

To: **The Executive**
18 June 2019

**Task and Finish Group: Improving the experience and outcomes of Pupil Premium
(double disadvantaged) children
Director of Delivery**

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 That the Executive notes the content of the attached report and endorses the recommendations as set out in Chapter 5 'Key findings and recommendations'.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 **That the 12 recommendations detailed in paragraph 5.3 of this report arising from the review aimed at improving the experience and outcomes of pupil premium (double disadvantaged) children be agreed.**

3 Reasons for Recommendation(S)

- 3.1 Due to the high profile of this issue nationally, the Executive needs to be fully informed and supportive of the work being undertaken locally.

4 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 During the course of the Task & Finish Group members assessed a number of options and, based on evidence, agreed the recommendations in paragraph 5.

5 Supporting Information

5.1 Introduction

Pupil Premium is additional funding for publicly funded schools in England to raise the attainment of disadvantaged pupils of all abilities and to diminish the difference between them and their peers. Pupil Premium funding is available to all local authority maintained schools, academies, and free schools.

5.2 Scope

The Task and Finish Group was set up in response to data shared by Rachel Morgan and Zoe Livingstone at the Children, Young People and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting on 13 June 2018, which highlighted:

- 21% of the cohort in Bracknell Forest was disadvantaged in comparison to 28% nationally
- proportion of those children who also had SEND was broadly in line with the national figure of 33%, so it was thought the data required further exploration
- combined result for this cohort was low, as the number of doubly disadvantaged children achieving the Expected Standard in both writing and mathematics was lower than the national percentage
- 15% of children with SEND achieved the combined Expected Standard in comparison to only 11% of doubly disadvantaged children

Following a discussion and questions by members it was agreed a Task and Finish Group be set up to scrutinise further how the Bracknell Forest Education and Learning Team assured itself Pupil Premium funding was being spent in order to improve the experience and outcomes of children in receipt of this funding who also had additional needs (double disadvantaged). It was also agreed the Group should have a focus on the role of governors in challenging and supporting their schools.

5.3 Recommendations

Members of the Task and Finish Group agreed a set of recommendations which were agreed by the Children, Young People and Learning Overview & Scrutiny Panel on 20 March 2019. The recommendations were:

Recommendation 1 - Local authority to collate a Pupil Premium Toolkit for Governors.

Recommendation 2 - Local authority to continue to ensure there is a clear understanding amongst leaders and teachers in Bracknell Forest Schools about what effective provision for disadvantaged pupils looks like, and how to achieve it, drawing on the most up to date national guidance, information and best practice.

Recommendation 3 – Local authority Standards and Effectiveness Partners (STEPS) to continue to monitor disadvantaged pupil data on a regular basis, and share good practice with schools. Provision for disadvantaged pupils to continue to be an item on each termly STEP visit agenda.

Recommendation 4 – The Pupil Premium Lead in schools should be a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Recommendation 5 – All school Governing Bodies should appoint a Pupil Premium Link Governor.

Recommendation 6 – Local authority to ensure training is available to all Pupil Premium Governors and they are made aware of the Pupil Premium Governor Toolkit.

Recommendation 7 – For the Local Authority to work in partnership with schools to decide how to take forward the successes of the SEND Hub pilot programme, aimed at finding solutions for pupils who are ‘at risk’ in their progress as learners, and in some cases, at risk of exclusion.

Recommendation 8 - Local authority to ensure that schools are well informed about how they can maximise the number of eligible families applying for free school meals.

Recommendation 9 – Local authority to review the timescales from point of referral to provision in relation to the Education Welfare Service, and ensure that this becomes more efficient.

Recommendation 10 – Where there are serious concerns about outcomes in a school for Double Disadvantaged children the local authority will conduct Pupil Premium Review or a Teaching and Learning Review with a strong Pupil Premium tilt.

Recommendation 11 – Local authority to review the transfer of funding when a child transfers between schools or is dual registered.

Recommendation 12 – Local authority to review transition arrangements for double disadvantaged children when transferring between key stages or when a pupil transfers to another school.

6 Consultation and Other Considerations

6.1 Legal Advice

No specific legal implications arising from the recommendations.

6.2 Financial Advice

No comment.

6.3 Other Consultation Responses

Rachel Morgan, Assistant Director: Education & Learning and Zoe Livingstone, School Effectiveness Partner fully supported the work of this Task and Finish Group. Working in partnership with the Directorate allowed members to influence the policy direction at an early stage and helped to focus the work of staff to support and improve the quality of educational opportunities for children (double disadvantaged) in receipt of Pupil Premium funding.

6.4 Equalities Impact Assessment

Members of the Task and Finish Group acknowledged pupils from low income families were more likely to be identified as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, but at the same time, are less likely to receive support or effective interventions that might help to address their needs. This was the focus of their work.

6.5 Strategic Risk Management Issues

None.

6.6 Background Papers

Appendix 1 – Report of the Task and Finish Group: Improving the experience and outcomes of Pupil Premium (double disadvantaged) children

Contact for further information

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