

## Budgeted expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision: 2014-15

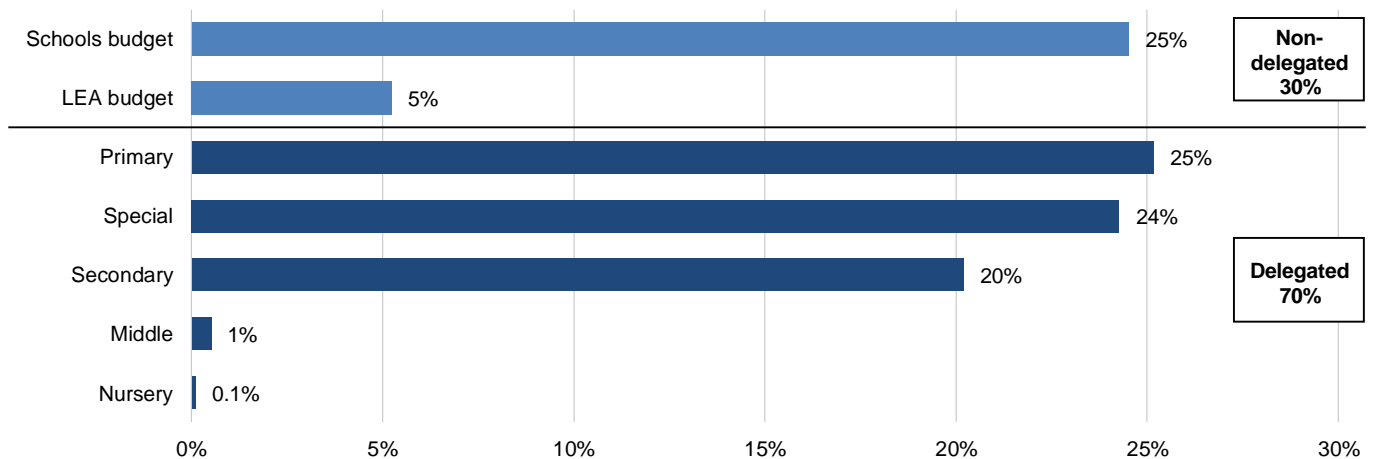
### Introduction

This statistical release analyses the budgeted expenditure data supplied by Welsh Local Authorities in respect of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision for 2014-15. The term SEN refers to children who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.

### Key points

- Total expenditure on SEN provision is budgeted to be £357 million, a decrease of £2.1 million or 0.6% compared with the previous year (table 1 and chart 2).
- Delegated expenditure to special schools accounts for 24% of the total budgeted SEN expenditure. Notional allocations within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools account for a further 46% of the total. The remaining 30% is made up of money held centrally by local authorities (chart 1).
- Denbighshire delegates the largest proportion of their SEN budget to their schools at 89%, whilst Caerphilly delegates the smallest proportion at 51% (table 2).
- Total SEN expenditure per pupil for Wales is budgeted to be £792. This is made up of delegated expenditure at £556 per pupil and non-delegated expenditure at £236 per pupil (table 3).
- Isle of Anglesey has the largest SEN budget per pupil at £1,086, whilst Torfaen has the smallest SEN budget per pupil at £542 (table 3 and chart 3).

Chart 1: Proportion of SEN provision, 2014-15



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

[www.statswales.wales.gov.uk](http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk)

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Table 1 shows that budgeted gross expenditure on SEN provision decreased by 0.6% compared to the previous year. Isle of Anglesey has the largest percentage increase and Powys has the largest percentage decrease.

