

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

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| 1. | Meeting: | Cabinet Member for Lifelong Learning and Culture |
| 2. | Date: | 8 November 2011 |
| 3. | Title: | Proposal for the Future Allocation of the Pupil Premium for Looked After Children in Rotherham |
| 4. | Programme Area: | CYPS |

5. Summary:

This paper outlines the proposal for the future allocation of the pupil premium for Looked After Children.

It summarises the eligibility criteria and examines current and proposed practice.

6. Recommendations:

That Cabinet member endorses the proposals in this paper

7. Proposals and Details:

Eligibility

Identification of LAC who are eligible:

- SSDA903 census return submitted by LA to DfE to provide data on all aspects of LAC on 31st March
- DfE identify which children meet eligibility criteria for PPG and provide LAs with a provisional amount based on the previous year's census – no names attached
- LAs identify which children meet the criteria for the current year and allocate the money
- In October, DfE look at current year's census and provide an accurate figure to LAs

Children are eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- On 1st April 2011, they had been looked after continuously for at least 6 months
- They are in Year Groups R to 11 during the 2011-2012 financial year

Use of PPG:

- The Conditions of Grant states that PPG may be spent by maintained schools for the purposes of the school; that is to say for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school to raise attainment. It is the responsibility of Head teachers to determine how the money will be best used.
- Schools will be required to report to parents on the use of PPG

Issues

- Schools that had Y11 children on roll were allocated £430 for the financial year, April 2011 to March 2012 even though they would only be educating the children for a few weeks as they had completed exams and left school. (£13,000)
- Primary schools with Y6 children on roll were allocated the full £430 but these children were moving on to secondary school. The receiving school has not had an allocation. (£6500)
- Allocations have been made on a yearly basis but the frequent movement of LAC means that there are rapidly out of date
- Children who meet the criteria mid-year need to be allocated a proportion of the £430 when they meet the criteria
- For eligible children attending special schools, the Local Authority can decide how to allocate funds

Proposals:

- The budget for PPG will be managed by the finance team using information provided termly by the Get Real Team
- The £430 be sent to schools on a termly basis – September (£150), January (£150) and April (£130) to ensure that children who move schools benefit from the funding and that children who are no longer eligible do not continue to receive funding which will then release funds for newly identified children
- If schools wish to use the money in one lump sum (i.e. for 1:1 tuition) then they may do so, by agreement with the Virtual Headteacher. If the child then moves school, the receiving school will not access new funding until the following April
- The use of PPG is identified on Personal Education Plans so that it can be discussed during planning meetings and is tied into the child's education needs. Independent Reviewing Officers have been made aware of the funding and will be able to refer to it during reviews
- Children who meet the criteria mid way through the year will be allocated the termly payment in the term after they become eligible. For example, a child who meets the criteria in October will then receive the funding in January and will be on the list provided by GRT
- Funding for children in Special Schools to be allocated in line with all other allocations and monitored via the child's PEP
- Funding for LAC in Academies will be paid to the academy on a termly basis
- Funding for eligible children being educated out of authority should be automatically passed to either the authority (see quote below) or the school which educates the children and will be done by Finance Team

... If the child is at a school in England but attends a school or academy located in a local authority other than the one which looks after the child, the authority that looks after the child shall pass the funding either direct to the school, or via the authority in which the school is located to pass on to that school, to spend for 2011-2012. Should the authority looking after the child pass funding to the school via another authority, it must first have written assurance from that authority that the amount of funding will be passed to the relevant school for spend in 2011-2012. PPG Conditions of grant Paragraph 17

Items for consideration

- Schools are required to report to parents on how the PPG has been used to raise attainment. How as Corporate Parents would we receive this information?
- How can carers be made aware of the funding to enable them to ask questions at Parent & Carer evenings in school and also to discuss during review meetings?
- What is the best way of ensuring Designated Governors to be aware of the funding to form part of their role in challenging and supporting the school?

8. Finance:

The pupil premium will be allocated as described above

There are no other cost implications other than the personnel costs of administering the scheme

9. Risks and Uncertainties:

Any Pupil Premium money remaining unspent by the local authority will need to be given back to the DfE (see paragraphs 21, 23 and 25 in the Conditions of Grant). So it is important for those children not in maintained settings that their Pupil Premium allocation is spent by 31 March 2012.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications:

The Rotherham Schools Improvement Partnership core objectives state that we aspire to and will strive for a situation where;

- (i) all students making at least good progress;
- (ii) no underperforming cohorts
- (iii) all children and young people consistently experiencing at least good learning; and
- (iv) all schools and settings moving to at least the next level of successful performance

Looked After Children are amongst our most vulnerable young people and as such have significant barriers to achieving the stated objectives.

Effective use of and evaluation of the impact of the Pupil Premium will assist us in our corporate responsibility to ensure the best possible outcomes for young people.

11. Background Papers and Consultation:

PPG Conditions of grant-DFE

Proposals for the future Allocation of Pupil Premium- Paper to DLT and Corporate parenting Body Oct 2011 (R Allard- Virtual Head LAC)

Aurthor:

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