

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### SCHOOLS FORUM – 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2017

#### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2016/17

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### 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 at quarter 3 of £345,000, mainly within the High Needs Budget.
- 1.2 St Mary's Catholic College transferred to Academy status on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016. Although their end position is currently being finalised at the time of writing, the budget and projected figures have been adjusted to reflect the revised DSG amount. There are not expected to be any further schools transferring to Academy status during 2016/17.

### 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 of £100,000**

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 the projected costs have been updated to reflect actual payments made in relation to the autumn term.

The take up of the 2 year old offer has increased during the autumn term, projections for spring term numbers have been updated giving an anticipated spend of £100,000 more than originally budgeted, which will be offset by a corresponding adjustment to DSG funding.

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 1<sup>st</sup> April. This should result in a more efficient process and greater accuracy.

#### 2.3 **Central Early Years Budget – projected under spend £20,000**

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

#### 2.4 **School Admissions – projected under spend £20,000**

This is a centrally managed budget with uncommitted budgets against employees and exam fees.

#### 2.5 **Schools Forum – projected under spend £10,000**

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

## 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:

	<b>Budget</b>
	<b>£</b>
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,698,800</b>

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 – no projected variance

This budget continues to be monitored closely and is currently projecting no variance against budget:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Projected Spend</b>	<b>Projected Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Maternity, Paternity & Other Staff Costs	613,000	613,000	0
TU Facilities	79,800	79,800	0
Insurance & Recharges	6,900	6,900	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>699,700</b>	<b>699,700</b>	<b>0</b>

The shortfall in TU traded Services referred to in September's report has now been resolved, costs will be met from within the agreed budget.

## 2.8 Behaviour Support – projected under spend £35,000

Income received this year in relation to 2015/16 Managed Moves as well as reduced costs for embedded police contribute to a projected under spend of £35,000.

## 2.9 Special Education Needs Top Ups – projected over spend £170,000

A budget of £8.8m funds the Pupil Led Top Up funding in Specialist Provision, Resource Bases, FE, Colleges and Alternative Provision. There are £200,000 of costs relating to additional learners at Wirral Metropolitan College and Birkenhead Sixth Form College and £100,000 of additional costs due to placements at Emslie Morgan Academy. The breakdown of this budget is as follows:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Projected</b>	<b>Projected</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>Spend</b>	<b>Variance</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Top Ups for Maintained Special Schools	6,406,300	6,368,100	(38,200)
Top Ups for Resourced provision	602,000	550,100	(51,900)
Alternative provision	243,800	352,200	108,400
FE and 6 <sup>TH</sup> Form Top Ups	728,000	934,500	206,500
Additional Nursing Support	127,100	127,100	0
Exceptional Needs	645,000	590,200	(54,800)
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,752,200</b>	<b>8,922,200</b>	<b>170,000</b>

## 2.10 **Special Education Needs Statements – projected over spend £195,000**

At this stage of the year the costs relating to Primary and Secondary schools are both expected to exceed their budgets by £95,000.

## 2.11 **Independent Special Schools – projected over spend £365,000**

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 92 (1 lower than budgeted), the costs are actually higher due to students moving on into 6<sup>th</sup> Form provision.

## 2.12 **Support for SEN – projected under spend £300,000**

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

## 2.13 **DSG - £169,395,500**

The DSG is adjusted to the reported position as follows:

DSG Budget	172,175,500
Anticipated increase in 2 year old numbers	100,000
St Mary's College recoupment	(2,880,000)
	<b>169,395,500</b>

## 3.0 **UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES**

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

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

- **DSG Reserve - £1.0m**

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

- **City Learning Centres - £0.13m**

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

**- Early Years £0.13m**

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

	<b>Adjusted Budget 2016/17 £</b>	<b>Projected Spend 2016/17 £</b>	<b>Variation 2016/17 £</b>
<b>Individual Schools Budget</b>			
Primary Schools	93,463,700	93,463,700	0
Secondary Schools	27,081,100	24,201,100	(2,880,000)
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	14,673,000	14,773,000	100,000
<b>Individual Schools Budget Total</b>	<b>147,137,300</b>	<b>144,357,300</b>	<b>(2,780,000)</b>
<b>Central School Costs</b>			
Early Years	378,700	358,700	(20,000)
Admissions	341,800	321,800	(20,000)
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
<b>Costs De-Delegated from schools</b>			
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	699,700	0
Milk & Meals	21,200	21,200	0
Behaviour Support	92,300	57,300	(35,000)
<b>High Needs Pupils</b>			
Statements	3,799,000	3,994,000	195,000
SEN Top Ups	8,752,200	8,922,200	170,000
High Needs Contingency	434,000	434,000	0
Independent Special Schools	3,689,000	4,054,000	365,000
Home Tuition	308,900	308,900	0
Support for SEN	2,031,500	1,731,500	(300,000)
Special School Transport	58,200	58,200	0
<b>Non Delegated School Costs</b>	<b>26,193,600</b>	<b>26,538,600</b>	<b>345,000</b>
<b>Dedicated Schools Grant</b>	<b>(172,175,500)</b>	<b>(169,395,500)</b>	<b>2,780,000</b>
<b>DSG Carry forward from Reserves</b>	<b>(568,900)</b>	<b>(568,900)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>586,500</b>	<b>931,500</b>	<b>345,000</b>