

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

**WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM - 10th APRIL 2013**

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

**DfE REVIEW OF SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA**

---

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report provides details of the Wirral School Funding Formula compared to other local authorities for 2013/14 and a consultation by the DfE on funding options for 2014-15.

### **BACKGROUND**

The DfE paper, 'Review of 2013-14 School Funding Arrangements' analyses all school funding formula submissions from October to give a fuller picture of how school funding is being distributed across the country. The purpose of this is to see if local authorities are moving towards a more consistent pupil-led funding system, following the changes all authorities were required to make after 2012-13.

Appendix 1 attached to this report shows how elements within Wirral's formula compare with other authorities across the country.

### **COMPARISONS**

The reforms to school funding have moved a greater proportion of resources into pupil-led elements. Our current formula shows that 93% of funding is allocated through a combination of pupil-led factors, which is consistent with about half of the local authorities across the country and significantly in excess of earlier DfE targets of 80% - 85%.

Pupil entitlement (AWPU) at £2,790 for Primary and £3,892 for Secondary also fall in line with most authorities.

Generally it appears that Wirral's distribution of the Schools Block follows the general trend of other local authorities. This is also the case when compared to other local authorities in the North West.

The charts overleaf give a breakdown of how much is allocated to each element in Wirral's formula.

### **CONSULTATION**

The review paper is also a brief consultation in advance of any further changes that may be introduced to the school funding formula in 2014-15.

The paper asks questions about:

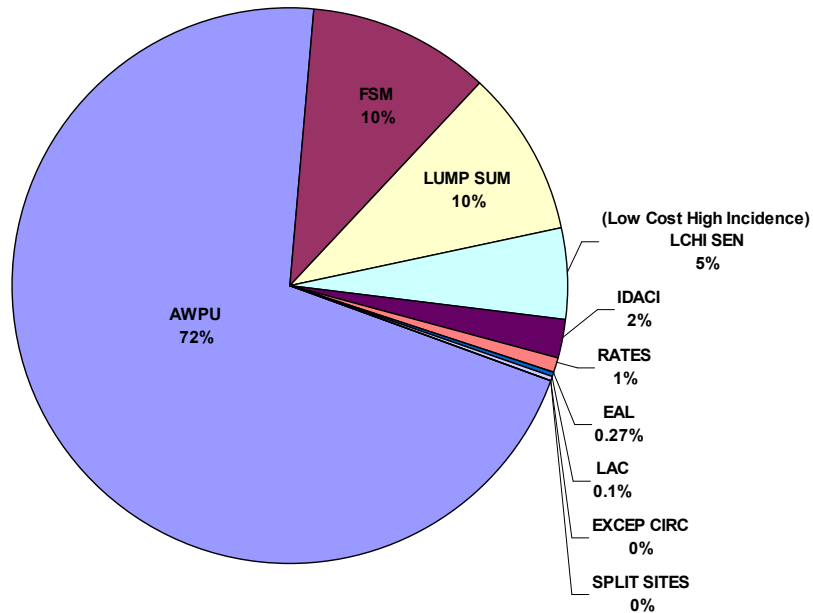
- Prior attainment indicators and continuing to use the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP).
- Pupil Mobility which is not a factor in Wirral's formula
- Lump Sums, using a separate lump sum for primary and secondary schools and re-considering the cap of £200,000.
- Sparsity measures mainly for Shire Authorities
- A formula factor linked to indicators showing pupils in receipt of SEN top up funding.

- A requirement for all authorities and schools to set the notional SEN budget at £6,000.

