

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Dated:</b>
Community and Children's Services Committee	11/11/2024
<b>Subject:</b> Virtual School Development Plan for Academic Year 2024/2025	<b>COVER REPORT:</b> <b>PUBLIC</b>  <b>REPORT: PUBLIC</b>
<b>This Proposal delivers the Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes:</b>	Diverse Engaged Communities Leading Sustainable Environment Providing Excellent Services
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Judith Finlay Executive Director of Community and Children's Services	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Debby Rigby Headteacher of Virtual School for Children with a Social Worker	

## Summary

This plan provides Members with information about the work of The City of London Virtual School. The School Development Plan is divided into five main priorities.

1. To work effectively with an increasing number of partners and services
2. To reduce the number of care experienced young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)
3. To embed all extended duties and include new cohort of children in kinship care
4. To increase access to the arts and sport
5. To provide successful education and enrichment projects for identified groups of children and young people

There is an action plan for each priority area with targets, actions and success criteria. Each academic term the plans are evaluated, and impacts are noted. All work is currently on track for completion by August 2025 and so is colour coded as green, any risks will move this work to amber or red.

## Highlights

- The Virtual School continues to monitor and promote educational opportunities of all children with a social worker, including academic attainment and school and college attendance.
- Four apprentices are now working with the Virtual School and Partnership for Young London. One of these is a City of London Care Leaver.
- The Virtual School continues to work in partnership with Open Spaces, to run a Forest School project in Epping Forest called 'Four Seasons.' This project allows young people to explore and appreciate the changing seasons, join in team games and creative activities, and supports their well-being. The sessions also act as an education drop in, where young people can discuss next steps in their educational journeys.
- The Virtual School is working with The Aldgate School, to provide trauma informed training to all staff, across the school.
- The Virtual School is working in partnership with The City of London Boys School to deliver enrichment lessons to unaccompanied asylum seekers on ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) courses. These include drama, science, sport and cookery. These sessions provide learners with a more broad and balanced learning experience.
- The Virtual School has partnered with TEDI London (The Engineering and Design Institute) and King's College, to provide access to university sessions for young people interested in creative design, sustainability and engineering.
- The Virtual School provides all primary aged children, with a social worker or in receipt of early help services, with additional books and educational resources. They have also been provided with access to a Storytime subscription – ensuring that new stories are delivered to them at home every month.
- The Virtual School is working alongside Early Help services, to deliver Holiday and Food Educational Activities, in the school holidays.
- A Virtual School celebration event is booked for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024, in The Livery Hall.

## Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the report, attached as Appendix 2.

### Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Virtual School Development Plan for Academic Year 2024/2025

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