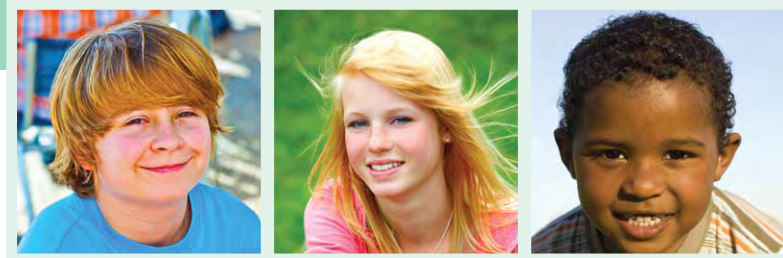


Virtual School



Improving educational outcomes
for Looked After Children (LAC)



Who we are and what we do



The Virtual School (previously the Looked After Children Education Service established in 1995) is a core service within Children and Young People's Service. The service provides advice and support to children and young people aged 3-19 years who are Looked After, teachers, school governors, support services, social workers, parents and carers.

The service monitors the educational provision, attendance, progress and attainment of all Calderdale Looked After Children, irrespective of where they are placed. The aims of the service are to promote achievement, raise attainment and ensure equality of opportunity to enhance the life chances of all our Looked After Children.

The Virtual School plays a key strategic role to make sure that corporate parenting responsibilities of the Local Authority, with regard to the education of Looked After Children are met.

In summary, we:

Track and monitor the progress of all Calderdale Looked After Children

Are the lead professional for Personal Education Plans

Deliver in school interventions through 1 to 1 support

Provide early years advice and support

Provide FE/HE advice and support

Manage the Virtual School database

Provide support at Looked After Children Reviews, Special Educational Needs meetings and Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings

Support transitions

Support partnership working with agencies and Council services eg School Admissions, Youth Offending and Social Care

Deliver training to teachers, school governors, foster carers and partners

The way we work

The Virtual School has a tiered delivery model for Calderdale Looked After Children:

Level 1

Monitoring individual attainment, attendance, SEN, exclusions and leading on Personal Education Plans (PEPs).

Level 2

Individual casework including negotiation and advocacy, attendance at multi-agency meetings and assessments.

Level 3

Individual direct work with young people through interventions in school and off site for learning (underachievement) behaviour and attendance issues.

The support from the Virtual School is “additional” to school resources. Referrals for interventions at Level 3 are agreed at the PEP meeting or by the Virtual School Head/Virtual School Team Manager following key stage meetings. Looked After Children at risk of exclusion will be allocated immediate support by the Virtual School Team Manager.

The Virtual School Head has the additional responsibility of monitoring the progress of Looked After Children who are placed in Calderdale schools by other local authorities, and will offer advice and exchange data with other authorities.

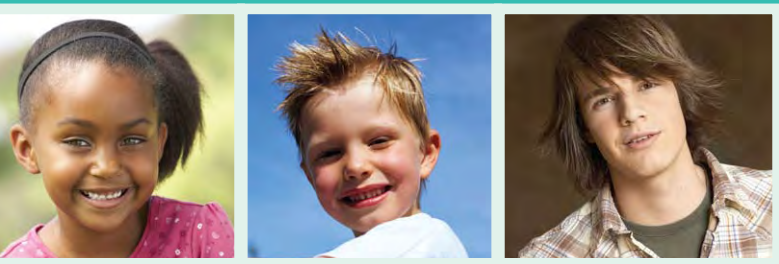


Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 places a duty on the local authority to raise the attainment of Looked After Children. The Virtual School provides statutory outreach support to Looked After Children in mainstream schools and alternative settings as a core service. There is no charge to schools/settings or academies for this core service including Levels 1-3, due to the statutory corporate parenting responsibilities of the Local Authority.

The Virtual School will offer training to all schools for designated teachers, who are new to their statutory role, but will only charge academies. Additional bespoke training packages specific to individual schools or clusters can be negotiated for all schools as a traded service.

The service is made up of the following posts

Virtual School Head	strategic management and performance of the Virtual School
Virtual School Team Manager	operational management of the team
Key Stage Co-ordinators	responsible for a specific cohort of children: Key Stage 4/5 Co-ordinator Key Stage 3 Co-ordinator Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 Co-ordinator
Learning Mentors x 3	in school interventions through 1 to 1 direct work
Administrator	administrative support and management of the Virtual School database



For further information about the **Virtual School**,
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Alternatively, please contact:

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