

From Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
 Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director - Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Corporate Parenting Panel

Date: 9 April 2015

Subject: **HEAD TEACHER OF VIRTUAL SCHOOL KENT (VSK) UPDATE REPORT**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway: None

Future Pathway: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report provides Members with an overview of the impact and progress of the Virtual School Kent.

Recommendation: Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to:
 a) **NOTE** the progress made by the Virtual School Kent

1. Introduction

1.1 Further to the report received by the Corporate Parenting Panel on 24 October 2014, this report provides an overview of the recently published Statistical First Release Dataset as well as overall progress to date during the 2014-15 academic year.

2. Statistical First Release January 2015

KS2 Trend Breakdown

L4+ Mathematics	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
England Average	56	59	61
Kent	42	52	57

- In Mathematics attainment has increased by 14% pts. During this period the Gap has also reduced by 8%pts.

L4+ Reading	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
England Average	64	63	68
Kent	54	61	65

- In Reading attainment has increased by 11%pts. During this period the Gap has also reduced by 7%pts.

L4+ Writing	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
England Average	51	55	59
Kent	44	46	59

- In Writing attainment has increased by 15%pts. During this period the Gap has also reduced by 7%pts.

L4+ M,R & W	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
England Average	42	45	48
Kent	35	39	44

- In Maths, Reading and Writing combined attainment has increased by 9%pts. During this period the Gap has also reduced by 3%pts.

5Yr Yr 11 GCSE Trend Breakdown

5 GCSE A*-C	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*
England Average	28.8	33.5	37.2	37.2	31.1
Kent	22.5	26.5	33.3	36.9	25.4

- Between 2010-13 5 GCSE A-C attainment has increased by 14.4% pts. During this period the Gap has also reduced by 6%pts.
- 2014 saw a marked down turn in this indicator due to national changes, specifically the down grading of vocational qualifications and their GCSE equivalence and the shift in weighting of examinations over coursework especially English GCSE.

5 GCSE A*-C Inc E&M	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*
England Average	12.4	13.6	14.9	15.5	14.4
Kent	6	11	15	15	13

- Between 2010-13 NI101 (5 A-C inc English and Maths (E&M)) attainment has increased by 8.6%pts. During this period the Gap has also reduced by 5.5%pts.
- 2014 saw down turn in this indicator roughly in line with the national downturn due to national changes, specifically the down grading of vocational qualifications and their GCSE equivalence and the shift in weighting of examinations over coursework especially English GCSE.

A*-C in E&M	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014*
England Average	13	14.2	15.4	16.2	15.7
Kent	7	11.8	15.3	15.6	14.5

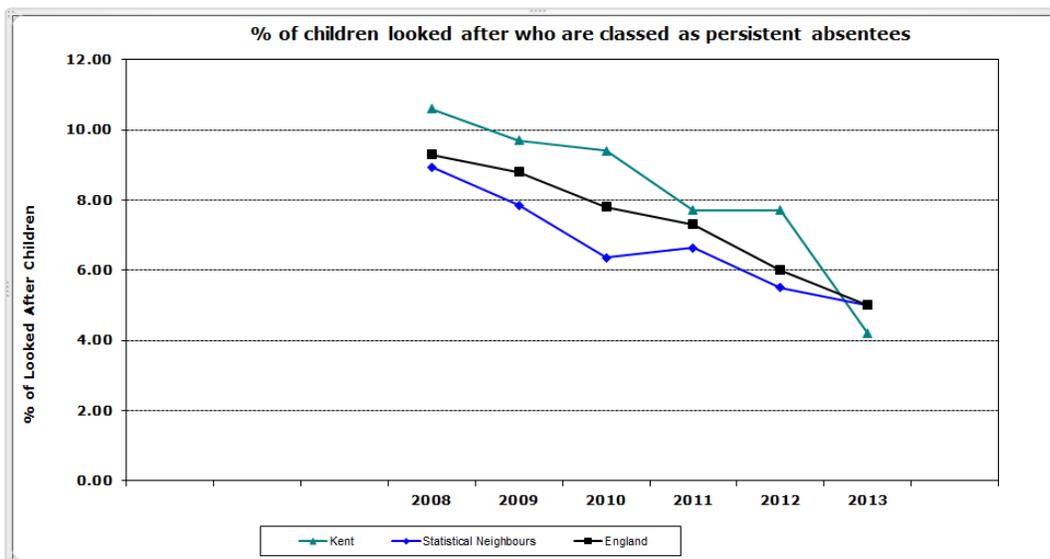
- Between 2010-13 A-C E&M attainment has increased by 8.6%pts. During this period the Gap has also reduced by 5.4%pts.
- Based on Statistical First Release (SFR) December 2013 Kent was one of only three counties nationally that showed an improvement in all three tests ((a) 5+GCSEs A*-C or equivalent (b) 5+ GCSEs A*-C or equivalent including English and Maths (E&M) and (c)A*-C GCSEs in E&M).

