

Briefing paper to: Education, Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel, Monday 22nd September

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The Pupil Premium: an overview

1. Background

- 1.1 Pupil premium is an additional grant allocation to support schools in raising the educational attainment of disadvantaged pupils and was introduced in April 2011.
- 1.2 The Pupil Premium Grant for 2014-15 is paid pursuant to section 14 of the Education Act 2002 and is allocated with certain terms and conditions as set out by the Secretary of State under the powers of Section 16 of that Act. The conditions of grant for 2014-15 are set out in guidance from the Department for Education.

2. Pupil Premium Funding allocation

- 2.1 The Pupil Premium Grant is allocated to Portsmouth for the following pupils:
- a) Pupils in Year Groups R to 6 recorded as Ever 6 Free School Meals
 - b) Pupils in Year Groups 7 to 11 recorded as Ever 6 Free School Meals
 - c) Looked After Children (LAC)
 - d) Children adopted from care under the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and children who have left care under a Special Guardianship or Residence Order
 - e) Pupils in Year Groups R to 11 recorded as Ever 4 Service Child or in receipt of a child pension from the Ministry of Defence (Service Children)
- 2.2 The amount allocated per pupil to Portsmouth for children in the above categories is shown in the table below:

Pupils attracting PPG	£ per pupil
Free School Meals Pupils – Primary	1,300
Free Schools Meals Pupils – Secondary	£935
Looked After Children (LAC)	£1,900
Post - LAC	£1,900
Service Children	£300

- 2.3 The Local Authority must allocate the Pupil Premium to each school that it maintains for the pupils in the eligible categories (except LAC). The Education Funding Agency (EFA) will pay the funding directly to the Academies within Portsmouth.
- 2.4 The total value of the Pupil Premium allocated to Portsmouth is shown in the table below:

Pupils attracting PPG	£m
Free School Meals Pupils – Primary	6.2
Free Schools Meals Pupils – Secondary	2.9
Looked After Children & Post LAC	0.4
Service Children	0.2
	9.7

- 2.5 Of the 9.7m shown in the table above, as of 1st April 2014, £2.177m was allocated by the EFA directly to Academies within Portsmouth. On 1st September two further schools converted to Academy status and their funding is also now allocated via the EFA. On a full year basis, this amounts to £811,185.

3. Looked After Children

- 3.1 The grant allocation for LAC must be managed by the Virtual School Head (VSH) on behalf of both Maintained Schools and Academies. The VSH is a statutory post under the Children's & Families Act 2014
- 3.2 Funding will be allocated to Schools & Academies based on the requirement of the Personal Education Plan (PEP) which must be approved by the VSH.

4. Schools Forum

- 4.1 Schools Forum have received regular reports on the Pupil Premium, the most recent being on 18th December 2013. A further report on the 'Pupil Premium for Looked After Children' is due to be presented to the next Schools Forum meeting (15th Oct 2014) by Helen Thomson (VSH), setting out the progress on implementing the new arrangements and the use of the funding.

5. The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 – Schedule 4 – Regulation 10 (9)

- 5.1 The regulation is intended to support accountability in respect of the use of

the funding and states:

(information to be published on a website by the governing body)

- (a) The amount of the school's allocation from the Pupil Premium grant
- (b) in respect of the current academic year; details of how it is intended that the allocation will be spent; details of how the previous academic year's allocation was spent, and the effect of this expenditure on the educational attainment of those pupils at the school in respect of whom grant funding was allocated.

6. Ofsted Reports

6.1 Ofsted have published three main reports in respect of the use of Pupil Premium as detailed below:

6.2 *September 2012 report: 'Pupil Premium'*, September 2012

The aim of this survey was to identify how schools were using this money to raise achievement and improve outcomes for these pupils. The survey was based on the views of 262 school leaders gathered through inspections and telephone interview questionnaires conducted by Her Majesty's Inspectors.'

