Pupil Premium for Looked After Children

Principles and Practice

Northumberland Virtual School for Looked After Children

Background

The aim of the Pupil Premium is to improve the life chances of children in care by raising academic achievement.

The overarching Government aim is to reduce inequalities for this group of children and young people by:

- addressing the consistently low attainment of looked after children with only 15% nationally achieving five GCSEs or equivalents compared to 70% of all children
- reducing the attainment gap between the highest and lowest achieving pupils nationally.

Premium

The Pupil Premium will provide additional per pupil funding of £600 (for the financial year 2012-2013) on top of the existing funding provided to schools.

Conditions

The Conditions of Grant for Pupil Premium for Looked After Children (DfE) state that:

- where a child meets the funding criteria the LA must allocate to the maintained school or academy the full pupil premium for the financial year. It is for LAs to determine how to apportion the allocation to reflect the particular circumstances of a looked after child e.g. if the child moves to another school, leaves school, or enters year 12 during the financial year;

- if the child attends a mainstream school or academy located in another LA, the LA that looks after the child shall pass the funding either direct to the school or via the LA;

- for pupils in non-mainstream settings it is for the Local Authority to decide how to allocate it. For instance, it could be allocated to the setting where they are being educated, or held by the Local Authority to spend specifically on additional educational support to raise the standard of attainment for these pupils.

Schools will have to publish details of their Pupil Premium allocation and plans to spend in the current year. For the previous year a statement confirming allocation and how the money was spent and the impact this had on educational attainment will be required by the DfE from September 2012. Details of how this will be done using an online resource will follow from the DfE in due course.

Eligibility

Those eligible for the Pupil Premium in the financial year 2012-2013 are identified on DfE return SSDA903 and are those individuals from the ages of 4 to 15 who have been looked after continuously by Northumberland LA for a minimum of 6 months up to 30th March 2012.

If a child becomes looked after continuously for at least 6 months during the financial year 2012-13 (ie there has been a 6-month review of care plan of which the personal education plan is part) the authority should allocate to the school a pro-rata allocation from the first school term following the date on which the child became looked after for 6 months.

Children who are in care in Scotland are not eligible for the Pupil Premium, even if they are on roll in a school in England. However, if a Northumberland belonging child is admitted to a school in Scotland the school should be paid the funding and record how it is used to support achievement on the child's PEP.

Protocol

The attached protocol has been developed by the Headteacher of the Virtual School for Looked After Children in Northumberland, in consultation with Business Support. The protocol sets out the our mechanism for the allocation and monitoring of the Pupil Premium for Northumberland's Looked After Children for the financial year 2012-2013.

- The Pupil Premium will be devolved to schools and academies in two payments during one financial year:
    - first payment of 5/12 for the period April to August
    - second payment of 7/12 for the period September to March.
- If there are any changes of educational placement during the year other than transition in September (which the bi-annual payment will address), the money will need to be managed between schools.
- If a pupil is eligible and is in Year 11 on and after 1st April 2012, the school will receive 5/12 of the pupil premium allocation only to cover the period April to August.
- The payments will be made to the school/academy where the pupil is on roll at the beginning of the payment period ie April and September.
- If a pupil from another Authority is on roll at a Northumberland academy, then the other Authority should contact that academy directly.
- For Northumberland belonging children on roll in Northumberland schools the funding will be paid by journal to subjective code 5665 of the relevant school's/academy's budget.
- For Northumberland belonging children on roll in schools/academies in other Local Authorities the Virtual School Headteacher will request appropriate invoices which will then be paid from cost centre 017016, subjective code 3258.

  School/academiess please note: other Authorities devolve the Pupil Premium in different ways. For example, Gateshead makes one payment of the whole amount to the school/academy where the pupil attended in April of the financial year.
  All funding from Northumberland will be paid to the Local Authority and not directly to the school/setting.

- Maintained Special Schools in Northumberland will receive the pupil premium for any eligible Northumberland belonging pupils on roll during the financial year.

- This funding protocol will be reviewed annually in consultation with schools/academies.

- If there is sufficient funding, we will make a pro-rata payment where a child becomes looked after continuously for at least 6 months during the 2012-2013 financial year, in line with the conditions of grant and eligibility criteria set out by the DfE.

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 be paid the Pupil Premium.

Monitoring arrangements/impact

- The Personal Education Plan (PEP) will be used to inform discussions with schools and other stakeholders on the use of the LAC pupil premium. 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 should therefore be linked to the pupil premium and identify what it is to be spent on to meet the child's needs.

- The PEP review must evaluate the impact of the pupil premium.

- The Designated Teacher for LAC in each school should be able to access the premium and use it to support progression and learning.

- The Designated Teacher for LAC should be reporting to Governors, perhaps as part of their annual report, on how the money has been used to support the child's education.
- Whilst schools will be free to spend the Pupil Premium as they see fit, they will be held accountable for how they have used the additional funding to support deprived pupils. New measures will be included in the performance tables that will capture the achievement of those deprived pupils covered by the Pupil Premium. From September 2012, the DfE will also require schools to publish online information about how they have used the premium. This will ensure that parents and others are made fully aware of the progress and attainment of pupils covered by the premium.

- The Northumberland Virtual School is part of a regional network which seeks to improve communication about individual looked after children and establish protocols where appropriate for the sharing of information and good practice. More efficient devolvement of the pupil premium is a concern of this network and will inform our methodology in subsequent years.

Good practice

Northumberland's Virtual School will provide schools with evidence and information about interventions which can improve the progress and attainment of looked after children.

Examples of the types of activities that the Pupil Premium 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 e.g. mentoring
- Aspiration raising activities that will benefit the child or young person's learning and development
- Extra learning resources that may support these individuals.
- Additional support for vocational training eg equipment
- Alternative education packages
- Revision courses
- School organised overseas trips that promote learning

For further information and guidance from Northumberland Virtual School please visit our web pages at: http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=12444

Suggested strategies to help raise the attainment of children who receive the pupil premium can be found on the DfE website at:
http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/premium/ppfaqs/a00200492/ppstrategies