

PEPs

Personal Education Plans (PEPs) for Children in Care

It is requirement for a Child in Care to have a PEP. The purpose of the Personal Education Plan meeting is to look at the child/ young person's current educational needs and to update the Early Years setting regarding the child/young person's social needs. The main purpose of this meeting is to ensure that the setting, Social Services and the Carers are aware of any current areas of concern regarding the child/young person's needs and to plan together the current priorities and any future action.

The child's **Social Worker** has responsibility for informing the setting a child is in care, **initiating the first PEP meeting**, completing the first PEP form and distribution. Virtual School uses an E-PEP called Asset – you will be sent a log in to use.

The Early Years setting needs to provide information on the child's overall progress in the relevant Areas of Learning and the child's Characteristics of Effective Learning.

Once the initial PEP has taken place, **reviews will be then organised by the Designated Lead for Children in care who works in the child's setting**. It is good practice to set dates of PEP reviews in advance so that dates and times are agreed well in advance.

Any further questions?

virtualschool@hants.gov.uk

Additional Information and Guidance

Virtual School Website

www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/virtual-school

Hampshire County Council – CiC guidance for settings

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/childcare/providers/children-in-care>

Early Years Pupil Premium - Information for providers

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/childcare/providers/eye-eynff/early-years-pupil-premium>

Promoting the education of looked after children - LA guidance Feb 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children>

Children in Care

The term 'Child in Care' (CIC) is used in this guidance. The term 'Looked After Child' (LAC) or 'Child Looked After' (CLA) is also widely used and is also correct.

Children in Care can live in their own home, in a foster placement with a foster Carer, in a foster placement with a family member or relative or in a Local Authority home

What is a Care Order?

A Care Order is a Court order made under the Children Act 1989 that places a child under the care of a Local Authority. The Local Authority then shares 'Parental Responsibility' for the child with the parents, and will make most of the important decisions about the child's upbringing e.g. where they live and how they are educated.

A court can only make a Care Order if it is sure that:

- the child is suffering, or is likely to suffer, significant harm.
- the harm is caused by the child's parents or if the parents are failing to protect the child.
- the child is likely to suffer harm because they are beyond parental control.

Care plans

Before a child is taken into care, the Local Authority will produce a **care plan** for the future care of the child. The parents and the child should be involved in developing the Care Plan. The child's Social Worker will make a Care Plan to help the court decide how the child should be cared for. The plan should show how the child's needs would be met in care, including their **health, education and contact** with family members.



FACT

Every preschool, nursery and childminder should have a **Designated Lead for Looked after Children** who has been trained by Virtual School. The setting should have a policy relating to 'Care experienced children' or should make reference to this group in their policies to show how the setting will meet and support the individual child's needs.

Questions to ask and things to do...

As a Designated Lead what should I be doing? – what questions should I be asking ?

- **You should request:**
- A date for a PEP meeting with the Social Worker, if this has not been sent to you.
- Where relevant, the child's latest assessments from a previous setting and any plans if they are in place e.g. Health and Care plan (EHCP)
- The legal care status of the child – ICO (Interim Care Order), FCO (Full Care Order) or Accommodated (Section 20). This may need updating within a short period of time, dependent on the individual circumstances as an Interim Care Order may be replaced with a Full Care Order as a case proceeds through the courts.
- **You should ensure:**
- that the child has been identified as LAC and is receiving correct funding. Email childcare@hants.gov.uk to check this.
- Check that recording of Carer's details is accurate, including any mobile numbers for text messaging and contact etc
- Ensure that the child's records are current so that assessments and comments re Characteristics of Effective Learning can be shared at the initial PEP meeting (within 20 days of child entering care)

What to expect if a HCC child is 'new to care'

If a child or young person is expected to join your setting soon or already attends your setting you should:

- Have had contact with their social worker, know their name and have their contact details
- Have been provided with details and contact information about the child's current Carers (whether this a temporary or long term placement)
- Have been given details of any specific safeguarding information e.g. adults who should not have contact with the child.
- Have been requested to set a date for an initial **PEP** meeting – this is essential where a child is new to care and needs to be completed within 20 days of a child entering care. (A log in to Asset will be sent to the setting)
- Have been supplied with a copy of the child's latest PEP (if they are already in the care of a Local Authority)
- Please contact virtualschool@hants.gov.uk for any support

Needs, Views, Priorities

How is the pupil doing in the setting?
Where are they in terms of progress & attainment?
What are their priority needs?
What are the views of the child, parent/carer, school, social worker?

Targets, Plan, Spending

Personal Education Plan is needs led, outcome focused with SMART targets.
EYPP is used to address plan and action.
Actions, support and interventions are delivered successfully.

Monitor, Record, Celebrate

Monitor Record & Celebrate Progress Success & Achievements