



Wirral Schools Forum

Date:	Wednesday, 2 July 2014
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30TH APRIL 2014 (Pages 1 - 6)**
2. **MATTERS ARISING**
3. **SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN 2013-14 (Pages 7 - 12)**
4. **SCHOOL BALANCES 31ST MARCH 2014 (Pages 13 - 14)**
5. **WORKING GROUP UPDATE HIGH NEEDS AND SEN (Pages 15 - 18)**
6. **HIGH NEEDS AND PERSONAL BUDGETS - VERBAL UPDATE**
7. **SCHOOL FUNDING AND FORMULA PROPOSALS 2015-16 - WORKING GROUP UPDATE (Pages 19 - 24)**
8. **TRADED SERVICES - SCHOOL MEALS UPDATE (Pages 25 - 26)**
9. **EARLY YEARS WORKING GROUP (Pages 27 - 28)**
10. **SCHEME FOR FINANCING SCHOOLS (Pages 29 - 30)**
11. **WORK PLAN (Pages 31 - 32)**
12. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM
30th April 2014
MINUTES

Present: Richard Longster (Chair)

Schools Group

S Allen	A Moore
J Devine	S Peach
S Duggan	C Penn
K Frost	K Podmore
J Gordon	G Pritchard
D Marchant	A Whiteley
	G Zsapka

Non-Schools Group

D McDonald	J Pierce
S McNamara	N Reilly

In Attendance:

D Armstrong	D Hollomby
S Ashley	G Monument (EFA)
S Bellerby	C McGowan
S Blevins	J Pearson
C Chow	A Roberts
S Dainty	P Sheridan
J Hassall	Cllr PA Smith
	P Ward

Apologies:

M Brown	B Jordan
E Cogan	B McGregor
B Cummings	Cllr B Mooney
S Davies	J Owens
S Higginson	M Walker
C Hughes	P Young
L Ireland	

The chair welcomed Gavin Monument from the EFA who explained his role of observer.

1. Minutes from the Meeting Held on 22nd January 2014

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

2. Matters Arising

- The Crossing Patrol savings option has been withdrawn for the time being.
- The LA has withdrawn its application to the EFA in respect of the exemption from the requirement of using the MFG for High Needs top ups.

3. **Narrowing the Gap**

Dave Hollomby outlined some of the work being carried out in Wirral to Narrow the Gap, through the RADY (Raising Attainment of Disadvantaged Youngsters) project. This Project highlights the fact that lower attainment targets for disadvantaged children can often be set. The LA has been working with a small number of pilot Wirral secondary schools to address this by setting broadly similar targets for disadvantaged children compared with other pupils. Initial findings indicate that this single measure helps to raise attainment levels.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

4. **Proposals for Pupil Premium Plus (PPP)**

Phil Sheridan explained the changes to the allocation of Looked after Child (LAC) Pupil Premium from April 2014. Prior to allocation of the PPP the Virtual School Headteacher and school the child attends will agree plans to help achieve improved attainment. This will be incorporated in the Personal Education Plan of the looked after child.

It was noted that, unlike Wirral, some Local Authorities will not pass the full PPP funding to schools, but use this to cover the cost of corporate programmes.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

5. **Schools budget Update 2014-15**

Andrew Roberts updated the forum on the changes to the Schools Budget for 2014-15 since the last meeting:-

- PFI affordability gap – reduced council funding of £0.6m
- Primary budget reduced for de-delegation and one primary academy - £2.5m
- Secondary Schools reduced for de-delegation agreed and for 13 Secondary academies - £57m
- Special School 6th form funding - £1.2m transferred to the EFA who will pass it on to schools
- Early years increase in 3 and 4yr old funding - £0.2m
- High needs reduction of £0.6m - representing additional headroom and transferred to the EFA for Academy and independent school place funding.

Centrally held budgets will be discussed further at the School Funding Working Group.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

6. **Trade Union Facilities Time**

Sue Blevins outlined a report that was due to be sent to the governing bodies of maintained secondary schools and academy schools, which outlines:-

- the statutory requirements of schools to provide Trade Union support within schools
- the drawbacks of schools not contributing to facility time

- a traded service that the LA can provide to support schools collectively.

