

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 14th JANUARY 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

High Needs Funding: longer term changes – DfE Call for Evidence

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is divided into four blocks: the Schools Block, the Early Years Block, the High Needs Block and an 'Other' Block. This report provides details of a consultation conducted by the DfE on the move towards a national formula for High Needs to sit alongside a national formula for schools and early years.

2. BACKGROUND

The High Needs Funding Block within DSG was introduced in 2013. The block was largely based on the previous spend levels by local authorities. In 2015-16, the block provides a High Needs resource allocation of £33.8m (part of a total DSG of £241m).

In November 2014, the DfE released a consultation to seek views on how they might have a fair distribution of funding for special educational needs and disability (SEND). They are planning for a distribution that is more formulaic and less based on past levels of allocation or spend.

Research is being conducted on finding new and improved formula factors for distributing funds relating to SEND from national to local level and then from a local level to institutions. Traditionally formula factors such as Free School Meal data and levels of attainment have been used. The consultation is seeking views on other factors that could provide a good proxy.

The DfE have published a data pack for each authority with information about their children and young people with SEND, including data on attainment, funding and health. Local authorities are asked to analyse their data and to respond to the DfE consultation with any views by the end of February 2015.

It is suggested that the Schools Forum's High Needs Working Group consider these issues and the data for Wirral that is included in this report. The report will also be considered by other partners including the Children's Trust and WISPHA.

3. ANALYSIS

3.1 SEN Pupil Data

In 2014, the percentage of pupils with special education needs in Wirral are above the national average. This percentage has gradually decreased since 2011 mirroring the national downward trend, however in 2014 SEN pupils in Wirral are 12% higher than the England average.

		2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Wirral	SEN pupils	21.7%	22.3%	22.6%	22.0%	21.1%	20.1%
	With Statements	3.7%	3.5%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.1%
England	SEN pupils	20.7%	21.1%	20.6%	19.8%	18.7%	17.9%
	With Statements	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%	2.8%
Wirral v England	SEN pupils	1.0%	1.2%	2.0%	2.2%	2.4%	2.2%
	With Statements	0.9%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%

This is a similar picture for pupils with a statement in Wirral. The percentage of pupils has gradually decreased from 3.7% in 2011 to 3.1% in 2014, but still above national average (11%). National figures show that the percentage of pupils with a statement has remained constant at 2.8% since 2011.

28% of pupils with a statement in Wirral attended a mainstream setting, compared to a national average of 47%. 63% of pupils with a statement in Wirral attended a special school, compared to 45% at a national level.

	Mainstream settings	Special settings	SEN Units and RP in mainstream settings	Other incl. AP
Wirral	27.8%	63.1%	8.7%	0.4%
England	46.7%	45.4%	5.7%	2.1%

3.2 SEN Funding

The DfE have published extracted data from the Section 251 returns to compare levels of funding and spend against national averages. Some further clarification is needed with the data since it appears that not all spend is accounted for.

		Funding in £millions					
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
DSG High Needs	Wirral				£30.6	£32.3	£33.6
	England				£4,732.1	£4,966.9	£5,181.3
S251 SEN budget	Wirral	£26.6	£27.5	£27.6	£28.2	£30.7	£31.9
	England	£2,966.9	£3,128.2	£3,198.3	£3,458.4	£4,738.1	£4,691.6
S251 SEN spend	Wirral	£34.2	£37.4	£35.5	£34.4		
	England	£5,197.5	£5,465.5	£5,524.8	£5,400.1		

The table below shows DSG High Needs funding per SEN pupil, in Wirral funding per pupil is below the national average. In 2014-15, this was £3,470 nationally compared to Wirral at £3,308. Wirral's SEN budgeted spend however has increased over the period and is broadly in line with the average.

(Note the increase over the period reflects the reallocation of funding and responsibilities to local authorities such as post 16 SEND, 6th form, FE and colleges.)

		Funding per SEN pupil					
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
DSG High Needs	Wirral				£2,744	£3,026	£3,308
	England				£2,924	£3,214	£3,470
S251 SEN budget	Wirral	£2,363	£2,400	£2,381	£2,532	£2,879	£3,135
	England	£1,774	£1,835	£1,911	£2,137	£3,066	£3,143

3.3 Formula Indicators

Pupil Attainment

At Key Stage 4 (GCSE) level, children with SEN in Wirral perform better than the national average of children with SEN.

