

Open Report on behalf of Heather Sandy, Executive Director – Children’s Services

Report to:	Corporate Parenting Panel
Date:	9 March 2023
Subject:	Children in Care engagement in education – Impact of Department for Education (DfE) Post 16 Pilot

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the impact of the Department for Education (DfE) Post 16 Pupil Premium pilot that ran from October 2021 to March 2022. The aim of the pilot was to test the extension of financial support to children in care and care leavers in general further education.

Actions Required:

Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel are invited to:

- (1)** Consider and comment on the information contained in the report (Appendix A); and
- (2)** Review and endorse the report.

1. Background

The role of the Virtual School is to promote the educational achievement of children in care. Following the submission of an expression of interest, Lincolnshire Virtual School was invited to take part in the Department for Education (DfE) Post 16 Pupil Premium pilot which ran from October 2021 to March 2022. The proposed outcomes of the pilot were to:

- raise the profile of children in care and care leavers by strengthening close working relationships and sharing expertise on the needs of this cohort;
- improve the attendance of these young people in Further Education (FE) by putting in place tailored interventions to support attendance; and,
- better support the delivery of Personal Education Plans, pathway plans or equivalent at both an individual and cohort level.

2. Conclusion

Participation in the DfE Post 16 Pupil Premium Pilot enabled our young people in care to access a wider range of resources and enhanced provision to promote their continued attendance, engagement and progress in education, employment, and training opportunities. The additional funding has had a positive impact on the support and provision for young people in care and care leavers at local FE colleges. Personal Education Plans have been developed to strengthen the focus on transition planning during Year 11 and evidence termly discussions on opportunities and support needed to re-engage our young people who are not currently in education, employment, or training.

The DfE Post 16 Pupil Premium pilot has been extended for the current academic year 2022-23 and Lincolnshire Virtual School continue to work in partnership with Children's Services colleagues, carers, Lincolnshire Leaving Service and local Post 16 settings to further enhance access to education, employment, and training opportunities for our young people in care and care leavers.

3. Consultation

a) a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Children in Care engagement in education - Impact of Department of Education (DfE) Post 16 pilot
Appendix B	Phase one evaluation of the virtual school head's extension of duties to children with a social worker and the post-16 pupil premium plus pilot

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Sarah Lane, Interim Virtual School Headteacher, who can be contacted by e-mail at sarah.lane@lincolnshire.gov.uk