As primary schools agreed to de-delegate the trade union facility time this only relates to secondary schools. However the report will go to primary school governing bodies for information. Sue Blevins was thanked for her work on this issue.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

7. Special School Inclusion Funding

Andrew Roberts explained that the special schools receive inclusion funding as part of the High Needs Formula to promote inclusion of their students with other neighbouring schools. The reports highlight the work the schools are doing.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

Forum agreed that the inclusion reports are to be referred to the SEN Working Group for further consideration.

8 Budget Monitoring Update 2013-14

Andrew Roberts informed the group that there was an anticipated underspend of £400k in centrally managed schools budgets for this financial year. There were a number of small changes compared to the January Report.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

9 Consultation on School Funding Reform 2015-16

Andrew Roberts explained the next steps in the DfE's school funding reform. The plan to move to a single funding formula has been deferred, until the next spending review. In the meantime the DfE are consulting on a Minimum Funding Level (MFL) for all authorities. This will allocate £350m extra funding authorities that are furthest away from the MFL. Wirral will not receive any of this funding.

The Schools Funding Working Group previously provided a response to the DfE's consultation paper due to the tight deadlines.

Resolved

The Forum endorsed the response and noted the report.

10. Traded Services Update

Stuart Bellerby outlined the ongoing work that Wirral Education Quality Services (WEQS) is doing to bring all school traded services under one umbrella and improving services to schools with a co-ordinated approach. There are 18 services which generates £9m of income.

Wirral are working with Cheshire West and Chester Council after a recent successful bid for a shared school's traded services project, which will provide £100k of consultancy support to transform services.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

11. High Needs Update and Workplan

Phil Ward highlighted the continued areas of High needs development in the coming year. From September Education Healthcare Plans (EHCP) will start to replace statements. The SEN Working Group will commence work around the arrangements for personal budgets. The group will also review and develop the high needs banding structure and changes to high needs places.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

12. Implementation of Universal Free School Meals for Infants

Andrew Roberts briefed the Forum on the introduction of universal free school meals (UFSM) for infants from September 2014 and the Cabinet report in March 2014. The report resolved that:-

- the price of a paid meal be increased to £2.30 from September 2014
- the number of Metro kitchen staff are increased to take account of additional meals
- the capital grant for UFSM be included in the capital programme

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

13. School Private Finance Initiative (PFI) Costs

Andrew Roberts outlined the background to the School PFI costs that the LA contributed to. Due to council savings the council will reduce its contribution by £600k in 2014-15 and by a further £1.7m in 2015-16.

The School Funding Working Group will consider different options to fund PFI. If it was top sliced from the schools budgets then the amount of DSG allocated to all schools would reduce, including academies. There is no option to ask the DfE for a subsidy as they already pay a grant of £5.5m. Gavin Monument confirmed that the DfEs preferred option is to introduce a PFI element in the formula.

Resolved

The forum agreed that the School Funding Working Group will review and identify the funding options and report back to the July meeting.

14. Work Plan

The work plan was provided for information. The date of the next meeting is 2nd July 2014.

15. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked Gavin Monument for his support and advice.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 2nd JULY 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN 2013/14

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the year end position for the 2013/14 Schools Budget. At this time the accounts are provisional and are subject to audit. The Forum are asked to note the report.

2.0 OUTTURN 2013/14

- 2.1 The Schools Budget Out-turn is shown in Appendix 1. The net position of £2,393,226 takes account of all delegated and centrally retained income and expenditure. The total is £201,374 less than originally budgeted and follows an agreed change in the funding of Planned Programmed Maintenance during the year.
- 2.2 There is an overall year end carry forward of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) of £929,000 which will be applied in future years budgets. A projected carry forward of £384,000 was reported to the Forum in April but did not fully take account of all academy recoupment adjustments.
- 2.3 The main variations between the planned and outturn expenditure are listed below:
- 2.4 **Primary Schools – £0.4m under spend**
There is reduced expenditure following the conversion of Our Lady of Pity Catholic School to an academy on 1st December 2013. This is matched by a reduction in DSG.
- 2.5 **Early Years Grant - £0.08m over spend**
The over spend against this budget has been offset by additional DSG of £124,700 following the January 2014 Census where an additional 56 pupils were recorded.
- 2.6 **Admissions - £0.1m under spend**
There is a reduction in costs following changes in 11+ test papers and from ceasing the Choice Advisor Service. Academies have also contributed £29,400.
- 2.7 **School Closure / Retirement Costs - £0.2m under spend**
The enhanced pension costs arising from previous school closures were £116,000. The remaining budget is uncommitted.

