

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM - 23rd January 2013

REPORT OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA TEMPLATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides details of the final summary of Wirral's school funding formula. The final pro-forma, along with supplementary data, was submitted to the EFA on the 22nd January 2013.

1. Background

As part of the DfE's funding reform, all local authorities were required to remodel their local funding formula to comply with a simpler and more transparent system.

The DfE have provided each local authority with a Schools Block dataset, which includes data on areas such as Pupil Attainment, Free School Meals. This is fed through the local funding formula to allocate school funding. The dataset is based upon the October School Census 2012 and each school is given a percentage of pupils who are eligible for each factor.

All local authorities were required to submit a provisional Schools Budget pro-forma to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) by 31st October 2012, and a final version on the 22nd January 2013.

Attached is a comparison of the final budget allocation submitted in January, listing the factors, the amount of funding available for each pupil led factor, the number of pupils eligible and the unit value per pupil.

2. Comparison of final January allocation and provisional October allocation

2.1 Primary

- Increases in the number of pupils in primary schools result in more funding being allocated in the primary sector (£1.5m).
- Increases per unit value in the Pupil Entitlement, FSM, the most deprived IDACI bands, P5 and P6, and low cost, high incidence SEN result from the budget growth identified.
- The funding for Looked after Children is a shared allocation with secondary schools, as the DfE will only allow one unit value. Overall, there has been a 6% increase in the number of looked after children, resulting in a lower unit value compared to October.
- There were a greater number of pupils who were registered to have English as an additional language compared to October 2011 and as a result, the unit value has decreased by £180 to £1,367 per pupil.

2.2 Secondary

- The falling secondary pupil numbers allocate less funding in the secondary sector (£1.3m).
- The unit value for Pupil Entitlement for both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 pupils and the most deprived IDACI bands, S4, S5 and S6, increase as a result of the budget growth identified.
- There was an 8% decrease in the number of pupils deemed underachieving, which resulted in an increase per unit value for low cost, high incidence SEN.
- Due to an increase in pupils eligible for free school meals and less funding being available, there was a decrease of £77 to £2,250 per pupil.
- As there was an increase in looked after children across primary and secondary and with a shared allocation, this resulted in a lower unit value.
- The number of children registered as EAL, more than doubled compared to October 2011, resulting the unit value decreasing by £830 to £755 per pupil.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Schools Forum note the contents of the report and the funding formula return to the EFA.

Julia Hassall
Acting Director of Children's Services