

Council: Tuesday, 25 January 2011

Motion 3.1: Cllr. Jack Cohen

Pupil Premium – Extra funding for pupils on Free School Meals

This council notes the importance of education for protecting the opportunities of Barnet's young people in these tough times and therefore welcomes the fact that, despite the severity of measures being taken in many public services to bring the UK deficit down to a sustainable level, the coalition government has firstly increased the amount of money going to schools to take account of rising pupil numbers and has also added to this a pupil premium, attaching extra funding for pupils on Free School Meals, looked after children and the children of service-men and women.

This council notes the £3,763,000 benefit this pupil premium will bring to 8700 of Barnet's most deprived and vulnerable pupils, helping to ensure every pupil in Barnet has a fair start in life and also welcomes the commitment to increase the amount of money available for the premium fourfold by 2014/15, bringing the total premium to the £2.5bn called for by the Liberal Democrats in their manifesto.

This council notes that schools and parents should register all pupils eligible for Free School Meals by 20 January 2011, ensuring that Barnet receives the full benefit of this extra funding. Council therefore requests Cabinet to draw up plans to ensure that all eligible Children have been registered and if necessary seek an extension to the deadline.”

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the council meeting.