

WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST



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VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Early Years Area Learning Advocate (EY ALA)

- Brand new post
- Education advocate for a specific cohort of Children Looked After in the Early Years aged 2,3,4 and 5 receiving education in an Ofsted registered setting, residing both in and out of county
- Preschool Ofsted registered settings – Childminder, Day nursery, Sessional preschool, Nursery provision within a school, Private nursery school, LA Nursery school, Independent school
- Number of Early Years CLA currently totals 99

Early Years Area Learning Advocate will...

- Promote awareness of statutory requirements within EYrs settings
- Offer challenge and guidance with providers to improve wider educational outcomes
- Identify needs of high priority children and signposting settings to overcome barriers
- Support and refer settings to relevant EYrs services e.g. Preschool Forum
- Monitor use and impact of EYPP – advice regarding entitlement to claim
- Provide advice to social care regarding choice of EYrs placements (high quality provision and stability)
- Support social workers and carers to access a full Nursery Education Funding entitlement full time places and 2 year old funded places
- Promote a role in EYrs settings similar to that of a Designated Teacher
- Provide practical support to settings to support wider outcomes
- Promote effective practice across EYrs settings and schools

EY ALA Role – how will the child benefit?

- Early identification and targeted intervention at the earliest opportunity
- Challenge the barriers to success as early as possible, thereby promoting a culture of high aspiration for every CLA
- Improve the educational outcomes for CLA in early years
- Support transition from a range of EYrs providers to reception year in a school setting
- Longer term will improve the life chances of our children and young people in care
- Unique early years ePEP format, also used for Reception children in school

Social workers role

- Talk to carers about the Virtual School's role and the EYALA role
- Share the PEP with carers and discuss key aspects depending on need
- Invite carers to PEP meeting
- Complete the relevant sections of the ePEP online prior to meetings
- Attend all 3 PEP meetings
- Assist information gathering for early years children with no recorded school/setting
- Priority need PEP's – be proactive and get in touch so that completion can be achieved in the next month

Role of the Pre-school provision

- Have a named designated teacher/practitioner identified to have a focus on looked after children
- Complete relevant sections of the ePEP prior to meetings
- Ensure that CLA are well supported to make progress towards their educational and emotional well-being targets
- Attend all 3 PEP meetings
- Ensure that Early Years Pupil Premium is obtained and utilised effectively for all looked after children

Worcestershire Virtual School will...

- Track early years CLA attendance
- Advise carers/social care with regards to the suitability of a setting to meet a child's individual needs
- Link with other WCF EYrs teams to avoid duplication of work, share local intelligence, discuss concerns and support each other with advice and guidance

Operationally 'to do'...

- Target preschool settings with CLA to obtain information on the sectors confidence/awareness to support CLA
- Provide preschool settings with initial information and training around the purpose of the PEP and use of the Welfare Call system
- Support/guide/challenge preschool settings to contribute to effective and engaging PEP conversations, providing a holistic view and focusing on the needs of child
- Ensure preschool settings with CLA receive the universal Worcestershire Virtual School's Bulletin

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