



THRIFTWOOD

Education of Children in Public Care

September 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Local Academy Committee of Thriftwood School and College recognises that, Children in Care (CiC) are one of the most vulnerable groups in society. The majority of CiC have suffered a disrupted childhood and experienced adverse events. It is nationally recognised that there is considerable educational under-achievement, with CiC, when compared to their peers and that fewer follow progression pathways that will lead to future economic success and well-being.

The DfEE/DoH guidance introduced two key measures in order to improve (a) multiagency co-ordination and (b) educational achievement of children in public care. They were:

- The appointment of a designated teacher in on each site, and
- Each child in public care to have a Personal Education Plan (PEP)

This Local Academy Committee is committed to ensuring that the designated teachers and whole staff group are enabled to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DESIGNATED TEACHER

The Designated Teacher for Children in Public Care is Lisa Walker on the College site, and Claudia Childs on the School site.

The Designated Teacher will work in partnership with the pastoral team on both sites to:

- Be an advocate to all children in this school who are in public care;
- Ensure confidentiality for individual children and only share personal information on a need to know basis;
- Respond to the social worker initiating the PEP by ensuring the drawing together of the required information, co-ordinating the plan delivery and monitoring and reviewing its effectiveness;
- Ensure the child, carers, social worker and other relevant parties receive early notification of school based meetings, parents evening and other events and that communication, both written and verbal, remains regular and positive;
- Provide written information to assist planning/review meetings and ensure attendance as far as possible;
- Co-ordinate support for individual children in school, monitor educational progress and liaise with other professionals and carers as necessary;

- Inform the responsible social worker of any major decisions affecting the child;
- Inform the responsible social worker when a child in public care is absent from school without notification
- Inform the carer/social worker and the LEA of any fixed term or permanent exclusions;
- Promote the involvement of children in public care in school clubs and extra-curricular activities;
- Ensure staff receive relevant information and training and act as an advisor to staff and LAC members;
- Attend relevant training and cascade to school staff, where appropriate.

Each looked-after pupil will have a Care Plan that will include a PEP that the Social Worker takes a lead in developing. This will identify, success, specific areas of concern and include achievable targets.

The PEP will be updated at least every six months, as part of the Statutory Reviewing process carried out by Social Care. The PEP will be stored on the local authority ICS case management system and circulated to all key parties who attended the PEP meeting. Termly tracking will need to be relayed to the Virtual School as part of monitoring arrangements

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF ALL STAFF

The school staff will:

- Ensure any child in public care is sensitively supported and that confidentiality is maintained;
- Be familiar with the DfEE/DoH Guidance on Children and Young People in Public Care and have high aspirations for the educational and personal achievements of children in public care;
- Respond appropriately to requests for information to support the completion of Personal Education Plans and other documentation needed as part of review meetings;
- Contribute to the designated teacher's requests for
 - information on educational attainment and needs, as appropriate;
- Provide a support climate in school, enabling children in public care to achieve stability.

THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL ACADEMY COMMITTEE

The Local Academy Committee will:

- Ensure all members are fully aware of the legal requirements and the DfEE/DoH Guidance on the Education of Children and Young People in Public Care;
- Ensure there is a named Designated Teacher for children in public care on each site and that they are enabled to carry out their responsibilities in relation to children in public care;
- Support the Headteacher, Designated Teachers and other staff in ensuring the needs of children in public care are met;
- Nominate a safeguarding LAC member who links with the Designated Teacher and who reports to the LAC on an annual basis:
 - The number of children in public care in the school (without detail or name);
 - The educational attainment as a discrete group, compared with that of other pupils;
 - The attendance of pupils as a discrete group, compared to other pupils;
 - Any fixed term/permanent exclusions.
- The named LAC member (Peter Dervin) should be satisfied that the school's policies and procedures ensure that children in public care have equal access to:
 - The National Curriculum;
 - Careers guidance;
 - Extra-curricular activities;
 - Additional educational support.