



CHILDREN IN CARE POLICY

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POLICY FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

AS CORPORATE PARENTS MALCOLM SARGENT PRIMARY IS COMMITTED TO DO ALL THAT WE CAN TO PROMOTE THE EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT & WELL BEING OF CHILDREN IN CARE (CiC)

OUR DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILDREN IN CARE IS :- MR TIM COX

OUR DESIGNATED GOVERNOR FOR CHILDREN IN CARE IS : MRS LYDIA MERIFIELD

This policy describes our approach to meeting the requirements set out in: the Statutory Guidance of Section 52 of the Children Act 2004 (Duty on Local Authorities to Promote the Educational Achievement of Looked After Children); Care Matters: Time for Change 2007 Guidance (Chapter 4 “A First Class Education”). The Children & Young person’s Act 2008 (Duty on Schools to appoint a Designated Teacher for Children in Care).

In line with our Academy ethos and principles, and our commitment to the Corporate Parenting role of being a ‘good parent’, our policy is to identify specific roles & responsibilities within academy to promote the learning, progress & well being of children in care.

The academy recognises that the provisions outlined in this policy must be in place regardless of whether there are any Children in Care currently on the academy roll. (see *Appendix 2 - Roles and Responsibilities; ‘Rationale’*)

This policy was developed with in Partnership with Lincolnshire County Council’s Children’s Services Team for Children in Care.(see *Appendix 3*)

1. Governing Body and Academy commitment to enhanced support for CiC

The Governing Body recognises that it is the corporate parent (any and all adults working for the Council or an academy) that has responsibility and accountability for the wellbeing and future prospects of children in their care. A good corporate parent is expected to offer everything that a good parent would.

We recognise that entering care represents a significant change in a child’s life. At this stage the State takes on an immense responsibility for these children by agreeing to undertake the parental role on a day to day basis. That means that all those working for the State at a local level in this academy should demand no less for each child in care than they would for their own children.

- The Governing Body and Academy will ensure that high quality learning opportunities & education are provided for all our pupils
- We will ensure equality of access to opportunities & learning outcomes for all
- We aim to support all pupils in achieving across the five outcome areas of Every Child Matters, whatever their background or circumstances.
- We recognise that Children in Care can be especially vulnerable & are sometimes ‘at risk’ of failure in the learning context.

Therefore, with specific reference to this cohort of children we will strive to achieve the following aims:-

2. Aims for our Looked After Learners

Our aims in supporting Looked After learners in the Academy are:

- to ensure all academy policies & procedures are followed sensitively for CiC
- to ensure that all CiC have access to a broad, balanced & stimulating curriculum

- to provide personalised learning & curriculum appropriate to needs and ability
- to support and monitor social progress; ensuring key adults prioritise respectful and responsive relationship building with individual children & provide appropriate support for social development within the peer group)
- to ensure that wherever possible CiC receive a full 25 hours of education each week.
- to ensure that CiC pupils take as full a part as possible in all academy activities and strive to reduce and eliminate any barriers that may stop them from taking part
- to ensure that Carers, Social Workers & Parents (as appropriate) of Looked After pupils are involved and kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment
- to ensure that wherever possible pupils in care are involved in decisions affecting their learning, the plans for progress and future provision
- to ensure that success is appropriately recognised and reinforced
- to ensure that any emerging concerns are followed up in a timely way with skill and sensitivity (e.g. changes in patterns of behaviour & attendance)
- to liaise and cooperate with appropriate partners to ensure that all plans complement and support the promotion of the educational achievement and well being of CiC.

3. Admissions to Our Academy

- The Governing Body supports Lincolnshire County Council's approach to admissions giving Children in Care the highest priority for admission to the identified academy
- Our academy will ensure Children in Care are named as first priority within our academy written admissions criteria
- Sometimes care placement changes lead to CiC entering academy mid-term or mid year if this is thought to be in the best interests of the child. This academy will ensure that in these circumstances CiC will be admitted to the academy in a timely manner, even if this would mean that this would increase class sizes above the recommended maximum. As necessary, we will give a positive welcome, plan entry, offer additional support and pre-entry visits to help pupil's settle in the academy.

