

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM June 2023

### REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

#### Wirral Virtual School - LACES and LAC Pupil Premium financial year 2023-2024

#### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Wirral Virtual School holds the council's statutory responsibility for overseeing the education of Wirral's children looked after (CLA) and support young people who are at child protection (CP) or child in need (CIN) status. The service utilises a number of funding streams to support the offer for young people as outlined in the report below.

#### 2. STAFFING STRUCTURE

Current staffing arrangements for LACES are as follows:

EPO	Time	Cohort	Number of children on caseload
Virtual Head Trish Lewis	Full time	VSH	769
Education Progress Officer JR	Full time TTO	Post 16	
Deputy SD	Full time	Secondary	
Education Progress Officer CB	Full time		
Education Progress Officer KS	Full time TTO		
Education Progress Officer KB	0.8 TTO		
Education Progress Officer OT	Full time	Special	85
Education Progress Officer JF	Full time TTO	Primary	116
Education Progress Officer EE	Full time		104
Education Progress Officer JM	Full time	Early Years	141
Data Analyst	0.2	All	784

### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

#### 3.1 Pupil Premium Plus

Looked-after children attract Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding. This is additional government funding provided to help improve the outcomes for looked-after children and close the attainment gap between them and their peers. Local authorities receive a PP+ grant allocation based on the number of children looked after for at least one day and aged 4 to 15 at 31 August, as recorded in the latest looked-after children data return.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/pupil-premium/pupil-premium>



Pupil premium\_  
conditions of grant 20

**For the financial year 2023-24 this grant will increase as follows:**

**£2530 total**

**£2100 to schools in 2 instalments of £1050**

**£430 held centrally**

For the financial year 2023-24	
Total PP+ per child	£2530
Top slice for Wirral Virtual School	£430
Funding to school	£2100  £1050 in the Autumn term and £1050 in the summer term providing progress has been made to accelerate learning. Plus, children new to care in the Spring Term.

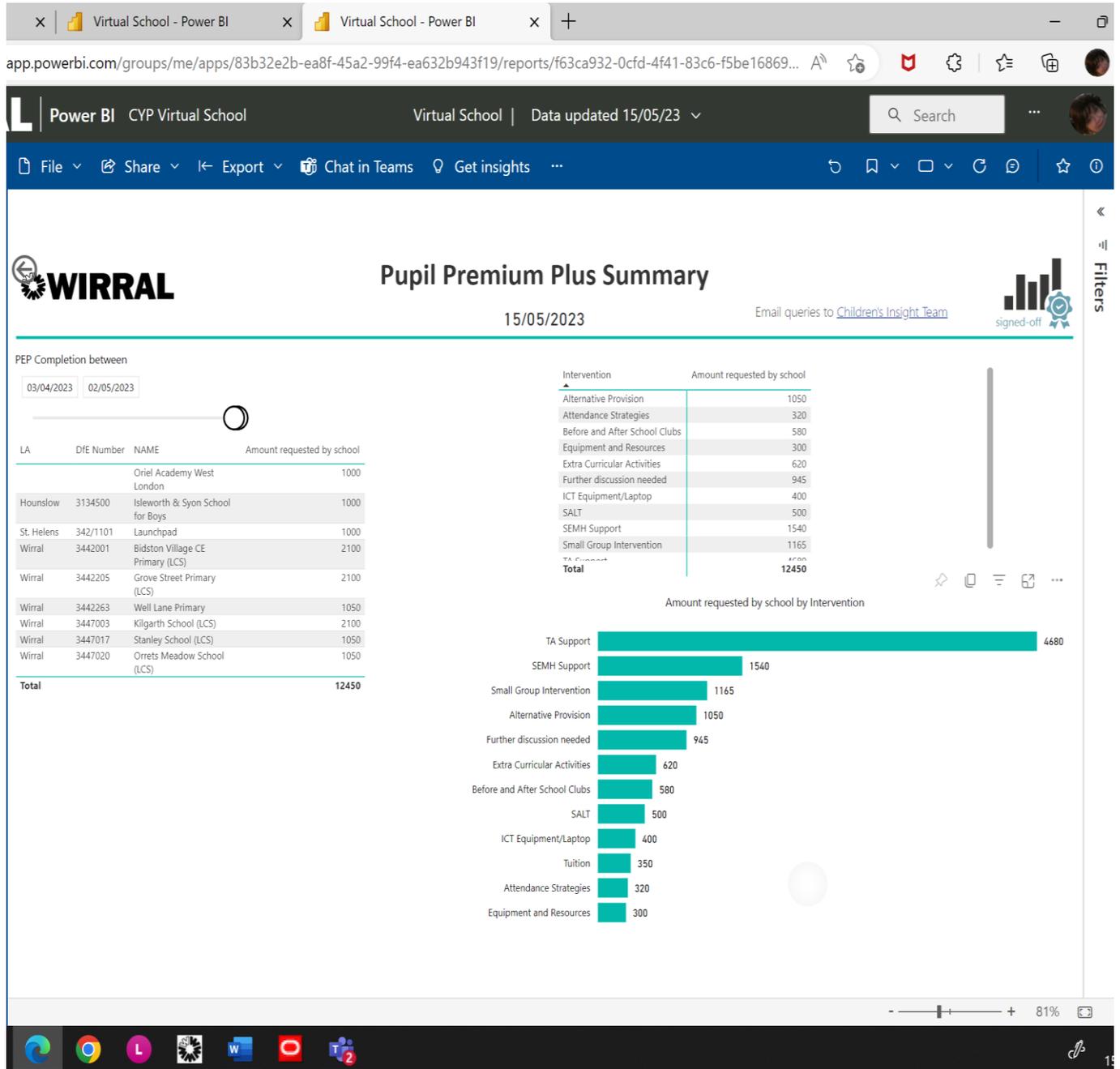
If numbers remain unaltered from last financial year, this gives funding as follows:

