



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Monday, 21 January 2013
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members of the Committee are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests, in connection with any item(s) on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 16)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 7 November, 2012, 12 November, 2012 and 3 December, 2012.

3. CABINET EXTRACT 20 DECEMBER 2012 BUDGET 2013/16 - INITIAL PROPOSALS (Pages 17 - 22)

4. LOCAL RESPONSE TO TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN WHO GO MISSING FROM HOME/CARE (Pages 23 - 46)

5. **CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 47 - 50)**
6. **REVIEW OF ATTAINMENT & PROGRESS AT THE END OF KEY STAGE 4 (Pages 51 - 62)**
7. **NARROWING THE GAP AT KEY STAGE 4 (Pages 63 - 74)**
8. **METRO CATERING INCOME PROCEDURES - AUDIT ACTIONS (Pages 75 - 78)**
9. **INTENSIVE FAMILY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME (IFIP) (Pages 79 - 88)**
10. **RAISING PARTICIPATION AGE 2013 AND 2015 (Pages 89 - 116)**
11. **APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION - CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000 (Pages 117 - 120)**
12. **'OUTCOMES OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN' SCRUTINY REVIEW PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 121 - 128)**
13. **WORK PROGRAMME**
14. **FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan for the period January to April 2013 has now been published on the Council's intranet/website and Members are invited to review the Plan prior to the meeting in order for the Committee to consider, having regard to the Committee's work programme, whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan and, if so, how it could be done within relevant timescales and resources.

15. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 November 2012

Present:

Councillor W Clements (Chair)

Councillors J Crabtree W Smith
D Dodd P Williams
P Doughty
P Hayes
B Mooney
C Povall

Co-opted:

Mrs J Owens
Mr A Scott
Mrs N Smith

34 **COUNCILLOR ANNE MCARDLE**

The Committee stood in memory of Councillor Anne McArdle who had sadly passed away on 2 November, 2012.

35 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP**

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests, in connection with any item(s) on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillor Wendy Clements declared a non pecuniary interest by virtue of her employment.

36 **CONSIDERATION OF FINDINGS: WHAT REALLY MATTERS CONSULTATION**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive which was to be presented to Cabinet on 8 November, 2012 with the results of the first stage of the consultation process. The consultation results contained within the report were intended to provide a good understanding of residents, partners and employees views on the Council's future priorities and appropriate methods in which savings should be delivered. All of the comments provided through the consultation had been analysed and summarised within the report, and all comments would be published on the Council website during November 2012.

Subject to Cabinet approval, the report would be followed by a second stage of consultation which would begin in November 2012. This second stage would involve consultation with residents, employees and other stakeholders to gather views on a range of detailed options for achieving the necessary budget savings for 2013/14.

The Committee received a presentation from Jane Morgan, Corporate Policy Manager, Chief Executive's Department, on the process and findings of the consultation. She responded to questions from Members who expressed their thanks to staff for the work that had gone into the consultation.

The consultation had involved a programme of over 150 events, and speaking to over 13,000 residents. Over 37,500 paper questionnaires had been distributed, and 6921 responses were received – giving a return rate of around 18%. This was a higher response to any previous Wirral Council consultation and, according to published data, higher than any comparable exercise anywhere in the UK.

The summarised results analysis contained within the report demonstrated support for each of the principles contained within the consultation including Increasing Income, Alternative Delivery, Shaping Community Services and Stopping or reducing, with a number of caveats to be considered as detailed budget options were developed.

On a motion by Councillor Wendy Clements seconded by Councillor Paul Hayes it was;

Resolved (9:0) – That the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee thanks the many Wirral residents who have responded to this consultation and notes that the questionnaire results place “Protecting our vulnerable adults and children” as the top priority. This Committee also holds protecting vulnerable children as a priority.

The Committee commends to the Cabinet the observations that:

- **Some of our most vulnerable children are those who are Looked After. Committee values and supports the work to provide them with the very best care and future. This work is vital and must be resourced sufficiently to keep children safe and well cared for.**
- **The support given to Wirral Schools by Children and Young People Department is widely valued and appreciated in helping to create the best possible education for Wirral children.**
- **Section 7.2 of the report identifies reducing crime and antisocial behaviour as a further high priority. Committee values the work done by the various aspects of the Integrated Youth Service and the work each accomplishes in tackling or preventing anti-social behaviour.**
- **Committee believes that provision of a large number of facilities for young people (7.3) has a role to play in preventing anti-social behaviour, as does provision of leisure centres and libraries. These not only provide opportunities for activities that fulfil the Every Child Matters agenda (Be Healthy, Enjoy and Achieve) but are also of benefit to a large**

portion of the population of all ages. Children who from all backgrounds, but particularly those who live in poverty can benefit from free access to books and to internet facilities.

- Committee endorses the recommendation at 18.2 of the report that communities should not become isolated through changes to services or closing of Council facilities and notes that Council buildings offering services, such as Children's Centres and libraries have potential to help in this aspiration.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 12 November 2012

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	W Clements (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Crabtree D Dodd P Hayes B Mooney C Povall	W Smith P Williams
<u>Co-opted:</u>		Mrs J Owens Mrs N Smith Mr A Scott	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillor	P Doughty	

37 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members of the Committee were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests, in connection with any item(s) on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillor Jim Crabtree declared a non pecuniary interest in Minute 40 post by virtue of his employment with the Vocational College and Minute 43 post by virtue of being a foster carer.

38 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 September, 2012.

Resolved – Subject to the following amendment of Minute 20;

“Mrs Jane Owens declared a non pecuniary interest in Minute 26 post by virtue of her work for Social Enterprise.”

That the minutes of the meeting of 11 September, 2012 be approved as a correct record.

39 2012/13 QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING

The Acting Director of Children's Services reported upon the performance of the Council's Corporate Plan 2012-13 and Departmental Plan 2012-13 for July 2012 - September 2012, in relation to children and young people. She provided members with an overview of performance, resources and risk monitoring.

For Quarter two 2012/13 there were 37 performance indicators that could be reported upon, of these 70% were achieving or exceeding their target. The report gave details of the corrective action being taken for those indicators missing their target.

The Acting Director of Children's Services further reported that pressures of £4.4 million had been identified by the Children and Young People's Department. The main areas of pressure related to looked after children including residential placements and foster care allowances and home to school transport. Numbers of children in care continued to remain high compared to similar Councils. Budgetary control measures were in place and expenditure was closely monitored.

Nancy Clarkson, Strategic Service Manager Infrastructure, commented on the report and responded to Members questions.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

40 **2012 POST 16 ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESSION**

The Acting Director of Children's Services reported upon an analysis of how well Wirral resident young people aged between 16 and 18 achieved post 16. The report detailed how well young people performed post 16 across all education sectors including:-

- i. school / academy sixth form provision (2011/12 academic year data),
- ii. Wirral further education provision (2010/11 academic year data) and
- iii. Wirral young people accessing Apprenticeship opportunities (2010/11 academic year data).

Analysis in the report specifically focused on those young people engaged in and achieving full level qualifications or programmes leading to a full level 3. Full level 3 programmes included young people undertaking two or more A-Levels, three or more AS levels, a BTEC National Certificate or Diploma or an advanced/higher level Apprenticeship. The report reviewed level 3 attainment because it was widely recognised that level 3 programmes of study are a key driver of business competitiveness and growth. If businesses were to meet the increasing forces of globalisation and retain a market share young people needed have level 3 qualifications and skills.

The report had a specific focus on the achievements and progress made by more vulnerable young people, including children in care (CiC), teenage parents, learners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LLDD) and young offenders.

It was reported that outcomes and success rates for young people in the further education and Apprenticeship sectors were based on 2010/11 academic year data. Young people's data for such sectors was submitted to and analysed by the National Data Service not the LA.

Overall, satisfactory levels of attainment and progress were made by Wirral young people post 16 on level 3 programmes. It was also recognised that overall improvements in level 3 outcomes across all sectors was contributing to the Local Authority's (LA) improved performance in relation to National Indicator (NI) 80. NI 80 relates to the achievement of a level 3 outcome by age 19. Between 2009 and 2011 NI 80 had improved by 7 percentage points (ppts) to 53% achievement at age 19. However, narrowing the attainment gap at level 3 (NI 82) still remained a challenge. Key findings in the report by education sector included:-

1. Post 16 outcomes for young people in Wirral schools and academies undertaking vocational and / or academic programmes had improved over the last three academic years.
2. Advanced apprenticeship success rates for Wirral young people (aged 16 to 18) had been improving year on year; however, success rate levels still lagged behind both regional and national benchmarks.
3. Further Education (FE) full level 3 success rates for young people (aged 16 to 18) had improved year on year with 86 percent (2010/11) of learners achieving a full level 3 qualification.

