

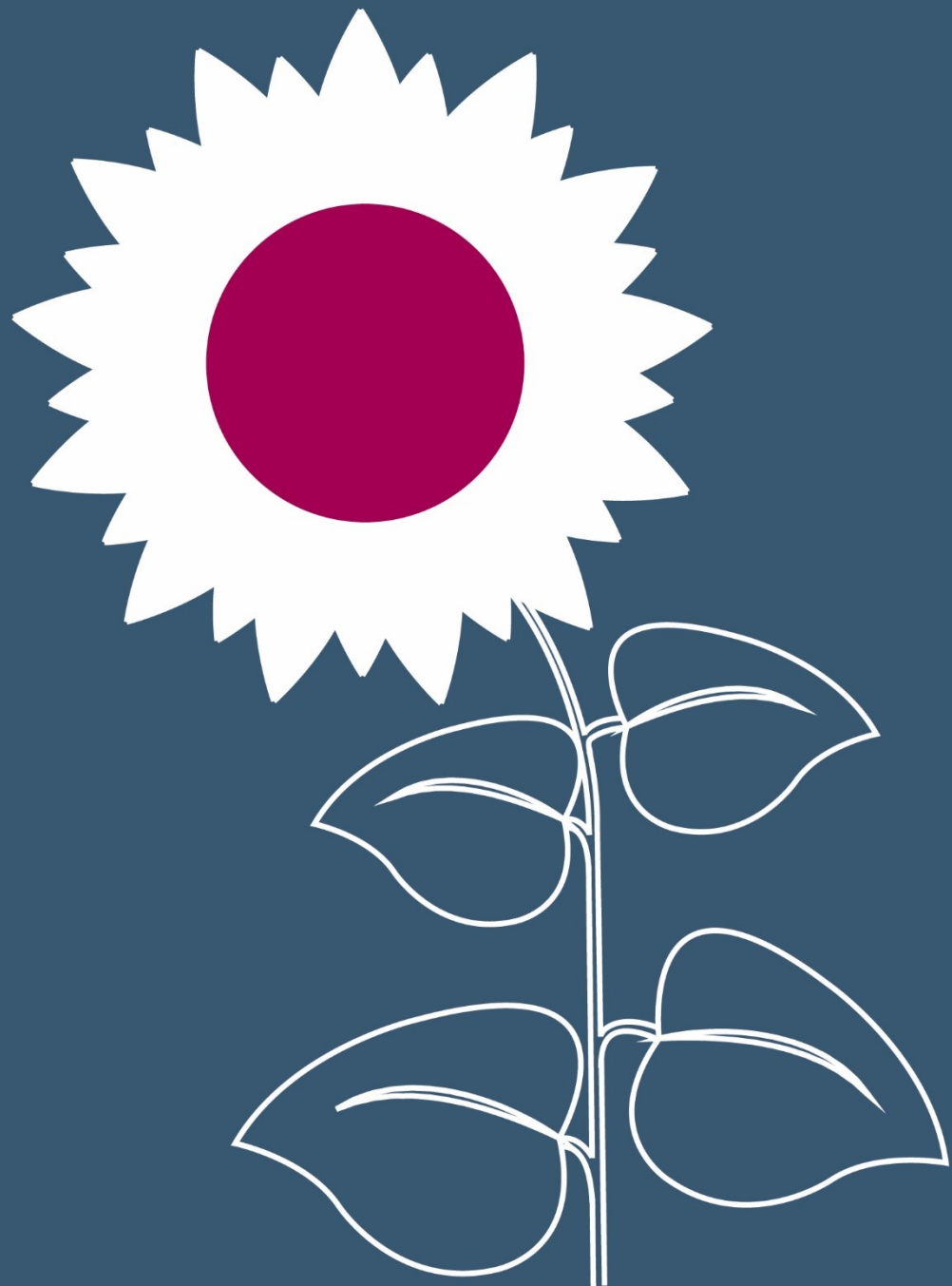


City of
Stoke-on-Trent

Promoting Education in Residential Children's Homes

Tri x 5_4_9 (July 2024)

Review July 2025



INFORMATION SHEET

SERVICE AREA	Childrens Social Care
Date effective from	Dec 2013
Responsible officer(s)	SGH Co-ordinator
Date of review(s)	Dec 2014 July 2021 July 2022 July 2023 July 2024
Status: • Mandatory (all named staff must adhere to guidance) Optional (procedures and practice can vary between teams)	Mandatory
Target audience	Residential Staff
Date of committee/SMT decision	
Related document(s)	
Superseded documents	July 2023
File reference	5_4_9

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this policy is to describe how the education of children in residential care will be promoted in all Stoke-on-Trent City Council children's homes so that they are enabled to achieve their full potential.

