

Schools Forum 5 December Document JR Appendix 1

Pupil Premium Plus – Children in Care – Bradford Virtual School School Forum December 2019

Following the publication of the Statutory Guidance for promoting the education of looked after children and previously looked after children, in February 2018, it was timely that Bradford's Virtual School reviewed the arrangements for the allocation of the Pupil Premium Plus as the DfE increased Pupil Premium Plus funding from £1,900 to £2,300 for children in care.

The pupil premium for children in care must be managed by the designated virtual school head (VSH) in the local authority that looks after the child, and used to support the child's educational needs as described in their personal education plan.

The VSH should ensure there are arrangements in place to discuss how the child will benefit from pupil premium funding with the designated teacher 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.

Depending on the circumstances local authorities can either:

- pass on the full amount of pupil premium or EYPP you receive for a particular child to their school or early years provider
- pass on less than the full amount
- pass on more than the full amount

2017-2018 Early Release Data

Key Stage 1

Benchmark - EXS	Reading	Writing	Maths	RWM
NCER National CLA	52.0%	43.0%	49.0%	38.0%
Bradford CLA	54.0%	50.0%	50.0%	39.0%

Key Stage 2

Benchmark - EXS	Reading	Writing	Maths	GPS	RWM
NCER National CLA	51.0%	50.0%	48.0%	50.0%	35.0%
Bradford CLA	48.0%	41.3%	48.0%	48.0%	28.0%

Key Stage 4

	Attainment 8	Progress 8 Ave Score	9-5		EBacc	
			Eng	Ma	Entry	APS
NCER National CLA	24.7	-0.94	21.6%	15.1%	12.5%	1.97
Bradford CLA	25.8	-0.72	23.3%	9.3%	14.0%	2.06

Results show that Bradford's looked after cohort are not making enough progress, particularly in KS2. This was picked up by HMI in the ILACS earlier this term. HMI recognised that despite attendance of children looked after being good *'and fixed-term exclusions reducing. This has yet to ensure that children's outcomes by the end of key stages 2 and 4 are good enough, in particular in progress measures.'*

HMI recognised the impact of the Virtual School when working with schools and its looked after cohort – *'A strength of the virtual school team is the guidance and advice programme they offer to young people and the different opportunities that are in place through the team to ensure that the most vulnerable young people get personalised support and advice'*.

The educational needs of many children can be fully met by quality first wave 1 provision in school and therefore, will not require the same amount of pupil premium as children with more complex needs who may need flexible provision, one to one tuition, work placements and apprenticeships, provision of small group work, pre-teaching etc.

It is this personalised advice and support that we must capitalise on if we are to work with schools to improve outcomes for our looked after cohort. Additional funding from the PPP grant will enable the Virtual School to provide:

- additional staffing to provide support for children and schools in order to improve pupil outcomes
- additional EP advice and support for all children in care with SEND, who meet thresholds for involvement;
- training on trauma and attachment for schools;
- development of an attachment network for schools;
- Mental Health First Aid training for school staff;
- a virtual school well being worker to provide advice and support to designated teachers and schools for those at risk of exclusion and with presenting mental health concerns;
- training and support for designated teachers and school staff in individual schools to improve the quality of PEPs;
- urgent support for children with profound educational needs not always supported through other SEN funding and for those new into care during the academic year;

We will present a report next year that outlines what the Virtual School has done differently as a result of these changes.

From April 2019, Bradford's Virtual School will retain 50% of the Pupil Premium Plus funding Schools will receive £1,150 per year paid in termly instalments following evidence of impact, progress and attainment tracking information. All pupils should have detailed PEP containing SMART educational targets.

Ken Poucher

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