



# Virtual School Annual Report 2017-18

Children's Report

## Report Summary

Children's Report on the impact of the Slough Virtual School

**Policy Owner:** Anne Bunce, Virtual School Headteacher

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A hands-on approach to help children in Slough be



Safe, Secure and Successful

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Welcome to our report to you on what the Slough Virtual School did last school year. There is so much to celebrate in what you have achieved. Thank you for all the hard work and well done!

## **Who are the Virtual School?**

We work with your teachers in schools, colleges and early years settings to run your PEP meetings. This is to help your teachers to help you. If you come to your PEP meetings you will have met at least one of our team of learning advocates. Sherry, Cherie, Sameena, Ewen or Maria.

Maria, who a care leaver called, 'a legend', retired in July. We have three new staff Sabbah, Heather and Julia who will be the link for some of you this year. As well as doing the PEPs we run

- The Celebration Event (the next one is February 2019)
- Easter and summer revision classes
- The maths and English Drop in.
- Year 11 had visits to help them look at what education or training they wanted in Year 12
- Year 10 had the chance for a week of work experience
- We send the book parcels/book tokens to any young people who would like that service. (If you would like to be added please tell us in your PEP or contact [Sherry.landa@scstrust.co.uk](mailto:Sherry.landa@scstrust.co.uk).)
- We also ran activity days in the Easter and summer holiday.
- We also send you a card for your birthday or to mark a special achievement

(If you want to know everything we do for your age group please see last page.)

## Hearing your voice about education

In the PEP meeting and any other way we can we want to hear what you tell us about your education and how we can help. You have asked for lots and we always want to hear of more ways to help your education. Here are some.....

<b>You said...</b>	To your social worker... I want to move from alternative provision to mainstream school; Live with my family.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with you to find the right local school that will respect you and meet your needs.</li> <li>• Worked with staff at the school to know what you needed and be trained.</li> <li>• Sort a place with school admissions.</li> <li>• Design and set up a transition programme, including with staff from your old school</li> <li>• Hold PEPs.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	All three young people started their new schools in January 2018 and have attained at levels similar to their non CLA peers and made excellent progress. The children moved to family members are all doing really well in new schools.
<b>You said...</b>	In schools... Teachers should have more understanding of children looked after and how to support children and young people with their emotional wellbeing.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer all schools that have a child looked after by Slough attachment training.</li> <li>• All new Designated Teachers a day's training including the impact of early life trauma on learning.</li> <li>• Run Designated teachers meetings.</li> <li>• Develop the measurement of emotional wellbeing in school with SDQs in PEPs.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	We agree with you this is an area that needs more development and it is one of the three priorities identified in the Virtual School's Action Plan for next year.
<b>You said...</b>	In your PEP... I want to be a programmer
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up out of school tutoring in Raspberry Pi.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	You are now starting to programme in Scratch. Your attainment at school is above your peers in maths. You have made excellent progress this year and have made a great transition to secondary school.

<b>You said...</b>	To your Personal Adviser... I want to be tested for dyslexia.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sorted dyslexia assessment through Service Level Agreement with Slough Educational Psychologists.</li> <li>Set in train an application for an Education Health and Care Plan.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	Your learning options are secured until you are 25.
<b>You said...</b>	To Virtual School in PEP meetings... I want to stay at my school.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sorted viable transport arrangements.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	In one case all GCSEs taken. The other exceptional results (against non CLA peers) maintained.
<b>You said...</b>	To social worker (on entry to care)... I don't feel safe to take my exams.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arrange that school staff you trust supervised your arrival in the school carpark and took you to the exam hall. After exam they returned to taxi in school grounds for you return journey.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	Exams successfully taken.
<b>You said...</b>	To personal adviser... I want to do an apprenticeship.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sourced the apprenticeship.</li> <li>Worked with Team Around the Apprentice.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	Exceptional reports on your qualities as an apprentice. Level 2 apprentice qualified and linked to mentor and opportunities at Heathrow.
<b>You said...</b>	To social worker... I want to do GCSE maths as soon as possible and I want a good tutor.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Re-employ your preferred tutor.</li> <li>Change the focus of the tutoring to GCSE not functional skills.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	You were ready to take your GCSE by June.
<b>You said...</b>	To Post 16 lead in Virtual School... I want complete my Level 3 (A level equivalent) specialist course and go to University.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Source specialist tutors to help develop your English and maths, to allow your ability in your specialist area to be pursued at university.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	3 qualifications at A level standard, all graded at distinction. Russell Group University place secured, doing preferred management course.

