

# AGENDA SUPPLEMENT (1)

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**Meeting:** Schools Forum  
**Place:** Committee Room III - County Hall, Trowbridge  
**Date:** Thursday 3 March 2011  
**Time:** 1.30 pm

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The Agenda for the above meeting was published on Thursday 24.02.11 and indicated that the reports detailed below would be to follow. The following report is now available and is attached to this Agenda Supplement.

Please direct any enquiries on this Agenda to Liam Paul, of Democratic Services, County Hall, Bythesea Road, Trowbridge, direct line 01225 718376 or email [liam.paul@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:liam.paul@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Press enquiries to Communications on direct lines (01225)713114/713115.

This Agenda and all the documents referred to within it are available on the Council's website at [www.wiltshire.gov.uk](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk)

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7. **Council Business Plan (including Early Intervention Grant)** (Pages 1 - 14)

Attached:

- Report - Council Business Plan 2011-2015 – Impact on Children's Services
- Appendix 1 - Financial Plan 2011-15 – Savings Proposals, Children's Services
- Appendix 2 - Grants Replaced by Early Intervention Grant
- Appendix 3 - Proposed Expenditure against Early Intervention Grant 2011/12

9. **Minimum Funding Guarantee Variations** (To Follow)

This report will be tabled at the meeting

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DATE OF PUBLICATION: 01 March 2011

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## Wiltshire Council

### Schools Forum

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

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#### **Council Business Plan 2011-2015 – Impact on Children’s Services**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. To inform Schools Forum of the Council’s Financial Plan for 2011-15 as it affects Children’s Services.
2. To share detail on how the Early Intervention Grant has been prioritised in 2011/12.

#### **Background**

3. The government announced the Local Government financial spending settlement and specific grant allocations on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2010. For local authorities this contained a 2 year funding settlement, unlike the schools settlement which was for one year only. For the 2011/12 budget in Wiltshire this means:
  - the number of specific grants has been reduced significantly with some grants now included in formula grant (eg., supporting people grant) and others rolled in to new specific grant (eg., Early Intervention Grant) or ended completely (a number of area based grants).
  - a reduction in formula grant received from the government of 16.2%. This is adjusted by a new Transitional Grant to the “floor” level of reduction of 14.3%.
  - funding equivalent to a 2.5% increase in Council Tax to councils that agree to freeze Council Tax for 2011/12.
4. The Council’s financial plan reflects the reduction in government grant and addresses a number of pressures across service areas in addition to making savings. Key themes in the financial plan are:
  - Protecting and safeguarding vulnerable adults and children
  - investing in priority services – including children’s attainment
  - making savings
5. The financial plan was agreed by Council on 22nd February.

#### **Main considerations for Schools Forum**

6. This report outlines the key elements of the Council’s financial plan as they affect the budget for Children’s Services for the period 2011-15. Investment proposals are presented for 2011/12 and 2012/13 and savings for 2011/12.

## **Financial Plan 2011-15**

7. Key areas of investment for children's services are protecting and safeguarding vulnerable children and investing in children's attainment.
8. **Protecting and safeguarding vulnerable children** – the number of looked after children has continued to increase, rising from 313 in 2006 to 371 in 2010. This is due to a multiplicity of factors and is echoed across the country as local authorities respond to the pressures and demands of homelessness, the increase in vulnerable adolescents and the increase in child protection referrals.
9. Wiltshire has responded to these pressures by developing an in-house fostering provision, recruiting local carers and expanding schemes such as supported lodgings and semi-independent accommodation for vulnerable teenagers. The service needs to expand to continue to meet the increase in numbers; dedicated foster carers are needed for unaccompanied asylum seeking children, disabled children, those requiring respite, and vulnerable teenagers. The family placement service also needs to strengthen post adoption support to meet the needs of young people who have been adopted with complex health needs.
10. A range of strategies are being put in place to both reduce the need for high cost external placements and take preventative action.
11. Investment of £0.675 million in 2011/12 will enable allowances to be paid to the increasing number of in house foster carers and to provide adoption support. A further £0.650 million investment from 2012/13 will enable the development of a small in-house short term residential crisis resource to provide a safe environment for young people whilst assessment of needs are undertaken to better inform placement decisions.
12. **Investing in Children's attainment** – Wiltshire Council wants all schools to be outstanding or at least good, whether they are academies or maintained schools, by increasing the breadth and depth of educational provision to enable pupils to fulfil their potential. The LA has a key strategic role to champion children and parents, vulnerable pupils and educational excellence. The LA also has a role in brokering effective school to school support. Investment of £0.270 million in 2011/12 will increase to £1 million in 2012/13 to support:
  - developing and implementing a system to broker school-to-school support, ensuring that there is no detrimental impact in those schools providing support to others
  - building capacity, resilience and sustainability in schools, working with their local communities, where there are particular vulnerabilities, eg schools with a high percentage of children from service families
  - investing in the provision of support to enable schools to better identify, plan for and meet the needs of vulnerable groups in order to raise attainment.
13. **Savings** are to be achieved through a number of key themes:
  - reduce management costs and standardise pay
  - reduce and make better use of buildings

- ensure we use the best providers through commercial procurement approaches
  - ensure every service provides clear value for money
  - transform the way we deliver key services
  - increase income whilst protecting the vulnerable
14. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the savings proposed for the Children & Education Department as part of the overall Council financial plan. Savings have been achieved through the Council's management review, more effective procurement, and a review of services.

