

POLICY REVIEW AND PERFORMANCE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

MINORITY ETHNIC ACHIEVEMENT GRANT – 2015/2016

Background

The Welsh Government budget strategy for 2015/2016 included changes to Education Grant funding previously provided to Local Authorities which combined 11* existing individual grants into a single funding stream for 2015-16: the new Education Improvement Grant (EIG) The All-Wales allocation of funding for the EIG for the 2015/2016 financial year is 10% lower (from a total of £156m in 14/15 to £141m in 15/16) than the combined funding streams of the 11 previous grants for 2014 /15 that have now been combined into the EIG.

This combining of grants was preceded in the 2014/2015 financial year by an in-year cut in the Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant (MEAG) and School Effectiveness Grant. In Cardiff the in-year cut to the MEAG was £660,000.

Welsh Government have confirmed the conditions of the EIG for which there is now one grant offer rather than 11, they have tied the outcomes of the grant to Education consortia business planning in order to avoid duplication and any unnecessary work. Within the grant conditions there are Strategic outcomes that relate to WG, Qualified for Life framework and concentrate on the WG Minister's three priorities of improving literacy, improving numeracy and reducing the link between achievement and poverty.

MEAG Funding for 2015/2016

Working with other Directors in the Consortium agreement has been reached that there would be a continuity of funding for each element of previous funding streams. A separate element of funding has been allocated for MEAG and in 2015/2016 Cardiff will receive an allocation of £4.003m for this provision, a decrease of £445k from the 14/15 allocation of £4.448m.

Cardiff Provision

Historically the Ethnic Minority Service in Cardiff has employed a large number of staff; teachers and bi-lingual teaching assistants to support schools in assisting pupils with language acquisition. Three years ago Cardiff started a pilot with 5 schools; three primary and two high schools which provided the financial resource to those schools to employ staff directly. This has been successful and within the context of a reducing resource, a growing population and an increasing diversity of language support required (within Cardiff there are 93 ethnic groups, speaking 118 home languages, with over 160 dialects), the Directorate will be exploring, during this Summer Term, the feasibility of rolling this pilot out across the City. This would lead to a much smaller central team focussing on challenge, support and training of school based staff.

Nick Batchelar

Director of Education and Lifelong Learning

Note *

- 11 Grants that have been combined to form the Education Improvement Grant
 - Foundation Phase Grant
 - Learning Pathways 14-19 Grant
 - School Effectiveness Grant
 - Welsh in Education Grant
 - Gypsy Travellers Grant
 - Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant
 - Band 4 & 5 Schools Grant
 - Lead Practitioner Grant
 - Support for Literacy and Numeracy Grant
 - HLTA Grant
 - Induction Grant