**Stockton on Tees**

**Virtual School for Looked After Children and Young People (LACYP)**

 **Funding Policy Reviewed for 2017-2018**

**Introduction**

This paper outlines the funding available to schools and settings to support the needs of LACYP from Stockton-on-Tees either educated in Stockton or in an out of borough provision. The policy notes the funding available, the eligibility criteria and the guidance on the use of the grant.

Currently there are several sources of funding available for LACYP in Stockton

1. Pupil Premium Plus available from Reception to Year 11 - £1400
2. ALS ‘Additional Learning Support’ –this is short term, time limited support for LACYP in crisis.
3. Stockton School Budget Allocation for LACYP -Stockton Schools - £1,295
4. Early Years Pupil Premium available for 3 and 4 year old accessing Pre School provision £302.10
5. Free (15 hours) 2 Year old Nursery Provision (Available if accessing an establishment rated “Outstanding” or “Good” by Ofsted)

Each funding stream is described in more detail below

1. **Pupil Premium Plus (PPP) for Looked after children and young people in Reception to Year 11**

 The pupil premium plus is paid in line with conditions of the grant set out by the DfE in March 2014.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium-2015-to-2016-allocations>

Pupil Premium and the role of the Virtual School Head 2014-15 – Frequently Asked Questions (March 2014)

 In Stockton

* UP to £1400 of the £1900 is allocated to schools. (NB This amount may differ for LACYP from other local authorities) \*
* £500 is retained by Stockton LA to support the additional and personalised needs of pupils and centrally resourced initiatives.
* The grant is managed by the Virtual School Head teacher and is used to improve outcomes and narrow the achievement gap for LACYP
* The PPP must be used by schools to meet the personalised needs of the pupil as identified in a high quality PEP (Personal Education Plan) – this should accelerate learning and support interventions that enable gaps in learning to be eliminated and have clear quantitative targets for improvement, underpinned by well-targeted and identified support. (Ref. Promoting the Education of Looked After Children Statutory Guidance for local authorities July 14 DFE-00520-2014 )
* The PPP must be used to improve outcomes for children in the following areas:-
* Academic achievement and progress
* Wider achievement e.g. in an area in which the pupil is gifted and talented
* Attendance
* Inclusion (by reducing internal and external exclusion)
* Social and emotional skills
* Transition
* Specialist resources to support learning
* Enrichment Activities
* Out of school learning opportunities e.g. 1-1 Tuition in the child’s home
* The PPP cannot be used :-
* To double fund or replace funding which has already been allocated to the school to support the pupil e.g. Special Needs, EHCP, High Needs Funding, Other statutory work e.g. speech and language.
* When the school’s own funding, that includes the additional budget share for looked after covers the cost of the interventions.

\*In April 2018 the Pupil Premium Plus will be increased to £2300. Until a further review is carried out the amount allocated to schools will remain the same.

**The interventions supported by the PPP should be additional and different to those interventions available to all other students**

**Management and Accountability**

* The PEP must be reviewed termly in line with the schools pupil tracking system and measure the progress and impact of the targets put in place at the start of the previous term.
* PEPs will be quality assured by officers within Schools and SEN Service and graded Green, Amber and Red in line with the E Pep system. Headteacher and Chairs of Governors will be informed if the PEP is judged as RED.
* The use of the PPP must be identified and fully costed in the E PEP to secure funding
* An audit of the use and impact of the PPP will take place at the end of the financial year to inform future decision making and ensure the PPP is used effectively. This will be shared with the Assistant Director for Schools and SEN.
* The Virtual school Head will be accountable to the Assistant Director to provide scrutiny for the expenditure of the centrally retained budget on a termly basis.

**Allocation of Funding to Schools by Stockton LA**

* In Stockton the Service Strategy Finance team are responsible for administering the PPP (Contact graham.waller@stockton.gov.uk)
* For those pupils attending Stockton maintained schools, funding will be transferred to schools via an internal budget adjustment in Sept/Oct, Jan/Feb and March.
* For those pupils attending any Academy or schools and settings that are out of Stockton Council’s control, funding will be paid to the establishment via cheque or BACS at the end of the financial year. (March)
* Where a pupil becomes looked after or moves school mid-year the PPP is distributed to the school in line with where the child is on the last day of each term.
* Where a child leaves care the PPP is paid up until the pupil’s last full term of care.
* Additional Funding from the centrally held resource to meet exceptional need may be applied for through the Virtual School and agreed by the VSHT and Assistant Director.

