

POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL
EDUCATION SERVICES

**Children Looked After (CLA) and Children
Previously Looked After (CPLA)**

September 2020



Contents

Introduction, Context & Named Officer	Page 2
Supporting Powys Schools	Page 3
Corporate Parenting	Page 5
Personal Education Plans (PEPs)	Page 6
Funding	Page 7
Help at a Glance	Page 8



Introduction and Context

Children Looked After (CLA) and Children Previously Looked After (CPLA) are, statistically, more at risk of academic underachievement and are at greater risk of exclusion. Many CLA will have experienced disruption to their educational experience, either through periods of being out of education or because of the wider disruption in their life, including the significant emotional impact caused by both the life experiences that led to them becoming a Child Looked After, and the emotional impact of being a CLA and being separated from their family. In addition, many CLA also have Special Educational Needs/Additional Learning Needs (SEN/ALN).

Supporting CLA and CPLA to succeed and improve their future prospects is a key priority for the Schools Service and Powys County Council (PCC).

PCC recognises, however, that all learners are individuals: despite the vulnerabilities listed above, it is not appropriate to assume that all CLA will be negatively affected or will require additional support to succeed in education. Therefore, we will ensure that all CLA or CPLA are assessed according to their individual needs and supported appropriately thereafter.

Named Officer

The named officer with responsibility for CLA and CPLA in the Schools Service is Michael Gedrim, Additional Learning Needs Manager. His contact details are:

Postal	Michael Gedrim Schools Service County Hall Spa Road East Llandrindod Wells LD1 5LG
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This policy takes account of the following:

- [Section 52 of the Children Act 2004](#)
- [Section 20 of the Child and Young Persons Act 2008](#)
- [Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-Being \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)
- [Making a difference: A guide for the designated person for looked after children in schools \(Document no: 255/2017, November 2017\)](#)

Supporting Powys Schools

Schools that are maintained by PCC will have on roll CLA by Powys as well as learners who are Children of Other Local Authorities (COLA). The Schools Service will ensure that these learners are known to be CLA by the school, and that their CLA status is accurately reflected on education information management systems, including accurately recording which local authority looks after them.

In addition, there will be learners on roll at Powys schools who are CPLA, either adopted or subject to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO). There is no mechanism by which these learners can be readily identified through information management systems: where learners are known to be CPLA, the Schools Service will maintain a list of these learners.

The Schools Service will also maintain a list of Designated Persons for CLA in each school, and those Persons' contact details. This will facilitate communication between the Schools Service and the Designated Person.

The Schools Service will provide information, advice and guidance to Designated Persons and their schools in respect of either CLA and CPLA as a group, or individual CLA or CPLA. This will include the provision of or signposting to training opportunities, and advice and signposting to relevant and appropriate routes for additional support for CLA and CPLA (for example, referrals to the Powys Inclusion Panel, or Exceptional Resources Panel). There are established principles for the provision of additional support for learners (i.e. a graduated response) which must be followed for all learners: having Looked After status does not circumvent these processes.

Whilst it is the responsibility of the school to liaise with any named social worker and the carers of CLA, the Schools Service can take a role in regard to fostering and supporting effective multi-agency working.

The Schools Service will monitor the academic outcomes of CLA who are educated in Powys Schools. Due to the low numbers of learners in any year group, year-on-year trends for CLA as a group are statistically unreliable: measures will instead take account of individual progress.

For the purposes of this policy, a Child Looked After is a child who is looked after by a local authority within the meaning of section 76 of the Social Service and Well-Being (Wales) Act or section 22 of the Children Act 1989. For the purposes of this policy, Children Looked After encompasses both CLA by Powys and Children of Other Local Authorities (COLA) who may or may not attend schools maintained by Powys but who reside in Powys.

The term Child Previously Looked After refers to a child who is no longer looked after in England and Wales because s/he is the subject of an adoption, Special Guardianship Order (SGO), or child arrangements relating to with whom the child is to live, or has been adopted from "state care" outside England and Wales.

The approach of the Schools Service to supporting the educational achievement of CLA and CPLA is based on the following principles:

- Prioritising education
- Promoting attendance
- Supporting transitions
- Targeting support
- Having high expectations
- Promoting inclusion by challenging individuals' attitudes and changing those attitudes
- Achieving stability and continuity
- Early intervention and priority action
- Pupil voice
- Promoting health and well-being
- Avoiding exclusions
- Working in partnership with carers, social workers, school staff and other professionals.