- 2014 saw a down turn in this indicator roughly in line with the national downturn due to national changes, specifically the down grading of vocational qualifications and their GCSE equivalence and the shift in weighting of examinations over coursework especially English GCSE.

2.1 March 31st is the deadline for the Locality Raising Attainment Plan 2 (LRAP#2) return. At this point the Virtual School will be able to predict attainment levels for the 2015 examination period.

5Yr Attendance And Exclusion Trend Breakdown

Ac. Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Persistent Absence (PA) from 2011/12	9.7%	9.4%	7.7%	4.2% (A - Quartile top 25 in Country)	DfE due to release this Data April '15. Expected to be similar rate to 2013
% Permanent Exclusion (PEX)	1%	0.9%	0.54%	0.39%	0.36%



2.2 2013-14 was a positive year for our young people in terms of attendance and permanent exclusions levels. These two indicators which are in line or better than national averages for CiC have remained stable over the past two years. It is important to note however that since the development of the Virtual School persistent absenteeism has reduced by 57% and Permanent Exclusion has reduced by 64%.

3. Participation and Engagement

- 3.1 An update of the work VSK has delivered since September 2014 on Participation and Engagement will be presented in Paper B1 - Experiences of Children in Care.

4. Health 2013-14

3Yr Dental and Health Assessment Trend Breakdown

	Dental checks			Health Assessments		
	2012 Percentage of children who had their teeth checked by a dentist	2013 Percentage of children who had their teeth checked by a dentist	2014 Percentage of children who had their teeth checked by a dentist	2012 Percentage of children who had their annual health assessment	2013 Percentage of children who had their annual health assessment	2014 Percentage of children who had their annual health assessment
ENGLAND	82.36	82.03		86.28	87.29	
Kent	79.57	84.03	96.6 ↑15%	76.17	83.61	88.1 ↑5%

- 4.1 VSK has seen three year on year improvements in both Dental and Review Health Assessments. This year has evidenced a 15% improvement in dental checks and a 5% improvement in our young people's review health assessments against 2013 outcomes. Based on latest validated national averages our health outcomes are in line or exceeding the national average. Our 2015 data is on course to look equally as positive with our latest validated tracking and monitoring data evidencing that we are on trajectory to exceed 90% in both Health and Dental Assessments.

5. Looked After Children Pupil Premium Grant(PP+)

- 5.1 On 20 February 2014 the Department for Education published the new Conditions of Grant for the Pupil Premium 2014-15. This marks the biggest shake up in the grant since its conception. There are numerous significant changes within the document, however the main changes include:-

- **The amount** As of April will be £1900
- **Responsibility** No longer goes directly to the school but is held by the Virtual School (VS)
- **Application** Not £1900 per child but a lump sum for the VS to co-ordinate support to raise attainment, accelerate progress and narrow the attainment gap for children in care.

- 5.2 This financial year we have utilised £2 million predominantly direct through the schools to raise attainment, narrow the educational gaps and accelerate

progress for our young people. The impact of the funding will be reviewed during the Summer.

- 5.3 It has been confirmed that the PP+ will continue at the same rate for 2015-16 and we are now in a position to operate as a fully need assessed grant application system.

6. Educational Support for 16-18 Year Old CiC and Care Leavers

- 6.1 With the extension of VSK responsibility commencing in January 2015, limited work was able to begin until the additional staff were in place to support the work stream. Focus started on the arrangement of delivering Post 16 update training to the new Children in Care Social Worker teams – to ensure they were informed of the most up-to-date options/support available for those Post 16.

- 6.2 The majority of the staff are now in place, with one more to begin in Term 5.

Staffing:

- Currently have three Post 16 Support Officers in post (started 9 February)
- One Post 16 Support Officer to begin term 5
- Data post in place (started 19 January)
- Admin post in place (started 27 January)
- Post 16 Participation Apprentice (started 26 January)

- 6.3 The main progress has been with the development of the Post 16 Support Officers and their links with education/training providers. Now that they are in post they are developing their links to be able to better support young people – enabling them to make more informed choices as to their options, in turn leading to less withdrawal and more positive onward destinations.

- 6.4 Training has also been a strong development since January 2015. Training regarding the post 16 sector has been delivered to around 100 professionals to date (with more planned) across the county. Feedback has been extremely positive and already the team are seeing an improvement in communication and collaboration between services. The training has been delivered by the Head Teacher VSK and Simon Bounds (from Employability and Skills), along with representatives from CXK (formerly Connexions Kent & Medway) and local Colleges.

- 6.5 Training has been delivered to:

- new College and University Designated Members of Staff on their role as the DMS.
- the locality Virtual School Kent teams on understanding the Post 16 sector.
- Virtual School Kent Participation Apprentices on understanding the Post 16 sector – with the plan to then link them with colleges to be an additional resources for young people at the college or considering joining
- new Children in Care teams on understanding the Post 16 sector (71 booked in, 59 attended).

