

# One minute guide



## A Guide for Schools, Settings and Social Workers about the 'Extended Duties of the Virtual School for All Children with a Social Worker' 2024

### Meet the Virtual School Education Liaison Advisor's for children with CIN/ CP plans:

#### West

Jane Grainger - CIN/CP Education Liaison Advisor  
Jane.Grainger@northyorks.gov.uk  
07966 261236

#### Central

Peter Buxton - CIN/CP Education Liaison Advisor  
Peter.Buxton@northyorks.gov.uk  
07870 485718

#### East

Simon Collins - CIN/CP Education Liaison Advisor  
Simon.Collins@northyorks.gov.uk  
07870 361170

Strategic Lead: Julie Bunn | Virtual School Head | 01609532169 | Julie.Bunn@northyorks.gov.uk

Portfolio Lead: Jenny Aspinall | Education Liaison Advisor | 07929848219 | Jenny.Aspinall@northyorks.gov.uk

### Support Available from the Virtual School?

#### Supervision for Schools and Settings:

Designated Safeguarding Leads can access informal supervision sessions and individual case advice for their CIN/CP cohort, via the school's allocated Virtual School Education Liaison Advisor (ELA) who are all trained in trauma informed approaches.

#### Social Work Supervision:

In Social Worker's supervision, with their Practice Supervisor they can request that complex cases are escalated to their Team Managers. Social Workers will have the opportunity to speak to the Virtual School Education Liaison Advisor (ELA) via their Team Manager or through direct contact.

#### Monitoring and Improving Attendance of Persistent (PA) and Severley Absent (SA) Children:

In conjunction with the attendance monitoring team, social workers and DSLs our team will be targeting children whose attendance is below 90% (PA) and 50% (SA). This includes the escalation via the attendance Part Time Timetable reviews.

#### DSL and Social Worker Training:

The Virtual School team will provide bespoke training for Designated Safeguarding Lead's (DSL) and Social Workers and will also feed into existing DSL networks.

#### Education Liaison Advisor Consultation Offer for Schools, Settings and Social Workers (Mapping Session):

ELA consultation using Family Finding and Signs of Safety tools to facilitate systemic, solution focussed conversations between key school staff and social workers in removing barriers to attendance, engagement and learning.

#### FAST Team Meetings

The allocated ELA will attend part of the FAST team meetings to provide individual and group supervision; modelling good practices in working together to promote the understanding that education is a place of safety.

**\*To access any of the support outlined, please contact us using the details shared above**

**Rationale: Safety - Success Equation:**

**Improved Attendance & Wellbeing = Increased Attainment**

CIN & CP - These **Children** are **In Need** of your **Protection**:

Nationally, 1 in 10 children currently have a social worker. Many children with a social worker will be suffering from Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and may have complex family circumstances, leading to:

- Insecure attachments to their primary care-giver (40% of the population)
- Poor socioemotional and physical wellbeing
- Unidentified learning needs
- Lower academic attainment by c.30% compared to peers
- A higher rate of persistent absence, by up to 3 times
- A higher risk of Criminal and Sexual Exploitation
- A higher risk of developing heart disease as an adult by up to 3.5 times

There may be enough safety within the family to keep them out of Care. However, at any point, their family's safety plan may fail and the children might become Looked After. We can work together to prevent this.

The Government's aim is that in using our research, knowledge and experience of promoting the education of children in Care, we can work with you to increase children's chances of living safely within their families and achieving their academic potential.

**Education as a place of safety**

The Virtual School have a duty to promote the educational outcomes of all Children with a Social Worker, which include Children In Need (CIN) and those on a Child Protection (CP) plan, who are between the ages of 0 and 18. This will be carried out in conjunction with Designated Safeguarding Leads and Social Workers.

This is a strategic leadership role to support these cohorts who have the poorest outcomes of all children.

**Objectives of the new responsibilities:**

Make visible the disadvantages that children with a social worker experience, enhancing relationships between education settings and local authorities to ensure all hold high ambitions for these children.

Promote engagement in education, recognising that schools are an important factor in keeping children safe from harm.

Level up outcomes and narrow the attainment gap so every child reaches their potential. Ensure education recovery activity reaches these children.

**Role and aims:**

Strengthen relationships between education settings and the local authority so agencies can work together in partnership.

Identify the cohort's needs and intervene to overcome barriers to poor educational outcomes and ensure pupils reach their potential.

Support and advise key professionals to help children make progress, including through increasing their confidence in using evidence-based interventions.