Corporate Parenting

In addition to having a direct role with Powys maintained schools in respect of CLA and CPLA, the Schools Service also has a role in supporting the education of all CLA by Powys.

The Schools Service will liaise with and support all partners (Children's Services, carers, non-Powys schools, host local authority) in respect of educational provision, including, but not limited to:

- Admissions
- Additional support
- Funding

The Schools Service will also obtain and collate information and data on Powys CLA to monitor progress and outcomes, and to ensure the Corporate Parenting Group is able to fulfil its role. This data will include:

- End of Key Stage outcomes
- Current academic levels
- Attendance data
- Exclusions data
- Destinations data (where known)

Academic data cannot be combined into cohort measures, due to the differences in education systems in England and Wales.

The named officer (or a nominated delegate in case of absence) will attend the Multi-Agency Agreement Panel.

Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

Each CLA must have a PEP as part of their overall care and support plan. It is the responsibility of the child's named social worker to ensure that the PEP is completed, maintained and reviewed. Schools have a duty to contribute to the PEP. Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 is clear that the PEP must be reviewed in line with the care and support plan as a whole, i.e at least every six months. However, Part 6 also states that the PEP should be treated as a living document. Best practice is that PEPs should be updated on a termly basis.

The Schools Service will support and facilitate the completion of PEPs by providing a proforma to schools each term, collating the completed school forms, and circulating these to social workers. This will allow the Schools Service to quality assure the data being provided and allow the Schools Service to support the education of all Powys CLA regardless of where they are educated.

Where COLA attend Powys schools, the home authority for that child retains responsibility for the PEP and will liaise directly with the Powys school.

Where a CLA also has SEN/ALN, they will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP). They may also have a Statement of SEN. CLA might also have another plan, such as an Individual Behaviour Plan (IBP) or a Pastoral Support Plan (PSP). Where a learner has any other educational plan, the Schools Service advocates that their PEP should align with that plan.

PEPs are not required for CPLA.

Funding

CLA in Wales are eligible to receive support via the Pupil Development Grant – Looked After Children (PDG LAC). The Schools Service will administer the PDG LAC as per the terms and conditions set by Welsh Government, and the overall strategic priorities set by ERW. The grant is available to any CLA looked after by any Welsh local authority and educated in a Powys maintained school.

Where a Powys CLA attends a mainstream English school, the Schools Service will liaise with that school to support them to access the PDG LAC.

Where an CLA by an English authority attends a Powys maintained school, they are eligible for Pupil Premium (English funding model). Powys schools should liaise with the Virtual School for that child's home authority: the Schools Service can advise on this.

CLA educated in special schools are not eligible for the PDG LAC.

Help at a Glance

Local Authority Officer	Group
Hayley Smith hayley.smith1@powys.gov.uk	Interim Senior Manager ALN & Inclusion Challenge Adviser
Imtiaz Bhatti imtiaz.bhatti@powys.gov.uk	Senior Manager ALN & Inclusion 'Other Groups' Pupils from Minority Ethnic Backgrounds Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children Children of Migrant Workers EAL
Simon Anderson simon.anderson@powys.gov.uk	Additional Learning Needs Manager Statementing Officer PIP Children from families in difficult circumstances Disabled Pupils Pupils with Healthcare Needs Service Children
Sian Fielding sian.fielding@powys.gov.uk	More Able and Talented Pupils Challenge Adviser
Alun Flynn alun.flynn@powys.gov.uk	Principle Educational Psychologist
Michael Gedrim michael.gedrim@powys.gov.uk	Additional Learning Needs Manager Children Looked After by the Local Authority Young Carers Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pupils (LGBT)
Heidi Lorenz heidi.lorenz@powys.gov.uk	Sensory Service Lead Adaptive Technology
Mike Wheeler mike.wheeler@powys.gov.uk	Additional Learning Needs Manager Behaviour and Attendance Pupils from Minority Ethnic Backgrounds Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Children Children of Migrant Workers Pupils who are pregnant or are Young Parents Children and Young People who Offend School Refusers or School Phobic Children who Perform or have Employment
ALN Department aln@powys.gov.uk	

This document is to be reviewed: September 2021

