



# Northumberland County Council

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## **FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** **Date 7th June 2018**

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### **Annual Report of Virtual School Headteacher 2016-17**

Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services, Cath McEvoy

Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Wayne Daley

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### **Purpose of Report**

To present the education outcomes of Northumberland's looked after children for the academic year 2016-17.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that:

- 1) Members note the positive education outcomes;
- 2) Members note the breadth of the service provided by the Virtual School which contributes to improving pupils' experience of school.

### **Link to Corporate Plan**

This report is relevant to the Learning priority included in the NCC Corporate Plan 2018-2021.

### **Key Issues**

1. Outcomes for pupils in the Early Years, phonics test and Key Stage 2 have improved since 2016.
2. Outcomes at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 4 have dipped since 2016.
3. Progress from the starting point of entry into care in reading/writing/English and mathematics is good for all year groups and the number of pupils engaging in further education after Year 11 continues to be high.

4. There have been no permanent exclusions since 2008, although the number of fixed term exclusions increased sharply in 2017.
5. The percentage of pupils classes as persistent absentees and overall attendance have remained relatively constant and in line with regional and national averages.

## Annual Report of Virtual School Headteacher 2016-17

### BACKGROUND

1. It is a statutory requirement for all local authorities to have a Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) to champion the education outcomes for looked after children. The VSH is required to produce a self-evaluation report for each academic year which compares the overall performance of the Virtual School to national outcomes. This data is published by the DfE at the end of March , following the academic year which is being evaluated.
2. Care can make a positive difference to a child's life and this Annual Report of Northumberland's Virtual School Headteacher sets out how in 2016-17 we can evidence that assertion with good and improving education outcomes.
3. This annual report for 2016-17 sets out Northumberland's context and then evaluates in detail how well our pupils performed at each key stage, how the Virtual School influenced teaching and learning, measures taken to achieve stability for learners, how good inclusive practice was promoted, and how the emotional health and wellbeing of learners was supported.
4. The Virtual School has an improvement plan which sets out priorities for each academic year, and this forms the structure of the subsequent annual report.

## IMPLICATIONS ARISING OUT OF THE REPORT

<b>Policy:</b>	The report affirms the need for an integrated multi-agency approach to improving outcomes and life chances for our children in care, and the key role of the Virtual School for Looked After Children
<b>Finance and value for money:</b>	The Virtual School enables the Council to fully discharge its statutory and moral duties to prioritise meeting the diverse needs of our children in care. Improved education outcomes over time demonstrate the value the Council adds to LAC achievement through this funding.
<b>Legal:</b>	None
<b>Procurement:</b>	None
<b>Human Resources:</b>	Note that new legislation and revised statutory duties have broadened the remit and accountability of the Virtual School Headteacher. Responsibilities for previously looked after children will have an impact on resources.
<b>Property:</b>	None
<b>Equalities:</b> (Impact Assessment attached) Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Risk Assessment:</b>	Sufficient improvement in education outcomes for Northumberland's children and young people is key to delivering sustained economic growth. Closing gaps in attainment for vulnerable learners will have a positive impact on overall attainment and promote social mobility.
<b>Crime &amp; Disorder:</b>	None
<b>Customer Considerations:</b>	None
<b>Carbon Reduction:</b>	None
<b>Wards:</b>	All

## CONSULTATION

The Executive Director of Children's Services and the Director of Education and Skills have been consulted on the content of this report.

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Family and Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny committee 7th June 2018

- Outcomes for children looked after by local authorities in England, 28 March 2017 DfE Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2018, 28 March 2018.
- Promoting the education achievement of looked after children: statutory guidance (DfE Feb 2018).
- Education achievement data provided by the Virtual School and NCC Data Unit September 2017.

### Report Sign Off

Finance Officer	initials
Monitoring Officer/Legal	
Human Resources	
Procurement	
I.T.	
Executive Director	
Portfolio Holder(s)	

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## **Appendix 1 - Annual Report of Virtual School Headteacher 2016-17**