

Education Walsall

Schools Forum

13 June 2006

Deprivation Statement

1. **Purpose of the Report**

The purpose of the report is to distribute a final version of the Deprivation Statement to members of the Forum.

2. **Background**

A working group of Forum members worked with staff from Education Walsall on the composition of a Deprivation Statement, providing detail of how funds are directed towards schools teaching pupils from deprived backgrounds.

The final statement is attached to this report for information.

The DfES is currently examining statements from all Local Authorities and will in due course report back on the findings of the exercise. The Schools Forum will be kept up to date with developments. In the light of the findings, some changes to the formula may be desired by the Forum in future.

3. **Recommendation**

That the Report is received.

EDUCATION WALSALL

Deprivation Statement

Policy and practice in funding schools for the costs arising from deprivation amongst their pupils.

1. Context

Walsall has a total school population of 48,297. Of this population 41,739 children are of compulsory school age. The Authority is served by 8 nurseries, 9 infant, 9 junior, 72 primary and 20 secondary schools, one of which is an Academy. There are also 8 special schools in the Borough. 20.7% of pupils are entitled to claim Free School Meals.

There are 20 Electoral Wards in the Borough several are deprived wards and Blakenall is registered with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister as being within the 100 most deprived wards in the country. Many families of minority ethnic origin have made their home in Walsall and schools meet the needs of Bangladeshi, Afro-Caribbean pupils and other young people, for whom English is not their first language. There is also a large Pakistani community in Walsall, many of whom are Mir Puri by culture and language. Deprivation statistics for this community show particularly high indices of need.

Standards, although improving, continue below the National Average and in many cases below the performance of Statistical Neighbours. In 2005, GCSE A*-C pass rates in Walsall were lower than all except one of the ten boroughs classed as statistical neighbours.

For examples, the proportion of pupils in LEA schools attaining Level 4+ in KS2 English has risen from 71% in 2003 to 77% in 2005; similarly the proportion for Maths rose from 65% to 70%. This compares to the 2005 national average of 79% in English and 75% in Maths.

44% of pupils stay at school or college after the age of 16. 79.4% of entrants achieve at least two 'A' level passes, allowing them access to further and higher education courses.

Walsall's diverse profile means that several bids for regeneration funding have been successful. In particular 10 primary schools are in the New Deal area, where families benefit not only from special programmes for education, but also from programmes related to anti-poverty strategies and work readiness initiatives. The council attracts additional funding from The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund which is administered by the Walsall Borough Strategic Partnership.

Walsall's Funding Formula has been drawn up in the light of this contextual background.

2. Consultation and Inclusion of Social Deprivation in Walsall's Funding Formula for Schools

A consultation exercise on revisions to the formula was undertaken in Walsall in the Autumn term 2003. Consultation ended in January 2004. The consultation was wide ranging, involving Headteachers, Education Walsall and the Council. A copy of the consultation document is available on the Education Walsall web site.

As a result of the consultation it was recognised that compensation for pupil deprivation was largely recognised in the formula through the element identified for Additional Educational Needs. Traditionally, that factor was linked to funding provided for pupils with High Incidence/Low Need Special Educational Needs. As a result of the consultation it was decided that:

- Funding for high incidence/low need Special Educational Needs should be separated from funding for Additional Educational Need
- Include a social deprivation factor into the formula
- Recognise that there is an escalating level of need arising from social disadvantage in the Borough and that it varies from school to school

As a result of the consultation **£1,300,000** was identified as a sum to be driven out through the formula, specifically to address deprivation in the 2004/05 year. The same methodology was used in the 2005/06 year where, when increased for inflation, the amount identified for deprivation increased to **£1,500,000**.

It is also of note that for the financial years 2004/05 and 2005/06 Learning Commission funding of £3m has been available to support schools in meeting education floor targets. The Learning Commission invested in 26% of their available budget in Children's Centres.

Education Walsall was restricted in the amount of money that could be directed towards deprivation, due to Damping in the total grant available for Education. Walsall is funded at a level some £9m below assessed level of need due to a funding ceiling introduced by DfES.

3. How Deprivation is identified in Walsall

It was recognised that any proxy indicator for deprivation would have to be transparent and readily accessible. Two proxy indicators have been trialled in Walsall: eligibility for Free School Meals and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's Index of Multiple Deprivation. FSM information is readily available, as it is an element collected in PLASC, it was seen as a more transparent indicator.

Inspection of Fischer Family Trust data for 2005 shows a significant difference in the attainment of children eligible for free school meals in comparison with the attainment of their peers, not eligible for free school meals, at all key stages.

