



## Wirral Schools Forum

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Wednesday, 22 January 2014</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Council Chamber, Wallasey Town Hall</b>

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## AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 13TH NOVEMBER 2013 (Pages 1 - 8)**
2. **MATTERS ARISING**
3. **SCHOOL FUNDING DATA 2014-15 (Pages 9 - 12)**
4. **SCHOOLS BUDGET REPORT 2014-15 (Pages 13 - 24)**
5. **DE-DELEGATION OF BUDGETS (Pages 25 - 28)**
6. **PUPIL PREMIUM 2014-15 (Pages 29 - 32)**
7. **IMPACT OF PUPIL PREMIUM - RAISING ATTAINMENT (Pages 33 - 40)**
8. **BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE 2013-14 (Pages 41 - 46)**
9. **MONITORING EXCESS BALANCES (Pages 47 - 48)**
10. **NATIONAL FAIR FUNDING FORMULA PROPOSALS**
11. **WORKING GROUP UPDATES**
12. **WORK PLAN (Pages 49 - 50)**
13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**



**WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM**  
**13<sup>th</sup> November 2013**  
**MINUTES**

**Present:** Richard Longster (Chair)

**Schools Group**

S Allen	A Moore
E Cogan	S Peach
J Devine	C Penn
W Fairman	K Podmore
K Frost	G Pritchard
C Hughes	M Walker
L Ireland	G Zsapka
D Marchant	

**Non-Schools Group**

S Higginson	J Pierce (Nee Kenny)
B McGregor	N Reilly
S McNamara	

**In Attendance:**

D Armstrong	S Dainty
P Arista	J Hassall
P Ashcroft	K Lloyd
S Ashley	C McGowan
J Bevan	A Roberts
Cllr. W Clements	P Sheridan
C Chow	Cllr P A Smith
	S Talbot

**Apologies:**

M Brown	B Jordan
B Cummings	D McDonald
S Davies	J Owens
J Gordon	P Young

**1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

Richard Longster was re-elected as Chair of the Schools' Forum and Julie Pierce was elected as vice chair to serve for the coming 12 months.

Richard Longster welcomed the new members to the Forum.

**2. Minutes from the Meeting Held on 10<sup>th</sup> April**

The minutes from the meeting were accepted as a true record.

### 3. Matters Arising

- The proposals from the Transport Consultation were reported to Cabinet on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and revised policies are now being implemented
- Letters have been sent to 15 schools with excess balances and a report will be provided to the next meeting.

### 4. Final DSG 2013-14

Andrew Roberts summarised the report highlighting the changes to the DSG due to academy recoument and direct funding of Academy high needs places.

#### Resolved

Forum noted the report and the submission to the DfE

### 5. Budget Savings

Julia Hassall described the Council's Budget Options in respect of the Children and Young Peoples Department for the period 2014-16, some of which may affect schools:-

- Review of Transport (£100,000)  
A saving of £100,000 is proposed within vehicle depot and maintenance costs. The Forum noted that this option does not impact on arrangements for transporting children to schools.
- Accommodation for 16-17 Year Olds (£300,000)  
The Council plans to provide accommodation for 16/17 year olds at risk of being homeless in a council owned property, instead of spot purchasing places. Overall the provision for young people leaving care will be more cost effective whilst providing better support.
- Working in Partnership with Schools (£1,215,000)  
This option involves working with schools to share costs and resources to deliver a number of services:
  - A reduction in the **School Improvement** programme whilst protecting funding for school intervention and support.
  - A statutory core service for **Education Social Welfare** will be provided with a chargeable traded service offering further support to schools. The Forum requested further details on requirements for the statutory service and implications for schools.
  - A reduction in **early retirement costs** associated with school staff.
  - The introduction of charges for school **crossing patrols**. The Forum discussed the uneven distribution of crossing patrols, some schools share crossings and others have more than one, these factors will make charges complicated. A flat charge for schools was noted as an option (£4,000 - £5,000 pa). Schools with more than one crossing would consider this fairer to stop excessive costs. The LA does have obligations under the Road Traffic Act to provide road safety. The Forum noted that where crossing patrols are not provided a review would be undertaken to consider any road safety issues or additional measures required, such as pelican crossings.

- Early Intervention to Support Families (£2,250,000)  
This option focuses on providing early targeted support for children to reduce the number of those needing specialist support. It will provide support to enable more children to safely leave care earlier, as some children in Wirral remain in care longer than they should.
- Careers Advice and Guidance (£200,000)  
The Merseyside contract for a CEIAG service is being re-tendered. The new service will start in April 2014. CEIAG will target support for vulnerable young people who are at risk of becoming NEET. The Forum were concerned that the support for statemented pupils and LAC will continue.
- Children's Centres (£2,000,000)  
This proposal will restructure Children's Centres so that services are maintained at four centres in Rock Ferry, Seacombe, Pensby and Bromborough, with reduced services at the other centres. Wirral spends above its statistical neighbours in this area. The Forum noted that savings were made in this area last year, and that this additional amount is a significant sum which may impact on those most in need of services.
- Family Parenting and Youth Commissioning (£500,000)  
There will be a reduction in these services which will be focussed on those children and families with the greatest need.
- Reducing Substance abuse and Teenage Pregnancies (£160,000)  
There will be no loss of service in these areas. These programmes will, in future, be funded by Public Health.

#### 6. **Laces Update**

Phil Sheridan updated the Forum on the Looked After Children's Education Service. The team has been restructured and the report highlights their role and statutory functions. The Pupil Premium for Looked After Children will increase to £1900 from April 2014 whilst eligibility will broaden to include those who are adopted or leave care under special guardianship or residence orders.

#### Resolved

Forum noted the report

#### 7. **Mainstream School Admissions**

Andrew Roberts summarised the work of the Admissions team for admissions to primary and secondary schools. This year there was approximately 7000 applications, with 10% going to appeal. The progress of e-Admissions is good, but there is still some way to go. Changes to selective testing has saved £20,000.

#### Resolved

Forum noted the report

8 **City Learning Centres**

Phil Sheridan updated the Forum on the CLC review. A single management board has now been established which is developing a revised business plan and a new staffing structure.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

9 **School Improvement**

Sue Talbot outlined the funding for School Intervention and the impact on school outcomes. Funding for the primary and secondary consultant heads has been important in helping to achieve positive outcomes.

Resolved

1. Forum agreed that the consultant headteachers will prepare an annual report to review and evaluate work streams.
2. Forum agreed to review the funding for the Consultant Headteacher posts every 2 years to determine whether schools want to continue funding them in this way.
3. Forum noted the report

10. **Home Tuition**

Paul Ashcroft briefed forum on the role of the Home Education Teaching service, which is managed by the LA through the headteacher of the Wirral Hospitals School. The budget for this service is £250k but costs may increase with the raising of the school leaving age.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

11. **Funding High Needs Students**

Paul Arista updated the forum on the continued progress of funding high needs students in 2014-15. Pupil forecasts need to be with the EFA by 23<sup>rd</sup> December, however, this will change next year with a move to 'lagged learner' numbers. The FE representative commented that this change does not help them since they work with the LA in advance of children moving into further education.

Resolved

1. Forum noted the report
2. Forum agreed if the analysis indicates numbers are increasing then the LA will submit a bid for additional funding from the EFA

12. **Outcome of High Needs Consultation**

The recommendations in the report were agreed as detailed below:-

1. The timescales and arrangements for the consultation are accepted.

2. A developmental, staged approach to the high needs funding reforms is accepted.
3. The five band model outlined is adopted for special schools. A contingency fund is set aside from unallocated funds in the High Needs Block budget to financially support specialist SEN provision that may experience financial difficulties whilst future options are considered.
4. Termly payments of top-ups are to be made to special schools with the spring/summer top-up to be double the top-up of the autumn term for extra pupils unless agreed otherwise between the authority and school.
5. The inclusion money that all special schools receive totalling £757,874 should be subject to a review of what the money is for and how it is being used and with recommendations for future action.
6. The sports outreach funding received by Clare Mount is reduced by one-third in April 2014.
7. The Local Authority requests the EFA to increase the place number at Elleray Park from 80 to 90.
8. Orrets Meadow to be funded to make available 16 band 2 places. The additional top-up required of £80,000 to be funded from unallocated budget in the High Needs Block.
9. Hayfield to be funded to make 60 band 1 and 60 band 2 places. The top up required of £20,000 to be funded from unallocated budget High Needs Block.
- 9a. Funds are made available for Clare Mount School to offer 8 band 2 places a year, starting in September 2014 for the next 3 years, and reduce the number of band 1 places by the same number over that time. The top up required of £40,000 to be funded from unallocated budget in the High Needs Block.
10. The 5 band model is adopted for Resourced Provision in mainstream schools.
- 10a. Further changes to the continuum of provision for children with a Social Communication/Autistic Spectrum Condition already referred to in recommendations 8, 9 and 9a are to be considered by the policy review that is underway.
11. Top ups to resourced base provision will be made termly
12. Pupils should attend Speech and Language (SALT) bases full-time with an AWPU transfer continuing and the question about whether pupil should have a statement is re-considered in 12 months time.
13. The Local Authority requests the EFA to reduce the place number at UAB from 40 to 30 from September 2014.
14. The present place numbers at Hilbre (15), Bebington (25), Oldershaw (20) and Wallasey (30) resource provisions are now capped and no further growth on the basis of the model which developed them is to occur.
15. The Local Authority requests the EFA to reduce the place number at Townfield Hearing Base from 12 to 10 from September 2014.
16. The SEN Forum Group lead the developments to consider developing the banded approach.
17. St Michaels and Riverside alternative provision to receive a pro rata payment of the full year AWPU as top up and WASP to continue with part payment of AWPU and a top up.
18. Funding agreements and statements of SEN in mainstream will be on the basis of a number of monetary units for additional support.
19. If a mainstream schools contribution to element two exceeds 90% of its notional delegated budget additional funding will be made from unallocated contingency in the High Needs Block.

