



Wirral Schools Forum

Date:	Wednesday, 18 January 2017
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Council Chamber, Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH SEPTEMBER 2016 (Pages 1 - 6)**
2. **MATTERS ARISING**
3. **INSURANCE UPDATE (Pages 7 - 8)**
4. **ENERGY UPDATE (Pages 9 - 12)**
5. **MEAS UPDATE (Pages 13 - 14)**
6. **PFI SUPPORT (Pages 15 - 18)**
7. **BUDGET MONITORING 2016-17 (Pages 19 - 24)**
8. **SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2017-18 (Pages 25 - 28)**
9. **SCHOOLS BUDGET 2017-18 (Pages 29 - 42)**
10. **SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING CHANGES AND DE-DELEGATION (Pages 43 - 44)**
11. **DE-DELEGATION OF BUDGETS (Pages 45 - 48)**
12. **HIGH NEEDS CONSULTATION (Pages 49 - 58)**
13. **EARLY YEARS UPDATE AND CONSULTATION (Pages 59 - 62)**

Report to follow

14. **NATIONAL FUNDING FORMULA CONSULTATION (Pages 63 - 66)**
15. **UPDATE ON SCHOOL BALANCES (Pages 67 - 68)**
16. **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE (Pages 69 - 72)**
17. **SCHOOLS FORUM POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES (Pages 73 - 78)**
18. **2017-2018 SCHOOL FUNDING: HISTORIC COMMITMENTS (Pages 79 - 88)**
19. **APPRENTICESHIP LEVY UPDATE (Pages 89 - 90)**
20. **WORK PLAN (Pages 91 - 92)**
21. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM

28th September 2016

MINUTES

Present: Jill Billinge (Chair)

Schools Group

L Ayling	A Heron
S Baker (substitute)	L Ireland
B Chadwick	N Lightwing
E Cogan	D Marchant
S Dainty	J McCallum
M Forber	T Taylor
J Goalen	A Whiteley (Vice Chair)

Non-Schools Group

S Bennett	I Harris
M Bulmer	N Prance
A Donelan	

In Attendance:

S Allen	J Hassall
D Armstrong	I McGrady
S Ashley	M Morris
K A Brown	A Ryecroft
Cllr W Clements	A Roberts
A Davies	M Simpson
R Edwards	Cllr P A Smith
C Fenlon	S Talbot

Apologies:

A Baird	J Pearson
S Davies	K Podmore
J Devine	P Young
S Duggan	T Quinn
S Higginson	

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Jill Billinge was elected as Chair and Adrian Whitely was elected as Vice Chair for 2016-17.

2. Minutes from the Meeting held on 6th July 2016

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

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Traded Services Update

Ian McGrady updated the Forum on Edsential's first year of trading and highlighted the following:-

- Each school will have an Edsential business manager as a single point of contact.
- A new website is to be launched.
- Parent Pay is to be provided to Primary Schools who sign up for a 3 year catering SLA.
- A new music centre has been established at Mosslands School.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

5. Apprenticeship Levy

Andy Davies briefed the Forum on the Apprenticeship Levy which will be introduced in April 2017. The levy will be charged at 0.5% of payroll costs for those organisations with a pay bill of over £3m. Maintained schools will be included within the LA paybill. Funds will be accessed through a new digital account to be set up for each employer. How schools will access this is still unclear.

Further updates will be provided when more information is released.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

6. Budget Monitoring Update

Andrew Roberts outlined the schools budget position for 2016-17. There is an indicative overspend of £157k in respect of a number of central school budgets, particularly within Special Educational Needs. It was noted that the TU facilities time has an indicative shortfall of £20k due to reduced income. This will be discussed further with the Professional Associations.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

7. Update on School Budget Position

Sue Ashley updated the Forum on the indicative school balances for March 2017 and 2018. The overall financial position has improved compared to earlier reports. The Forum noted that this has resulted from the preparation and approval by headteachers and governors of robust and challenging financial plans. However, there are a number of schools projecting a deficit for the financial year 2017-18 and these will continue to be closely monitored.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

8. School Funding 2017-18

Andrew Roberts summarised the funding arrangements for School Budgets in 2017-18 following the deferral of the National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs until 2018-19.

The arrangements are broadly similar to the current year, with no changes to:

- DSG pupil funding
- Minimum Funding Guarantee (-1.5%)
- allowable funding factors in the Wirral local formula
- de-delegation

There will, however, be some changes to:

- IDACI bandings to ensure funding is allocated to the most deprived children.
- Prior attainment to use new KS2 assessments.
- A review of allowable central costs.
- The transfer of Education Services Grant (£730k) to DSG.

The EFA's Operational Guidance will form the basis of the Schools Budget for 2017-18 and the report to the January meeting.

Resolved

Forum notes the report

9. Early Years Funding Consultation

Lynn Ireland highlighted some of the proposals identified in the National Early Years consultation paper:-

- The national funding hourly rate to be paid to Wirral will increase from £3.79 to £4.31
- The LA central spend is to be restricted to 5% of overall Early Years funding
- The same base rate must be the same for all providers by 2019-20
- The existing funding for maintained nurseries will be protected for 2 years
- A new disability access fund will be introduced
- LAs are to promote use of SEN inclusion funds
- Local formula supplements for early years are to be no more than 10% of the available funding.

The response to the Early Years National Funding Consultation was included for information.

Resolved

Forum noted the report and the response to the consultation paper.

10. PFI Formula Consultation

Andrew Roberts informed the group that 16 responses were received for the PFI Formula Consultation, with 8 being from PFI schools.

The consultation has 2 proposals:

1. To fund additional PFI facilities management costs through top slicing all schools budgets. This was supported by the PFI schools, but not by the other respondents. The Forum discussed an alternative means of funding using changes in combined budgets and historic commitments. This would remove the need to top slice budgets.
2. To delegate the PFI Affordability Gap. This proposal was supported.

Resolved

The school representatives on the Schools Forum agreed:-

- to introduce a PFI element within the funding formula, to cover the facilities management costs and the PFI affordability Gap.
- that the £400k will be met by reallocated central budgets and headroom, avoiding a top slice of school's budgets.
- that the FM costs are allocated on building size

11. Proposals for High Needs Places 2017-18

Margaret Morris summarised the changes in High Needs places since 2010. The decrease of pupils in mainstream provision and the increase in the special school population reflects the changes nationally. There has been an increase in both temporary and permanent exclusions which has had a significant effect on Emslie Morgan.

The report proposed changes in high needs places from September 2017 to take account of pressure on provision as follows:

- Claremount - places to increase by 12 to 216
- Emslie Morgan – places to increase by 20 to 100
- Birkenhead Park Academy inclusion base to close – reduce by 20 places
- Kingsway Academy inclusion base to close – reduce by 20 places
- Hilbre High Inclusion base – places to increase from 15 to 30 places

Post 16 provision is also increasing with a possible increase of 42 places required in 2017-18.

Resolved

- Forum noted the report.
- Forum referred the pressures described to the working group for further discussion.
- Schools will be consulted on the place changes.

12. Behaviour Support

Kirsten Brown, Headteacher of Gilbrook School, provided a summary of the services provided by Gilbrook Outreach to primary schools, which includes consultation and advising school staff, observation and assessment of children's emotional and social and mental health, training and support. The work is monitored closely and there are currently 136 cases open with 44 schools. Feedback from schools who receive the service is positive.

Mick Simpson, Acting Headteacher of Kilgarth school, outlined the Kilgarth Outreach Support provided to secondary school pupils who may be disengaged, disaffected and

have challenging behaviour. Sessions are tailored to individual students needs and can cover a large variety of areas from stress to anger management. Feedback from school staff and pupils about the service received has been positive.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

13. Pensby Amalgamation

Andrew Roberts updated the Forum on the request to the EFA for Pensby High School to retain some of their combined lump sum in the school funding formula for a further year. The additional protection should not exceed 70% of the combined lump sums, and will provide the school with an additional protected amount of £40k in the delegated budget for 2017-18.

Resolved

The Forum agreed that the LA should apply for an exceptional needs factor for the additional lump sum for Pensby High School in 2017-18.

14. Scheme for Financing Schools

Sue Ashley outlined the revisions to the Scheme for Financing Schools for maintained schools and confirmed that the updated Scheme will be issued shortly.

Resolved

Forum noted the report

15. Membership and Elections Update

Sue Ashley updated the Forum on the membership of the Forum. There are currently 27 members and 3 vacancies, 2 primary governor vacancies and 1 academy vacancy.

There were also 3 terms of office due to end, 1 academy, 1 FE and 1 PVI rep.

Arrangements are currently in place to fill the vacancies.

Particular thanks were expressed to Ken Frost, who has resigned as a governor rep, for all his hard work on Schools Forum since 2006.

Resolved

Forum noted the report.

16. Date of Working Parties

Early Years	- 1 st November 1:30pm, Birkenhead Town Hall
High Needs	- 4 th November 9:30am, Birkenhead Town Hall
School Funding	- 15 th November 1:30pm, Birkenhead Town Hall

17. Workplan

The workplan was provided for information.

The dates of the meetings for this academic year are:-

Wednesday 18th January 2017

Wednesday 26th April 2017

Wednesday 5th July 2017

18. Any Other Business

There was no other business

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 18 January 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL SERVICES

(Traded Service – Risk & Insurance)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out the scope of the services provided to schools and Academies and summarises the scale of the service. It highlights the benefits to schools and future developments.

2. BACKGROUND

Schools have been procuring risk management and insurance from the authority since the budget for these services was delegated almost 20 years ago and almost all continue to do so. The service continues to be well received and the current package of services comprises:

- Provision of a comprehensive baseline package of insurance from both the commercial insurance market and the Council's in-house Insurance Fund
- Maintenance of detailed policy records and underwriting disclosure information, such as rebuilding values for school premises
- Provision of written confirmation of Public and Employers Liability insurance and, where relevant, Motor insurance
- Management of all insured claims, supporting the school through claims processes and providing help to reduce the cost of individual losses
- Maintenance of individual claims histories for each school
- Provision of advice on insurance related matters, including the interpretation of legal scenarios
- Provision of advice on loss control, as and when required
- Provision of a comprehensive guide to the school's insurance programme
- Access to specialist commercial insurance / claims advice from a retained panel of brokers, specialist solicitors, loss adjusters and barristers

There is competition from the private sector for the provision of insurance and ancillary services. However the authority considers that its offering has a number of unique features, not least of which are the highly competitive premiums, previously benchmarked at around 50% of commercial insurance market rates. Although proposed charges for 2017/18 will on average increase by 6.6% (driven by the rise in Insurance Premium Tax and schools' increasing share of Liability claims costs) I believe that they remain competitive. This is because of the authority's buying power and levels of self-insurance. Other significant benefits include:

- A quality portfolio of insurance, tailored to the school's needs
- The process through which insurance is procured is both competitive and fully compliant with public sector procurement legislation
- Schools pay nil or minimal excesses in the event of a claim
- Advice on insurance and risk improvement matters is both professional and impartial

- Claims handled by the Risk & Insurance team can be settled more promptly than commercial insurers or brokers
- Experienced support on technical and sensitive liability claims
- The team has local knowledge and provides a local presence that can be on site rapidly in the event of an emergency

Since 2011 a service offer has been available to support Academies. This has been taken up by all previous school clients that have converted, other than those which have joined an existing MAT. Twelve schools, including one based outside the borough, currently purchase this service. Whilst the range of services is broadly similar to that for controlled schools, because of their legal status Academies require an individual package of insurance that reflects their particular risk exposures. The team helps them to procure this, through a mixture of commercial insurance from companies who are committed to the local authority and education sectors, and through the DfE's alternative risk financing mechanism, the Risk Protection Arrangement. There is also greater emphasis on the team acting as the Academy's loss assessor and advocate in discussions with insurers, claims handlers, solicitors and loss adjusters.

3. SCALE OF SERVICE

Risk and Insurance has one of the highest 'buy back' rates of all traded services. In 2016/17 110 schools purchased the service at a total cost of approximately £970,000. To give some indication of the scale of risk presented by schools, the Property insurance policy alone covers school buildings and contents of almost £441m. These figures do not include the service for Academies indicated above.

5. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The scope of the insurance package for controlled schools was widened last year to include malicious damage to school buildings and their contents and to cover financial losses from computer fraud, funds transfer fraud and account scams. No further changes are planned for 2017/18.

The expansion of the Academies programme envisaged by the Government will have particular implications for the Risk and Insurance service. As indicated above, Academies need to make individual arrangements to cover their risks and the Risk and Insurance team can provide the support which they need. The team can provide impartial advice and provide access to the markets which provide best overall value for an individual school.

The SLA requires schools to assist the team by advising of their intentions to convert to Academy status as early as possible, at which point the team can discuss their individual insurance requirements in more detail.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

- **That schools note the range of services available.**
- **That schools provide notice of their intention to convert to Academy status as early as possible**

Tom Sault
Director of Financial Services

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 18 January 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR FOR BUSINESS SERVICES

ENERGY PURCHASING FOR SCHOOLS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper provides a brief update on the procurement of electricity and natural gas on behalf of Schools and describes changes for the 2017/18 financial year.

2. PURCHASING OVERVIEW

The energy supply arrangement many Schools are part of procures Electricity and Natural Gas using a Managed Service provided by Crown Commercial Service (CCS). CCS, as a trading fund and an executive agency of the Cabinet Office, delivers commercial savings for central government and the wider public sector. It is the largest not-for-profit energy buying consortium in the UK which enables it to exert much greater pressure on suppliers than the Council could alone. This managed service type of arrangement was identified as best practice by the Pan-Government Energy Project. The arrangement is compliant with Corporate Procurement and EU Regulations.

The purchasing arrangement includes PFI schools and is available to Academy Schools. A total of 118 schools listed in the Primary and Secondary Education Booklets are part of the managed service. 8 Schools make their own arrangements. The total projected expenditure for all schools in the managed service is approximately £3.28 million.

Electricity and Natural Gas is currently purchased on the wholesale markets on Wirral's behalf by CCS over the six months prior to the start of the supply year. The individual energy suppliers (contracted by CCS under separate framework agreements through an OJEU compliant process) then provide a team to supply and administer a particular contract.

Energy prices change extremely quickly and the risks involved in selecting the right day to switch are huge. Purchasing the energy over a six month period, allows the CCS traders to purchase parts of our total requirement when the markets are low and to avoid periods of high prices.

It should be noted that there are individual tariff structures within the Electricity and Gas contracts are based on operational profiles, transportation and metering costs, meaning that each point of supply is priced individually.

3. BENEFITS OF THIS APPROACH

In 2014/15 the CCS purchasing baskets we were part of were 150 times larger than our total portfolio which includes Schools as well as Council buildings. Aggregation is used as leverage, providing access to the generators. Generators want to sell outputs in a small number of large portions rather than having to make an increased

number of smaller sales. The market price achieved reflects this preference. A small basket reduces market leverage and increases the risk of higher prices.

It has previously been identified that the savings identified by approved Government Benefits Methodologies show that the Wirral Portfolio would have cost approximately 10.4% more than actual spend if the current arrangement with CCS had not been in place.

CCS provides a team of expert traders whose activities are constantly monitored by a separate risk management team and are subject to regular review by central Government. Delegating purchasing to expert traders spreads the risks of purchasing energy on a spot price basis and the final prices we pay are built up from the energy purchased over a six-monthly period.

