



Wirral Schools Forum

Date:	Tuesday, 9 July 2024
Time:	5.00 p.m.
Venue:	Ganney's Meadow Nursery School CH49 8HB

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AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2024 (Pages 1 - 6)
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. HOME TUITION UPDATE (Pages 7 - 10)
5. EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP UPDATE (Pages 11 - 16)
6. DELIVERING BETTER VALUE UPDATE (VERBAL)
7. 2023-24 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN REPORT (Pages 17 - 24)
8. 2024-25 SCHOOLS BUDGET UPDATE REPORT (Pages 25 - 28)
9. SCHOOL BALANCES UPDATE (Pages 29 - 32)
10. SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP (Pages 33 - 36)
11. WORKPLAN (Pages 37 - 38)
12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

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WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

Tuesday, 19 March 2024

Present: A Whiteley (Chair)

Members

K. Kennedy	S. Ralph
L. Prescott	N. Prance
P. Wareing	H. Barker
S. Allen	M. Farrelly
M. Loftus	C. Mervyn
K. Ball	E. Ball
M. Bellamy	S. Goodwin
K. Williams (in attendance from Item 7)	

In attendance:

Councillor S. Powell- Wilde	A. Brown A. Varughese
S. White	S. Harper
J. Backhouse	M. Jackson

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies had been received from:

- Joanne Proctor – Catholic Diocese
- Julie Merry – Primary Governor

2 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 JANUARY 2024

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2024 be approved as an accurate record.

3 EARLY YEARS FUNDING RATES AND CONSULTATION OUTCOME

The Early Years Operations Manager presented a report which gave an update on discussions at a recent Early Years Working Group, held on 1st March 2024. The report covered the Financial Incentive Scheme, which the Wirral was provided funding of £210,000 from Central Government as part of a randomised control trial. The amount had been calculated to include payments to the practitioner, national insurance and tax contributions and

funding for the local authority to deliver the scheme and equated to approximately 135 candidates receiving the payment.

The report gave an update on the Working Families Entitlement Expansion, noting that from September 2025 all eligible working families with a child aged 9 months + could receive up to 30 hours childcare provision. This would be a phased approach with eligible families with a two-year-old receiving 15 hours from April 2024 and eligible families with a child aged 9months + receiving 15 hours from September 2024. Both age groups would receive 15 hours from September 2025.

The report went on to give an update on Wrap Around provision, explaining that from September 2026 the government expected that every school would have an offer of wrap around childcare provision between 8am and 6pm term time only, either delivered by the school or an alternative provider. The Department for Education had provided capacity funding for local authorities to deliver this plan and programme funding to support the creation and expansion of provision.

Members discussed how affordable wrap around care would be for parents in future and were assured that work was being undertaken to ensure it remained affordable. They raised a potential issue for larger primary schools if a significant number of parents took up the wrap around care offer, as those schools could be expected to provide this care for 500+ pupils.

Members noted that recruitment for wrap around care was likely to be difficult as there was already a recruitment crisis in the sector.

Members queried whether providers were required to have a secure email system and were informed that many providers did not.

Members discussed when the best time would be to monitor the roll-out of the scheme, the Chair and the Assistant Director for Education agreed that November 2024 would be the most useful meeting of the forum to bring a report to.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

4 DELIVERING BETTER VALUE UPDATE AND HIGH NEEDS FUNDING ARRANGEMENT REVIEW PROPOSAL

The Assistant Director for Education present the report which updated the Forum on the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND programme and notified the Forum that an application had been made with the Department for Education in December 2023 for the DBV grant and Wirral Council had been notified in February 2024 that the application was successful in securing the £1 million grant.

The report noted that the DBV Programme's main objective had been to identify local and national opportunities to improve the outcomes for children and young people with SEND. The programme had designed its support through two key approaches:

1. Short term support: To identify sustainable changes in each Local Authority that can drive high-quality outcomes for children and young people with SEND, and to support Wirral in building an evidence-based grant application to assist the implementation of those changes.
2. Informing Long Term Reform: Build an objective evidence base across a third of the sector, which could be used to:
 - Inform future policy and drive legislative and funding changes
 - Build a national playbook and share best practice
 - Inform future national programmes of similar scale and intent

The local area commenced the DBV programme in June 2023 with colleagues from across the partnership working to compile all the relevant data sets that were required to capture a clear picture in relation to the challenges faced in the high needs block. In addition, deep dives and root cause analysis took place to understand the areas of focus that could be identified.

Wirral completed the DBV programme alongside 54 other local authorities currently facing challenges in their high needs block costs.

Members discussed funding differences between special and mainstream schools and the high number of pupils in special schools in Wirral. They felt that more pupils needed to be brought into mainstream schools and provided the care they needed there. Officers noted that work was underway to address these issues with the graduated approach and significant work on resource provision.

Members clarified that the DBV programme would be more process led than allowing those that shouted the loudest to receive priority provision.

Members noted that within mainstream schools it was teaching assistants that worked with SEND children and there was a risk of losing them.

Resolved – That

- 1. The report be noted; and**
- 2. Schools Forum receives regular reports as the DBV programme progresses and a schools forum member support the DBV in SEND board that will be established be agreed; and**

- 3. A review of the high needs funding model currently in place during the summer term and report is brought back to forum for the September meeting be agreed (by unanimous vote).**

5 SPECIAL SCHOOLS PLACES UPDATE

The Assistant Director for Education presented the report which noted that over the last two academic years several special schools had supported the local area by agreeing to expansion, this was due to the increased number of young people with an EHCP and needing specialist provision.

During the academic years, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 the following schools had admitted additional pupils above the agreed capacity numbers – Elleray Park School, Meadowside School, Stanley School, Foxfield School, Hayfield School, Claremount School, Orrets Meadow School and The Observatory School.

The report noted that Wirral's maintained special school system was reaching saturation point. Of the 8 schools outlined in the report, 6 of them were reaching saturation point with no further expansion available. Additional provision for young people with an EHCP would be needed to be delivered by significant expansion of resourced provision in the mainstream system.

In order to meet the needs of the increased demand in pupils requiring an EHCP, the special school system had supported the Wirral local area demand and this needed to be reflected in the admission number so the school could access all appropriate funding.

Members discussed the potential growth of provision and were informed that the Council did not yet know the higher needs capital allocation. They noted that the goal was not to grow provision within special schools any further but to move to mainstream provision.

Resolved – That

- 1. The report be noted; and**
- 2. (by unanimous agreement) The Forum supported the increased admission number for the special schools outlined in the report.**

6 DSG MANAGEMENT PLAN - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Finance Manager presented the report which gave an update to the Forum on the actions the were being undertaken to develop Wirral's Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Management Plan.

