

# Virtual School for Looked After Children **Pupil Premium Plus for Looked After Children Policy**



## Message from Young Director Shannon Libbury

*"I'm really pleased that Bexley has a Pupil Premium Plus Policy for Looked After Children that sets out to meet the unique needs of each young person. Every child is different and it's important that we recognise the needs of individual children and young people to provide the support and opportunities that they need in order to help them succeed in their goals."*

### **Extract from Pupil Premium Grant 2018-2019: Conditions of Grant (DfE)**

*'The Looked After Children's 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 Virtual School Head 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.*

*Local authorities may not carry forward funding held centrally into the financial year 2018 to 2019. Centrally-held Looked After Children's premium that has not been spent, or allocated to the child's education setting, by 31 March 2019 will be recovered.'*

### **Who oversees the Pupil Premium Plus?**

The Looked After Children's Pupil Premium Plus will be held centrally and managed by Bexley's Virtual School Head who will oversee the allocation of the grant which will include spending through schools and through Virtual School led commissioning. The guiding corporate parenting principle, 'would this be good enough for my child?' informs decision making and evaluating the effectiveness of the Pupil Premium Plus.

### **How are decisions made about how Pupil Premium Plus can be used?**

All Bexley Looked After Children will have a termly review of their Personal Education Plan which will include a discussion about how the pupil premium can be used to support their needs. The child or young person, together with the foster carer, Designated Teacher, Social Worker and Virtual School officer, will then agree at the meeting what support will be implemented, both in and outside of school and what contribution is required from Pupil Premium Plus.

### **Where will information about use of Pupil Premium Plus be recorded?**

Schools will need to record the agreed support plan and estimated costings for this in the Personal Education Plan, a copy of which will be sent to the foster carer and filed in the child's school file and local authority record. This policy includes a quick guide to standardised costings so that schools can estimate costs quickly and accurately.

### **How will requests be approved?**

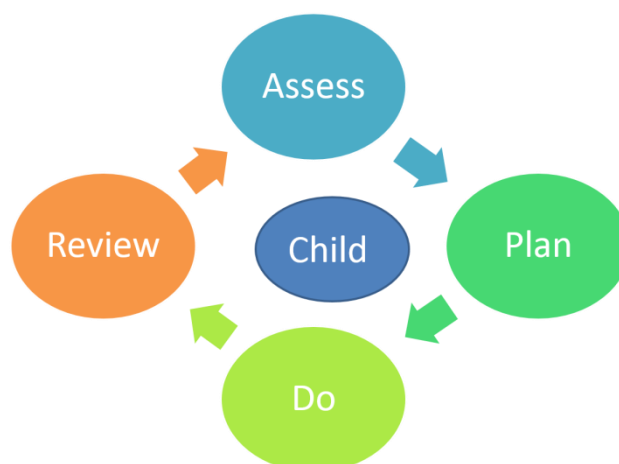
Requests for Pupil Premium Plus up to £500 per term, can be agreed in principle at the meeting and endorsed by the Virtual School Officer. Should the child or young person require a package of support that costs in excess of this, then the plan will be reviewed by the Virtual School Head within 10 days and professionals informed of the approved contribution from the Pupil Premium Plus.

### **How much will each child get?**

The government calculates the grant at £2300 per child per year. However, as children and young people's needs can vary and 'spike', there is no set minimum or maximum spend amount allocated per child. As decisions will be informed by children's needs, it is accepted that some children will require less and some children will require more.

### **How will we measure impact?**

The Pupil Premium Plus has been provided by the government to improve educational outcomes for Looked After Children, and as such decisions about its use must be purposeful, and linked to clear outcomes that can be tracked and measured over time. The Personal Education Plan will be reviewed termly so that there is opportunity to review impact on outcomes, before agreeing the next cycle of support and pupil premium funding. This is in keeping with the **Assess – Plan – Do – Review** approach that helps professionals provide a graduated response to a child's educational needs:



### **Can Pupil Premium Plus be used to support children with Special Education Needs?**

If a Looked After Child presents with a persistently high level of need then there is an expectation that the 'Assess-Plan-Do-Review' approach will evidence provision mapping and inform discussion about Statutory Assessment of special educational needs. While Pupil Premium Plus can be used to provide intense support for children with special educational needs, this can only be sustained short term within the capacity of the grant and it is therefore expected that higher level spending is used purposefully to secure swift assessment which may lead to an Education Health and Care Plan when required.

