

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 13th JANUARY 2016

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

School Funding Formula 2016-17

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report summarises the School Funding Formula for 2016-17 and the changes in the dataset used to allocate school budgets.

2. BACKGROUND

The School Funding Formula is a means to allocate budgets to all maintained primary, secondary and academy schools in Wirral. The formula uses a range of prescribed factors set by the DfE, such as pupil numbers and deprivation elements (free school meals and IDACI) to determine an individual budget for each school. The amount allocated to schools in 2015-16 was £186.7m in total. This figure will increase to £187.7m in 2016-17, taking into account the rise in pupil numbers.

Each year, the DfE publish a dataset to allocate school block funding from the DSG. The information from the dataset is primarily based on the October 2015 School Census.

3. MAIN CHANGES TO THE DATASET

- Free School Meals (FSM)

The numbers of children eligible for Free School Meals continue to drop. This has fallen from 7693 in October 2014 to 7314 in October 2015 (5%). As unit rates for FSM are capped at 2013/14 rates (£1,944 Primary and £2,349 Secondary), the remaining funding from this element (£0.8m) has been allocated across Pupil Entitlement. Overall deprivation funding is 10% of the School Funding Formula, compared to 10.5% in 2015-16 and 11% in 2014-15.

- IDACI

The Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index has been updated from 2010 to 2015. The DfE have matched this year's dataset to the revised IDACI 2015 index. The main change in this period has been a reduction of 50% in the highest levels of deprivation across the borough and therefore the number of children eligible for the highest band of funding. A number of postcodes in the Tranmere and Birkenhead area have moved from a Band 6 to a Band 3. This change to IDACI 2015 therefore has had the overall effect of broadening the distribution of deprivation funding.

-
-

- **Prior Attainment**

For primary schools, funding is targeted at pupils who not achieve the standard at Early Years Foundation Stage in Reception. This figure has decreased from 5176 to 4788 (7.5%) compared to last year.

For secondary schools, funding is targeted at pupils who achieve a level 3 or below in English reading or writing or maths at Key Stage 2. Similarly to primary schools, this figure has decreased from 3497 to 3325 (4.9%).

The impact of these changes is to increase the unit values in both areas.

4. RECOMMENDATION

The Forum notes the report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services