4. Inclusion and Allocation of Resources

- Our policy recognises that all pupils are entitled to a balanced, broadly based, and stimulating curriculum & learning programme
- For Children in Care there can often be a need to develop learning opportunities emphasising personalised planning & planned inclusive approaches
- The Governing Body will ensure our academy makes all appropriate learning provision for CiC pupils. Resources are allocated to support CiC in line with this policy and with our wider academy teaching & learning policies and good practice.
- The academy will insure that a Home to School agreement is signed by the primary carer and a copy is sent to the CiC's Social Worker.

5. Monitoring the Progress of CiC

- Progress for CiC pupils in the academy is monitored and supported and is guided by academy policies for teaching and learning
- We will monitor and track the achievement and attainment of CiC pupils at regular intervals. This will be formally reported to the Education Team of Children in Care / Virtual School for Children in Care at termly intervals.
- We will ensure that the academy makes an assessment of the pupil's needs and attainment on entry, to ensure continuity of learning
- We recognise the importance of Personal Education Plans (PEP) and understand that they are statutory academy documents.

- The academy will ensure that PEP's for CiC are completed within the statutory time scales as specified below.
- Wherever possible the PEP will be based on the individual personal planning and target setting that occurs as best practice within the academy, which will be amended according to the views of the partners involved in the meeting.
- We will ensure that the statutory Personal Education Plans are supported and systematically delivered within the appropriate timescales.
- The Social Worker for each CiC in school will initiate a Personal Education Plan. Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team / Virtual School for Children in Care in partnership with our Designated Teacher for CiC will ensure that the initial planning meeting will take place within 20 days of the pupil joining the academy or entering care.
- Each PEP will be reviewed according to the needs of the pupil. The academy will take the lead in reviewing the plans process initially within 3 months of the first PEP meeting and subsequently at least within every 6 months.
- The pupil's views are actively and sensitively sought by the appropriate key partner (Designated Teacher, Social Worker, Carer, Education Caseworker).
- The views of the pupil and Carers are noted within the PEP Form and shared sensitively at the meeting. The pupil is as actively involved as possible in selecting appropriate targets and with decisions relating to academy and learning.
(see Appendix 4 - PEP Guidance)

6. Attendance and Exclusion

- The academy recognises that CiC are statistically much more likely to have a poor attendance record and are up to 5 times more likely to be excluded than their non-looked after peers.
- The academy will take specific steps to monitor the attendance of CiC and will notify all appropriate partners at an early stage if there is an indication that problems with attendance might occur.
- The academy will take all reasonable steps to ensure that exclusion is rarely used for CiC and then is always only as a last resort, after all other avenues have been explored.
- The academy will make arrangements for first day provision for any excluded CiC as it would for any pupil after day 6 of exclusion.
- The academy will organise a PEP meeting as part of the re admission process if appropriate.
- Ensure that should a Child in Care be identified as at risk of exclusion, then contact is made with the L.A. Inclusion Officer and the named contact in Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team immediately, to enable early intervention/preventative strategies to be instigated.

7. Record Keeping and Information Sharing

- Our Designated Teacher will coordinate record keeping for of all CiC in academy
- Records will include individual learning plans, up to date progress & attainment records, PEP planning records and personalised information relating to care context as appropriate. These records will be maintained in a single place, having regard to the statutory nature of some of these documents and the confidential information that they contain.
- CiC status is appropriately 'flagged' in academy information management systems, ensuring information & planning records are readily available as required
- We will ensure there is ready access to information and up to date contact details for Carers, Parents (where appropriate), Social Worker and the named contact in the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team.
- All appropriate records will be forwarded to the receiving academy promptly if there is a transfer to another school.
- Sensitivity is a priority in sharing information with members of academy staff team. We are guided by best practice and on the 'need to know'. Wherever possible pupils' wishes are taken into account in sharing information within the staff team.