2.8 Carbon Reduction Commitment - £0.03m over spend

The over spend takes into account the final costs of the 2012/13 scheme and the expected final costs relating to 2013/14. The scheme has now ended for schools.

2.9 Schools Forum - £0.01m under spend

The Schools Forum budget incurred no expenditure in 2013/14.

2.10 Contribution to Combined Budgets - £0.15m under spend

The combined budgets totalling £2.5m have been spent in the following areas:

	£
Discretionary Rate Relief top up	113,200
School Improvement	359,900
LSCB Contribution	30,000
School Sports Coordinator	25,000
School Intervention	674,181
City Learning Centre's	814,700
School Emoluments Wellbeing and Staff Surveys	14,900
Clinical Waste Disposal	38,103
Governments Forum	2,200
PFI Support Team	61,800
LACES	185,500
Wellbeing and School Workforce Survey	29,258
Total	2,348,742

There is an underspend in Discretionary Rate Relief costs which have reduced from the original estimate due to academy conversions.

2.11 Insurances - £0.02m under spend

Governors Liability Insurance has under spent.

2.12 Minority Ethnic Achievement Service - £0.02m under spend

The variation here is mainly due to staffing costs being less than budgeted.

2.13 School Specific Contingency – £0.04m under spend

The Primary and Secondary Contingency outturn includes the following expenditure:

	£
Vulnerable Children	25,045
KS1 Bulge class - Teacher	16,000
Pension Arrears	14,337
Rates adjustments & Other costs	12,514
Total	67,896

Schools Contingencies for Special Schools totaling £206,000 were not committed and were returned to schools.

2.14 Special Staff Costs - £0.2m over spend

The over spend against the budget of £606,900 reflects maternity costs that are higher than planned and other exceptional school staff costs.

2.15 Behaviour Support - £0.03m under spend

The under spend includes a reduction in the costs of Embedded Police and additional academy income.

2.16 Special Education Needs Transition Reserve - £0.5m under spend

The budget of £8.3m provides the Top Up High Needs funding to Special Schools and Post 16 providers. The committed spend was £7.8m and includes a carry forward of £330,000 to fund the High Needs Minimum Funding Guarantee in 2014/15. The year end under spend reflects the remaining uncommitted High Needs contingency.

2.17 Special Education Needs Statements - £0.5m under spend

There is a net under spend in Statement costs for schools and early years.

2.18 Support for Special Education Needs - £0.5m under spend

The central part of this budget which is held to review, develop and plan SEN provision across Wirral was not fully committed in the year and will be reviewed in 2014/15.

2.19 Independent Special School Fees - £0.1m under spend

The budget of £3.3m anticipated an increase in costs arising from Raising the Participation Age which did not fully materialise.

2.20 Education Out Of School – Home Tuition - £0.04m over spend

Additional supply costs reflecting increased service demands.

2.21 Dedicated Schools Grant

The DSG budget was £176.1m of which £175.5m was received during the year. The variance of £0.6m was due to:

	£
Rates Adjustment (differences between academy rates paid and budgeted)	274,000
A primary school academy conversion	439,000
Additional income following the January Early Years Census	(125,000)
Correction of EAL Census Data	(12,000)
	576,000

3.0 DSG Reserves - £4.14m

3.1 There are a number of DSG related balances that are being held as earmarked reserves at 31st March 2014. These total £4.1m and include the following:

