

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE – 13 JUNE 2017**

**PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING**

**Background**

As of the 1st April 2017, the Scottish Government has made available a sum of money direct to Scottish Schools as part of the national initiative to improve attainment and close the poverty-related attainment gap. Finance has been provided to schools on the basis of £1200 per child or young person who takes a free school meal. Angus schools have been awarded a total of £2,113,000. Three Angus schools have received no finance, with the largest award to an Angus school being £159,600. This finance will be provided for the next three years. Most Angus Head Teachers and other officers attended a briefing event in February with Scottish Government and Education Scotland officials to learn more about the purpose of the fund and their duties in its management.

**Outcome**

In order to support our Head Teachers with this new responsibility, Angus Council has produced supportive guidance to supplement the national information. In addition, cluster based meetings were organised and supported by representatives from the Schools and Learning team, Human Resources, Finance and Educational Psychology. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss emerging plans, share ideas and ensure appropriate personnel, financial and procurement processes were being considered. Our Area Lead Officer from Education Scotland was invited to and participated in a number of the meetings to offer further advice.

Individual schools are required to draw up an action plan that includes clear improvement measures. The monitoring of approaches to the use and impact of this finance will be incorporated into quality assurance processes for Angus schools. This is a new area of responsibility for our Head Teachers and we will provide appropriate support and ensure that spend in this area represents best value and ultimately improves the learning experience for our children and young people.

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