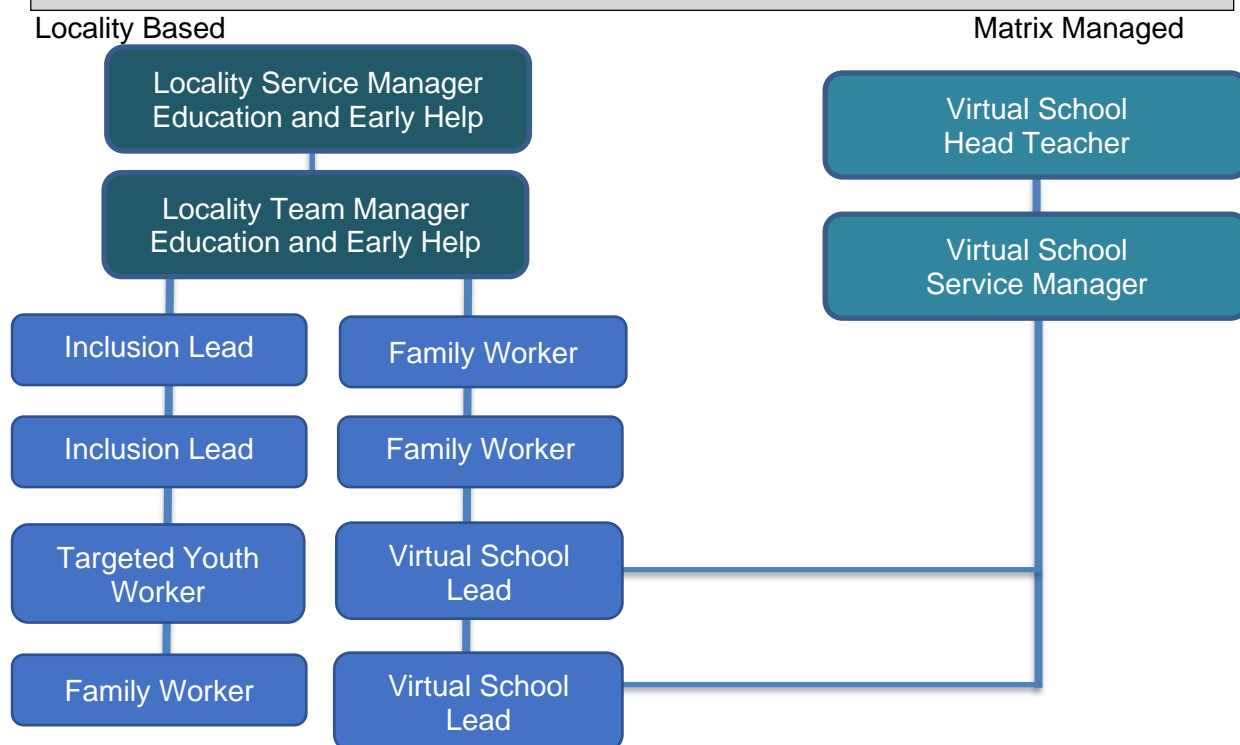


Context Statement

To accompany Job Description and Person Specification

Job title:	Virtual School Lead
Directorate/service/team:	Children's Services
Grade:	G11 or equivalent
Location:	East Locality
Reports to:	Team Manager Education and Early Help

Organisational Structure



Context of the Work

To work with the Team Manager and Virtual School professionals, including the Virtual Head, to ensure that appropriate arrangements for the education of Looked After Children (LAC) are in place.

To work with other professionals in the team to ensure the production of high-quality PEPs, that these are in place and that review processes are followed to ensure children are making good educational progress.

Team and distributed working is essential for this role and the postholder will be required to work with a wide range of professionals in a collaborative and supportive way.

Case holding will be an essential part of the role and the post holder will need to work closely with others who hold cases such as social care colleagues.



To liaise with team members in localities to ensure PEPs are processed in a timely fashion including with liaison with professionals outside the locality and that these support the progress of young people.

