

**Title of meeting:** Schools Forum

**Date of meeting:** 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**Subject:** Pupil Premium for Looked after Children.

**Report from:** Julian Wooster, Director of Children's & Adult's Services

**Report by:** Helen Thomson , Head of Virtual School for looked after children.

**Wards affected:** All Wards

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

**1. Purpose of report**

To provide Schools Forum with an update on the Pupil Premium for Looked After Children and to inform Members of the proposed allocation and usage of this funding to support the development of Looked After Children and provide assistance to Schools.

**2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Schools Forum notes the proposals within the report.

**3. Background**

3.1. Pupil Premium is paid to schools to enable them to provide additional support to vulnerable children on their school roll. The per pupil values for 2013/14 are shown together with indicative funding values for the Authority as reported in February 2013.

<b>Pupil Premium funding stream</b>	<b>Value per pupil £</b>	<b>Portsmouth Total £'000's</b>
Free School Meals (FSM) Children	900	6,831
Looked After Children (provisional)	900	177
Service Children	300	214
<b>Total for 2013/14</b>		<b>7,222</b>

#### **4. Pupil Premium Grant Regulations**

- 4.1. The Pupil Premium Grant for 2013-14 is paid to Portsmouth City Council with certain terms and conditions as set out by the Secretary of State under the powers of Section 16 of the Education Act 2002.
- 4.2. Under these regulations the Local Authority is required to make a payment of £900 to a mainstream school or Academy for each of their eligible looked after child who is on roll at their school.
- 4.3. For the purposes of distributing the Pupil Premium, 'eligible' means a looked after child who on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 has been looked after continuously for at least 6 months and who is in Year Groups R to 11 during the 2013-14 financial year. Where a pupil becomes eligible for the Pupil Premium during the financial year, the Pupil Premium will be allocated from the following term.
- 4.4. Where a pupil looked after by Portsmouth City Council attends a mainstream school or Academy outside of the City, the Council is required to pass on the Pupil Premium Grant to that school or Academy (in some cases via the relevant Local Authority).
- 4.5. Where a looked after child attends a non-mainstream setting, then the Pupil Premium Grant can be allocated to the setting where the child is being educated or held by the Local Authority to spend specifically on additional educational support to raise the standard of attainment for the aforementioned pupil in 2013-14. The Authority must consult all non-mainstream settings about how the amount held by the Authority must be used and the Virtual School Head must be involved in decisions about how the grant will be used.
- 4.6. Any grant centrally retained cannot be carried forward into 2014-15.

#### **5. Education Case Workers for Looked After Children**

- 5.1. There is clear evidence from other Local Authorities that if the amount of support we are able to provide to our looked after children and their schools is improved this can have a very positive impact on their educational progress and attainment.
- 5.2. Portsmouth City Council is therefore creating 3 new Education Case Worker posts for looked after children to enable every Portsmouth looked after child to have a named education caseworker. These workers would oversee the young person's education and ensure that they and their schools are receiving the support needed. In addition they would be a

point of contact for schools for advice and support regarding all education related issues for looked after children.

- 5.3. The Virtual School Head has developed a 'virtual school action plan' which clearly outlines what actions the Council will be taking to further enhance the support offered to looked after children, their schools and carers. It has been agreed that the level of support the Council provides would improve significantly with the recruitment of these three 'Education Case Workers for looked after children'.
- 5.4. In order to support the creation of these new posts, the Local Authority through the Virtual School Head will be seeking support from non-mainstream settings to retain centrally the Pupil Premium Grant as detailed in section 4 above for 2013-14.

## **6. Future of Pupil Premium for looked after children**

- 6.1. From April 2014, 'Pupil Premium Plus' is to be paid at the rate of £1900 per looked after child. This will be significantly higher than the rate paid for FSM or service children.
- 6.2. The government are considering proposals that the whole of the Pupil Premium Grant for looked after children, is managed by the Virtual School Head and that it is allocated to schools to support targets on Personal Education Plans for each looked after child.
- 6.3. Children and young people will attract the funding from the first day they become looked after.
- 6.4. Adopted children and children placed on Special Guardianships will also attract Pupil Premium Plus, but parents/ carers will have to make the schools aware that their child would qualify and the school will be allocated the funding based on the census data.
- 6.5. A future report will be presented to Schools Forum when further information regarding the Pupil Premium Plus arrangements is published.

## **7. Reasons for recommendations**

This report is for information only, therefore the recommendation is for Schools Forum to note the contents of the report.

## **8. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**

This report does not require an Equality impact Assessment as the proposal does not have any impact upon a particular equalities group.

**9. Head of Legal Services' comments**

Legal comments have been included within the body of this report.

**10. Head of Finance's comments**

Financial comments have been included within the body of this report.

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Signed by:

**Appendices:**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

<b>Title of document</b>	<b>Location</b>
The impact of the virtual school on the educational progress of looked after children	Ofsted October 2012

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: