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Welcome to Issue 27 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.

## 1. Reminders for this term

- Designated Teachers** should have received a template of a risk assessment form for vulnerable young people, to use with parents, carers, social workers and other agencies to assess risk and aid decision making about vulnerable children's attendance in school in the current COVID-19 outbreak. The HOPE is recommending completion of the form for Bristol and non-Bristol establishments, although settings in other LAs may wish to use your own authority's form. If the assessment identifies a concern about the young person's education, it would be helpful if you could securely email the form you are using to [thehope@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:thehope@bristol.gov.uk). The Bristol version of the document is available on Bristol City Council's [Safeguarding in Education website page](#)
- Designated Teachers** are reminded that the Establishment Portal, The HOPE's new data system, is not yet live. We are keeping a go live date under review, to take account of the number of young people currently in school and the additional pressures faced by staff. The HOPE will email you directly about plans to go live. In the meantime, please ignore any emails from the 'IEMS Helpdesk' about system issues.
- Education settings** should have received a letter via email at the end of April giving information about instalment 1 of CiC Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) for 2020/21. As recognition of the unprecedented situation in which education settings are currently operating, there will be no compliance criteria for instalment 1. The HOPE expects that PEP meetings will be able to be held by virtual means and we would hope that the meetings will have a key focus on transition to support our young people to return to a more 'normal' education routine. We encourage PPG to be spent on any forthcoming transitions and minimising the impact of educational disruption wherever possible. The funding will be paid in June.

## 2. Recognition and thanks

The HOPE staff want to say an enormous '**Thank you**' to everyone who is supporting Bristol's children and young people in care and Care Leavers during the coronavirus outbreak. We have been struck by the good work that you are all doing, whether it is

supporting them at school, undertaking home learning, organising and contributing to virtual PEP meetings, helping them to manage anxieties about lockdown and the virus and the myriad of other things you are all dealing with. We know that this is a very difficult time for everyone and that personal and professional pressures need to be managed on a daily basis. Thank you very much and please keep safe and well.

### **3. Update on The HOPE staff team**

The HOPE team is continuing to work at home for the foreseeable future. Bristol City Council has told all its employees to continue working at home if they can do so. The team will be working at home on and after 1 June, the date when some schools may be either re-opening or seeing an increase in the number of pupils who are expected to attend.

We will be continuing to call carers, taking part in PEP meetings and liaising with as many of you as we can. Please do get in touch if you need to. The voicemail on The HOPE's main number is being checked regularly. If you don't know which member of the team you need to contact, please email [thehope@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:thehope@bristol.gov.uk) and your message will be passed on to the appropriate person.

We are delighted to let you know that Ian Hutton, currently our KS2 Education Advocate, will be staying with The HOPE after the end of May and for the 2020/21 academic year.

Equally pleasing is that Katherine Juniper will return from maternity leave on 1 June. Katherine will be working part-time as Inclusion & Participation Lead and she and Leanne Bishop will share that role. Leanne will also be working as Y6 to 8 Education Advocate.

### **4. The HOPE Projects**

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the delivery of both the Letterbox Club and My Books, which were due to run from May to October, have been delayed until later in the year. We will contact

the carers, social workers and schools of the children involved in the schemes as soon as we know when these can resume. Our current plan is for them to start in September.

The HOPE Creative is not able to run at the moment due to the coronavirus restrictions. We know many of our young people enjoy this group and will be missing seeing Lu and the team, as well as their friends. We hope that we can start these running again as soon as it is safe to do so.

### **5. HOPE HIGHLIGHTS - good news stories**

Despite the increased pressures and challenges that the pandemic has brought, The HOPE team has been lucky enough to hear about and experience some uplifting news. As a team, we have worked hard to stay in touch with each other and are more familiar with online meetings than we ever dreamed we would be! A number of the team has commented on the sense of togetherness and common purpose demonstrated by all of the colleagues and partners we work with. The commitment to Bristol's children and young people in care and our Care Leavers is palpable even via virtual meetings, emails and phone calls and that is a big boost to us and, we hope, to you.

We know that colleagues have been implementing innovative ways of working to make sure they can keep in touch with young people even though they can't visit them; young people have been trying hard to do the work school has set even if they can't be in school; schools have been very proactive in distributing food parcels to families, and carers have organised competitions involving hats, cakes and Lego®. The list of positive action is added to on a daily basis. Well done to everyone!

### **6. Training dates for the 2019-20 academic year**

Covid-19 has scuppered face to face training for the time being but other methods are being used successfully.

**Social care staff**

Information on training available and how to book a place is available on the social care training pages of the Source, Bristol City Council's intranet.

**Carers**

Bristol City Council carers can find information about training on the [Fostering website](#).

**Named governor training**

There are no further courses planned for this academic year at present. However, discussions are taking place between The HOPE and the Governor Development Service (GDS). Details of future courses will be advertised by the GDS and on The HOPE's training web page.

**Designated teachers for children in care**

There are no further courses planned for this academic year at present but we are keeping this under review. Once we go live with the Establishment Portal, we plan to offer support sessions online. These will be in addition to the written guidance and the video about the Portal.

**Designated teachers for Previously Looked After Children (PLAC)****Adopted Children or subject to a Special Guardianship Order (SGO) or Child Arrangement Order (CAO)**

The HOPE has planned an online training session about previously looked after children.

Date: Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, 9.00am – 10.30am

The session will be delivered via Zoom. A link will be sent prior to the session to allow you to join.

The session will cover:

- Statutory Guidance 2018 for PLAC
- Designated Teacher for PLAC: roles and responsibilities
- Impact of early experiences
- Pupil Premium+
- Personal Education Plans for PLAC
- Confidentiality
- Transitions

To book, either:

- email [aleksandra.baranska@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:aleksandra.baranska@bristol.gov.uk)
- or call 0117 903 6282

Let us know your:

- name
- role
- school/setting name
- contact number
- email address

Places will be filled on a first come, first served basis as spaces are limited.

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