

Looked After and Learning

Looked After Children Education Service (LACES)

Designated Teachers for LAC - Newsletter

Issue 15 – Summer Term 2017/18

Hi Colleagues,

Not long to go before you can all have a well-deserved break. We have now sent out around 90% of all 1st instalments of our 2018/19 Pupil Premium Plus for our children in care. We have recorded increased referrals to all our services, including Beanstalk, Private Tuition, CAMHS Counselling, Education Psychology, Careers Advice, Play Therapy and Life Story Therapy. You will all receive a copy of LACES Annual Performance report, for the 2017/18 academic year in September 2018, which will provide details of our service delivery and impact of our support and interventions.

We had our OFSTED inspection during May 2018, this was part of the local authority inspection of children and young people's services. The authority was judged as Requiring Improvement. A copy of the report can be found on the OFSTED website.

I would like to thank all our Designated LAC Teachers and staff in your respective schools for the most amazing support you provide to the city's most vulnerable children. We fully appreciate the challenges you face, whilst your commitment to care and support our children is a credit to each and every one of you.

Once again, a massive **Thank You** from the LACES team, we would be so less effective without you.

Colin Wayland *Virtual School Head & LACES manager*

Updated guidance for Designated Teachers

Following detailed consultation, the Department of Education have revised the statutory guidance for Designated Teachers and Virtual School Heads. The key changes are:

- **New duties to provide advice and guidance to Post-care children i.e. Adopted, Special-Guardianship and Child Arrangement Order**
- **DTs should contribute to whole school policies and procedures**
- **Schools should be supportive of in-year transfers of CLA between schools**
- **Preparation for adulthood, offering guidance and financial information where required**

More information: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

Liverpool John Moores University / Liverpool University undergraduate mentoring for CLA

Message to secondary schools - If you have any KS4 pupils at your school who you feel would benefit from an undergraduate mentor for academic/aspirational support, for more details please contact either:

Catherine Shillito, Schools Account Manager, LJMU, e: C.H.Shillito@ljmu.ac.uk m: 07929 999 325 t: 01519046364

Ben Toleman, Widening Participation and Outreach, University of Liverpool, e: b.toleman@liverpool.ac.uk
T: 0151 794 5127 M: 07741 237106

Personal Education Plans (PEPS)

It is a statutory requirement that all looked after children have a PEP as part of their overall care plan, and these must be updated every six months.

This term we continue to receive many excellent PEPs that clearly demonstrate how well schools know their children in care pupils and how you are supporting their learning.

If you have any issues or questions related to PEPs please contact **Catherine Falco**, or any member of the LACES team at laces@si.liverpool.gov.uk. We are always trying to make our PEPs user friendly, if you have any ideas that would make them more efficient or improve quality please let us know.

Pupil Premium Plus for CLA

For the first time in three years the Pupil Premium Plus for looked after and post care children has been increased. Allocation's will continue to be made in two instalments of £1,000 and £1,200, these payments will be made to schools in June/July 2018 and October/November 2018 respectively.

Message from Kinship Carers Liverpool.....

Kinship Carers Liverpool is a grass roots project based in the Ellergreen Community Centre, working with kinship families right across Liverpool. ***Kinship families are children who are being raised by another family member or friend***, this is often due to parent's mental health, substance misuse or bereavement. This group of children often have the same support issues as the Looked After population, but often go unrecognised or supported.

Our project offers a variety of support to the whole family, the main benefits being the peer support that the families get from coming along to our project, and the realisation that they are not the only ones in this situation. We offer emotional support to carers through our open-door policy of always being here to listen, we signpost families for advice on legal matters, we attend meetings in schools and with CAHMS and we work 1-1 with children who are displaying emotional issues.

