

The Designated Teacher for Children Looked After

“Getting it right for young people in care is about getting it right for all children. The ways in which children in care are supported is a test of general policies and practices...not simply because they [CLA] have difficult problems to resolve, but because their experiences highlight how robust and inclusive policies and practice really are.”

‘The Education of Young People in Care’

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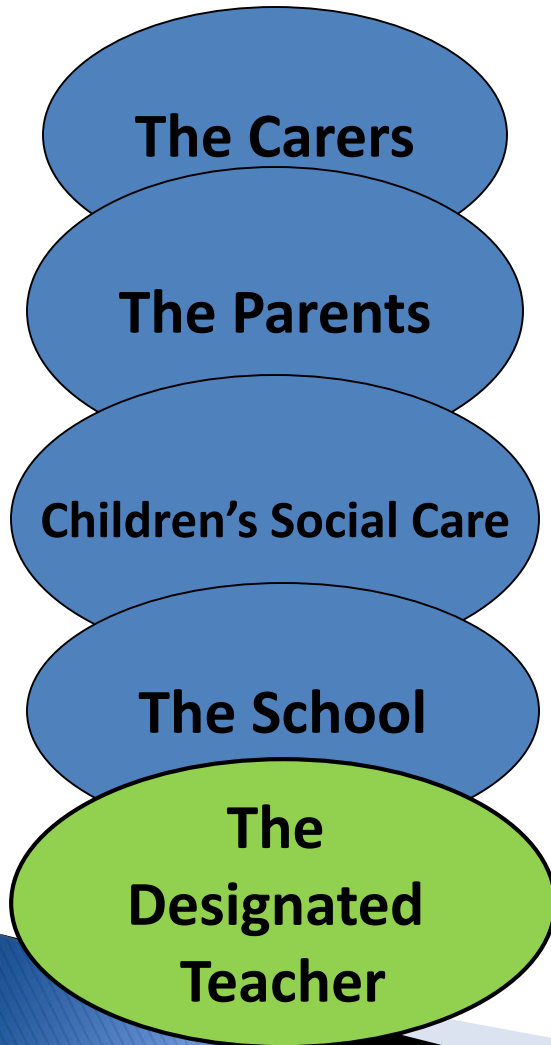
The role of the Designated Teacher

- ▶ **Young People in Care**
- ▶ **The context for the designated teacher**
- ▶ **The role – nuts & bolts vs. the spirit**
- ▶ **Starting pupils effectively in our schools**
- ▶ **Documentation – including PEPs**
- ▶ **Support for the role**

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The role of the Designated Teacher



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- 72,670 children and young people looked after in England
- The result of damaging and distressing experiences
- 62% CLA due to abuse or neglect
- CLA may be subject to care orders and accommodated
- Parents often retain primary parental responsibility

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The role of the Designated Teacher

- ▶ Numerous and often unplanned moves
- ▶ Being out of school for long periods
- ▶ Making and sustaining relationships
- ▶ Low self-esteem
- ▶ Attachment issues
- ▶ Lack of trust in adults
- ▶ Lack of adult clarity about roles & responsibilities
- ▶ Low expectations

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The role of the Designated Teacher

What & Why

- ▶ Designated teachers are required in every school whether or not there are CLA on roll.
- ▶ They are intended to ensure continuity of appropriate educational provision for CLA
- ▶ They are part of a wider national focus on the raising of the achievement and profile of CLA

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The role of the Designated Teacher

Summarising the role

- ▶ Ensures access for CLA to a broad and balanced curriculum which is properly assessed, recorded and reported to the appropriate people
- ▶ Puts in place a regularly reviewed and relevant PEP which sets realistic targets
- ▶ Liaises with parents, carers and social workers on range of education and care issues maintaining up to date records on care and health matters
- ▶ Secures appropriate SEN provision including annual review of EHCP if applicable

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The role of the Designated Teacher

Essential Communication

- ▶ With parents, carers and social workers
- ▶ Checks and Balances using the CLA Team
- ▶ Regular updates for the Headteacher/Pastoral leaders
- ▶ Contact with Virtual School
- ▶ Annual report to governors
- ▶ Annual data return to LA

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The role of the Designated Teacher



