

Cambridgeshire County Council

Virtual School Management Board (VSMB)

Corporate Context:

The Virtual School is a statutory local authority service. The Management Board is a voluntary body, who commit time to support, challenge, influence and champion the work of the Virtual School, aiming to further impact. The board has no formal or legal power.

Virtual School Vision:

All our children will have the loving support, opportunities, and experiences to learn, achieve, dream big and thrive as they grow up.

This aligns with Cambridgeshire County Council's ambition 7 'all children and young people have opportunities to thrive' and the County Council's practice approach 'thrive'.



The vision is achieved through:

Learn... Ensure all our children access and engage with well-matched education, while supporting professionals to meet their individual needs

Achieve... Monitor attainment, attendance, and engagement to support professionals and allocate resources effectively

Dream big... Empower adults to hold the highest aspirations for our children and seek and promote additional opportunities for them

Thrive... Motivate and equip all adults to adopt a relational approach

Children we care for:

- Children previously in care

- Children in Care
- Children in Kinship Care
- Children with a Social Worker

Introductory Video on the work of Cambridgeshire Virtual School:

[Cambridgeshire Virtual School - An Introduction](#)

Virtual School Accountability:

The Virtual School reports to:

- The Children and Young People's Committee.
- The Children in Care Council.
- The Virtual School Management Board.

Feedback from the committees will form standing items on the Virtual School Management Board agenda and will inform Virtual School priorities.

Virtual School Management Board Terms of Reference

Purpose:

- Create a powerful and effective means of holding decision-makers to account.
- Monitor and evaluate the progress of strategic plans and Virtual School developments.
- Monitor the key performance indicators for Virtual School cohorts through the receipt of data and reports provided by the Virtual School team.
- Provide expert insights linked to fields of professional experience / role or lived experience.
- Champion the work of the Virtual School and outcomes for Virtual School cohorts within professional roles.

Procedures:

- Members will commit to holding the child and young person central to discussions.
- Members will work to ensure language used is accessible to the audience.
- The Elected Member will chair the board, with the Service Director Education serving as vice chair.
- New members will be inducted through a pre-meet with the Virtual School Head or Deputy.
- The Virtual School Management Board will meet termly.
- If members are unable to attend they must inform the clerk. The chair will follow up absences of more than two meetings and discuss with the member.

- Board members commit to a three-year membership, where membership is linked to a role, e.g. chair of foster carers association, chair of primary heads, membership will be responsive to the changing role.

Accountability:

- The chair will provide a statement on the Virtual School Annual Report reflecting a view on the progress of the Virtual School over the year, which is reported to the Children and Young People's Committee.
- Any concerns raised within meetings will be taken forward by the Service Director Education, or the Chair of the Children and Young People's Committee depending on the nature of concern.

Links to statutory and non-statutory guidance relating to the work of the Virtual School and Virtual School Management Board:

- [Promoting the education of looked-after and previously looked-after children - GOV.UK](#)
- [Designated teacher for looked-after and previously looked-after children - GOV.UK](#)
- [Children's social care: virtual school head role extension - GOV.UK](#)

Membership:

Democratic Services:

- Chair of the Children and Young People's Committee
 - **Cllr Edna Murphy (Chair)**

Stakeholder Representation:

- 1 Sector Expert
 - **Maureen McKenna**
- Chair of Cambridgeshire Foster Carers Association
 - **Tracey Stevenson**
- 1 Care Leaver or Adult with Care Experience
 - **Zoe Cawley**

Educational Expertise:

- CEO or senior leader representing Multi-Academy Trusts
 - **Jon Culpin (Chair of the CEO Network and CEO Anglian Learning)**
- head teacher representing early years and primary phase
 - **Ellie Shaw (Co-Chair of Primary Heads and Head Teacher of The Grove)**
- head teacher representing secondary phase

- **Alistair Day (St Bedes Head Teacher)**
- head teacher representing specialist provision
 - **Mary Abeyasekera (Co-Chair of Special School Heads and Executive Director of SEND Meridian Trust)**
- Post 16 Representation
 - **Corrin Hoyes (CRC Vice-Principal)**

Employed Officers:

- Service Director: Education
 - **Sarah Callaghan (Vice Chair)**
- Head of Virtual School
 - **Claire Hiorns**
- Deputy Head of Virtual School
 - **Ross Bilimoria-Mears**
- Assistant Head of Virtual School x2
 - **Faye Maryan-Letch**
 - **Sharon Waldron**
- Senior Advisor for School Improvement
 - **Emma Fuller**
- Head of Service for Corporate Parenting
 - **Melissa Jiggins**
- Service Manager for Independent Reviewing officers
 - **Andie Markham**
- Clerking and administrative support
 - **Elly Eyers**