This proposal supports Pledge Fourteen of the Wirral 2020 Plan by enhancing the Council's ability to keep running costs associated with use of gas and electricity in council buildings to a minimum whilst adhering to purchasing rules.

4. MARKET TRENDS

Up to April 2016 the price of energy had been reducing. This trend has reversed since then. Although we are, to an extent, insulated from market volatility, a sustained rise in prices will eventually work its way through to the prices we pay.

For the remainder of the current Financial Year, projections suggest that no changes to energy budgets are required. This assumes patterns of use do not change significantly. Projections for 2017/18 are not yet available as energy purchasing takes place up to and including 31 March 2017. It is not possible to determine the precise impact on prices at this time with any certainty although an upward trend is likely. When the updated prices are available, the Wirral Schools Forum will be updated at the earliest opportunity

The elements affecting energy markets are varied, but some recent significant influencing factors include: the relative strength of sterling against the Euro and the US Dollar; changes in the price of coal; availability of power from French nuclear generators; availability of gas storage and changes to oil production levels.

5. CHANGE TO PORTFOLIO SCHEDULE

From 1 April 2017, the entire Wirral energy portfolio will synchronise to the financial year. This was necessary as the October renewal baskets were shrinking to the extent that it was not possible to access the most advantageous deals from the generators. The size of the aggregated basket is important for CCS to obtain the best prices on the wholesale futures markets. .

An April price renewal date means that suppliers will apply the OFGEM non-commodity charges that are set for each year rather than having to include a risk premium to cater for anticipated changes.

The electricity supplied by British Gas Business is already on a financial year renewal cycle so there will be no impact for those Users. Schools supplied by EdF and Corona Energy will be affected, but there should be no impact on the administrative burden for Schools.

6. REGULATORY CHANGE: P272

Under the new 'P272' Regulations electricity meters that fall into the Code 05 to Code 08 category must be settled on the Half Hourly market from 1 April 2017. For the 9 schools with these types of meters, the supplier will change from British Gas Business to Electricité de France (EdF). The changes required by the new regulations have been made by CCS under the terms of the framework agreement. The Regulator maintains that the increase in accuracy of half-hourly billing will outweigh any additional metering costs.

7. BILLING VERIFICATION

Up to now, the Sustainability Unit has no direct involvement in the payments process. We are in the process of developing a verification procedure for all CCS framework energy accounts that will identify billing errors when the summary and consumption files are received. This will allow us to raise queries concerning any errors that can then be referred back to the supplier and the School as appropriate. Items that will be checked include, but are not limited to: continuity of meter readings and dates; significant changes in consumption and correct tariff charges.

8. ROLE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY UNIT

The role of the Sustainability Unit is to administer the purchasing contract on a day-to-day basis and to provide assistance and support when problems arise with the Framework Suppliers.

We are able to provide an enhanced service through the Energy and Water Support Service which includes the provision of: mandatory Display Energy Certificates (DEC's) & Advisory Reports. Energy & Sustainability Awareness, Advice and Support (including the Eco Schools compulsory energy module); and Training opportunities for key stakeholders (e.g. Bursars, Governors, Caretakers, Teacher-Talks) are available on request but subject to resource constraints.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the forum notes the content of this report and approves the actions taken on behalf of schools.

David Armstrong
Director for Business Services (Assistant Chief Executive)

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 18th January 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Minority Ethnic Achievement Service Update

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS) supports schools to meet the needs of bilingual learners and ethnic minority pupils at risk of under achievement.

On January 13th 2016 the Schools Forum members voted not to de-delegate the MEAS budget (£286,700) with effect from April 2016. The Forum agreed that 5/12 (£104,100) of the budget would be allocated to allow a review of the service delivery and to develop a traded service offer.

MEAS have been operating as a fully traded service for 1 term since September 2016 and feedback from staff in schools is always excellent or good. Maintaining the breadth of our offer has always been very important to us and this has meant that a relatively high proportion of Wirral schools have bought into the service (some with large numbers of minority ethnic families and some with relatively few or no minority ethnic families). We have aimed to respond rapidly to all enquiries and maintain an excellent quality of service for all our customers. Our packages of support are flexible and can be adapted to the changing needs of schools as required.

2. MEAS funding and structure 2016-17

April - August 2016	FTE	Funding
Interim manager	1	104,100
Teacher/consultants	1.6	
Teaching assistants	2.2	
Bilingual project officers	2.2	
Clerical	0.4	
Total	7.4	
September - March 2017		
1 manager	1	78,773
0.4 teacher/consultant	0.4	
1.2 (2 x 0.5 & 1 x 0.2) teaching assistant	1.2	
1.4 (2 x 0.5 & 1 x 0.4) bilingual project officer	1.4	
Clerical	0.2	
Total	4.2	

3. MEAS income sources as a traded service:

- **SLA buyback from schools-**

Schools	Number of schools		Income
All	63	49%	£78,773
Primary	55	59%	£68,820
Secondary	5	23%	£7,080
Special	3	23%	£2,873

- **Pay as you go charges (one off visits and attending central training)**

Wirral schools: £600

Cheshire schools: £390

Total: £990

Future sources of additional income:

- Deliver services in collaboration with Children's Centres (Wallasey & Birkenhead)
- Provide services to support newly arrived refugee families
- Joint bids with partner organisations e.g. Wirral Multicultural organisation and Wirral Change
- Increase buyback from schools in Wirral
- Develop buyback from schools in West Cheshire

4. Priorities for the new MEAS traded service September 2016 – March 2017

- To deliver high quality support to schools who have purchased a package.
- To support schools to identify priorities for MEAS support e.g. staff training or direct pupil intervention and challenging racism
- To continue marketing MEAS within Wirral and more widely throughout West Cheshire and beyond.
- To evaluate provision and to develop a service that is efficient and adaptable in order to meet the changing requirements of schools.

5. MEAS offer for 2017/18

- Similar format with 4 packages offered and a 10% discount for a 2 year buy back.
- Package price increased because staff time has increased to reflect increase from 2 terms to 3 terms support
- Additional offer for a cluster of schools buying in a member of staff
- Increased buyback from schools plus additional income from other sources should give a total income of more than £140,000 sufficient to sustain the service in its current form.

6. Recommendation

The Forum note the report and support the action taken to develop a sustainable service to support schools.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 18TH JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR BUSINESS SERVICES

Private Finance Initiative Support Costs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the work of the PFI team within Asset Management and the support provided to monitor the PFI contract on behalf of the Council and Schools.

BACKGROUND

The Wirral Schools PFI project agreement was signed by the Council, school governing bodies, and the PFI contractor in March 2001. The scheme involved the rebuild / refurbishment of one primary and eight secondary schools in Wirral.

Variations were subsequently agreed for the construction of two City Learning Centres (CLC's) located on PFI sites.

The contract was originally for 25 years to July 2029, but in September 2004 it was extended by 2 years and will expire in July 2031. Construction works were completed in August 2006. The PFI contract also provides for facilities management (FM) support services in schools. These services include building and grounds maintenance, catering, cleaning and caretaking, security, waste, minibuses, utilities and telecommunications.

An annual sum is paid to the PFI contractor Wirral Schools Services Ltd. for the cost of PFI. This "unitary charge" represents the repayment of capital costs for rebuilding / refurbishing the schools and a payment for the cost of providing facilities management services. The contract makes provision for the total costs to increase each year by the December Retail Prices Index, less 10% of that RPI.

In 2016 -17 the annual PFI contract cost (excluding CLC's) will be £12.3m. PFI is the Council's biggest contract and is funded by:

	£m
PFI grant	5.5
Individual school contributions	3.9
Schools Budget (central)	2.3
Council Contribution	0.6
Total	12.3

PFI SUPPORT

The role of the PFI team is to manage the contract by offering day to day support on all contractual aspects of the various legal agreements which define the scheme. In addition to this the PFI Team offer services which are tailored to accommodate the obligations of the PFI Scheme including:

Finance

To verify and agree contract payments –on a monthly basis

To collect contributions from schools.

Checking financial data to ensure accuracy
Forecasting future budget requirements for the PFI scheme overall

Contractual

To ensure contract performance and compliance in terms of service delivery against service standards and Project Agreement schedules. This includes change orders, Benchmarking / Value for Money Testing, Summer works, Planned Preventative Maintenance, Life Cycle Works, Utility targets and reconciliation, Catering and profit sharing, management of Loose Furniture Budgets (FF&E) and Service Provider Operational Reports

There is a detailed service specification for PFI support that has been developed with the 9 schools this includes:

- Regular meetings with the individual schools at each site with the, PFI Authority Representative , PFI provider, Facilities Management Company and Catering Services Provider
- Regular Contract wide meetings between the Authority, the PFI Provider, Facilities Management Company and Catering Company to ensure the PFI partners meet the requirements of the Contract, both on a day to day and strategic level
- Monthly dissemination of utility data and forecast of financial implications for each individual school
- Regular discussions re performance and financial deductions

During the year the team has :

- supported the closure of 2 of the 3 CLC sites and the consideration of alternative uses for the buildings. Change of use is a complex process requiring consultation with the PFI Provider and amendments to contract agreements/leases
- Assured a Catering profit share to schools relating to the 2014/15 of £57,466.
- Ensured a number of penalties at various sites under the Performance and Payment regime
- Secured a credit for the late delivery of minibuses for a number of sites Overseen Lifecycle delivery programme of £850,000
- Finalised a consistent approach for the Annual User Satisfaction Surveys
- Contested a claim for a 'Change in Law' proposed by the PFI Provider, (ongoing)
- Attended Keep in Touch meetings held twice per term at each of the nine sites – ensuring the minutes of the meetings reflect the action points and monitoring performance of the PFI Contractors
- Administered the change order process
- Overseen the restructure of both the Facilities Management Company and the Catering Provider
- Managed reconciliation of a new tranche (8) of annual costs for change orders
- Negotiated a process for CDM for change orders following a recent change in legislation

In 2017 the focus will be:

- To secure amendments to agreements regarding the PFI AffordabilityGap.
- Prepare for contract benchmarking which commences in 2018

- Resolve the outstanding dispute on Performance and payment reports with the PFI Provider and implement a mechanism to improve the process
- Ensure the utilities Reconciliation and target setting is managed in a more timely and accurate way by the PFI Provider
- Ensure the recent re-structure of the Facilities Management Provider brings about improvements – particularly in the delivery of change orders
- Finalise a consistent approach for the Annual User Satisfaction Surveys carried out by the Catering Provider, ensuring any service failures are incorporated into the Performance regime.
- Ensure the latest tranche for annual costs for change orders (tranche 9) is completed
- Resolution of ongoing discussion with PFI Provider of the recent implementation of the need for ‘Deeds of Variation / Indemnity’ for a number of school change order requests

PFI SUPPORT BUDGET

The PFI team has a net budget of £44,700

This can be summarised as:

	2016/17
	£
Staff	56,200
Professional Fees	26,900
Other costs	29,000
Schools Income	(61,800)
Academy Income	(5,600)
Net Cost	44,700

RECOMMENDATION

That the report is noted

David Armstrong
Director Business Services

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 18th JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2016/17

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Forum on the Schools Budget position and anticipated variations in the current year. There is an estimated over spend at quarter 3 of £345,000, mainly within the High Needs Budget.
- 1.2 St Mary's Catholic College transferred to Academy status on 1st November 2016. Although their end position is currently being finalised at the time of writing, the budget and projected figures have been adjusted to reflect the revised DSG amount. There are not expected to be any further schools transferring to Academy status during 2016/17.

2.0 ANTICIPATED BUDGET VARIATIONS

- 2.1 The table attached compares the Schools Budget with the indicative spend for the year. The main variations are set out below.

2.2 **Early Years – increase of £100,000**

The Early Years budget of £14.6m reflects the funding required for 2, 3 and 4 year olds who are entitled to receive free Early Education and Early Years Pupil Premium. The budget is based on the January 2016 census and the projected costs have been updated to reflect actual payments made in relation to the autumn term.

The take up of the 2 year old offer has increased during the autumn term, projections for spring term numbers have been updated giving an anticipated spend of £100,000 more than originally budgeted, which will be offset by a corresponding adjustment to DSG funding.

The Early Years Portal is now in place and providers are moving onto the new system on a termly basis with the intention being that all providers will submit online headcount information from 1st April. This should result in a more efficient process and greater accuracy.

2.3 **Central Early Years Budget – projected under spend £20,000**

Across employees and supplies there are small budgets currently uncommitted within this centrally managed budget.

2.4 **School Admissions – projected under spend £20,000**

This is a centrally managed budget with uncommitted budgets against employees and exam fees.

2.5 **Schools Forum – projected under spend £10,000**

There are no commitments to date against this budget of £10,600.

2.6 Contribution to Combined Budgets – no projected variance

The combined budgets of £1.7m are expected to be fully spent across the following areas:

	Budget
	£
School Improvement	359,900
Discretionary Rate Relief Top Up	106,600
LCSB contribution	30,000
Governors Forum	2,200
Wellbeing & School Staff Surveys (5/12)	18,600
PFI Support Team	61,800
LACES	140,500
School Intervention	674,500
City Learning Centres (5/12)	196,500
CLC PFI	108,200
Total	1,698,800

Any uncommitted employee budgets in relation to the closure of the 3 CLC's will help fund the one off severance costs.

2.7 Special Staff Costs – no projected variance

This budget continues to be monitored closely and is currently projecting no variance against budget:

	Budget	Projected Spend	Projected Variance
	£	£	£
Maternity, Paternity & Other Staff Costs	613,000	613,000	0
TU Facilities	79,800	79,800	0
Insurance & Recharges	6,900	6,900	0
Total	699,700	699,700	0

The shortfall in TU traded Services referred to in September's report has now been resolved, costs will be met from within the agreed budget.

2.8 Behaviour Support – projected under spend £35,000

Income received this year in relation to 2015/16 Managed Moves as well as reduced costs for embedded police contribute to a projected under spend of £35,000.

2.9 Special Education Needs Top Ups – projected over spend £170,000

A budget of £8.8m funds the Pupil Led Top Up funding in Specialist Provision, Resource Bases, FE, Colleges and Alternative Provision. There are £200,000 of costs relating to additional learners at Wirral Metropolitan College and Birkenhead Sixth Form College and £100,000 of additional costs due to placements at Emslie Morgan Academy. The breakdown of this budget is as follows:

	Budget	Projected Spend	Projected Variance
	£	£	£
Top Ups for Maintained Special Schools	6,406,300	6,368,100	(38,200)
Top Ups for Resourced provision	602,000	550,100	(51,900)
Alternative provision	243,800	352,200	108,400
FE and 6 TH Form Top Ups	728,000	934,500	206,500
Additional Nursing Support	127,100	127,100	0
Exceptional Needs	645,000	590,200	(54,800)
Total	8,752,200	8,922,200	170,000

2.10 **Special Education Needs Statements – projected over spend £195,000**

At this stage of the year the costs relating to Primary and Secondary schools are both expected to exceed their budgets by £95,000.

2.11 **Independent Special Schools – projected over spend £365,000**

The budget in this area was increased to reflect demand for the number of young people with complex needs in Independent Special Schools. Recent projections indicate that although numbers are at a reduced level of 92 (1 lower than budgeted), the costs are actually higher due to students moving on into 6th Form provision.

2.12 **Support for SEN – projected under spend £300,000**

There are vacancies and uncommitted budgets in this area which are helping to offset the pressures within the High Needs budget.

