

## **Accessing funding to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in the care of Hampshire County Council**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

This document has been produced by the Hampshire Virtual School for children in care in collaboration with our Education Funding Team. It draws on the current DfE *Pupil Premium Conditions of Grant 2015-16* and *Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15 Frequently asked questions*. This document is correct as of June 2015 and will be regularly updated. If you do not see the answer you need, please contact the Virtual School so that information can be added.

### **DSG**

#### **What is DSG funding for looked after children?**

DSG is the Dedicated Schools Grant. It is the main source of funding for school budget shares and is allocated to schools using a formula based on its pupil characteristics. These include the number on roll (NoR), deprivation, looked after children and English as an additional language. In the context of looked after children, it is the LAC element of DSG that is being referred to, rather than DSG in its entirety and the Pupil Premium, which is considered later.

#### **How much is the LAC element of DSG in Hampshire?**

At the current time (April 2015) £1,983 is assigned per looked after child.

#### **How does DSG funding appear in a school's budget?**

Maintained schools receive their full budget share at the start of each financial year (April) which includes funding generated by the LAC formula factor. A breakdown of the budget share is provided via the HCC website – link below:

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/education/schools/budgetshares/>

Academies receive their funding from the EFA but looked after child funding is based on the same methodology and rates as for maintained schools. This funding is generated automatically in Hampshire. Schools do not have to apply for it.

#### **Why does the amount of DSG for looked after children differ from one Local Authority to the next?**

This is because each LA (in consultation with their Schools Forum) can assign a value from £0 upwards per looked after child. The 'LAC' element of DSG is then used to calculate the budget shares of all schools in the LA (including free schools and academies). Schools outside Hampshire will receive DSG at the rate agreed by its Schools Forum. It is the home authority of the school (not the home authority of the child) that determines the DSG funding received.

### **How is the amount of DSG received by a school for its LAC calculated?**

The LAC funding within the budget share is based on the percentage of looked after children in the school **at the end of March in the previous calendar year** (taken from the SSDA903 return completed by the Local Authority).

For example, for the 2015/16 budget share, the LAC element of DSG is based on the percentage of looked after children in a school at 31 March 2014. The percentage is then applied to the October census number on roll. So, if a school had 100 pupils in March 2014, five of whom were looked after, the percentage would be 5%. If the number on roll in October 2014 was 120, the budget share allocation for looked after children would be six (120 x 5%).

Due to the timing of this calculation, it is possible that a school would not receive the LAC element of its DSG until the following financial year. It could also be the case that a school spends DSG allocated in the current financial year (based on calculations from the previous year) on looked after children they now have on roll.

### **What happens if a child moves school? Does the DSG funding follow them?**

No. The budget share is based on pupil numbers and characteristics at a particular school at the dates outlined above. There are no exceptions to this. Schools are not obliged to pass looked after child funding on to a new setting if a looked after child leaves the school. Any decisions about passing funding on are a matter for the schools involved.

### **What should a school do if they have not received DSG funding for a looked after child on their roll?**

All schools will receive funding for their looked after children, however there could be a delay of up to a year as described above. Data is collected annually in March and include all pupils looked after for one day or more. If a school is unsure, they should contact Hampshire's Education Funding Team - [school.fund@hants.gov.uk](mailto:school.fund@hants.gov.uk)

### **How should DSG funding be spent and what is the accountability around this?**

DSG looked after child funding is part of a schools budget share. As outlined above, the funding is allocated on the basis of the number of looked after children (alongside a number of other factors.) Decisions around how to spend a school's delegated budget are made by the governing body. Hampshire's Virtual School would recommend that schools take account of good practice guidance in relation to Pupil Premium Plus funding (See useful links below) when identifying the optimum way to spend the LAC element of DSG.

## **Pupil Premium Plus**

### **What is Pupil Premium Plus?**

Pupil Premium Plus (also called LAC Premium) is additional grant funding from the DfE for those pupils who are looked after. The purpose of the grant is to close the attainment gap for this cohort of children and improve their educational outcomes. It is provided for each child who is looked after for at least one day as recorded in the March SSDA903 children looked after data return and aged 4-15 as at 31<sup>st</sup> August. Pupils from Year R to Year 11 are eligible for Pupil Premium Plus.

