

**Meeting:** Children's Overview and Scrutiny

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Wards affected:** All

**Report Title:** Annual Report of the Virtual School (2022- 23)

**When does the decision need to be implemented?**

**Cabinet Member Contact Details:** Cllr Nick Bye, Cabinet Members for Children's Services

**Director/Divisional Director Contact Details:** Nancy Meehan, Director of Children's Services, [Nancy.meehan@Torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Nancy.meehan@Torbay.gov.uk), Rachael Williams, Divisional Director Education and SEND [Rachael.williams@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:Rachael.williams@torbay.gov.uk)

## 1. Purpose of Report

---

- 1.1 The report sets out the work of the Virtual School for our Cared For Children. The Annual Report details the academic attainment, overview of education provision provided for our children and young people and the joint work conducted to advocate and champion the outcomes for our Cared For Children.
- 1.2 The report is intended to provide detailed information to enable overview and scrutiny to provide both support and challenge in the role as a corporate parent.

## 2. Reason for Proposal and its benefits

---

- 2.1 The report sets out the detailed action that have been undertaken to fulfil the five key statutory duties of the Virtual School. The report covers the outcomes for all Torbay Cared For Children who are either educated in Torbay Schools and in other local authority , it also includes Cared For Children from other authorities and are educated in Torbay Schools.
- 2.2 The overview headlines of the report are:-
  - In Reception there is a downward trend on last year's result, which was a downward trend on the previous year. Only one child (11%) achieved a Good Level of Development.
  - At Key Stage 1 there is a downward trend. In a small cohort only two of the children reached Expected Standard in all three areas – Reading, writing and maths. It should be noted that one child achieved Greater Depth in Reading.

- At Key Stage 2 the outcomes have been exceptionally positive. There has been an upward trend in all areas. The increase on the previous year in Reading is 36%; the increase in Writing is 31%; there has been a modest rise in Maths of 6% and a 21% rise in all children get at least the Expected Standard in Reading, Writing and Maths.
- At KS4 there was an upward trend on the previous year. There was an increase of 8% on the previous year of those achieving a Grade 5+ in English & Maths; and rises between 7 and 8% in those achieving a Grade 5+ in either English or Maths as well as those achieving a Grade 4 in English & Maths.
- At KS5 there was an increase in those achieving L2 qualifications. Only a small number took L3 qualifications and this relates to their Y11 achievements.
- Suspensions - this year's percentage matched the previous year. This is against a backdrop of rising suspensions in the school system nationally. There were no permanent exclusions.
- There has been an upward trend of 1.5% in attendance which has built upon the previous year's increase of attendance of 5.5%.

2.3 The case studies within the report provide an insight into the views of children and young people and the work that has been undertaken with the Virtual School and partners to make changes.

### 3. Recommendation(s) / Proposed Decision

3.1 We request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review and note the Annual Report for 2022 – 2023

## Appendices

Virtual School Annual Report 2022 - 2023

## Background Documents

## Supporting Information

### 1. Introduction

---

- 1.1 The Annual Report is prepared by the Headteacher of the Virtual School. The content of the Annual Report is built up over the academic year, with reports going to the Virtual School Governing Body outlining progress, targets and support.
- 1.2 The report brings together all of the work conducted during the academic year and outlines our performance where possible against comparators and national benchmarks.

### 2. Options under consideration

---

- 2.1 Not applicable.

### 3. Financial Opportunities and Implications

---

- 3.1 The Annual Report details the spending associated with Pupil Premium Plus and the allocation to children and young people based on the agreed targets and support within their Personnel Education Plan (PEP).

### 4. Legal Implications

---

- 4.1 Not applicable

### 5. Engagement and Consultation

---

- 5.1 The Annual Report summaries the work of the Virtual School and provides views from children and young people on how they have been supported.

### 6. Purchasing or Hiring of Goods and/or Services

---

- 6.1 All work of the Virtual School is commission and procured as required.

### 7. Tackling Climate Change

---

- 7.1 The Virtual School does not address elements of the Council's plan to tackle climate change.

## 8. Associated Risks

---

8.1 .Non identified.

## 9. Equality Impacts - Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups

---

9.1 The Virtual School works to positively advocate and champion for the needs of our Cared For Children with a positive impact.

	Positive Impact	Negative Impact & Mitigating Actions	Neutral Impact
Older or younger people	X		
People with caring Responsibilities	X		
People with a disability	X		
Women or men	X		
People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME) (Please note Gypsies / Roma are within this community)	X		
Religion or belief (including lack of belief)			
People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual			
People who are transgendered	X		
People who are in a marriage or civil partnership			
Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave			
Socio-economic impacts (Including impact on child poverty issues and	X		

deprivation)			
Public Health impacts (How will your proposal impact on the general health of the population of Torbay)	X		

## 10. Cumulative Council Impact

---

10.1 The Virtual School Annual Report ensures that all parties are able to be informed and make appropriate support and challenge in their role as Corporate Parents.

## 11. Cumulative Community Impacts

---

11.1 The Virtual School Annual Report demonstrates how we are supporting children and young people to benefit from their community and opportunities to grow both in their well being and academic progress.