**AGENDA ITEM (item 2 – 24 April 2019)**

**Title of report:**

**KS3 Enrichment Programme for Looked after Children**

**Author of the paper: Lorraine Wood**

**Officer to present the paper to School Forum:**

**TBC**

**Details on who has been consulted with on this paper to date:**

Monica Forty, Shahid Tilly, Ann Roach and Richard Siebert

**Exec Summary:**

At the end of the previous financial year the Virtual School had an underspend of £183,439 against its DSG cost centre. The Virtual School proposes to use this funding over a 5 year period to deliver a broad and exciting programme of enrichment activities to support transition of looked after pupils to secondary school and to promote their achievement.

**Action required:**

The Forum is invited to consider the Virtual School proposal for a KS3 Enrichment Programme for Looked after Children and to approve the carry forward of the DSG underspend in 2014/2015 and in subsequent years in order to fund the programme.

1. **SUMMARY**

In order to maximise spend against the Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) grant 2014-2015, Virtual School expenditure originally forecast on the Dedicated School Grant (DSG) was redirected to the PPP. As a result of this and also an underspend on projected salary costs, the Virtual School had an underspend of £183,439 against its DSG cost centre at the end of the last financial year. The Virtual School proposes to use this funding over a 5 year period to tackle disadvantage and underachievement amongst our looked after children through a broad and exciting programme of enrichment activities that support transition to secondary school.

1. **BACKGROUND**

Educational outcomes for looked after children are poor and the attainment gap widens between key stages 2 and 4. Research has shown that for disadvantaged pupils, opportunities to experience a range of ‘cultural’ activities can make a real difference to their academic success. Children in care are not often taken to museums or to the theatre and few are encouraged to learn a musical instrument, attend stage school or receive sports coaching. Many children in care miss out on informal learning experiences and as a result do not have the same opportunities to develop talents, longer term commitments to learning and the resilience to keep going when faced with setbacks or failure.

1. **PROPOSED ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME**

* 1. **3.1. Duration**.
  2. To make best use of the funding, the KS3 enrichment programme envisaged by the Virtual School will run over five financial years, April 2015 until July 2019.

**3.2. Structure**

The programme will be made up of four elements:

* 1. **Consultation and participation events** to engage the young people and to launch the programme over Autumn and Spring terms 2015/2016 followed by:

**Personal enrichment budget** for each pupil for the duration of their engagement with the programme from Spring term 2016 to Summer term 2019, £800 per pupil per year;

* 1. **High quality residential experiences** during summer holidays in 2016, 2017 and 2018;
  2. **Rolling enrichment programme of cultural/artistic/sporting events** at weekends and during holidays from Summer term 2016 to Summer term 2019.
  3. .
  4. **3.3. Participants**
  5. The pupils who will benefit from the programme are currently in years 5, 6 and 7 and total 37 pupils. The group will change in size as new pupils come into care so that the final total number of beneficiaries is likely to be in the region of 50 pupils.
  6. Each year group will be able to participate until they reach the end of Year 9. The current year 5 pupils will participate over 11 terms; current year 6 over 8 terms and the current year 7 over 5 terms.

**3.4. Total funding**

£183,000 over 5 years, April 2015 to July 2019.

**3.5 Funding profile**

**Year 1:** Spring term 2016 Total funding £26,000.

Participation events and one term’s personal enrichment budgets for each pupil.

**Year 2:** Summer term 2016 to Spring 2017 Total funding £80,000.

5 day residential experience (Summer term), personal enrichment budgets and enrichment programme for three terms.

**Year 3:** Summer term 2017 to Spring term 2018 Total funding £51,000

5 day residential experience (Summer term), personal enrichment budgets and enrichment programme for three terms.

**Year 4:** Summer term 2018 to Spring term 2019 Total funding £26,000 5 day residential experience (Summer term), personal enrichment budgets and enrichment programme for three terms.

**Year 5:** Summer term 2019. Use of unspent contingency funding accounted for in previous years and included in figures given above to provide personal enrichment budget and enrichment programme for 1 term.

**3.5. Design and delivery**

The programme will be designed by the pupils themselves in consultation with the Virtual School and the pupils’ social workers and carers.

The programme will be led and managed by the Senior Teacher for Looked After Children and delivered by Virtual School staff in partnership with third sector organisations and with the support of youth workers, social workers and carers.

**3.6. Oversight**

The programme will be overseen by Virtual School Steering group.