



Virtual School Kent

Annual Report for Pupil Premium Plus

2017/2018

Overview

- 1.01. The Virtual School Head Teacher continues to retain responsibility for the Pupil Premium+ Grant for Children in Care (CiC). KCC's Vision and Priorities for Improvement challenges us to 'Diminish the Difference' and narrow the achievement gap between our CiC and all learners, also to support them with aspiring to the best progression opportunities. This is the focus for our use of PP+ for Kent CIC and so targets on electronic Personal Education Plans (ePEPs), resources, projects and initiatives always have this aim as a central focus.
- 1.02. The Virtual School Kent's Pupil Premium Plus Policy outlines our role and responsibilities, along with procedures for making payments to schools in respect of 'needs led' funding to CiC.
- 1.03. The payment of this funding to schools in the 2017/18 financial year was initially £900 per child in care paid in three £300 instalments in June 17, November 17 and February 18. 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, available at any time of the year, was provided according entirely to the needs of the child and as in previous years no maximum amount restriction was placed. The funding remained ring-fenced for making improvements for the educational attainment of all Children in Care.
- 1.04. The budget allocation was calculated via the March 2017 LAC Data Return (SSDA903) as set out in paragraph 10 of the conditions of grant and was based on £1,900 per child. Data within this section relates to the financial period April 2017 – March 2018.
- 1.05. The final position for the 2017/18 budget allocation was £3,015,000; this was lower than VSK had been previously advised as the number of CiC had decreased primarily due to the reduction in number of Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children. Notification of an in-year adjustment of £366,700 came late in the financial year in February 18 and this pressure had to be managed to ensure that the overall budget position was held.
- 1.06. £3,045,238 was spent in 2017/18 – this sum included £376,000 from the Reserve Provision. The small overspend will be managed utilising the 2018/19 provision.

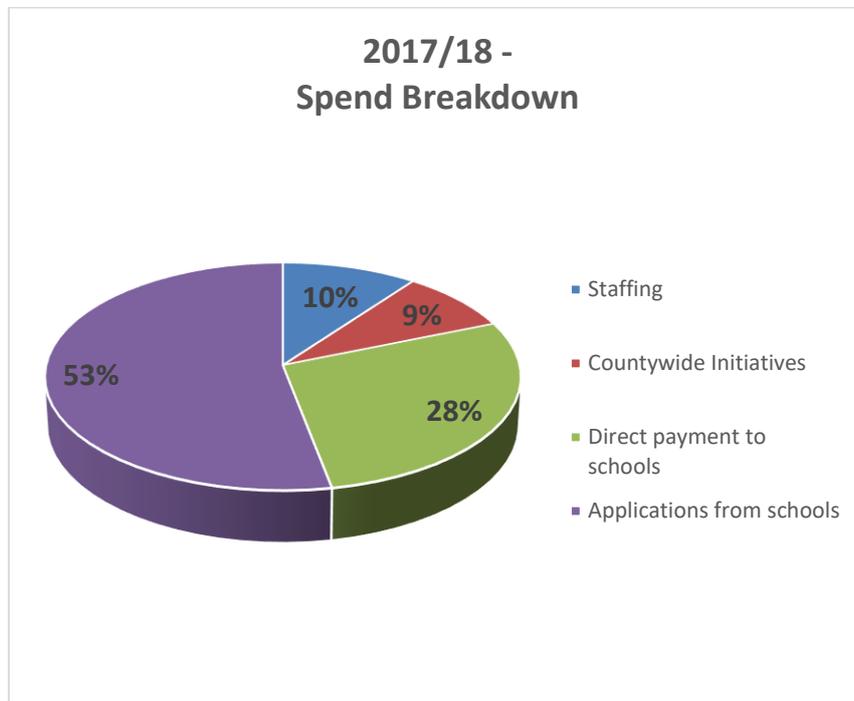
Applications

- 1.07. In addition to the £900 allocation to each eligible CiC, the application process for additional required funding continued to be successfully managed online via the Target Section of ePEP with the number of online approved applications from schools standing at 1610 in 2017/18.

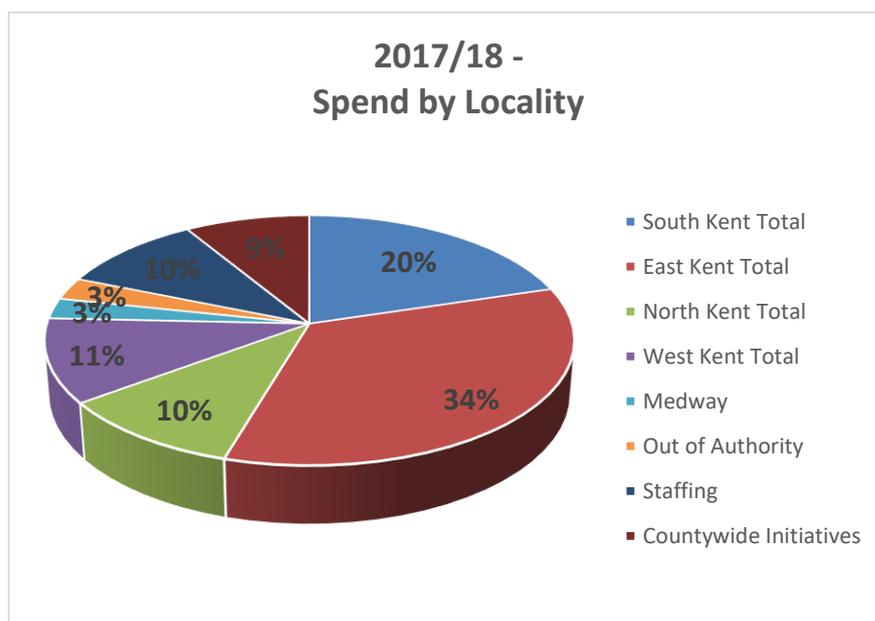
Spend Breakdown

- 1.08. 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 £263,625 (9% 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.

1.09. A total of £856,200 (28% of the budget) was paid directly to schools in respect of £900 per child in care on roll, a further £1,613,682 (53% of the budget) was paid out in funding applications that had been reviewed, approved and evaluated by VSK. £263,625 (9%) was spent on central initiatives and projects and a £308,300 (10%) was spent directly on staffing and associated costs.



1.10. Pupil Premium+ expenditure is broken down into spend per locality with the largest amount spent in East Kent. This is where the highest numbers of CiC continue to attend school and where a number of complex CiC reside due to the location of specialist care settings and foster placements.



1.11. 1,303 Children in Care have the received direct payments instalments. Funding amounts for targeted interventions vary from large to small and are agreed fully on need.

- 1.12. 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 extracurricular activities.
- 1.13. 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 £80,623. In addition to this schools have also commissioned additional tutoring through their own staff and agencies from the direct payment instalments they have received.

Early Years PP:

- 1.14. £300 for Children in Care in early years settings is paid to the early year's provider in three instalments of £100. An example of this funding making a difference in a nursery setting is to deliver the Early Years Talk Boost programme to develop our young children in care's speech and language. This programme 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 Speech and Language (SAL) issues early.
- 1.15. £10,900 was paid to Early Years settings in 2016/17 in respect of 72 children.