

# Children in Care Pupil Premium Grant (PP+)

## Pupil Premium Plus 2016/17:

The Virtual School Kent (VSK) Head continues to retain responsibility for the Pupil Premium+ Grant for Kent Children in Care. The grant is used to improve outcomes and 'narrow the achievement gap' identified for individual children and young people using the targets set within their electronic Personal Education Plan (ePEP) in consultation with VSK and the Designated Teacher, as well as a number of collaborative initiatives put in place by VSK.

The payment of this funding to schools in the 2016/7 financial year was initially £900 per child in care paid in three £300 instalments in June, November and February. This payment was made in response to a full consultation with Head Teachers and ensures that the funding follows the child if they change schools. Additional funding was provided according entirely to the needs of the child and as in previous years no maximum amount restriction was placed. The funding is ring-fenced for making improvements for the educational attainment of all children in care.

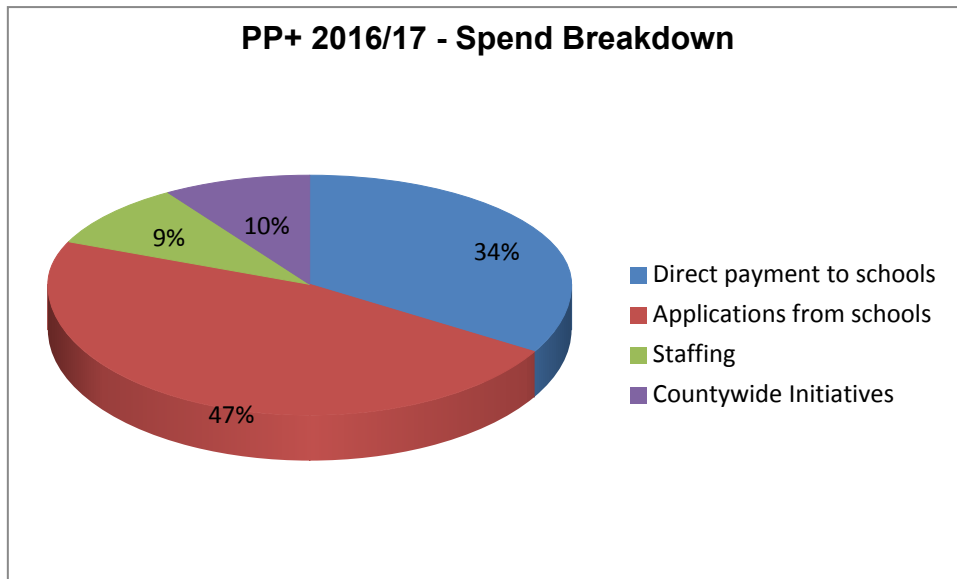
The final position for the 2016/17 budget allocation was £3,081,700; an increase of £376,200 from 2015/16. The budget allocation was calculated via the March 2016 LAC Data Return (SSDA903) as set out in paragraph 10 of the conditions of grant and is based on £1,900 per child. Notification of £376,200 of this provision came very late in the year; therefore £299,900 remains in a reserve provision and is available for the Virtual School Kent's use in 2017/18 in terms 5 and 6.

£2,781,800 was spent in 2016/17 with a total amount of £3,381,600 available to spend in 2017/18.