- The Designated Teacher will attend, or arrange for someone else to attend, or contribute in other ways to the Statutory Child in Care review process.

8. Appointments with in Staff and Governing Body

- The academy recognises that there is a statutory requirement to appoint a Designated Teacher for Children in Care and a Governor with responsibility for Children in Care. (see *appendix 2*)
- All staff and governors have a responsibility for the educational achievement and well being of CiC as a Corporate Parent. The work of the Designated Teacher and Governor with responsibility for Children in Care is to lead in this area, but they do not hold sole responsibility.

9. Staff and Governors' Development and Training

- All staff and governors are encouraged to develop via reflective processes. We encourage ongoing engagement with relevant CPD to maintain and extend individual and team expertise in supporting Children in Care to progress.
- Our Designated Teacher makes particular efforts to develop good awareness and understanding of issues, guidance and developments associated with the Looked After Children context. The DT disseminates knowledge and skills to colleagues in the academy as appropriate and necessary. Partnership working and collaboration with the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team /Virtual School for CiC is essential here (see *Appendix 3*).
- There is a specific statutory expectation that the Designated Teacher for CiC will be released to attend a programme of training each year to maintain and extend their personal expertise.
- Our designated Governor will attend appropriate briefings and relevant development opportunities provided by Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team / Virtual School for CiC

10. Partnership Working

- Our academy values the views of Carers & Parents. We firmly believe in developing strong partnerships with Carers/Parents & Residential Care Workers to enable pupils achieve to their potential.
- We will develop close relationships and collaborative work to promote the learning and well being of individual children, both in and out of school.
- PEP meetings, other school liaison & consultation processes and informal day to day dialogue are all seen as good opportunities to enhance our partnerships.
- We recognise the essential contributions that external support services make in supporting Children in Care. We commit to developing positive partnerships with all involved. Our partnerships with community partners are extensive; some of our key partners for these Children include :-

CiC Team (*Foster Carers / Residential Key Workers, Social Workers, Family Support Workers, Education Team for Children in Care, Head of Learning & Opportunity for CiC*)

Other Local Authority Services; *Educational Psychologists; SEN Team; Behaviour Support; Learning Support; Medical Officers; School Nurses; CAMHS; Education Welfare Officers; Social Care Sessional Staff/ Community Care Worker/ Residential Care Staff; Youth Offending Service; Locality Team Workers; Independent Review Officers; Advocacy Services.*

11. Academy CiC Policy Review and Evaluation

- Our CiC policy is of highest importance
- We will undertake a review of both policy and relevant best practices each year
- The outcomes of this review are linked directly to school development processes and the School Development & Improvement Plan

APPENDIX 1 - WHO ARE CHILDREN IN CARE /LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Under the Children Act 1989, a child is looked after by a local authority if he or she is in their care or provided with accommodation for more than 24 hours by the authority. Looked After Children may fall into one of following groups:

- Children who are accommodated under a voluntary agreement with their parents (section 20)
- Children who are the subjects of a care order (section 31) or interim care order (section 38)
- Children who are the subjects of emergency orders for their protection (sections 44 and 46)
- Children who are compulsorily accommodated - this includes children remanded to the local authority or subject to a criminal justice supervision order with a residence requirement (section 21).

The term 'in care' refers only to children who are subject to a care order by the courts under section 31 of the Children Act 1989; they may live with foster carers, in a Children's home, in a residential school, with relatives or with parents under supervision.

Children who are cared for on a voluntary basis are 'accommodated' by the local authority under section 20 of the Children Act; they may live in foster care, in a Children's home or in a residential school. All these groups are said to be 'Looked After Children' (LAC). They may be Looked After by Peterborough City Council, or may be in the care of another Local Authority, but living in or attending a school in Peterborough.

In practice the terms Children in Care and Looked After Children are used interchangeably. It is Peterborough's preference that Children in Care is used to described all of the children who fall into the categories above.

