

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 25th January 2011

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FUNDING FORMULA 2011-12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Background

- 1.1 The current funding formula was agreed for the 3-year funding period 2008-2011. This funding period has now come to an end
- 1.2 The DfE have indicated that they do not wish to make any major changes to the distribution of the Dedicated Schools Grant for the year 2011-12, and will concentrate instead on the implementation of the National Pupil Premium.
- 1.3 Changes to the local formula will be required in order to implement the central government intention to consolidate grant funding and to implement the Early Years Single Funding Formula.

2. The Minimum Funding Guarantee

- 2.1 The Minimum Funding Guarantee has been set by the DfE at -1.5%.
- 2.2 The Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) baselines for all schools will be amended to include grants that are to be consolidated. This includes:
 - School Standards Grant and School Standards Grant (Personalisation)
 - School Development Grant
 - Specialist Schools
 - One to One Tuition
 - Extended Schools Sustainability
 - Extended Schools Subsidy
 - School Lunch Grants
 - National Strategies
- 2.3 The MFG baselines for primary schools with nursery classes will be amended to exclude any elements which relate to nursery pupils, to avoid double funding nursery pupils when the Early Years Single Formula is implemented in April 2011. The elements affected are:
 - AWPU
 - Nursery lump sum
 - Rates
 - IMD
 - SEN pupilsThe Early Years Single Formula will include a separate MFG calculation.

3. Recalculation of Fixed Elements

- 3.1 Certain elements used in the calculation of the formula were fixed for 2008-11 to give schools budget stability for the funding period. It is proposed that these elements are updated for 2011-12 budgets using the most recent available data. Although this data is broadly similar to 2008, there are some significant movements between schools. The percentage of the total budget allocated to each element will remain the same.
 - Free School Meals – updated from the January 2011 School Census

- School IMD Score – updated from pupil postcodes in the January 2011 School Census
- Prior Attainment (secondary schools only) – current Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils' attainment at KS2. For Year 7, it is proposed to use teacher assessment data for KS2 Science results as there were no science tests in 2010.
- Sixth form ratio (secondary schools only) – updated from the January 2011 School Census
- Premises element for Special schools – the most recent floor area information will be used

4. Distribution of Grants

- 4.1 For the 2011-12 financial year, grants will be included as a new formula element. They will be allocated on the same basis as they have in previous years, using the most recent available data.

5. Looked After Children

- 5.1 Data on Looked After Children (LAC) will no longer be collected as part of the School Census. The current formula allocates funding based on the number of LAC in each school as at the January School Census.
- 5.2 A request for a separate data collection for LAC will be made. Completion of this data collection by schools will be essential for the continued allocation of funding for LAC, as Wirral does not hold data on children looked after by other local authorities who are educated in Wirral schools.

6. Education Inclusion Bases and Resourced Provision

- 6.1 Funding for Education Inclusion Bases and Resourced Provision in mainstream schools has previously been inflated each year at the same rate as the minimum funding guarantee. It is proposed that the funding for this element remains at the same cash value, rather than reducing the funding by applying the MFG rate of -1.5%.

7. Indicative Budgets

- 7.1 Indicative budgets will be provided to schools for 2012-13, with no increase in funding as indicated by the DfE.

8. Requested Changes to MFG Baselines

- 8.1 If schools have changed circumstances within the year, such as a new Education Inclusion Base provision or a change in the number of places, a report is taken to the Schools' Forum to request a change to the baseline for the calculation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee.
- 8.2 Under new DfE regulations, any changes to MFG baselines must be approved by the Secretary of State. An application to the Secretary of State must include evidence of support from the Schools Forum.
- 8.3 If the baseline is not changed, this will distort the calculation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee and the budget allocations.

8.4 Calculation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee 2011/12:

SCHOOL	REASON FOR CHANGE	REQUESTED NEW MFG BASELINE £
Devonshire Park Primary	Change to places in EIB provision	1,218,645
Wallasey School	Increased places in EIB provision	4,303,650
Bebington High School	Increased places in EIB provision	3,484,264
Hilbre High School	Increased places in EIB provision	3,679,664
Clare Mount	Place Change	1,985,012
Gilbrook School	Addition of Outreach places	891,902

8.5 Calculation of the Minimum Funding Guarantee 2012/13:

SCHOOL	REASON FOR CHANGE
Devonshire Park Primary	Change to places in EIB provision

MFG baselines can only be calculated when the allocations for 2011 have been finalised.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- (1) the Schools Forum note the report
- (2) the Schools Forum agree to the recalculation of fixed elements as outlined in the report
- (3) the Schools Forum agree to support an application to the Secretary of State for MFG baseline changes

David Armstrong
Interim Director of Children's Services