Resolved – That the report content be noted.

41 **WIRRAL LIFELONG AND FAMILY LEARNING SERVICE UPDATE**

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report that provided an update for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the work of Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service (WL&FLS). The Lifelong and Family Learning Service supported the Council's Corporate priorities by providing opportunities for adults and families to learn and develop their skills and confidence. The service was fully funded by Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Community Learning (CL) Grant.

The Wirral Adult Community Learning Strategic Plan for 2012-13 was attached as Appendix to the report. This showed the overall aims and approaches of WACL partnership. It also broke down achievements for 2011-12 and the targets for 2012-13 for Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

42 **CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Chief Executive submitted a progress report on the work that had been undertaken to develop a Wirral child poverty strategy and action plan in partnership with local organisations and agencies, including the voluntary, community and faith sector.

It was reported that the local authority had a statutory duty to work with partners to develop a Wirral Child Poverty Strategy as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. The Council had made progress in delivering this duty through the development of a draft strategy and action plan, taking into account the contribution of an independent advisory group established for this purpose, the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group.

The report set out the governance arrangements for the Working Group and Wirral's child poverty strategy and action plan agreed with Wirral's Children's Trust to facilitate future activity.

Committee members were reminded that the Council had allocated £400,000 as part of its budget for 2012-13 to tackle intergenerational poverty further to the development of the draft strategy and action plan. This had been further considered by the Cabinet on the 27 September 2012.

Resolved – That the progress made to date on the work undertaken to develop a Wirral child poverty strategy be noted.

43 **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN REVIEW PROJECT - UPDATE**

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report that provided an update to members on the progress of the Looked After Children Review Project. The objective of the project, which was created as a part of the Strategic Change Programme, was to:-

- Review the provision of care to looked after children in order to ensure that the cost of care and other associated costs were reduced.
- That the numbers of children in care were safely reduced.
- Raise the standard of care that children and young people receive.

The report sought to outline to members the future activities of the project. The intention moving forward with the second phase of the project was to identify further interventions, clearly targeted and based upon a cost / benefit analysis, which would move the objectives of the project forward.

It was further reported that the project was a key part of the departments' plans to reduce the number and costs of looked after children. The current costs of looked after children exceed resources by £4,500,000.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

44 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee considered suggested additions to its work programme. The Chair reported that a list of matters to be considered had been shared with the Interim Director of Children's Services.

Resolved – That the Committee notes the following on the list of topics on the suggested work programme:

**Tackling Sexual Exploitation /Children missing from care
Raising the participation age
Standards KS3 and KS4, including 100 club
The EQ programme
Support to Primary Schools around SEN
IFIP
Behaviour Support Strategy
Wirral Youth Zone**

Youth Parliament planning
Sickness and absence
Annual complaints report
Case studies from Wirral Life-long and family learning
Report back on commissioning process

45 FORWARD PLAN

There were no matters for consideration relating to the Forward Plan.

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday, 3 December 2012

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	W Clements (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Crabtree D Dodd P Doughty B Mooney C Povall	W Smith □ P Williams □ G Watt (In place of P Hayes)
		Mr A Scott	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	P Hayes Mrs J Owens Mrs N Smith	

46 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests in connection with any item(s) on the agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

Councillor Paul Doughty declared a non pecuniary interest by virtue of being an owner/partner of a children's day care centre.

Councillor Jim Crabtree declared a non pecuniary interest by virtue of being a foster carer, his employment with the Vocational College and as Board Director Beechwood Trust.

Councillor Wendy Clements declared a non pecuniary interest by virtue of her employment.

47 BUDGET OPTIONS

The Committee received a presentation from Jane Morgan, Corporate Policy Manager, Chief Executive's Department, on the process of the consultation and the progress made on Stage 2 of the consultation to date. Jane Morgan reported that over 70 budget options had now been published and outlined the role of Overview and Scrutiny members.

The Chair proposed that the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee work through the budget options and for each option the relevant officer would outline the proposed budget option.

Officers gave details and responded to members questions on each of the budget options in respect of the following areas in turn;

1. Transport Policies for Adults and Children

Nancy Clarkson, Strategic Services Infrastructure, introduced the option. Responding to comments from members she stated that the Council currently provides transport for well over a thousand people across the borough every day. The option involved a full review of that transport, with a view to stopping providing transport to some or all Council services and instead requiring those using the services to either contribute to the cost or find alternatives. Some members expressed concern about the levels of transport that would be available for severely disabled children and adults and Nancy Clarkson noted that there was statutory provision for the most vulnerable children and for adults there were packages of care that would still be retained for the most vulnerable adults.

2. Area Teams for Family Support

Tracey Coffey, Strategic Service Manager Children and Families introduced the option and informed the Committee that Area Teams provided preventative services for vulnerable children and families. Due to the number of teams there was some duplication and the option in this area was to reduce the number of Area Teams from 11 to 4, working across the borough based on need. Members were informed that this was a good way forward and that while savings could be realised the outcome would be a better service provision.

3. Schools Music Service

Sue Talbot, Strategic Service Manager, Early Years and Primary Education introduced the option and commented that the Schools Music Service had been restructured and would not now need the subsidy from the Council.

4. Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre

Vivian Stafford, Strategic Service Manager- Post 16 Commissioning and Economic Generation introduced the option that was to reduce the Council subsidy and ensure that the Centre brought in enough income to break even. The aim was for this done through increased marketing and by seeking sponsorship. Vivian Stafford commented that there were risks to this business model but there were grounds to feel confident - alternative options were outlined if there was a view to mitigate risks

5. Educational Psychology Service

Julia Hassall, Acting Director of Children's Services, introduced the option and commented that savings would be achieved by not filling a vacant post. The service would be reduced but would continue to meet statutory requirements.

6. Foundation Learning

Vivian Stafford, Strategic Service Manager- Post 16 Commissioning and Economic Generation introduced the option that was to stop the programme currently offered to schools that developed and then delivered Foundation Learning for those young people at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). The option in this area was to target support from the Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance Service. Vivian Stafford informed members that schools had been piloting work around young people who were at risk of becoming NEET and that funding was currently used in schools mainly to provide off site learning.

7. Universal and Targeted Commissioning of Parenting Services

Steve Pimblett, Head of Universal Youth Support Service, introduced the option and outlined how the Council currently invests money with organisations in the community and voluntary sector to provide parenting family support and advisory services, including families affected by poverty and disadvantage. The option was to reduce and target these services at those families most at risk of poor outcomes. A great deal of duplication had been identified and there was potential for the VCF sector and the Council continues to work together. Some members were concerned for risks in the future e.g. if domestic violence increased in 3-5 years time. Julia Hassall commented that work would have to be done on how these services could be provided and recognised that there would be a need to be proactive in this area.

8. Schools Budget - PPM and PFI Options

David Armstrong, Deputy Director CYPD and Assistant Chief Executive, introduced the option that proposed to transfer costs currently met by the Council to the Schools Budget. David Armstrong noted that there was currently extensive consultation being conducted with Secondary and Primary Headteachers.

9. School Improvement and Income from Academy Schools

Stuart Bellerby, Strategic Service Manager, Secondary and Lifelong Learning introduced the option that proposed to reduce the level of non-traded school improvement support and training and to increase income for those services provided to Academy Schools by increasing what the Council charges. He stated that there were currently no Wirral schools in a category and Sue Talbot commented that Wirral schools were in the top quintile of OFSTED inspected schools in the country which was welcomed by Members.

10. Youth and Play Services

Steve Pimblett, Head of Universal Youth Support Service, introduced the option that proposed to review the provision of Play Schemes, reduce the outreach service and integrate all youth clubs in the 4 main Youth Hubs. It was further proposed that the Youth opportunity fund that provides opportunities for organisations to bid for funding to deliver projects for young people would be stopped. Steve Pimblett commented that the service would be aligned with the new Youth Zone planned for Birkenhead and that currently Wirral spent more per head on services for young people compared to statistical neighbour averages. Some members raised concerns regarding accessibility in terms of distance and

costs and Julia Hassall, Acting Director of Children's Services, commented that the 4 area Youth Hubs would be retained and the possibility of improved transport to the hubs could be explored.

