

SUPPORTING Children Previously Looked After (CPLA)

How can we help?

- ✓ Advice, training and support to professionals, schools, colleges and families who have a child who was previously looked after.
- ✓ Be part of the final Personal Education Plan (PEP) for each child as they leave care.
- ✓ Work creatively with parents, carers, and schools to help overcome any barriers to successful learning.
- ✓ Support the transitions of children where a change of school takes place and also year to year within a school.
- ✓ Support parents and carers with planning for the education of their children, and to signpost to other sources of support, information and advice.
- ✓ Advocate for the child in progressing their learning opportunities.

Parents and carers

- ✓ Make contact with the school via the designated teacher or head teacher to notify them their child is previously looked after.
- ✓ Work in partnership with their child's school to ensure the best education opportunities and any barriers to learning are identified and overcome.
- ✓ Share any useful resources or information with the school.

Schools

- ✓ Comply with national guidance <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>
- ✓ Promote the wellbeing of those children on roll who are classed as previously looked after, recognising that they may be impacted by adverse early childhood experiences.
- ✓ Have a named member of staff with responsibility for promoting the educational achievement of previously looked after children.
- ✓ Prioritise children previously looked after for school places.
- ✓ Ensure the January census reflects those children who were previously looked after and use this funding for their benefit.
- ✓ Review policies and procedures to ensure they reflect the needs and challenges of previously looked after children.
- ✓ Maintain confidentiality regarding the background of previously looked after children.
- ✓ Involve parents/carers in decisions about their child's education.
- ✓ Ensure the best education opportunities and any barriers to learning are identified, exploring all avenues of support so as to avoid an exclusion.
- ✓ Consider provision for all previously looked after children including those who are more able.

From September 2018, schools have had a duty to ensure the educational achievement of those children on roll who are classed as previously looked after as well as looked after children.

Each Virtual School within ACE has a dedicated adviser whose role it is to offer support and guidance to schools and parents/carers with a child or children who were previously looked after.

Coventry: Jo Green
E-mail: jo.green@coventry.gov.uk
Web: www.coventry.gov.uk/virtualschool

Herefordshire: Nicola Butler
E-mail: nicola.butler@herefordshire.gov.uk
Web: <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/herefordshire-virtual-school-looked-children>

Solihull: Alecia Oliver-Adams
E-mail: alecia.oliveradams@solihull.gov.uk
Web: www.solihull.gov.uk/virtualschool

Warwickshire: Heidi Wilde
E-mail: heidiwilde@warwickshire.gov.uk
Web: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/virtualschool>

Worcestershire: Jade Busby
E-mail: jbusby@worcschildrenfirst.org.uk
Web: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20757/virtualschool