

## Accessing funding to improve educational outcomes for children and young people in the care of The Isle of Wight Council

### Frequently asked questions

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This document has been produced by the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School for children in care in collaboration with our Education Funding Teams. It draws on the current Department for Education (DfE) *Pupil premium conditions of grant 2016-17* and *Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15 frequently asked questions*. This document is correct as of January 2017 and will be regularly updated. If you do not see the answer you need, please contact the Virtual School so that information can be added.

### Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

#### What is DSG funding for children in care?

DSG is the dedicated schools grant. It is the main source of funding for school budget shares and is allocated to schools using a formula based on its pupil characteristics. These include the number on roll (NoR), deprivation, children in care and English as an additional language. In the context of children in care, it is the looked after child (LAC) element of DSG that is being referred to, rather than DSG in its entirety and the pupil premium, which is considered later.

#### How much is the LAC element of DSG for Isle of Wight schools??

At the current time (January 2017) £304 is assigned per child in care.

#### How does DSG funding appear in a school's budget?

Maintained schools receive their full budget share at the start of each financial year (April) which includes funding generated by the LAC formula factor. Further information about school budget shared may be found on the DfE website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-block-funding-allocations-2016-to-2017>

Academies receive their funding from the Education Funding Agency (EFA) but children in care funding is based on the same methodology and rates as for maintained schools. This funding is generated automatically on the Isle of Wight; **schools do not have to apply for it.**

#### Why does the amount of DSG for children in care differ from one local authority (LA) to the next?

This is because each LA (in consultation with their schools forum) can assign a value from £0 upwards per child in care. The LAC element of DSG is then used to calculate the budget shares of all schools in the LA (including free schools and academies). Schools off Island will receive DSG at the rate agreed by their schools forum. It is the home authority of the school (not the home authority of the child) that determines the DSG funding received.

### **How is the amount of DSG received by a school for its children in care calculated?**

The children in care funding within the budget share is based on the percentage of children in care in the school **at the end of March in the previous calendar year** (taken from the SSDA903 return completed by the LA).

For example, for the 2016/17 budget share, the LAC element of DSG is based on the percentage of children in care in a school at 31 March 2015. The percentage is then applied to the October census number on roll. So, if a school had 100 pupils in March 2015, five of whom were children in care, the percentage would be 5%. If the number on roll in October 2015 was 120 the budget share allocation for children in care would be six (120 x 5%).

Due to the timing of this calculation, it is possible that a school would not receive the LAC element of its DSG until the following financial year. It could also be the case that a school spends DSG allocated in the current financial year (based on calculations from the previous year) on children in care they now have on roll.

### **What happens if a child moves school? Does the DSG funding follow them?**

No. The budget share is based on pupil numbers and characteristics at a particular school at the dates outlined above. There are no exceptions to this. Schools are not obliged to pass DSG funding on to a new setting if a child in care leaves the school. Any decisions about passing funding on are a matter for the schools involved.

### **What should a school do if they have not received DSG funding for a child in care on their roll?**

- All schools will receive funding for their children in care; however, there could be a delay of up to a year as described above. Data is collected annually in March and includes all children who were in care for one day or more. If a school is unsure, they should contact the Isle of Wight Education Funding Team - [educationfinanceteam@iow.gov.uk](mailto:educationfinanceteam@iow.gov.uk)

### **How should DSG funding be spent and what is the accountability around this?**

DSG LAC funding is part of a school's budget share. As outlined above, the funding is allocated on the basis of the number of children in care (alongside a number of other factors.) Decisions around how to spend a school's delegated budget are made by the governing body. The Isle of Wight Virtual School would recommend that schools take account of good practice guidance in relation to pupil premium plus (PPP) funding (see useful links below) when identifying the optimum way to spend the LAC element of DSG.

## **Pupil premium plus**

### **What is PPP?**

PPP (also called LAC premium) is additional grant funding from the DfE for children in care. The purpose of the grant is to close the attainment gap for this cohort of children and improve their educational outcomes. It is provided for each child who is in care for at least one day as recorded in the March SSSDA903 children looked after data return and aged 4-15 as at 31 August. Pupils from Year R to Year 11 are eligible for PPP.

### **What is the difference between PPP for a child in care and other types of pupil premium?**

Other pupil premium includes:

- deprivation premium (Ever 6, free school meals (FSM)) which is £1,320 for primary pupils and £935 for secondary pupils
- service family premium (Ever 6) which is £300 per pupil
- post-looked after child which is £1,900 per pupil (payable to those pupils that have been adopted or have a special guardianship order/residence order immediately after being in care).