11. Youth Challenge

Steve Pimblett, Head of Universal Youth Support Service, introduced the option that proposed that the budget for services to young people – outreach, risk taking behaviour, Big Nights, Arts and Drama – be reduced.

12. Children's Centres and Sure Start

Sue Talbot, Strategic Service Manager, Early Years and Primary Education, introduced the option that proposed the option to reduce universal services from children's centres and charge for most universal services which are provided. This would further include the release of a number of satellite children's centres to schools. David Armstrong commented that all 16 Children's Centres would remain in situ and there were no proposals for closure.

13. Careers, Education Information, Advice and Guidance

Vivian Stafford, Strategic Service Manager- Post 16 Commissioning and Economic Generation introduced the option to redesign and reduce services to ensure the targeted work still took place at the level defined by the Council's statutory duties. Vivian Stafford commented that the aim was to work in a more peripatetic way e.g. in libraries.

14. Short Breaks for Children with Disabilities

Simon Garner, Strategic Service Manager- Childcare, introduced the option that would be to reduce the number and range of the short breaks which were funded for children with disabilities. He commented that the change would mean the budget could be planned more effectively without compromising services

15. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

Simon Garner, Strategic Service Manager- Childcare, introduced the option which was to reduce the service by a third. Simon Garner commented that staff had developed to offer a range of services and that it was an area that was being looked at prior to the consideration of budget options.

Some members expressed concern that provision services for the most vulnerable must not be compromised and that the Council needed to ensure that a good service continued to be provided. Members suggested that there would be a need, in the future, for a review of all budget options undertaken to ensure the most vulnerable were being protected.

Resolved – That

1) the officers be thanked for their hard work in the preparation of the budget options and their contributions at the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny meeting.

2) the Committee offers thanks and best wishes to Tracey Coffey, Strategic Service Manager, who would shortly be leaving the Authority to take up a new post in Halton Borough Council.

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CABINET

20 December 2012

144 BUDGET 2013/16 – INITIAL PROPOSALS

A report from the Interim Director of Finance provided the latest Budget Projections for 2013/16. The Budget Projections for 2013/16 included £11 million for growth arising from demographic changes, Government decisions regarding funding and local decisions relating to income.

It was proposed that an extraordinary Council meeting be convened before the end of January to approve the Council Tax Base and Business Rates Base as they had to be agreed by 31 January 2013. The Mayor had agreed to call this meeting on Monday 28 January, 2013 and all Members had been informed.

Budget Cabinet was scheduled for 18 February 2013 with Budget Council scheduled for 5 March 2013. The Council had to agree the Budget and set the level of Council Tax for 2013/14 by 10 March 2013.

The Chief Executive introduced the report and informed the Cabinet that following the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn statement announcement, the budget gap for the next three years was now £109m. The Local Government Finance Settlement had been announced on 19 December and an initial analysis had been provided to the Cabinet by the Interim Director of Finance, this indicated that Wirral's loss of grant in 2013/14 would broadly be as estimated within Wirral's current budget projections, which was a loss of 6% equivalent to £8 million. Details regarding a number of grant areas were, however, still awaited. The Education Services Grant would only be known in late January and Public Health Funding had not yet been announced.

Joe Taylor, Unison Wirral Branch Secretary was invited to address the Cabinet. He welcomed the extension of the consultation period in respect of proposed changes to terms and conditions and emphasised that no savings had been agreed by any Trades Unions at this stage. With £6m in the salary budget for terms and conditions, the proposed reduction of £2.8m represented a 48 per cent cut, with an additional £1.5m saving if four days unpaid leave was introduced, a 1.5 per cent pay cut lasting three years.

Mr Taylor welcomed the extension of the consultation period in respect of the voluntary enhanced severance scheme and that the Administration would be speaking to the Government about possible capitalisation.

He re-emphasised the Trade Unions opposition to compulsory redundancies and that if any were put in place then the unions would ballot their members. Legal advice from UNISON's solicitors had been forwarded to the Administration and he hoped that following the senior management restructure no redundancy notices would be issued on 21 December, 2012.

Mr Taylor further commented that UNISON's national officer would be coming to Wirral on 16 January, 2013 and would be examining the Council's books in the hope of suggesting alternative savings. He went on to give particular examples on certain staff of the devastating cuts in pay if the proposed changes to terms and conditions were approved.

Mr Taylor further stated that immediate savings could be made now by making it a priority to cease the employment of consultants, advisors and agency staff. He urged the Administration not to smash communities and the people who voted the Administration into power.

Councillor Phil Davies informed the meeting that the proposed cuts were not of the Labour Group's making but had their origins with the Conservative / Liberal Democrat Coalition Government and were the result of their austerity policies. The previous Administration had also left a budget deficit of £17m. He had demanded a meeting with Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and would be lobbying the Government with other Merseyside Labour Leaders.

He went on to state that, as Leader of the Council, he would not shirk his responsibilities in setting a legal budget and he had been elected to prioritise the needs of the poor, weak and vulnerable.

In moving a number of proposed savings options, he stated that they were on the basis that they related to the 'back office' rather than front line services and the consultation exercise had shown that the overwhelming majority of respondents supported saving money on these items. In the first part of December, each Overview and Scrutiny Committee had had the opportunity to discuss the budget options and question relevant officers. This approach would continue with further Overview and Scrutiny Committees to be held in advance of an Extraordinary Council meeting at the end of January.

It should be noted that no proposals relating to staff terms and conditions were being proposed at this time as negotiations with the Trade Unions were ongoing. The Administration was committed to working with the Trade Unions to try to reach agreement on these matters. It should also be noted that a number of these options required more formal consultation. Those relating to staff would be subject to further detailed consultation on the potential impact with employees as part of the statutory process. The outcome of this would be reported back to Cabinet.

The savings options proposed were set out in an appendix which showed the saving over the period 2013-16 amounting to £29.6 million. Of this sum, £14.5 million related to 2013/14.

On a motion by Councillor Phil Davies, seconded by Councillor Ann McLachlan, it was -

Resolved – That:

- (1) The Budget Projections 2013/16 and the increase in the Budget gap from £103 million to £109 million be noted.
- (2) The Budget Growth 2013/16 totalling £10.7 million be agreed and the detail be built into the Budget.
- (3) The savings options 2013/16, agreed to date of £11.2 million, be noted.
- (4) Cabinet notes that a special meeting of the Council has been convened for Monday, 28 January 2013 to approve the Council Tax Base and the Business Rates Base.
- (5) Savings options 2013/16 totalling £29.6 million be agreed, in principle, subject to the outcome of further consultation where required.
- (6) It be noted that with the savings agreed to date of £11.2 million these proposals take the total savings to £40.8 million. Of this sum £21.6 million relates to 2013/14 and represents 55% of the Budget gap for 2013/14.
- (7) These proposals be referred to special Overview and Scrutiny Committees for further consideration.

