

WIRRAL COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM – 5th JULY 2017

REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2017/18

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. No specific variations are expected at this time.

2.0 ANTICIPATED BUDGET VARIATIONS

- 2.1 The table attached summarises the Schools Budget for 2017-18. Although no variances are currently anticipated, comments on specific budget areas are set out below.

2.2 Primary, Secondary and Special Schools

Four Primary Schools – Egremont, Great Meols, Poulton Lancelyn, and Stanton Road - converted to Academy status as part of a Multi-Academy Trust from 1st June 2017, with a further school to join later in the year. Balances for these schools at the date of conversion will be finalised in the coming months.

Schools converting to Academy status result in a reduction in DSG grant income received, which is matched by reduced spending through the delegated budget. Further Academy conversions are also anticipated during the year, although transfer dates are not yet confirmed.

2.3 Early Years Grant

The Early Years budget of £18.1m 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 for this is based on the January 2017 census.

It also includes funding for DfE's estimate of 3 and 4 year olds eligible for additional hours, although there is not yet data available on how many will be eligible. Allocations to providers will be determined by take up from September 2017, while final DSG allocations for the extended offer will be based on the January 2018 census.

2.4 Special Staff Costs

This budget is currently projecting no variance, and will be monitored closely throughout the year. It is broken down as follows:

	Budget £
Maternity, Paternity & Other Staff Costs	582,700
TU Facilities	86,800
Insurance & Recharges	6,900
Total	676,400

2.5 Contribution to Combined Budgets

The combined budgets of £0.9m are broken down as follows:

	Budget £
School Improvement	330,000
Discretionary Rate Relief Top Up	106,600
LCSB contribution	30,000
Governors Forum	2,200
PFI Support Team	61,800
LACES	140,500
School Intervention	136,000
CLC PFI	68,500
Total	875,600

It is anticipated that these budgets will be fully committed. The provision in future years is uncertain due to the implementation of the National Funding Formula being postponed until 2018-19.

2.6 School Specific Contingencies

There is a contingency budget of £100,500 to take into account any specific costs that need to be met. The purposes of this budget are discussed elsewhere on this agenda. Business Rates charges for Children's Centres that were not included in the schools budgets will be met from this budget.

2.7 Special Education Needs Top Ups

A budget of £9.2m funds the Pupil Led Top Up funding in Specialist Provision, Resource Bases, FE, Colleges and Alternative Provision. Budgets have been increased to reflect additional learners at Wirral Metropolitan College and Birkenhead Sixth Form College and increased placements at Emslie Morgan Academy.

The Summer Term census figures are not yet available but as previously reported pressures on High Needs budgets continue to increase nationally and this area will continue to be monitored throughout the year.

	Budget £
Top Ups for Maintained Special Schools	6,527,400
Top Ups for Resourced provision	704,000
Alternative provision	367,000
FE and 6 TH Form Top Ups	946,000
Additional Nursing Support	127,100
Exceptional Needs	504,100
Total	9,175,600

2.8 Special Education Needs Statements

The budget has been increased in this area to reflect the greater number and cost of EHCPs and a 50% increase within Early Years. Numbers vary during the year, and will continue to be monitored closely.

2.9 Independent Special Schools

The budget in this area was increased to reflect demand for the number of young people with complex needs in Independent Special Schools. The budget is based

on 89 places with an additional amount for part-year places. There are expected to be 77 places in September, but this area will be closely monitored and reported to Forum throughout the year.

2.10 Home Tuition

The Home Tuition Service is subject to review in 2017-18, the impact of which will be reported to future Forums.

2.11 DSG - £170,320,500

The revised Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for 2017/18 will be published in July and will confirm Wirral's allocation. The budget includes £568,900 of DSG carried forward from 2016/17.

Original DSG Budget	250,795,200
Academy Recoupment – Schools Block	(75,613,500)
Academy Recoupment – High Needs Block	(4,083,000)
Early Years reduction (Jan-17 census)	(783,300)
Other Adjustments	5,100
	170,320,500

3.0 UPDATE ON SPECIFIC RESERVES

- 3.1 The final figure of DSG reserves carried forward into 2017/18 was £1.9m as follows:

- Job Evaluation and Pay Harmonisation Reserve - £0.65m

- DSG Reserve - £1.0m

	£
DSG Carry Forward from 2016/17	1,072,400
Budgeted use of Reserve in 2017/18	(568,900)
	503,500

- City Learning Centres - £0.045m

This reserve will be used in 2017/18 to fund the remaining final closure costs in relation 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 be monitored throughout the year, and any projected variances against budget will be reported to the Forum.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 That the Forum notes the report.

Deborah Gornik
Interim Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1 – Budget Variations 2017/18

	Revised budget 2017/18
Individual Schools Budget:	
Primary Schools	95,172,700
Secondary Schools	20,884,800
Special Schools	8,941,300
SEN Bases	1,580,000
EMAP	0
Wirral Hospital School	1,356,300
Further Education	0
Early Years	18,104,900
Individual Schools Budget Total	146,040,000
Central School Costs:	
Early Years	518,700
Admissions	341,800
School Closure / retirement costs	60,000
Licences and Subscriptions	226,100
Schools Forum	10,600
Contribution to Combined Budgets	875,600
PFI affordability gap	1,551,100
Retained duties - ex Education Support Grant	1,021,600
Costs delegated to schools:	
Library Service	191,700
Insurances	29,200
School Specific Contingencies	100,500
Special Staff Costs	676,400
School Meals	19,700
Behaviour Support	84,200
School Improvement	101,600
High Needs Pupils:	
Statements	4,174,800
SEN Top Ups	9,175,600
High Needs Contingency	305,100
Independent Special Schools	3,770,000
Home Tuition	348,900
Support for SEN	1,971,500
Special School Transport	58,200
Non Delegated School Costs Total	25,612,900
Total School and Central Costs	171,652,900
Dedicated Schools Grant	-170,320,500
Use of Reserves	-568,900
Grand Total	763,500