The report noted that the DSG: conditions of grant 2023 to 2024 required that any local authority with an overall deficit on its DSG account at the end of the 2022 to 2023 financial year, or whose DSG surplus had substantially reduced during the year, must be able to present a plan to the Department for Education (DfE) for managing their future DSG spend.

As reported at June 23 Schools Forum meeting, the overall overspend of DSG at the end of the financial year 2022-23 was £3.073m with the cumulative deficit position of £4.763m. To comply with the DSG conditions of grant, the DSG management plan needs to be submitted to the DfE.

The report noted that the Forum was also aware that Wirral had taken part in the Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme. The programme had been established by DfE for 55 local authorities to address the overspend on the High Needs Block. The programme included forecasting future spend, and then identifying a small number of high impact projects. The DfE considered grant applications of up to £1m for one year of transformation funding. A condition of the grant is to submit a DSG management plan to the DfE with support from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Wirral submitted a grant application in December 2023, and it had been confirmed that Wirral had been successful in the grant application for £1m.

The report concluded that Wirral officers would continue to develop the Management Plan and would report back to the Forum.

The Assistant Director for Education noted that he intended to bring a further update to the Forum at its next meeting in June 2024.

The Director for Children, Families and Education noted that an important aspect of the plan was how the service worked with Adult Services and was looking to improve the process.

The Chair noted that Wirral was missing its lower bound target already and that it was heading for a £208 million overspend. He suggested that things needed to be changed rapidly to improve matters. Officers noted that the situation was being monitored closely and if the numbers of children being referred to independent / non maintained special schools had not been reduced in 12 months, then it would make the situation much more difficult.

The Director for Children, Families and Education noted that the support of Members of the Forum was key to getting the message out to schools on what needed to change.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

7 **WORKPLAN**

The Assistant Director for Education noted that a report on Higher Needs funding and a report on Delivering Better Value should be added to the work plan for June 2024's meeting.

Resolved – that the workplan be noted.

8 **SCHOOLS FORUM MEMBERSHIP**

The Finance Business Partner presented a report describing the current representation of the Forum and membership changes. The report noted that there were 7 vacancies.

It was noted that that Nicky Price and Siman Davies had agreed to cover another term for PVI Early Years.

The Chair noted the need for vacancies to be filled.

Resolved – That

1. **The report be noted.**
2. **The changes discussed be agreed.**

9 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Chair noted that this would be the last Forum meeting that Simone White, the Director for Children, Families and Education would be attending as she was retiring. The Forum thanked her for her work and dedication.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM June 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Wirral Home and Continuing Education Service

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Home and Continuing Education Service is an Alternative Provision for health needs. HCES delivers part of Wirral's statutory responsibility to provide a suitable education for children who cannot attend school because of their medical needs. The great majority of pupils suffer with poor mental rather than physical health and many have both.

Many of the children have Emotionally Based School Avoidance.

We are an intervention not a destination.

The Service is being managed on an interim basis until the end of academic year 2025. There is a planned co -location with Joseph Paxton Centre from January 2025 followed by an amalgamation with JPC from September 2025.

There are proposed financial changes to charges for pupils who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to be discussed at this time.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Home and Continuing Education Service is an Alternative Provision for children whose poor health creates a barrier to education. It does this by:

- Providing a suitable education by ensuring that they make the best progress they can and access the most suitable pathway to preparation for life. This can be onsite or in their homes for children who are unable to leave their house.
- Providing sufficient hours of education in line with statutory guidance; the equivalent of full-time or for the number of hours the child's health condition allows.
- Contributing to a multiagency graduated approach for children with health needs.

2.2 The Service has been operating from to Pilgrim Street Arts Centre since July 2022. This has been a wonderful opportunity to develop multi agency working with

wider teams. A move to co locate on site with Joseph Paxton Centre is scheduled to be complete by January 2025.

3.Current Numbers/Pupils Profile

- 96 pupils currently with 36 in year 11.
- 3 primary aged pupils.
- 31 of the Pupils have an EHCP and 21 are currently under assessment.
- Girls- 35
- Boys-57
- Non-binary- 3

4 What we have to offer.

4.1 We have pastoral leads who co-ordinate ongoing multi agency work ensuring the children are moving towards their next appropriate next step and that the appropriate support/help is in place for the children and their family.

4.2 We use Hooves for Healing to help improve wellbeing amongst some of our most unwell children. We have learning mentors who can carry out sensory assessments, run sleep clinics and parenting workshops and give bespoke transition support.

4.3 We use The Zones of Regulation and Socially Thinking training which is overseen by a specialist Speech and Language Therapist We cover the core subjects in homes and onsite we provide a wider curriculum including ICT, Animal Care, Art, Woodwork, Keep Fit, Pilates.

4.4 We have an onsite SENDCO to support children with SEND.

4.5 We cover Functional skills and GCSE's and provide entries to a variety of exam boards. Pupils sit external exams on site and in their homes.
We have a Therapy dog called Jolene.

4.6 Since March 2021 the service has offered weekly Enrichment Activities which give much needed social opportunities. This was made possible by last year's agreement to transfer the Pupil Premium for all eligible pupils whilst they remain with the service. This program has been successful with up to 20 pupils per weekly enjoying trips to the cinema, Barnston Dale, the beach and many other local places. We see the most progress made by the group of pupils who attend Enrichment in terms of them re integrating back to school/college and improving their wellbeing.

5.Changes to Policy/eligibility criteria

5.1 In January 2020 there was a Local Government Ombudsman directive regarding the Eligibility Criteria for HCES. Previously school referrals had to be supported by medical support from a consultant or senior CAMHS practitioner.

5.2 Following the directive this has been widened to include other medical teams to avoid delays. GP supportive information will be accepted as an interim measure whilst more specific medical evidence becomes available. The admission panel meets bi-monthly.

6. Budget Position

6.1 Careful financial management has enabled the service to recruit some additional staff, deliver enrichment activities and respond to the increased demand following the pandemic. More pupils being on site rather than in their homes, has led to a need for more on-site staff and an additional Learning Mentor, we have a full time SENCO.

6.2 The weekly charges are collected termly from schools. The cost is £140 per week. Pupil Premium costs are added where appropriate.

6.3 The first 12 weeks are free the cost being absorbed by the Core Budget, which comes from the DSG/High Needs Block.

RECOMENDATIONS

The Forum discusses and agrees to the following charging alteration for pupils who have an EHCP, from September 2024 it is proposed that the 12 weeks initial period is to be disapplied when a child has an EHCP and for any additional unit funding to be transferred to HCES during the period the child is attending.

That Forum agrees the Home and Continuing Education Service continues to provide a short-term intervention for children who have medical needs which prevent them attending their own school and require the support the service offers.

