



# Learn Achieve Celebrate

A newsletter for Designated  
Teachers of looked after and  
previously looked after children  
in Northumberland



July 2018

## Northumberland Designated Teacher Essentials

- ◆ e-learning induction/refresher training - [Learning Together](#)
- ◆ training programme - [Virtual School webpage](#) and *Learn, Achieve, Celebrate*
- ◆ training hub - <https://afaeducation.org/our-projects/lift-learning-in-family-teams/northumberlanddt/>
- ◆ toolkit - <https://afaeducation.org/free-dt-resources/>
- ◆ webpage - <http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Looked-after/Virtual.aspx>
- ◆ Contact us - 01670 622779 or [ESLAC.info@Northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:ESLAC.info@Northumberland.gov.uk)

## Message from the Virtual School Headteacher

Hello Everyone, just a brief message from me before you all depart for a well-earned summer holiday. Hopefully you'll get the chance to read this newsletter before you go. Please notice that I have inserted the Designated Teacher Essentials under the masthead so you will have this information in every edition of the newsletter and bulletin, with quick links to the webpage and Achievement for All hub and toolkit.

It looks like our looked after children have achieved well this year, with outcomes at Key Stage 1 improving threefold since last year and Key Stage 2 outcomes remaining constant at 30%. Well done to the children and to everyone in school who supported them too.

I have mentioned to you at training sessions that we now have access to a data portal which is all about looked after children. Next year I will work with you to explore how to share that information with you in a useful way and will start by sending you a comparative report about each of your looked after children. It will arrive in your mailbox over the summer. Any feedback would be welcome, especially if you use it to write your annual report to governors.

If you are short of something to read during the long holiday then I recommend *When the Adults Change* by Paul Dix. I know many of you have already indulged, I think it's an approach we can use successfully to achieve school placement stability for many of our learners. See what you think.

See you in September!

Jane Walker, Virtual School Headteacher



### In this issue:

Admissions

The ePEP: who is responsible  
for what?

ESLAC roles and  
responsibilities from  
September

Training programme for  
Designated Teachers 2018-19

### Admissions

Schools must prioritise the admissions of looked after and previously looked after children into school, a process which is required to be carried out with the minimum of delay and in compliance with statutory guidance.

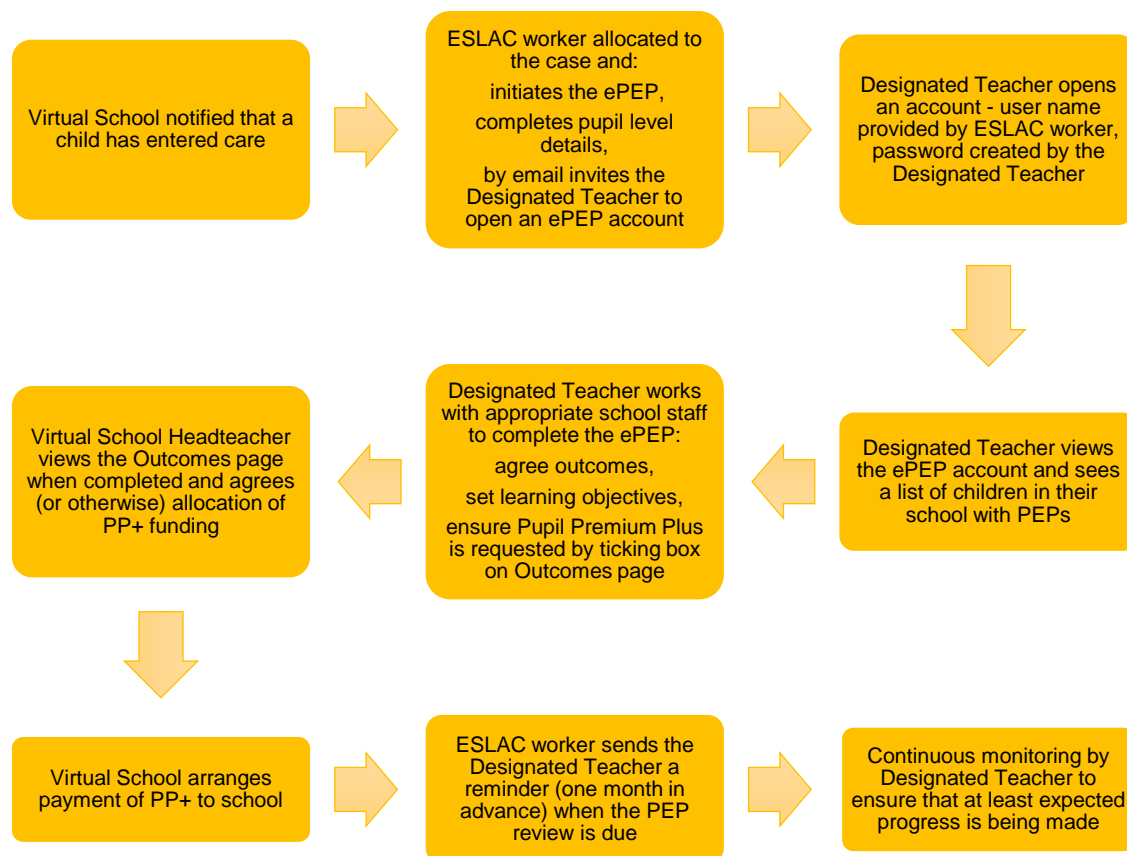
Please use the Virtual School document - [Admissions to School](#) – which you can download from our website to familiarise yourself with those requirements and the arrangements which are in place in Northumberland.

