



# Walsall Council

## Walsall Children's Services

<b>Report to:</b>	Schools Forum
<b>Date:</b>	14 June 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	Pupil Premium Grant for Looked After Children
<b>Contact:</b>	Julie Taylor ( <a href="mailto:julie.taylor@walsallcs.serco.com">julie.taylor@walsallcs.serco.com</a> )
<b>Purpose of the report:</b>	To share with the Schools Forum the local authority mechanism for the distribution of Pupil Premium Grant for Looked after Children.
<b>Recommendation:</b>	Schools Forum is invited to comment on the proposed methodology as detailed in Appendix 1 before it is implemented and circulated to all schools and out of borough providers for information.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) is payable to Looked After Children (LAC) in year groups Reception to Y11, once they have been in care for a continuous period of six months. The nature of the care system means that children may hit the six month trigger or return to their families at any point during the financial year.
- 1.2 The volatility of the care system, plus a time lagged grant allocation will make the management of the LAC Pupil Premium complex for the local authority and schools.

## **2. Looked After Children PPG allocations**

- 2.1 The LAC PPG is £430 per child, per financial year. However, it is for the local authority to determine how to apportion the funding to reflect the circumstances of a particular child. For example, if a child moves to another school, is no longer in the care system or enters Y12 during the financial year, the local authority can make termly allocations to reflect these movements.
- 2.2 The home local authority is responsible for all PPG payments for the children of whom it is the corporate parent. Therefore each local authority will be processing payments for the LAC in their own schools, in schools in other local authorities, in academies and in all non-maintained settings.
- 2.3 If a child in year groups Reception to Y11 becomes 'looked after continuously for at least six months' during the financial year, that is there has been a six month review of the care plan of which the personal education plan (PEP) is part, the local authority should allocate to the school a pro-rata allocation from the first school term following that review.
- 2.4 The Virtual School maintains records of the LAC population in Walsall and it will be responsible for the administration of the PPG, in liaison with the Council payments section.
- 2.5 As this is the first year of the PPG, the DfE and local authorities will want to assess the effectiveness of the systems put in place for 2011-12, therefore the distribution methodology attached to this report as Appendix 1 will be reviewed again by the Schools Forum at the start of the 2012-13 financial year.
- 2.6 Subject to consultation with the Schools Forum the proposed system for allocating the PPG to children in care which is appended to this report will be circulated to all schools in Walsall and to all out of borough providers.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1** Schools Forum are requested to endorse the proposed methodology for the distribution of Pupil Premium Grant for Looked After Children who are the responsibility of Walsall Council, before it is implemented and communicated to all schools and out of borough providers.

## **Appendix 1**

### **The Pupil Premium for Looked After Children**

#### **Walsall Payment Arrangements**

**June 2011**

#### **Introduction**

From April 2011 a Pupil Premium Grant of £430 for each child who has been looked after for six months or more in Reception – Y11, will be made available. This funding will be in addition to the school's budget or Personal Education Allowances already being paid to Looked After Children.

The Virtual School will manage the distribution of the Pupil Premium for all Looked After Children following the system detailed below, as it is best placed to identify children who are eligible and ensure timely distribution and appropriate quality assurance.

#### **Background**

Local authorities (LAs) in consultation with the Virtual Head, need to determine how best to distribute the Pupil Premium for children in care: *'we will pay this funding to the authority that has the responsibility of care for the child and will give LAs additional freedoms to distribute the funding in the way they see best for the provision of support for these pupils.'* [Pupil Premium: DfE technical note for 2011-2012 allocation]

Ensuring that this funding is distributed in a fair, transparent and timely manner presents a number of challenges including:

1. Not all Looked After Children will be entitled to the Pupil Premium, only those who have been in care for six months: a child may become eligible at any point during the year
2. A child who was eligible for the Pupil Premium will cease to be if he/she leaves care
3. The LA must establish which looked after children are eligible, become eligible, or have ceased to be eligible
4. Pupil Premium funding must also be allocated to schools outside the LA and independent providers