SEN pupils achieving 5+A*-C inc English & Maths GCSE

	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
SEN without statement (Wirral)	17%	22%	32%	33%	33%
SEN w/o statement (England)	19%	23%	25%	25%	27%
SEN with statement (Wirral)	9%	6%	9%	11%	12%
SEN with statement (England)	6%	7%	9%	8%	10%

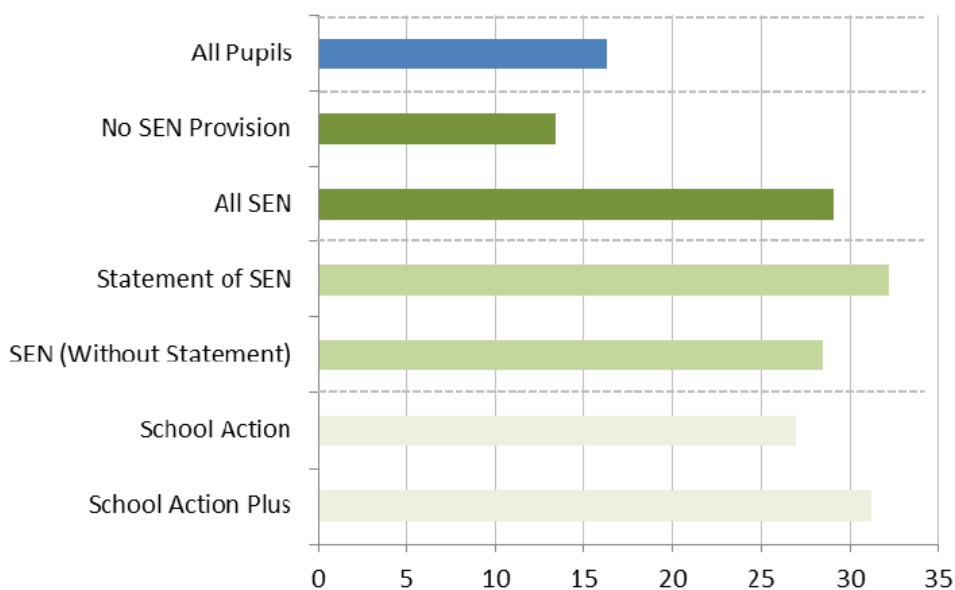
At Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 however, data indicates SEN children in Wirral perform below the national average of similar children.

% SEN pupils achieving	With Statement		Without Statement		All pupils Wirral
	Wirral	England	Wirral	England	
Expected standard at EYFSP (2013)	0%	2%	7%	14%	47%
Phonic decoding standard (2014)	6%	17%	39%	40%	76%
Level 2 or above in KS1 reading (2014)	10%	25%	57%	64%	89%
Level 2 or above in KS1 Writing (2014)	6%	19%	48%	54%	86%
Level 2 or above in KS1 Maths (2014)	14%	28%	66%	73%	91%
Level 2 or above in KS1 Science (2014)	13%	25%	67%	69%	91%
Level 4 or above in KS2 Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling (2013)	12%	17%	38%	35%	75%
Level 4 or above in KS2 Reading, Writing & Maths (2013)	12%	14%	42%	38%	76%

