VIRTUAL HALTON SCHOOL

Virtual School newsletter – Spring 2024

PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE ON OUR NEXT TRAINING SESSION HERE!

https://forms.office.com/e/m06wQwn9nW

Dear Headteachers, Designated Teachers, DSLs & Social Workers,

Staffing changes & other updates

Hard to believe that we are already at the start of a new term! Thank you as ever for your hard work supporting our children in care and children with a social worker. The Autumn term was a particularly challenging time of year and we really appreciate your patience and determination when completing the PEPs, well done everybody!

Our new Primary PEP Lead, Sarah Rawnsley, hit the ground running last term and will have met most of our Primary colleagues over the last term. For those of you who have not met Sarah yet, I am sure she will be in touch over the coming months!

Engagement Hub

As the role of the Virtual School continues to grow, Pete has temporarily moved away from leading on PEPs and our Children in Care cohort, to focus on establishing our Engagement Hub. This is our 'one stop shop' for advice, guidance, training and support for **any** children who fall within our remit – whether that be trauma informed practice training, advice on poor school attendance, guidance on next steps for a young person at risk of permanent exclusion...we will help, advise, challenge and support wherever possible. From September '24, this strategic support will also expand to cover all children who are living in Kinship Care. More details and further information on the Engagement Hub will follow from Pete directly, but in the meantime if there is a child or young person with a social worker (CiN, CP or CiC) who you wish to discuss, or there is training which you feel would be beneficial, please do get in touch.

(In order to discuss any young person on a CiN or CP plan, permission will need to be sought from the person with parental responsibility or any young person can be discussed anonymously.)

<u>The Team</u>

Following these changes, here is a quick reminder of our Virtual School Team:

Ben Holmes (Headteacher)

Joanne Lloyd (Acting Deputy Headteacher – Children in Care lead and SEND Specialist)

Peter McPartland (Children with a Social Worker and Engagement Hub lead – Behaviour Specialist)

Min Ling Lee-Tai (New into Care & Attendance)

Gemma Donaldson (Early Years)

Sarah Rawnsley (Primary)

Alys James (Secondary)

David Bradshaw (Post Looked-After & Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children)

Ian Wilson (Post 16 – Education & Employability Officer)

(As part of our team, we also have additional allocated S&L and EP support available for Children in Care which can be accessed via the PEP process)

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.

September 2023 Virtual School Conference

A HUGE thank all of you that attended the Virtual School conference at the DCBL stadium on Wednesday 27th September.   I'm sure you will agree that it was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our successes with colleagues from across the children's services sector. Nick Barwick was an inspirational guest speaker who we are hoping to continue to work with throughout this year. Here is just some of the feedback that we received from the conference!

Key speaker made the training very 'real' and relevant!

This was so insightful and had such an impact.

Nick was totally inspirational and a reminder why our jobs are so important. Sometimes we

get that bogged down that we lose our sparkle. I can honestly say coming away from the conference renewed that. So I thank you from the bottom of my heart.
Guest speaker was really valuable and gave me food for thought particularly about how I wrote about the children I worked with as a CIN social worker. It also gave me insight into how I can support foster carers in understanding children in care in my current role.

Details of our next conference (including another fantastic guest speaker) will be shared in the coming months!

PEP Deadlines 2023-2024

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

Autumn term PEP completion

We had a good level of PEP completion last term, however we are striving 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.

Term:	Autumn	Team breakdown				School phase breakdown					Total
		CIN	CICCL	Unallocated		Early Years	Primary	Secondary	Post 16		
Number of pupils		81	224	0		17	107	115	66		305
PEP Status	Not started	2	8	0		0	0	10	3		13
		2%	4%	0%		0%	0%	9%	5%		4%
	Completed	79	216	0		17	107	105	63		292
		98%	96%	0%		100%	100%	91%	95%		96%

*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.

CPOMs – Action for schools

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.

