



Western Health
and Social Care Trust

Marion Cross

Principal Social Worker
Looked after Children's Service

Partnership with Education Authority



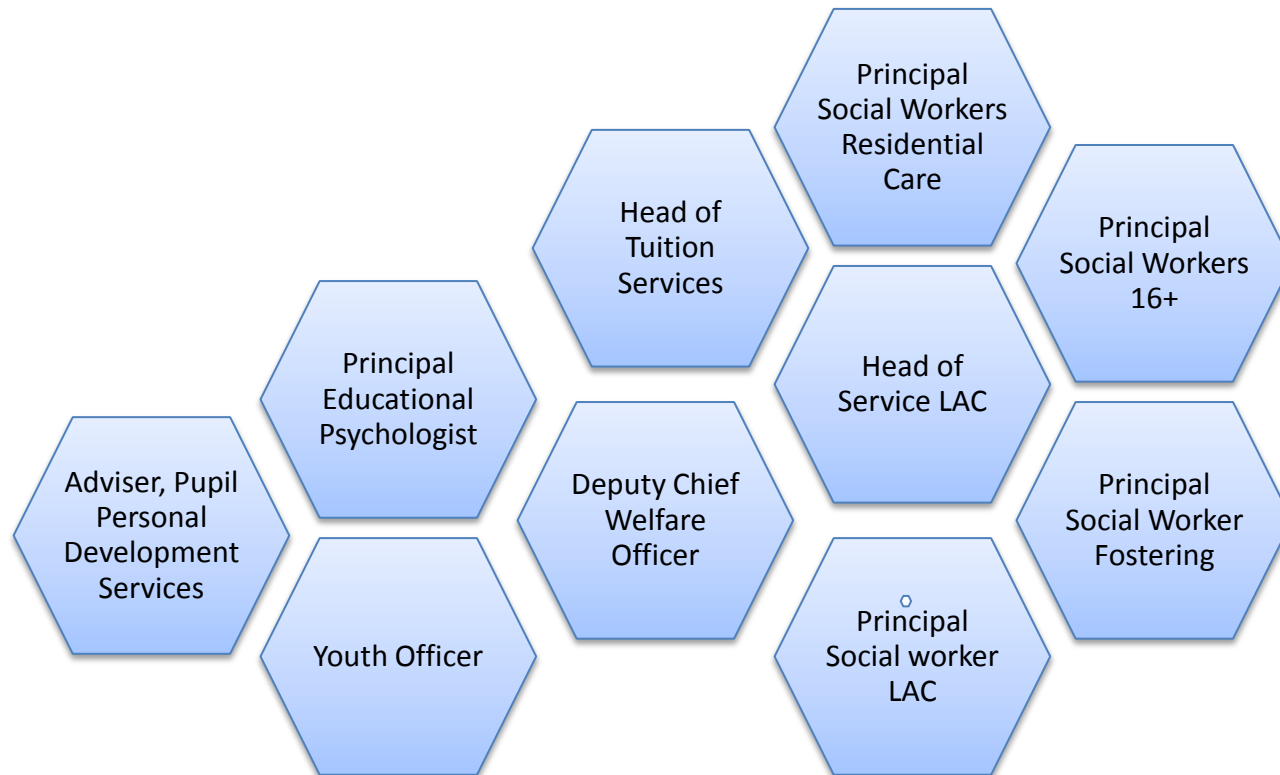
Western Health
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Údarás Oideachais
Lear Owerance

Partnership...

Establishment of a Senior Management Forum made up of the EA and WHSCT



WHSCT LAC & EA Forum

The EA and the WHSCT will work together to achieve the best educational outcomes for Looked after children and Young People.

- Key Objectives:
 - Embrace an ethos of open and respectful communication
 - Problem solving and act as ‘critical friends’ around matters of common concern.
 - Enhance a better understanding of roles and responsibilities.
 - Monitor the overall effectiveness of the LAC Forum.
 - Share information and decisions with relevant services.
 - Promote creative and innovative practice that meets the individual needs of Looked after Children and Young People.

Pilot Project

The Project emerged from the forum

- Two schools were selected:
 - St. Cecilians College
 - Lisneal College

- WHSCT engaged directly with the schools with the support of EA

A 'Relationship Approach' to working together

How?

- Teachers and SWs meeting – Face to Face – and build a strong relationship to promote the welfare of Looked after Children
- LAC Reviews and Care Planning Meetings
 - To be scheduled when it suits school and SWs
 - In school if appropriate
 - Attendance from appropriate school staff
- Regular updates
 - SWs and school agree appropriate level of contact
 - Updates to include positive developments
- Working together
 - 'rubber boundaries' needed to support LAC
 - Development of a Key Fact File



MY LACES

“Making Young Looked after Children’s Education Successful”

- Nationally shortlisted for The Times Education Award
- Regional Social Work Award Winning Project
- Core Elements of the Project
 - P6/7 attend University of Ulster, after school, one day/week to prepare them for their transition to Secondary School
 - Mentored by a Social Work Student
 - Supported by Trust SW Staff and University of Ulster staff

The Outcome