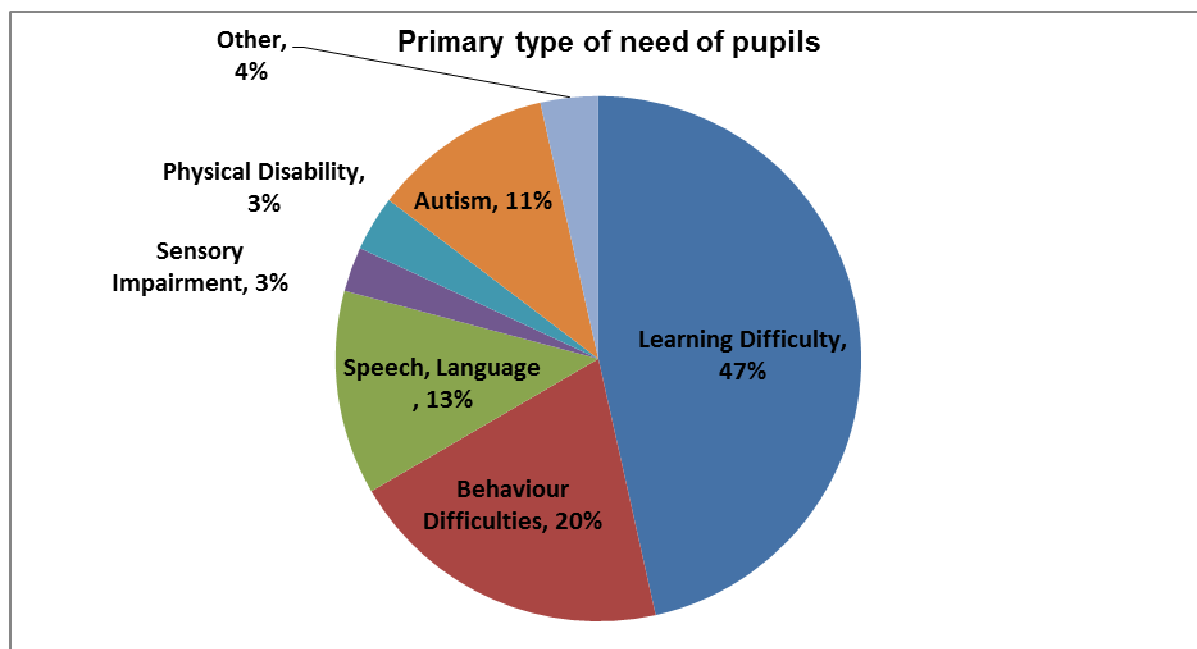
Free School Meal Proxy

The chart below from the DfE shows that at national level, pupils with SEN are more likely to be eligible for and claim free school meals.

Percentage of pupils eligible for and claiming free school meals, by SEN status



3.4 SEN Needs Analysis



	Learning Difficulty	Behaviour Difficulties	Speech, Language	Sensory Impairment	Physical Disability	Autism	Other
Wirral	47%	20%	13%	3%	3%	11%	4%
England	35%	21%	21%	4%	4%	11%	4%

3.4 Health data

Summary of other statistics

	LA	England
% 16-17 year olds with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities in education and training (2014)	89.3%	85.8%
% of high needs places for post 16 students (2014)	20.9%	22.3%
No of under 16s claiming Disability Living Allowance (Nov13)	2,870	313,340
% of births with low birth weight (2012)	5.9%	7.0%
% of under 16s whose day to day activities are limited (Census 11)	5.1%	3.7%
% of 16-24yr olds whose day to day activities are limited (Census 11)	7.3%	5.2%
% of under 16s with bad health (Census 11)	0.8%	0.6%
% of 16-24 year olds with bad health (Census 11)	1.4%	1.1%
% Children in need who are disabled (2012-13)	16.0%	13.8%
Rate per 10,000 population of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children aged 0-14 (2012/13)	106.9	103.8
Rate per 10,000 population of hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in young people aged 15-24 (2012/13)	194.2	130.7
Rate per 100,000 population of hospital admissions for asthma aged under 19 years (2012/13)	255.2	221.4
Rate per 100,000 population of hospital admissions for mental health conditions aged under 19 years (2012/13)	96.1	87.6
Rate per 100,000 population of hospital admissions as a result of self-harm aged 10-24yrs (2012/13)	526.6	346.3
Rate per 100,000 population of Epilepsy admissions aged under 19 (2011/12)	85.1	79.3
Rate per 100,000 population of Admissions for bronchiolitis aged under 2 years (2011/12)	3405.1	2066.2
Rate per 100,000 population of Respiratory tract infections aged 0-4 (2011/12)	1728.8	1100.7

There are significant differences in the health data for children in Wirral compared to the national average. The majority of the data is based on 2012-13 and the Working Group should explore more recent data where available.

4. CONCLUSION

1. Wirral have a higher percentage number of children with SEN, both stated and non-stated, compared to the national average.
2. High Needs planned spend per pupil is consistent with national averages, although further work should look at the budget information in more detail.
3. There are differences in SEN v pupil attainment at Primary and Secondary levels. This together with variations in health data should be examined further as potential proxy indicators for the High Needs funding formula.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

- The Forum notes the report and refers the paper to the High Needs Working Party to consider in more detail together with partners and to respond to the DfE consultation.

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