20. The new element three funding will be paid from the beginning of the financial year for maintained schools and from the beginning of the academic year for academies.
21. Further consultation and development work is needed between FE and 6<sup>th</sup> form colleges in the region and the local authority to agree a way forward for the future.
22. The LA will continue to recoup monies until April 2014 and an offer of a recoupment service is to be developed as part of traded services.
23. The funding and delivery of this service should be reviewed by the local authority and stakeholders the end of the summer term 2014 with a report to Forum for the start of the next academic year.
- 24a. The Forum Finance group's remit is extended to lead on the development of funding bands.
- 24b. The principle of service level agreements with resourced base provisions is adopted.
- 24c. The Assessment Framework for High Needs SEN is reviewed and revised over the academic year.
- 24d. The views and comments of educating institutions in this report together with the agreed recommendations are referred to Cabinet.

During the consultation the EFA confirmed the requirement for an MFG for 2014-15. This was not part of the original consultation, but it will affect the move to a banded structure. Further information was provided to schools asking for comments on 3 options:-

Option 1 – No MFG (requesting an exemption from EFA)

Option 2 – An average MFG

Option 3 – Apply MFG (no exemption)

Most responses support an application to the EFA for exemption from the MFG. The following recommendation was agreed:-

That Forum supports an application to the EFA for an exemption from the requirement to use MFG (option 1) on top ups for 2014-15, and failing that Forum request the EFA agree the use of an average MFG (option 2).

### 13 **Outcome of Early Years Funding Consultation**

Andrew Roberts outlined the responses from the consultation which gave broad support for the recommendations. However, from the 20 responses it was clear that there are issues with settings and providers understanding the formula.

#### Resolved

The recommendations were agreed as detailed below:-

1. There are no changes to the supplements for Deprivation, Flexibility or quality
2. The 3 bands used for deprivation funding will remain
3. The formula cap will cease from 2014-15
4. The nursery school base rate to change from April 2014 to £5.00 with a lump sum of £100,000 per annum
5. The formula is to be reviewed again over the period 2014-16

**14 Outcome of Mainstream Funding Consultation**

Andrew updated the Forum on Cabinet's agreement to change the Local Funding Formula. This was made in accordance with DfE timescales and outcome of the consultation with schools during September. Discussions will continue with schools to clarify their views on proposals to increase the amount allocated to Looked After Children through the formula. In 2014-15 the amount allocated to FSM children in schools will be between £3,300 and £3,700 compared to £2,500 for Looked After Children. (These figures are based on the school funding formula and the pupil premium.

The Forum noted the report.

**15 Draft School Finance Regulations**

The Draft School and Early Years Finance Regulations were included for information. The regulations highlighted a number of changes including an earlier date (28<sup>th</sup> February) for informing mainstream primary and secondary schools of their delegated budget.

**16 Schools Forum: Operational and Good Practice Guide**

This document was provided for information.

**17. Workplan**

The dates of future meetings were noted:-

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014  
2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014  
2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 22nd JANUARY 2014

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### DATA FOR SCHOOL FUNDING 2014-15

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### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides details of the dataset used for the School Funding Formula 2014-15.

### 2. BACKGROUND

The School Funding Formula allocates budgets to all maintained primary, secondary and academy schools in Wirral. In 2014-15, the budget allocated to schools is estimated to be £183m.

The 2014-15 School Funding Formula is based on information which is mainly provided by the October 2013 School Census. Looked after Children data is based on January 2013 School Census.

This report highlights the main differences in the pupil dataset in each funding element, taking into account any local and national amendments made to the formula from the previous year. A number of these changes were included in the School Funding Formula consultation earlier in the year. The data and formula values will be submitted to the EFA on the 21<sup>st</sup> January. At the time of writing this report, the figures were not final.

### 3. CHANGES IN SCHOOLS BLOCK DATASET

#### 3.1 Age Weighted Pupil Unit (AWPU)

This area records the changes in pupil data from the School Census in October 2012 and 2013.

The number of primary pupils has increased compared to last year and the number of secondary pupils decreased. These changes are broadly neutral in terms of unit values. Where numbers have changed, the overall funding has increased or decreased by a matching amount. The increase in unit values shown is a result of growth/headroom allocated within the budget.

<b>PRIMARY</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>% change</b>
Numbers on roll	24279	24668	2%
Add Reception Uplift	36	31	
Less High Needs Pupils/Places	103	148	
Number of pupils in school formula	<b>24212</b>	<b>24551</b>	1%
Unit Value per pupil	£2,729.26	£2,753.64	1%
<b>SECONDARY</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>% change</b>
Numbers on roll	17328	16834	-3%
Less High Needs Pupils/Places	122	135	
Number of pupils in school formula	<b>17206</b>	<b>16699</b>	-3%

Unit Value per KS3 pupil	£3,891.65	£3,931.10	1%
Unit Value per KS4 pupil	£4,999.73	£5,049.07	1%

### 3.2 Deprivation

#### Free School Meals (FSM)

There have been no national or local changes to this element, although the overall free school meal numbers have reduced. With fewer numbers set against a fixed percentage of the budget, the amount allocated per pupil has increased.

	2013-14	2014-15	% change
Primary FSM	5338	5099	-4%
Unit Value per Primary FSM pupil	£1,831.04	£1,944.18	6%
Secondary FSM	3233	2933	-9%
Unit Value per Secondary FSM pupil	£2,256.56	£2,349.10	4%

#### Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI)

Compared to last year, there has been little change in the percentage of pupils in each IDACI band. Unit values for each band remain similar to 2013-14.

### 3.3 Looked After Children (LAC)

The DfE have changed this indicator to allocate funding to children who were looked after on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, regardless of the length of time. Previously, a child had to be looked after for more than six months. This has resulted in an increase from 390 (under the old measure) to 428 pupils. The funding per pupil would have reduced from £575 to £525. However, following discussions with schools, this element will increase to £1050 with the funding required top sliced from deprivation.

### 3.4 English as an additional language (EAL)

Although there has been no national change to this element, Wirral has changed the allocation of funding to EAL children who have been in the school system from one year to children who have been in the school system for three years. Last year, 188 primary pupils and 39 secondary pupils were funded compared to 491 and 94 this year. Overall, funding has decreased from £1348 to £517 per primary pupil and £773 to £405 per secondary pupil, since the total amount distributed is unchanged.

	2013-14	2014-15	% change
Primary EAL	188	491	161%
Unit Value per Primary EAL pupil	£1,348.25	£516.50	-62%
Secondary EAL	39	74	90%
Unit Value per Secondary EAL pupil	£772.94	£405.44	-48%

### 3.5 Prior Attainment

This element is used as a proxy indicator for low cost, high incidence special education needs in schools. In 2014-2015, data will include Year 1 children who were assessed under the new Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. Analysis of 2013 data has found that a larger number of children were deemed to be underachieving, compared to the number of children who were assessed under the old framework. As a result, the EFA have

permitted local authorities to scale back numbers of year 1 children who deemed to be underachieving to similar levels as previous years.

This has kept the primary unit values at a similar level to last year.

The DfE has also introduced a change to the secondary sector and any child who did not achieve a level 4 in English **or** Maths will attract funding. Previously, only children who did not achieve a level 4 in **both** subjects would be eligible for funding. This has increased the number of secondary children eligible for funding from 1436 to 3392. This has resulted in funding reducing from £2367 per pupil to £956.

	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>% change</b>
Primary Prior Attainment (PA)	5177	5179	0%
Unit Value per Primary PA pupil	£944.10	£947.74	0%
Secondary Prior Attainment (PA)	1436	3392	136%
Unit Value per Secondary PA pupil	£2,367.26	£955.76	-60%

### **3.6 Split Sites**

This formula element allocates additional funding to schools when pupils are located on more than one site and where the distance between sites is greater than 0.3 miles. Only two schools qualified for this in 2013-14.

A change has been made to include schools on two sites separated by a road where there are two separate administration/reception points. This would include one further school.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The forum notes the report and the changes to the unit values within the schools funding formula in 2014-15.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

22ND JANUARY 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SCHOOLS BUDGET 2014-15</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>YES</b>

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the Schools Budget for 2014-15 and describes the financial changes to be considered by the Forum and Cabinet. The Forum are asked for their views on the proposed budget of £240,058,000 for early years, maintained schools, academies, colleges and providers for the coming year.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Schools Funding Allocations were issued by the Department for Education on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013. The basis of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) continues to be the "Spend Plus" methodology introduced in 2006. There are four unringfenced spending blocks for each authority:

- Early Years Block
- Schools Block
- High Needs Block
- Other (2 Year Funding and NQT induction)

### 2.2 2014-15 Pupil Premium £16.8m

The Pupil Premium provides funding for deprived pupils in addition to DSG. Now in its fourth year a number of additional changes have been introduced. These are summarised below and described in more detail elsewhere on this agenda.

- The rates for pupils who are or have been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) at any point in the last six years are:

Primary school - £1,300 (last year £953).

Secondary school - £935 (last year £900)

- The rate for each Looked After Child or child that has been adopted since December 2005 is £1,900 (last year LAC £900)
- The rate for each Service child remains at £300

Illustrative data based on 2013 gives a total Pupil Premium for 2014-15 for all schools and academies of £16.8m, an increase of £3.1m compared to the previous year.

Final allocations will be based on data collected in the January census for current numbers of FSM's and those over the previous 5 years. Although not confirmed it is

likely that the overall number of claims will reduce, currently the numbers registered are 4% less than in the same period last year, reflecting national changes in Benefit entitlement. This change will have an impact on the final level of grant that will be received.

## 2.3 Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) £237m

2.3.1 DSG is made up of four unringfenced blocks. These funding blocks indicate levels of expenditure anticipated for each authority, although local spending decisions can and will reallocate resources according to needs and priorities as has been the case in previous years.

2.3.2 In the case of the Schools and the Early Years blocks these are updated for changes in pupil numbers. Pupil numbers for the Schools Block are those recorded in the October 2013 census, whereas Early Years Funding is a combination of the census in January 2014 and January 2015. The dates for the Early Years Census mean that the exact DSG will not be finalised until June 2015. The Early Years grant used for the purposes of the 2014-15 Schools Budget will be the indicative figures (based on January 2013).

The High Needs Block provides an allocation for the funding of all High Needs Students aged 0 – 24, including the Hospital School. New for this year are 2 sub blocks, one for schools (both pre and post 16) and one for post school education. This allocation is also indicative and will not be finalised until February / March when adjustments are agreed for place numbers with the EFA.

