



## Quick Guide to

### The Virtual School

#### What is the Virtual School?

The Virtual School for children in care is not a teaching institution. It is “a model by which the LA provides services and support for the education of children in care and a constructive challenge to those providing the services”. It works closely and in partnership with Schools, Social Care and Health, so that there is a holistic and comprehensive approach to the support of children in care in all areas of their lives.

#### What are the aims of the Virtual School?

Our overall aim is to help produce better educational outcomes, and enhanced personal and social development, so that our children in care have better life chances. The work of the Virtual School includes:

- Ensuring all children in care have a high quality, up to date Personal Education Plan (PEP)
- Ensuring that the Pupil Premium Plus is used effectively to improve educational outcome
- Ensuring children in care attend a good or outstanding school
- Providing training to schools, social care staff, foster carers and other professionals in relation to the education of children in care
- Working closely with schools, social workers, foster carers and other professionals to ensure children in care are achieving academically, making at least expected progress, have good attendance and are not excluded
- Ensuring all our care leavers are in appropriate education, employment or training

#### What will we provide?

We will:

- Provide expert advice and guidance in relation to the education of children in care
- Provide one to one tuition for all children who need additional support
- Provide access to enrichment projects to improve attainment and increase participation
- Provide support to designated teachers to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the part they play in supporting children in care.
- Attend at the first PEP for all children and young people both in and outside of Walsall, attend at least one PEP for pupils in year 6 & 11 and attend PEPs where there are serious concerns about the child's education
- Manage, distribute and monitor the pupil premium plus in partnership with schools
- Offer direct access to Educational Psychologists, Speech and language therapists and CAMHS practitioners for children in care
- Support social workers and carers in identifying an appropriate school place
- Celebrate the achievements of children in care

#### For more information:

Please contact Lorraine Thompson – (the Virtual School Lead) 07825860581 [lorraine.thompson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:lorraine.thompson@walsall.gov.uk)

If you are working with a child in care or care leaver and would like to discuss their education, either to raise concerns or request additional support, please contact the Virtual School Team. [walsallvirtualschool@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:walsallvirtualschool@walsall.gov.uk)