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Schools Forum Tuesday, 9th July 2024

REPORT TITLE:	EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP UPDATE
REPORT OF:	SARAH HARPER / JAMES BACKHOUSE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update Wirral's School Forum on recent Early Years performance and service updates.

2.0 Early years sub-group discussions

2.1 The National Day Nurseries Association (NDNA) submitted a request for the funding payment process to be reviewed submitting a proposal that saw a percentage increase in estimate payments and the actual payment reduced to just 10% of the overall term's payment. The NDNA also requested a change to 30-hour codes being accepted if they still need reconfirming at estimate headcount submission. Alternative proposals have been shared and are being discussed. It is likely that once a potential alternative proposal is agreed a survey would need to be held to enable all providers to have their say.

2.2 The early years financial incentive scheme was discussed due to the low uptake of the initiative. The group felt that it would be helpful to change the qualification criteria to include undertaking a qualification. The eligibility criteria will be reviewed during August, after the jobs fayre that is being held in July.

2.3 The capital programme will be launched after the pre-election period. There was discussion within the group around criteria specifically work that had been completed in readiness for September 24 and the launch of the under two-year-old entitlement. This is being considered by the project group.

3.0 Take up of Funding entitlements.

3.1 The table below details the working family's codes issued and validated for September 2024. Currently Wirral are above the national average across all age ranges.

	Codes issued	Codes Validated	Percentage	National average
Under 1-yr-olds	131	33	25.2%	14.4%
1-year-olds	770	200	26%	14.5%
2-year-olds	386	110	28.5%	20.69%

3.1 The table shows the take up of early years free funding entitlements for two-and-three-year-olds.

	Autumn-23			Spring-24			Summer-24		
	Pop	Take up	%	Pop	Take up	%	Pop	Take up	%
Two-year (disadvantage)	1002	962	96%	1002	939	94%			
Two-year (working)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			
Three-year and four-year (universal)	6803	5430	80%	6803	6484	95%			
Three-year and four-year (working)	Not available	1905	N/A	Not available	1755	N/A			

3.2 Take up of 2-Year-Old (2YO) (disadvantage offer) for the Spring term is currently sitting at 94%, a decrease of 2 percentage points since Autumn term (96%). Take up usually dips in the Spring term. A robust engagement strategy to improve take up continues to operate through Wirral's Children Centres, gaining an understanding of barriers to take up. However, Wirral's percentage remains higher than the most recently published National average of 74%.

3.3 We continue to receive anecdotal feedback that some settings are offering less 2YO places and opting to maximise their 3- & 4-year-old offer due to the lower ratio requirements and current staffing issues. We have also been advised by a small number of providers that going forward they may opt to enrol less disadvantaged two-year-olds as working parents of two-year-olds are more likely to purchase additional hours. Wirral has set the funding rate for two-year-olds disadvantage entitlement at 4p more than the rate for two-year-old working parent entitlement.

3.4 The take up of 3–4-year-olds combined currently sits at 95% which is 3 percentage points above the new national average of 92%. Take up is closely monitored with a specific focus on the Wallasey area which has the lowest take up,

currently sitting around 88% than that of Birkenhead and South & West Wirral. Promotion of entitlements occurs on a regular basis.

4.0 Childcare Sufficiency

4.1 Childcare Provider Statistics

	Sept 23	May 24
Childminders	134	128
Day Nurseries	62	62
Extended Care	28	27
Independent Schools	3	3
Maintained Nursery Schools	3	3
Pre-Schools	29	29
Schools	62	62
Total	328	319

4.2 The number of EY Providers is declining, however we are still for the most part sufficient across the Borough, although not necessarily to meet requests of parents for specific days/sessions. The DfE estimate that by September 2025 we will require an additional 200 places in order to deliver the new funding entitlements. We are still struggling to find childcare provision for children with SEND. Work has been focused around ensuring providers feel confident to support children with SEND and understand the Equality Act and SEND code of practice.

4.3 A number of projects are ongoing to support expansion to funding entitlements, including a recruitment drive with support from Wirral's economic development team, chamber of commerce and other partners. A Jobs Fayre is planned to take place over two days in June. A working group has been set up to explore how best to deliver the Funding Expansion Capital Grant. A Project officer has been recruited to co-ordinate the EY financial Incentives Scheme pilot, launched by the DfE to test whether offering a financial incentive increases the number of staff entering the early years workforce.

4.4 Whilst there is an ongoing decline in registered childminders, new childminders are still coming through on a regular basis. Wirral is now working with 3 childminding agencies. The new childminder agency management team has met with the early years team to discuss how best to work together to support their childminders. The financial incentive scheme is open to childminders who may wish to take on a childminding assistant, and the Jobs Fairs planned for June will have specific sessions for people interested in becoming a childminder, with business support advice, and guidance from Wirral Childminding Association Representatives.

5.0 Business Support & Performance

5.1 Early years payment functions have recently moved into the Business Support team, this is a positive move, bringing very closely linked tasks together. The team have really benefitted in working more closely and learning about the different work areas that underpin facilitating the early years funding entitlements.

5.2 The new Liquid Logic Early Years and Education System (EYES) is due to go live on 19th August 2024 and the team are working hard to test the system and feedback requirements to the Project Team in terms of functionality requirements and issues. Training has been planned for early July, with early years providers due to be trained mid-July before the summer holidays. Capita will close on 9th August and the team are currently planning how best to manage the downtime between systems and are working on comms to encourage providers to validate codes for the new Under 2's entitlement before Capita closes.

5.3 The Early Years Transition task has recently been completed, with data being sent to schools as planned on 7th May, to enable them to support children who are due to start in reception this September and start transition discussions with early years providers. This year 75% of providers submitted, which is a real positive given the pressure the sector is currently under due to the recruitment crisis and scaling up to deliver the new funding entitlements.

5.4 To enable local authorities to receive their allocations of funding for the new funding entitlements, there will be a requirement to submit a termly census to the DfE, with the first collection scheduled to take place between 10th June and 12th July. The business team are working closely with Capita and other internal teams to plan how best to support providers through this data collection, given it will take place very soon after completing their summer term actual headcount task.

6.0 Early Years SEND

6.1 Due to changes within the early years SEND team a new structure is being created. The early years SEND officers will now sit within the early years' service. A manager's post is being created that will focus on delivering Local Area SENCO support.

6.2 The team are also reviewing their service delivery offer moving to a setting and child approach where previously the focus has been a child led approach. The team are planning a universal approach that all providers can access, with targeted and

specialist approach that only identified providers or children will access. A full offer will be shared in the next academic year.

7.0 Quality, Training and Practice Improvement

7.1 Currently **98.09%** of providers are judged good or above by Ofsted. Within this, only 2 settings are judged 'requires improvement' and none are judged 'inadequate'. The two settings judged requires improvement are receiving tailored support by a Quality Improvement Officer utilising the support framework.

