

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

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

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

#### **PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS - DELEGATED BUDGETS**

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##### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report explains the Government's intention to extend delegated budgets to Pupil Referral Units (PRUs), and outlines the proposed approach for Wirral.

##### **BACKGROUND**

The White Paper announced Government intentions to give more delegated powers to PRU management committees, including over finance. The Government will make regulations under powers in existing legislation (Schedule 1 to the Education Act 1996) to apply provisions which apply to maintained schools in relation to staffing and finance. This will give PRU management committees a delegated budget and control over staffing.

From 2012-13, the School Finance Regulations will apply to PRUs, who will have delegated budgets.

##### **WIRRAL FORMULA FOR PRU**

Wirral Alternative School Programme (WASP) caters for Key Stage 3 and 4 students, most of whom have been permanently excluded from their mainstream schools, and has a centrally held budget totalling £1,047,400 which is not part of the schools funding formula.

Initial proposals are that the PRU should be funded under the same funding formula as other Wirral Special Schools. They would be funded for 80 places at the same value as other Special Schools supporting children with emotional and severe behavioural difficulties. In addition, they would continue to be supported financially by the secondary exclusions mechanism that is already in place for in-year exclusions.

Discussions will take place over the summer with the secondary consultant head and the headteacher and management committee of WASP. Proposals for funding the PRU will then go out to wider consultation with schools before coming back to the Forum for agreement.

##### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That:

- (1) the Schools Forum notes the report

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