Dear Parents and Carers,

Over the last few years key guidance has been introduced to both schools and the Local Authority to support vulnerable pupils including pupils who have/had a Social Worker and those Previously Looked After.

Schools and local authorities have a duty, required by the Department of Education, to promote education progress and achievement for previously looked after children. These are children who may have been adopted, on a special guardianship order (SGO) or a child arrangement order (CAO) after being in care for more than 24 hours.

These duties recognise that children who have previously been in care may well require additional support because of their life experiences prior to being adopted or placed in permanent families. Schools are allocated additional funding for this group of pupils, called Pupil Premium Grant Plus to support this group of pupils.

The duty involves:

* Appointing a member of staff (a qualified teacher) as the named person to lead within the school on promoting education progress and attainment for previously looked after children.
* Ensuring school policies take into account the needs of potentially more vulnerable pupils.
* Using the Pupil Premium Grant + effectively to support progress and achievement for these pupils.
* Tracking progress and attainment.
* Providing advice, support and information to parents and guardians.

The local authority duty is to provide advice, information and guidance to schools, parents and guardians. The Lancashire Virtual School will lead on the local authority duties. They can be contacted by email [previouslylookedafter@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:previouslylookedafter@lancashire.gov.uk).

**For a school to access the additional funding and provide any additional support required, they need to know which of their pupils have been adopted, on a SGO (special guardianship order) or a CAO (child arrangement order) from care (in any local authority in England and Wales or in state care in another country). This enables the school to claim the funding when they complete the school census. Only children who had a period in care prior to being adopted, placed on an SGO or a CAO are eligible for the funding.**

If you wish school to be able to access additional funding to support their progress and attainment please contact our designated member of staff for previously looked after children:

School may require a copy of the adoption, SGO or CAO certificate to claim this funding. This information will be held securely and will only be accessible to those school staff, when necessary, to enable the support to be provided.

There is also a new duty for the Virtual School to promote the educational outcomes of the cohort of children with a social worker and those who have previously had a social worker, who are aged from 0 up to 18 years old.

The Children in Need Review (2019) showed that these children do significantly worse than others at all stages of education and that poor educational outcomes persist even after social work involvement ends.

The Virtual School will work with education settings towards making a culture of high aspirations for these children; will create a greater awareness to the disadvantage that this cohort of children can experience; promote engagement in education and help to narrow the attainment gap.

If your child currently has a social worker working with them or has had in the past 6 years, please ensure that the school/education setting are aware of this so that we can provide the best possible support for them.

If you have any questions regarding this please contact -----------------------------------------------.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,