

AGENDA

Meeting: Schools Forum
Place: Committee Room III - County Hall, Trowbridge
Date: Thursday 1 December 2011
Time: 1.30 pm

Briefing Arrangements:

Briefing will be held at 11.30 am in the Committee Room III - County Hall, Trowbridge.

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

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

Membership:	Representing:
Mr N Baker	PHF, Christ Church CE Primary School
Mr Peter Biggs	WGA, Secondary School Governor Representative
Mrs Julia Bird	PHF, Southwick Primary School
Mr David Cowley	Academy Schools, The Wellington Academy
Mr Chris Dark	WASSH, Matravers School
Mrs A Ferries	WGA, Primary Governor Representative
Mrs Judith Finney	PHF, Dilton Marsh Primary School
Mr John Foster	WGA, Primary Governor Representative
Mrs Carol Grant	WASSH, Pewsey Vale
Mr John Hawkins	Teacher representative
Mr Michael Keeling	Maintained Schools with Nursery Representative
Rev Alice Kemp	WGA, SEN Governor Representative
Ms I Lancaster-Gaye	WASSH, SEN Sector, Rowdeford School
Miss S Lund	ASK, Parent Partnership Representative
Dr Tina Pagett	14-19 Group Representative
Mr J Proctor	Early Years Representative (PVI)
Mrs Joy Tubbs	Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education
Mr M Watson	WASSH, Lavington School
Mrs C Williamson	PHF, Mere Primary School

AGENDA

PART I

Items to be considered whilst the meeting is open to the public

1. **Apologies**

2. **Minutes of the previous Meeting** (*Pages 1 - 8*)

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2011 (copy attached).

3. **Declaration of Interests**

To receive any declarations of personal or prejudicial interests.

4. **Chairman's Announcements**

5. **Children and Young People's Trust Board Update**

To receive a verbal update from the Service Director for Commissioning and Performance, Department for Children and Education.

6. **Budget Monitoring** (*Pages 9 - 12*)

To receive details of the DSG Budget monitoring for Period 7.

9. **Reports from Working Groups** (*Pages 13 - 22*)

To receive minutes, reports and/or verbal updates from the following working groups:

- School Funding Working Group
- Early Years Reference Group
- Schools Services Working Group (*verbal update*)

8. **Early Years Single Funding Formula** (*Pages 23 - 26*)

To examine the outcome of the review of the operation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) by the Early Years Reference Group, and consider their recommendation of a change to the current basic hourly rates paid.

9. **Resource Base Formulae** (*To Follow*)

To present to the Forum new funding formula proposals for HI and PI centres, and to consider issues of under occupancy in Complex Needs Centres.

10. **Special School Banding Moderation outcome** (*To Follow*)

To receive an update on the outcome of the banding moderation process and the implications for 2012/13 budget.

11. **DSG Estimate 2012/13 & Schools Budget Proposals** *(To Follow)*

To discuss the estimated DSG for 2012/13 and initial proposals, cost pressures etc for the schools budget in 2012/13.

12. **Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme** *(Pages 27 - 30)*

To review the Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme and consider whether Wiltshire should continue to operate such a scheme.

13. **Sickness Supply Pool Insurance Scheme** *(Pages 31 - 32)*

To consider an update on the current position of the Supply Pool Insurance Scheme.

14. **Schools Funding Regulations Consultation** *(Pages 33 - 34)*

To highlight any issues arising from the consultation on the Schools Funding Regulations 2012.

15. **Section 251 Benchmarking** *(Pages 35 - 46)*

To receive a summary of the main issues arising from the Section 251 Benchmarking exercise.

16. **Confirmation of dates for future meetings**

To confirm the dates of future meetings, as follows:

19 January 2012

01 March 2012

21 June 2012

17. **Urgent Items**

Any other items of business, which the Chairman agrees to consider as a matter of urgency.

PART II

Items during whose consideration it is recommended that the public should be excluded because of the likelihood that exempt information would be disclosed

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SCHOOLS FORUM

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE SCHOOLS FORUM MEETING HELD ON 13 OCTOBER 2011 AT COUNCIL CHAMBER - COUNCIL OFFICES, BROWFORT, DEVIZES.

Present:

Mr N Baker, Mrs Julia Bird, Mrs A Ferries, Mrs J Finney, Mr J Foster, Mrs Jane Franchi, Mrs C Grant, Mr Tim Gilson, Mr J Hawkins, Mr M Keeling, Rev. A Kemp, Dr Tina Pagett, Mr M Watson and Mrs C Williamson

Also Present:

Cllr Alan Macrae

160. **Election of Chairman**

Resolved:

To elect Mr N Baker Chairman for the ensuing year.

Mr N Baker in the Chair

161. **Election of Vice-Chairman**

Resolved:

To elect Mr M Watson Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

162. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Lionel Grundy and Mrs Carolyn Godfrey.

163. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

Resolved:

To approve and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2011, subject to the removal of Mrs A Ferries from the list of attendees.

164. **Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest.

165. **Chairman's Announcements**

- (a) **13-19 Commissioning Strategy** The Service Director, Commissioning & Performance reported that Cabinet had agreed the strategic direction and priorities as outlined in the 11 to 19 Commissioning Strategy, which therefore would now be extended to include young adults from the age of 11 to 19.
- (b) **Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Commissioning Strategy**
It was reported that the Council was currently updating this Strategy.
- (c) **SEN and Disability Green Paper Pathfinder** It was noted that Wiltshire had been selected along with 19 other local authorities to participate in an 18 month pathfinder programme.

166. **Schools Forum Constitution, Memberships and Arrangements**

Consideration was given to a report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children & Education which sought to:-

- (1) Clarify the current constitution of the Forum, its membership and the composition of its sub-groups.
- (2) Bring the Schools Forum in line with best practice arrangements as per DfE guidance.
- (3) Review the operation and make-up of the Forum in light of the development of Wiltshire governor groups and changes to Academy status by a proportion of Wiltshire schools.

After a full discussion

Resolved:

- 1. **To note the logistical arrangements for the Schools Forum outlined in the report.**
- 2. **To note the membership and method of nomination for each Schools Forum sub-group.**
- 3. **To adjust the terms of reference and constitution of the Schools Forum to show the Wiltshire Governors' Association as the nominating group for any future vacancies for Primary and Secondary School governors on the forum. These are currently 3 voting positions of this type.**

4. To confirm that the SEN working group should continue, and therefore request that WASSH should nominate a representative.
5. To invite WASSH and PHF to review the balance of representatives between academies and maintained schools, especially if the funding mechanisms are not clearly linked and that the Chairman & Vice-Chairman of the Forum be authorised to consider and agree any nominations received.
6. To authorise the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to confirm who the Academy representative should be following consultation with head teachers from Primary, Secondary and Special academies.
7. To include the School Services Board as a sub-group.

167. **Reports from Working Groups**

The Forum noted the report of the following Working Groups:-

- Schools Funding Working Group
- Early Years Reference Group
- Schools Services Group

168. **DSG Update paper**

The Forum received a report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children & Education which:-

- Informed the Forum of the final Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) settlement for 2011/12.
- Presented budget monitoring information against the DSG for the financial year 2011/12 as at 31 August 2011.
- Updated the Forum on the final allocation of Pupil Premium Grant for 2011/12.
- Requested that initial consideration be given to proposals for achieving the required savings against DSG in 2012/13.

An additional paper was received which notified the Forum of the DfE's proposal to include Schools Specific Contingencies in the LACSEG adjustment for academies.

Consideration was given to the initial proposals for DSG savings and it was suggested that if a negative inflation rate were to be applied, then it should be applied across all budgets and not just the delegated budget.

After a full discussion,

Resolved:

- (a) To reaffirm that the shortfall of £0.140 million arising from the final DSG settlement should be funded from the DSG underspend rolled forward from 2010/11, as agreed at the June meeting.
- (b) To note that the budget monitoring position at the end of August 2011.
- (c) To adjust the individual schools allocations for the Pupil Premium in line with the final allocation as notified by the DfE and to request that schools be informed accordingly.
- (d) To defer consideration of the initial savings proposals for DSG in 2012/13 until the next meeting of the Forum.
- (e) To request that details of Health contributions towards Independent Special School placements be brought to the next meeting.
- (f) To apply to the Secretary of State for dispensation to exclude the element of the Schools Contingency related to in year changes in pupil numbers from the LACSEG adjustment.

169. **Schools Funding Consultations**

On considering a report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children & Education,

Resolved:

To note the response submitted to the DfE document “A consultation on school funding reform: Proposals for a fairer system.”