6.6 Other training:

- The Post 16 Team and Linda Young have been trained on the Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) data system and are now waiting for access and editing rights.
- Dates are yet to be confirmed to offer the Post 16 training to the Independent Reviewing Officers, the VSK Nurses and the VSK Admin team.
- In discussions to offer the training to Social Worker students as part of their degree course.
- Post 16 ePEP training is being offered in March/April.

6.7 Progress made to date:

- Collaboration has strengthened during the last month between the County Council Employability and Skills team and VSK team through the delivery of training, through meetings and shadowing for the Post 16 Support Officers, resulting in better information given to young people and key professionals.
- The links with local colleges has also developed further, with the Post 16 Support Workers arranging to work from their local colleges on a regular basis to build links and raise awareness to the needs of the cohort, and to increase collaboration. The young person will be able to access the Post 16 Support Officer whilst at college, making it more convenient for them if they wish to access the support.
- Working with CXK has also been an additional resource whilst waiting to have the VSK Post 16 team in place, they have been working with young people classed as NEET, and have now been linking in more closely with the VSK Post 16 team.
- The Post 16 Support Officers are also now able to build links with the alternative providers in their areas to identify options for the young person – for example Gillingham Football Charity Trust are looking to offer VSK opportunities for those Post 16. The team has already identified three possible new opportunities for young people through their contacts.
- The VSK Post 16 Participation Apprentice has been focusing on the promotion of Apprenticeships and has been working with the Assisted Apprenticeship Manager on developing resources to be able to promote the scheme. He has also started to look at alternative participation activities for those Post 16 by linking in with the colleges to see if they are able to offer activities.
- The Post 16 ePEP has only recently been launched, designed and developed by VSK with eGov) and will be a huge advantage to tracking and monitoring the completion of PEPs for the Post 16 cohort. Training has been arranged for the College and University Designated Members of Staff.
- To support transition, the Locality monthly meetings during February focused on the year 11 cohort and their onward Post 16 destination. The relevant local colleges were invited to the meetings, along with CXK to support the discussion around options and to begin the handover of young people if going to college. The VSK staff were able

to provide the colleges with key information to support the transition. The meetings were very productive and informative. Ongoing monitoring of the cohort continues through the locality team meetings. The Post 16 Support Officers will be attending their area locality meetings.

6.8 Data:

On 12 March a different tracking system was introduced and therefore information on the exact figures for the individual cohorts of young people is currently unavailable however,

- There are 491 years 12 and 13 in the cohort and potentially just under 200 in a Further Education setting.
- There are currently 82 young people showing as being NEET, it should be noted this is 'old' data and is currently in the process of being updated (through staff updates and updates from Social Workers).
- This is being done without the use of IYSS data system as staff do not yet have access to the system – clarifying the set up for IYSS for VSK (in discussions).

6.10 Challenges:

- Delay in IYSS access – hopefully resolved in the near future.
- Data not being captured – so having to keep starting from scratch.
- Delay in the roll out of the Post 16 ePEP– impacting on some young people where concerns needed to have been raised.
- Data sharing with Universities - not being able to track this cohort without anecdotal evidence from professionals.
- Information, Advice and Guidance for those Post 16 – where young person may have withdrawn from provider, not always being referred to CXK under Youth Contract, young person may not wish to engage with CXK. Delay in VSK being informed of change in status – resulting in young person being NEET:
 - Youth Contract stopping for new cases from the end of March – and Skills Training UK not being able to provide any further guidance on what will happen from then onwards.
 - CXK have been unable to obtain a report from Skills Training UK as to how many Kent CIC they have been working with under the youth contract, so are unable to let VSK know – referrals made have not always come from VSK or VSK been informed.
- The impact on the quality of Careers, Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) for those in year 11 – with the reduction of CXK working within schools, young people are receiving varied CEIAG across the county, resulting in choices being made for those Post 16 that may not be the best for the young person:
 - With the recent Post 16 training sessions delivered, it is anticipated that those working around the young person will now be better informed to better advise the young person.
- The monthly data reports produced by the Management Information Unit (MIU) do not separate Kent CIC and Out of County CIC in its figures.

6.11 Outcomes:

Through the recent training delivered, feedback from those who attended is that they left the session with a clearer understanding of the options available for those Post 16, focusing on the more unusual options which may be better suited to our young people. They often provide a more flexible approach in a smaller setting, or are working closely with employers to gain work experience.

With better transition support, young people will feel they are more supported in their Post 16 destination, and are more likely to speak out if the choice isn't right for them. The closer working relationship between the colleges and VSK will assist in the early identification of those young people of concern and will support them through any challenges they face at an earlier stage and before things become too difficult.

7. Recommendations:

7.1 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to:

a) **NOTE** the progress made by the Virtual School Kent

8. Report Author

Tony Doran
Virtual School Headteacher
07921038094
tony.doran@kent.gov.uk

Background documents: none