

# Corporate Parenting Board

## 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Annual Report of the Virtual School: Education of Looked after Children

Choose an item.

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr A Parry, Children, Education, Skills and Early Help

**Local Councillor(s):** Cllr

**Executive Director:** T Leavy, Executive Director of People - Children

Report Author: Lisa Linscott

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**Report Status:** Public

#### **Recommendation:**

1. That Dorset Virtual School's contribution towards securing an overall 'Good' OFSTED judgement 2021 for Children's Services is recognised
2. That the Virtual School's current priorities and direction of travel are supported by the Board in order to secure further improvements to educational outcomes for Dorset's care experienced children
3. That further dissemination of the report is identified and agreed

#### **Reason for Recommendation:**

The Virtual School is a key part of Children's Services and holds statutory responsibilities for children in care. Support from the Board to raise the profile of this work would be beneficial to the Virtual School's continuing development and success.

#### **1. Executive Summary**

This report provides an overview of the Virtual School's work and impact during the academic year 2020 - 21, together with analysis of educational outcomes for

the Dorset cohort of children in care. It sets out the priorities for securing greater individual and cohort progress, better educational experiences and better outcomes for children in the care of Dorset going forwards.

The Virtual School has provided agile response to the needs of our children through a challenging year and has shown relentless determination to achieve the best outcomes possible. The 2021 ILACS Inspection of Dorset Children's Services recognised that "The virtual school is highly ambitious for children in care, wherever they live." with inspectors clearly impressed by the approaches and strategies being taken by the Virtual School in partnership with other professionals to "secure creative and beneficial outcomes for children."

## **2. Financial Implications**

The Virtual School manages pupil premium plus funding provided by the DfE and ensures that as per DfE conditions of grant, all funding received is spent within the financial year. This can be seen in budget reporting.

## **3. Well-being and Health Implications**

The wellbeing of children is referenced within the report in relation to Personal Education Plan processes and use of pupil premium plus funding.

## **4. Climate implications**

No climate implications have been identified in this report.

## **5. Other Implications**

No other implications have been identified.

## **6. Risk Assessment**

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk:

Residual Risk:

## **7. Equalities Impact Assessment**

## **8. Appendices**

## **9. Background Papers**

Dorset Virtual School Head Teacher Annual Report

### **Footnote:**

Issues relating to financial, legal, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.