170. **Schools Revenue Balances 2010/11**

The Forum received a report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children & Education which set out the position of balances of Wiltshire schools as at 31 March 2011 and which identified those which were in deficit. It was pointed out that only three schools were in deficit and letters had been sent to them about the situation.

Resolved:

To note the contents of the report and that a further report would be presented to the next meeting of the Forum.

171. **Schools Financial Value Statement**

The Forum considered a report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children & Education which set out details about the new Schools Financial

Value Statement (SFVS), the DfE's replacement for the Financial Standard in Schools (FMSiS).

After discussion,

Resolved:

- (a) To include the submission of SFVS returns in the financial returns compliance statement required from all schools.
- (b) To put into place a system of "scoring" the returns on an objective basis to inform the LA's programme of financial assessment and audit.
- (c) To publish a list of schools who do not complete the SFVS on time in an annual report to the Forum.

172. **Schools PFI Affordability Gap**

The Forum received a report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children & Education which updated members on the current position regarding the Schools PFI Sinking Fund and the affordability gap relating to the Fund.

After discussion,

Resolved:

To increase the contribution from DSG to the affordability gap relating to the PFI Sinking Fund by £100,000 to £700,000 in total for the three PFI schools, noting that it would depend on the agreed funding mechanism for Academies as to whether the full amount was a call on Wiltshire's DSG settlement or whether part of the contribution would come direct from the DfE.

173. **SEN Services - Activity Analysis**

The Forum received a presentation from the Manager for Inclusion which included a breakdown of activities undertaken by the Inclusion Service across core, statutory and discretionary services.

It was noted that traditionally, a full range of support services had been provided by the LA to all schools free of charge at delivery point. With an increasing number of schools converting to academy status it was crucial to consider how services in Wiltshire should be delivered and funded in the future.

After further discussion,

It was,

Resolved:

To request that responses received to the consultation issued to schools be considered in cluster groups and analysed in time for the next meeting of the Forum.

174. Carbon Reduction Commitment - Impact on Schools

On considering a joint report by the Service Director, Schools & Learning and the Service Director, Economy & Enterprise,

Resolved:

- (1) To agree that a survey benchmarking Wiltshire schools' CRC emissions performance be compiled by the Council and shared with Wiltshire Schools after each annual submission.**
- (2) To monitor compliance with the data reporting requirements for schools through the routine financial compliance statements already provided to head teachers and governing bodies of maintained schools and to consult on the process of passing on the cost to a school that fails to comply with all schools through the Schools Forum.**
- (3) To agree Option 2 (Charging Individual Schools) as set out in the report as the preferred way forward for passing CRC costs on to schools and that schools be consulted on the change to the funding scheme.**

175. Young People's Support Service

The Forum received a report by the Corporate Director, Department for Children & Education which outlined the current position of the Young People's Support Service (YPSS) and Wiltshire's involvement in a pathfinder pilot Trial of Alternative Provision being run by the DfE.

During the discussion, concern was expressed on the issue of admissions and also the risk of schools not signing up to the new ways of working. It was suggested that if a school did not "sign up" then they would not be able to access the funding.

The cost of redundancies from YPSS was also discussed and estimates from HR were awaited after which funding options could be looked at.

Resolved:

- (1) To support the delegation of the responsibility of permanently excluded young people to secondary schools.**

- (2) To agree in principle to devolve funds to individual secondary schools to enable them to fulfil this responsibility.
- (3) To request the officers to develop an activity led model to identify the cost of the Pupil Referral Unit so that this could be compared with the available budget for distribution.
- (4) To agree that the Forum would set the quantum to be devolved in the light of the budget settlement for 2012-2013 and further work to be done to establish the real costs of provision but to accept in principle that at least for 2012-2013 the quantum should not be less than the current historical budget for YPSS.
- (5) To support the general direction of development for alternative provision, Wiltshire's participation in the DfE trail and the proposed closure of YPSS.

176. **Confirmation of dates for future meetings**

Resolved:

To hold meetings of the Forum on the following dates:-

Thursday 1 December 2011 – location to be confirmed

Thursday 19 January 2012 – location to be confirmed

177. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items.

(Duration of meeting: 1.30 - 4.55 am)

The Officer who has produced these minutes is Roger Bishton, of Democratic Services, direct line 01225 7183763035, e-mail roger.bishton@wiltshire.gov.uk

Press enquiries to Communications, direct line (01225) 713114/713115

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Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum

1st December 2011

DEDICATED SCHOOLS BUDGET – BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12

Purpose of the Report

1. To present budget monitoring information against the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) for the financial year 2011/12 as at 31st October 2011.

Main Considerations

2. Appendix 1 to this report outlines the budget monitoring summary as at 31st October 2011. At this point in the year an underspend of £1.626 million is projected against the overall schools budget. Key variances are as follows:
 - a. *Independent Special School Placements* – this budget is currently projected to underspend by £0.955 million. The forecast is based on all current placements and includes young people for whom a placement has been agreed by the Joint Complex Needs Panel but which may not yet be in place. The underspend arises from reduced numbers of placements and reflects the increased number of pupils who can be provided for within Wiltshire schools. A further underspend of £0.373 million is projected against placements made in other local authority schools, again this is based on agreed expenditure and income schedules to date and will be continually updated. A regional meeting is to be held in December to finally agree the approach to charging for special and mainstream placements and this may impact on this forecast position.
 - b. *Other Targeted Services* – underspends within the EMAS and Traveller Education Service have arisen due to vacancies and due to the maximisation of the standards funds within the EMAS Team.
 - c. *Early Years Free Entitlement for 3 & 4 year olds* – an underspend of £0.175 million is projected against the Early Years Single Funding Formula. This projection is updated termly based on the uptake of the free entitlement across settings.
 - d. *Premature Retirement Costs* – as previously reported the PRC budget is expected to overspend by £0.122 million based on redundancy cases up to 31st August. Costs up to the end of August would normally represent the bulk of the spend against this budget however indications from HR are that there will be further costs incurred through the year and thus this overspend is expected to increase.
 - e. *Personal Education Plans (Looked After Children)* – it is projected that the budget for PEPs will overspend by £0.053 million.
3. No variance is currently projected against the budget for the Young People's Support Service (YPSS). Due to the number of vacancies within the service it is expected that the budget will be underspent however this underspend will need to be earmarked to contribute towards any redundancy costs that may arise from the proposed closure of the service in September 2012. Cabinet has agreed that redundancy costs will need to be provided for between the underspend within the service and the corporate redundancy budget.

4. Any underspend against the Dedicated Schools Grant will be rolled forward in to the next financial year.

Proposals

5. Schools Forum is asked to note the budget monitoring position at the end of October 2011.

CAROLYN GODFREY
DIRECTOR, CHILDREN & EDUCATION

Report Author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance (DCE)

Tel: 01225 713675

e-mail: elizabetha.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk

Financial Monitoring

Service Areas	Approved Budget £m	Projected Outturn for £m	Variation for Year £m
1 Funding Schools			
DSG Funded Expenditure	218.834	218.834	0.000
Total	218.834	218.834	-
2 Schools & Learning Branch			
Independent Special Schools	4.507	3.552	-0.955
Named Pupil Allowances	2.135	2.079	-0.056
Special Recoupment	1.659	1.286	-0.373
Specialist SEN Service	0.850	0.763	-0.087
Sensory Service	0.569	0.537	-0.032
Ethnic Minority Achievement Service	0.489	0.387	-0.102
Travellers Education Service	0.234	0.187	-0.047
Local Collaborative Partnerships	0.124	0.124	0.000
Young People's Support Services	2.611	2.611	0.000
Behaviour Support	0.924	0.924	0.000
Other Targeted Services	0.383	0.383	0.000
Total Targeted Schools & Learner Support	14.486	12.833	-1.653
School Buildings & Places	0.037	0.037	0.000
Admissions Service	0.261	0.261	0.000
Other School Improvement Services	0.025	0.025	0.000
Total School Improvement	0.323	0.323	0.000
Early Years Single Funding Formula	14.626	14.451	-0.175
Other Early Years Services	0.666	0.666	0.000
Total Early Years & Childcare	15.292	15.117	-0.175
Business & Commercial Services	0.573	0.573	0.000
Total Schools & Learning	30.674	28.846	- 1.828
3 Commissioning & Performance			
Schools Maternity Costs	0.838	0.863	0.026
Schools PRC - New Cases	0.496	0.618	0.122
SIMS Licence	0.199	0.201	0.002
Other services	0.281	0.281	0.000
Total	1.814	1.963	0.149
4 Safeguarding			
Child Protection in Schools	0.040	0.040	0.000
Total	0.040	0.040	-

Financial Monitoring

Service Areas	Approved Budget £m	Projected Outturn for £m	Variation for Year £m
5 Social Care & Integrated Youth			
QES	0.042	0.042	0.000
Assisted Places Scheme	0.048	0.048	0.000
Looked After Children Education Service	0.150	0.203	0.053
Total	0.240	0.293	0.053
6 DSG Within Corporate Services			
Gross Expenditure	3.469	3.469	0.000
Total	3.469	3.469	-
	255.072	253.446	- 1.626

Note POSITIVE variances = OVERSPEND

Notes

- 1 Independent Special Schools based on placements to dates and soft projections for expected placements.
- 2 Ethnic Minority Achievement Service and Travellers Service projected to underspend due to vacant posts. Maximisation of Standards Funds also contributing to EMAS position.
- 3 Projected overspend on Schools PRC cases based on cases to 31st August 2011. HR indicated that further estimates have been given and therefore further costs expected.

