

Dear Colleagues,

HOPE Headlines – 2021/22

Welcome to the summer terms and (hopefully) sunny days ahead. This is a very short term, but a busy term with the start of exams and transition planning.



As always, we would like to thank you for your ongoing support for the education of children in care in a year that despite covid restrictions being eased, there are still many challenges being faced in schools and social care.

Best wishes,

The HOPE Team

E-mail: thehope@bristol.gov.uk

Tel: 0117 90 36282

[The HOPE has information and guidance online](#)

1. Key Theme: Transition

We ask all our partners to contribute to high quality transition planning for children in care; with particular focus on standard transition points – starting Early Years; Early Years to Primary School, Key Stages within Primary, Primary to Secondary and Secondary into Post-16.

We know that transitions can cause additional anxiety for children in care and your thoughtful planning makes a huge difference to successful moves. Listening to children and young people; completing high quality Personal Education Plans (PEPs) involving both the current and new settings; fully involving Social Workers and carers all have a significant impact.

It is important for Designated Teachers to work closely with new schools/providers including post 16 provisions to share information and ensure all necessary support is in place to support a child in care's transition and positive start in September 2022. Designated Teachers should liaise with the Designated Safeguarding Lead in their setting to ensure arrangements are in place for advance information sharing and the transfer of any safeguarding files in September as outlined in [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#).

If you would like further advice about transition, please contact HOPE advocates on 0117 903 6282.

2. Compliance for the 2022/2023 financial year:

Schools should have now received the letter from, Emma Lloyd, Interim Head of the Virtual School, outlining all the criteria for being able to receive the Pupil Premium Grant. Please ensure you have made note in your diaries of the deadlines for actions to be completed by to ensure you can be eligible for the funding.

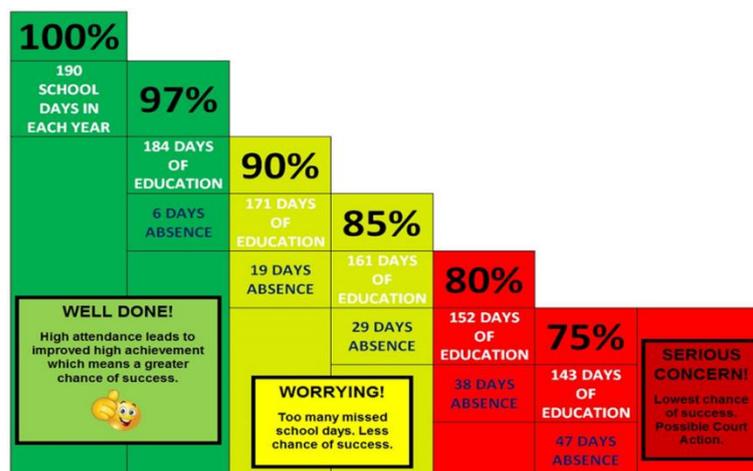
Data should have been added to the Establishment Portal for all Bristol Children in Care at the end of last term. If you have not yet completed this, please can you log on and do so. If you have an

Early Years age child, please ensure you have sent the date to Anne Mortimore at Anne.Mortimore@bristol.gov.uk

As always, the HOPE advocates are available to offer you any support and guidance you need around completing the PEP forms and uploading data so please contact them if you require any assistance.

3. Attendance:

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving children the best possible start in life. The aim should be to attend 100% of the time. Students who miss school frequently can fall behind with their work and do less well in exams. Good attendance also shows potential employers that a young person is reliable.



If you are working with a young person whose attendance is below 95% please ensure there are actions in place to ensure that this does not drop any lower. If there are concerns or any additional support is needed, please ensure you include the young person's HOPE advocate in any discussions.

4. Training:

For Designated Teachers:

Designated Teacher Training for new DT's.

Thursday 14th July 2022, 9am – 3.30pm

Venue: Bridge Learning Campus Professional Development Centre

The course is free but you need to book a place.

If you wish to book onto the course, please can you complete the online form [here](#).

If you are booking on behalf of someone else, please ensure you have their permission first.

Designated Teachers for Previously Looked after children training

Tuesday 28th June 2022, 9am to 1pm.

Venue: Bridge Learning Campus Professional Development Centre.

The course is free, but you need to book a place. Each session is limited to 20 participants.

If you wish to book onto the course please complete the online form [here](#).

If you're booking for someone else, you must get their permission first.

For Social Workers and Social Care staff:

The Role of the HOPE Virtual School

Online training session being run via TEAMS on the following date:

Thursday 30th June 2022, 9am-11am

Please sign up via itrent.

If you are unable to make this session there will be further sessions running on

Tuesday 6th September 2022, 9-11am

Wednesday 18th January 2023, 2-4pm

5. Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) support visits

We offer schools the opportunity to have a support visit to review the provision for your previously looked after children and jointly plan next steps to develop this provision. Designated teachers who have taken up the offer of a visit so far have described it as helpful and supportive. The visit can be in person or virtual and will take approximately one hour. If you would like request this please email Shelina.jerram@bristol.gov.uk