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

| Authority         | 2013-14            | 2014-15        | Difference    | Percentage difference |
|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Isle of Anglesey  | 9,775 (r)          | 10,069         | 294           | 3.0                   |
| Gwynedd           | 13,938             | 13,776 (b)     | -163          | -1.2                  |
| Conwy             | 12,838             | 12,484         | -354          | -2.8                  |
| Denbighshire      | 11,843             | 12,128         | 285           | 2.4                   |
| Flintshire        | 21,030             | 20,419         | -611          | -2.9                  |
| Wrexham           | 15,467             | 15,462         | -5            | -0.0                  |
| Powys             | 17,167 (b)         | 15,468         | -1,699        | -9.9                  |
| Ceredigion        | 8,614              | 8,520          | -94           | -1.1                  |
| Pembrokeshire     | 14,576             | 14,348         | -228          | -1.6                  |
| Carmarthenshire   | 22,179             | 21,720         | -458          | -2.1                  |
| Swansea           | 30,448             | 31,322         | 874           | 2.9                   |
| Neath Port Talbot | 14,562             | 14,603         | 41            | 0.3                   |
| Bridgend          | 18,787             | 18,626         | -161          | -0.9                  |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 12,425             | 12,599         | 175           | 1.4                   |
| Cardiff           | 41,903             | 42,343         | 440           | 1.0                   |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 24,250             | 24,203         | -46           | -0.2                  |
| Merthyr Tydfil    | 7,525              | 7,261          | -264          | -3.5                  |
| Caerphilly        | 18,949             | 19,370         | 421           | 2.2                   |
| Blaenau Gwent     | 9,541              | 9,171          | -370          | -3.9                  |
| Torfaen           | 8,118              | 7,908          | -210          | -2.6                  |
| Monmouthshire     | 8,593              | 8,327          | -267          | -3.1                  |
| Newport           | 16,688             | 16,973         | 285           | 1.7                   |
| <b>Wales</b>      | <b>359,217 (r)</b> | <b>357,099</b> | <b>-2,117</b> | <b>-0.6</b>           |

(a) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle 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, middle and secondary schools can vary from these notional allocations. Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

(b) A small percentage of SEN expenditure has not been allocated to specific schools at the budget-setting stage, but has been allocated to the relevant sector.

(r) Revised.

Chart 2 shows that SEN expenditure is expected to decrease between 2013-14 and 2014-15. In 2014-15, delegated expenditure is expected to make up 70% and non-delegated expenditure 30% of all budgeted expenditure on SEN.

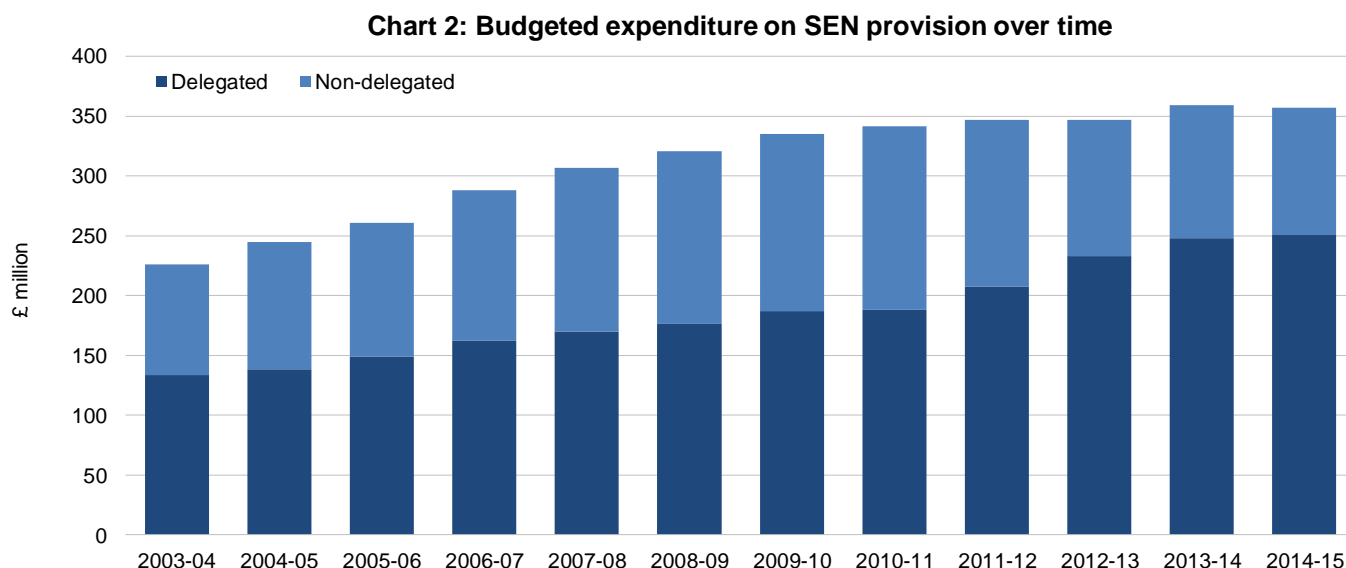


Table 2 shows how SEN provision is split between delegated and non-delegated expenditure. Denbighshire has the highest delegated expenditure as a percentage of the total at 89% whilst Caerphilly has the lowest at 51%.

