

Children in Care Policy

Policy Review

The responsibility of reviewing and maintaining this policy is Craig Dembicki (Managing Director). This policy will be reviewed annually.

Start date of policy: **1st March 2015**

Date of next review: **10th August 2024**

Signed
Craig Dembicki
Managing Director
Education 1st

Introduction

Education 1st aims to promote the educational achievement and welfare of students in public care. Under section 31 of the Children Act 1989, the term 'in care' refers to children who are subject to a care order by the courts; these children are considered to be Children in Care (CiC), as are children who may be accommodated on a voluntary basis by the local authority under section 20 of the Children Act. CiC are statistically one of the most vulnerable groups in society and this may result in underachievement in comparison with the general population; according to the Children Act this may be owing to:

- A high level of disruption and change in school/care placements
- A lack of involvement in extracurricular activities with barriers due to transport and commitment issues
- Inconsistent or no attention paid to homework

Purpose

The aims of policy are to ensure:

- Policies and procedures are followed for students who are CiC, as for all students
- CiC to take as full advantage as possible of opportunities provided at Education 1st
- Particularly effective communication with carers and social workers of students who are CiC so that they are kept fully informed of the students' emotional well being and progress
- Ensure that carers and social workers are able to effectively communicate with Education 1st staff
- Ensure that students who are CiC themselves, where practicable, are involved in decisions affecting their provision and future.

Education 1st will follow its normal practices for students who are CiC, although with regards to Attitudes to Learning, CiC should not be excluded except in the most exceptional circumstances. In the event of a permanent exclusion, Education 1st will have explored all channels of support and no further intervention strategies are possible. When there is a risk of exclusion, or an actual exclusion, the CiC's social worker must be notified.

Related Policies

- Attitudes to Learning Policy
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Confidentiality Policy
- Data Protection Policy
- Exclusions Policy

Implementation

The Social Worker for each CiC should initiate a Personal Education Plan (PEP) within 20 days of the student joining the provision. CiC will have their PEP reviewed a minimum of every six months; particular attention will be paid to academic progress and attendance. The young person's views will be prioritised, recorded and listened to during the PEP meeting.

Responsibilities, Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

The Designated Lead with responsibility for CiC will:

- Be an advocate of the CiC, giving regard to the impact of relevant decisions
- Keep individual CiC files with PEPs and relevant data
- Ensure that CiC students are identified on Education 1st's information systems so that staff are aware
- Act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and carers.
- Ensure confidentiality on individual students, sharing confidential information on a need to know basis, bearing in mind the wishes of the individual student
- Ensure a quick transfer of information and records when a CiC transfer to another establishment
- Agree with the social worker the appropriate people to invite to parents' meetings
- Contribute to CiC PEP meetings and will make recommendations as to how the PP funding is spent
- Contribute to the PEP paperwork for CiC who attend our provision

Education 1st are not responsible for PP funding, as the allocation remains with the commissioning body.

Staff will:

- Be aware of CiC that they teach/mentor
- Keep the Designated Lead informed about a CiC progress, responding appropriately to requests for information to support PEPs and reviews
- Have high expectations of the educational and personal development of CiC
- Positively promote the raising of the CiC self esteem
- Liaise with the Designated Lead where a CiC is experiencing difficulties
- Alert the Attendance lead about any issues of absence to ensure early intervention

Carers will be part of a three-way partnership. Carers will be informed of a CiC's progress through the normal school communications, as well as via the PEP, which the carer will also attend. Carers will be expected to attend any subsequent review meetings of the PEP. The Carer will support the students and Education 1st with any aspects of the agreed action plan within the PEP.