Summary of the role of the Designated Teacher for Looked After Children

All schools have a statutory responsibility to promote the educational achievement of looked after children and must identify a Designated Teacher.

The Designated Teacher has lead responsibility for supporting the needs of a looked after child in their school and helping school staff understand the things which affect how looked after children learn and achieve.

The Designated Teacher must:
- Be a qualified teacher
- Have sufficient seniority within the school to be able to make decisions regarding curriculum, additional support and the allocation of funding

It is expected that looked after children receive additional support in their schooling. Promoting the educational achievement of looked after children is a major challenge for all schools and local authorities. It is important that all parties work together to address underachievement and try to meet this challenge.

Central to meeting to this work is:

The Personal Education Plan
A document for every looked after child that is agreed and supported by the child/young person, Designated Teacher, Social Worker and Carer.

Pupil Premium Plus+:
As of 1 April 2017 all schools with a County Durham looked after child on their role are allocated a grant of £1,600, pro-rata for each term that a current PEP is in place. Additional funding is made available to provide additional specialist support and assessment.

The Designated Teacher should be familiar with the latest national guidance that provides a summary of the responsibilities of the role of designated teacher as follows:
- Promote a culture of high expectations and aspirations for how looked after children learn
- Make sure the young person has a voice in setting learning targets
- Be a source of advice for staff about differentiated teaching strategies appropriate for individual children and in making full use of Assessment for Learning
- Make sure that looked after children are prioritised for additional support to ensure their ongoing progress and attainment including one-to-one, specialist
- Have lead responsibility for the development and implementation of the child’s Personal Education Plan (PEP) within the school