

BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: PUPIL PREMIUM GRANT
DATE: 6TH MARCH 2014
RECIPIENT: SCHOOLS FORUM

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

This report summarises the use by Southampton City of the retained element of the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) for Children Looked After in 2014/15 and sets out proposals for retention and use in 2015/16.

The basis for the DfE calculation of the amount available in Southampton is the number of Children Looked After aged 4 to 15 as set out in the end of March statutory data return for CLA. The grant per CLA in 14/15 was £1,900.

In July 2014, Graham Talbot wrote to all Heads setting out proposals for the distribution of PPG in 2014/15 and unfortunately the staged payments set out in that letter were not implemented and the full amount being passported to schools was paid earlier this term.

That letter set out the decision to retain £1,000 of the PPG per pupil and also stated:

“As the interim Head teacher for Southampton’s Virtual School for Children Looked After, the responsibility for ensuring effective arrangements are made and for the effectiveness of the expenditure of the £1900 per child in care, has been placed with me.

The recent Ofsted inspection has highlighted the need to ensure that this funding is firmly aligned to quality Personal Education Plans (PEP) that will improve outcomes. I know you would all support this. I expect the repeat inspection to re-emphasise this.

In order to minimise disturbance while we examine this government change, we are distributing a similar level to schools as in previous years i.e. £900....

Following the inspection, we will need to make some additions to the Virtual School Team as Ofsted was clear it needed more capacity. There also needs to be changes to the way the Virtual School Team works, particularly around involvement in, quality of and impact of PEPs.”

There are four key areas that we have focused on in 14/15 that will also form the core of our proposals for 15/16. These are:

- Staffing the Virtual School (excluding the statutory role of Head of the Virtual School);
- Targeted resources to support academic and emotional readiness to learn;
- Additional educational support for children placed with Independent Foster Carers
- Targeted support identified in PEPs and reviews

BRIEFING PAPER

Table 1 summarises the expenditure this financial year under each of these four areas.

Key Area	Budget Allocation
Staffing	£120,000
Targeted Resources	£50,000
Additional educational support	£100,000
PEP Support Fund	Nil

Please note that SCC is yet to receive confirmation of the amount of funding for Pupil Premium for Children Looked After. The funding of the above planned spend is therefore contingent on the level of grant received and the total amount paid to schools for their £900 per pupil per financial year (£300 per term).

For 2015/16, it is proposed to retain these four emphases, but to extend the final one by creating a 'PEP Support Fund' to offer schools the opportunity to bid for additional resources to support innovative individual or group approaches to support PEPs.

This follows the suggestion also contained in Graham Talbot's, which we did not implement in the current financial year. A small 'task and finish' group will be established and Heads invited to join or nominate a representative to develop the criteria for this fund.

At this stage we do not know the total funding that will be available in 2015/16, but as at the middle of February 2015, there were 365 CLA in the eligible age range. **It is proposed that for 2015/16, SCC will retain £1,000 per pupil.**

Table 2 sets out the indicative distribution of resources between the four key areas

Key Area	Budget Allocation
Staffing	£180,000
Targeted Resources	£50,000
Additional educational support	£50,000
PEP Support Fund	£50,000

As part of the further development of the Virtual School, a short-term piece of research has been commissioned to talk to the 20 highest achieving CLA at both KS2 and KS4 (and their carers) to identify the forms of support that they feel were of most value in assisting their achievement.

BRIEFING PAPER

The outcome of this research will both inform the design of the Virtual School, the use of the retained element of the PPG and the criteria for the PEP Support Fund.

**Further Information Available
From:**

Name: Robert Hardy

Tel: 023 8083 3357

**E-mail:
robert.hardy@southampton.gov.uk**