

2016/17 Budget Consultation

Education & Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee – 19th January, 2016

Member Comment/Question	Response
<p>Within the service business plan proposals it identified £523,000 savings. This differs to the £741,000 savings which were initially identified in December, 2015. Could an explanation be provided on why the identified savings have changed?</p>	<p>The initial savings identified in December, 2015 has reduced slightly as a result of the revised savings within the school music service from £61,000 to £30,000. The remaining gap is the £187,000 proposed savings through school modernisation which is shown separately as this comes under the separate schools delegated budget.</p>
<p>During the recent Children’s Service Forum meeting, concerns were raised around the withdrawal of financial support to Looked After Children (LAC) leaving care and starting University. Why has this funding been withdrawn as it is a small amount of young people needing this support?</p>	<p>The only change proposed within the Education & Youth portfolio affecting LAC is around the role of the LAC Education Officer. This funding may have been withdrawn because of the withdrawal of a specific grant.</p> <p>We will look into this and report back.</p>
<p>Could you provide a breakdown of the £187,000 proposed savings for school modernisation?</p>	<p>The £187,000 is a saving which has been projected by the Education Finance Team through the funding formula for individual schools. This figure includes the projected savings from the amalgamation of the infants and junior schools in Holywell and school re-organisation of Ysgol Maes Edwin, Ysgol Llanfynydd and Ysgol Mornant. The acceptability and deliverability has been assessed as a red risk as they require Cabinet decisions which are yet to be made.</p>
<p>With regard to Additional Learning Needs funding being fully delegated to schools, how does this effect the management of contracts of employment for support staff?</p>	<p>The management of contracts of employment for support staff will fall on the individual schools and the model is in line with the one adopted by many English and Welsh Local Authorities. Plans are in place to ensure that there are adequate support mechanisms from Finance and Human Resources to assist schools with reducing budgets.</p>
<p>Concerned that the announcement on whether the Education Improvement Grant will be transferred to the RSG and what the</p>	<p>The advice being given to individual schools is similar to the advice given for the 2015/16 budget, which is, to assume a certain reduction</p>

likely reduction will be will not be made by the Welsh Government until April.

in the grant. The Council have spoken to officers within the Welsh Government who have confirmed that they are not looking to destabilise the grant, therefore the assumption is that the reduction won't be too high.

The Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) are also concerned about the timescales in announcing the Education Improvement Grant funding for each Local Authority and this will be raised again at a meeting with the WLGA in the next coming days.