

Sheffield Virtual School

Pupil Premium Policy

For

Children Looked After (CLA)

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Status: Final

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Revisions

V 2.0

- Change terminology from 'Looked After Child' to 'Children Looked After' (CLA)
- 1.0 Increase of CLA Pupil Premium to £2300
- 2.2. Update section to include definition of a 'good quality' PEP
- 2.3 Amendment to include February 'cut off' date for requesting additional pupil premium requests from Schools
- 4.1 Information on 'holding back' of Pupil Premium Grant.
- 4.5. Inclusion of VS generic email address
- 5.4 Update name of VSH



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1. Overview

This protocol is concerned solely with the strand of the Pupil Premium Grant allocated for Children Looked After (CLA) by the Head of the Sheffield Virtual School. There are two elements of this grant: (1) Early Years Pupil Premium Grant for CLA aged 2&4 (early years), (2) Pupil Premium Grant for CLA of statutory school age.

The Early Years CLA Pupil Premium is £300 per annum, and the CLA Pupil Premium for school age children amounts to £2300 per annum.

This grant funding runs across the financial year, not the academic year. The grant is paid annually to the Virtual School by the Department for Education (DfE) and therefore funding beyond the current financial year (April to March) cannot be guaranteed.

The Department for Education (DFE) has stated that Virtual School Heads (VSHs) are responsible for managing the grant and for allocating it to schools and alternative provision (AP) settings (Alternative Provision settings provide education for children who can't go to a mainstream school).

VSHs are also responsible for managing the Early Years pupil premium (EYPP). They're in charge of giving the premium to the Early Years providers that educate CLA who are taking up the free early education entitlement for 3- or 4-year-olds .

The grant conditions state that the funding must be used for the benefit of the CLA. The grant conditions allow for the grant to be given directly to individual education settings or pooled together to benefit a group of CLA.

Where money is given to education settings, the money must be clearly documented in the child's Personal Education Plan (PEP).

DFE guidance on the conditions of grant are available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2017-to-2018/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2017-to-2018>

2. Distribution of CLA Pupil Premium

2.1 Distribution Early Years Pupil Premium Grant

CLA children can access Free Early Learning (FEL) provision from the age of 2. The VSH in Sheffield has agreed that the EY Pupil Premium Grant will be paid directly to education settings for all 3 and 4 year old CLA who are accessing the Free Early Learning (FEL) places. The EY PPG will be distributed by the Early Years Finance team on a termly basis.

Early years settings are not required to apply for the grant which is distributed automatically.

Early Years Finance team can be contacted on:
EYFEL.census@Sheffield.gov.uk or 0114 2736423

2.2 Distribution of the school age CLA Pupil Premium Grant

The Local Authority receives a £2300 grant (annually) from the DFE for every CLA child that it responsible for. The VSH has agreed with Headteachers' that the Pupil Premium will be distributed in the following way:

- £1500 will be given directly to schools (per CLA child) in 3 equal installments of £500 each in October, February and May. All payments will be subject to the completion (within the last 6 months) and signing off of a 'good' quality Personal Education Plan (PEP). A **good quality pep** is defined as '*a co-constructed 'live' document which captures the current situation, needs and progress of the child, and which has clearly defined SMART targets, actions and accountability –with clear attributable spend of the PP grant*'.
- The remainder will be retained (and pooled) by the VSH to: (1) Identify, commission and deliver targeted projects and initiatives which fall within the aims and objectives of the Virtual School, (2) to provide additional funding to individuals schools and education establishments (as agreed) to promote attendance, inclusion, participation, progress and prevent exclusion.

Note: *The CLA Pupil Premium is a government grant given to the Local Authority on an annual basis. Therefore a commitment longer than one year cannot be made. The grant cycle does not follow the academic year but runs financial years (April to March).*

2.2.1 Schedule for devolved funding to schools

The Virtual School will release the £1500 in 3 instalments in order to address the particular problems posed by those children who:

- Start the financial year in Year 6 but then move on to secondary school in the autumn term.
- Move placement and schools mid-year.

Period	Date the child must be on roll at school	Amount & payment month	Payment Conditions
Autumn Term	1 st October	£500 in November	on completion of high quality PEP with targeted support identified
Spring Term	1 st February	£500 in March	on completion of high quality PEP with targeted support identified
Summer Term*	1 st May	£500 in June	on completion of high quality PEP with targeted support identified

2.2.2 Funding linked to completion of Personal Education Plans (PEPs)

All payments are subject to the completion and signing off of the PEP by the Virtual School. Funding will only be released if the Personal Education Plan (PEP) is rated by the VS advocate as 'good' (within the last 6 months). Virtual School may withhold payment of Pupil Premium Grant where the PEP does not meet the expected quality standard, is incomplete or lacks clarity around the spending of the delegated PP grant (see section 4 'Quality Assurance and reporting').

