

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22, SHROPSHIRE VIRTUAL SCHOOL



Shropshire
Virtual School



Executive Summary

Every year the Shropshire Virtual School Head Teacher produces a report to illustrate what has been achieved this year, by our school and our young people.

Our team aim to support children and young people in Care so that they can have excellent opportunities to fulfil their potential. As part of the Corporate Parent for this group of young people we always take time to ask whether something would be good enough for our own child. Our Virtual School also provides advice, information and training on education around Previously Looked-after Children and those Children with a Social Worker. Our School Values for all the 'families' of young people we support is to be "a safe and reassuring pair of hands" providing "the right support in the right place at the right time."

This year has seen lots of changes at our School - and as the country has moved through the Covid period into a post-pandemic phase we have been supporting our young people with tuition, emotional well-being, increased support and training for their Designated Teachers and new participation opportunities to support resilience and recovery.

Key highlights of this year's report are:

- OFSTED highlighting that our children in care make strong academic progress, with the Virtual School working well with partners to ensure the educational support they need to succeed is received - but also recognising the partnership response for supporting their emotional health needs to improve
- Development of our new Shropshire PEP and Launch on 5th September 2022
- Changes in the team with a new Head - and introducing a new Assistant Head plus an Education Advice and Support Officer to support the new strategic workstream for Children with a Social Worker
- A new Participation offer for our young people, supported by appointment of a Participation Support Officer
- No Permanent Exclusions for any of our Children who are Looked-After
- A significant increase in the numbers of Children who are Looked-After that we support, from 505 to 579 (a +15% change in one year)
- A new Nurture Training Project was rolled out and aims to support 20 Shropshire Schools to have their own Nurture resource/class ready for September 2023
- Development of several new communications eg a Twitter account which promotes our children's achievements, a Newsletter and a refreshed website



We are particularly proud of our young people this year for:

Our Year 6 children achieved above the CLA National and West Midlands Average in every subject this summer*. Twelve Year 11 students achieved between 8 and 10 GCSEs each!

Designing a brand-new logo for our School!

The progress they made in Phonics - in 2020/21 the achievement rate was 50% and this improved to 64.3% in Autumn 2022

One of our children winning the West Midlands Writing Competition

Harry saying at his PEP "I believe people should have as many dreams as they want"

One student setting up a uniform swap shop at their school to support families with rising costs, washing & ironing the clothes and setting up a website

All of our young people who were nominated for an award at our Celebration Event in September 2022 – and the Band who played at the event

**pending data being verified*



www.shropshire.gov.uk
General Enquiries: 0345 678 9000

Priorities from the Annual Report 2021-22

- Establish clear data baselines and reporting templates/processes for attainment and progress (including end Key Stage 2 performance predicted outcomes and SSD 903 reporting), attendance, progression and PEPs.
- To enhance data integrity for attendance, attainment & progress and PEPs
- Use data analysis to further inform draft School Development Plan – and create Task and Finish groups.
- Fast track recruitment to Previously Looked after Children (PLAC) and Children with a Social Worker (CWSW) posts - and to establish baseline data for CWSW indicators
- New Virtual School Head Teacher to meet key leaders in the LA
- Seek Virtual School Twitter account
- Begin development of participation, including competition for young people to design Shropshire VS logo.
- Revisiting the Terms of Reference for the Governing Body

These have all been achieved.

Summary of Priorities for 2022-23

- Fully resourcing and future proofing the service to meet the growing numbers of Children Looked After (CLA) plus the wider duties relating to PLAC and Children with a Social Worker. We will create the sense of 'one school' in our service and Shropshire VS functions very well using hybrid working practices, whilst also supporting the well-being of the team.
- We will develop & deliver a high-quality training offer to schools with the aim of supporting recovery, resilience, transition and inclusion for our three 'families' of children and young people
- Shropshire Virtual School will become increasingly visible to stakeholders, with high-quality regular communications and social media presence/resources. We will enhance partnerships with stakeholders, increase integrated working & increasingly influence strategic outcomes at the LA
- Data tracking will be embedded in practice across Attainment & Progress, PEPs, CWSW, Post 16, Participation – and we will drive forward change ready relating to the new Attendance guidance. We will be able to tell how we make a difference and our Key Performance Indicators are in line with or better than National Averages



- We will develop resource & training to improve Speech & Language skills for our children – and there is impact on outcomes for children in the Early Years up to end of Key Stage 1. We will develop our home learning offer in line with the White Paper and engage Carers with this.
- Our new Shropshire PEP will be launched successfully - and this will support driving up standards of Good Quality PEPs. The Post 16 PEP will be developed on to the LCS system.
- We will develop and deliver a robust Training Offer to Social Workers, Designated Safeguarding Leads & SENCOs to support promoting achievement and inclusion of CWSW – and we will develop robust integrated working to ensure education is a priority area in Child in Need and Child Protection Plans.
- We will develop robust tracking of data for CWSW, so this is established and embedded for high quality reporting and planning for strategic action
- We will make a strong positive contribution to strategic work with our Regional Adoption Agency (Together 4 Children), we will deepen our support offer for parents, promoting understanding of PP+ and how it can be used effectively. We will develop a clear & positive transition offer and process to support children moving from CLA to PLAC
- We will develop an annual calendar of participation activities for each school holiday across CLA and PLAC families, including Celebration events, to support children positively engage in increasing numbers, including those living Out of Authority. We will develop a School Council so that our young people can be supported to have a voice about things that matter to them, supporting them to be heard and shape practice for CLA in the Local Authority.
- We will develop effective use of the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire and Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) scales on our new PEP in relation to supporting positive mental health of our Shropshire Children in Care.
- We will build capacity in schools for supporting positive post 16 destination planning and our Post 16 Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Young People (UASYP) will have increased opportunities to access education through the year, in or out of county. Our young people will have new opportunities created for work experience in the ‘family business’
- We will build our offer for children and young people making educational transitions, increasing resources and training to support schools/provisions to build capacity.



We have a fantastic team at our Virtual School, we all take pride and enjoy celebrating and promoting the achievements of our young people.



Jo Kelly
Virtual School Head Teacher



Anne Williams
Specialist Education Access Officer



Lorraine Griffiths
CIAG PA (Post 16)



Paula Edwards
Administrator



Lindsay Armstrong
Asst Head



Georgia Smith
Specialist Teacher



Lisa Peters
Specialist Teacher



James Waller-Davies
Specialist Teacher



Adriana Coupe
Specialist Teacher



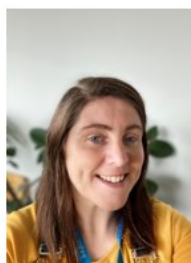
Amy Foulger
Education Advice & Support Officer



Beth Francis
Participation



Katherine Jones
Education Advice & Support Officer



Suzie Rawson
Education Advice & Support Officer
Post 16

Report by Jo Kelly
Head Teacher, Shropshire Virtual School
October 17th 2022



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