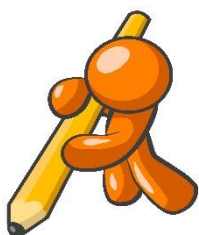




Learn Achieve Celebrate

Information and guidance
for Designated Teachers of Looked After and
Previously Looked After Children in
Northumberland
November 2020



Please encourage your looked after children and previously looked after children to enter our Northumberland Virtual School competition.

For support or more information contact deborah.aubrook@northumberland.gov.uk

Entries are to be submitted by 10th December through your schools 360 account

Writing Competition Time!!!

Prizes galore for every year group from
Reception to Year 11

£25.00 Voucher for the winner in each year
group

£50.00 Voucher for the best overall entry in
Primary, Secondary and Special Schools



You can write about anything that interests you. It might be something you are good at. It might be something about your school or where you live. You might want to write about a current event that you feel passionate about, like animal welfare, human rights, or the effects of COVID 19!!

Add pictures, captions, and even videos of your work.

Here are some websites to give you ideas and help to get you started!!

<https://litfilmfest.com/home-learning/the-quick-fire-write/>

<https://literateforlife.org/writing-websites-for-kids/>

<https://www.storyjumper.com/>

<https://scribblitt.com/login/>

<http://www.littlewritebrain.com/>

<https://www.funenglishgames.com/writinggames/story.html>

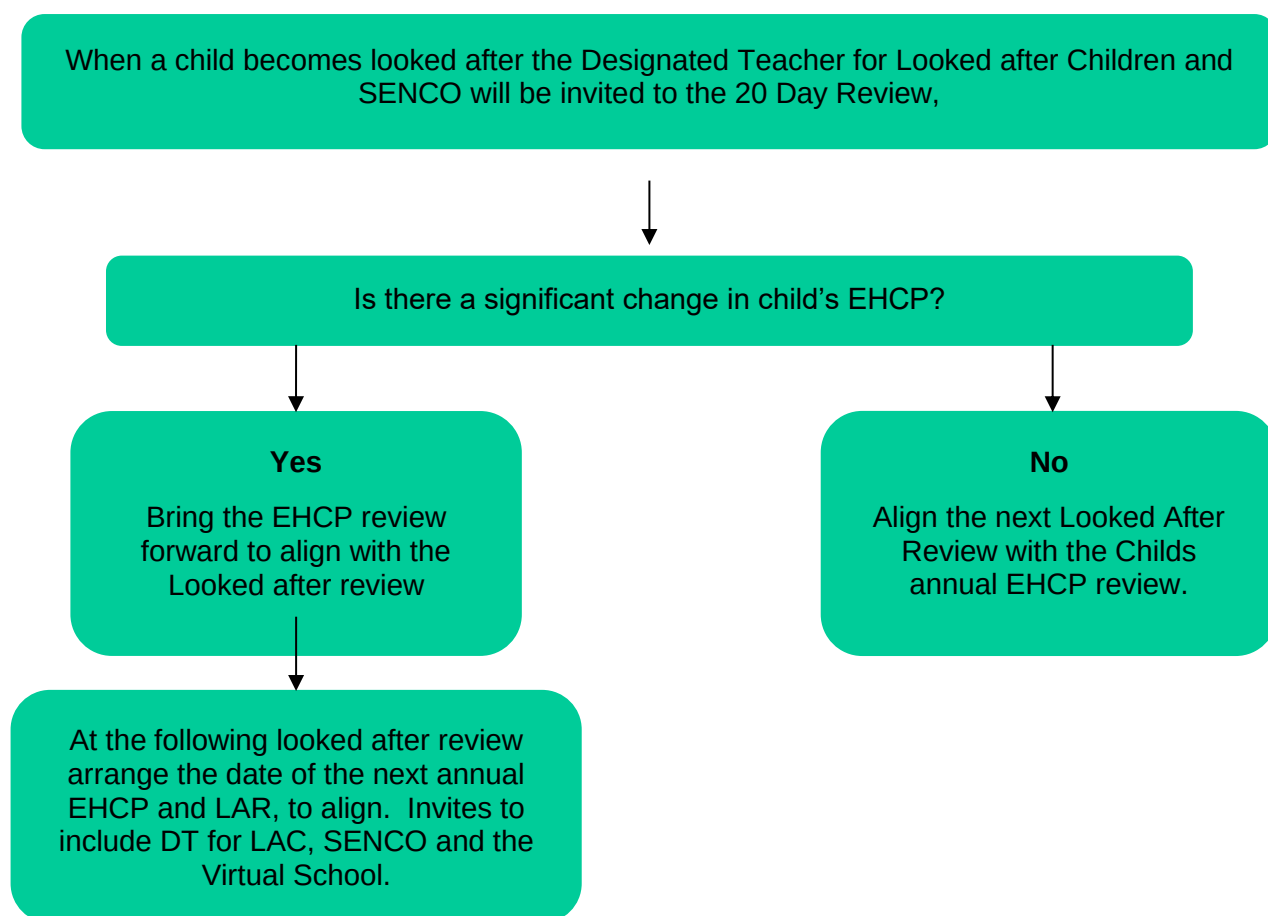
<https://www.teachwire.net/news/11-ways-to-banish-childrens-fear-of-creative-writing>

Aligning LAC and EHCP reviews (and PEPs)

The Virtual School is going to co-ordinate the work to ensure that more Looked After Reviews and EHCP reviews are meaningfully aligned, which is a priority in the Written Statement of Action which followed the local authority's area SEND inspection in September 2018.

