaign.

Speech and Language Therapists supporting Virtual School Heads

This year we would like to develop a closer relationship with speech and language therapy colleagues to address the high prevalence of speech, language and communication needs amongst our looked after children.

Carrie Hughes will attend the Autumn Conferences, and there is a useful factsheet available on our webpage [here](#), published by the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists and National Association of Virtual School Headteachers to get you thinking.

Protocol for reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers

Please follow these links to find documentation regarding *Northumberland's protocol for reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers*:

- [Northumberland Protocol for Reducing the Unnecessary Criminalisation of Looked After Children and Care Leavers](#)
- [Flowchart - dealing with incidents involving a looked after child or care leaver](#)
- [10 things you should know about the protocol for reducing the unnecessary criminalisation of looked after children and care leavers](#)

Implementation of the protocol will involve a training offer which education settings can all access, details of which will follow shortly.

Before you go on holiday

- Our acting ESLAC Team Manager, Tara Prescott, has drafted a [PEP process document](#) for Designated Teachers. Experienced or new to the role, please take a look to help clarify what we do and how we do it in Northumberland.
- Please upload any key documents your looked after pupils might receive, such as **interim school reports**, to their ePEP. It helps to keep a full record of their progress and supports the tracking process.
- A reminder that your Pupil Premium Plus comes to you in **five instalments** this year depending on the termly review of Outcomes in the PEP and holding two multi-agency PEP reviews within timescales. For further information see our current Pupil Premium Plus policy on our [webpage](#) under the heading *Support for Designated Teachers*.
- Toni McGuire hasn't left us! For this year she is managing a **mental health and resilience project** for us so that we can really make improvements to access to emotional and mental health and wellbeing services for looked after children. We'll tell you more about the project as it progresses.
- There was a rise in **term time holidays** for looked after children last year. Just to remind you that you do not have to authorise these absences and the Virtual School will fully support your drive to keep all children in school during term time. Let us know if we can help.
- A reminder that I would like to see your **Designated Teacher annual report to governors** when you have written it. Just send it to the ESLAC mailbox or directly to me. I'm looking forward to reading them all and seeing what impact the Pupil Premium Plus had on progress and attainment last year.
- At the Autumn Conferences our Virtual School Teacher, Lorna Pringle, will be launching our Reading Campaign. To support this we will be sending you a message to ask if your school already uses **Lexia**, just a yes or no answer will be required. Please could you answer, it won't take long, but will really help us to get this part of the campaign up and running quickly.