

Roles and responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the social worker to initiate the first PEP meeting within 20 days of the young person entering care or moving to a new school. It is then the joint responsibility of the young person's social worker and the Designated Teacher in the school to continue to review and plan for the young person's education on a 6-monthly basis using the Kent PEP document. It is the responsibility of all to contribute relevant information, as detailed below, in order to promote a shared understanding of the young person's strengths and needs in relation to education.

Young person - Have their views represented at the meeting (whether or not they are comfortable to attend).

Social worker - Provide relevant information on the Care Plan, contact arrangements with birth family, care placement stability, and any other important information that could impact on the young person's learning.

Health - Bring information via the health assessment or health plan about health issues that may impact on learning. Sometimes this may be shared by the social worker.

School - Bring current school information about achievements, attainment and attendance, current rates of progress and discuss any identified barriers to learning with a view to considering and planning for relevant support.

Foster carers - Share relevant information about how the young person is at home and how learning is promoted and supported within the care placement.

PEP Training

Kent is committed to achieving positive and effective PEP review meetings. We therefore provide multi-agency training for all Kent schools, foster carers, social workers, health professionals and local authority officers in order to build capacity and promote best practice in Kent.

For information about current training opportunities please see our website.

www.kent.gov.uk/dYd



For more information about the PEP and education advice and support, please contact your local LAC Education Adviser:

East Kent
Clover House
John Wilson
Business Park
Thanet Way
Whitstable
Kent CT5 3QZ
Tel: 01227 284468

West Kent
17 Kings Hill Avenue
West Malling
ME19 4UL
Tel:01732 525097

Mid Kent
Kroner House
Eurogate Business Park
Ashford
TN24 8XU
Tel: 01233 898714

Website:
www.kent.gov.uk/dYd

You can get this information in large print, Braille, audio or in another language by calling 08458 247 247.

'PEP Talk'

www.kent.gov.uk#dYd



Supporting you with Personal Education Plans (PEPs)



Statutory Requirements

The Personal Education Plan (PEP) is a statutory requirement for every young person in care, which promotes positive educational outcomes for the young person in achieving their full potential.

PEP Review Meetings

The PEP document serves as a record of the important discussions between young people, their parents and carers, their school and social worker, and any other significant adults.

PEP review meetings highlight the importance of education planning for young people in care. This reflects the commitment of us all as parents, carers and corporate parents in taking joint responsibility for improving educational outcomes under the principles of corporate parenting.

Listening to our young people in care

'To do well in school I have to feel stable, strong and supported'

A young person in care

Central to the PEP review meeting are the needs and wishes of young people, gathered by seeking, listening to and recording their views. Young people should be encouraged to contribute to their PEP review meetings in a way that is most comfortable and appropriate for them. This may mean speaking with their carer or teacher prior to the meeting or by attending in person.

How's your young person doing in school?

Attached below is a card you can pull out and keep for supporting your PEP review meetings. It contains a guide to National Curriculum levels, which can be confusing for those who are not education professionals. Ask if you are not sure what these mean.



Achieving the best from PEP review meetings

There are a whole host of learning experiences to be encouraged and encountered both in and out of school - think creatively!

- Celebrate success. The meeting is a perfect opportunity to share good news about progress and reflect on what has worked. Use the clear plastic wallets in the PEP folder to keep copies of certificates, examples of work, photos, anything that holds good memories of their time in school.
- Keep targets SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time limited). Importantly these must be linked to the specific learning needs and interests of the young person and be relevant to what the

young person is currently working towards in or outside of school. Targets should be personalised and accessible to the young person and be framed positively. They should clearly state what the expected outcome is so the young person and supporting adults can clearly establish when a target is met.

- Remember, we're all individuals and achieve our best through encouragement and positive support.
- Consider if additional resources and support are needed, such as the Kent Music School bursary, the Personal Education Allowance or support from other services, such as Speech and Language therapy, specialist teachers, educational psychology.
- We have a responsibility as corporate parents to ensure our young people reach their full potential - so be an informed and pushy parent!

The Kent PEP

The Personal Education Plan document in Kent has been designed in consultation with multi-agency partners and most importantly, our young people.

Best examples of PEPs serve as a record of academic progress and achievement, show social and emotional development, clearly set and review short term targets, and outline longer term plans and aspirations held by the young person and their parent throughout their school career. The Kent Pledge to Looked After Children promises that they will be helped to achieve and retain good memories for the future. The PEP actively promotes this by considering learning opportunities both in and out of school and keeping a record for our young people to take into adulthood.