The main difference between these three premiums and PPP is that the funding must be fully passported to schools and cannot be held centrally (or a portion held centrally) as can be the case with PPP.

### **Can PPP and other types of pupil premium be accessed for a child in care?**

No, pupils will only receive one form of premium per year. This is the higher amount (PPP or Post-LAC).

### **What is the current allocation?**

At the current time, 2016/17 financial year, the DfE allocates £1,900 per child in care. Please note however that the amount allocated to schools may vary according to the arrangements put in place by each LA's virtual school on behalf of their children in care. From April 2014 onwards, responsibility for managing PPP funding for children in care was passed to the designated virtual school head (VSH). It is for the VSH to decide whether to provide £1,900 to a school for a child in care or a higher or lower amount. They can also decide on whether to pay termly or annually and can link allocations to the content of the personal education plan (PEP) as agreed with the school.

### **How is this allocated for children in the care of the Isle of Wight??**

The Isle of Wight currently allocates £1,600 per child in care, which is paid in termly instalments of £600, £500 and £500. £300 per child is held centrally by the Virtual School, although this is subject to review on an annual basis. Schools will receive their allocation automatically from the Isle of Wight Virtual School towards the end of each term.

### **Is there a cut off date for PPP funding?**

No. The current arrangements on the Island are that funding is distributed on a termly basis and is proportionate to the length of the term. A data run of all current and historic LAC is collected towards the end of each term. LAC of an eligible age who have been in care for at least one day during that term are allocated the funding, however the discretion of the Virtual School is used in terms of allocating an amount for those children who have only been in care for a very short time.

### **How can schools find out PPP arrangements for children in the care of a different LA?**

They should contact the virtual school in the child's home LA; most will have a website containing contact details. If, however, schools encounter any difficulty Laura Hales will be able to signpost schools to the relevant LA's VSH. Please feel free to contact Laura via email [Virtual.School@iow.gov.uk](mailto:Virtual.School@iow.gov.uk) or via telephone 01983 821000 ext. 6260.

### **Does the virtual school head have to give the money to schools?**

"There is no requirement to do so. There is, however, a strong expectation that virtual school heads will pass on pupil premium funding to a child's education setting. This is to be used to meet additional needs set out in his or her PEP that can be passed to the school on a termly or annual basis. Any funding not passed down to schools by the end of the financial year will have to be returned to the DfE"  
(Source: Pupil premium and the role of the virtual school head 2014-15. Frequently asked questions)

### **What happens if a child moves school? Does the PPP funding (and any resources which have been bought for a child from PPP money such as a laptop) follow them?**

Transfer of PPP funding is a matter for discussion between schools and where appropriate, alternative providers. The Virtual School would expect that, when a child moves school there is a discussion about the provision and support being delivered. This should include the ways in which any funding passported to the receiving school or alternative provider will be used to meet a child's needs in accordance with their PEP. Where a school retains any PPP after a child has left, they should note that they will be still be accountable to the LA and to OFSTED for demonstrating the impact of pupil premium spend on improving educational outcomes.

### **How do virtual schools hold schools to account for ensuring that pupil premium impacts on children's educational progress and outcomes?**

Schools need to be clear about the ways in which this funding meets the needs of individual children as identified in their PEP and recorded within their targets. The Isle of Wight PEP includes a page on which pupil premium spend and its impact can be tracked and recorded. The Isle of Wight Virtual School is now conducting a schedule of PEP audits through the year, which will include scrutiny of ways in which the money is spent. Findings will be reported back to schools, and Childrens' Services Management Teams.

### **Do children in care qualify for FSM?**

Children who are in a funded care placement – i.e. placed with a LA foster carer or an Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) carer, generally do not qualify for FSM. This is because the carer receives an allowance which covers all meals for each child in their care. Therefore, carers already receive the funding needed to provide meals.

This situation may be different for a child who is not in a funded care arrangement. Examples would include a child placed at home but with the LA in receipt of a care order, a child placed with family, friends or carers but on an order that gives them parental responsibility (special guardianship order or via a child and family arrangement order). In these cases, the normal criteria for school meal eligibility will apply.

### **What happens in cases where a child is dual registered at a school and an alternative provider such as an education centre or Pupil Referral Unit (PRU)?**

Funding is paid to the school where the pupil is solely registered. In the event of dual registration, funding will go to the main school and the education centre or PRU will need to liaise with the main school to request a transfer of a proportion of the funding.

