



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

10 NOVEMBER 2021

Report by: Arwyn Thomas - GwE Managing Director

Subject: Pupil Development Grant 2021-22

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present an update to the Joint Committee on the Pupil Development Grant Support Plan for 2021/22 across the region.

2.0 Background

2.1 The purpose of the PDG funding is to make a lasting impact on outcomes for disadvantaged learners. Consortia are responsible for ensuring that the grant is used for the purposes for which it is intended and GwE are responsible for developing and monitoring the annual Pupil Development Grant (PDG) Support Plan.

2.2 GwE's allocation is based on PLASC data for 2020 using year groups. For 2021/22:

	Number of eligible learners	Allocation £
Learners eligible for free school meals (e-FSM)	14,969	17,214,350
Learners in early years settings (EYPDG)	2,754	3,167,100
Learners eligible for FSM in PRUs and EOTAS	129	148,350
Looked after children aged 3-15	986	1,133,900

2.3 Detailed information on the above funding is included in the annual support plan for Welsh Government. All funding is directly allocated to schools/settings; however, the LAC PDG is a consortia led funding model.

2.4 There is a lead person (strategic adviser) within the consortia who is responsible for the PDG Support Plan in regards to supporting schools and link with the national PDG group with WG.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 PDG FSM:

To continue to implement the annual support plan for 2021-22 across the region. The main focus will be supporting schools/settings to plan their PDG around effective teaching and learning.

3.2 To ensure the Regional and School grant dashboard is completed by all schools/settings to plan their use of the main grants (above) during this financial year, i.e. Early Years / FSM / EOTAS/LAC.

3.3 To roll out the guidance for schools/settings in regards to the use of the PDG and support for vulnerable learners.

3.4 To ensure the support plan is monitored quarterly with examples of impact.

3.5 Consortia Led Funding:

For the second year GwE are receiving Consortia led funding to support schools who are in need of extra support for their disadvantaged learners. The focus is on teaching and learning, targeted support and wider community engagement.

3.6. Allocation of LAC PDG 2021/22

We propose to continue with distributing the grant budget of £1,133.900 via the regional cluster model, individual bursary element and professional development – all in line with the Welsh Government Terms and Conditions.

3.7 All clusters will have access to funds and support across the region to ensure equity of offer and support.

3.8 GwE have continued to use the CRCS (children services data) linked to /PLASC data to identify and allocate funds to each cluster based on £1050 per learner who is looked after. The data does not include formerly looked after children. All of the clusters across the region have looked after children.

3.9 The Regional Cluster PDG dashboard is in place to assist schools/clusters in their grant planning. It also enables both GwE and LA to monitor and evaluate the plans.

3.10 There is an updated directory of universal and targeted support that clusters can access that is evidenced based to ensure quality of provision.

3.11 There are clear lines of accountability and monitoring of impact of the PDG via an annual evaluation cycle with resources shared with schools/settings on effective practise.

3.12 **Wellbeing:**

During 2021/22 GwE have set out the arrangements in the support plan for planning and delivering of wellbeing support to children, stating how we intend working with partners on these proposals in regards to the Whole School approach to supporting emotional and mental wellbeing.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to note and approve the content of the report.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. GwE will operate within the current financial resources.

5.2 GwE's allocation for 2021/2022 based on PLASC data for 2020 using year groups is noted in section 2.2 of the report.

6.0 Equalities Impact

6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Personnel Implications

7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

8.0 Consultation Undertaken

8.1 Welsh Government, Local Authorities (Children's Services and Education) and GwE Management Board.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 - Regional guidance on the implementation & evaluation of the PDG (Pupil Development Grant) for educational establishments across north Wales.
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OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I confirm the financial figures within section 2.2 of the report.