**Our aim for every looked after child is to achieve a stable school placement in which they received a good full time education in an environment where they are safe to learn.**

## the ePEP: who is responsible for what?

From September 2018 the newly implemented ePEP will be used for every looked after child belonging to Northumberland local authority. This new way of working alongside the revised statutory guidance for local authorities and Designated Teachers mean that responsibility for the PEP is now shared differently between the Designated Teacher, social worker and ESLAC worker.

The flowchart below shows the involvement of professionals in the development of an ePEP from the point that a child enters care.



**You have to access an ePEP by logging into your account. If you follow an email link to an ePEP you will not get access to the full document.**

**By September the ePEP will include the **Pupil Premium Plus agreement** and **half termly progress report**. There are no separate pieces of paper to manage and keep track of.**

The ePEP saves what you put in and you can download it to print at any time.

Once you have an account you won't need a new one or a new user name. Any new pupils entering care will automatically be added to your existing account.

In time we hope that social workers and IROs may be able to view the ePEP online.

Social workers and IROs can view a hard copy of the ePEP at any time – a copy is saved in the social care case management system. Social workers will be asked to contribute to it for every PEP review.

To make things easier and to provide the Virtual School with more meaningful information about each pupil, we will **no longer** ask you to indicate whether a child is *emerging, developing, secure or mastered*. Instead the section in the ePEP will ask you if the child is making expected progress or better than expected progress in reading/writing/English and maths – Yes or No or the GCSE grade.

One of our aims is to ensure that looked after children progress to further education, training or employment after they leave school at 16. We are working closely with Northumberland Adolescent Services to achieve this, and from September will start to replace the PEP in Year 11 with a **Pathway Plan**. More information about this will follow and Peter Green and Andrea Johnson will explain the process to you in due course.

There will be **Desi Drop-ins** in the Sleekburn Training Room at County Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> September from 9.30 to 3.30pm.

The drop in is a 2 hour introduction to the ePEP for any Designated Teacher who would like to attend.

If you would like to drop in then please contact Adele Stevens on **01670 622779** or **ESLAC.info@Northumberland.gov.uk** and let her know which 2 hour slot you would like to attend on which day.

## ESLAC Roles and Responsibilities from September

From September each member of the ESLAC team will have specific responsibilities in addition to supporting you to maintain good quality ePEPs.

