



# Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

## Schools Funding Forum 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

## ITEM 7

**Subject Heading:**

**Pupil Premium Funding 2021-22**

**Report Author:**

**Nick Carter – Principal Finance Officer**

**Eligibility to vote:**

**All members**

### SUMMARY

This item is to report the financial impact, on schools and academies, of Pupil Premium funding being calculated using October 2020 census data and not January 2021 census data.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the report.

### REPORT DETAIL

Since the inception of the Pupil Premium in 2011-12, funding has been allocated based on data from the January census preceding the start of the financial year. The DfE announced in December 2020 that from 2021-22 funding would be based on data from the preceding October census. Exceptions to this include alternative provision and pupil referral units where eligibility will continue to be based on the January census. There will no change in the funding arrangements for children who are currently looked-after.

This change was reported to the Forum at the meeting held on 14 January 2021. The change was likely to impact on the amount of funding that schools receive, particularly as it was being applied retrospectively. Schools aim to ensure that as many pupils as possible are registered for free school meals to ensure they attract the Pupil Premium. Schools would have been working to the January census date to ensure maximum registration.

Parents of children who had just started in Reception may not have registered for free school meals by 1 October 2020, particularly as their children would receive a free meal anyway. The children of those who have become eligible for free school meals between October and January, maybe as a result of the impact of coronavirus, would not now receive the Pupil Premium in 2021-22.

Funding rates remain unchanged for 2021-22 at:

- |   |        |
|---|--------|
| • Primary pupils free school meals 'Ever 6'   | £1,345 |
| • Secondary pupils Free School Meals Ever 6   | £955   |
| • Children who have ceased to be looked-after | £2,345 |
| • Service children                            | £310   |

In explaining the change in the Census used, the DfE state that it brings the Pupil Premium into line with how the rest of the core schools' budget is calculated and will provide both schools and DfE with greater certainty around future funding levels earlier in the year. In the past schools and academies have not been notified of Pupil Premium allocations for the 12 month period April – March until late June. This will remain the case for 2021-22 but from 2022-23 the DfE intend to publish allocations earlier.

The availability of January 2021 census data means that it is now possible to estimate the impact of the change with a reasonable degree of accuracy by looking at the number of pupils eligible for free school meals at the October and January censuses. The change in free school meal numbers may differ slightly from the change in Pupil Premium numbers if 'Ever 6' Pupils, not currently eligible for free school meals, have moved between schools. As entitlement to free school meals has been protected since April 2018, the difference in numbers is likely to be small as most pupils who attract the Pupil Premium are still currently eligible for free school meals.

The change in funding for each school is shown in Appendix A. The net loss across all schools and academies in Havering is £514k. To put this in context, the total Pupil Premium allocation for 2020-21 was £9.1m.

As expected, the impact is greatest on primary schools with 50 losing funding and only three gaining. The largest loss is £28k, with a further 19 schools losing more than £10k. The total net loss for the primary sector is £433k.

15 secondary schools lose funding with only one gaining. The largest loss is £26k. The total net loss for the secondary sector is £81k.

The impact on the three special schools is marginal.