



Wirral Schools Forum

Date:	Wednesday, 10 April 2013
Time:	4.30 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1

Contact Officer: Sue Ashley
Tel: 0151 666 4579
e-mail: SueAshley@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

- 1. 4.30PM - 5.30PM TRAINING SESSION FOR NEW MEMBERS**

SEN funding

Please Note: This training session is open to all members

Schools Forum Meeting to start at 6pm.
- 2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23RD JANUARY 2013 (Pages 1 - 6)**
- 3. MATTERS ARISING**
- 4. ADJUSTED DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2013-14 (Pages 7 - 8)**
- 5. EARLY YEARS CENSUS JANUARY 2013 (Pages 9 - 10)**
- 6. SCHOOLS BUDGET 2013-14 UPDATE (Pages 11 - 14)**
- 7. SCHOOL'S FUNDING FORMULA (Pages 15 - 30)**
- 8. SEN FORMULA FUNDING**

Verbal Report
- 9. EARLY YEARS CONSULTATION AND FORMULA (Pages 31 - 34)**
- 10. AST SALARY SAFEGUARDING (Pages 35 - 36)**

11. TRADED SERVICES UPDATE

Verbal Report

12. CITY LEARNING CENTRES (Pages 37 - 40)

**13. DRAFT CONSULTATION FOR HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT
(Pages 41 - 58)**

**14. SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS - PROPOSED CHANGES
(Pages 59 - 62)**

15. FORUM MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (Pages 63 - 64)

16. WORK PLAN (Pages 65 - 66)

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

23rd January 2013

MINUTES

Present:

R Longster (Chair)

Schools Group

S Allen	M Kophamel
M Brown	A Moore
E Cogan	S Peach
B Cummings	C Penn
P Dixon	K Podmore
C Hughes	G Pritchard
L Ireland	M Walker
B Jordon	J Weise
D Kitchin	G Zsapka

Non-Schools Group

S Davies	D McDonald
S Higginson	B McGregor (training only)
J Kenny	N Reilly

In Attendance:

D Armstrong	S Dainty
P Ashcroft	J Hassall
S Ashley	C Kerr
J Bevan	M Lightburn
S Blevins	A Roberts
C Chow	Cllr. P A Smith
Cllr. W Clements	S Talbot

Apologies:

K Frost	S McNamara
J Gordon	J Owens

- 1. Training session**
Andrew Roberts held a training session on the Schools Budget and Formula Funding before the main meeting.
- 2. Minutes from the Meeting Held on 25th September 2013**
The minutes from the meeting were accepted as a true record.
- 3. Minutes from the Meeting Held on 28th November 2013**
The minutes from the meeting were accepted as a true record after the following amendment was made to the PFI affordability Gap savings proposal:-
The Forum noted that the PFI contract was with the LA and not the schools, therefore it would be wrong to transfer the costs to the schools.

4. Matters Arising

There was one matter arising on the minutes of the 28th November 2012 concerning the PFI Contract. It was brought to the Forums attention that the DfE will not make any contribution to the affordability gap and PFI schools are only liable for the charges as specified in the academy transfer document.

5. School Budget Report

Andrew Roberts outlined the Schools Budget for 2013-14 as follows:-

- The Dedicated Schools Grant continues to be on a spend plus basis, but will be split into 4 blocks in future:-
 - Schools block
 - High Needs
 - Early Years
 - Other
- Pupil Premium will increase to £900 for each child that has been eligible for free school meals at any point in the last 6 years.
- The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) rate remains at -1.5%
- There is a statutory requirement for Early Years 2 year education from September 2015, It is expected that 20% of children will be eligible.
- SEN top ups for 2013-14 are in excess on £16.6m. This includes provision for further education, 6th Form College and other providers
- The cost of School Milk and Advanced Skills Teachers, which were originally central costs have been delegated to schools.
- It is proposed that DSG will fund a further £250,000 for Planned and Preventative Maintenance. This reflects the council decision concerning savings options.
- The regulations governing the contribution to combined budgets have changed so that no new commitments or increases in expenditure can occur. There are a number of areas still covered at a total cost of £2,499,600
- An amount of headroom of £333k is available within the budget.
- The PFI Affordability gap continues to be funded by the LA
- An Academy representative commented that academies were paying back the admissions element from their LACSEG, but they could be paying more than allocated. David Armstrong confirmed there were significant costs in this area and would consider how these could be reduced.

Resolved

- Comments were accepted by the Forum.
- The Contribution to the combined budget was agreed
- Forum agreed to fund a further £250,000 of PPM from the Schools Budget.
- Forum agreed the use of headroom totalling £333,400 for schools and to hold a High Needs contingency of £880,200.
- The Schools Budget and the views of the schools forum to be referred to the budget meeting of Cabinet on 18th February 2013.

6. De-delegation of Schools Budgets

Andrew Roberts identified the areas of the funding formula that the DfE requires to be delegated from April 2013. The Schools Forum members, in their relevant phase, can decide if these areas should be de-delegated and taken out of the formula budget before it is allocated to schools.

Resolved

1. The Primary Forum Representatives agreed, unanimously, to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2013-14:-
 - Contingency
 - Special Staff Costs
 - School Library Service
 - Insurance
 - MEAS
 - FSM eligibility
 - Behaviour support

2. The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2013-14:-
 - Contingency
 - Special Staff Costs
 - FSM eligibilityThe Secondary Forum Representatives did not agree to de-delegate the following budgets for the financial year 2013-14:-
 - Insurance
 - MEAS

3. The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate Behaviour Support for 2013-14 subject to this not being repeated in the future.

7. Advanced Skills Teachers

Andrew Roberts briefed the proposal to retain the AST Service until the end of the academic year 2012-13 using the budget underspend from the 2012-13 financial year. The AST funding has been delegated to schools for 2013-14.

Resolved

The Forum agreed the use of the underspend to retain the AST Service until August 2013.

A member of the Forum raised the issue of 3 year ASTs salary protection. His view was that this was an LA cost since some posts were appointed by the LA to provide outreach to other schools. Andrew Roberts confirmed that there is no financial provision going forward.

8. Pupil Premium

Sue Ashley identified the changes to Pupil Premium in 2012-13. FSM and LAC PP increased in year to £623, Service Children change to “ever 2”, Summer School funding and Year 7 catch up were introduced.

In 2013-14 FSM “ever 6” and LAC Pupil Premium will increase to £900, Service children will move to “ever 3”. The total Pupil Premium for Wirral is estimated at £13,181,100.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

9. Funding Formula Template

Andrew Roberts provided Forum with a summary of Wirral's School Funding Formula submitted to the EFA on 22nd January 2013. The appendices identified the differences between the October and January submissions.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

10 Delegation and Changes to School Milk Arrangements

Steve Dainty briefed the Forum on the changes to the milk arrangements from April 2013 as the funding will be delegated to schools. The options available for a buyback service with the LA continuing to provide a service or to hand the administration to a company called Cool Milk who can offer schools support at no cost.

Resolved

Forum agreed for a paper to be presented to Cabinet recommending the appointment of Cool Milk.

Forum agreed to inform schools of the options available to them

11. Reform of Funding for Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Paul Ashcroft updated Forum on the progress made on the reform of High Needs funding so far. Detailed consultations have been held with all schools and academies and since September the following progress has been made:-

- The LA has worked with the DfE concerning the number of pupils affected.
- Draft budgets have been discussed with Special School Headteachers.
- The delegated amount for statements will increase to £6,000, which will reduce the unit value of support exceeding £6,000.
- An SEN steering group has been set up to assist the review.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

12. Early Years Census Error

The letter from the Chair of the Forum to the DfE and the response received was reported for information and noted.

13. Schools Budget Monitoring Report

Andrew Roberts highlighted the underspends in the centrally held schools budgets for 2012-13. The underspend identified will offset the grant reduction arising from Early Years Census error.

Resolved

The Forum noted the report.

14. Early Years Update

Andrew Roberts updated the Forum on the Early Years Single Funding Formulas follows:-

- There is a significant increase of funding for disadvantaged 2 year olds, early years provision.
- There will be a further increase in 2014-15.
- The suggested hourly rate to pay providers is and equates to the rate used in 2012-13.
- In line with decisions the nursery school grant element should be removed from the EYSFF and replaced by an increased lump sum.
- Protection for Nursery schools should be maintained at 85% of their 2010-11 budget.

Resolved

- Forum agreed that 2 year old funding should be set at £4.85
- Forum agreed to change the grant element of the EYSFF formula to a lump sum element.
- Forum agreed to maintain the protection for nursery schools at 85% of their 2010-11 budgets.
- The Forum working group will review the EYSFF and report at a future meeting.

15. Forum Working Group Updates

Steve Dainty reported that the Traded Services Working Party is reviewing SLAs prior to the current 3 year contract period ending in March 2014. Currently both parties can give one terms notice to end a contract. Steve explained that a number of services are considering offering their service under the EQ umbrella, as additional services, whilst taking the opportunity to adopt the good practices they have in place.

16. Harmonisation and Job Evaluation Update

All support staff in schools have now received a letter concerning the changes to terms and conditions as part of the LAs budget savings options. The main changes affecting schools are to the overtime rates which may affect caretakers. The Job Evaluation for support staff on point 34 and above has been paused and is being considered as part of the council's budget for 2013-14.

4. Workplan

The dates of future meetings were noted:-

Wednesday 10th April 2013

Wednesday 3rd July 2013

Wednesday 2nd October 2013

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

10 APRIL 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DEDICATED SCHOOLS GRANT 2013

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates members on the latest Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) allocations which were issued by the DFE on 25 March 2013. The revised DSG for Wirral is £175,570,000. The Schools Budget will be adjusted to take this into account and is reported in detail elsewhere on this agenda.

2.0 BASE DSG ALLOCATION 2013/14

The DSG allocation for Wirral was issued in December 2012 and totalled £234,136,000. This was made up as follows:

	Pupils	Funding £ Per pupil	Allocation £
Schools Block	41,345	4,547.11	187,991,000
Early Years Block	2,905	3,816.57	11,087,000
High Needs Block			31,773,000
Other:			
2 year old funding			3,222,000
NQT Induction			63,000
			<u>234,136,000</u>

3.0 DSG ADJUSTMENTS

A number of adjustments have now been made to Wirral DSG allocation. These are described below:

Academies

Following the submission to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) of the Funding Formula Template school budgets have been agreed for the 13 secondary academies funded from this allocation. These budgets total £57,592,000. This is deducted from the Schools Block allocation above. Any future academy conversions will result in further adjustments to this area.

Early Years

The baseline pupils have increased from 2,905 to 2,920 an increase in grant of £57,000. 3 and 4 year old pupil numbers have been increased by the number of children attending nursery provision at Birkenhead High School for Girls.

High Needs Block

The make up of this block is complex. It includes funding for special schools, school bases, independent non maintained schools, WASP, the hospital school and post 16 specialist and LLDD provision. Adjustments have been made in respect of funding for:

- An increase in the number of pre16 school base places at Wallasey and Bebington High School with additional funding of £105,000.
- An increase in the funding for Wirral Hospital School. This removes the need to charge or recoup costs from schools (either in or out of borough) for the placement of dual roll pupils in year £237,000.
- The transfer of place funding for resourced base provision at academies. This is set at £10,000 per place and is an overall reduction of £937,000. These amounts will be paid to academies by the EFA.
- The transfer of funding for places at Non Maintained Special Schools. These amounts are also paid to providers by the EFA at £10,000 per place. This is a reduction of £550,000.

Other

An allocation of grant funding previously paid directly to non maintained special schools of £114,000.