BUDGET SAVINGS PROPOSALS – DECEMBER 2012

Budget Option	2013/14 £000	2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	Total £000	Requires formal staff consulta tion
FAMILIES AND WELLBEING					
Connexions – reduce contract costs	700	300	0	1,000	No
Transfer of PFI affordability gap to Schools Budget	0	0	2,300	2,300	No
Transfer PPM to Schools Budget	250	200	0	450	No
Academies charges for services	60	0	0	60	No
School Improvements	100	0	0	100	No
Housing Benefits – Maximisation of grant	2,000	0	0	2,000	No

TRANSFORMATION & RESOURCES					
Treasury management activities including borrowing costs	1,700	0	0	1,700	No
Rationalisation of IT	210	90	0	300	Yes
Power supplies – contract saving	11	0	0	11	No
Procurement					
- Procurement cards	40	0	0	40	No
- Services provided charged to Schools budget	80	0	0	80	No
- External Audit of Utility Payments	200	0	0	200	No
- Review and reduce suppliers	0	3,000	0	3,000	No
- Implementation of category management	0	0	5,000	5,000	No
- Review of VAT	0	1,000	0	1,000	No
Senior Management Re-structure					
- Directors/Heads of Service	1,000	0	0	1,000	Yes
- All managers above PO1	2,792	0	0	2,792	Yes
- Re-structure – Finance	621	0	0	621	Yes
- Re-structure - Technical Services	250	0	0	250	Yes
- Re-structure - Regeneration, Housing and Planning	337	0	0	337	Yes
- Consultants and Agency staff	500	0	0	500	Yes
Asset Management Re-structure	50	50	0	100	Yes
Closure of Acre Lane & Municipal Building	0	0	458	458	No
Move to 4 yearly elections	0	0	100	100	No
Re-structure - HR service	292	292	0	584	Yes
Re-structure - Legal Services	300	300	0	600	Yes
Review of Committee Services	175	0	0	175	Yes
Transforming Administration Support	500	1,000	1,000	2,500	Yes
Marketing & Public Relations	52	0	0	52	No
Destination Marketing	95	0	0	95	No
Reduction of External Audit Fees	140	0	0	140	No
Deletion of vacant posts					
- Customer Services	550	0	0	550	No

- Pest Control	30	0	0	30	No
- Education Psychologists	80	0	0	80	No
REGENERATION & ENVIRONMENT					
Charge for pre-planning advice	10	0	0	10	No
Invest Wirral support	352	0	0	352	No
Home Insulation Programme	986	0	0	986	No
SUMMARY					
To further staff consultation	7,027	1,732	1,000	9,759	Yes
Not subject to staff consultation	7,436	4,500	7,858	19,794	No
TOTALS	14,463	6,232	8,858	29,553	

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	LOCAL RESPONSE TO TACKLING CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION (CSE) AND CHILDREN WHO GO MISSING FROM HOME/CARE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the local response to CSE, lead by Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB). Following national concern about cases of child exploitation in Rochdale, which resulted in criminal convictions of nine men involved in a network of abuse in 2012, the Government asked that LSCBs to scope 'the nature and extent of the problem and assess how well they are responding'. WSCB action plan is attached in Appendix 1 as well as the Local Government Association (LGA) information entitled 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Key Questions for Lead Members for Children's Services' which will be referenced in this report.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Government produced a progress report on CSE in July 2012 and announced a series of actions to address areas identified in the national reports from the Children's Commissioner and the All Parliamentary Report on Children who go missing from care regarding;

- Asking local authorities to review their own data collections on missing children against police data
- Changing regulations so that Ofsted can share information about the location of children's homes with the police
- Setting up a task and finish group to introduce additional safeguards to improve local authorities' scrutiny of their decisions to place children out of area
- Taking forward changes so that children's homes take a proactive
- Review current provision so that Local Authorities can monitor the quality of care offered in children's homes and alert Ofsted to failings

2.2 These reforms were due to report by the end of 2012 and LSCBs are awaiting further updates on this.

3.0 PROGRESS ON WSCB ACTION PLAN

3.1 Wirral Safeguarding Children Board has set up a sub-group of the LSCB and brought together key agencies such as the Police, Health, Barnardo's and other key partners to review local procedure and policy and consider whether there is an effective response. The action plan covers areas such as:

- Development of an infrastructure to respond effectively
- Identify and engage with children who are experiencing or at risk of CSE
- Integrated services for children experiencing or at risk of CSE
- Decrease the incident of CSE
- Support prosecution of offenders
- Disrupt activity related to CSE

3.2 In addition to the sub-groups work the Independent Chairs of Cheshire/Merseyside LSCB's have developed a CSE strategy which supports the actions identified and is intended to support information sharing across Local Authority areas. The strategy is to be launched regionally before April 2013 through a regional event lead by the independent chairs of LSCB's.

3.3 Locally the Strategic Service Manager-Safeguarding has met with independent providers of children's homes on Wirral to ensure that reporting concerns and incidents of CSE are being done according to the LSCB procedure for CSE and runaways. This meeting has been set up to be scheduled for three times per year to ensure that independent providers are doing what would be expected of 'good enough parents'.

3.4 The LGA briefing for Lead Members on CSE, attached in Appendix 2, is helpful for Scrutiny Committee to develop a greater understanding about what the Local Authorities' should be providing by way of information and data to ensure it is protecting and safeguarding children in their area.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 The LSCB Action Plan is designed to identify the risk to children and young people who are placed away from their home authority and family. Wirral agencies, community groups and members of the community should be aware how to report concern about children who run away and the possibility of exploitation.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 It is a requirement to develop a local action plan and therefore no other options has been considered.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation has taken place with a wide range of partners within the LSCB.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 None specifically identified.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 Finance for the commissioning has been met by CYPD budget which is for the provision of a dedicated counselling/support service for young people at risk of sexual exploitation and for those who run away from home/care through Barnardos.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 None identified.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes - EIA attached

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None Identified.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None Identified.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Members note the LSCB action plan and the work already undertaken in this area

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1

REPORT AUTHOR: **Caroline McKenna**
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Safeguarding Children
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APPENDICES

- 1. Wirral LSCB action plan for CSE appendix 1
- 2. LGA Tackling Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Key questions for Lead Members for Children’s Services appendix 2.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Caroline McKenna

Email address: carolinemckenna@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Caroline McKenna

Chief Officer: Julia Hassall

Department: Children and Young People

Date: 7th January 2013

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Wirral Safeguarding Children Board action Plan – Sexual Exploitation of children July 2012 – April 2013

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny - 21/1/13

Please add hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advances equality of opportunity
- Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

- No** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

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Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Young people that are sexually exploited	Positive: The action plan aims to Identify and engage with children who are experiencing or at risk of CSE and develop appropriate integrated specialist services				
Racial minorities, sexual orientation, disability	Negative: potential for people from certain minority groups to be incorrectly targeted by using a process of ‘hotspot’ locations and as a result of previous media coverage following Rochdale cases. This could lead to harassment and discrimination against communities. Could reduce community cohesion	The development of the policies, procedures and guidance, accompanying training and the media strategy will ensure that any potential for negative targeting is mitigated.	Caroline McKenna	March 2013	None
		Ongoing monitoring will ensure that there is no negative targeting of communities.	LSCB Business manager and QA officer	May 2013	None
All	Positive: responses are based on the needs of individual children and child-centred through the use of a consistent risk screening tool				

All	Positive: the action plan identifies the need for specialist services and to obtain evidence directly from young people that they are meeting their needs. This is to be reported annually to the CSE sub group.				
All	Positive: professionals, community groups, businesses and the public will be more aware of sexual exploitation through awareness raising activities				

Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Through the Child Sexual Exploitation sub group of the LSCB

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Government report on Child exploitation, July 2012
Local Government Association (LGA) information entitled 'Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Key Questions for Lead Members for Children's Services'
Data collection about child exploitation is part of the implementation of the action plan.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

Consultation has taken place with a wide range of partners within the LSCB to develop the action plan

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Add appropriate departmental hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published (section 2b)**
- b) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- c) **Send this EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer?**
- d) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**

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Wirral Safeguarding Children Board Action Plan-sexual exploitation of children July 2012 – April 2013

1. Develop an infrastructure to support an effective response to child sexual exploitation				
Action	Who	What success looks like	When	Progress &RAG rating
1.1 WSCB to produce a written strategy to enable effective identification and action for all agencies on: CSE	CMc	The board has clear multi-agency response to prevention, identification and management of CSE which makes a real difference to children's safety	Jan 2013	
1.2 Establish an implementation group of WSCB to scope the extent of sexual exploitation and produce a co-ordinated operation response across agencies.	CMc	The group brings together all key agencies and organisations and, through focus, commitment and holding each other to account, ensures that the Board's strategy is implemented.	Sept onwards	Sub-group established work begun – schools and probation rep to be agreed
1.3 WSCB will identify and publish contact details for strategic lead for child sexual exploitation.	All Board members	The strategic lead is an easily identifiable point of contact who will enable effective communication between key partner agencies locally and between WSCB and other LSCBs	Dec 2012	
1.4 Partner agencies and organisations will identify lead professionals for child sexual exploitation: this information will be held by the Board and updated as required	WSCB members	Key agencies are represented consistently in the implementation group and there is evidence that required actions have been completed. The point of contact in each agency is available to partners through the WSCB.	July 2012	

