



VIRTUAL SCHOOL KENT NEWSLETTER

January 2023

VSK@kent.gov.uk



Message from Tony Doran

With the end of the festive break, it is a poignant time to look back at all that has happened over 2022! I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude to all keyworkers including our amazing foster carers, social workers, teachers and all other key partners who have supported our young people.

Please take time to read this edition and find out what we are doing in your part of Kent, including training, projects and activities for our Young People to become involved in.

All that is left to say is, we hope you had a fantastic festive period and are looking forward to a great New Year from all of us at VSK.

Virtual School Advisory Team

Luke Rodgers: A Tool for Change – Understanding the lived experiences of children who have been supported by social services.

The Care Leaders are facilitating online training to understand the lived experience of children who have been supported by social services. It's FREE for all education settings that teach Kent children. The virtual training is a series of 6 sessions, each between 60-90 minutes and using the lived experiences of young people from birth to adulthood. The training offers theory and practice-based skills and explores real life experiences to help staff better understand their young people. These include: transitions and how to support young people and their families through them, adverse childhood experiences and how they impact behaviour, development and learning, and how to use the PACE model (Playful, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy) to build relationships with young people and enhance their ability to learn.

All sessions are facilitated between 15:45-17:00. We will be providing you with one of three opportunities to attend this training. The dates they are being facilitated are:

January – March 2023

March – May 2023

May – June 2023

VSK in partnership with Kent Education Psychology Service Multi-agency workshops:

The aim of these workshops is for education settings across districts to have the opportunity with support from KEPS (working alongside VSK, STLS and SEN Inclusion Officers) to identify the most effective practices for supporting their Social Services experienced young people (including Children with a social worker (Ever6 CWSW), Children in Care (CiC) or Previously Looked After Children (PLAC)). We aim to create cohesive collective thinking spaces for SENCOs, DTs and DSLs to share ideas and practices in a trauma informed, solution focused way. At the end of the workshops, we aim to look at a 'Kent Tool Kit' to share our knowledge, practices and findings across the county and to help create 'next steps' for schools, districts and, as a whole.



10-11.30am	Dover & Thanet	Swale & Canterbury
Workshop 1	02/02/2023	09/02/2023
Workshop 2	20/03/2023	20/03/2023
Workshop 3	15/05/2023	15/05/2023
10-11.30am	Shepway & Ashford	Tun. Wells & Maidstone
Workshop 1	26/01/2023	03/02/2023
Workshop 2	13/03/2023	20/03/2023
Workshop 3	17/05/2023	19/05/2023
10-11.30am	Tonbridge, Malling & Sevenoaks	Gravesham & Dartford
Workshop 1	30/01/2023	30/01/2023
Workshop 2	14/03/2023	16/03/2023
Workshop 3	15/05/2023	02/05/2023

Please register your interest for both courses by emailing VSKAdvisoryTeam@kent.gov.

Post 16 Team

Opening Doors workshops for SW and PA's

10th and 11th Jan – face to face Canterbury and Medway

PEP training for DMS/mentors/SPI's

26th Jan and 22nd March

CLPP Young person Mental Health First Aid training

6th and 12th March – this is for the Post 16 team

Unite Art Exhibition around care leavers and their experience of HE

at both Medway and Kent Campus in March (dates to be confirmed)

If you would like further information or make contact with our Post 16 Team please email I6plusvirtalschoolkent@kent.gov.uk

Out of County Team

Out of County Foster Carers Coffee Morning

Dates to be confirmed

If you would like further information or make contact with our OOC Team please email

VSKAdmin.brook@kent.gov.uk

East Kent Team

South & East Kent VSK Conference

TBC but hope in March 2023

Supporting Transition—Rhiannon Yeats Kent EP

Date to be confirmed

If you would like further information or to book please email EastVSK@kent.gov.uk.

North Kent Teams

Training In partnership with Kent Educational Psychology Service: on West Kent Teams Section

This is open to North Kent Foster Carers,

Pilot Online Training for DT Induction

This project has been well received and we are hoping to roll this out across County in the New Year.

