

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS' FORUM 10th April 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Advanced Skills Teachers – Salary Safeguarding

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report sets out a proposal to utilise the Advanced Skills Teacher (AST) reserve to support schools whose salary protection costs exceed the funding they will receive following delegation of the funding for AST's.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- There is a reserve of £136,390 set aside from AST underspends in previous years. This sum was retained to ensure that ASTs could complete their work in the academic year should the AST roles end at the end of the financial year.
- Due to the reduction in numbers of ASTs over the past 2/3 years, and the decision not to replace them, it was possible to meet the cost for the summer term 2013 from the under spend in 2012-13 carried forward. This was agreed at School's Forum on 23rd January 2013.
- From 31st March 2013 funding will not be retained centrally for ASTs. £317,000 will be delegated to schools via the funding formula with effect from April 2013.
- The School Teachers Pay and conditions document (para 43.4, 44.1.2, 44.3) states that AST salaries must be protected for a period of 3 years. For some schools the cost of this protection will significantly exceed the funding they will receive following delegation of the entire budget.

The cost to support these schools for 3 years would be £135,000.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- The AST reserve is directed to support those schools where salary protection costs exceed the delegated sum. This support would be for 3 years from 1st September 2013.

Support would cease in cases where any staff concerned are no longer entitled to salary protection.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services