



POST16 UPDATE

Higher and Further Education Information for Young Care Leavers Summer Term 2017

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

How did that happen, we are now in June, seems like yesterday we were starting the new academic year!

As we come to the end of the academic year, the Post 16 team are busier than ever trying to support young people with their current education, training or employment, aiming to help them complete their programmes. In addition the team are supporting the onward plans of our young people, to support them with 2017-2018 plans, working closely with our colleagues in Colleges and training providers to offer transitional support where required, and working with the VSK Year 11 Progression Support Officers for the current year 11 young people.

In our last bulletin, we said goodbye to some of the Post 16 team as they moved across to the 18+ Service, it is great to see them settling in well, and continuing to work with us. This has led to a move around for the remaining Post 16 Support Officers to cover the workload where the focus will be on the year 12 cohort as a priority for the remainder of the academic year.

- [Kate Corbishley](#) – covering Canterbury, costal and Faversham (link for Canterbury College – Canterbury Campus and Hadlow College Canterbury Campus)
- [Vicky Crompton](#) – covering Thanet, Deal & Sandwich and Swale (link for East Kent College Broadstairs & Dover campus and Swale campus of Canterbury College)
- [Jade Fray](#) – covering Ashford, Folkestone, Tonbridge & Tunbridge Wells (link for West Kent College, Ashford College, Hadlow College Hadlow campus and East Kent College Folkestone)
- [Sam Sharkey](#) – covering Medway and Maidstone & Malling (link for Mid Kent College)
- At present please refer to Rachel Calver for those placed in the north of the county and OLA

We have also said good bye to our fantastic admin support, Jane Charlton who has moved across to work with supporting the SEN team of KCC – we wish her luck and will miss her fantastic approach to work, along with her great sense of humour.



IMPACT UPDATE

Despite the reduction in Post 16 staffing, we are pleased to report we are still having a positive impact on increasing the number of young people accessing education, training or employment. Our links with providers are strong and we are able to link with appropriate provision for our young people.

	End of MAY 2016	End of MAY 2017
Total cohort	1079 (682 UASC)	926 (564 UASC)
Total NEET	329	170
Total Not Known	97	0
% of NEET of total cohort	30.4%	18.3%
% of Not Known of total cohort	8.9%	0%
% NEET & Not Known of total cohort	39.4%	18.3%

SUPPORT AT RESULTS TIME

Results time can be an exciting and nervous time, staff from VSK will be available to support young people and professionals with any queries from GCSE results time onwards. The Post 16 Support Officers will also be working closely with the Kent and Medway Colleges during their busy enrolment time, usually starting at the end of August. Please ensure your young person is clear on the enrolment/offers requirements.

Once the results are released, if the young person has not met the entry requirements for their next programme, please speak to the provider in the first instance to see what they are offering, in many cases there is another level of programme available.

LINKS TO OTHER VIRTUAL SCHOOLS

In May we were visited by an Assistant Head from Surrey Virtual School to discuss our experience of supporting the Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Young People. We shared our knowledge from the Post 16 Team (Sam) and our links with the 18+ Service (Rob, Matt and Roza), explaining how we had developed more education provision for this academic year, raising awareness to the needs of the young people and building external networks. Our electronic PEP system was also mentioned.

We have also shared some best practice examples of our Post 16 work with Kirklees Local Authority.

Sam is in the process of building up a contacts group of other Virtual Schools that provide support to the Post 16 cohort to see how we can share best practice and develop our services further.

NEXT STEPS - SEPTEMBER GUARANTEE

Working in collaboration with our colleagues in the Education directorate, the team are working hard to support young people in year 11 and year 12 with their 'September Guarantee' plans for the next academic year, and recording this on the necessary systems to support onward planning of provision. This also helps with planning for transitional support, with many PEPs taking place where the onward provider has been invited to attend.

It is not too late to make applications for the next academic year, please encourage your young person to speak to either their careers adviser at school/college or link in with VSK.

A reminder of the options available for post 16:

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

The websites below contain lots of helpful information regarding training providers in Kent, and apprenticeships 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-sixthform-employment-and-training>

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/volunteering>

Supporting students with EHCP

For students with an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) the planning for Post 16 education should begin in Year 10. SEN will be the lead agency around this and the provider and VSK will support through network meetings (PEPs and EHCP reviews). The options need to be considered in time for the final review of the school year in Year 10 so that SEN can approach the education provider of choice to ensure the student's needs can be met. If the chosen provider feels they are not able to meet the student's needs there can be discussions about what they would need to be able to accommodate the student but it may be that other options will need to be considered. SEN will need to update the EHCP before the end of Year 11.

THE VSK AWARDS NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!!