Wiltshire Council

Schools Forum
1st December 2011

Report from the Schools Forum School Funding Working Group

Purpose of report

1. To report on the meeting of the School Funding Working Group held on 15th November 2011

Main considerations for School Forum

2. The draft minutes of the meeting are attached at Appendix 1.
3. The School Funding Working Group made the following recommendations:

4. ***Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme***

It was recommended that Wiltshire should continue to operate a controls on surplus balances scheme for the 2012/13 financial year.

5. ***Schools Revenue Balances 2010/11***

In respect of revenue balances for the 2010/11 financial year the following recommendations are made:

- a) That the two schools which had failed to submit an appeal should have their excess balances removed.
- b) That the school which had submitted an appeal be requested to resubmit their 2010/11 Intended Use of Revenue Balances form showing the specific project as “planned investment” and therefore no clawback should apply.

Proposals

6. That Schools Forum:
 - a. note the recommendation made by the Schools Funding Working Group to continue with a Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme in 2012/13.
 - b. Agree to the clawback of excess revenue balances from the two schools who failed to submit an appeal.

Name of Director Carolyn Godfrey
Director, Children & Education

Report author: Liz Williams, Head of Finance (Children & Education)
01225 713675
Elizabeth.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Schools Forum Schools Funding Working Group

Minutes – 15th November 2011

Present: Liz Williams, Martin Watson, Phil Cooch, John Hawkins, John Kimberley, Judith Finney, Tim Gilson, Catriona Williamson

Apologies: Carol Grant, Neil Baker

		Action
1	<p>Minutes from Previous Meeting The note of the meeting of 30th September had been discussed at Schools Forum</p> <p>The consultation document on SEN Support Service Analysis had not been considered by primary or secondary school clusters. It was noted that this could not now be discussed at Schools Forum on 1st December and would be deferred until a future meeting. The group discussed what information would be required to be able to consider whether funding for any particular service could be delegated to schools.</p> <p>Carbon Reduction Commitment – consultation now issued to schools. CW queried what would happen if there are multiple users of the buildings on a school site, how would the charge be split. EW to raise with the Climate Change team and ask that they respond directly to CW</p>	EW
2	<p>Schools Financial Regulations Consultation PC presented a paper outlining the main issues that had arisen within the DfE consultation on the 2012 School Funding Regulations. There were 3 main issues:</p> <p>Minimum funding Guarantee (MFG) Disapplications – it was agreed that this was a positive change and would reduce the delays experienced in the 2011/12 budget setting process</p> <p>Pupil Premium for Excluded Pupils – further clarification had been sought from the DfE but the group supported the principle of the premium following the pupil.</p> <p>Remissions of Boarding Fees – it was noted that this was a technical change and would have no impact on Wiltshire.</p>	
3	<p>Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme PC presented a paper asking the SFWG to consider whether the Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme should continue in 2012/13. Schools Forum had previously agreed to continue the scheme in 2011/12 and review when more was known about the national picture. PC reported that the DfE had confirmed that no further guidance will be issued on schemes or levels of balances in schools. The number of schools with excessive revenue balances in Wiltshire has decreased whilst the scheme has been in operation as has the value of those balances.</p>	

	<p>MW confirmed that there are also controls in place for Academies. Academies are only allowed to carry forward a balance of 2%.</p> <p>Following discussion it was agreed to recommend to Schools Forum that the scheme be continued for a further year in 2012/13.</p>	
3	<p>DSG Estimate 2012/13</p> <p>EW presented the initial estimate of DSG for 2012/13 based on the October pupil count in schools but still using the January 2011 pupil numbers for Early Years. The calculation indicated a reduction of 122 pupils compared with the 2011/12 census leading to a reduction in DSG of £0.565 million.</p> <p>As discussed at previous meetings savings of up to £1.9 million will also need to be identified to account for non recurring funding in the 2011/12 budget.</p> <p>It was noted that the calculation was still work in progress and would be updated for presentation to Schools Forum on 1st December.</p>	EW/PC
4	<p>Section 251 Benchmarking</p> <p>PCEW presented a briefing paper detailing the “headlines” from the DfE Section 251 Benchmarking Data in relation to the schools budget. A further paper, including data on other Education and Children’s Services spend would be prepared for Schools Forum.</p> <p>The data confirmed Wiltshire receives the lowest DSG unit of funding per pupil of its statistical neighbour group but has the 5th highest delegated budget per pupil.</p> <p>Increases in Primary Schools in Wiltshire were the highest per pupil from 2010/11 to 2011/12 and increases in secondary and special schools were the second highest in the group of statistical neighbours.</p> <p>5% of primary schools in Wiltshire receive the MFG as opposed to the local formula compared with up to 60% in similar authorities. 5% of secondary schools in Wiltshire receive the MFG compared with up to 31% in similar authorities. No special schools in Wiltshire receive the MFG.</p>	
5	<p>Date & Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 11th January 2012, 8.30am, County Hall</p>	
6	<p>Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme 2010/11</p> <p>On the rise of the meeting a panel meeting was held to consider the appeals from those schools which had exceeded the permissible level of revenue balance.</p> <p>The Panel decided that the two schools which failed to submit an appeal should have their excess balances removed.</p>	

With regards to the appeal received from the third school, it was agreed that the school should be asked to resubmit their 2010-11 Intended Use of Revenue Balances form showing the painting project as a “planned investment” and therefore no claw back should apply.	
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Wiltshire Council
Department for Children and Education

Early Years Reference Group

Minutes of a meeting held on 18 November 2011 at Wiltshire Council, Bradley Road Offices in Trowbridge.

Present: Jackie Bedford (Wilts C), Simon Burke (Chair, Wilts C), Alan Butler (Learning Curve Day Nursery, Wootton Bassett) Sarah Clover (Wilts C), Rosemary Collard (Snapdragons Nurseries), Phil Cooch (Wilts C), Lorraine Cope (Accredited Childminder, Bradford-on-Avon), Gill Hanlan (Wilts C), Jenny Harvey (Wilts C), Ted Hatala (St Josephs), John Proctor (South Hills Independent School, Salisbury),

1.0 Welcome and Introductions

SB welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.0 Apologies for Absence

Mark Cawley (New Road Nursery), Mike Fairbeard (Little Fir Tree Nursery, YMCA), Lucy Waterman (Rub a Dub Pre-school, Derry Hill)

3.0 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2011 were agreed as an accurate record of discussion.

4.0 Matters arising from minutes of meeting held on 16 September 2011

4.0-5.3 Code of Practice – calculation of funding rates

PC & JH had been carrying out extensive testing to this on-line application and reported that it was now just about ready to go-live. Apologies were given that the end of September target date had been missed but testing had revealed a number of unanticipated complication. Both were confident that it would now be on-line by end November.

4.0-6.3 Grant payments & headcount reconciliation

The council is continuing to work with its software supplier on a number of issues relating to its free entitlement database in the hope of enhancing the information it is able to send out to providers.

5.3 Code of Practice/Local Agreement - Non compliance

Following the EYRG affirmation of support for the council to deal robustly with non-compliant providers, the council were pursuing a very small number of individual cases.

6.2 Mid-term arrivals/starters

JH advised that claims covering 30 children had been received for the Summer 2011 term relating to this new procedures and that these were fairly evenly split across leaver and starters.

The procedures had not been altered to cater for those children who started and left a provider before the headcount week and it was confirmed that this would be looked at as part of a review once the new procedures had bedded down.

