

## National Virtual School Headteachers' Conference 21 March 2014 The contribution of Virtual School Headteachers to developing resilience in Children in Care

Lady Margaret Hall, Fyfield Road, Oxford, OX2 6QA

### *Programme*

*Aim: To generate challenge and informed debate and develop key messages for Ministers, Ofsted, Directors of Children's Services, National College of Teaching and Leadership and other key partners.*

**9.00 Registration and refreshments**

**9.30-9.40 Welcome from Pat Finegan, VSH Dudley**  
**Venue:** Simpkins Lee lecture theatre

**9.40-10.25 Michael Cladingbowl, HMI, Director Schools, Ofsted**

**10.25-10.45 Care experienced young people:** What helped and what hindered our educational progress. Report back from meeting.

**10.45-11.10 Steve McCabe Shadow Minister for Children and Families:** Response to the issues raised by the young people

**11.10 Refreshments**

**11.30-12.45 Morning Workshops**

Delegates will attend the same theme in the morning and afternoon

Each workshop will be divided into 3 parts:

1. Short presentations from each of the 3 panel members
2. Interview of the panel by the chair
3. Questions from delegates facilitated by the chair

Chair will summarise key issues arising and scribe will record

**Workshop 1: Child Sexual Exploitation: the proactive role of education in prevention.**

**Venue:** Amanda Foreman Room

**Chair:** Venetia Mayman

**Panel Members**

**Professor Jenny Pearce,** Director of the International Centre for Applied Research in the Study of Trafficked and Sexually Exploited Young People, University of Bedfordshire

**Sue Evans,** Leader of the Kingfisher Team, Oxfordshire

**Shirin Monks,** Teen Boundaries practitioner, Family Lives. Internet misuse, sexting and sexual cyber bullying

**Workshop 2: Quality of learning in children's homes: challenge and support by the Virtual Head**

**Venue:** Mary O'Brien Room

Chair: Jane Pickthall

**Panel Members**

**Jonathan Stanley**, Independent Children's Homes Association

**Professor David Berridge**, Head of Centre for Family Policy and Child Welfare,  
University of Bristol

**Linda Moss**, Farrington Education Centre, Five Rivers Childcare

**Workshop 3: The role of the VSH in ensuring schools and other agencies engage effectively with foster carers to support learning**

**Venue:** Talbot Hall

Chair: Judy Sebba

**Panel Members**

**Aoife O'Higgins**, Oxford University, Rees Centre. Risk and Protective Factors in the Educational Outcomes of LAC

**Professor Robert Flynn**, University of Ottawa

**Julia Alfano**, LAC lead for Hampshire, Hampshire County Council

**Workshop 4: Promoting employability: the strategic role of the Virtual Head**

**Venue:** Old Library

Chair: Tony Clifford

**Panel Members**

**Barry Cullen**, Employability Projects Manager, Catch 22 (NCAS)

**Emily Munro**, Institute of Education, London

**Carrie Wilson**, Care Leavers' Association

**12.45-1.45 Lunch – Deneke Dining Hall**

**1.45-2.45 Afternoon Workshops – venues as above**

Developing recommendations to address issues identified in morning workshop.  
Recommendations for Ministers, Directors Children's Services, Ofsted, key agencies

**2.45-3.30 Professor Robert Flynn, University of Ottawa**

**Venue:** Simpkins Lee lecture theatre

How can carers contribute to the development of resilience in children in care? Some key lessons from the Ontario Looking after Children project and associated school-related initiatives

**3.30 Venetia Mayman, Headteacher the Virtual School, Oxfordshire**

Summary and thanks

**Hosted by:**

The Rees Centre for Research in Fostering and Education, University of Oxford

The Virtual School for Looked After Children and Care Leavers, Oxfordshire

**Twitter**

If you would like to tweet about the conference, please use the hashtag **#VSH2014**. Please feel free to tweet your general thoughts about the conference and the keynote talks (those taking place in the lecture theatre). For reasons of confidentiality and to encourage a frank and open discussion on their potentially sensitive topics, we ask that you **do not** tweet about the morning and afternoon workshops.