

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SELECT COMMITTEE**3 OCTOBER 2012****PUPIL PREMIUM**

Report Author: Michael Bracey, Assistant Director, Tel: (01908) 258041
Service Group: Children and Families – Education, Effectiveness and Participation

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Government believes that the Pupil Premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their wealthier peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.
- 1.2 In most cases the Pupil Premium is allocated to schools and is clearly identifiable. It is for schools to decide how the Pupil Premium, allocated to schools per FSM pupil, is spent. The view of the Department for Education (DFE) is that schools are best placed to assess what additional provision should be made for the individual pupils within their responsibility.
- 1.3 Schools are free to spend the Pupil Premium as they see fit. However the DFE asserts that they will be held accountable for how they have used the additional funding to support pupils from low-income families. New measures will be included in the performance tables that will capture the achievement of those deprived pupils covered by the Pupil Premium. From September 2012, the DFE will also require schools to publish online information about how they have used the Premium. The aim of this move is to ensure that parents and others are made fully aware of the attainment of pupils covered by the Premium.

2. Key issues

- 2.1 The Pupil Premium was introduced in 2011 and is allocated to children from low-income families who are currently known to be eligible for FSM in both mainstream and non-mainstream settings and children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months.
- 2.2 Total funding through the Premium will increase from £625m in 2011-12 to £1.25bn in 2012-13.
- 2.3 The level of the premium in 2011-12 was £488 per pupil for pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and for pupils in care who have been continuously looked after for six months. It increased to £600 per pupil in 2012-13.
- 2.4 The Government has decided that eligibility for the Pupil Premium in 2012-13 will be extended to pupils who have been eligible for free school meals (FSM) at any point in the last six years. As a group, children who have been eligible for FSM at any point in time have consistently lower educational attainment than those who have never been eligible for FSM.

- 2.5 A Premium has also been introduced for children whose parents are currently serving in the armed forces; this was £200 in 2011-12 and rose to £250 for 2012-13. This Service Premium is designed to address the emotional and social well-being of these pupils.
- 2.6 In 2011-12 Pupil Premium funding ranged from to zero to £50,000 in the primary sector and in the secondary sector Pupil Premium payments reached £169,000 in our largest school. In 2012-13 Pupil Premium funding will range from to zero to £94,000 in the primary sector and in the secondary sector Pupil Premium funding will reach £410,000 in our largest school. In total Milton Keynes Council anticipates receiving £4.2m Pupil Premium funding in 2012-13 for maintained schools.

3. Progress to Date

- 3.1 Until information is published on how schools have used the Pupil Premium it is difficult to assess the impact of the additional funding.
- 3.2 Examples of how the Pupil Premium is being used by schools locally will be provided by invited speakers at the meeting.

4. Lessons Learnt

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Timetable of Activities

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Relevant Deadlines for Cabinet/Council/Delegated Decision/Executive Scrutiny/Forward Plan

- 6.1 None.

Background Papers / Useful Links

Name of document	
TES Article (27.07.12) 'Zero Impact – Survey finds flaws in Pupil Premium use'	Included as Item 5(b) of the agenda
TES Article (14.09.12) 'Getting more bang for your buck'	Included as Item 5(c) of the agenda

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