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Report of Director of Children's Services

Report to West Yorkshire Adoption Joint Committee

Date: 13th March 2019

Subject: Education work with Virtual Schools- update

Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of main issues

1. This report presents an update on the Education work being undertaken across West Yorkshire between One Adoption West Yorkshire (OAWY) & the five Virtual Schools to implement the new statutory duty to provide advice and guidance to children and young people previously looked after children and young people who are adopted.

Recommendations

2. The Joint Committee is requested to:
 - a) note the information; and
 - b) support the development of this work.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report presents an update Education work being undertaken across West Yorkshire in conjunction with Virtual Schools to implement the new statutory duty to provide advice and guidance to children and young people previously looked after children who are adopted and subject to a Special Guardianship Order.

2. Background information

- 2.1 In August 2018 Local Authorities received funding from the government to implement the new statutory duty and the OAWY management board management board agreed that the local authorities would top slice the grant by 10% to enable OAWY to work in partnership with the VSH in implementing new duty across the region. The education worker within OAWY, working as part of the centre of excellence work was ideally placed to work with staff in adoption support to build their knowledge and skill about issues around education that affect children and young people and to provide advice and support to adoptive families.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The additional grant to implement the new duty is in place until August 2020 and the education consultant is funded for three days a week until that time. The Virtual Schools are responsible for the implementation of the new duty and OAWY will work with the Virtual Schools in each local authority to :
 - 3.2 Deliver an annual CPD presentation/workshop to designated teachers in each individual Virtual School to promote attachment awareness.
 - 3.3 Support the 'triage' of queries from adopters during their journey to adoption and post-adoption including sign-posting to other services.
 - 3.4 Develop a direct working relationship with each individual Virtual School, including time spent working in each Virtual School location to build a 'knowledge base' to support advice and guidance.
 - 3.5 Co-ordinate a Continual Professional Development offer to adoption social workers and adoption support services within OAWY that is supported by each Virtual School.
 - 3.6 Support the development of a resource pack/guide on child development, learning and education for adopted children for adopters.
 - 3.7 Develop and support the implementation of an early years/pre-adoption personal education plan to provide a consistent approach to planning for school age children moving on to adoption across the region.
 - 3.8 Support the development of the on-line resource, accessible through the One Adoption platform, which provides universal advice and guidance including links to individual SEN local offers and Virtual Schools, how to support schools access Pupil Premium Plus, FAQs, up to date research etc.
 - 3.9 Act as a conduit for adopter and Adopteen voice and influence to Virtual Schools, the centre for excellence and OAWY.
 - 3.10 Support OAWY and the Virtual Schools develop best practice guidance for designated teachers, governors, providers of early years education to improve awareness of the vulnerability and identifying and meeting the needs of previously looked after children including the effective use of Pupil Premium Plus.

- 3.11 Build relationships with voluntary sector partners to ensure all Virtual Schools and designated teachers to understand the range of support available to previously looked after children who are adopted.
- 3.12 Provide feedback and reporting to OAWY and each Virtual School about the types of queries, the frequency and identify trends that inform either direct activity by the Virtual School and/or development/commissioning of adoption services
- 3.13 Deliver an annual Outcomes Based Accountability workshop across the OAWY region on turning the curve for the experience of adopted children in school and review the impact/outcomes of previous activity by the agency and Virtual Schools

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 There has been ongoing discussions and engagement with local authorities, education and voluntary sector partners as well as the development of the work with adoptive parents and young people about this work.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.3 Resources and value for money

- 4.3.1 The grant from the Department of Education to implement the new duty across west Yorkshire is £179k per year for 2 years. This has been top sliced by 10% for the 2 years totalling £34k. This provides funding for 3 days a week towards the education consultant post for 1 year.

4.4 Legal implications and access to information

- 4.4.1 There are no implications for this report.

4.5 Risk management

- 4.5.1 There are no implications for this report.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 The Joint Committee is requested to:
 - a) note the progress of the project; and
 - b) support the development of this work.

6. Background documents¹

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children:
Statutory guidance for local authorities:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683556/Promoting the education of looked-after children and previously looked-after children.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/683556/Promoting_the_education_of_looked-after_children_and_previously_looked-after_children.pdf)