

Proposed Changes to Pupil Premium Grant for Children and Young People in Care.

DfE requirements.

- The Virtual Head teacher is responsible for the allocation and oversight of the Pupil Premium Grant for Children and Young People in Care.
- All expenditure must be used to benefit educational outcomes for individuals and groups within this cohort.
- The Virtual Head teacher is accountable for cohort outcomes and must evidence the impact of all expenditure including funds devolved to schools.
- PPG expenditure should be agreed with the school; it can be used for a wider experience; IT hardware; trips etc if robust links can be made with outcomes.
- PPG is ringfenced for all pupils in Care; it's use and impact must be evidenced as part of the wider PEP process.
- PPG must be used for all young people including those on track to achieve age related expectations- accelerated progress should be supported.
- PPG should **not** be used to support foster carer activities that cannot be linked to achievement.
- Some PPG can be pooled for agreed activities by schools directly or Virtual School in conjunction with schools.

Present situation in Wiltshire.

- Some Foster carers make direct applications for funds from PPG to support activities, these can widen the overall experience for young people but may not necessarily link to educational outcomes.
- Several young people who are on track to achieve age related expectations do not access PPG.
- Some young people with complex needs access extensive support, often linked to ASPIRE house in Melksham.
- Needs identified by schools are addressed directly by Virtual School Officers, eg by using tutors. This work may not be closely linked to the schools so monitoring progress is difficult.

Background Information

The Virtual School Officers are highly experienced; their knowledge and advice can be invaluable to the schools. They are working in geographical areas so can help to facilitate joint work for pupils in care.

The Virtual School will link with other professionals in SEND and Care Teams to make sure that support requirements in these areas are not funded by PPG.

There will always be some Looked After Pupils whose educational needs are complex but are not known to SEND, they may require some extra funding from PPG for short or long-term support.

Data tracking systems are being developed within the Virtual School to identify individual needs and possible cohort trends that could be addressed by joint activities.

Pupil Premium Proposal

- A base amount of PPG will be devolved to schools in 3 payments over each Academic Year. Initially this will be £1200.
- For each Academic Year, all schools will be asked to complete a request form in conjunction with the Virtual School Officer to outline PPG spend for pupils in Care on their roll. Each form will include background data; a review of previous expenditure; progress; how spend will positively impact on educational outcomes. If a school feels extra curricula activities or broader support can be linked to progress they can be included.
- Request forms need to be current, they cannot be paid retrospectively.

- Each request form will be agreed with VSO and approved by VSH.
- PPG will be reviewed at each PEP to overview how it is being used.
- Any extra needs will be discussed with VSO to review how the base amount is being spent. could any changes be made? Is extra expenditure required?
- If the young person moves schools, the remaining amount will be transferred between schools, the original request form will be reviewed and amended as required.
- Virtual School Officers will advise and support PPG use.
- Schools may choose to pool PP within their school if it meets individual needs., this can be discussed with the VSO. A similar plan can be agreed between clusters of schools.

Remaining funding from PPG

Some funding will need to be retained by the Virtual School to be used for the following purposes.

- Extra support requests for individual pupils.
- Cumulative packages agreed and organised by schools and Virtual School to address trends highlighted by data or background information. Eg: behaviour support during exam period; extra reading strategies
- Transition support between all phases.
- Attendance oversight.
- Specific support initiatives.

The PPG cannot be retained across financial years so expenditure will be reviewed in January of each financial year; the Virtual School will know the expenditure requirements for the final months, any remaining amount will be allocated out for each pupil in Care, the VSO will discuss how the extra money can be spent to improve educational outcomes.

The PPG will be increasing in April 2018 so the allocation will be reviewed.

Advantage of these changes.

- Schools will be aware of the allocated amounts to allow for future planning.
- All PPG requests will go through the school so an overview of support will be easier to manage.
- The whole process will have more clarity.
- There will be stronger working links between schools and the Virtual school.