

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM 24TH JUNE 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SCHOOLS BUDGET OUTTURN 2008-09

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the year-end position for the 2008-09 Schools Budget. At this time the accounts are provisional and are subject to audit. The Forum are asked to note the report and the DSG carry forward of £165,906.

1. Outturn 2008-09

The Schools budget and outturn is shown in the attached Appendix. The reported under spend is £218,258. This amount represents variations in Area Based Grant.

There are a number of significant variations that are briefly described below:

i. Early Years £104,000

The number of children in Early Years settings exceeded the budget provision for the year. The additional costs are offset by a number of vacant Foundation Consultant / Development Worker posts.

ii. SEN Costs

There is no overspend in SEN costs at the year-end. The budget for 2008-09 included agreed growth of £740,000 and the cost of statements, out of borough placements, pupils receiving home tutoring and WASP have been met from within this (having also made provision for a £150,000 under spend in SEN Plan activities.)

iii. Support for SEN £214,000.00 CR

This reduction is the result of a number of vacancies within SESS, some have since been taken as a budget saving in 2009-10. The budget for the Portex Unit (transferred from Ganneys Meadow) has not been fully spent in year.

iv. Schools Contingencies £45,000 CR

Contingency expenditure includes a provision for equalised pay costs of £300,000, a reserve to phase the increase in insurance premiums of £200,000 and costs associated with closing schools of £430,000.

As part of the 2009-10 budget process the school contingency budget has been reduced.

v. Special Staff Costs £158,000

Maternity costs in schools have exceeded the budget.

vi. Standards Fund and Area Based Grants £296,000cr

The Standards Fund budget includes the Harnessing Technology programme. The planned spend in this area did not require the budgeted match funding of £106,700.

A number of Area Based Grants (ABG's) have also under spent. The ABG's included in the Schools Budget total £1,023,500. These include the Central School Development Grant for SEN and BIP, together with funding for Secondary Behaviour and Attendance, Choice Advisors and 14-19 Flexible Learning. The under spend in these areas, which have offset budget pressures elsewhere in the Departments budget total £218,258.

vii Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) £165,000

As a result of the above variations the level of DSG required to fund the Schools Budget is less than planned and there is a carry forward of £165,906. The overall position for DSG is reported separately.

2. Recommendations

That the Forum note the report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1
Schools Budget 2008-09

2007-08 Actual		2008-09 Budget	2008-09 Outturn	Variation
£	Schools	£	£	£
71,208,613	Primary Schools	73,233,100	73,233,271	171
76,578,373	Secondary Schools	76,921,300	76,921,678	378
12,963,501	Special Schools	13,422,700	13,422,620	-80
<u>1,067,535</u>	Nursery Schools	<u>1,083,100</u>	<u>1,083,057</u>	<u>-43</u>
161,818,022		164,660,200	164,660,626	426
	Centrally Held Budgets			
4,158,833	Early Years and Childrens Centres	4,394,800	4,499,748	104,113
2,975,451	Indep Special School Fees	2,914,900	2,976,452	61,552
3,271,353	Statements	3,907,200	3,692,611	-214,589
657,236	WASP	929,500	926,040	-3,460
230,208	Education Out Of School	167,100	252,640	85,540
340,896	OLEA	302,500	343,908	41,408
2,116,208	Support For SEN	2,319,600	2,079,323	-240,277
613,950	Milk & Meals	359,000	358,276	-724
183,595	Library Service	194,200	180,837	-13,363
58,768	Licences & Subs	56,000	62,805	6,805
142,412	Insurances	65,400	53,314	-12,086
387,700	Admissions	395,400	395,400	0
1,357,747	School Specific Contingencies	1,585,000	1,539,179	-45,821
784,770	Special Staff Costs	811,200	969,332	158,132
88	Schools Forum	10,400	33	-10,367
26,742	Miscellaneous	172,800	167,649	-5,151
<u>486,236</u>	Standards Funds and Area Based Grants	<u>1,515,300</u>	<u>1,218,998</u>	<u>-296,302</u>
17,792,192		20,100,300	19,716,544	-384,591
-179,479,000	Dedicated School Grant	-183,737,000	-183,571,094	165,906
131,214	Net Schools Expenditure	1,023,500	806,077	-218,258