5. Looked After Children are educated in a wide variety of settings; a third are educated outside their 'home' local authority: money will therefore have to be distributed to schools and organisations outside the local authority and/or mainstream schools
6. The LA has discretion about how the Pupil Premium is used for children educated in non-mainstream or independent settings
7. Looked After Children change schools more often than all children, for example because care placements break down; if the Pupil Premium is distributed in its entirety to a school and the child moves schools, the child and the receiving school could 'miss out'
8. Children educated in Walsall but looked after by another local authority, will receive their Pupil Premium from their 'home' authority, not Walsall MBC.
9. The Pupil Premium is intended to improve the educational outcomes in accordance with the child's Personal Education Plan (PEP). This Pupil Premium is in addition to the Personal Education Allowance which some Looked After Children will be in receipt of, and the grant is not subject to an application process as it is an entitlement. However, the DfE technical note below, paragraph 33, makes it clear that the LA must be consulted on how the PPG is to be spent for Looked After Children in accordance with their PEPs.
10. The overall level of Pupil Premium for children in care will be generated by an annual Children's Social Care return (SSDA903) for the previous financial year. If the number of children in care increases prior to the next annual return then there may be a shortage of available funds.

### **Proposed System**

The distribution of the Pupil Premium will be managed by the Virtual School and payments will be processed via Walsall MBC.

1. The Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) will be paid to any school or setting with eligible Walsall pupils (those Looked After Children in year groups R to 11 who have been in care continuously for six months or more) on roll. The payments will be made in termly instalments of £143.33 per term, subject to a current PEP being in place.
2. The PPG eligibility dates for Walsall Looked After Children are defined below:

Summer Term	30 April
Autumn Term	30 September
Spring Term	31 January

3. If a Looked After Child moves schools or ceases to be eligible for PPG during a term, but after the dates as set above, there will be no financial adjustments made until the following term.
4. If a Looked After Child becomes eligible for PPG during the term, but after the dates as set above, then the PPG will commence the following term.

5. Following the payment of the Spring Term PPG a financial year reconciliation will take place to establish the year end cash surplus/deficit position against the full year grant allocation. Any grant shortfall will be charged to the School Specific Contingency whilst any overpayment of grant must be returned to the DfE as specified in the grant conditions. The Schools Forum will receive an annual PPG reconciliation statement.
6. Schools and settings are required to consult the Head of the Virtual School regarding the expenditure of PPG for Looked After Children. As per paragraph 33 of the extract from the DfE Technical Note detailed below.

For further information please contact Karen Dainty, Head of the Virtual School for Looked After Children, [karen.dainty@walsallcs.serco.com](mailto:karen.dainty@walsallcs.serco.com)

## Appendix

### EXTRACT FROM MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

The funding for the Pupil Premium is in addition to **the underlying schools budget**, which will be at the same cash per pupil level for 2011-12 as this year.

6. In allocating the Pupil Premium, we have also recognised that looked after children face additional barriers to reaching their potential and so these pupils too will receive a premium of £430. The premium for looked after children will rise in subsequent years, in line with the premium for deprived pupils.
7. For both looked after children and deprived pupils in non-mainstream settings we will pay this funding **to the authority that has the responsibility of care for the child** and will give **local authorities additional freedoms to distribute the funding in the way they see best for the provision of support for these pupils.**

### PUPIL PREMIUM: TECHNICAL NOTE FOR 2011-2012 ALLOCATION DfE

#### Looked After Children in mainstream schools

28. For each looked after child who at some point in the year up to 31st March 2011 has been looked after continuously for at least 6 months and who is in Year Groups R to 11 during the 2011-2012 financial year, the Pupil Premium should be allocated to the maintained school or academy they mainly attend.

- 2.9. **It is for local authorities to determine how to proportion the allocation to reflect the particular circumstances of a looked after child:** for example, if the child moves to another school, leaves school, or enters year group 12, during the financial year. **Local authorities will want to consider whether to make allocations on a termly basis** to allow for these movements.

30. If the child attends a school or Academy located in another local authority in England, other than the one which looks after the child, the authority that looks after the child should pass the funding direct to the school or academy, or via the authority in which the school is located to pass on to that school.
  
31. If a **child becomes “looked after continuously for at least 6 months”** during the financial year (i.e. there has been a 6-month review of care plan of which the personal education plan (**PEP**) 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 educated in non-mainstream settings**

32. Grant will also been allocated to each local authority for pupils that are eligible for FSM in maintained special schools, PRUs, and Alternative Provision. **Grants for** these pupils and looked after children in non-mainstream settings **can be held by the local authority to spend specifically on additional educational support** to raise the standard of attainment for the aforementioned pupils in 2011-2012, or allocated to the setting where they are being educated.
  
33. For looked after children **the authority’s Virtual School Head or Looked After Children Education Service must be consulted on how this amount is to be spent to support these pupils in accordance with a child’s PEP.**