Provide external agencies with a contact point in relation to processes and queries relating to the education of looked after children.

Identify implications and resource requirements for the provision for looked after children which will impact of wider parts of the council, e.g. travel or other education services. Liaise with brokerage and commissioning teams in order to source appropriate provision for young people where this is required.

Maintain meticulous high-quality electronic records of contact and case management for the PEP process to ensure there is consistency of record keeping across the county.

Work with the Team Manager and others in the locality and central team in the team to ensure that complex cases are managed well.

Place quality outcomes for children at the top of the priority list.

Localities

- This role is a locality role

Required Behaviours

Responsibility: We act with integrity. We are honest and we don't attribute blame when something goes wrong. We are all part of the solution.

We:

- give constructive feedback and seek out feedback on our own performance and behaviours
- deliver what we promise
- are open and transparent
- learn from mistakes
- take ownership
- standby and support difficult decisions

Respect: We are aware of our impact on others. We treat people fairly and have high expectations of ourselves and others, and value differences in approaches and opinions. We instigate and lead through positive behaviour.

We:

- are welcoming and friendly
- adapt our approach to help build good working relationships
- recognise and value the differences between people, placing a positive value on those differences
- manage our reactions professionally and calmly
- keep promises
- demonstrate empathy and recognise alternative perspectives



Recognition: We appreciate and value the contribution of individuals and teams for work well done. We lead by taking time to provide feedback and share lessons learned and achievements to support the organisation's development. We celebrate commitment and success.

We...

- give positive feedback
- acknowledge good behaviour and respectfully challenge poor behaviour
- value every contribution in success
- create a positive team spirit

Collaboration: We work with colleagues, residents and partners to achieve the best possible outcomes. We feel confident to share ideas, we listen and respect other points of view and set this example to each other. We value the power in combining our personal qualities, skills and experience to achieve a shared goal.

We...

- spend time building positive relationships
- are flexible in our attitude and approach
- share information and expertise without being asked to
- invite and support others to try new possibilities
- work through conflict to create conditions for successful working
- work to find the simplest way to do things
- work together, not in competition

Service Information

The purpose of Education and Learning and Early Help is to lead and enable the effective delivery of services within the County in respect of the educational and learning provision for children and young people and Early Help Services. This is to ensure local needs and requirements are met and to achieve tangible improvements in outcomes for young people. The delivery and accountability for statutory functions are at the heart of this area of work.

Our Mission

Our mission

- Children in Dorset thrive, are happy and are the very best that they can be.
- We inspire and enable children, young people and their families to find solutions that enable them to develop sustainable, safe and secure relationships with each other and within their community.
- We listen and act so that the voices of children and families is at the heart of everything we do.
- We work together to collaboratively shape, support and develop communities

Our vision is that we want to

- Shift our efforts to early help
- Get it right first time



- Work to meet need, rather than manage threshold
- Co-produce services with families

Our values are

- Collaborative – we want to work with citizens and communities, not do things for or to them
- Strength based – we work with people, not problems
- Restorative – we want to stop harm and repair relationships

We want to fundamentally change our model of service delivery to one which has the following design principles

- Our services will be rooted in place and delivered by multi-professional teams
- Our approach to citizens will be strength based and restorative
- We will proactively provide early help, rather than reactively make a late intervention
- We will measure our success on how we have made life better for children and young people
- We will always learn and strive to improve so we can deliver better outcomes for children and young people
- We will be digital by default and deliver services only where we are required by law, and where we can do this more effectively and more efficiently than anyone else

Travel Requirement

This position has a significant travel requirement. This means that there is a requirement for a vehicle (or transport deemed to be suitable by the county council) to be available on most working days to carry out normal duties. Employees in positions with a significant travel requirement are required to provide a replacement vehicle if their usual vehicle is not available over an extended period.

Other Information

The ability to converse at ease with customers and provide advice in accurate spoken English is essential for the post. This post requires a current DBS clearance.

Context statement prepared by: Mark Blackman

Designation: Corporate Director

Date: 21/01/20

