

SDR 83/2008

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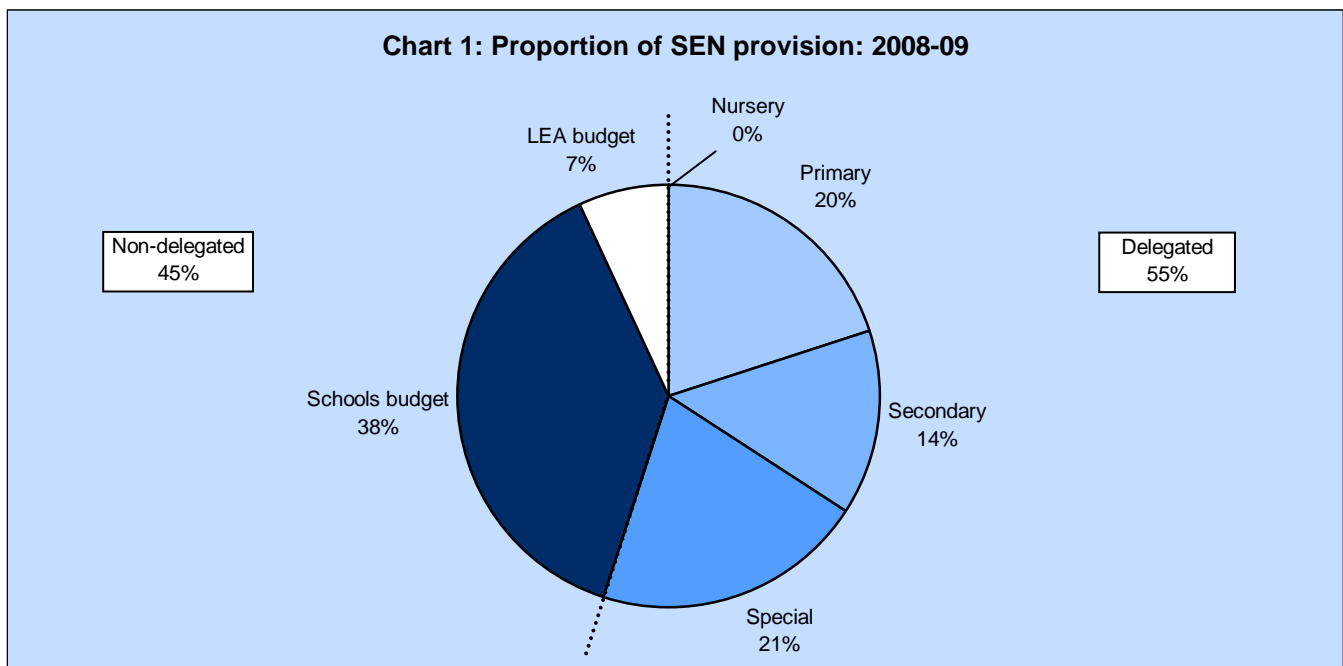
BUDGETED EXPENDITURE ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) PROVISION: 2008-09

Introduction

The purpose of this release is to report on the budgeted expenditure reported by Welsh Local Education Authorities in respect of Special Education Needs provision for 2008-09. Readers should note the limitations of the data used in this release, as borne out in the footnotes to the tables and the additional notes on the final page.

Key points

- Total expenditure on SEN provision in 2008-09 is budgeted to be £321 million. This represents an increase of 4.5% on the previous year's budget (table 1).
- In terms of budgeted SEN expenditure per pupil, the highest spender is Ceredigion, whilst Rhondda Cynon Taf has the lowest budget per pupil (chart 2 and table 3).
- Delegated expenditure to special schools accounts for 21% of the total budgeted SEN expenditure in 2008-09. Notional allocations within nursery, primary, and secondary schools account for a further 34% of the total. The remaining 45% is made up of money held centrally by LEAs (see chart below and table 2).
- Denbighshire delegates the highest proportion of SEN budgets to schools at 75%, whilst Isle of Anglesey delegates the lowest at 22% (table 2).



Additional information is available on the Welsh Assembly Government 'StatsWales' website:

www.statswales.wales.gov.uk

Contact: Tel: 029 2082 3963

E-mail: stats.finance@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Next Update: June 2009 (provisional)

Table 1 shows the budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision compared to the previous year. The table shows that SEN provision has increased by 4.5% on the previous year.

