 

**A one minute guide for Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs)**

Statutory guidance states that:

**The IRO’s role in supporting the PEP**

31. IROs should ensure that the PEP’s effectiveness is scrutinised in sufficient detail in order to feed in to the statutory review and at other times if necessary. If a child also has an Education and Health Care (EHC) plan, where possible, the IRO should ensure review of the care plan, including the PEP, is appropriately linked with the statutory review of the EHC plan. The VSH should work with the IRO and child’s social worker to help enable this.

32. The IRO should raise any unresolved concerns about a child’s PEP or education provision with social workers and the VSH.

Each child from **the age of 2 years until 18** will have a personal education plan (PEP) or EET for 16yrs+. This document forms the education component of the social workers Care Plan and as such, should be seen and scrutinised alongside care planning. It is the social workers responsibility to ensure that each looked after child has a current up-to-date PEP – reviewed termly.

**Working in partnership with the Virtual School:**

* Each child of statutory school age will have a Virtual School link. It is their role to monitor the education, ensure that PP+ funding is being used appropriately and that progress is being made.
* Members of the Virtual School **ARE NOT responsible** for the completion of the PEPs. They RAG rate the PEPs on completion to ensure that the PEPs are of good or better quality. This now includes a RAG rating for the social worker input – attendance, completion of their section
* The Virtual School links are not able to attend every PEP meeting but will endeavour to attend the initial PEP on entry to care or a new school and to those PEPs where there are concerns around education.

**Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding**

* The conditions of grant for PP+ clearly state that this funding is to be used to fund evidence-based interventions which help improve educational attainment.
* The Virtual School allocate a termly amount to each school (currently £400) on the receipt of a good quality PEP
* PP+ should be used to:
* Narrow the attainment gap
* Support progress and achievement
* Address identified learning needs
* Be focused, targeted and specific
* Provide direct educational interventions
* Support pupils to reach their full potential

**Questions to ask:**

* When was the most recent PEP? did the social worker attend? Are the targets from the PEP or summary of the meeting discussion part of the paperwork that you receive in advance?
* Is the child making expected progress?
* What support is in place for the child?
* How is the PP+ funding being used?