

MEETING	SCHOOLS FINANCE FORUM
DATE	03 November 2014
TITLE	Schools' Balances
PURPOSE	Gwynedd schools' balances in a national context
RECOMMENDATION	To raise awareness
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CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION	Councillor Gareth Thomas

Wales Government Publication (SDR 173/2014)

Comments

1. I have already reported to the previous meeting of the School Budget Forum (18/6/14) on the very slight increase in Gwynedd schools balances from £3.753m on the 31 March 2013 to £3.777m on the 31 March 2014.
2. Following the recent publication by Wales Government of school balances as at 31 March 2014 (Appendix 1) there is an opportunity to compare Gwynedd schools balances with other Welsh Local Authorities.
3. Table 2 of Appendix 1 shows Gwynedd schools balances as a percentage of delegated budgets at 4.4% compared to a Wales average of 2.8%, with Gwynedd's percentage continuing to be amongst the highest in Wales.
4. Appendix 1 - Table 6 shows that 6% of Gwynedd's schools have negative balances, in comparison with 13% nationally. Of course the aim is that none of our schools should have negative balances.

Conclusion

1. The comparatively high level of balances in Gwynedd schools continues to cause concern as **some schools** do not, it would appear, make the best use of the finance available for pupils who are currently within the education system. This matter has previously been highlighted on numerous occasions by the Cabinet Member for Education.