

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Children & Families Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 18 October 2011
Report of: Lorraine Butcher, Strategic Director Children Families & Adults
Subject/Title: **Progress Report : Virtual School**
Portfolio Holder : Cllr Hilda Gaddum

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Children & Family Scrutiny Board with the performance and progress relating to The Virtual School since its inception in September 2010. The principle document referred to within this paper is Appendix A which provides the detailed information relating to current priorities as well as the analysis of performance relating the academic progress of Cared for Children in 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- 1.2 Due to the small size of the overall Cared for Children population and its vulnerability in terms of the potential ongoing changes in terms of placement stability, it is essential to consider overall trends in performance from actual case studies. The complexities of each individual case results in a unique package of support for each young person and the overall achievements of an individual need to be considered in its widest sense and not just formal academic qualifications.

2.0 Decision Requested

- 2.1 The Virtual School progress report to be received and noted.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 The reason for presenting this information is to report on the impact and progress of The Virtual School since its inception just over 12 months ago

4.0 Wards Affected

- 4.1 All wards will be affected.

5.0 Local Ward Members

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 Policy Implications including - Climate change - Health

- 6.1 Not applicable

7.0 Financial Implications (Director of Finance and Business Services)

7.1 Performance data has been used to shape Children & Family service needs and identify/match resources to meet demand based appropriate levels of need. Clearly the Cared for Children cohort are one of our most vulnerable groups and should therefore receive greater levels of support based upon their need.

8.0 Legal Implications (Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

8.1 None

9.0 Risk Management

9.1 The key risk relates to the accuracy of information to ensure that reporting is based upon validated data. Robust methods are in place with schools to quality assure the accuracy of reported data. The Virtual School has systems in place to track the performance of pupils throughout the year to assist in the modification of support programmes for individuals.

10.0 Background and Options

10.1 The progress report as presented within Appendix A provides the relevant information relating to the developments, priorities and outcomes associated with The Virtual School since September 2010.

11.0 Access to Information

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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