

# **Pupil Premium for Shropshire's Looked After Children**

## **Guidance on its payment and use 2015-16**

## **1. What is the Pupil Premium for LAC and How Does it Work?**

- 1.1. The Pupil Premium is a payment made by the government to schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and close the gap with their peers.
- 1.2. The Government has identified several groups of disadvantaged children each attracting differing amounts of funding with their own separate terms and conditions.
- 1.3. Pupil Premium for Looked After Children (LAC) is allocated to support LAC as soon as they become looked after, from Reception to Year 11, to achieve their full potential, develop their aspirations and achieve their goals.
- 1.4. From April 2014 the Pupil Premium for LAC must be managed by the Virtual School Head (VSH) in the authority that looks after those children for the benefit of the looked after child's educational needs as described in their Personal Education Plan (ePEP). All other Pupil Premium allocations (i.e. Ever6, Ever4, adopted children, children under Special Guardianship and children on Residence Orders) must be managed by the school where the eligible child is registered.
- 1.5. From April 2015 Early Years Pupil Premium was introduced for those accessing quality provision the term after their third birthday. Contact the Virtual School to discuss.
- 1.6. Children educated in Shropshire, but looked after by another local authority, will have their LAC Pupil Premium paid through the authority that looks after them – i.e. not Shropshire. Each authority is likely to have a different system for managing the Pupil Premium. If you have any queries relating to out of authority LAC in your schools please contact the VSH from the placing authority. However, Shropshire's VSH will be able to assist with any queries/concerns.
- 1.7. **Shropshire Council has decided that:**
  - 1.7.1. Once a quality ePEP containing all of the required information has been received a termly payment of £300 will be paid to the school.
  - 1.7.2. The Virtual School will quality assure each ePEP when it is received to ensure;
    - Termly attainment and attendance is recorded;
    - The ePEP is up to date and all relevant sections are completed;
    - The targets within the ePEP are focused on improvements made in the child's learning, to support attendance and participation, social emotional well-being, with clearly identified intended outcomes;
    - There is clear recording of how the Pupil Premium is to be used to support the child to achieve their ePEP targets.

- The child's views, wishes and feelings about their education and aspirations are recorded.
  - The ePEP is a cloud based system. This will go live in September 2015. Training for schools is being rolled out.
- 1.7.3. There is no requirement for the VSH to pass on Pupil Premium to non-maintained schools. For Shropshire LAC in specialist non maintained schools, the allocation of Pupil Premium can be discussed within the context of the overall provision for the child.
- 1.7.4. In the event that an ePEP is not submitted or any of the above information is not submitted, the Virtual School will contact the Designated Teacher to discuss how any gaps in information can be addressed.
- 1.7.5. A proportion of the Pupil Premium will be used to provide specialist and additional support. Schools will be able to 'bid' for Pupil Premium Plus for additional funding to meet the needs of individual LAC.
- 1.7.6. The specialist services provided by the Shropshire LAC Virtual School for 2015-16 include;
- Specialist teaching support and advice to schools regarding Shropshire LAC;
  - Early Years Team support;
  - Educational Psychology support;
  - Tracking, monitoring and support of the ePEP process;
  - Support for key transitions and admission for Shropshire LAC pupils;
  - Training and bespoke training programmes on attachment, behaviour and the monitoring and the evaluation of the educational progress of Shropshire LAC.
  - Support for increasing attendance and reducing exclusions.
- 1.8. The Virtual School is required to produce an annual report including attainment and Pupil Premium spending to Scrutiny Panel. This will be published on the Shropshire Learning Gateway.

## **2. How can the LAC Pupil Premium be spent?**

- 2.1. Schools and others involved in the decision making process should be aware that the Pupil Premium for LAC should not be used to fund activities or interventions that the School or Local Authority would normally pay for. However some children respond well to practical and creative activities and schools are advised to exercise professional judgement in this respect and take a pragmatic and reasonable approach. Some children may require programmes that raise attainment and accelerate progress, that may include interventions that meet the holistic needs for Shropshire LAC.
- 2.2. Schools are usually best placed to identify what will work best to meet the needs of Shropshire LAC in their school. In most cases the recommendations on how to spend the termly allocation should be made at the child's PEP meeting after a constructive dialogue and recorded in the ePEP.
- 2.3. If further discussion is needed, the Virtual School can be contacted for advice and support in reaching a decision. The Virtual School will attend all initial PEP meetings and will also prioritise PEP meetings where there are ongoing concerns.
- 2.4. It is good practice to plan expenditure of the Pupil Premium early in the school year. This is particularly important for children in years 6 and 11 (see section 3.6) when children may need support in preparing for end of year events and transition to secondary school or further education.
- 2.5. It is expected that LAC Designated teacher at the PEP meeting will have the authority to authorise the spend on the Pupil Premium for LAC within the school setting.
- 2.6. The Virtual School recommends that schools consider the possibility of using Pupil Premium to provide one to one support to narrow the gap and raise attainment for their LAC.
- 2.7. The Virtual School welcomes creative uses of the Pupil Premium to raise standards and narrow the gap for LAC. If a school wishes to pool Pupil Premium it must be agreed at the PEPs of those Shropshire LAC who are involved. This should avoid individuals being disadvantaged through lack of funds being available to meet their specialised needs. Pooling money can be contentious so it is always advisable to consult the Virtual School before embarking on such arrangements.
- 2.8. Any money not passed on to schools or spent by the Virtual School by 31st March 2016 will be recovered by the Government. The Virtual School will work very hard to avoid this.

- 2.9. It is an OFSTED requirement that schools evidence how the Pupil Premium was spent and how it has benefited looked after children.
- 2.10. Schools are advised, therefore, to keep detailed records of how the Pupil Premium for LAC in their school has been spent and the impact it has made on the achievement of the children. This information will also be recorded in the child's ePEP.
- 2.11. Schools may wish to refer to the Ofsted report on the spending of Pupil Premium.  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-pupil-premium-how-schools-are-spending-the-funding-successfully>

### **3. How is the LAC Pupil Premium Paid 2015-16?**

- 3.1. The grant will normally be paid to the school in three instalments over the financial year each term. If a payment is missed, for example because there was no up-to-date, quality ePEP, it will be paid at the following term provided any requirements are met.
- 3.2. If a LAC pupil moves school during the year, both schools will be entitled to receive a proportion of the Pupil Premium based on the date of the move and as long as any requirements are met. Where a child moves or the LAC status changes, the Virtual School will look at a pragmatic and responsive support.
- 3.3. To reduce the possibility of over- or under-payments the Virtual School must be informed when a LAC Pupil moves school.
- 3.4. Schools will be invoiced if any overpayments are made in the case of emergency moves.
- 3.5. If there is evidence that the funding is not based on meeting the needs of the LAC we reserve the right to recoup the funding.
- 3.6. For Year 11 students Pupil Premium will be paid for Autumn and Spring term. Any allocation for Summer term of Year 11 needs to be discussed as early as possible. To aid transition into Year 12 the Pupil Premium may follow the pupil and be used to fund year 12 provision and support.

**Contact Details:**

Jeff Potts

Virtual School Head for Shropshire LAC

LAC Education & Health Team

Shropshire Council

Mount McKinley

Shrewsbury Business Park

Shrewsbury

SY2 6FG

Tel: 01743 250124

Email: [lac.team@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:lac.team@shropshire.gov.uk)