APPENDIX 2 - ACADEMY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Rationale for Roles and Responsibilities

Children in Care are one of the most vulnerable groups in society and it is widely recognised that they underachieve in education & learning contexts compared to their peers. Evidence strongly suggests that poor outcomes and qualifications impact significantly on subsequent life chances. In particular they experience:

- high level of instability, disruption and change in school placements
- poor involvement in extra curricular activities/positive activity out of school
- inconsistent attention paid to out of school learning & homework.

This can often result in:

- poor attainment, exam success and qualifications gained in comparison with the general population
- underachievement in further and higher education
- low self esteem & confidence, disengagement from learning, training & subsequent employment

Many children who remain in care are there because they have suffered abuse or neglect. To date the outcomes achieved by CiC have been unacceptably poor. Central Government, Lincolnshire County Council and schools are committed to addressing this disparity. Our role as corporate parents means that in the academy we all have a part to play mindfully applying the principles of good parenting by:

- Prioritising learning and achievement, and raising standards

- Ensuring we have high expectations and aspirations for each YP
- Skilled listening to children, ensuring YP involvement in decision making
- Promoting inclusion and personalised approaches to learning
- Providing stability, continuity, consistency and building meaningful relationships across academy and home contexts
- Taking our corporate responsibilities seriously
- Intervening early to support success and solve difficulties
- Promoting good practice in early years learning experience
- Celebrating success, reinforcing achievements, providing timely incentives & rewards

PRINCIPAL & SLT ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To ensure that provision / outcomes for Children in Care are specifically recorded or mentioned in:-
 - School Improvement Plan & the SEF
 - All appropriate academy policies and procedures
 - Any issued reports on : -
 - behaviour, sanctions, exclusions; praise and rewards; public examinations and SATs (analysis and entries); student progress in relation to targets & FFT; extra curricular; activities and successes; attendance; gifted and talented provision; admissions; student voice activities/school council; complaints; student destinations; work experience; CPD for staff.
- To provide an annual report on the provision for, and progress of, Children in Care to the Governing Body.
- To make it clear to staff and other academy stakeholders that many Children in Care require sensitivity and positive personalised planning above and beyond most peers and that academy policy clearly supports this approach.
- To give the Designated Teacher for CiC the time and facilities to carry out his/her job description fully and effectively, and to support them at all times in their work.
- To show a personal commitment and involvement with Children in Care in the academy.
- To challenge negative stereotypes of Children in Care, and to insist on the highest of expectations in terms of Looked After Children achieving their potential.
- To give Children in Care the highest priority, in terms of admissions to the academy even when there is over subscription.
- To provide CPD for staff on issues pertaining to Children in Care and to ensure that the DT attends regular network meetings and training.

DESIGNATED TEACHER ROLE/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To be an advocate for CiC within academy
- To be aware and build relationships with all CiC in academy and ensure the availability of all relevant details/records from academy record-keeping systems as required
- To attend relevant CPD and Networks about CiC
- To act as the key liaison professional for other agencies and carers in relation to CiC, seeking advice from the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team & other professionals as appropriate.
- To ensure that CiC receive a positive welcome on entering the academy, especially mid year and, if necessary, offer additional support and a pre-entry visits to help the new pupil settle.
- To ensure that all CiC have an appropriate PEP that is completed within 20 days of joining the academy or of entering care (see Appendix 3 PEP Guidance) and ensure that the young person contributes to the plan
- To keep PEPs and other records up to date and review PEPs at transfer and at statutory intervals