<p>1.5 Ensure that current protocols are developed further and revised against national learning and connects with other local partnership boards such as CSP etc.</p>	<p>CSE sub-group</p>	<p>The Board's strategic plan is known to other relevant partnerships; there is mutual understanding of, and agreement to, complementary roles; efficiency is promoted and duplication is reduced.</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>Communicate and agree with relevant Board chairs</p>
<p>1.6 Require relevant agencies to provide 'statements of intent' in respect of commissioning arrangements for the specialist services for CSE with sustainability and contingency plans.</p>	<p>WSCB required agencies</p>	<p>Board members have a clear understanding of the extent to which it can rely on a specialist, co-ordinated team to implement key elements of its strategy in respect of child sexual exploitation. In the event that uncertainty remains, Board members understand the nature of the risks to the viability of the team and how these risks will be managed.</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>Strategy to include statement of intent and signed off by March 2013</p>
<p>1.7 Develop and implement a media strategy</p>	<p>Executive</p>	<p>There is a coordinated response to public concerns about child sexual exploitation, providing clear information to Borough residents and others while, at the same time, reducing undue fears about the safety of local children.</p>	<p>Jan 2013</p>	<p>Facilitate meeting of agency media leads to develop joint strategy AB/PH to look at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working via Barnardos publicity officer (with Wirral & Merseyside Police publicity teams) re a campaign plan/proposal • AB to look at Barnardos MFH/CSE materials to assist with this

campaign via NW Publicity Officer, Caroline Foran
PH to look at the SF team meeting with a group of C&YP re what they would prefer to see from such a campaign (through one of the services links in place to date; i.e. Wirral Met)

2. Identify and engage with children and young people who are experiencing or at risk of sexual exploitation

<p>2.1 Review the current procedure for sexual exploitation and runaways specifically:</p> <p>a. Looked after children placed by other authorities in Wirral</p> <p>b. Children who run away/missing from home</p> <p>c. Children missing from education</p> <p>d. Looked after children who go missing</p> <p>e. Looked after children known to be abusing alcohol or drugs</p> <p>f. Looked after children who are placed out of area.</p>	<p>CSE sub-group</p>	<p>There is a robust process in place which ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consideration is given to the circumstances of individual vulnerable children • there are regular analyses of the outcomes of these considerations which contribute to a continuous review of incidence of child sexual exploitation in Wirral 	<p>August 2012</p>	<p>Risk Management and other processes already developed should co-ordinate with other processes. Elements of data are provided and used.</p>
<p>2.2 Ensure that children identified as vulnerable to child sexual exploitation are ‘screened’ for risk using consistent screening tool</p>	<p>CSE sub-group</p>	<p>There is evidence that the risk assessment screening tool is being applied consistently through audit.</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>Risk assessment tool to be reviewed to compare Bedfordshire University model. Audit of effectiveness to be undertaken</p>

<p>2.3 Develop a robust process for identifying and co-ordinating information about developing networks and ‘hotspot’ locations.</p>	<p>Police missing from home/care officer with CSE sub-group</p>	<p>There is evidence that investigations of offences and the identification of potential victims are based on up-to-date information about links between victims, perpetrators and locations</p>	<p>January 2012</p>	<p>Information is being shared and hotspots identified.</p> <p>AB/PH to look at present Risk Tool being developed for the MFH notifications and consider this against the government recommended Bedfordshire University CSE Risk Assessment model (Mike Towell to take lead)</p> <p>PH to look at integrating the recommended Bedfordshire tool in Wirral SF assessment of CSE cases</p> <p>Wirral SF to obtain Bedfordshire Tool asap in order to become familiar with it</p>
<p>2.4 Work with neighbouring LSCBs to develop common processes for information transfer, risk assessment and data monitoring to assist both communication and working together across local authority areas.</p>	<p>Regional independent chairs group</p>	<p>Understanding of the incidence of child sexual exploitation extends beyond the local authority area; there is evidence of appropriate data exchange between WSCB partner agencies and those of neighbouring LSCBs; and, there is evidence of joint working across local authority and police areas.</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p style="background-color: red; color: black;">[Redacted]</p>

2.5 Develop working practices which are child-centred from the point of identification.	LSCB member agencies	There is evidence that children and young people are provided with emotional support from the first point of contact; that they have had the time and space to express their feelings; and that they are able to work with professionals	March 2013	Multi-agency audit to be completed
3. Provide integrated services for children and young people experiencing or at risk of sexual exploitation				
3.1 WSCB will continue to revise policies and procedures in respect of child sexual exploitation	WSLB Manager	Practitioners and managers have access to specific information about referral pathways, strategy meetings, case planning, and risk management, in respect of child sexual exploitation.	ongoing	Referral pathways are clear and consistent with National guidance.
<p>3.2 WSCB will publish a ‘good practice guide’ for practitioners and managers which:</p> <p>Page 37</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. increases understanding of the problem and recognition of risk factors; b. focuses on preventing problems developing; and, c. emphasises the importance of a child-centred approach and ‘what works’. 		Practitioners and managers have access to evidence-based practice guidance to inform their work with children, young people and families affected by child sexual exploitation.	March 2013	<p>Current research/ literature review/ national guidance to inform – especially what works PH to look at proving initially resources for the group on ‘risk guide/checklist’ professionals, parents/carers & C&YP’</p> <p>PH to look at a resource pack/booklet on risks of CSE (based on a brief intervention model) for C&YP- initial draft for next sub group on 10th Jan (PH to look at meeting with a group of C&YP re what they find</p>

				helpful; i.e. what works & does not work)
3.3 WSCB will measure the impact of its policies and procedures and good practice guidance.	Performance sub-committee reporting to the Board	There is evidence that practitioners and managers are following consistent referral processes; making arrangements for joint strategy meetings where appropriate; developing and implementing holistic plans to safeguard children and young people and to promote their welfare; and, have drawn up a risk management plan.	March 2013	
3.4 For those children requiring specialist services there is direct evidence from them that the service is responding to their individual needs	CSE Sub-group	There is evidence that the needs of children requiring a specialist service are being met and that the risk of harm is diminished.	April 2013	Information to be presented by report annually
4. Decrease the incidence of child sexual exploitation				
4.1 Identify key professionals in relevant agencies and organisations and ensure that they receive training in recognition of child sexual exploitation and how to respond to it.	Training LSCB officer and LSCB manager	There is wider understanding in the professional community of the nature of child sexual exploitation, how to recognise the signs that a child is being exploited and what to do next.	December 2012 onwards	In addition to our SLA commitments re training via the LSCB training team re multi agency training annually on CSE, MFH & HSB. The service has set up ½ day training on MFH/CSE for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private residential providers in Jan • Response/Youth Workers/Health Workers in schools in Feb

				In addition, AB is looking at further ½ training with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster Carers (AB awaiting response from Simon Garner) Front line police officers (AB meeting Helen Mc to plan)
4.2 Identify relevant community groups and business forums and provide ‘awareness-raising’ activities in respect of child sexual exploitation.	LSCB manager	There is an increased awareness among the community of issues relating to child sexual exploitation.	April 2013	
4.3 Provide ‘awareness-raising’ sessions for all high school children and develop electronic resource for future use.	Public Health through staying safe	All school pupils in Wirral have been provided with information about child sexual exploitation and what they should do if they are worried for themselves or others	Ongoing	Linked to actions in 1.7 (see above)
4.4 Develop and deliver a public awareness campaign	LSCB Manager	All citizens, including children, of Wirral are aware of how to get help and refer children at risk of CSE.	January 2013	Linked to actions in 1.7 (see above)
4.5 WSCB will continue to receive performance information on the numbers of CSE and will include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> school attendance in key year groups; the numbers and types of contacts and referrals to children’s social care for children and young people in the relevant age group; 	LSCB Manager and QA Officer	The Board and partner agencies are able to evaluate success of the child sexual exploitation strategy and to revise plans according to changing circumstances.	Partial information held the remainder May 2013	PH/AB to ensure Wirral SF quarterly reports reflect the data set outlined in 4.5 of the action plan (PH to ensure this included in next report in Jan 13)

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- c. the numbers of children ‘missing’, from home, care and education;
- d. information provided by placing authorities about looked after children in Wirral;
- e. numbers of children considered to be at risk of, or victims of, sexual exploitation; and
- f. numbers of children known to have been diverted from/ protected from sexual exploitation
- g. the numbers of complaints made to the police by victims;
- h. the numbers of cases sent forward to the CPS;
- i. the number of prosecutions brought;
- j. the numbers of convictions achieved;
- k. the number and types of ‘non-criminal’ actions taken to disrupt sexual exploitation activity;