### **Can PPP be used to pay for the costs of alternative provision?**

No, every child, whether or not they are in care, has an entitlement to an education. PPP should be regarded as additional funding so that further interventions can be put in place to meet a child's educational needs. These will be identified on their PEP and used to address and close any gaps in progress and attainment.

### **How should PPP funding be spent?**

PPP must be managed by the designated VSH and used for the benefit of the child's educational needs as described in their PEP. Schools need to be able to demonstrate and evidence that this funding is meeting the needs of individual children, as identified in their PEP. A needs analysis tool, such as the Hampshire PEP toolkit, is invaluable in supporting this process.

Designated teachers for looked after children are required to provide a report to their governing body on the progress of and provision for children in care at least once

annually (*The role and responsibilities of the designated teacher for looked after children: statutory guidance for school governing bodies*). This report should include an account of what the pupil premium is being used for and the impact on progress, particularly in English and Mathematics. This ensures governors are fully aware of the impact of the pupil premium for this group.

Further information about the ways PPP can be spent may be accessed via:

- Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Virtual School's designated teacher training and networks (please contact the Isle of Wight Virtual School on 01983 821000 ext 6260 or via email [virtual.school@iow.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.school@iow.gov.uk) for upcoming dates)

### **Where can additional funding information about children with special educational needs and disabilities be found?**

Further information can be accessed from the Isle of Wight Local Offer website <https://www.iwight.com/localoffer>

### **Is PPP allocated to independent special schools?**

Pupils attending independent schools where the LA pays the fees are classed by the DfE as attending *alternative provision*. These pupils can qualify for pupil premium funding. Where a school is of the view that the fees paid by the LA sufficiently meet the needs of the child they can ask to return it to the LA (Virtual School) together with written confirmation of their decision. This will need to be done on an annual basis.

### **How can schools help ensure that pupil premium and DSG payments are made on time?**

It is imperative that schools accurately record LAC status on their census. Errors in census returns may result in funding being delayed.

### **What should a school do if they have not received PPP funding for an Isle of Wight child in care on their roll?**

The school can contact the Isle of Wight Education Funding Team directly, who will look into why, and make payment if applicable. Contact details are [educationfinanceteam@iow.gov.uk](mailto:educationfinanceteam@iow.gov.uk)

The school can also contact the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Virtual School if they encounter any difficulties with this or have any additional questions. Contact details are [virtual.school@iow.gov.uk](mailto:virtual.school@iow.gov.uk)

### **Is PPP available for looked after children in the early years and post 16?**

The early year's pupil premium (EYPP) commenced from April 2015 paying 53p per hour (up to £300 per year) per child in care or child eligible for FSM.

Vulnerable student funding is available for children in care post 16 up to the sum of £1,200 per annum. Further information will be added to this document in due course.

### **Acronyms used in this document**

DfE	Department for Education
DSG	Dedicated Schools Grant
EFA	Education Funding Agency
EYPP	Early Years Pupil Premium
FSM	Free School Meals
IFA	Independent fostering agency
LA	Local Authority
LAC	Looked After Child
NoR	Number on roll
PEP	Personal Education Plan
PPP	Pupil Premium Plus
PRU	Pupil referral unit
VSH	Virtual School Head

## Useful links and references

DfE pupil premium conditions of grant 2016-17

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-conditions-of-grant-2016-to-2017>

Pupil premium and the role of the virtual school head 2014-15

Frequently asked questions

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

The pupil premium: how schools are spending the funding successfully to maximise achievement (Ofsted 2013)

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/413197/The\\_Pupil\\_Premium\\_-\\_How\\_schools\\_are\\_spending\\_the\\_funding.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/413197/The_Pupil_Premium_-_How_schools_are_spending_the_funding.pdf)

John Dunford's Pupil premium reviews

<http://tscouncil.org.uk/guide-effective-pupil-premium-reviews/>

Statutory guidance: designated teacher for looked-after children

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-teacher-for-looked-after-children>

IOW link needed

Hampshire Local Offer website

[http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/Main\\_Page1](http://www.hantslocaloffer.info/en/Main_Page1)

Early years pupil premium: guide for local authorities

<https://www.gov.uk/early-years-pupil-premium-guide-for-local-authorities#EYPP-looked-after-children>

Early Years pupil premium guide for providers

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/02/early-years-pupil-premium-guidance-for-providers/>

Early Years pupil premium virtual school head's responsibilities document:

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

Education Endowment Foundation Toolkit

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/toolkit/>