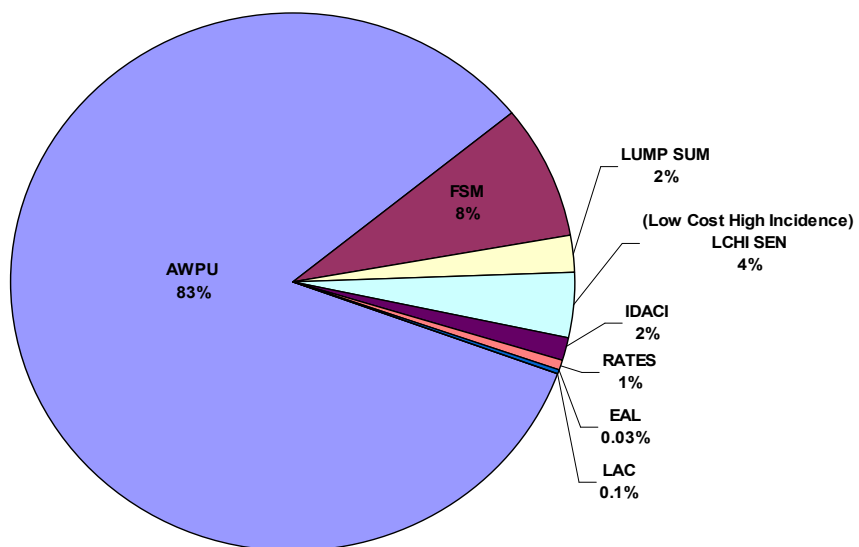
The response to the consultation is included in Appendix 2.

### Wirral Schools Funding Formula elements

#### Primary £93.2m



#### Secondary £89.6m



### RECOMMENDATION

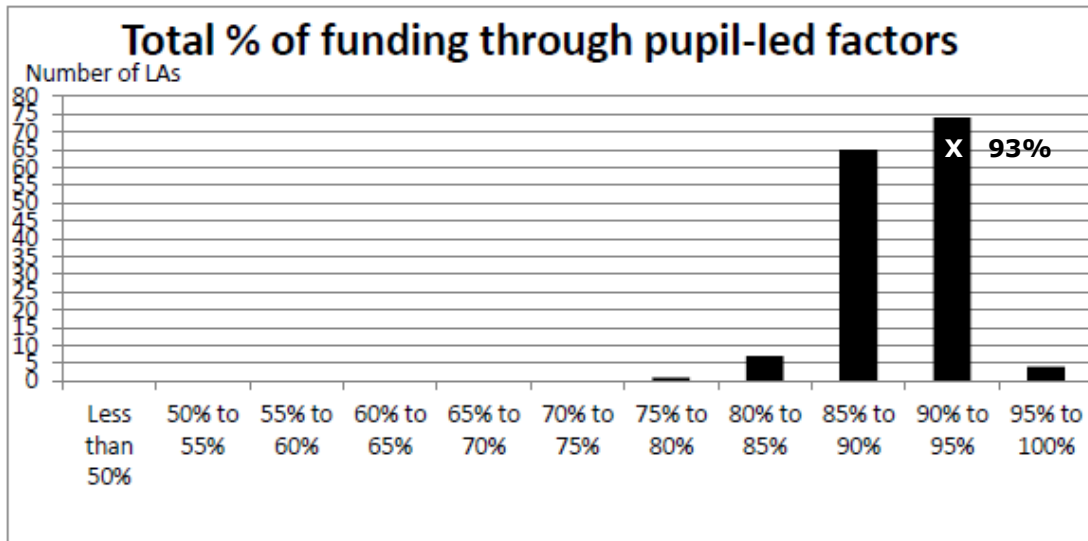
Schools Forum note the contents of the report.

**Julia Hassall**  
**Director of Children's Services**

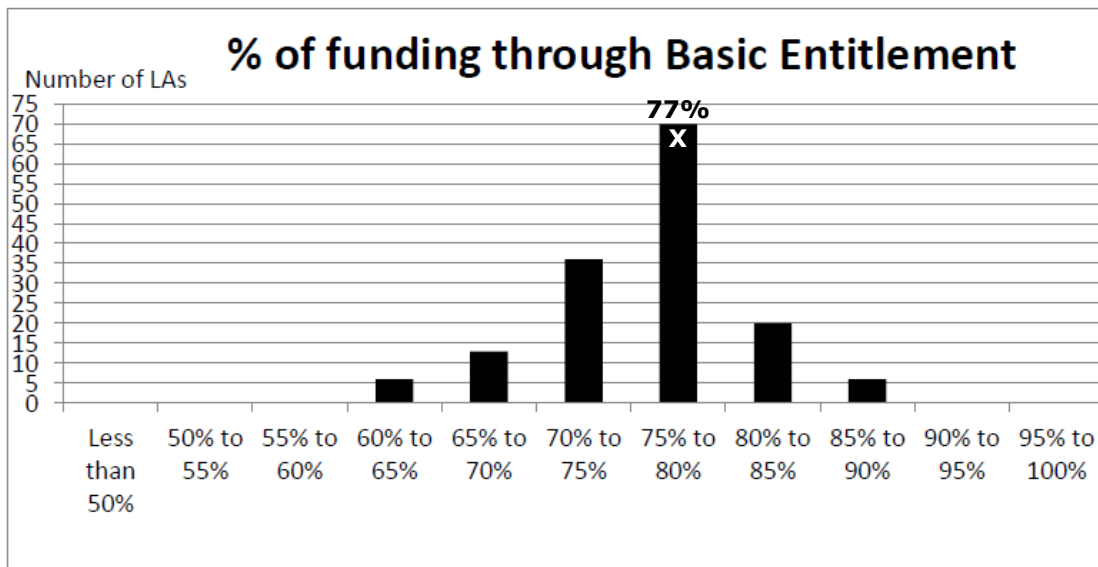
# Comparison of Wirral's School Funding Formula with other local authorities