2.13 **DSG - £169,395,500**

The DSG is adjusted to the reported position as follows:

DSG Budget	172,175,500
Anticipated increase in 2 year old numbers	100,000
St Mary's College recoupment	(2,880,000)
	169,395,500

3.0 **UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES**

3.1 The DSG reserves total £2.5m and have been earmarked in the accounts as followed:

- **Job Evaluation and Pay Harmonisation Reserve - £0.65m**

- **DSG Reserve - £1.0m**

	£
DSG Carry Forward from 2015/16	1,602,200
Use of Reserve in 2016/17	(568,900)
	1,033,300

- **City Learning Centres - £0.13m**

This reserve will be used to help meet any final closure costs relating to the City Learning Centres.

- Early Years £0.13m

This reserve of £130,500 is expected to fund the Early Years Portal and expand the 2 year old provision.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The Schools Budget will continue to be monitored and reported through the year.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That the Forum notes the report and the Schools Budget projection for 2016/17.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1 – Budget Variations 2016/17

	Adjusted Budget 2016/17 £	Projected Spend 2016/17 £	Variation 2016/17 £
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary Schools	93,463,700	93,463,700	0
Secondary Schools	27,081,100	24,201,100	(2,880,000)
Special Schools	8,861,700	8,861,700	0
SEN Bases	1,701,500	1,701,500	0
Wirral Hospital School	1,356,300	1,356,300	0
Early Years	14,673,000	14,773,000	100,000
Individual Schools Budget Total	147,137,300	144,357,300	(2,780,000)
Central School Costs			
Early Years	378,700	358,700	(20,000)
Admissions	341,800	321,800	(20,000)
School Closure / retirement costs	86,000	86,000	0
Licences & Subscriptions	223,800	223,800	0
Schools Forum	10,600	600	(10,000)
Contribution to Combined Budgets	1,698,800	1,698,800	0
PPM	249,000	249,000	0
PFI affordability gap	2,886,500	2,886,500	0
Costs De-Delegated from schools			
Library Service	191,700	191,700	0
Insurances	32,300	32,300	0
MEAS	104,100	104,100	0
School Specific Contingencies	104,300	104,300	0
Special Staff Costs	699,700	699,700	0
Milk & Meals	21,200	21,200	0
Behaviour Support	92,300	57,300	(35,000)
High Needs Pupils			
Statements	3,799,000	3,994,000	195,000
SEN Top Ups	8,752,200	8,922,200	170,000
High Needs Contingency	434,000	434,000	0
Independent Special Schools	3,689,000	4,054,000	365,000
Home Tuition	308,900	308,900	0
Support for SEN	2,031,500	1,731,500	(300,000)
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non Delegated School Costs	26,193,600	26,538,600	345,000
Dedicated Schools Grant	(172,175,500)	(169,395,500)	2,780,000
DSG Carry forward from Reserves	(568,900)	(568,900)	0
Grand Total	586,500	931,500	345,000

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 18th JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

School Funding Formula 2017-18

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the draft local School Funding Formula for 2017-18 and the changes in the dataset compared to the previous year.

2. BACKGROUND

The local School Funding Formula is a means to allocate budgets to all maintained primary, secondary and academy schools in Wirral. This will continue to be the case until 2019 when it is likely a National Funding Formula will be introduced. Wirral's formula uses a range of prescribed factors set by the DfE, such as pupil numbers and deprivation elements to determine an individual budget for each school. The amount allocated to schools in 2016-17 was £188.3m in total. This figure will increase to £194.9m in 2017-18, taking into account the rise in pupil numbers and additional delegation.

Each year, the DfE publish a dataset to allocate school block funding from the DSG. The information from the dataset is primarily based on the October 2016 School Census.

3. MAIN CHANGES IN DATASET

AWPU (Pupil Entitlement)

Pupil numbers for Primary and Secondary have both seen an increase on previous year. Primary numbers have increased from **25486** to **25842** (+1.4%) and Secondary numbers have increased from **17031** to **17183** (+0.9%). Overall the pupil numbers have increased from **42,517** to **43,025** (+1.2%).

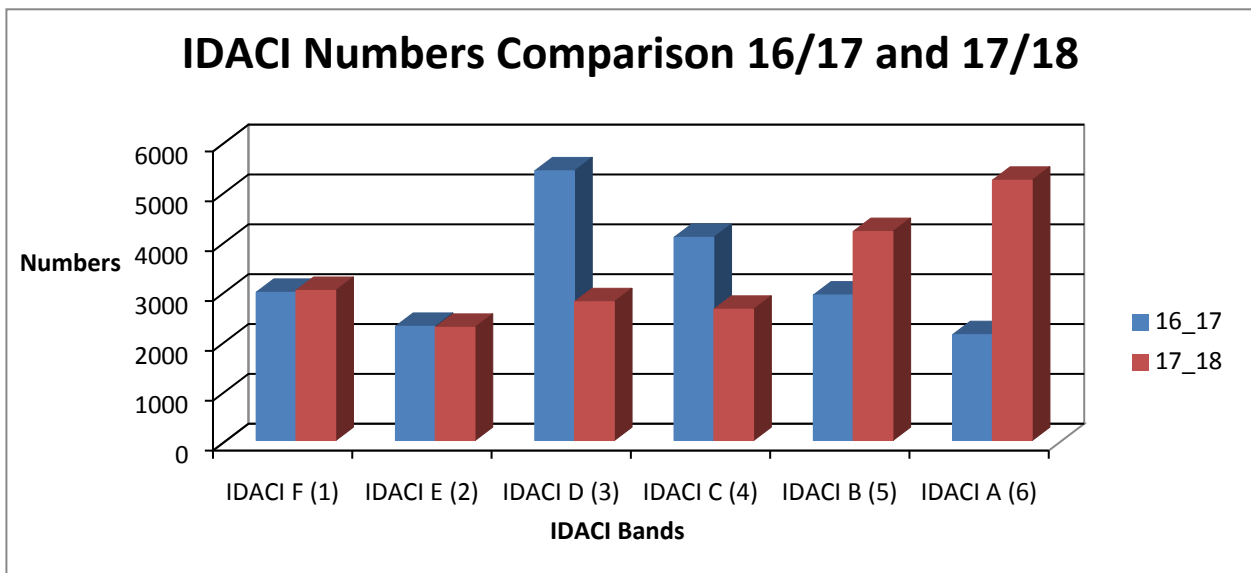
Free School Meals (FSM)

FSM numbers in the formula have increased from **7314** to **7488**. The increase over the past 12 months is primarily due to the work automatically opting in eligible pupils.

IDACI

There are 6 IDACI bands which are used in the formula as a proxy for deprivation. In 2016-17 IDACI data was updated from the position 5 years ago. The update nationally moved pupils down from the highest bands and therefore altered the distribution of funding across schools.

In 2017/18 IDACI Bands have been redesigned to return them to a similar size to previous years (2015/16). This has seen a move in numbers from bands D and C to more deprived bands.



Prior Attainment

For primary schools, funding is targeted at pupils who did not achieve the standard at Early Years Foundation Stage in Reception. This figure has seen a very slight increase from **4788** to **4791** compared to last year.

For secondary schools, funding is targeted at pupils who achieve a level 3 or below in English reading or writing or maths at Key Stage 2 (yrs. 8-11) and pupils who haven't reached the expected standard in any one or more of reading or writing or maths in the new Key Stage 2 2016 tests (Yr. 7). Similarly to primary schools, this figure has increased from **3325** to **3457**.

EAL

The number of children eligible for EAL element has increased from **522** to **579** (Primary) and **93** to **107** (Secondary).

Looked After Children (LAC)

Number of eligible children for LAC element has increased from **429** to **453**

Split Sites

Increased numbers on Split site element from **2157** to **2554**, this is due to Our Lady and Saint Edwards opening a new annexe building behind current school.

PFI

A new factor will be included in the 2017-18 formula for PFI. This has been the subject of previous reports to the Forum.

The PFI Affordability Gap of **£3.1m** will be included and apportioned over the 9 original PFI schools on the basis of pupil numbers.

£400,000 will also be included to reflect the additional costs of services supporting PFI school costs apportioned on the basis of gross internal floor area.

Pensby Amalgamation

Pensby High school application for a revised Exceptional Sum Factor of **£40,000** has been accepted by the Education Funding Agency (EFA). Pensby High Schools total lump sum for 2017-18 will be **£140,000**.

School Funding Formula

At the time of writing the unit values allocated to the formula elements are shown below. These will be updated following the approval of the Schools Budget and any subsequent data changes.

4. RECOMMENDATION

The Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

**APPENDIX 1 FOR SCHOOLS FORUM 18TH JANUARY
2017**

2016-17 V 2017-18 UNIT RATE COMPARISON (PROVISIONAL)

2016-17				
ELEMENTS	Units	Unit Value	16-17 Funding £	Proportion of total funding (pre-MFG)
AWPU - PRI	25486	£2,807	£71,548,887	38.0%
AWPU - KS3	10303	£3,986	£41,066,625	21.8%
AWPU - KS4	6728	£5,126	£34,485,575	18.3%
FSM - PRI	4601	£1,944	£8,943,387	8.1%
FSM - SEC	2713	£2,349	£6,373,745	
IDAC1 (P)	1736	£45	£78,414	1.8%
IDAC2 (P)	1439	£80	£115,323	
IDAC3 (P)	3430	£137	£468,563	
IDAC4 (P)	2640	£204	£539,468	
IDAC5 (P)	1840	£272	£500,595	
IDAC6 (P)	1335	£340	£453,773	
IDAC1 (S)	1237	£47	£58,360	
IDAC2 (S)	851	£91	£77,427	
IDAC3 (S)	1980	£146	£289,422	
IDAC4 (S)	1436	£216	£310,689	
IDAC5 (S)	1079	£285	£307,954	
IDAC6 (S)	789	£355	£279,629	
EAL - PRI	522	£493	£257,300	0.15%
EAL - SEC	93	£327	£30,300	
LAC	428	£1,500	£642,688	0.34%
SEN PA - PRI	4788	£1,060	£5,073,266	4.44%
SEN PA - SEC	3325	£991	£3,294,580	
SPLIT SITE		£18	£38,006	0.02%
LUMP SUM			£11,170,000	5.93%
PFI	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
RATES			£1,889,560	1.00%
RENTS			£23,000	0.01%
FORMULA TOTAL			£188,316,533	

2017-18				
ELEMENTS	Units	Unit Value	16-17 Funding £	Proportion of total funding (pre-MFG)
AWPU - PRI	25842	£2,825	£72,998,413	37.5%
AWPU - KS3	10567	£4,017	£42,445,394	21.8%
AWPU - KS4	6616	£5,164	£34,163,943	17.5%
FSM - PRI	4745	£1,944	£9,223,656	8.0%
FSM - SEC	2743	£2,349	£6,442,776	
IDACIF (P)	1780	£38	£66,798	1.8%
IDACIE (P)	1423	£67	£94,802	
IDACID (P)	1755	£114	£199,216	
IDACIC(P)	1650	£170	£280,134	
IDACIB (P)	2730	£226	£617,160	
IDACIA (P)	3332	£282	£940,869	
IDACIF (S)	1232	£40	£49,103	
IDACIE (S)	849	£77	£65,220	
IDACID (S)	1030	£124	£127,228	
IDACIC (S)	983	£183	£179,775	
IDACIB (S)	1463	£241	£352,898	
IDACIA (S)	1889	£300	£565,918	
EAL - PRI	579	£453	£262,413	0.15%
EAL - SEC	107	£286	£30,670	
LAC	453	£1,500	£679,943	0.35%
SEN PA - PRI	4791	£1,080	£5,172,878	4.37%
SEN PA - SEC	3457	£965	£3,333,892	
SPLIT SITE		£18	£45,642	0.02%
LUMP SUM			£11,140,000	5.72%
PFI			£3,436,500	1.76%
RATES			£1,934,360	0.99%
RENTS			£24,500	0.01%
FORMULA TOTAL			£194,874,101	

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

18TH JANUARY 2017

SUBJECT:	SCHOOLS BUDGET 2017-18
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the Schools Budget for 2017-18 and describes the financial changes to be considered by the Forum and Cabinet. The Forum are asked for their views on the proposed budget of £252,127,600 for early years, maintained schools, academies, colleges and providers for the coming year.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Schools Funding Allocations were issued by the Department for Education on 20th December 2016. The format of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is changing following lengthy discussion and more recent consultation. In 2017-18 there will be a new national formula for Early Years, whilst changes for the Schools and High Needs have been deferred for 12 months, meaning that these allocations are broadly similar to previous years.

In summary the main changes to DSG in 2017-18 are:

- A new Early Years block which will increase the Early Years hourly rates paid to providers (in total by £1.4m)
- Additional grant to cover the 15 hour extension of Early Years for working parents from September 2017 (£2.4m)
- The transfer of funding in respect of Education Services Grant Retained Duties of £730,000
- The transfer of High Needs funding for post 16 FE places of £780,000.
- Additional High Needs funding (growth) of £550,000

2.2 2017-18 Pupil Premium £17.7m

In addition to DSG Pupil Premium provides funding targeted towards deprivation. Now in its seventh year rates have been protected.

- Early Years £302 pa for 3 and 4 year old children from low income families.
- Primary school £1,320 pa
- Secondary school £935 pa

For Pupils who are or have been eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in the last six years

- Each Looked After Child or child that has been adopted since December 2005 £1,900
 - Each child of a parent in the Armed Forces £300
- Final allocations will be based on data collected in the January census for current numbers of FSM's (and those over the previous 5 years) and LAC Census data collected in March 2017.
- The work undertaken to maximise FSM take up, including the opt out initiative helps to maximise numbers and therefore the funding received in schools.

2.3 Grant Funding

The meal rate for Universal Infant Free School meals will stay at £2.30 per meal for the academic year 2017-18.

The SEND Implementation Grant will continue (with funding increased to £217,000 from £196,000) to support the implementation of SEND reforms. In addition a grant is provided to all LA's to support a strategic review of High Needs provision, Wirral will receive £132,000.

The funding for Primary PE and Sport and Extended Rights for Home to School Transport are still to be confirmed but are likely to continue.

There is an Education Services Transitional Grant of £943,000. This provides funding for the period April to August 2017 to provide Education Services to maintained schools associated with School Improvement, Education Social Workers, Premature Retirement Costs and other statutory duties. From September however funding is withdrawn. Guidance from the EFA says "We recognise the LA's will need to use other sources of funding for Education Services once the General Funding Rate has been removed", this can include funding from maintained schools with the agreement of Schools Forum. Proposals for ESG are considered later in this report.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) £251m

- 2.3.1 DSG is currently made up of 3 unringfenced blocks which indicate the level of expenditure anticipated in each budget area. At present local spending decisions can reallocate resources according to needs and priorities eg from Schools areas to High Needs or vice versa. However given there will be greater restrictions and ringfencing in future years this is not recommended. The budgets presented have not top sliced block allocations. There is however some small movement to take account of the distribution of budgets that were previously held centrally (School Improvement, CLC's etc). This has resulted in a transfer of £106,000. Taking account of the National Funding Formula some of this adjustment may only be possible for 1 year.
- 2.3.2 The allocations for the Schools funding block have been updated for changes in pupil numbers. Pupil numbers are those recorded in the October 2016 census.
- 2.3.3 Early Years funding is based on a combination of the census in January 2017 and January 2018. The dates for the Early Years Census mean that the exact DSG will not be finalised until June 2018. The grant used for the budget are based on the current indicative figures (using the January 2016 census) and any known or anticipated changes after this date eg for the 15 hour extension in September 2017.
- 2.3.4 The High Needs Block provides resources to fund high needs students aged 0 – 24, including the Hospital School. Funding has been transferred for baseline place numbers at Wirral Met College (72) and Birkenhead 6th Form College (60) and additional funding has been provided to meet growing needs across all authorities. For Wirral an additional £550,000 has been included for this. Growth can be used flexibly

to make adjustments locally to high needs places as well as to the top ups provided and a number of changes are described later in this report.

