

CMDECS – 10 FEBRUARY 2021

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE FROM MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Questions	Answers
<p>1. COUNCILLOR JOHN HOWSON</p> <p>Following the publication of the Serious Case Review into Jacob, what is the current length of time children in care are waiting for a place in a school either after being taken into care or a move of foster or other care placement?</p>	<p>COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LINDSAY-GALE, CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES</p> <p>The average number of days it has taken for all children who have come into care to start on roll at a school (since 1st September 2020) is 5 days.</p> <p>The average number of days it has taken for children who have had a move of foster or other care place to start on roll at a school (since 1st September 2020) is 2 days.</p> <p>Current context and process in place: Each child of school age who is taken into care is allocated a case worker from the virtual school (VS). Each week the virtual school data manager extracts a 'new into care' list of children from LCS and the following process followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The child is allocated to a relevant VS case worker2. Child is set up on LA Call which is a centralised online portal where stakeholders can access details regarding the child's education, attendance, attainment and Personal Education Plan (PEP).3. If the child is able to continue on roll at their current school, links are made with the school, a PEP set up and daily attendance monitoring takes place (i.e. no delay in school attendance).4. If the child needs to move within OCC schools an 'in-year' application to the new school is completed.5. If the child moves 'home' and the placement is<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. out of countyb. too far to travel to their current school

Questions	Answers
	<p>c. they do not have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP); an 'in-year' application to the new LA is initiated. Some LAs have a priority application form for Children We Care For (CWCF), other LAs apply through the usual in-year application process. The Virtual School works closely and rapidly with both social care and admissions teams to process applications and support in selecting schools who are providing good/outstanding education by liaising closely with other virtual school in the LAs.</p> <p>6. Any drift in application is discussed with Neil Darlington (OCC Access to Learning Team) who supports where required to involve EFSA if necessary.</p> <p>7. If the child has an EHCP and it is not possible to stay in their current school then a rapid (set up within 2 days) 'corporate parent meeting' is initiated with social worker, virtual school caseworker and OCC SEN Officer (SENO) to ensure the 'belongings regulations' are applied and the relevant paperwork is sent to the correct link in the receiving LA. The receiving LA allocates a SENO to consult with their schools in line with EHCP legislation. Depending on 'pupil need' and locality this can take time and these narratives are shared weekly with Head of CWCF and VS Head to ensure the education in the interim period has a robust 'safety plan' whilst consultations are taking place; this is agreed and recorded on the child's PEP and agreed and shared with social care. This education plan is often a 1:1 tutor package set up by either OCC Virtual School or the receiving LA. OCC Virtual School monitor daily engagement of the child in education and liaise closely with social worker whilst consultation is taking place. This is recorded and evidenced on LA call.</p> <p>8. Once a school is identified by the receiving LA the funding proposal comes back to OCC VS who approve before a start date is secured. Once secured the VS liaise with OCC transport team and the new school to ensure transition is as smooth as possible</p> <p>9. PEPs are set up within 20 days of a child arriving into care or starting</p>

Questions	Answers
	<p data-bbox="1032 220 1294 252">new school setting</p> <p data-bbox="936 296 2029 512">All children remain on roll at their original school until starting a new school. The current school continues to be responsible for ensuring education is provided and safeguarding measures in place if the child's new home is too far to attend. VS links very closely with the original schools whilst applications are in place and supplements remote education package where core group (social care, VS and school) identify need.</p> <p data-bbox="936 555 2029 842">If a child is new into care with no school the same process is followed. The challenge is often lack of understanding of underlying need and missing gaps in assessment or diagnosis. Thus, the virtual school team lead the co-ordination of multi-agency working to support next steps. Immediate alternative provision can be put in place whilst a school roll is being applied/identified. Any alternative provision is paid directly by OCC virtual school. Currently OCC do not have any pupils with no educational provision on our roll.</p> <p data-bbox="936 885 2029 1101">If a child was not on a school roll processes are in place so that we can ensure an education package is in place within 48 hours. This ranges from 1:1 tutoring, online tutoring, hands on workshop based learning and equine therapy and studies. These exceptional packages are monitored daily and where drift in attendance or engagement occurs, escalated until school rolls are secured.</p> <p data-bbox="936 1144 2029 1287">The Head of the Virtual School monitors daily using LA call (online portal) any pupils awaiting placement. Any children identified are reviewed each week with Head of CWCF who shares info and action needed with social care teams.</p>