

EDUCATION AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Friday 21 November 2025

Virtual School Annual Report 2024-25

Report by Director of Children's Services

RECOMMENDATION

1. The Education and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is **RECOMMENDED** to note the Headteacher of the Virtual School's Annual Report for the academic year 2024-2025, for Children We Care For.

Executive Summary

2. In 2024–25, the Oxfordshire Virtual School strengthened its commitment to inclusive, relational practice expanding advocacy for children with a social worker and those in kinship care, while maintaining a sharp focus on statutory duties for Children We Care For (CWCF) and care leavers.
3. A continued focus on removing barriers to education, prioritising early intervention, improving attendance, and supporting transitions, especially for those with complex needs or experiencing school moves through strong partnerships and targeted interventions have supported fewer suspensions, improved engagement, and successful reintegration for at-risk pupils, and improving outcomes for Children We Care For.
4. Key achievements to be noted include attendance rates in primary phases remaining above national averages, with persistent absence and suspensions reducing. Academic attainment improved, notably in Key Stage 2 and among post-16 learners and in 2024-25 there was an increase in those young people who have decided to continue their education into university.
5. In 2024-25 a continued focus on individual needs and tailored support through new strategic partnerships with Alternative providers and specialist providers have introduced evidence-based programmes and enrichment activities have supported emotional wellbeing and re-engagement, contributing to successful transitions and positive outcomes for young people.
6. Feedback from children, carers, and professionals remains a strength and highlights the Virtual School's impact. Pupil Voice increasingly shapes

interventions and provision, with new initiatives enhancing wellbeing and readiness for education.

7. Achievements reflect Oxfordshire's dedication to improving educational experiences and life chances for CWCF and care leavers, with ongoing efforts to address challenges and build on successes in the year ahead.

Corporate Policies and Priorities

8. The issues raised in this report relate directly to our Children and young people plan and Corporate Parenting Strategy.

Financial Implications

9. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Comments checked by:

Jane Billington, Strategic Finance Business Partner,
jane.billington@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Legal Implications

10. There are no significant legal implications arising from the content of this report.

Craig Cochrane, Principal Solicitor, Child Care Legal Team,
craig.cochrane@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Information Governance and GDPR Implications

11. There are no issues relating to data protection legislation; the information provided is aggregated or anonymised and there is no identification of an individual person or setting, and the information is available to the public.

Charlotte Stacey, Information Services Manager,
charlotte.stacey@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Staff Implications

12. There are no staffing implications arising from anything contained in this report.

Amy Warner, Strategic People Partner, amy.warner@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Equality & Inclusion Implications

13. There are no equality or inclusion implications arising from directly from this report

Sustainability Implications

14. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Risk Management

15. There are no risk management requirements arising from this report

Consultations

16. Information from consultations does not form any part of this report.

Lisa Lyons
Director of Children's Services

Annex: SDP 2025-26 Annex 1 Analysis of Pupil Outcomes
2024-25 Virtual School 08-10-25

Contact Officer: Clare Pike
Head of Virtual School
Clare.Pike@Oxfordshire.gov.uk

November 2025