

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 30th November 2021

Schools' Library Service Update

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. Funding from the Schools' Forum provides £185,100 from maintained schools, the equivalent of £8.78 per primary school pupil. Non-maintained schools can buy into the service at the same rate. A premium service is available for all subscribing schools both maintained and non-maintained and a transition year service is available for secondary schools. Additional income received supports the running costs of the overall service, in particular the SLS book fund for purchasing new books and resources for all schools.

The make-up of the complete budget is shown below.

2021-22 Budget

Staffing	£96,300
Other costs including book fund	£58,824
Support Services Recharge	£29,976

TOTAL **£185,100**

Additional Income

Income Secondary Schools	£1,000 cr
Income Academies	£3,998 cr
Income Premium Service	£4,000 cr
Income Special Schools	£1,102 cr

TOTAL **£10,100 cr**

2021-22 PRIORITIES

- Like all services, Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdowns have meant a change to the way we run our service. We stayed open throughout the pandemic as a support for teachers and vulnerable children and termly deliveries to schools have continued as normal this year.
- Our offer still includes a click and collect service which teachers have found very helpful.
- We are hoping to reopen the SLS library to teachers as soon as possible but we are following council guidelines and protocols to ensure this is done safely.
- We knew that some children hadn't had access to libraries during the lockdowns and that literacy levels had suffered so we decided to include a 'reading for pleasure' option in our 21/22 offer which has been a success with over 90% of our schools subscribing. This has been made possible due to last year's increase from £7.78 per pupil to £8.78 so we thank you, Schools' Forum.

- We also noticed a need for PE equipment in some schools so we are now piloting an offer of PE resources for loan which looks as if it will prove very popular. Chess set loans introduced last year are being very well used, along with our other non-book resources including Story Boxes, Microbits and Artefact boxes.
- We will continue to maintain our current level of book, artefact loans and audio-visual resource provision for schools as a standard service.
- We will continue to offer our professional advice as librarians for the remodelling of school libraries.
- We will continue to ensure our book stock, resources and offers to all schools remain relevant and up to date.
- Our Year 7 transition scheme continues at Ridgeway and St John Plessington and we hope to encourage other secondary schools to buy in. It is a cost-effective service for both SLS and the subscribing secondary schools and we have had very positive feedback.
- We hope to be part of the start of a new national SLS-UK offer. This will mean schools in all areas will have access to a Schools' Library Service, regardless of whether their authority has one. This will hopefully mean more schools joining Wirral SLS from a wider catchment area. Liverpool schools don't have access to a Schools' Library Service so there is a real potential for service growth
- We would like to extend an invitation to all Councillors, interested Council Officers and School Governors to visit SLS (when it is safe to do so) to see what we do and how much our service has to offer.
- We have moved within the Council structure back to Neighbourhoods and Libraries and we would like to thank Peter Aspinall for his warm welcome back.

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum notes the report