

<b>CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 9</b>
<b>9 MARCH 2015</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

## Report of the Executive Director of Children's Services

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### IMPACT OF UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS ON PUPIL PREMIUM

#### 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the committee with an early view of the potential impact that the introduction of the universal free school meals for infant school children is having on the identification and funding of pupils for pupil premium.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The committee is asked to review the report and proposed actions and ask for any further clarity / outcomes they wish to explore.

#### 3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Single Delivery Plan - Programme 1 – Creating jobs through growth and improved skills and education.

#### 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 A report was presented to the committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2014 outlining the impact of pupil premium funding on schools in Peterborough.

##### **Pupil Premium**

- 4.2 The PPG was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to improve outcomes for pupils who have been registered for free school meals, are Looked After or are children of Service Families. The PPG is additional funding to help schools to close the attainment gap between children from low income and other disadvantaged families and their peers. Evidence from national attainment and achievement data indicates that many children eligible to receive free school meals and those that are looked after are not achieving expected levels of progress in reading writing and mathematics and a significant proportion are at risk of truancy or exclusion.
- 4.3 In order to qualify for the PPG, a child has had to be eligible for free school meals. This is a measure of deprivation which is means tested currently through the following definition -
- 4.4 A pupil whose parent/guardian receives one or more of the following benefits is entitled to a free school meal:
- Income Support (IS)
  - Income Based Job Seekers Allowance (JSA(IB))
  - Employment and Support Allowance (Income Related) (ESA (IR))
  - Child Tax Credit (CTC), provided you do not also receive Working Tax Credit
  - and have an annual income, as assessed by the Inland Revenue, that does not exceed £16,190

- Guarantee Credit element of State Pension Credit
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

Children who receive IS or IBJSA in their own right are also entitled to free school meals.

- 4.5 The funding is targeted at these children and the authority has no discretion with this funding. Appendix 1 shows the level of funding both for the city in 2014 and the historical rates.
- 4.6 The pupil premium is widening in its scope from the Summer 2015 with the introduction of the Early Years Pupil Premium. Eligibility is driven by the same criteria for mainstream pupil premium and the funding will be added to providers hourly rates. It will mean an increase of £0.53p per hour for each qualifying pupil. For a child taking the full entitlement of 570 hours this equates £302.10 per year.

### **Universal Infant Free School Meals**

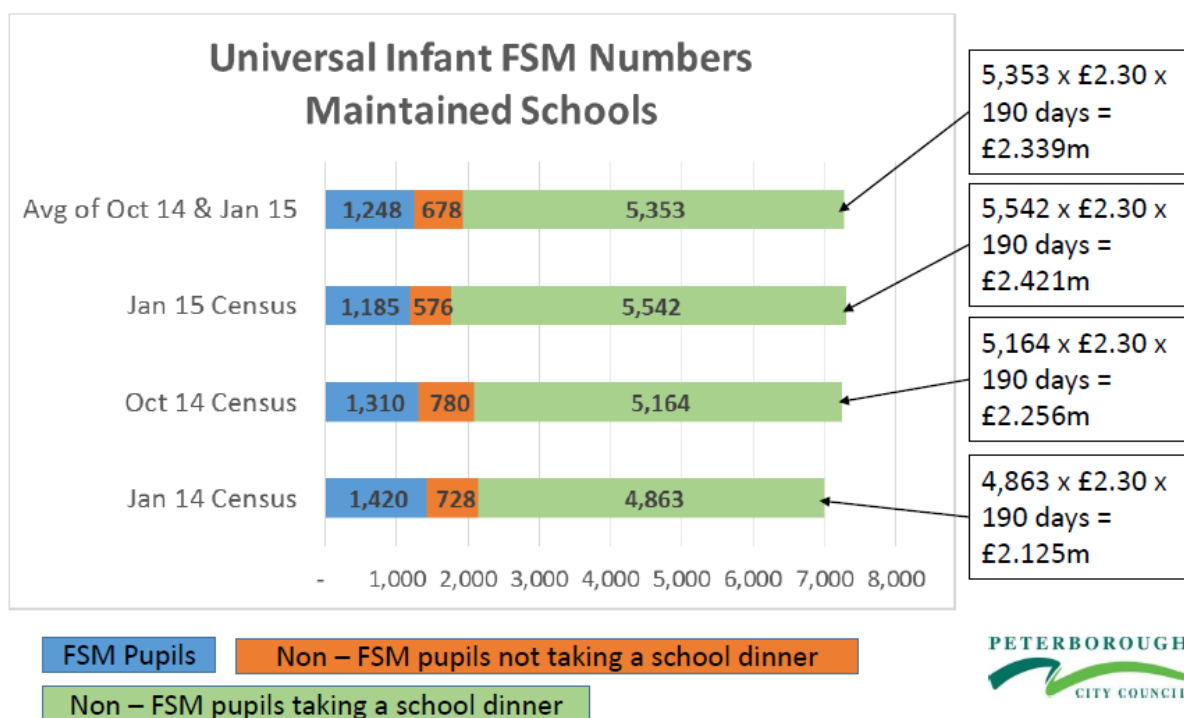
- 4.7 From September 2014 all state-funded schools have been required in law to offer free meals to all their infant pupils. Studies show that well-nourished children fare better at school. The government view is that providing wholesome school meals, alongside good food education, is the best way to feed children. It is intended at a later date to expand the scheme to all primary age children.
- 4.8 Funding is provided by government at £2.30 per meal over 190 days. An additional transitional allocation was provided to small schools with less than 150 pupils. Initial allocations for the academic year 2014/15 were based on estimated take-up of 87% of the Jan 2014 Non-FSM pupils in reception, Year 1 and Year 2. The authority received over £500k of capital funding to enable the wider offer of meals and this was targeted based upon an assessment of need into the condition of kitchens, dining facilities and ensuring schools had enough to buy additional equipment to deal with the increase in numbers e.g. chairs, tables, plates etc. Unlike other authorities, we have introduced UIFSM without difficulty.
- 4.9 Schools are legally required to provide meals that comply with the School Food Standards. These standards are intended to ensure that children get the nutrition they need across the whole school day. They govern all food and drink on offer within the school and apply across the school day, including breakfast, mid-morning break, lunchtime and food served after school.
- 4.10 There is no requirement to claim a free meal – it is an automatic entitlement. In the pilot for introducing universal free school meals, the government did not see a drop in the number of parents claiming a free school meal (or rather pupil premium) but there has been concern expressed nationally that parents would not want the stigma if there was no financial benefit if all meals are currently free.