7.2 The Effective Practice Quality Mark (EPQM) training package for the year commenced in May, based primarily on providers feedback and on Ofsted trends. Key areas this year are:

- Inspection preparation
- Coaching/mentoring
- Effective provision for 2-year-olds and children 9 months+

7.3 We have focused this year on an EPQM set of courses which sit alongside our core offer, which includes termly WellComm training, focused on effectively utilising the speech and language toolkit, and our curriculum course to support settings delivering consistently high-quality early years education. To date 41 settings have booked into courses (since April 24 to current date).

7.4 The Early Years Online Platform has seen engagement grow significantly, with **1,042** practitioners now registered. There is now **21** eLearning modules available ranging from conference recordings, knowledge refreshers and instructional videos. This has helped to greatly diversify our training offer and allows providers to engage in CPD via a different mechanism- this has been vital in terms of presenting a truly blended training offer.

7.5 Professional Development Programme (PDP) training: 20 settings are currently completing their training as part of Cohort 2. There are 33 participants in Cohort 3 (due to complete July 24) and 18 in Cohort 4 (due to complete in November 24). Feedback on the impact on this in settings has been hugely positive.

7.6 Quality Officers are currently completing the second cohort of settings within the Good Level Development (GLD) Pilot. The team has observed and assessed the quality of teaching, aimed at supporting children's access to high quality childcare. Feedback has been massively positive from settings, especially in terms of supporting staff confidence. One comment from a setting engaged in the pilot after

the observation process: “Thank you so much for such a great experience and for all the support and guidance. The visits have been extremely helpful, and the girls have gained such confidence in their job roles.”

7.7 Operation Encompass launched for the Early Years sector on Wirral in April which has been a really exciting development. 16 notifications for individual children impacted by domestic abuse have occurred since the launch date at the end of April, and settings have been advised on how to support these children in their provision. A large number of setting and practitioners have also attended the virtual Operation Encompass training sessions and accessed the online e-learning to further extend their knowledge in terms of safeguarding these children.

7.8 Settling Inclusion Grant (part of the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund) observation process began September 23, with 14 applications (11 approved) up until the end of the 23/24 financial year. There has been one further application in this current year, feedback on the swift nature of this process and getting immediate support in place for children has been very good, and we have worked tirelessly to keep to the 5–7-day turnaround time. This has massively helped in terms of linking to an early intervention approach.

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 School Forum to note the report.

Elizabeth Hartley – Director of Children, Families and Education

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 9th July 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN REPORT 2023-24

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the year end position for the 2023-24 Schools Budget. At this time, the accounts are provisional and subject to audit.
- 1.2 Overall the schools budget has overspent by £8.226m which had an adverse movement of £3.012m since the position reported at the January 24 meeting of the Forum.
- 1.3 The table attached at Appendix 1 compares the detailed Schools Budget with the spend for the year. The reasons for the main variations and comments on specific budget areas are included in section 3.0 below. The Budget and Outturn for each block of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is summarised below.

	2023-24		2023-24	2023-24
	Budget	£	Spend	£
				Variation (Favourable)/ Adverse
Schools Block	118,186,326		118,168,652	(17,674)
Schools Block de-delegated	2,085,597		2,125,572	39,975
Central School Services Block	4,647,334		4,648,385	1,051
High Needs	58,574,599		66,704,913	8,130,314
Early Years	22,110,663		21,742,312	(368,351)
DSG Grant Income	(202,801,680)		(202,574,180)	227,500
Total before contribution to/-from Reserve	2,802,838		10,815,653	8,012,815
Movement on DSG Reserve	(213,286)		(8,226,101)	(8,012,815)
Total after contribution to/-from Reserve	2,589,553		2,589,553	0

Cumulative reserve balance b/fwd from 2022-23	(4,762,638)
In-year contribution to/-use of reserve	(8,226,101)
Cumulative reserve balance c/fwd to 2024-25	(12,988,739)

- 1.4 At the beginning of 2023-24 the cumulative DSG reserve opened with a deficit balance of £4.763m. The in-year deficit of £8.226m means that the total deficit balance to be carried forward into 2024-25 is £12.989m.

2.0 REVISED 2023-24 BUDGET

- 2.1 The schools block and the de-delegated budget have been adjusted to reflect the changes due to 6 schools academy conversions in December 23 and January 24. The early years budget has been adjusted to the expected revised budget based

on the January 24 census. The DSG Grant Income has been reduced by the corresponding amount.

3.0 SCHOOLS BLOCK

3.1 Schools – £17,674 favourable

As agreed by the Forum at September 23 meeting, the 2023-24 Falling Rolls and Growth Fund to be carried forward to 2024-25. The underspend will be included in the DSG reserve to be utilised in 2024-25.

3.2 Schools de-delegated - School Specific Contingency - £30,204 favorable

The purpose of this budget is to meet exceptional and unforeseen costs, which would be unreasonable to expect the schools and governing bodies to bear. As such these costs can significantly fluctuate year on year and are summarised in the table below.

	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Spend	2023-24 Variation (Favourable)/ Adverse
<u>Primary and Secondary schools</u>			
Business rates variations	0	0	0
School support	30,204	0	(30,204)
<u>Special schools</u>			
School support	155,000	145,260	(9,740)
Special school buy-back	(155,000)	(145,260)	9,740
Total	30,204	0	(30,204)

There was no unforeseen expenditure within the maintained schools in 2023-24 to utilise the contingency budget. The special schools buy-back scheme had a slight underspend, which was utilised to address an adverse balance of the special staff costs.

3.3 Schools de-delegated - Special Staff Costs - £100,419 adverse

There was a £0.100m overspend on Special Staff costs as shown in the table below:

	2023-24 Budget	2023-24 Spend	2023-24 Variation (Favourable)/ Adverse
Maternity, Paternity & Other Staff Costs	661,116	761,535	100,419
TU Facilities	90,319	90,319	0
Insurances & Recharges	6,700	6,700	(0)
Total	758,135	858,554	100,419

The overspend is due to the excess volume of maternity/paternity pay. The pressure on this activity has been reflected in the increased pupil rate in the de-

delegation budget for 2024-25 as agreed at the January 24 meeting. Unclaimed TU facilities days in 2023-24 have been carried forward to 2024-25 to be included in the overall TU days to be allocated.

3.4 Schools de-delegated - Insurances - £17,755 favourable

This budget covers the cost of governors' liability insurance for Voluntary Aided (VA) schools. The claims received from the VA schools in 2023-24 were less than anticipated.

