

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 – 29 January 2019

Subject: **VIRTUAL SCHOOL KENT OVERVIEW REPORT 2017 (VALIDATED RESULTS) AND 2018 (UN-VALIDATED RESULTS)**

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This overview report provides Members with an outline of the impact and priorities for the Virtual School Head Teacher

Recommendation: The Corporate Parenting Panel is asked to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** on the impact of the Virtual School in relation to its performance and endorse its priorities for 2018-19.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report summarises the achievements and impact of the Virtual School Kent (VSK) through the academic years 2016-17 and 2017-18 in relation to Children in Care and their education.
- 1.2 Data is presented on key issues and outcomes across Key stages and Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) figures.
- 1.3 Information on participation and engagement is evidenced as well as notable successes during this period.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The 2016-17 academic year was an extremely successful one for VSK students. The year saw unprecedented national changes in educational assessment, yet the majority of our students made good or better progress throughout the academic year. It also saw the best Key Stage 2 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 continued positive trend in reducing 16-18-year olds that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and 10 young people successfully gained entry to their chosen universities which indicates a 43% increase on 2017.
- 2.2 The latest data evidences that academic year 2017-18 has also been a successful year despite having a significantly more vulnerable cohort. At Key Stage 2 although attainment levels this summer have fallen this is due to the level of need of this cohort. It is important to note that the 2018 Year 6 cohort had a very high level of need in relation to SEN – 41.3% of the children had an EHCP (with additional children in process of statutory assessment) compared to 23% in 2017. Additionally, 30% of the cohort were educated in specialist provisions compared to just 8.2% in 2017. Despite this Reading, Writing and the Combined Reading Writing and Mathematics were still all broadly in line with the National Average for Children in Care. In addition, this cohort made more

progress than the 2017 cohort and more progress in Reading and Writing than Children in care nationally and in the South East Region. At Key Stage 4, Kent outperformed both National and South East averages for Progress 8 (P8) outcomes. Results for the 2018 Year 11 cohort, although un-validated, evidences significant gains against last year's performance with 16.6% achieving English and Maths at level 4 or above i.e. a percentage change of +6.45% on 2017 and a 2.2%-point improvement on those achieving a stronger pass at Level 5 over the previous year.

- 2.3 There have been a multitude of success stories this year, evidenced at our Annual Awards Ceremony held at the Kent County Cricket Ground in Canterbury. The Virtual School received well over 400 nominations in 2017-2018 making it our most successful year ever. In addition to the usual awards around contribution both academically and within the community this year we saw our first young person crowned a World Champion at Karate and one of our young people becoming a published author and illustrator.
- 2.4 The Virtual School has significantly developed participation and engagement this academic year. A Young Adults Council (YAC) has seen further development, Our Children and Young People's Council (OCYPC) continues to strengthen, whilst for our youngest age group our junior council ("Super Council") goes from strength to strength. In addition to this 2018 has seen the introduction of OCYPC Extra a mobile approach to our Children in Care Council. In the last 12 months, the Participation Team has worked and engaged with 351 Children in Care and Care Leavers, 185 of these have attended two or more events. An increase of 28.6% on the numbers the team worked with in 2016/17.
- 2.5 Although 2017-2018 has been an extremely positive year for our Children in Care and young care leavers, we want all our young people within the Virtual School to continue this journey of improvement and our support in 2018-19 will reflect this ambition.

3. Conclusions

- 3.1 VSK has made significant contribution to positive outcomes for Kent Children in Care during this period and this was evidenced in the academic and NEET data. Based on analysis of the data in this report and changes in the educational climate, VSK's priorities for 2018-19 are as follows: -
 - Continuing drive on improving academic outcomes. Particular focus on KS4 where the biggest gap exists.
 - Developing systems alongside the assessment changes that came in around Achievement and Progress 8 which includes the development and implementation of the one system Liberi PEP.
 - Relentless drive on securing opportunities to transition our young people from NEET to EET with a target of getting below 10%.
 - Particular focus on our young people who are placed Out of Authority (OOA) and Young people with SEND ensuring progression is maximised and drift is eradicated.
 - Development of an academic assessment tool to enable accurate profiling of need when a young person enters care.

4. Background Documents

4.1 Appendix 1 – Virtual School Kent Overview Report for 2017/18

5. Recommendations:

5.1 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are asked to **NOTE** and **COMMENT** on the impact of the Virtual School in relation to its performance and endorse its priorities for 2018-19

6. Contact Details

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