Revised DSG

	2013/14 Base Allocation £	Adjustment £	2013/14 Revised Allocation £
Early Years	11,087,000	Additional Pupils 57,000	11,144,000
Schools Block	187,991,000	Academy Adj.(57,592,000)	130,399,000
High Needs	31,773,000	Hospital School 237,000	30,628,000
		Bases Growth 105,000	
		Academy bases (937,000)	
		NMSS places (550,000)	
Other	3,285,000	NMSS Grants 114,000	3,399,000
Total	<u>234,136,000</u>		<u>175,570,000</u>

Future Adjustments

Wirral's DSG will not be finalised for some time. This is because the funding for Early Years is based on a combination of the January 2013 and January 2014 data.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Schools Budget is adjusted in the light of the above changes to DSG.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 10th APRIL 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

EARLY YEARS CENSUS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report briefly sets out the submission to the DfE of the Early Years Census for January 2013.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Previous reports to the Forum have set out the background and outcome of an error in the submission of Early Years data to the DfE in 2012 resulting in a loss of grant of £1.4m.

This report summarises the pupil information included in the 2013 data submission.

	Jan 2012 Census (Pupil FTE)	Adjusted Jan 2012 (Pupil FTE)	Jan 2013 (Pupil FTE)
Schools (nursery class)	1,062	1,078	1,069
PVI5	1,376	1,842	1,867
	<u>2,438</u>	<u>2,920</u>	<u>2,936</u>

The Early Years budget for 2013/14 has been based on 2,905 pupils and grant of £11,087,000. The January 2013 census indicates a slight increase in numbers. The final calculation of funding in this area will take account of both the January 2013 and 2014 census returns. Any final increase in DSG arising from this will offset the resulting increased payment to providers.

3.0 DATA CHECKS

As part of the preparation for the 2013 Early Years Census a number of additional checks have been built into the system prior to returning information to the DfE. This has included:

- Comparisons between eligible children both before and after pupil data is uploaded.
- A comparison of PVI hours claimed in 2013 compared with 2012 and explanations sought for any significant variances.
- A review and update of systems procedure notes.
- A planned review of the Early Years Census by Internal Audit.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Schools Forum note the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 10th April 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Schools Budget Update 2013-14

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates the Schools Budget for changes that have been made since it was reported to Cabinet following the Forum's meeting on 23rd January 2013.

The overall Schools Budget has reduced to £178,164,600

BUDGET CHANGES

Dedicated Schools Grant £175.6m

The main changes in this area are those resulting from Academies. Overall DSG for Wirral's Maintained schools will reduce from £234.1m to £175.6m.

Secondary School Budget

This was previously reported as £89.6m, including the budgets for 13 academy schools. Academy budgets are paid directly by the EFA. The Secondary School Budget has reduced by £57.6m

SEN Bases

Growth of £0.1m has been included for additional pre 16 places at resourced base provision at Wallasey and Bebington High Schools.

The place element for bases at academies will in future be paid by the EFA. An adjustment whereby DSG is reduced by £0.9m is proposed. There may however be some adjustment to this sum if current local arrangements continue to August.

Wirral Hospital School

Additional funding received for dual roll pupils £237,000

Early Years

Changes in 3 and 4 year old numbers and costs following the inclusion within this budget of nursery provision at Birkenhead Girls High School £57,000

Independent Special School Fees

Place funding for Non Maintained Special Schools will transfer to the EFA from April. The amount is £550,000 (55 places at £10,000).

There is a remaining budget for 6th form independent school places to cover the period until July (of £60,000) and £160,000 which will be transferred in to the School Top Up budget.

SEN Top Ups

This will be increased for the above and for a share of a DfE budget that previously gave grant funding directly to Independent Schools. The amount is £114,000. It is anticipated schools will be paid this funding through increased Top Ups.

De-Delegation

At the last meeting the Forum agreed to de-delegate a number of specific areas from school budgets (eg. Contingency and maternity). School Budgets have been reduced, primary £1.1m and Secondary £0.2m as a result.

6th Form Funding

Funding allocations for maintained 6th Forms in Secondary and Special schools were confirmed at the end of March.

Allocations for Secondary Schools total £5.8m (compared to £6.0m in 2012-13). Special School allocations for 3 schools total £0.8m for a part year (from August 2013)

PFI Affordability Gap

This Council funded budget has been increased by £73,600 as a result of the actual contract inflation rate for December 2012 (3.1%) being higher than anticipated in the original budget.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Forum note the report

Julia Hassall

Director of Children's Services

EDUCATION - SCHOOLS

	Base Estimate 2013/14	Adjustment	Revised Estimate 2013/14
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary Schools	93,001,100	-1,133,200	91,867,900
Secondary Schools	89,584,700	-57,793,100	31,791,600
Special Schools	8,776,400		8,776,400
SEN Bases	2,768,000	-832,000	1,936,000
WASP	640,000		640,000
Wirral Hospital School	1,097,000	237,000	1,334,000
Early Years	13,396,600	57,000	13,453,600
Individual Schools Budget Total	209,263,800	-59,464,300	149,799,500
Central School Costs			
Early Years	567,600		567,600
Admissions	456,000		456,000
School closure / retirement costs	326,000		326,000
Licences & Subscriptions	101,300		101,300
Carbon Reduction	260,300		260,300
Schools Forum	10,600		10,600
School Harmonisation Costs	450,000		450,000
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,499,600		2,499,600
PPM	649,000		649,000
PFI affordability gap	2,321,800	73,600	2,395,400
Costs delegated to schools			
Library Service		198,400	198,400
Insurances		55,200	55,200
M E A S		253,800	253,800
School Specific Contingencies		109,700	109,700
Special Staff Costs		606,900	606,900
Behaviour Support		96,600	96,600
Free School Meals Eligibility		13,900	13,900
High Needs Pupils			
SEN top Ups	11,714,500	274,000	11,988,500
Statements	4,915,400		4,915,400
Support For SEN	2,292,700		2,292,700
Indep Special School Fees	770,000	-710,000	60,000
Special School Transport	58,200		58,200
Non Delegated School Costs Total	27,393,000	972,100	28,365,100
Dedicated Schools Grant Total	-234,136,000	58,566,000	-175,570,000
Grand Total	2,520,800	73,800	2,594,600

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM - 10th APRIL 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DfE REVIEW OF SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides details of the Wirral School Funding Formula compared to other local authorities for 2013/14 and a consultation by the DfE on funding options for 2014-15.

BACKGROUND

The DfE paper, 'Review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements' analyses all school funding formula submissions from October to give a fuller picture of how school funding is being distributed across the country. The purpose of this is to see if local authorities are moving towards a more consistent pupil-led funding system, following the changes all authorities were required to make after 2012-13.

Appendix 1 attached to this report shows how elements within Wirral's formula compare with other authorities across the country.

COMPARISONS

The reforms to school funding have moved a greater proportion of resources into pupil-led elements. Our current formula shows that 93% of funding is allocated through a combination of pupil-led factors, which is consistent with about half of the local authorities across the country and significantly in excess of earlier DfE targets of 80% - 85%.

Pupil entitlement (AWPU) at £2,790 for Primary and £3,892 for Secondary also fall in line with most authorities.

Generally it appears that Wirral's distribution of the Schools Block follows the general trend of other local authorities. This is also the case when compared to other local authorities in the North West.

The charts overleaf give a breakdown of how much is allocated to each element in Wirral's formula.

CONSULTATION

The review paper is also a brief consultation in advance of any further changes that may be introduced to the school funding formula in 2014-15.

The paper asks questions about:

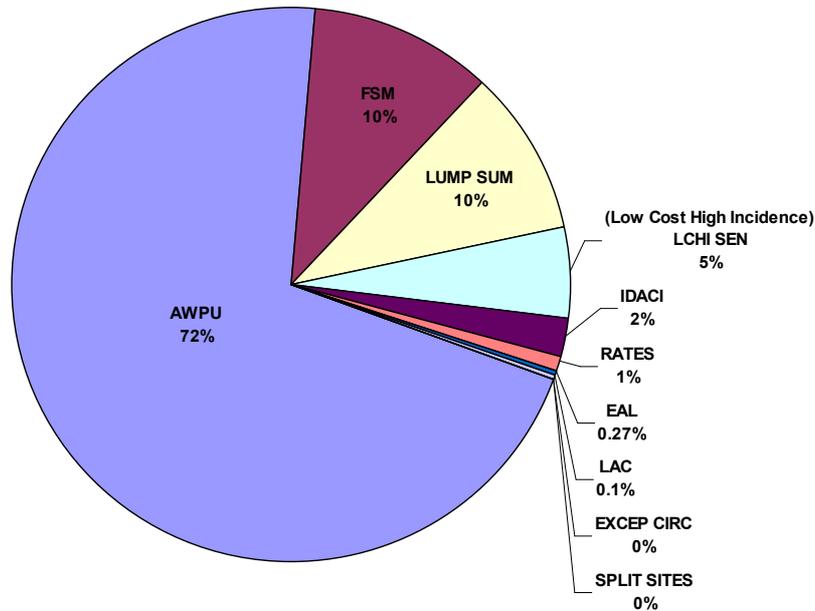
- Prior attainment indicators and continuing to use the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP).
- Pupil Mobility which is not a factor in Wirral's formula
- Lump Sums, using a separate lump sum for primary and secondary schools and re-considering the cap of £200,000.
- Sparsity measures mainly for Shire Authorities
- A formula factor linked to indicators showing pupils in receipt of SEN top up funding.

- A requirement for all authorities and schools to set the notional SEN budget at £6,000.

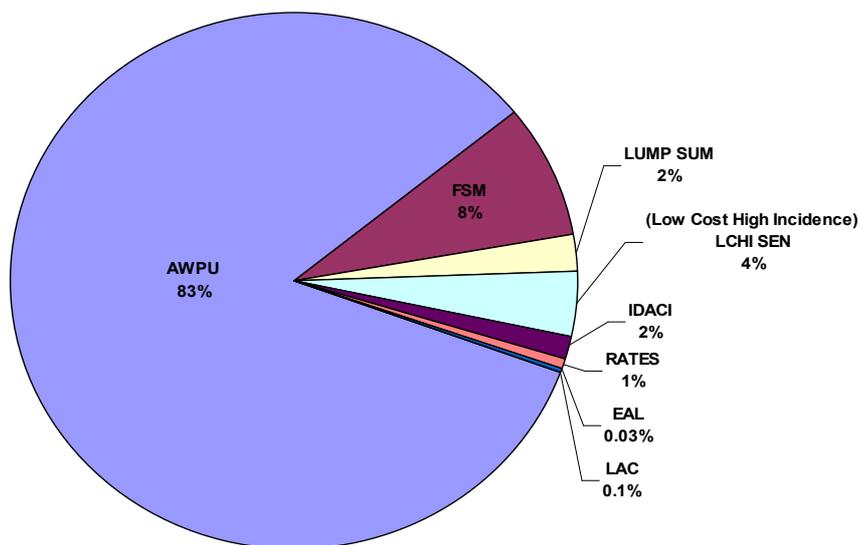
The response to the consultation is included in Appendix 2.