3.5 Schools Block DSG - £227,500 adverse

The adverse variance relates to the following adjustments:

- High Needs Recoupmnt £ 17,500
- High Needs Import Export £210,000

4.0 CENTRAL SCHOOLS SERVICES BLOCK

4.1 Central Schools Services block - £1,051 adverse

Overall, the Central Schools Services Block is overspent by £1k due to a pressure from the pay awards in the Admissions team. This variance was balanced with the favourable variances from the contingency and the Schools Forum budget which has not been utilised. A refund for the business rates re-evaluation was credited to the block in 2023-24.

4.2 Contribution to Combined Budgets – balanced

These contributions support services that would otherwise fall outside of the schools budget. The contributions combine with other council resources for the educational benefit of children.

The £536K 2023-24 budget was utilised across the following areas:

	Budget
	£
School Improvement	201,960
Discretionary Rate Relief Top Up	65,239
LCSB contribution	18,360
Governors Forum	1,362
PFI Support Team	37,822
PFI CLC	41,922
Looked after Children Education Services	85,986
School Intervention	83,232
Total	535,883

5.0 EARLY YEARS BLOCK - £368,353 favourable

5.1 The budget for the Early Years block has been adjusted to reflect the expected grant income to review early years financial performance for the year. The variance for 2023-24 includes £52.1K Disability Access Fund (DAF) underspend as summarised in the table below. Note that the variance is indicative at this time and is subject to confirmation once the final grant allocation for 2023-24 is published.

	2023-24 Grant £	2023-24 Spend £	2023-24 Variation (Favourable)/ Adverse
2 year-olds	2,862,867	2,967,307	104,440
3/4 year-olds (Universal)	11,337,394	11,084,573	(252,821)
3/4 year-olds (Extended)	5,983,219	5,857,462	(125,757)
	20,183,480	19,909,343	(274,139)
Pupil premium	267,037	261,988	(5,049)
Disability Access Fund	149,239	97,108	(52,131)
MNS Protection	489,248	492,298	3,050
Central Costs	571,659	571,659	0
Special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF)	450,000	409,916	(40,084)
Total	22,110,663	21,742,312	(368,353)

5.2 Payments to providers - £274,139 favourable

Payments to providers have resulted in a surplus of £274.1K against anticipated DSG funding. This year's Early Years grant allocation is calculated using the number of hours taken up across 2-year-old and 3 & 4-year-old provision based on January 23 (5 months) and January 24 (7 months) census. 2 year-old payment overspend is due to the total hours of January 24 being lower than actual hours of the Summer and Autumn 23 term.

5.3 Disability Access Fund – £52,131 favourable

There was an underspend on the fund of £52.1K which is mainly due to slippage in spending plans. The fund is ring-fenced to be used on services in line with the principles and aims of DAF, such as training and equipment, it is therefore proposed that the underspent funding is to be used in 2024-25, in addition to the total £162.5K surplus brought forward from 2022-23.

5.4 Early Years Central Budget - balanced

The expenditure of the central budget was in line with this year's budget.

5.5 Special educational needs inclusion fund (SENIF) - £40,084 Favourable

The demand for support for Early Years in 2022-23 was less than anticipated. The total SENIF expenditure in 23-24 was £410K.

6.0 HIGH NEEDS BLOCK

6.1 Special School Places - £714,779 adverse

The 2023-24 budget includes growth of 63 places to be allocated to schools from April 23 and September 23. An additional 179 places in total (37 places from April 23 and 142 places from September 23) have been allocated to the schools resulting £715K overspend.

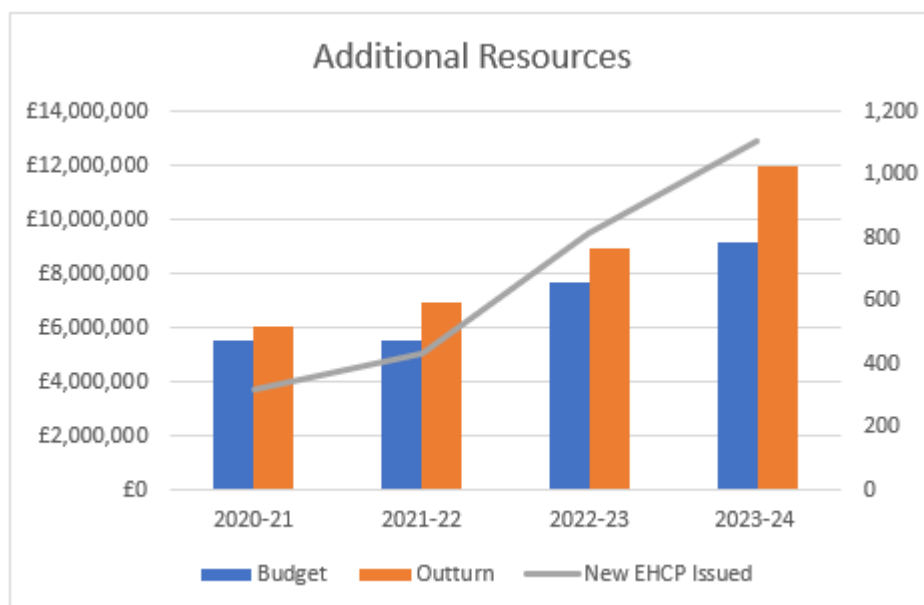
6.2 Special Education Needs Additional Resources (excluding Early Years) - £3,364,034 adverse.

Pressure on this budget has continued throughout the year in line with the requests for Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments resulting in an overspend of £3.364m.

The majority of the overspend relates to:

- Units of Resource – there has been a growth in plans during the year and overspends of £1.247m for Secondary pupils and £1.525m for Primary pupils. This overspend is partly covered by an underspend of £66K for out of borough placements.

The graph is the comparison of the budget, outturn, and numbers of the new EHCP issued /forecasted to be issued.



The table below shows the comparison between Autumn term 22-23 and Autumn term 23-24 for the number of unit of resources provided to pupils in mainstream schools and early years providers.

	Autumn 22	Autumn 23	Increase
	Unit	Unit	%
Primary	4,885	7,939	62.51%
Secondary	3,221	4,919	52.71%

- Personal Budget – the expenditure has continued to increase in 2023-24 resulting £0.753m overspend, £0.693m more spend compared with 2022-23.

6.3 Special Education Needs Top Ups - £1,062,749 Adverse

Although the budget was increased in 2023-24 reflecting the increased demand, the overall position on top-ups was an overspend of £1.063m which is summarised as follows:

	2023-24 Budget £	2023-24 Spend £	2023-24 Variation (Favourable)/ Adverse
Top-Ups for Maintained Special Schoo	10,600,807	10,830,485	229,678
Top-Ups for Resourced Provision	2,197,918	2,129,866	(68,052)
Alternative Provision	1,318,200	1,354,999	36,799
FE & 6th Form Top-Ups	2,510,000	3,195,589	685,589
Additional Nursing Support	160,000	82,912	(77,088)
Exceptional Needs	1,398,600	1,654,422	255,822
Total	18,185,525	19,248,274	1,062,749

The adverse variance is mainly from the overspend in Top-ups for the Special Schools and Further Education which are related to the increased places in 2023-24. The total spends in both areas for 2023-24 was £1.695m more than the spend in 2022-23.

