

**From:** Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education.  
Matt Dunkley, CBE, Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education.

**To:** Corporate Parenting Panel – 1st November 2018

**Subject:** Children in Care with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) exclusions

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Summary:** This report provides Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel with an overview of 2017-18 exclusions for Children in Care, highlighting those with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).

**Recommendation:** The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **NOTE** the work of the virtual school in reducing exclusions for children in care.

## 1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report has been prepared for the Corporate Parenting Panel to provide a focus on Kent Children in Care in relation to:
  - a) Exclusions
  - b) Those with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and receiving Exclusions
- 1.2 VSK support the Social Care teams in promoting the educational achievement of Kent Children in Care (CIC) and so our joint work is essential especially for this particularly vulnerable cohort. The aim of gathering this data and the resulting analysis is to identify areas for development and support planning from a Corporate Parenting perspective. The general data was gathered by Management Information; data from Welfare Call was added for Attendance indicators and the VSK SENCOs added further localised knowledge around the cohort of Kent CIC with an EHCP to aid more detailed analysis.
- 1.3 This is a sub report using data from the original report in request to the two specific focus areas of Kent CIC with Exclusions and those with EHCP receiving Exclusions. It uses data from the whole academic year 2017-18 to capture the full picture of exclusions.

## 2 Exclusions for Kent Children in Care

- 2.1 Permanent Exclusions for Kent CIC was zero in the academic year 2017-18; this indicator was also zero in the two previous academic years.
- 2.2 In the academic year 2017-18 Kent CIC had a total of 692.5 days of education lost to Fixed Term Exclusions (FTEs). In the previous academic year, 2016-17, Kent CIC had a total of 717.5 days of education lost to FTEs and so the figures indicate an improvement of 25 days or a 3.5 % reduction in days lost to FTEs with a comparable size cohort.

- 2.3 November, March and June were the months where FTEs peaked. Interestingly these months represent a consistent pattern through the academic year i.e. every 3 months and mostly towards the end of the long term. This trend was reflected in the previous academic year's data also.
- 2.4 The county data indicates that most FTE (days lost) were received in the North Kent and Medway schools and that least FTE (days lost) were received in the South West Kent area comprised of Ashford and Tunbridge Wells schools. However, it should be noted that these two areas had very different numbers of Kent CIC and on calculation the FTE ratio per Kent CIC is indicated to be almost equal for each area.
- 2.5 Kent CIC placed in Out of County schools (not including Medway) received 69.5 days of FTEs in the academic year 2017-18 and this indicates that this cohort were much more likely to receive an FTE than their cohort placed in Kent. This is no surprise as 29.6% of Kent CIC with an EHCP and placed in an OOC school were awaiting a Change of Placement i.e. a new specialist provision due to difficulties succeeding in their current specialist school.

### **3 Exclusions for Kent CIC with an Education Health and Care Plan**

- 3.1 There were zero Permanent Exclusions for Kent CIC with an EHCP in the academic year 2017-18; this indicator was also zero in the two previous academic years.
- 3.2 In the Academic Year 2017-18 nearly 28% of Kent CIC in the cohort of Statutory School Years teams had an EHCP - and this was predicted to rise to 31.4% once the EHCP process was completed for a further 37 children. This is a significantly high proportion of children compared to the average for all learners nationally (about 1%)
- 3.3 Of the 296 Kent CIC with an EHCP, 222 (75%) had their needs met in a specialist / independent provision.
- 3.4 The data indicated that 9.62% of the total cohort had had an FTE period (Fixed Term Exclusion), but nearly 11% of the young people with an EHCP had had an FTE period i.e. more than 1 in 10 of our students with complex special educational needs was not coping well with the boundaries in their school and as a result was missing school days.

### **4 Areas currently being developed**

- 4.1 Escalation Meetings between Area SEN Manager, VSK Deputy Head / SENCO and Area Children & Young People's Service Manager are held regularly to resolve complex cases and promote collaborative relationships. (This Escalation Meeting process is now established for the academic year 2018-19 across the whole county.)
- 4.2 Training to be provided for Social Workers and Foster Carers on the SEN Code of Practice and Exclusions guidance to aid their understanding of SEN processes.
- 4.3 Social Workers and Foster Carers to have information on the Reduced Time Table guidance from KCC so that those with Parental Responsibility can support or challenge as appropriate.

- 4.4 VSK completed a review of the service provided to Kent CIC placed Out of County and identified this as an area of vulnerability. As an outcome of the review, a dedicated Senior Educational Support Officer has been appointed for the academic year 2018-19 to support children and young people placed outside of Kent.
- 4.5 The SEN process for working across Local Authority boundaries is shared with Social Care teams so that the necessary financial and transport arrangements needed are clear.

## 5 DATA

### 5.1 TOTAL COHORT Academic Year 2017-18

Cohort of Kent Children in Care	Numbers
Statutory School Years	1060

#### Special Educational Needs for Kent CIC in the Statutory School Years (SSY)

SEN	Numbers	% of total cohort
Have HNF (High Needs funding)	26	2.5%
EHCP is finalised	296	27.9%
No EHCP	764	72.1%
EHCP is in process / draft	37	3.5%

#### Engagement with Education (Kent CIC in SSY)

Indicator	Numbers	% of total cohort
Pupils who have had an FTE this academic year	102	9.62%

### 5.2 Kent Children in Care with EHCP (Statutory School Years - SSY) 2017-18

Indicator for those with EHCP	Number	% of EHCP SSY cohort
Cohort size	296	(100%)
Placed Out Of County	42	14.2%
Out Of County School	37	12.5%
HNF agreed	13	4.4%
Attending a specialist (or specialist independent) provision	222	75%
Young People who have had FTE this academic year	32	10.8%

## 6. Conclusion

**Recommendation:** The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **NOTE** the work of the Virtual School Kent in reducing exclusions for children in care.

## 7. Contact Details

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