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

	Block	Pupil Numbers	Funding Per Pupil £	Allocation £
1.	Schools Block	43,024	4,552.86	195,882,200
2.	Early Years Block	3,116	4,094.50	12,757,600
	Early Years Extension(7/12)	1,014	4,094.50	2,423,600
	2 Year Old funding	782	4,959.00	3,877,900
	Nursery Protection			517,900
	Disability Access Fund			100,000
	Early Years Pupil Premium			180,000
3.	High Needs Block			35,056,000
			Total	<u>250,795,200</u>

Notes:

1. Schools Block pupil numbers include academies. Numbers have been adjusted for additional pupils arriving in reception between October and January (the Reception Uplift) and for places in SEN bases. The pupil funding rate of £4,552.86 has been increased by £19.58 compared to 2016-17, partly for ESG retained duties (£15) and also as a result of the EFA's budget base lining exercise over the summer.
2. Early Years pupils including 2 year olds. These are based on the January 2016 census, any anticipated changes and numbers for the Early Years Extension (and estimated 1,690 children).
3. High Needs Block includes all funding (both pre and post 16) for pupils in Schools and funding for students aged 16-24 in Further Education or placed with Independent Special Providers.

2.3.6 Schools Block £196m

This funding covers the delegated budgets to mainstream schools and academies totalling £195m. In addition the block funds a number of budgets that are managed centrally on behalf of schools:

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

The treatment of these budgets is in accordance with national guidance. The changes to a number of areas are considered later in this report.

2.3.7 Early Years Block £20m

This Block funds the costs of Early Years Education for 2, 3 and 4 year old children in schools, nurseries and private voluntary and independent providers for both the universal and targeted entitlement. Most of this funding is directed through the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF).

There are small elements covering SEN costs and some central Early Years support costs. Amounts held centrally are within the new nationally defined limits.

2.3.8 High Needs Block £35m

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

- Special schools (pre and post 16), school bases and non-maintained special schools. All receive a base level funding of £10,000 per place.
- Alternative Provision Bases and Emslie Morgan Academy funding of £10,000 per place.
- Place funding in Wirral’s FE provision at Wirral Met College and Birkenhead 6th Form College of £6,000 per place.
- Additional funding over and above that provided for places in the form of “top ups” provided on a per pupil basis. The top up, or “plus” element of funding, takes account of the agreed assessed needs of pupils and is paid by the “commissioner” responsible; this may be Wirral Children’s Services, a school or another Local Authority. Wirral’s top up system uses 5 bands to allocate funding across special schools, resourced bases and alternative provision. Non-maintained Special Schools also receive a top up.
- The costs of Top Ups for all education and training for post 16 specialist provision for Learners with Learning Difficulties or Disabilities (LLDD) in colleges and private providers.
- The Hospital Schools budget.
- The cost of placements in Independent Special Schools.
- The costs of Education, Health and Care Plans / Statements.
- The provision centrally of SEN support.

2.4 Academies

Currently there are 16 secondary academies, 2 primary academies and 1 Alternative Provision Academy – Emslie Morgan. Academies are independent from the local authority and are funded directly from the EFA, however Regulations require Wirral to continue to calculate their budgets in order to determine the total grant reduction; for Wirral this is estimated to be £76m in 2017-18.

2.5 Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG)

The MFG will continue in 2017-18, protecting schools from large formula changes and changes in pupil data. The MFG rate remains at minus 1.5%.

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

2.6 2016-17 Budget Changes

Proposed 2017-18 Schools Budget savings

There are no specific budget savings proposed as part of this Schools Budget report. However the Council continues to face significant pressures and will need to identify cost reductions totalling £132m over the next 4 years of which £45m are in 2017-18. Some of these reductions will have a bearing on the level of support and services provided to schools; none however are directly funded by the Schools Budget. Planned reductions are summarised in 3 themes – Delivering Differently, Income and Resources and Service Changes.

Some specific proposals schools may need to be aware of include:

- Changes to home to school transport, leisure centre provision and charges, changes to business rates relief and changes in the use of Children's centres

Final decisions will be taken at Budget Cabinet on 20th February 2017.

2.6.1 Primary, Secondary and Academy Budgets £195m

The significant changes within this area are:

- The net increase in school rolls, resulting in an overall budget increase of £2m. There are 508 more pupils on roll in October 2016 compared to October 2015. The estimated secondary numbers for pupils aged 11-15 have risen from 17,031 to 17,183 an increase of 132 (1%). Primary numbers have also increased from 25,486 to 25,842 (a 1.4% increase).
- An increase in rates payable of £44,800. There is an overall increase reflecting inflation, rates revaluation and transitional relief.
- A number of budgets that were previously held at the centre totalling £4m have now been delegated to schools. These changes take account of the proposals for services supported by ESG and the EFA's updated guidance on Historic Commitments and Combined Budgets. Delegation includes:
 - Remaining CLC budgets (excluding PFI), Wellbeing and Staff Surveys of £206,000
 - School Improvement £27,000 and School Intervention £485,000
 - Planned Programmed Maintenance £224,000
 - The PFI Affordability Gap of £3,036,500, which has been increased by the estimated cost of inflation - £150,000.
- There is a small amount of Headroom within the budget. This arises from a difference between the pupil funding received in DSG for rising primary rolls and the primary funding allocated within the ISB. Allowing for a small increase in Business Rates, there is a balance remaining of £272,400. This headroom, together with part of the remaining City Learning Centre budget provides the additional funding for PFI schools of £400,000, which was agreed at the last meeting.
- School budgets continue to be supported by reserves; £380,000 will be used in 2016-17. These are one-off balances and are not likely to continue beyond 2017-18 or be included with the new National Funding Formula.

2.6.2 6th Form Funding

The Schools Budget includes funding for High Needs students in 6th Forms. All other post 16 funding is through the National Formula.

The national funding formula for 6th Forms is based on lagged learner numbers to which a national rate is applied for each student of £4,000. This rate is weighted for study programme costs and student retention. There are additional amounts for disadvantage and student financial support.

The 2015 Spending Review confirmed the cash protection of the national base rate per student for 16 to 19 year olds in 6th forms, colleges and FE for the rest of the parliament. In 2017 the changes to allocations received will be for formula protection, which continues to be phased out, the Bursary Fund following the introduction of free meals and the funding provided requiring students to have or be studying for Maths and English GCSE's.

It is anticipated that schools will be informed of their allocations for the academic year 2017-18 in February.

2.6.3 High Needs Places £16.0m

From 2017-18 the place funding for students in Further Education (Wirral Met College and Birkenhead 6th Form) has been transferred into this budget and all future changes to provision will be made from the within this budget and the overall resources available.

Places in specialist provision within Local Authority areas continue to be determined by each LA in consultation with schools and providers. There is flexibility to make adjustments so that places broadly reflected take up by pupils and a number of place changes have been proposed by Wirral that were considered at the last Schools Forum meeting. These have been reported to the EFA where necessary and have been reflected in the Schools Budget as follows:

FYE of changes made in 2016-17

- Elleray Park increase by 11 places to 110
- Stanley increase by 21 places to 120
- Lyndale closure and reduction of 40 places
- Claremount increase by 10 to 204
- Bebington ERP reduce by 5 to 20
- Birkenhead Park ERP reduce by 10 to 10
- Kingsway Academy ERP reduce by 10 to 20
- Birkenhead 6th Form reduce by 5 to 60
- Wirral Met College increase by 12 to 72

Changes from September 2017

- Claremount increase by 12 to 216
- Townfield ERP increase by 1 from 11 to 12
- Hilbre ERP increase by 15 to 30
- Kingsway Academy ERP closure and reduce by 20
- Birkenhead Park closure and reduce by 10
- Emslie Morgan AP increase by 20 to 100
- Birkenhead 6th Form increase by 5 to 65
- Wirral Met College increase by 45 to 117

There are no changes proposed to the Hospital School

The place value changes have an additional cost of £165,600 in 2017-18 and a further £199,000 (FYE) in 2018-19.

2.6.4 Early Years £18.9m

The provision for 3 and 4 year olds is based on 5,193 children (3,116 FTE) and will roll over at its current level. The EFA have estimated that 1,690 (1/3rd) will take up the extended offer in September 2017 and provision for this has been included within the budget.

The budget reflects the changes to the Early Years Funding Formula which is reported elsewhere on the agenda. The average hourly rate (including supplements) has increased from £3.68 to £4.00, a 9% increase.

Take up of the 2 year old offer has increased during the year and is currently at 80% of those children where eligibility is indicated (1,303 children = 782 FTE). The overall

funding has also increased and in 2017-18 it is recommended that the hourly rate should increase from £4.85 to £5.12, a 6% increase.

The estimated value of the Early Years Pupil Premium is £180,000, reflecting a take up of about 11%.

2.6.5 SEN Top Ups £17.8m

The proposed budget for SEN Top Ups is £17.8m. There is an increase / growth within the High Needs DSG Block of £550,000. Some further information is needed from the EFA to confirm the final adjustments that will be made.

Growth has been allocated to increased places in maintained and Independent Special Schools and to increased top ups as follows.

SEN Top Ups 2017/18

	2016-17	2017-18
	£	£
Statements (£4,174,800)		
Early Years	292,200	450,000
Primary	1,460,000	1,585,000
Secondary (including 6th Forms)	1,827,000	1,920,000
Personal Budgets	108,500	108,500
Other	111,300	111,300
Top Ups (£13,608,500)		
Special Schools (and 6th Forms)	6,406,300	6,527,400
SEN units - resourced and alternative provision	602,000	704,000
EMAP	243,800	367,000
Further Education, 6th Form College and providers	728,000	946,000
Exceptional Need	645,000	504,100
Nursing support	127,100	127,100
Contingency	434,000	314,000
Independent Non Maintained Special Schools	3,689,000	3,770,000
Home Teaching	308,900	348,900
Total	16,983,100	17,783,300

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

- **Special Schools.** The top up budgets have been increased by £121,100, reflecting additional numbers and also the delegation of central budgets for School Improvement etc.
- **Statements.** A net increase of £375,800, increasing provision within Early Years by 50% and a greater number / cost of IPFA's / EHCP's
- **Independent Special Schools.** An increase of £81,000. There are currently 89 places, over half of which are at West Kirby Residential School. The proposed budget takes account of these numbers and makes provision for 19 leavers at the end of the summer term and 7 new placements.
- **Further Education and 6th Form College.** An increase of £218,000, mainly in respect of the additional numbers identified in FE college provision. **Exceptional Need** a reduction of £141,000. This budget was increased temporarily in 2016-17 to fund the increasing numbers and cost of support of complex and challenging children with high needs. Some pressures have been contained during the year, further work is needed and will be the subject of ongoing reports / reviews.
- **Contingency.** The contingency of £314,000 covers the potential costs of:
 - The 90% guarantee to maintained schools to limit the demands on low cost high incidence SEN budgets used to support statements.

- Any unforeseen consequences arising from top ups, exceptional cases or the review of High Needs.
- Any mismatch between provider places and places taken up.
- Inflationary pressures within Non Maintained Special Schools.

The remaining budget is thought to be sufficient at this time taking account of the known commitments in the current year. However there is now little flexibility, meaning budgets will need to be closely monitored.

This is a brief description of the changes that have been put in place with an increased cost overall of £1.2m. Locally and nationally there are significant budget pressures for High Needs. These have been eased by growth within the High Needs Block Grant allocation and funding from Early Years. However this growth alone does not address all needs. The use of reserves and contingencies give only temporary funding; a more permanent budget framework will need to be established alongside the new national High Needs Formula from 2018-19.

2.6.6 Use of Reserves

DSG reserves held total £2.5m and were agreed as part of the year end accounts for 2015-16. The Schools Budget for 2016-17 is likely to use £0.9m of these.

In the 2017-18 budget £0.6m of reserves will also be used (£380,000 within Schools and £189,000 in High Needs).

This leaves reserves of £1m which are assigned mainly to costs of pay harmonisation.

3.0 INFLATION

- 3.1 No direct provision is included within the budget for pay awards. At this stage a 1% award for teaching and support staff is anticipated alongside an Apprenticeship Levy of 0.5%. The additional costs arising from these changes in schools together with the full year effect of changes in 2016-17 will need to be met from existing school budgets.

There is no general provision for price inflation, although costs for school rates and PFI continues to reflect RPI increases.

4.0 CENTRALLY HELD SCHOOL BUDGETS

- 4.1 As in previous years the budgets held for Contingency, Special Staff (maternity and trade union duties), the School Library Service, Insurance (Governors Aided), Behaviour Support, the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service and FSM Eligibility have been delegated to schools. A decision is required for any de-delegation of these on behalf of maintained schools.

In addition and new for this year are decisions required for the de-delegation of any costs associated with School Improvement or General Duties as they relate to the former Education Services Grant.

The centrally held budgets for 2017-18 cover:

- the continuing premature retirement costs of teachers and staff that have arisen from closing schools (£60,000 a reduction of £26,000)
- the cost of licences for copyright and music in all schools and academies resulting from a national agreement (£226,100 an increase of £2,300)

- School Admissions (£341,800)
- Contributions to combined budgets (£875,600).
- Schools Forum £10,600
- Early Years £518,700
- The budget for the PFI Affordability Gap which was previously held centrally (£3,036,500) has been delegated to PFI schools (including an increase of £150,000 funded by the LA.)
- Retained duties re the former Education Services Grant of £730,000

4.2 **School Admissions (£341,800)**

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

4.7 **School Copyright licences (£226,100)**

The DfE purchases a single national licence for all state funded schools. Licences cover areas such as the Copyright Licence Agency, the Education Recording Agency, a School Printed Music Licence and the Performing Rights Society.

4.8 **Contributions to Combined Budgets**

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

There must be no new commitments or increases in expenditure from that agreed in 2012-13 (as confirmed by the EFA in their publication "2017 to 2018 schools funding : historic commitments supplementary guidance for LA's").

The budgets are shown below:-

- **Discretionary Rate Relief £106,600**
This budget funds continuing costs for Discretionary Rate Relief in Voluntary Aided schools.
- **School Improvement £330,000 (previously £359,900)**
This budget supports the continuing funding for existing staff with permanent contracts (3 + admin support).
- **Local Safeguarding Children's Board £30,000**
The LSCB provides governance of child protection arrangements, undertakes serious case reviews, training and employs a Designated Officer for Allegations. The Board is funded from partner organisations including Social Care, Schools, Police, Health and Probation. The £30,000 contribution from the Central Schools Budget matches the amount received from Health. There is also a £10,000 contribution from the High Needs Budget.
- **School Intervention £136,000 (previously £674,500)**
This budget supports the continuing funding for 2 existing staff. The remaining intervention budgets have been delegated to schools.
- **PFI - City Learning Centres £68,500 (previously £304,700)**
The 3 City Learning Centres closed in summer 2016 after which budgets were delegated to schools. There is an ongoing requirement to fund PFI costs for 2 of the 3 buildings. Provision has been made within the council for some costs

- (£115,700) and also the Home Tuition Service (£40,000). This residual budget is required until a more lasting solution is found.
- **PFI Support £61,800**
A small team within Asset Management manages the PFI contract on behalf of the Council and provides support / advice to PFI schools. This budget provides part of the funding needed to support the ongoing contract management.
 - **LACES £140,500**
The service reviews the educational progress of Looked After Children, provides training to staff and some direct support to pupils.