**Table 2: Budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2014-15 (a)**

| Authority         | Delegated SEN expenditure   |                 |                |                   |                     |                             | Non-delegated SEN expenditure |                                |                |                     |                | Delegated as a percentage of total |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
|                   | Notional allocation to: (b) |                 |                |                   | Special schools (c) | Total delegated expenditure | Schools budget (d)            | Inter-authority recoupment (e) | LEA budget (d) | Total non-delegated | Total SEN      |                                    |
|                   | Nursery schools             | Primary schools | Middle schools | Secondary schools |                     |                             |                               |                                |                |                     |                |                                    |
| Isle of Anglesey  | 0                           | 2,821           | 0              | 1,973             | 1,468               | 6,262                       | 2,044                         | 409                            | 1,354          | 3,807               | 10,069         | 62%                                |
| Gwynedd           | 0                           | 4,621 (f)       | 0              | 3,328             | 2,298               | 10,247                      | 3,014                         | 112                            | 403            | 3,529               | 13,776         | 74%                                |
| Conwy             | 0                           | 3,481           | 0              | 2,936             | 3,569               | 9,986                       | 1,526                         | 244                            | 728            | 2,498               | 12,484         | 80%                                |
| Denbighshire      | 0                           | 3,083           | 178            | 2,376             | 5,136               | 10,773                      | 2,512                         | -1,696                         | 539            | 1,355               | 12,128         | 89%                                |
| Flintshire        | 3                           | 4,148           | 0              | 3,216             | 3,792               | 11,158                      | 5,877                         | 2,516                          | 868            | 9,261               | 20,419         | 55%                                |
| Wrexham           | 13                          | 4,855           | 0              | 3,537             | 3,839               | 12,244                      | 1,983                         | 1,125                          | 110            | 3,218               | 15,462         | 79%                                |
| Powys             | 0                           | 2,972           | 110            | 2,677             | 5,519               | 11,278                      | 4,419                         | -351                           | 122            | 4,190               | 15,468         | 73%                                |
| Ceredigion (c)    | 0                           | 2,417           | 943            | 2,431             | 0                   | 5,792                       | 2,680                         | -370                           | 418            | 2,728               | 8,520          | 68%                                |
| Pembrokeshire     | 0                           | 4,659           | 0              | 3,361             | 2,903               | 10,923                      | 1,688                         | 810                            | 927            | 3,425               | 14,348         | 76%                                |
| Cardiff           | 9                           | 7,114           | 0              | 6,220             | 3,273               | 16,616                      | 3,053                         | 194                            | 1,857          | 5,104               | 21,720         | 76%                                |
| Swansea           | 0                           | 9,818           | 0              | 7,333             | 3,284               | 20,435                      | 8,851                         | 611                            | 1,425          | 10,887              | 31,322         | 65%                                |
| Neath Port Talbot | 0                           | 3,896           | 0              | 2,747             | 4,365               | 11,009                      | 1,246                         | 475                            | 1,874          | 3,595               | 14,603         | 75%                                |
| Bridgend          | 0                           | 2,929           | 0              | 2,833             | 6,985               | 12,747                      | 4,903                         | -406                           | 1,382          | 5,879               | 18,626         | 68%                                |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 39                          | 2,669           | 0              | 982               | 6,082               | 9,772                       | 4,101                         | -2,047                         | 773            | 2,827               | 12,599         | 78%                                |
| Cardiff           | 151                         | 11,028          | 0              | 11,483            | 11,269              | 33,931                      | 5,099                         | 2,601                          | 713            | 8,412               | 42,343         | 80%                                |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 11                          | 3,643           | 141            | 3,429             | 7,577               | 14,800                      | 5,691                         | 2,230                          | 1,482          | 9,403               | 24,203         | 61%                                |
| Merthyr Tydfil    | 16                          | 1,916           | 0              | 788               | 2,541               | 5,261                       | 1,288                         | 282                            | 430            | 2,000               | 7,261          | 72%                                |
| Caerphilly        | 0                           | 3,348           | 0              | 3,163             | 3,310               | 9,821                       | 6,506                         | 1,634                          | 1,409          | 9,549               | 19,370         | 51%                                |
| Blaenau Gwent     | 0                           | 2,764           | 471            | 843               | 2,317               | 6,395                       | 2,147                         | -77                            | 706            | 2,776               | 9,171          | 70%                                |
| Torfaen           | 23                          | 1,904           | 0              | 1,883             | 1,963               | 5,773                       | 1,012                         | 530                            | 593            | 2,135               | 7,908          | 73%                                |
| Monmouthshire     | 0                           | 1,958           | 0              | 1,407             | 2,289               | 5,654                       | 2,000                         | 440                            | 233            | 2,673               | 8,327          | 68%                                |
| Newport           | 93                          | 3,810           | 0              | 3,164             | 2,897               | 9,965                       | 3,962                         | 2,677                          | 369            | 7,008               | 16,973         | 59%                                |
| <b>Wales</b>      | <b>358</b>                  | <b>89,852</b>   | <b>1,843</b>   | <b>72,111</b>     | <b>86,675</b>       | <b>250,839</b>              | <b>75,601</b>                 | <b>11,943</b>                  | <b>18,716</b>  | <b>106,260</b>      | <b>357,099</b> | <b>70%</b>                         |