Please visit our [webpage](#) to find a detailed briefing from the Virtual School's SENDCO and Deputy Headteacher Tara Prescott, and the Safeguarding Unit's Team Manager Jan Tilson – the briefings are located in the *Virtual School - Coronavirus (Covid 19)* section under *links for Designated Teachers*.

Aligning annual EHCP and Looked After Child Reviews



An annual combined EHCP and Looked After Child Review will be held together. If the child does not want their looked after review to be held in school, consideration will be given which may involve a series of meetings. The looked after review is a child centered meeting and should not be arranged at a time which results in the child being absent from school.

The Personal Education Plan (PEP) is the education section of the statutory care plan and should be updated for the initial and subsequent looked after child reviews.

Any queries please contact

SEN: 01670 622759

IRO Admin, Safeguarding team: 01670 624888

The Virtual School: 01670 622779

Autumn Conference Resources

Thank you for participating in the [Virtual School's Autumn Conference for Designated Teachers](#) on Wednesday 11th November 2020. The resources are all now available to download from our [webpage](#) in the first *Virtual School - Coronavirus (Covid 19)* section under *links for Designated Teachers*.

The presentations are:

- **Supporting a successful return to school for looked after children**
Carol Booth, Virtual School Lead Educational Psychologist
- **What your ePEP can now do for you**
Tara Prescott, Acting Deputy Virtual School Headteacher
- **Designated Teachers and Good Corporate Parenting**
Jane Walker, Virtual School Headteacher

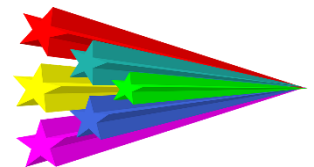


Malcolm Connelly, Northumberland's Kooth Integration and Participation Worker, is available for staff training and for promotional resources about **KOOTH**. He is also available to provide further information and training about **QWELL**, the equivalent mental health and wellbeing resource for adults, including your school staff. His email address is mconnelly@kooth.com

[VIEW HERE](#) for Kooth resources for anti-bullying week, which is next week.

Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report 2020

Please follow this link to view and download the [Virtual School Headteacher's Annual Report for 2020](#). The theme is stars, in many varieties, so you should see yourself and your children in there somewhere!



If this was your own child would you now call the police?



In September 2019 the local authority launched [Protocol for Reducing the Criminalisation of Looked After Children and Careleavers](#).

The impact of the protocol already is that looked after children are now less likely to have a formal criminal record which means that additional barriers to employment are also removed.

Secondary schools were asked to sign the protocol and return it to Jane Walker. If you have not already done so could you please arrange the signature and get a scanned copy to Jane asap at Jane.Walker@northumberland.gov.uk

There is a useful training module on Learning Together - [Reducing Criminalisation of Looked After Children](#) - which will help you to understand the purpose and process of the of the You will learn about:

- who looked after children and care leavers are
- recognise the impact of trauma on the behaviour of these young people
- identify the key elements of Northumberland's Protocol
- recognise the difference this protocol can make in children's lives

Early years short term additional resource: EYSTAR

Children with emerging additional needs or identified SEND who attend an early years setting may be entitled to additional funding. This funding is known as [Early Years Short Term Additional Resource \(EYSTAR\)](#).



EYSTAR funding is:

- for 2, 3 and 4 year olds who are taking up free entitlement in any childcare setting, looked after children are entitled to 15 hours
- targeted at children with lower level or emerging SEND to support the implementation of strategies that are additional to or significantly different from what is normally provided under a graduated approach by that setting, to other children of the same age
- is passed to providers in the form of short term additional support and resources on a case-by-case basis decided by the Early Years Inclusion Panel.

The funding must be endorsed by an Early Years Inclusion Consultant. Please contact Joce Kitt (jocelyn.kitt@northumberland.gov.uk) or Amy Cowan (amy.cowan@northumberland.gov.uk). You can find more information about EYSTAR funding [here](#).

For any looked after child in early years transitioning in September who may need a statutory assessment for SEND, the request must be made by Easter to allow the EHCP, if agreed, to be in place for September.

Contact Us

Here are contact details for teams and services that you might need when working with looked after children. Let us know if you need any others:

- OneCall 01670 536 400
- ESLAC 01670 622779
- Email: eslac.info@northumberland.gov.uk
- CYPS 01670 502 700
- Family Placement 01670 626 262
- IROs 01670 624888

Virtual School Headteacher: Jane Walker



Northumberland
County Council