

Barnet Post-16 Virtual School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021

Welcome!

Hello all and welcome to a first in a termly series of newsletters which will be going out to colleges and education providers from Barnet Virtual School, aiming to help providers support students who are post 16 Looked-After young people or Care Leavers

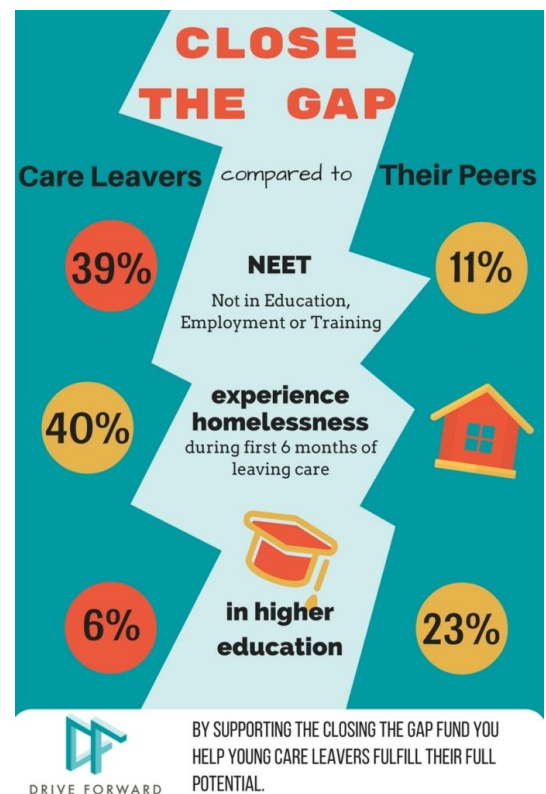
In September, we had some exciting news. We were one of three London boroughs to win a bid for the DfE's latest project—Post 16 Pupil Premium Plus Pilot Project. One of the branches of this project was the creation of a specialised Post -16 Newsletter to keep colleges, sixth forms and education providers up to date on developments related to Children in Care and Care Leavers.

We will also be showcasing any training opportunities offered by Barnet Virtual School and any enrichment activities available that can be shared with your young people.

Our aim is to raise awareness as to the transitions and processes that Looked-After Children and Care Leavers go through in comparison to the standard pathway in life for a young person. Hopefully this will help support these young people to succeed and meet their potential.

We would always welcome any feedback as to what subjects you feel should be covered in these newsletters so please don't hesitate to email or call the post-16 team!

Frazier Stroud—Post-16 Virtual School Caseworker



Post-16 Pupil Premium Project (A lot of P's!)

The project runs for 6 months and has a number of strands to it. We are working closely with Barnet and Southgate College on developing the PEP process in Post 16 settings and delivering training for their staff, as well as supporting them to carry out an art enrichment project with some of our unaccompanied asylum seeking young people. We are also working with the Post 16 Education and Skills team in Barnet to provide additional mentoring support to some of our most vulnerable young people and support them to make steps back into employment, education or training. Our new mentors Cassandra Ofori and Jessica Clark have already started delivering this.

Employability Skills 16-24 Barnet

As you will know post-16 is an age where a lot of changes occur for Looked-After Young people and they undergo many transitions. This means that they will need extra support to help them better plan for the future both in and outside of college.

In Barnet we offer support to 16-24 year olds with a specific focus on care leavers. We provide a bespoke employability service to young people, mentoring and advice to support them into EET. This may be especially useful for any Barnet care leavers you have in your setting as after year 13 the Virtual School will no longer be available to support with offering information advice and guidance. [16-24 years old – BOOST \(boostbarnet.org\)](http://boostbarnet.org)

Accommodation for Care Leavers

Turning 18 for Young People in Care can be a complicated process and we felt that giving settings more information related to the processes that we have in place for transitioning into independence would help you support them.

Before the age of 18 Looked After Children are supported to make an application for Long Term Accommodation. The young person will then be put on a waiting list. There is usually a period of time after their 18th birthday where they will have to wait for this long term accommodation to become available. In this interim period young people are offered temporary accommodation options which are available to Barnet care leavers, and are based on assessment of need. These include 'staying put' with their foster carer or semi-independent setting or moving to independent temporary housing. Wherever possible, this temporary accommodation will be in Barnet or a neighbouring borough, and the young person will remain there until the long-term accommodation is secured.

This can have an affect on their engagement with education, employment or training (EET) as they may move within the school year and for many young people, managing independently at the age of 18 is challenging. They may also have trouble accessing the internet in temporary accommodation which can affect access to online learning and they may become more worried about supporting themselves financially.

This is example of one of the many transitions that these young people go through and it is important to be aware of these changes in order to make sure that they have the best support to stay on track with their education, employment or training.

If you are unsure about what the plans are for young people about to turn 18 it is always good to contact the social worker/personal advisor or the virtual school caseworker who can provide further information. Once again if you would like further information or have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Training

Free!

On the 9th of March 2022 the Barnet Virtual School Educational Psychology team will be running a training based on:

Trauma and Attachment and its impact on children's development, wellbeing and learning.

See below for some details of what will be included in the training:

- How trauma impacts on children's development, wellbeing and learning
- Links between trauma and Covid-19
- Trauma informed practice

A link to sign up to the training and more details will be released closer to the time!

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Contact us



Follow us on Twitter to keep up with news and opportunities to support our young people. **@barnetvs**



You can read more about the Virtual School and find useful resources by going to **<https://www.barnetlocaloffer.org.uk/>** and searching for Virtual School



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