

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 13th November 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The impact of the School Intervention Grant and Combined Budget Contributions to School Improvement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the expenditure and impact of School Budget contributions in 2013-14 in the following areas:

- School Intervention £674,500
- School Improvement £359,900

BACKGROUND

1. School Intervention

The School Intervention contribution of £674,500 has been and is being spent on 4 main areas of support for schools:

1.1 Primary School Intervention	£374,000
1.2 Secondary school Intervention	£171,400
1.3 14-19 Intervention / Support	£97,200
1.4 Supporting Early Years Statutory Assessments	£30,600

1.1 Primary School Intervention

A total of £374,000 was allocated for school improvement in primary schools. A substantial amount of this money, £200,000 has been used to support vulnerable schools identified as Band 3 or Band 4 in line with the Local Authority School Improvement Strategy. Each school receiving financial support was required to work with a Principal Manager from the School Improvement Team to generate a School Action Plan with clear measureable milestones. Progress towards achieving the milestones was reviewed each term through the School Causing Concern process. Results at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 were analysed in August 2013 to determine progress in raising pupil attainment.

In addition £30,000 was allocated to deliver training and support for the development of subject leaders in English and Mathematics in primary schools. The programme was delivered to support schools with the development of middle leadership. The training has been very well received. The training has been modified to support subject leaders in Foundation subjects.

£45,000 is used as a contribution towards the Primary Headteacher consultant post and the remaining budget is kept as contingency to support schools who are judged by the revised Ofsted framework (September 2013) as 'requiring improvement', in serious weaknesses or special measures.

1.2 Secondary School Intervention

There are four elements to secondary intervention contribution:

1. Support for mainstream maintained secondary schools that are Band 2 in line with the Local Authority School Improvement Strategy.
2. Narrowing the Key Stage 4 attainment gaps (at 5+ A*-C including English and maths GCSEs) between FSM pupils and non-FSM pupils.
3. A Raising Attainment for Disadvantaged Youngsters programme for a second year.
4. A contribution towards the secondary Headteacher post.

The amounts for these areas were finalised after the final banding of secondary schools in line with agreed LA processes and the school improvement contributions, in November 2012.

1.3 14 – 19 Intervention/Support

The narrowing the attainment gap (level 3) at age 19 project was developed to respond to the lower than national performance for National Indicator (NI) 81. NI 81 is concerned with the level 3 attainment gap that exists between young people who turn 19 in a given academic year, who previously were in receipt of free school meals at the age of 16 and those young people that were not claiming free school meals. The data set used was a matched data set that brings together all types of post 16 level 3 qualifications including, A / AS levels, advanced Apprenticeship frameworks, BTEC National Diploma qualifications etc.

The project worked with young people in learning during the academic years 2011/12 (Wirral Met College only) and 2012/13 (both FE institutions and targeted schools).

In preparation for Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) 2013 the 14-19 Team sought to develop Wirral risk of NEET indicator (RONI) tool. Plans to develop a tool were signalled in the Council's 2012 RPA and drew upon experiences of other local authorities that had taken part in the Department for Education RPA trials; running as early as 2009.

The RONI is a sophisticated toolkit that enables the early identification of those young people who are at risk of becoming NEET. As part of the project the 14 – 19 team sought to test and evaluate the effectiveness of a range of interventions used to re-engage young people and ultimately prevent NEET.

The RONI project took place September 2012 through to July 2013. Some 150 Year 11 high risk of NEET learners were supported as part of the project.

1.4 Supporting Early Years Statutory Assessments

This has been used to support Early Years statutory assessments in the summer term.

2. School Improvement

The school improvement contribution of £359,900 has been spent on the following areas:

- Early Intervention Managers (Early Years, Mathematics, English) who work with targeted schools
- Entitlement School Improvement Associates
- Contribution towards Governor Support Services
- Evolve
- Post-16 narrowing the gap project
- The delivery of training, resources and equipment

IMPACT

This year's funding by the Schools Forum and the amounts previously agreed have supported the aggregated school outcomes which are:

1. Provisional attainment results at the end of Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 show an increase on 2012 results.
2. The gap between pupils in receipt of free school meals and non free school meals has narrowed at the end of each primary key stage.
3. 60% of schools in Band 4 exited into a higher band requiring less support and challenge. 83% of Band 3 schools exited into a higher band.
4. Attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 for 5 A* - Cs including English and Mathematics (66%) exceeded FFTD estimates, is 1% higher than 2012, and is above the provisional national average of 58.2%
5. Outcomes reported in August 2013 for the 55 young people supported in school sixth forms were extremely positive. All of the named pupils (100%) identified by the six participating schools were retained and sat the appropriate examinations, or produced the required course work. It was reported that 96% of the 55 pupils (53 in total) achieved a full level 3 qualification. Outcomes reported from further education institutions in August 2013 for the 60 pupils supported whilst undertaking a level 3 qualification(s) in the further education sector, were also very positive. The Colleges reported that 90% of the original cohort of young people stayed to complete the programme of study. Of these young people all (100%) were successful in achieving a full level 3 qualification.
6. 75% of the high risk of becoming NEET learners (112 actual learners) supported by the RONI project have made a positive transition in to post 16 education and / or training. The 25% (38 actual learners) of learners that have no recorded post 16 destination, at the time of writing, will be tracked and targeted via the Council's careers education, information, advice and guidance service.
7. At the time of writing this report at least 85% of primary, 68% of secondary and 92% of special schools have been judged as good or better which is well above national averages.
8. Due to bespoke intervention by the School Improvement Team 7 schools were prevented from going into an Ofsted category

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The consultant headteachers prepare an annual report to review and evaluate work streams.
2. Schools Forum review the funding of these posts every 2 years to determine whether schools want to continue funding them in this way.
3. Schools Forum to note the contents of the report.

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