Combined Budget Summary	£
Discretionary Rate Relief top ups	106,600
School Improvement	330,000
LSCB Contribution	30,000
School Intervention	136,000
PFI – CLC’s	68,500
LACES	140,500
PFI Support Team	61,800
Governors Forum	2,200
Total	875,600

The Combined Budgets in 2016-17 were £1,698,800.

Education Services Grant £730,000

In the 2015 Spending review the DfE announced a saving of £600m by removing the ESG General Funding rate for schools from 2017-18. The ESG General rate represents spend on statutory support to maintained schools (not academies), which in future will cover functions such as Internal Audit, aspects of LMS / Finance, Children’s Services support, school redundancies and some costs of asset management.

At the same time the EFA have transferred an amount in respect of ESG Retained Duties for all schools and academies into DSG. These duties also cover some of the above and in addition the work of the Education Social Work service. The transferred amount of £730,000 is based on an amount of £15 per pupil.

It is recommended the amount of £730,000 is agreed as a contribution to ESG retained services.

In addition that £291,600 is agreed (and de-delegated) on behalf of Maintained Primary, Secondary and Special schools towards the part year costs of ESG General Duties from September 2017 (full year cost £500,000). This amount is in respect of Internal Audit, LMS / Finance support, school redundancies and asset management. The additional cost of this can be offset by amounts delegated this year for School Improvement, Intervention and PPM. This matter is also considered as part of the report on De-delegation elsewhere on the agenda.

The position is summarised in the table below

ESG Services

(Estimated costs per 2016-17 Section 251 Budget return)

	Retained Duty	General Duty	School Improvement	Total
Estimated cost	£	£	£	£
Education Social Workers	387,600	-	-	387,600
School Improvement Asset Management	-	-	302,900	302,900
Strategy / Regulation	80,000	80,000	-	160,000
Premature retirement costs	532,500	532,500	-	1,065,000
Health Therapies	-	128,300	-	128,300
	-	18,500	-	18,500
	1,000,100	759,300	302,900	2,062,300
Funding				
Schools Budget / de- delegation	730,000	291,600		
Transition Funding	270,100	467,700		
	1,000,100	759,300		

Further work is needed to finalise budgets for 2017-18 and to provide a sustainable level of services over the medium term. In 2017-18 however whilst there is a shortfall between the cost of services and the funding available, this can initially be covered by the transitional grant.

School Improvement Budget and Funding 2017-18

Separate funding will be put in place for School Improvement; this takes account of a number of changes made by the EFA. These changes are described in a separate report and include provision for de-delegation. The initial proposals for 2017-18 are summarised below.

School Improvement

	2017-18	Full Year
Estimated Cost		
April to September - Staff and support	211,000	
Intervention	167,000	
Sept. to March - 3 staff, admin and support	280,000	480,000
Intervention + Consultant HT	204,000	350,000
	862,000	830,000
Funding		
ESG Transition	205,200	
Combined Budget	466,000	
De-delegation / buyback	190,800	
	862,000	

5.0 BUDGET TIMETABLE

5.1 The Schools Budget and advice from the Forum will be considered by Cabinet on 20th February 2017.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The budget for 2016-17 is compiled from the base budget for 2016-17 approved by Council on 3rd March 2016 and updated for any issues identified in this report. The projected budget (DSG, reserves and council contribution) is £252,127,600 and is shown in Appendix 1.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- i) That the views of the Schools Forum are sought on the Schools Budget for 2017-18 including the use of Headroom, the increases within SEN and the changes in central costs.
- ii) That the delegation of PFI costs to schools are approved, subject to finalising amended schools agreements and confirmation from the EFA.
- iii) That in accordance with EFA guidelines the Forum approves the continuing Contributions to Combined Budgets of £875,600 in 2017-18 for:
 - Discretionary Rate Relief top ups
 - School Improvement
 - LSCB Contribution
 - School Intervention
 - PFI – CLC's
 - LACES
 - Governors Forum
 - PFI Support Team
- iv) That the reserves totalling £568,900 used to set the Schools Budget are agreed.
- v) That the contribution to the cost of ESG retained duties of £730,000 is agreed.
- vi) The Forum agree the transfer of £106,000 from the Schools Block to the High Needs Block following the transfer of central budgets to schools
- vii) That the High Needs Working Group review budgets and demands in this area alongside National Funding Formula proposals.
- viii) The Schools Budget and views of the Schools Forum be referred to the budget meeting of Cabinet on 20th February 2017.

Julia Hassall

Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1

Schools Budget Summary

2017-18

	£000
Dedicated Schools Grant	250,795
Use of DSG and other reserves	569
Total Grant Funding	<u>251,364</u>
Schools Adj Budget Base	173,215
Add back 2016-17 Academy and High Needs	69,744
	<u>242,959</u>
Change in ISB costs	
Net rising rolls	2,343
Rates and rents	46
Transfer from central budgets	842
Transfer PFI Affordability Gap	3,037
Additional funding in for PFI - FM (Headroom and CLC's)	400
Transfer FE places (from EFA)	784
High Needs Places	65
Early Years increase in hourly rates	1,389
Early Years increase 15hr Extension	2,424
Early Years Disabled Access Fund	100
Early Years Pupil Premium	115
	<u>11,545</u>
Changes in SEN / High Needs Costs	
Increase in Top Ups	665
Transfer from Central budgets	58
Reduce contingency budgets	(180)
Transfer re Home Tuition PFI	40
Early Years – additional needs	158
	<u>741</u>
Other Changes in Central Costs	
Increase (inflation) re PFI contracts	150
Reduce Combined budgets	(823)
Reduce Central Budgets	(3,314)
Contribution re ex ESG	730
Early Years Central costs	140
	<u>(3,117)</u>
Total Schools Expenditure	<u>252,128</u>
Net Schools Budget	764

EDUCATION - SCHOOLS

	Adj Estimate 2016-17	Base Estimate 2017-18
	£	£
Individual Schools Budget		
Primary Schools	93,463,700	100,308,700
Secondary Schools	27,081,100	94,366,800
Special Schools	8,861,700	10,040,000
SEN Bases	1,701,500	2,398,300
EMAP	-	926,700
Wirral Hospital Schools	1,356,300	1,359,100
6 th Form / FE		1,264,000
Early Years	14,673,000	18,888,200
Individual Schools Budget Total	147,137,300	229,551,800
Central School Costs		
Early Years	378,700	518,700
Admissions	341,800	341,800
School closure / retirement costs	86,000	60,000
Licences and subscriptions	223,800	226,100
Schools Forum	10,600	10,600
Contribution to Combined Budgets	1,698,800	875,600
PPM	249,000	-
PFI Affordability Gap	2,886,500	-
Retained Duties – ex ESG		730,000
Costs delegated to / de-delegated from schools		
Library Service	191,700	-
Insurances	32,300	-
Minority Ethnic Achievement Service	104,100	-
School Specific Contingencies	104,300	-
Special Staff Costs	699,700	-
School Meals	21,200	-
Behaviour Support	92,300	-
School Improvement	-	-
High Needs Pupils		
Statements	3,799,000	4,174,800
SEN Top Ups	8,752,200	9,175,600
High Needs Contingency	434,000	314,000
Independent Special Schools	3,689,000	3,770,000
Home Tuition	308,900	348,900
Support for SEN	2,031,500	1,971,500
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200
Non delegated School Costs Total	26,193,600	22,575,800
Total School and Central Costs	173,330,900	252,127,600
Dedicated Schools Grant Total	(172,175,500)	(250,795,200)
Use of Reserves	(568,900)	(568,900)
Grand Total	586,500	763,500

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

18TH JANUARY 2017

CHANGES TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING AND DE-DELEGATION 2017-18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report describes the background to changes in the funding for School Improvement in 2017-18 and proposals for funding and de-delegation which were included as part of the Schools Budget Settlement announced in December. The School Improvement programme recommended in 2017-18 is £862,000.

Background

The November 2015 Spending Review announced that savings of around £600 million would be made from the Education Services Grant (ESG). This is additional funding academies and local authorities receive for services such as human resources, school improvement and education welfare services.

The changes to ESG and the transitional support provided are described in more detail in the Schools Budget report and whilst this will provide initially a level of resources needed, more work is required to resolve future shortfalls beyond 2017-18.

With regard to School Improvement on November 30th the Education Secretary reiterated her determination to address underperformance and ensure that all pupils attended a good school by making new funds available to the school system.

These include:

- From September 2017, a £50 million a year fund for local authorities to continue to monitor and commission school improvement for low-performing maintained schools. **There is only limited information about how this will be allocated to local authorities at this time. Each LA will be allocated at least £50,000 pa.**
- A new £140 million 'Strategic School Improvement Fund' for academies and maintained schools will be aimed at ensuring resources are targeted at the schools most in need of support to drive up standards, use their resources most effectively and deliver more good school places. **It is assumed that this will be funding accessed through successful bids by Teaching Schools.** Currently there is no information is available regarding this fund.
- The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has committed to spend a further £20 million over the next 2 years to scale up and disseminate evidence-based programmes and approaches

Wirral Schools Strategy

The government's ambition remains that all schools will become academies forming a fully school-led system, where headteachers and school leaders collaborate to drive improvement in their schools. The Schools Strategy has been produced to support the transition from school improvement led by the LA to a system leadership approach.

Impact of a Significant Reduction in ESG Funding

The reduction of ESG funding of approximately £2.5 million will impact significantly on the statutory services the LA are able to provide for schools. It is estimated that more than 15 FTE posts will be at risk.

For School Improvement there will be no budget to commission work from teaching schools, or individual headteachers or senior leaders. There will be no funding to offset the costs of the primary and secondary consultant headteachers. The changes put at risk a programme in 2016-17 totalling £1,346,800.

Proposal

- That Schools Forum members agree to maintain a central contribution for existing staff costs (3 School Improvement plus admin support and 2 consultant headteachers in School Intervention) of £466,000.
- That there is agreement to de-delegate funding and develop a traded service for academy and special schools of £190,800 for the financial year 2017/18. (Primary schools £87,800, Secondary schools £84,000 and Special £19,000).
- This will enable the development of a new (but reduced) service offer based on the following:

£136,000	salary plus oncosts for consultant headteachers
£480,000	salary plus oncosts for 3FTE school improvement officers, minimal admin and support costs
£ 214,000	to be distributed across the School Improvement localities to commission school improvement challenge and support from senior leaders
£830,000	Full year cost (2017-18 Academic Year)

Recommendation

Schools Forum to agree to de delegate funding / develop a traded service of £190,800 for the Autumn and Spring Terms in 2017-18, and costs in future years to be developed alongside arrangements for the National Funding Formula.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 18th JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

De-Delegation of School Budgets

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2. BACKGROUND

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

3. BUDGETS FOR DE-DELEGATION

- **Contingency**
The budget for exceptional/unforeseen costs that it would be unreasonable for governing bodies to meet.
- **Special Staff Costs**
Teacher maternity, paternity and trade union facility costs for both teaching and non-teaching staff.
With regard to Trade Union Facility Time of £127,500, guidance confirms that representatives are entitled to reasonable paid time off during working hours to undertake Trade Union duties and relevant training. Wirral like many LA's has a local facility agreement in place. The budget for facility time includes non-teacher representation. Where funding is not de-delegated schools manage their own budget and make their own facility time arrangements.
- **School Library Service**
The provision of learning resources to schools, such as books, artefacts, posters and DVDs.
- **Insurance**
The cost of governor's liability to Aided schools.

- **Free School Meal (FSM) Eligibility**
The cost of administering the applications for FSMs
- **Behaviour Support**
The cost of a small team working with Primary Schools and a number of embedded police in Wirral's schools.
- **School Improvement**
School Improvement service.

4. DECISIONS TAKEN IN 2016-17

In the January 2016 meeting members of the forum made the following decisions:-

- The Primary Forum Representatives agreed de-delegate all of the budget areas except 7/12 of the MEAS Service. There is no proposal to de-delegate MEAS service in 2017-18.
- The Secondary Forum Representatives agreed to de-delegate Contingency, Special Staff costs (Maternity/Paternity), Insurance, FSM Eligibility, Behavior Support and 5/12 of the MEAS Service.
The Representatives did not agree to de-delegate Trade Union facilities time.
There is no proposal to de-delegate MEAS service in 2017-18.

5. SUMMARY OF BUDGETS FOR DE-DELEGATION

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

Primary Budget	Amount Delegated £	Method of Delegation	Amount per Pupil £	Average per School £ (300 pupils)
Contingency	93,900	Pupil	3.63	1,089
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	516,900	Pupil	20.00	6,000
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	76,500	Pupil	2.96	888
School Library Service	201,100	Pupil	7.78	3,334
Insurance	30,600	Pupil	1.18	354
FSM Eligibility	16,200	FSM	3.41	184
Behaviour Support	62,400	SEN PA	13.03	743
School Improvement	87,800	Pupil	3.40	1,020
Total	1,085,400			13,612

Secondary Budget	Amount Delegated £	Method of Delegation	Amount per Pupil £	Average per School £ (1,000 pupils)
Contingency	51,600	Pupil	3.01	3010
Special Staff Costs (Maternity/Paternity)	469,100	Pupil	27.32	27,320
Special Staff Costs (Trade Union)	51,000	Pupil	3.00	3,000
Insurance	10,500	Pupil	0.61	610
FSM Eligibility	12,900	FSM	4.71	749
Behaviour Support	77,500	SEN PA	22.45	4,378
School Improvement	84,000	Pupil	4.89	4,890
Total	756,600			43,957

Ex Education Services Grant (ESG) - General Duties

Primary and Secondary Budget	Amount	Method	Amount per Pupil £	Primary Average £ (300 pupils)	Secondary Average £ (1000 pupils)
ESG General Duties	250,134	Pupil-Maintained	8.84	2,652	8,840
Add Special	41,466	Schools			
Total	291,600	only			

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Primary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2017-18:-
 - a. Contingency
 - b. Special Staff Costs
 - c. School Library Service
 - d. Insurance
 - e. School Improvement
 - f. MEAS
 - g. FSM eligibility
 - h. Behaviour support
2. The Primary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of £217,761.
3. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree to de-delegate each of the following budgets for the financial year 2017-18:-
 - a. Contingency
 - b. Special Staff Costs
 - c. Insurance
 - d. School Improvement
 - e. MEAS
 - f. FSM eligibility
 - g. Behaviour support
4. The Secondary Forum Representatives agree a contribution to former Education Services Grant costs of £32,373.

