

Somerset Virtual School

For Children looked After



Schools' Update – September 2017

New Website

Somerset's Virtual school for Children Looked After has a new website. You can find our site at www.somersetvirtualschool.co.uk Information, advice and guidance, our Pupil premium Policy and help for completion of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) can be accessed via the site together with details and dates for training in the new academic year.

Training

We are offering five key pieces of training this year for Children's Social Care, carers, schools and school governors. Details and dates can be found here <http://www.somersetvirtualschool.co.uk/training-and-development/> Further details, confirmed venues and reminders to book will be sent out nearer to the start of each. Enquires can be directed to us via thevirtualschool@somerset.gov.uk

Designated Teachers' Network meetings 2017-18

The dates for this year's termly meetings are as follows and all at Dillington House:

30/11/17

15/03/18

05/07/18

Please make a note in your calendar. We will contact all schools again nearer the date to remind you and help you book places.

JUMP Meetings

Our Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist Dr. Dee Henderson has been developing the Joined Up Multi-Professional Planning (JUMP) meeting offer over the last six months.

JUMP meetings provide an opportunity for a multi-agency team to meet together to reflect upon the impact of a Child Looked After's (CLA's) experiences, and to think together around the best ways of supporting them.

JUMP meetings can be appropriate for a CLA in a number of different circumstances including:

- when a school has been working with relevant professionals such as an advisory teacher from the Virtual School (VS) / SEMH advisory teacher, & still feel they are struggling to meet the pupil's needs
- when there are milestone transitions approaching & it is felt it would be appropriate to share strategies and supportive techniques within a multi-agency forum (for example when a pupil is moving to secondary school)

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The meetings will take 2 hours and are divided in four parts:

- Brief overview on the relevant aspects of the child/young person's life experience
- Feedback on what's going on for the child/young person now
- Psychological understandings and hypotheses
- Joint agreement on supportive next steps

In addition to the EPS and the VS, the following people also attend:

- A school representative (e.g. SENCo, class teacher, college tutor)
- The child/young person's Social Worker/Leaving Care Worker
- The child's foster carer/key worker

Requests for a JUMP meeting to be considered should be made to the Virtual School Advisory Teacher who will assist in the referral of appropriate pupils.

Getting in Touch

We look forward to working with you this year. Please do not hesitate to contact the Virtual School if you have any queries or are looking for some help with Somerset's Children Looked After.

Our central inbox for general queries is thevirtualschool@somerset.gov.uk our PEP co-coordinators Jo Lewis and Paul Binding manage communications sent to this address.

To contact Somerset's Virtual School Head, Zoe Heywood, please email ZHeywood@Somerset.gov.uk

In addition Somerset schools all have a link Advisory Teacher:

Taunton & West Somerset [Cassie Jones](#)

Sedgemoor [Julie Hunt](#)

Mendip [Shelley Kent](#)

South Somerset [Jackie Jones](#)

We have a new colleague working with us to support post 16 Education, Employment and Training. Gary Roper can be contacted with any post 16 queries via GSRoper@somerset.gov.uk. Somerset's Lead Education Advisor is [Helen Readman](#)

And don't forget the new website www.somersetvirtualschool.co.uk