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**Report of Fiona Callaghan, Interim Virtual School Head, Durham  
County Council**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

None

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of the report is to present Corporate Parenting Panel with the Durham Virtual School for the 2018/19 academic year. in advance of a presentation providing an overview by Fiona Callaghan, Interim Virtual School Head

**Executive summary**

- 2 Durham Virtual School champions care-experienced children and young people. We support parents, corporate parents, carers, schools and educational settings to support looked after and previously children in care so that they:
  - (a) attend a school or setting which best meets their needs;
  - (b) attend regularly;
  - (c) make progress and achieve;
  - (d) have a voice that positively impacts on the services they receive;
  - (e) have stability in home, care and education placement;
  - (f) receive good advice and guidance to progress into further education, employment and training and, where appropriate, university;
  - (g) are well-prepared for adulthood;
  - (h) receive recognition for their achievement and have their successes celebrated.
- 3 The Durham Virtual School Annual Report 2018/19 is attached at Appendix 2. The interim Virtual School Head Fiona Callaghan will deliver a presentation at the meeting giving an overview of the report.

**Recommendation(s)**

- 4 Members of the Committee are asked to note information contained within the annual report and presentation and comment accordingly

## **Background**

- 5 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel Virtual School sub group meet quarterly to provide greater political oversight and to monitor looked after children's educational attainment and performance and encourage and support each looked after child to achieve optimum educational outcomes at each stage of their schooling

## **Conclusion**

- 6 Members of the Corporate Parenting Panel will be sighted on the work of the virtual school outlined in the report relating to children and young people in care and those who were previously looked after and will have an opportunity to discuss the content within the meeting.

- 7 Background papers

- None

## **Other useful documents**

- Durham Virtual School Annual Report 2018/19

## **Author(s)**

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

We have a duty to comply with all statutory duties in relation to the children and young people who are in the care of DCC

### **Finance**

NA

### **Consultation**

NA

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

NA

### **Climate Change**

NA

### **Human Rights**

NA

### **Crime and Disorder**

NA

### **Staffing**

Staffing within Children's Services will impact upon social worker caseloads

### **Accommodation**

NA

### **Risk**

Reputational risk to the Council and Corporate Parenting Panel if it is not judged to be performing effectively by Ofsted

### **Procurement**

NA