Wirral Schools Funding Formula elements

Primary £93.2m



Secondary £89.6m



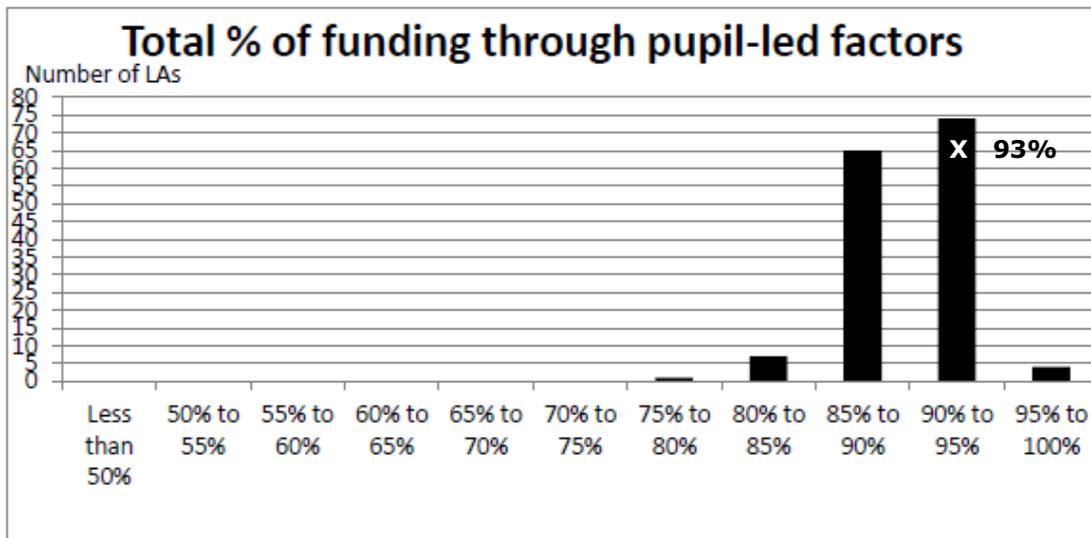
RECOMMENDATION

Schools Forum note the contents of the report.

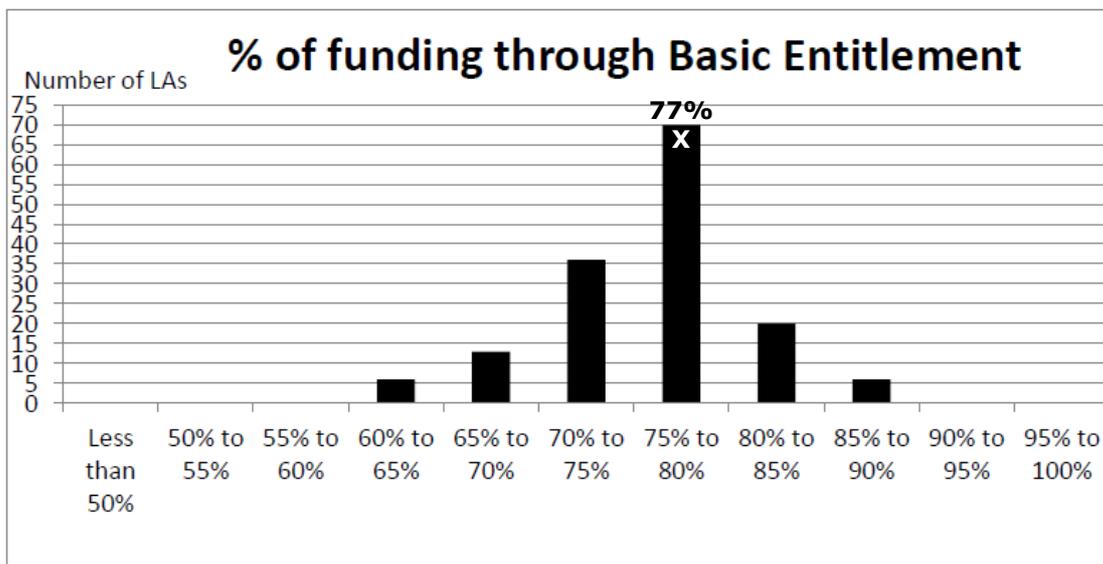
Julia Hassall
 Director of Children's Services

Comparison of Wirral's School Funding Formula with other local authorities Appendix 1

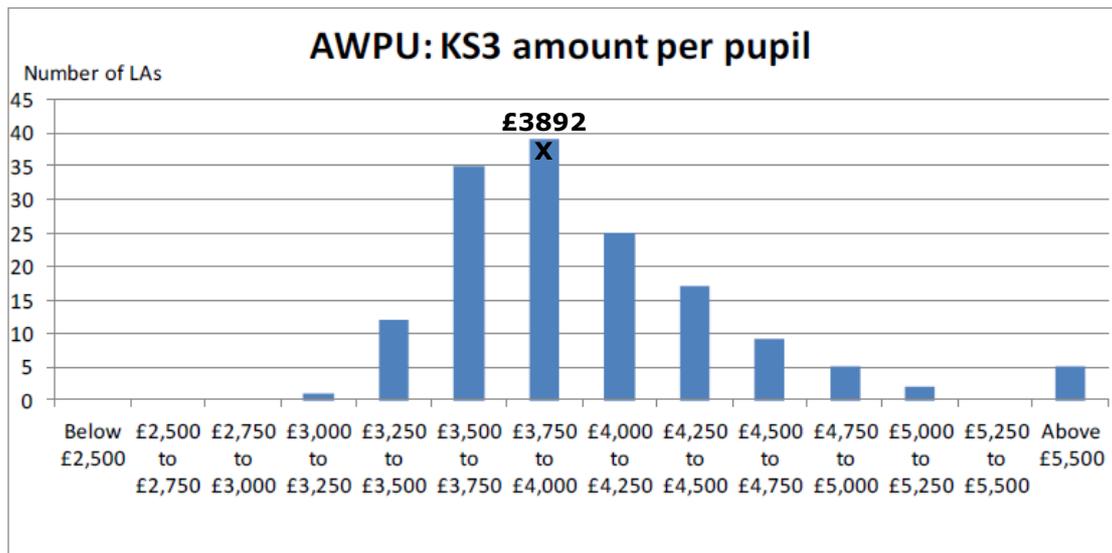
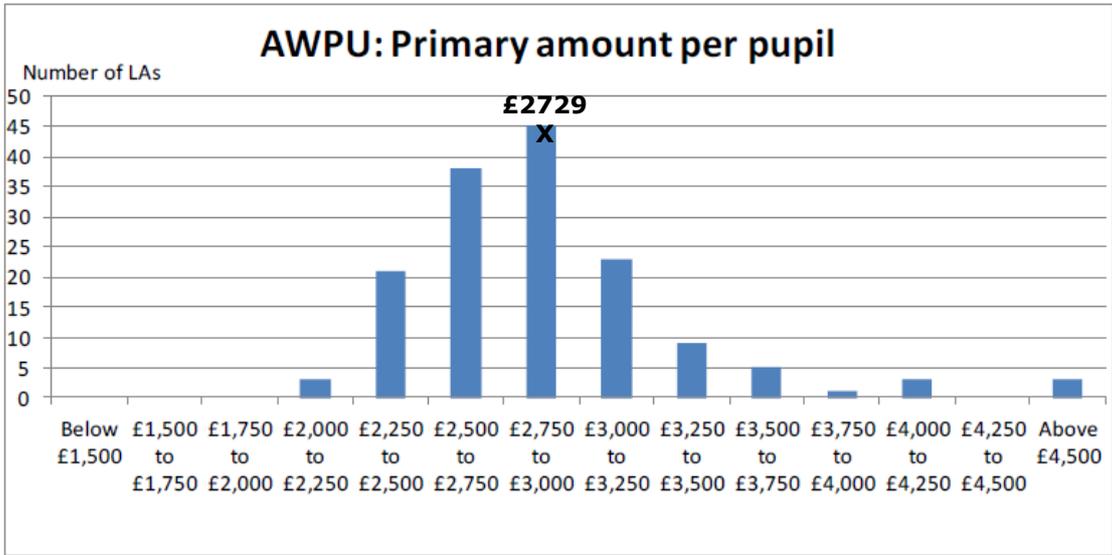
Wirral denoted by 'X'



Pupil-led factors include Basic Entitlement (AWPU), deprivation (free school meals and IDACI), prior attainment, English as an additional language (EAL), looked after children and pupil mobility (not used in Wirral). The percentage allocated by Wirral exceeds the DfE guideline target of 85%.

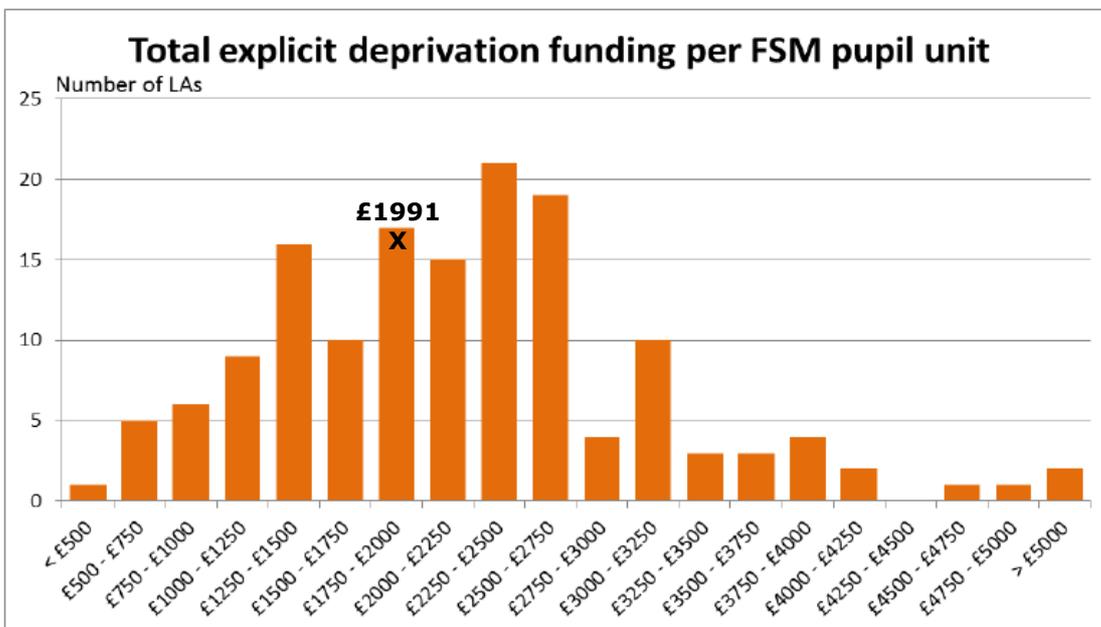
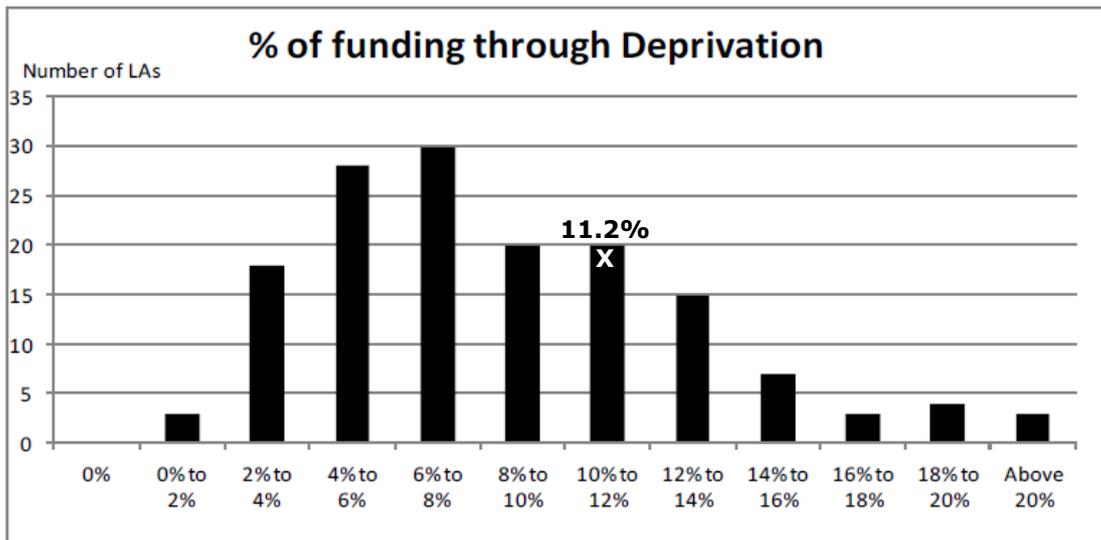


77% of Wirral's school funding is through Basic Entitlement. This is similar to the half of local authorities across the country.

