

Date: Friday 19 September 2014
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Dear Headteacher

Re: Changes to Pupil Premium grant allocation for Children in Care of Brighton and Hove Local Authority.

From April 2014 Pupil Premium funding for Children in Care has changed and as well as being increased to £1900 per annum, it will be administered by the Virtual School. This was explained in a letter and policy sent by Mary Hinton in July 2014 and is in accordance with the DfE conditions of grant.

We will issue the Pupil Premium funding in two instalments.

1. From 1st September 2014, £1000 will be issued to maintained Schools and Academies for each Brighton and Hove Child in Care. We would expect the use of this £1000 to be planned and monitored through the PEP process.
2. A second instalment of up to £900 can be released on receipt of a completed PEP that outlines a total spend of up to the whole £1900 for academic year 2014/15 and the impact this is expected to have. This spend would then need to be authorised by a Virtual School Adviser. There may be circumstances where a PEP is not due imminently yet you wish to plan this spend. In this case you should contact your Virtual School Adviser directly to agree pupil premium funding.

There are exceptional cases where a spend in excess of £1900 might be requested and agreed through discussion with the VS adviser, but there will of course also be many instances where the £1000 is more than sufficient.

This second instalment must be applied for by 31st December 2014.

The second instalment will be paid in January 2015. Any remaining funds held by the Virtual School will be used to fund 1:1 tuition or other interventions organised directly by the Virtual School.

To support you in the PEP process and in the effective use of the Pupil Premium, twilight training has been organised during the Designated Teachers Networks on Tuesday 25th November for secondary and Thursday 27th November for primary. Details to follow.

Where children come into care at a later point in the year, we will pay a proportion of pupil premium. Again this will be paid on the condition of there being an appropriate plan for spend.

Brighton and Hove Virtual School only has funding for children in the care of Brighton and Hove. Therefore, if you have a child in the care of another authority, you should contact the Virtual Headteacher from that authority if you have not yet had any communication. If you have any difficulties with this, I am happy to support you in finding the appropriate contact, however, I have no influence on how other authorities deploy their pupil premium.

The use of the Pupil Premium should be bespoke to the child and examples of good use of this funding we would recommend include the following:

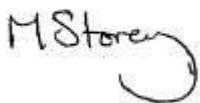
- 1:1 tuition, particularly in exam years for revision (although currently the Virtual School can organise this using Pupil Premium money)
- Specific support for behaviour that aids learning
- Contribution towards small group work in English or Maths
- Interventions such as Every Child a Reader; Every Child Counts
- Staff training so they can better support a specific individual e.g attachment
- Music, sports or other lessons that enrich a child's education
- Equipment (e.g. ICT) or books that support a child's education

The Virtual School will produce a statement at the end the year on how Pupil Premium has been spent across the authority and the impact this has had on outcomes. Being able to retrieve this information from the PEP will reduce the administration burden to schools.

This is a significant amount of funding coming to the Local Authorities' Children in Care and a real opportunity to help narrow the gap between all children. We are keen to work in partnership with you to ensure the very best outcomes for these children.

Should you have any further questions about this or any other matter then please do not hesitate to contact myself or any of the Virtual School Advisers.

Yours faithfully



Mark Storey
Headteacher of Virtual School for Children in Care
cc: Designated Teacher for Children in Care