11.1 Healthy setting award

SC was following up issues relating to the healthy settings award which is due to be re-launched to coincide with the release of the revised EYFS.

5.0 Code of Practice/Local Agreement

5.1 New National Code of Practice

JB circulated to members the following papers

- Draft Statutory Guidance for LA on the delivery of Free Entitlement for (two), three and four year olds and Securing sufficient Childcare
- DfE Consultation – Supporting Families in the Foundation Years: Proposed Changes to the Entitlement to Free Early Education and Childcare Sufficiency

SC presented a summary of the issues being highlighted in both documents and encouraged members to respond direct to the consultation before the deadline of 3 February. She also asked members to encourage their representative providers to participate in the consultation.

A DfE briefing on this is taking place at the Thistle Hotel, Bristol on 2 December which anyone can attend

Actions:

SC/JB to circulate further details of this event to members when available.

5.2 Local agreement – 2011/12

JH advised that printed copies of the 2011/12 local provider agreement would be distributed to providers shortly

6.0 Single Funding Formula

6.1 Annual review of formula

JH presented a paper detailing analysis of the SFF review consultation. The consultation had been restricted to just a single question seeking the sectors views on proposals to alter the free entitlement base rate.

A 50% response rate from providers to the SNAP survey had been received and providers had been prompted several times both electronically and in a letter to respond to the consultation by the deadline of 11 November.

Results indicated no overwhelming steer from the sector but many comments highlighted the complexity of the current formula and the need for simplicity. This was supported by just a 30% vote for retaining the status quo and a 70% vote for a change of some kind. It was felt that this was strongly linked to the desire for the formula to be made simpler.

JP considered that with hindsight maybe some of the cost analysis assumptions made about economies of scale regarding larger settings when developing the formula had not proved to be realistic operationally. For example, he believed larger providers employed paid administrators whereas smaller voluntary settings used the Council to obtain 'free' advice on such issues.

The group then went on to explore the impact on different provider types if base rates were altered. TH had worked through a number of scenarios which were shared with members.

PC circulated a paper showing the overall picture on different provider types if the hourly rate was altered and also the number of providers within the different categories that would be affected. The impact of introducing a single hourly rate to all would be felt most strongly by smaller PVI settings, maintained nurseries and childminders. However, it was agreed that the impact could be reduced by establishing a single rate for each provider type. Although the rate to smaller PVI setting would decrease it was thought that the impact of this loss might be counterbalanced by the fact that some attract the additional supplement for rurality. Others were now receiving funding for a full three hours whereas previously they had been operating 3 hour sessions on the 2 ½ hr session rate and not charging parents for the additional ½ hour. These settings were now finding themselves better off under the SFF hourly funded procedures.

All childminders are currently receiving £8.56 per hour and it was recognised that this was considerably higher than the standard childminder market hourly rate. It was acknowledged that the additional work carried out by accredited childminders was significant but once costs associated with 'setting-up' had been incurred it was believed that the higher rate could be relaxed. The impact of a proposed revised rate of £6.50 was explored and was not considered to be particularly significant because of the low number of accredited childminders and three and four year old children registered with them. However, it was agreed that a childminder market costs analysis should be carried out.

Action:

SC to send a cost analysis survey to all accredited childminders

Final proposal to be recommended to Schools Forum (unanimous vote by members in favour of proposal) –

- Single hourly rate for each provider type
- Reduce childminder hourly rate to £6.50 per hour
- Saving to be used to enhance PVI hourly rate

Action:

SRB to take forward EYRG recommendation to Schools Forum for approval.

7.0 Two Year Old Funding – Update

SC circulated a briefing paper to up-date member on both the current and strategic vision relating to two year old funding.

Much of the DfE consultation relates to the expansion of this initiative with the expectation that the number of funded places will increase during 2012/13 until it becomes statutory provision in September 2013.

Members were again encouraged to respond to the DfE consultation on the issues surrounding this funding.

8.0 Membership

It was agreed to keep the children’s centre representative as vacant for the time being as there were a number of existing members of the group who were strongly associated with children’s centre nurseries who were able to represent children’s centre interests. Now that Wiltshire’s children’s centres are run by four contracts it would also be difficult to ensure ‘fairness’ across all four organisations if only one representative was elected.

9.0 Dates for Future meetings

Date	Day	Time	Venue
24 February 2012	Friday	10:00 – 12:00	Trowbridge, Bradley Rd Offices – Committee Room 1
25 May 2012	Friday	10:00 – 12:00	Trowbridge, Bradley Rd Offices – Committee Room 1

10.0 Any Other Business

None

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REPORT FROM THE EARLY YEARS' REFERENCE GROUP

Review of The Early Years Single Funding Formula

Introduction

1. The Early Years Reference Group has conducted a review of the operation of the Early Years Single Funding Formula (EYSFF) and has consulted early years providers over potential changes. In light of comments received, and its continual monitoring of the EYSFF, the group wishes to recommend a change to the current basic hourly rates paid.

Background

2. The EYSFF was introduced in Wiltshire from 1 April 2010. The formula provided for childcare providers to receive a payment for the provision of free entitlement childcare based upon a sum for each hour delivered plus supplements (if applicable) for the inclusion of children from deprived homes and for settings located in rural areas.
3. The basic hourly rate was derived from the development of a financial model which strove to include relevant costs for each type of setting and to recognise the economies of scale which can arise as settings become larger. Thus the hourly rate currently paid varies between type of provider and the number of free entitlement hours delivered, as shown in the appendix.:
4. The reference group undertook a survey of the EYSFF in autumn 2010. On analysing the responses, the group noted that the formula had been in operation for only six months and considered that unless there was an overwhelming rationale for change the present arrangements should continue to avoid any potential confusion which could result from changes to arrangements which were only just beginning to be understood. The group agreed to recommend that two detailed amendments be made to the scheme and these were approved by the Schools Forum at its meeting on 3 December 2010.
5. Members of the council's Early Years' Team, and members of the Early Years Reference Group have received many comments relating to the complexity of the EYSFF and difficulties providers have in calculating the income they will receive. Considerable work has been done to advise and support settings but many such comments continue to be received.
6. In light of these comments the reference group agreed to survey of all providers in October 2011 on options for simplifying the basic hourly rates.
7. Responses were received from 50% of providers. Results indicated no overwhelming steer from the sector but many comments highlighted the complexity of the current formula and the need for simplicity. This was supported by just a 30% vote for retaining the status quo and a 70% vote for a change of some kind, spread over four different options. It was felt that this was strongly linked to the desire for the formula to be made simpler.

8. Comments have been received on the hourly rate paid to childminders, which many providers believe to be too high. Inquiries indicate the rate is well above the usual charges which childminders make to parents although the need to reward the extra work undertaken by the accredited childminders who provide free entitlement childcare is recognised.

Proposal

9. The Early Years Reference Group resolved to recommend that the EYSFF be amended to provide for a single hourly rate for each type of provider irrespective of size and to reduce the payment to accredited childminders with the savings being reallocated to support the rate for private, voluntary and independent settings to offset the loss which smaller settings will suffer. Thus the basic hourly rate payment (at 2011-12 prices) will be as shown in the appendix:

Financial Implications

10. The introduction of the average hourly rate will reduce payments from those settings currently on the highest rates and increase payments to those on the other hourly rates. Overall 237 providers will receive less and 91 more. This must be weighed against the benefit of improved transparency and reduced administration as providers will be able to more accurately forecast their income.

11. The effect of the proposal upon payments to providers is shown below:

Analysis of Early Years Single Funding Formula Hourly Rates								
	PVI				Maintained		Childminders	Totals
Hourly Rate	£3.33	£3.40	£3.59	£3.86	£3.96	£4.10	£8.56	
No' of Settings	3	20	67	184	1	9	44	328
Total cost/rate	£377,911	£1,803,764	£4,273,857	£6,165,073	£143,135	£575,273	£407,595	£13,746,608
Total hours	113,487	530,519	1,190,489	1,597,169	36,145	140,311	47,616	3,655,736
Proposed Rate	£3.71	£3.71	£3.71	£3.71	£4.07	£4.07	£6.50	
Change / hr	£0.38	£0.31	£0.12	−£0.15	£0.11	−£0.03	−£2.06	
Total Change £	£43,125	£164,161	£142,859	−£239,575	−£3,976	−£4,209	−£98,089	
Average hours per setting	37,828.89	26,525.94	17,768.50	8,680.27	36,145.20	15,590.06	1,082.19	
Current Average Payment	£125,970	£90,188	£63,789	£33,506	£143,135	£63,919	£9,264	
Average Change	£14,375	£8,223	£2,132	−£1,302	£3,975	−£468	−£2,229	

12. There are no implications for the Dedicated Schools Grant budget as the proposal redistributes the existing budget provision.