Ref. CIC Procedures Education

2 Promoting Attendance and Attainment

- 2.1 In order to achieve the goal of full-time attendance at an education establishment, residential child care workers will:

- Create and maintain an environment which encourages children to value education.
- Make sure young people are up and have breakfast in plenty of time to get to school promptly.
- Ensure all young people have the correct school uniform, and are encouraged to wear it correctly.
- Make sure all young people have the correct school equipment.
- Make sure there is ample time and space for homework to be completed each day.
- Help with homework and coursework.
- Make themselves aware of the school's homework policy, and how much each young person should have each night.
- Have high expectations of the young people, and encourage children/young people to have high expectations of themselves.

PRACTICE GUIDANCE:

Any achievement at school or outside should be rewarded and encouraged. Any talent should be promoted and encouraged.

- Ensure that all young people can access a working computer available along with age appropriate educational software either within the home environment or local community/library.
- Make sure there is a provision of basic equipment such as stationary, dictionary, thesaurus, encyclopaedia and age appropriate reading books in the home.

- Encourage young people to take advantage of extra-curricular activities, either in school or in the community.
- Ensure young people have the right equipment and clothing should they wish to participate in these activities.
- Liaise with school and know who is teaching the young person.
- Attend parents' evenings and any other activity the young person may be involved with, along with the young person's parent, where possible.
- Endeavour to help the young person sort out any difficulties they may have with school in partnership with the young person's teacher and also involve the Virtual School to support.
- Attend training as required to support education.

3 Information Held on a Young Person's File

3.1 Carers will be responsible for ensuring the following details are stored on the young person's file:

- School/provider address and telephone number
- Head Teacher's name
- Designated Children in Care teacher
- Young person's class or form teacher
- Copy of child's timetable
- Young person's Personal Education Plan
- Copies of the young person's school reports
- Note of all contacts with school
- Young person's education/school history

4 Child/Young Person Temporarily Excluded

- 4.1 In the event of a child becoming excluded from school for any reason, that young person will be provided with school work each day.
- 4.2 The school have a responsibility from day 1 of exclusion to provide continuous education.
- 4.3 This work will come either from the school itself, via the Pupil Referral Unit, or will be taken from the home's own educational resources.

5 Child/Young Person Permanently Excluded

- 5.1 Schools in Stoke-on-Trent have an agreement with the local authority never to permanently exclude students who are in care.
- 5.2 Stoke-on-Trent has a responsibility to provide any child or young person who is in care and not on the role of any educational establishment, with some educational input once they have been out of school for 20 days.
- 5.3 If a young person within Stoke-on-Trent children's homes experiences difficulties in school, the Virtual School should be contacted immediately.
- 5.4 Residential Care Workers have a responsibility to advocate on behalf of the young people in the home in order to ensure that the young person's educational needs are being met.
- 5.5 Any young person who is excluded from school should be allowed to remain in the home whilst absent from school. If this is necessary they should be subject to a school type day between 9am – 3pm.
- 5.6 The care planning and/or review meeting will address educational issues and assist in determining any further educational provision.

6 Missing from Education

- 6.1 It should be the decision of the care planning meeting to determine how unauthorised absence is to be managed by the home.
- 6.2 Prior to convening the meeting, management of the situation should be discussed between the young person's carers, home manager and the young person's social worker, parent and the Virtual School.
- 6.3 Communication between the home and school/provider is consistent and records kept.

7 Independence/Life Skills

- 7.1 As part of their overall education, young people in Stoke-on-Trent children's homes will be encouraged to learn the skills and abilities they will need to acquire when they leave the home. This education does not begin when the young person is about to leave care. It is core to the overall care of the young people in the home and should be encouraged according to the young person's age and ability from the point of admission.
- 7.2 This education will be practical in nature and can include such things as cooking, budgeting, shopping for food and toiletries and paying bills.
- 7.3 Young people will also be encouraged to participate in community living such as joining the library, after school clubs and local activities so they are familiar with the wider social world.