Forum Members Eligible to Vote

Primary Representatives

Jill Billinge	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead South)	Devonshire Park
Nikki Lightwing	Primary Headteacher (Birkenhead North)	Manor Primary
Deborah Marchant	Primary Headteacher (Wallasey)	Eastway
Jill Pearson	Primary Headteacher (Deeside)	Barnston Primary
Viv Woods (Substitute)	Primary Headteacher (Beb/Brom)	St Andrews Primary
Andy Heron	Primary Governor	Cathcart Street Primary School
Steve Dainty	Primary Governor	St Joseph's Wallasey
Tim Kelly	Primary Governor	Grove Street
Lynn Ireland	Primary Governor	St Werburghs Catholic Primary

Secondary Representatives

Tony Taylor	Secondary Headteacher	Ridgeway High School
Adrian Whiteley	Secondary Governor	Mosslands

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM 18TH JANUARY 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HIGH NEEDS CONSULTATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the outcome of a local consultation with schools on High Needs Funding for 2017-18, describes some recent developments and recommends a number of minor changes.

BACKGROUND

The previous Forum report in September summarised the current position with regard to High Needs and described a number of changes in both pre and post 16 provision that were being considered for 2017-18. These changes have since been the subject of a consultation with schools and providers.

The consultation paper is attached (Appendix 1), and ran from 31st October until the end of term. In total 14 responses were received – 3 primary schools, 3 secondary schools, 6 special and 2 post 16.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ASKED.

Questions 1 to 5. Should the place number changes be made as described to Special Schools, Specialist Bases, Alternative provision and Post 16?

The responses to the planned changes were supported with very few exceptions. Some schools commented on the need to limit places to those students with a clearly defined high level of additional need. Where provision is closing there were comments that recognised falling numbers make provision unsustainable but that where this is the case arrangements must be in place to meet the continuing needs of any remaining students.

The current 2016 and planned 2017 place numbers are summarised in Appendix 2 . The changes have been built into the Schools Budget and have an additional cost of £165,600 in 2017-18 and a further £199,000 in 2018-19.

Question 6. Should the notional SEN budget be increased?

Wirral's notional SEN budget is tightly defined and limited to low cost high incidence SEN (prior attainment data) a recognised proxy indicator for SEN. Most schools receive an allocation through the funding formula, however there are some Grammar schools that do not, despite additional needs being identified

The responses to this question were not consistent. Half schools agreed that the notional budgets should be increased, half did not and no schools commented on the frequency that the 90% guarantee is calculated.

No changes are proposed to the Notional SEN budget at this time. The position will instead be considered alongside the National Formula consultation and the changes to be introduced in 12 months time.

Question 7 How can Wirral manage the growth in costs for IPFA's, Statements or High Needs generally?

The comments to this question ranged from reduce the unit value or the number of units awarded, this cannot be achieved where there is a rising population and that spending reductions may need to be made elsewhere. There were also comments on the need for early intervention and that investment may enable a long term reduction in high cost placements.

The challenges presented in the affordability of High Needs are recognised both locally and nationally. Given the limited flexibilities available in the future costs will need to be managed within an amount that is likely to be set with little flexibility. The budget for 2017-18 does not propose to top slice unit values or top ups at this time and the growth requirements identified of £1.2m for next year have been mostly funded. However there is as a result temporary funding within the budget, fewer contingencies and less reserves. There is an urgent need to provide a secure budget framework to meet identified needs. The recent EFA notification of £132,000 grant funding for Wirral to undertake a strategic review of High Needs is timely and will help with this.

Question 8. This concerned the payment of Double top ups and a proposal that this should only be paid where pupil numbers exceed planned place numbers. Most responses received supported this proposal, with only one disagreeing commenting that these payments are needed to maintain a stable staff team, however others commented that changes in year should be managed through staff reorganisation instead. It is recommended that this change should be implemented.

Question 9 A proposal to limit Exceptional Needs allocations to an annual decision making panel.

Although some did comment on the merits of this, particularly in terms of budget planning, few responses supported this change. Schools commented that they need to make suitable provision to meet needs. Without funding, or sufficient reserves this increased the risk of failure, harm and placement breakdown.

No changes are proposed at this time, Exceptional Needs will continue to be reviewed and arrangements discussed locally and regionally.

Recommendations

1. The agreed place changes are made with effect from September 2017 (Orrets Meadow having already been implemented)
2. Double top ups are paid only where place numbers are exceeded (from September 2017)
3. There are no changes to the definition of the Schools Notional SEN budget or the systems allocating Exceptional Needs.
4. That the Forum and High Needs Working group consider plans to support a strategic review of provision and resources.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

to All Schools, Academies and Early Years Providers date 31st October 2016
Wirral Metropolitan College
Birkenhead 6th Form

your ref
my ref AR0007/MM
service Families & Wellbeing
tel 0151 666 4249 Please ask for Mr Andrew Roberts
fax 0151 666 4338
email children@wirral.gov.uk

Dear Colleague

SEND Funding Consultation on Funding Changes 2017 -18

Although the National Reform of Schools Funding has been deferred for 12 months and will now not be effective until 2018-19 it is good practice to review High Needs Budgets and make changes where possible to reflect changes in provision. However given there are only small increases to planned resources the scope of any change is limited.

Enclosed in this letter is a short consultation on proposals to change High Needs Budgets for schools in 2017-18. There have been a number of briefings with Headteachers regarding aspects of this, together with a paper to the Schools Forum on "High Needs Funding and Places 2017-18".

Please consider this letter and the questions asked and make any responses by the 21st November. Comments on issues other than High Needs Places can continue to be made until 5th December. Your views will be discussed at a meeting of the Schools Forum working party, prior to any submission on places to the Education Funding Agency on 24th November and subsequently at the Budget Meeting of the Schools Forum in January.

High Needs Places:

Special Schools

The special school population has grown by 13% over the period 2010-16 reflecting national trends, whilst over the same period specialist base provision has reduced by 8%. The majority of provision in Wirral is full from September 2016. Over the last 5 years the sectors that have grown most significantly are provision for Complex Learning Difficulty (CLD) and Autism (ASC).

Place changes, where each additional place has a cost of £10,000, have been made on an annual basis in areas where there has been the greatest pressure to ensure there is sufficient provision. From 2017 it is recommended that places increase at Clare Mount School by 12. The school is currently funded for 204 places but has 216 pupils currently on roll. No other changes are planned in this sector.

Specialist Bases

The position in specialist bases is mixed. No changes are proposed to Primary Bases which are all full or nearly full. At Secondary however there is a proposal to increase ASC provision at Hilbre from 15 to 30 in response to demand for places and to close MLD bases at Birkenhead Park and Kingsway Academy. Both of these bases make provision for 20 pupils, but have had in recent years low numbers (4 and 7 respectively) which will reduce further in 12 months' time.

Overall proposals will ensure that funded provision is fully utilised and will allow for growth in other areas of need. The LA will carefully plan future provision for those remaining children at the inclusion bases with the schools concerned.

Alternative Provision

There has been an increase in both fixed term and permanent exclusions from 2014-15 to 2015-16. This rise has had a significant impact on the request for places at Emslie Morgan. In May this year the census indicated that there were 122 pupils on roll. The LA proposes to increase places at Emslie Morgan from 80 to 100.

Mainstream Schools Low Cost High incidence SEN (LCHI)

For Primary and Secondary schools there is provision within the schools funding formula and delegated budget for LCHI SEN. In Wirral this is a budget based on prior pupil attainment and amounts to 4% of overall delegated school resources. This "notional budget" is intended to meet the first £6,000 of costs associated with pupils on the schools SEN register.

Previous discussions with headteachers advised that the current system is simple, useful and appropriate. However many authorities allocate a greater proportion of funding to this area, attributing amounts within the funding formula from Deprivation, AWPU and Lump Sums for example there are some statistical neighbours allocating more than 10% of delegated budgets to this.

Whilst any change would make no difference to the school budget allocations to individual schools, it would increase each the notional SEN budget amount and the number of schools whose SEN needs are met without seeking recourse to additional funding from the 90% guarantee - the guarantee that no more than 90% of a schools notional SEN budget should be used to support costs associated with Education and Health Care Plans and statements. The guarantee threshold and budget would then be reviewed.

With regard to the 90% guarantee some schools have questioned why the calculation is only undertaken once a year in the autumn term, when schools identify pupils requiring SEN support throughout the academic year. Your views on this and any alternatives would be welcomed.

Cost of IPFA's Statements and EHCP's

As part of DSG for this year and the Schools Budget an amount of £3.8m has been identified to meet the costs of ongoing IPFA's, EHCP's and Statements. However during the year the number and associated support has increased and spend is currently projected to exceed the budget by £165,000 (4%).

The additional cost will be managed this year, but it is unlikely that there will be additional resources available to meet rising costs in future and based on the current overspend next year's unit rate would need to reduce from £1,090 to £1,050. Your suggestions are sought on how costs and demand pressures could be managed from within existing budgets. With the introduction of ring-fenced school funding allocations in the future this may be a necessary way forward in demand led areas such as this or High Needs Top Ups.

Post 16 Provision

At meetings with Wirral Met College they have confirmed that High Needs Places have increased to 109 (from 72). In addition Birkenhead 6th Form has indicated that their numbers should increase from 60 to 65. In both cases this will commit additional place and top up funding.

Top Up Funding

The system of Top Up Funding within High Needs provides additional pupil funding for pupils with High needs (ie over and above that determined by place numbers.) Some minor changes are being considered here.

Double Top Ups

Special schools who admit pupils in year receive an additional termly top up payment up to the value the school would have received if the pupil had been admitted at the start of the school year. These payments are made to recognise the additional costs that may arise from in year admissions. The costs of this scheme are in the region of £170,000 pa. In future it is proposed that double top ups will only be paid where termly pupil numbers in schools exceed agreed places numbers. Schools who have existing capacity would not receive enhanced top up funding (but would continue to receive the standard funding based on top up bands). In practice as most schools are full this change may have little impact.

Exceptional Needs

There is a small additional budget to support pupils in Special Schools, Alternative Provision and Resource Bases with exceptional needs. Exceptional needs are those needs that are over and above amounts taken into account in place and top up funding and are where enhanced staffing is necessary. In recent years spend has increased. In the current year the budget is supported by a one off allocation from reserves of £189,000. In discussion this year schools have been asked if they would accept that exceptional needs allocations are only agreed at one fixed point in time for example the end of the summer term. Any subsequent needs identified for example from new placements or from reviews would be absorbed within the school until the following year. This would make the budget allocation more predictable and certain. It may however also mean that funding for decisions taken may be deferred and not supported for 2 terms.

The questions on the areas described above have been summarised and are attached. Thank you for your responses which will help in the preparation of next year's budget. Please let me know if there are any areas where you need greater clarity or if a briefing would be useful.

Yours Sincerely.

Andrew Roberts
Senior Finance Manager
Families and Wellbeing

Consultation questions on proposals for School High Needs Funding Changes in 2017-18.

1. Should places for Clare Mount Special School be increased from 204 to 216 with effect from September 2017?

Yes / No

Comments

2. Should places at Hilbre resource base be increased from 15 to 30 with effect from September 2017?

Yes / No

Comments

3. Should MLD bases at Birkenhead Park Academy and Kingsway Academy close?

Yes / No

Comments

4. Should Alternative Provision places at Emslie Morgan Academy be increased from 80 to 100?

Yes / No

Comments

5. Should High Needs Places at Wirral Met College and Birkenhead 6th Form increase from 72 to 109 and 60 to 65 respectively?

Yes / No

Comments

6. Do you agree that the National SEN budget should be increased and take account of other elements within the School Funding Formula?

Yes / No

Comments

7. Do you have any comments on how to meet or contain the additional costs identified with IPFA's, Statements or any other area within the High needs Budget?

Comments

8. Should double top ups only be paid where pupil numbers exceed planned place numbers?

Yes / No

Comments

9. Should Exceptional Needs decisions be taken on an annual basis only?

Yes / No

Comments

10. Do you have any additional comments?

Comments

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High Needs Places	2016-17	2017-18
Maintained Special Schools	Sept	Sept
Kilgarth	55	55
Observatory	55	55
Gilbrook	55	55
Hayfield	120	120
Claremount (excl 6th form)	170	182
Orrets	66	70
Meadowside (excl 6th form)	40	40
Foxfield (excl 6th form)	96	96
Elleray	110	110
Stanley	120	120
Lyndale		
Total	887	903
Resourced Base Provision		
Maintained		
Bidston Village	24	24
Devonshire Park Primary School	26	26
Eastway Primary School	16	16
Fender Primary School	16	16
New Brighton Primary School	22	22
The Priory Parish	10	10
Woodslee Primary School	8	8
Bebington High Sports College	20	20
	142	142
Academy		
Townfield (Hearing)	10	11
Woodchurch High School	15	15
Hilbre High School	15	30
Kingsway	20	0
Birkenhead Park	10	0
Oldershaw	20	20
	90	76
St Michael and All Angels	8	8
Riverside Primary School	8	8
	16	16
AP academy		
Emslie Morgan	80	100
Harmonise	1	1
	81	101
6th Form - special		
Claremount	34	34
Foxfield	37	37
Meadowside	35	35
	106	106
6th Form - secondary		

Hilbre	7	8
South Wirral	1	1
Bebington	5	5
St Anselms	1	0
SJP	7	7
St Mary's	10	3
Kingsway	6	5
Misslands	5	5
Oldeshaw	4	8
Upton	1	0
Weatherhead	3	1
	50	43
FE		
Birkenhead 6th form	60	65
Wirral Met	72	117
	132	182
	1,504	1,569

**BRIEFING – EARLY YEARS
 FORMULA CONSULTATION**

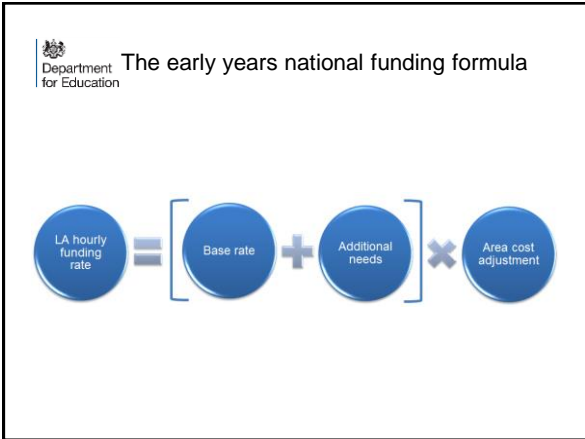
10th January 2017
 Andrew Roberts

- AIMS**
- To summarise the outcome of the National Consultation on Early Years funding
 - To look the impact on Wirral
 - To look at some formula proposls
 - Consultation questions
 - Next steps

“We now need to ensure that this funding is allocated efficiently and fairly across the country and that it reaches providers so that they can deliver our entitlements on a sustainable and high quality basis”

Justine Greening Secretary of State for Education

- What is changing from April 2017?**
- A new national Early Years funding system.
 - Providing LA's with funding based on a new national formula
 - A formula that will target additional resources where needed
 - “To deliver the extended 30 hour entitlement and ensure that all children can continue to benefit from high quality early education”.