Recommendations

13. The Forum is invited to note the contents of this report and is recommended to agree the proposal outlined in paragraphs 9 above.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Director, Department for Children and Education

Report Author: Simon Burke
Head of Business and Commercial Services
Schools and Learning
Contact: Tel.: 01225 713840
simon.burke@wiltshire.gov.uk

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this report: None

Appendix

**Early Years Reference Group
Early Years Single Funding Formula – Basic Hourly Rates
(Supplements will apply as applicable)**

no of children	no. of hours per session of 12½ hours	Basic Hourly Rate 2011-12	Proposed Hourly Rate 2012-13
Maintained Nursery Classes			
up to 26	up to 325	£4.10	£4.07
39	325.1 to 487.5	£3.96	£4.07
52	487.6 to 650	£3.89	£4.07
65	more than 650.1	£3.58	£4.07
Private, Voluntary and Independent Providers			
16	up to 200	£3.86	£3.71
24	200.1 to 300	£3.59	£3.71
32	300.1 to 400	£3.40	£3.71
40	400.1 to 500	£3.33	£3.71
48	500.1 to 600	£3.25	£3.71
56	600.1 to 700	£3.22	£3.71
64	700.1 to 800	£3.17	£3.71
72	more than 800.1	£3.16	£3.71
Childminders			
3	up to 37.5	£8.56	£6.50
6	37.6 to 75	£7.14	£6.50
9	more than 75.1	£6.67	£6.50

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Wiltshire County Council

Schools Forum

1 December 2011

Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme

Purpose of the paper

1. To decide whether the Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme should continue in 2012-13.

Background

2. With effect from April 2011 the DfE removed the requirement for Local Authorities to have a Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme in place. However, Regulations allow LAs to have a Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme if it wishes.
3. The revised wording in the Regulations is as follows: "Local Authority Funding Schemes may contain a mechanism to claw back excess surplus balances. Any mechanism should have regard to the principle that schools should be moving towards greater autonomy, should not be constrained from making early efficiencies to support their medium-term budgeting in a tighter financial climate, and should not be burdened by bureaucracy. The mechanism should, therefore, be focused on only those schools which have built up significant excessive uncommitted balances and/or where some level of redistribution would support improved provision across a local area."
4. As this change was effective from April 2011, the Local Authority's current Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme applied to excess balances carried forward at the end of 2010-11.
5. At its meeting in March 2011, Schools Forum decided to continue with the scheme and review the situation once the national picture had been identified.
6. The revised wording in paragraph three above indicates that, where a Scheme is in place, it should only focus on those schools that have built up significant excessive uncommitted balances. It should be noted that this is the focus of Wiltshire's current Scheme. Only those schools that have balances that exceed the permitted thresholds of 5% or 8% in secondary and primary / special schools respectively are required to justify their excessive balances.
7. The DfE have confirmed that they will not be issuing any further guidance to LAs on Controls on Surplus Balances schemes or on the level of school balances generally.
8. The majority of LAs in the south west continued to apply their schemes in 2011-12.

Main Considerations

9. Whilst the intention of the Scheme is not to claw-back excessive balances from schools, its operation has enabled the LA to monitor and challenge schools that have built up excessive reserves. This would be difficult if the Scheme was not in place.
10. Wiltshire schools balances have reduced from £13.9m in 2008-09 to £11.08m in 2010-11. This could be a consequence of the Scheme being in place. It should also be noted that the number of schools with excessive balances has reduced significantly over the past three years. In 2008-09 there were 92 schools with balances above the threshold, 51 in 2009-10 and 41 in 2010-11.
11. The value of excess balances has also reduced significantly between 2008-09 and 2010-11. In 2008-09 excess balances totalled £9.2m and in 2010-11 they totalled £5.3m, a reduction of 42%.
12. As one of the lowest funded LAs in the country making a case to the Government for increased funding may be difficult if schools are holding significant or increasing balances.
13. The Audit Commission's Valuable Lessons report on improving economy and efficiency in schools (2009) commented that excessive revenue balances represent an inefficient use of public money as retained funding is not being used to improve outcomes for children.
14. At a meeting on 15th November 2011 Schools Funding Working Group made the recommendation that Wiltshire should continue with the scheme for a further year.

Proposal

15. That Schools Forum considers the merits of continuing the Scheme or removing it.

Recommendation

16. That Schools Forum agree to continue with the Controls on Surplus Balances Scheme in 2012-13.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Director, Department for Children & Education

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this Report: NONE
Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this Report: NONE
KNOWN

*Report author: Phil Cooch., Schools Accounting & Budget Support Manager,
Children & Education Finance Team, Resources Department
Tel: 01225 713814 e-mail: philcooch@wiltshire.gov.uk*

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Wiltshire Council

School Services Group

1st December 2011

Supply Pool Insurance Scheme

Purpose of the paper

1. To raise School Forum's awareness of the current position of the Supply Pool Insurance Scheme.

Background

2. The Supply Pool Insurance scheme has been running for a number of years providing schools with insurance cover for sickness absence. In 2008-09 and 2009-10 the scheme was improved by a number of enhancements which will continue. One of these was a cashback arrangement whereby if a schools total year's claims are less than 50% of their premium, they will be entitled to a cashback payment (see paragraph 8d for further details).
3. The forecast balance on the Supply Pool at the end of 2011/12 is £1.152m (estimate as at 11 November). Assuming 50% cashback of £0.128m to be distributed in June 2012) or £1.023m if 100% cashback is paid of £0.257m. See Appendix A for details.
4. The Supply Pool is underwritten by external insurers, which provides protection under a Stop Loss policy to the extent that if claims exceed the underwriter's advised retained layer (set at £708,375 in 2010/11), the Local Authority can invoke the policy which will then cover further claims up to £300,000 in excess of the retained liability. It should be noted that stop loss cover does not apply to employees suspended without a sick note as this is a local arrangement.
5. Officers believe that it would not be prudent to retain a balance of less than £1m.

Main Considerations

6. The aim of the proposals set out below is to encourage schools to remain loyal to the LA SPI Scheme and to encourage new schools to join the scheme. Currently there are 155, 72% schools participating in the SPI Scheme, plus 2 academies.
7. Academies – The underwriters have confirmed that there is nothing in the Stop Loss policy which says that we cannot allow academies into the scheme.

Proposals

8. a) We believe the pool is in a position to continue with previous enhancements (para. 2)

b) We would like to offer 2012/13 Premiums at a 0% increase on 2011/12's prices.

c) Cashback payments should continue.

d) As above in para. 3 we have estimated the pool to be safely above the desired level to be able to afford the 2011/12 cashback in June 2012. This is estimated to leave £1.280m. This is £0.280m above our considered prudent retained level (£1m). We feel that we are able again this year to increase the cashback calculation as set in the 2011/12 policy from 50% to 100%

The formula to calculate the cashback is 50% of Schools premium-claims/divided by 2 = cashback balance e.g.

	Schools premium	<u>£10,000</u>
	Calculate 50% of premium	£ 5,000
	Minus claims for financial year	<u>-£ 1,000</u>
Cashback =	Balance (100%)	£ 4,000 (a)
Or	50% of the above balance	£ 2,000 (b)

9. The balance on the pool, at the end of 2012-13 is estimated to be £1.182m or £1.311m dependant on which option is chosen:

	100%	50%
	A £m	B £m
Opening balance April 2012 (incl June 2012 cashback)	£1.023	£1.152
Premiums (11/12's figure)	£0.883	£0.883
Stop loss cover	-£0.042	-£0.042
Admin and Management	-£0.028	-£0.028
10/11 Claims	-£0.526	-£0.526
10/11 Claims paid in 2011/12	-£0.128	-£0.128
Closing balance @ 31 March 2013	£1.182	£1.311

Recommendation

10. Schools Forum is asked to:

- Agree the proposals set out in this report, paragraph 8a) to d)
- To decide the basis of the cashback calculation ie 100% (a) or 50% (b)

CAROLYN GODFREY
Director, Department for Children & Education

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this Report: NONE

Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this Report: NONE
KNOWN

Report Author: Phil Cooch, C&E Finance Team

Tel: 01225 713814

e-mail: phil.cooch@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire County Council

Schools Forum

1st December 2011

School Financial Regulations 2012 consultation

Purpose of the paper

1. To inform Schools Forum of proposals by the DfE to change the current School Financial Regulations 2012. The current school finance regulations cover the 2011-12 financial year and therefore expire at 31 March 2012. The consultation sets out draft regulations which will be effective for the 2012-13 financial year only. As the DfE are not making major changes to the funding system in 12-13, there are few changes proposed

Summary of the changes

2. The following summarises the changes:

2.1 MFG Disapplications – To allow LAs to agree disapplications locally, subject to School Forum approval, where the secretary of state had agreed these unconditionally in 2011-12 and where they relate to factors where disapplications were consistently approved in 2011-2. These include Advanced Skills Teachers, SEN Units and site/school specific factors where the school's circumstances had changed.

