

Children in Care Missing Education

SUMMARY

- 1.1 On a termly basis the number of looked after children who are not accessing education is monitored. In February 2018 there were 10 pupils not accessing education. By the July monitoring, all the 10 pupils from February were in school and a different group of 7 pupils were identified as not accessing education.
- 1.2 The main reasons why pupils are not accessing education are: care placement changes, behaviour at school, refusal to attend school and finding appropriate SEND provision in other local authority areas.

Of the 7 pupils currently not accessing education, 2 are due to SEND provision not having been found yet; 2 who have had care placements moves; 1 due to behaviour; 1 school refuser; and 1 pupil where the school closed down.
- 1.3 All pupils who do not have a school place are offered appropriate 1 to 1 tuition until a school place can be found.
- 1.4 The Virtual School, social workers and SEN teams work very hard to ensure pupils are found appropriate education as soon as possible.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note the numbers of LAC missing education and agree the appropriateness of the actions taken to date to minimise the time a pupil is without a school place

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 LAC pupils are support by the Virtual School, social workers, the VLS team and admissions to access education as quickly as possible.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 LAC pupils without any SEND needs are admitted to schools very quickly and there is usually very little delay or disruption to education. When a LAC pupil with SEND needs requires a school place there are statutory timelines and consultation processes which need to be adhered to. This ensures that the educational establishment can meet the needs of the pupil.
- 4.2 When a LAC pupil has significant learning difficulties schools who are being consulted can say they cannot meet the needs of the pupil. This can cause delay in the pupil accessing education as further schools will need to be consulted. There may also be a lack of specialist provision in the area where the pupil is being carer for.
- 4.3 In a few instances where a school says they are full or cannot meet the needs of the pupil the local authority has directed the school to take the pupil on roll.
- 4.4 If a pupil with significant learning needs is without a school place this can cause pressure on the care placement.
- 4.5 At all times when a pupil is out of school appropriate risk assessments are undertaken to safeguard the pupil when accessing one to one tuition.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 N/A

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Pauline Anderson
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List of appendices:	Appendix 1
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

1.1 N/A

Legal

2.1 N/A

Personnel

3.1 N/A

IT

4.1 N/A

Equalities Impact

5.1 N/A

Health and Safety

6.1 N/A

Environmental Sustainability

7.1 N/A

Property and Asset Management

8.1 N/A

Risk Management and Safeguarding

9.1 N/A

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

10.1 N/A