The Blocks in their current format can be summarised as follows:

	<b>Block</b>	<b>Pupil Numbers</b>	<b>Funding Per Pupil £</b>	<b>Allocation £</b>
1.	Schools Block	41,235	4,547.11	187,230,000
2.	Early Years Block	2,936	3,816.57	11,205,000
3.	High Needs Block	- schools		32,217,000
		- post schools		1,101,000
4.	2 Year Old funding		.	4,925,000
	NQT induction			62,000
			<b>Total</b>	<b><u>236,740,000</u></b>

Notes:

1. Schools Block pupil numbers include academies. Numbers have been adjusted for additional pupils arriving in reception between October and January (the Reception Uplift) and for places in SEN bases. The allocation is top-sliced for Carbon Reduction - £270,000.
2. Early Years pupils are based on the January 2013 census
3. High Needs Block includes all funding (both pre and post 16) for pupils in Schools and top up funding only for High Needs students aged 16-24 in Further Education or placed with Independent Special Providers.
4. 2 Year old Funding makes provision for an increase in entitlement in September 2014.

### 2.3.2 Schools Block

This funding covers the delegated budgets to mainstream schools and academies (totalling £183m in the appendix attached). In addition the block funds a number of budgets that are managed centrally on behalf of schools:

- Admissions
- Schools Forum
- Capital Expenditure from Revenue (PPM and PFI costs)
- Contributions to combined budgets
- Schools budget retirement costs (school closure)
- School Licences

In line with national guidance and with the exception of Licences and PFI these budgets have not been increased and in relation to the contributions to combined budgets have decreased. The change in licence costs is due to the expansion of the DfE's national scheme which now covers copyright, recording, video and motion picture licences.

### 2.3.4 Early Years Block

This Block funds the costs of Early Years Education for 3 and 4 year old children in schools, nurseries and private voluntary and independent providers. Most of this funding is directed through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF).

### 2.3.5 High Needs Block

The make up of this block is complex. It is based on the "place plus" system introduced by the DfE from April 2013 and includes:

- Special schools (pre and post 16), school bases and independent non-maintained `special schools. All receive a base level funding of £10,000 per place following agreement of place numbers with the Education Funding Agency (EFA).
- Alternative Provision Bases and WASP. This provision is funded at £8,000 per place.
- Additional funding over and above that provided for places will be paid in the form of "top ups". These will be provided on a per pupil basis. The top up, or "plus" element of funding, is based on the agreed assessed needs of pupils and is paid by the "commissioner" responsible; this may be Wirral Children's Services, a school or another Local Authority. In 2014-15 a new banded top up system (with 5 bands) will be introduced and will be used to allocate funding to special schools, resourced based and alternative provision.
- The costs of all education and training for post 16 specialist and LLDD provision (top ups) to colleges and private providers.
- The Hospital Schools budget

### 2.3.6 Other Block

This funding is in respect of Free Education for 2 year olds. Parents whose children would meet the eligibility criteria for Free School Meals and Looked After Children have a statutory entitlement for 15 hours Early Years Education. In 2014-15 the

programme for 2 year olds will be expanded to reach approximately 40% of 2 year olds. The allocations received reflect this and the costs of further capacity building. Grant is not based on census data, but uses data from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) From 2015-16 funding will be based on actual participation, using census data collected in January 2015.

## 2.4 Academies

Currently there are 14 secondary academies and there is 1 primary academy. There are another 3 conversions anticipated shortly. Academies are independent from the local authority and are funded directly from the EFA. Regulations require Wirral to continue to calculate their budgets.

The estimated grant reduction for Wirral will be £58m.

## 2.5 Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

The MFG will continue in 2014-15, protecting schools from formula changes and changes in pupil data. This is an important element of schools funding given the recent changes that have been introduced to the formula. The MFG rate remains at minus 1.5%.

It is likely that the MFG will continue for some time and will be part of future funding reforms.

## 2.6 2014-15 Budget Changes

### 2.6.1 Primary and Secondary Schools and Academies £183m

The significant changes within this area are:

- Net Falling Rolls £1,147,800. The estimated secondary numbers (11-15) have reduced from 17,326 to 16,834 (a 3% reduction). The increase in primary numbers is from 24,280 to 24,668 (a 2% increase). The overall reduction in the ISB arises from the net fall in rolls and secondary funding per pupil being higher than primary schools.
- A transfer to the High Needs budget (SEN top ups) of amounts previously given to pupils at schools with Resourced Base Provision
- An increase in rates payable of £422,400. This increased cost reflects the 20% rates that are now payable for academies, an overall reduction in discretionary rate relief awards to schools and a 2% price increase. Offsetting part of this change is a reduction in the central schools budget for Discretionary Rate relief costs of £163,400.
- The budget contains an increase in school maternity costs of £150,000, this will be delegated to schools (and is subject to de-delegation decisions).
- Headroom £1,148,000. Headroom is growth within the budget and arises from the following:
  - a difference between pupil funding within the ISB and the overall pupil funding received through DSG
  - An unallocated DSG surplus carried forward from 2012-13 of £472,000
  - Surplus DSG balances for Automatic Meter Readers £250,000 and Excess School Balance deductions of £9,500.

Of the headroom referred to above £732,000 is an increase resulting from the application of these balances. Whilst this will increase school budgets in 2014-15

above that which would otherwise be available, schools should not plan for these additional sums beyond one year.

The average estimated increase is £6,600 for a Primary school and £26,000 for a secondary school.

### 2.6.2 **6<sup>th</sup> Form Funding**

The Schools Budget includes funding for High Needs students in 6<sup>th</sup> Forms. All other post 16 funding is through the National Formula via the EFA. Recent indications are that the EFA have no plans to change the design of this formula (but have announced a reduction of 17.5% in the funding rate for students aged 18 in 2014-15).

The formula is based on lagged learner numbers to which a national rate is applied for each student. This rate is weighted for study programme costs and student retention. There are additional amounts for disadvantage and Additional Learning Support (ALS), together with transitional protection until 2015-16.

Schools will be informed of their funding factors and learner numbers in January; overall allocations for the academic year 2014-15 will not be available until the end of March.

### 2.6.2 **High Needs £14.5m**

The main changes are:

- An increase of 10 places at Elleray Park Special School £100,000
- An adjustment to add back the funding for 126 places at 3 Special School 6<sup>th</sup> forms. Revised Post 16 place funding will then be transferred to the EFA to be included through the National Funding Formula.
- A change in the place value for post 16. In 2013-14 places had a value of £10,977. This will be reduced from August 2014 to £10,000 in line with other High Needs provision.
- An increase in funding from amounts previously included in the main funding formula for Resourced Base places of £228,300

### 2.6.3 **Early Years £15.3m**

The main change within this budget is to include additional funding for 2 year olds to enable the further expansion of provision from September 2014. An allocation of £977,400 has been received for 1,056 places in the Summer Term and £3,417,100 for 1,846 places from September. There is also an allocation of £530,100 for Trajectory funding. The rapid expansion of this area continues to be discussed with representatives from Early Years and the Schools Forum.

A share of Headroom / growth of £67,100 has been included within this area.

### 2.6.4 **SEN Top Ups £17m**

The proposed budget for SEN Top Ups is £17.0m. This budget reflects the additional support costs for individual pupils and takes into account pupils individual needs and the costs of facilities and support that is provided. The breakdown is shown in the table below:

## SEN Top Ups 2014-15

	£
Statements	292,200
Early Years	
Primary	1,494,000
Secondary (including 6th Forms)	2,037,900
Exceptional Need	443,800
Other	384,900
Special Schools (and 6th Forms)	6,068,300
Independent Non Maintained Special Schools	3,299,200
Home Teaching	248,600
WASP	448,000
SEN units - resourced and alternative provision	646,300
Further Education, 6th Form College and other providers	742,700
Contingency	908,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,014,800</b>

Changes in costs which have been identified as part of the budget review are:

- **Statements.** A net reduction of £316,800. The budget anticipates that the numbers in the current year will continue into 2014-15
- **Independent Special Schools.** A small increase of £43,900. The budget anticipates maintaining 81 placements
- **Further Education and 6<sup>th</sup> Form College.** The additional amount of £180,000 arising from the full year cost of current placements to July 2014 and the anticipated placements from August
- **Contingency.** The contingency identified of £908,900 is required to cover the potential costs of:
  - o Adjustments with the EFA for post 16 students. There are ongoing discussions about the costs of mainstream school and academy High Needs places (£6,000 per place) which potentially will cost £372,000
  - o Any unforeseen consequences arising from the implementation and review of High Needs Top Ups.
  - o Unfunded growth in place numbers – there has been a small net increase in the planned number of High Needs places
  - o Any mismatch between places identified with providers and places taken up.
  - o Inflationary pressures within Non Maintained Special Schools.
  - o Uncertainty about the overall statement numbers

The budget reflects the position as currently indicated, as described above there are some areas that require further clarification with the EFA. High Needs allocations will be revised over the coming months as Local Authorities and the EFA agree numbers to be funded in the region over a range of different providers. This area will be kept under review and changes / updates to the budget will be the subject of future reports.

### 2.6.5 Use of Reserves

There are a number of DSG reserves held totalling £2m at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. These were agreed as part of the year end accounts for 2013-14 and reported to the Forum

in July. The Schools Budget for 2014-15 plans to use £0.7m of these. The reserves that will be used are described below:

- DSG £472,000. This is the net underspend on the schools budget in 2012-13. Grant conditions require that the underspend is carried forward to support the Schools Budget in future years.
- Automatic Meter Readers £250,000. This scheme will not now continue and this amount is a reduction to the current reserve of £415,000. It is recommended that the remaining balance is used to fund the installation and training in the use of defibrillators in schools.
- Excess Balances £9,500. This is a residual balance held following the withdrawal of the scheme in 2012.

### **3.0 INFLATION**

3.1 No direct provision is included within the budget for pay awards. At this stage 1% awards for teaching and non-teaching staff are anticipated. Any costs arising from these changes in schools will need to be met from existing school budgets and the headroom that has been identified.

There is no general provision for price inflation, although costs for rates within the schools budget have been increased and the central PFI budget continues to reflect RPI increases.