2 Year Old PEPs

The introduction of the 2 year old PEP will be trialled throughout Spring and Summer term with the aim for this to be fully rolled out from Autumn 2024. It is hoped that through multi-agency working, our 2 year olds will receive appropriate support and early interventions where needed. Nursery is the beginning of our children's educational journey's and we want to ensure we are involved as early as possible to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Gemma will be in touch with Social Workers and settings in the coming weeks to discuss any 2 year olds that will be included in the trial in the Spring term.

Moderation

Last academic year, we introduced an internal PEP moderation cycle. We are now looking at a multi-agency moderation panel, with our first meeting taking place on Monday 25th March 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 23rd February.**

Joanne.lloyd@halton.gov.uk

Training Calendar

We have now finalised our training calendar for 2023-2024. All sessions are open to social care, fostering, Head Teachers, DTs, DSLs and any other pastoral support staff. Links and booking forms will be sent out nearer the time to each event. The calendar was sent out at the end of last term but is also attached as a separate document within the email.

Our next session is taking place in January via Teams and is being delivered by AC Education, focussing on reducing exclusions. This session is part 1 of 2 (please note second date in February in booking form below) It would be lovely to see you there! Please use the link below to register for the two sessions.

https://forms.office.com/e/m06wQwn9nW

Map and Eclipse Training

Please see the dates below for the next Eclipse and MAP training. Please note, it is mandatory to attend Eclipse training to be able to use the Eclipse system.
It is not mandatory to attend MAP training, however this training explains the MAP process and hopefully provides you with support and guidance.

In the meantime, if you have any queries/questions around any of the training or around the MAP process, please drop me an email or give me a call.

Eclipse training:
24th Jan 09:30 – 12:00 click to book
24th Jan 1:00 – 3:30 click to book

MAP Training:
29th Jan 09:30 – 12:30 click to book
29th Jan 1:30 – 4:30 click to book

We have also received some information from Mako Create. Please find the details below if you wish to contact them directly.
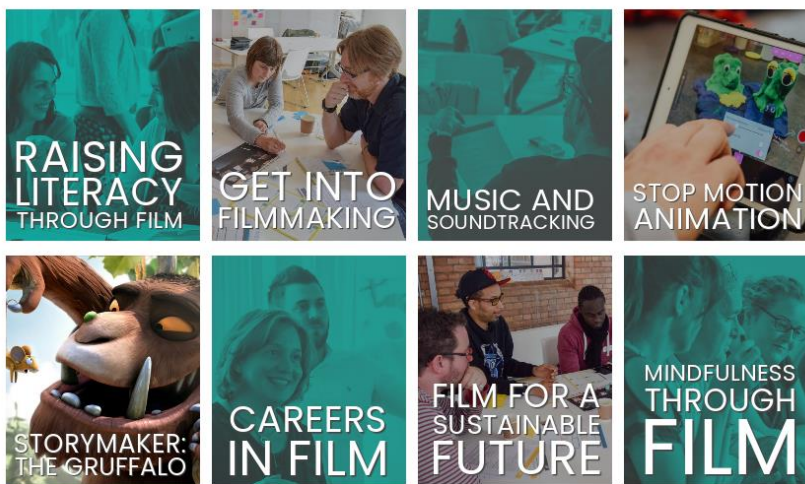
Thank you as ever for all you do. Please get in touch if there is ever anything we can help, advice or support with.

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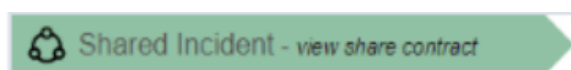
If you choose to **select one of the external categories** (Select Operation Encompass), this will then display to the right hand side **any students where share contracts** have been agreed that hold information **within their chronology surrounding the selected category.**
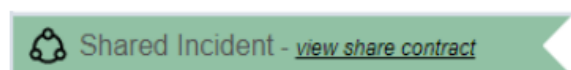

Viewing Shared Incidents

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.

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**.