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National Association of Virtual School Heads

The National Association of Virtual School Heads
Julie Bunn Chair

Welcome

What we will cover

- What works well for Children in Care?
- Update from the National Association of Virtual School Heads.
- How to encourage Learning Homes and Caring Schools.
- Attachment Research Community and NAVSH Call to Action to make all schools trauma aware.
- How to improve the numbers of children in care in Higher Education.
- The role of the Designated teacher and how to effectively use Personal Education Plans and Pupil premium plus.

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- The National Association of Virtual School Heads is a charity set up and run by a Board of Virtual School Heads to improve educational outcomes for looked after children by working with partners and commissioning research to ensure that the educational needs of looked after and previously looked after children are better understood.

Our charitable aims are:

•Advance education for the public benefit in the care and education of looked after and previously looked after children
and care leavers by the undertaking of research for the public benefit and the dissemination of the useful results thereof.

•To promote the care and education of looked after children, previously looked after children and care leavers in particular, but not exclusively by, the provision of education and training for those employed in provision of care for looked after children.

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Extended remit

Children in Care

- LA as a corporate parent
- VSH holds the Pupil Premium Budget
- VS Statutory Duty to monitor the quality of PEPs

Children Previously in Care

- Respond to parental requests for advice and information
- Respond to requests for advice and information from providers of early education, designated teachers in maintained schools and academies, and providers of alternative provision in their area in respect of individual children supported by the local authority
- Schools get the Pupil Premium directly

CIN CP

- Strategic work with schools and social workers to improve CIN & CP outcomes
- No added Pupil Premium for this duty

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Call to Action

Issued a joint call for all those who engage with children whether as a parent, teacher, GP, Police Officer, Social Worker or any other professional to work together to break down any barriers they find to them being in school for every possible school

Amanda Spielman - OFSTED chief inspector

Dame Rachel De Souza - Children's Commissioner

Isabelle Trowler - Chief Social Worker

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Exclusions

- The past experiences of Children in Care and Previously in Care can impact on their behaviour. It is important to remember this when considering how best to support the child or young person with their learning and the design and application of the school's behaviour policies.

- Governing bodies, head teachers and designated teachers must have regard to the Department's statutory guidance on Exclusions from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England.

- In line with that guidance, head teachers should, as far as possible, avoid excluding any Child in Care.

- If a school holds a reintegration meeting, it is expected that the Social Worker will attend as they hold key information around the child.

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Designated Teacher Responsibilities

This means making sure that all staff:

- have high expectations and set targets to accelerate educational progress;
- are aware of the emotional, psychological and social effects of loss and separation (attachment and trauma awareness) from birth families and that some children may find it difficult to build relationships of trust with adults because of their ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES, and how this might affect the child's emotions and therefore their behaviour.

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Social Workers role in partnership with Designated Teachers

- Social Workers should make themselves known to the school and build a good relationship.
- Social Workers should ensure that any issues which may affect school are shared as soon as possible and in as much detail as possible e.g., changes of home placement, changes in family time arrangements, any other issues such as loss.
- Education information and ambition for our children should be integral and evident in care plans.
- Please also share things which can be celebrated e.g., pupils extra curricular activities and talents

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Pupil Premium Plus+ Funding

- The Pupil Premium Plus+ (PPP+) for Children in Care is grant funding from the DfE to raise the achievement of children in care in order to close the educational gaps with their peers, based on £2,410 per pupil.
- Children in Care PPP+ is not FSM PP and is a grant given to the LA Virtual School Head.
- Children in Care PPP+ is awarded to school per child and should be ring fenced for the particular.
- Children in Care in Early Years settings attracting £342 for **Pupil Premium Plus+** (Early Years PP+). It is available the term after their third birthday.
- Post 16 Pupil premium pilot- 5 million announced from DfE

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Be brave and do the right thing.
Is it good enough for your child?

Relationships
Relationships
Relationships

Micro moments of well-being ~Sue Roffey

Dosing and spacing of connection ~ Bruce Perry

Every interaction is a potential intervention ~ Karen Treisman

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Attachment Research Community

- Call to Action
- All schools should be Attachment and Trauma Aware by 2025
- Alex Timpson Awards
- ARC Matrix Audit

- Many schools are changing behaviourist policy to relational policies
- Oxford REES Centre evaluation showing very positive outcomes

What makes a good PEP?

- PEP meetings are statutory for Looked After Children and are held termly

- Those attending are
- The Designated Teacher
- The Social Worker
- The Foster Carer(s)
- Virtual School Staff
- And where possible the Child/Young Person

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Are your children in care receiving help from the National Tutoring Programme?

National Tutoring Programme

- 1 million tutoring courses have started since Nov 2020
- EEF found that small group tuition has an average impact of 4 months in primary and 2 months in secondary

Virtual School support with SEND issues

How Virtual School support Social Workers and schools with Children in Care:

- Connect them with SEND professionals for advice
- Co-produce assessment requests
- EHCP Planning and Reviews
- PEP meetings for complex young people
- Inclusion Hubs – referral to Complex Case Discussion
- Medical Education referrals
- Identifying learning differences and planning interventions
- Special Schools applications
- SENDIASS, NYAS Advocates, and liaising with Carers / family
- SENCo Networks
- Being a colleague to talk to without judgement – talking through complex cases or situations.

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Higher Education

- Universities to become Corporate Parents?
- Some amazing offers of support but not consistent
- Recent concerns of cost of living crisis
- Date not capturing late entrants

- Ambition projects working well
- First Star Scholars
- NERAP
- On Track

- Foster carer training on support available needed in initial training
- Ambition in career plans in PEPs

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www.navsh.org.uk