### **4.0 CENTRALLY HELD SCHOOL BUDGETS**

4.1 The budgets held for Contingency, Special Staff (maternity and trade union duties), the School Library Service, Insurance (Governors Aided), Behaviour Support and the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service have been delegated to schools. A decision is required for any de-delegation of these areas (separately by maintained primary and secondary Forum representatives only).

The remaining centrally held budgets for 2014-15 cover:

- Equal Pay and harmonisation back pay (£450,000)
- the continuing premature retirement costs of teachers and staff that have arisen from closing schools (£326,000)
- the cost of licences for copyright and music in all schools and academies (resulting from a national agreement) (£152,000)
- School Admissions (£364,400)
- Planned Programmed Maintenance (PPM £449,000) and the PFI Affordability Gap (£2,537,000)
- Contributions to combined budgets (£2,586,500).

#### **4.2 Equal Pay and harmonisation back pay (£450,000)**

Costs continue to be paid in respect of settlements for job evaluation and harmonisation in schools. In addition provision is required for the costs of the final phase in schools when implemented.

#### **4.3 School Admissions (£365,400)**

This budget is required to meet the costs of supporting and administering the authority's school admissions scheme (including the 11 plus). Savings have been

identified in this budget from changes to the 11+ test, removal of the Choice Advisor service and the inclusion of income from a number of academy schools.

#### 4.5 **PPM (£449,000)**

This resource supports the health and safety and maintenance of school buildings, grounds and equipment. It also pays for minor repairs, emergencies and costs associated with the security and utilities of closed buildings.

The budget has been reduced by £200,000 in 2014-15 reflecting the Council's previously agreed reduction in funding. The remaining PPM budget of £449,000 is now fully funded from DSG.

#### 4.5 **PFI Affordability Gap (£2,586,500)**

The funding gap for the council's 9 school PFI scheme is £2,586,500. This amount is the shortfall between the costs of the PFI contract £11.0m and the combined government grant of £5.5m and school contributions received of £3.0m. The gap increases each year in line with the contract inflation clause (The December RPI was 2.7%).

The funding of £2.3m of the PFI affordability gap is a council budget saving in 2015-16. Proposals in this area will be considered in future meetings during the year.

#### 4.6 **Contributions to Combined Budgets**

School Funding Regulations continue to allow contributions to support services that would otherwise fall outside the Schools Budget. These budgets combine with other council resources for the educational benefit of children.

The Regulations governing this state that there must be no new commitments or increases in expenditure from that in 2012-13. The budgets in this area are shown below:-

- **Discretionary Rate Relief £106,600**

This budget has been reduced following the conversion of a number of secondary schools to academies and the budget savings option to reduce Discretionary Rate Relief for Catholic and Foundation schools.

- **School Improvement £359,900**

This sum is the former match funding for the Primary and Secondary Strategy Coordination programme. It supports the funding of a number of consultant teachers who work with schools, together with training and the resourcing of equipment and facilities.

- **Local Safeguarding Children's Board £30,000**

The LSCB provides governance of child protection arrangements, undertakes serious case reviews, training and employs a Designated Officer for Allegations. The Board is funded from partner organisations including Social Care, Schools, Police, Health and Probation. The £30,000 contribution from the Central Schools Budget matches the amount received from Health.

- **School Sports Partnerships Coordination £25,000**

This funding provides a contribution to a post that will continue to work and develop this area with schools.

- **School Intervention £674,500**  
This budget provides additional funding within School Improvement to meet priorities in targeted schools during the year, in addition it funds the “100 Club”.
- **City Learning Centres £814,700**  
The 3 City Learning Centres have a combined budget of £814,700. CLC’s support Primary, Secondary and Special Schools across a range of activities such as technology, multi media and computer aided design.
- **LACES £185,500**  
The service reviews the educational progress of Looked After Children, provides training to staff and some direct support to pupils.
- **Miscellaneous £140,000**  
These amounts support the Governors Forum, school swimming baths, school emoluments, wellbeing, the School Staff Survey, Clinical Waste and the PFI Support Team

<b>Combined Budget Summary</b>	<b>£</b>
Discretionary Rate Relief top ups	106,600
School Improvement	359,900
LSCB Contribution	30,000
School Sports Coordinator	25,000
School Intervention	674,500
City Learning Centres	814,700
LACES	185,500
School Emoluments Wellbeing and Staff Surveys	44,600
Clinical Waste Disposal	11,600
Governors Forum	2,200
PFI Support Team	61,800
Use of School Swimming Baths	19,800
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,336,200</b>

The equivalent budget in 2012-13 was £2,499,600

### **Carbon Reduction**

The Department for Energy and Climate Change have announced that all schools have been withdrawn from the Carbon Reduction Scheme from 2014-15. Therefore there is no longer a requirement to make provision for these costs. However the DSG received by Local Authorities has been top-sliced in order to offset the overall reduction in funding. The Top Slice is £270,000, compared to a budget provision in 2013-14 of £230,000.

### **4.7 Insurance and Energy Costs**

School Insurance charges are estimated to increase in 2014-15 by 24% on average, although some charges will be higher and some lower depending on risk and claims history. The overall increases are mainly the result of higher costs for Liability Insurance and Schools having an increased share of the Council’s overall payroll.

Increases for energy costs are estimated to be in the region of 6% in the coming year, although the overall amount will depend on tariffs and contract renewals later in the year.

## **5.0 Budget Timetable**

- 5.1 The Schools Budget and advice from the Forum will be considered by Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The budget for 2014-15 is compiled from the base budget for 2013-14 approved by Council on 5th March 2013 and updated for any issues identified in this report.

The projected budget (DSG and council contribution) is £240,058,000 and is shown in Appendix 1.

## **7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- i) That the views of the Schools Forum are sought on the Schools Budget for 2014-15.
- ii) That the contributions to combined budgets are agreed
- iii) That the proposed reduction for PPM of £200,000 is agreed.
- iv) That the use of Headroom totalling £1,215,100, of which £732,000 is for one year only, is agreed
- v) The High Needs Contingency totalling £908,900 is agreed.
- vi) That the use of reserves in setting the Schools Budget is agreed and that the remaining balance for Automatic Meters is reclassified as a reserve for the installation of defibrillators.
- vii) The Schools Budget and views of the Schools Forum be referred to the budget meeting of Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

**Julia Hassall**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**SCHOOLS BUDGET SUMMARY  
2014-15**

Appendix 1  
£000

<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>	236,740
<b>Use of DSG and other reserves</b>	732
<b>Total Grant Funding</b>	<b>237,472</b>
<b>Schools Budget Base Expenditure</b>	178,649
Add back 2013-14 Academy Baseline	58,655
	<b>237,304</b>
<b>Change in ISB Costs</b>	
Net falling rolls	(1,148)
Transfer to High Needs	(226)
School Rates increases and reducing DRR	423
Additional maternity costs for schools	150
Headroom / growth - - Schools	1,148
- Early Years	67
Expansion of provision for 2 year olds	1,703
	<b>2,117</b>
<b>Changes in SEN / High Costs :</b>	
Increase in Special School Places	100
School Top Ups	337
Post School Top Ups (FYE)	185
Reduction in Statements	(319)
Reduction in Resourced Base places	(120)
Post 16 adjustment Special Schools	889
Contingency	47
	<b>1,119</b>
<b>Other changes in central costs:</b>	
Increase (inflation) re PFI contracts	191
Cease Carbon Reduction Budget	(229)
Admissions	(87)
Reduce PPM programme	(200)
Reduce combined budgets	(164)
Other	7
	<b>(482)</b>
<b>Total Schools Expenditure</b>	<b>240,058</b>
<b>Net Schools Budget</b>	<b>2,586</b>

**EDUCATION - SCHOOLS**

Appendix 2

	<b>Base Estimate 2013/14</b>	<b>Base Estimate 2014/15</b>
<b>Individual Schools Budget</b>		
Primary Schools	92,058,800	95,028,500
Secondary Schools	31,788,300	88,032,000
Special Schools	8,690,000	9,678,900
SEN Bases	2,068,000	2,848,000
WASP	640,000	640,000
Wirral Hospital School	1,352,300	1,352,300
Early Years	13,514,600	15,337,000
<b>Individual Schools Budget Total</b>	<b>150,112,000</b>	<b>212,916,700</b>
<b>Central School Costs</b>		
Early Years	541,100	489,700
Admissions	452,500	365,400
School closure / retirement costs	326,000	326,000
Licences & Subscriptions	101,300	152,000
Carbon Reduction	230,300	-
Schools Forum	10,600	10,600
School Harmonisation Costs	450,000	450,000
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,499,600	2,336,200
PPM	649,000	449,000
PFI affordability gap	2,395,400	2,586,500
<b>Costs delegated to schools</b>		
Library Service	198,400	
Insurances	55,200	
M E A S	253,800	
School Specific Contingencies	109,600	
Special Staff Costs	606,900	
Milk & Meals	13,900	
Behaviour Support	96,500	
<b>High Needs Pupils</b>		
SEN top Ups	8,298,600	8,825,900
Statements	5,332,900	4,641,100
Support For SEN	2,292,900	2,292,900
Indep Special School Fees	3,315,300	3,909,200
Education Out Of School	248,600	248,600
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200
<b>Non Delegated School Costs Total</b>	<b>28,536,600</b>	<b>27,141,300</b>
<b>Total of Schools and Central Costs</b>	<b>178,648,600</b>	<b>240,058,000</b>
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant Total</b>	<b>176,054,000cr</b>	<b>236,740,000cr</b>
<b>Use of Reserves</b>		<b>731,500cr</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,594,600</b>	<b>2,586,500</b>

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2014

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### De-Delegation of School Budgets

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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks a decision by Forum representatives of maintained schools on the possible de-delegation of a number of services to schools, where there is a preference to continue a central service.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

In 2013-14 following DfE requirements a number of services were delegated to schools that were previously provided centrally by the LA. There are some areas where Schools Forum members, in their relevant phase, are able to decide, on behalf of their schools, that funding should be de-delegated and taken out of formula budgets before schools receive them. These amounts would then continue to be held centrally. Regulations provide for different decisions being made for each phase. The members eligible to vote are shown on the attached table.