- To convene an urgent multi-agency meeting if a CiC is experiencing difficulties or is at risk of exclusion
- To ensure confidentiality on individual children, sharing confidential and personal information on a need to know basis, bearing in mind the wishes of the individual pupil
- To act as the key adviser for staff and governors on issues relevant to CiC
- To ensure that care and school liaison is effective including invitations to meetings, parents evenings and other academy events
- To actively encourage and promote out of hours learning and extra curricular activities for CiC
- To ensure a speedy transfer of information, records and coursework, where appropriate, when a CiC transfers to another educational placement
- To contribute information to CiC reviews when required
- To report to the Governing body on a termly basis on CiC in the academy and inform of relevant policy and practice development.
- Reports to governors to include:
 - the number of CiC on roll
 - the number that have a Personal Education Plan
 - attainment and progress of individuals/group of CiC
 - comparisons of attainment and progress to others in schools
 - interventions implemented to address gaps/difficulties
 - their attendance compared to other pupils
 - their attainment (SATs/GCSEs) compared to other pupils
 - the number of fixed term and permanent exclusions
 - the destinations for pupils who leave the academy.
- To agree with the social worker the appropriate people to invite to parents' evenings etc
- To attend governor meetings as appropriate e.g. admission, disciplinary and exclusion of CiC.
- To arrange a mentor or 'befriender' (adult and /or pupil) to whom the young person can talk particularly when the pupil is new to the academy
- To Ensure that any Special Educational Needs are addressed in conjunction with the SENCo and in accordance with the Code of Practice for SEN. (CiC are 6-8 times more likely to have an SEN Statement than other pupils in academy

ACADEMY STAFF ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To follow academy procedures, policies and best practice in line with academy mission and principles.
- To keep the Designated Teacher informed about a CiC's progress
- To have high expectations of the educational and personal achievements of CiC.
- To positively promote the raising of a CiC's self esteem.
- To ensure any CiC is supported sensitively and that confidentiality is maintained.
- To be familiar with the academy's policy and guidance on CiC and respond appropriately to requests for information to support PEPs and review meetings.
- To liaise closely with the Designated Teacher where a CiC is experiencing difficulties
- To contribute to regular liaison with social care colleagues and other appropriate professionals and keep carers fully informed at all times
- To keep appropriate records and maintain appropriate confidentiality; to make these available to the DT, other professionals, parents/carers & YP as appropriate

ACADEMY GOVERNING BODY ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

- To use official exclusions **only** as the very last resort and in line with the academy's exclusion policy, and relevant national guidance, being mindful to the difficulties this may create in the care placement. CiC should have 'first day' provision following any exclusion

- To ensure that the admission criteria and practice prioritises CiC according to the latest Admissions Code of Practice
- To ensure all governors are fully aware of the statutory duties and requirements to promote learning and achievement for CiC
- To ensure that an appropriately qualified and experienced Designated Teacher for CiC is appointed and has a job description in line with the Statutory Guidance for Designated Teachers
- To liaise with the Principal, Designated Teacher and all other staff to ensure the needs of CiC are met
- To nominate a governor with responsibility for CiC who liaised regularly with the Designated Teacher
- To read and respond appropriately to regular reports from the Designated Teacher
- To ensure that the academy's policies and procedures give CiC equal access in respect of: admission to academy, National Curriculum and examinations (academic and vocational), out of school learning and extra curricular activities, work experience and careers guidance.
- To review the effective implementation of the academy policy for CiC annually
- To ensure that the Designated Teacher is invited to any exclusion meetings of CiC

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNER ROLE/RESPONSIBILITY

- To specifically check on progress of CiC and systems in place to support them at each of their liaison meetings in the academy

APPENDIX 3 - PARTNERSHIP WITH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S CiC TEAM / VIRTUAL SCHOOL

Academy & the Designated Teacher for CiC will develop positive partnerships with the Virtual School / Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team by:-

- Contributing to termly Designated Teachers Network meetings which involve sharing of good practice & information, CPD linked to the CiC context and valuable opportunities for DT networking.
- Engaging in other relevant LA CPD programmes and following 'sign posts' provided to relevant training opportunities.
- Accessing support via coaching, reflective practitioner support as requested or necessary.
- Work with LA to ensure every CiC on a academy role has an appropriate PEP as early as possible; certainly within 20 days of coming into care or being placed in Lincolnshire.
- Ensure every PEP is reviewed in line with best practice.
- Collaboration to help Designated Teachers access Social Care Teams and multi-agency support (where necessary Virtual School / Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team acts as a conduit for information flow both ways, as appropriate).
- Seeking advice and support to find alternative approaches to exclusion within the LA for CiC 'at risk'; arranging 'first day' provision for 'last resort and unavoidable' fixed term exclusions
- Establish good working relationships, developing regular liaison routes between Designated Teacher and the Virtual School / Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team; engaging in collaborative problem solving.
- Taking a proactive approach in identifying SEN & additional needs; working collaboratively with LA in line with SEN policy to ensure needs are met
- Working with LA partners to provide smooth transitions between key stages, schools and providers,