6.4 High Needs Contingency - £367,360 adverse

The overspend is due to the need to respond to the demand for additional places. Additional provision has been generated in the form of temporary place funding and temporary accommodation.

6.5 Independent Special Schools - £2,434,984 adverse

The demand increased throughout the year and the pupil number increased to 226 at the end of the financial year. The budget for 2023-24 was increased reflecting the anticipated increase in the number of pupils and the costs, however the actual level of demand was exceeded than expected. The demand is expected to continue into 2024-25.

6.6 Home Tuition Service - £2,763 favourable

The small underspend is due to a slippage of sessional staff expenditure that occurred during the year.

6.7 Support for SEN - £193,275 adverse

The overspend is mainly due to the pay awards and the additional commissioned service for specialist support.

7.0 UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES

- 7.1 The 2023-24 budget included a planned deficit of £213K in the High Needs Block that was to be carried forward into the reserve at the end of the financial year. The actual pressure on the High Needs Block in the year was more than anticipated and resulted in £8.344m overspend. This has been partly offset by underspend in the Early Years block thus generating a net deficit for the year of 8.226m. This will be added to the DSG reserve resulting in a total deficit of £12.989m to be carried forward into 2024-25.
- 7.2 Whilst the overall DSG reserve to be carried forward to 2024-25 is in deficit by £12.989m, this includes a cumulative surplus of £0.215m in respect of the Early Years Disability Access Fund and the 2023-24 Falling Rolls and Growth Fund £0.018m.
- 7.3 It should be noted, there is a risk that the deficit may have to be included in the Council's overall reserves as the statutory override that separated DSG deficits from the authority's wider finances is due to expire at the end of 2025/26. Local authorities are calling for an extension to the override, however, no announcement has been made from the DfE to date.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 The overspend of £8,226,101 generated in 2023-24 has resulted in an overall DSG reserve deficit of £12,988,739 at 31 March 2024.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Forum notes the report and the financial position of the Schools Budget for 2023-24, subject to confirmation of the final grant allocation for 2023-24.
- 9.2 That, DSG for 2023-24 includes a cumulative surplus of £214,662 of ring-fenced Early Years Disability Access Fund and £17,674 carried forward 2023-24 Falling Rolls and Growth Fund.

Elizabeth Hartley
Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix 1 - Budget Variations 2023-24

	2023-24 Budget £	2023-24 Spend £	2023-24 Variation (Favourable)/ Adverse
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary	94,141,890	94,141,890	0
Secondary	24,026,761	24,026,761	0
Special	14,861,375	15,576,154	714,779
Wirral Hospitals School	1,723,463	1,723,463	0
SEN Bases	1,272,499	1,242,704	(29,795)
Sixth Form/Further Education	146,000	171,692	25,692
Early Years	21,089,004	20,760,736	(328,268)
Growth and Falling Rolls Fund	17,674	0	(17,674)
Individual Schools Budget Total	157,278,667	157,643,402	364,734
Central School Costs			
Early Years Costs	571,659	571,659	0
Admissions	402,604	431,660	29,056
School Redundancy Costs	74,000	84,304	10,304
Licenses and subscriptions	286,976	286,976	0
Schools Forum	10,600	0	(10,600)
Contingency	17,718	-9,992	(27,710)
Contribution to combined budgets	535,883	535,883	0
PFI Affordability Gap	2,589,553	2,589,553	0
Retained duties Central (ex-ESG)	730,000	730,000	0
Costs delegated to/de-delegated from schools			
Library Service	174,693	174,693	0
Insurances	23,677	5,922	(17,755)
School Specific contingencies	30,204	-0	(30,204)
Special Staff Costs	758,135	858,554	100,419
Behaviour Support	139,698	131,286	(8,412)
School Improvement	468,754	468,754	0
Retained duties de-delegated (ex-ESG)	490,436	486,363	(4,073)
High Needs Pupils			
Additional resources	10,802,569	14,126,519	3,323,950
SEN top-ups	18,185,525	19,248,274	1,062,749
High Needs contingency	687,205	1,054,565	367,360
Independent Special Schools	8,795,780	11,230,764	2,434,984
Home Tuition	364,166	361,403	(2,763)
Support for SEN	2,127,816	2,321,092	193,275
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non-delegated school costs Total	48,325,851	55,746,432	7,420,580
Total Costs	205,604,519	213,389,833	7,785,315
Funding			
Dedicated School Grant	(202,801,680)	(202,574,180)	227,500
Total before Movement in DSG Reserve	2,802,838	10,815,653	8,012,815
Contribution to/-from DSG Reserve	(213,286)	(8,226,101)	(8,012,815)
Grand Total	2,589,553	2,589,553	0

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 9th July 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

SCHOOLS 2024-25 BUDGET UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Schools Budget for 2024-25 for changes that have been made since it was reported to Schools Forum on 16th January 2024.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Schools Budget for 2024-25 covers Early Years, Maintained Schools, Academies, colleges, and providers and reflects the following views and formula proposals agreed at the January 2024 meeting:

- A Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0.5% for Wirral mainstream schools
- The Contributions to Combined Budgets reduced by 20% to £428,708.
- The deficit of High Needs funding of £10,916,561 is transferred to the DSG reserve.
- Headroom in schools funding after applying the National Funding Formula (NFF) to be transferred to a falling rolls/growth fund.

The Schools Budget for 2024-25 was agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 13th February 2024 and by Council at its meeting of 26th February 2024.

2.2 DSG Reserve

The 2024-25 budget reflects an in-year deficit of £10,916,561 to be added to the High Needs deficit. The actual deficit brought forward at 31 March 2023 is £12,988,739 and this means that the DSG deficit reserve will be increased and around £23,905,300 at the end of 2024-25.

3.0 BUDGET CHANGES

- 3.1 The following changes have been made to the budget since that presented at the 16th January 2024 meeting of the Forum:

- Primary and Secondary Budget have been adjusted based on the individual schools funding allocation and for the business rates.
- Academy recoupment – this change has reduced both the Individual Schools Budget and Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) by £147,680,931. This includes two primary schools which converted in April and May 24.