#### 3. BUDGETS FOR DE-DELEGATION

- **Contingency**

The budget for exceptional/unforeseen costs that it would be unreasonable for governing bodies to meet.

- **Special Staff Costs**

Teacher maternity, paternity and trade union facility costs for both teaching and non-teaching staff.

The budget for Maternity and paternity costs have increased by £150,000 to reflect overall increases in costs.

There is no change to the budget for Trade Union facility time of £141,400. The DfE have this month published guidance on Trade Union Facility Time for schools and academies. The document sets out a number of key points and confirms that Trade Union Representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off during working hours to undertake Trade Union duties and to undertake relevant training. Wirral like many LA's has a local facility agreement in place

The budget will in 2014-15 include non teacher representation. This cost of £35,000 will be met from within the existing TU facility time budget.

Guidance refers to decisions that can be taken by Maintained Schools for delegation and de-delegation. Where funding is not de-delegated schools would manage their own facility time budget and organise their own facility time arrangements.

- **School Library Service**  
The provision of learning resources to schools, such as books, artefacts, posters and DVDs.
- **Insurance**  
The cost of governor's liability to Aided schools.
- **Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS)**  
A service supporting children and young people for whom English is not their first language.
- **Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility**  
The cost of administering the applications for FSMs.
- **Behaviour Support**  
The cost of a small team working with Primary Schools and a number of embedded police in Wirral's secondary and special schools.

#### 4. DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2013-14

In the January 2013 meeting members of the forum made the following decisions:-

- The Primary Forum Representatives agreed, unanimously, to de-delegate all of the budget areas.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate contingency, special staff costs and FSM eligibility.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives did not agree to de-delegate insurance and MEAS

In addition, the Secondary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate Behaviour Support for 2013-14 only.

#### 5. SUMMARY OF BUDGETS FOR DE-DELEGATION

The tables below identify the budget for primary and secondary schools, how the budget is allocated through the formula and the amount per pupil deducted if it is de-delegated.

Primary Budget	Amount Delegated £	Method of Delegation	*Amount per Pupil £	Average per School £ (300 pupils)
Contingency	92,600	Pupil	3.77	1,131
Special Staff Costs	536,100	Pupil	21.84	6,552
School Library Service	198,400	Pupil	8.08	2,424
Insurance	55,200	Pupil	2.25	675
MEAS	253,800	EAL	516.5	3,099
FSM Eligibility	10,100	FSM	1.98	123
Behaviour Support	62,000	SEN PA	11.97	758
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,208,200</b>			<b>14,762</b>

<b>Secondary Budget</b>	<b>Amount Delegated £</b>	<b>Method of Delegation</b>	<b>*Amount per Pupil £</b>	<b>Average per School £ (1,000 pupils)</b>
Contingency	50,000	Pupil	2.99	2,990
Special Staff Costs	504,000	Pupil	30.18	30,180
Insurance	10,200	Pupil	0.61	610
MEAS	29,900	EAL	405.44	1,797
FSM Eligibility	8,800	FSM	2.94	527
Behaviour Support	75,500	SEN PA	22.26	4,522
<b>Total</b>	<b>678,400</b>			<b>40,626</b>

\* Amount per pupil not yet confirmed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Primary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2014-15:-
  - a. Contingency
  - b. Special Staff Costs
  - c. School Library Service
  - d. Insurance
  - e. MEAS
  - f. FSM eligibility
  - g. Behaviour support
  
2. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2014-15:-
  - a. Contingency
  - b. Special Staff Costs
  - c. Insurance
  - d. MEAS
  - e. FSM eligibility
  - f. Behaviour support

**Julia Hassall**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**Forum Members eligible to Vote**

**Primary Representatives**

Gill Pritchard	Primary Headteacher	Oxton St Saviours
Mary Walker	Primary Headteacher	Portland Primary
Deborah Marchant	Primary Headteacher	Eastway
Chris Penn	Primary Headteacher	St Peters CE Heswall Primary School
Gill Zsapka	Primary Headteacher	Heygarth Primary
Matthew Brown	Primary Governor	Great Meols Primary
Audrey Moore	Primary Governor	Somerville Primary
Ken Frost	Primary Governor	New Brighton Primary
Lyn Ireland	Primary Governor	St Werburgs Catholic Primary
Janet Devine	Primary Governor	Hillside Primary

**Secondary Representatives**

Brian Jordan	Secondary Headteacher	Bebington High School
Jane Gordon	Secondary governor	Ridgeway High School
Adrian Whiteley	Secondary Headteacher	Mosslands

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2014

### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### PUPIL PREMIUM ALLOCATION 2014-15

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#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details the Pupil Premium received in the current financial year and also the basis of the grant to be paid in 2014-15.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

The Pupil Premium was distributed to schools in 2013-14 for children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), Looked after Children (LAC), Service Children and Summer Schools. The year 7 Catch up for current year 7 pupils who did not achieve level 4 in reading and/or maths will be allocated shortly. The Pupil Premium for 2013-14 was originally set at £900 for each child eligible for FSM in any of the previous 6 years (Ever 6), £900 for each LAC and £300 for each Service child. Final pupil allocations and numbers were confirmed in December 2013, with grants totalling £13.9m.

#### 3. PUPIL PREMIUM 2013-14

##### FSM and LAC Pupil Premium (£13.7m)

The DfE increased the FSM Pupil Premium for Primary aged children during the year from £900 to £953. FSM Pupil Premium for secondary aged children and LAC Pupil Premium will remain at £900.

There are 14,280 FSM pupils giving a grant to schools and academies of £13.27m (as at December 2013.)

There are 480 Wirral LAC pupils at £900, totalling £432k.

##### Service Children (£37,500)

In 2013-14 Service Children Pupil Premium is based on 'Ever 3' which means eligible pupils will have been flagged as service children any time between January 2011 and the January 2013 census.

There are 160 Service Children at £300, totalling £48,000 as at December 2013.

##### Summer School Pupil Premium (£176,500 excluding academies)

A provisional allocation of £250 per week per disadvantaged pupil was allocated to each eligible secondary school to run a summer school. Allocations were adjusted after the schools confirmed the summer school took place and the number of places offered. Seven Wirral Maintained schools took part, with a final grant of £176,500.

##### Year 7 Premium (figures not yet released)

The DfE have indicated that a further Pupil Premium will be available for all maintained schools, special schools, PRUs, academies and free schools for pupils in the current Year 7 cohort who did not achieve level 4 in reading and/or maths. The amount will be a maximum of £500 per eligible pupil, and confirmed by the DfE in February 2014.

The Pupil Premium grant may be spent by for the educational benefit of pupils registered at the school, pupils at other maintained schools and on community facilities. Where a child moves to another school, usually as a result of exclusion, the Pupil Premium should follow the child to their new provision.

Schools are required to report how they use pupil premium to improve outcomes on their websites. Details identifying the use and outcomes of pupil premium is included elsewhere in the agenda.

#### 4. PUPIL PREMIUM and PUPIL PREMIUM PLUS 2014-15

The Pupil Premium amounts for 2014-15 will be increased as follows:-

	<b>Per Pupil</b>
FSM (ever 6) Primary	£1,300
FSM (ever 6) Secondary	£935
LAC and Adopted Children	£1,900
Service Children (ever 4)	£300

##### Pupil Premium Plus

From April 2014 Looked after Children will be eligible for Pupil Premium as soon as they become looked after. They will not have to wait until they have been continuously looked after for 6 months as in the past. LAC Pupil Premium will also be extended to include adopted children, those leaving care under guardianships or residence orders, with eligible data being collected in the January 2014 census for the first time.

##### Service Children Ever 4

Service Children Pupil Premium has changed to 'ever 4', which means that any children recorded as a service child since January 2011 will be eligible, even if they are no longer recorded as a service child.

##### FSM Numbers

The current FSM numbers (October 2013 latest figures) are shown below, together with a comparison of the previous 4 years. Overall numbers show a downwards trend partly as a result of new systems introduced in summer 2011 but more recently from reduced entitlement arising from benefit changes. Overall numbers have dropped by 27%.

<b>Year</b>	<b>FSM Numbers</b>
January 2010	11,609
January 2011	10,970
January 2012	9,076
January 2013	8,877
October 2013	8,514

## Estimated Pupil Premium for 2014-15

<b>School Type</b>	<b>FSM (ever6) £</b>	<b>Service Child £</b>	<b>LAC £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
Primary	9,786,400	30,900	452,200	<b>10,269,500</b>
Secondary	5,478,165	17,100	267,900	<b>5,763,165</b>
Special	441,800	0	81,700	<b>523,500</b>
WASP	39,270	0	7,600	<b>46,870</b>
Wirral Hospital School	16,830	0	0	<b>16,830</b>
Alternative Provision	27,535	0	197,600	<b>225,135</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15,790,000</b>	<b>48,000</b>	<b>1,007,000</b>	<b>16,845,000</b>

The figures above include Academies

### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

That the Forum notes the report.

**Julia Hassall**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

## WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### The Impact of Pupil Premium on Raising Attainment

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report has been produced for Wirral Schools Forum to provide information on how Wirral schools have spent their Pupil Premium Allocation in 2012-13 and to consider the impact of this spend on Narrowing the Gap between Free School Meal (FSM) Pupils and Non FSM Pupils.

#### BACKGROUND

1. Pupil Premium was introduced in 2011-12 as part of an overarching government strategy to improve support for children, young people and families, focusing on the most disadvantaged. It took the form of additional funding allocated to schools based on the numbers of children from vulnerable families who were entitled to FSM or had been looked after continuously for more than six months. From April 2012 the Pupil Premium was extended to include children who had been eligible for FSM at any time in the last six years (Ever 6).