### **What is the difference between Pupil Premium Plus for a looked after child and other types of pupil premium?**

Other pupil premium includes:

- Deprivation premium (Ever 6, Free School Meals) which is £1,320 for primary pupils and £935 for secondary pupils
- Service family premium (Ever 5) which is £300 per pupil
- Post looked after child which is £1,900 per pupil (payable to those pupils that have been adopted or have a special guardianship order / residence order immediately after being looked after).

The main difference between these three premiums and PPP is that the funding must be fully passported to schools and not held centrally as can be the case with PPP.

### **Can Pupil Premium Plus AND other types of pupil premium be accessed for a looked after child?**

No, pupils will only receive one premium per year. This is the higher amount (PPP or Post-LAC)

### **What is the current allocation?**

At the current time (April 2015) the DfE allocates £1,900 per looked after child. However, please note that the amount allocated to schools may vary according to the arrangements put in place by each LA's Virtual School on behalf of children they look after. From April 2014 onwards, responsibility for managing Pupil Premium Plus funding for looked after children was passed over to the designated Virtual School Head (VSH). It is for the VSH to decide whether to provide £1,900 to a school for a looked after child or a higher or lower amount. They can also decide on whether to pay termly or annually and can link allocations to the content of the Personal Education Plan as agreed with the school.

**How is this allocated for children in the care of Hampshire Local Authority?**

Hampshire Local Authority currently allocates £1,500 per looked after child, which is paid in termly instalments of £600 (Summer term), £500 (Autumn term) and £400 (Spring term). £400 per child is held centrally by the Virtual School. This is subject to review on an annual basis.

**Is there a cut off date for Pupil Premium Plus funding?**

No. The current arrangements in Hampshire are that funding is distributed on a termly basis and is proportionate to the length of the term. A data run is collected at the start of each term to pick up all Hampshire looked after children and again at the end of each term to pick all those that came into care subsequently. For children who have been looked after for a very short period, the VSH is able to use their discretion to allocate an amount of funding to reflect this.

**How can schools find out Pupil Premium Plus arrangements for children who are looked after by a different Local Authority?**

They should contact the Virtual School in the child's home LA. Most will have a website containing contact details. However Janet Cox in Hampshire's Virtual School team will be able to signpost schools to the relevant Local Authority's Virtual School Head should they encounter any difficulty ([Janet.cox@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Janet.cox@hants.gov.uk))

**Does the Virtual School head have to give the money to schools?**

*There is no requirement to do so. There is, however, a strong expectation that virtual school heads will pass on pupil premium funding onto a child's education setting to be used to meet additional needs set out in his or her Personal Education Plan. That can be passed to the school on a termly or annual basis. Any funding not passed down to schools by the end of the financial year will have to be returned to the Department for Education.*

*(Source: Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15. Frequently asked Questions)*

**What happens if a child moves school? Does the PPP funding (and any resources which have been bought for a child from PPP money such as a laptop) follow them?**

Transfer of PPP funding is a matter for discussion between schools and where appropriate, alternative providers. The Virtual School would expect that, when a child moves school there is a discussion about the provision and support being delivered. This should include the ways in which any funding is passed to the receiving school or alternative provider will be used to meet a child's needs in accordance with their Personal Education Plan. Where a school retains any remaining PPP after a child has left, they should note that they will be still be accountable to the LA and to

OFSTED for demonstrating the impact of pupil premium spend on improving educational outcomes.

**What happens in cases where a child is dual rolled at a school and an alternative provider such as an Education Centre or PRU?**

Funding is paid to the school where the pupil is solely registered. In the event of dual registration funding will go to the main school and the PRU will need to liaise with the main school to request a transfer of a proportion of the funding.

**Can PPP be used to pay for the costs of alternative provision?**

No, every child, whether or not they are looked after, has an entitlement to an education. PPP should be regarded as additional funding so that further interventions can be put in place to meet a child's educational needs. These will be identified on their Personal Education Plan and used to address and close any gaps in progress and attainment.