## **5. KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 Gathering data to understand the impact of the introduction of the universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) policy on pupil premium take up is difficult to quantify. We only have early data from the October 14 and January 15 census and given that a number of pupils may not have accessed statutory education yet in reception (until the first term after they are five), it is hard to draw comparison.
- 5.2 The chart below shows the impact of the introduction of universal free school meals in October in reception year only. It shows that in primary schools, the number of children have increased but the number of those claiming free school meals has dropped. This could be explained by the circumstances of the cohort i.e. less deprivation. However looking at prior attainment of pupils from early years suggest they are more deprived – less accessed free entitlement and the proportion of pupils with EAL is higher. However, the number is not material.

Phase	2013			2014			Difference		
	Cohort	FSM	% FSM	Cohort	FSM	% FSM	Cohort	FSM	% FSM
All Through	56	6	10.7%	46	11	23.9%	-10	5	13.2%
Nursery	2	0	0.0%	1	1	100.0%	-1	1	100.0%
Primary Schools	2842	521	18.3%	2883	498	17.3%	41	-23	-1.1%
Special Schools	17	5	29.4%	10	2	20.0%	-7	-3	-9.4%

5.3 We have early information around the January census for maintained schools both around take up of the UIFSM and pupil premium. The chart below looks across the figures for both -



5.4 The chart shows the total number of children in the cohort across the January 14, October 14 and January 15 census for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (i.e. infant age range). The January 2014 line shows the number of children who claimed free school meals at this time (1,420) and the government prediction that of the remaining children, 87% would take up a meal (4,863) (their level of up front funding) with 13% not taking a meal (728). The concern is the data for January 2015 which shows that whilst the number of children taking a meal is higher than expected, the number of children claiming pupil premium is declining and this is a significant reduction. The funding for pupil premium is based upon January pupil numbers. The figures presented represent the number of children eligible on the day of the census – pupil premium does take a view over eligibility in the last 6 years.

5.5 We do not currently have the whole picture for schools but this is obviously of concern. Schools have been working hard to encourage take up including offering free uniform for signing up, a prize draw for submitting the relevant forms with a Kindle as a prize (regardless of whether meeting criteria or not) and media campaigns. We have approached the DfE asking whether we could collect national insurance numbers as part of the admissions process but this cannot be done for legal reasons. We have also enquired as to using council tax information for cross checking eligibility but under data protection we are not allowed to do this.

5.6 In terms of the universal free school meal funding, we had around 86% take up in October and 91% take up in January so our overall funding will be allocated at 89% - higher than the government expectation of 87%. This will mean an additional £296k of funding above the government original estimated funding.

