

MEETING	SCHOOLS BUDGET FORUM
DATE	25 June 2013
HEADING	Devolving Additional Services for Schools
PURPOSE	Consider which services should be considered to be devolved by 2014/15
RECOMMENDATION	
REPORT BY	Dewi R Jones, Head of Education
CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION	Cllr Sian Gwenllian

(A) Background

In his statements, the Minister for Education has clearly expressed a desire to see more funding being transferred to schools.

The Welsh Local Government Association and the Wales Directors of Education Association (WLGA/ADEW) have given a pledge that the delegated percentage will be increased to 80% by 2012/2013 and then to 85% by 2014/2015.

In 2011/12, the Welsh Government (WG) calculated that Gwynedd Council had devolved 75.2% of the school's element of the Education (gross of specific grants) budget (Welsh average 76.2%).

Through devolving Integration, Cognition and Learning and Catering services funding to Primary Schools, the devolved funding was increased to 80.4% in 2012/13.

Following a review of Education specific grants for 2013/14, it was found that an element of the grants did not relate to school age pupils education or occurred within a school. The outcome of the review was the adjustment of the basis for completion of the Welsh Government budget forms that led to increasing the delegated percentage to 82.25% for 2013/14.

(B) 85% in 2014/15

There is a need to reach a devolved percentage of 85% by 2014/15 if the pledge is to be honoured.

With the percentage in Gwynedd standing at 82.25% in 2013/14, **there will be a need to devolve additional funding equivalent to £2.8 million in 2014/15** (roughly in Gwynedd, increasing devolving by 1% equates to devolving £1million).

Enclosed is a spreadsheet (Appendix 1) that indicates schools 'central' education services in 2013/14.

The Schools Funding Forum is asked to deliberate over this matter and state which service(s) that the Education Department should consider devolving by 2014/15.

It is intended to consult with all schools in Gwynedd on this issue at the beginning of the 2013 Autumn term.