## Appendix 1

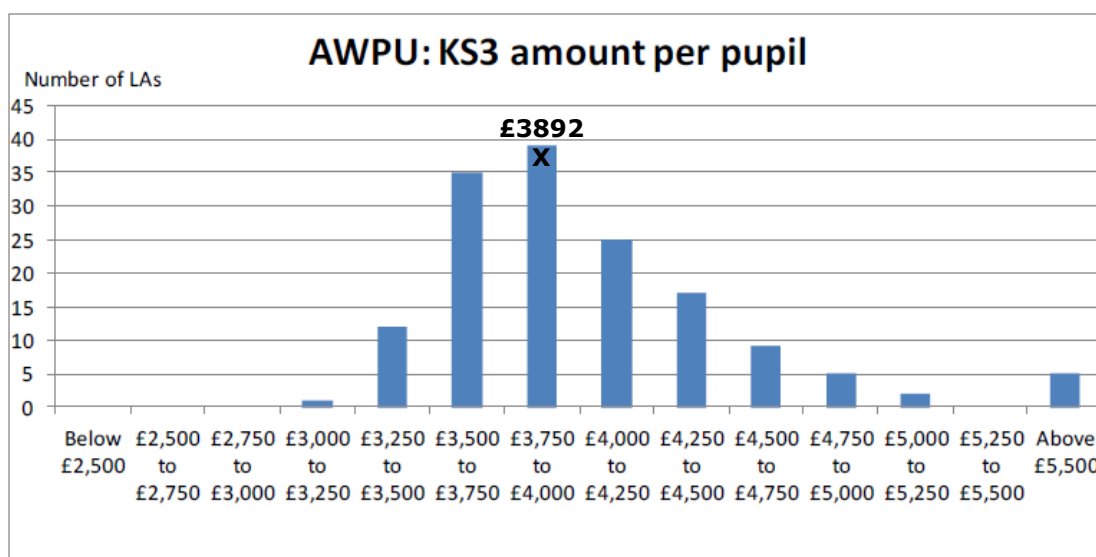
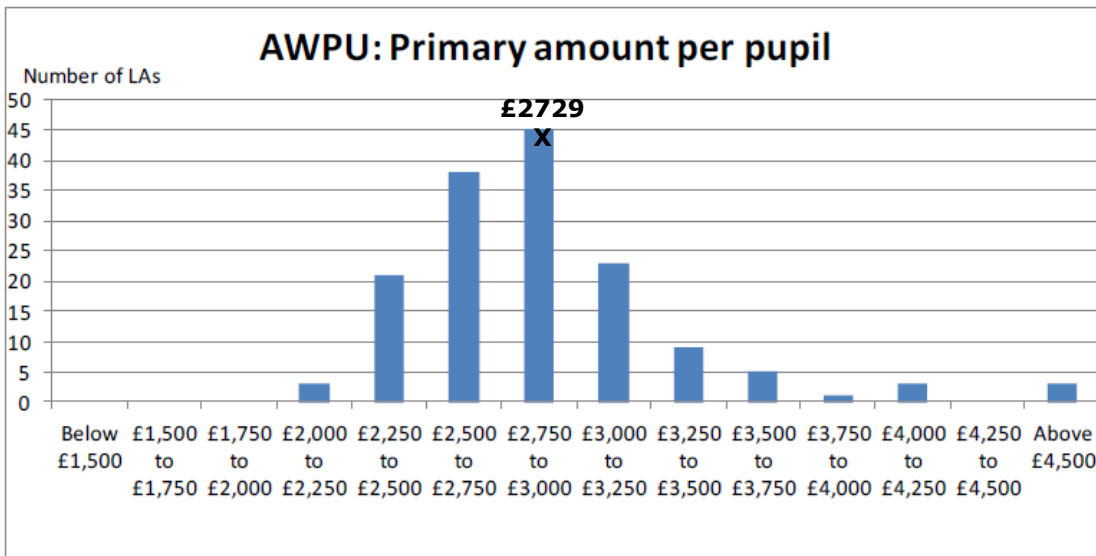
Wirral denoted by 'X'