- De-delegation – this change has transferred funding of £1,826,336 from Individual School Budgets to the de-delegated block.
- Falling rolls/growth fund – headroom of £168,660 has been identified following the application of the NFF. This amount is added to £17,674 which has been brought forward from 2023-24 as agreed at November 23 schools forum meeting.
- The DSG allocation for the Early Years block has been updated with the January 24 census and the budget is split into Individual Schools Budget and Central Schools Cost
- The DfE has confirmed the 24-25 license costs and the Licenses and Subscription line has been amended from £301,325 to £305,605 by reducing the contingency budget by £4,280.
- £0.5m budget is transferred from the independent special schools budget to the special schools budget to reflect the increases in the special schools place numbers as agreed March 24 Schools Forum meeting.

The table attached in Appendix 1 compares the original and revised 2024-25 budgets.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That the Schools Forum note this report.

Elizabeth Hartley

Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix 1 - Schools Budget 2024-25

	2024-25 Proposed Budget - January 2024	2024-25 Revised Budget - Jul 24
	£	£
Individual Schools Budget		
Primary	127,789,603	89,802,365
Secondary	134,707,578	25,404,554
Special	16,535,978	16,909,452
Wirral Hospitals School	1,872,428	1,867,228
SEN Bases	2,386,500	1,562,833
Sixth Form/Further Education	1,701,000	169,000
Early Years	0	36,137,235
Growth and Falling Rolls Fund	17,674	186,334
Individual Schools Budget Total	285,010,761	172,039,001
Central School Costs		
Early Years	36,182,760	830,000
Admissions	420,731	420,731
School Redundancy Costs	72,000	72,000
Licenses and subscriptions	301,325	305,605
Schools Forum	0	0
Contingency	51,198	46,918
Contribution to combined budgets	428,708	428,708
PFI Affordability Gap	2,589,553	2,589,553
Retained duties (ex-ESG)	747,700	747,700
Costs delegated to/de-delegated from schools		
Library Service	0	153,493
Insurances	0	12,063
School Specific contingencies	0	27,536
Special Staff Costs	0	709,698
Behaviour Support	0	135,006
School Improvement	0	426,901
Retained duties (ex-ESG)	0	493,367
High Needs Pupils		
Statements	14,680,084	14,680,084
SEN top-ups	21,523,882	21,523,882
High Needs contingency	687,205	687,205
Independent Special Schools	13,055,645	12,525,645
Home Tuition	364,166	364,166
Support for SEN	2,377,817	2,377,817
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200
Non-school and school delegated Total	93,540,974	59,616,278
Total Costs	378,551,735	231,655,279
Funding		
Dedicated School Grant	(365,045,621)	(218,149,165)
Contribution to DSG Reserve (High Needs)	(10,916,561)	(10,916,561)
Funding Total	(375,962,182)	(229,065,726)
Grand Total	2,589,553	2,589,553

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 9th July 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Delegated School Balances as at 31st March 2024 and Deficit Budgets Review

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises the Forum of the level of school balances as at 31st March 2024, the decrease in balances and actions required for schools with a deficit budget.

1. School Balances

School balances at 31st March 2024 have reduced to £10.5m. This is a reduction of £2.4m after the 2022-23 balance has been adjusted for 9 academy conversions during the 2023-24 financial year.

School Phase (no of schools)	31.3.2023 Balances £	31.3.2024 Balances £	Difference £	Change
Nursery (3)	132,411	-94,958	-227,370	Decrease
Primary (65)	9,595,668	9,822,473	226,805	Increase
Secondary (4)	2,123,946	2,080,587	-43,359	Decrease
Special (11)	1,008,493	-1,317,203	-2,325,696	Decrease
Total (83)	12,860,518	10,490,899	-2,369,620	Decrease
Academy Conversions (9)	656,219			
Total	13,516,737			

The average balance for a primary school has increased to £151,116 compared to £138,539 in 2022-23. The overall secondary school balance has reduced slightly, but all 4 secondary schools ended the year with a credit balance.

The LA received a one-off grant for Financial Support for Local Authorities supporting maintained schools in financial difficulty totalling £296k. It was allocated to a number of schools based on the DfE guidance that stated the funding is allocated on a case-by-case bases, taking into account the severity of the school's position and prioritising those in greatest need.

2. Deficit Budgets

There are 17 schools that have ended the financial year with a deficit balance (compared to 14 in 2022-23, adjusting for academy conversions during the year). The overall value of the deficits has increased by £1.1m to £3.6m.

- There is 1 Nursery School in deficit as at 31st March 2024
 - One further nursery is likely to set a deficit budget for 2024-25

- The LA are working with them both to reduce their costs.
- There are 11 Primary Schools in deficit at 31st March 2024
 - 2 schools that had deficits in 2022-23 have moved into a credit position by 31 March 24.
 - There are 4 schools who have moved into a deficit position during the financial year.
 - There are 2 schools that have set a balanced budget for 2024-25
 - There are 2 schools that had credit balances that are setting a deficit budget for 2024-25
- All secondary schools finished the year in credit.
- There are 5 special schools with deficit budgets as at 31st March 2024
 - 3 of which have a continuing notice of concern.
 - 1 has been able to set a balance budget for 2024-25
 - There are a further 3 schools that cannot set a balanced budget for 2024-25 and will become a Notice of Concern. The LA are working with them to reduce costs.

3. **Monitoring School Balances and Projections**

Projections in future years continue to be cautious due to lack of information concerning funding increases from the DfE at the time of budget setting. Where schools are using their carry forward to set their budget and they have a significant in year deficit going forward schools are advised to review their spending going forward. The outcomes are generally better than budgeted as schools are asked to consider a number of areas to review such as:-

- The size of the in-year deficits in future years
- Pupil numbers, taking account of class sizes and falling rolls
- Agency supply costs
- Amount of non-teaching time
- Controllable non-staffing costs

4. **Action Taken to Date**

- There have already been meetings with some schools and governors to review and consider the financial position going forward, with more planned.
- Where schools are reviewing staffing levels this is, in a number of cases, leading to reduction of fixed term staff or even the consideration of redundancies.
- LMS and HR continue to work with schools to balance budgets and plan any reduction in staff numbers or hours.
- LMS Bursars through the Financial Support SLA are working with Headteachers and governors to provide more detailed projections, particularly where schools have falling rolls.

5. Future Action

- Ensure schools who cannot set a balanced budget agree a licenced deficit plan with the LA before Governors sign off the budget. Schools will be required to demonstrate how the budget will come back into balance within 3 years (4 years in exceptional circumstances).
- Where agreement cannot be reached a Notice of Concern will be issued, requiring an immediate action plan to be agreed by governors.
- Review Schools projections completed as part of the budget setting process. Contact schools who are likely to move into a deficit position in 2024-25 and discuss any remedial actions to prevent this from happening.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Forum notes the report.
2. That schools' balances continue to be monitored.

