



North Tyneside Council

Pupil Premium Plus for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children

North Tyneside Virtual School Policy 2018-19

This policy sets out how North Tyneside Virtual School will distribute and monitor the Pupil Premium Plus for Looked After Children and support the use of the Pupil Premium Plus for Previously Looked After Children.

This is to be read alongside the government guidance on the Pupil Premium.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2018-to-2019/pupil-premium-2018-to-2019-conditions-of-grant>

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

It should also be read alongside the Statutory Guidance for [Designated Teachers for Looked After and Previously Looked After Children](#) and [The Local Authority and Virtual School Head](#)

There is further guidance and advice from the DfE [here](#) to support understanding of how best to use the funding and evaluate its effectiveness.

This policy sets out how North Tyneside Council will distribute and monitor the Pupil Premium Plus for looked after children in the financial year 2018 – 19.

Eligibility

To be eligible a child needs to have been looked after for 1 day or more. Those eligible will be identified by the North Tyneside Council and The Virtual School.

1.1 There will be three payment windows a year based on those in care on the 1st April 2018 and 1st September 2018 and 1st January 2019. Any surplus will be distributed in March 2019.

1.2 If a child becomes eligible between payment dates then interim funding can be accessed through the Personal Education Plan (PEP).

1.3 If a child ceases to be looked after there will be no payment in the following window, unless by prior agreement due to legal status changing to Adoption Order, Special

Guardianship Order or Child Arrangements Order. We seek to avoid a funding gap between a child leaving care and the January census window.

- 1.4 If a school requires additional funding to that which has already been allocated, further requests can be made through the PEP, providing evidence of initial spend and impact is detailed on the PEP.
- 1.5 If a school requires additional funding outside the PEP window then the additional funding request form can be completed and returned to the Virtual School Head.
- 1.6 If a school has a looked after child in crisis and additional funding is required urgently then contact the Virtual School Head directly to access crisis funding. (jane.pickthall@northtyneside.gov.uk or Tel: 0191 643 8366)
- 1.7 All applications for additional funding (other than crisis funding) will be discussed at the Resource Allocation Panel each month. This panel is made up of the virtual school head or a teacher from the virtual school, a representative from the Virtual School Management Group and the virtual school finance officer. Applications must include sufficient information to enable panel to make an informed decision.
- 1.8 Schools are expected to provide termly progress data for individual looked after children to enable the Virtual School Head to monitor the impact of pupil premium.

Distribution of Funding for Looked After Children

2.1 Schools will receive £1200 per looked after child a year, if that pupil remains on roll for the full year. To allow for transitions funding will be allocated on a termly basis. In September schools will be allocated £500, January £400 and April £300. This is to recognise the importance of early intervention and the national assessment cycle. Schools can decide how best to use this funding and provide details of interventions used and the impact of them on the child's Personal Education Plan.

2.2 In order to provide an enhanced Virtual School offer we will pool a proportion of the grant to fund the following posts:

- Maths Teacher (0.8) x 2
- Educational Psychologist (0.5)
- Counsellor (0.4)
- Nursery Nurse (0.4)
- Data collection / SDQ administrator (0.6)

Schools will be able to access support through PEPs and by directly contacting the Virtual School. The Virtual School also provides support based on requests from social workers, foster carers and through data collection processes. Some funding will also be used to provide training for staff within the Virtual School, resources for children and young people and to provide training for schools. We also have two additional teachers and a counsellor within the Virtual School who are centrally employed by the local authority. Further details can be found in The Virtual School Leaflet.

2.3 There will be £50,000 available to meet requests for additional funding that come through the PEPs. This will include requests to fund out of school activities, IT

equipment, educational visits and additional funding requests from schools that require more than their initial allocation. This funding will be distributed through the Resource Allocation Panel.

2.4 There will be £80,000 available to provide crisis support to schools where additional support may be needed due to a crisis situation arising from the pupil's care circumstances. These are situations that we cannot predict and due to the nature of the cohort this is an important function for the pupil premium plus. The looked after population changes on a daily basis and this funding allows us to respond to the changing needs of the cohort and deal with unforeseen circumstances. This enables us to fund high levels of support or bespoke packages, as and when required.

2.5 Any surplus funding will be shared between schools with looked after children on roll at the end of the financial year on a per pupil basis.

School Placement

3.1 If a child leaves the school between payment windows, we do not propose to recoup funding.

3.2 If a transition is planned then funding may be withheld and provided to the new provision.

3.3 If a child is dual registered, the Pupil Premium will go to the provision at which the child is receiving their education.

3.4 If a child attends an independent provision, funding will be retained by the Local Authority and will be distributed on a discretionary basis.

3.5 If a child attends a non-maintained special school or alternative provision, funded by the local authority, they will receive the same level of funding as other schools.

3.6 If a child attends an academy or free school the funding will be distributed in the same way as maintained schools.

Cross Border

4.1 If a school has a child looked after by another local authority who meets the eligibility criteria the funding will come from that authority. The Virtual School Head from that authority will provide details of their Pupil Premium Plus Policy.

4.2 If a school experiences difficulty in claiming the Pupil Premium Plus from another authority then the Virtual School Head in North Tyneside should be notified.

4.3 For children looked after by North Tyneside Council attending schools in other authorities, the North Tyneside Virtual School will be responsible for notifying the school and distributing the funding in line with the above.

Accountability

5.1 Schools will be expected to evidence how the Pupil Premium is being used to improve the educational outcomes of individual looked after children through the Personal Education Plan and in reports to governors. Schools have a responsibility to report how the Pupil Premium is being used to parents. For looked after children this will be The Head of The Virtual School , in a corporate parenting role, along with the child's social worker and carer.

Pupil Premium Plus for Previously Looked After Children

Pupil Premium Plus funding for previously looked after children will continue to go directly to schools. The allocation has increased to £2300 per pupil registered in the January census.

6.1 Schools should do all they can to ensure parents, carers and guardians are aware of their entitlement to Pupil Premium Plus funding. This might include putting information on the school website about who is entitled to Pupil Premium Plus funding, collecting the information on admissions paperwork and advising through written communications with families.

6.2 Parents, carers and guardians must self-declare to the school, providing evidence, that their child is previously looked after and has an Adoption Order, Special Guardianship Order, Child Arrangements Order or Residence Order. The child must have been in care previously in England or Wales.

6.3 The school are responsible for recording the number of eligible pupils on the January Census and the funding will follow in April.

6.4 As parents, carers and guardians are self-declaring in order for the school to claim the money it is important to discuss the best use of the funding with them. Further information about the best use of the Pupil Premium Plus can be found in the Designated Teacher Guidance.

6.5 The role of The Virtual School will be to offer advice and guidance about how best to use the Pupil Premium Plus.

Pupil Premium Reviews

7.1 If a school is commissioning a Pupil Premium Review they should pay particular attention to the Pupil Premium Plus cohort. This group often have the most complex needs and nationally have the poorest outcomes.

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