

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM – 6<sup>th</sup> JULY 2011**

#### **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **PUPIL PREMIUM PAYMENTS FOR WIRRAL HOSPITALS SCHOOL**

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##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report explains the impact on Wirral Hospitals' School of not receiving the Free School Meal Pupil Premium for 2011-12, and proposes the use of contingency to provide funding for eligible pupils.

##### **BACKGROUND**

The DfE introduced the Pupil Premium from April 2011 for children eligible for free school meals, looked after children and service children. The free school meals element of the Pupil Premium is an amount of £430 per child for the year, to be paid for each child from Reception to Year 11 known to be eligible for a free school meal as recorded in the January School Census.

Wirral Hospitals' School, as a general hospital school, does not have to complete the electronic pupil level census in January. Instead, the school completes a paper SLASC form (School Level Annual School Census), in line with DfE regulations. The SLASC does not include any information on the number of pupils eligible for free school meals, and therefore the DfE will not make a Pupil Premium allocation to the Hospitals' School. Discussions are taking place at the DfE to see if this can be addressed for 2012.

##### **CURRENT POSITION**

In January 2011, Wirral Hospitals' School had 39 pupils eligible for Free School Meals. 23 pupils had single registration and the school should have received a Pupil Premium totalling £9,890.

The remaining pupils have their main registration at another school but spend all their time at the Hospitals' School. It is proposed that the Pupil Premium for these pupils be transferred from the main registered school to the Hospitals' School.

The LA has written to the DfE to express concern about their decision not to make a Pupil Premium allocation for Free School Meals to general hospital schools, and to ask them to consider making funding available for the 2011-12 financial year based on free school meal information which has been verified by the LA. No response has been received to date.

Wirral Hospitals' School should receive the Pupil Premium on the same basis as all other maintained schools in Wirral. The amount of £9,890 to provide the Pupil Premium for pupils with single registration at the school could be paid from contingency in the absence of any funding from the DfE.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That:

(1) the Schools Forum agrees to the use of contingency to provide a Pupil Premium payment of £9,890 to Wirral Hospitals' School.

**David Armstrong**  
**Interim Director of Children's Services**