To introduce an additional safeguard so that the continuation of exemptions agreed in previous years could only happen where the method of calculating the formula factor had not changed. This would protect schools more effectively against the effect of formula changes. *Comment: These proposals are helpful and should speed up MFG calculations for 2012-13.*

2.2 Pupil Premium for excluded pupils - During the debates on the Education Bill, Ministers gave a commitment that, where an excluded pupil attracts the pupil premium, this funding should move with the pupil as well as the age-weighted funding. *Comment: It is not clear if this change applies to both the free meals and the service school elements. Clarification has been sought from the DfE.*

2.3 Remissions of boarding fees - Section 458 of the Education Act 1996 provides that, in certain circumstances e.g. financial hardship or no other appropriate provision available, registered pupils boarding at maintained schools have the right to have their boarding fees remitted by the local authority for the area in which they would ordinarily reside were they not at boarding school. The current Education Bill will replicate this right for registered pupils boarding at Academies. The DfE has never previously advised on how this should be funded but are now introducing a specific category of allowable central expenditure within the central schools budget. *Comment: This is a technical change. No issue.*

Recommendation

3. Schools Forum is asked to note the above changes.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Director, Department for Children & Education

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this Report: NONE
Environmental impact of the recommendations contained in this Report: NONE
KNOWN

*Report author: Phil Cooch., Schools Accounting & Budget Support Manager,
Children & Education Finance Team,
Tel: 01225 713814
e-mail: philcooch@wiltshire.gov.uk*

WILTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

SCHOOLS FORUM

01 December 2011

SECTION 251: COMPARISON OF LOCAL AUTHORITY SPENDING 2011/12

Introduction

- 1 This report informs the Schools Forum of the information published in September by the Department for Education (DfE), based on the section 251 returns for all Local Authorities (LA) and giving the planned expenditure comparison for 2011/12.

Background

- 2 Under Section 251 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, the Secretary of State is obliged to publish comparative details of every LA's expenditure on education and social care.

Section 251: Comparison of Budgeted Expenditure by LAs

3. Benchmarking data on LA expenditure was published by the DfE in September. This consisted of a number of tables, all of which are available on the DfE website or from the DfE Finance Team should members wish to study the detail. The DfE tables show both gross and net budgeted expenditure per pupil for each LA in respect of all lines included in the Section 251 Budget 2011/12 Return. The net (or gross) budgeted expenditure for education services is calculated by dividing the net planned expenditure by the total full time equivalent for all pupils aged 3 to 19 on roll, including those three and four year olds in private, voluntary and independent settings, whose places were funded by the LA. For non education services the population aged 0-17 is used.
4. A further table published by the DfE gives year on year comparisons for certain lines on the Section 251 return. A copy of the main items from this table comparing Wiltshire with its statistical neighbours for Children's Services is included at Appendix 2 to this report.
5. As in 2010/11 the data has been presented for schools forum showing the trend from 2007/08 (where available) to 2011/12 compared with the national average for all authorities and with the average for Wiltshire's Children's Services statistical neighbours. The data is shown both as data tables and graphically in Appendix 1. It is hoped that showing the data in this format will help to identify any trends as well as areas where Wiltshire is similar or different from other authorities.
6. For the purposes of this analysis Wiltshire's statistical neighbours are:

Shropshire
Worcestershire
Hampshire
West Berkshire
Oxfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Suffolk
Somerset
Dorset
Gloucestershire

7. For some tables within Appendix 1 data has only been captured on the return since 2008/09.

Analysis of the tables

Schools Budget

The main findings in relation to the Schools Budget are that :

8. Funding levels – Wiltshire has the lowest Guaranteed Unit of Funding of the 11 LAs in the group, this is the per pupil amount used in the DSG calculation and therefore the level of funding coming in to Wiltshire is lower than its comparator authorities. The range is £4,593 (Wiltshire) to £4,891 (West Berkshire). In comparison to this, the Individual Schools Budget (ISB) per pupil delegated to Wiltshire Schools is the 5th highest in the group indicating that more funding is delegated in Wiltshire than some comparator authorities.
9. In Wiltshire the increase in primary ISB (per pupil) from 2010/11 to 2011/12 is the highest in the comparator group and the increase in Secondary and Special ISB the second highest. This could reflect differences in approaches to delegating mainstream grants but is also likely to reflect the fact that a number of authorities applied the negative Minimum Funding Guarantee (MFG) to schools budgets in 2011/12 which did not happen in Wiltshire. The increase in SEN delegation will also have had an impact.
10. Wiltshire has 5% of primary schools and 5% of secondary schools receiving the MFG. The range within the comparator group is 4% to 60% for primary schools and 0 to 31% for secondary schools. No special schools in Wiltshire receive the MFG and the range across the group is 0 to 50%.
11. Wiltshire's central expenditure is 99% of the allowable limit. Wiltshire would appear to be only 1 of 3 authorities in the group who has not exceeded the Central Expenditure Limit.
12. In previous years Wiltshire has benchmarked high for centrally retained SEN funding within the Schools budget. Following the SEN review, the reduction in the Independent Special Schools budget and reinvestment of £1.4 million in to the delegated budget this position has changed and Wiltshire is now 6th out of 11 for centrally retained SEN funding and spending is in line with the national average.
13. The additional information table (Appendix 2) shows expenditure on independent special schools and PRUs per head of the relevant population. For independent special school placements the expenditure is divided by the number of pupils recorded on the Alternative Provision Census within non-maintained and independent special schools. Wiltshire's expenditure per pupil is the 4th highest when looking at gross expenditure and the 3rd highest when considering net expenditure. The difference between net and gross is potentially the result of the level of contributions from other budgets including social care and health. Given the reduction in numbers of placements it could be suggested that the relatively high cost of placements compared with some statistical neighbours is a result of only those young people with the most complex needs being placed out of county. This year Wiltshire has joined the CIPFA SEN Benchmarking Club which will give comparative data on placements in the independent sector and comparative data on maintained special schools – this data will be shared when it is available.
14. For expenditure on PRUs Wiltshire ranks 5th out of 11 authorities when expenditure is divided by pupils solely on the role of the YPSS – dual and subsidiary registrations are excluded. There is a considerable range in expenditure per pupil across the comparator authorities and this may reflect different practice in terms of whether pupils are recorded on the roll of the PRU as well as different delivery models. The unit cost for Wiltshire when using only pupils on the roll of YPSS is £47,108. This would be considerably lower when including pupils who are dually registered with the service.

15. Hourly spend on the free entitlement for 3 and 4 year olds in Wiltshire shows as the lowest across the statistical neighbour group at £2.72 per hour. This has been investigated and an error identified within the benchmarking information. The correct hourly rate for Wiltshire should record as £3.85 and the lower figure arises due to the double counting of the deprivation and rurality hours in the calculation. What isn't clear is whether this error has occurred across all authorities or whether it is in issue with how Wiltshire has completed the return.

LA Funded Services

16. Wiltshire still spends above the national average and the average for statistical neighbours on LA funded SEN services which include the Psychology Service, Speech and Language Therapy, Statutory SEN and administration and management, although the gap with the national average has narrowed considerably in 2011/12 and reflects savings achieved within central services in the 2011/12 business plan.
17. Expenditure on School Improvement has decreased across all authorities although the reduction in Wiltshire is less than the average for statistical neighbours or the national average. This may reflect differing approaches across LAs in responding to government reductions in funding and to the new academy regime. Wiltshire has prioritised investment in narrowing attainment gaps within its business plan for 2011/12 and 2012/13.

