

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 6th JULY 2016

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN REPORT 2015-16

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the year end position for the 2015/16 Schools Budget. At this time the accounts are provisional and are subject to Audit.

2.0 ANTICIPATED BUDGET VARIATIONS

- 2.1 The Schools Budget outturn is shown in Appendix 1. As previously reported this shows a balanced budget position achieved through a contribution from reserves of £179,600. This amount is in addition to the reserves of £894,900 agreed as part of the Schools Budget in January 2015. The updated variations between budget and actual expenditure are listed below:

2.2 Individual Schools Budget

There were no Academy conversions this year and no variation to the overall Individual Schools Budget.

2.3 Early Years - £1.2m under spend

There was a £1.2m underspend against the budget of £15.7m which was mainly in relation to the take up for 2 year olds as take up was below the level anticipated. The Dedicated Schools Grant received for Early Years is also reduced as a result of this.

£130,500 has been carried forward from the Early Years Pupil Premium Grant to fund development costs of the new portal and to improve take up of the 2 year old offer.

2.4 School Closure / retirement costs - £0.05m under spend

The enhanced pension costs arising from previous school closures were £75,000 resulting in an under spend of £51,000.

2.5 School Licences - £0.04m under spend

The cost of licences were £218,000 resulting in an under spend of £36,000.

2.6 Schools Forum

There was a contribution of £10,000 to fund the Free School Meals opt out work undertaken by the Benefits Team in the Finance Department.

2.7 School Library Service - £0.01m under spend

Reduced premises costs resulted in a slight under spend in this area.

2.8 School Specific Contingency - £0.05m over spend

The allocation of how the Contingency budget was spent is summarised below:

	Budget £	Out-turn £	Variation £
<u>Primary and Secondary Schools</u>			
Vulnerable children managed moves and additional support		52,200	
KS1 Bulge class		36,000	
Rates adjustments including former Childrens Centres		43,000	
Pension costs		(20,000)	
Other budget support		1,300	
<u>Special Schools</u>			
Support for additional school places		82,100	
Other Special School budget support		124,100	
Pension costs		(2,600)	
Special School buyback		(154,800)	
Total	104,300	161,300	57,000

2.9 Special Staff Costs - £0.1m over spend

Maternity costs in Primary and Secondary schools were higher than expected as shown in the table below:

	Budget £	Out-turn £	Variation £
Maternity, Paternity and Other Staff Costs	565,000	677,300	112,300
TU Facilities	95,700	78,400	(17,300)
Insurance and Recharges	6,900	6,900	0
Total	667,600	762,600	95,000

2.10 Behaviour Support - £0.03m under spend

The budget was not fully committed and there was additional income received from Academies.

2.11 Contribution to Combined Budgets

The allocation of the Combined Budgets is summarised below. Overall there was a small underspend of £5,100 in this area.

	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

2.12 Special Education Needs Statements - £0.15m under spend

Due to the reduction in the number and cost of Primary and Secondary Statements there was an under spend of £147,100.

2.13 Special Education Needs Top Ups - £0.5m over spend

The budget in relation to the Pupil Led Top Up funding in Specialist Provision, Resource Bases, FE, Colleges, and Alternative Provision was £8.9m. The Exceptional Needs budget within this had more requests for additional funding which lead to extra costs of £557,000.

2.14 Independent Special Schools - £0.3m over spend

The budget of £3.4m relating to Independent Special Schools was overspent by £330,000 as there were 96 places at the end of the year. The budget has been increased to £3.7m in 2016/17 to accommodate this.

2.15 High Need Contingency - £0.16m under spend

Not all of the £474,000 High Needs Contingency Budget was allocated. The commitments in this area during the year have included:

- The 90% SEN guarantee for maintained schools
- The costs of the High Needs Minimum Funding Guarantee
- Additional school support

2.16 Support for Special Education Needs - £0.3m under spend

The underspend in this area has been in respect of those budgets held to review, develop and plan SEN provision across Wirral..

