



**Children and Young People Overview
and Scrutiny Committee**
5 February 2014

**Report from the Acting Director of
Children and Families**

Wards Affected:
ALL

The Pupil Premium and Brent Schools

1.0 Summary

1.1 The Pupil Premium was introduced by the Coalition Government in April 2011 to provide additional support for Looked After Children and those from low income families. The extra funding is made available to schools to help them narrow the attainment gap that still exists between pupils from disadvantaged and more affluent backgrounds.

Schools should be able to tell exactly how this funding is spent and demonstrate how and why it is having an impact as well as having well thought-through plans for building on their success.

1.2 This report gives a general overview of how the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG) is being used by Brent schools and whether it is successful in narrowing the gap.

1.3 The Children & Families Department provides assistance, training and support to schools on best usage of PPG through its Services to School function. An overview of this is also given in the report.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That members note the purpose and use of the Pupil Premium Grant and good performance in narrowing the attainment gap and the contribution made to this by the Council's Services to Schools service.

3.0 Detail

3.1 As stated above, the Pupil Premium was introduced by the Coalition Government in April 2011 to provide additional support for Looked After Children and those from low income families. It is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the

last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'), and schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel.

Schools attract £900 per disadvantaged child, with an additional payment of £53 for primary-aged pupils.

In 2014-15, the funding will rise to £1300 for primary-aged pupils, £935 for secondary-aged pupils and £1900 for all looked after children, adopted children and children with guardians.

3.2 Narrowing the gap in Brent.

The overall picture of narrowing the gap in Brent is one of success compared to other parts of London as well as nationally

This is illustrated in the information given below, namely:.

Expected progress from KS1-2 for Pupil Premium (PP) pupils is

Reading	87%
Writing	91%
Maths	89%

This is well above the national average for PP pupils and actually in line with the national average for all pupils.

The gap between PP v all pupils in Brent is very small at between 1 – 3 percentage points.

Expected progress from KS2-4 for PP pupils in Brent is

English	69%
Maths	70%
Science	52%

This is in line with the national average for all pupils.

It has to be said however that the gap between PP v all pupils in Brent secondary schools is quite wide in English (9 points) and Maths (10 points), but it should be noted that the gap is only 2 points in Science and all three gaps are narrower than the national PP v all pupils gap.

It is also worth noting that 21 of the 50 primary and junior schools had 90%+ of their PP pupils make expected progress in reading, writing and maths last year.

3.3 Use of PPG in Brent Schools

As demonstrated by the figures above, overall Brent schools use the Pupil Premium to good advantage.

Some examples of successful usage of PPG funding in Brent **Primary** schools include:

- the running of Booster classes in literacy and maths
- providing additional teaching support
- subsidising extra-curricular activities
- Increasing provision for those pupils who are Gifted & Talented
- Providing additional support to Level 6 target groups
- Provision of Art Therapy

Examples of successful usage of PPG funding in Brent **Secondary** schools include:

- 1-1 and small group teaching
- Targeted intervention in various subjects
- Subsidised music lessons
- Access to counselling services
- Subsidised extra-curricular activities
- Additional pastoral support to chase up Attendance, Punctuality and to promote behaviours for learning.
- Additional Provision for Careers Guidance to raise aspirations of the young people.
- Additional Enrichment Activities.

3.4 Child Poverty and the Pupil Premium

There are 3.6 million children living in relative income poverty, after housing costs, in the UK (Source: 2010–11 Households Below Average Income). This is equivalent to 27% of children.

The Brent Child Poverty Needs Assessment carried out for the same period indicates that 34% of Brent children were living in poverty at that time. It should be noted however that there is a continuing national debate on measurements and targets for reducing child poverty and there is a whole basket of different indicators which can be used and interpreted in many different ways. What appears to be acknowledged though, is that nationally child poverty will increase significantly by 2020.

In Frank Field's Independent Review on Poverty and Life Chances (December 2010) he proposed that the government consider children's life chances in any child poverty indicator. Key to this was "School and further education attainment: [and] Attainment gaps between children receiving free school meals and those who do not." The Pupil Premium was introduced by the Coalition Government to assist in narrowing this gap, and by doing so, increase the likelihood of children and young people breaking the cycle of poverty as they move into adulthood.

As demonstrated above, Brent schools are gaining success in closing the gap and their use of the Pupil Premium is a contributory factor to this.

3.5 Challenges and Council Support

Despite success in narrowing the gap as outlined above challenges still exist for schools in terms of using PPG in the most advantageous way, particularly in terms of consistent good use across all schools.

Progress could be made for some schools around, for example, dealing with multiple risk factors such as children in receipt of Free School Meals coupled with other factors such as English as an Additional Language or Special Educational Needs. There are also other areas which warrant some improvement for instance in measuring the impact of individual interventions, a closer focus on Pupil Premium in some secondary schools and inconsistent targeting of Pupil Premium pupils who are gifted and talented.

The Children & Families Department is committed to working with schools to ensure that PPG is effectively used to narrow the attainment gap.

It does this in several ways through the Department's Services to Schools service and in particular through school Link Advisors. Written guidance is also provided to Link Advisors and Head Teachers on how the PPG can best be utilised.

Furthermore, Services to Schools delivers PPG training to school Governors at least biannually and further information and subsidiary guidance are included in the quarterly Governance Report issued by the Department. This enables Governors to consider carefully their use of the pupil premium funding so that it has the maximum impact on improving the achievement of eligible pupils.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 .There are no financial implications contained within this report

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications contained within this report.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1. The Pupil Premium Grant is intended to enable schools to improve the attainment of potentially disadvantaged groups of children, although it is recognised that not all pupils who receive free school meals will be socially disadvantaged. It is also recognised that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for free school meals. As well as supporting Looked After Children and those adopted or with guardians, schools can allocate the Pupil Premium funding to support any pupil or groups of pupils the school has legitimately identified as being socially disadvantaged.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 7.1 .There are no staffing/accommodation implications contained within this report.

Background Papers

Schools publish information on how Pupil Premium Grant is used on their individual web sites

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