

Schools Forum 23rd September 2014

Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

The Pupil Premium

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of a recent Ofsted publication in respect of the pupil premium for schools.

Budget Working Group Discussed

2. Yes – 12th September 2014.

Schools Forum Role and Responsibilities

3. The pupil premium is a government funded grant which is directed to schools through the Local Authority. The funding is additional to a school's annual budget share which is funded by the Department for Education's (DfE) grant: the Dedicated School Grant (DSG).
4. The Authority may consult the forum on such other matters concerning the funding of schools as they see fit.

Action for Schools Forum

5. To note the Ofsted publication dated July 2014 in respect of the pupil premium and to receive a presentation at the next meeting in respect of Dudley's pupil premium data and closing the gap analysis.

Attachments to Report

6. Appendix 1 - Ofsted documentation the Pupil Premium: an update.

Karen Cocker
Children's Services Finance Manager
8th September 2014

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Report of the Interim Director of Children's Services

The Pupil Premium

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Schools Forum of a recent Ofsted publication in respect of the pupil premium for schools.

Background

2. The Pupil Premium is a DfE grant provided to schools as additional support for looked after children and those from low income families. Schools are free to spend the money they are allocated as they see fit, however the DfE are clear that schools will be held accountable for how this additional funding to support pupils from low-income families and from service families is used. It was worth £625m nationally in 2011/12 rising to £2.5bn by 2014/15
3. For 2014/15, schools will receive £1,300 per primary pupil who is currently eligible for free schools meals (FSM) or has been eligible for FSM in the past 6 years (FSM 'Ever 6') and the allocation for secondary sector will be £935 for FSM 'Ever 6' pupils; the rates for 2013/14 were £953 for a primary pupil and £900 for a secondary pupil.
4. The grant is calculated using the DfE FSM "Ever 6" data and the estimate of grant for Dudley maintained schools for 2014/15 is £11.8m.
5. Pupil Premium will also be allocated for children looked after for at least one day as recorded in the March 2013 Children Looked After Data Return (SSDA903) and aged 4 to 15 at 31st August 2012. This allocation will be updated and finalised in October 2014 based on the number of children looked after for at least one day as recorded in the March 2014 return. The estimate of grant for Dudley maintained schools for 2014/15 is £1.034m
6. The Pupil Premium for 2014/15 will now also include those pupils recorded on the January 2014 School Census who were looked after immediately before being adopted on or after 30 December 2005, or were placed on a Special Guardianship or Residence Order immediately after being looked after (known as post-LAC). The estimated grant for Dudley maintained schools is £125,400.

7. The grant for Looked After Children (LAC) and Post LAC will be payable at £1,900 per pupil.

Ofsted Publication

8. The Ofsted publication issued in July 2014 titled 'The Pupil Premium: an update', provides information on the progress schools have made in using their pupil premium funding to raise achievement for pupils eligible for free school meals. It is based on evidence from 151 inspections carried out between January and December 2013, text review of 1,600 school inspection reports published between September 2013 and March 2014, and national performance data for 2013. The document is attached at Appendix 1 of this report.