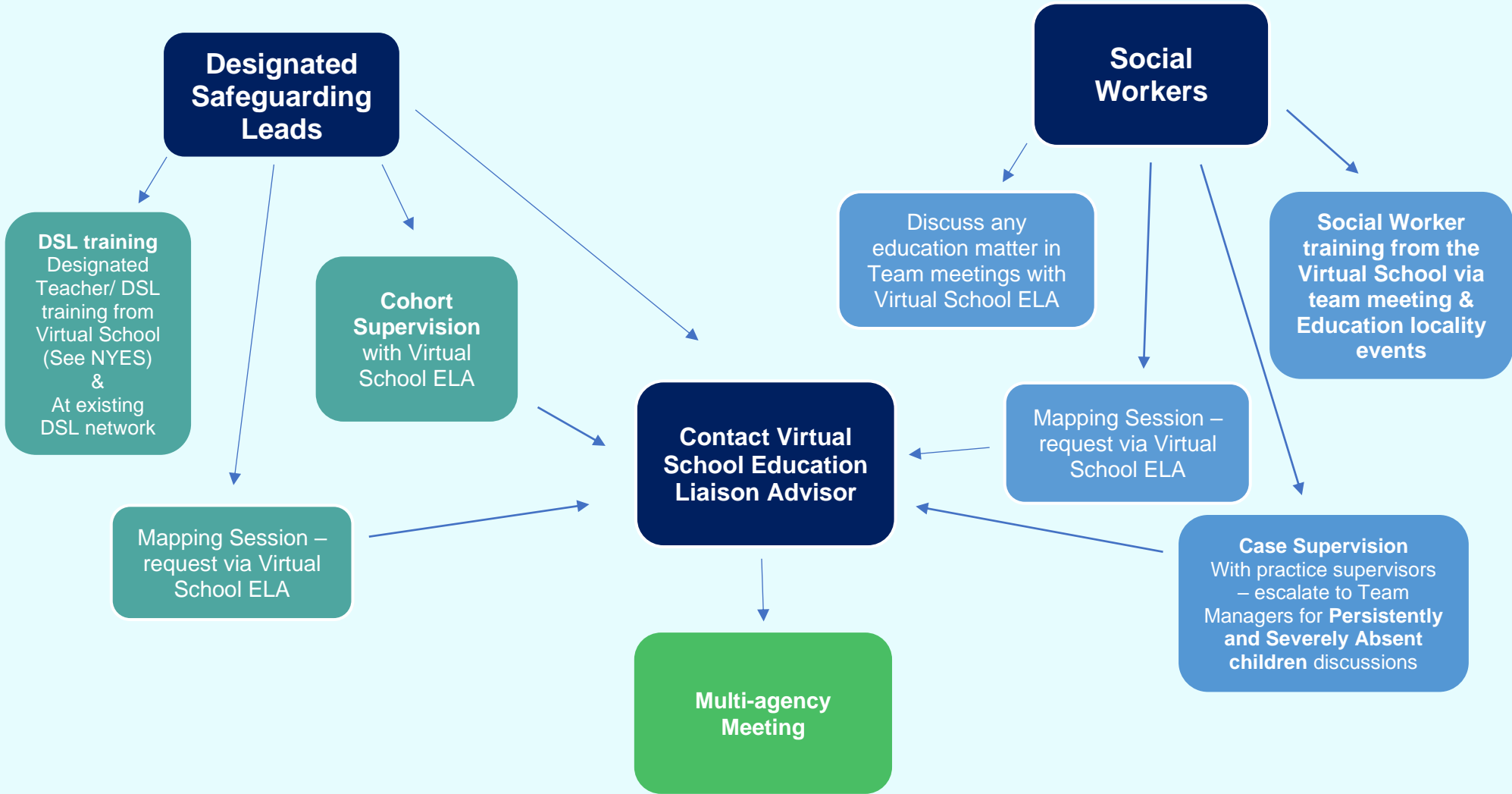
**Not in scope:**

Working with individual children and their families - including tracking or monitoring educational progress or funding educational provision for individual children.

Responding to requests from parents / carers to offer advice or support in relation on individual children (although we can support you with this).

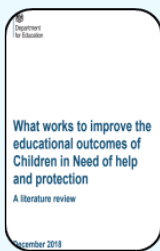
Responsibility for children with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) who do not require a social worker, as defined above.

**Flowchart for accessing CIN / CP advice and support**

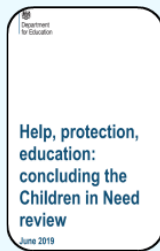


For urgent enquiries please contact your allocated ELA or the Virtual School at [VirtualSchool@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:VirtualSchool@northyorks.gov.uk)

## Hyperlinks to key documents



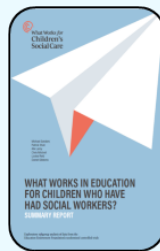
[Find it here](#)



[Find it here](#)



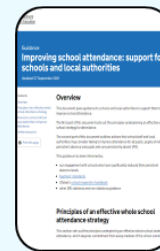
[Find it here](#)



[Find it here](#)



[Find it here](#)



[Find it here](#)



[Find it here](#)