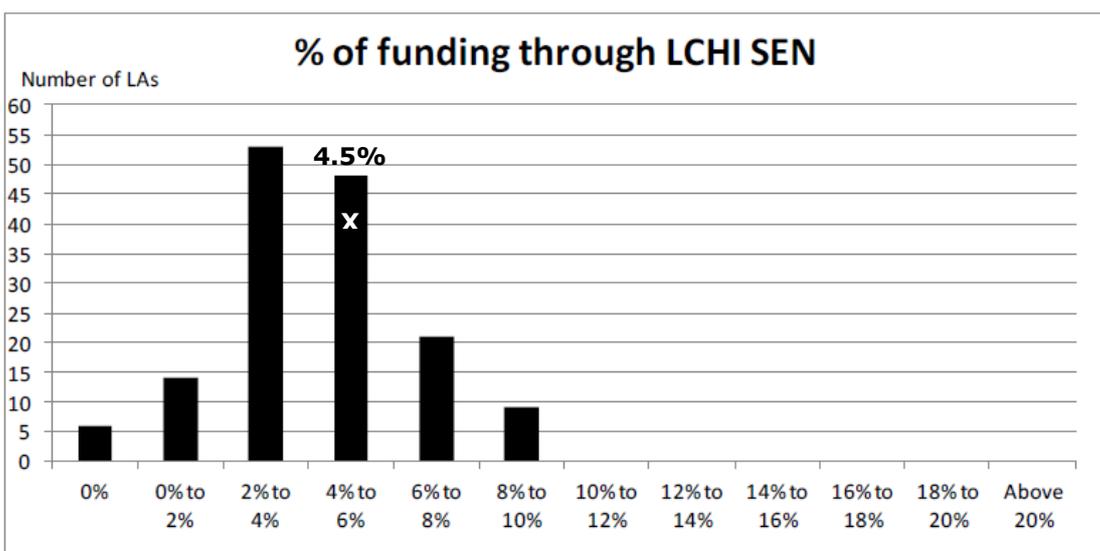
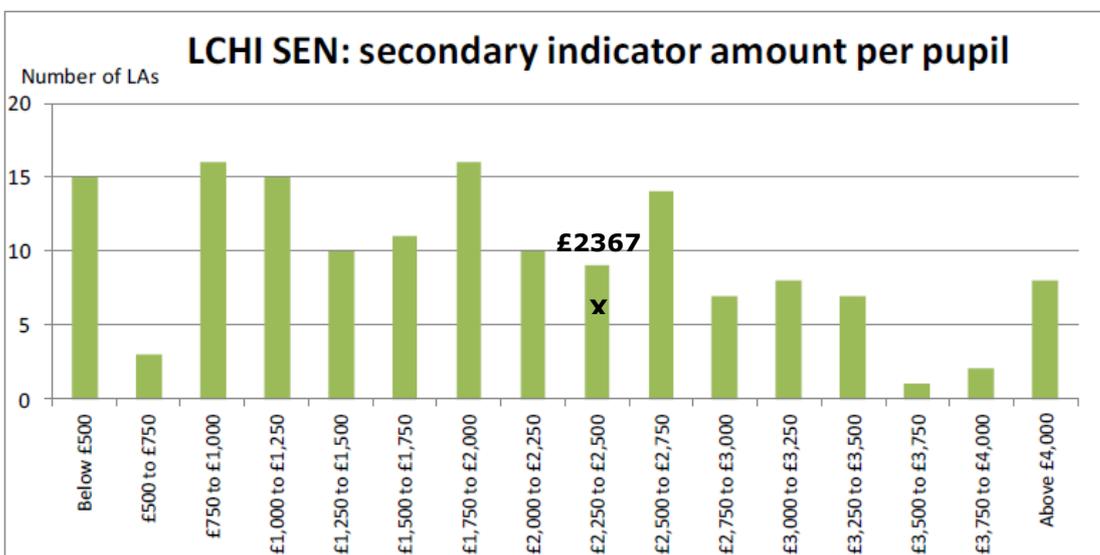
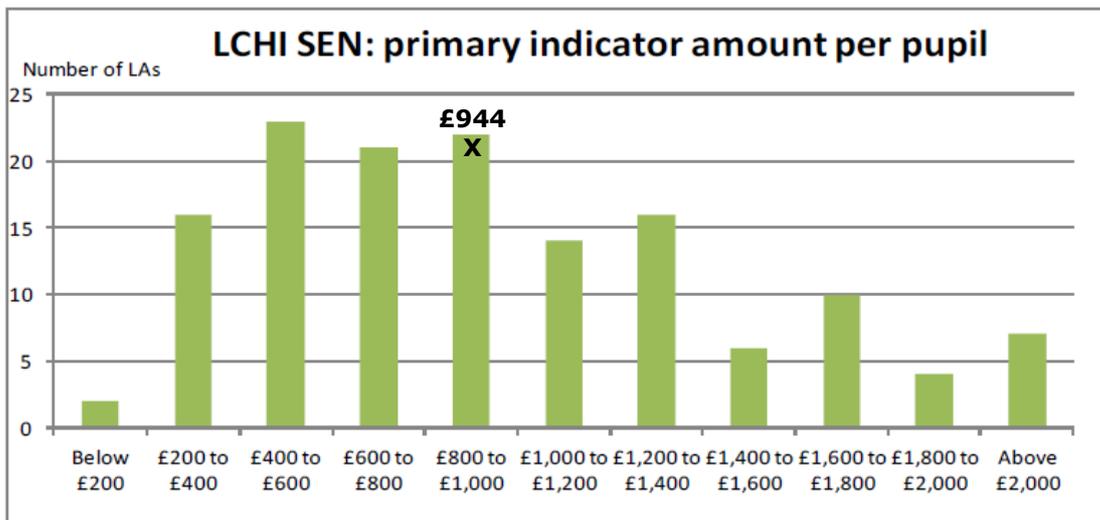


Similar to the percentage of funding through Basic Entitlement, the amounts per pupil at primary and secondary level are in line with the national average.

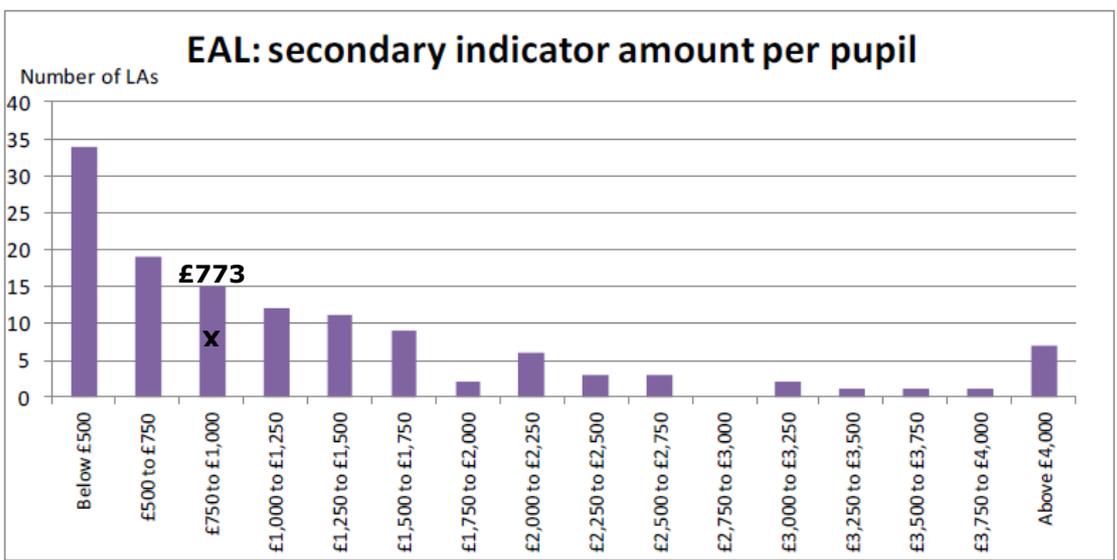
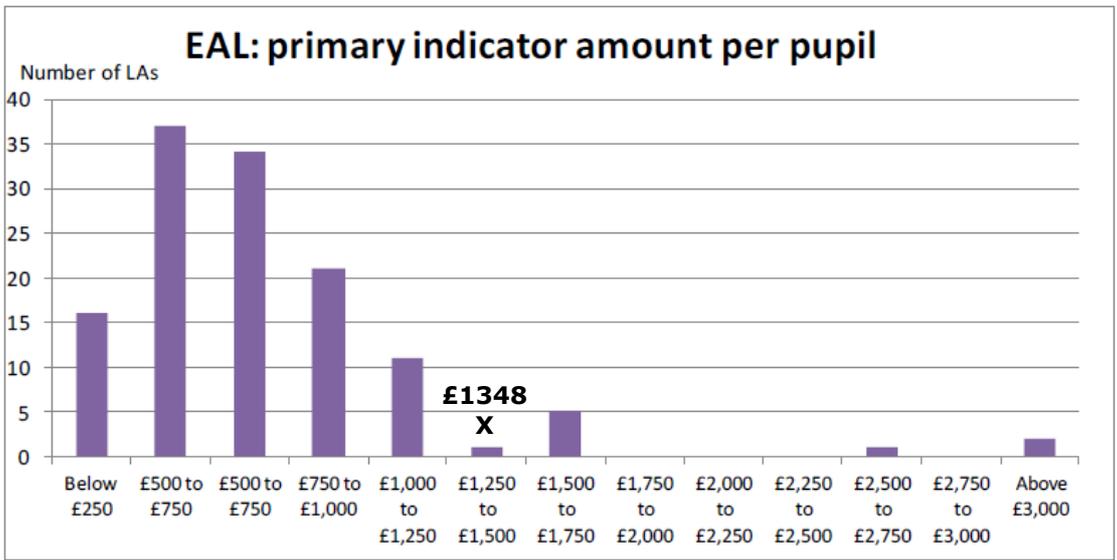
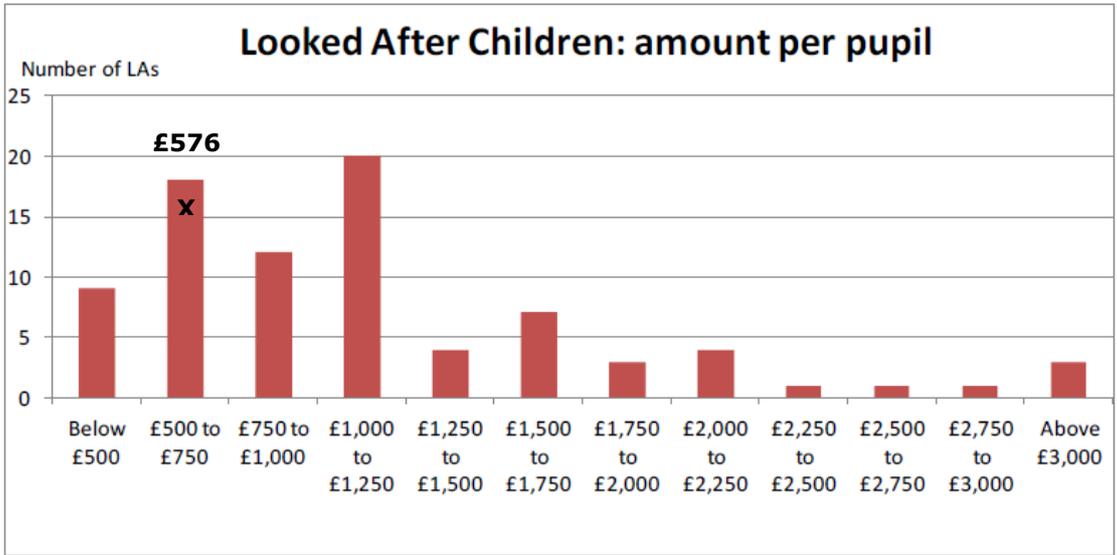
There are a few outliers in both the primary and secondary sectors; however these authorities are all based in London.



