HALTON VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Virtual School newsletter – Summer 2024

Dear Headteachers, Designated Teachers, DSLs & Social Workers,

Staffing changes & other updates

Hard to believe that we are now in the Summer term! Thank you as ever for your hard work supporting our children in care and children with a social worker. The Summer is always a busy one so please make sure that you have your PEP dates arranged so PEPs can be submitted and PP+ payments can be made before the end of the academic year!

Children with a Social Worker – Virtual School new duties

The Virtual school's role in supporting our children with a social worker continues to grow and develop. We currently undertake a weekly consultation session for social workers to provide advice and guidance on areas including poor school attendance or next steps for a young person at risk of permanent exclusion. We will help, advise, challenge and support wherever possible. We now also have a standing item to discuss children with a social worker at DSL network meetings to discuss emerging trends and concerns.

As we move into the new academic year, we will be exploring further training opportunities to support professional in supporting this cohort of young people. We would welcome any suggestions for training you feel would be beneficial so please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Please remember, if you need to contact the Virtual School for anything, please email virtual.school@halton.gov.uk to ensure that your email is received by a member of the team.

Can we take this opportunity to thank you all so much for your continued support, we really appreciate everything you do for our children.

'Working & Communicating Effectively Together' training

Many thanks to those of you that attended our training session with AC Education, we hope that you found the session useful and gave you the space to reflect on the amazing job that you are all doing!

<u>PEP Deadlines 2023-2024</u>

Please see below the dates for this academic year. Please do let your PEP Lead know if you are facing difficulties so we can support.

2023-2024	Halton PEP Submission Deadline
Autumn Term	Friday 10th November 2023
Spring Term	Friday 23rd February 2024
Summer Term	Friday 28th June 2024

<u>Spring term PEP completion</u>

The PEP completion rate dropped in the Spring term, compared to the Autumn term. We appreciate that at times, PEP dates may need to change but we need to ensure that every child as a termly completed PEP. We are continuing to strive for 100% completion across all age ranges so please be sure to get your PEP dates booked in early, particularly if a PEP did not take place last term. Please get in touch with your PEP Lead if you are having difficulty in securing a PEP date.

Term:	Spring	Team breakdown				School phase breakdown					Total
		CINW	CICCL	Other Teams		Early Years	Primary	Secondary	Post 16		
Number of pupils		92	231	0		20	109	129	65		323
PEP Status	Not started	10	15	0		1	7	7	9		24
		11%	6%	0%		5%	6%	5%	14%		7%
	Completed	82	216	0		19	102	122	56		299
		89%	94%	0%		95%	94%	95%	86%		93%

*When children come into care, they might remain with their current social worker in the 'Child in Need' (CIN) team, rather than moving directly into the 'Children in Care and Care Leavers' (CICCL) at the same time.

<u>CPOMs – Update for schools</u>

As you will be aware, the Virtual School are in the process of joining CPOMs. The aim of this is to streamline information sharing regarding our CIC, PLAC and CWSW cohorts, therefore reducing the number of emails that are sent and enabling us to work more strategically.

We are now utilising the CPOMs system internally, recording information in a similar way to schools. In order for us to share information, we need you to create a share contract for any children in your school who are currently in care (initially). Once this has been done, we will be able to collaborate and share information between Virtual School and settings.

A step by step guide on how to set up a collaborative share contract can be found at the bottom of this newsletter. Once a child is no longer in care, this can then be ended with just the click of a button and only the information you choose to share with us will be shared.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or issues, or would like to test the process with one child before activating for all children in care within your school.

Many thanks to all of you who have already set up your share contracts.

Moderation

At the end of the Spring term, we held our first multi-agency moderation panel. This was a big success and gave both educational settings and social care an open forum to share any challenges and give their perspective on the PEP process. The Virtual School have taken this feedback on board and will be considering it when developing the PEP documents for the next academic year. Broadly, the moderation of the quality of the PEPs, was inline with the Virtual school grading. We are now looking at hosting our next multi-agency moderation panel, taking place on Monday 8th July at 1pm. We are looking for an education, social care and fostering representative to join our panel.

If you are interested in being part of this, please email Jo by **3pm on Friday 31st May.**

Joanne.lloyd@halton.gov.uk

Resources

Please find below some resources you may find useful. These include resources from ARC, our Children in Care Council and a link to Barnardos, 'Real love Rocks Project'. If you would like further support from Barnardos regarding this campaign, please get in touch with Paula Bowman by email paula.bowman@barnardos.org.uk

WATCH OUR REAL LOVE ROCKS PROMOTIONAL VIDEO:
https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/752486192

CIC POSTER 2024.pdf

Newsletter%20April.pptx

Relational Approaches To Educa

Virtual School survey

We are now in the process of formulating our Virtual School offer for the next academic year, we would be keen to hear your thoughts on this, therefore, can we ask that you spend a couple of minutes completing our survey below.

https://forms.office.com/e/AVuRHeKtaL

Thank you as ever for all you do. Please get in touch if there is ever anything we can help, advice or support with.