### ***Early Intervention Grant***

15. The Early intervention Grant (EIG) replaces a number of former funding streams (see Appendix 2). These include Sure Start Grant, funding received for short breaks for disabled children and a number of previous Area Based Grants. Wiltshire received £17.957 million from these grants in 2010/11.
16. The DfE has applied a 10.9% reduction to the 2010/11 baseline before applying the allocation formula for 2011/12.
17. The grant is not ringfenced however the government has made it clear that the EIG should be spent on supporting services for children, young people and families including:
- Sure Start Children's Centres
  - Free early education places for disadvantaged two year olds
  - Short breaks for disabled children
  - Targeted support for vulnerable young people
  - Targeted support for families with multiple problems
18. The EIG is allocated by formula – around 79% of the allocation is determined by an Early Years formula and the remainder is determined by a youth formula. The early years formula is based on the under 5 population weighted to reflect deprivation, rurality and the area cost adjustment. The youth formula is based on population numbers, educational attainment at Key Stage 2 and 3 and GCSE, numbers of young people who are NEET, deprivation indicators and the Education Area Cost Adjustment.
19. The application of the formula gives Wiltshire an allocation of £18.325 million in 2011/12 however in order to minimise turbulence a damping mechanism has been applied and the amended allocations for Wiltshire are £14.6 million in 2011/12 and £15.5 million in 2012/13.
20. The Council's financial plan provides for the full amount of EIG to be spent within children's services although the grant is not ringfenced at council level. In determining how the grant should be spent the department has had to consider the reduction in funding compared with the predecessor grants and the cessation of a number of other funding streams previously targeted at vulnerable young people, such as the Youth Justice Board preventative grants.

21. Appendix 3 shows the allocation of Early Intervention Grant in 2011/12. The council is to maintain 30 Sure Start Children's Centres and has achieved efficiencies through the recent recommissioning of these centres to enable them to be provided at a lower cost. The core offer for short breaks for disabled children in Wiltshire has been highlighted nationally as an example of best practice, this core offer will be maintained in 2011/12. The grant is to be focussed on targeted work with vulnerable young people and families.

### **Proposal**

22. It is proposed that

- a. Schools Forum note the impact of the Council's financial plan on services for children and young people.
- b. Schools Forum note the prioritisation of the early intervention grant for 2011/12.

**Carolyn Godfrey**  
**Director, Children & Education**

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22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011

### **Background papers**

The following unpublished documents have been relied on in the preparation of this report: None

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Savings proposals for Children's Services 2011/12  
Appendix 2 – Summary of grants rolled in to Early Intervention Grant  
Appendix 3 – Proposed allocation of EIG 2011/12

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**Appendix 1****Financial Plan 2011-15 – Savings Proposals, Children’s Services****A. Reduce our management costs and standardise our pay**

Ref	Project title	Directorate	Savings in		Description and Impact
			2011-12 £ million	Additional 2012-15 £ million	
A1	Management Restructure being implemented	DCE	2.250	0.100	The Council announced in November 2010 its proposals for consultation to reduce its management by 220 posts through removal of vacancies and voluntary redundancies where possible. The revised management structure for DCE has been shared with Primary Heads Forum and with the Wiltshire Association of Secondary and Special Head Teachers

**C. Ensure we use the best providers through commercial procurement approaches**

Ref	Project title	Directorate	Savings in		Description and Impact
			2011-12 £ million	Additional 2012-15 £ million	
C2	Children	DCE	1.620	-	These savings include a combination of intended renegotiations on existing contracts and retendering at reduced funding. This also includes savings achieved on home to school transport where contracts have been retendered.

**D. Ensure every service that is needed provides clear value for money**

Ref	Project title	Directorate	Savings in		Description and Impact
			2011-12 £ million	Additional 2012-15 £ million	
D1	Narrowing of Curriculum Support	DCE	0.615	0.161	The proposal assumes that the Schools White Paper when it receives royal assent will change the way advisory services work with schools and that there will be a reduction in the number of curriculum advisors and School Improvement Partners employed centrally by the Council. Instead there will be a core of lead professionals retained to support schools directly and facilitate collaboration and support between schools in line with the national agenda.
D2	Removal of Council funding within traded teams	DCE	0.136	0.025	These proposals will reduce the local authority contribution to traded services within the Schools & Learning and Integrated Youth Services. The savings will be achieved through those services being able to attract additional income and/or reduce costs.



