## HOW WE SUPPORT SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND PROVIDERS . . .

- Data scrutiny with HT and DT around progress, attendance, attainment and engagement of each pupil

- Learning walks, book sampling and shadowing of Looked After Children

- Discussion with teachers and support assistants, children/young people and carers

- Multi-professional meetings and action planning

- Strategic planning for effective use of Pupil Premium Plus

- Staff training – VS training calendar and bespoke

- Intervention advice (assessment, support and planning) including SEN and behavioural difficulties

- Governor reporting – advice and templates

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**Contact us for more information if you are a school, setting or provider of education, a foster carer, a social worker**

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**OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**OXFORDSHIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL**
Looking After Learning

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# The Virtual School for Children We Care For (0-25)

**OXFORDSHIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL**
Looking After Learning



The Virtual School, Oxford
*"Looking after Learning"*

The aim of the Virtual School is to ensure that Looked After Children (LAC), and Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) and Care Leavers have the opportunity to fulfil their educational potential. The Virtual School comprises of a small team of professionals based in Abbey House, Abingdon.
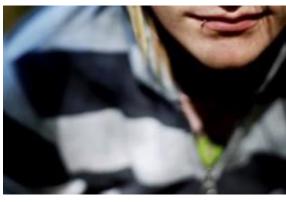
# Why do we need a Virtual School?

Many individual children and young people in care enjoy and do well at school. However, as a group, children in care or those that have left care do not perform as well in their education as their peers. Since April 2014, every local authority in England has had to appoint at least one person to fulfil the local authority's statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of it's looked after children, wherever they live or are educated. Within the local authority the Virtual School Head is the statutory lead [Children and Families Act 2014] with responsibility for ensuring that arrangements are in place to improve educational experiences and outcomes.

## OUR PRIORITIES

We are responsible for improving the educational attainment of all Looked After Children and Care Leavers in the authority; including those that have been placed in schools in other authorities. Our role is to:

- Promote high aspirations and raise achievement through challenge, support and targeted intervention.
- Ensure that our young people access and do well in education and training, which leads them onto a long term education, training and employment pathway.
- Ensure that our young people are able to access high quality support, which meets their needs in a timely way.
- Work closely with all those involved in providing education to ensure they understand the issues and challenges facing our young people and their role in working together to respond to and overcome them.
- Ensure challenges resulting from changes of care placement or school are reduced
- Ensure barriers to engagement and good attendance are removed
- Promote equality/equity and diversity.
- For children who have been previously looked after we give advice, guidance and signposting around educational issues.

## WHAT WE DO . . . .

- Monitor progress, provide management information and track data so we can highlight where support is needed.
- Monitor the daily school attendance of Looked After Children.
- Ensure that all children in care have an effective, high quality Personal Education Plan (ePEP).
- Ensure that Pupil Premium Plus is used effectively to improve educational outcomes.
- Provide guidance on individual situations to achieve the best possible outcomes Looked After children
- Provide high quality training and support for our partners to assist them in undertaking their roles to support looked after children.
- Provide direct support in school through designated teachers.
- Seek the views of Looked After Children and Care Leavers and develop new ways of communicating with them.
- Provide information and guidance on current legislation and practices in relation to looked after children and previously looked after children.
- Build capacity, through modelling best practice, in settings, schools and colleges so that children we care for and Care Leavers are prepared for the next stage of their education.