5. Support prosecution of offenders

5.1 Merseyside Police should ensure that all staff are

Merseyside Police lead

There is a significant correlation between the

Merseyside Police are seeking to ensure that the

aware of the appropriate and legally compliant evidence gathering requirements and that, when arrests have been made, there are appropriate bail conditions in place to protect victim/s.		numbers of complaints made to Police and the number of cases sent forward to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS).		5 LSCB's Action Plans are synergised and contain a list of tactical options in place
5.2 Criminal justice organisations locally should work together to ensure that support is provided for sexually exploited young people throughout the whole process of reporting the crime, making statement, the pre-trial preparation, going to court and after the trial.	Merseyside Police and CPS	Young people are enabled to participate as fully as possible in achieving justice for crimes committed against them and, as a result, there is a significant correlation between the numbers of complaints made and the number of convictions achieved		Merseyside Police are seeking to ensure that the 5 LSCB's Action Plans are synergised and contain a list of tactical options in place
5.3 Provide CPS briefings to key professionals in respect of evidence gathering.		There is a significant correlation between the numbers of cases received by the CPS and the number of cases going forward to trial.		Merseyside Police are seeking to ensure that the 5 LSCB's Action Plans are synergised and contain a list of tactical options in place
6. Disrupt activity related to child sexual exploitation				
6.1 Identify, develop and implement a range of disruption activities from early preventative measures to more intrusive interventions, targeting locations and offenders.	Merseyside Police lead	Strategy meetings and risk management plans provide evidence of multi-agency disruption activity to reduce risks to individual young people. There is evidence that prevalence of child sexual exploitation is reduced, including reports provided by young people themselves.		Merseyside Police are seeking to ensure that the 5 LSCB's Action Plans are synergised and contain a list of tactical options in place

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Tackling Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Key Questions for Lead Members for Children's Services

What is Child Sexual Exploitation?

The sexual exploitation of children and young people may involve young people receiving 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of performing, and/or others performing on them, sexual activities. Those exploiting the child/young person have power over them by virtue of their age, gender, intellect, physical strength and/or economic or other resources. Children and young people may also become involved in sexual exploitation through association with other young people who are being exploited, and who may draw them in possibly to deflect attention (known as peer on peer grooming).

Introduction and Purpose

Evidence indicates that CSE is prevalent across the country, occurring in both rural and urban areas with both perpetrators and victims coming from a range of social and ethnic backgrounds. All LSCBs should assume it is happening in their area, unless there is clear evidence to the contrary¹.

This document aims to support lead members for children's services to understand what work is underway in their area to tackle CSE, in the format of 'key questions to ask' of officers, the LSCB or other agencies, along with some suggested points to look out for. It is not intended to be exhaustive and local approaches will of course vary, but instead aims to provide prompts to enable discussions about how the issue is being addressed locally.

The questions are based on the 5 elements of an effective response set out in the practice briefing produced by LGA and Barnado's earlier in the year, which can be found here: www.local.gov.uk/cse

Raising awareness

Key questions	Look out for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we aware of the threat and signs of child sexual exploitation in our locality? • Do we have a preventative programme? • Are there resources and expertise for others to draw on? • What is the scale and form of training available for key professionals? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising in schools to inform children and young people of the risks • Methods to raise awareness of the signs of CSE with parents and carers and telling them where support can be accessed • Community/public awareness • Multi-agency training programme for professionals across the region, which may take the form of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ External expertise ○ Internal knowledge-sharing ○ E-learning

¹ Safeguarding children and young people from sexual exploitation: supplementary guidance to Working Together to safeguard children

Key questions	Look out for...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training provided for frontline workers including for example children’s home staff, street wardens, park staff, staff in pubs, clubs and hotels as well as social care, police, health and education

Understanding what is happening

Key questions	Look out for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have we ‘assumed’ that child sexual exploitation is occurring? • Is the LSCB recording data on child sexual exploitation? • Is local data reviewed to establish the prevalence and character of abuse? • Who holds the data and what local arrangements are in place? • Are CSE cases identified and data collected to inform the local and national picture? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data is collated, held centrally and is shared by police, social care, health and other agencies • Regular profiling exercises which include information from the voluntary sector • Identification of local ‘hotspots’ • Links are made with other LSCBs to compare data and obtain a wider / regional picture of child sexual exploitation and contribute to the national picture • Self assessment tools for LSCBs

Developing a strategic response

Key questions	Look out for...
<p>Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we have a clear strategy that agencies can reference to understand child sexual exploitation and what has been planned to address it? • Is an action plan ready for when a young person is identified as being at risk? • Is the strategy cross-authority or regional? <p>Risk assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a risk assessment been conducted? • Is there a clear referral system and can progress be tracked? 	<p>Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy is child-centred with a core purpose of protecting the welfare of children and young people • Strategy makes links to related issues such as domestic violence or going missing • Multi-agency working is recognised as essential • Collation of all agency information to disrupt and prosecute criminal behaviour <p>Risk assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of key risk indicators and vulnerabilities exists • Toolkits and process mapping used

Key questions	Look out for...
<p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How frequently are multi-agency meetings held and who attends them? • Is there an LSCB sub-group and/or lead officer/s at strategic and operational levels? • How are other agencies engaged? • Do we have information sharing protocols in place? 	<p>Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings are frequent and consistently attended • Key agencies include: social care, police, health, education, YOT, probation, housing, youth services and VCS • Actions are assigned with an accountable review process

Supporting victims of exploitation

Key questions	Look out for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are services tailored to support those at risk? • Do we carry out direct work with those young people who have been exploited or are at high risk? • Do we provide preventative intervention to stop young people's risks increasing? • Are services co-located? • Is there provision for alternative accommodation and training to foster carers? • Who delivers intensive direct support to young people? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response is determined by needs and circumstances • Those at risk are helped to recognise and exit the abuse • Local agencies pool budgets to fund provision • Young people and children have their plans monitored and reviewed • Specialist training provided to a number of foster carers who can provide additional support to children and young people at risk • Long term support • Voluntary sector engaged at strategic and operational levels

Facilitating policing and prosecutions

Key questions	Look out for...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When safeguarding children, how do professionals gather and preserve evidence to support prosecution of perpetrators of child sex exploitation? • Is there a disruption plan and how is it delivered? • What support is there for young people during disclosure and investigation stage? Is there pre-, during and post-trial support? • Who is best placed to conduct return from missing interviews to gain critical information about the missing episode? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council participates in disruption tactics, such as issuing child abduction notices to prevent a named adult from associating with a child • Systems are in place and technology is used to track those under suspicion of child sexual exploitation • Use of multi-agency working and risk mapping tools provide police with the assistance and support needed to enable disruption and prosecution • Knowledge and information is shared on high-risk areas and individual cases

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION:	NO

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to work with partners to develop a Wirral Child Poverty Strategy as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is principally to update Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee members about the actions being taken by the Child and Family Poverty Working Group, the independent advisory forum established in 2010 for the purpose of informing the development and implementation of Wirral's strategy and action plan. The refreshed role and remit of the Working Group was outlined in the previous report to Committee on the 12th November 2012.

2.0 Update

- 2.1 At its meeting in December the Chair of the Working Group (Bev Morgan, Homestart-Wirral) presented an e-learning version of the child poverty training module which has been developed by the voluntary and community sector for use across the children's workforce and which will be available online for all organisations to utilise through the safeguarding website. The Working Group is keen for all those with an involvement or interest in children and family services to complete the training.
- 2.2 The Working Group also agreed a number of actions to progress the development of its action plan:
 - Consideration of the 'what works' report commissioned by the Council in conjunction with the Working Group to consider the barriers for local people in gaining and sustaining employment, and the impact on family life;
 - The establishment of a Task Group to develop a strategy and practical interventions focused on the best use of community assets in supporting action to tackle issues of poverty; this work will be supported by Public Health in respect of geographical profiling;

- The establishment of a Task Group to review innovative international approaches to community resilience, and explore where these could be practically applied in Wirral;
- A focused discussion and debate at the next meeting of the Working Group on the 19th February 2013 concerning changes to the welfare benefits system and what financial inclusion activities are in place to mitigate against the impact of these changes.
- A decision was made that all future meetings of the Working Group will include a themed presentation on a priority topic for challenge and enquiry by the Working Group (see above for the focus on 19 February); this is to ensure that Wirral has a focused work programme and framework for action. This also provides the opportunity to develop local responses to the priorities identified for 2013 by the Liverpool City Region Commission on Poverty and Life Chances.