*Schools should apply by completing the Requisition Form for ALS/PPP*

* We reserve the right to recoup the Pupil Premium Plus funding if there is evidence that the funding is not being used to address the personalised needs of the LACYP as identified in the PEP or Annual PPP Audit
* We will only provide Pupil Premium Plus to independent providers in exceptional circumstances as these placements are already funded at a high level by central budgets.

**Allocation of Funding by Other Authorities**

* Different approaches to allocation of the PPP Funding will be adopted by other authorities who have freedom to administer funds according to their own policy.
* Stockton schools with LACYP on their roll from other authorities should contact the Virtual School Head from that authority to request their PPP policy. A list of the Virtual School Heads can be found on Stockton VS Web site

**2. Additional Learning Support –funding provided equivalent to a Level 2 Teaching Assistant**.

The Additional Learning Support fund is available to schools at times of crisis. The funding provides short term, time limited, financial support when other resources e.g. Pupil Premium has been exhausted. Following a referral request, the panel makes a recommendation on the type and amount of the support to be offered. Clear guidance is provided on the ‘Additional Learning Support Request Form’. (Contact elizabeth.townsend@stockton.gov.uk or the Virtual School Web site [www.stocktonvs.org.uk](http://www.stocktonvs.org.uk)) Schools are expected to commission their own support - funding is equivalent to TA level 2 but schools can choose to enhance this support by using resources from their own budget. A summative evaluation is required at the end of the support period. No further referrals will be considered without the evaluation. This funding also can support Post 16 students requiring further support other than the 16-19 Bursary.

**3. Early Years Pupil Premium (EYPP) - £302**

From April 2015 the EYPP will provide nurseries, schools and other providers with additional support for disadvantaged three and four year olds which includes looked after children.

The rate is 53 pence per hour for a maximum of 15 hours per week for three and four year olds whose parents are in receipt of certain benefits or who have been in care or adopted from care.

This means an extra £302 a year for each child taking up the full 570 hours funded entitlement to early education.

The extra funding has been implemented to improve the quality of the early years education provided to eligible children.

As for the Pupil Premium Plus, the Virtual School Headteacher is responsible for managing the EYPP budget for looked after children and for holding providers to account for the use and impact of the targeted support.

 As from April 2018, in Stockton, Early Year providers will be able to access a total of £225, £75 per term, for each looked after child in their setting. This will be paid to the provider on the completion of the Personal Education Plan (E PEP).The £25 centrally retained money will be used to support the additional needs of EY LACYP. At the end of the financial year, surplus funds will be distributed to settings /schools where 3/4 year old LACYP attend or in line with personalised needs.

The £225 should be used to provide additional resources to support the development of the child in line with their personalised need. This may be additional resources, human resources or resources to support the carer in the home setting to help meet a child’s educational needs. Further advice and guidance can be sought from the Early Years Team (Contact janet.marriott@stockton.gov.uk)

For looked after children residing outside the borough the same principles apply. The Early Year providers will be able to access the full amount on completion of a the E PEP

**4. 2 Year Old Funding – 15 hours of free child care**

The 2 Year old funding entitles parent/carers up to 15 hours of free childcare and early learning each week. The scheme helps improve children’s learning and development, gives them the opportunity to make new friends, learn through play and have lots of fun in one of our specially approved childcare settings, which include day nurseries, school nurseries, childminders and pre-schools.

Free childcare places start the term after a child’s second birthday

Looked after children are therefore entitled to access up to 15 hours of free child care and early learning each week. Information advice and guidance can be sought from the Families Information Service on (01642) 527225 or by email at earlyyearsfunding@stockton.gov.uk.

All looked after children should have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) in place. Where a looked after child accesses childcare, professionals should ensure that a PEP has been put in place in partnership with the carer, social worker and where possible the health visitor.

NB. This funding is not managed by the Virtual School Headteacher but is fully supported by the Virtual School to enable all looked after children to develop in line with their age related expectations and ultimately to ensure the child is ready for school.

For Stockton looked after children residing outside the borough, the social worker should contact the LA where the child resides regarding the 2 Year old funding. Stockton Families Information Service (01642) 527225 will advise on the key person to contact for each LA