

Appendix 3

All in a Day's work for a Brent LAC Advisory Teacher!

As one of the LAC Advisory Teachers supporting Brent young people in care, no one day is typical. Each day brings new challenges and opportunities to make a difference, however big or small. Certainly life in the Virtual School can never be described as dull!

My day might begin by catching up on my emails and phone calls. There will be queries about young people out of school or who have been excluded or where the school placement is at risk of breakdown. These are often the priority, red RAG rated, young people on my caseload who need urgent intervention. I may also get a query from a social worker about a pending placement move for a young person and where a new school placement is also required. Additionally, I may be alerted about a new LAC who may already be on roll at a school or is a new arrival to the country and needs a school place. Contact will be made with the school and/or the social worker to initiate a Personal Education Plan (PEP).

My morning may also involve meeting any new social workers to familiarise them with the role and function of the Virtual School and go through our electronic PEP processes. Later on, I would log in to the Welfare Call extranet to check on any outstanding PEPs, follow up on any incomplete ones and sign off those satisfactorily completed. There may be actions for me to follow up on such as making 1:1 tuition referrals where pupils are underperforming in core subjects. I may also be working on the planning and organising of extra-curricular activities during half term such as booster classes or finalising a presentation for any upcoming training scheduled.

My afternoon would probably involve attending a PEP meeting at school for a pupil where things might not be going so well. There may be concerns around attendance, behaviour or academic underperformance. It's a good opportunity for the key people in the young person's life: school, carer and social worker to share information and discuss strategies and creative use of resources through pupil premium funding. At the centre of course is the young person and meeting and hearing from them can often reveal a lot about other underlying issues.

Many of the young people we work with are probably not always aware of the work we do beavering away behind the scenes. Our role is to ensure young people achieve the best outcomes, with access to the right support and opportunities. Sometimes it can feel like 'two steps back and one step forward' but what makes it all worthwhile in the end is seeing the difference we can make; getting a pupil into a good or outstanding school and managing a successful transition, ensuring there is robust support in place through an effective PEP or seeing the real impact 1:1 tuition can have on improving a pupil's grades.

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