

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM October 20<sup>th</sup> 2015

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the expenditure and impact of School Budget contributions in 2014-15 in the following areas:

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

#### BACKGROUND

##### 1. School Intervention

The School Intervention contribution of £674,500 continues to be spent on two main areas of support for schools:

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1.1 Primary School Intervention   | £355,500 |
| 1.2 Secondary School Intervention | £319,000 |

##### 1.1 Primary School Intervention

A total of £355,500 was allocated for raising standards in primary schools. £45,000 was allocated to raise standards in Early Years. £15,000 of this Early Years allocation was used to support a second cohort through the Alistair Brice Clegg training programme. The outcome of which contributed to the percentage of children attaining a Good Level of Development (GLD) increasing by 7% to 70%. Attainment continues to be 3% above the national average.

A substantial amount of this money, £,209,000 has been used to support vulnerable schools identified as Band 2 or Band 3 in line with the Local Authority School Improvement Strategy. Each school receiving financial support was required to work with a member of the School Improvement Team to generate a Raising Attainment Action Plan with clear measureable milestones. Progress towards achieving the milestones was reviewed each term through the School Causing Concern process. All schools supported demonstrated improvement. Attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 has increased.

A pilot was conducted with regard to using School to School support. Specialist Leaders in Education (SLE) were commissioned to provide support and challenge in specific primary schools. A total of £25,000 was used to fund this process.

The Anti-Bullying Strategy has been supported, through £3,000 funding an Anti-Bullying conference for all schools. £8,000 was allocated to supported anti-bullying projects in schools.

£36,200 was used to support the primary headteacher consultant post.

## **1.2 Secondary School Intervention**

There were two elements to secondary intervention contribution:

1. Support for mainstream maintained secondary schools who were categorised as Band 2 and 3 in line with the Local Authority School Improvement Strategy.
2. Support for the Pupil Referral Unit
3. A contribution towards the secondary consultant Headteacher post.

A total of £98,000 was used to commission support from Teaching Schools to improve the quality of teaching and learning in secondary schools. The majority of work focused on supporting English and Mathematics departments. A further £106,000 was allocated to Band 2 and 3 schools to raise the quality of teaching and learning. £8,000 was allocated to support anti-bullying strategies in secondary schools.

£44,000 was allocated to improve the quality of teaching and learning at the Pupil Referral Unit. This included a pilot of NISAI learning to support harder to engage pupils with GCSEs in English, Mathematics and ICT.

£40,000 was allocated to support the secondary consultant headteacher post.

## **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
- 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 2014 results.
2. 50% of primary schools in Band 3 exited into a higher band requiring less support and challenge. 46% of Band 2 schools exited into a higher band.
3. Attainment at the end of Key Stage 4 for 5 A\* - Cs including English and Mathematics (61.6%) exceeded FFTB estimates, showing an increase of 1.6% from 2014. The free school meal gap has closed by 6%.
4. At the time of writing this report at least 87% of primary, 68% of secondary and 100% of special schools have been judged as good or better by Ofsted which is well above national average.
5. Due to bespoke intervention by the School Improvement Team four schools were prevented from going into an Ofsted category.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Schools Forum to note the contents of the report.

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