

CABINET

16 October 2018

PUPIL PREMIUM PLUS POLICY

Report of the Strategic Director for People

Strategic Aim:	Creating a brighter future for all	
Key Decision: No	Forward Plan Reference: FP/140918	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Mr D Wilby, Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning, Early Years, SEND, Inclusion	
Contact Officer(s):	Gill Curtis, Head of Learning and Skills	01572 758460 gcurtis@rutland.gov.uk
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Ward Councillors	N/A	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the intent of the Pupil Premium Plus Policy

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report outlines the intention to provide schools with clarity regarding the allocation and spending expectations of the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) Grant that Rutland County Council receives on an annual basis for Children Looked After by the Local Authority. The intention of the Policy is to more precisely link the allocation of PP+ funding to quality assured pupil targets, through the Personal Education Plan process, with the intention to further improve outcomes for Children Looked After by Rutland.

2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 Children Looked After by the Local Authority (CLA) are defined in the Children Act 1989 as one who is in the care of, or provided with accommodation by, an English local authority.
- 2.2 The Department for Education (DfE) allocate to local authorities a provisional amount of £2,300 per child looked after. This is referred to as the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) allocation or grant. The Pupil Premium Plus is extra funding provided by the Government to help narrow the attainment gap between looked after children and other children.
- 2.3 Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a child arrangements order or a residence order are also entitled to Pupil Premium Plus allocation of £2,300.
- 2.4 The funding is provided by the Department for Education and devolved to schools and education providers by the Virtual School.
- 2.5 The Pupil Premium Plus must be managed by the designated virtual school head (VSH) in the local authority that looks after the child, and used without delay for the benefit of the CLA's educational needs as described in their personal education plan. In Rutland, this role is held by Helen Bushell who has been in post since January 2018.
- 2.6 The VSH should ensure there are arrangements in place to discuss how the child will benefit from pupil premium plus funding with the Designated Teacher for CLA in a school or another member of staff in the child's education setting who best understands their needs. Processes for allocating funds to a child's education setting should be as simple as possible to avoid delay.
- 2.7 Local authorities may not carry forward funding held centrally into the financial year 2018 to 2019. Centrally-held LAC premium that has not been spent, or allocated to the child's education setting, by 31 March 2019 will be recovered.
- 2.8 The Pupil Premium Plus Policy identifies how the PP+ will be spent on children looked after by Rutland. The Policy has been updated to reflect recent changes to national policy and good practice guidelines and to provide clarity to relevant stakeholders.
- 2.9 Through the more targeted procedures for allocating PP+ funding to schools, directly linked to a rigorous, quality assured Personal Education Plan process, improved outcomes for all CLA pupils can be promoted and evaluated.

- 2.10 This Policy sets out a transition from schools receiving a fixed PP+ sum each academic term, to a more needs generated funding to take account of the fact that some CLA will have greater need than others, or that individual needs may change over time.
- 2.11 Through regular reviews between the school and the Virtual School Head Teacher, Helen Bushell, assurances can be made that support for CLA in schools will not be compromised by the changing policy.
- 2.12 The Policy will be reviewed at the end of the academic year to evaluate the impact of the revised approach to the distribution of funding based on the quality of the Personal Education Plan and the outcomes for the child or young person for whom the funding is intended.

3 CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Consultation is undertaken with school leaders, the Designated Teachers for Children Looked After, the Learning and Skills Service and Children's Social Care.

4 ALTERNATE OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Pupil Premium Plus Grant is allocated by the Department for Education for each Rutland Child Looked After to the Virtual School to promote the education of children and young people in care.
- 4.2 How the Grant is to be used must be clearly identified in each young person's Personal Education Plan (PEP) in consultation with the Designated Teacher, the Social Worker and the Carer and any other relevant professionals.
- 4.3 The Policy sets out the transition to a needs-generated approach to allocating funding. If this Policy was not implemented, the current option to allocate a fixed sum to each child regardless of need, could continue.

5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Pupil Premium Grant received for Rutland County Council for 2018-2019 is £71300 which is based on the number of CLA identified in the annual return. This amount varies each year depending on the number of the CLA on the census.
- 5.2 The Policy promotes funding allocated to reflect individual need.
- 5.3 Any Pupil Premium Plus grant that has not been allocated to schools by the end of the financial year must be returned to the Department for Education.
- 5.4 Local authorities will be required to certify that they have passed on the correct amount of funding to schools or, where funding has been spent centrally, that it has been spent in line with these conditions of grant.

6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 The Secretary of State for Education lays down the terms and conditions on which assistance is given in relation to the pupil premium grant payable to local authorities.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed.

8 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 No community safety implications have been identified through the Pupil Premium Plus Policy.

9 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS (MANDATORY)

- 9.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has been completed. No adverse or other significant risks/issues were found. A copy of the DPIA can be obtained from Ms Gill Curtis.

10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (MANDATORY)

- 10.1 The Pupil Premium Plus Policy promotes the intention of the Pupil Premium Plus for children in care and previously looked after to support and help to raise their educational performance and their social and emotional welfare in school.
- 10.2 It has been shown in various studies that children adopted from care do not perform as well as their classmates at school. Pupil Premium Plus provides funding to help education providers give extra support to children in care or previously in care to help them reach their potential.

11 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 The Pupil Premium Plus Policy aims to improve outcomes for Children Looked After or previously Looked After by Rutland through a more targeted allocation of the Pupil Premium Plus funding to greater med assessed need.

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

13 APPENDICES

- 13.1 Appendix A – Rutland County Council Pupil Premium Plus Policy

A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.