2.3 Committee Members will be aware that a range of activity is underway by the Council to ensure that services respond effectively to the changes to the welfare benefit system and that the impact on local residents is clearly understood. As mentioned in 2.2 above, the Working Group is keen to engage with this agenda and make recommendations to feed into the Council's action planning. The Liverpool City Region Commission on Poverty and Life Chances has also prioritised understanding the impact of Universal Credit in the coming year and Wirral will continue to contribute to this sub-regional working.

2.4 Wirral recently attended a meeting organised on behalf of the Liverpool City Region Commission to discuss a response to the government consultation currently underway with regard to a national measurement of child poverty. Information on this consultation can be found at:

www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/consultations/a00216896/measuring-child-poverty

2.5 Work is also being undertaken by Council officers to update Wirral's child poverty needs assessment and to incorporate this as a dedicated 'chapter' in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This will ensure that statistical and other information about child poverty in Wirral is considered as part of the key evidence base for the local area when strategic commissioning activities undertaken.

2.6 The Working Group will report its quarterly update to the Children's Trust on the 22nd January in accordance with the governance arrangements now in place.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 Failure to develop and implement a child poverty strategy and action plan will expose the Council to risk of challenge for failing to discharge a statutory duty.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 This report provides an update on the ongoing approach being undertaken to explore options for action by the Council and its partners in relation to eliminating child poverty in Wirral, and to implement these as appropriate.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The information set out in this report is based on ongoing consultation with local partners and stakeholders through the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 The role of the voluntary, community and faith sector in tackling the complex problems faced by children and families living in poverty and in identifying those at risk is recognised through appropriate representation on the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group. In addition, the group is chaired by a representative from the voluntary, community and faith sector. The sector continues to be a key partner in developing and delivering Wirral's strategy and action plan.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 The activities described in this report are being progressed using existing staff resources from a number of departments.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The local authority has statutory duties in relation to the Child Poverty Act 2010.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The final child poverty strategy and action plan referred to in 2.5 above will be accompanied by an equality impact assessment attached.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report has no specific carbon reduction implications.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 This report has no specific planning and community safety implications.

12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

12.1 It is recommended that

- Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the update set out in this report and requests any further information as required.

13.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

13.1 At its meeting of 17th October 2011, Council requested that regular updates on progress in implementing the recommendations in the report to Cabinet are provided to the Children & Young People and Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committees.

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APPENDICES / REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
CABINET: CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY BUDGET OPTION	27th September 2012
CABINET: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN	14th April 2011
CABINET: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT	13th October 2011
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT	16th November 2011
CABINET: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT	14th April 2011
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT	21st March 2012
CABINET: CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY BUDGET OPTION	27th September 2012
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT	12th November 2012

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF ATTAINMENT & PROGRESS AT THE END OF KEY STAGE 4
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DATA FOR 2012 INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT IS UNVALIDATED AND IS THEREFORE PROVISIONAL UNTIL JANUARY 2013.

1.1 This report provides a summary of the standards attained at the end Key Stage 4 for 2012. Priority 2 of the Corporate Plan 'My Family' states the objective "Support schools and other settings to improve educational provision and attainment maintaining a specific focus on addressing the impact of poverty". This analysis links with the Enjoying & Achieving outcome area of the Children & Young People's Plan 2012-13 – in particular area 2 "Improve the educational outcomes for children and young people affected by poverty and disadvantage including children in care".

1.2 For this area of work, success is measured by:-

- i) Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at Key Stage 4. (PI 102b)
- ii) Attainment of looked after children achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C, including English and maths. PI (101)
- iii) Percentage of children with Special Educational Needs statements achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C, including English and maths. (PI 1601)

1.3 The following performance indicators will be evaluated as key milestones in the Learning & Achievement Branch Plan for the implementation of the new School Improvement Strategy to ensure statutory duties are met:-

- i) Attainment of 5+ GCSE A*-C, including English and maths. (PI 75)

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Glossary of Terms

GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education

Key Stage 4 – attainment is measured for the rising 16 year old pupils

5+ A*-C incl E&M – five or more GCSEs with grades A*-C including English and mathematics

Floor Standard – The Department for Education introduced a secondary floor standard last year for 2011.

A secondary school will be below the floor if fewer than 35 per cent of pupils achieve the standard of five GCSEs with grades A-C including English and mathematics - raising the floor by five percentage points - and fewer pupils than the national average make the expected levels of progress between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 in English and mathematics.*

The floor standard was changed for 2012 to 40 per cent of pupils achieve the standard of five GCSEs with grades A*-C including English and mathematics - raising the floor by a further five percentage points

2.2 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers at Key Stage 4. (PI 102b)

PI 102b	FSM Wirral 2011	Non FSM Wirral 2011	FSM Wirral 2012	Non FSM Wirral 2012	Wirral gap 2011	Wirral gap 2012	National gap 2011	National gap 2012
5+ A*-C incl E&M	38.6	72.8	40.4	70.1	34.2	29.7	27.5	26.3

The main indicator for the attainment gap has narrowed at KS4 by nearly 5 per cent from 2011 and continues a positive downward trend but is still above the national gap. Pupils in receipt of FSM perform well against national averages whilst their non-FSM peers perform exceptionally well against national comparisons.

Narrowing the attainment gap continues to be a focus for the local authority and its secondary schools. This is covered in more depth in the *Narrowing the Gap at key Stage 4* report for the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the January 21st 2013.

2.3 Attainment of children looked after achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C, including English and maths. PI (101)

PI 101	Wirral LAC 2010	Wirral LAC 2011	Wirral LAC 2012	National 2010	National 2011
5+ A*-C incl E&M	8	9	12	12	13
5+ A*-C	29	26	42	26	31

Attainment for children looked after on Wirral has risen since last year for 5+ A*-C incl E&M and for 5+ A*-C as well.

2.4 Percentage of children with Special Educational Needs statements achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C, including English and maths. (PI 1601)

PI 1601	SEN St 2010	SEN St 2011	SEN St 2012	National 2010	National 2011	National 2012
5+ A*-C incl E&M	6.0	8.8	10.4	7.3	8.5	8.5

The attainment levels for children with Special Educational Needs statements achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C, including English and maths are not available yet.

2.5 Attainment of 5+ GCSE A*-C, including English and maths. (PI 75)

PI 75	Wirral 2010	Wirral 2011	Wirral 2012	National 2010	National 2011	National 2012
5+ A*-C incl E&M	58.7	64.1	64.8	53.5	58.9	58.3

The data shows a three year rising trend against a slight drop this year for the national figure. The gap between boys and girls is consistent with the national gap of girls outperforming boys by around 10 per cent.

2.6 CONCLUSIONS

To conclude the following areas are foci for development:-

- To continue to raise attainment at all key stages with a particular focus on those schools where underperformance has been identified.
- To continue to reduce the attainment gap between children eligible for free schools at KS4.
- To continue to raise the attainment of children looked after at all key stages
- Implement and evaluate the new School Improvement Strategy ensuring we meet our statutory duties

2.7 The following challenging milestones outlined within the Corporate Plan will be used to monitor and evaluate impact:-

- Improve attainment of 5+ GCSE A*-C (including English and Maths) to 64% of pupils
- Reduce the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers to 29% at Key Stage 4.
- Increase the percentage of children looked after achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C (including English and Maths) to 20% of all children looked after.
- Increase the attainment of children with Special Educational Needs statements achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C (including English and Maths) to 10% of pupils.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The School Improvement Team needs to continue to work with schools (in particular vulnerable & underperforming schools) to ensure that pupil attainment is monitored and evaluated regularly so that progress is maintained and improved upon.
- 3.2 Where schools do not meet the DfE floor standards, so appearing in the lowest attaining 1.1% of schools nationally, the DfE will want to seriously consider these schools moving from the Local Authority to Academy status. The Director of Children and Young People's Department is likely to issue a warning notice to any school whose results have been below the floor target for a consecutive number of years. There are currently no maintained schools below the secondary floor standard.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There is regular consultation with schools to determine future plans and strategies to raise standards further.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 There are no plans to formally consult with other partners at this stage.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications in terms of finance, IT, staffing and assets.
- 7.2 The resources of the School Improvement Team are used to review attainment and achievement. Schools /settings who are underperforming are identified and support is commissioned from external providers. The School Improvement Strategy has resulted in schools being identified as causing the Local Authority concern. Regular monitoring meetings and support from the principal managers has been effective in preventing schools going into an Ofsted category. The identified schools have demonstrated improvement as a result of the targeted support.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 None identified.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None identified