Proposal

18. Schools Forum is invited to note this report.

CAROLYN GODFREY
Director, Department for Children and Education

Unpublished documents relied upon in the production of this Report: None

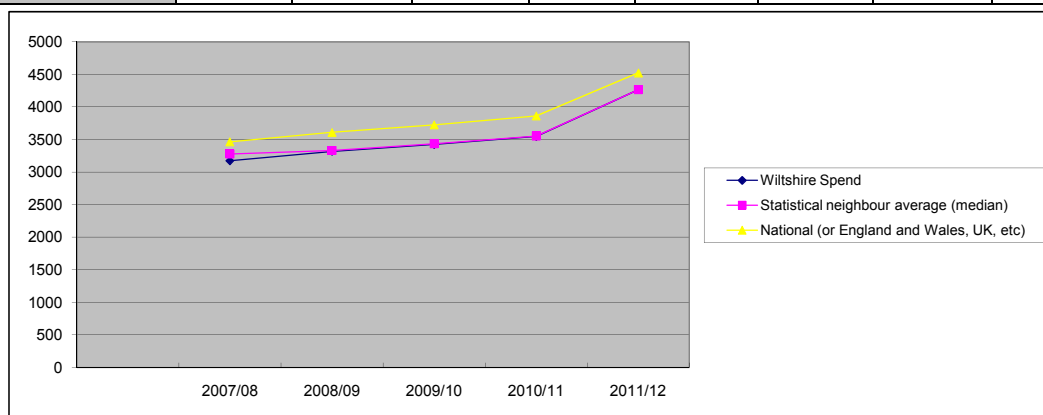
Report Author: Elizabeth Williams, Head of Finance (DCE)
Telephone 01225 713675
Email elizabetha.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk

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Wiltshire Section 251 Benchmarking 2011-12 - NET Expenditure

Section 251 Line	Individual Schools Budget
Definition	<i>Line 1.0.1 Individual Schools Budget per pupil</i>

Table of data								
Financial year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12			
Wiltshire Spend	3176	3320	3426	3549	4268			
Statistical neighbour average (median)	3278	3334	3435	3555	4268			
National (or England and Wales, UK, etc)	3465	3610	3726	3864	4526			



Describe the data to pick out features of performance and trends compared to other Local Authorities and National performance

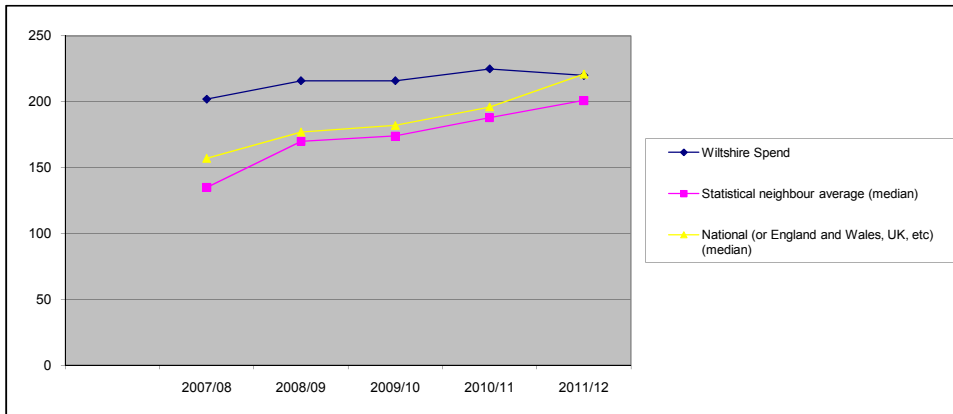
2010/11	<p>Funding Delegated to schools in Wiltshire is lower than the national average. This would be expected as funding received by the county is lower than more urban authorities, for example and lower than its statistical neighbours. Comparison with statistical neighbours shows Wiltshire is now in line with the average for similar authorities in terms of the amount delegated to schools. increased delegation of SEN funding to Primary Schools will have contributed to this, the position may also be affected by the way in which mainstreamed grants were delegated (although this should be reflected in all authorities and accounts for the overall increase in total in each case) and the fact that Wiltshire did not apply an negative inflation adjustment to schools budgets in 2011/12 when a number of other LAs did.</p>
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Data Source:	
<i>Section 52/251 Benchmarking - line 1.0.1. includes school budget share comprising DSG and LSC allocations</i>	
Date of completion	22/11/2011
Completed by	Liz Williams

Wiltshire Section 251 Benchmarking 2011-12 - NET Expenditure

Section 251 Line	Lines 1.2.1 to 1.2.8 - Schools Budget SEN
Definition	Schools Budget SEN (not including PRUs, behaviour support, education out of school) £ / pupil (sum of lines 1.2.1 to 1.2.8)

Table of data							
Financial year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Wiltshire Spend	202	216	216	225	220		
Statistical neighbour average (median)	135	170	174	188	201		
National (or England and Wales, UK, etc) (median)	157	177	182	196	221		



Describe the data to pick out features of performance and trends compared to other Local Authorities and National performance

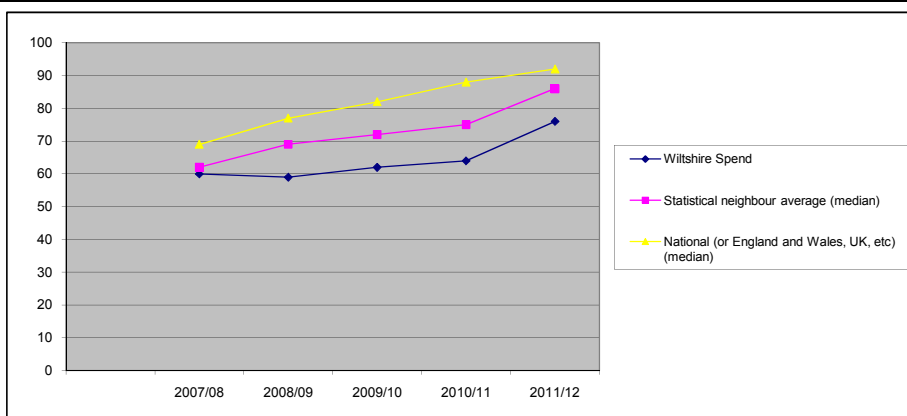
2010/11	Expenditure on SEN retained centrally within DSG is now in line with the national average. In previous years Wiltshire has benchmarked as retaining more funding centrally than the average for statistical neighbours and than the national average. The reduction in expenditure on external placements and the increased delegation of SEN funding to mainstream primary schools, in addition to investment in Wiltshire's special schools have brought Wiltshire in to line with other authorities.
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Date of completion	22/11/2011
Completed by	Liz Williams

Wiltshire Section 251 Benchmarking 2011-12 - NET Expenditure

Section 251 Line	Lines 1.3.1 to 1.3.3 Behaviour Support
Definition	PRUs/ Behaviour Support/ Education Otherwise £ / pupil (Sum of 1.3.1 to 1.3.3)

Table of data							
Financial year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12		
Wiltshire Spend	60	59	62	64	76		
Statistical neighbour average (median)	62	69	72	75	86		
National (or England and Wales, UK, etc) (median)	69	77	82	88	92		



Describe the data to pick out features of performance and trends compared to other Local Authorities and National performance

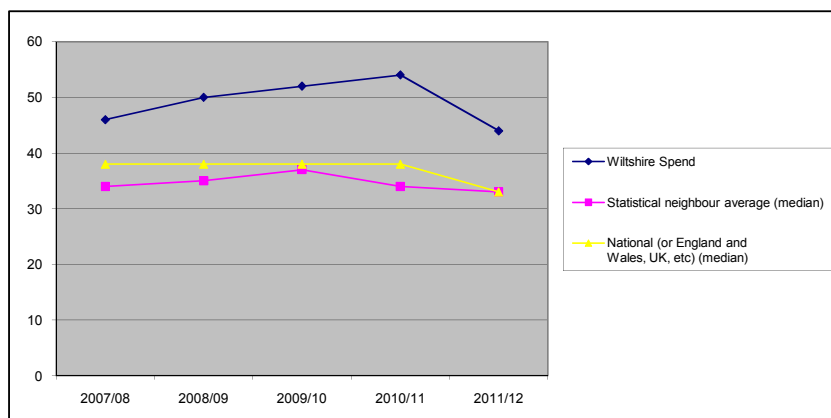
2010/11	Wiltshire spend is lower than statistical neighbours as in previous years.
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Date of completion	22/11/2011
Completed by	Liz Williams

Wiltshire Section 251 Benchmarking 2011-12 - NET Expenditure

Section 251 Line	Line 2.0.6 SEN - non Schools Budget
Definition	<i>SEN Expenditure by the LA - includes Psychology Service, SEN Administration, Assessment and Co-ordination, Therapies (Speech & Language), Parent Partnership, Monitoring of SEN Provison</i>

Table of data								
Financial year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12			
Wiltshire Spend	46	50	52	54	44			
Statistical neighbour	34	35	37	34	33			
National (or England and	38	38	38	38	33			