- Government response to Consultation**
- The proposals have been positively received
 - Confirmation of hourly rates increase:
 for 3 and 4 year olds Wirral to £4.31 (from £3.79)
 2 year olds £5.22 (from £4.87)
 - Scope to pay on average at least £4.00 hr (from £3.67)
 - Supplements may include Quality
 - Additional funding for Nursery extended to 19-20
 - Disability Access Fund £615 per child

Early Years Funding – Wirral's Overall Hourly Rate

- The new rate to be paid to Wirral is based on the following:

	£	
• Base rate	3.79	(88%)
• Additional Needs:		
FSM	0.45	(10%)
EAL	0.01	(0%)
DLA	<u>0.06</u>	(2%)
Rate per Hour	4.31	

Early Years Funding – Wirral Cash increase

- Wirral's current hourly rate is £3.79
- Proposed rate is £4.31 an increase of £0.52

£m Current		£m Proposed
11.2	Early Years	12.8
0.5	Nursery protection	0.5
<u>0.2</u>	EYPP	<u>0.2</u>
11.9		13.5

Consultation Issues

- Amount going through the formula has to be at least 93% of total (and 95% the year after)
- Formula Base Rate has to be at least 90%
- Supplements no more than 10% (Wirral 12%)
- Are the supplements the right ones
- 10% of Wirral's funding is deprivation based
- Funding for additional needs
- Funding for central support

Timescale

- A tight timescale to implement 1st April 2017
- DfE confirmed changes 1st December
- Local consultation with providers start 19th December 2017 until 16th January
- Schools Forum approval 18th January 2017
- Cabinet approval 20th February 2017
- Advise providers on budgets March 2017

Impact of changes on providers

- 3 options are described
- Base Rate £3.60
- Select current entitlement to supplements:
 - Deprivation Low, Medium High
 - Flexibility, none, in school day, outside day
 - Quality
- Add together to equal new hourly rate
- Multiply by estimated hours in year
- Average £4.00 per hour

Consultation Questions

- Base Rate £3.60?
- Supplements to equal 10%?
- 5. Options for supplements
- Securing long term funding for maintained Nursery Schools
- Increase SEN inclusion
- Increase central support
- 2 year old rate £5.12

EY Setting 15,000 hrs pa

	Current	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Base rate	£3.20	£3.60	£3.60	£3.60
Dep High	£0.23	£0.19	£0.30	£0.38
Quality	£0.16	£0.13	-	£0.08
Flex In	<u>0.18</u>	<u>£0.15</u>	<u>£0.18</u>	<u>£0.08</u>
	£3.77	£4.07	£4.08	£4.14
	£56,550	£61,050	£61,200	£62,100

ANY QUESTIONS?

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

18TH JANUARY 2017

Schools and High needs National Funding Formula Briefing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the latest information published by the EFA with regard to a National Funding Formula for Schools and High Needs. It is recommended that this information and the consultation papers are considered by Schools Forum Working Groups and reported back to a Forum meeting in March

BACKGROUND

Earlier in 2016 the DfE circulated their first consultation paper seeking views on School Funding Reform. On the 14th December the DfE's response to the consultation was published, together with a second paper seeking views. This second consultation includes detailed tables to illustrate the impact of changes on schools and local authorities. The funding formula proposals include:

- The introduction of a soft funding formula for schools up to 2019
- The introduction of a hard funding formula for schools from 2019
- A breakdown of the proposed formula that will be used
- Illustrative school budgets based on the new formula
- A new formula for funding High needs
- A new formula to fund the LA's duties for maintained schools and academies.

HEADLINE MESSAGES

The Government is committed to introducing new national formulae across the schools sector and have now done so for Early Years. These proposals for Schools and High Needs will complete the reforms.

"We want to move towards a hard NFF that distributes the majority of funding directly to schools. It is the only way we can be sure that the same child with the same needs will attract the same funding regardless of where they live.....It fits squarely with our vision of a school led system"

Justine Greening Secretary of State for Education

Papers comment on:

- The positive responses to the first consultation and support for the formula principles identified – fairness, efficiency, transparency, simple and predictable
- Increases in funding for some schools in 2018-19 of up to 3% (and a floor on losses of 3%). A continuing MFG of minus 1.5%.
- High Needs increases of 3% in 2018-19 and a guarantee of no losses.
- For central services increases of up to 2.4% (no losses greater than 2.5%).
- Continuing Pupil Premium which is mainly unaffected by these changes

- The national core Schools budget will continue to be protected in real terms until 2020

IMPLICATIONS FOR WIRRAL

As part of this consultation indicative tables have been issued. These illustrate the impact of changes proposed on each school and collectively for the Local Authority. Overall for Wirral a small increase in funding is indicated of £1m (0.5%), this increase is in line with North West average, but below the England average of 1.4%.

However increases are not evenly distributed across spending blocks and will be subject to floors and ceilings. At a school level Wirral Primary schools see an increase of 1%, whilst Secondary schools have a reduction of 2%. The main factors influencing this appear to be the Primary / Secondary ratio:

- For Wirral it is 1 : 1.36
- For the NFF it is 1 : 1.29

And a higher lump sum (£110,000 rather than £100,000).

The indicative DSG summary is shown below

DSG Funding Blocks

	Baseline £000	Transition £000	Full year £000	Increase / Decrease £000
Schools Block	189,224	188,227	188,227	-997
High needs	33,225	34,086	34,917	1,692
Central	1,056	1,082	1,386	330
	223,505	223,395	224,530	1,025

Excludes historic commitments

FUNDING FORMULA

Schools

Most of the funding elements within the formula are familiar to Wirral, although not all elements are used locally – the Area Cost Adjustment, Sparsity and Mobility. One significant change is the withdrawal of the element for Looked After Children. Funding in this area will in future be distributed through the Pupil Premium plus.

The table below shows the school funding elements and the weighting given to them compared to Wirral's current formula. This indicates that:

- There is a significant shift from Basic funding per pupil to Low Prior Attainment
- The percentage allocated to deprivation is similar to Wirral – 9%, but it is distributed to across a wider range of pupils via Ever 6 and IDACI.
- Lump Sums are higher for Wirral as is English as an Additional Language.
- PFI factors will be included and initially increased by inflation (RPIX)

DfE factor values and weightings proposed for the national funding formula, with Wirral comparators

Factor		Proposed weighting for the national funding formula	Wirral 2016-17	Per-pupil/school funding under the proposed national funding formula (NB These exclude area cost adjustment funding)					
				Primary			Secondary		
				National			National		Wirral
AWPU (£ per pupil)		72.5%	78.1%	KS 1	2,712	2807	KS 3	3797	3986
				KS 2			KS 4		
Deprivation (£ per pupil)	Ever6 FSM	9.3%	9.9%	540		0	785		0
	Current FSM			980		1,944	1,225		2,349
	IDACI A			575		340	810		355
	IDACI B			420		272	600		285
	IDACI C			360		204	515		216
	IDACI D			360		137	515		146
	IDACI E			240		80	390		91
IDACI F	200		45	290		48			
Prior Attainment (£ per pupil)		7.5%	4.44%	1,050		1,060	1,550		991
EAL (£ per pupil)		1.2%	0.15%	515		493	1,385		327
Lump Sum (£ per school)		7.1%	5.93%	110,000		100,000	110,000		100,000
LAC (£ per school)		0%	0.34%	0		1,500	0		1,500
Premises (historic spend)	Rates	1.8%	1.03%	N/A					
	PFI								
	Spilt sites								
	Exceptional circumstances								
Mobility (historic spend)		0.1%	0%	N/A					
Sparsity (£ per school)		0.08%	0%	£0 - £25,000		N/A	£0 - £65,000		N/A
Growth (historic spend)		0.5%	0%	N/A					

Central Block

The central schools block will support the LA's continuing role in education including the retained duties for ESG and covers areas such as admissions and education welfare services. Historic commitments will be recognised on the basis of actual costs where they are compliant with regulations, but will continue to unwind. Distribution is based on 90% pupil numbers and 10% deprivation

High Needs

The formula for High Needs guarantees that no LA will lose funding in 2018-19 (Wirral has a gain of 5%).

The make-up of the formula which includes Alternative Provision is:

- Population (25%)
- Health and Disability (7%)
- Low attainment (8%)
- Deprivation (10%)
- and Historic Spend 50% (to smooth transition until reviewed in 4 years' time)

The funding for the Hospital School will also continue to be based on historic spend.

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Both consultation papers ask a number of questions, some general eg about fairness and stability and others more specific about weightings and the proportions allocated to formula elements. In addition there are opportunities to make wider comments re other considerations, flexibilities etc.

FORUM RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Formula Working Group and the High Needs Working Group meet to consider these consultation papers and that the March Forum meeting consider the views put forward and agree an overall response to the DfE.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 18th January 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

School Budgets and Indicative Deficits Balances

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is one of a series that have been considered by the Forum. It updates the Forum on the latest financial information received in respect of maintained schools after budget monitoring at period 6.

2. BACKGROUND

There are increasing cost pressures in schools arising from "flat cash" budgets. There are additional costs arising from pay awards, pension increases and national insurance changes (adding about 5% to school pay bill in the 2016-17 financial year). These costs have not been met from increased budget allocations, instead they will need to be found from efficiency savings.

3. Indicative Balances

The position previously reported is shown below and is based on projections made at the start of the year. They show that the expected schools balances continue to fall year on year.

Table 1

Budget Setting	Actual Balances at Mar 2016	Expected Balance at 31 st Mar 2017	Expected balances at 31 st Mar 2018
Nursery	604,737	216,322	-133,739
Primary	7,410,417	5,487,859	3,348,957
Secondary	1,606,472	589,562	295,914
Special	2,116,885	1,100,307	157,639
	11,738,511	7,394,050	3,668,771

At Period 6 the projections have been updated. In March 2018 the revised estimates indicate that the overall position for primary schools has improved while the outlook for nursery and secondary schools has deteriorated.

Table 2

Period 6	Actual Balances at Mar 2016	Expected Balance at 31 st Mar 2017	Expected balances at 31 st Mar 2018
Nursery	604,737	229,155	-171,709
Primary	7,410,417	5,489,241	3,781,919
Secondary	1,606,472	503,939	-163,024
Special	2,116,885	1,392,050	410,412
	11,738,511	7,614,385	3,857,598

4. Individual School Deficits

There are currently 3 schools with licenced deficits and agreed budget plans. On the basis of table 2 the number of schools who may have a deficit budget as at March 2018 would increase to 26, each school with an average deficit of £80k. The expected number of schools in deficit has reduced since budgets were set, however the average deficit has increased.

Table 3

	Number of schools	Expected number of schools with a deficit	% schools with a deficit
Nursery	3	2	67%
Primary	88	19	22%
Secondary	5	1	20%
Special	11	4	36%
	107	26	24%

5. Action Taken to Date

- Letters have been sent to a number of schools with expected deficit budgets in 2018 and beyond to request plans to manage the deficit position.
- LMS and HR work with schools to balance budgets, this includes planning for the reduction of staff numbers or hours.
- Briefings and discussions with headteachers and school finance staff.
- School Bursar support working with Headteacher and governors to provide more detailed projections.

6. Future Action

The position will be updated again as schools review their 2016-17 budget at period 9 (December) and indicate the position over the next 3 years.

Future work will:

- Review school financial plans to ensure they are sustainable.
- Discuss school plans to deal with projected deficits.
- Schools requesting a licenced deficit will be required to demonstrate how the budget will come back into balance within 3 years.
- Where agreement cannot be reached a Notice of Concern will be issued, requiring an immediate action plan to be agreed by governors.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The report is noted and there is a further report to the next meeting.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM – 18th January 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Wirral Schools Forum Membership

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the representation on Schools Forum, and advises on terms of office, current vacancies and Forum Working Groups.

2. Schools Forum Current Representation

The schools forum has 30 members made up as follows:-

Table 1

5	Primary Headteachers
5	Primary Governors (1 vacancy)
1	Secondary Headteachers
1	Secondary Governors
1	Special Headteacher
1	Special Governors
1	Nursery Representative
15	Total Schools Membership
7	Academy Representatives
1	Pupil Referral Unit (EMA)
8	Total Academy Membership
1	Non-teacher representative
1	Teacher representative
1	Catholic Diocese
1	Church of England Diocese
1	Further Education
2	PVI Early Years Providers
7	Total Non-Schools Membership
30	Total Membership

3. Membership changes

Regulations governing the forum requires school/academy membership to take account of pupil weighting. Table 2 below details the total pupils in each school phase and the required number of school and academy forum members. The current membership is in accordance with these ratios:-

Table 2

Phase	Pupil Numbers Oct. 16 Census)	Forum Representatives
Primary	24752	10
Secondary	4139	2
Academy	17927	7
Total	46818	19

4. Schools Forum Terms of Office

Generally forum members are elected to serve a 4 year term of office. The table 3 identifies when the current terms of office expire.

Table 3		2013-2017	2014-2018	2015-2019	2016-2020	2017-2021	Total
Total Membership							
5	Primary Headteachers	1	1	2	1		5
5	Primary Governors		1		3		4
1	Secondary Headteachers				1		1
1	Secondary Governors			1			1
1	Special Headteacher				1		1
1	Special Governors			1			1
1	Nursery Representative				1		1
15	Total Schools Membership						
1	Academy Pupil Referral Unit (EMAP)				1		1
7	Academy Representative	3		2	1	1	7
8	Total Academy Membership						
1	Non-teacher representative				1		1
1	Teacher representative		1				1
1	Catholic Diocese			1			1
1	Church of England Diocese			1			1
1	Further Education					1	1
2	PVI Early Years Providers			1	1		2
7	Total Non-Schools Membership						
30	Total Membership	4	3	9	10	2	29

5. Changes to Membership

There is currently a primary governor vacancy. A number of requests have been made for primary governor reps and this will now be referred to Governors Forum.

There are 2 new members since the last report in September:-

- Tim Kelly, Primary Governor, Grove Street Primary School.
- Rebecca Mahoney, Academy Representative, Principal Birkenhead High School Academy

6. Forum Working Groups

Early Years Working Group

Jill Billinge (Chair)
 Simon Davies (PVI rep)
 Nicky Prance (PVI Rep)
 Michael Forber (Nursery Rep)
 Lynne Ireland (Primary Governor)

High Needs Working Group

Jill Billinge (Chair)

Deborah Marchant (Primary)

Steve Baker (Special)

Jane Goalen (PRU rep)

School Funding Formula Working Group

All representatives are invited to attend meetings

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall

Director of Children's Services

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Schools forum powers and responsibilities

A summary of the powers and responsibilities of schools forums.