**Toni McGuire**, the team manager, will make all arrangements for mid-year moves in school placements for looked after children and make sure that care teams and Designated Teachers communicate well with each other. Toni will also be working with the Virtual School Headteacher to quality assure the ePEPs.

**Sheila Kirkup** will be the Virtual School's SEND Champion and work in an integrated way with SEND colleagues to ensure that admissions are swift, the statutory assessment process is accelerated and that PEPs and EHCPs are integrated well to support and raise achievement.

**Ali Hindhaugh** will work with you to develop strategies to manage behaviour issues in the classroom, using the skills and experience she developed working at Northumberland's PRU. She will support you to reduce the number of fixed term exclusions experienced by looked after children.

**Julie Robson-Grainger** will start working with children from the age of 2 when they enter care and through to reception or Year 1 and when they may become previously looked after. She will also continue to be the champion for pupil voice, develop stronger links with the children in care council Voices Making Choices, and promote the use of the MOMO (Mind of My Own) app.

**Carol Barnfather** will continue to support our teenage looked after children who are persistent absentees and struggle to engage in education, or young people who require an alternative curriculum.

**Peter Green** will continue to support looked after children from Year 10 to provide support through the GCSE years and plan for continued learning through further education, training or employment at 16. He will work with Andrea and the 16+ team to implement a revised Pathway Plan as the PEP during Year 11.

**Andrea Johnson** will work with young people from as early as 14 and up to 18 to provide careers guidance to ensure that vocational and academic pathways into education, training and employment are well-established and sustained after school leaving age. She will also support with the development of the Pathway Plan from Year 11.

**Joanne Robson** has a new role in the Virtual School which is to support care leavers age 18+, providing targeted careers' guidance to ensure that they remain in education, training and employment as adults. Joanne will work closely with Andrea and the 18+ team.

**Carol Booth** will work with looked after children on an individual case basis, explore and develop the use of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) and implement an assessment on entry to care.

**Adele Stevens** will continue as the Virtual Schools' data officer and develop ways of sharing data meaningfully with Designated Teachers, for example comparative information to use in your annual report to governors.

**Toby Redford** has now joined the team permanently and will provide us all with essential admin support.

## Designated Teacher Training Programme 2018-19

Your provisional training programme for 2018-19 will be available by 1<sup>st</sup> September – we will email it to you and post it on our [webpage](#) and the [Achievement for All Designated Teacher hub](#) with details of how to book online.

We will also send details of a new Northumberland Designated Teacher Accreditation which we are offering to you in partnership with our training provider Achievement for All.

**Our partner providers and the training on offer are summarised here.**

### From the **Virtual School Headteacher**

- Termly briefings for Designated Teachers
- Support and guidance for parents/carers of previously looked after children
- LSCB Schools' Engagement Group meetings

### From the **ESLAC Team Manager**

- Effective PEPs and evidence based interventions

### From the **Virtual School Education Psychologist**

- Social and emotional wellbeing of looked after and previously looked after children

### From **Achievement for All**

- Designated Teacher [survey](#) to identify training needs (ongoing)
- Creating a whole school approach to supporting looked after and previously looked after children
- Coaching in education
- Emotion coaching
- Foster carer engagement and amplifying young person voice
- Growth, mindset, resilience, core strength
- The Ofsted perspective
- Practice sharing with Designated Teachers involved in the CLA Achievement Programme
- Northumberland Designated Teacher Accreditation

### From [Learning Together](#) (NCC online training platform)

- Induction training for Designated Teachers

### From **Thrive**

- Practitioner training
- Thrive adolescent add-on training

### From **Northumberland's Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB)**

- Attachment (and permanence) with Anne Lambert

### From the **North East Virtual School Headteachers' Regional Network**

- Regional conference, in partnership with Schools North East (details to be confirmed)

### From the **Schools' Safeguarding and Wellbeing team manager**

- Training for Designated Safeguarding Leads
- LSCB briefings for Designated Safeguarding Leads

### From the **Education Welfare team**

- Secondary Behaviour and Attendance Collaborative