



POST16 UPDATE

Higher and Further Education Information for Young Care Leavers

Spring Term 2016

Welcome from Rachel Calver, Post16 Assistant Head (FE & HE)

As the nights start to get lighter, the Post16 team are busy starting to support the next cohort of young people to make their post16 choices, working closely with the VSK Year 11 Progression Support Officers. We are all working hard to ensure the young people, and those around them are aware of the choices available for these young people who now need to remain in education, training or employment until they are aged 18 years. We will also be sending out a letter to our year 11 young people shortly reminding them of their options and providing them with many helpful pieces of information.



The Post16 team are also working hard supporting our current cohort of young people to access education, training or employment and are seeing some fantastic results and happy young people!

Participation and Engagement

Kate and I recently attended a workshop with other key teams within KCC to see how we can work together to increase participation and engagement. This was a fantastic workshop attended by Early Help and Preventative Services, Skills & Employability, Children Centres, Youth Hubs, SEN and many more. We look forward to building on these links across the county to better support all of our young people.

Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children (UASC)

VSK's role is to work with the education, training and employment providers that already exist, and to then share any awareness of gaps in provision with the Skills & Employability team within KCC.

In our last newsletter we mentioned the arrival of UASC to Kent and we have been working with several providers, in collaboration with Skills & Employability, to increase the number of education opportunities for UASC Post16. Details of these can be found on our website: <http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/professionals/uasc>

We are also in the process of recruiting some additional staff to support this increasing work stream and hope to have them in post soon.

POST16 DATA

Hi. My name is Calum Vinnicombe and I joined VSK in January 2015 as the Post16 Data Admin Assistant where I am responsible for recording accurate information about post16 young people on a variety of systems.



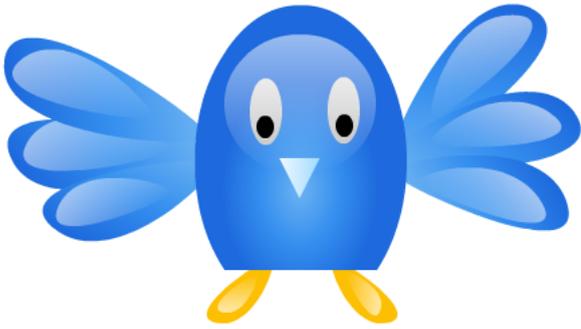
Data collection is a very important and necessary role as it enables me to record up to date information that assists the Post16 Support Officers and more widely contributes toward KCC's role as corporate parent in tracking and monitoring the progression of our post16 young people.

The Post16 Support Officers play a vital role in tracking and monitoring our post16 cohort, they do this by linking in with colleges, training providers and social workers in order to gather the most accurate and up to date information on a young person's engagement with either education, training or employment in line with the guidance set out in raising the participation age. These multi-disciplinary links are vital in data collection as all of these professionals will have information that can be used to forewarn of any change in circumstance of a young person's post16 journey.

On a weekly basis I am responsible for inputting data sent to me by the Post16 Support Officers, this could include details on a change of social worker, change of address or a change in training provider. Ensuring that all necessary changes to a young person's status have been accurately recorded means that anyone accessing the information will have an accurate picture of the young person.

This data also assists the Post16 Support Officers in identifying the NEET's and 'Not Knowns' within their localities, this in turn enables the team to prioritise their caseloads in order for them to make initial contact, arrange appointments and provide details of the latest options available within the young person's area.

Alongside this social workers and other professionals working with post16 young people also send me updates daily which I am also responsible for entering on our master list as well as IYSS and ePEP. By keeping these systems up to date ensures a high level of accuracy for the reports produced for statutory bodies with regard to the performance and reduction of the NEET figures.



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Virtual School Kent

POST16 AWARDS NOMINATIONS

In our last newsletter we reported on our Post16 Awards evening which was a great success. Nominations for this years awards will be open from Thursday 24th March to Thursday 30th June 2016. Visit the NEWS section of our website for full details and the nomination form.

<http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/news>



HIGHER EDUCATION

If you have a young person in your care who is thinking of going to university please check out the new 'Higher Education' section on our website where you will find information about applying, funding and things to consider when selecting the right course and university for them.

<http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/professionals/higher-education>

National Network for the Education of Care Leavers (NNECL)

NNECL is a national network of higher education institutions and national charities working together to improve the progression of young people in care into further and higher education. NNECL delivers a range of services aimed at supporting professionals working with children in care and care leavers. These include access to attend regional university partnership meetings, hosting a national practitioner conference, providing a free quarterly newsletter and hosting a website listing higher education activities for children in care and those supporting them. Find out more at <http://nnecl.org/>

EGGSTRA! EGGSTRA! VSK EASTER TREASURE HUNT

Over the Easter break we will be running our online Treasure Hunt around the VSK website.....follow the clues to find the hidden treasure and you could win a prize! Visit the NEWS section on our website between midday on Thursday 24th March and Friday 8th April 2016 to find the first clue.

YAC UPDATE

Interest in joining the Young Adult Council continues to grow and we now have a core membership of over 20 young people aged from 16 to 21 years old.



Meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month where the young people meet up with the VSK Participation Team.

In December we met for a Christmas party and at the February meeting members gave their views on Kent's current Pathway Plan, comparing them to other local authorities Pathway Plans and discussing how they can be improved. We have also recently launched our own private Facebook group to help everyone keep in touch.

Each member is given an 'Achievement Tracker Book' so they can keep a record of their achievements within the council. In their trackers they will be focusing on tasks and activities that focus on moving on to independence and give them valuable life skills. Activities in the upcoming months include obtaining a first aid qualification, attending fire safety in the home sessions and internet safety.

The council also get together socially so it is a good place to come and meet new people and make friends. If you would like further information on how to join please email: vsk_participation@kent.gov.uk

Meet the Post16 Team



From left to right...

Lesley Lamb, Vicky Crompton, Matthew Willock, Rachel Calver, Calum Vinnicombe, Kate Corbishley, Wayne Aiken and Sam Sharkey

Malcolm Thomas

