

# Pupil Premium Plus for Looked After Children: Arrangements for 2017-18

Northumberland Virtual School for Looked After Children



The **Pupil Premium Plus (PP+)** is grant funding from the DfE to raise the achievement of disadvantaged pupils and to close the gap with their peers.

For the financial year **2017-18** the Virtual School will receive £1900 of PP+ funding for eligible pupils from Year R to 11 who are:

- looked after by Northumberland Local Authority\*;
- no longer looked after because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order.

The current conditions of grant are set out on this page of the [DfE website](#). Further from the DfE also outlines the responsibilities of the Virtual School Head with regard to PP+ [here](#).

*\*looked after for at least one day in the previous financial year*

## 1. Eligibility

- Eligible pupils who are looked after by Northumberland are identified by the Local Authority on DfE return SSDA903 in March 2017.
- Eligible pupils who are no longer looked after but who have been adopted or who left care on a Special Guardianship or Child Arrangements Order (previously known as a Residence Order) immediately after being looked after (known as post-LAC) should be identified to schools/academies by parents or guardians and their status recorded on the School Census.

## 2. Role of the Virtual School Head

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires all Local Authorities to have a Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) who has additional statutory powers to carry out the duty to promote the educational achievement of the children it looks after. The VSH must manage the grant allocation to be used for the benefit of the looked after child's educational needs as described in their Personal Education Plan (PEP).

This has statutory force and there is no requirement for the Virtual School Head to give the money to schools or to pass the full £1900.

VSHs are responsible for making sure there are effective arrangements in place for allocating pupil premium funding to benefit children looked after by the authority:

- making sure that it is spent effectively and fully;
- being able to demonstrate how pupil premium funding managed by the VSH is linked to raising achievement and closing the gap;
- having arrangements in place to engage with the looked after child's school/academy about how the pupil premium funding is contributing to meet the needs identified in his/her PEP.

To ensure that these objectives are achieved and to enable the VSH to plan expenditure more effectively to maximise impact of the funding, the following arrangements will be in place for dispersal of the grant in the financial year 2017-18:

- a. the Virtual School will retain the first £400 of every eligible pupil's grant to be used to promote the educational achievement of all looked after pupils in Northumberland;
- b. to ensure transparency, the VSH will publish details of expenditure and impact in the Annual Report 2017-18;
- c. schools/academies will receive the remaining funding to a maximum amount of £1500 per eligible pupil when there is a signed agreement between the Headteachers of the Virtual School and the receiving school/academy/alternative provider;
- d. the signed agreement is part of each pupil's Personal Education Plan (PEP) and is linked to SMART targets with clearly defined outcomes to raise achievement;
- e. the PEPs, and therefore the PP+ agreements, will continue to be co-ordinated for Northumberland belonging pupils by the Education Support Workers from the ESLAC team with Designated Teachers for Looked After Children in individual schools/academies/alternative providers;
- f. two agreements will be required for pupils who transfer to another school/academy/alternative provider in September 2017.

Although dispersed during the financial year (from April to March) the outcomes in the PP+ PEP agreement will usually relate to the academic year (from September to July).

### 3. Process

For 2017-18:

- The Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) will be devolved to schools/academies/alternative providers on receipt by Northumberland of the funding from the DfE.
- Schools will receive their PP+ in two payments during one financial year:
  - first payment of **5/12** for the period April to August (in arrears);
  - second payment of **7/12** for the period September to March (in advance).
- If there are any changes of educational placement during the year other than transition in September, the funding will need to be managed between schools, with the agreement of the Virtual Head(s) of the belonging Local Authority(ies).
- If a pupil is eligible and is in Year 11 on and after 1st April 2016, the school will receive 5/12 of the pupil premium allocation to cover the period from April to August. If the pupil then progresses into Year 12 the school can negotiate with the VSH to agree further funding if it is available.
- The payments from the Virtual School will be made to the school where the pupil is on roll at the beginning of the payment period ie April and September.