#### Pupil Premium Allocations per eligible pupil since 2011

	2011-12 £	2012-13 £	2013-14 £	2014-15 £
FSM Primary	488	623	953	1300
FSM Secondary	488	623	900	935
LAC	488	623	900	1900
Year 7 catch up	-	500	500	500
Forces Children	200	250	300	300

2. For pupils in maintained primary and secondary schools, funding is passed to schools via the local authority. Wirral LA also passes on premium funding for pupils in maintained special schools and pupil referral units. Academies receive their funding from the Education Funding Agency.
3. Schools may spend the grant to provide educational benefits for pupils at the school. However they will be held to account for the use and impact on educational outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. This accountability is reflected in a new section in every school's Raise-on-line entitled 'Closing the Gaps with Pupil Premium'.
4. From September 2013 Ofsted inspections will have a sharper focus on the performance and progress of all categories of pupil premium pupils. Schools will be held to account for:
  - the attainment and progress of their disadvantaged pupils
  - the in-school gap between disadvantaged pupils and their peers.

Schools are required to publish information online giving details of the school's pupil premium allocation and plans to spend it in the current school year, and for the previous

year, a statement on how the money was spent and the impact that it had on the educational attainment of eligible pupils. This enables school stakeholders to evaluate their Pupil Premium spending and to assess its impact.

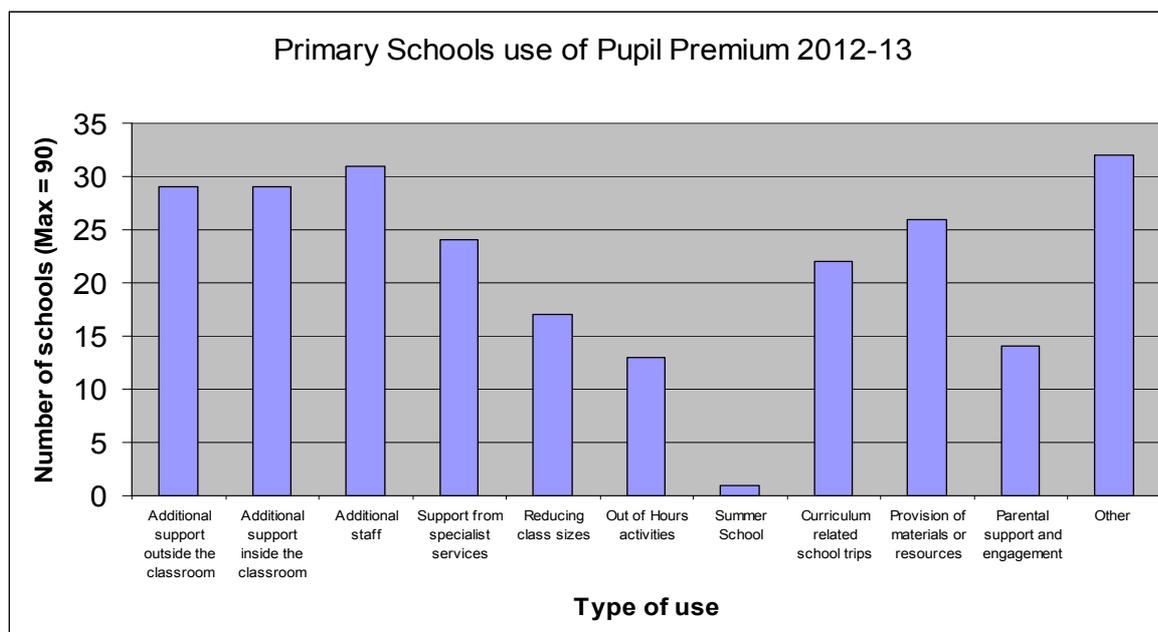
- A priority in the Children and Young People’s Plan is to ‘Improve the educational outcomes for vulnerable children and young people by identifying primary schools with the largest attainment gaps and provide support and challenge to reduce the gap at the end of EYFS, KS1 and KS2. A number of schools have been identified to take part in the Wirral ‘Closing the Gap’ project which will be launched in the Spring Term 2014.
- Pupil Premium Spend in Primary Schools**

The total amount of Pupil Premium allocated to main-stream Wirral Primary Schools in respect of 7,605 pupils eligible for FSM in 2012-13 was £4,737,915. In addition £125,846 was allocated to primary special schools in respect of 202 FSM pupils.

**Variation of Pupil Premium in Wirral Primary Schools**

School	FSM Pupils	Amount
Somerville Primary School	228	£142,044
Our Lady and St. Edwards	212	£132,076
Liscard Primary School	211	£131,453
St. Peters CE Heswall	7	£4,361
Gayton Primary School	4	£2,492

Evaluation of 36 primary schools reports on Pupil Premium shows that there is a wide range of methods utilised to maximise pupil outcomes ranging from employing additional staff offering individual or small group interventions and opportunities to enhance children’s experiences both in school and out of school (see table below).



**7. The Impact of Pupil Premium Spend In Primary Schools**

Although it is difficult to specifically identify the impact of pupil premium on attainment, since a number of factors, such as the prior attainment of FSM and non-FSM pupils, can differ from year to year and exercise an impact on the outcomes for these children, this section of the report seeks to identify Page 34

non-FSM pupils in Wirral at the end of each key stage in 2012-13, (the second year in which schools received Pupil Premium funding).

### Early Years Foundation Stage

The table below shows the number of pupils in Early Years Foundation Stage who attained a 'Good Level of Development' (GLD). In Wirral 27.7% of FSM pupils attained a good level of development compared with 52.6% of non-FSM pupils, resulting in a gap of -24.9%. This compares with the national picture where 36% of FSM pupils attained a GLD compared with 55% of non-FSM resulting in a gap of -19%.

### Good Levels of Development by FSM Eligibility

	Wirral			National	
	Pupils	%GLD	Av. Points	%GLD	Av. Points
<b>All Pupils</b>	3704	47.3	31.9	52	32.8
<b>FSM</b>	794	27.7	27.9	36	29.9
<b>Non FSM</b>	2910	52.6	33	55	33.5
<b>FSM Gap</b>		<b>24.9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3.6</b>

### Key Stage 1 - At Level 2+

	Wirral						National		
	FSM 2012	Non FSM 2012	Gap 2012	FSM 2013	Non FSM 2013	Gap 2013	FSM 2012	Non FSM 2012	Gap Nat
<b>Reading</b>	79.1	91	11.9	76.3	92.7	16.4	76	90	14
<b>Writing</b>	72.2	87.7	15.5	71.4	89.3	17.9	70	86	16
<b>Maths</b>	83.6	92.5	8.9	80.9	94.3	13.4	82	93	11

### Key Stage 1 - At Level 3+

	Wirral						National		
	FSM 2012	Non FSM 2012	Gap 2012	FSM 2013	Non FSM 2013	Gap 2013	FSM 2012	Non FSM 2012	Gap 2012
<b>Reading</b>	9.4	28.6	19.2	13.6	30.3	16.7	13	31	18
<b>Writing</b>	2.5	14	11.5	6.2	16.5	10.3	5	16	11
<b>Maths</b>	5.7	20.3	14.6	10.4	23	12.6	10	24	14

There was therefore a **widening** of the gap in each of Reading, Writing and Mathematics at KS1 at L2+, while the gap **narrowed** in each of Reading, Writing and Maths at L3+, showing improved performance by both FSM and non-FSM at the higher level.

In considering impact it is also worth noting the number of FSM pupils who **did not** achieve Age Related Expectations (ARE L2+) in 2013. See table below

Level 2+	FSM Pupils who did not achieve Age Related Expectations
<b>Reading</b>	202
<b>Writing</b>	244
<b>Mathematics</b>	163
<b>RWM (Combined)</b>	269

## Key Stage 2 - At Level 4+

	Wirral						National					
	FSM 2012	Non FSM 2012	Gap 2012	FSM 2013	Non FSM 2013	Gap 2013	FSM 2012	Non FSM 2012	Gap 2012	FSM 2013	Non FSM 2013	Gap 2013
<b>Reading</b>	79.0	91.0	-12.0	78.3	92.3	-14.0	77	89	-12	75	88	-13
<b>Writing TA</b>	68.4	88.0	-19.6	74.0	90.7	-16.7	68	84	-16	70	86	-16
<b>Maths</b>	73.6	89.7	-16.1	77.0	89.8	-12.8	73	87	-14	74	87	-13
<b>RWM</b>	59.0	83	-24.0	62.0	84.0	-22.0	59	78	-19	60	79	-19

## Key Stage 2 - At Level 5+

	Wirral						National		
	FSM 2012	Non FSM 2012	Gap 2012	FSM 2013	Non FSM 2013	Gap 2013	FSM 2012	Non FSM 2012	Gap 2012
<b>Reading</b>	44	52	-8	41.3	49.1	-7.8	43	53	-10
<b>Writing TA</b>	21	32	-11	22.1	37.1	-15	22	35	-13
<b>Maths</b>	43	34	9	42.7	39.0	3.7	42	36	6
<b>RWM</b>	18	22	-4	16.8	25.6	-8.8	17	23	-6

In considering impact it is also worth noting the number of FSM pupils who **did not** achieve Age Related Expectations (ARE L4+) in 2013. See table below:

Level 4+	FSM Pupils who did not achieve Age Related Expectations
<b>Reading</b>	170
<b>Writing</b>	209
<b>Mathematics</b>	183
<b>RWM (Combined)</b>	285

Wirral has narrowed the gap between FSM and non-FSM attainment in RWM at the end of Key Stage 2 by 2.0% in 2012-13. Nevertheless, a number of schools continue to have large gaps in performance of FSM and non-FSM pupils. The School Improvement Team has identified schools with the largest gaps at the end of Key Stage 1 and/or Key Stage 2 and these 'Closing the Gap' target schools will receive challenge, support and training and have the opportunity to share good practice in the Spring term.

### Pupil Premium Spend in Secondary Schools

The total amount of Pupil Premium distributed to Wirral maintained mainstream secondary schools in 2012-13 in respect of 2542 FSM pupils was £1,583,666, (with an addition of £566,085 to four 'academy converters' during the year). In addition, £151,389 was distributed to secondary special schools in respect of 243 FSM pupils.

The total amount provided to 10 Academies located in Wirral from the Education Funding Agency was £1,463,728.