**How should Pupil Plus funding be spent?**

Pupil Premium Plus must be managed by the designated Virtual School Head (VSH) and used for the benefit of the looked after child's educational needs as described in their personal education plan.

Schools need to be clear about the ways in which this funding meets the needs of individual children as identified in their Personal Education Plan and recorded within their targets. The Hampshire PEP includes a page on which pupil premium spend and its impact can be tracked and recorded. The Hampshire Virtual School also conducts an annual data collection requiring schools to report against spend.

Designated teachers for looked after children are required to provide a report on the progress of and provision for looked after children at least once annually (The role and responsibilities of the designated teacher for looked after children: statutory guidance for school governing bodies). This report should include an account of what the pupil premium is being used for and the impact on progress, particularly in English and mathematics. This ensures governors are fully aware of the impact of the pupil premium for this group.

Further information about the ways Pupil Premium Plus can be spent may be accessed via:

- Hampshire Virtual Schools Designated Teacher training and networks
- Hampshire's 'Closing the Gap' training and Pupil Premium networks.  
<https://learningzone.hants.gov.uk/>
- The links included at the end of this document

**Where can additional funding information about children with special educational needs and disabilities be found?**

Further information can be accessed from Hampshire's Local Offer website [http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/Main\\_Page1](http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/Main_Page1)

**Is Pupil Premium Plus allocated to independent Special Schools?**

Pupils attending independent schools where the Local Authority pays the fees are classed by the DfE as attending 'alternative provision'. These pupils can qualify for pupil premium funding. Where a school is of the view that the fees paid by the LA sufficiently meet the needs of the child they can ask to return it to the LA (Virtual School) together with written confirmation of their decision. This will need to be done on an annual basis.

**How can schools help ensure that pupil premium and DSG payments are made on time?**

It is imperative that schools accurately record LAC status on their census. Errors in census returns may result in funding being delayed.

**What should a school do if they have not received PPP funding for a Hampshire looked after child on their roll?**

The school can contact the Hampshire Education Funding Team, who will look into why, and make payment if applicable. Contact details are [school.fund@hants.gov.uk](mailto:school.fund@hants.gov.uk) The school can also contact the Hampshire Virtual School if they encounter any difficulties with this or have any additional questions.

**Is Pupil Premium Plus available for looked after children in the Early Years and Post 16?**

The Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) commenced from April 2015 paying 53p per hour (up to £300 per year) per looked after child or child eligible for free school meals (FSM). Vulnerable Student Funding is available for looked after children post 16 up to the sum of £1,200 per annum. Further information will be added to this document in due course.

**Coming soon, FAQ on early years pupil premium and for children who have been adopted**

## **Acronyms used in this document**

DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
EFA	Education Funding Agency
EYPP	Early Years Pupil Premium
FSM	Free School Meals
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Child
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PPP	Pupil Premium Plus
VSH	Virtual School Head
DfE	Department for Education

## Useful links and references

DfE Pupil Premium Conditions of Grant 2015-16

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-2015-to-2016-allocations/pupil-premium-2015-to-2016-conditions-of-grant>

Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15

Frequently asked questions

<https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities>

The Pupil Premium: How schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement (Ofsted 2013)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/413197/The\\_Pupil\\_Premium\\_-\\_How\\_schools\\_are\\_spending\\_the\\_funding.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413197/The_Pupil_Premium_-_How_schools_are_spending_the_funding.pdf)

John Dunford's Pupil Premium Reviews

<http://tsCouncil.org.uk/guide-effective-pupil-premium-reviews/>

Statutory guidance: Designated teacher for looked-after children

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

Hampshire Local Offer website

[http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/Main\\_Page1](http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/Main_Page1)

Early years pupil premium: guide for local authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/early-years-pupil-premium-guide-for-local-authorities#EYPP-looked-after-children>

Early Years pupil premium guide for providers

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/02/early-years-pupil-premium-guidance-for-providers/>

Early Years pupil premium Virtual School Head's responsibilities document:

<https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium-virtual-school-heads-responsibilities>

Education Endowment Foundation Toolkit

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/>

