

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

## WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM

18<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017

### CHANGES TO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT FUNDING AND DE-DELEGATION 2017-18

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report describes the background to changes in the funding for School Improvement in 2017-18 and proposals for funding and de-delegation which were included as part of the Schools Budget Settlement announced in December. The School Improvement programme recommended in 2017-18 is £862,000.

#### Background

The November 2015 Spending Review announced that savings of around £600 million would be made from the Education Services Grant (ESG). This is additional funding academies and local authorities receive for services such as human resources, school improvement and education welfare services.

The changes to ESG and the transitional support provided are described in more detail in the Schools Budget report and whilst this will provide initially a level of resources needed, more work is required to resolve future shortfalls beyond 2017-18.

With regard to School Improvement on November 30<sup>th</sup> the Education Secretary reiterated her determination to address underperformance and ensure that all pupils attended a good school by making new funds available to the school system.

These include:

- From September 2017, a £50 million a year fund for local authorities to continue to monitor and commission school improvement for low-performing maintained schools. **There is only limited information about how this will be allocated to local authorities at this time. Each LA will be allocated at least £50,000 pa.**
- A new £140 million 'Strategic School Improvement Fund' for academies and maintained schools will be aimed at ensuring resources are targeted at the schools most in need of support to drive up standards, use their resources most effectively and deliver more good school places. **It is assumed that this will be funding accessed through successful bids by Teaching Schools.** Currently there is no information is available regarding this fund.
- The Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) has committed to spend a further £20 million over the next 2 years to scale up and disseminate evidence-based programmes and approaches

## **Wirral Schools Strategy**

The government's ambition remains that all schools will become academies forming a fully school-led system, where headteachers and school leaders collaborate to drive improvement in their schools. The Schools Strategy has been produced to support the transition from school improvement led by the LA to a system leadership approach.

## **Impact of a Significant Reduction in ESG Funding**

The reduction of ESG funding of approximately £2.5 million will impact significantly on the statutory services the LA are able to provide for schools. It is estimated that more than 15 FTE posts will be at risk.

For School Improvement there will be no budget to commission work from teaching schools, or individual headteachers or senior leaders. There will be no funding to offset the costs of the primary and secondary consultant headteachers. The changes put at risk a programme in 2016-17 totalling £1,346,800.

## **Proposal**

- That Schools Forum members agree to maintain a central contribution for existing staff costs (3 School Improvement plus admin support and 2 consultant headteachers in School Intervention) of £466,000.
- That there is agreement to de-delegate funding and develop a traded service for academy and special schools of £190,800 for the financial year 2017/18. (Primary schools £87,800, Secondary schools £84,000 and Special £19,000).
- This will enable the development of a new (but reduced) service offer based on the following:

£136,000	salary plus oncosts for consultant headteachers
£480,000	salary plus oncosts for 3FTE school improvement officers, minimal admin and support costs
£ 214,000	to be distributed across the School Improvement localities to commission school improvement challenge and support from senior leaders
<b>£830,000</b>	<b>Full year cost (2017-18 Academic Year)</b>

## **Recommendation**

Schools Forum to agree to de delegate funding / develop a traded service of £190,800 for the Autumn and Spring Terms in 2017-18, and costs in future years to be developed alongside arrangements for the National Funding Formula.

Julia Hassall  
Director of Children's Services