

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM 23RD JANUARY 2013

REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

ADVANCED SKILLS TEACHERS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out a proposal to retain Advanced Skills Teachers until the end of the academic year 2012-13, using a budget underspend from April 2012-March 2013.

2.0 BACKGROUND

From 31st March 2013 funding will not be retained centrally for Advanced Skills Teachers (ASTs) salaries and outreach costs. £317,000 will be delegated to schools via the funding formula with effect from April 2013.

In 2011 there were 21 ASTs. Since then, 10 have moved to other posts or retired and have not been replaced. There will be a consequent underspend in the AST budget for 2012-13 of £67,000.

There are now 11 ASTs which is 10.6 FTE.

The costs to retain these ASTs until the end of the academic year can be met from the underspend carried forward. This will enable current curriculum development projects to continue until the end of the academic year. Three examples of such on-going projects are:

- Secondary Schools Subject Leader Networks in the 9 strands.
- Mission Mathematics – a Wirral KS1 intervention project currently in pilot and due for release to schools from April 2013.
- Arts in the Park – an annual event for Wirral Schools.

The future of such curriculum initiatives and opportunities from September 2013 would form part of a wider consultation over the next few months.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Forum approves the use of the underspend to retain the AST Service until the end of the academic year 2012-13.

Julia Hassall
Acting Director of Children's Services