

| Virtual School Team | |
|--|------------------|
| Role | Contact |
| Virtual Headteacher / Designated Safeguarding Lead / Lead for Child Exploitation | Emma Phillips |
| Education Welfare Officer | Vicky Thornton |
| Educational Psychologist (PLAC) – 1 day per week | Kim Boddy |
| Educational Psychologist – 1 day per week | Sali Kew-Jones |
| Lead Practitioner / Primary Lead / SENCO | Chloe Phillips |
| Senior Adviser / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead / Secondary Lead | Jacqui Lewis |
| Out of County Lead | Sarah Hamshaw |
| Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) | Rachael Kirkland |
| 16+Learning Adviser | Bev Coode |
| Learning Adviser | Devina Savani |
| Learning Adviser | Debi Court |
| Learning Adviser | Phil Carpenter |
| Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) Learning Adviser | Jemma Bullock |
| EPEP and Data Coordinator (maternity cover until February 2020) | Sarah Nation |
| EPEP and Data Coordinator (maternity leave until February 2020) | Lou Hufford |
| Team Administrator | Sue O'Neill |
| Team Administrator | Michelle Hall |

If you would like this information in another format please contact:

**Cornwall Council, County Hall, Treyew Road
Truro TR1 3AY**

Email: equality@cornwall.gov.uk
Telephone: **0300 1234 100**
www.cornwall.gov.uk

Contact us

Email: virtualschool@cornwall.gov.uk
Call: **01872 323565**
Web: www.cornwall.gov.uk/virtualschool



Cornwall Virtual School

An introduction for education settings, carers, parents, social care and healthcare

June 2019

Education Services



What is the Virtual School for Children in Care?

We are Cornwall Council's Virtual School for children in care (CiC) and previously looked after children (PLAC). The school exists to improve the education of these vulnerable children. It is a cross-phase school and our learners range from 2 to 18 years. Our learners attend real schools/settings. The Headteacher and/or the Designated Teacher (DT) of each school provide information to Cornwall Virtual School staff to allow them to monitor and track each young person in care. Our team also advise on any support available to help our learners achieve their potential.

Why do we need a Virtual School?

Many individual children and young people in care or having left care, enjoy and do well at school. However, as a group, they may 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 its looked after children, wherever they live or are educated. This extended in 2018 to include previously looked after children. In Cornwall, we have a Virtual School Headteacher to review how children and young people are doing, and to put in place systems to support and challenge schools and other agencies to help them do better.

Cornwall Virtual School's Vision and Values

'Raising Aspiration and Achievement in Cornwall'

Underpinning our vision are three core values:

- Aspiration
- Collaboration
- Respect

Who are The Virtual School's learners?

Our school includes four groups of children and young people who are:

- Cornish children in care and care leavers educated in Cornwall
- Cornish children in care and care leavers educated in another Local Authority
- Children in care and care leavers looked after by another Local Authority but educated in Cornwall
- Children who have previously been looked after by the Local Authority who are then subject to one of the following; Adoption, CAO, SGO

The Virtual School monitor and track

How well all our CiC learners are attending their school settings; how they are getting on in individual subjects and in school generally; what help they need and what we all might be able to provide and do to support them to achieve their full potential. The Virtual School works across Cornwall Council and involves many different departments. We also work with external organisations to try to deliver the best possible education for children and young people in care:

Schools / educational settings

- The Virtual School works with the Designated Teachers to monitor and track individual children in care's progress, attainment and attendance
- We provide guidance on individual situations to achieve the best possible outcomes for this group of learners
- We provide training to Designated Teachers and named vulnerable group's Governors
- We pay the CiC Pupil Premium Plus funding to settings (If an up to date PEP form plus current progress, attainment and attendance data have been logged on the Welfare Call EPEP database)

Social care staff

- The Virtual School advises social workers on choice of schools and on specific issues relating to the education of these learners
- We attend as many first and transition Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings as possible as well as PEP meetings where there are complex issues to be discussed for CiC
- We train and update social care staff on educational issues

Carers, parents and guardians

- The Virtual School advises carers on specific issues relating to the education of their child
- We offer training on educational issues and updates

Children and young people in care

- The voice of our young people is heard by including them on our Governing Body, asking them to be part of interview panels, asking them to monitor what we deliver as a school and listen to what they tell us in their Council forums
- We liaise with our universities to encourage our learners in their aspirations to go on to further and higher education
- We meet individual young people at PEP meetings
- We organise creative projects for the benefit of young people
- We can organise tutors or online tuition for a young person to have additional help with their school work

Children and young people previously in care

- We provide advice and guidance to the parents / guardians and education settings of those previously looked after children. Where appropriate, we will signpost parents / guardians to other services that can offer advice and support
- We do not hold funding for PLAC as Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) is allocated to the child's school direct from Government and schools make the decision on how funding is used. However, we can offer advice to schools on usage of PPP to best suit any PLAC and their needs

Please note:

- We are not expected to monitor the educational progress of individual children who have previously been in care or be held to account for their educational attainment
- Parents / Guardians must make their child's school aware of his / her previously looked after status so that the school can apply for PPP funding in the schools' January census
- Any intervention in the education of a previously looked-after child must be with the agreement of the person(s) who have parental responsibility

Elected Members

- We report regularly to Elected Council Members on the educational outcomes of our young people in care
- Our Cornwall Council Cabinet Member is part of our Governing Board
- We work with other Local Authorities who either have our young people in their schools / settings or their children and young people are looked after in Cornwall

What the Virtual School can do for you

- In general, The Virtual School Headteacher is responsible for school-wide and safeguarding issues, and other team members support individual children and young people, as well as group projects:
- * If you have a question about systems or policies relating to the education of a CiC or PLAC, you should contact the Virtual School Team
- * If you are looking for individual education advice and/or support for a learner, you should contact the relevant staff members from the team list on the reverse
- * If you are a Social Worker, Designated Teacher for CiC and PLAC, named Governor for CiC, Parent or Carer looking for training relating to the education of your young person, see our web pages for available courses

Cornwall Virtual School An introduction for education settings, carers, parents, social care and health care
June 2019