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| **headteacher of the virtual school****SALARY GRADE: Soulbury 1-48 (20-23)** | Halton Borough Council resourcing@halton.gov.uk |
| Working at Halton |
| All our colleagues at Halton have made a positive commitment to delivering great outcomes for our communities. Whoever joins us will share that passion for outstanding service, and strongly align with the values which define our workplace culture: * Working Together – building fantastic relationships with colleagues and customers
* Continuous Improvement – keeping great service delivery at the heart of everything we do
* Personal Growth – learning, growing and developing ourselves
* Accountability – doing what we say we are going to do
* Inspiring Leadership – positive roles models and leading by example

*To read more about our values, click* [*HERE*](https://haltoncouncilcareers.co.uk/values/)**We are immensely proud that when asked what’s great about working for Halton, the most popular response from our workforce has been ‘*our colleagues’*.**Aside from working with a great team, our employees have access to a fantastic range of benefits, including:* A generous annual holiday allowance starting at 34 days per year (including bank holidays), increasing with long service
* Membership of our defined benefit, salary-linked pension scheme with generous Employer Contributions
* 3 x Salary Life Cover via Local Government Pension Scheme
* Investment in your personal development
* Free Car Parking at HBC sites
* Flexible / hybrid working arrangements available
* Car leasing schemes

*For further information about all the benefits we offer, please click* [*HERE*](https://haltoncouncilcareers.co.uk/benefits/)*.* |
| About the Job  |
| You will provide high quality strategic leadership for the Virtual School, ensuring that Children in Care (CiC) have access to high quality educational places and achieve the very best educationally. You will champion their needs and improved outcomes for both those placed in and out-of-authority, working to close the educational gap.You will provide clear direction to school leaders/key stakeholders in Halton and in other LA schools where Halton children are placed, ensuring they discharge their statutory duties towards Looked After and Previously Looked After Children; monitoring and challenging them, sharing good practice and ensuring good relationships between all partners.More specific responsibilities include:* Line manage members of the Virtual School, ensuring monitoring and tracking of the progress of CiC, challenging underperformance at an individual, school, and service level.
* Ensure effective systems are in place to maintain an up-to-date roll of Halton’s looked-after children in school/college settings, including details of their education placement, attendance and progress. Ensure sufficient information about their mental health/SEN/disability is available to their education setting.
* Ensure all key stakeholders understand their role/responsibilities in initiating, developing, reviewing and updating Personal Education Plans (PEP) in accordance with statutory timescales, and their role in that PEP; ensure all looked-after children have a current, effective, high quality PEP that focus on educational outcomes.
* Ensure social workers adequately consider the importance of stability in schooling in line with statutory care planning regulations and educational needs of CiC when making decisions about moving placements.
* Ensure appropriate arrangements are in place for preparing and monitoring budgets and associated income for the service and adhere to the standing orders and financial arrangements of the Council.
* Working with education settings, implement Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) arrangements for all looked-after children (where required), in accordance with the latest conditions of grant published by the department/any supplementary departmental advice to maximise its impact individually and for the whole looked-after cohort. Publish a clear policy on the use of PP+ including how they decide the level and use of top-sliced funding.
* Act as the strategic lead for the cohort of children who have been assessed as being in need under Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 and currently have/have previously had a social worker.
* Promote practice that supports children’s engagement in education, recognising that attending an education setting can be an important factor in helping to keep children safe from harm.
* Reduce the impact of lost learning, supporting children to fulfil their potential; address existing barriers to education to ensure they benefit from support available, including Government education recovery support.
* Represent the Strategic Director or Operational Director at meetings of the Corporate Management Team, Executive Board, or Policy and Performance Board, or similar as and when required.
* Be available during out of hours to carry out any duties allocated in a major emergency through membership of the Council’s major emergency response list.
* Undertake any other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned from time to time, which are commensurate with the grade of the job.
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| About You |
| You will hold Qualified Teacher Status, as well as being educated to graduate level with recent & relevant professional development. In addition you will have:* Senior Leadership experience in a school/Local Authority, and experience of building/leading successful teams
* Leading and managing major initiatives, including experience of cross-directorate and multi-agency working
* Experience of managing significant budgets and service level agreements
* Experience of developing and implementing key Council/school strategies for improving the educational outcomes of CiC and other vulnerable groups
* Knowledge and understanding of the local and national agenda for the delivery of high quality educational provision, specifically in relation to CiC and Care Leavers
* Knowledge and understanding of Safeguarding, Child Protection and Information Sharing issues
* A sound working knowledge of performance management, associated data and data analysis, and its impact on performance within the context of a virtual school
* Knowledge of managing staff and HR issues/processes and procedures
* Strategic/critical thinking to build a clear vision to inspire/empower others and to carry the vision forward
* Ability to develop policy, practice and processes that support improved outcomes for children and YP
* Ability to lead and motivate a team to deliver high quality services
* Excellent interpersonal skills including working effectively and collaboratively with a range of stakeholders
* Change management and improvement in pursuit of higher standards and strategic objectives.

As this role involves regular travel across the borough and sometimes further afield, a driving license and access to a vehicle are essential requirements. Where appropriate, reasonable adjustments will be made in accordance with the provisions of the Equality Act.The Council and its schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults and expect all staff, workers and volunteers to share its commitment. |
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