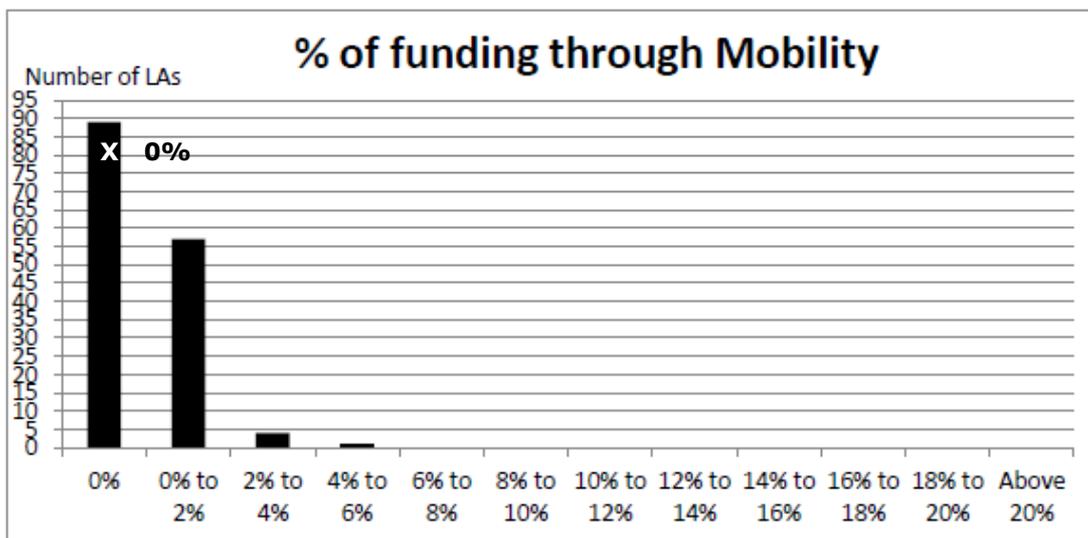
Deprivation funding at 11.2% is broadly in line with the national average. Over 80% of funding is based upon free school eligibility and the remainder consists of funding through IDACI. Recent local analysis shows that funding through IDACI directs resources to children who are in danger of not achieving expected standards at the end of Key Stage 2 and 4, and who would not receive deprivation funding under free school meals.



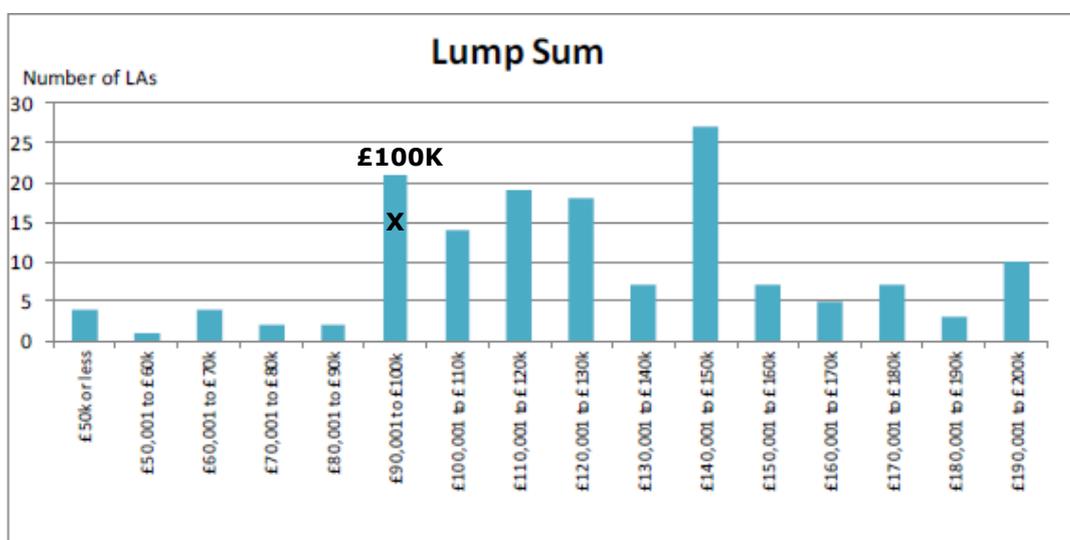
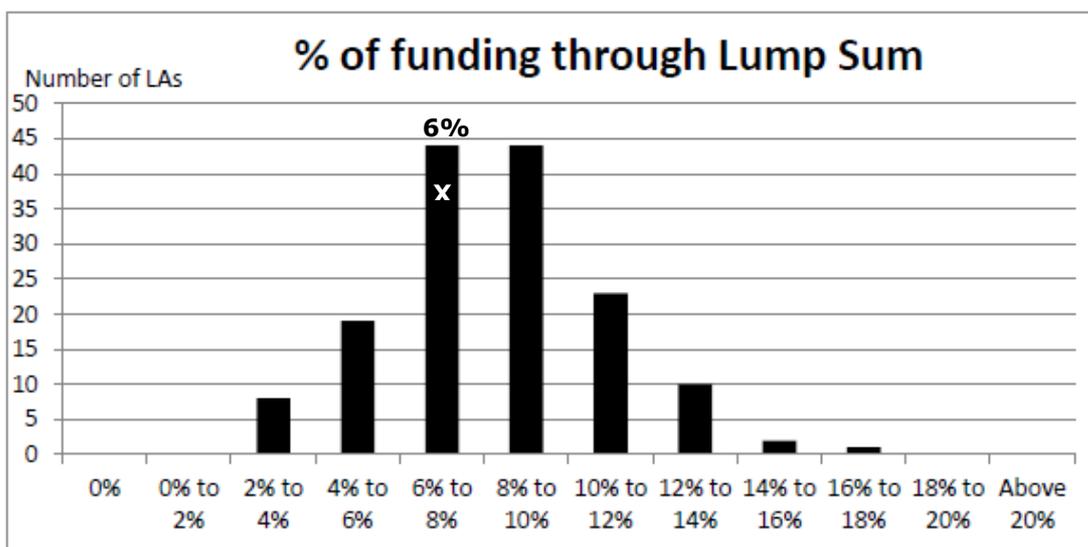
Low Cost High Incidence (LCHI) SEN funding is also broadly in line with the national average. The DfE raised questions whether local authorities should continue to use EYFSP data as an attainment related proxy to identify low cost SEN in primary schools. In the absence of other measures it seems reasonable that this indicator should continue to be used.



There are few outliers within our funding formula, mainly concerning the funding per pupil for children who have English as an additional language (EAL). This funding consists of the delegated services of the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS). Funding was targeted at EAL pupils who were only in the system for one year. However, there is an option for two or three years, covering more EAL pupils. This would reduce the amount per pupil and bring in line with the national average.



The mobility factor was introduced in 2012 to address the administrative costs incurred by schools that experience high levels of pupils leaving and joining throughout the academic year. However, along with over half of local authorities, Wirral have not opted to use this element. The local authority average is 6% and only 16 schools have mobility rates greater than 10% - Riverside is the highest at 15%.



Review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements

Response Form

The closing date for responding is 26 March 2013.

Your comments must reach us by that date.

The information you provide in your response will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and Environmental Information Regulations, which allow public access to information held by the Department. This does not necessarily mean that your response can be made available to the public as there are exemptions relating to information provided in confidence and information to which the Data Protection Act 1998 applies. You may request confidentiality by ticking the box provided, but you should note that neither this, nor an automatically-generated e-mail confidentiality statement, will necessarily exclude the public right of access.

Please tick if you want us to keep your response confidential.

Name:

Andrew Roberts

Organisation (if applicable):

Wirral Council

Address:

Children and Young People's Department,
Hamilton Building
Conway street
Birkenhead
CH41 4FD

If you have an enquiry related to the policy content of the review document you can email Funding.REVIEW2013-14@education.gsi.gov.uk

Section 1: Are we moving towards national consistency?

Question 1: Should we set a minimum threshold for the pupil-led factors and, if so, at what level?

This seems a necessary part of moving to a national funding formula, but may cause difficulties for authorities with high lump sums and a large number of small schools

Question 2: On what basis did local authorities decide on the quantum or proportion of funding to target to deprived pupils?

This has been based on a previous analysis of deprivation funding allocated through DSG

Question 3: On what basis did local authorities decide on the per-pupil amounts for the prior attainment factors?

The rate was set as the amount needed to allocate the deprivation funding above

Section 2: Areas of concern and possible changes for 2014-15

Prior Attainment

Question 4: Do you agree that local authorities should continue to use EYFSP data as an attainment-related proxy or should we consider use of a different indicator to identify low cost SEN in primary schools? If so, what indicator?

Yes - having changed to use this measure and in the absence of a better proxy indicator.

Pupil mobility

Question 5: Would it help to allow an additional weighting to be given if a school experiences in-year changes to pupil numbers above a certain threshold? If so, where should this threshold be set?

This is not significant factor for Wirral and is not used.

The lump sum

Question 6: In areas with large numbers of small schools, could the problem of having a fixed lump sum be overcome by reducing the relevant AWPU?

See answer to question 1

Question 7: Would having the ability to apply a separate primary and secondary lump sum avoid necessary small schools becoming unviable? If so, how should we deal with middle and all-through schools?

Wirral has relatively low lump sums within the funding formula; generally there is only limited recognition of the need for lump sums to support small secondary schools.

Question 8: We said in June that we would review the level of the lump sum cap (currently £200,000) for 2014-15 in order to establish whether it is the minimum cap needed to ensure the sustainability of necessary small schools. If we continued with one lump sum for both primary and secondary, what would be the minimum level of cap needed to ensure the sustainability of necessary small schools? If we had separate lump sums for primary and

secondary, what would be the minimum cap needed for each in order to ensure the sustainability of necessary small schools?

No comment

Question 9: Would using a school-level sparsity measure to target a single lump sum, based on distance between pupils and their second nearest school, avoid necessary small rural schools becoming unviable?

No comment

Question 10: What average distance threshold would be appropriate?

No comment

Question 11: If we had a sparsity measure, would it still be necessary to have a lump sum in order to ensure that necessary schools remain viable? Why? What is the interaction between the two?

Not all small schools supported by a lump sum are in sparsely populated areas.

Question 12: What alternative sparsity measures could we use to identify necessary small schools in rural areas?