2.17 DSG - £170,333,800

The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) budget for 2015/16 was £171,413,300. However adjustments for the Early Years Census in January 2016 indicate that this figure will be adjusted in 2016/17 by £1,079,500 making the total grant receivable to be £170,333,800.

In addition to the grant there was a budgeted contribution from DSG reserves of £894,900.

3. UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES

- 3.1 The DSG reserves carried forward into 2015/16 were £3.5m and the amounts carried forward into 2016/17 total £2.5m as follows:

Job Evaluation and Pay Harmonisation – Balance at 31/03/16 - £0.65m

DSG Reserve - Balance at 31/03/16 – £1.6m

	£
DSG Carry Forward from 2014/15	2,057,500
Use of Reserve in 2015/16	(1,074,500)
Transfers from other School Budget Reserves	619,200
	1,602,200

Defibrillators Reserve – Balance at 31/03/16 – nil

All schools have been equipped with defibrillators and the remaining balance of £36,000 was spent in 2015/16 on related costs i.e. training.

City Learning Centres – Balance at 31/03/16 - £0.13m

This reserve will be used to meet any final costs relating to the City Learning Centres.

High Needs MFG – Balance at 31/03/16 – nil

This reserve funded the remaining academy MFG costs and was fully committed in 2015/16.

Early Years - 2 Year Old Funding – Balance at 31/03/16 - £0.13m

	£
Balance carried forward from 2014/15	510,000
Transferred to DSG reserve	(510,000)
Balance of EYPP	130 500
	130,500

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 Overall expenditure on Schools activity was £179,600 more than planned mainly due to the pressures within Special Educational Needs as discussed in this report however this was met from existing reserves to deliver a balanced budget.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Forum notes the financial position of the Schools Budget for 2015/16.

Julia Hassall

Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1 – Budget Variations 2015/16

(to the nearest £100)

	Adjusted Budget 2015/16 £	Out-turn 2015/16 £	Variation 2015/16 £
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary Schools	93,028,400	93,028,400	0
Secondary Schools	26,045,600	26,045,600	0
Special Schools	8,733,400	8,733,400	0
SEN Bases	1,616,800	1,616,800	0
Wirral Hospital School	1,352,300	1,352,300	0
Early Years	15,750,000	14,586,800	(1,163,200)
Individual Schools Budget Total	146,526,500	145,363,300	(1,163,200)
Central School Costs			
Early Years	378,700	357,700	(21,000)
Admissions	341,800	345,500	3,700
School Closure / retirement costs	126,000	74,800	(51,200)
Licences and Subscriptions	254,000	217,600	(36,400)
Schools Forum	10,600	10,000	(600)
Contribution to Combined Budgets	2,114,800	2,109,700	(5,100)
PPM	249,000	249,000	0
PFI affordability gap	2,736,500	2,736,500	0
Costs delegated to schools			
Library Service	191,700	182,800	(8,900)
Insurances	32,300	28,700	(3,600)
Minority Ethnic Achievement Service	244,600	243,200	(1,400)
School Specific Contingencies	104,300	161,300	57,000
Special Staff Costs	667,600	762,600	95,000
School Meals	13,600	13,600	0
Behaviour Support	92,200	65,600	(26,600)
High Needs Pupils			
Statements	4,008,000	3,860,900	(147,100)
SEN Top Ups	8,384,900	8,942,000	557,100
High Needs Contingency	474,000	310,100	(163,900)
Independent Special Schools	3,395,000	3,725,000	330,000
Home Tuition	308,900	291,800	(17,100)
Support for SEN	2,031,500	1,734,900	(296,600)
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non Delegated School Costs Total	26,218,200	26,481,500	263,300
Total School and Central Costs	172,744,700	171,844,800	(899,900)
Dedicated Schools Grant	(171,413,300)	(170,333,800)	1,079,500
Use of Reserves	(894,900)	(1,074,500)	(179,600)
Grand Total	436,500	436,500	0