Table 1: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision (a)

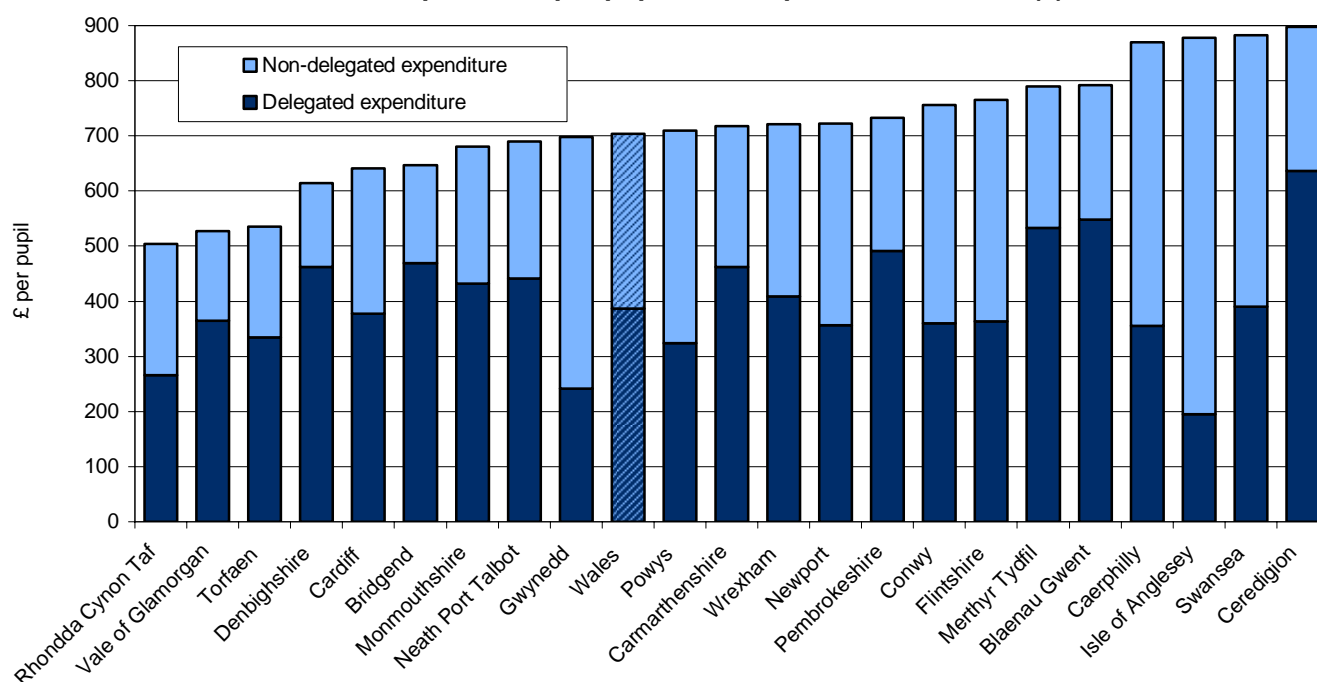
Authority	2007-08	2008-09	Difference	£ thousand
				Percentage difference
Isle of Anglesey	7,998	8,315	317	4.0
Gwynedd	11,846	12,034	188	1.6
Conwy	11,946	12,135	189	1.6
Denbighshire	9,172	9,735	563	6.1
Flintshire	17,109	17,922	812	4.7
Wrexham (b)	13,376	13,068	-309	-2.3
Powys	13,218	14,271	1,053	8.0
Ceredigion	8,177	8,131	-46	-0.6
Pembrokeshire	12,494	13,617	1,123	9.0
Carmarthenshire	19,172	19,660	488	2.5
Swansea	26,006	28,478	2,472	9.5
Neath Port Talbot	13,214	13,947	732	5.5
Bridgend	13,807	14,453	646	4.7
Vale of Glamorgan	10,985	11,203	219	2.0
Cardiff	28,753	30,841	2,088	7.3
Rhondda Cynon Taf	19,660	20,143	483	2.5
Merthyr Tydfil	6,646	6,845	199	3.0
Caerphilly	23,192	24,928	1,736	7.5
Blaenau Gwent	7,992	8,291	299	3.7
Torfaen	8,144	8,346	202	2.5
Monmouthshire	7,622	7,667	45	0.6
Newport	16,437	16,799	362	2.2
Wales	306,965	320,826	13,861	4.5

(a) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LEA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend within nursery, primary, and secondary schools can vary from these notional allocations. Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

(b) Reduction is due to the Flying Start grant being incorrectly allocated in 2007-08.

Chart 2 shows the SEN provision expenditure per pupil. Ceredigion has highest SEN expenditure whilst Rhondda Cynon Taf has the lowest.

Chart 2: Expenditure per pupil on SEN provision: 2008-09 (a)



(a) The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

Table 2 shows how the SEN provision is split between delegated and non-delegated expenditure. Denbighshire has the highest delegated expenditure as a percentage of the total whilst Isle of Anglesey has the lowest.