including mid-phase transfers & appropriate alternative provision

Our Designated Teacher and staff will work with the Virtual School / Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team to remain up to date on relevant issues relating to Looked After Children on a continuous and regular basis. The Virtual School / Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team provide support to academy as appropriate, but the academy will seek appropriate support from other teams (e.g. Behaviour Support Service, Educational Psychology, SEN Assessment Team, Learning Support Service, other advisors/specialists & provision, CAMHS).

N.B. Given the geographical barriers and vulnerability of 'Out of Authority' CiC, the role of Designated Teacher is again very important for those students placed by other LAs in Stamford. The Virtual School / Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team of the 'placing LA' should develop close links with Designated Teachers, with visits and all appropriate phone/email support. Liaison between Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team can provide support and advice if barriers or difficulties emerge here.

Local Authority contact details for the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team are:

Chris Fowler, Virtual School Head, Children in Public Care Lincolnshire
Room S4, 9-11 The Avenue, Lincoln, LN1 1PA
Tel: 01522 553901
m/pda: 07824 803239
email : chris.fowler@lincolnshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 4 - PEP GUIDANCE

In order to meet our obligations and support the children in our care our practice reflects the following.

The Initial personal education planning process

The initial PEP is written to present to the 28 day review. Therefore a meeting needs to happen within 21 days of a child being taken into care.

To initiate the PEP the Social Worker will inform the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team of the fact that a child has been taken in to care. The child is allocated to the appropriate Advisory Teacher with in the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team (ATCiC) who chairs the initial PEP meeting. The Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team distributes the pre-filled template of a PEP document to the academy. (*Within five working days of being notified of that the child has come into care*).

The Designated Teacher for Children in Care (DTCiC) in our academy is responsible for the completion of Section 2 academy's evaluation of the PEP as far as they are able. This can be delegated if the academy feels that this is appropriate. Section 2 aims to identify the teaching & learning needs of the child. A planning meeting is held with in 21 days of the child coming into care and is co-ordinated by the ATCiC. This initial PEP is chaired by the ATCiC, but must include the Designated Teacher or academy representative, the Social Worker and the Carer / Residential Key worker. The young person should be encouraged to attend (if appropriate), but their views about their education must be obtained. There are documents that may aid Carers / Residential Key Workers and children to make a more considered response to the process and official documents for both the Social Worker and academy to fill in.

The short term & long term aspirational educational targets are written up as a formal plan which will form the formal Personal Education Plan for the child (Initial PEP document Section 3a). It is this document that is reviewed. The short term educational targets should use bullet points to record the decisions made. These will normally reflect the normal academy targets that are provided for all pupils and provide guidance to the carers, social workers and the children themselves about how to achieve the targets. The short term educational targets should naturally support the long term aspirational targets. In the initial PEP meeting many of the short term targets are likely to be actions aimed at ensuring that the child is coping

with the experience of being in care. At this stage there is no requirement that all areas of the plan documentation or all actions are completed.

It is accepted that the long term aspirations may not change much from one review to another.

It is suggested that the date of the review meeting is agreed at the end of the initial PEP meeting, giving time to make sure that the formal review can be presented to the 3 month care plan review. This practically means that the initial review meeting should be booked approximately 2 ½ months after the date of the initial PEP meeting. Best practice would encourage all review meeting dates to be agreed at the end of the preceding meeting.