### **How long will it take to issue agreed Pupil Premium Plus to schools?**

Payment of Pupil Premium Plus will only be issued once the Personal Education Plan has been updated and returned to the Virtual School (within 5 days of the meeting) and signed off by the Virtual School Education Support Officer or Virtual School Head (within 5 days of receipt). Payments are distributed to schools on a monthly basis and can be expected to arrive within 30 days of the PEP being finalised. Payments may only be delayed if the Personal Education Plan is submitted after the deadline or if the local authority is delayed in receiving the schools bank account details (for schools not previously registered).

### **Can schools claim Pupil Premium Plus outside of the Personal Education Plan meeting?**

Yes, schools can make direct requests for additional funding, at any time, by way of a 'One-off request form' which will receive prompt attention from the Virtual School Head and payment within 30 days of approval. Schools can also claim back to the start of term if a support strategy has been agreed in principle in the lead up to a Personal Education Plan review. Schools can also claim up to one term in advance so that they can commission support ahead of time.

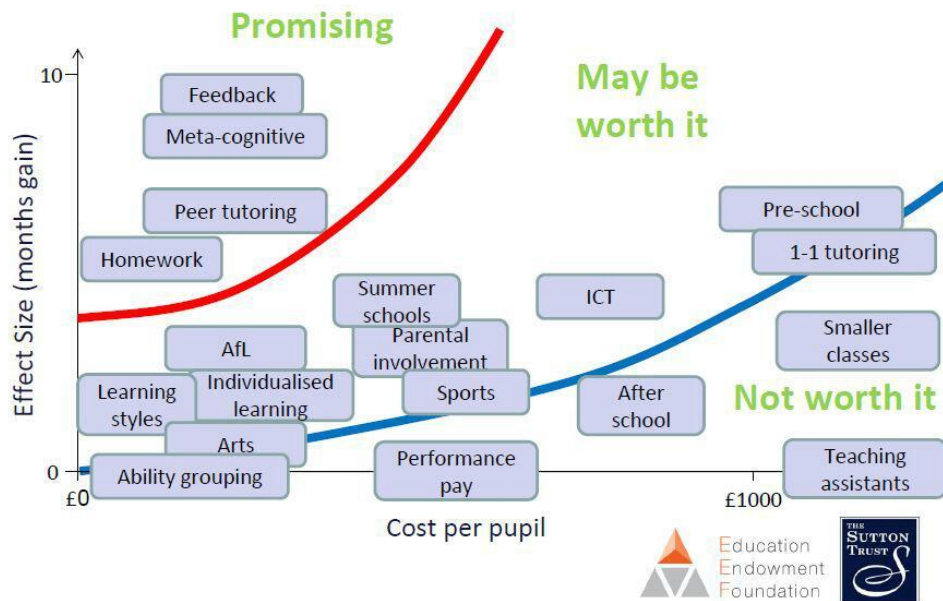
### **Will the child experience delay in receiving support?**

The Virtual School will undertake any direct commissioning work such as procuring tuition, mentoring or other matched services immediately after the Personal Education Plan review and matching with tutors or other services can typically take between 2-4 weeks. Bexley Virtual School work with a range of vetted tuition providers to ensure that Bexley Looked After Children receive a quality matched tutor for the best possible rate and where out of school tuition is required, the Virtual School will coordinate this in a prompt manner. Similarly, schools should also implement all school based support that has been agreed in principle as soon as possible after the Personal Education Plan review so that there is no delay to the child.

### **How might schools make use of Pupil Premium Funding for Looked After Children?**

Schools provide a wide variety of targeted activities and interventions for all pupils; many supporting well-being, or improving attainment and progress. Schools must select those strategies that secure best value and impact, and they may draw best practice from a range of evidence based sources such as the Sutton Trust Toolkit, diagram summary below. The Virtual School welcomes school expertise in identifying the most appropriate strategies to support our Looked After Children, and we encourage schools to make use of the Pupil Premium to fund additional activities and interventions that are high impact and good value, whether that be on a 1:1 basis or where costs can be reduced per head when working in small groups. Examples of this can be seen in Appendix A.