Table 2: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2008-09 (a)

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure					Non-delegated SEN expenditure			£ thousand	
	Notional allocation to: (b)			Special schools (c)	Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget (d)	LEA budget (e)	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	Delegated as a percentage of total
	Nursery schools	Primary schools	Secondary schools							
Isle of Anglesey	0	480	174	1,198	1,852	6,192	271	6,463	8,315	22%
Gwynedd	0	1,022	896	2,256	4,174	7,438	422	7,860	12,034	35%
Conwy	0	1,857	1,196	2,725	5,778	4,906	1,451	6,357	12,135	48%
Denbighshire	0	2,042	1,261	4,025	7,328	1,827	580	2,407	9,735	75%
Flintshire	5	3,184	2,357	2,970	8,516	8,737	669	9,406	17,922	48%
Wrexham	0	3,078	1,868	2,462	7,407	4,859	802	5,660	13,068	57%
Powys	0	1,017	551	4,957	6,525	7,386	360	7,746	14,271	46%
Ceredigion (c)	0	3,298	2,462	0	5,760	2,071	300	2,371	8,131	71%
Pembrokeshire	0	3,962	3,597	1,570	9,129	3,554	934	4,488	13,617	67%
Carmarthenshire	5	5,869	3,957	2,807	12,638	5,181	1,841	7,022	19,660	64%
Swansea	0	5,531	3,980	3,075	12,586	14,394	1,498	15,892	28,478	44%
Neath Port Talbot	0	3,449	2,531	2,937	8,917	3,715	1,315	5,030	13,947	64%
Bridgend	0	2,730	1,199	6,550	10,479	2,518	1,456	3,974	14,453	73%
Vale of Glamorgan	15	1,772	845	5,112	7,745	2,482	977	3,459	11,203	69%
Cardiff	44	6,021	4,029	8,061	18,155	11,101	1,585	12,686	30,841	59%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	20	2,365	2,264	5,958	10,607	7,208	2,327	9,535	20,143	53%
Merthyr Tydfil	25	1,848	904	1,842	4,619	1,781	445	2,226	6,845	67%
Caerphilly	0	3,603	4,152	2,428	10,183	13,251	1,494	14,745	24,928	41%
Blaenau Gwent	0	2,793	1,372	1,570	5,735	1,920	636	2,556	8,291	69%
Torfaen	31	2,385	1,518	1,286	5,220	2,178	948	3,126	8,346	63%
Monmouthshire	0	1,699	1,498	1,673	4,869	2,514	284	2,798	7,667	64%
Newport	25	3,796	2,761	1,716	8,298	7,082	1,418	8,501	16,799	49%
Wales	170	63,800	45,371	67,178	176,519	122,293	22,014	144,308	320,826	55%



- (a) Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.
- (b) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LEA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend on SEN can vary from these notional allocations.
- (c) All expenditure delegated to special schools is assumed to be SEN. There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LEA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.
- (d) Includes inter-authority recoupment. Excludes education of a specialised nature that is outside of SEN - items 11 to 18 in Schedule 2 of the 2003 LEA Budget Regulations.
- (e) Excludes centrally retained services that are not exclusively SEN, such as home to school transport costs.

Table 3 shows that Ceredigion spends the most per pupil on SEN provision and Rhondda Cynon Taf spends the least.

Table 3: Budgeted gross expenditure per pupil on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2008-09 (a)

Authority	Delegated SEN expenditure						Non-delegated SEN expenditure				Percentage point difference on Wales average (f)
	Notional allocation to: (b)			Special schools (c)		Total delegated expenditure	Schools budget (d)	LEA budget (e)	Total non-delegated	Total SEN	
	Nursery schools	Primary schools	Secondary schools	Number of places	Budget (£ per place)						
Isle of Anglesey	0	95	40	78	15,432	195	653	29	682	878	25
Gwynedd	0	110	115	157	14,369	242	431	24	456	698	-1
Conwy	0	223	158	169	16,126	360	305	90	396	756	7
Denbighshire	0	261	163	268	15,019	462	115	37	152	614	-13
Flintshire	128	253	223	254	11,693	363	373	29	401	765	9
Wrexham	0	282	271	220	11,190	409	268	44	312	721	3
Powys	0	95	60	270	18,361	324	367	18	385	709	1
Ceredigion (c)	0	656	611	0	0	636	229	33	262	898	28
Pembrokeshire	0	391	431	92	17,065	491	191	50	241	733	4
Carmarthenshire	67	397	320	129	21,757	462	189	67	257	718	2
Swansea	0	291	305	169	18,195	390	446	46	493	883	26
Neath Port Talbot	0	310	284	170	17,284	441	184	65	249	690	-2
Bridgend	0	222	125	387	16,947	469	113	65	178	647	-8
Vale of Glamorgan	142	160	86	275	18,572	365	117	46	163	527	-25
Cardiff	183	228	192	481	16,759	377	231	33	264	641	-9
Rhondda Cynon Taf	160	111	125	441	13,498	265	180	58	239	504	-28
Merthyr Tydfil	177	376	260	138	13,382	533	205	51	257	790	12
Caerphilly	0	225	332	121	20,066	355	462	52	514	869	24
Blaenau Gwent	0	495	290	81	19,383	548	183	61	244	792	13
Torfaen	290	323	189	69	18,774	335	140	61	201	535	-24
Monmouthshire	0	254	332	58	28,839	432	223	25	248	680	-3
Newport	223	302	264	101	16,992	357	304	61	365	722	3
Wales	145	256	223	4,127	16,278	387	268	48	316	703	0
Lowest		95	40		11,190	195	113	18	152	504	-28
Highest		656	611		28,839	636	653	90	682	898	28

