



Virtual School Kent – Post 16 Offer to Young People in care to Kent

Virtual School Kent Post 16 team:

The VSK Post 16 team are led by an Assistant Head and a Team Lead who are supported by two Senior Education Support Officers (SESOs) and sixteen Education Support Officers (ESOs). All staff provide support for care experienced young people aged 16 -18 years old i.e. those young people who are in the participation and engagement phase which is post statutory education (P16).

There is oversight of the work of the team from one of VSK's Deputy Head Teachers, Marian Smith who is a member of VSK's Senior Leadership Team. The performance of the team is reported to the Head Teacher of VSK, Tony Doran and SLT regularly. This ensures our support for P16 young people is in line with current guidance at National and County level.

Key Aims:

- To provide support, identify opportunities and offer guidance to young people in developing the knowledge, skills and confidence required to able to access Education, Employment and Training (EET) and prepare the young people for moving into independent living and adulthood.
- To provide support for the network who are supporting P16 young people to ensure each young person has the right level of information, guidance and encouragement from the professionals working with them.

Core offer:

- Three Personal Engagement Plan (PEP) meetings per academic year
- The offer of one impartial Careers interview per academic year by a Level 6 qualified CIAG advisor
- The offer of regular check in with the young person and/or the professional network
- Signposting to education provisions and employment opportunities
- The offer of assistance with CV writing, interview skills and making applications
- Interventions to help with improving emotional wellbeing and to reduce / remove barriers to EET
- Support with the transition to the Care Leavers' service
- Access to an IT device to enable the young person to be IT literate and have access to online learning

***For young people who are in a KCC Reception Centre or a Children's Home who are UASC on NTS, their core offer is a first PEP initially completed from a UUCR form and access to ESOL provision within the Centre/Home both face to face and virtual.**

What else can be offered?

- My Ed - online Maths and English provision with a built-in wellbeing section
- Unifrog – an Online careers platform
- BKSB - Online Maths and English Functional Skills
- Tutoring to support education
- Support with enrichment and wellbeing activities
- Signposting to financial support where applicable
- Information and guidance on Higher Education when requested

Post 16 team Areas of support

Catherine Thompson Assistant Head Post 16 Team County Wide

Samantha Perrin Team Lead for Post 16 NEET Team County Wide

Post 16 NEET Team 2025/26

Post 16 NEET ESO	Area of support
Helen O'Dwyer Post 16 ESO Helen.O'Dwyer@kent.gov.uk M: 07815 603 329 W: 03000 421 708	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canterbury City
Sheila Ledner Post 16 ESO Sheila.Ledner@kent.gov.uk M: 07773 211662 W: 03000 415312	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dartford & Gravesend• Tonbridge & Malling• Tunbridge Wells• Ashford• Custody Countywide
Mikeala Desforges Post 16 ESO Mikaela.Desforges@kent.gov.uk M: 07980 997247 W: 03000 215250	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medway

Ruth Cole Post 16 ESO Ruth.cole@kent.gov.uk M: 07974437494 W:03000 413143	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanet • Dover • Folkestone
Abby Whyte Post 16 ESO Abby.whyte@kent.gov.uk W: 03000 418402 M: 07967866785	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maidstone • Sittingbourne • Sheppey • Coastal Canterbury (Herne Bay & Whitstable)

Post 16 EET Team Support 25/26

Post 16 SESO/ESO	Area of support
Mandeep Virdi Countywide Senior Education Support Officer Mandeep.virdi@kent.gov.uk W:03000 411386 M: 07816128609	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex cases • SEN complex cases • CIAG Level 6 qualified
Jeff Reene Countywide UASC Senior Education Support Officer Jeffrey.Reene@kent.gov.uk M: 07816 201 628 W: 03000 412777	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UASC Community • UASC Reception Centres and Children's Homes • UASC complex cases
Lindsey Hargreaves Post 16 ESO Lindsey.Hargreaves2@kent.gov.uk M: 07977 661840 W: 03000 414657	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Countywide 6th Forms • Higher Education specialism • CIAG Level 6 qualified
Belinda Spooner Post 16 ESO Belinda.spooner@kent.gov.uk M: 07816 201649 W: 03000 410439	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EKC Broadstairs ESOL & Vocational • East & South Kent Specialist SEN Schools • East Kent Apprenticeships

Nigel Matthews Post 16 ESO Nigel.matthews@kent.gov.uk M: 07974 060357 W: 03000 416516	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EKC Folkestone ESOL & Vocational • EKC Dover ESOL & Vocational • South Kent Apprenticeships • Folkestone KRAN • Folkestone/Dover KT&A ESOL
Golden Siapolya Post 16 ESO golden.siapolya@kent.gov.uk M: 07812702478	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MKC Medway ESOL & Vocational
Samantha Godden Post 16 ESO Samantha.godden@kent.gov.uk M: 07967 867 137 W: 03000 416520	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EKC Canterbury ESOL & Vocational • PEP training for KS5
Sarah Knight Post 16 ESO Sarah.knight2@kent.gov.uk W: 03000 416514 M: 07967 867136	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EKC Ashford ESOL & Vocational • North & West Kent Specialist SEN Schools • West Kent Apprenticeships
Emma Williams Post 16 ESO Emma.williams@kent.gov.uk M: 07967866784 W: 03000 418407	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NKC Dartford, Gravesend, Tonbridge & Hadlow • EKC Sheppey • MKC Maidstone • North & West Specialist Post16 Institutions (SPIs)
Paula Howe Post 16 ESO Paula.howe@kent.gov.uk W: 03000 411741	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East & South Kent SPIs • KT&A Canterbury ESOL • CIAG Level 6 qualified
Steve Green Post 16 ESO in RC&CH UASC steve.green@kent.gov.uk M: 07967867027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception Centre – Oak Manor, Cranbrook • Children's Home – Olea Grove, Ash
Stella Adeniyi Post 16 ESO in RC&CH UASC Stella.Adeniyi@kent.gov.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception Centres – Memona Lodge, Ashford & Acacia Court, Faversham • Children's Homes – Maple Rise, Ashford
Titilope Oluwaseun Post 16 ESO in RC, UASC Titilope.Oluwaseun@kent.gov.uk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reception Centres – The Limes, Dartford & Cypress House, Gravesend