

Virtual School
London Borough of Newham
Pupil Premium Plus Policy for
Looked after Children (LAC)

2019-20

Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) Policy for Children in Our Care 2019-20

The Pupil Premium Plus provides funding from the DfE to raise the attainment of Looked After Children (LAC) and to close the attainment gap with their peers. The DfE will allocate to local authorities a provisional amount of £2,300 per child looked after for at least one day, as recorded in the March 2018 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2017. The DfE will update and finalise this allocation in December 2019 based on the number of children looked after for at least one day during the year ending March 2019, as recorded in the March 2019 children looked-after data return (SSDA903), and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August 2018.

In addition and through a separate process, children who have ceased to be looked after by a local authority in England and Wales and are now subject to one of the following;

- adoption order
- special guardianship order
- child arrangement order
- residence order

will be entitled to £2300 passed directly to the school. This grant is outside the remit of this policy and parents or guardians of previously LAC children should inform schools and education settings of this status so that it can be recorded on the School Census.

Conditions

The conditions of grant for 2019-20 are set out on the DfE website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2019-to-2020/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2019-to-2020>

Role of the Virtual School Head (VSH)

The Children and Families Act 2014 amended the Children's Act 1989, requiring all Local Authorities to have a Virtual School Headteacher who has additional statutory powers to carry out the duty to promote the educational achievement of the children it looks after.

The document <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/promoting-the-education-of-looked-after-children> Statutory guidance for local authorities, February 2018 provides the framework for local authorities to discharge their statutory duties.

VSHs are responsible for making sure effective arrangements are in place for allocating Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) to benefit children looked after by the authority, this is to include:

- making sure that the money is spent effectively
- being able to demonstrate how PPP is managed by the VSH to raise achievement and close the attainment gap
- decisions about the use of the funding being clearly linked to the specific targets agreed during the Personal Education Planning meeting and recorded within the PEP documentation.
- VSH discretion when deciding the amount of the PPP it provides schools, because individual pupils' needs vary. The VSH will reserve the right to refuse to allocate funding if it considers the proposed use is not appropriately identified.
- having arrangements in place to engage with the looked after child's school about how the PPP is contributing to meeting the needs identified in the PEP

Use of Pupil Premium Plus

PPP must be used to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in care to Newham in the following areas:

- raising levels of achievement and progress (e.g. 1:1 tuition)
- supporting achievement in an area where a child is gifted or talented (e.g. specialist teacher)
- improving attendance (e.g. reward incentives, 1:1 specialist mentoring service)
- supporting emotional wellbeing (e.g. specialist counselling/therapeutic support)
- promoting inclusion by reducing internal and external exclusion (e.g. whole school training, support from specialised services)
- developing social skills (e.g. drama therapy)
- supporting a smooth transition into the next key stage or new place of learning (e.g. transition advisers/careers advisors)

In exceptional circumstances, should any deviation from this policy be deemed necessary, this should be agreed directly with the Virtual School Head prior to any such provision being put in place.

Circumstances in which Pupil Premium Plus will not be provided:

- to double fund or replace funding which has already been allocated to the school to support the child, for example:
 - funding services that should be provided via an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP), higher needs funding (HNF) or SEND funding
 - funding other statutory work e.g. speech and language or occupational therapy,
 - Statutory assessment or other support from health, CAMHS or education psychology
 - for provisions put in place when the school's own funding covers the cost of interventions
- if the PEP and the PPP request form does not correlate or provide sufficient detail
- if the completed PEP is not submitted

- if it is a cost that is expected to be covered by foster carers through their allowances e.g.
 - clothing/uniform
 - school dinners
 - travel to and from school
 - breakfast club
 - holidays and activities outside of term time
- private tuition arrangements (all tuition should be arranged by the school using Virtual School approved providers)
- to fund school trips and out of school leisure activities unless there is a clear link between the trip/activity and a PEP target linked to academic achievement and progress where impact on 'closing the attainment gap' can be clearly demonstrated.
- IT hardware items such as laptops. Foster carers and children's homes must provide suitable IT equipment and access to the internet so that children can study at home. However there may be interventions where specific IT hardware is necessary in KS4 and the VSH will therefore consider requests from Designated Teachers under these circumstances.

In exceptional circumstances - should any deviation from this policy be deemed necessary, then this should be agreed directly with the Virtual School Head prior to any such provision being put in place.

Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and Pupil Premium Funding

In Newham we expect the use of PPP to be closely linked to the individual SMART targets within each looked after child's Personal Education Plan (PEP). The Designated Teacher (DT) for LAC should:

- play a key role in planning the use of the PPP for each child/young person and in reviewing the impact of any intervention
- ensure the PPP is jointly agreed by the school, social worker, carer, Virtual School Head and child/young person.
- ensure the use of the funding is clearly linked to the specific targets agreed during the PEP meeting and recorded within the PPP section of the PEP.
- ensure the request for PPP is submitted on the correct form for approval by the VSH
- ensure the impact of the PPP is monitored at the termly PEP review. We reserve the right to recoup the funding if there is no evidence that the funding is being used to address the young person's needs.
- the use of PPP must meet the requirements as outlined in this policy

In exceptional circumstances, should any deviation from this policy be deemed necessary, this should be agreed directly with the Virtual School Head prior to any such provision being put in place.

Allocation of grant to Special/Alternative/PRU/Independent providers and recoupment policy

PPP will only be paid to independent special schools in exceptional circumstances. This is because the provision required by pupils in these settings is agreed at the time of placement and already invoiced and paid in full by LBN.

Pupil Premium Plus for Children and Young People from other Local Authorities

Different approaches to allocation of the PPP Funding will be adopted by other Local Authorities. They have the freedom to administer funds according to their own policy. Schools should contact the VSH for the relevant LA for clarification around their policy and arrangements.

Management and accountability

The VSH of the LBN Virtual School will be accountable to LBN Corporate Parenting Board, and for setting up a transparent and rigorous allocation process for the purpose of ensuring maximised impact of the grant. Furthermore, the VSH will provide an annual report to the Corporate Parenting Board as part of the process of accountability.

The VSH has responsibility that PPP is used in-line with the conditions of the grant 2019/2020 and LBN Virtual School Policy Statement.

It is vital that all stakeholders understand that the Pupil Premium Plus is not a personal budget for individual children.