
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	07 March 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/22/17/RB
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Subject:	Update on the use of the Pupil Equity Fund		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Education and Communities Committee as to the emerging local and national guidance available to schools on the use of the Pupil Equity Fund (PEF).

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The PEF will be paid by the Government to local authorities by means of a ring-fenced grant which will indicate the amounts that should be allocated directly to each school. The amount allocated to each school has been determined by pupils in P1 – S3 who are eligible to be registered for free school meals.
- 2.2 National draft guidance is in place for schools and head teachers. Authority officers attended an event hosted by Education Scotland and the Scottish Government on 01 February 2017. Local guidance is being drawn up for head teachers which outlines proposed partnership working and any governance arrangements that are expected to be in place.
- 2.3 In the context of the two separate funding sources from the Attainment Challenge and the PEF, plans are in place to avoid duplication or omission and to ensure a whole authority overview of how we are reducing the attainment gap linked to deprivation.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Education and Communities Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Ruth Binks
Head of Education

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The First Minister launched the Scottish Attainment Challenge in February 2015 to narrow the poverty-related attainment gap. Initially seven Challenge Authorities were identified, including Inverclyde, and the Challenge Authorities were asked to submit bids focused on raising attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for pupils in SIMD 1 and 2 in the primary sector.
- 4.2 In June 2016 the Challenge Authorities were asked to submit bids for secondary schools in their areas. The Inverclyde bid was accepted by the Scottish Government in September 2016 and the Inverclyde Attainment Challenge work now covers the whole of the Broad General Education.
- 4.3 As part of the Scottish Government Attainment Challenge fund, the Scottish Government has committed a further £120 million allocated directly to schools to reduce the attainment gap linked to deprivation. In 2017/18, for each child in a publicly funded primary or secondary school who is eligible and registered for free school meals, the school will receive £1,200. This is known as Pupil Equity Funding (PEF). The 2017/18 allocation of PEF was calculated using the most recently available Healthy Living Survey and Pupil Census.

5.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 Each school was notified of its allocation of funding (Appendix 1) on 31 January 2017. Head teachers and local authority officers were invited to an event at Celtic Park hosted by the Scottish Government and Education Scotland on 01 February 2017. At the event, draft national operational guidance was distributed. As a local authority, we are currently working with appropriate officers and head teachers to issue additional guidance about how the fund will operate locally and the support that can be offered.
- 5.2 The draft key principles of the PEF are:
 - Head teachers must have access to the full amount of the allocated PEF.
 - The PEF must enable schools to deliver activities, interventions or resources which are clearly additional to those which are already planned.
 - Head teachers must work in partnership with each other, and their local authority, to agree the use of funding. Schools must take account of the statutory responsibilities of the authority to deliver educational improvement, secure best value, and the authority's role as employer.
 - Parents and carers, children and young people and other key stake holders should be involved in the planning process.
 - Funding must be provided for targeted support for children and young people affected by poverty to achieve their full potential. Although the PEF is allocated on the basis of free school meal eligibility, head teachers can use their professional judgement to bring additional children into targeted interventions.
 - Head teachers must base their use of the funding on a clear contextual analysis which identifies the poverty related attainment gap in their schools and plans must be grounded in evidence of what is known to be effective at raising attainment for children affected by poverty.
 - Schools must have plans in place at the outset to evaluate the impact of the funding.
- 5.3 Schools can spend their money on a variety of interventions which include working in partnerships, staffing, procurement of resources and equipment and ICT. If schools choose to spend money on additional teaching staff, then it should be noted that the additional staff employed do not contribute to the pupil teacher ratio for the authority. In the context of a shortage of teachers, schools will need to work in partnership to ensure that one school does not have a surfeit of teachers whilst another school in the authority cannot cover core teaching staff.

- 5.4 Head teachers have been asked to submit their plans to the education authority prior to beginning their projects. The plans should clearly show how they have involved pupils and young people, and parents and carers in their plans. The plans must clearly show the arrangements schools have in place to evaluate the projects. The format of the annual Standards and Quality (S & Q) report and School Improvement Plan (SIP) is also being revised in line with national guidance. In the future, the Scottish Government expects that schools will report on their use of the PEF through the normal process of reporting to parents through the Standards & Quality Report and School Improvement Plan.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

6.1

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
Schools	Various	17/18	£000 - £2,450,400	N/A	The Scottish Government will allow schools to carry forward this money.

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

- 6.2 Schools must consider any legal implications when entering into partnership working and follow statutory guidance for procurement.

Human Resources

- 6.3 There will be substantial human resources implications for this policy, including recruitment, job sizing and ensuring that the authority is not liable for any permanent contracts beyond the duration of the funding.

Equalities

- 6.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

Yes See attached appendix

No This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

- 6.5 N/A.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.1 Consultations have taken place with head teachers and unions.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Whilst the targeted PEF is very welcomed by Inverclyde, care will need to be taken to manage the process to ensure that bureaucracy is not increased for head teachers and that schools feel supported by central resources in the authority.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Appendix 1.

Appendix 1

School allocation of PEF

Aileymill Primary School	Primary	£	184,800
All Saints Primary School	Primary	£	202,800
Ardgowan Primary School	Primary	£	87,600
Gourock Primary School	Primary	£	33,600
Inverkip Primary School	Primary	£	9,600
Kilmacolm Primary School	Primary	£	18,000
King's Oak Primary School	Primary	£	196,800
Lady Alice Primary School	Primary	£	90,000
Moorfoot Primary School	Primary	£	28,800
Newark Primary School	Primary	£	168,000
St Andrew's Primary School	Primary	£	109,200
St Francis' Primary School	Primary	£	120,000
St John's Primary School	Primary	£	70,800
St Joseph's Primary School	Primary	£	88,800
St Mary's Primary School	Primary	£	80,400
St Michael's Primary School	Primary	£	105,600
St Ninian's Primary School	Primary	£	40,800
St Patrick's Primary School	Primary	£	68,400
Wemyss Bay Primary School	Primary	£	18,000
Whinhill Primary School	Primary	£	96,000
Clydeview Academy	Secondary	£	43,200
Inverclyde Academy	Secondary	£	142,800
Notre Dame High School	Secondary	£	123,600
Port Glasgow High School	Secondary	£	88,800
St Columba's High School	Secondary	£	85,200
St Stephen's High School	Secondary	£	87,600
Craigmarloch School	Special	£	61,200
Lomond View Academy	Special	£	-