



**Virtual School for Looked After Children
Protocol for Post LAC**

2018-2019

Prepared By

Document Owner(s)	Role
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1. Supporting Previously Looked After Children Barking & Dagenham Virtual School for Looked After Children

The remit of the Virtual School was previously confined to working with Looked After Children in the capacity of corporate parents with a strong emphasis on education achievement this has recently expanded to include previously looked after children (post LAC) following the statutory guidance which came into effect September 2018 (DfE published [statutory guidance documents for schools](#) and [local authorities](#)).

The Virtual School recognises that the challenges experienced by previously looked after children does not disappear with a more stable home setting which might occur by through adoption, special guardianship or child arrangement orders. Therefore, the Virtual School will provide educational advice and guidance to ensure that previously looked after children are properly guided and can access every available support to achieve the highest educational standards.

2. Statutory Guidance- Remit of Virtual School

For previously looked-after children, **the VSH (Virtual School Headteacher) will provide more strategic support or advice and information for both child and the schools. VSHs are not acting as part of the corporate parent role in these circumstances, but are there to promote the educational achievement of these children through the provision of advice and information to relevant parties**

These relevant parties are

- any person that has parental responsibility for the child;
- providers of funded early years education, designated teachers for previously looked-after children in maintained schools and academies; and
- any other person the authority considers appropriate for promoting the educational achievement of relevant children.

3. The Commitment of the Virtual School to previously Looked After Children is

1. Providing advice and guidance to relevant parties which will be anyone listed above.

2. Directing schools and parents to support services within the borough that will ensure their specific challenge is addressed.
3. Working in collaboration with schools to provide relevant training opportunities to designated teachers that can improve the skills, knowledge and understanding on how to robustly provide support and be champions for previously looked after children. This will enable them to contribute to the wider school's expertise in dealing with previously Looked After Children.
4. Joined-up working with colleagues in the council to ensure that there is an increased visibility of services and training, that can serve to support previously Looked After Children.
5. Be a repository of information which schools and parents can call on to receive advice on specific cases.

Our role is limited to advice and guidance and so does not include case working or monitoring the effective utilization of pupil premium.

Our Borough Education Strategy recognises that all those involved in schools should work together to deliver a key role to improve the life chances and help drive, support and fulfill the ambitions of all the children, young people and adults who live and study here.

In particular context this means a sustained focus on reducing the impact of disadvantage and narrowing the gap in outcomes so that year on year increasing numbers reach and exceed national standards and achieve success at each age and stage.

We are determined that the Virtual School will help us deliver the following priorities of the Borough Education Strategy with regards to previously Looked After Children

Below are a range of areas of concern and relevant services which we believe will improve educational outcomes for our Looked After Children.

Services available in Barking and Dagenham

1	Concerns	Guidance	Contact
1.1	Admission	Admissions authorities of all mainstream schools must give the highest priority in their oversubscription criteria to looked-after and previously looked-after children, as defined in the School Admission Codes	For in borough admission application is made online Face to Face meeting is available Dagenham Heathway Library- Every Tuesday Barking Learning Centre- Thursday
1.2	Financial Support- Pupil Premium	There is a change in the administration of Pupil Premium for Post LAC children. This is allocated directly to the schools and not through the Virtual School £2,300 per pupil for each post-LAC in year groups reception to year 11. In order to do assess this the head teacher should invite parents to self-declare that they have a previously looked after child. However, please note parents are not obliged to. Please see page 89 of the DfE document School Census 2017-18 The administration and monitoring of the use of the pupil premium is the responsibility of the school	The School Finance Team
1.3	Adopted Children	Every adopted child will have a post adoption social worker for 3 years	For Barking and Dagenham Children Contact the Adoption Team

		To deal with behaviour issues that require intervention there is an Adoption Support Fund which can only be utilised for therapeutic support only. Adoption Social Fund Assessment form will need to be completed by the Post Adoption Social Worker	Out of borough children- Contact the adoption team in your borough
1.4	Children with additional needs	Schools can request an Education Health Care Assessment. This assessment will determine if the child is eligible for an Education Health Care Plan. A request for assessment should usually be requested by school however, in exceptional circumstances this request can be made by parents	Education Health Care Team ehcteam@lbbd.gov.uk
1.5	Reporting Concerns in School	If parents are unhappy with outcomes they are within their rights to make a complaint to the School Head and if the complaint needs to be further escalated it should be made to the Chair of Governors	Check school website for information on school leadership team.
1.6	Inclusion	Schools and parents' can receive guidance on concerns regarding inclusion of a child due to additional needs or any other needs like gender issues, gangs, etc. Their service will advise on how best to support the child	Inclusion Officers Barking and Dagenham School Improvement Partnership
1.7	Mental Health Training Staff Training- to better understand how to work with post LAC	School can contact training provider to deliver this training to their staff	Gemma Taylor- 0333 012 4105 www.bictd.org
1.8	Support for Parents	This course will provide behaviour management strategies	Course can be taken online Course can be face to face https://www.triplep-parenting.uk.net/uk-en/triple-p/

1.9	Support for children at risk of exclusion	Dowry Funding- Schools can apply to get funding to cover for up to 16 weeks support for a child at risk of exclusion if all the support offered by the school has been explored. This funding is usually to get a staff to provide one to one support	See link to get further details on the dowry funding
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Legislation for this guidance

The Children Act 1989, as amended by the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Children and Social Work Act 2017.
 The Care Planning, Placement and Case Review (England) Regulations 2010, as amended.

Statutory Guidance - Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children Feb 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

School Admissions Code- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-admissions-code--2>

Contact the Virtual School- Kathleen.Adam@lbbd.gov.uk

Suggested Reading- The Adopter's Handbook on Education Fursland Eileen

Recommended websites