- Job Evaluation and Pay Harmonisation Reserve - £1.08m

The reserve has been increased by £450,000 in 2013/14

- **DSG Reserve - £1.40m**
Unallocated DSG from 2012/13 (£472,000) has been carried forward and will be applied as part of the Schools Budget for 2014/15. The unallocated DSG from 2013/14 (£929,000) will be allocated in 2015/16.
- **Automatic Meter Reading – £0.42m**
This reserve will be used to fund defibrillators in schools and will be distributed to schools in 2014-15.
- **City Learning Centres - £0.12m**
This reserve will be used to meet any potential unfunded summer term costs or large equipment failure / replacement costs.
- **AST Reserve**
The reserve of £136,000 has been used to support the salary safeguarding of Advanced Skills Teachers in 2013/14.
- **Schools Contingency - £0.19m**
A reserve to meet any significant unforeseen costs in excess of the budget provision.
- **PFI Affordability Gap - £0.6m**
This reserve has been created to provide funding in the 2014-15 Schools Budget to cover part of the PFI Affordability Gap costs.
- **High Needs MFG - £0.33m**
This reserve will meet the costs of the MFG for Special Schools and Resourced Base provision in 2014/15.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The variations identified in the centrally held schools budget set out above have no direct impact on delegated school budgets.
- 4.2 The under spend of £0.9m has been carried forward at the end of the financial year to be taken into account of as part of the Schools Budget for 2015/16.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Forum notes the financial position of the Schools Budget for 2013/14.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1 – Schools Budget and Out-turn 2013/14

	Adjusted Base Budget 2013/14 £	Outturn 2013/14 £	Variation 2013/14 £
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary Schools	92,058,800	91,620,734	(438,066)
Secondary Schools	31,788,300	31,787,948	(352)
Special Schools	8,690,000	8,690,011	11
SEN Bases	2,068,000	2,068,000	0
WASP	640,000	639,745	(255)
Wirral Hospital School	1,352,300	1,352,300	0
Early Years Providers	13,514,600	13,594,463	79,863
Individual Schools Budget Total	150,112,000	149,753,201	(358,799)
Central School Costs			
Early Years Support	541,100	524,273	(16,827)
Admissions	452,500	352,240	(100,260)
School Closure / retirement costs	326,000	115,647	(210,353)
Licences & Subscriptions	101,300	97,492	(3,808)
Carbon Reduction	230,300	260,068	29,768
Schools Forum	10,600	0	(10,600)
School Harmonisation Costs	450,000	450,000	0
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,499,600	2,348,742	(150,858)
PPM	649,000	649,000	0
PFI affordability gap	2,395,400	2,385,065	(10,335)
Costs Delegated to schools			
Library Service	198,400	197,272	(1,128)
Insurances	55,200	31,371	(23,829)
MEAS	253,800	229,659	(24,141)
School Specific Contingencies	109,600	67,897	(41,703)
Special Staff Costs	606,900	811,177	204,277
Milk & Meals	13,900	13,900	0
Behaviour Support	96,500	65,372	(31,128)
High Needs Pupils			
SEN Transition Top Ups	8,298,600	7,804,850	(493,750)
Statements	5,332,900	4,842,201	(490,699)
Support for SEN	2,292,900	1,802,315	(490,585)
Indep Special School Fees	3,315,300	3,188,642	(126,658)
Education Out of School	248,600	293,355	44,755
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non Delegated School Costs	28,536,600	26,588,738	(1,947,862)
Dedicated Schools Grant	(176,054,000)	(175,478,000)	576,000
DSG Carry Forward	0	929,287	929,287
Contribution to Reserve	0	600,000	600,000
Grand Total	2,594,600	2,393,226	(201,374)

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 2nd JULY 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Delegated School Balances as at 31st March 2014

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises the Forum of school balances as at 31st March 2014, together with a number of DfE indicators that comment on overall financial management in Local Authority (LA) Maintained Schools.

1. School Balances

School balances at 31st March 2014 are £11.7m. This represents a reduction of £170,000 when academy conversions are excluded.

	2012/13 Balances	2013/14 Balances	Difference	Change
Nursery	£374,902	£616,046	£241,144	Increase
Primary	£6,197,546	£5,856,780	-£340,766	Reduction
Secondary	£3,475,461	£3,635,423	£159,962	Increase
Special	£1,806,936	£1,444,310	-£362,626	Reduction
EMAP (WASP)	£0	£130,370	£130,370	Increase
Total	£11,854,845	£11,682,929	-£171,916	
Academy Schools	£81,884			
Total	£11,936,729			

The average school balance for a primary has reduced to £65,806 compared to £69,771 in 2012-13. Secondary schools' average balance has increased from £496,494 to £519,346. EMAP (WASP) have a delegated budget from April 2013, so has no previous year comparison.

In addition there are separate school reserves for capital schemes totalling £1.3m.