No comment

Question 13: Would the ability for both schools to retain their lump sums for one or two years after amalgamation create a greater incentive to merge?

Yes the loss of a lump sum is a disincentive to an amalgamation. However schools can also overcome this by Federation

Targeting funding to deprived pupils

Question 14: If you think local authorities will be unable to use the allowable deprivation indicators in order to prevent significant losses to schools with a high proportion of deprived pupils, why do you think that is the case?

The loss of funding for some schools with higher levels of deprivation has arisen because of the changes required to the previous grants elements within the formula. It was not possible to model these evenly in a way that matched previous allocations.

Service Children

Question 15: Do you have any evidence that service children (once we account for deprivation, mobility and pastoral care through the Pupil Premium) require additional funding in order to achieve as well as non-service children?

No – however this should be available to support the current allocations through the Pupil premium.

Other groups of pupils

Question 16: Have the 2013-14 reforms prevented local authorities from targeting funding to groups of pupils that need additional support? If so, which?

No

Schools with falling rolls

Question 17: In cases where a population bulge is imminent, what is preventing good and necessary schools from staying open?

The available funding and pupil numbers are the major factors. Trends should be clear from 3 year financial plans.

Question 18: Are there any other circumstances in which falling rolls are unavoidable in the short term?

No comment

Section 3: Options for adjusting high needs funding in 2014-15 and beyond

Question 19: Would a formula factor that indicates those pupils who receive top-up funding be a useful addition to help deal with the funding of high needs?

The additional costs for schools with disproportionate pupils with high needs are raised by schools.
This factor would appear useful.

Question 20: To address the variation in base funding between neighbouring local authorities, how fast should local authorities be required to move towards the £6,000 threshold? Should it be made a requirement from 2014-15?

Unsure that this is the main reason for the difference in costs between LA's

Question 21: Should the Department play an active role in spreading good practice and model contracts/service level agreements?

Support in this area is valuable both nationally and locally.

Question 22: Do you have ideas about how the pre and post-16 high needs systems might be brought closer together?

The Post 16 High Needs changes have been complex and need time to become embedded.

Section 4: Schools Forums

Question 23: Do you think that Schools Forums are operating more democratically and transparently? If not, what further measures could the Department take in order to improve this?

The changes have introduced a lively voting session as part of the budget. The Forum as an advisory body remains at the centre of the process for allocating resources to schools.

Thank you for taking the time to let us have your views.

Completed questionnaires and other responses should be sent to the address shown below by 26 March 2013.

Send by e-mail to: Funding.REVIEW2013-14@education.gsi.gov.uk

Send by post to:

Anita McLoughlin
Funding Policy Unit
4th Floor
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 10th April 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Early Years Consultation

Executive Summary

A Consultation Paper has been launched by the DfE which examines and proposes changes to the current role of the local authority in early education. The consultation ends on 6th May 2013.

Consultation:

The Government is proposing the following changes, either by introducing legislation or through statutory guidance to:

a) Guarantee an offer of funding to Early Years providers of a quality assessed by Ofsted, or an inspection body approved by the Secretary of State, as "satisfactory", "good" or "outstanding" where there is an eligible child wanting to take up an early education place.

Note: In Wirral, this is the approach that is already in operation.

b) Guarantee an offer of funding for new early education providers, which have been registered with Ofsted, prior to their first full Ofsted inspection.

Note: In Wirral, this decision is currently based on an internal checking process and a quality assurance visit made by a Foundation Consultant.

c) Limit the extra conditions that local authorities can place on private, voluntary and independent (PVI) early education providers in order for them to qualify for funding to deliver places.

Note: In Wirral, the current Provider Agreement requires providers to engage with a quality improvement process and to meet financial management requirements. A review of this process is currently under way.

d) Remove the existing duty on local authorities to secure information, advice and training for childcare providers, but give local authorities power to offer it.

Note: In Wirral the existing duty is fully met however, as part of the Council's re-structure, a full review is under way and plans to deliver a slimmer service are being formulated. The Family Information Service is largely web based and will continue to provide information on key topics (eg safeguarding)

e) Reform the early education funding system, by encouraging local authorities to simplify

their funding formulae and to limit the amount of centrally retained spend.

Note: In Wirral, the Early Years funding formula is already very simple with only limited spend retained centrally. There is a formula review underway by the Schools Forum Working Party and these proposals will be taken into account.

Recommendations

The Forum notes the report

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Question	Wirral current position	Notes
1. What would the impact of requiring local authorities to offer to fund all providers, excepted those judged “inadequate” to deliver funded places for three and four year olds?	No impact – already in place	
2. When is the earliest point (after full implementation in Sept 2014) that we should require that funded places for two year olds can only be delivered by providers judged “good” or “outstanding” by Ofsted?	Wirral currently only use providers judged “satisfactory” if there is a shortage of places in the area and these providers are actively working with us to improve standards. They are subject to continuous scrutiny and monitoring. Their OFSTED reports need to indicate that the quality of care is good and a decision is made on a setting’s capacity to improve.	<p>May still need to actively engage with settings over issues relating to quality for places for 2 year olds, but this could be incorporated into plans currently in development.</p> <p>Risk of future lack of sufficiency in some areas, needs consideration.</p>
3. What would be the impact of offering to fund new providers to deliver early education places prior to their first Ofsted inspection judgement?	Already in operation on the basis of a visit from the quality assurance team	
4. What would be the impact of limiting the conditions local authorities can set on providers solely to those outlined in paragraph 4.4 (only conditions allowed are related to financial regulations, fraud etc.)	Current statutory duties fully met – quality assurance and training support under review.	This will mean a reduction on the burden of local authorities. In the light of developments concerning staff re-structure and proposals to continue to offer a support service to settings, this proposal would support Wirral in meeting its duties. It may be helpful to seek the views of settings.
5. What other conditions, if any, should local authorities be able to place on early education providers to deliver funded places?		Need to seek views from stakeholders, PVI's and Early Years Working Group
6. Do you agree with the proposed list of reduced training requirements set out in Appendix 1?		<p>In the light of developments concerning staff re-structure and proposals to continue to offer a support service to settings, this proposal would support Wirral in meeting its duties.</p> <p>It may be helpful to seek the views of settings.</p>

7. What would be the impact of reducing the prescribed training requirements on providers/local authorities as set out in Appendix 1?		This will mean a reduction on the burden of local authorities. In the light of developments concerning staff re-structure and proposals to continue to offer a support service to settings, this proposal would support Wirral in meeting its duties. It may be helpful to seek the views of settings.
8. Would these changes have a greater impact on some areas of information, advice and training provision over others? If so, which?		Need to seek views from stakeholders, PVI's and Early Years Working Group.
9. Do you support the proposal for a single flat rate within a local authority for two year old education?	Already in place in Wirral	
10. Do you support the proposal to limit the number of base rates and bands for three and four year old early education?	Already in place in Wirral	
11. What are your views on the limits proposed for three and four year olds early education (a maximum of three bands and no more than two bands)?	Already in place in Wirral	
12. What are your views on removing, for three and four year olds, all supplements (and factors) other than for deprivation?	The current supplements for flexibility and for quality have encouraged growth, particularly in flexibility amongst PVI providers. This makes them better able to support the needs of working families	Need to seek views from stakeholders, PVI's and Early Years Working Group.
13. Do you support the changes proposed for early years centrally retained DSG spending? Can the definition be improved?		It's always useful to have precise definitions however, this can restrict local decision making.
14. Do you think that a 10% limit on early years DSG central spend is appropriate? If not, please explain why and include any comments on the impact that this would have in comparison to a 15% or 20% limit.		Need to seek views from stakeholders, PVI's and Early Years Working Group.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 10th April 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Advanced Skills Teachers – Salary Safeguarding

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out a proposal to utilise the Advanced Skills Teacher (AST) reserve to support schools whose salary protection costs exceed the funding they will receive following delegation of the funding for AST's.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- There is a reserve of £136,390 set aside from AST underspends in previous years. This sum was retained to ensure that ASTs could complete their work in the academic year should the AST roles end at the end of the financial year.
- Due to the reduction in numbers of ASTs over the past 2/3 years, and the decision not to replace them, it was possible to meet the cost for the summer term 2013 from the under spend in 2012-13 carried forward. This was agreed at School's Forum on 23rd January 2013.
- From 31st March 2013 funding will not be retained centrally for ASTs. £317,000 will be delegated to schools via the funding formula with effect from April 2013.
- The School Teachers Pay and conditions document (para 43.4, 44.1.2, 44.3) states that AST salaries must be protected for a period of 3 years. For some schools the cost of this protection will significantly exceed the funding they will receive following delegation of the entire budget.

The cost to support these schools for 3 years would be £135,000.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- The AST reserve is directed to support those schools where salary protection costs exceed the delegated sum. This support would be for 3 years from 1st September 2013.

Support would cease in cases where any staff concerned are no longer entitled to salary protection.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 10th April 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A Review of Wirral City Learning Centres

Executive Summary

Wirral Secondary Headteachers request a review of the current usage and funding of the three City Learning Centres.

Key Issues / Background

Wirral's 3 City Learning Centres are funded through a Combined Budget in 2013-14 - Schools Budget £814,700 and Children and Young People's Budget £116,900. The schools budget makes provision for the running costs of the CLC's, whilst the Council's budget contribution meets the additional PFI contract costs. This budget remains in place for the Financial Year 2013/14.

Although as part of the consultation on schools funding last year there was support for the continued provision of CLC's going forward, particularly in the Primary Sector, Mainstream Secondary School Headteachers have expressed concern that they do not get value for money from the facilities. Recently they have indicated that they would prefer to have the Mainstream Secondary School portion of the Combined Budget delegated from 1 April 2014.

A consultation email has been sent to each Secondary School via the Wirral Association of Secondary Headteachers (WASH) asking for an opinion on this preference. Of the 9 Mainstream Secondary Schools that have currently responded, 8 have expressed a preference for the Schools Forum to consider delegation of the funds.

Secondary Schools, therefore, request that a review of the current use of Wirral City Learning Centres is undertaken in order to evaluate whether they receive value for money from the service.

Secondary Schools also request that if it shown that value for money is not being received then a review of the Combined Budget be undertaken in order for the Schools Forum to consider the disaggregation of the Budget and delegation to Secondary Schools from 1 April 2014.

Financial Implications

Potential reduction in the overall funding for the running costs of the City Learning Centres and increased delegation to secondary schools.

Recommendations

A review of the current use of Wirral City Learning Centres is undertaken.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1

Consultation email sent to Mainstream Secondary Schools

At the January WASH meeting (Tuesday 15 January 2013), the Secondary School contribution to the funding from the 3 Wirral City Learning Centres was discussed.

It was suggested that a letter be written to the Schools Forum indicating the intention that, from 1 April 2014, Wirral Secondary Schools would wish to:

Stop the Combined Budget nature of the City Learning Centre funding
Withdraw the Secondary funding from this budget
Put the Secondary funding for City Learning Centres back in the Secondary section of the budget
Delegate the Secondary funding for City Learning Centres directly to Secondary Schools.

Overleaf is an extract from the report written and circulated to schools in the Academic year 2011-12.

Please consider your school's response, consult Governors and complete and return your current decision regarding the writing of the letter to Schools Forum.

Name of School:	
-----------------	--

This school agrees/does not agree (delete as appropriate) that a letter should be sent to the Schools Forum indicating that the Secondary school element of the funding for City learning Centres be withdrawn and delegated directly to schools from April 2014.

Signed:.....Headteacher Date:

Signed:..... Chair of Governors Date:

Please send your response to Phil Sheridan at the address below.

