



## Active Sport Champions - Supporting the Children In Care across the West Midlands

### What is a Virtual School?

The Virtual School was introduced in 2014, initially to support Children In Care (of their Local Authority) and has been extended to offer advice and guidance for Previously Looked After Children (PLAC) and most recently providing strategic guidance for Children With Social Workers.

### Who are the West Midlands Children in Care Foundation (WMVSCiC Foundation)

The West Midlands region has approximately 11,000 Children In Care, with up to 40% of these residing out of the area to whom they are in care. These are aged from Early Years through to Post 16 and there are also close links with Care Leavers. There are 14 Virtual Schools in the West Midlands region who work in partnership via the WMVSCiC Foundation.



West Midlands Virtual Schools Children In Care Foundation has been established to ensure that:

- All care experienced children & young people are able to access high-quality arts & cultural experiences and activities
- All professional supporting care experienced children are well informed and trained

The WMVSCiC Foundation have three strands to deliver this offer:

- Arts Link
- Active Now – Sport
- Creating Chances (Professional Development)

The region delivers these programmes locally, in clusters and/or regionally ensuring that all Children In Care are able to access high quality programmes, wherever they may reside.

### What is The Active Now Programme?

The Active Now programme works in partnership with Performing Perfectly, as Arts Coordinators, across the region delivering in six clusters:

- Birmingham
- Black Country (Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall, Wolverhampton)
- Coventry, Warwickshire & Solihull
- Herefordshire & Worcestershire
- Staffordshire & Stoke On Trent
- Telford and Wrekin & Shropshire



The programme is organised by the Active Sport Co-ordinator for each cluster working closely with the Sports Ambassador from each Virtual School.

The programme will be enhanced by the development of the Active Sport Champion – a leading role model from a range of sports across the regional and nationally.

### Sports Champions - Making the difference for Children In Care

A sports champion will:

- Inspire** children & young people by acting as an excellent role model
- Enthuse** children & young people by demonstrating a personal interest
- Support** children & young people in their cultural pathway

The Active Sports Champion will support each Child In Care that enrolls on the Active Now programme. This will ensure that all these young people receive a signed letter/e-mail from the Active Sport Champion. There will be the potential for further information to be circulated after the activity has taken place. All of these administrative tasks will be completely supported by the Foundation administration team.

There may also be opportunities for the Active Sport Champion to attend during one of the programmes or at one of the focus events organised. This would be subject to availability but would help to endorse the support of the Active Sport Champion to the young people.