

Dear Colleagues,

## **HOPE Headlines – 2022/23 Term 2**

Welcome to new readers and welcome back to all those who continue to work in partnership with us to support Bristol's children in care at all educational stages, from Early Years to University.



Each term we use the HOPE Headlines to share key updates and reminders with you to support our work together. If you want to add anyone else to the mailing list to receive the HOPE Headlines, please complete the following online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/EuBeDgy8js>

We are pleased that Katherine Juniper has returned from her maternity leave this term and resumed her post as Senior Advocate, working Monday-Wednesday, term time only.

It has been another busy two terms, and we thank you for all your hard work in ensuring the best outcomes for our children. We hope that as we move towards the Christmas break you have some time to relax and enjoy the festivities.

Best wishes,  
The HOPE Team

**E-mail:** [thehope@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:thehope@bristol.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 0117 90 36282

[The HOPE has information and guidance online](#)

### **1. Access to the PP funding grant:**

We are approaching the deadline for Instalment 2 of the PP+ Grant. We want to support all our schools to receive the money to support our young people.

Please ensure that by **20<sup>th</sup> January 2023** you have:

- Emailed a completed PEP document to [thehope@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:thehope@bristol.gov.uk) from a meeting on or after 1st July 2022 or 1st September 2022 for Year 7 pupils
- Completed and saved all data fields via the Establishment Portal for **Autumn 2**

And

- The HOPE needs to have monitored and judged the up-to-date PEP document from your setting as good or better. Specifically, the Pupil Premium information must have sufficient detail, to be judged as good.

### **Where do I enter the data?**

[Portal Home \(bristol.gov.uk\)](#) this link takes you to the Establishment Portal where you will be able to see the children at your setting and enter their data. Further guidance on using the Establishment Portal can be found [here](#).

Schools who have not met the requirements by early January will receive a reminder email from us so please look out for this (and check it has not gone into your junk inbox).

If you need any further help please email us at The HOPE.

## **2. PEP meeting deadlines:**

Schools and educational providers: Please can we ensure that once a PEP is held, the paperwork is sent securely to [thehope@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:thehope@bristol.gov.uk) within 2 weeks of the meeting. The HOPE team will then aim to check the PEP and give you feedback within 2 weeks of this being received. This will give you the opportunity to reflect on the paperwork and update should you need to, in order to receive the PP+ Grant. Thank you to the schools that have been able to complete this within the timescales.

The PEP paperwork is a statutory document but it is also more than this, it is the young persons' educational story and documents what support they have received which they may look back on in the future. It is also important that it is available on our systems for social care managers, Independent Reviewing Officers and SEN professionals to access to help inform the care plan.

We have over 1000 PEPs to check annually and if they all are submitted close to the instalment deadline, it is not possible for us to monitor them all in a short timescale, which is fundamental to signing off the PEP as complete.

## **3. Attendance, suspensions and exclusions**

*Suspension and Permanent Exclusion from maintained schools, academies and pupil referral units in England, including pupil movement; Guidance for maintained schools, academies, and pupil referral units in England September 2022 states:*

*"59: Where a looked-after child (LAC) is likely to be subject to a suspension or permanent exclusion, the Designated Teacher (DT) should contact the local authority's VSH as soon as possible. The VSH, working with the DT and others, should consider what additional assessment and support need to be put in place to help the school address the factors affecting the child's behaviour and reduce the need for suspension or permanent exclusion. Where relevant, the school should also engage with a child's social worker, foster carers, or children's home workers.*

We receive data of attendance for our young people in 2 ways, either through the Bristol data sharing systems or by Welfare call contacting the schools and passing this onto us. The HOPE advocates can see this data and monitor this to understand the individual situations for young people and notice patterns. If the child has an unexplained code, the HOPE advocates will contact schools and social workers to find out the reasons and support to improve attendance. We work to avoid suspensions and we know for our young people, being in school is the safest place and supports placement stability. Children should not be suspended without conversations with the Social Worker, Carers and HOPE advocate to ensure there is a robust action plan in place.

## **4. Social care offices:**

Staff members from The HOPE will be basing themselves at the following social care offices every other Wednesday morning from 9.30am- 12 noon:

B Bond, The Welsman, Symes House, Ridingleaze House

There will be at least 2 members of HOPE staff available should you have any questions about education or CIC processes. If you work in these offices, please come and find us and say hello!

## **5. Training offer from the HOPE:**

### For schools:

We are offering DT training for Children in Care on 2 further sessions this academic year, they will be held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. We are also offering DT training for Previously Looked After Children on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Please visit our website: [Training - Hope Virtual School - bristol.gov.uk](https://www.bristol.gov.uk/training-virtual-school) for details of timings, venues and how to book.

### For Early Years Practitioners:

We will be holding online briefings for colleagues responsible for children in care. The course is free, but you need to book a place using the form below. Each session is limited to 20 participants and you will be sent a link to join the briefing prior to the date.

Online Briefings via Microsoft TEAMS:

Book a place for [Thursday 8 December 2022, 10am-12pm](#)

Book a place for [Tuesday 25 April 2023, 2pm-4pm](#)

### For Governors:

There is training available for governors with responsibility for children in care and previously looked after children. Please contact governor services to access this course and the details.

### For Social Care:

The HOPE will be running the next course for social workers on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2023 from 2pm- 4pm: Introduction to THE HOPE and supporting education for children in care and previously looked after children. This is suitable for any social workers or social care staff who are new to the authority or require an update. Please book this via i trent.