SERVICE DESCRIPTION FORM

Department: Education & Social Care

Service: SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Income (£000s)

Government Grant 32

Description:

The provision of secondary education to children aged 11+ - 17+ across eight schools ranging in size from 450 pupils to 1000 pupils.

- All schools are implementing Curriculum for Excellence
- Current total of pupils is circa 5,500. This has fallen from 5,700 in 2001 and is predicted to fall to 5,400 by 2020
- Very significant budget provision is devolved to head teachers through the Devolved School Management (DSM) scheme. This enables head teachers to make decisions on spending which are best suited to the individual requirements of the school
- This "service area" also includes budgets for "education maintenance allowances" which are paid to eligible 16+ young people who remain at school post leaving age

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Outcomes / impacts:

- All schools in recent years have achieved satisfactory or better inspection reports
- Scottish Government and teacher trade unions still have aspirations for smaller class sizes but this has "fallen off the main agenda" in the past year or so
- There is currently a moratorium on rural school closures pending the publication of a Govt. sponsored Commission on Rural Education
- Secondary education in Moray could be delivered in fewer schools
- There is a very significant buildings repair, refurbishment and maintenance requirement.
- Some of the smaller schools may well struggle to offer a sufficient range of courses in the senior phase of the curriculum