5.7 Schools have worked hard to ensure high levels of take up including reviewing menus (often working with school councils), theme days and welcoming parents in to sample the menus.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no legal or financial implications to this report.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 Not applicable.

## **8. NEXT STEPS**

8.1 We will continue to work with schools to encourage parents to sign up and will look at our position relative to other authorities to ensure our position is relative to other similar authorities.

## **9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

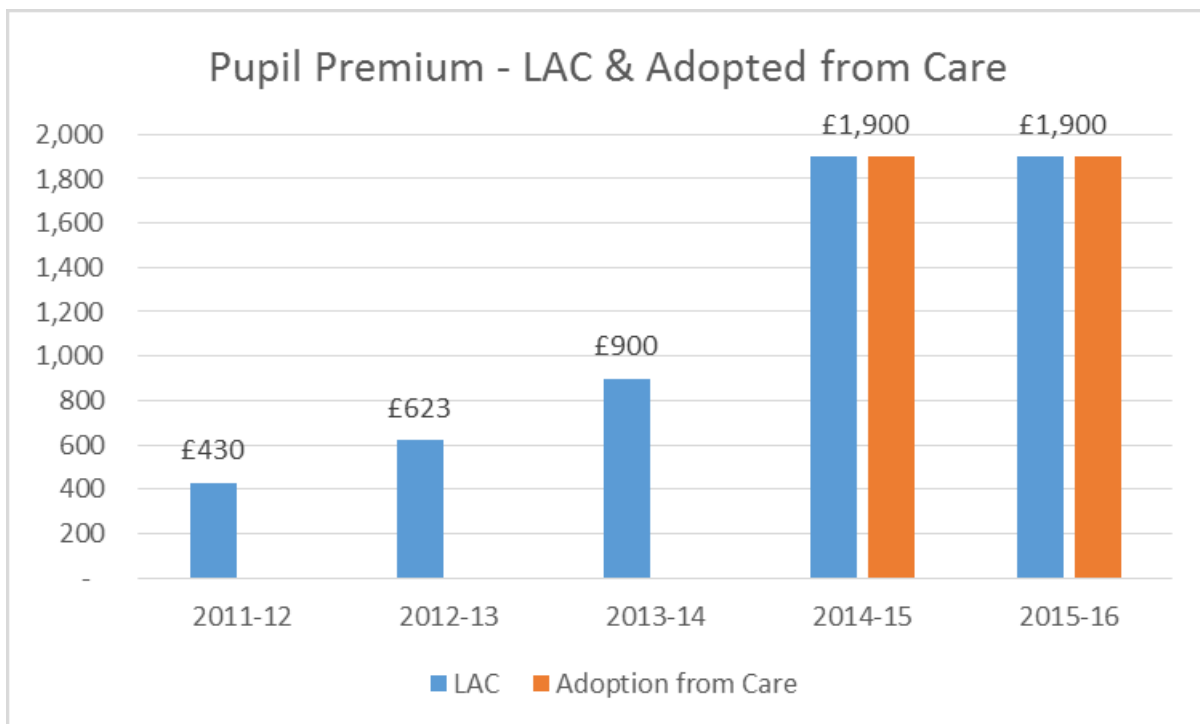
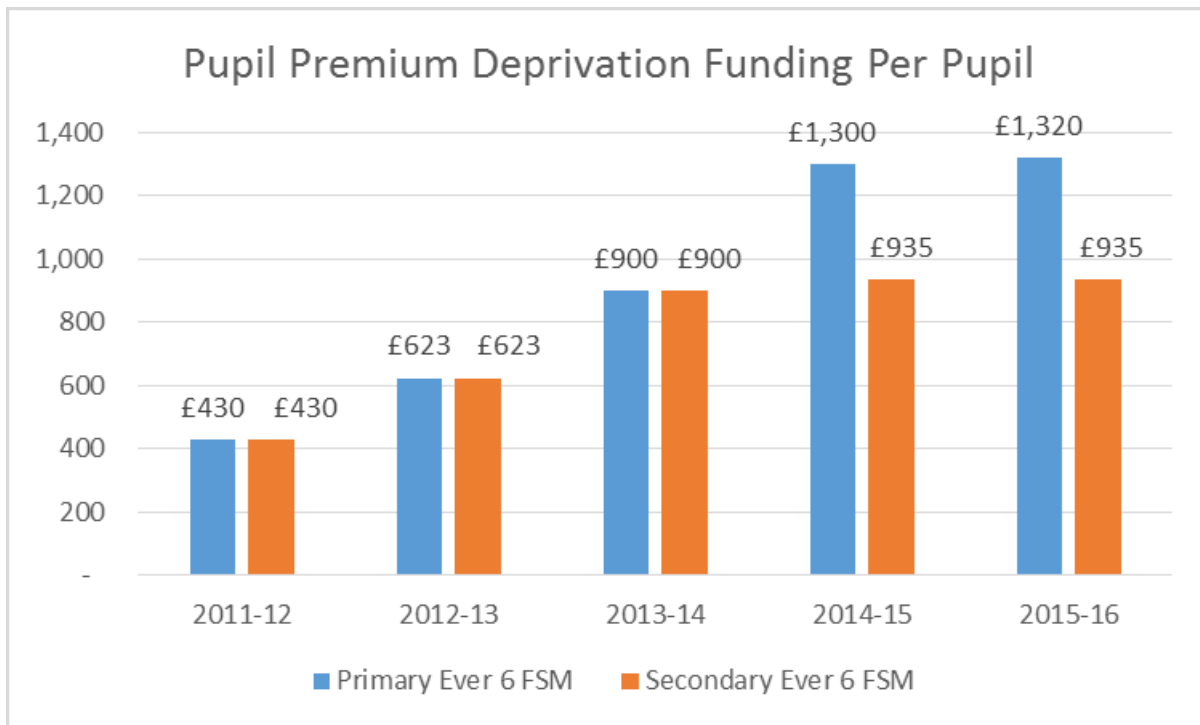
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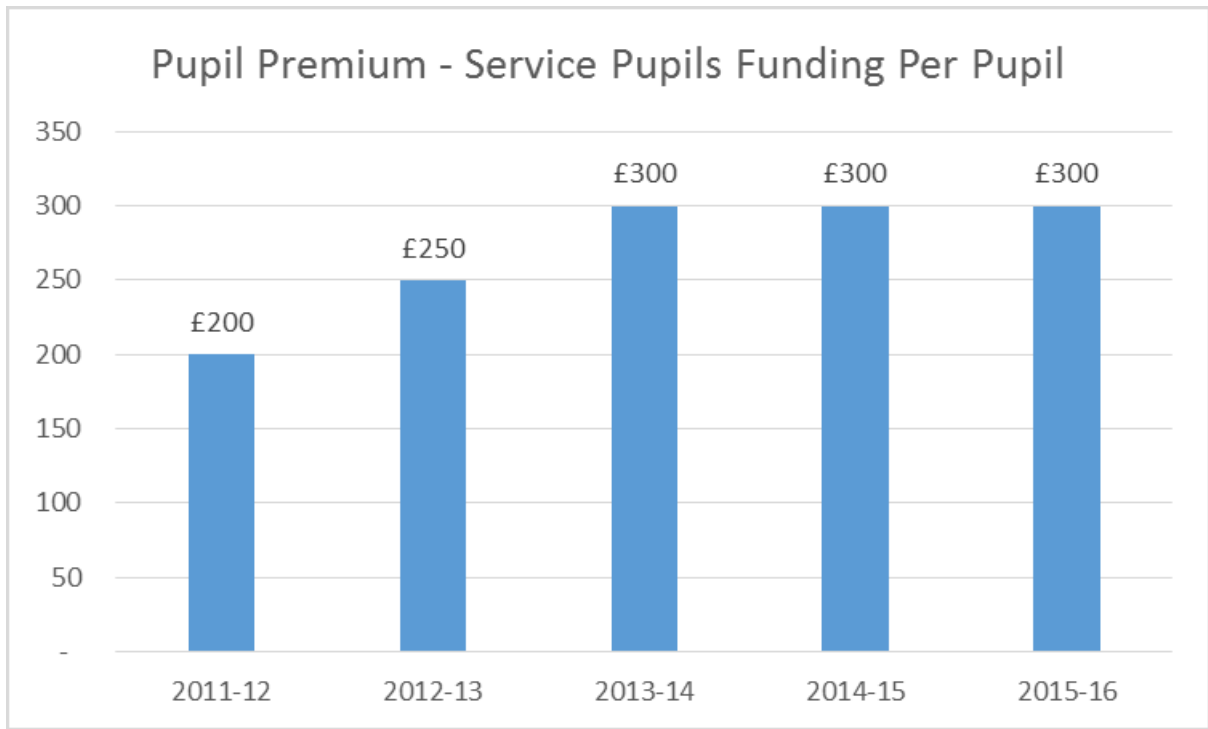
9.1 None

## **10. APPENDICES**

10.1 Appendix 1 – Funding rates for Pupil Premium 2011/12 to 2014/15

Appendix 1 – Funding Rates for Pupil Premium





2014 Pupil Premium Funding

Ever 6 FSM	£10,948,923
Service Families	£116,400
Adopted from Care	£150,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,215,423</b>