

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 27th April 2016

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Minority Ethnic Achievement Service Update

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Minority Ethnic Achievement service (MEAS) supports schools to meet the needs of bilingual learners and ethnic minority pupils at risk of under achievement.

On January 13th 2016 the Schools Forum members voted not to de-delegate the MEAS budget (£286,700) with effect from September 2016. The Forum agreed that 5/12 (£104,100) of the budget be allocated to allow a review of the service delivery and to develop a traded service offer.

The School Forum's decision was presented to Cabinet on February 22nd 2016.

The MEAS Service has been proactive in contacting schools to see whether they would buy back a Traded Service through a service level agreement. Five packages were made available to consider, ranging in cost from £600 to £9,500. By 30th March approximately £66,000 in potential income from these packages was identified from 53 schools.

2. BACKGROUND

Wirral pupil numbers	Jan 2016	Jan 2015	Jan 2014
BME (black and minority ethnic) pupils	4644 (8.26%)	4496 (8.12%)	4217 (7.75%)
Pupils learning EAL	1698 (3.7%)	1519 (3.3%)	1446 (3.1%)

Key elements of the Wirral MEAS offer include:

1. Assessment of newly arrived pupils who are learning English as an Additional Language (EAL).
2. Advice and support for schools and settings on meeting the needs of EAL pupils provided by a team of expert EAL staff
3. Termly EAL support network meetings for school staff
4. Training for staff and governors includes: EAL, race equality, SMSC, cultural diversity, exploring British Values, refugees and aspects of safeguarding e.g. FGM, Forced and arranged marriages and preventing radicalisation.
5. Race equality workshops and multicultural awareness activity in schools.
6. Bilingual project officers to help you support children and families.
7. Teaching assistants to directly support EAL pupils and model EAL strategies.

Priorities for MEAS team Sep 2015- July 2016

1. Focus on support needed for pupils at all stages, identifying priority groups- including EYFS and KS1 EAL learners to ensure they achieve their full potential
2. Promoting the service and the services offered as widely as possible – to engage all schools, including selling services as needed
3. Increasing the range of staff in schools trained to effectively support EAL/BME pupils
4. Develop the skills of MEAS staff and areas where services can be extended / Develop the role of TAs and Bilingual Project Officers/Develop new approaches to engaging with families of Early Years pupils.
5. Respond to new opportunities and challenges - Develop international school links / Develop support for families new to Wirral
6. Partnership working - Develop shared training activities with other Authorities / Monitor services offered to schools in partnership to ensure schools receive standards of service
7. Support schools to address racist incidents and promote race equality and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) in schools

Draft priorities for the new MEAS traded service September 2016 – March 2017

1. To deliver high quality support to schools who have purchased a package.
2. To support schools to identify priorities for MEAS support e.g. staff training or direct pupil intervention and challenging racism
3. To continue marketing MEAS within Wirral and more widely throughout West Cheshire and beyond.
4. To evaluate provision and to develop a service that is efficient and adaptable in order to meet the changing requirements of schools.

MEAS funding and proposed structure 2016-17

April- July 2016	FTE	Funding
Interim Manager	1	104,100
Teacher/Consultants	1.6	
Teaching Assistants	2.2	
BPO posts	2.2	
Clerical	0.4	
Total	7.4	
September 2016- March 2017 (proposed)		
1 manager	1	66,000
0.4 teacher pay scale	0.4	
1.4 (2 x 0.5 & 1 x 0.4) bilingual project officer	1.4	
1.2 (2 x 0.5 & 1 x 0.2) teaching assistant	1.2	
Total	4.0	

Wirral Minority Ethnic Achievement Service Summary of Activity and Impact Sep 2015 - Apr 2016

4 Coverage

Number of schools and settings supported

Total number of schools supported	Schools supported by consultants	Schools with TA training/ support	Schools supported by bilingual staff
90	90	37	48

5 MEAS support for schools September 2015 - March 2016

Feedback from head teachers Jan 2016

20 head teachers responded to requests for feedback about the service. The evaluations were extremely positive with a few pointers for developing the service further.

“A highly professional service which is responsive to the needs of our school. Every member of the team working with us has provided excellent support.”

Any suggestions will be considered as the new traded service moves forward e.g.

“Provide tasters of some of your ‘appeal to everyone’ aspects e.g. SMSC via HT cluster groups –raise awareness of all you have to offer.”

Training and support for school staff held in schools (including EAL pupil assessment, advice, interpreting and translation, assemblies, developing SMSC and British Values, challenging racism, multicultural markets and workshops).

MEAS continues to deliver a wide variety of training and support for school staff which impacts positively on the whole school community.

	Number Attending	Evaluations Excellent	Evaluations Good	Evaluations Satisfactory
People attending training in schools and settings	256	98%	2%	0%

Challenging racism (including Islamophobia) workshops for staff and pupils

MEAS staff attend MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Committee) meetings and advise the committee regarding racial hate crime incidents, particularly those involving children. MEAS staff work with school staff to challenge bullying, especially racist bullying within the school community by delivering assemblies and workshops. Racist hate crime incidents on Wirral are higher than any other types of hate crime (e.g. gender, disability, sexual orientation). The number of incidents reported have decreased in the last year from 2014 (245) to 2015 (172). The number of hate crime incidents for religion or belief have increased slightly (7 in 2014 to 8 in 2015) over the same period. However, typically these kinds of incidents are under reported due to cultural differences and language barriers. Schools are not obliged to report racist incidents but are requested to keep their own records and several seek advice from MEAS to address racist attitudes and support victims.

“The session reinforced the issues we have looked at within our PSHE lessons in a way that children could relate to (stories, real life examples). The way in which the children engaged with the session was pleasing and I could see that they began to think more deeply about how actions make others feel.” The priory Y2

Islam workshops and assemblies

MEAS has delivered more 15 Islamic workshops and assemblies in schools since September. Schools have recognized the value of MEAS Muslim staff sharing aspects of their faith and culture and appreciate the opportunity to ask questions and share thinking.

“The children gained a lot from speaking to a ‘real’ Muslim lady. It was really important for children to engage with Islam in a real way.” Great Meols November 2015

“The children have gained a much better understanding of a religion that many of them have never heard of or had experience of before.” Heswall primary Nov 2015

Multicultural workshops run by MEAS in schools & settings

This aspect of MEAS support is always in great demand and consultants plan carefully events with school staff to ensure a positive impact upon pupil learning and benefits across the whole school community.

“The quality of the workshops was fantastic. I loved the variety of crafts that the students did. The level of support in planning the event was very good and MEAS was flexible in catering for the needs of our school. I feel this event helped our students appreciate and experience another culture in a fun, hands on way. The event helped to start conversations about cultures, as after the event, the students showed their pieces to staff and discussed their crafts with each other.” Prenton Academy School Feb 2016

Central Training delivered since September 2015:

- EAL network meetings
- EAL in the Early Years
- Leading provision for EAL
- ICT and EAL Conference
- Multicultural information event for schools
- EAL & race equality training for Governors
- EAL induction training for TAs
- SMSC/British values/Character development of pupils in schools
- Effective liaison with parents from the BME community
- School of sanctuary Award
- Early talk training

	Number Attending	Evaluations Excellent	Evaluations Good	Evaluations Satisfactory
People attending central training	170	85%	13%	2%

7 Recommendation

Forum Notes the Report