

### 1 What is the Virtual School?

For a variety of complex reasons, children in care (as a group) underperform compared to their peers.

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires every local authority to have at least one person appointed to promote the education of looked-after children.

The Virtual School does not exist in real terms as a building, and children and young people do not attend. We are a team of dedicated professionals who support looked-after children and care leavers to succeed in education, employment and training (EET).

### 2 The Manchester Context

Manchester Virtual School promotes the education, employment and training (EET) of around 1300 young people aged between 2 to 18, and a further 900 young people aged 18 to 25 as part of our leaving care service.

Our young people attend different EET settings across Manchester, Greater Manchester and beyond.

Like a bricks and mortar school, we monitor their attendance, attainment and achievement.

In Manchester the attainment gap is narrowing thanks to the support of numerous professionals all working together for the benefit of Our Children and Young People.

### 3 Who we are

Our diverse team consists of qualified teachers who have a range of experience teaching in different EET settings, Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) specialists, education caseworkers, data, finance and admissions support specialists.

We sit within the Children and Families Directorate in Manchester City Council.

### 4 Our responsibilities

Manchester Virtual School's primary role is championing all our Young People to ensure that they are safe and achieve well at all stages of their journey towards adulthood.

For example, the Virtual School is responsible for managing the PP+ grant for currently looked-after children and for allocating it to schools and alternative provisions.

In 2017 changes to the Children and Young Person's Act (2008) gave us a new duty to promote the education of previously looked-after children.

### 5 What we do

We make sure that there is a system in place to monitor the attainment and progress of looked after children and care leavers.

We make sure that all looked after children have a robust and effective Personal Education Plan (PEP) in place.

We champion the needs of looked after children across the authority and those place out of area.

### 6 What we offer

We provide support, challenge and encouragement to produce strategies to achieve the best outcomes for the child or young person.

For example, we deliver training and network sessions for Designated Teachers, Social Workers, Foster Carers, Personal Advisors and other professionals which include opportunities to share best practice.

### 7 Key Contacts

Jane Johnson is the Head of the Manchester Virtual School.

Jane and the team can be contacted on 0161 234 4160 or via email [virtualschool.education@manchester.gov.uk](mailto:virtualschool.education@manchester.gov.uk)

For full contact details please see our team structure page