PEC
Acre Lane
Wirral
CH62 7BZ

Please reply as soon as possible and preferably by Wednesday 20 March 2013. If this date does not give you enough opportunity to consult Governors, please let Phil Sheridan know.

Appendix 2

Additional information sent to Secondary schools

Wirral City Learning Centres

WASH question – January 2013

WHAT IS A CITY LEARNING CENTRE

The three CLCs were established ten years ago to provide enhanced ICT based learning across the whole curriculum for pupils and teachers and to provide access to education for the wider community.

WIRRAL CITY LEARNING CENTRES

There are 3 CLCs:

- **Discovery** based at Ridgeway High School
- **The Learning Lighthouse** based at Wallasey School
- **West Wirral Works** based at Hilbre High School

Some of the key services CLCs provide:

- Wirral CLCs support the latest pedagogical thinking
- The services provide learning opportunities and equipment that are outside most schools budgets
- The services provide centrally available expertise
- Provision is made for teachers and students to try technology prior to purchase for their schools
- Wirral schools benefit from a wide range of imaginative, cross curricular workshops & specialist project support
- Users of Wirral CLCs benefit from extended schools support
- Centres for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) - learning from experience
- Enable innovation and research & development

Types of use provided to schools

- Supported session
- Unsupervised session
- Outreach for pupils (excluding training and advice)
- Outreach for staff (excluding training and advice)
- Training and advice on site at CLC
- Training and advice at school site
- Remote manufacture
- Equipment loan
- Equipment loan - “try before you buy” facility

Questions to consider when discussing the future of Wirral City Learning Centres (CLCs)

General questions to consider:

- Is the development of skills in using a wide range of cutting edge technologies important to the young people of Wirral?
- Is the development of skills in using a wide range of cutting edge technologies important to the young people of your school?
- As a resource for all Wirral Schools and Young People, do you have a corporate responsibility to keep the CLCs open and further develop and improve their use for the benefit of Wirral pupils?
- Do you know what a CLC is?
- Do you know where the CLCs are sited?
- Do you know the investment that has gone into the CLCs since they were established 10 years ago?
- Do you know how many people work at the CLCs?
-

School Development/Improvement planning

- Do you know the full range of services that CLCs provide for all Wirral schools?
- Do you know the full range of specialist equipment that is available in the CLCs?
- Do you know the full range of specialist expertise that is available in the CLCs?
- Do you know how your school has made use of the services of the CLCs?
- Are the services provided by CLCs taken into consideration when school development/improvement plans are written?
- Are the services provided by CLCs taken into consideration when subject or curriculum area development/improvement plans are written?
- Secondary schools – do you know what experience your pupils have from using the CLCs at their primary schools?

If the CLCs remain open:

- If you feel you currently do not make effective use of the services, how do you plan to do so in the future?

If the CLCs close:

- Do you have the expertise and infrastructure to collaborate with other schools to provide opportunities for the pupils in your community to use and develop skills in using equipment of the same quality?
- How will the schools in your local community or area work together to provide the same level of expertise and opportunity for all the pupils your community serves?

DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

BUDGET OPTION - Schools and College Transport Policies

**For
Schools' Forum 10th April**

**Final Version will be published for consultation
Start 15th April 2013
End 24th May 2013**

DRAFT CONSULTATION DOCUMENT



Budget Option Schools and College Transport Policies



Contents

Summary	3
<hr/>	
What is being proposed?	4
• To remove free denominational travel	4
• To change the assessment of support for free transport for children with special educational needs	4
• The removal of all post 16 transport	4
<hr/>	
Frequently Asked Questions	5
• What are the proposed changes?	5
• Why are the changes required?	6
• Is Wirral the only local authority making the changes?	6
• Who will be affected?	6
• When would the proposed changes be implemented?	7
• Who is being consulted with on the proposed changes?	8
• If the proposals are agreed, what would the Council continue to provide?	8
• How will this affect low income families?	9
• What steps has the Council taken to ensure the proposals are fair?	9
• What happens next?	10
• Can I appeal against the proposed changes?	10
<hr/>	
Taking part in the Consultation	10



Summary

Like many Councils, Wirral is facing unprecedented financial challenges. The Council, over the past few months, has been out to consultation on a wide range of options to try and begin to make savings of £109 million over the next three years – that's around one third of our net budget. So, we need to make absolutely sure that the resources we have left are spent wisely, effectively and provide the best value for money for Wirral residents.

Providing transport for pupils to attend schools and colleges is very costly, particularly in Wirral as our policies are extremely generous – we provide a service over and above what is required by law.

The consultation process started with the 'What Really Matters' consultation that took place between November 2012 and January 2013. This consultation focused on three core principles;

- The removal of discretionary denominational transport.
- The removal of Post 16 transport (non SEN).
- A reduction in the number of students with Special Educational Needs (SEN) eligible for transport. This includes the removal of all Post 16 transport for students with SEN.

This initial consultation led to Wirral Council setting the budget for the coming years on the basis of new transport policies in these areas being developed and delivered to make savings. This next stage of consultation seeks views on the proposed new policies that have been drafted to deliver the three core principles provided above.

The proposals seek to ensure that support continues to be provided to the most vulnerable young people in order for them to access education. We will continue to ensure that transport provision is provided in a transparent, supportive and cost-effective way for families.

Where it is appropriate we want to encourage progression to independent travelling in a phased supported way. This can increase young people's confidence in using public transport, increasing participation in community life and can help to prepare a young person for life beyond school and college.

This document provides you with more detail on what exactly is being proposed, and also how you can get involved. We look forward to hearing your views.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services



What is being proposed?



Xxxx

This consultation document is about proposed changes to the Council's transport policies for schools and colleges. There are three proposals:

To remove free denominational travel

The Council provides free transport, through travel passes, to both primary and secondary school children related to the religious character of the school. The cost of transport arrangements of children who have to travel more than the qualifying distances to the nearest school of the parent's religion is currently met.

The proposal is to remove this discretionary element of denominational travel. The Council will still provide transport in relation to statutory duties including beyond statutory walking distances and those on low incomes. In addition for secondary school pupils children from low income families who choose a school on the grounds of religion or belief will continue to receive free transport provision if the school is between 2 and 15 miles away from their home address.

To change the assessment of support for free transport for children with special educational needs

Currently students who have a statement of special educational needs (SEN) and attend specialist educational provision are eligible for free transport to school. A proportion of this transport can be classed as discretionary as some students live close to their school and could be assessed as safe to walk to school.

The proposal is to provide transport based on an assessed need. A new assessment through the Special Educational Needs Assessment Panel will be put in place to identify the transport support that best matches the student's needs. Where a young person is able to access and use the public transport network safely they will be expected to do so. This will mean that some pupils with a statement will not receive free transport, for others a free travel pass may be provided instead of specialised taxi based transport.



The removal of all post 16 transport

Wirral Council provides free transport for students aged over 16 who are in further education, based on low income criteria and also to those who have or had immediately prior to admission to school/ college, a statement of SEN. This transport provision is discretionary as the Council has no legal duty to provide post 16 transport.

“
Xxxx

The proposal will be to remove this free transport and for families to make their own transport provision.

Alternative government provision is in place through a Bursary Scheme for pupils aged 16-19, which provides financial support for learners to access education or training. Schools and colleges are allocated funding and are responsible for awarding bursaries to students. The amount paid and any eligibility criteria will be decided by the school/college, except in the case of the most vulnerable learners.

Vulnerable learners, such as those in care, care leavers, those claiming income support or disabled students in receipt of both Employment Support Allowance and Disability Living Allowance, are eligible for a bursary of £1,200 for a full academic year.
accessing these sorts of services also get what they need.



Frequently asked questions



What are the proposed changes?

The table below sets out the groups affected, along with the current and proposed policy changes:

Groups Affected	Current Policy	Groups Affected
Those attending denominational schools	Free transport provision is currently provided to students who travel more than 3 miles (or two miles if the child is under 8)	To withdraw non-statutory denominational transport provision for pupils with effect from September 2014.
Children 5-16 with Special Educational Needs	Currently students who have a statement of special educational needs (SEN) and attend specialist provision are eligible for free transport to school.	To provide transport based on an assessed need. A new assessment through the Special Educational Needs Assessment Panel (SNAP) will be put in place to identify the transport support that best matches the student's needs.
Post 16 students including those with special educational needs	Currently Wirral Council provides free post 16 transport to students in further education based on low income criteria and also to those who have or had immediately prior to admission to school/ college a statement of SEN. This transport provision is discretionary as the Council has no legal duty to provide post 16 transport.	To cease to provide transport support for all post 16 students.



Current school transport policy documents are located on the Wirral Council website: www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/childrens-services/education-and-learning/schools-and-colleges/information-parents-and-carers/school-transport

“
XXXXX

Why are the changes required?

Like all councils, Wirral Council is under considerable pressure to make savings on its public spending. The Council has to make savings in the order of £109m over the next three years. As a result, the Council has had to look at every aspect of its work, especially where it is not compulsory for us to provide services, and consider how they can be delivered more efficiently and cost effectively.

Is Wirral the only local authority making the changes?

No. Due to the continuing increases in the cost of school transport and budgetary pressures, more and more Councils have or are in the process of revising their home to school transport policies.

Who will be affected?

Those students accessing the following services will be most affected by the proposals:

- ***Denominational transport – those who receive a travel pass to a faith or denominational school***

Children who attend, for reasons of religious belief, a denominational school more than 2 miles (children under 8) or more than 3 miles (children over 8) from their home address are currently eligible for a free bus pass if there is no denominational school nearer to their home address. Although councils in exercising their statutory powers to provide transport are obliged to have regard to the religions and beliefs of parents and pupils, there is no statutory requirement for them to provide free or assisted transport to pupils attending denominational schools for reasons of religious belief as of right. The only exception is for low income families on qualifying benefits and in these cases eligibility is dependent on the home to school distance being between 2 and 15 miles.



“
XXXX

- **Children 5-16 with Special Educational Needs**

Currently all students who have a statement of special educational needs (SEN) and attend specialist provision are eligible for free transport to school. A proportion of this transport can be classed as discretionary as some students live quite close to their school and could be assessed as being safe for them to walk to school.

The proposal is to provide transport based on an assessed need for transport. A new assessment through the Special Educational Needs Assessment Panel (SNAP) will identify the transport support that best matches the student's needs. Where a young person is able to access and use the public transport network safely they will be expected to do so. This will mean that some statemented pupils will not receive free transport, while for others a free travel pass may be provided instead of specialised taxi-based transport.

- **Post 16 transport**

Currently Wirral Council provides free post 16 transport to students in further education based on low income criteria and also to those who have or had immediately prior to admission to school/ college a statement of SEN. This transport provision is discretionary as the Council has no legal duty to provide post 16 transport.

The proposal is to cease to provide additional transport support for all post 16 students.

When would the proposed changes be implemented?

The decision is due to be taken in July 2013 and the implementation date for the revised policy changes would be September 2014.

Students who currently receive transport assistance at their current school or college will not be affected by the proposals. The proposals apply to students on entry into primary, secondary and Post 16 provision from September 2014.



Who is being consulted with on the proposed changes?

This is an open consultation and everybody is welcome to comment on the proposals. All of the consultation documentation is available on the Council's website. The Council has specifically contacted the following groups:

- Parents/ carers of children and young people who receive transport support
- Headteachers and chairs of governors of special schools and mainstream schools.
- All Wirral Elected members.
- The Catholic Diocese of Shrewsbury and the Anglican Diocese of Chester
- Other local authorities bordering Wirral
- Unions and professional associations
- The wider community (via the Internet)
- Wirral further education providers
- The Voluntary / Community Sector

If the proposals are agreed, what would the Council continue to provide?