Pupil-led factors include Basic Entitlement (AWPU), deprivation (free school meals and IDACI), prior attainment, English as an additional language (EAL), looked after children and pupil mobility (not used in Wirral). The percentage allocated by Wirral exceeds the DfE guideline target of 85%.

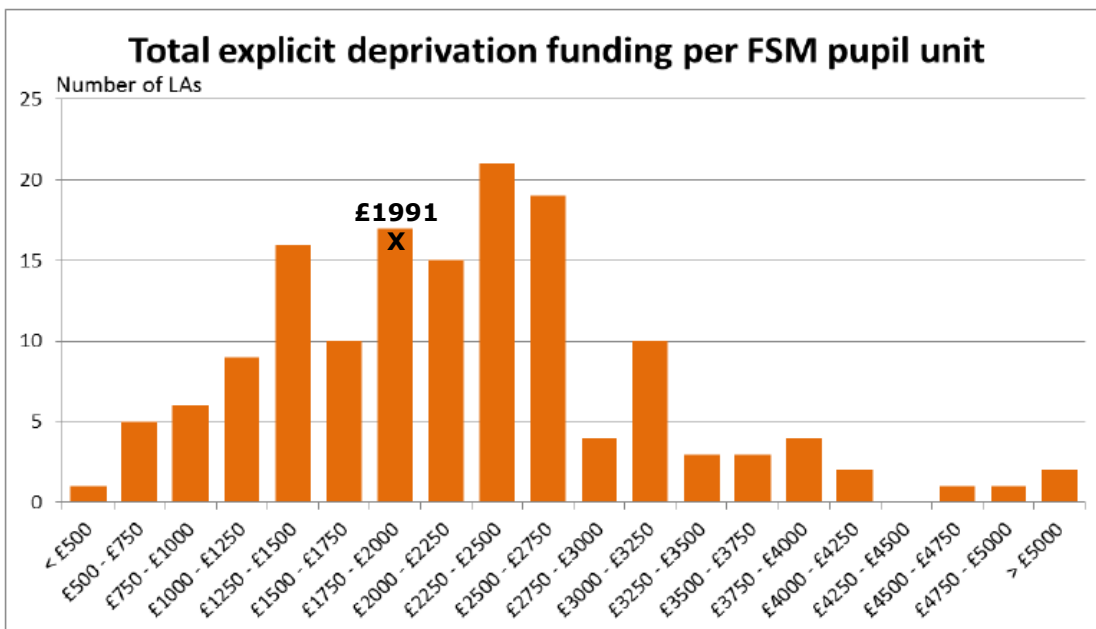
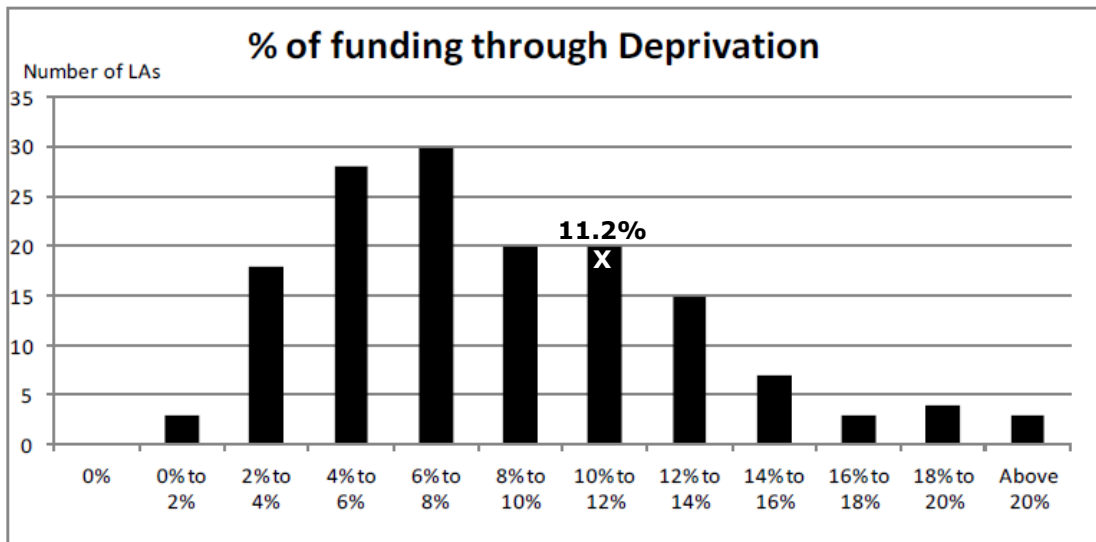


