

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM - 8th October 2014

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 £673,200
- School Improvement £359,900

BACKGROUND

1. School Intervention

The School Intervention contribution of £673,200 has been and is being spent on three main areas of support for schools:

1.1 Primary & Secondary School Intervention	£545,400
1.2 14-19 Intervention / Support	£97,200
1.3 Supporting Early Years Statutory Assessments	£30,600

1.1 Primary School Intervention

A total of £247,400 was allocated for school improvement in primary schools. A substantial amount of this money, £225,000 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 school improvement officer 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 2014 to determine progress in raising pupil attainment.

In addition £22,400 was allocated to deliver training and support for the development of subject leaders in Foundation subject 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 updated in the light of the revised Ofsted framework (July 2014) and will be offered again this academic year.

Funding of £15,000 was allocated to the development in Early Years of the Alistair Brice-Clegg model. This training and support has been very well received by early years settings and schools.

£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 s 'requiring improvement', 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 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 2013.

1.3 14 – 19 Intervention/Support

The percentage of young people NEET in July was 6.9% (compared to 8% nationally).

In addition £22,000 was spent on licences to operate and access the national U-Explore careers education, information, advice and guidance software (CEIAG). This assists schools to evidence that they are providing impartial CEIAG for their pupils. In total 2639 active pupil accounts registered in 2013/14. 19 secondary schools proactively use the software as a part of their PSHE curriculum offer.

The Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI) toolkit has enabled the early identification of young people who are at risk of becoming NEET. The Programme is co-financed using Council core grant and School Intervention funding. The RONI toolkit is reported separately on the agenda.

1.4 Supporting Early Years Statutory Assessments

This has been used to support the statutory duty in Early Years to moderate assessments in the summer term 2014.

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 and Key Stage 2 an increase on 2013 results.
2. The gap between pupils in receipt of free school meals and non free school meals has narrowed at the end of EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.
3. Wirral attainment at the end of EYFS (children attaining a good level of development) has increased by 16% to 63%. The free school meal gap has narrowed with both non free school meal and free school children's attainment showing an increase.
4. 87.5% of schools in Band 4 exited into a higher band requiring less support and challenge. 65% of Band 3 schools exited into a higher band.
5. Attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 for 5 A* - Cs including English and Mathematics (63%) exceeded FFTB estimates, and is above the provisional North West average of 56%.
6. Outcomes reported in August 2013 for the 55 young people supported in school sixth forms were extremely positive. All of the named pupils (100 percent) identified by the six participating schools were retained and sat the appropriate examinations, or produced the required course work. It was reported that 96 percent 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 percent of the original cohort of young people stayed to complete the programme of study. Of these young people all (100 percent) were successful in achieving a full level 3 qualification.
7. At the time of writing this report at least 87% 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 in 2015 and every 2 years thereafter.
3. Schools Forum to note the contents of the report.

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