Champion

Confidante

Liaison

Advocate

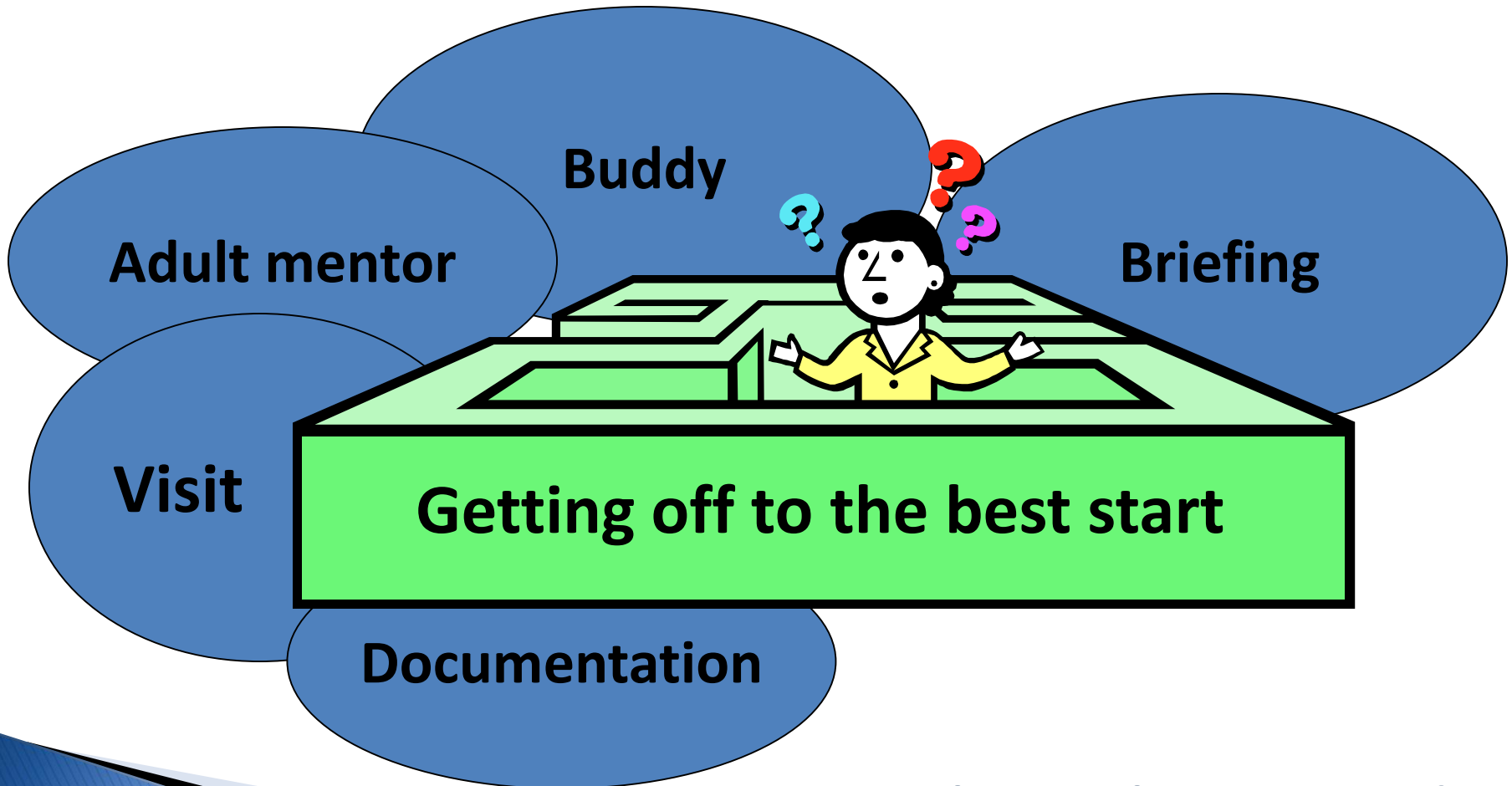
Authority



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The role of the Designated Teacher



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The role of the Designated Teacher



Designated teachers may manage:

- ▶ Personal Education Plans
- ▶ Home/School Partnership Agreements
- ▶ Pastoral Support Programmes
- ▶ Attendance Monitoring
- ▶ Monitoring and Reviewing Targets
- ▶ CLA policy

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Personal Education Plans – PEPs

- ▶ Need to be completed once each term and in advance of a LAC review.
- ▶ Usually initiated by the Social Worker
- ▶ Relevant people should be present
- ▶ Standard information required and assembled
- ▶ Pupil needs to understand process – it is their meeting
- ▶ Pupil views need to be gathered and any outcomes shared
- ▶ A PEP is about helping a pupil succeed at school in the broadest sense of the word

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Using PEPs

- ▶ Sharing views and longer term plans with pastoral managers and key staff
- ▶ Sharing academic targets with all teaching staff
- ▶ Informing targets for PSPs/'On Report' processes
- ▶ Updating review/LAC meetings
- ▶ Ensuring planning for potentially complex aspects of education

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Celebrating Success

- ▶ Who needs to know?
- ▶ Success measured against appropriate bench marks
- ▶ Effective rewards – what works for this child?
- ▶ Use of additional mechanisms

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Every Pupil is Different

- ▶ A high profile cohort
- ▶ Responding to the individual not the label
- ▶ Embedding the culture and building capacity
- ▶ Remaining flexible
- ▶ Retaining the child amidst the legislation

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The role of the Designated Teacher



What support is available for designated teachers?

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thevirtualschool@somerset.gov.uk

www.somersetvirtualschool.co.uk

DfE guidance – effective September 2018

[..\The designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children.pdf](#)

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