Yes, it is that time of year again, we need you to help us celebrate the fantastic achievements of our young people. Last year we recognised over 100 young people in the Post 16 Awards, let's see if we can increase on that for this year.



Please complete the VSK Rewards Nomination Form 2016/17 for any Kent young person in care that you feel should be considered for an award in one of our seven categories. A separate form needs to be completed for each young person you wish to nominate and you must fully explain the contribution or improvement that has been seen over the past academic year. We won't be able to consider nominations if they just have something like 'yes' or 'excellent' in the box; we need the story behind it.

What are VSK Awards?

These are an opportunity to recognise and celebrate some of the excellent and exceptional work that our children in care have achieved this academic year.

Who can make a Nomination?

We can accept nominations from any professional involved with the young person.

Who can you Nominate?

You can nominate any child or young person in care to Kent County Council.

When will the results be announced?

This year we will be holding two awards ceremonies. The first will be for students in Years 11 and under in September and then one for Years 12 and over in October. Details about these events will be sent out with the invitations.

The nomination form can be found at:

<http://www.virtualschool.lea.kent.sch.uk/news/15-05-2017-the-vsk-rewards-nominations-are-open>

The deadline for nominations to be received is Friday 8th September 2017

CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD LUCK MESSAGES

One of our College Designated Members of Staff for CiC/CL receives recognition of her hard work from the students

Students at Canterbury College held their annual event celebrating the efforts and dedication of the staff who go above and beyond in their teaching and support roles. On May 4th officers from the Students' Union presented the awards in front of an audience of 60 people. All nominees and teaching staff were praised for their efforts with students acknowledging their hard work and commitment. The presentation was a lively event with laughter and camaraderie throughout the ceremony.



Rebecca Jones received the award for 'Best Support Member of Staff' – she said she was very proud to have received this award as it is voted for by the students. Rebecca has been one of our links at Canterbury College, alongside Kay O'Connell who are fantastic in supporting our CiC/CL – always on the end of the phone or email, always willing to go that extra mile. Well done Becca!

The VSK Post 16 Support Officer linked to Canterbury College, Kate Corbishley said this of Becca – *“Becca does a fantastic job in supporting our young people at Canterbury College, she is always willing to help and is always smiling! Becca is quick to answer any queries I have regarding the progress of our young people. Well done Becca, I am so pleased that you have been recognised for your hard work and friendly approach.”*

Good Luck to our DMS at Hadlow College – James Cluskey

Outside of his very busy role at Hadlow College, James fits in the time to compete in Strong Man competitions – we want to wish him good luck for his next competition in June. Good luck James!

Congratulations to Ashford College's UASC students

Some of our unaccompanied asylum seeking young people from Ashford College attended the college's annual sports dinner at Brands Hatch and were presented with awards for their commitment to playing football over the year.

They won the award for 'Team of the Year' and one young person won 'The Managers Award for the Ashford Team' Well done!

Thank you

Many thanks to Calum, the Post 16 Data Assistant, for helping VSK staff with updating the various systems with our young people's plans – his patience and support has been invaluable.

YOUNG ADULTS COUNCIL UPDATE



The YAC group meets up on the first Thursday of every month. They discuss issues relevant to them around being in care and the transition to becoming a Care Leaver. They get the opportunity to meet Members and senior Staff Officers and are consulted on various issues to help shape the service that young people in care of Kent and Care Leavers receive.

At April's meeting, young people attended to take part a focus group looking at the issues around why children and young people go missing and to also have a look at the proposed new CSE (Child Sexual Exploitation) Risk Assessment Toolkit and offer their comments. The group were amazing and gave excellent feedback and were very insightful. As a result, changes are now being made to the CSE Toolkit, allowing a young person to comment on it when appropriate, and changes to the return interview process allowing young people more time to talk about why they ran away. Changes were also made to the training that is given to staff that support young people to make it more young person focussed.

At May's meeting the group had a bite-size session on interview skills and then looked at the charities that they would consider fundraising for over the coming year and also the types of challenges or activities they would do to raise money. They have decided to complete a 'virtual' triathlon in support of vulnerable children and young people. Further details will be sent out shortly advising how you can help support this event. So watch this space!!

We are looking for young people aged 16-21 who may be interested in joining the Young Adult Council (YAC) or to sign up to our Recruit Crew to help us interview newly qualified Social Workers and other key members of staff. The YAC group really make a difference and also get to do lots of fun activities – for their latest adventure a group of them went Gliding!!



Please email VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk if you know of young people who may be interested or would like more information.



We would also like to welcome Chelsea Goodwin to the team. Chelsea joined us in May as an Apprentice Participation Worker and we wish her every success in her new role.