

# Vulnerable Learners Panel

**August 2022**



Cyngor Bwrdeisdref Sirol

**Blaenau Gwent**

County Borough Council

## **Vulnerable Learner Panel (VLP)**

### **Purpose**

This Panel will ensure that the local authority meets its statutory duty to ensure that all pupils have access to an appropriate education that is suitable to meet their needs.

The Panel will discuss:

- those pupils who are experiencing difficulties in attending mainstream school
- seek to enable pupils to be effectively supported to ensure that their vulnerabilities are better addressed; and,
- are placed in the most appropriate setting for their needs.

This Panel has responsibility for the management of those pupils identified under the following policies or procedures

- Managed Moves
- Reduced Timetable
- EOTAS
- Hard to Place
- Pregnant School girls
- Elective Home Education
- Exclusions
- Children who offend
- Children with a Medical need
- Persistent Absenteeism
- Children Missing from Education

### **Objectives**

The Key Objectives are:

- to ensure that the child is better supported in a timely manner with a holistic overview of the child's needs identified, resourced, and agreed by all stakeholders
- to minimise the amount of time that vulnerable pupils spend out of education
- ensure that schools admit pupils with challenging educational needs on a fair and equitable basis, through objective and transparent processes
- to improve opportunities for young people whose behaviour is challenging
- to significantly reduce exclusions in schools
- to reduce persistent absence
- to improve the behaviour and attendance in all schools
- to ensure that education is delivered for day 16 to excluded pupils

### **Membership**

The lead for the Panel will be Service Manager - Inclusion. Should the officer not be able to attend the Senior EWO will Chair the meeting.

- Service Manager – Inclusion

- Senior Education Welfare Officer
- Educational Psychologist
- Education Safeguarding Manager
- Youth Service Manager
- School Nurse
- Primary Schools representation 1 per meeting depending upon pupil to be discussed
- Secondary Schools representation 1 per meeting

Other partners will be co-opted on the VLP to discuss specific cases. These may include and are not limited to:

- The Referrer
- ALN Officer
- CLA Co-ordinator
- Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone
- Police
- Families First
- Home Tuition Service
- Ty Afon
- Children's Services
- Elective Home Education Officer
- YOS
- Community Safety

Representatives from primary and secondary/ all though schools will be invited to attend on a rota basis with a schedule to be agreed with schools in advance at the start of the academic year. Representation should ideally come from the Lead Inclusion person within the setting.

This panel will replace the EHE Panel.

### **Governance and Accountability**

Section 436a of the Education Act 1996 requires all local authorities to make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children residing in their area who are not receiving a suitable education. Suitable is defined as "efficient full time education suitable to her / his age, ability and aptitude and to any special educational needs the child may have".

The VLP will report to the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion within 5 days of the meeting being held.

## **Meetings**

### **Secretariat**

The secretariat will be provided by Education Business Support. Relevant papers will be circulated 5 clear days in advance of the meetings. Minutes/ Actions/ Decisions will be produced within 5 working days of a meeting. The Panel will meet every two weeks. There is an expectation that each representative who attends will prepare information prior to the meeting and if they are unable to attend the case history / written report needs to be submitted to the Chair ahead of the VLP meeting. The referral form will capture the parents' permission for the pupil in question to be discussed at this meeting.

There is a standard agenda for each meeting as shown in appendix \*\*

There is a standard referral form as shown in appendix \*\*

The Chair of the Panel will review the papers for each meeting prior to circulation.

### **GDPR Considerations**

The VLP will operate and abide by The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into force from May 25th 2018.

Any data breaches will be managed in accordance with the relevant policy and the advice of the Council's Data Protection Officer will be sought.

### **Evaluation and Quality Assurance**

The VLP will report to the Head of School Improvement and Inclusion who will QA the work of the VLP Panel. The effectiveness of the Panel will be an iterative process and be part of the Directorate's self-evaluation processes. In the first year termly FADES on the effectiveness of the VLP will be submitted to DMT.

Quality assurance arrangements are being reviewed by the Service Manager-Inclusion.

## Appendix 1

Copy of Standard Agenda:

## Appendix 2

Copy of Standard Referral Form: