

Report to:	CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Relevant Officer:	Paul Turner, Assistant Director – Education, SEND and Early Years
Date of Meeting:	7 October 2021

CATCH-UP PREMIUM SPEND AND STRATEGIES

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To provide an overview and outline of how Blackpool schools are spending their catch-up/recovery premium.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To encourage and remind all local schools to publish the required information on their websites.

2.2 For Councillors, who are school governors, to scrutinise the spend and to hold school leaders to account for the quality of the provision and resources that are being put in place.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is widespread and hugely challenging. This money provides extra resources and capacity for schools to ensure that children are able to catch-up any lost learning.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 There is no alternative to scrutinising the Covid-19 catch-up funding. However, additional funding could be provided to schools and/or obtained from other sources, to ensure that this catch-up journey is rapid, sustainable and successful.

5.0 Council priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is:

- Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.

6.0 Background information

- 6.1 Catch-up premium is provided by the Department For Education (DFE). The total allocation amounted to £1 billion, divided into a pot of £650 million for the 2020/2021 academic year, to be allocated to schools for spending and £350 million for the National Tutoring Programme.
- 6.2 All schools in Blackpool were eligible for this funding.
- 6.3 Most school received £80 per pupil, although the rate for special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRU) was £240. Schools are expected to publish the information about spend of this premium on their website.
- 6.4 There is an additional recovery premium allocated for the school year 2021-2022. The rates are £145 (mainstream) per pupil and £290 (PRU and special).
- 6.5 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

- 7.1 Appendix 9(a) – Recovery Premium Funding Information
Appendix 9(b) – Catch-Up Premium Information
Appendix 9(c) – Academy Website Requirements
Appendix 9(d) – Schools Catch-Up Premium Spending

8.0 Financial considerations:

- 8.1 None.

9.0 Legal considerations:

- 9.1 It is a legal requirement for schools to publish this information on their website.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

- 10.1 None.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

- 11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

- 12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:

13.1 None.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 DFE website – see attached appendices.