

Barnet Virtual School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2021

Virtual School Updates

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. 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 at Post 16 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 team in Barnet to provide additional mentoring support to some of our most vulnerable Post 16 young people to support them to make steps back into employment, education or training. Cassandra Ofori and Jessica Clark will be commencing this work soon. Frazier Stroud is leading on this project so if you want to know more, do contact him.

Our work on supporting all children with a social worker in an advisory/strategic capacity, is developing and those of you with children on a child protection plan with Barnet will shortly be contacted by a third party company, Asset, to begin collecting attendance and achievement data. This company is similar to Welfare Call, but will work by extracting the information electronically rather than daily phone calls. You should have received a letter explaining the process.

We have had some other staffing changes. Maria Skoutaridou, PEP coordinator and Paul Whitcombe, Executive Headteacher, have left Barnet to pursue new challenges although Paul is remaining as a BPSI advisor. We wish them well and thank them for their contribution to supporting children in care. We are joined by a new case-worker, Sejal Patel. Many of you will know Sejal in a different capacity as she was Headteacher of Whiting Hill in Barnet. As always, thank you very much for all the support you give our looked after children and do contact us if you have any questions.

Sarah Deale Headteacher



Pupil Premium Plus for Previously Looked After Children

Just before the Autumn Census we sent a reminder to Barnet schools to make sure you included certain children who were previously looked after on your census return. Pupil Premium funding for post looked after children does not come to the Virtual School but goes straight to the school. In order to access the pupil premium plus (PP+) monies which is £2345 per child in year groups reception to year 11, you need to make sure that this is reflected on your management information system for the Autumn census. You'll need to see a copy of legal paperwork which supports that the child is PLAC; that is **children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, or child arrangements order (previously known as a residence order).**

DfE information on PP+ monies: [Pupil premium: allocations and conditions of grant 2021 to 2022 - GOVK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Coming Soon....

SAVE THE DATE

Friday 26th May

By popular demand we have arranged for

Dr Karen Treisman

to return to Barnet to deliver more training for us. This will be free and delivered virtually. Those of you who attended her training last year will remember what an inspirational speaker she was and we are pleased to be able to act on your requests for more of her! Dr Karen Treisman, MBE, is a Highly Specialist Clinical Psychologist who has worked in the National Health System and children's services for several years. She also is the author of 11 books/ workbooks, including the bestselling book, "The therapeutic treasure box", and of 4 sets of therapeutic card decks.

More details will be circulated nearer the time!

Virtual School Team Member Profile

Jane Thrift — School Business Manager

My name is Jane Thrift and I am the School Business Manager at the Virtual School. I have only been in post since June, and it has been a steep learning curve finding out about the Virtual School's procedures and processes virtually!



Before this role I was a School Business Manager for nearly 10 years in a Barnet school, and before that I was a Teaching Assistant and a meal-time supervisor at another Barnet School. I also spent many years working within the banking industry. My wealth of experience has helped me develop my role within the Virtual School as I understand school procedures and how we can all work together.

My role is a new role within the Virtual School. I support our amazing case workers with some of the admin tasks, tuition referrals, enrichment activities and with various admin tasks so that they can focus on supporting our young people enabling the young people to reach their full potential.

Training



This is a virtual training session and is open to both in and out of borough schools. Please book on the BPSI website—scroll to the bottom of the page and click on ‘Link to Designated Teacher Training’ or copy and paste this link into your web browser, follow it through and you will come to the page.

[Barnet CE Strand-doc v3.9.1](#)

Supporting Care Leavers at Post 16 (Pathway Plans and working with Personal Advisers)

Tuesday 30th November 9.30—11.30

- Understanding the purpose of Pathway Plans
- The role of Personal Advisers and how they support Care Leavers
- Promoting Self-advocacy and participation
- What we can do in our settings to support Care Leavers with moving towards independence

Key Contacts at the Virtual School

Head Teacher: Sarah.deale@barnet.gov.uk

Senior Caseworker:

Julie.locke@barnet.gov.uk

Virtual School Business Manager:

Jane.thrift@barnet.gov.uk

PEP Coordinator:

Vacant

Caseworker:

Allan.newby@barnet.gov.uk

Caseworker :

Hannah.hudson@barnet.gov.uk

Caseworker:

Ornella.rochfort@barnet.gov.uk

Caseworker:

Sejal.patel@barnet.gov.uk

Caseworker—Post 16:

Frazier.stroud@barnet.gov.uk

Caseworker—Post 16:

Aiysha.iqbal@barnet.gov.uk

Education Lead—children with a social worker:

Nicola.axford@barnet.gov.uk

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



Tel: 020 8359 4534



email: Barnet.virtualschool@barnet.gov.uk