

## **Schools Forum 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016**

### **Virtual School Update 16/17 and Issues for 17/18 and beyond**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT – FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

1.1 This report sets out the progress made by the Slough Virtual School between December 2015 and December 2016

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 As most schools will be aware, The Slough Virtual School was singled out for particular criticism in the November -December 2015 OFSTED Inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers and Review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board report of Children's services published in February 2016.

A recommendation was, 'Improve the educational support provided to children looked after and strengthen significantly all services offered by the virtual school.'

2.2 Permanent Headteacher took up post in June 2016 and a staff restructure is out for consultation

2.3 The two key areas of delivery for a Virtual School are sufficient, quality, timely Personal Education Plans for children in care with Slough wherever they go to school. Pupil Premium Plus is spent to have maximum impact for each child in Slough's care.

2.4 Personal Education Plans must be held at least twice a year. (Current performance set out below.)

2.5 Pupil Premium Plus is direct government funding that is allocated to the Virtual School for all the children in care with that 'local authority', in this case delegated to the Trust. (It is not the funding for all children in care in Slough schools, who could be in care with any local authority.)

### **3. DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN DECEMBER 2015 AND DECEMBER 2016**

There have been a range of developments over the year with measureable impact. They are listed below.

#### **3.1 PEPs**

##### **3.1.1 In Slough we use an electronic EPEP**

PEPs are currently running at 70% of the cohort had a PEP by October 2016 half term led by the Virtual School. This means that 100% of children will have had a PEP by the end of this term, the vast majority led by a member of the Virtual School Team.

3.1.2 As a result the 'themes' are set for the year and the quality of PEPs is rising. This includes

- Voice of child in every PEP
- SMART learning targets linked to Pupil Premium Plus spending
- Clear interventions such as relevant tutoring identified

3.1.3 100% of PEPs are now in ICS. Systems are in place with LAC teams to continue this level of performance

3.1.4 All social care and Designated Teachers are EPEP trained

3.1.5 PEPs give quality information for other work for example

- Reading preferences for Parcel in the Post individual book parcels starting in January 2017
- Career aspiration

3.1.6. The Slough Virtual School finds a termly approach better synchronised with a school year, so we undertake 3 PEPs a year. Virtual School staff will attend all first PEPs and at least one PEP a year.

### 3.2 Pupil Premium Plus

3.2.1 A consultation was held with Slough headteachers as to how this should be allocated. There were a range of views expressed. The Policy adopted was sent to schools in September 2016 to Designated Teachers.

3.2.2 The Policy states any PP+ funds allocated to an individual child have to be recorded as a SMART target in the EPEP and will be paid through invoicing.

3.2.3 All spending in financial year 2015-16 was spent with no monies returned to DfE. The 'flightpath' for this year's spending is closely tracked and matches income.

3.2.4 Some Pupil Premium Plus funding has been retained by the Virtual School and used to fund

Training for Designated Teachers

Letter box parcels

Pupil Premium Champion post to support users of EPEP and use it and other sources to gain quality information

### 3.3 Reducing NEETs

NEET Figures all Slough Children in care with Virtual School November 2016 (including those not in Slough schools)

	Under 16	Yrs 12 and 13	TOTAL
June 2016	4	22	26
September 2016	4	10	14
November 2016	2	3	5

### 3.4 Emotional Health and Well-Being

3.4.1. The reducing numbers of NEETs is having a positive impact on the emotional health and well being of Slough Children in Care as they are more settled in their everyday experiences

3.4.2 The greater number and quality of PEPs and where relevant Education, Health and Care Plans are allowing the right interventions to be speedily identified.

3.4.3 Improved access to Educational Psychologists to write priority reports is also contributing to these improvements.

3.4.4 Choosing the right education placement for each child is a priority, as is planning transitions

All transitions to secondary schools for Year 7 have gone smoothly  
100% of young people started college and are all still on their courses

3.4.5 Child's Voice is now more clearly heard through EPEP

3.4.6 Good relationship with LAC nurses who provide an excellent service

### Coming Priority

Working with Dr Jennifer Wallace new Trust lead to develop processes and services to support CiC with social, emotional and mental health needs.