Ref	Project title	Directorate	Savings in		Description and Impact
			2011-12 £ million	Additional 2012-15 £ million	
D3	Information advice and guidance	DCE	0.402	0.417	<p>It will be our intention to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus work on preventing NEET through early intervention with vulnerable groups</li> <li>• Enhance support for learners/young people with LDD through improved transition</li> <li>• Involve a greater range of partners in providing Information, Advice &amp; Guidance (IAG) support and broaden the range of strategies to provide information.</li> </ul> <p>This will be achieved by revising the established delivery model for Connexions Services. This will involve potential closure of Connexions centres and developing alternative means for young people to access the service, including locating personal advisers in schools, youth centres and other community locations.</p> <p>These proposed developments will ensure that statutory responsibilities are met and the progression of young people supported whilst responding to the advice issued in recent months from the Audit Commission and LGA in regard to greater focus on targeting of support. These proposals will also support the transition to the new all age careers service.</p>

Ref	Project title	Directorate	Savings in		Description and Impact
			2011-12 £ million	Additional 2012-15 £ million	
D4	Improving Business Support across Social Care	DCE	0.143	0.361	Business Support services within Children's Social Care will be aligned to the new Social Care and Integrated Youth structure. Economies will be achieved through relocation to hub offices.
D5	Family support and Family Placement Service	DCE	0.176	-	These services will be restructured to provide a more targeted service through removal of vacant posts and the restructure of the management of the foster care teams.
D6	Out of Authority placements	DCE	-	0.176	Subject to £650,000 being approved to provide greater in house short term residential crisis units in 2011-12, it is anticipated that from 2013-14 there will be a pay back arising from this investment through the prevention of placements due to the support individuals will receive in the crisis unit.
D7	Commissioning & Performance	DCE	0.209	-	There will be a reduction in staffing within Performance & Co-ordination arising from the removal of vacant posts and changes to the way support functions work. There will also be reductions in Staff Development costs and savings from the recommissioning of services.
D8	Other Savings within Targeted Services	DCE	0.135	-	This saving will be achieved through the cessation of the Student Finance Service, which is to be delivered on a national basis from April 2011, and the removal of a number of administrative posts within the former Targeted Services Branch.
D9	Reductions in grants allocated to youth projects	DCE	0.216	-	The Youth Opportunities Fund has ceased to be a ringfenced grant. This reduction is in line with the in year reductions made to Area Based Grant and will leave a reduced amount of

					funding available for young people to allocate to projects.
D10	Transformation of Youth Services	DCE	-	0.600	During 2011-12 we will work with young people and staff to explore different models of youth service delivery which meet the needs of young people and local communities. This review will result in a re-shaped service in 2012-13 which increases opportunities for positive activities and involvement for young people whilst also identifying efficiencies.

**E. Transform the way we deliver key services to meet our customer needs for less or the same money**

Ref	Project title	Directorate	Savings in		Description and Impact
			2011-12 £ million	Additional 2012-15 £ million	
E2	Adult and Children disability services	DCE	0.188	-	Savings will be achieved through a review of management and the structure of the disability teams and through an increase in income generated by the Council's in house respite provision.

**Total Savings to be achieved by DCE**

Ref	Project title	Directorate	Savings in		Description and Impact
			2011-12 £ million	Additional 2012-15 £ million	
	<b>All Savings</b>	<b>DCE</b>	<b>6.089</b>	<b>1.740</b>	

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## **Appendix 2**

### *Grants Replaced by Early Intervention Grant:*

Sure Start Children's Centres  
Early Years Sustainability  
Early Years Workforce  
Two Year Old Offer  
Disabled Children Short Breaks  
Connexions  
Think Family  
Youth Opportunity fund  
Youth Crime Action Plan  
Challenge & Support (Wiltshire did not receive)  
Children's Fund  
Positive Activities for Young People Programme  
Youth taskforce  
Young People Substance Misuse  
Teenage Pregnancy  
Key Stage 4 Foundation Learning  
Targeted Mental Health in Schools  
ContactPoint  
Children's Social Care Workforce  
Intensive Intervention Grant (Wiltshire did not receive)  
Child Trust Fund

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**DCE Budget 2011/12**  
**Proposed Expenditure against Early Intervention Grant 2011/12**

	<b>2011/12 Budget Proposals</b>
Connexions	1,404,510
Children's Fund	635,649
Positive Activities for Young People	100,797
Teenage Pregnancy	66,103
Youth Substance Misuse	66,509
January Guarantee	39,693
Foundation Learning	179,358
Children's Centres	
Early Years Sustainability	
Early Years Workforce	
Two Year Old Offer	
	9,720,620
Short Breaks for Disabled Children	1,000,000
Transitions	35,860
Family Intervention Project	260,000
Children's Social Care Workforce	95,981
Integrated Systems	40,957
Homelessness Project	188,985
Youth Offending Team - preventative work	237,876
Think Family - Parenting Experts	100,000
Think Family - Emergency Duty Team	20,000
Early Intervention programmes in schools	115,030
Healthy Minds - increase in Senior Practitioner Time and additional qualified worker	75,000
Substance Misuse - potential loss of YJB funding	137,000
Mental Health 1st Aid Training	50,000
<b>Unallocated Funding</b>	<b>30,779</b>
<b>Total spend to be badged against the EIG</b>	<b><u>14,600,707</u></b>

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