2. Deficit Budgets

There were 7 primary schools with a deficit balance as at 31st March 2013, with an average deficit of £25,498, 2.4% of their budget.

There are 4 schools that have requested a licensed deficit in this financial year, to date. 3 of which had a deficit at the end of 2013-14.

3. Balances over 5 or 8%

Although school balances have not increased this year there are still 40 schools with balances above the indicative excess thresholds set by the DfE (8% of delegated budget for Primary and Special Schools and 5% Secondary Schools). A comparison with 2012-13 is set out below:-

	2012-13		2013-14	
	No. of Schools	Excess Total	No. of Schools	Excess Total
Primary	32	£1,277,545	28	£1,022,145
Secondary	5	£1,906,543	6	£1,818,273
Special (incl EMAP)	9	£587,230	6	£553,704
Total	46	£3,771,318	40	£3,394,122

Excess balances account for 29% of the total school balances, but is a slight improvement on last year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 2nd July 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

High Needs Working Group – notes of meeting 12th June 2014.

Attending – Richard Longster, Deborah Marchant, Phil Ward, Steve Dainty, Andrew Roberts

Apologies – Shirley Allen, Ken Frost, Brian Jordan

1. Terms of Reference

To review SEN funding, consider any changes that are being recommended and to advise the Schools Forum.

2. The specific requirements to review SEN funding

arose from the High Needs Consultation and report to the Schools Forum in November 2013 and Cabinet in January 2014. The relevant recommendations are:

- a developmental staged approach to the high needs funding reform is accepted
- the inclusion money that all special schools receive totalling £757,874 should be subject to a proper review of what the money is for and how it is being used and with recommendations for future action.
- further changes to the continuum of provision for children with Social Communication/ Autistic Spectrum Condition ... are to be considered by the policy review that is underway.
- The SEN Forum Group lead the developments to the high needs funding bands (this would also include FE and 6th Forms).

3. Membership changes

Special Head representative – Margaret Morris

Co-opted Special Head – Andre Baird

4. Leading and Managing SEN Reforms

Discussion at Special Heads Conference 23rd May 2014 re SEN reforms and the changing landscape of provision in the future. and agreed at the next sub group meeting to consider arrangements for personal budgets.

5. Summary of Funding Arrangements for High Needs

The group discussed a draft summary of the current system that will be finalised for the next meeting and then circulated to schools before the end of term.

6 Inclusion Funding

Reports to the previous Forum were referred to this group and were discussed, together with some background to the allocations

For most special schools this is an annual allocation of £33,470.

The annual activity reports present a rich mixture and a wide breadth of inclusion work. Whilst there was some discussion about officers identifying good practice there was no conclusion about further action.

This could be:

- to consider whether Special School Funding should continue to have a separate stream of inclusion funding that is audited separately to their core function or whether their core function should automatically include such activities.
- To consider if it is no longer relevant to think in the original terms of 12 teacher equivalents as the funding is embedded in school budgets and therefore it is unreasonable to expect annual reports.
- should the purpose be clarified in terms of outcomes or be separately commissioned

The views of the Forum are sought.

7. High Needs Places and Bandings

The group considered the initial requests for changes in places and bandings:

- **Orrets Meadow** – Additional funding for Key Stage 1 ASC provision and conversion of 8 existing places from September 2014 and a further 8 places in September 2015..
Recommendation. That the additional places should be commissioned initially for 12 months during which time the change will be considered as part of the wider review of SEN.
- **Kilgarth and Observatory School**. There are additional pupils at the schools and more pupils with complex needs and challenging behaviours, these factors are resulting in additional financial pressures. The schools do not believe the current funding is sufficient.
Recommendation. An initial response to deal with the short term pressures and a longer term solution to form part of a wider review.
- **Gilbrook** – Outreach work with primary schools is currently costing £175,000 but the school has funding for £150,000.
Recommendation. The working group receive a report on the funding allocated.
- **Hayfield** - The school is expanding ASD to meet local needs and has more pupils with more challenging behaviours
Recommendation. The funding allocation for places changed in 2014-15. No decision at this time but keep under review.
- **Stanley**. The school has requested an increase in the number of places from 90 to 100 to better reflect the current pupil number.
Recommendation. Defer any final decision until the autumn term
- **University Academy of Birkenhead**. There are currently 16 pupils in the resource base, whilst place finding provides for 30 pupils.
Recommendation – to reduce place numbers by a further 10 with effect from September 2015 (unless this needs to be amended by any place funding decisions by the EFA later this year.)
- **Home Tuition**. This service is managed by the headteacher of Wirral Hospitals School on behalf of the LA. There is a budget of £248,000 which provides for a growing number of children and young people. In 2013-14 the accounts recorded a spend of £293,355 as a result of

additional demands on the service. These pressures are likely to continue and may increase further as a result of Raising the Participation Age.