Total allocation of PP+ = £2530 x 629 = £1,591,370

Funding allocation to schools = £2100 x 629 = £1,320,900

Top Slice = £430 x 629 = £270,470

**Table 1 Funding distributed to Schools this financial year so far which only includes those children new to care in the Spring Term.**



Payments made for this Summer Term and next Autumn Term will also come from the current financial year. Generally, what comes in goes out to schools accordingly.

### 3.2 Table 2 identifies expected spending of Top Slice in the 2023/24 financial year

<b>Money to be paid</b>	
Top Slice = £430 x 629	£270,470
Virtual school staffing	£84,507k
Supply Agency for Tuition and Teacher support	£120,000
Alternative Education Provision	£50,000
Looked after call Attendance collection tool	£7500.00
Training for DTs – past and future	£20,000
Education Psychologists	£20,000
Blueskies Therapy	£20,000
<b>Overspend of £51,537.00</b>	<b>£322,007</b>

We currently have funds in reserve to enable us to meet our commitments this financial year but going forward we will top slice more.

### 3.3 Recovery Premium Funding for the academic year September 2022 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovery-premium-funding/recovery-premium-funding>



Recovery premium\_  
conditions of grant fo

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-recovery-premium-funding-allocations-and-conditions-of-grant-2022-to-2023/coronavirus-covid-19-recovery-premium-2022-to-2023-conditions-of-grant-for-local-authorities>

We have included a section in the PEP for schools to claim this and have encouraged them all to do so over the academic year. If there is any underspend, we can consider how we can utilise this against spending incurred that is appropriate and in accordance with the guidance above which could include attendance, behaviour and emotional support.

Allocations will be calculated on a per pupil basis, based on the following rates:

**Mainstream education:**

- £145 per eligible pupil in primary schools
- £276 per eligible pupil in secondary schools

**Other eligible schools, and special education units in mainstream schools:**

- £290 per pupil in primary education
- £552 per pupil in secondary education

### 3.4 National Tutoring Programme (NTP) Academic year September 2022- 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-tutoring-programme-guidance-for-schools-2022-to-2023/national-tutoring-programme-guidance-for-schools-2022-to-2023>

In this academic year 2022 to 2023 schools and academy trusts will be provided with a grant to cover **60% of the £18 unit cost**. Schools and academy trusts are required to keep records of all payments related to the school-led tutoring grant.

Using this via 3 routes:

**Academic mentors** – we cannot do this as a virtual school as we do not have in-house staff members.

**Tuition partners** – this can be set up via Randstad

**School-led tutoring** is by far the best method and an example is provided to school as in the email.

Again, we will encourage schools to use this via the PEP and small group tuition and will also consider anything the virtual school can utilise against spending in accordance with the guidance. However, there may be some claw back this year.

Guidance on use of this grant may change again as we approach the end of the academic year and we can evidence spending against this as per last year. However, there may well be some **claw back** this year due to us being unable to use it for the same purposes as in previous years and the shortage of tutors.

## 3.5 Section 31 Grant Funding

Additional funding of £65,320 for Post 16 PP+ runs until 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 (Section 31 grant)

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1113274/Post\\_16\\_PPP\\_Sec\\_31\\_grant\\_determination\\_letter\\_2022\\_to\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1113274/Post_16_PPP_Sec_31_grant_determination_letter_2022_to_2023.pdf)



FW\_ Post-16 Pupil  
Premium Plus pilot 20



EOI bid  
refreshed.docx



Post-16 Sec 31 grant  
determination letter 2

**Children with a social worker £100k (Sec 31) – anything not used to go in reserve**



VSH\_Extension\_Grant  
\_Determination\_Lette

**Previously looked after (Sec 31) – anything not used to go in reserve.**



VSH Sec 31 Grant  
determination letter 2

## RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Forum note the report

TRISH LEWIS – VIRTUAL SCHOOL HEADTEACHER