

By Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing

To: Corporate Parenting Panel – 20 January 2017

Subject: **HEAD TEACHER OF VIRTUAL SCHOOL KENT (VSK)
ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16**

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Divisions: All

Summary: This Head Teacher of Virtual School Kent Annual Report 2015-16 (attached as Appendix 1) provides Members with an overview of the impact and priorities for the Virtual School Head Teacher.

Recommendation: The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **NOTE** the progress made by the Virtual School Kent during 2015-16.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The 2015-16 academic year has been a successful one for our students. This year has seen unprecedented national changes in educational assessment, yet the majority of our students made good or better progress throughout the academic year. It has also seen the best key stage 4 outcomes for our young people since the DfE changed the assessment methodology to first entry only in 2013. Furthermore the Virtual School has evidenced a significant drop in 16-18 year old that are Not in Education, Training or Employment (NEET) and seven young people successfully gained entry to their chosen universities and associated courses.
- 1.2 There have been a multitude of success stories this year, evidenced at our Annual Awards Ceremony held at Kent County Cricket Ground in Canterbury. Our young people who attended had been nominated by their schools, social worker, foster carer or the Virtual School for their academic successes or their wider contribution to the school, home or community. Over 300 nominations were received in 2015-2016, making it our most successful year ever.
- 1.3 The Virtual School has significantly developed participation and engagement this academic year which has seen the development of our Young Adults Council (YAC), the strengthening of the Our Children and Young People Council (OCYPC) with local councils being piloted across the county and the introduction of our junior council known as the "Super Council". The number of activity days hosted has increased from 14 activity days in 2013-14 to 19 days 2015-2016, which has increased the number of our young people who have

been able to attend these participation days. The feedback from our young people on the activity days remains extremely positive.

- 1.4 Although 2015-2016 has been a positive year for our Children in Care, we want all our young people within the Virtual School to continue this journey of improvement and our support in 2016-17 will reflect this ambition.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Recommendation: The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **NOTE** the progress made by the Virtual School Kent during 2015-16.

3. Background Documents

None

4. Contact Details

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