

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children and Young People Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	22 nd March 2016	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Virtual School Annual Report	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Virtual School Annual Report for Academic Year 2014-2015		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 This report provides information and analysis on the work of the Bath and North East Somerset Virtual School for Children in Care for the last academic year.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 Proposal 1: For elected members to ask about the progress of children in care when they visit schools in their wards
- 2.2 Proposal 2: For elected members to approach the Virtual School headteacher Michael Gorman for information on the performance of schools in their wards for looked after children
- 2.3 Proposal 3: For elected members to consider joining the Corporate Parenting Members' Group if they do not already belong

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 No additional resources are required.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The local authority is under a statutory obligation under the Children Act 1989 to promote the educational achievement of looked after children. That includes those children placed out-of-authority. The Children and Families Act 2014 amends section 22 of the Children Act 1989 to require every local authority in

England to appoint an officer employed by the authority, or another authority, to make sure that its duty to promote the educational achievement of its looked after children is properly discharged. This post is usually referred to as the Virtual School Head.

5 THE REPORT

5.1 The Annual Report is attached.

6 RATIONALE

6.1 Schools in Bath and North East Somerset provide excellent support for our children in care, many of whom can face significant challenges in their lives. By enquiring about their progress in schools, members can help keep these vulnerable young people at the front of headteachers' thinking and demonstrate the high priority this authority places on their needs.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

7.1 None

8 CONSULTATION

8.1 The report is based on a year of activity including Personal Education Plans in schools; surveys of teachers and social workers; discussions with the In Care Council; discussions at the Corporate Parenting Strategy Groups; feedback from foster carers at the annual education conference.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	Michael Gorman 01225 396932
Background papers	<p>Promoting the education of looked-after children – Department for Education July 2014</p> <p>Framework and evaluation schedule: children in need of help and protection CLA and care leavers and LCSBs Ofsted June 2014</p> <p>Statistical First Release: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2014 Department for Education December 2014</p>
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	