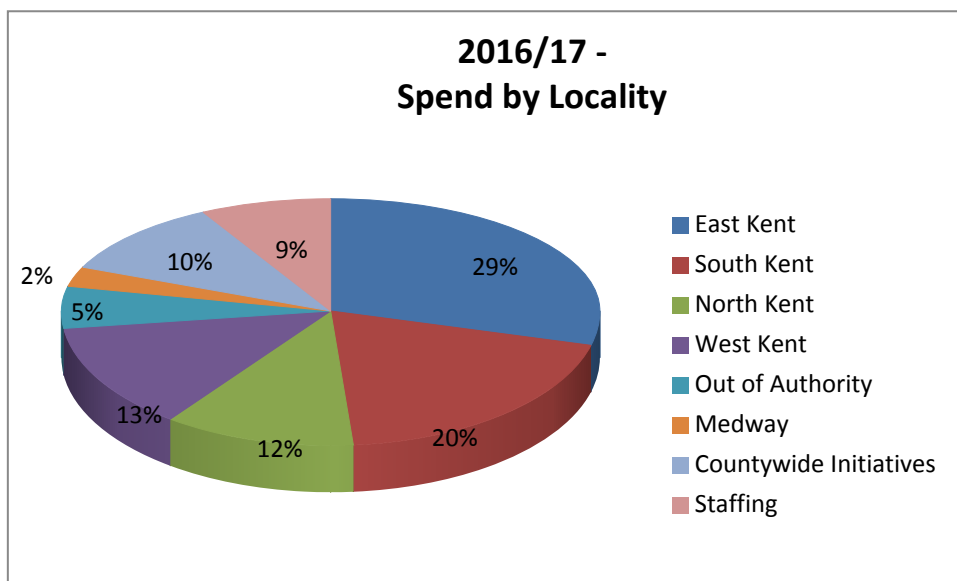
Data within this section relates to the financial period April 2016 – March 2017.

The application process continued to be successfully managed online via the Target Section of ePEP with the number of online approved applications from schools standing at 1728 in 2016/17. Of these applications, 211 were applications in respect of unaccompanied asylum seeking children. In addition to online applications, a number of interventions and support programmes for citizen and unaccompanied asylum seeking children were put into place directly by VSK as countywide or locality based initiatives, equating to £291,160 (10% of the total amount spent.) These initiatives have been directly commissioned by VSK and include literacy development programmes, maths support, educational psychology services, and speech and language support.

A total of £934,167 (34% of the budget) was paid directly to schools in respect of £900 per child in care on roll, a further £1,302,659 (47% of the budget) was paid out in funding applications that had been reviewed, approved and evaluated by VSK. £253,814 (9.1%) was spent directly on staffing.



Pupil Premium+ expenditure is broken down into spend per locality with the largest amount spend in East Kent where the highest numbers of Children in Care continue to attend school, and where a number of complex children in care reside due to the location of specialist care settings.



1396 Children in Care have received some form of PP+ funding, making the average payment to each child £1,992.70. However payment amounts vary from large to small, for example a payment with respect to one individual totalled a spend of £18,533 over the one year period - this was for a bespoke package around education provision for an extremely complex case.

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**PP+ 16/17 Outturn – Number of Pupils**

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Kent Nursery	7
Kent - Primary	395
Kent - Secondary	673
Kent - Independent	36
Kent - Free School	6
Kent - Special School	173
Alternative Curriculum/Other Provisions	20
Other Local Authority School	93
	<b>1396</b>

The grant has been used, as in previous years for a wide range of interventions and activities including supporting a fostering placement stability programme, nurture groups, ipad lending libraries, life coaching, mindfulness projects, speech and language therapy, educational psychology support, therapy/counselling, paired reading projects and horse riding activities to encourage confidence.

The outcomes of these projects have been evaluated and impact measures are very positive. For example 91% of children accessing a therapy intervention made measurable positive progress on the Leuven or Clinical Risk scales. Additionally, the Educational Psychology Service ran a BEAT project (Beating Exam Anxiety Together) and had good results where the average score of the group reduced on the Penn State Worry Scale by an average of 9 points from 62 to 53, indicating a good reduction in anxiety around exams.

Additional tuition is known to be an effective use of PP+; in particular for those in year 10 and 11 who are working towards their GCSE examinations. VSK has directly engaged tuition providers at a cost of £123,057. In addition to this schools have also commissioned additional tutoring through their own staff and agencies from the direct funding payment of £900 they received.

Throughout the year, 12 members of staff have been employed directly by VSK in various posts to provide additional direct working and support at a cost of £253,814.

**Early Years PP:**

£300 for children in care in early years settings is paid to the early years provider in three instalments of £100. An example of this funding making a difference to speech and language is a nursery buying in the Early Years Talk Boost programme, which helps develop early language skills that may need enhancing with the use of story sacks, small groups work and can help the nursery to identify SAL issues early.

£10,900 was paid to Early Years settings in 2016/17 in respect of 72 children.