Recommendation. That the working group receive a report on the proposals for this service.

Next Meeting – July 2014 to be confirmed

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 2nd July 2014.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

Schools Funding Working Party – notes of meeting 13th June 2014.

Attending – Gill Zapka, Elaine Cogan, Jane Gordon, Steve Dainty, Phil Sheridan.

Apologies – Richard Longster, Steve Peach

Schools Funding Formula – Local Changes

The DfE are still to confirm their intentions for a National Schools Funding Formula, which would be introduced from 2016-17 at the earliest. The working group considered the make up of the current formula (attached) and discussed possible local changes that could be considered for 2015-16.

1. Low Cost High Incidence SEN (LCHI)

Wirral allocates all funding in this area through Prior Attainment data (Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and Level 4 English or Maths.) This is an unusual position, many local authorities allocate a higher amount and include a proportion of deprivation, AWPU and Lump Sum funding to this area.

Any changes considered would not automatically adjust the distribution of school funding, it would however alter the overall funding a school could attribute to School Action / School Action plus.

Recommendation. That no further action be taken at this time, but to keep this area under review.

2 Looked After Children

The funding formula redistributed some deprivation funding last year (£225,000) to increase the overall amount allocated to Looked After Children. The basis for the decision was to target additional resources in this area, taking account of additional needs and attainment.

The group discussed a proposal to equalise the level of funding for each looked after child with the average funding allocated to a child who receives a free school meal. This comparison should also take account of funding allocated through the Pupil Premium.

Currently LAC funding is £2,950 and FSM funding is £3,400 for a primary pupil and £3,449 for secondary pupil.

To make overall funding the same this would involve a top slice from deprivation of c. £200,000, about 1% of the total funding allocated in this area. Funding would be equalised at about £3,400.

Recommendation. That this proposal should be considered within the local funding formula in 2015-16.

3. Deprivation

The group discussed the overall level of funding provided for deprivation. There is an amount of £20.3m in the local formula (11% of the Schools Budget). With the inclusion of Pupil Premium of £15.2m this rises to £35.5m (18%). There are 8,182 pupils registered for Free School Meals, 19.7% of the school population.

The deprivation funding compared to AWPU is as follows:

	AWPU £	Deprivation £	Pupil Premium £
Primary	2,753	2,100	1,300
Secondary KS3	3,931	2,514	1,300
Secondary KS4	5,049	2,514	1,300

A request was made by a member of the group that deprivation allocations are re-examined. A number of factors should be taken into account:

- As the number of FSM have reduced since 2011 the amount per FSM pupil has and will continue to increase. During this time the Pupil Premium was introduced to target additional funding.
- Although levels of FSM have reduced this may not be matched by other measures of deprivation. The attainment gap is wide and widens further at KS3 and KS4.
- Some LA's allocate deprivation funding using Ever 6 which is a broader distribution of funding for more pupils
- A reallocation / reduction in deprivation amounts would provide some schools with additional funding, by reducing allocations to others. At a time of little or no extra resources this may create some instability within the formula.
- The view of the Forum 12 months ago was that there should be no changes to this area.
- It would be possible to cap the unit value of a FSM.

Recommendation. That a cap on the unit value of deprivation is considered. That the Forum advises on what additional work should be undertaken in this area.

4. Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 AWPU

Wirral's formula has a separate rate for KS3 and KS4 AWPU in secondary schools. The basis for these rates are historic and reflect previous spending decisions. At £5,049 Wirral's KS4 rate is higher than most authorities, whilst KS3 at £3,931 is about average.

The group considered if these rates should be equalised. However in doing so this change would disadvantage those schools with smaller KS3 classes compared to KS4, possibly as a result of falling rolls.

Recommendation. No action is taken at this time.

