

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates the Forum on the recent changes to the Schools' Library Service and the service plans for the future.

BUDGET

The Schools Library Service is a de-delegated service, mainly for Primary Schools, although other schools can access services on request. Funding from the Schools' Forum provides £189,900, the equivalent of £8.78 per primary school pupil which is from maintained schools. Academies have the opportunity to buy back into the service. The make-up of the complete budget is shown below.

Income	£
De-delegated Funds - Primary	-189,900
Secondary Schools	-1,000
Academies	-4,839
Premium Service	-3,500
Total Income	-199,239
Expenditure	
Staffing	96,300
Other costs including book fund	72,964
Support Service Charges	29,975
Total Expenditure	199,239

2020-21 PRIORITIES

- Like all services, covid-19 and the subsequent lockdowns have meant a change to the way we run our service. We have stayed open throughout the pandemic as a support for teachers and vulnerable children.
- Our offer changed to include a click and collect service and this will continue for as long as it is needed.
- During the summer, when public libraries were closed, SLS loaned almost 4,000 books to vulnerable families via a book bag scheme offered to schools. It must be acknowledged that our budget increase from the Schools Forum last year facilitated this. SLS will continue to provide as much support to schools as possible to enable children to have access to books at home where needed throughout the covid emergency and any subsequent lockdowns.
- To maintain current level of book, artefact loans and audio visual resource provision for schools as a standard service.
- To continue to promote our premium service with local schools. This is being well used by both maintained and academy schools.
- Our transition scheme continues at Ridgeway and St Johns Plessington and we hope to encourage other secondary schools to buy in. We have had a lot of interest.

- We are piloting another year 7 transition offer at St Johns Plessington. This enables secondary schools to borrow class sets of single titles. If successful we are hopeful other secondary schools will buy into this offer.
- To increase our academy uptake. Liverpool schools don't have access to a school library service so there is real potential for service growth as well as encouraging more Wirral academies to buy into the service.
- We are hoping to contact Governors of all schools to promote the service once the Pandemic is over.
- We would like to extend an invitation to all Councillors and interested Council Officers to visit SLS (when it is safe to do so) to see how much the service has to offer.
- We have moved within the Council structure to Traded Services and we would like to thank Stuart Bellerby for his continued support.

STAFFING

There are currently 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ FTE members of staff:

- 2 * 0.5 Schools' Librarian - job share
- 1 * 0.75 Assistant Schools' Librarian - $\frac{3}{4}$ post
- 1 * Library Manager- ft post

Additional temporary staff members are employed three times a year to help facilitate the collection and delivery of resources to and from schools at the beginning and end of each term.

The service is based at:
Joseph Paxton Campus
157 Park Rd North,
Claughton
CH41 0DD
0151 666 3200

Please see our entry in the Wirral Traded Services Brochure for more information on the service we offer.

Louise Rice and Catherine McNally
Wirral Schools' Library Service

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