

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 29th APRIL 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Schools Budget update 2015-16

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report updates the Schools Budget for changes that have been made since it was reported to the Forum on 14th January 2015. The overall Schools Budget has reduced from £243m to £173m. A revised breakdown is included in the appendix attached.

2.0 BUDGET CHANGES

2.1 Primary & Secondary School Budgets

The Primary School budget was previously reported as £97m. This has been reduced by £1.1m to take account of the de-delegation decisions taken at the previous meeting, and £2.8m this being the budgets for 2 Primary Academies that are paid directly by the Education Funding Agency (EFA).

The Secondary School budget has been reduced by £64m from £90m to £26m taking account of de-delegation and the budgets for 15 Secondary Academies.

2.3 Special School Places

The adjustment of £1,060,000 is made to show the separate funding for 6th form places – there are 106 places in total.

2.4 Early Years

Since the budget report was written in January the Early Years Census for 2015 has been finalised. The number of 3 and 4 year olds has increased from 2,992 to 3,082. For each additional pupil the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is increased by £3816.57 (£344,000 in total). At this time the budget assumes there will be no further change in the 2016 census (which will also be used to determine this budget).

The estimated budget for 2 year olds is unchanged at £4,347,100, based on 1,177 pupils in January 2015 (actual 1,196) and 1,846 pupils in January 2016.

The January 15 number may still change, depending on the outcome of a further census count in November.

2.5 High Needs Pupils

The exceptional needs bid for additional High Needs Places was not approved by the EFA. Therefore the overall funding for places is unchanged with the exception of the following 3 areas:

1. Birkenhead Park School (UAB) resourced provision. A reduction of 10 places from September was agreed by the EFA (£58,000 part year and £100,000 full

year). The case to retain these funds and apply elsewhere was accepted. The additional funding will be included in the High Needs Contingency.

2. A deduction will be made for the estimated number of places taken by Wirral pupils at the Everton Free School. The October census recorded 13 pupils. The part year cost in 2015-16 is £75,000 and full year costs are £130,000. Since this was not included in the January budget it will need to be met from contingency.

3. The third adjustment relates to the funding and deductions made by the EFA for High Needs Places in Non Maintained Special schools and FE. In 2014-15 these were funded and budgeted on a residency basis ie where the pupil lived and not the school they attended. From 2015-16 place funding will be provided for on a location (school) basis. For Wirral the principal changes are that in future funding received for West Kirby Residential School will be based on all 86 places rather than 48 currently and FE places in colleges such as Reaseheath and West Cheshire will no longer be included in Wirral's numbers. Any change in funding is neutral since it is matched by a similar adjustment in recoupment. The overall High Needs numbers at schools / providers on Wirral will in future be part of discussions with the EFA.

The table below summaries the new High Needs Place numbers for 2015-16. The 2015-16 budget has been adjusted for academy places (£1,200,000) alternative provision (£808,400), NMSS and Post 16 (£937,000).

Wirral - High Needs Place Numbers

	Pre 16		Post 16		Age 19-25		Total	
	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16	2014-15	2015-16
Units	283	273	54	49				
Alt Provision	80	93						
Sp. Schools	857	857	107	106				
NMSS	47	64	13	22				
FE			95	74	66	54		
Total	1,267	1,287	269	251	66	54	1,602	1,592

2.6 Dedicated School Grant

At this time the overall DSG for Wirral's Maintained Schools, Early Years and High Needs will reduce from £241m to £171m. Further changes may be made during the year to reflect Academy conversions or the Early Years census in January 2016.

3.0 Recommendation

That the Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

EDUCATION - SCHOOLS**Appendix 1**

	Base Estimate 2015-16 £	Adj. Estimate 2015-16 £
Individual Schools Budget		
Primary Schools	96,985,000	93,028,400
Secondary Schools	89,652,800	26,045,600
Special Schools	9,793,400	8,733,400
SEN Bases	2,816,800	1,616,800
EMAP (formerly WASP)	733,400	-
Wirral Hospital Schools	1,352,300	1,352,300
Early Years	15,406,500	15,750,000
Individual Schools Budget Total	216,740,200	146,526,500
Central School Costs		
Early Years	405,300	405,300
Admissions	341,800	341,800
School closure / retirement costs	126,000	126,000
Licences and subscriptions	250,000	254,000
Schools Forum	10,600	10,600
School Harmonisation costs	-	-
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,114,800	2,114,800
PPM	249,000	249,000
PFI Affordability Gap	2,736,500	2,736,500
Costs delegated to schools		
Library Service	-	191,700
Insurances	-	32,300
Minority Ethnic Achievement Service	-	244,600
School Specific Contingencies	-	104,300
Special Staff Costs	-	667,600
School Meals	-	13,600
Behaviour Support	-	92,200
High Needs Pupils		
Statements	4,448,500	4,448,500
SEN Top Ups	8,445,800	8,428,800
Independent Special Schools	3,383,300	3,388,300
Home Tuition	301,400	301,400
Indep School Places and Maintained 6th Forms	942,000	-
Support for SEN	2,022,700	2,022,700
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200
Non delegated School Costs Total	25,835,900	26,232,200
Total School and Central Costs	242,576,100	172,758,700
Dedicated Schools Grant Total	(241,244,700)	(171,427,300)
Use of Reserves	(894,900)	(894,900)
Grand Total	436,500	436,500