This information confirms a correlation between eligibility for FSM and subsequent attainment, suggesting that eligibility for Free school meals is a valid proxy indicator to use for the distribution of funds to compensate for deprivation.

KS1	Reading			Writing			Maths		
	% L2+	% L2B+	% L3+	% L2+	% L2B+	% L3+	% L2+	% L2B+	% L3+
FSM	71.9%	53.2%	10.7%	68.0%	41.4%	5.5%	80.3%	56.0%	10.9%
Non-FSM	85.7%	72.9%	25.8%	83.3%	61.9%	14.5%	91.7%	74.8%	22.3%

KS2	English		Maths		Science	
	% L4+	% L5+	% L4+	% L5+	% L4+	% L5+
FSM	62.9%	12.2%	54.8%	11.9%	70.5%	22.7%
Non-FSM	81.2%	29.3%	75.1%	30.3%	87.1%	45.3%

KS3	English		Maths		Science	
	% L5+	% L6+	% L5+	% L6+	% L5+	% L6+
FSM	48.8%	10.1%	45.9%	19.6%	35.1%	9.6%
Non-FSM	75.3%	33.4%	73.9%	51.1%	69.2%	34.2%

KS4	% 5+ A*-C Passes	% 5+ A*-C Passes (inc Eng & Maths)	% 5+ A*-G Passes	% 5+ A*-G Passes (inc Eng & Maths)	Points Score	Points Score (capped - best 8)
	FSM	24.2%	12.8%	71.9%	66.6%	25.87
Non-FSM	51.3%	39.5%	88.0%	84.8%	40.84	33.81

Although there is a large population in the Borough for whom English is not a first language, the distribution of the Ethnic Minority Achievement Grant in Walsall has been based on 'Distance to Travel' in terms of attainment, to the Walsall average for pupils. No analysis has yet been undertaken regarding the incidence of deprivation linked to use of English as an additional language.

The DSG allocation to schools for 2006/07 includes an element for Personalised Learning. The Schools Forum decided to adopt a methodology where prior attainment, deprivation and pupil numbers were the main drivers in the formula. The model adopted by the forum included a deprivation factor of 50%.

4. Impact on Walsall Schools

For illustrative purposes the following tables have been prepared to show the divergent effect of deprivation funding on some secondary and some primary schools in Walsall. The schools selected are 'typical' of those serving deprived and more affluent wards.

Secondary schools

School Name	Pupils above min school age eligible for FSM	Number on Roll of min school age	% FSM Eligible	Social Deprivation Allocation (£)	WARD	IDACI score	KS2-4 CVA 2005
Aldridge School – A Science College	79	1287	6.1	14,240	Aldridge Central & South	0.11	978.5
Blue Coat CE Comp	155	898	17.3	26,166	St Matthews	0.38	1002.7
Frank F Harrison	234	762	30.7	38,092	Birchills Leamore	0.44	1026.0
School Name	Pupils above min school age eligible for FSM	Number on Roll of min school age	% FSM Eligible	Social Deprivation Allocation (£)	WARD	IDACI score	KS2-4 CVA 2005
Queen Mary's Grammar School	13	477	2.7	2,314	Paddock	0.26	1003.0
St Francis of Assisi RC Technology College	54	890	6.1	6,586	Aldridge Central & South	0.07	990.7
St Thomas More RC School	185	1199	15.4	25,988	Willenhall South	0.44	982.8

Primary schools

School Name	Pupils above min school age eligible for FSM	Number on Roll of min school age	% FSM Eligible	Social Deprivation Allocation (£)	WARD	IDACI score	KS2-4 CVA 2005
Blakenall Health Junior	105	200	52.5	16,198	Blakenall	0.34	99.3
Caldmore Community Primary	80	208	38.5	17,9878	St Matthews	0.23	101.5
Leighswood	38	481	7.9	3,916	Aldridge Central & South	0.06	99.6
North Walsall Primary	77	171	45.0	17,800	St Matthews	0.50	99.7
St Anne's Catholic Primary	1	201	0.5	356	Streetly	0.03	100.7
Whetstone Field Primary	6	215	2.8	1,246	Aldridge Central & South	0.03	100.2

For Secondary schools Fischer family trust data confirms that, for the exemplar schools used in this paper, those receiving additional funding to compensate for deprivation produced scores classified as at least average and in two cases significantly above the 5+A*-C scores predicted for their pupil populations.

In Primary schools the mean key stage grades for core subjects at key stage two (L4+) are classified as at least average and in some cases significantly above the rate of predicted performance.