## Variation of Pupil Premium in Wirral Maintained Schools

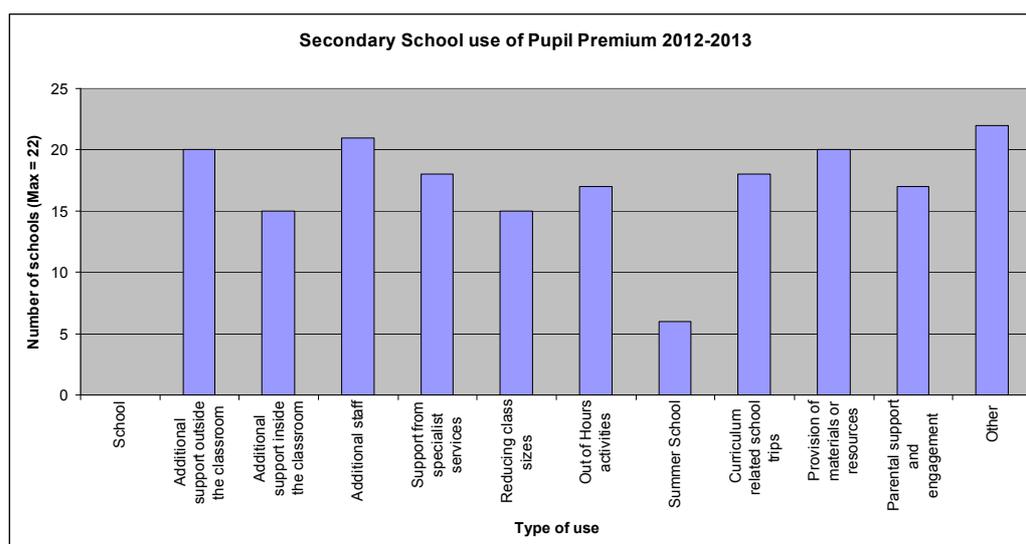
School	Amount
St. Mary's RC College	£380,653
Pensby Boys	£62,923

## Variation of Pupil Premium in Wirral Academies

School	Amount
University Academy of Birkenhead	£502,122
West Kirby Grammar School	£26,119

Evaluation of all mainstream secondary schools reports on Pupil Premium shows that there is a wide range of methods utilised to maximise pupil outcomes ranging from employing additional staff offering individual or small group interventions to alternative learning pathways and other opportunities to enhance children's experiences both in school and out of school.

Table 2 below summarises the provision made by secondary schools as a result of pupil premium.



## 8. The Impact of Pupil Premium Spend in Secondary Schools

At the time of writing there has been no Government statement on the impact of pupil premium on the 2013 end of key stage 4 outcomes or the extent to which the attainment gap might have narrowed. However a statement regarding the 2012 GCSE results nationally showed that 'in 2012, at key stage 4, 38.5% of pupils eligible for the pupil premium achieved 5+ A\*-C grades including English and Maths GCSEs compared to 65.7% of all other pupils. This is an attainment gap of 27.2 percentage points.' The Wirral gap in 2012 was slightly higher than this (30.1%), although a higher proportion of FSM pupils (45.3%) and non FSM pupils 75.4% attained this measure. This section of the report provides information on the attainment of FSM and non FSM students in Wirral against the key measures of:-

- the percentage of pupils attaining 5 A\*- C GCSEs including English and Maths;
- the percentage of pupils attaining GCSE English and
- the percentage attaining GCSE Mathematics.

The table below provides information on the percentage of FSM and non FSM pupils attaining 5 A\* - C GCSE grades including English and Maths

<b>5 GCSE's inc ENG &amp; MATHS</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
<b>FSM Yes cohort</b>	1279	1278
<b>FSM No cohort</b>	2506	2458
<b>FSM Yes result</b>	45.3%	43.3%
<b>FSM No result</b>	75.4%	77.5%
<b>Gap</b>	-30.1%↑	-34.3%↓

The attainment gap in Wirral has fluctuated over the past three years. In 2011 the gap between the attainment of FSM and non FSM pupils was 34.8%. The gap narrowed in 2012 to 30.1%, but widened again in 2013 to 34.3%. There has been a widening of the attainment gap in most Wirral secondary schools with the data for only 8 of the 22 mainstream schools analysed showing any narrowing of the gap, although in more than half of these cases there was little statistical significance to the data.

Many secondary schools attribute the widening of the gap in the above measure to be due to the drop in results for FSM pupils in either maths or English or both. The attainment gap in English rose to 30.5% in 2013 as a result of a 1.8 % rise in the attainment of non-FSM pupils and a fall of 2% in the attainment of FSM pupils. See table.

<b>ENGLISH</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
FSM Yes cohort	1279	1278
FSM No cohort	2506	2452
FSM Yes result	54.3%	52.3%
FSM No result	81.1%	82.9%
<b>Gap</b>	-26.8%↑	-30.5%↓

The attainment gap in Mathematics rose to 28.4% as a result of a 3% rise in the pass rate for non-FSM pupils and a 1.8% fall in the pass rate for FSM pupils. See table.

<b>MATHEMATICS</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>
FSM Yes cohort	1279	1278
FSM No cohort	2506	2452
FSM Yes result	58.8%	57.0%
FSM No result	82.8%	85.5%
<b>Gap</b>	-24.0%↑	-28.4%↓

## 9. Year 7 Literacy and Numeracy Catch Up Premium in Secondary Schools

An additional premium has been provided to secondary schools of £500 for each year 7 pupil who had not achieved level 4 in reading and /or maths at Key Stage 2. This money is to be used by schools to deliver additional tuition or intensive support in small groups, giving pupils valuable support to bring them up to speed so that they are more likely to succeed at secondary schools. The expectation is that this funding is used for additional literacy and numeracy catch-up during Year 7 given that this can make a critical difference to pupils at this important stage. Ofsted inspections include the evaluation and reporting on the progress being made by Year 7 Catch-up targeted pupils through analysis of summary data kept by the school.

The total amount of Year 7 Catch up money distributed to Wirral Secondary schools in 2012-13 was £348,000.

## **Variation in the amounts of Yr7 Catch-up**

<b>School</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Woodchurch High School	£44,500
St. Mary's RC College	£39,000
Birkenhead High School Academy	£9,000

This funding allows schools to employ a range of strategies and interventions aimed at enabling pupils who come in below level 4 in reading and/or mathematics to catch up to age related expectations. Schools deploy this money in ways that meet the needs of their individual pupils, including small group work, provision of literacy and numeracy resources, one to one support in maths and/or literacy, library enhancement, and ICT driven learning packages. Schools are responsible for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of their spend through the tracking of pupil progress. They are also required to report to parents via their websites on the impact of the use of Year 7 Catch-up on pupil progress in literacy and numeracy.

## **CONCLUSION**

Wirral School Improvement Team should:

continue to support and challenge schools in particular the 'Narrowing the Gap' target schools, in narrowing the attainment gap between FSM and non FSM pupils through the appropriate use of Pupil Premium funding;

- continue to raise school awareness of the Ofsted process of evaluating the performance in English and Mathematics of groups of pupils who are supported through the Pupil Premium; and identifying and reporting the gaps between Pupil Premium pupils and all others, and whether the gap is narrowing;
- continue to raise awareness in schools of the recommendations of the Ofsted 2012 publication 'The Pupil Premium. – How schools are using the Pupil Premium funding to raise achievement for disadvantaged pupil;'
  - *School leaders including governing bodies, should ensure that Pupil Premium funding is not simply absorbed into mainstream budgets, but instead is carefully targeted at the designated children. They should be able to identify clearly how the money is being spent.*
  - *School leaders, including governing bodies, should evaluate their Pupil Premium spending, avoid spending it on activities that have little impact on achievement for their disadvantaged pupils, and spend it in ways known to be most effective.*
  - *If schools do not target pupil premium money effectively, then government should consider ring fencing, payment linked to outcomes, or other mechanisms to improve its use.*
- work with schools to raise their awareness of the Sutton Trust findings on the Gain, Cost and Applicability of approaches to use of the pupil premium, identifying the most successful and cost effective approaches and interventions used in schools in the UK and provide opportunities to share good practice.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the report be noted.

**Julia Hassall**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### SCHOOLS FORUM - 22 JANUARY 2014

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2013-14

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### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Forum on the Schools Budget in the current year and to provide a brief summary of the main anticipated variations. At this time there is an anticipated under spend for the year of £950,000.

### 2.0 ANTICIPATED BUDGET VARIATIONS

- 2.1 The table attached compares the latest Estimates for the Schools Budget (which have been updated to reflect changes in DSG) with the indicative spend for the year. The main variations are set out below.

#### 2.2 Early Years Grant - £0.06m under spend

There is an expected under spend of £60,000. Additional DSG was received following the Early Years census in January 2013. It is anticipated that this underspend will be fully committed in 2014-15 by the Early Years formula changes that were agreed previously.

#### 2.3 Admissions - £0.09m under spend

There is additional income that has been received from Academies, a reduction in costs following changes in 11+ test papers and from ceasing the Choice Advisor Service.

#### 2.4 School Closure / retirement costs - £0.2m under spend

The enhance pension costs arising from previous school closures are estimated to be £125,000, resulting in a projected under spend of £200,000.

#### 2.5 Carbon Reduction Commitment - £0.03m over spend

The final cost of the Carbon Reduction Commitment energy efficiency scheme relating to 2012/13 was £244,284 which is £14,884 over the budgeted allocation. This is mainly due to the cold conditions during 2012/13 but may also reflect changes in the patterns of use and/or installation of new equipment such as computers and servers. The projected costs in 2013/14 indicates a similar overspend for 2013/14 prior to the scheme ending for schools.

#### 2.6 Contribution to Combined Budgets £0.1m underspend

This area includes a contribution to the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief costs for schools of £270,000. The overall contribution will reduce following academy conversions.

**2.7 Schools Forum - £0.01m under spend**

There is an estimated under spend of £10,000 in this area against budget.

**2.8 Schools Planned Programmed Maintenance (PPM) - £0.2m under spend**

The overall PPM budget is £649,000, of which £449,000 is supported by DSG and £200,000 is funded by the Council. Taking account of the overall financial position of the Council it is proposed that the full programme is funded from DSG. This will give a £200,000 contribution to the Schools Capital Programme and will achieve the full Council saving from PPM in advance of 2014/15.