- For Northumberland belonging children on roll in Northumberland schools the funding will be paid by journal to subjective code 300014 ED10PL of the relevant school's budget.
- For all Northumberland belonging children on roll in Northumberland academies the funding will be paid by the Virtual School raising a purchase order.
- For Northumberland belonging children on roll in schools in other Local Authorities a payment will be made directly to an Academy or school, or to the Local Authority to then transfer to the appropriate school (depending on other Local Authorities' arrangements).
- For pupils from other Authorities who are on roll in Northumberland schools, a payment will usually be made directly to Northumberland County Council with details of the school and amount to be paid. This will be transferred into the appropriate school budget under subjective code 300014 ED10PL. It is also possible that some Local Authorities will pay schools/academies/settings directly.
- PP+ will not be used to replace other funding for which a looked after child might be eligible, for example top up funding, and should not be used to fund services provided through a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).
- We will only seek to recoup funding when there is evidence that the PP+ is not being used to address an individual pupil's needs, and therefore not where a pupil moves mid-year (for whatever reason).

**Please note:** other Authorities have plans to devolve the Pupil Premium in different ways. If you have a query about the PP+ looked after child who is on your school roll but belongs to an Authority other than Northumberland then please contact the relevant Virtual School Head directly.

### **Private and independent settings**

The decision of the Multi-Agency Looked After Partnership (MALAP), in its capacity as the governing body of the Virtual School, is that independent special schools with Northumberland belonging children and young people on roll will not routinely be paid the PP+. The VSH will, however, consider proposals from individual schools about individual cases.

### **Monitoring impact**

The Personal Education Plan (PEP) will be used to inform discussions with schools and other stakeholders on the use of the PP+. Each PEP therefore needs to be of high quality and set robust targets for improvement. The PEP is reviewed every 6 months as part of the statutory review of the child's care plan. It is a record of what needs to happen for a child in care to reach their educational potential and now includes the PP+ agreement between Headteachers identifying what it is to be spent on to meet the child's needs.

PEPs will need to be monitored more closely by schools, the Virtual School, social workers and Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs). The PEP review must evaluate the impact of the PP+.

The Designated Teacher for LAC in each school should be able to influence how the PP+ is used to support progression and learning and report to Governors as part of their annual report on how the funding has been used to support the child's education.

The Virtual School Headteacher is accountable to the governing body (Multi Agency Looked After Partnership) and Corporate Parenting Panel for ensuring that the funding is effectively dispersed with maximum impact.

### **Developing good practice**

Northumberland's Virtual School will evaluate the impact of pupil premium for looked after children in previous years, and provide schools with evidence and information about interventions which have impact in the VSH's Annual Report.

The PP+ must be used to improve outcomes for pupils in the following areas:

- academic achievement and progress;
- wider achievement eg in an area in which the child is gifted and talented;
- attendance;
- inclusion eg reducing fixed term exclusions;
- social skills;
- transition eg to a new key stage or learning provider.

Examples of the types of activities that the PP+ might be used to support children include:

- additional one to one tuition to support learning;
- additional group tuition to support learning;
- additional support in school that will build a child or young person's self-esteem, confidence or develop their learning skills eg mentoring;
- aspiration raising activities that will benefit the child or young person's learning and development;
- extra learning resources that may support these individual pupils;
- additional support for vocational training eg equipment;
- alternative education packages;
- revision courses;
- school organised overseas trips which promote learning.

### **Early Years Pupil Premium**

From April 2015 additional targeted funding for looked after children has been available as an Early Years Pupil Premium for three and four year olds. The Virtual School has therefore introduced an Early Years PEP which can be used to agree monitor expenditure and outcomes for each eligible child. Looked after children who are eligible for the funding are identified by the Virtual School. Further information on the Early Years Pupil Premium in Northumberland is available to download and read [here](#).

**Jane Walker**  
**Virtual School Headteacher, Northumberland**

For further information and guidance from Northumberland's Virtual School please visit our [web pages](#) and see our termly newsletter and half termly bulletin *Learn, Achieve, Celebrate*.

Further information, including suggested strategies to help improve the achievement of children who are eligible for the pupil premium, can be found on the [DfE website](#).