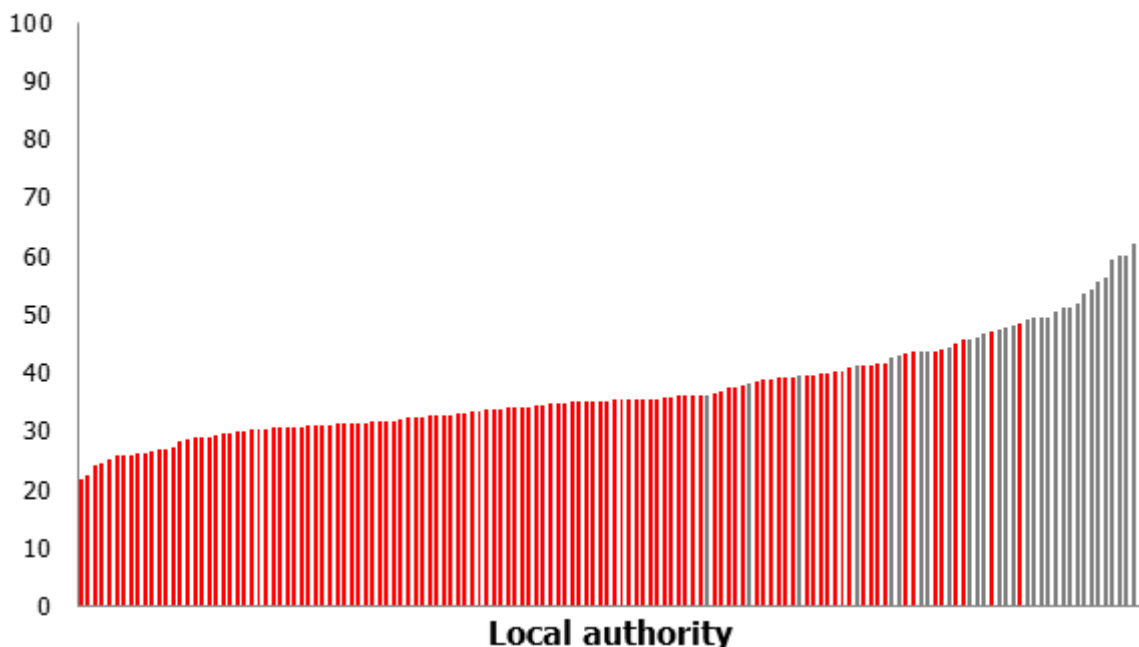
Extract from the Executive Summary

(Page 4 – 7 of Ofsted Report - attached at Appendix 1)

9. The pupil premium is making a difference in many schools. Overall, school leaders are spending pupil premium funding more effectively, tracking the progress of eligible pupils more closely and reporting outcomes more precisely than before.
10. There are encouraging signs from inspection that the concerted efforts of good leaders and teachers are helping to increase outcomes for pupils eligible for the pupil premium. However, it will take time to establish whether this increased focus will lead to a narrowing in the attainment gap between those eligible for the pupil premium and other pupils.
11. Ofsted's increased focus on this issue in all inspections is making a difference. In each report, it now includes a commentary on the attainment and progress of pupils who are eligible for the pupil premium and evaluates how this compares with other pupils. Headteachers know that their schools will not receive a positive judgement unless they demonstrate that they are focused on improving outcomes for pupils eligible for the pupil premium. For example, in a number of previously outstanding secondary schools that have declined to good or below, inspectors have judged that the pupil premium funding was not being effectively spent.
12. In 151 reports analysed between January and December 2013, there was an association noted between the overall effectiveness of the school and the impact of the pupil premium. Routinely, good and outstanding schools demonstrate unwavering commitment to closing the attainment gap. They target interventions forensically and have robust tracking systems in place to establish what is making a difference and what is not.
13. In these schools, governing bodies are more aware of their role in monitoring the use of their school's pupil premium funding. The strongest governing bodies take strategic responsibility for ensuring that the funding improves teaching and support for eligible pupils in the school. They know how the funding is being spent, hold leaders to account for expenditure and assess how effectively the funded activities contribute to raising the attainment of eligible pupils.

14. Weak leadership and governance remain obstacles to narrowing the attainment gap. In schools judged to be inadequate, inspectors commonly report that leaders and governors do not ensure that pupil premium funding is used effectively. In these schools, the attainment of pupils eligible for funding is poor and attainment gaps are too wide.
15. Although inspectors have seen large improvements in the attitude of school leaders and governors, there is considerable variation across local authorities in the proportion of pupils achieving expected levels at Key Stages 2 and 4 and the rate of improvement from year to year. (See Appendix 1 attached, page 22, of the Ofsted annex for the full list of attainment of pupils at GCSE by local authority area).
- Figure 1 demonstrates this difference starkly.

Figure 1: Percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals attaining five or more GCSEs at grade A* to C including English and mathematics in 2013, by local authority



Source: Department for Education

Each line represents one of 150 individual local authorities in England. Local authorities on the left have the lowest proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals achieving five or more GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics. Grey lines represent London boroughs. Data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly are not included owing to the small numbers of eligible students in these regions. Figures based on outcomes for eligible free school meal students at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2012/13 academic year. Figures for 2012/13 are based on revised data.

