

Bexley Local Offer – The Virtual School for Looked After Children

The Bexley Virtual School team

The team in Bexley currently consists of:

Andrew Russell – Head of Virtual School (0203 045 4141)

Lorraine Petersen – Education Support Officer – focus mainly on Year 10 to Year 13 (0203 045 5209)

Karen Francis – Education Support Officer - Focus mainly on Year 5 to Year 9 (0203 045 3257)

Kelly Ketchell – Education Support Officer - Focus mainly on Early Years to Year 4 but also picks up all the new LAC in any year group. (0203 045 4215)

Karen Kirk – Project Officer (0203 045 4268)

Denise Crooks – PEP support (0203 045 4578)

Lou Newell / Nazni Ali – Teaching Assistants

To contact the team by email: andrew.russell@bexley.gov.uk or LACvirtuelschool@bexley.gov.uk

In Bexley, case responsibility is held by a social worker from one of the teams in the child care locality social work teams and the 13+ team as well as the Disabled Children's Service team. The education team is available to **give advice and guidance on any educational issue relating to children living in care.**

The team also provide a similar service to young people, social workers from other authorities responsible for children living in Bexley or attending Bexley schools, foster carers, schools and any other team or agency involved in supporting children and young people living in care.

The queries noted in our frequently asked questions, show some of the areas in which they can offer guidance.

The team is involved in direct work with children and young people this includes a weekly youth club jointly run with Bexley Youth Services and incorporating a homework/study support club. The LAC teaching assistants also can support our Looked after Children within their schools. The team organise the annual Looked After Children's educational awards event where Bexley as corporate parent recognises and celebrates the achievements of our children and young people.

The team will also help to problem-solve and offer support in circumstances requiring our specific knowledge or skills.

The local authority monitors the educational progress of all children in its care and the Bexley Virtual School team regularly collects information on attendance and progress that is used at both individual and Council levels to support improvement.

The Virtual School for Looked After Children (Bexley) is based in the Children and Young People's Services area in the Civic Offices in Bexleyheath.

The Virtual School team offer specific learning opportunities through:

LAC homework and youth club

Monday 3.30pm - 6.00pm Welling Youth Club, Lovel Road.

One to one tuition

Use the Personal Education Plan meetings to identify the need for one to one tuition to take place out of school hours and in school holidays to support in subject areas where the child or young person is not achieving the levels required or have gaps in their learning. Additional tuition and support can be provided in preparation for selection tests, SATs, GCSEs and coursework.

Other sources of support and information

Education Welfare Service can provide information on child employment, including regulations on stage performance.

SNAP are a local voluntary agency who provide support for children with special education needs (SEN).