

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 18th January 2017

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 April 2016. The Forum agreed that 5/12 (£104,100) of the budget would be allocated to allow a review of the service delivery and to develop a traded service offer.

MEAS have been operating as a fully traded service for 1 term since September 2016 and feedback from staff in schools is always excellent or good. Maintaining the breadth of our offer has always been very important to us and this has meant that a relatively high proportion of Wirral schools have bought into the service (some with large numbers of minority ethnic families and some with relatively few or no minority ethnic families). We have aimed to respond rapidly to all enquiries and maintain an excellent quality of service for all our customers. Our packages of support are flexible and can be adapted to the changing needs of schools as required.

2. MEAS funding and structure 2016-17

April - August 2016	FTE	Funding
Interim manager	1	104,100
Teacher/consultants	1.6	
Teaching assistants	2.2	
Bilingual project officers	2.2	
Clerical	0.4	
Total	7.4	
September - March 2017		
1 manager	1	78,773
0.4 teacher/consultant	0.4	
1.2 (2 x 0.5 & 1 x 0.2) teaching assistant	1.2	
1.4 (2 x 0.5 & 1 x 0.4) bilingual project officer	1.4	
Clerical	0.2	
Total	4.2	

3. MEAS income sources as a traded service:

- **SLA buyback from schools-**

Schools	Number of schools		Income
All	63	49%	£78,773
Primary	55	59%	£68,820
Secondary	5	23%	£7,080
Special	3	23%	£2,873

- **Pay as you go charges (one off visits and attending central training)**

Wirral schools: £600

Cheshire schools: £390

Total: £990

Future sources of additional income:

- Deliver services in collaboration with Children's Centres (Wallasey & Birkenhead)
- Provide services to support newly arrived refugee families
- Joint bids with partner organisations e.g. Wirral Multicultural organisation and Wirral Change
- Increase buyback from schools in Wirral
- Develop buyback from schools in West Cheshire

4. Priorities for the new MEAS traded service September 2016 – March 2017

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

5. MEAS offer for 2017/18

- Similar format with 4 packages offered and a 10% discount for a 2 year buy back.
- Package price increased because staff time has increased to reflect increase from 2 terms to 3 terms support
- Additional offer for a cluster of schools buying in a member of staff
- Increased buyback from schools plus additional income from other sources should give a total income of more than £140,000 sufficient to sustain the service in its current form.

6. Recommendation

The Forum note the report and support the action taken to develop a sustainable service to support schools.

Julia Hassall
Director of Children's Services