77% of Wirral's school funding is through Basic Entitlement. This is similar to the half of local authorities across the country.

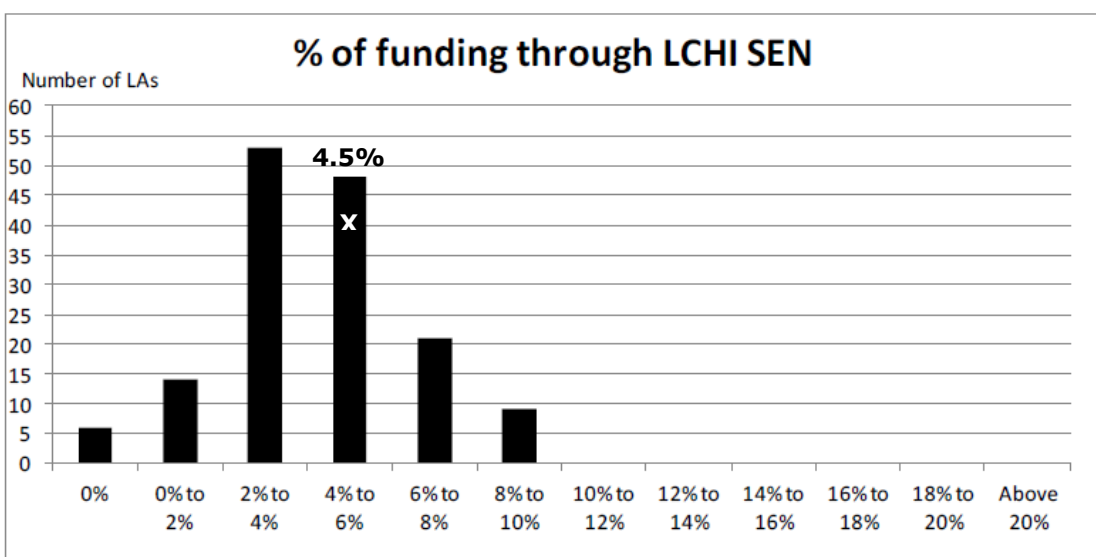
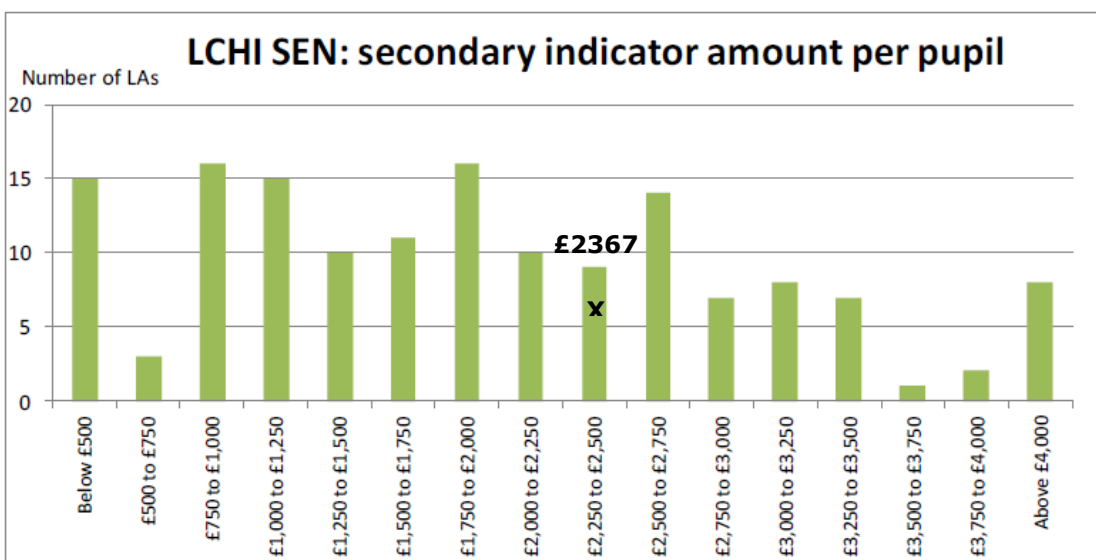
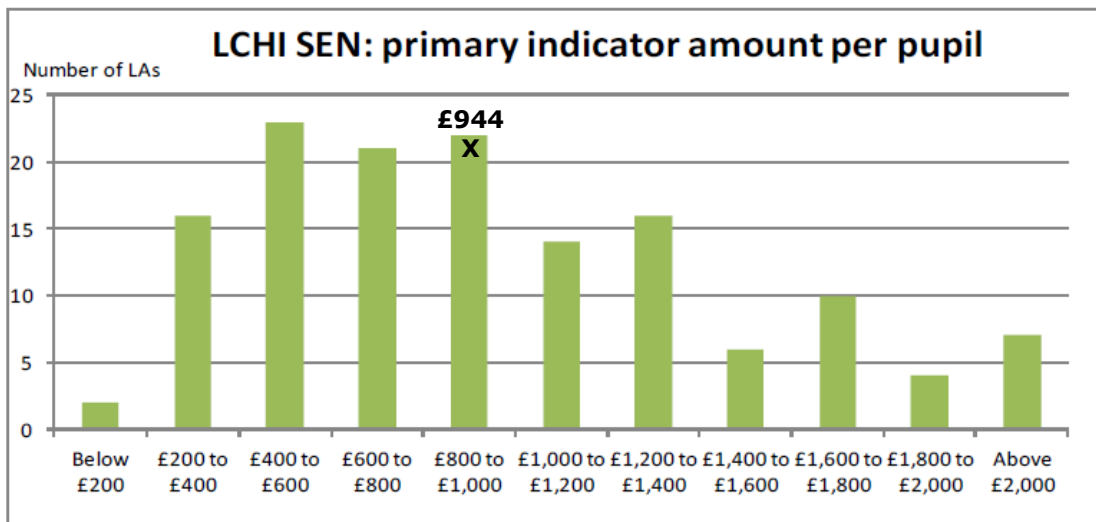


Similar to the percentage of funding through Basic Entitlement, the amounts per pupil at primary and secondary level are in line with the national average.

