

AfC Virtual School - Pupil Premium Plus Policy for Children in Care

1. Introduction to Pupil Premium Plus

There were significant national changes in the arrangements for Pupil Premium for Children in Care from April 2014 and our policy is informed by two key Department for Education (DfE) documents:

1. Pupil Premium Grant 2020 to 2021 Conditions of Grant
2. Promoting the Education of Looked After Children, February 2018

Throughout our policy, the Pupil Premium for Children in Care will be referred to as Pupil Premium Plus to distinguish it from other forms of Pupil Premium allocations.

- In April 2014 'Pupil Premium Plus' funding to support children and young people in care at school increased by £1,000 per pupil to make it £1,900 per child. This has been increased further and in 2020-21 school year is £2,345.
- Children and young people will now be eligible following one day in care.
- Virtual School Headteachers are responsible for making sure there are effective arrangements in place for allocating Pupil Premium Plus funding to benefit children looked after by their authority.
- The overall grant allocated to each Local Authority will be calculated on a per capita basis. However, it does not have to be distributed on a per capita basis, given that children and young people in care have differing levels of need at different stages of being in care.
- The grant must be managed by the Virtual School Headteacher and used to improve outcomes and “narrow the gap” as identified in the Personal Education Plan [PEP] in consultation with the designated teacher.
- As a result, PEPs will need to be monitored even more closely by designated teachers, the Virtual School team, Social workers team leaders and Independent Reviewing Officers.
- Early Years Pupil Premium is additional funding (£300 per year) for Early Years settings to improve the education they provide for disadvantaged 3 and 4 year olds.
- Through a separate process, children adopted from care will be entitled to Pupil Premium which is passed directly to the school. However, this grant is outside the remit of this policy.

2. Pupil Premium Plus Arrangements 2020-21

2.1 General Principles around Pupil Premium Plus

- Pupil Premium Plus is to benefit the child in care and must be used to enhance and improve their education. The child in care's voice and their specific needs are of paramount importance in considering the use and impact of this money by schools and settings. The Virtual School Headteacher is responsible for the use of Pupil Premium Plus to improve outcomes for all children in our care, wherever they live.

- The funding will be provided according to the needs of the child. Funding will be divided into two streams a) Delegated Funding and b) Strategic Funding.
 - a) The Virtual School Headteacher (VSH) is responsible for monitoring impact of all funding. In the case of delegated funding this is via the appropriate page on the electronic PEP. This should be completed by the Designated Teacher, in full, after each PEP meeting.
 - b) The Virtual School retains funding to use on strategic projects designed to improve the learning and wellbeing of children in care. The School Business Manager is in charge of monitoring the impact of strategic projects.

2.2. Delegated Pupil Premium Funding

- AfC Virtual School delegates Pupil Premium to Children in Care between the age of 3-16 until the end of Year 11.
- Pupils receive approximately £300 a term which is sent to schools retrospectively on a pro-rata basis.
- Additional funding can be applied for from the Virtual School via the respective Assistant Headteacher who is your Virtual School casework contact.
- Pupil Premium funding requests are processed at AfC Virtual School weekly finance meetings which are generally on a Friday. Completed **Additional Funding Forms** received by AfC Virtual School by Wednesday morning will be processed at the Friday meetings.
- Delegated funding should be linked to the successful attainment of PEP targets which in turn should be SMART and their focus should be on educational progress.
- Proposals made by school to pool Pupil Premium Plus to enhance services, are permitted providing its use is directly linked to children in care's learning needs via the PEP.

2.3 Strategic Pupil Premium Funding

A portion of the funding is retained by the Virtual School to be pooled and used on strategic projects. This includes:

- Specialist staff e.g. Educational Psychologists
- Wellbeing services
- Literacy Interventions
- Aim Higher initiatives
- 1:1 tuition
- Careers services
- Training provision
- Student workshops and Summer Schools
- PEP and Attendance monitoring
- Radio Aspire Youth.

3. Management and accountability

The Headteacher of AfC Virtual School will be accountable to AfC Virtual School Governing Body for setting up a transparent and rigorous allocation process, ensuring that effective use and impact of the grant is monitored, evaluated, supported and where necessary challenged. Use

and impact of the Pupil Premium Plus will be clearly recorded in the child/young person's PEP and in other evaluative documentation held by AfC Virtual School, e.g. the annual Pupil Premium Narrative. Impact will also be measure against termly progress data and returns from schools.

Schools and settings are accountable for ensuring the money is used appropriately and effectively to enhance and improve the child in care's educational achievement. Targets will be submitted termly by the school/setting on a provision map as part of the PEP. Schools will be expected to review the previous terms target and the effect of the pupil premium spending.

4. Pupil Premium Plus for Children and Young People attending AfC schools and settings placed by other Local Authorities.

Different approaches will be adopted by different Local Authorities and schools should discuss arrangements with the placing local authority's Virtual School Headteacher. A request for the Pupil Premium Policy should identify how the Pupil Premium Plus will be paid – it is the responsibility of the Virtual School Headteacher to ensure that Pupil Premium Plus is allocated for all their school aged children and young people in care no matter where they are educated.

The name and contact details of other Virtual School Heads can be found on AfC Virtual School's website www.afcvirtualschool.org.uk

5. Administrative and Accountancy information

It is the responsibility of the Designated Teacher in the Host School to ensure that the Vendor Form is completed to enable transference of funds from the Local Authority Finance team to the school. Vendor Forms can be obtained from www.afcvirtualschool.org.uk or through discussion with AfC Virtual School's Business Manager, Tav Juttla on tav.juttla@achievingforchildren.org.uk

Name of Policy lead: Suzanne Parrott

Position in School: Headteacher

Signed: *Suzanne E Parrott*

Date of initial Policy: January 2017

Date Policy most recently updated: January 2021

Signed: *Suzanne E Parrott*

Position in School: Executive Headteacher

Appendix 1

Extract from the Department for Education Conditions of Grant

ESFA will allocate to local authorities in June 2020 a provisional amount of £2,345 per child looked after for at least one day, as recorded in the March 2019 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2018.

The LAC premium must be managed by the designated virtual school head (VSH) in the local authority that looks after the child, and used without delay for the benefit of the looked-after 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.