(a) Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants. The £ per pupil figures have been calculated using the number of pupils in each school sector, as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN.

(b) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LEA formula for distributing funds to schools. As it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN, the actual spend can vary from these notional allocations.

(c) All expenditure delegated to special schools is assumed to be SEN. There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LEA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.

(d) Includes inter-authority recoupment. Excludes education of a specialised nature that is outside of SEN - items 11 to 18 in Schedule 2 of the 2003 LEA Budget Regulations.

(e) Excludes centrally retained services that are not exclusively SEN, such as home to school transport costs.

(f) Total SEN expenditure per pupil compared to equivalent figure for all Wales (Wales=100).

Data sources

The main source of information about local education authority budgets are the revenue account (RA) returns from the local authorities, together with returns required under Section 52 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998 (S52 returns), provided by the local education authorities.

Definitions

There are several issues that should be considered when using these data:

- For SEN provision, it is particularly important to be aware that there is variation in the criteria local authorities use to identify pupils with special educational needs. There are also differences in how local authorities provide educational services to these pupils. Some services can be funded through delegated budgets within primary and secondary schools, or through delegated budgets within special schools that are recognised by the LEA as being reserved for children with SEN. Other services may be supported by funds retained centrally by the LEAs.
- Allocations to nursery, primary and secondary schools of funds for SEN forms part of the formula for distributing funds to schools for each LEA. These are however notional and it is for each school to determine how much of its delegated budget to spend on SEN. Therefore, the actual spend by nursery, primary and secondary schools on SEN may vary from these notional allocations.
- In presenting a 'per pupil' comparison in table 3, the number of pupils in all schools have been used as opposed to those pupils with a statement of SEN. This is due to the fact that much SEN provision relates to pupils without a statement, particularly provision in non-special schools. The use of all pupils gives a fairer comparison of the relative differences between LEAs, fully reflecting the different approaches taken by them in providing SEN services. By using all pupils, however, the data would suggest a lower SEN expenditure level per pupil than is actually the case.
- The 'schools budget', as set out in schedule 2 of the 2003 Regulations, covers expenditure directly aimed at supporting schools and comprises expenditure on services for which the LEA retains funding centrally. These services include provision of a specialised nature (SEN), provision of replacement/support staff and expenditure to support grants. The school budgets shown in tables 2 and 3 cover only provision of a specialised nature (SEN).
- The 'LEA budget', as set out in schedule 1 of the 2003 Regulations, covers central LEA functions involved in the provision of a specialised nature, school improvement, access to education, youth service, adult and continuing education. The LEA budgets shown in tables 2 and 3 cover only provision of a specialised nature and exclude home to school transport costs.

Data quality

The first point to note is that this information is budgeted and not finalised expenditure. Budgets will change as the year goes on and circumstances change. For example, expenditure financed by specific grants allocated after the budgets have been finalised will be excluded.

The main problem faced in collecting data for the whole of Wales is consistency. Local authorities in Wales are not a uniform group. They are demographically, physically, socially, economically and politically diverse and also have very different operational structures and practices. This makes obtaining consistent data from local authorities more difficult than might be expected, a problem which becomes more acute as the level of detail is increased. Thus analysing service budgets at the Wales level will, for example, be more robust than comparing service budgets across each local authority.

Rounding:

In tables where figures have been rounded to the nearest final digit there may be an apparent discrepancy between the sum of the constituent items and the total as shown.

This release also includes our new StatsWales symbol . If a StatsWales symbol appears next to a table or figure, this indicates that more detailed data is available on StatsWales.