



POST16 UPDATE

Higher and Further Education Information for Young Care Leavers

Spring Term 2017

WELCOME...RACHEL CALVER, POST16 ASSISTANT HEAD (FE & HE)

As we head into March, fast approaching another new academic year, helping our young people to make their post 16 education, training or employment opportunities again, I must reflect on how far the VSK Post 16 team have come with supporting, tracking and monitoring our young people. The Post 16 team have worked incredibly hard with our education, training and employment partners to ensure young people feel supported. This fantastic achievement is shown comparing where we are now to where we were this time last year:



	FEB 2016	FEB 2017
Total cohort	1004 (378 Citizen, 626 UASC)	933 (362 Citizen, 571 UASC)
Total NEET	312	179
Total Not Known	156	0
% NEET & Not Known of total cohort	46.6%	19.1%

The data above shows that the team work between VSK and the external providers is working, showing we are aware of where our young people are and we are reducing the number of young people not engaging in education, training or employment. Our thanks to our providers, to our other colleagues in VSK and within other KCC teams.

However, we are also facing a change as we head into the new financial year. A reduction in the arrivals of the UASC young people, and the number turning 18 this January means that some of the VSK Post 16

Support Officers will now be moving onto other roles within KCC. Matt Willock, Wayne Aiken and Afroza Ali will be moving across to join the 18+ Leaving Care Service as Personal Advisers. Tracy Woodhall will be joining the Early Help team. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to them all for their fantastic achievements in supporting the young people, in helping to develop much needed education provision in the county and in their passion for the role, you will be missed. And so that leaves the Post 16 team to work in a slightly different way as we go forward..... we will keep you posted....



Thank you, and good luck with your next venture... you will be missed

TRANSITION TO ADULTHOOD

At the end of January 2017, in collaboration with various other KCC Specialist Children's Services teams, Reece (VSK Participation Apprentice) and Rachel presented at a 'Transition To Adulthood' workshop primarily for Foster Carers and other accommodation providers. The workshop consisted of several presentations by the teams on how we are working closer together to support this agenda. At the workshop a series of booklets/guides were shared with the audience and feedback is in the process of being collated. The booklets/guides will be launched in the new financial year – keep an eye on the VSK website for copies.

TIME TO AIM FOR THE INVESTOR IN CAREERS AWARD



VSK are aiming to have their work recognised through the Investor in Careers Award, showing how we work in partnership with various teams and educational providers to support our young people in developing and realising their career paths.

The award is a nationally recognised quality award recognising excellence in careers education, information, advice and guidance provision, mainly held by schools and colleges. VSK will be one of the first alternative organisations aiming to achieve this award.

The award is broken down into 3 stages to achieve and we hope to achieve Stage 1 in the next couple of months.

NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICE SUCCESS

After spreading the word about National Citizen Service throughout the county at VSK Locality Meetings, Foster Care Support Groups and chatting with key personnel (Year 11 Progression Advisors & Fostering Education Liaison Officer's) we are very pleased to let you know that so far 32 children in care have signed up for the programme for four weeks during the summer school holidays.



NCS is all about building a young person's confidence, developing leadership skills and making new friends. It includes 10 days away from home (5 days at an activity centre, 5 days on a University Campus) and two weeks working on a Social Action Project.

It's not too late if you know a Young Person in Year 11 or 12 or is interested

For further details email the Year 11 Progression Advisor (for Year 11 students) or Rachel Calver (for Year 12 students).

POST16 PEPS PLEA

PERSONAL EDUCATIONAL PLANS (PEPs) are for the YOUNG people! PEPs are a great way to have an open discussion with your young person about their education, training or employment strategy. IT'S A STATUTORY REQUIREMENT – AT POST 16 TOO!

There are two types of PEP formats to use for those in post 16:

- Formal PEPs are generally held days after entering a new provision and they are due every 6 months but you can have as many as necessary! This PEP follows the same process and layout as the pre-16 PEP with a few changes to reflect the post 16 sector.
- Informal PEPs are generally for those who are NEET, at a training provision (not college), missing, employed, in an apprenticeship and/or volunteering. These are held every 6 months and can be done as and when something needs to be discussed regarding their EET status.

If you need a refresher on ePEP please let us know and we can arrange for an ePEP worker to visit your establishment.

Please remember to invite VSK to the PEP meeting. Even if we can't attend it would be helpful to have the date for our Tracking and Monitoring data.

Your Young Person doesn't need to be present BUT we'd encourage them to attend, we want to hear their voice as it's the most important, to celebrate achievements and to identify when support is needed.

All PEPs should be signed off within a week of completion – specifically the write up. It's mandatory and please remember there is a sign off period of 7days!

VSK now audit the PEPs for Quality Assurance purposes. The ratings are as follows: Outstanding, Good, Requires improvement and Inadequate. Your VSK Support Officer will inform you of the criteria to meet each rating.