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
Formula change (including redistributions)	Proposes and decides	Must be consulted [voting restrictions apply - see schools forum structure document] and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	Checks for compliance with regulations
Contracts (where the LA is entering a contract to be funded from the schools budget)	Proposes at least one month prior to invitation to tender, the terms of any proposed contract	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None
Financial issues relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> arrangements for pupils with special educational needs, in particular the places to 	Consults annually	Gives a view and informs the governing bodies of all consultations	None

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<p>be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arrangements for use of pupil referral units and the education of children otherwise than at school, in particular the places to be commissioned by the LA and schools and the arrangements for paying top-up funding; • arrangements for early years provision; • administration arrangements for the allocation of central government grants 			
Minimum funding guarantee (MFG)	Proposes any exclusions from MFG for application to DfE	Gives a view	Approval
<p>De-delegation for mainstream schools for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contingencies • administration of free school meals • insurance • licences/subscriptions • staff costs – supply cover • support for minority ethnic • pupils/underachieving groups • behaviour support services • library and museum services 	Proposes	Primary and secondary school member representatives will decide for their phase. Middle schools are treated according to their deemed status	Will adjudicate where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School improvement 			
<p>General Duties for maintained schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> services previously funded by the ESG general duties rate. Read the updated ‘Schools revenue funding 2017 to 2018: operational guide’ for more information. 	Proposes	Would be decided by the relevant maintained school members (primary, secondary, special and PRU).	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
<p>Central spend on and the criteria for allocating funding from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> funding for significant pre-16 pupil growth, including new schools set up to meet basic need, whether maintained or academy funding for good or outstanding schools with falling rolls where growth in pupil numbers is expected within three years 	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> early years block provision funding to enable all schools to meet the infant class size requirement back-pay for equal pay claims remission of boarding fees at maintained schools and academies 	Proposes	Decides for each line	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> places in independent schools for non-SEN pupils services previously funded by the retained rate of the ESG admissions servicing of schools forum 			
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> capital expenditure funded from revenue – projects must have been planned and decided on prior to April 2013 so no new projects can be charged contribution to combined budgets – this is where the schools forum agreed prior to April 2013 a contribution from the schools budget to services which would otherwise be funded from other sources existing termination of employment costs (costs for specific individuals must have been approved prior to April 2013 so no new redundancy costs can be charged) prudential borrowing costs – the commitment must have been approved prior to April 2013 	<p>Proposes up to the value committed in 2016-17 and where expenditure has already been committed.</p> <p>See para 71 for Information on historic commitments. Read establishing local authority DSG baselines for more information.</p>	<p>Decides for each line</p>	<p>Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal</p>
<p>Central spend on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high needs block provision 	<p>Decides</p>	<p>None, but good practice to inform forum</p>	<p>None</p>

Function	Local authority	Schools forum	DfE role
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> central licences negotiated by the Secretary of State 			
Carry forward a deficit on central expenditure to the next year to be funded from the schools budget	Proposes	Decides	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Scheme of financial management changes	Proposes and consults the governing body and Head of every school	Approves (schools members only)	Adjudicates where schools forum does not agree LA proposal
Membership: length of office of members	Decides	None (but good practice would suggest that they gave a view)	None
Voting procedures	None	Determine voting procedures	None
Chair of schools forum	Facilitates	Elects (<i>may not be an elected member of the Council or officer</i>)	None

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Education
Funding
Agency

2017 to 2018 schools funding: historic commitments

**Supplementary guidance for local
authorities**

November 2016

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Introduction

1. This guide provides information on the funding and reporting of historic commitments for the 2017 to 2018 financial year. It is aimed primarily at local authorities and schools forum members to help inform their funding discussions, prior to submitting their Authority Pro Forma Tool (APT) in January 2017. School business managers may also find it helpful in understanding their local funding formula.
2. In March 2016, local authorities were asked to [detail historic commitments](#) they expect to fund in the 2017 to 2018 financial year, as part of the process for confirming baselines for the dedicated schools grant (DSG). The assessment of evidence provided by local authorities suggests more guidance is needed on two elements:
 - clarity on acceptable historic commitments under the regulations
 - the quality of evidence that must be provided to local schools forums
3. This guide meets that need; providing information to local authorities and schools forum members on acceptable historic commitments, and confirms the need for adequate evidence showing that:
 - the commitment is appropriate under the regulations
 - the commitment was made prior to April 2013
 - there is an ongoing commitment
 - commitments have not increased compared to the previous year
4. Local authorities must provide schools forums with sufficient evidence on the historic commitment funding lines to enable them to make an informed decision.

Key findings from the baseline exercise

5. The returns from local authorities suggested that clearer guidance was needed on what constituted a historic commitment under the regulations.
6. The level of acceptable evidence for the commitment provided to schools forums often varied in its detail and transparency.

7. The 'combined budgets¹' funding line accounted for more than half the total historic commitments and three quarters of local authorities fund commitments under this category.

8. Funding for Private Finance Initiative (PFI) costs appeared across several historic commitment funding lines. PFI or Building Schools for the Future (BSF) costs held centrally should be delegated through the formula in 2017 to 2018 to aid transparency; only expenditure which can be treated as capital should be shown under the "capital expenditure funded from revenue" line.

¹ This line enables schools budget funding to be combined with other sources of funding for the provision of services outside the schools budget – but which have an educational benefit

Evidence of historic commitments

9. Schools forums need to be able to make informed decisions about historic commitments on a line by line basis each year. Evidence must include:

- **Minutes from the schools forum prior to 1st April 2013** - schools forum should have agreed the commitment prior to 2013.
- **Proof that the commitment extended at least as far as the 2017 to 2018 financial year.** Evidence can include reports which indicated an end date into 2017 to 2018 or beyond, or where the commitment has no specific end date.
- Where budgets relate to non-staffing costs, there must be a contractual commitment (such as a PFI agreement or lease agreement) which extends into the relevant financial year.
- **Schools forum papers and minutes that** show that approval has been granted for the financial year. The forum is expected to approve each spending line annually. It is important that schools forums have sufficient information to be able to make an informed decision.

10. EFA will check that the budget is not higher than that shown in the previous year's section 251 statement.

Historic commitments spending lines

12. Since 2013 finance regulations have restricted a number of central schools block funding lines to historic commitments:

- combined budgets
- capital expenditure funded from revenue
- termination of employment costs
- prudential borrowing
- miscellaneous purposes (provided the expenditure does not amount to more than 0.1% of the authority's schools budget)

13. These are defined in the regulations as:

'Expenditure referred to in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 (Central Services) of Schedule 2 may only be deducted by the local authority where the expenditure is to be incurred as a result of decisions taken before 1st April 2013 that commit the authority to incur expenditure in the funding period.' The 'funding period' here refers to the forthcoming financial year.

14. Schedule 2 also states that, other than in the case of paragraph 3 (capital expenditure funded from revenue), the schools forum or the Secretary of State must have approved the decision.

15. This means the decision to incur specific amounts of expenditure against these lines in particular future years must have been made prior to 1st April 2013. Schedule 2 does not allow local authorities to maintain a budget of indefinite size for an indefinite period against these funding lines.

16. The [schools revenue funding arrangements 2017 to 2018: operational guide](#) confirmed at paragraph 80 that DfE will not be reducing authorities' schools block funding for 2017 to 2018 as a result of the baseline exercise review of any historic commitment funding. The guide makes it clear that we expect local authorities to use any additional funding for schools or high needs.

Combined budgets

17. This line enables schools budget funding to join other sources of funding to contribute to services outside the schools budget – **but which have an educational benefit**. No new commitments were allowed in or after the 2013 to 2014 financial year.

18. Combined budget commitments are acceptable where it is clear it extends at least as far as financial year 2017 to 2018, including where the schools forum have not stated a specific end date for their agreement. While wider children's services teams often receive funding under this line, the funding should be linked to the terms of the original commitment and authorities should seek efficiencies as appropriate.

19. Combined budget commitments made up more than half the planned historic commitments in 2017 to 2018; [annex A](#) lists examples from the recent exercise. Acceptable funding under this line includes:

- early intervention and family support services where there is an educational element
- contributions to placements for looked after children that have an educational element

20. Funding incorrectly allocated to this line included:

- amounts identified as contributing to corporate overheads, without being specific about the services involved
- items relating to elements which should be within the formula, for instance rates or rents adjustments
- services which should be a cost to the school, for example tree maintenance
- copyright licences, which have their own funding line

Capital expenditure funded from revenue

21. In the case of **capital expenditure funded from revenue**, we expect that most projects planned and decided on prior to 1st April 2013 would now be complete. The recent exercise showed that relatively few local authorities were still allocating funding under this line, and, of those, most related to PFI contracts. These should be delegated through the funding formula.

22. It does not count as a commitment to have identified a budget for different capital works each year or a general contribution to the capital programme.

Termination of employment costs

23. There were relatively few historic commitments for termination of employment costs as most costs for individuals leaving their employment (where the decision was made prior to 1st April 2013) have expired, even if spread over a number of years. Acceptable ongoing commitments include:

- pension costs
- historic retirement allowances

24. Local authorities should provide evidence to their schools forums that expenditure relating to a specific individual's termination of employment costs in 2017 to 2018 had been approved prior to 1st April 2013. The costs cannot increase above 2013 levels. It does not count as a commitment to have identified a budget for different individuals' costs each year or to support new redundancy costs in schools.

Prudential borrowing costs

25. This allows for the interest payments, resulting from a decision to borrow funds for a specific (education related) capital project, to be charged to the school budget funding. The LA will need to provide evidence that a decision was made before the 1st April 2013 and that the LA is committed to repayments in 2017 to 2018. PFI costs also featured on this funding line for some local authorities, these should be delegated through the funding formula.

Equal pay – back pay

26. The arrangement for **equal pay – back pay** is different. The commitment does not have to have been decided before 1st April 2013, though it does have to have been approved by the schools forum. The recent exercise shows that equal pay issues have now been resolved in most local authorities. Very few LAs are expecting to fund under this line in 2017 to 2018. These LAs will need to demonstrate to their schools forums that centrally retained funding for this purpose will still be required in 2017 to 2018.

Exceptions agreed by Secretary of State

27. In a few cases local authorities have had approval from the Secretary of State to increase the value of a historic commitment or to incur a new commitment. In such cases the local authority should treat the commitment as if it had been approved by the schools forum before 2013. It still needs explicit new approval from the schools forum on an annual basis if it is to continue.

Annex A - Examples of combined budget commitments

The following are examples of historic commitments funded under the combined services line. These commitments were all entered into prior to April 2013 and require annual authorisation from the respective schools forum.

- Contribution to jointly run early help services, bringing together education, early years, social care, health and youth services. Acting as an initial contact and assessment hub for children and young people requiring support or at risk of becoming looked after.
- Early Intervention Family Workers (EIFWs) - EIFWs operate in close partnership with schools and deliver interventions to stop emerging needs escalating and requiring more intensive involvement. They deliver a mix of targeted casework and limited support including group work, delivering of parenting programmes and parent initiated support accessed at school drop-ins and surgeries. Support provided directly to schools includes; meetings with school staff without a family present, for example at pastoral meetings and supporting Family CAF completion
- Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance - this funding supports 3 permanent FTE to ensure care leavers are encouraged and supported to continue their education and training and have access to appropriate education and employment opportunities, including work experience and apprenticeships. This is achieved through the development of individual action plans for all young people preparing to leave care from year 10 through to year 12
- Part funding for the Looked After Children's Education Service which falls within the remit of the Virtual School. Covers approximately 2.1 full time equivalent Education Support Officers on permanent contracts and other specialist tutors and support workers as required to meet the specific, individual needs of the vulnerable children, to aid engagement and lead to pathways into education, employment or training. Around 870 LAC are supported each year and 760 care leavers, including support into higher education. Ensures targeted support to LAC, better outcomes, as evidenced in our narrow attainment gap to peers and low NEET percentage.



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Apprenticeship Levy and Public Sector Duty – Briefing for Schools and Education Stakeholders

This brief is about apprenticeships delivered by **the school as an employer** – not as a qualification for your pupils. It is **intended for head teachers, school business managers or bursars.**

Introduction

From April 2017 the way apprenticeships are funded is changing as part of a series of wider reforms to the apprenticeship system in England. Employers with a pay bill of more than £3m will be required to pay an [apprenticeship levy](#). In England employers who pay the levy will be able to access funding for apprenticeship training and assessment via a new digital apprenticeship service.

Available funding can be used to meet the cost of apprenticeship training and assessment against an approved apprenticeship framework or standard. **This can be for both existing employees as well as new starters.** The training provider must be on the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers. You can find out more about the register here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/register-of-apprenticeship-training-providers>

This briefing summarises how the apprenticeship levy will typically work for schools. There are a variety of pay bill arrangements in the education sector so there is no single approach. **This briefing does not constitute tax advice.** Schools should read this alongside the full [published guidance](#) on calculating, paying and spending the levy and seek appropriate professional advice on their liability. Detailed guidance on paying the levy will be published by HMRC in December 2016.

Apprenticeships are now the cornerstone of the skills system and provide opportunities for all sectors, including education, and at all levels. The apprenticeship levy will boost our economic productivity, while increasing the country's skills base and giving millions a step on the ladder of opportunity. We want to encourage Local authorities and schools to work together, using the levy to meet skills gaps and plan future workforce needs.

Who pays the levy?

1. Community schools (including voluntary controlled schools)

Local authorities will typically be responsible for paying the levy in community schools they maintain, where the local authority employs the staff and pays National Insurance contributions (NICs). Such staff will be counted as part of the local authority's payroll. **We expect the cost of the levy to be passed on to schools in the same way that employer National Insurance and superannuation is.** Where the local authority is the employer, schools will have access to funding for apprenticeship training, via the local authority's digital apprenticeship service account.

2. Foundation and voluntary aided schools

Foundation and voluntary aided schools typically employ their own staff so they will be responsible for paying the levy.

3. Standalone academies

The Trusts of standalone academies will typically be responsible for paying the levy where they are the employer responsible for paying Class 1 secondary NICs.

4. Academies that are part of multi-academy trusts

Multi-academy trusts (MATs) generally employ the staff in their academies, and will be responsible for paying the levy.

Schools that do not pay the levy

The government will pay 90% of the cost of apprenticeship training and assessment for:

- employers that have a pay bill of less than £3m and
- those that have used all the funds in their digital account.

The employer will be required to pay the remaining 10%.



Apprenticeships are available in many job roles within schools, including teaching assistants, business administration, management, science and ICT technicians. Early work on developing a **Teacher apprenticeship** standard is also underway, led by a group of schools coordinated by the Teaching Schools Council. There is not yet a firm timescale for the introduction of a teaching apprenticeship, but we expect more information to become available in the New Year. In addition a consortium of schools led by Hughenden Primary in Buckinghamshire, are developing a **Teaching Assistant apprenticeship** standard and assessment criteria. The aim is to have this in place by the end of 2017. You can find more information on apprenticeships available here: <https://www.gov.uk/topic/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>

Public Sector Duty

- As part of the 3 million starts commitment, we want to expand the number of apprenticeships within the public sector. This will improve the capacity and capability of the public sector, ensuring that it benefits from the same positive impacts as in the rest of the economy and enable more people to achieve their potential.
- As part of this we want to encourage Local authorities and schools to work together, using the levy to meet skills gaps and plan future workforce needs.
- The government has therefore proposed targets for public sector organisations, including publicly funded schools, to increase the number of apprentices they employ. Details of how this will work are being finalised. The government's response to the consultation will be published in due course. Further information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/public-sector-apprenticeship-targets>

**WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 18th January 2017
WORK PLAN**

Meeting Date	Tue 7 th March 2017	Wed 26 th April 2017	Wed 5 th July 2017	Sept/Oct 2017	January 2018
				Elect chair & vice chair	
Budget		Schools Budget update 2017-18 Schools Budget provisional outturn Update on School Balances	Schools Budget Outturn 2016-17 School Balances and Reserves School Budget Monitoring	Budget monitoring Update on School Balances	Schools Budget 2017-18 Changes to Schools, High Needs and Early Years funding formula Budget monitoring De-delegation of budgets Update on School Balances
Consultation	National Funding Formula Response	National Funding Formula for Schools, High Needs and Early Years			National Funding Formula for Schools, High Needs and Early Years
DfE Regs & guidelines				Scheme for Financing Schools	School Finance Regulations
Working Groups		School Formula High Needs Early Years	School Formula High Needs Early Years	School Formula High Needs Early Years	School Formula High Needs Early Years
Other		School Admissions Early Years Traded services Arrangements for High Needs /SEND Arrangements for Alternative Provision Free School Meals eligibility update Academy update	De-delegated services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency • Special Staff Costs • Library Service • Insurance • FSM eligibility • Behaviour Support UIFSM's	Membership Combined budgets PPM and PFI budgets Other central budgets High needs places Traded services Behaviour Support School place planning	School Contracts MEAs Update

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