

## **Peterborough Virtual School - Post 16 Funding - Statement of Intent**

### **Pupil Premium Plus – Post-16**

Young people in care and care leavers face significant additional barriers. Peterborough Virtual School intends that the Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) post-16 grant is a resource which promotes high aspirations and seeks to secure the best educational outcomes for young people in care and care leavers, thus enabling them to have sustained involvement in employment, education and training.

The Virtual School Head is responsible for managing PP+ funding for all of Peterborough's young people in care and care leavers wherever they live.

Peterborough Virtual School has been allocated £69,250 for the financial year 2025-26. It is the responsibility of the Virtual School Head to determine the distribution of the grant. Conditions of grant stipulate that this may be for the individual support that a young person needs, as identified in their Personal Education Plan (PEP), or for the cohort.

- Funding may be provided to whichever education institution young people are attending, including general FE colleges, school sixth form, sixth form colleges, independent training providers, or specialist designated colleges.
- Funding may be used to support young people who want to access apprenticeships. This might entail working with partners to support higher apprenticeship completion rates and progression into further employment or training.
- Funding may be used to improve careers advice, information, and guidance on apprenticeships.
- Consideration should be given to young people who are particularly vulnerable, including children in care and care leavers currently detained in, or recently leaving Secure Children's Homes, Young Offenders' Institutions or Secure Training Centres; unaccompanied asylum-seeking children; and those who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET) or are at risk of becoming NEET.

The grant must not be used to:

- Fund services that should be provided via an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)
- Provide other statutory work e.g. statutory assessment or universal services from health
- Provide financial support which supports access to participation and is therefore covered through the vulnerable bursary

Peterborough Virtual School are in receipt of this grant following an extension of the pilot programme. The funding provides support to local authorities in England for expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them to extend support to children in care and care leavers at post-16. This will build an evidence base of best practice which will inform any future support for this cohort of young people. Peterborough Virtual School will engage with research partners in evaluating outcomes for children and young people supported through the grant.

Allocation of the grant will include support to impact attendance, retention and achievement; it may include a range of the following in response to need:

#### **Individual Support:**

- Academic intervention, including tuition to support the achievement of grade 4 English and Maths GCSE
- Academic intervention, including tuition to support those on level 3 pathways
- Academic intervention, including tuition to support the achievement of qualifications that lead to an aspirational next education, employment or training opportunity
- Resources including vocational equipment and texts
- Transition support
- Mentoring and coaching opportunities
- Targeted Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG)

Funding awarded to individuals will be recorded within their PEPs; the impact of the grant will be monitored through the PEP quality assurance process.

#### **Cohort Support:**

- Centrally delivered training for providers and key partners

- Extended CIAG provision including sessions in: CV writing, interview techniques...
- Development of roll-on and roll-off provision
- Development of vocational courses to run alongside ESOL provision
- Best practice development – towards an ambassador college
- Development of the family business model (work experience, internships, ring-fenced apprenticeships)
- Development of contextual offers for FE
- Pathways to Higher Education

Cohort level funding awarded to providers will be outlined in a memorandum of understanding. The impact will be recorded in a case study.

Cohort level funding led by the virtual school will be monitored internally through regular supervision. The impact will be recorded in a case study.

### **How To Claim**

Please click [here](#) to submit a funding request. Please note, any request for funding must be linked to a desirable outcome in the young person's PEP.

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **Can Post 16 PP be used to fund IT Equipment?**

Please refer to the [Digital Access](#) Policy

#### **Can Post 16 PP be used to fund tutoring?**

Where there is a clear need identified and recorded within the PEP, academic intervention such as tutoring can be used to help a young person achieve a recognised qualification which will enable them to access future education, employment or training opportunities.

Any tutoring must be in addition to schools and college's responsibilities, eg. within the [16 to 19 funding: maths and English condition of funding](#) Responsibility for arranging tutoring lies with the education setting.

It must be clear within the desirable outcomes what the need or gap is and how it is being addressed, measured and evaluated through the tutoring process. Tutoring must therefore be for a time-specific duration.

#### **Can PP+ be used to fund careers activities?**

- It is recognised that children in care may have limited lived experiences of careers and the wider world of work; this may limit aspirations.
- Post 16 PP may be used to fund additional, bespoke careers advice and guidance. It may be used to support work experience opportunities as well as interventions supporting the development of employability skills including CV writing and interview preparation.
- Post 16 PP may be used to facilitate access to Higher Education open days and workshops.

## **16-19 Bursary**

*Receipt of the vulnerable bursary is not linked to allocation of the PP+ grant for post-16 young people in care or care leavers. The bursary may be available to help with education-related costs if the young person is aged 16 to 19 and:*

- *studying at a publicly funded school or college in England - not a university*
  - *on a training course, including unpaid work experience*

The 16 to 19 Bursary Fund provides financial support to help students overcome the specific financial barriers to participation they face so they can remain in education. There are 2 types of 16 to 19 bursaries:

- Bursaries for defined vulnerable groups of up to £1,200 a year
- Discretionary bursaries which institutions award using policies they set, in line with these funding rules

### [16 to 19 Bursary Fund: Eligibility - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/16-to-19-bursary-fund-eligibility)

The defined vulnerable groups for students who meet the criteria, who have a financial need and therefore can apply for a bursary include students who are in care and care leavers. This is in recognition that these students are unlikely to be receiving financial assistance from parents or carers and therefore require a greater level of support to enable them to continue to participate. Separated migrant children are children in care and therefore are eligible for a bursary for vulnerable groups ('in care' group), where they have a financial need.

Institutions must ensure they assess the actual financial needs of individual students in addition to eligibility when awarding bursary funding. The bursary fund is intended to help students with the essential costs of participating in their study programme, so to help with the cost of essential books or equipment or with the cost of travelling to school or college, for example. The bursary fund is not intended to support costs not related to education (living costs), extra-curricular activities or provide learning support – services that institutions give to students – such as counselling, mentoring or extra tutoring.

Students on apprenticeship programmes, or any waged training, are employed, rather than in education. They are not eligible for the 16 to 19 Bursary Fund.

Institutions must obtain proof that students meet the criteria for the bursary for vulnerable groups in full. For students who are in care or a care leaver, written confirmation of their current or previous in-care status from the relevant local authority is required as either a letter or email.

Young people who might meet the eligibility criteria for a bursary for vulnerable groups, but have no additional financial needs or relevant costs do not require bursary funding. For example, a student attending specialist residential provision that covers their educational costs in full.

Institutions are encouraged to pay bursaries in-kind rather than cash as far as possible. This helps ensure that the bursary is spent for the reasons it was awarded. In-kind payments can include travel passes, vouchers or credits for meals, required books and required equipment.