### 3.5 Raising Aspiration

3.5.1 Three enhanced career support visits to current Year 11s from Slough Borough Council Young People's Service funded through PP+ to:-

Analyse young person's strengths with them

Review with young person their current thoughts on further training and career

Second visit led by discussion in first visit could include

Visiting the college course they aspire to

Discussing further options that the initial discussion raised including apprenticeships at all levels

Setting up tutoring

Signing up to Virtual School University visits

Working with a mentor

Third visit (by March 2017) is handing over to 16+ Team and Virtual School specialist to support first days in September

3.5.2 Raising Aspiration Residential to current Year 8s from Slough Borough Council Young People's Service funded through PP+ to:-

Look at the breadth of options available with wide range of GCSE choices

Look at the range of job roles at the London Skills Show

Longitudinal support of this group

3.5.3 SEND needs identified and interventions in place. Where relevant EHCPs in place

3.5.4 OFSTED ratings of schools currently 82% in good or outstanding schools. Virtual School, involved in any school choice

3.5.6 Aspiration to University

Visits to universities of Oxford, Reading and Brunel

Joined NNECL (the Russell Group Universities outreach), including mentors and experiences at local universities

Working with other South East authorities to develop Post 16 offer

3.5.7 Work Experience

Looking to match all Year 9 to Year 10 students with relevant work experience to their aspiration during summer holiday in 2017

Develop with partners including Slough Trading Estate Employability Passport

### 3.5.8 Aspiration to Apprenticeships

Link with Slough Business Park and known suppliers like Arvarto to look for relevant apprenticeships and work experience

#### Examples

Year 13 looking to do accountancy linked with Trust accountancy department for work experience

Year 10 with 8 GCSES A\*-C already visiting Oxford with view to being a doctor

Year 12 who decided that Health and Social Care not right for her will be supported into an agreed A level place at Slough and Eton an outstanding Slough school

Year 12 being taken to UTC Reading which has links into Microsoft as next stage in ICT development

3.5.9 Quality tutoring having impact on grades and subsequent aspiration

3.5.10 Reducing exclusions

3.5.11 Minimising school and placement moves

### **Targets for 2016-2017 the journey to good Attainment and Progress**

- 80%+ of all children have educational outcomes that support good life chances
- 80%+ are at a Good level of Development in Early Years Foundation Stage
- Key Stage 1 80%+ meet or exceed national attainment
- Key Stage 2 80%+ meet or exceed national attainment
- GCSE 50%+ have under the new grading system five grade 9 (A\*\*) to 6 (C) GCSEs including English and Maths.  
OR Compare well with statistical neighbours in planned national CIC dataset

- Broader range of courses chosen at Colleges
- Harder options taken in school and college
- Rise in aspiration of career choices

### **Who are children are**

- NEETS reduced to <5% of 16-18 year olds. 0% in younger age groups
- 95%+ attendance for well children
- No permanent exclusions
- Fewer than 10 FTE and never more than one a child
- All children who would benefit from an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) have one
- All children have their SEND needs met, including those without EHCPs

### **Where our children go to school**

- 90% plus children in schools good or outstanding with OFSTED
- No child has more than 3, (non cohort) moves of school in a year
- No moves of school in Year 11
- Choosing schools that match the needs of all our children
- <15% of CIC of secondary age and living in Slough attend alternative provision (Currently this figure is 40%)
- School moves minimised, particularly at key points

### **EPEPS**

- Child's voice section is always completed in all EPEPs
- All children have three PEPS if they are in care for the full year
- First PEPs are within 20 days of starting new school
- The number of PEPs in ICS to reflect the number of completed PEPs.
- At least one PEP a year, and all first or complex PEPs, are led by a member of Virtual School staff
- PEP rates at 90%+ all year
- All PEPs are quality assured and have
  - Voice of Child
  - SMART aspirational targets
  - Complete attainment and progress data, related to age expectation
  - SDQs and Special Educational needs are identified and how they will be met is clear

### **Pupil Premium Plus**

- Individual Pupil Premium Plus spending is always linked to a SMART target in their PEP
- No money returned to DfE

### **Training**

- BSOs upload 100% PEPs into ICS

- All DTs based in Slough and within 20 miles use EPEPs effectively.
- Foster Carers confident in using EPEP

#### **Develop a widening remit**

- Meet new legislation requirements for supporting children at edge of care , adopted etc

#### **Data compliant with national CIC dataset**

Sign up to Circe Project work with colleagues in Slough Borough Council

- Circe is implemented at the same time as in other Children's Services departments

#### **Improved communication**

- Website active and Newsletter sent

#### **Staffing Secured**

- Restructure implemented

**Contact for further information –**

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