16. Pupils eligible for free school meals in **Barnsley, Portsmouth, South Gloucestershire, North Lincolnshire and Northumberland** were least likely to achieve five good GCSE passes including English and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 4. Around one in four eligible pupils achieved this benchmark in these areas in 2013. At the other end of the spectrum, **Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster, Southwark, Tower Hamlets and Lambeth** had the highest proportion of eligible pupils achieving five or more good GCSEs, including English and mathematics. In these areas, around three fifths of eligible pupils are attaining

this benchmark. This is significantly above the national level of 37.9%; Dudley results are 27.5% in 2012 and 31.6% in 2013.

17. Twenty three of the top twenty five local authority areas that attain this GCSE benchmark for eligible pupils are London boroughs. Schools in these areas were performing strongly in 2013 despite having high proportions of pupils coming from poorer backgrounds. This demonstrates powerfully that poverty is not always a predictor of failure.
18. If gaps are to be narrowed then school leaders must make sure that eligible pupils make faster progress than non-eligible pupils. Some are doing this – particularly in London. In five London boroughs, poor children are achieving above or in line with the national figure for all children at GCSE.
19. The change in proportion of eligible pupils who achieved at least five GCSEs grades A* to C between 2012 and 2013 varied considerably, ranging from a fall of 10 percentage points in **Thurrock** to an increase of 13 percentage points in **Windsor and Maidenhead**. Those local authority areas that have performed poorly over recent years arguably have greatest scope for most rapid improvement. It is, therefore, welcome to see that twelve of the local authorities identified as having the weakest GCSE performance for eligible pupils in Ofsted's 2013 report 'Unseen children' have made impressive strides to improve. These areas have improved outcomes for eligible students by around six percentage points or more in the period between 2012 and 2013. Seven of them are in the fifteen most improved local authorities. However, it is of significant concern that three of the worst performing areas highlighted in 'Unseen children: access and achievement 20 years on' are improving too slowly and in one case has declined further. In 2012, **Barnsley** had the third lowest proportion of eligible children attaining five or more GCSEs grades A* to C. Attainment further declined in 2013 and Barnsley is now the lowest attaining local authority at Key Stage 4. Poor children in Barnsley are getting an extremely raw deal.

Figure 2: Percentage point change in GCSE outcomes for pupils eligible for free school meals between 2012 and 2013, by local authority



Source: Department for Education

Each line represents one of 150 individual local authorities. In those local authorities below the line, there has been a fall in the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals achieving GCSEs grades A* to C including English and mathematics. Those above show an increase in the last year. Data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly are not included owing to the small numbers of eligible students in these regions. Figures based on outcomes for eligible free school meal students at the end of Key Stage 4 in the 2012/13 academic year. 2012/13 figures are based on revised data.

20. It cannot be right that the likelihood of a child receiving a good education should depend on their postcode or economic circumstance. Government should focus its attention on those areas of the country that are letting poor children down. Ofsted will also focus its attention on these areas in subsequent reports to see if improvements have been made.

Dudley's Data

21. Data in respect of Dudley's disadvantaged pupil premium analysis and closing the gap (end of primary and secondary phase outcomes) is available for 2012 and 2013. It is intended that this information is presented to Schools Forum at the October or meeting for information and further discussion.

Finance

22. The funding of schools is prescribed by the Department for Education (DfE) through the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013.

23. Schools Forums are regulated by the regulated by the Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2012.

24. From 1st April 2006, the Schools Budget has been funded by a direct grant; Dedicated School Grant (DSG).

Law

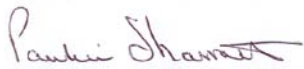
25. Councils' LMS Schemes are made under Section 48 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998. The Education Acts 1996 and 2002 also have provisions relating to school funding.

Equality Impact

26. The Council's Equal Opportunities Policy is taken into account when considering the allocation of resources.

Recommendation

27. Schools Forum to note the recent Ofsted publication 'The pupil premium: an update' attached at Appendix 1 and to receive a presentation at the October meeting in respect of Dudley school's pupil premium analysis data.



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Interim Director of Children's Services

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