



**Walsall Council**

**Walsall Children's Services**

**Report to:** Schools Forum

**Date:** 11 March 2014

**Subject:** Approval of Central Expenditure (including Early Years)

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**Purpose of the report:** For Schools Forum to approve Central Expenditure as determined by the EFA and described in the School and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013

**Recommendations:** See final section of report

## 1. Background

1.1 The Schools and Early Years Finance (England) Regulations 2013 state that “A local authority must not deduct the expenditure referred to in Part 1 (Central Services), Part 2 (Central Schools Expenditure), Part 3 (Central Early Years Expenditure) or Part 5 (Items That May Be Removed From Maintained Schools Budget Shares) of Schedule 2 without authorisation from their schools forum under regulation 12 (1), or from the Secretary of State under regulation 12 (3)

1.2 This report gives the background to what Walsall Council proposes to deduct this year and seeks authorisation from Schools Form. It is important to note that in most cases these services are as last year.

## 2. Items Under Part 1 (Central Services)

2.1 **Table 1** highlights the proposed central services

Activity	Cost in 14/15	Comment
Schools Admissions	£240,839	This is the same level as in 2013/14.
Music Service	£38,000	This was already agreed by Schools Forum at the 3 December 2013 meeting and is the same as last year
Advanced Skills Teacher	£10,000	This is the same as last year.
Servicing Schools Forum and Admissions Appeals	£16,478	This is the same as last year. This is approx £5k direct costs associated with Schools Forum and c£11k associated with staff time for admissions appeals and servicing Schools Forum. This is the same as last year.

2.2 Under the regulations, these costs may not increase. If these budgets are reduced, then they will not be able to be increased in future years based on current legislation.

## 3. Items Under part 2 (Central Schools Expenditure)

3.1 **Table 2** highlights these areas of spend:

**Table 2**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost in 14/15</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Copyright Licensing Agency central license	£43,000	This is classed as an exception agreed with the Secretary of State in 13/14 but is a license for the benefit of all schools including academies. This is budgeted at the same level to 13/14
Pupil Growth	£67,470	This is to cover the increase in roll at Caldmore, Hilary and King Charles

3.2 In 2013/14 cost for Carbon reduction was also included here but that is no longer applicable in 2014/15.

#### **4. Part 3 (Central Early Years Expenditure)**

4.1 **Table 3** highlights these areas of expenditure

**Table 3**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Cost in 14/15</b>	<b>Comment</b>
Early Years Contingency	£300,000	This is the same as 2013/14 and funds termly changes in pupil numbers for 3 and 4 year olds
Expenditure on Children under 5	£460,000	This includes various staff activities supporting under 5's. This has increased from a projection of £310k in 2013/14 due to higher activity levels because of 2 year old funding (equally there is much higher funding because there are more 2 year olds).
Carry over trajectory funding	£, 883,187	This funding was agreed by Schools Forum in January 2014 to be carried over and ring fenced for 2 year olds at a level of £800k. It is still believed to be c£800k but authorisation is sort for <b>up to £883,187</b> if planned spend is not finalised before year end.
14/15 Trajectory Funding	£634,844	This funding is specifically identified by EFA in the DSG figures published in December

4.2 There will be no further trajectory funding in 15/16 and we are unsure at this time how 2 year old funding will operate,

## **5. Recommendations**

5.1 That Schools Forum approve Tables 1, 2 and 3 to form the basis for central expenditure for the 2014/14 financial year.

5.2 Schools Forum note the low level of central retained funds compared to previous years

5.3 Schools Forum note that Part 5 areas are the de-delegated funds that were reported and approved by Schools Forum in October 2013.