6.3 Recommendations included:

- School leaders, including governing bodies, should ensure that Pupil Premium funding is not simply absorbed into mainstream budgets, but instead is carefully targeted at the designated children. They should be able to identify clearly how the money is being spent.
- School leaders, including governing bodies, should evaluate their Pupil Premium spending, avoid spending it on activities that have little impact on achievement for their disadvantaged pupils, and spend it in ways known to be most effective.

6.4 *February 2013 report: 'The Pupil Premium – How schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement'*, February 2013

In autumn 2012, HMI's visited 68 primary and secondary schools to see how effectively they were spending their Pupil Premium funding to maximise achievement. This report draws together some of the effective practice that inspectors saw.

6.5 Ofsted identified a number of consistent characteristics in schools where pupil premium funding was successfully used to improve achievement, and where pupil premium was being spent less successfully. Characteristics of success tended to be:

- An analytical approach to improving achievement
- Identification of the levers for improvement
- Taking a long term view
- Involving staff in making decisions about pupils' needs
- Tailoring interventions
- Focusing on attendance
- A fully involved governing body
- Effective use of tracking and monitoring

6.6 July 2014 report: "The pupil premium: an update"

The report provides an update on the progress schools have made in using their pupil premium funding to raise achievement for pupils eligible for free school meals. It is based on evidence from 151 inspections carried out between January and December 2013, text review of 1600 school inspection reports published between September 2013 and March 2014, and national performance data for 2013.

- 6.7 Ofsted identified that the pupil premium is making a difference nationally, and that overall school leaders are spending pupil premium funding more effectively, tracking the progress of eligible pupils more closely and reporting outcomes more precisely than before. The authors identified that there was an association between the overall effectiveness of the school and the impact of the pupil premium.
- 6.8 However, the report also identified that weak leadership and governance remain obstacles to narrowing the attainment gap. In schools judged to be inadequate, inspectors commonly report that leaders do not ensure that the pupil premium funding is used effectively. In these schools, the attainment of pupils eligible for funding is poor and the attainment gaps are too wide.
- 6.9 Notably, the report identified (based on 2012/13 academic year data) that in Portsmouth, only 22.6% of pupils eligible for free school meals achieved five good GCSE passes including English and Mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4. This was the second worst position in the country, with only Barnsley recording lower results. At the other end of the spectrum, around three fifths of eligible pupils are attaining this benchmark. The national average level for 2013 was 37.9%. The report noted that 23 of the top 25 local authority areas attaining the benchmark for eligible pupils are London boroughs, where there are high proportions of pupils coming from poorer backgrounds, indicating that income poverty is not a predictor of poor attainment.
- 6.10 The report stated that:

"It cannot be right that the likelihood of a child receiving a good education should depend on their postcode or economic circumstance. Government should focus its attention on those areas of the country that are letting poor children down. Ofsted will also focus its attention on these areas in subsequent reports to see if improvements have been made."

6.11 Trend data for achievement for FSM-eligible pupils and non-FSM eligible pupils in Portsmouth is available for both KS2 and KS4, along with target data. Data for 2013 academic year will be available shortly.

Table 1: The gap in attainment between FSM eligible pupils and non FSM eligible Pupils achieving the gold standard in their GCSEs

#	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Portsmouth	18.8	25	29.7	28.7	30.2		
Target				28.7	23.92	19.13	14.35

Table 2: The gap in attainment between children eligible for pupil premium at KS2 combined measure of Reading, Writing and Maths and those not eligible for PP

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15
Portsmouth	21	18	26	24		
Target			26	21.67	17.33	13

7. Information and advice to schools

- 7.1 Ofsted have produced "The Pupil Premium – Analysis and Challenge tools for schools", a booklet which contains a series of tools that schools can use to help them analyse where there are gaps in achievement between pupils who are eligible for the Pupil Premium and those who are not, and to plan the action they need to take.
- 7.2 The local authority has delivered training for schools to assist in developing effective interventions in schools. The local authority also delivered a training session for Governors on "School Funding and Assessing the impact" which included a specific on Pupil Premium. The course is now part of the wider offer to schools through our Training and Development traded services.

