

# CHILDREN'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE



Report subject	<b>Covid Impact to include information on Pupil Premium and child poverty</b>
Meeting date	8 June 2021
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	This report gives an explanation of Pupil Premium and examples of how schools make use of it. The report outlines how Covid has impacted on the use of Pupil Premium and how schools have adapted their spend accordingly. The report also summarises How the HAF Programme and Winter Fund Grant supported our vulnerable children and families during the pandemic.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>It is RECOMMENDED that:</b>  The Board note the information contained in this report.
Reason for recommendations	To inform the Board
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Nicola Greene, Portfolio Holder for Covid Resilience, Schools and Skills
Corporate Director	Elaine Redding, Director Children's Services
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Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Information

## Background

1. Publicly funded schools in England get extra funding from the government to help them improve the attainment of their disadvantaged pupils. Evidence shows that children from disadvantaged backgrounds generally face extra challenges in reaching their potential at school and often do not perform as well as their peers.
2. The pupil premium grant is designed to allow schools to help disadvantaged pupils by improving their progress and the exam results they achieve. Schools get £1,345 for every primary age pupil, or £955 for every secondary age pupil, who claims free school meals, or who has claimed free school meals in the last 6

years. Schools get £310 for every pupil with a parent who is serving in HM Forces or has retired on a pension from the Ministry of Defence. This funding is to help with pastoral support. This money is paid directly to schools from the government.

3. **Pupil Premium Plus** is allocated to the following young people: those that have previously been in the care system who are now adopted, under a special guardianship order or child arrangement order or young people who are in care in school years reception to year 11. For schools to access the Pupil Premium Plus funding for those young people previously in care they must indicate this on their census. Pupil Premium plus for children currently in care is managed by the Virtual School.
4. The Personal Education Plan meetings that take place 3 times per year ensure schools discuss what they intend to spend the funding on and the impact it will have with professionals in attendance allowing a multi-agency view.

### **Use of Pupil Premium in Schools**

5. How Pupil Premium is used in schools is decided by the Headteacher and Governing Body. Schools are required to publish how it is used on their websites. Although Ofsted inspectors won't judge a school on how it spends the funding, they will want to see that the money is being used on pupil premium strategies and initiatives that are effective, and that the school's leadership is monitoring and managing this spending well, as part of any inspection.
6. The local authority does not have any statutory duty to monitor and as such does not receive funding to employ someone to do this. Examples of the use of Pupil Premium might be: technology, 1:1 tuition, group tuition, reading interventions, outdoor education such as Forest School, summer schools, parent/carer engagement programmes, teaching assistants, social and emotional interventions, reducing class sizes, Lego therapy or mentoring.
7. The Educational Endowment Foundation and the Sutton Trust gives examples of possible ways to use Pupil Premium for both Primary and Secondary schools and also show evidence of effectiveness.

### **Changes in Pupil Premium Allocation**

8. The Pupil Premium Funding based on free school meals (FSM) is often the most common in schools. Schools are funded based on the numbers that they indicate on the census as receiving FSM. Recent research shows an increase in those that qualify for FSM during the pandemic. The government has recently announced that FSM funding for this financial year will now be based on the October 2020 census rather than that of January 2021. This has resulted in BCP schools potentially losing £388,000. The change in numbers over this period is 321, with 210 being primary age and 111 being secondary age.

### **Covid Impact on Pupil Premium**

9. During the last year schools have had to change their plans for Pupil Premium spend to address the pandemic. Whilst the government scheme enabled many

vulnerable children to access laptops and internet data there were still those that schools will have needed to provide for.

10. The return to school for young people will also have impacted on the plans initially made for pupil premium. Some planned spend for interventions, after school clubs and school trips would not have taken place.
11. Schools provided food for vulnerable children during lockdown either with food vouchers or hampers.
12. The families of those young people who receive free school meals are often unable to give the necessary support to their children around learning. Schools undertook baseline assessments when young people returned to school that would give them a clear picture of where intervention would need to be put in place within the curriculum areas; schools also ensured that children were ready to learn by putting programmes in that addressed self-esteem and well-being.

### **Addressing Child Poverty for those Children Entitled to Free School Meals During Covid**

13. In February 2021 BCP Council was awarded the funding by the Department for Education (DfE) to support the provision of free holiday activity places that included healthy food and enrichment activities for children and young people aged 5 to 16 receiving benefits-based free school meals. The name of the programme is the holiday activities and food programme (HAF).
14. A successful pilot programme ran over the Easter 2021 holiday and our aim is to provide even more activities in the summer and Christmas holidays to continue to promote healthy eating and activity.
15. The Winter Fund Grant: the government created a £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme to support families with children, other vulnerable households and individuals. They asked County Councils and Unitary Authorities to ensure that people who are struggling have the support they need for food provision and essential utilities, and holiday activities. BCP Council was allocated £1.44m.
16. BCP Council partnered with Wonde as our voucher provider. Vouchers were allocated - £15 per child per week – for the Christmas, February half term and Easter holidays. As an example, during the Easter holiday alone we reached around 10,724 children through food voucher provision.
  - a) We worked with our 96 schools to provide vouchers for food to families with FSM children.
  - b) In addition, vouchers were provided for younger children through our Family Information Service.
  - c) Children considered to be vulnerable, who were not in receipt of FSM, were also given vouchers – through our Family Information Service and through schools.
  - d) We also worked with Bournemouth and Poole College to support the young people who study there and are of our most disadvantaged.
17. From September 1st 2020, Children's Centres evolved into family hubs as per the Early Help strategy. BCP have 9 Family Hubs, 6 with BCP and 3 commissioned from YMCA Bournemouth. These are based in our most vulnerable communities to support families.

18. The Children's Centres and family hubs have remained open during Covid providing support for food insecurities, information, advice and guidance, face to face meetings with our most vulnerable and a robust virtual offer. They have seen over 20,000 people attend their maternity appointments. This has allowed our most vulnerable families to have the support they needed during the pandemic.

#### **Options Appraisal**

19. Not applicable

#### **Summary of financial implications**

20. Not applicable

#### **Summary of legal implications**

21. Not applicable

#### **Summary of human resources implications**

22. Not applicable

#### **Summary of sustainability impact**

23. Not applicable

#### **Summary of public health implications**

24. Both the HAF programme and Winter Fund Grant allowed young people and their families on low incomes to have access to food during the Covid period.

#### **Summary of equality implications**

25. The use of Pupil Premium and Pupil Premium Plus allows vulnerable young people to meet their potential by supporting them to make progress in their learning and achieve greater outcomes at the end of year 11. Often these children encounter more challenges than their peers in this area. Improved educational outcomes give greater opportunities and life chances, therefore promoting equality with their peers.

#### **Summary of risk assessment**

26. Not applicable

#### **Background papers**

None

#### **Appendices**

There are no appendices to this report.