(a) Includes expenditure financed by specific and special government grants.

(b) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LA 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 LA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.

(d) Excludes centrally retained services that are not exclusively SEN, such as home to school transport costs. A definition of the schools and LEA budget is included in the technical note.

(e) Authorities will show a negative figure if the cost of educating pupils outside of their home-authority is smaller than the cost of educating non-resident pupils from other authorities.

(f) A small percentage of SEN expenditure has not been allocated to specific schools at the budget-setting stage, but has been allocated to the relevant sector.

Table 3 shows that Isle of Anglesey spends the most per pupil on SEN provision at £1,086 and Torfaen spends the least at £542. Total delegated expenditure per pupil is £556, an increase of £5 over the previous year. Total non-delegated expenditure per pupil is £236, a decrease of £9 over the previous year.

**Table 3: Per pupil budgeted gross expenditure on Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, 2014-15 (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                | Inter-authority recoupment (d) | LEA budget (e) | Total non-delegated | Total SEN  |  |
|                   | Nursery schools             | Primary schools | Middle schools | Secondary schools | Number of places    | Budget (£ per place) |                             |                               |                                |                |                     |            |  |
| Isle of Anglesey  | 0                           | 541             | 0              | 497               | 85                  | 17,271               | 676                         | 221                           | 44                             | 146            | 411                 | 1,086      | 37   |
| Gwynedd           | 0                           | 502             | 0              | 467               | 127                 | 18,094               | 623                         | 183                           | 7                              | 24             | 214                 | 837        | 6  |
| Conwy             | 0                           | 423             | 0              | 417               | 185                 | 19,290               | 646                         | 99                            | 16                             | 47             | 161                 | 807        | 2  |
| Denbighshire      | 0                           | 401             | 373            | 349               | 250                 | 20,531               | 707                         | 165                           | -111                           | 35             | 89                  | 796        | 0  |
| Flintshire        | 300                         | 323             | 0              | 327               | 242                 | 15,669               | 487                         | 256                           | 110                            | 38             | 404                 | 891        | 12   |
| Wrexham           | 427                         | 407             | 0              | 555               | 284                 | 13,518               | 658                         | 107                           | 60                             | 6              | 173                 | 831        | 5  |
| Powys             | 0                           | 302             | 388            | 332               | 294                 | 18,772               | 610                         | 239                           | -19                            | 7              | 227                 | 836        | 6  |
| Ceredigion (c)    | 0                           | 522             | 883            | 647               | 0                   | 0                    | 612                         | 283                           | -39                            | 44             | 289                 | 901        | 14   |
| Pembrokeshire     | 0                           | 464             | 0              | 448               | 138                 | 21,036               | 617                         | 95                            | 46                             | 52             | 194                 | 811        | 2  |
| Carmarthenshire   | 123                         | 470             | 0              | 541               | 129                 | 25,372               | 619                         | 114                           | 7                              | 69             | 190                 | 810        | 2  |
| Swansea           | 0                           | 495             | 0              | 539               | 172                 | 19,084               | 608                         | 263                           | 18                             | 42             | 324                 | 931        | 18   |
| Neath Port Talbot | 0                           | 342             | 0              | 351               | 220                 | 19,850               | 566                         | 64                            | 24                             | 96             | 185                 | 751        | -5   |
| Bridgend          | 0                           | 231             | 0              | 297               | 345                 | 20,245               | 565                         | 217                           | -18                            | 61             | 260                 | 825        | 4  |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 268                         | 227             | 0              | 108               | 256                 | 23,712               | 459                         | 193                           | -96                            | 36             | 133                 | 592        | -25  |
| Cardiff           | 887                         | 376             | 0              | 576               | 529                 | 21,303               | 679                         | 102                           | 52                             | 14             | 168                 | 847        | 7  |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 328                         | 164             | 287            | 217               | 491                 | 15,432               | 380                         | 146                           | 57                             | 38             | 241                 | 621        | -22  |
| Merthyr Tydfil    | 220                         | 363             | 0              | 263               | 147                 | 17,283               | 619                         | 152                           | 33                             | 51             | 235                 | 854        | 8  |
| Caerphilly        | 0                           | 210             | 0              | 275               | 131                 | 25,267               | 356                         | 236                           | 59                             | 51             | 346                 | 702        | -11  |
| Blaenau Gwent     | 0                           | 531             | 317            | 396               | 97                  | 23,884               | 718                         | 241                           | -9                             | 79             | 311                 | 1,029      | 30   |
| Torfaen           | 574                         | 251             | 0              | 273               | 91                  | 21,571               | 395                         | 69                            | 36                             | 41             | 146                 | 542        | -32  |
| Monmouthshire     | 0                           | 304             | 0              | 291               | 43                  | 53,225               | 500                         | 177                           | 39                             | 21             | 236                 | 736        | -7   |
| Newport           | 1,078                       | 297             | 0              | 302               | 130                 | 22,264               | 423                         | 168                           | 114                            | 16             | 298                 | 721        | -9   |
| <b>Wales</b>      | <b>521</b>                  | <b>352</b>      | <b>484</b>     | <b>386</b>        | <b>4,387</b>        | <b>19,758</b>        | <b>556</b>                  | <b>168</b>                    | <b>26</b>                      | <b>42</b>      | <b>236</b>          | <b>792</b> | <b>0</b>   |
| Lowest            | 0                           | 164             | 0              | 108               |                     | 13,518               | 356                         | 64                            |                                | 6              | 89                  | 542        | -32  |
| Highest           | 1,078                       | 541             | 883            | 647               |                     | 53,225               | 718                         | 283                           |                                | 146            | 411                 | 1,086      | 37   |

