

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 28th SEPTEMBER 2016

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2016/17

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Forum on the Schools Budget position and anticipated variations in the current year. There is an estimated over spend half way through the year of £157,000 mainly within the High Needs Budget.
- 1.2 There are a number of schools that are likely to transfer to Academy status during the year and once specific details are confirmed the financial changes will be reflected in the budget and reported to the Forum.

2.0 ANTICIPATED BUDGET VARIATIONS

- 2.1 The table attached compares the Schools Budget with the indicative spend for the year. The main variations are set out below.

2.2 **Early Years – increase £69,000**

The Early Years budget of £14.6m reflects the funding required for 2, 3 and 4 year olds who are entitled to receive free Early Education and Early Years Pupil Premium. The budget is based on the January 2016 census and at this stage is assumed to be fully committed. Once the October 2016 returns are finalised this will provide a more up to date picture and will be used to update the forecast.

The Early Years Portal is now in place and providers are moving onto the new system on a termly basis with the intention being that all providers will submit online headcount information from 1st April.

The estimated Early Years Pupil Premium has been adjusted to agree with the census figures reported. The estimated spend, based on 445 children has been increased to £133,600. There is a corresponding increase within DSG.

2.3 **Central Early Years Budget – projected underspend £20,000**

Across employees and supplies there are small budgets currently uncommitted within this centrally managed budget.

2.4 **Schools Forum – projected underspend £10,000**

There are no commitments to date against this budget of £10,600.

2.5 **School Specific Contingencies – no projected variance**

At this stage there is no variation expected to the budget.

2.6 Contribution to Combined Budgets – no projected variance

The combined budgets of £1.7m 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 (5/12)	18,600
PFI Support Team	61,800
LACES	140,500
School Intervention	674,500
City Learning Centres (5/12)	196,500
CLC PFI	108,200
Total	1,698,800

Any uncommitted employee budgets in relation to the closure of the 3 CLC's will help fund the one off severance costs.

2.7 Special Staff Costs – projected over spend £55,000

This budget continues to be monitored closely and is currently projected to over spend by £55,000:

	Budget	Projected Spend	Projected Variance
	£	£	£
Maternity, Paternity & Other Staff Costs	613,000	648,000	35,000
TU Facilities	79,800	99,800	20,000
Insurance & Recharges	6,900	6,900	0
Total	699,700	754,700	55,000

At this stage there is a small shortfall in TU traded Services the implications of which will be discussed with the Professional Associations.

2.8 Special Education Needs Top Ups – projected under spend £18,000

A budget of £8.8m funds the Pupil Led Top Up funding in Specialist Provision, Resource Bases, FE, Colleges and Alternative Provision. There are £70,000 of costs relating to additional learners at Wirral Metropolitan College and £100,000 of additional costs due to Emslie Morgan Academy having 122 placements at the end of the Summer Term, however, offsetting both areas is Top Up / Exceptional Need income from other Authorities. The breakdown of this budget is as follows:

	Budget	Projected Spend	Projected Variance
	£	£	£
Top Ups for Maintained Special Schools	6,406,300	6,301,100	(105,200)
Top Ups for Resourced provision	602,000	564,400	(37,600)
Alternative provision	243,800	352,700	108,900
FE and 6 TH Form Top Ups	728,000	806,800	78,800
Additional Nursing Support	127,100	127,100	0
Exceptional Needs	645,000	582,100	(62,900)
Total	8,752,200	8,734,200	(18,000)

2.9 Special Education Needs Statements – projected over spend £165,000

At this stage of the year the costs relating to Primary and Secondary schools are expected to exceed the budget. However there could be Year 11/12 pupils who may leave school and could reduce this potential over spend.

2.10 Independent Special Schools – projected over spend £155,000

The budget in this area was increased to reflect demand for the number of young people with complex needs in Independent Special Schools. Recent projections indicate that although numbers are at a reduced level of 86, the costs are actually higher due to children moving on into 6th Form provision.

2.10 Support for SEN – projected under spend £170,000

There are vacancies and uncommitted budgets in this area which are helping to offset the pressures within the High Needs budget.

2.11 DSG - £172,129,100

The DSG is adjusted to the reported position as follows:

Published DSG	171,946,000
Anticipated increase in 2 year old numbers	228,000
Net adjustment to EFA's EYPP estimate	(44,900)
	172,129,100

3.0 UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES

3.1 The DSG reserves total £2.5m and have been earmarked in the accounts as follows:

- **Job Evaluation and Pay Harmonisation Reserve - £0.65m**

- **DSG Reserve - £1.0m**

	£
DSG Carry Forward from 2015/16	1,602,200
Use of Reserve in 2016/17	(568,900)
	1,033,300

- **City Learning Centres - £0.12m**

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

- **Early Years £0.1m**

This reserve of £130,500 is expected to fund the Early Years Portal and expand the 2 year old provision.

4.0 CONCLUSION

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

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 That the Forum notes the report and the Schools Budget projection for 2016/17.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1 – Budget Variations 2016/17

	Adjusted Budget 2016/17 £	Projected Spend 2016/17 £	Variation 2016/17 £
Individual Schools Budget			
Primary Schools	93,463,700	93,463,700	0
Secondary Schools	27,081,100	27,081,100	0
Special Schools	8,861,700	8,861,700	0
SEN Bases	1,701,500	1,701,500	0
Wirral Hospital School	1,356,300	1,356,300	0
Early Years	14,557,600	14,626,600	69,000
Individual Schools Budget Total	147,021,900	147,090,900	69,000
Central School Costs			
Early Years	378,700	358,700	(20,000)
Admissions	341,800	341,800	0
School Closure / retirement costs	86,000	86,000	0
Licences & Subscriptions	223,800	223,800	0
Schools Forum	10,600	600	(10,000)
Contribution to Combined Budgets	1,698,800	1,698,800	0
PPM	249,000	249,000	0
PFI affordability gap	2,886,500	2,886,500	0
Costs De-Delegated from schools			
Library Service	191,700	191,700	0
Insurances	32,300	32,300	0
MEAS	104,100	104,100	0
School Specific Contingencies	104,300	104,300	0
Special Staff Costs	699,700	754,700	55,000
Milk & Meals	21,200	21,200	0
Behaviour Support	92,300	92,300	0
High Needs Pupils			
Statements	3,799,000	3,964,000	165,000
SEN Top Ups	8,752,200	8,734,200	(18,000)
High Needs Contingency	434,000	434,000	0
Independent Special Schools	3,689,000	3,844,000	155,000
Home Tuition	308,900	308,900	0
Support for SEN	2,031,500	1,861,500	(170,000)
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
Non Delegated School Costs	26,193,600	26,350,600	157,000
Dedicated Schools Grant	(172,060,100)	(172,129,100)	(69,000)
DSG Carry forward from Reserves	(568,900)	(568,900)	0
Grand Total	586,500	743,500	157,000