

SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT FORUM

PAPER DESCRIBING PLANNED CHANGES TO THE ALLOCATION OF PUPIL PREMIUM PLUS FUNDING FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (v4)

December 2018

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

- 1.1 This paper sets out the planned changes to the allocation of the Pupil Premium Plus funding.

2.0 DfE Guidance on Pupil Premium for Looked After Children

- 2.1 The Secretary of State for Education lays down terms and conditions in relation to the pupil premium plus grant (PP+G) payable to schools and local authorities on a financial year basis to help improve the attainment of looked after children of all abilities.
- 2.2 The pupil premium grant was set at £1,900 per pupil per annum for 2017-2018. This increased to £2300 per pupil with effect from April 2018.
- 2.3 The LAC PP+G must be managed by the designated VSH in the local authority that looks after the child, and used without delay for the benefit of the looked-after child's educational needs as described in their personal education plan.
- 2.4 The VSH should ensure there are arrangements in place to discuss how the child will benefit from pupil premium funding with the designated teacher or another member of staff in the child's education setting who best understands their needs.
- 2.5 Local authorities may not carry forward funding held centrally into the next financial year. Centrally-held LAC premium that has not been spent, or allocated to the child's education setting, by 31 March 2019 will be recovered by the DfE.

3.0 Split of Pupil Premium

- 3.1 Middlesbrough LA last reviewed the split of Pupil Premium+ for Looked After Children in January 2016 when a report was presented to the SMF to split the £1900 per pupil grant. £1,350 is allocated to schools on a termly basis and £550 retained by the Local Authority.
- 3.2 Middlesbrough Virtual School provides a wide range of services to schools to support LAC, including: advice and guidance, management of the PEP process and associated quality assurance, exclusion support, advocacy, in class TA and teacher support, one to one teaching support and DT, governor and staff training. These services cannot be provided if the current PP+G allocation is maintained, so a reduction in the amount allocated to schools to £1000 is planned. This reduction is to be implemented over a two year period as set out below:

April 2019 devolved portion of PP+G = £1,150
April 2020 devolved portion of PP+G = £1,000

- 3.3 Schools that have a large number of Looked After Children on roll often face additional and unanticipated costs. To reflect this, the structure below will be introduced from April 2019:

Where a school has 10 or more Looked After Children on role, PP+G will be paid at a rate of £1,150 for each eligible child.

4.0 Education provision for LAC not in school.

- 4.1 There are approximately 320 LAC school age children who are the responsibility of Middlesbrough Council. Approximately 20 of the 300 children require high levels of support in either Alternative Provision or Specialist SEN Provision.
- 4.2 The majority of Looked After Children attend schools in either Middlesbrough Council or in other local authorities. About half of Middlesbrough's LACs live 'out of area' which results in additional expenditure by the Virtual School in order to meet their needs. The schools receive their delegated budgets plus the pupil premium for LAC. However if the placement breaks down for the LAC and their education is then organised by the Virtual School no contribution is currently made towards the cost of this provision by schools.
- 4.3 The Schools and Early Financial Regulations did not clearly explain if schools could be expected to contribute towards the cost of this provision. The DfE have confirmed that when the Local Authority takes over the responsibility for organising and paying for the education of a pupil a charge can be made to schools for a contribution towards the cost of this provision. This would usually only happen in extreme circumstances, and as an alternative to permanent exclusion. This contribution will be based upon the daily costs of Alternative Education Places (£90 per day).

5.0 Changes to Policy

- (i) A reduction in the element of Pupil Premium Plus Grant payable to schools to £1150 from April 2019, then £1000 from April 2020 onwards.
- (ii) Withdrawal of pupil premium plus from a school when a LAC has had to be found alternative education provision.
- (iii) Contribution to be sought from schools where a LAC is educated by the Virtual School whilst remaining on a mainstream school's roll.
- (iv) Where a school has 10 or more LACs simultaneously on roll, PP+G to be paid at a rate of £1150.

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Appendix 1: Costs

320 LAC x £2300 = £736,000

Devolved to schools
320 x 1000 = £320,000

Additional grant devolved to schools with 10 + LAC
40 LAC x £200 = £8000

Total devolved to schools = £328,000

Gross total retained by VS = £408,000

Total set aside for additional payments to schools for exceptional circumstances £50,000

Net total retained by VS = £358,000

VS staffing costs are £255,500 comprised of:

5 x PEP Advisors = £170,000
1.5 x Project Officers = £38,400
Casual staff as required = £47,100

Recurring VS costs are £102,500 as shown in the table below:

ITEM	COST
Staff training	£5,000
Ed Psych support	£15,000
Speech and Language	£6,000
Therapeutic support	£14,000
Educational resources	£1,500
On line learning GCSE and KS2	£2,500
Welfare Call attendance	£22,000
Welfare Call ePEP	£22,000
NAVSH subscription	£500
Play therapy	£5,000
Contingency	£9,000

VS retained grant = £358,000, less £255,500 staffing costs, less £102,500 recurring costs = £0