



Duty to promote the education of previously looked after children

Dear Colleague,

The Children and Social Work Act 2017 became law in April 2017. This means schools and local authorities, for the first time, have a statutory duty to support previously looked after children. The government produced new statutory guidance for looked after and previously looked after children for designated teachers and local authorities in February 2018.

Who are previously looked after children?

According to the Act they are children who ceased to be looked after as a result of;

1. a child arrangement order (previously known as residence orders)
2. a special guardianship order or
3. an adoption order

The Local Authority

The Act gives the local authority the duty to make advice and information available to promote the educational achievement of children previously looked after. The Act defines those who are entitled to help and advice as:

- a) Any person who has parental responsibility
- b) The designated person for in school designated to promote the education of children previously looked after
- c) Any other person the local authority consider appropriate

The Virtual School Head is responsible to implement the guidance in the local authority. In Slough, this task has been delegated to Ewen Godfrey, who works for the Virtual School. He can be contacted by email at Ewen.Godfrey@scstrust.co.uk if you have any queries.

Schools

The governors in every maintained or academy school in England must designate a member of staff for both looked after and previously looked after children to promote their educational achievement. The governors must ensure the designated person undertakes appropriate training and has regard for the statutory guidance issued by the DfE.

This includes children who are in school and are subject to the above orders granted by **any** local authority.



Your Next Steps

Please complete the attached freedom of information request so we can establish the numbers involved across the whole local authority.

Ofsted

With these children now being specifically singled out as a vulnerable group expect Ofsted to be interested in their progress and how their educational needs are met and how pupil premium plus is spent.

Pupil Premium Plus

Schools can claim pupil premium plus for children previously looked after. This is done via the January school census. Currently PP+ is £2300 per year.

Use of the ePEP platform for children previously looked after

Previously looked after children do not need a PEP. However, the virtual school has recognised that using the EPEP format might be useful. If you would like to use EPEP for this group of children please contact Stella Dulo (stella.dulo@scstrust.co.uk) to get access and set up a young person. Parents and carers can be added to the system.

Private Fostering Arrangements

One of the queries you might have is around private fostering. In your school there are likely to be a number of private arrangements where children are living with adults, other than their parents. There are distinctions between those living with close family members (kinship carers) and adults who have no family connections. If you are aware or suspect fostering arrangements with adults who have no family connection then the school has a duty to report this to the Council or Trust.

Specific details are in the Trust website so you can check by following this link:

<http://www.scstrust.co.uk/what-we-do/fostering/private-fostering/>

Thank you for your help.

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