Describe the data to pick out features of performance and trends compared to other Local Authorities and National performance

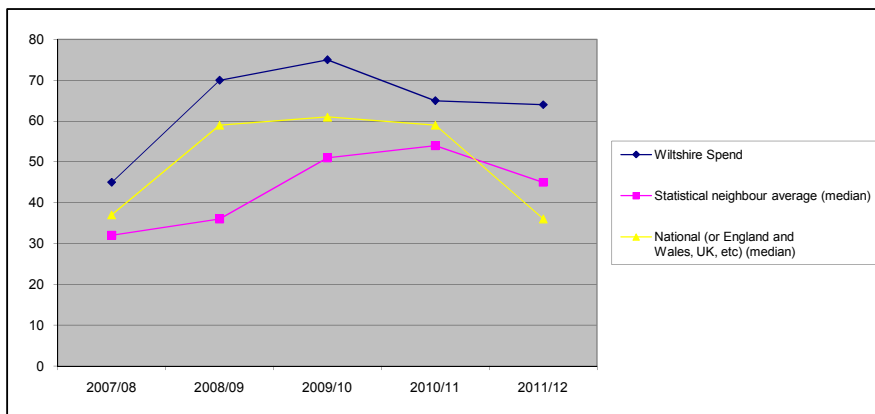
2010/11 Wiltshire spends above the national average and the average for statistical neighbours on SEN however spend in 2011/12 has reduced and is closer to the average. Savings have been made through the Management review and restructure of DCE and not in front line services.

Date of completion	22/11/2011
Completed by	Liz Williams

Wiltshire Section 251 Benchmarking 2011-12 - NET Expenditure

Section 251 Line	Line 2.1.9 School Improvement
Definition	School Improvement Services

Table of data								
Financial year	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12			
Wiltshire Spend	45	70	75	65	64			
Statistical neighbour average (median)	32	36	51	54	45			
National (or England and Wales, UK, etc) (median)	37	59	61	59	36			



Describe the data to pick out features of performance and trends compared to other Local Authorities and National performance

2010/11	<p>Pattern of spend shows a wide gap between spend in Wiltshire compared with statistical neighbours - gap narrowing in 2010/11. Spend in 2010/11 was more reflective of the national pattern but higher.</p> <p>The benchmarking data shows all authorities to have made reductions in their School Improvement expenditure, the reduction in Wiltshire is not as marked. this may reflect differing approaches in authorities towards reductions in LA spend following Government reductions and differing approaches to the new Academy regime.</p>
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Date of completion	22/11/2011
Completed by	Liz Williams

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LA Benchmarking Tables 2011-12 - Additional Information Table

Statistical Neighbours
Additional Information Table

To print: use the buttons below.

Col 1

Col 4

Col 5

Col 6

Col 8

Col 10

Col 11

Col 12

Col 13

2011-12 DSG Guaranteed Unit of Funding £ / pupil	Increase in primary ISB per pupil from 2010-11 to 2011-12	Increase in secondary ISB per pupil from 2010-11 to 2011-12	Increase in special ISB per pupil from 2010-11 to 2011-12	Primary/secondary ratio of planned expenditure per pupil (Total Schools budget) for 2011-12	Percentage of primary schools receiving Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2011-12	Percentage of secondary schools receiving Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2011-12	Percentage of special schools receiving Minimum Funding Guarantee for 2011-12	Central Expenditure from the Schools Budget as a proportion of allowed limit for 2011- 12 ¹
4,398	n/a	n/a	n/a	80%	21%	14%	17%	#N/A
5,000	485	739	1,493	79%	15%	10%	0%	116%
4,429	377	336	65,054	53%	0%	0%	0%	73%
8,052	94,572	43,940	107,062	111%	99%	100%	100%	361%
4,661	522	556	1,230	81%	23%	5%	0%	112%
4,593	132	501	1,235	69%	4%	0%	0%	89%
4,891	605	710	3,361	87%	60%	31%	50%	229%
4,612	551	550	1,235	83%	54%	23%	0%	117%
4,601	590	556	115	84%	25%	5%	0%	112%
4,648	503	710	1,671	80%	36%	13%	18%	102%
4,891	522	506	1,474	69%	23%	0%	0%	100%
4,758	443	501	2,213	83%	4%	0%	0%	123%
4,644	405	551	1,040	75%	5%	4%	0%	229%
4,678	132	516	1,230	87%	38%	5%	0%	201%
4,668	485	641	3,361	86%	23%	15%	0%	118%
4,883	529	560	315	78%	21%	3%	0%	99%
4,661	584	583	1,226	69%	60%	31%	50%	101%
4,593	605	645	2,628	81%	5%	5%	0%	99%
11	1	2	2	6	10	6	10	10

^ denotes zero pupils/ population in this category
 * denotes pupil/population figures are not available
 - Pupil numbers in this category are zero in either or both years
 ** No ISB scored in either or both years
 Figures are rounded so may not sum
 England figures do not include data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly
 1. assumes that all mainstream grants in 2010-11 were delegated
 2. divisor includes all pupils aged 3-19 at NMSS, independents and Hospital on 2011 AP census
 3. divisor includes all pupils aged 3-19 from 2011 PRU census, but excludes dual subsidiary registrations

LA Benchmarking Tables 2011-12 - Additional Information Table

Statistical Neighbourhoods
Additional Information Table

To print use the buttons below.

	Col 14	Col 15	Col 17	Col 20	Col 21	Col 23	Col 26
	Further gross per capita breakdown (Selected lines from Table 1 divided by relevant pupils/ population)						
	Further net per capita breakdown (Selected lines from Table 1 divided by relevant pupils/ population)						
	Pupils at independent special schools & abroad (line 1.2.4) and fees to independent schools for pupils without SEN (line 1.2.6) (£)²	Pupil referral units (line 1.3.1) (£)³	Home to school transport: SEN transport expenditure (line 1.2.4) and SEN transport (line 1.2.5) (£)⁴	Pupils at independent special schools & abroad (line 1.2.4) and fees to independent schools for pupils without SEN (line 1.2.6) (£)³	Pupil referral units (line 1.3.1) (£)³	Home to school transport: SEN transport expenditure (line 2.1.3) + SEN transport (line 1.2.5) (£)⁵	Hourly Spend on Early Years Free Entitlement (aggregated from School Table) (£)
ENGLAND - Average (mean)	47,775	30,514	2,461	46,607	29,269	2,405	3,551
ENGLAND - Average (median)	53,978	30,068	2,433	52,185	29,511	2,309	3,566
ENGLAND - Minimum	35	3,825	36	35	3,825	36	1,051
ENGLAND - Maximum	162,435	447,099	7,405	162,435	447,099	4,954	1,917,141
Average (median)	61,592	45,428	2,636	60,661	42,805	2,636	3,701
Minimum	43,771	23,624	1,946	43,771	23,160	1,946	2,721
Maximum	114,659	361,030	4,087	114,659	320,786	4,087	2,082,291
893 Shropshire	61,592	23,624	2,570	61,592	23,624	2,470	2,082,291
885 Worcestershire	500,19	49,048	2,636	49,932	49,021	2,636	124,321
850 Hampshire	43,771	45,428	3,348	43,771	45,428	3,348	3,781
869 West Berkshire	5,771	28,835	2,435	5,771	28,835	2,434	3,781
931 Oxfordshire	11,465	24,168	3,211	11,465	24,141	3,207	3,711
873 Cambridgeshire	62,709	361,030	2,150	61,822	320,786	2,126	3,701
935 Suffolk	54,693	41,830	1,946	54,693	41,830	1,946	3,701
933 Somerset	45,321	54,756	4,087	45,321	53,680	4,087	3,521
894 Dorset	72,763	25,830	3,601	72,763	23,160	3,601	3,321
874 Gloucestershire	71,858	70,069	2,865	71,858	70,089	2,726	3,251
892 Wiltshire	70,739	47,108	2,575	70,739	42,805	2,556	2,721
	4	5	7	3	6	7	11

¹ denotes zero pupils/ population in this category

² denotes pupil/population figures are not available

³ Pupil numbers in this category are zero in either or both years

⁴ No ISB record in either or both years

Figures are rounded so may not sum

England figures do not include data for City of London and the Isles of Scilly
 1. assumes that all mainstreamed grants in 2010-11 were delegated
 2. divisor includes all pupils aged 3-19 at NMSS, independent and Hospital
 3. divisor includes all pupils aged 3-19 from 2011 PRU census, but excludes