**2.9 School Specific Contingency**

The Contingency budget of £109,600 in relation to Primary and Secondary Schools has an estimated spend against it of £83,000 as detailed below. Special Schools have agreed to a buyback for contingency totaling £167,000. At this stage there is no anticipated call on this area since there is a High Needs contingency elsewhere in the budget. It is proposed that any under spend at the year end will be returned to the individual schools concerned.

	Estimated Spend £
Vulnerable Children	56,000
Fender KS1 Teacher	16,000
Pension Arrears	4,000
Rates	7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>83,000</b>

**2.10 Special Staff Costs - £0.15m over spend**

There is a budget of £606,900 that covers all special staff costs such as maternity, paternity and Trade Union Facility Time. Current projections for Maternity / Paternity show that this budget will overspend (which has also been the trend in previous years) by £150,000, whilst there is a small projected underspend in Trade Union costs. The increases Maternity costs have been taken into account when setting the proposed Schools Budget for 2014/15.

**2.11 School Meals - £0.1m over spend**

Although there is a strong demand for meals the service costs have increased both as a result of a change in menus and the increased cost of food in general. This has led to a projected overspend of £0.1m in this area. The meals price has not been increased since 2008 and as such the position will need to be reviewed in 2014.

**2.12 Special Education Needs Transition Reserve £0.5m under spend**

The 2013-14 budget is £8.3m, of which £7.7m is currently committed, including the costs if required to fund the High Needs MFG in 2014-15. The balance is held to take account of transitional issues as the change takes place to the new funding methodology.

### **2.13 Special Education Needs Statements - £0.2m under spend**

There is expected to be a net reduction in Statementing costs of £220,000 which relates mainly to the Secondary School pupils.

### **2.14 Independent Special School Fees £0.2m underspend**

There are 81 known places compared to an estimate of 89 at this time last year.

### **2.15 Support for Special Education Needs - £0.3m under spend**

A significant proportion of the £700,000 central budget, which is held to review, develop and plan SEN provision across Wirral has not been committed. It is planned to review this area in 2014-15

### **2.16 DSG Academy Recoupment**

There is a net additional recoupment of DSG of approximately £270,000 in respect of Business Rates liabilities for Academy Schools. This is a late change that was not accounted for when the Schools Budget of 2013/14 was set.

In addition there has been a part year adjustment for Academy High Needs pupils of £180,000

## **3.0 UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES**

### **3.1 Job Evaluation and Pay Harmonisation Reserve**

There is a balance of £668,259 in reserve for backdated Job Evaluation and Harmonisation costs which continue to be paid to staff in schools following appeals and settlements. (Phase 2 JE payments £748,000 paid in May 2013). The reserve will be increased by £450,000 at the end of the year.

### **3.2 Automatic Meter Readings Reserve - £415,000**

The Authority will not proceed with the installation of the Automatic Meter Readers due to the financial pressures faced. The proposed budget for 2014/15 has applied £250,000 of this reserve within the Schools Budget. The remaining balance has been re-designated for the provision of defibrillators in schools.

### **3.3 DSG Reserve - £472,000**

Unallocated DSG from 2012-13 has been carried forward and will be applied as part of the Schools Budget for 2014/15.

## **4.0 CONCLUSION**

4.1 Variations identified in the centrally held schools budget set out above are estimated to have no direct impact on delegated school budgets.

4.2 The anticipated under spend of £1.3m will be carried forward at the end of the Financial Year to be taken into account of as part of the Schools Budget for 2015/16.

## **5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Forum:

- Notes the estimated financial position of the Schools Budget for 2013/14.
- Agrees to fund the PPM programme in full from DSG
- Agree to a High Needs MFG reserve if the EFA confirm the MFG is required.
- Agrees the redesignation of the Automatic Meter Reader Reserve to fund the installation of defibrillators in schools.

**Julia Hassall**  
**Director of Children's Services**

## Appendix 1 – Budget Variations 2013/14

	<b>Adjusted Base Budget 2013/14 £</b>	<b>Forecast Spend 2013/14 £</b>	<b>Variation 2013/14 £</b>
<b>Individual Schools Budget</b>			
Primary Schools	92,058,800	92,058,800	0
Secondary Schools	31,788,300	31,788,300	0
Special Schools	8,690,000	8,690,000	0
SEN Bases	2,068,000	2,068,000	0
WASP	640,000	640,000	0
Wirral Hospital School	1,352,300	1,352,300	0
Early Years	13,514,600	13,454,600	(60,000)
<b>Individual Schools Budget Total</b>	<b>150,112,000</b>	<b>150,052,000</b>	<b>(60,000)</b>
<b>Central School Costs</b>			
Early Years	541,100	541,100	0
Admissions	452,500	365,400	(87,100)
School Closure / retirement costs	326,000	126,000	(200,000)
Licences & Subscriptions	101,300	101,300	0
Carbon Reduction	230,300	260,300	30,000
Schools Forum	10,600	600	(10,000)
School Harmonisation Costs	450,000	450,000	0
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,499,600	2,399,600	(100,000)
PPM	649,000	649,000	0
PFI affordability gap	2,395,400	2,395,400	0
<b>Costs Delegated to schools</b>			
Library Service	198,400	198,400	0
Insurances	55,200	55,200	0
MEAS	253,800	253,800	0
School Specific Contingencies	109,600	109,600	0
Special Staff Costs	606,900	756,900	150,000
Milk & Meals	13,900	113,900	100,000
Behaviour Support	96,500	96,500	0
<b>High Needs Pupils</b>			
SEN Top Ups	8,298,600	7,798,600	(500,000)
Statements	5,332,900	5,112,900	(220,000)
Support for SEN	2,292,900	1,992,900	(300,000)
Indep Special School Fees	3,315,300	3,115,300	(200,000)
Education Out of School	248,600	248,600	0
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
<b>Non Delegated School Costs</b>	<b>28,536,600</b>	<b>27,199,500</b>	<b>(1,337,100)</b>
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>	<b>(176,054,000)</b>	<b>(175,604,000)</b>	<b>450,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,594,600</b>	<b>1,647,500</b>	<b>(947,100)</b>



## WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2014

### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### Monitoring Schools' Excess Balances

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Schools balances have risen each year since the excess balance control mechanism was removed in April 2011. This report identifies 15 schools with balances in excess of 5 or 8% of their delegated budget as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and describes their plans and timescales to reduce reserves to below these percentages.

#### BACKGROUND

Overall School Balances increased by £1.87m to £11.77m as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, with 46 schools having balances above the indicative excess thresholds set by the DfE (8% of delegated budget for Primary and Special Schools and 5% Secondary Schools). Of these, there were 15 schools that still had balances in excess after the amount used to set their 2013-14 budget was taken into consideration. All 15 schools were contacted and have provided further details which are described below.

#### SCHOOL RESPONSES

Schools were asked to indicate their spending plans and the timescale by which the balances would be reduced. The table below details the school phase and type of spend planned.

	Primary	Secondary	Special	Total
Schools in each Phase	9	2	4	15
<b>Spend</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Falling rolls & restructure costs	0	783,239	0	783,239
Capital projects	180,500	0	193,789	374,289
Staffing costs	220,962	0	49,431	270,393
Teaching and learning	64,993	0	32,227	97,220
High needs budget uncertainty	0	0	67,677	67,677
Equipment/furniture	94,500	0	11,975	106,475
Building work/maintenance	48,859	0	15,000	63,859
<b>Total</b>	<b>609,814</b>	<b>783,239</b>	<b>370,099</b>	<b>1,763,152</b>

#### Falling Rolls and Restructure Costs

The 2 secondary schools holding the largest balances are using these to support their budget as they restructure their staffing due to falling rolls. Although balances held are high the 3 year forecasts confirm that the reserves will quickly reduce and without them the schools would be facing significant and escalating deficits. These larger reserves enable schools to achieve a planned and lasting restructure, giving greater stability within the school.

### Capital Reserves

Five schools have identified funds of £374k being held for capital projects. These reserves will contribute to schemes which cost in total £5.4m. Four of these projects anticipate completion within 2 financial years. It is anticipated that these amounts should be held in a separate capital reserve in future, which would be earmarked for this specific purpose.

### Staffing and Teaching and Learning

There are a variety of reasons for using balances to increase staffing and teaching and learning resources:-

- Although Job evaluation was implemented in 2011 there are still some outstanding appeals and schools will be expected to fund any costs from April 2011 onwards.
- A number of schools are planning to take on more teaching staff for early intervention and to improve literacy and numeracy standards.
- 1 school requires teaching and support staff for a new class.
- A number of schools are purchasing equipment and resources for additional literacy, numeracy and ICT.

### Timescales

The timescales varied from 'already actioned' to 'March 2015', however, there were a few where timescales were unknown as the schools were waiting other decisions to be taken. The table below identifies how much balances should reduce by over the next 2 years:-

<b>Scheduled Spend</b>	<b>Primary £</b>	<b>Secondary £</b>	<b>Special £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014	193,673	0	88,406	<b>282,079</b>
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015	291,141	783,239	187,904	<b>1,262,284</b>
Capital to be confirmed	125,000	0	93,789	<b>218,789</b>
				<b>1,763,152</b>

### **CONCLUSION**

Schools have identified a number of legitimate reasons for holding what appears to be higher than average balances. Plans will continue to be monitored and will be the subject of further reports once the outturn for 2013-14 is complete.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Forum notes the report.

**Julia Hassall**  
**Director of Children's Services**

**WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 22nd January 2014**

**WORK PLAN**

	<b>Meeting Date</b>			
	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> April 2014</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> July 2014</b>	<b>October/November 2014</b>	<b>January 2015</b>
			Elect chair & vice chair	
Budget	Schools Budget update 2014-15 School Budget Monitoring 2013-14	Schools Budget Outturn School Balances	Final DSG 2014-15 Budget monitoring update Arrangements for SEN,WASP, Home Tuition and early years	Schools Settlement Schools Budget Budget monitoring update Pupil Premium De-delegation of budgets
Consultation	National Fair Funding Formula for schools	School funding formula proposals 2015-16		
DfE Regs & guidelines		Scheme for Financing Schools		School Finance Regulations
Working Groups	Traded Services High Needs SEN			Early Years Formula SEN Funding Formula Schools Funding Formula
Other		Harmonisation Update	Membership	Raising attainment Excess Balances

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