Councils are required by law, to provide assistance for those pupils who are eligible. If a pupil qualifies under the following circumstances then transport is provided free. This includes pupils who:

- are between 5 and 16 and go to their nearest suitable school and live at least:
 - 2 miles from the school if they're under 8
 - 3 miles from the school if they're 8 or older
- are registered at their local school and are unable to walk to school due to a route which the Council has assessed as hazardous.
- are from a low income family (entitled to free school meals or maximum Working Tax Credit) if they are:
 - aged 8 to 11 and the school is at least 2 miles away
 - aged 11 to 16 and the school is 2 to 6 miles away - as long as there aren't 3 or more suitable schools nearer to home
 - aged 11 to 16 and the school's 2 to 15 miles away - if it's their nearest school preferred on the grounds of religion or belief

“
XXXXX



- are registered at their local school or the most appropriate school to meet their special educational needs and those needs prevent them from achieving independent travel or walking the statutory distance safely accompanied by an adult.

Transport may be provided for children in the care of the Local Authority determined on a case by case basis. The school at which a child is placed by the Council will be deemed the 'nearest suitable school' for school transport purposes irrespective of the Council's normal zoning arrangements in order to provide continuity of educational provision for such children. The allocation of school and required transport arrangements will be reviewed as part of the child's regular Care Plan review.

The Council still proposes to maintain limited discretionary elements to provision. Occasionally cases arise which are outside the policy but where the Council will take the view that transport should be provided and that it would be inappropriate or unnecessary to bring a case to appeal. For this reason, appropriate transport may be approved by the Director of Children and Young People's Services in relation to children for whom there are very exceptional personal or domestic circumstances.

I have a child at school who currently receives a pass and their younger sibling is due to start at the same school in September 2014. Will the younger child get a pass?

Not automatically, as this will be a new application and will be considered under the new policy, so they may not get a pass. However, the older child will continue to receive a pass provided that their circumstances do not change.

How will this affect low income families?

The Council has a statutory duty to provide free school travel for compulsory school age pupils from low income families as outlined below.

- Primary aged children from low income families (those in receipt of free school meals or the maximum level of working tax credit) may be supported with travel assistance where they live more than 2 miles from their nearest available school.



- For secondary aged children from low income families they may be eligible for free transport to one of the three nearest qualifying schools between 2 and 6 miles away, or the nearest suitable qualifying school chosen on the grounds of religion or belief between 2 and 15 miles away.

“
XXXXX

This is a statutory duty and will not be affected under the proposed policy.

What steps has the Council taken to ensure the proposals are fair?

The Council is aware that these proposals would affect some families more than others and is keen to understand this impact. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and this has helped us to see what the impact might be.

What happens next?

Once the consultation period closes a complete analysis of the responses will be prepared by the Council for a report that will be considered by Wirral Council Cabinet at a meeting held in July 2013. At this meeting the Cabinet will decide to:

- proceed with the original proposals, or
- proceed with amendments to the proposals as a result of the consultation feedback, or
- not proceed with the original or amended proposals.

If approved, revised policies would be published in September 2013 with changes implemented on 1 September 2014.

Can I appeal against the proposed changes?

Specific appeals against a policy change may only be made where a policy is either failing to meet statutory requirements or where the policy contributes towards inequality in provision. Any revised policy would be designed to be equitable and compliant with current legislation but parents who are not happy with the way in which the policy has decided their application, may as now raise any concerns with the Director of Children's Services.



Taking part in the Consultation

You have until May 24th 2013 to provide us with your views on these proposals. You can complete a questionnaire, online, at:

www.wirral.gov.uk/whatreallymatters

You can also request a paper questionnaire by calling us on **0151 666 4697**. All paper questionnaires should be returned to:

**The Integrated Transport Unit
Children and Young People's Department
Hamilton Building
Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral, CH41 4FD**

The full time table for making the final decision on these proposals is provided below:

Consultation: 15th April to 24th May 2013

Analysis of Feedback: June 2013

Final Decisions: July 2013

2014-2015 Policies Published: September 2013

Policies Implemented: September 2014

We understand that these are important proposals, so we really need to hear your views. We will not make a decision until we have carefully considered all responses to this consultation.

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 10th April 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Summary of Changes to the Scheme for Financing Schools

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report informs Schools Forum of the revisions required to the Scheme for Financing Schools from 1st April 2013.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

The scheme was last updated in April 2012 with a number of revisions that were directed by the DfE, including the removal of FMSiS and the GTC payment and the inclusion of Schools Financial Value Standards.

The revisions required from April 2013 are in respect of the new funding arrangements from April 2013. These are detailed below:-

1. Clarification that school's detailed budgets are no longer included in the section 251 collection.

Wirral LA will publish each year, under Section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, a statement which sets out details of its planned Schools Budget and LA Budget, showing the amounts to be centrally retained and funding delegated to schools. (Paragraph 1.1.6 of the Scheme.)

2. Application of the Scheme now applies to WASP

The scheme will apply to all maintained schools, community, voluntary, foundation, nursery, community special, foundation special schools and Pupil Referral Units (PRUs). (Paragraph 1.2.2 of the Scheme.)

3. Forum Approval to Scheme Revisions

Revisions to the scheme will be subject to consultation with the governing body and head teacher of every maintained school before submission to the Schools' Forum for approval by members of the forum representing maintained schools. (Paragraph 1.4.1 of the Scheme.)

4. Spending for the Purposes of the School

Governing Bodies are free to spend budget shares for the purpose of the school subject to the provisions of this scheme. The Secretary of State, under Section 50 (3)(b) of the Standards and Framework Act 1998 may prescribe additional purposes for which expenditure of the budget share may occur. The School Budget Shares (Prescribed Purposes)(England) Regulations 2010 allows schools to spend their budget on pupils who are on the roll of other maintained schools. (Paragraph 2.13.1 of the Scheme)

5. SEN Place Funding and Top ups to be included in the Budget Share

For the purposes of this section, budget share includes any place led funding for special schools and PRUs. (Paragraph 3 of the Scheme.)

Where schools have chosen to have their budget shares provided to them in cash, the installment will be provided on a monthly basis. Top up payments for pupils with high needs should be made on a monthly basis unless alternative arrangements have been agreed with the provider. (Paragraph 3.1.0 of the Scheme.)

6. Writing off Debts

Where the LA wishes to provide assistance to schools to reduce or eliminate a deficit balance this should be through the allocation of a cash sum, from the Authority's school budget. (From a centrally held budget specified for the purpose of expenditure on special schools and pupil referral units in financial difficulty or, in respect of mainstream maintained schools, from a de-delegated contingency budget where this has been agreed by Schools Forum). (Paragraph 4.7 of the Scheme)

7. Clarification that Schools Forum can agree De-delegation

For the avoidance of doubt, LAs may de-delegate funding for permitted services without the express permission of the governing body, provided this has been approved by the appropriate phase representatives of the Schools Forum. (Paragraph 6.1 of the Scheme.)

8. Amended Wording in relation to charging a School if appropriate Support has not been made for High Needs Pupils.

Costs incurred by the LA in securing provisions specified in a Statement of SEN where the Governing Body of a school fails to secure such provision despite the delegation of funds in respect of low cost high incidence SEN and or specific funding for a pupil with High Needs. (Paragraph 6.2.15 of the Scheme)

9. Restriction to existing commitments for redundancy/PRC payments

The LA will determine the basis on which services from centrally retained funds in the Schools and LA Budget will be provided to schools. For the purposes for this section, the costs of existing PRC and redundancy payments are included as services.

10. Deletion of reference to optional delegation

Section 11.8.1 to be removed.

11. Update Annex A – list of maintained schools

Remove Calday Grange Grammar School, Hilbre High School, Woodchurch High School and St John Plessington from the Maintained School List.
Add WASP, Pupil Referral unit.

12. Restriction of termination of employment costs funded from central schools budget to the Value of the previous year and existing commitments.

Extract from Annex B

Costs of new early retirements or redundancies may only be charged to the central part of the Schools Budget where the expenditure is to be incurred as a result of decisions made before 1st April 2013. Costs may not exceed the amount budget in the previous financial year.

It is important that the local authority discusses its policy with its Schools Forum. Although each case should be considered on its merits, this should be within an

agreed framework. It may be reasonable to share costs in some cases, and some authorities operate a panel to adjudicate on applications.

13. Clarity that contingency for schools in financial difficulty needs to be de-delegated.

Extract from Annex B

A de-delegated contingency could be provided, if Schools Forum agree, to support individual schools where “a governing body has incurred expenditure which it would be unreasonable to expect them to meet from the school’s budget share”.

For staff employed under the community facilities power, the default position is that any costs must be met by the governing body, and can be funded from the school’s delegated budget if the governing body is satisfied that this will not interfere to a significant extent with the performance of any duties imposed on them by the Education Acts, including the requirement to conduct the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement. Section 37 now states:

Actions Required

The above revisions to the scheme will be subject to consultation with the governing body and headteacher of all maintained schools by the 21st June ready for submission to the Schools Forum on 3rd July for Approval.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children’s Services

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 10th April 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Wirral Schools Forum Membership

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report informs the group of the current Schools Forum Representation. Membership is broadly proportionate for each school phase (based on January 2013 census) and is consistent with School Forum Regulations.

1. Forum Representation in each School Phase

The table below details the total pupils in each school phase and the required number of forum members.

Phase	Pupil Numbers (Jan 2013 Census)	Forum Representatives
Primary	24,567	10
Secondary	6,995	3
Academy	14,695	6
Total	46,257	19

2. Current Representation

5	Primary Headteachers
5	Primary Governors
2	Secondary Headteachers
1	Secondary Governors
6	Academy Representatives (1 vacancy)
1	Special Headteacher
1	Special Governors
1	Nursery Representative
1	PRU Representative (1 vacancy)
23	Total Schools Membership
1	Non-teacher representative
1	Teacher representative
1	Catholic Diocese
1	Church of England Diocese
1	14 - 19 Representative
2	PVI Early Years Providers
1	Wirral Governors Representative
8	Total Non-Schools Membership
31	Total Membership

3. Vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies

- The PRU vacancy will be discussed at the WASP Management Meeting on 11th April.
- Documentation has been sent to the academy governing bodies to request nominations. If there is more than one nomination an election will take place.

4. Future Membership Changes

- There are 2 academy representatives whose term of office comes to an end in August 13. Nominations will be requested nearer the time.
- Mount Primary and South Wirral High are expected to become academies during the 2013-14 financial year. The table below shows the effect of change in pupil numbers

Phase	Pupil Numbers (Jan 2013 Census)	Forum Representatives
Primary	24,233	10
Secondary	5,950	2
Academy	16,074	7
Total	46,257	19

When the next secondary representative's term of office expires (November 2015) this will be replaced by an academy representative.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 10th April 2013

WORK PLAN

Meeting Date			
3rd July 2013	2nd October 2013	January 2014	April 2014
	Elect Chair and Vice Chair Membership		
Schools Budget Outturn School Balances		Schools Settlement Schools Budget Pupil Premium De-delegation of budgets	Budget update
High needs funding formula consultation School funding formula proposals 2014-15	Centrally held school budgets: School Intervention Budget SEN / Home Tuition / LACES		
Harmonisation Update Scheme for Financing Schools Schools Formula Exceptional Items	Draft School Finance Regulations	School Finance Regulations	
Traded Services		Early Years Formula Review SEN Funding Formula	Traded Services

This page is intentionally left blank