It is important therefore that the member of school staff attending the PEP has appropriate authority to agree the expenditure, or has gained permission to approve this prior to the PEP meeting.

2.3 Additional Pupil Premium Grant requests

2.3.1 Making requests for additional PPG

The overall grant allocated is calculated on a per capita basis but does not have to be distributed on a per capita basis. Given that CLA have differing levels of need at different stages of being in care, a notional £800 per capita, will be retained by the Virtual School.

The retained amount will be used to support CLA in exceptional circumstances. For example to prevent permanent exclusion, provide interim education provision for children awaiting admission to school, to support access and transition to appropriate education provision.

Similarly, schools may request additional funding to 'close the gap'.

Funding **will not** be provided to schools and educational establishments for universal support which they would normally be expected to provide e.g. access to learning mentor time, after school clubs (free).

Schools can request additional funding by completing the attached proforma (appendix 1). Any requests must have been discussed with the Virtual School advocate for the child in advance of the proforma being submitted.

2.3.2 Additional PPG decisions

All requests received will be considered by the VSH on a regular basis. The VSH may agree to the whole or part of the request (subject to funding). The decision made by the VSH is final.

The decision will be communicated in writing to the school, and payment will be made promptly to the school. Schools **should not** wait for the money to enter into the schools account before commissioning additional support/resources, once funding has been agreed.

All additional approved payments of PP grant should be accounted for in the child's PEP document.

School must not make a financial commitment prior the decision being from the VSH being received. Schools should have a backup plan should the funding not be agreed.

All requests for Additional Pupil Premium grant must be received before the last Friday in February before the half term holiday commence in Sheffield. Requests received after this date will not be processed until the new financial year which starts on the 1 April.

3. Payments

3.1 Who qualifies for the funding?

CLA Pupil Premium will be given to all schools with the exception of CLA attending:

- Residential education establishments
- Independent special schools
- Children in secure units or remanded in custody.

The rationale for this decision is that the cost of education placement at these setting will already be significantly higher. However, these institutions can make a request for additional grant funding to the VSH (see 2.3)

Dual Registration: Where a child is dual registered the CLA Pupil Premium will be paid to the child's main registered school.

For CLA placed into Sheffield schools by other Local Authorities, it is the responsibility of their placing Local Authority's Virtual Schools to pay the CLA Pupil Premium grant to the child's current school as per their published CLA Pupil Premium policy.

3.2 In-year admissions to care

There is a statutory requirement for a PEP meeting to be held within 20 days of a child becoming looked after or moving school placement. As soon as the Virtual School is alerted to the fact that a child has become subject to a care order they will request that the child's social worker contacts the educational establishment to arrange a PEP meeting. Once the social worker informs the Virtual School of the date of the PEP, a copy of this CLA Pupil Premium Protocol and the relevant PEP documentation will be made available.

3.3 In-year transfer between schools

The school where the child is placed on the period pay date will receive the funding. If a Sheffield CLA moves school or setting shortly after their CLA Pupil Premium has been paid to the school, the grant will be reduced pro-rata, or the equipment that it was used to purchase should be forwarded to the new school; **it will be for the two schools concerned to liaise over this.**

3.4 Spending CLA Pupil Premium

The CLA Pupil Premium must be used to provide additional support for individual children to raise their attainment and close the gap with their peers; it should not be used to fund universal provision that schools are providing as their core offer to their pupils. The CLA Pupil Premium should also be used to support higher attainment CLA pupils to accelerate their learning and attainment

In particular, funding should not be used to fund:

- I. The support set out in an Education Health and Care Plan (EHC) statement of Special Educational Needs or made at School Action or School Action Plus;
- II. Resources that a local authority provides for through its allowances for foster carers or children's home fees;
- III. Trips and visits organised by the school as part of the curriculum. It is expected that the local authority or carer (if covered through the fostering allowance or children's home fees) should provide resources for these activities;
- IV. Basic equipment that the child/young person needs for school, such as school uniform or equipment for physical education lessons;
- V. Education provision for Looked After Children subject to a fixed term or permanent exclusion from their school.

