

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

UPDATE ON PUPIL PREMIUM 2014-15

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the increase in the Pupil Premium grant for 2014-15.
- 1.2 Pupil Premium grant is allocated to schools and academies to support the 'narrowing of gaps' in attainment levels at all Key Stages.
- 1.3 To recommend how the Council's partnership arrangements might contribute to maximising the impact of the Pupil Premium.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 North Lincolnshire Council is determined to raise the achievement and aspirations of all our children and young people: especially those from relatively disadvantaged backgrounds. The ambition of the Council is to close the attainment gap between those children eligible for free school meals and their peers at every stage of education – and particularly for our youngest children. Within the early years, this ambition is being supported by the Council's investment in the Imagination Library; using reading within families as a means to improving emotional wellbeing and school readiness of children.

Over the past three years, North Lincolnshire has begun to narrow the attainment gap between children eligible for free school meals and their peers. Across early years, primary and secondary there have been improvements in the proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals achieving expected levels of attainment in reading, writing, mathematics and English. Despite these improvements, North Lincolnshire Council is ambitious for faster improvement and so the increase in targeted funding through Pupil Premium is welcomed.

- 2.2 The Pupil Premium is a separate funding stream from the Dedicate Schools Grant (DSG) available to schools to improve attainment and achievement of pupils who are eligible for free school meals.
- 2.3 The Pupil Premium for 2013/14 is currently £900 per pupil (based on the number of pupils in a school that are or have been registered for free school meals in the past 6 years). In addition, Pupil Premium is also allocated to schools for children who are in public care and those pupils registered as children of armed forces personnel.

- 2.4 The Pupil Premium for 2014-15 increases in value to £1,300 for eligible primary pupils and £935 for eligible secondary pupils. The allocation for children in public care extends to those children who have been adopted and children with guardians and will be £1,900 per eligible pupil. The allocation for service children will be £300 per eligible pupil.
- 2.5 Schools are expected to demonstrate how they have used the funding to improve attainment and this information must be published on the school website.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The use of Pupil Premium supports the Council's strategic aim to raise aspiration and empower our young people. An option for the Council is to ask Schools Forum as the key stakeholder group for consultation and decision making on issues regarding the local use of education funding to evaluate the impact of the Pupil Premium within North Lincolnshire.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The decisions for the application of the pupil premium are the responsibility of individual schools and their governing body.
- 4.2 It is a requirement that schools publish the use of pupil premium funding and its impact on the school website and Ofsted will use the evidence associated with this in their overall judgement of a school.
- 4.3 The membership of the Schools Forum is representative of the range of education settings across North Lincolnshire. It is well placed to examine the impact of Pupil Premium across the local authority area and to assess the value for money being provided by this significant additional resource.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 The Indicative pupil premium allocation for North Lincolnshire pupils 2014-15 is £7,257k. The final allocations will be based on the January 2014 pupil census. This is based on 6,350 pupils.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 N/A

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 The Schools Forum is the consultative body that regularly discusses the Pupil Premium. Schools Forum has requested further information in respect of the aggregate impact being achieved through the use of pupil premium.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That Cabinet promote the use of Pupil Premium in schools for the purposes of 'narrowing the gaps' in attainment between groups of children and young people.

8.2 That Schools Forum is asked to assess the value for money provided through the Pupil Premium within its work programme for 2014/15.

DIRECTOR OF PEOPLE

Civic Centre
Ashby Road
Scunthorpe
North Lincolnshire
DN16 1AB
Author: Becky McIntyre/Pete Thorpe
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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: Nil