

Merthyr CBC

Dear Colleagues

EDUCATION OF GYPSY CHILDREN AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN

We have now received the final version of the grant terms and conditions from Welsh Government and have been working with the five Local Authorities to agree the delegation of this grant to schools / LA's.

The Directors have agreed to continue funding this element of the grant and will continue to be delegated to local authorities in the same proportion as in 2016/17 further to the 0.62% grant reduction.

Please find a summary of this allocation for 2017-18 below:

Merthyr CBC	£
Education of Gypsy Children and Traveller Children	34,759

In order to disclose how this grant will be spent and to enable us to monitor spend, in line with the terms and conditions, I have attached an improvement plan template.

I would be grateful if you could complete this pro-forma and return to Craig Flynn no later than Friday 22nd September 2017. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



Louise Blatchford

Senior Lead Business & Operations

Central South Consortium

Merthyr CBC : EDUCATION OF GYPSY CHILDREN AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN			
Budget 2017-18		£34,759	
	Performance Measures	Baseline	Targets / Success Criteria
Priority One	Pupil attendance		July 2018- 100%
Priority Two	Pupil attendance		July 2018- 100%
Priority Three	Pupil attendance		July 2018- 100%
Priority Four	Pupil attendance		July 2018- 100%
Priority Five	Pupil attendance		July 2018- 100%
Priority Six	Pupil attendance		July 2018- 100%
KEY ACTIONS		MILESTONES (DEC 17)	MILESTONES (APRIL 18)
To support this cohort with welfare issues.		Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data
To encourage continued attendance and engagement in education		Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data
To improve self-esteem and attainment		Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data
To improve parental engagement		Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data
To improve pupil participation; hear pupil voice and encourage attendance at Youth forum &		Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data

Student conference					
To increase awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller culture	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data			Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	
Merthyr CBC EDUCATION OF GYPSY CHILDREN AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN PRIORITY ONE: To safeguard Gypsy and Traveller children and young people					
<i>What - focus</i>	Actions	Resources	When (Exact Dates)	Milestones	Monitoring
Improve pupil welfare	To foster positive relationships of trust between pupils, families and staff members with site visits; to assist in the admission process and support with family matters e.g. purchasing of uniform, support in moments of crisis, sign posting to support services etc.	Staff time	ongoing	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Weekly monitoring of Gypsy and Traveller pupils welfare and attendance
Merthyr CBC EDUCATION OF GYPSY CHILDREN AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN PRIORITY TWO: To improve educational opportunities for Gypsy and Traveller children and young people					
<i>What - focus</i>	Actions	Resources	When (Exact Dates)	Milestones	Monitoring
To encourage continued attendance and engagement in education	Supporting families to break down the barriers to engagement in learning; to support in class with literacy and numeracy, and/or mentoring support ; to utilise the community centre as an educational setting ; support at transition stages	Staff time, school resources	ongoing	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Weekly monitoring of Gypsy and Traveller pupils welfare and attendance
Merthyr CBC EDUCATION OF GYPSY CHILDREN AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN PRIORITY THREE: To improve the wellbeing and attendance of Gypsy and Traveller children and young people					
<i>What - focus</i>	Actions	Resources	When (Exact Dates)	Milestones	Monitoring

To improve self-esteem and attainment	To provide in class and 1-1 support ; to promote programmes to schools to reduce bullying and eradicate racism, and promote social inclusion	Staff time and LA resources	ongoing	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Monitoring of Gypsy and Traveller pupils welfare, behaviour and attendance.
Merthyr CBC EDUCATION OF GYPSY CHILDREN AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN PRIORITY FOUR: To improve levels of parental engagement					
What - focus	Actions	Resources	When (Exact Dates)	Milestones	Monitoring
To improve parental engagement	Working with TAFG to improve parental engagement; to consult families on areas of need; hold an engagement events; utilise the community centre more effectively; to develop a long term strategy for community cohesion	Staff time and LA resources	ongoing	Attendance data	Monitoring of Gypsy and Traveller pupils welfare, behaviour and attendance.
Merthyr CBC EDUCATION OF GYPSY CHILDREN AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN PRIORITY FIVE: To improve levels of parental engagement					
What - focus	Actions	Resources	When (Exact Dates)	Milestones	Monitoring
To improve pupil participation; hear pupil voice and encourage attendance at Youth forum & Student conference	To encourage participation in student councils and forums to ascertain pupil voice	Staff time and Bridges Project	ongoing	Attendance at student councils, youth forums & national regional GT forums	Monitoring of Gypsy and Traveller pupils welfare, behaviour and attendance.
Merthyr CBC EDUCATION OF GYPSY CHILDREN AND TRAVELLER CHILDREN PRIORITY SIX: To increase awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller culture					
What - focus	Actions	Resources	When (Exact Dates)	Milestones	Monitoring
To increase awareness of the Gypsy and Traveller culture	Raise awareness of and promote the Gypsy Traveller culture and lifestyle in a more positive light; share resources to promote awareness of culture and lifestyle.	Staff time and Bridges Project	ongoing	Attendance, exclusion and bullying data	Monitoring of Gypsy and Traveller pupils welfare, behaviour and attendance.

Summer Term Evaluations

Judgements about progress linked to the milestones:

GT pupils are engaged and are making good progress in primary schools, but encouraging them to make the transition into secondary school and to keep them there remains challenging and problematic. Previous incentives such as rewards for good attainment and attendance have had to be curtailed due to a lack of funding. Most of the GT pupils aged 12 and above are disinterested in school and prefer not to attend despite the effort being made to engage them due to a combination of reasons: low academic ability, cultural and reasons, unsuitable and irrelevant curriculum, lack of any other kind of alternative educational provision.

Evidence: Data from MTCBC databases which records the academic achievements of Secondary aged GT pupils conveys that only a few GT pupils have left school with academic qualifications. Many GT pupils choose to drop out of secondary school and even if they do attend, they are unhappy in such a formal setting. They need an alternative which provides vocational or work-based learning alternatives.

Actions taken /not taken

A lack of funding has meant that there is not enough provision, resources or staff to succeed with secondary aged GT pupils. Despite constant attempts to engage them in some sort of educational provision, our efforts are limited by a lack of staff, resources and enough alternative educational provision.

Barriers

Lack of funding has resulted in staff cuts and cuts in resources. There is only 1 GT staff member working in Educational Inclusion now and this means that there is not enough staff to take the GT children on trips or to organize events in the local community centre. The community centre is also currently unsuitable for classes; a lack of funding and accountability means that its upkeep has not been maintained and it is unfit for purpose.