<b>You said...</b>	To Virtual School... I want to go to University.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for course selection and universities with specific support for care leavers.</li> <li>• Signposting sources of funding and other support.</li> <li>• Taster visits to Oxford and Brunel Universities.</li> <li>• Current Slough CLAs spoke to peers at different events.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	<p>Six due to start University in September.</p> <p>Four are already doing degrees.</p> <p>Three Masters level students graduated this year. WOW!</p>

<b>You said...</b>	To Virtual School in PEP... I want to be a Police Officer.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approached police officer in Innovations Hub who arranged visits.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	You got on really well and use him as a mentor. (He loves meeting up too!)

<b>You said...</b>	To Post 16 lead in Virtual School... I want to do work and learn online at the same time.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funded online learning at a higher level than Young person thought they could do.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	Young person now looking at a wider range of learning to continue education.

<b>You said...</b>	To social worker (on day of release from prison)... I want to do a (named) trade.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same day two options in that trade found and discussed with you.</li> <li>• Applications in on same day.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	Place secured within week.

<b>You said...</b>	To Virtual School... I don't feel confident enough to talk to other people and am feeling lonely. I want to do well.
<b>We did...</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arranged individual tutoring.</li> <li>• Got you a place on a course with Community Voluntary Service.</li> <li>• Invited you to attend English and Maths classes run weekly by the Virtual School.</li> <li>• Invited you to Easter and Summer school revision classes.</li> <li>• Provided tablet with revision materials.</li> <li>• Signing up on ICT course for next year.</li> <li>• Researched ways to learn tailoring, your favoured career.</li> </ul>
<b>What happened next...</b>	You had the confidence to take the offered opportunities. Your personal adviser and foster carer report you are much happier and have the self belief to have a go. You now initiate conversations. Now you understand English well enough to understand the questions, your Maths results improved dramatically. You make delicious food for the young people who attend events with you.

## How did you do in your exams?

If you are in Year 7 or younger as groups of children you did as well as children who are not in care. This is an amazing achievement. Other children in care who work with other Virtual Schools have not achieved this and you should be really proud.

At Year 11 the picture was more mixed. Where you are in school and you have had no changes of placement in Years 10 or 11 or a big life event, you did as well as children who are not in care. For example getting a Silver Asdan Award or gaining 7 good GCSEs. Again this is a terrific achievement of which you should be proud.

Some of you who didn't do well in Year 11 have shown amazing resilience and are looking forward to the next stage of learning. Many of you have started college, others are re-taking GCSEs, some are starting apprenticeships or traineeships. Again this is great to see. It is never too late, our service goes up to age 25. Nearly all of our Year 12 re-take young people got their qualifications. One care leaver has come back to education and is starting university aged 24.

## Other Achievements

You are an active lot. In the PEPs you said you

Activity	Number taking part
Dance	4
Drama	1
Get Active summer 16	1
Football	9
Running	2
Basketball	3
Taekwondo	1
Fishing	1
Cadets	1
Cricket	3
Swimming	3
Tennis	1
Badminton	1
Ice Skating	1
Bowling	2
Running	1
Climbing	1
Boxing	1
Baseball	1
Rugby	2
Gardening	1
Feeding dogs and horses	1
Riding a bike	1
Walking Dogs	1
Sports	1

You have done lots of other stuff outside school. Some examples are:

A explained in her first PEP she would like to swim. This was supported by the Virtual School and she succeeded in gaining 25 metre certificate. A is interested in singing, sports and acting. She would like a part in the school play and this has been brought up with her school. Involved in extra curricular sport at school and in the KS 3 mock trial team, where she is the magistrate. She was chosen to be a transition leader, to mentor younger children in school.

B completed a bicycle ride from London to Brighton and raised money for charity. B is engaging with additional support. B has achieved a Public Speaking award and has been supporting his form group with raising money to support a community in Peru. B supported the Activity Day for the younger children. B was the excellent Master of Ceremonies at the Awards Evening. B won Volunteer of the Year at the Slough Youth Awards.

C is a young person with a complex history has turned life around. They have been trained by the Youth Offending Service to interview drug offenders.

D achieved excellent GCSE results last year which enabled him to attend BCA where he is studying level 3 Travel and Tourism. He also competed the bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh award whilst Holyport and has stated he would now like to complete the gold award. As well as attend college, J has a part time job in McDonald's which he holds down. J has been busy with extra curricular activities throughout his teenage years. These include Scouts, Explorers, and volunteering at the local Church group which he still does. He is a keen runner and reportedly feeling the healthiest he has ever felt.

