

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 10th APRIL 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

EARLY YEARS CENSUS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report briefly sets out the submission to the DfE of the Early Years Census for January 2013.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Previous reports to the Forum have set out the background and outcome of an error in the submission of Early Years data to the DfE in 2012 resulting in a loss of grant of £1.4m.

This report summarises the pupil information included in the 2013 data submission.

	Jan 2012 Census (Pupil FTE)	Adjusted Jan 2012 (Pupil FTE)	Jan 2013 (Pupil FTE)
Schools (nursery class)	1,062	1,078	1,069
PVI5	1,376	1,842	1,867
	<u>2,438</u>	<u>2,920</u>	<u>2,936</u>

The Early Years budget for 2013/14 has been based on 2,905 pupils and grant of £11,087,000. The January 2013 census indicates a slight increase in numbers. The final calculation of funding in this area will take account of both the January 2013 and 2014 census returns. Any final increase in DSG arising from this will offset the resulting increased payment to providers.

3.0 DATA CHECKS

As part of the preparation for the 2013 Early Years Census a number of additional checks have been built into the system prior to returning information to the DfE. This has included:

- Comparisons between eligible children both before and after pupil data is uploaded.
- A comparison of PVI hours claimed in 2013 compared with 2012 and explanations sought for any significant variances.
- A review and update of systems procedure notes.
- A planned review of the Early Years Census by Internal Audit.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

The Schools Forum note the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services