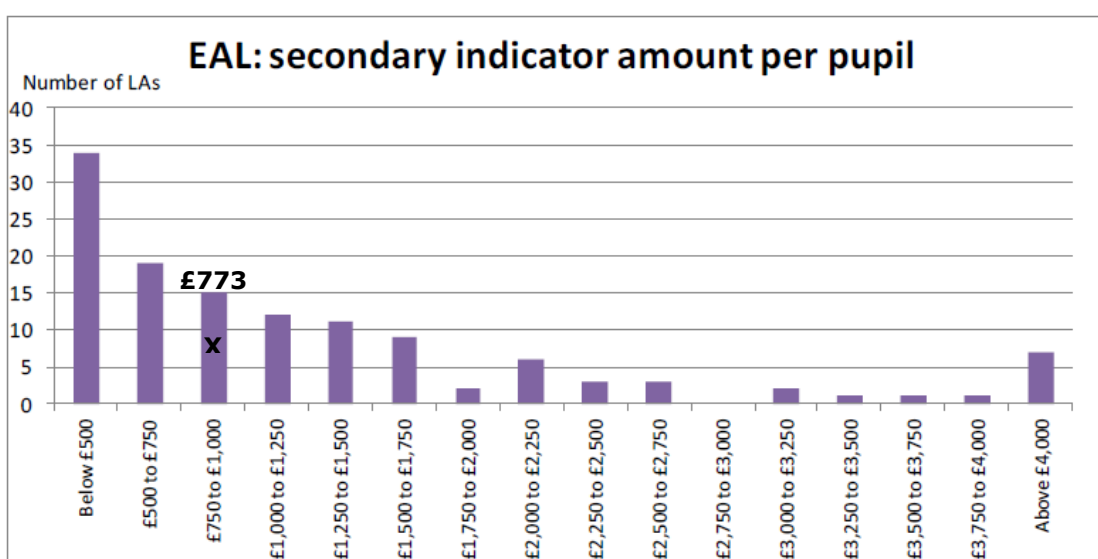
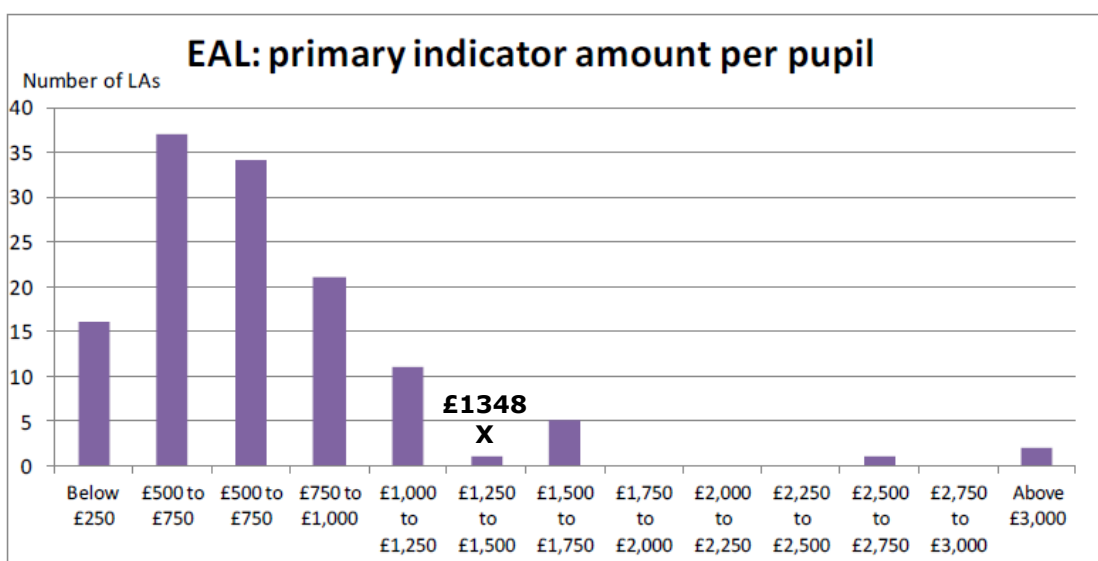
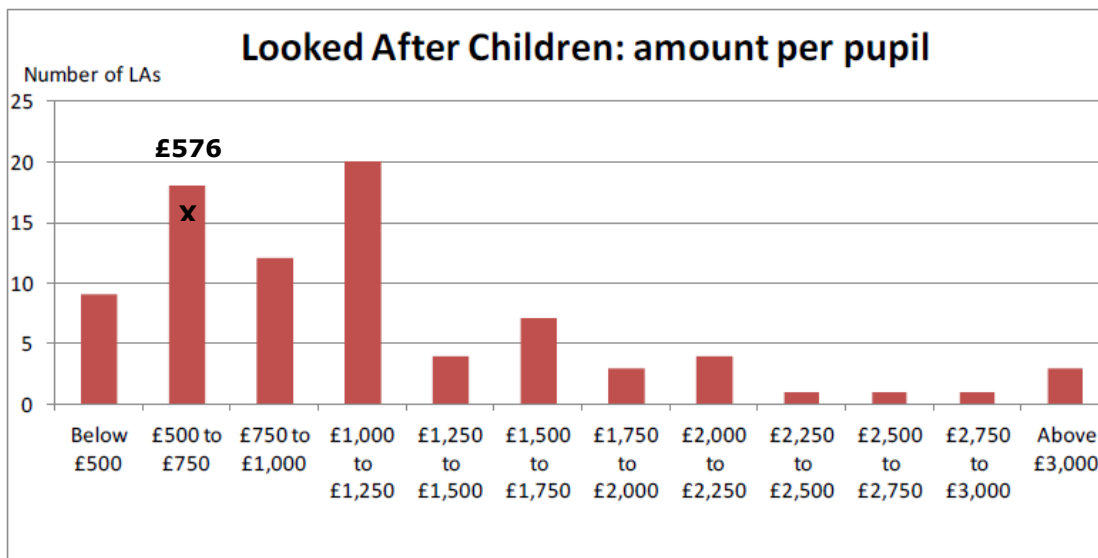
There are a few outliers in both the primary and secondary sectors; however these authorities are all based in London.



