

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM - 15th JULY 2015

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2015/16

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Forum with a regular update on the anticipated spend within the schools Budget for 2015/16. Although no specific variations are anticipated at this time a number of cost pressures are identified within High Needs.

2.0 ANTICIPATED BUDGET VARIATIONS

2.1 The table attached summarises the Schools Budget. Comments on specific budget areas are set out below.

2.2 Early Years Grant

There is an Early Years budget of £15.7m which includes the funding for 2 year olds who are entitled to receive free Early Education. In addition there is £0.5m of 2 year old funding which was brought forward from 2014/15 and trajectory funding £0.5m. These amounts will be fully committed towards the expansion of the 2 year old provision.

2.3 Contribution to Combined Budgets

The combined budgets of £2.1m are expected to be fully spent across the following areas:

	Budget
	£
School Improvement	359,900
Discretionary Rate Relief Top Up	106,600
LCSB contribution	30,000
Governors Forum	2,200
Wellbeing & School Staff Surveys	44,600
PFI Support Team	61,800
LACES	140,500
School Intervention	674,500
City Learning Centres	694,700
Total	2,114,800

2.4 School Specific Contingencies

There is a contingency budget of £104,300 to take into account any specific costs that need to be met.

2.5 Special Staff Costs

The budget of £667,600 is broken down below.

	£
Maternity, Paternity & Other Staff Costs	565,000
TU Facilities	95,700
Insurance & Recharges	6,900
Total	667,600

2.6 Special Education Needs Top Ups

A budget of £11.8m represents the Top Up High Needs funding to special schools post 16 providers and Independent non-maintained special schools. The Summer Term census figures are not yet available but early indications in relation to Independent Special Schools are that there are a number of commitments for additional and extend placements which will result in additional costs. Where possible this will be offset by the High Needs Contingency.

2.7 Special Education Needs Statements/Plans

Numbers do fluctuate during the year. Exceptional Needs costs are increasing and projected to be £0.7m against a budget of £0.5m. There is however some capacity anticipated within the SEN budget.

2.8 DSG - £171,413,300

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) 2015/16 is expected to be published in July 2015 and will confirm the allocation to Wirral. The budget also includes £894,900 of DSG carried forward from 2014/15.

3.0 UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES

3.1 The final figure of DSG reserves carried forward into 2015/16 was £3.5m of which £0.9m has been applied to the 2015/16 budget as described above.

3.2 To date there are the following earmarked reserves in the accounts:

Job Evaluation and Pay Harmonisation Reserve - £0.7m

DSG Reserve - £1.3m

	£
DSG Carry Forward from 2014/15	2,057,500
Use of Reserve in 2015/16	(894,400)
Transfer Nursery Education unapplied funding	108,000
Transfer Schools AST Contingency Reserve	1,200
	1,272,300

Defibrillators Reserve - £0.04m

There is £36,000 remaining in this reserve to fund defibrillators in schools.

City Learning Centres - £0.12m

This reserve will be used to meet any large equipment failure/replacement costs or potential unfunded summer term costs.

High Needs MFG - £0.07m

Reserve to fund remaining academy costs in 2015/16.

Early Years - 2 Year Old Funding - £0.5m

Reserve created to continue expanding the 2 year old provision in 2015/16.

4.0 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Schools Budget will continue to be monitored and reported throughout the year.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1 – Budget 2015/16

	Adjusted Budget 2015/16 £
Individual Schools Budget	
Primary Schools	93,028,400
Secondary Schools	26,045,600
Special Schools	8,733,400
SEN Bases	1,616,800
Wirral Hospital School	1,352,300
Early Years	15,750,000
Individual Schools Budget Total	146,526,500
Central School Costs	
Early Years	378,700
Admissions	341,800
School Closure / retirement costs	126,000
Licences & Subscriptions	254,000
Schools Forum	10,600
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,114,800
PPM	249,000
PFI affordability gap	2,736,500
Costs De-Delegated from schools	
Library Service	191,700
Insurances	32,300
MEAS	244,600
School Specific Contingencies	104,300
Special Staff Costs	667,600
Milk & Meals	13,600
Behaviour Support	92,200
High Needs Pupils	
SEN Top Ups / Independent School Fees	11,803,100
Statements	4,458,800
Support for SEN	2,031,500
Home Tuition	308,900
Special School Transport	58,200
Non Delegated School Costs	26,218,200
Dedicated Schools Grant	(171,413,300)
DSG Carry forward from Reserves	(894,900)
Grand Total	436,500