



COLEG Sir Benfro
Pembrokehire COLLEGE

PEMBROKESHIRE COLLEGE

Looked After Children (LAC) Strategy



Mission Statement/Datganiad Cenhadaeth

Pembrokehire College's mission is to provide the highest quality education, training and support services for all its learners.

Cenhadaeth Coleg Sir Benfro yw darparu addysg, hyfforddiant a gwasanaethau cefnogi o'r ansawdd gorau ar gyfer ei holl ddysgwyr.

1.

Introduction

The College is fully committed to strengthen its approach to support the education of Looked After Children (LAC) in compliance with the following legislation and policy frameworks which exist to help and support children and promote their educational attainment.

- Raising the Ambitions and educational Attainment of Children who are Looked After in Wales;
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014;
- Towards a Stable Life and a Brighter Future;
- Children and Young Persons Act 2008 (Section 20);
- Buttle UK Best Practice Supporting Learners in Further Education (following the principles of the Buttle UK Quality Mark);
- Corporate Strategy of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW);
- Youth Engagement and Progression Framework;
- Together for Mental Health (2012);

2.

Definition of a Looked After Child (LAC)

'When a local authority takes on the responsibility of a parent so children are kept safe and get what they need'.

Types of Care Orders:

- **Section 20 Voluntary Care Order**
This is where a parent or child requests that they be placed in the care of the local authority (LA). (At any time subject to review the child can be withdrawn from care). This can also be used for respite care or where by mutual agreement it is in the best interests of the child. This is not a statutory order.
- **Interim Care Order**
This is granted by the court for a period of time to enable more permanent arrangements to be made. This may be a joint or single order arrangement.

- **Full Care Order**
This (may be a joint order) where the child is placed by the court to the full care of the LA. They will make foster care arrangements or will allow them to remain at home but in this instance the LA will have joint parental rights.
- **Guardianship Order**
This is normally where the LA would be informed that a family member would be caring for a child, and they would approve of that placement.

A looked after child remains entitled to LAC support services (through a personal advisor) until the age of 25 if they remain in education. However, they may live independently or be in supported accommodation. 'When I am Ready', depends very much on individual circumstance, need and arrangement.'

3.

Management and Responsibility for Looked After Children (LAC)

- In compliance with statutory guidance the College has a designated senior person who is responsible for LAC attending the College or participating in College activities. The Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services is the Designated Person. This is made known to all agencies and is included in the Care Guidance documents of Welsh Government.
- In discharging this responsibility, the Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services reports on LAC on a monthly basis to the College's Safeguarding Panel to ensure that the Principal and Safeguarding Governor are aware of LAC enrolled at the College and their progress.
- In fulfilment of the Designated role the head of Safeguarding and Learner Services will demonstrate strong leadership in this area of work and will work in partnership with local authorities and other agencies to ensure the best possible support for learners from a care background.
- The Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services will attend and submit reports to LAC reviews and strategy meetings, commissioned by professionals.
- The Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services will also formalise service level agreements between partner agencies and the College to facilitate smooth transition arrangements from school via the VULTRANS group.
- The Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services will also convene signs of Safety meetings with Faculty staff where a LAC child presents at risk.
- A weekly update on LAC enrolled learners will be provided to Curriculum Cluster and the names of Faculty LAC are shared with Faculty Management teams by the Head of Faculty.

4.

Staff Awareness

- The Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services will deliver awareness sessions regarding LAC to Faculty Management and Support teams.
- They will also incorporate LAC awareness into staff briefings arranged by the Head of Faculty.
- Annual updates regarding LAC will be incorporated into safeguarding training delivered to the College Board.
- The definition of LAC and staffs enhanced duty of care to these learners will be incorporated into Tier 1 safeguarding training.

5.

Support of LAC

- LAC will receive priority in the admissions process.
- LAC will be a priority in the awarding of student financial support.
- They will receive an enhanced duty of care with regards to attendance monitoring.
- They will receive regular reports on their progress.
- They will have access to well-being services.
- They will have an annual health review with the College Nurse.
- They will receive multi agency support.
- Any risks of exclusion or withdrawal will be brought to the attention of the Corporate Parenting Team at the earliest opportunity.

6.

College Actions for 2016/17

The College will in the delivery of its LAC strategy undertake the following actions in compliance with 'Raising Ambitions and Educational Attainment of Children who are Looked After in Wales.'

Actions

- Continue to work to meet the Quality Mark Criteria set by Buttle UK and build on existing good practice.
- The Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services will continue to embed 'signs of safety' within the College and work closely and effectively with partner agencies via the Integrated Safeguarding Team.
- The Head of Safeguarding will meet termly with all LAC to review their support.
- The Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services will maintain contact with foster carers and be a source of contact for them.
- Continue local authority partnership arrangements and agency working to ensure the best possible support of LAC.
- Target LAC to maximise their entitlement to student financial support.
- Ensure that LAC receive an enhanced duty of care.
- Through staff development raise awareness of LAC and their needs.
- The Head of Safeguarding and Learner Services to produce an Annual Report on the progress of the College's LAC.

Our Poverty Strategy is available online: pembrokeshire.ac.uk/college/policies. It is also available, on request in a range of formats including, large print, CD Rom and in Welsh. Should you, or someone you know require this in an alternative format, please contact the Learning Support and Equality Manager on 01437 753304 or email: kr.davies@pembrokeshire.ac.uk

Os hoffech chi gopi Cymraeg o'r adroddiad hwn, yna cystylltwch â Swyddog Datblygu'r Iaith Gymraeg y Coleg, Janice Morgan ar 01437 753435 / ebost: ja.morgan@pembrokeshire.ac.uk. If you would like a Welsh copy of our SEP, please contact the College's Welsh Language Development Officer, Janice Morgan on 01437 753435 or email ja.morgan@pembrokeshire.ac.uk