

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 25<sup>th</sup> September 2012

### REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### Funding High Needs Students aged 16-24 Update

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update about funding high needs (SEN) students aged 16 -25 years. This follows a report to Forum in September 2011 "*Transfer of Responsibility and Funding from the Young Peoples' Funding Agency (YPLA) to the Local Authority for Special educational Needs/Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Post 16.*" That report drew attention to the proposed changes and also pointed out budgetary pressures.

#### 1. Budgetary Position

- i SEN Block Grant to LA from YPLA  
In 2011-12 it was £1,434,900 and this year is £1,416,300. Costs continue to exceed resources and a further £1million is currently spent from the Dedicated Schools Grant to fund post 16 SEN provision in sixth forms.
- ii Additional Learning Support in the Further Education Sector  
In 2011-12 the notional budget was approximately £1million and our spend is now approximately £800,000.
- iii Independent Specialist Providers  
In 2011-12 Wirral's spend was £1.7million. This year it is estimated to be just under £1 million.

New funding arrangements will begin in April 2013 when funds will transfer to the LA. It is highly likely that budgetary pressures will remain in all areas.

#### 2. Update on Progress

- i. On 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2012 the Local Authority received a letter from the Department for Education requesting we confirm that current baseline learner data (2010/11) was correct and that we forecast learner numbers for 2012/13 and 2013/14. This is to enable the Local Authority final allocation for 2013/14 to be more accurate for high needs students.  
  
We have been asked to provide this by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
- ii Work is being carried out to check the accuracy of the baseline data provided by the Education Funding Agency (EFA) through the Council's SEN team, Management Information (Data) team and directly with local institutions (schools, academies and colleges).
- iii Based on the baseline data, the Local Authorities 14-19 team have either, met or written, to all local schools, colleges and out of borough providers to check

if Wirral students attend. All the information is to be returned by the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2012. This information will then be collated, checked and submitted. We have also asked for an estimate of the costs associated with this learning.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Report be noted

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