**Our Offer for Previously Looked After Children**

**Please note that full information about our offers can be found by clicking on the relevant link below.**

## **Aim and Statutory Remit of the Virtual School**

The Virtual School has a duty to promote the educational achievement of previously looked after children through the provision of information and advice to their parents, educators and others who the Virtual School Head considers necessary. This duty applies to all children attending school in the local authority, regardless of where the child lives.

The Virtual School is not the corporate parent for previously looked after children, so it does not monitor nor is held to account for individual children’s attainment and progress. Any intervention must be by the consent of the parent.

## **Advice and Guidance for Professionals and Parents and Carers**

We offer consultations by email, Teams or phone for any professional or parent/carer who needs advice around educational provision for a previously looked after child. If a child is to be identified, it is important that we have parental consent. Please email [christina.addenbrooke@essex.gov.uk](mailto:christina.addenbrooke@essex.gov.uk) to set up a consultation.

Depending on parental wish, the Virtual School can liaise with other services, draw together support and signpost. Our advice and guidance is rooted in attachment and trauma understanding, and where necessary, we can seek further specific guidance from our SEND specialists. Where needed, we can also attend meetings to help implement a plan or resolve difficulties.

## **Bespoke Trauma-Based Training for Schools**

The Virtual, School commissions the Children’s Support Service to provide bespoke, trauma-based training to schools and settings where our cohorts attend. A range of training topics is available, from meeting mental health needs, co-regulation strategies, putting attachment theory into practice, stress analysis, coaching and positive behaviour management. Please see [**here**](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/UPDATED%20Essex%20Virtual%20Schools%20Request%20for%20Training%20form%20and%20Session%20Outlines%20(002).docx)for the booking form.

## **Bespoke Schools Support for Cohort**

If your school has an idea for a project or intervention for your cohort of PLAC and other students facing barriers, please get in touch with [christina.addenbrooke@essex.gov.uk](mailto:christina.addenbrooke@essex.gov.uk). There may be limited funding available to support pilot studies. We have, for example, supported a transition project, a mental health project and setting up PLAC support groups.

## **Pupil Perception Survey**

The Virtual School is funding a Pupil Perceptions survey. It is free for all schools and education settings in Essex. It will provide helpful information on the health of your school. It will capture the concerns, wellbeing and safeguarding issues of **all** your pupils.

This survey will help the Virtual School look after children in care, previously looked after and children with a social worker without singling them out.

Participating schools receive in-depth reports about the wellbeing of allpupils. They also receive reports on their 'readiness for learning'. This is really key after Covid-19. The results are broken down so you can offer targeted support for individuals or groups. You could identify areas for curriculum changes. This will help you to meet Ofsted standards for safeguarding and personal development.

The survey will provide national data from 500,000 pupil responses so you know how your school compares to the national average.

The survey lets children share how they see their lives at school, home and in the community. It looks at their views of:

* teachers and other adults in school
* friends
* family
* health professionals
* religious people
* police
* other professionals

Your school will also be able to offer a Parent Perceptions survey to gather parents' views on the same issues.

For more information and sample reports visit:[https://www.anspear.com/pupil-perceptions/](https://eur02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https://www.anspear.com/pupil-perceptions/&data=04%7c01%7c%7cec77a9fd957b4fedb9bc08d9db46f606%7ca8b4324f155c4215a0f17ed8cc9a992f%7c0%7c0%7c637781920089194167%7cUnknown%7cTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7c3000&sdata=b6lsYz9FyvT5VdctvmDach5KVyJQ4Bwl8MWzNhNY7Qo%3D&reserved=0)

If you decide to take part, a team member from Anspear will walk you through the set up. It is all online and requires no software installation. The survey takes between 15-25mins.

For further information, please contact [christina.addenbrooke@essex.gov.uk](mailto:christina.addenbrooke@essex.gov.uk)

## **Creative Education – Online Resource for Parents/Carers and Schools**

We have licenses for parents and professionals to access the full Creative Education catalogue – there are hundreds of online courses, thematic deep dives and bite-sized videos aimed at giving you useful tips and insights into making education work for your child. Please contact [christina.addenbrooke@essex.gov.uk](mailto:christina.addenbrooke@essex.gov.uk) to explore what is on offer. <https://www.creativeeducation.co.uk/>

## **Learn How To Vehicle Wrap**

Essex Virtual School would like to share with you an exciting opportunity that we are offering to Essex looked after young people, previously looked after young people  and young people with a social worker in years 10, 11 and 12.

 S6 Academy, based in Wickford Essex .

 Wrapping is the art of seamlessly applying adhesive vinyl to surfaces, usually to vehicles. In this course the young person will be learning the foundational skills needed to get them started. Asides from vehicles, wrapping is a huge part of many other industries for example: exhibitions, business advertisement, household refurbishment. All the skills that are taught within this course will allow the young person to use these skills throughout.

Option one - level 1 course - Saturday 1st October then every Saturday until 5th November- [booking form](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/Essex%20Virtual%20School%20-%20S6%20Academy%20booking%20form%20Level%201%20October%202022.pdf)

​Option two - level 1 course - Saturday 12th November then every Saturday until 17th December- [booking form](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/Essex%20Virtual%20School%20-%20S6%20Academy%20booking%20form%20Level%201%20NovemberDecember%202022.pdf)

## **Free Music Tuition and Workshops**

All PLAC can access free 15-minute music lessons and your classes can access music workshops. If your child is not in school, you can apply for virtual lessons, or attend a local music hub. Please click [**here**](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/Essex%20Music%20Service%20LAC%20offer%202022-23.pdf) for more information.

## **Britannica – A Safe Online Learning Platform**

Every previously looked after child  in Essex has access to Britannica's safeguarded and educational search engine, which caters for all needs and abilities [Information](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/Britannica%20information.docx).

## **Ignition Mental Health Workshops**

Essex Virtual School is working with Ignition Arts Theatre Company to provide mental health workshops for schools with PLAC attending. Please see [**here**](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/Me%20myself%20and%20I%20workshops%20information-ignition%20Arts.docx)for more information. The workshops can range from one, three and six sessions. The booking form is [**here.**](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/ignition%20Arts%20booking%20form.docx)

## **SPEC Multi-sports Holiday Programme**

Spec training are offering 2 sports programs to support children with their fitness and wellbeing during the schools holidays. Young people will experience a variety of activities in both programs. Schools that have looked after children, previously looked after and children with a social worker can apply for one of these fully funded programs.

**The program is for a group of young people, they do not need to all be under the LAC/PLAC/CIN or CP cohorts .**

[More information and booking form](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/SPEC%20Holiday%20program-booking-info.docx)

[FAQ](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Documents/VS%20FAQ.pdf)

## **Attachment Awareness Accreditation**

Your school now has the opportunity to gain Bronze, Silver or Gold Attachment Awareness status. Please see [**here**](https://schools.essex.gov.uk/pupils/Essex_Virtual_School/Pages/Attachment.aspx) for further details of the training and accreditation process.