Review of Central Budgets

The review of central budgets arises from the planning required to implement a decision to reduce the Council's financial support to the Schools PFI agreement by £2.3m with effect from 2015-16.

This change is initially being considered through a review of School's Budgets that are held centrally.

The following potential reductions in central budgets were identified and could be implemented from 2015-16:

- School Closure retirement costs £200,000
(There is no call on this element of the budget)
- School Harmonisation Costs £450,000
(It is expected that the reserve of £1.1m will be sufficient to meet backdated implementation costs and any appeals.)

Other budgets were broadly discussed and should be looked at in more detail.

These include:

	£
• Admissions	365,400
• Contributions to Combined Budgets	2,336,200
• Planned Programmed Maintenance	449,000
• High Needs	

Recommendation. That the group consider budget commitments and outcomes in these centrally managed areas and submit a further report in September.

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2014-15 SCHOOLS FORMULA BREAKDOWN

FORMULA ELEMENT	PUPILS ELIGIBLE	PRIMARY	SECONDARY	TOTAL	% OF TOTAL ALLOCATION
AGE WEIGHTED PUPIL UNIT (AWPU) - PRI	24,551	£67,597,987			
AGE WEIGHTED PUPIL UNIT (AWPU) - KS3	9,852		£38,730,281	£140,899,250	76.97%
AGE WEIGHTED PUPIL UNIT (AWPU) - KS4	6,847		£34,570,982		
DEPRIVATION - FREE SCHOOL MEALS (FSM)	8,092	£9,911,861	£7,030,614	£16,942,475	9.26%
DEPRIVATION - IDACI	20,094	£2,081,870	£1,315,730	£3,397,601	1.86%
ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)	565	£253,798	£29,900	£283,698	0.15%
LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN (LAC)	428	£260,980	£188,420	£449,400	0.25%
PRIOR ATTAINMENT (PA)	8,570	£4,907,480	£3,241,806	£8,149,285	4.45%
LUMP SUM		£9,000,000	£2,100,000	£11,100,000	6.06%
SPLIT SITES		£21,630		£21,630	0.01%
RATES		£969,652	£824,452	£1,794,103	0.98%
RENT		£23,000		£23,000	0.01%

FORMULA ALLOCATION		£95,028,257	£88,032,186	£183,060,443	
MFG ADJUSTMENTS (-1.5%)		£467,032	£30,328	£497,360	
CAPPED ADJUSTMENTS (2.435%)		-£402,558	-£94,712	-£497,270	
DE-DELEGATION		-£1,189,726	-£214,484	-£1,404,210	
FINAL ALLOCATION		£93,903,005	£87,753,318	£181,656,323	

SCHOOLS WITH MFG ADJUSTMENTS		16 (18%)	1 (5%)	17 (15%)	
SCHOOLS WITH CAPPED ADJUSTMENTS		19 (21%)	3 (14%)	22 (20%)	
MFG Highest		£82,748	£30,328		
Capped Highest		£66,463	£47,121		

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM July 2nd 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

A summary of developments for Metro Catering

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the recent developments and approach for Wirral Council Metro Catering traded service.

BACKGROUND

1. Summary

- 1.1 Metro Catering is a traded service for Wirral schools that provides a comprehensive lunchtime meal service through a service level agreement (SLA). It was one of the first traded services to be developed after the establishment of LMS for schools.
- 1.2 For 13/14, 73% of primary schools bought back the service and 100% of special schools. No secondary school bought back. This generated an income from schools for 13/14 of £4.1 million.
- 1.3 In 13/14, 1.46 million meals were provided by Metro Catering.
- 1.4 Metro Catering currently employs 240 staff which equates to 110 Full Time Equivalents (mainly term time only).

