

CUMBERLAND COUNCIL SCHOOLS FORUM

Report Title: Homes for Ukraine Education & Childcare Grant

Meeting date: 18 September 2023

Report of: Dan Barton, Assistant Director, SEND, Education & Inclusion

1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 During financial 2022/23 local authorities were able to claim a government grant to help support the education of children that arrived into the UK via the Homes for Ukraine visa scheme. Grant totalling £0.824m has been received relating to HfU children living in Cumberland. The funding must be spent by 31 March 2024.
- 1.2 This paper informs the Schools Forum of the actual spend to date against the grant of £0.646m relating to Cumberland and the Schools Forum are asked to support the proposal to allocate the remaining balance of £0.178m by increasing each school's/early years provider's existing HfU grant allocation by 27.6%.

2.0 Link to Council Plan Priorities

- 2.1 Ensuring that schools are appropriately funded is supportive of the Council Plan "to improve the health and wellbeing of its residents" and the priority to "address inequalities and enable its residents to access opportunities that will empower them to achieve their goals."

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Schools Forum are asked to:
- note the balance remaining against the grant of £0.178m and;
 - support the proposed methodology for allocating the remaining balance to schools and early years providers by uplifting each school/early years provider's allocation by 27.6% as shown in the modelling at Appendix 1.

4.0 Rationale & Evidence for the Recommendation

- 4.1 A new one-off grant to support the education and childcare costs of children arriving into the UK via the Homes for Ukraine (HfU) visa scheme between 1 March and 28 February 2023 was made available to local authorities.
- 4.2 The grant allocation is based on an amount per child per submitted claims by the local authority, the level of which depends on when the child arrived into the UK, as shown in the below table:

| Phase (Age) | Q1 arrivals (between 1 Mar – 31 May 22) Funding Per Child | Q2 arrivals (between 1 Jun – 31 Aug 22) Funding Per Child | Q3 arrivals (between 1 Sep – 30 Nov 22) Funding Per Child | Q4 arrivals (between 1 Dec 22– 28 Feb 23) Funding Per Child |
|---------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Early Years (2 - 4) | £3,000 | £2,250 | £1,500 | £750 |
| Primary (5 - 10) | £6,580 | £4,935 | £3,290 | £1,645 |
| Secondary (11 - 18) | £8,755 | £6,566 | £4,378 | £2,189 |

- 4.3 The grant conditions, which are available [here](#), state that the grant must only be used for the provision of education and childcare for children ages 2 – 18 and for any funding passed onto the child's education or childcare setting the process should be as simple as possible.
- 4.4 For Cumberland the total amount of grant received was £0.824m of which £0.646m has been allocated to schools and early years providers based on the per pupil rates in the table at para 4.2 and when they were admitted to a school/early years provision. This leaves a balance remaining of £ £0.178m which must be spent by 31 March 2024.
- 4.5 The under allocation has arisen due to a number of reasons including not all children for which funding has been claimed for have attended school or early years provision during their stay in the UK either because they were not at compulsory school age or for other reasons; they did not start attending school as soon as they arrived into the UK and some children have returned to the Ukraine.
- 4.6 Given that the grant needs to be spent by 31 March 2024 and feedback from schools has indicated that the costs associated with supporting the education costs of HfU children has invariably been more than the grant allocation they have received it is proposed that the remaining grant allocation is distributed to those schools/early years providers that have already received HfU funding and uplift each school's total allocation by 27.6%. As the grant received is based on the guest home address where the child is living this will include payments to schools/early providers for HfU children living in Cumberland but attending schools/early years provision in Westmorland & Furness.
- 4.7 Appendix 1 shows the total grant funding paid to date to each school/early years provider relating to HfU children living in Cumberland and the proposed impact of the additional grant uplift of 27.6%.
- 4.8 Examples of the use of the grant include:

- to provide a place for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds accessing the 2-year-old, universal or 30 hours entitlements
- the provision of a suitable place for all other children up to the age of 18 (including time for staff resource and travel)
- funding placement of larger clusters of children into schools and registered early years settings, including the costs of additional and specialist teaching, non-teaching and administrative staff
- providing suitable travel arrangements, where necessary, to facilitate a child's attendance at school or suitable provision
- the provision of specialist and bespoke services, such as support for children with additional needs, and resources (this may include education materials for schools)
- free school meals and school uniform (including school bags, provisions for example, water bottles, etc.)
- to provide access to extra-curricular activities for example, sports
- on community services whose provision benefits the children
- any other reasonable costs associated with the provision of support for the children

4.9 Some schools/early providers may no longer have HfU children in attendance, however, the proposed additional grant can be used to offset costs already incurred. As with all other specific grants, schools must retain records of spend relating to the grant for audit purposes and evidence of compliance with the grant conditions.

5.0 Options

5.1 Schools Forum are asked to:

- note the balance remaining against the grant of £0.178m and;
- support the proposed methodology for allocating the remaining balance to schools and early years providers by uplifting each school/early years provider's allocation by 27.6% as shown in the modelling at Appendix 1.

or

- not support the proposed methodology and suggest an alternative methodology for allocating the remaining balance of £0.178m.

5.2 Any alternative methodology would need to be simple and straight forward so that the grant can be allocated to schools/early years providers in a timely manner particularly as there is a requirement to spend the grant by 31 March 2024.

6.0 Financial & Other Relevant Implications

6.1 Financial implications are considered throughout this report. No equality/legal/ implications have been identified.

6 September 2023

Appendices:

1. Summary of Cumberland Proposed Additional HfU Grant Allocations to Schools and Early Years Providers

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