



NCER^{CIC}
National Consortium for Examination Results
Community Interest Company

2025 NCER Annual Members' Meeting

Keynote: Impact of Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill on Virtual School Heads (How Nexus Can Help)

- ▶ **NCER Strategic Steering Group Member - Matthew Cooke, Virtual School Head, Suffolk County Council and former NAVSH Chair**



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The Bill sets out specific additions to the Virtual School Head duty:

- **Strategic Oversight for Children with a Social Worker**
- **Support for Children in Kinship Care**
- **Information Sharing and Data Analysis**
- **Advisory Role**



Strategic Oversight for Children with a Social Worker:

VSHs will have a statutory duty to promote the educational achievement of children who are subject to a child in need or child protection plan.

This includes:

- Enhancing partnerships between education settings and local authorities.
- Identifying and addressing barriers to poor educational outcomes.
- Providing advice and support to key professionals such as social workers, designated safeguarding leads (DSLs), designated teachers, and school leaders to help children make progress.

Support for Children in Kinship Care:

The Bill extends the VSH role to include children living in kinship care arrangements, specifically those under special guardianship orders and child arrangement orders. VSHs are expected to:

- Provide advice and information to kinship carers on educational matters.
- Support schools in understanding and addressing the needs of children in kinship care.

Information Sharing and Data Analysis:

VSHs will be responsible for:

- Accessing and analysing data on attendance, attainment, exclusions, and safeguarding to identify needs and inform interventions.
- Working with schools to ensure accurate identification of children in need and effective information sharing.

Advisory Role:

While VSHs are not expected to work directly with individual children and families, they will:

- Offer advice and information to professionals supporting children with a social worker.
- Promote evidence-based interventions and practices that support children's engagement in education.

What data is available for this new cohort?

The administrative data

Dataset	Academic Years 2012-2013	Academic years 2017/18-2018/19	Academic years 2021/23
Children in Need	•	•	•
School Census (Pupil)		•	•
Key Stage 1 (age 7)		•	•
Key Stage 2 (age 11)		•	•
Key Stage 4 (age 16)		•	•
Alternative provision, including pupil referral units		•	•
Exclusions		•	•
Absences		•	•

Early findings in relation to the expansion of duty

- ▶ Children on CIN plans are responding positively to the VSH extension of duty
- ▶ Data shows that this impact is more pronounced the longer a child is on a plan.
- ▶ So far an impact on the attendance of Children on Child Protection Plans is not evidenced in the data.

Area:

★ Key Indicators (30)

EYFSP (2)

Phonics (2)

KS1 (8)

MTC (2)

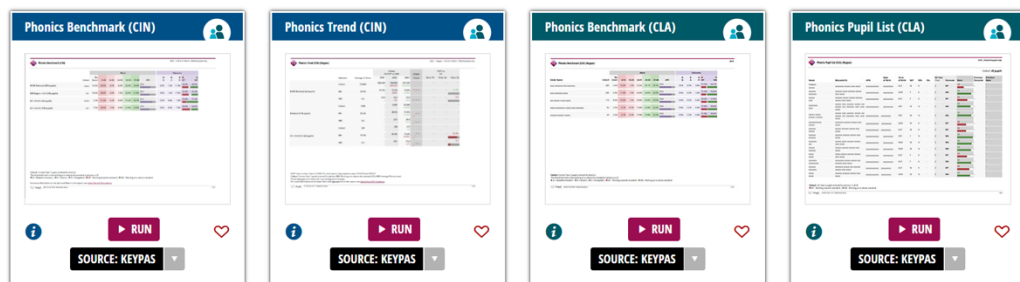
KS2 (12)

KS4 (29)

Absence (15)

Excl/Susp (9)

Phonics



Features currently on NEXUS that support our work



KS4 Trend (CIN) (DfE)

Indicator	Average of Years	Values (& YoY* vs Self)			Trend Viz.
		2022	2023	2024	
Cohort	15,497	14,010 -	16,650 +2,640	15,830 -820	
Progress 8: Cohort	14,410	13,030 -	15,480 +2,450	14,720 -760	
Attainment 8: Average Score	22.3	23.9 -	22.0 -1.9 pts	20.9 -1.1 pts	
Progress 8: Average Score	-1.43	-1.44 -	-1.41 +0.03 pts	-1.44 -0.03 pts	
EBacc: Entered	14.0%	14.0% -	14.0% 0.0% pts	14.0% 0.0% pts	
EBacc: Average Point Score	2.00	2.00 2.00	2.00 2.00	2.00 2.00	
Basics: 9-5	12.3%	14.0% -	12.0% -2.0% pts	11.0% -1.0% pts	

Future Developments



Potential for linking to live attendance data



Reducing the need for expensive third-party attendance collection services



More immediate impact on key groups (CP)