Have a great term!

Ben, Jo & the Virtual School team

Data Sharing Contract set up.

To create a new share contact, go to *'Admin' > 'Data Sharing'* and click on the *'New Share Contract' button.*

Firstly, **select which students** you would like to create the share contract for. The students **will only appear** for selection if they **exist in another school's/LA's** version of CPOMS and are **linked via UPN**. (All our cohort are on CPOMS so they should show up)

Once you have selected all students you wish to create the share contract for, click *'Next'.* You will then be able to select **which other establishments** you **would like to include** in the share contract (Halton Virtual School). > Once you have selected the relevant settings, click *'Next'.*

You will then be asked to **choose** which **type of share contract** you would like to set up. Select 'collaborative'

Collaborate - This will set up an **active link** with the **other school(s)/LA**, where information can be shared for the **selected student(s) one or both ways**, depending on how it is set up, until a **certain date or on an on-going basis**.

One-off Transfer - **Either receive or share historic data** with the **selected school/LA**. This will **only** share **what exists at the point** of the contract being created and **no data** will be shared **going forward**

If you **choose to** *'Collaborate'* and click *'Next',* you will be taken to a list of **further options** to choose from.

Here you can **choose** whether you would like to **share historic and future** information with the virtual school **as well as request to receive** historic and future information from them as well. You will also be able to **choose a date** when this **contract ends**, or you may choose *'Indefinite'* if you would like the share contract to **be on-going** (You can end a share contract at any time).

Click 'Next' to continue > Choose **which user groups** will be able **to view** the data that you **receive – we suggest DSLs and the Designated Teacher for CiC**. Once you have made your choices, click *'Next'.*

You will then be able to choose **which categories** you would like to share with the Virtual School. **They will then receive** all **incidents and actions under this category**, within the other parameters you have set. you will then be **taken to a confirmation page. (If you wish, you could set up a new category, such as Virtual School, so that only when this is selected will the information be shared.)**

Here you can see all of the settings that you have selected so far.

You are also given the option of **entering any 'Notes' for the LA/other school(s) to explain why you are making the request**, if necessary.

*There is also a **statement** which **must be acknowledged** before you can finalise your request and send it over to the LA/school(s). This is simply done by ticking the **'I confirm that I have read and understand this'** box and clicking **'Submit'**.*

*You will be taken **back to the list of Share Contracts***

*This page **would display** then any **existing share contracts** approved, pending or cancelled.*

*Until your request is accepted, the status will be marked as **'Pending approval'**.*

You can click on 'Details' to view what has been included.

*You can also **cancel the Share Contract** request at any time **by clicking on 'Action'** if it is no longer needed **or if you made a mistake** and need to create a new one*

*You will receive **email notification** once approved.*

Dashboard

Coming back to the dashboard, you should now notice your CPOMS dashboard looks a little different than previously.

*The **'filter by category' section** will display firstly the **categories your setting has in place**. The **student(s) will gain a monitoring flag** alongside their name displaying the **categories used within their chronology**.*

*You will see also, an option **to 'show external categories'**. These are categories of information **received in from your existing share contracts – possibly other schools or the LA**. The category lozenge of any incidents shared with you **will also have a globe icon, to the left of its name**.*

*If you choose to **select one of the external categories** (Select Operation Encompass), this will then display to the right hand side **any students where share contracts** have been agreed that hold information **within their chronology surrounding the selected category**.*

Viewing Shared Incidents

*Once a **'Share Contract'** has been **established**, you will be **able to view incidents that have been shared** as part of it.*

*When viewing a pupil's incidents (Select James Moore), within the **'Incidents' tab** of their profile, any **shared incidents will have a green banner**, to the left of the incident text.*

*You can **easily distinguish which way** an incident has been shared **by the direction of the arrow banner,** as well as the name of the person who added the incident.*

☊ Shared Incident - *view share contract* ▶	> You are sharing this incident with another school.
☊ Shared Incident - *view share contract* ◀	< This incident has been shared with you from another school.
🌐 Child Protection	The category lozenge of any incidents shared with you will also have a '🌐' icon, to the left of its name.

Clicking on ***'view share contract'*** *will* **take you to a summary page for that 'Share Contract'** *so you can* **see why it's being shared and which school can see it***.*