For more information about ePEP visit the VSK website: <http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/vsk-resources/personal-education-plan-epep> or contact the dedicated ePEP team on 03000 415353 or email VSK_ePEP@kent.gov.uk

THANKS TO UASC PROVIDERS

The summer of 2015 proved a testing time for Kent due to the unprecedented number of UASC seeking refuge in the County. This situation had a major impact not only on the VSK Post 16 team who experienced a doubling of young people on their caseload but also on local schools, colleges and training providers.



The VSK Post 16 team established a new UASC team in order to seek out ESOL provision and build links with new and existing training providers. Our local colleges and training providers rose to the challenge at short notice and provided educational courses in order to meet the need of our UASC cohort.

VSK would like to thank the following colleges and training providers for providing educational provision in support of our young people:

- Asphaleia
- Canterbury Academy
- Canterbury College
- East Kent College Broadstairs
- East Kent College Folkestone
- Gillingham Football Club Community Trust
- KT&A
- KRAN Canterbury and Folkestone
- Mid Kent College
- NACRO
- Walk Tall
- West Kent College Ashford
- West Kent College Tonbridge

KENT KINDNESS EVENT

Kent Kindness is a group of volunteers who work with UASC providing a variety of support. A number of organisations including The Refugee Council, The Red Cross, Kent Law Clinic, National Citizens Service and Young Lives Foundation gathered in Maidstone recently to offer information and guidance to UASC young people. Some of the education providers such as KRAN and Asphaleia were also there to support the young people who attend their courses.

The event was attended by approximately 50 young people. One young person said, *"It is always good to come here, because I see my friends who I used to know from the assessment centre."* Another young person said *"I like coming and playing table tennis as well having the homemade cakes and snacks."*

As for me I certainly enjoyed the cakes, but also felt satisfied to see so many of the young people having a place to come, share their thoughts and their journeys in learning so far.

HOW BEST CAN WE HELP YOUNG PEOPLE PLAN FOR THEIR FUTURE?

There are a few key ways in which we can help our young people to plan for their next steps, and at the same time we can effectively record our interventions. We need to remind our young people there are many different options available to them, so it is important for us as professionals to be aware of those options which include:

- College/FE
- Sixth Form
- Apprenticeships/traineeships
- Volunteering
- Working with training
- Alternative training providers

Although it may seem early in the year, now is the time to be making applications to colleges, providers etc. remembering to always make more than one application so the young person has a backup plan. VSK Year 11 Progression Officers or Post 16 Support Officers can guide you and the young person through these options to enable them to make informed decisions. We will shortly be writing to young people in years 11, 12 and 13 to remind them of their options.

The websites below contain lots of helpful information regarding training providers in Kent, and apprenticeship in Kent, post 16 options and volunteering opportunities:

- <https://www.readytoworkkent.co.uk/>
- <http://www.apprenticekent.com/home>
- <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/college-sixth-form-employment-and-training>
- <http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering>



OFSTED make it clear that we have a duty to report intended destinations and September guarantee information onto a national system that shows how Kent are reporting on this information in comparison to all other authorities. Therefore we would really appreciate your support in identifying the onward plans of our young people, in particular those in academic years 11 or 12.

MEET ROB SPARKS – THE NEW 18+ SUPPORT OFFICER



My role is to support young people in the 18 Plus Care Leaver Service who are not in education, training or employment (NEETs). We currently support care leavers from age 18 until 21, and up to age 25 if the young person continues in to higher education. If the young person has been NEET for a long period of time and needs extra support I visit the young person to discuss ideas regarding what they would like to do in the future and talk about what options are available to them.

THE NEW CLPP WEBSITE IS LIVE

The Care Leaver Progression Partnership (CLPP) are delighted to welcome you to their new website which has just been launched - <https://careleaverpp.org/>

Here you can keep up to date with latest news, events and resources for care leavers and supporting organisations. If you have any documents/videos/website links that you would like included in the resources section, please forward them to rachel.calver@kent.gov.uk

YOUNG ADULTS COUNCIL UPDATE

The Young Adult Council (YAC) is for Kent Children in Care and Care Leavers aged 16-21. The group represents young people and helps them to have their say on what it is like being in care and what they would like to change about the care system.



Over the February half-term break the VSK Participation Team organised a Transitions to Independence Taster Day at the Kingswood Centre in Ashford specifically for young people aged 16 years and over. The morning focused on team and confidence building with lots of activities (and a few bruises!) culminating in team races on the obstacle course. After lunch the focus turned to Pathway Plans – do they know what it is, have they got one? Four further sessions are planned which will focus on accommodation, budget, healthy eating and well-being. The day ended with an exhilarating ride on the zip wire!

For more information about YAC or if you know any young people who would be interested in joining please get in touch with us at VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk.

