

29 August 2014

# **(Outline) Scoping statement - Pupil Premium**

There have been a number of recent changes to national funding arrangements for pupils in schools and a key change has been the introduction and development of the pupil premium.

The intention is that the pupil premium provides additional resource for potentially disadvantaged children to address the teaching and learning barriers that lead to poorer educational outcomes for them. That resource has to be accounted for by individual schools and OfSTED pays particular attention to the use of the resource and the impact on pupil outcomes.

Herefordshire Council has a priority to protect children and give them a great start in life, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups of children. Herefordshire currently does not perform well enough either in overall attainment or in terms of progress. This is particularly true for vulnerable groups where last year Herefordshire had amongst the biggest gaps nationally and against statistical neighbour authorities in performance between vulnerable groups and their peers.

This is not a finance issue. There is a clear performance reason for Scrutiny playing a clear leadership role in reviewing the current situation in Herefordshire, examining and comparing best practice and then providing a vehicle to share findings as part of the education strategy as well as further reviewing the situation as part of its scrutiny programme.

Aspects of the review could include:

- Current implementation and funding levels
- Role of schools, including aspirations set through target setting
- Outcomes for pupils
- Role of the school improvement partnership
- Role of the local authority
- Role of governors
- Information for parents, and their role

## Conclusion

This review would benefit from a short one/two day scrutiny enquiry approach, calling witnesses and considering evidence to produce a final report and recommendations for all relevant partners and successor scrutiny committees. It is recommended that this approach be taken.