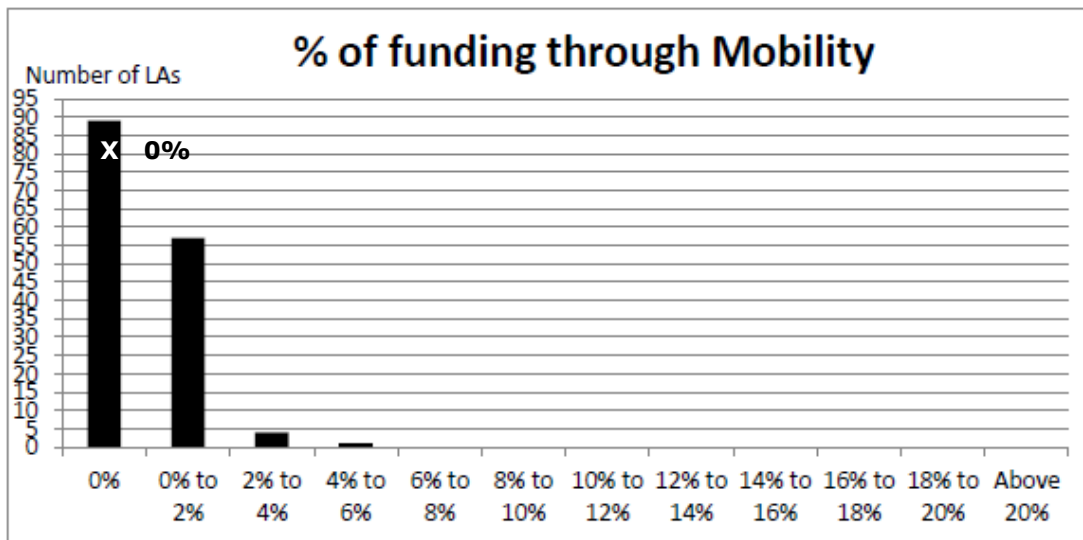
Deprivation funding at 11.2% is broadly in line with the national average. Over 80% of funding is based upon free school eligibility and the remainder consists of funding through IDACI. Recent local analysis shows that funding through IDACI directs resources to children who are in danger of not achieving expected standards at the end of Key Stage 2 and 4, and who would not receive deprivation funding under free school meals.



Low Cost High Incidence (LCHI) SEN funding is also broadly in line with the national average. The DfE raised questions whether local authorities should continue to use EYFSP data as an attainment related proxy to identify low cost SEN in primary schools. In the absence of other measures it seems reasonable that this indicator should continue to be used.



There are few outliers within our funding formula, mainly concerning the funding per pupil for children who have English as an additional language (EAL). This funding consists of the delegated services of the Minority Ethnic Achievement Service (MEAS). Funding was targeted at EAL pupils who were only in the system for one year. However, there is an option for two or three years, covering more EAL pupils. This would reduce the amount per pupil and bring in line with the national average.



The mobility factor was introduced in 2012 to address the administrative costs incurred by schools that experience high levels of pupils leaving and joining throughout the academic year. However, along with over half of local authorities, Wirral have not opted to use this element. The local authority average is 6% and only 16 schools have mobility rates greater than 10% - Riverside is the highest at 15%.