Count on Us Training

Information available in Term 4

If you would like further information or make contact with our West Kent Team please email WestVSK@kent.gov.uk

West Kent Team

In partnership with Kent Educational Psychology Service:

Precision Teaching – Sounds Progress

20th Feb Ashford

18th April – Maidstone

14th March– Virtual

Cognitive Behaviour Approaches - 9th Feb

Grief & Loss – 9th March

Anxiety & Resilience – 27th April

Anxiety Based School Avoidance – 25th May

Paired Reading for Foster Carers & Key Workers – 22nd March – Virtual (can also be delivered on request by our FELOs).

North & West Kent Designated Teacher Network – 9th March

Drawing & Talking – COMING SOON!

If you would like further information or make contact with our East Kent Team please email

WestVSK@kent.gov.uk



South Kent Team

Term 3 :

Monday 16.1.23	South Kent TISUK diploma Day 7 (Zoom – all day)
Tuesday 17.1.23	South Kent TISUK diploma Day 8 (Zoom – all day)
Tuesday 17.1.23	SK Partnership meeting (SEN, Social Services and VSK) MS Teams (3 – 4.30 pm)
Thursday 19.1.23	SK Area meeting, Thistley Hill, Dover and MS Teams (9.30 – 12.30 pm)
Wednesday 25.1.23	Task and finish group CIAG 2 – 4 pm

Term 4 :

Thursday 23.2.23	SK Area meeting, Thistley Hill, Dover and MS Teams (9.30 – 12.30 pm)
Thursday 2.3.23	South Kent TISUK diploma Day 9 (Zoom - all day)
Friday 3.3.23	South Kent TISUK diploma Day 10 (Zoom – all day)
Tuesday 14.3.23	SK Partnership meeting (SEN, Social Services, VSK) (3.00 – 4.30 pm)
Thursday 16.3.23	SK Area meeting, Thistley Hill, Dover and MS Teams (9.30 – 12.30 pm)
Friday 31.3.23	East and South Kent DT conference - save the date

If you would like further information or make contact with our South Kent Team please email SouthVSK@kent.gov.uk

Participation and Engagement Team

It's been a busy few months for the Participation Team, with lots of activities and events throughout the county. October half term was packed full of activities for young people including Baking Days, Ninja Warrior Sessions and a trip to Thorpe Park alongside meetings for our young people's council groups, The Super Council for Children in Care aged 7-11, Our Children and Young People's Council for young people in care aged 11 – 16, the Adoptables group for adopted young people and the Children WHO Care Group for the children of foster carers.

We also enjoyed meeting lots of social work students this term to share the views of our council groups around what makes a 'good' social worker, as well as presenting young people's opinions about the support they feel they need at school at the VSK Annual Conference.

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We ended the term with plenty of Christmas cheer, hosting parties for children in care and adopted children in Canterbury and East Malling and supporting the Disabled Children's Team to organise another Christmas party in Margate.

Future Activities

We are now looking forward to starting the new year with another round of 'Try Something New Saturdays' which are Saturday morning activities for young people in care. Next term, we will have a laser quest activity in Rochester and a Pizza Express pizza making party in Ashford for 7 – 16 year olds. We are also working in collaboration with the Turner Contemporary Gallery in Margate to run an art session for young people aged 11+, creating stop motion animation or mini zone comics. This will of course be followed by a number of activities during the February half term so keep an eye out for further information in the new year!

New Participation Team Staff Members

The Participation Team was very pleased to welcome Georgetina Hallam to the team this term as an Apprentice Participation Worker. Gina has been involved in the work of the team since 2013, having been a member of both the OCYPC and YAC council groups. She is passionate about getting the voices of young people in care heard and making positive changes for the benefit of large groups of young people.

Also joining the apprentice team is Kay-Lee Williams. Kay-Lee has experience of being in care and adoption and is looking forward to meeting young people who attend VSK activities and working with them, particularly to help them share their views about school and education

To keep up to date with what we are up to, please follow us on :
Twitter - [@VirtSchl_Kent](https://twitter.com/VirtSchl_Kent)
Instagram - [participation_team](https://www.instagram.com/participation_team)
Email – VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk

If you would like further information or make contact with our P & E Team please email VSK_Participation@kent.gov.uk