

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING	Early Years, Children & Youth Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	29 September 2014	
TITLE:	Pupil Premium Plus - Children in Care Lead officer: Michael Gorman	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report: None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Department for Education has allocated local authorities total grants based on £1,900 per Looked After Child in from Reception to Year 11. There are approximately 100 children of this age in the care of the local authority at any one time. The grant allocation for Looked After Children is managed by the Virtual School Head in the authority that looks after those children and is to be used for the benefit of the looked after child's educational needs as described in their Personal Education Plan (PEP). This report explains how the grant is allocated to schools by the Virtual School and how it is being used.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 For members to note this report, and for members on the Corporate Parents Members' Group to receive and review the annual report from the Virtual School headteacher at its December meeting which will include a commentary on the uses and effectiveness of Pupil Premium Plus.

3 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 3.1 To ensure that all the grant is allocated and used effectively. Any underspend by the end of the financial year has to be returned to the Department for Education.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS AND BASIS FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.1 The local authority post of Virtual School headteacher was made a statutory requirement by the Children and Families Act 2014 to strengthen local authorities' duty to promote the education of looked after children. The increase

in the Pupil Premium grant for looked after children from £900pa to £1900pa and the decision to pass the grant to Virtual School headteachers is intended to significantly increase the resources available to support the education of looked after children and to allocate it where the need is greatest.

5 THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Virtual School pays £1500 Pupil Premium Plus to all schools for each Bath and North East Somerset looked after child on roll. This is paid in three instalments of £500 at the end of terms 2,4 and 6 (i.e. July, December and March) where a good Personal Education Plan (PEP) is in place. Payments are not made automatically to high fee paying independent special schools unless a case is made in the PEP for Pupil Premium Plus funding.
- 5.2 Each Looked After Child will have different needs –those attending the PEP meeting decide what actions and resources are needed to help raise standards. One to one tuition is one of the most effective ways of raising standards for many Looked After Children and this is the most common use of the grant by schools. Other uses include: mentoring; extra teaching assistant support; revision materials; art, drama or music therapy; additional SEN equipment.
- 5.3 The funding that remains with the Virtual School is being used for a variety of purposes. These include: top-up funding to schools above £1500 where the designated teacher makes a good case for additional support; transition support for children and young people moving to new schools in line with long-term care plans or foster placement changes; work experience and transition support and for Year 11s moving to colleges (this has been particularly effective this summer); 1:1 tuition for GCSE retakes at college; support for children in care not in education and in need of additional support to return to full time education; training for designated teachers and other staff who work in schools.

6 RATIONALE

- 6.1 The bulk of the grant (£1500) is allocated to schools as they are best placed to determine in collaboration with the child, carers and social workers how to use it most effectively. This depends on schools' designated teachers attending training run by the Virtual School and by continuing to build the strong relationships between schools and the Virtual School. The remainder (£400 per child) is retained by the Virtual School to allocate where the need is greatest.

7 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 Allocating the full £1900 to schools – this would not give the Virtual School any funds to use flexibly for more needy looked after children.
- 7.2 Only allocating funds to schools on application - this implies some distrust of schools and increases the bureaucratic burden on them.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The allocation of the Pupil Premium Plus grant to school has been discussed and supported by Schools' Forum.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT

9.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

Contact person	Michael Gorman 01225 396932
Background papers	Department for Education guidelines: https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	