
Meeting: Corporate Parenting Panel.
Date: 7 November 2011
Subject: Annual Report of the Virtual School for Looked After Children.
Report of: Cllr Mark Versallion, Executive Member for Children's Services
Summary: Attached at Appendix A is the Annual Report on the Virtual School for Looked After Children. The Committee is asked to comment on the report.

Contact Officer: Pete Dudley, Assistant Director – Learning, Commissioning and Partnerships
Public/Exempt: Public
Function of: Council

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

The report supports Priority 2 of the Central Bedfordshire's Strategic Plan: Educating, Protecting and Providing opportunities for Children and Young People. The report also supports Priority 1 of the Children and young People's Plan: Helping children and young people achieve more and transforming our relationship with schools.

Financial:

1. The Virtual School is funded through Council funding budget and through the Direct School Grant.

Legal:

2. The Council has a duty to safeguarding and promote the welfare of the children it looks after.

Risk Management:

3. The Virtual School ensures that it knows which children are looked after and that there is a Personal Education Plan in plan for each looked after child.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

4. None.

Equalities/Human Rights:

5. Adherence to Human Rights and Equality issues is maintained.

Community Safety:

6. There are no community safety issues arising from the report.

Sustainability:

7. There are no sustainability implications arising from the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:**That the Corporate Parenting Panel**

1. **comments on the report;**
2. **agrees to receive the Annual Report in January each year.**

The Virtual School

8. Councils work in a variety of ways to drive forward improvements in the educational achievements of the children they look after. In Central Bedfordshire this is managed through the work of the Virtual School for Looked After Children.
9. The Virtual School:
 - ensures that there is a system to track and monitor the attainment and progress of looked after children;
 - ensures that all looked after children have a robust and effective personal education plan;
 - works with schools to improve overall attainment by maximising the achievement and progress of individual children;
 - works with social workers to improve access and attainment of Looked After Children;
 - supports Looked After Children placed outside of Central Bedfordshire Council boundaries.
10. The Annual Report contains the early outcomes for looked after children for the academic year 2010-2011. These results are provisional. National and statistical neighbour information is not yet available. It is therefore proposed that in future the annual report comes to the Corporate Parenting Panel in January each year to ensure that all data has been collected from schools and that comparative data is available.

Appendices:

Appendix A - The Annual Report of the Virtual School for Looked After Children.

Background Papers: (open to public inspection) None