# Toolkit findings



## How does the Virtual School spend centrally held Pupil Premium Plus?

The Virtual School works with a range of providers, who can offer a quality and value for money service for our children. The Virtual School may use Pupil Premium Plus to directly commission: tuition, mentoring and well-being support, arts based therapies, music lessons, other bespoke outreach programmes and independent assessments from Education Psychologists or other specialist consultants. The Virtual School also commissions 2 full-time Virtual School staff who provide direct support in and outside of school, a Teaching Assistant and Tutor. The Virtual School also uses some Pupil Premium Plus to fund personalised education resources for individual children, and to create training opportunities for schools and other professionals working with Bexley Looked After and Post-Looked After Children.

## Are there circumstances where Pupil Premium Plus will not be agreed?

Pupil Premium Plus will not be used to double fund or replace funding which is already in place to support the child, such as:

- Meeting day to day expenses that are typically provided for by a parent or foster carer (school lunches, uniform and reasonable social activities).
- Services that are typically available to all pupils
- Support that should be provided via an Education Health and Care Plan
- Other statutory work e.g. statutory assessment or support from health
- Specialist settings who are commissioned to provide a specialist service (except where the support required is in addition to that specified in the Education Health and Care Plan or placement contract).
- The Virtual School expects that a significant proportion of the grant will be passed to schools unless there are clear reasons not to do so.
- The Virtual School reserves the right to recoup the funding if there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the Looked After Child's needs or if the child moves placement is not able to receive the agreed support.

### **How is the Pupil Premium Plus grant monitored and outcomes reported?**

The Virtual School Head monitors the spending of the Pupil Premium Grant through Personal Education Plans, which are reviewed and updated termly. The Virtual School quality assures each Personal Education Plan, and the Virtual School Head leads moderation and audit activity to support this and to ensure that best practice can be identified, shared and developed. The Virtual School Head Teacher provides monitoring reports to the Senior Management Team and Corporate Parenting Board on a termly basis, and provides an Annual Report to the local authority and Corporate Parenting Board which includes detailed evaluation of Pupil Premium Plus spend and outcomes.

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

Bexley schools who have Children and Young People in Care from other Local Authorities on their roll must liaise with the placing Virtual School to confirm arrangements for claiming Pupil Premium Plus funding, which is always linked to the Personal Education Plan review. Nationally, all Head Teachers of Virtual schools are responsible for the allocation of Pupil Premium Plus for all school aged Children and Young People in their care, regardless of which area they may be residing in. The name and contact details of other Virtual School Head Teachers can be requested from the Bexley Virtual School team at any time.

### **Adopted and Post Looked After Children's Pupil Premium**

Children adopted from care or subject to a Special Guardianship Order are entitled to £2300 Pupil Premium per year which is paid directly to the school, once these children have been identified in the school census in January. This grant is outside the remit of the Virtual School and schools are directly responsible for planning for the deployment of this funding in consultation with the Designated Teacher for Post Looked After Children and in the context of the school's Pupil Premium Strategy. The resource in Appendix A suggests some of the ways that schools might make use of the Pupil Premium Plus.

### **Attached**

Appendix A – Virtual School Standardised Costings Guide

Appendix B – Potential Interventions using Pupil Premium Plus

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**Ratified by Corporate Parenting Board:** 4 September 2018

**Date Issued:** 7 September 2018

**Date for Review:** 1 July 2019

## Appendix A

# Virtual School Standardised Costings Guide

<b>Description of Intervention</b>	<b>Estimated Costing</b>
Tuition (online or face to face)	£25-45 per hour
Music or singing lessons	£20-30 per hour
Music or singing lessons 1:4	£5-6.50 per hour
Mentoring	£20-30 per hour
Specialist mentoring	£40-60 per hour
Teaching Assistant support 1:1	£15-20 per hour
Teaching Assistant 1:4	£3.75-5 per hour
Teacher led intervention (1:1)	£30-40 per hour
Teacher led intervention (1:4)	£7.50-10 per hour
Letterbox Reading Programme	£40 per term
Specialist or senior teacher programming	£40-50 per hour
Specialist or senior teacher led programme (1:4)	£10-12.50 per hour
Specialist Intervention (Play therapist, drama therapist, speech and language therapist, specialist teacher)	£50-70
Education Psychologist Assessment (Standard)	£500-600
Education Psychologist Assessment (Specialist)	£1500
Where a child is benefiting from significant additional enrichment activity (drama or dance lessons, football club, cadets, horse-riding etc) and where this exceeds the scope of the social allowance per child, then consideration will be given to joint funding.	To be agreed on an individual basis
School trips	Foster Carers to pay trip deposit (usually 25%) and Pupil Premium Plus may be requested to fund the balance.