3.5 Types of expenditure

The following are examples of expenditure which the CLA Pupil Premium could be used for:

- Learning Resources
- Intervention Programmes [Academic]
- Intervention Programmes [Therapeutic]
- Additional 1:1 support
- Targeted group work
- Out of school learning activities
- Hardware/software
- Specialist tuition/equipment
- Subject tuition

3.6 Unallocated CLA Pupil Premium Grant

The local authority is not permitted to carry forward funding held centrally into a new financial year. All activities must have been carried out and payments made by 31 March.

Schools are required to keep accurate financial records as these may be requested at a later date by Sheffield City Council for the purpose of audit or DFE returns.

4. Monitoring / Quality Assurance and reporting

The VSH has a responsibility to ensure that the CLA Pupil Premium is administered in accordance to the conditions of grant and any subsequent information released by the Department of Education. Schools are required to retain accurate financial records of how they have used their CLA Pupil Premium as this information could be requested for financial audit purposes, DFE returns, Ofsted inspections and/or scrutiny by Sheffield's Corporate Parenting Board.

4.1 Monitoring and Accountability – Virtual School

The Virtual School advocate for the child will monitor and evaluate the use of the Pupil Premium on a pupil by pupil basis using the PEP document.

Once the PEP has been signed off by the Designated Teacher as complete, the Virtual School advocate will check the accuracy and content of the PEP and proposed CLA pupil premium expenditure. CLA Pupil Premium funding will not be released if the PEP has been signed off as 'RED' (requires improvement) and until the outstanding concerns/actions have been addressed.

Any concerns will be initially highlighted by the VS advocate with the school's Designated Teacher. Where there are ongoing or unresolved concerns with regards to the use of the CLA Pupil Premium these will be escalated to the VSH.

Where the PEP is not determined as good or pupil premium grant remains unspent, the VSH may retain the delegated PPG until the issues have been resolved. Where payments for specific interventions have been agreed and documented but not actioned, the VS may withhold future payments of PP grant until these issues have been resolved.

4.2 Monitoring and Accountability – Education establishments

All Educational settings will be expected to report to the Virtual School via the child's PEP:

- How the CLA Pupil Premium will be spent for each child
- How it links to the child's PEP targets
- How it will improve the educational outcomes for that child.

The headteacher is required to produce an annual report to their School Governors on how the CLA Pupil Premium has been used to meet the needs of their CLA.

4.3 Quality Assurance

During school and local authority inspections, Ofsted inspectors sample random PEPs to ensure that CLA Pupil Premium is being spent appropriately.

4.4 Reporting

The Virtual School will report on pupil premium spend in the following ways:

- A breakdown of the expenditure will be provided in the Virtual School Monthly data pack
- A summary of how the grant has been used will be included in the Virtual School annual report from the VSH

4.5 Questions or concerns

Should any professional (social worker, Independent Reviewing Officer, Foster Carers) have concerns around the application or use of the pupil premium they should initially highlight these to the Virtual School advocate for the child.

Professionals may also put their questions/concerns in writing to the VSH:

Virtual School Head
Inclusion and Learning Services
Floor 4, North Wing
Moorfoot Building
Sheffield
S1 4PL

Tel: 0114 2735584 Email: virtualschool@sheffield.gov.uk

5. Useful Information

5.1 Post-16 funding (bursary)

There is currently no specific allocated Pupil Premium Grant for post 16 CLA. Post 16 CLA and care leavers are entitled to a post-16 bursary. This is a bursary to help with education related costs for 16 to 19 year olds who are studying at school or college (not university) in England or on a training course.

More information is available at:
<https://www.gov.uk/1619-bursary-fund>

5.2 Post-CLA Pupil Premium

Children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales because of adoption, a special guardianship order, a

child arrangements order or a residence order will not receive the CLA Pupil Premium from the Virtual School.

School aged former CLA are entitled to a grant of £2300 from the DFE. It is the responsibility of the school to apply for this in their January pupil census return. The additional funding will go directly into the school's budget from the DFE.

5.3 New settings - Banking process

Education settings not set up the Sheffield's financial management system will be contacted by Inclusion and Targetted Services (ILS) finance team and asked to provide school's banking details as soon as possible. If these details are not received, payment cannot be made.

If school's change their banking details mid-way through the academic year, the onus is on that school to inform the virtual head of the change, failure to do so may mean a lost payment.

All questions and queries should be directed to the Virtual School.

5.4 Key contacts

Pam Smith - Head of the Sheffield Virtual School

Shaklil Zaman - Operations Manager, Sheffield Virtual School

Tom Gamble – Data and Attendance Manager, Sheffield Virtual School

Virtual School email address: Virtualschool@sheffield.gov.uk