(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.

(b) Includes notional allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools in respect of amounts provided for SEN as part of the individual LA 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.

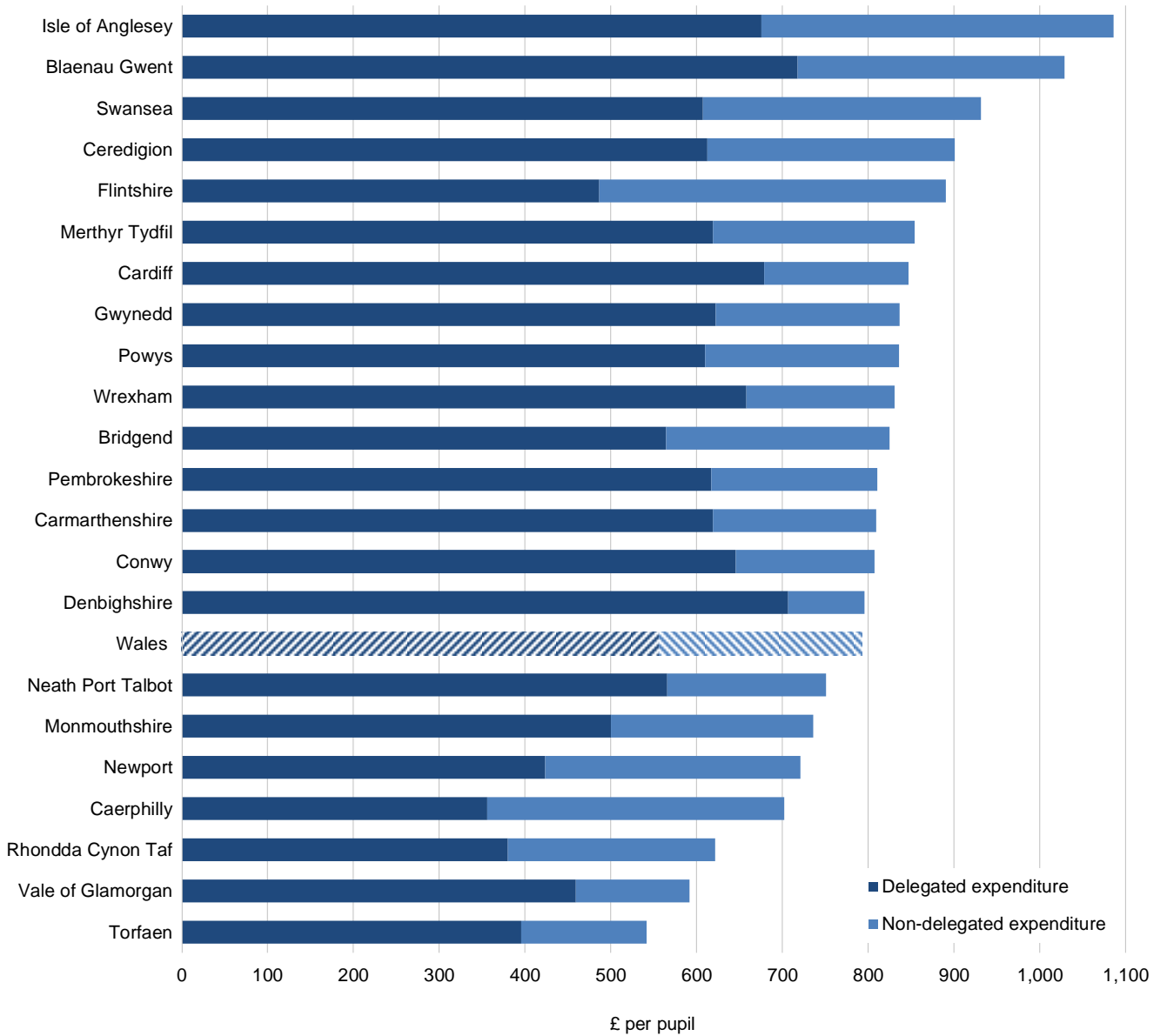
(c) All expenditure delegated to special schools is assumed to be SEN. There are no special schools within Ceredigion, although the LA has classes within mainstream education which cater for pupils with special educational needs.

(d) Authorities will show a negative figure if the cost of educating pupils outside of their home-authority is smaller than the cost of educating non-resident pupils from other authorities.

(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).

**Chart 3: Expenditure per pupil on SEN provision, 2014-15 (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.

## TECHNICAL NOTES ON SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) PROVISION

### Data sources

The main sources of information about Local Authority (LA) budgets are the Revenue Account (RA) returns and Section 52 (S52) returns required under Section 52 of the Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998.

### 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 SEN. There are also differences in how local authorities provide educational services to these pupils. Some services can be funded through delegated budgets within nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools, or through delegated budgets within special schools that are recognised by the LA as being reserved for children with SEN. Other services may be supported by funds retained centrally by the LAs.
- Allocations to nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools of funds for SEN forms part of the formula for distributing funds to schools for each LA. 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, middle and secondary schools on SEN may vary from these notional allocations.
- In presenting a 'per pupil' comparison in table 2, 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 LAs, 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 LA retains funding centrally. These services include special educational needs (SEN), provision of replacement/support staff and expenditure to support grants. The school budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs (SEN).
- Delegated expenditure derives from funding that is allocated directly to the schools by each local authority. Non-delegated expenditure derives from funding held centrally by the local authority and spent on behalf of the schools.
- The 'LEA budget', as set out in schedule 1 of the 2003 Regulations, covers central LA functions involved in special educational needs, school improvement, access to education, youth service, adult and continuing education. The LEA budgets shown in tables 1 and 2 cover only special educational needs and exclude home to school transport costs.

### Quality

Wales collect 100% of returns from all twenty-two unitary authorities. We publish a detailed [quality report](#) on Welsh Local Government Finance statistics.

### 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.

### Accessing the data

Much of the data behind the charts and tables shown in this bulletin can be found on StatsWales (a free-to-use internet service that allows visitors to view, manipulate, create and download tables from the most up to date and detailed official data in Wales). Please select "Local Government - Finance - Revenue - Education" at the navigation screen of the following site:

<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Local-Government/Finance/Revenue/Education>

**Further information**

Statistics on education expenditure are also published in both [England](#) and [Scotland](#).

**Feedback**

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