

Decision Maker: EDUCATION CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Date: 30th October 2018

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Contact Officer: Helen Priest, Head Teacher, Bromley Virtual School
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Chief Officer: LeadDirector: Janet Bailey

Ward: Wards

1. Reason for report

Local authorities have a duty under the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of a child looked after by them. This includes a particular duty to promote the child's educational achievement, wherever they live or are educated. The authority must therefore give particular attention to the educational implications of any decision about the welfare of those children, including children who have been placed for adoption until the court makes the adoption order giving parental responsibility to the adoptive parents.

Every local authority is required to ensure that a Virtual School Head Teacher is in place, giving that officer responsibility for arrangements which ensure that looked after children have access to a suitable range of high quality education placement options and that there are robust procedures in place to monitor the attendance and educational progress of the children in its care.

Reporting on the progress, performance and development of the Virtual School is a key activity and the annual Report of the Virtual School Head Teacher is a requirement of Ofsted during an inspection.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The Sub-Committee is asked to note the content of the attached report.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

Summary of Impact: The Virtual School in Bromley exists to support children looked after to engage with and enjoy their education and to achieve their potential. This report outlines the activity and impact of Bromley Virtual School during the academic year 2017-2018 and provides full details of the educational outcomes of Bromley Children Looked After (CLA). It reflects on the impact of our activities and identifies areas of future development to achieve improved outcomes for our looked after children.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Not Applicable
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People:
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal:
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £
 5. Source of funding:
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Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): 6x FTE established staff, including VSH and apprentice; 1.4 FTE grant funded staff; 2x FTE temporary staff (to 31/10/2018 and 31/12/2018)
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable: Further Details
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Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: N/A
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): Currently 311 children looked after and up to 400 post-LAC.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable

Summary of Ward Councillors comments: