

Find The HOPE [online](#) Call 0117 90 36282 [See our roles & email contacts](#)

Welcome to Issue 29 of The HOPE Briefing. The Briefing is intended to be of interest to carers, schools, particularly designated teachers (DTs) and named governors, social care staff and LA officers.

In this issue

1. Reminders for this term
2. A message from Nick Lawrence, The HOPE's Deputy Head, Achievement
3. Annual CiC survey
4. Updates to The HOPE's web pages
5. Corporate Parenting Strategy and Bristol Pledge 2021-2023
6. The HOPE 2020 Mary Palmer Poetry Competition
7. HOPE Highlights – good news stories
8. Training information and dates for the 2020-21 academic year

1. Reminders for this term

1. **Young people in Year 11** have already or will soon be choosing their courses for next year. Designated teachers will be able to help if the young person needs any assistance. The local post 16 Colleges have designated tutors who can help to give advice and possibly set up visits (COVID-19 restrictions permitting). It is important to help young people to choose the right course to help them maximise their future opportunities.
2. **Education settings** are reminded that the deadline for round 3 for CiC Pupil Premium compliance was 18 December 2020. The final payment of CiC Pupil Premium Grant for the financial year 2020-21 will be made in February 2021, to settings that met the compliance criteria for round 3.
3. The HOPE team is continuing to work at home in line with guidance from Bristol City Council. We will continue to attend as many meetings as possible by phone or virtually. Email is the best way to contact us. Our email addresses and working days can be found in our [leaflet](#) about The HOPE Virtual School. Messages left on our main number – 0117 90 36282 – are being listened to during the day and will be replied to as soon as possible. There may be a delay if the message needs to be forwarded to a particular member of staff as the team is very busy, but we will do our best to reply promptly.

2. A message from Nick Lawrence, The HOPE's Deputy Head, Achievement

PEP compliance, data and thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Designated Teachers and settings who have sent in their completed PEPs and uploaded their data. We have been really pleased with both the response to the Establishment Portal and the continuation of PEPs throughout the pandemic. We have also been kept informed of the fantastic work going on in our schools to support our children - thank you!

What happens to the PEP after it is sent in?

PEPs are monitored by The HOPE advocates and feedback given to the school. Schools use the action plan on the PEP to put in place and monitor the impact of support for the young person. The PEP informs the child in care review carried out by the Independent Reviewing Officer.

What happens to the data?

The HOPE collates the data and it is presented at a series of meetings to review the collective progress of Bristol's children in care. This includes Standards Committees, Governors and the Corporate Parenting Panel. We analyse, triangulate and consider our resources based on the information.

Many thanks for your continued work in supporting our children.

3. Annual CiC survey

The Annual Survey for Bristol's Children in Care 2021 is open until 12th February. The aim is to get a snapshot of children's experiences and to inform work for the year ahead as a city.

The content and design were developed with the Children in Care Council and the survey is based on Coram's Wellbeing Indicators for Children in Care (Relationships, Rights, Resilience, Recovery).

Feedback from last time, specifically relating to education, included: children need support in school, opportunities to be trusted, and not to be made to feel different. Most children like school and said the adults they lived with showed an interest in their education. Bullying is still a problem for some children and young people.

The survey starts with a "You said, we did" section, explanation of prizes, and a statement on anonymity.

Prizes include a trip to LEGOLAND®, headphones/Bluetooth speakers, games and more.

The survey is anonymous, however children and young people have the option to have their survey results shared with their Social Worker if they would like a personal response. Results will be shared widely, in particular with Social Work teams, The HOPE Virtual School, as well as the Corporate Parenting Panel and Children in Care Council to inform work plans.

We'd be very grateful if DTs could promote the survey within school, encourage Bristol CiC to complete it and, where possible, support younger children and unaccompanied asylum seeking children to fill in the survey.

If there are any concerning responses as DTs support children to complete the survey (e.g. issues with family time, or wanting to know more about care history), then please share appropriately with their Social Worker, Independent Reviewing Officer, or Practice Lead to ensure a personal response.

[Link to 4-7 survey](#) (will need adult support to fill in)

[Link to 8-11 survey](#) (primary)

[Link to 11-18 survey](#)

[Link to survey for unaccompanied children and young people](#) (the language in this survey has been simplified but an interpreter is likely to be needed for most children and young people)

[Link to survey for children within the Disabled Children's Team](#)

Thank you if you are able to help to promote and support this year's survey.

4. Updates to The HOPE's web pages

We have been working with the Council's web team to update both the content and design of our web pages. Work is still ongoing, but the vast majority of the content has been revised.

The R-Voice website for Bristol's young people in care and care leavers was decommissioned in December 2020 so our updated pages now include more information for young people: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/the-hope/information-for-young-people-in-care-and-care-leavers>

One new addition that DTs should find helpful is our page about using the Establishment Portal. It has a link to the latest guidance document on using the Portal: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/the-hope/how-to-use-the-hope-s-data-system>

You will find our information online at <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/the-hope>

5. Corporate Parenting Strategy and Bristol Pledge 2021-2023

Bristol City Council has updated its Corporate Parenting Strategy and Pledge to our young people in care and care leavers. Education, training and employment all feature in the documents and we hope that you will find time to read them.

6. The HOPE 2020 Mary Palmer Poetry Competition

The 2020 Mary Palmer Poetry Competition took place towards the end of last term. The competition has been running since 2011 and is the brainchild of one of The HOPE's governors, Adele Gardner, who set it up in memory of poet and friend Mary Palmer. We were excited to be able to offer a Virtual Poetry Workshop delivered by Bristol poet Miles Chambers to inspire our creative writers this year.

The theme was 'Food' and we had some wonderful entries across the whole age range and from foster carers. Sadly, we weren't able to hold our usual Awards Evening this time, but the winning poets received a certificate, personal letter from the judges and a poetry book.

Many thanks to those who helped to publicise the competition; to everyone who entered and special thanks to our judges; Adele and Julie. We really enjoyed reading all your poems; your talent and humour provided a light in these difficult times. Please keep writing and we look forward to 2021's competition.

7. HOPE Highlights - good news stories

As with many activities at the moment, The HOPE Creative, a project run by Bristol Plays Music (BPM), has moved from its face to meetings to running online sessions for our young people.

The BPM team have been delighted at how many young people have signed up for music lessons and have been busy lending trumpets, flutes, violins, guitars, percussion and keyboards as well as encouraging singers and dancers.

In December, the young people came up with the idea to work with their tutors on a 'Secret Santa' where they performed songs to each other. That was a real treat to hear! We've also heard from the carer of one young person who said how much he gets out of his sessions with his tutor and that they make him 'happy'. That particular young person has also won a Developing Talent award which will allow him to have extra music lessons, access to music resources and tickets to live piano concerts when they are allowed to recommence. Well done to him!

If you know a young person who enjoys creative pastimes, find out more about The HOPE Creative at: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/the-hope/the-hope-projects>

Thank you very much to everyone in The HOPE Creative, and especially for finding a way to carry on during the pandemic.

8. Training information and dates for the 2020-21 academic year

Social care staff

Information on training available and how to book a place is available from the Children's Workforce bulletin. You can also find out what training The HOPE provides to social workers at: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/the-hope/training-for-social-care-staff-on-supporting-the-education-of-children-and-young-people-in-care>

Carers

Bristol City Council carers can find general information about training on the [Fostering website](#). You can also find out what training The HOPE provides to carers at: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/the-hope/carers/resources-and-training-for-foster-carers>

Named governors for CiC

We don't have any dates for governor training at the moment, but are working with the Governor Development Service (GDS) on future plans.

To find out what training is available:

Email: gds@bristol.gov.uk
Tel: 0117 903 6900

Dates will also be listed on our training page for education settings:
<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/the-hope/training-children-in-care>

Designated teachers (DTs)

Courses for new and experienced designated teachers

1: Wednesday 23 June 2021, 9am to 3.30pm. Registration from 8.45am

2: Wednesday 30 June 2021, 9am to 3.30pm. Registration from 8.45am

Venue: TBC. A light sandwich lunch will be provided if the sessions are not online.

Each session will include information on the Establishment Portal and Personal Education Plan (PEP) forms.

The courses are free, but you need to book a place.

To book, email thehope@bristol.gov.uk with your:

- name
- email address
- role

- setting or school
- dietary requirements
- preferred course date

If you're booking for someone else, you must get their permission first. We'll need their name and email address.

Places will be filled on a first come, first served basis as spaces are limited. We may run other sessions if there is enough demand.

Dates will also be listed on our training page for education settings:
<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/web/the-hope/training-children-in-care>

If you have any comments on this Briefing or would like any further information about anything mentioned, please contact [Bev Leeson](#) or leave a message for her on 0117 90 36282.