If you would like your achievements in next year's report please tell us about them. Please call Farrah Mughal 01753 476721

If you would like to talk to someone about education to tell us what we are doing right or how can do better between PEPs **please do contact** your Learning advocate. We always love to hear from you.

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Or the Headteacher  
Anne.bunce@scstrust.co.uk 01753 875920

## **Our offer to all our children**

To support you do well in all aspects of school life, in line with the Slough Pledge and seven Corporate Parenting Principles identified in the Children and Social Work Act.

- To be your advocate and aspire for you educationally.
- To find a setting/ school / college / other provision that is best for you.
- To find a setting/ school / college / other provision rated good or better by Ofsted.
- Appeal to get you the right setting or schools.
- To hold termly PEPs of good quality.
- Invite you to your own PEP.
- Listen to your voice in the EPEPs and act on any comments.
- If you move school/ college/ other provision to include you in the decisions.
- Arrange support visits to new schools.
- Support for Education, Health and Care Plan:
  - Educational Psychology report.
  - Dyslexia and other testing.
- Specialist support for needs identified on gifted and talented register.
- If we hear of any bullying to get it sorted straightaway.
- Priority PEPs children and young people new in care.
- Funding for anything that will help raise your educational attainment. For example:
  - Tutoring in person/online/ with revision tablet.
  - In school support for example small groups or specialist resources.
- Follow up on any gaps in attendance.
- Follow up on any exclusion.
- We send you a card for your birthday or to mark a special achievement.

## **Additionally we offer all our children Birth to 3 years**

- One PEP a year linked to Early Learning goals from birth led by Virtual School Early Years specialist
- Three PEPs a year once in setting. Two led by Virtual School Early Years specialist

## **Additionally we offer all our children aged 4-7**

- Three PEPs a year. Two led by Virtual School Early Years specialist.
- Parcel in the Post monthly book parcels which match your interests you have told us about in your PEP.
- Library events.
- Priority PEPs in Reception class.
- Priority PEPs in Year 2.

## **Additionally we offer all our children aged 7-11**

- Three PEPs a year. Two led by Virtual School specialist.
- Parcel in the Post monthly book parcels led by individual children's interest.

- Tablet computers for Year 6 revision.
- 11+ tuition and appeals.
- Find your new secondary school and include you in the decision
- Transition day for Year 6s.
- Priority PEPs in Year 6 to support SATs.
- Priority PEPs to make sure you are settled in Year 7.

How are young people supported to continue into further and higher education?

### **Additionally we offer all children 11-16**

In our Employment Strategy we say we are committed to ensuring wherever you are placed, you are engaged in education, employment or training commensurate with your ability and aspirations and are helped to make significant progress towards achieving your recognized career ambitions, so you grow up prepared for the future.

In our Care Leavers Strategy we say we will improve the support and contact we have with you; Improve the availability and access to education, employment and training Opportunities; Ensure you have suitable, appropriate accommodation; Involve you in helping us shape our services.

- Three PEPs a year. Two led by Virtual School secondary school specialist.
- Revision tablets for Years 10 and 11.
- Easter and summer revision classes offered.
- Three enhanced career aspiration visits.
- Priority PEPs in Year 11 to support GCSEs.
- Priority PEP in your GCSE choosing term. (this varies).
- Where moving to a new school work with others to minimise disruption in exam years 9-11 and match GCSEs choices and exam boards.
- If changing schools give you a choice between at least two options.
- Support for applications to the next phase of learning, including college and sixth form courses.
- Taster visits to universities .
- Opportunity to attend National Citizenship Service week in summer holiday.
- Support your applications to apprenticeships at levels 1, 2 and 3.
- GCSE adaptations for example small group, more time or a reader.
- Online tutoring for learners of English within a week.
- Part fund alternative provision to keep your schooling options open.
- Work experience offer to Year 10.

### **Additionally we offer Post 16**

- PEPs into your Pathway Plans led by Virtual School's post-16 specialist.
- Chance to meet your new advocate at final enhanced career plan visit.
- Aspire for you in this stage of your education and beyond.
- Two PEPs a year whether at school or college.

- Support to make the transition to the independent learning styles in college.
- Support application to Key Stage 5 options at all levels of demand.
- Support for applications to Higher Education.
- Support for GCSE re-takes in English and Maths.
- Tutoring.
- Online tutoring for learners of English within a week.
- Resources to support work related training, such as appropriate tools.
- In conjunction with Young People's Service Life Skills residential week.
- Annual £2,000 bursary to support you at university.
- Support your applications to apprenticeships at all levels.
- Adaptations for GCSE re-takes for example small group, more time or a reader.
- Educational Psychology report.
- Appeals to get you the right further and higher education options.