Elizabeth Hartley
Director of Children, Families and Education

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 9th July 2024

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Forum Membership Review

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report describes the current representation of the Forum and membership changes.

1.2 Current Representation

The table below details the current makeup of the Wirral Schools' Forum representation and when the terms of office are due to expire.

Total Membership	Role	2020-2024	2021-2025	2022-2026	2023-2027	2024-2028	Total
5	Primary Headteachers		2	1	2		5
3	Primary Governors		2	1			3
1	Secondary Headteachers	1					1
1	Secondary Representative						0
1	Special Headteacher				1		1
1	Special Governors				1		1
1	Nursery Representative			1			1
13	Total Schools Membership						12
9	Academy Representative		2		3	1	6
9	Total Academy Membership						6
1	Non-teacher representative		1				1
1	Teacher representative				1		1
1	Catholic Diocese		1				1
1	Church of England Diocese		1				1
1	16-19 representative						0
3	PVI Early Years Providers					2	2
8	Total Non-Schools Membership						6
30	Total Membership	1	9	3	8	3	24

1.4 There are currently 6 vacancies.

- There is 1 x 16-19 provider vacancy. No nominations have been received
- There is 1 x Secondary Representative. Expressions of interest will be sent out shortly to fill this position.
- There is 1x PVI Representative vacancy. No nominations have been received
- There are 3 x academy representative vacancies. One expression of interest received but as schools converting to academies in the next few months these are expected to be filled.

1.5 New Members

There has been **one** new member since the March report:

Jane Whisker, head of school of Hilbre High school as the Academy Representative

Appendix 1 identifies all current members and their role on School's Forum.

1.6 Membership Changes

Regulations governing the forum requires school/academy membership to take account of pupil weighting.

Current		Pupil no's Oct 23 Census	Expected	
8	Primary	20,489	42.6%	8.1
2	Secondary	3,841	8.0%	1.5
9	Academy	23,045	47.9%	9.1
19.0		48,080	100.0%	19.0

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Forum notes the report.

Simone White
Director of Children, Families and Education

Appendix 1

Group	Name	Category of Membership	School/Establishment	Term of Office	
Schools	Lorraine Prescott	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead S)	St Anne's Catholic	Oct-23	Sep-27
Schools	Sue Ralph	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead N)	St Michael & All Angels	Sep-21	Aug-25
Schools	John McDonald	Primary Headteacher (Wallasey)	St Albans Primary	Sep-21	Aug-25
Schools	Kate Ball	Primary Headteacher	Brookdale	Sep-23	Aug-27
Schools	Chris Mervyn	Primary Headteacher (Beb/Brom)	Brackenwood Infants	May-22	Apr-26
Schools	Charlotte Scott	Primary Governor	St Georges Primary	Aug-21	Jul-25
Schools	Shaun Allen	Primary Governor	Raeburn Avenue	Nov-22	Oct-26
Schools	Julie Merry	Primary Governor	Overchurch Infants/Cathcart	Jan-21	Dec-24
Schools	Simon Goodwin	Secondary Headteacher	South Wirral High	Sep-20	Aug-24
Schools	Vacancy	Secondary Representative			
Schools	Holly Barker	Special Headteacher	Stanley School	Sep-23	Aug-27
Schools	Paula Wareing	Special Governor	Meadowside School	Feb-23	Jan-27
Schools	Kathryn Kennedy	Nursery Representative	Ganneys Meadow	Mar-22	Feb-26
Academy	Moira Loftus	Academy Rep (Vice-Chair)	Townfield Primary	Jun-21	May-25
Academy	Adrian Whiteley	Academy Rep (Chair)	St Anselms	Sep-23	Aug-24
Academy	Jane Whisker	Academy Rep	Hilbre High School	Jul-24	Jun-28
Academy	Emma Ball	Academy Rep	Greasby Junior	Jan-23	Dec-27
Academy	Mark Bellamy	Academy Rep	Hilbre High School	Sep-21	Aug-25
Academy	Luci Jones	Academy Rep	Cheshire Academies Trust (Ga	Sep-23	Aug-27
Academy	Vacancy	Academy Rep			
Academy	Vacancy	Academy Rep			
Academy	Vacancy	Academy Rep			
Non-Schools	Kate Williams	Non-teacher representative	Wirral Unison	Dec-23	Nov-27
Non-Schools	Michael Farrelly	Teacher representative	NEU	Sep-23	Aug-27
Non-Schools	Joanne Proctor	Catholic Diocese	Christ the King	Sep-21	Aug-25
Non-Schools	Brian McGregor	Church of England Diocese	Woochurch CE Primary	Sep-21	Aug-25
Non-Schools	Vacancy	16-19 Provider			
Non-Schools	Nicky Prance	PVI Early Years Providers	Barnston Buddies	Mar-24	Feb-28
Non-Schools	Simon Davies	PVI Early Years Providers	Penguins Nurseries	Mar-24	Feb-28
Non-Schools	Vacancy	PVI Early Years Providers			

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WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 2024/25 WORK PLAN

Meeting Date	Tuesday 24th September 2024	Tuesday 19th November 2024	Tuesday 14th January 2025	March 18th 2025 Provisional meeting	Tuesday 10th June 2025
Virtual / Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical	Physical
	Elect chair & vice chair				
Budget	Budget monitoring 2024-25 Growth & Falling Rolls Fund		Budget Monitoring 24-25 Q3 Schools Budget 25-26 De-delegation of budgets School Balances update		Provisional outturn 2024-25 Schools Budget 2025-26 School Balances update
Consultation	2025-26 National Funding Formula for Schools, High Needs and Early Years funding arrangements if new info out	National Funding Formula Update for 2025-26			
DfE Regs & guidelines	Schools Forum Membership If updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfE Operational Guide School Finance Regs Scheme for Financing Schools 	Schools Forum Membership If updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfE Operational Guide School Finance Regs Scheme for Financing Schools	Schools Forum Membership If updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfE Operational Guide School Finance Regs Scheme for Financing Schools	Schools Forum Membership If updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfE Operational Guide School Finance Regs Scheme for Financing Schools 	Schools Forum Membership If updated <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DfE Operational Guide School Finance Regs Scheme for Financing Schools
Working Groups	High Needs Early Years	High Needs			High Needs Early Years
Other	School Admissions LACES and LAC Pupil Premium Wirral Traded Services Update Delivering Better Value Special School Places Higher Needs Funding Model Review report	De-delegated services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contingency, Special Staff Costs, Insurance Library Service School Improvement Behaviour Support Edsential Update Delivering Better Value Update	Sensory Support Service Update Energy update Wirral Alternative Provision Update Delivering Better Value Update		LACES /LAC PP Update Home Continuing and Education Service (HCES) update Delivering Better Value Report Agree Meeting dates

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