Children and Families Service

One Minute Guide

Virtual School for Cared for Children

What is it?
Cared for Children (sometimes called Looked after Children) are those children looked after by Cheshire East Council. They may live with Foster Carers, in Residential Homes or with family or relations. The Virtual School takes the lead in ensuring the Council meets its statutory duty to ensure that the educational outcomes for all these children are the best they can be.

Why are we doing it?
Too many Cared for Children do not get the outcomes from their education that reflects their capabilities. In 2017, 19% of sixteen year olds in care gained good passes in maths and English, compared to 64% for the whole population. The figure for all cared for children in 2016 England was just 17%.
The Virtual School works with schools, carers, social workers and the young people themselves to make sure they get the most out of their education. We will work to find the best educational place for each child and then monitor their progress. We will help to arrange any support they need to be able to enjoy and succeed in school and will challenge those who work with them to give the best provision at all times.

When is it happening?
Now! The Virtual School came into existence on 1st September 2010 and has been championing the cause of cared for children since then. All children are allocated a Virtual School Advisor, enabling each child to get the support they need.

Where is it happening?
All over Cheshire East and beyond; wherever a child who is in care of Cheshire East Council lives. We provide training, advice and support for Schools, Colleges or Early Years Settings, Foster Carers, Designated Teachers and Social Workers as well as working closely with agencies that support our children.

Who is the main contact?
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