We deliver inter-generational family sessions with the family coming together for food and fun activities; we provide a variety of days out for the children over the school holidays including residentials, which also give the carers some much needed respite. We hold coffee mornings every Wednesday at the Ellergreen Centre and we have satellite bases in Netherley and Huyton, for carers who can't get to Ellergreen. We run a pamper day on the first Friday of every month at Ellergreen, where carers can chat with people in similar positions as themselves, they can access massage, a facial or get their nails painted, have their eyebrows and eyelashes waxed and tinted!

Whatever reason Kinship Carers want to access our service is fine by us, we are here to try and make their lives that little bit easier, by supporting them especially when times are hard.

If you would like to contact the project

Phone 0151 270 2108

Email- eve@kinshipcarersliverpool.co.uk

Or look us up on www.kinshipcarersliverpool.co.uk

Teachers' View – Working with the Inclusion Agenda

On **Tuesday 10th July** from 4pm – 6pm, teachers are invited to attend an evening of presentations, surrounding inclusion, with a focus on the NML schools offer and a student exhibition, the event will be held at **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Building, Albert Dock, Liverpool L3 4AQ**. The exhibition *Through my eyes* has been created by students from Sandfield Park, Alder Centre for Education, Alder Hey Hospital, Dewi Jones Unit and the Champions group (Bankview High School and Sandfield Park School).

Event Overview

- **4.00pm to 4.15pm** - Arrival/refreshments & a chance to look at the *Through My Eyes* exhibition
- **4.15pm to 4.45pm** - Welcome and outline of SLiCE (Specialist Leaders in Cultural Education) partnership with Jude Bird, Head of Education Leadership and Research - Curious Minds. Overview of the project between NML and Sandfield Park School with Sarah Spoor (Sandfield Park) and Sarah Han (NML).
- **4.45pm to 5.15pm** - The Champions Group present their work around inclusion, access and the rights of young people with disabilities. There will be a short Q&A at the end of the presentation.
- **5.15pm to 6.00pm** - Overview of the NML schools offer, including guidance on how to book and a discussion about how NML can support teachers.

If you would like to attend this free event please contact: sarah.han@liverpoolmuseums.org.uk

Good news for CLA included . . .

- One CLA secured a work experience placement with Sefton MBC this term.
- A year 13 student, interested in developing a career in law, began work experience in the Queen's Council Chambers
- A year 11 Looked After Child secured a work experience placement with a local construction company with the offer of an apprenticeship.
- 2 of our children in care have become Youth Leaders with the Liverpool Cultural and Education Partnership.

Designated Teachers Q&A

Any awkward questions? Why don't you email us a question about Children Looked After – in general or specific, including any queries about statutory guidance on the education of CLA. We will do our best to find an answer, advise you, and then explore the issue it in the subsequent newsletter, to inform others.

School Improvement Website

LACES continue to discharge Liverpool City Council's statutory duty to promote the Educational Achievement of Liverpool's Looked After Children (Children and Families Act 2014).

LACES remains a core service within School Improvement Liverpool Ltd and LACES information can be accessed via the School Improvement website at: www.schoolimprovementliverpool.co.uk/teams-laces

Useful links:

The link to the statutory guidance that schools must currently have regard for is:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

The Children in Care Web page on the DfE site can be accessed via the link below:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/childrenincare/education>

LACES Team

Colin Wayland: LACES Manager & Virtual School Head

Catherine Falco: Pupil Monitoring and PEP Coordinator

Corinne Andrew: Administration and monitoring support

Andrew Williams: Pupil Support and Specialist Careers Guidance Officer

Tony Mackrell: Curriculum & Safeguarding Coordinator

LACES also commission a range of specialist support, these include the Education Psychology Service, a Behaviour/ADHD coach, a Life Story and Play Therapist, a CAMHS approved counsellor, Key Stage One Reading support by Beanstalk, Private Tuition by Fleet Tutors and ESOL Classes by Al Ghazali.

Talk to us:

Tel: 0151 233 3901

Email: LACES@si.liverpool.gov.uk

Web: www.schoolimprovementliverpool.co.uk/teams-laces

See attached details of forthcoming training.