2. Developments

- 2.1 In September 2013, the Coalition government announced its policy for Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). The Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn Statement 2013 confirmed both revenue and capital funding to introduce free school meal entitlement for all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 with effect from September 2014.
- 2.2 This is a legal duty on schools, included as part of the Children and Families Act 2014.
- 2.3 Guidance from the DfE issued in March 2014 indicated that funding will be provided to schools at a rate of £2.30 for each meal taken – based on those infant pupils that are newly eligible for a free meal.
- 2.4 Wirral Council Cabinet agreed on March 13th 2014 to the recommendations in a report which included:
 - 2.4.1 *That the price of a paid school meal is increased to £2.30 from September 2014 in primary schools where services are provided by METRO Services and that this increase is recommended to governing bodies of primary and special schools.*

2.4.2 *Subject to Council approval that the capital grant received to implement universal free school meals for infants in maintained schools totalling £623,802 is included with the capital programme for 2014-15 and is used to progress the range of schemes described.*

2.4.3 *That METRO school kitchen staffing number are increased to take account of additional meal numbers, with costs funded by schools and a DfE revenue grant based on £2.30 per additional free meal served.*

2.5 Metro Catering has been revising its SLA offer, in consultation with schools using the Wirral Education Quality Services (WEQS) management boards. A new SLA offer was sent to all schools on the 12th June 2014 which also gave notice on the current SLA arrangements.

2.6 The key features of the new Metro Catering SLAs as outlined in the letter of the 12th June are:

- There are three options for the SLA, Standard, Standard Plus and Premium. A standard SLA will provide the core meals service only, the Standard Plus will in addition make provision for equipment repair and replacement, whilst the Premium will also include arrangements for paid meal cash collection.
- Options have been developed in consultation with schools and take account of requirements identified.
- There is a transparent approach to charging for the school meals.
- Charges will only be levied for the meals that are actually served.
- There is an opportunity to review and enhance food purchases.
- There is an 'Early Bird' incentive offer for schools who commit to the SLA on or before July 8th 2014.
- The current SLA will finish on 31st August 2014 and a new SLA will be introduced from 1st September for one year. This new SLA will be reviewed during 2014/15, including costings based on actual in-year figures and consulted on for the offer for 2015/16.

2.7 An option to participate in a KS1 trial day was also offered to all schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Schools Forum to note the report.**

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 2nd July 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

Early Years Working Group

Membership – Richard Longster, Janet Devine, Simon Davies, Lyn Ireland, Cathy Hughes, Denise McDonald

Terms of Reference

To review the Early Years Single Funding Formula and consider the financial Implications of service/funding changes.

Meeting Agenda

Arrangements for the Early Years Pupil Premium
Implementation of the extended 2 year old offer from September 2014
Preparation for 2 year old census returns in January 2015
Purchase of an Early Years Provider Portal
Early Year benchmarking data

Date of Meeting – July/September 2014

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 2nd July 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Scheme for Financing Schools – Revisions

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report informs Schools Forum of a number of revisions that are required to the Scheme for Financing Schools.

Revisions to Scheme

The Scheme for Financing schools establishes and describes the financial relationship between the Authority and the maintained schools which it funds. The scheme applies to maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools. It does not apply to academies or free schools. The scheme contains requirements relating to financial management and associated issues which are binding on both the Authority and its schools and covers areas such as:-

- Finance and audit
- Budgets
- Surplus and deficit balances
- Charging of school budget shares
- Provision of services

There are 2 changes required as detailed below:-

- Section 2.13 - add the word 'academies'
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 (3b) of the Standards and Framework Act 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 role of other maintained schools **or academies**. The LA may offer guidance from time to time as to what expenditure may suitably be regarded as for the purposes of the school. Governing Bodies should have regard to this guidance.
- Remove Academy conversions from Annex A – Wirral Maintained Schools.

Consultation

Schools will be consulted on the scheme change in September 2014 in accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the results of which will be reported to the Forum in the autumn term.

Recommendation

That Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

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WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 2nd July 2014

WORK PLAN

Meeting Date	8 th October 2014	21 st January 2015	29 th April 2015	8 th July 2015
	Elect chair & vice chair			
Budget	DSG 2014-15 Budget monitoring update Combined budgets Early Years Home Tuition	Schools Settlement Schools Budget Budget monitoring update Pupil Premium De-delegation of budgets	Schools Budget update 2015-16 School Budget Monitoring 2014-15	Schools Budget Outturn School Balances and Reserves
Consultation	School Funding Outcome from consultation		National Fair Funding Formula for schools	
DfE Regs & guidelines		School Finance Regulations		Scheme for Financing Schools
Working Groups	School Formula High Needs Early Years Traded Services	School Formula High Needs Early Years Traded Services	School Formula High Needs Early Years Traded Services	School Formula High Needs Early Years Traded Services
Other	Membership	Excess Balances		

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