The completed PEP documents must be distributed to the Young person, carer, academy, social worker and the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team and any other significant participant.

The PEP review meeting

The purpose of a formal review meeting is to consider the educational needs of the child concerned and allows all partners a formally opportunity to understand how they can best support the young person to achieve the best possible educational outcomes. At a minimum the attendance at the PEP review meeting should be the DTCiC or academy representative, the social worker, the carer / residential key worker and the young person if appropriate. The Advisory Teacher from the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team would attend if their attendance would serve to improve the decisions that were made relating to the education of any young person. This may well be the case, but the attendance of the ATCiC is not a prerequisite for the meeting to go ahead and it will be impossible for them to be expected to attend every meeting. With this in mind the responsibility for co-ordinating all of the review meetings and distributing the completed documentation is transferred from the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team to the DTCiC in the academy concerned. If a young person changes academy's then it is likely that this is a significant change and the ATCiC would normally attempt to attend the subsequent PEP meeting. Whether a new PEP is started or the existing PEP is review will vary from individual to individual.

The review and evaluation of the plan occurs when~

- a) The formal review which must happen within three months of the PEP being drawn up and then at six monthly intervals. If the child has Special Educational Needs then one of the PEP reviews needs to coincide with the Annual Statement Review. This will mean that the frequency of one meeting will need to be altered so that one of the PEP's coincides with the annual review meeting. The frequency of one PEP meeting may also be altered to work around academy holidays when academy staff may not be available to co-ordinate the meeting. In any case when the timings of a meeting is altered then the meeting should always be brought forward so that the PEP reviews are held within the statutory time scales.
- b) The PEP can formally be reviewed at any point if there is a significant threat to the placement and / or a change in the educational needs of the child concerned. A period of exclusion is likely to be a significant episode as this is likely to indicate that the plan may not be working as planned.

At any PEP review the participants should consider whether the child or young person might benefit from a Personal Education Allowance (PEA) and One to One Tuition. There are spaces on the forms to apply for a PEA.

We need to make sure that we take into account the concerns of the young person and their aspirations. Two children's view forms are currently being piloted by the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team to help children to express their views. These sheets do not need to be used if there are other mechanisms in place to collect and record their views. There is also a sheet to brief a young person who wants to discuss their education at a meeting rather than filling in a form. In the new guidance for DTCiC they are expected to help the young person communicate their views, but in practice the adult with the best relationship with the child should support them in expressing their views.

The review documentation (PEP document Section 3b) should be completed at the formal meeting. All other sections of the PEP need to be altered only if there is a change in circumstances. It would be unlikely that the long term aspirations for any Child in Care would change from PEP to PEP review and from review to review. All targets really need to be based on measurable outcomes. Each PEP review should evaluate the Personal Education Allowance (PEA) provision and / or make suggestions for additional support that would be appropriate to increase the educational achievement of the Young Person concerned.

The DTCiC is then responsible for completing the documentation (although the work might be delegated) and the completed forms are then sent to the Lincolnshire County Council's CiC Team to place on the system. The ETCiC will distribute the documents to partners so that the team is aware that a PEP review has been completed.

APPENDIX 5 - Our Children in Care say...

- "I would like to have a say as to whether I move school or not."
- "Money should not be the most important thing when deciding if I should move schools."
- "I would really like to have a chance to visit the school before I start."
- "I would like my school work and achievements to be passed on to my new school and not forgotten about."
- "I would have liked a buddy or peer mentor when I moved to my new school to help me get settled."
- "We want to be treated as normal. We don't want to be pitied or treated differently."
- "I'd like to be able to choose a particular teacher to talk to – not just the designated teacher."
- "I want to keep my life private. I don't want people knowing everything about me unless I say so."
- "I don't want my teachers hearing embarrassing/personal details about me and my family at review meetings."
- "I want my own copy of school reports and I want my parents to have a copy."
- "The head of year is extremely important in passing on 'need to know' information to individual subject teachers."

N.B. The above is intended as an example; schools may like to use feedback from their pupils to replace these statements.