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None identified

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 The committee to note the report.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 N/A

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Stuart Bellerby

Email address: stuartbellerby@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Vivian Stafford

Chief Officer: Julia Hassall

Department: Children & Young People's Department

Date: October 12th 2012

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

The review of standards at the end of Key Stage 4

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes Overview and Scrutiny

January 21st 2013

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- X **Other (Schools)**

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- X Advances equality of opportunity
- X Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

- No** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Gender	A negative impact is the gender attainment gap widens. Close monitoring and evaluation of attainment at all key stages will have a positive impact in raising attainment	School Improvement Associates to monitor and evaluate both boys' and girls' attainment and report on improvement with a focus on narrowing the attainment gap	Stuart Bellerby	September 2012 - August 2013	None
Race	A negative impact is the attainment of BME and EAL pupils decreasing or staying the same. Close monitoring and evaluation of attainment at all key stages will have a positive impact in raising attainment for BME and EAL pupils	School Improvement Associates to monitor and evaluate BME and EAL pupils' attainment and report on improvement	Sarah Howarth	September 2012 - August 2013	None
Socio-economic status	A negative impact is that free school meals pupils attain lower than their non free school meals peers. Close monitoring and evaluation of attainment at all key stages will have a positive impact in raising attainment	School Improvement Associates to monitor and evaluate pupils eligible for free school meals and non free school meal pupils' attainment to continue to narrow the	Stuart Bellerby	September 2012 – August 2013	None

		attainment gap			
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Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Actions will be monitored by the Principal Managers in the School Improvement Team each term with a report completed in the Autumn and Summer term in the academic year.

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The School Improvement Team focuses on raising attainment for all pupils. In particular the focus is to narrow attainment and achievement for vulnerable groups.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Data from the Local Authority Information Section and the National Statistics Gateway has been compared and analysed.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

No - This is a report that is in the Learning & Achievement Branch annual work plan which reports to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the Autumn term each year.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- b) **Send this EIA to your Head of Service for approval.**
- c) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to your Head of Service for approval then to your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	NARROWING THE GAP AT KEY STAGE 4
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL DATA FOR 2012 INCLUDED IN THIS REPORT IS UNVALIDATED AND IS THEREFORE PROVISIONAL UNTIL JANUARY 2013.

- 1.1 This report summarises the progress made in reducing the attainment gap between pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and those not eligible for free school meals.

The key measure is the difference in the percentage of pupils in each group attaining 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE including English and maths.

- 1.2 Priority 2 of the Corporate Plan 'My Family' states the objective "Support schools and other settings to improve educational provision and attainment maintaining a specific focus on addressing the impact of poverty".

This report links with the Enjoying & Achieving outcome area of the Children & Young People's Plan 2012-13 – in particular area 2 "Improve the educational outcomes for children and young people affected by poverty and disadvantage including children in care."

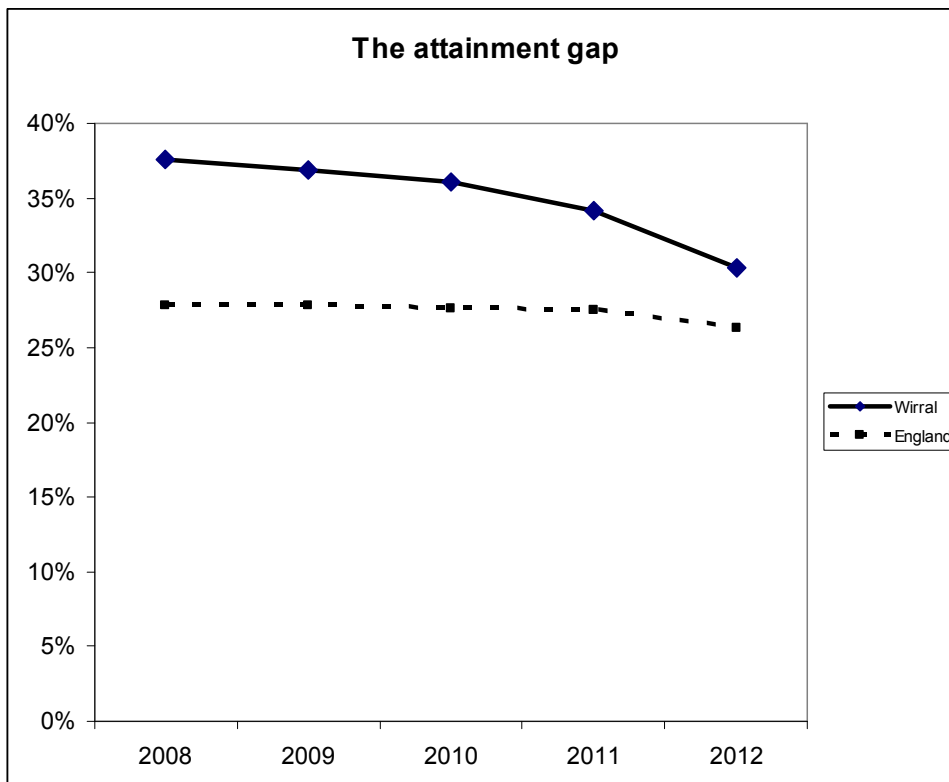
2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Historically Wirral's gap has been very much wider than the national average, and in the bottom 10% of all local authorities in England.

The main indicator for the attainment gap has narrowed at KS4 by nearly 5 per cent from 2011 and continues a positive downward trend from previous years. On average pupils in receipt of FSM perform well against national averages, whilst their non-FSM peers perform exceptionally well against national comparisons, thus leading to a wider gap than nationally.

Attainment gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers at Key Stage 4. (PI 102b)

PI 102b	FSM Wirral 2011	Non FSM Wirral 2011	FSM Wirral 2012	Non FSM Wirral 2012	Wirral gap 2011	Wirral gap 2012	National gap 2011	National gap 2012
5+ A*-C incl E&M	38.6	72.8	40.4	70.1	34.2	29.7	27.5	26.3



2.2 Over recent years, schools have targeted significant resources at intervention for pupils identified as not being on track to meet their GCSE targets. This work has been supported by the local authority via the '100 Club' project.

Since 2010 the local authority has invited schools to identify, between them, one hundred pupils in receipt of FSM thought unlikely to attain 5+ A*-C including English and maths with existing levels of intervention.

Schools were given some additional financial support, from School's Forum DSG funding, to provide extra intervention for the identified pupils. This amounted to £120,000 across the 15 schools in 2010/11 and £60,000 for 2011/12.

As in 2011, pupils in receipt of FSM who were part of the project performed significantly better than pupils in receipt of FSM who were not (53% attaining 5+A*-C including English and maths, compared with 40% for other FSM pupils). Evidence suggests that of the 4.5% narrowing of the gap from 2011 to 2012, the '100 Club' project contributed at least 1%.

- 2.3 However, while Wirral's gap has narrowed substantially over the last three years, it still remains larger than the national gap. Therefore the '100 Club' project is continuing for its third and probably final year focused on Year 11 intervention for pupils in receipt of FSM.

Evaluation of the '100 Club' project in early 2012 involved meetings with schools to determine which interventions with students were found to be the most effective. Reports for schools were drafted from these evaluations. However, there were two unexpected and very significant findings.

- 2.4 First, most schools stated that they did not do anything particularly special for pupils in receipt of FSM. Discussions with other local authorities reveal this to be a common picture.
- 2.5 Second, most schools were setting pupil-level GCSE targets that were significantly lower for pupils in receipt of FSM than non-FSM pupils. Again, discussions with other local authorities reveal this to be a common picture – Wirral's schools are not acting any differently to schools elsewhere in the country.
- 2.6 The first of the two findings: when asked why, schools said that their normal tracking and monitoring systems would pick up any pupil, regardless of pupils in receipt of FSM, who was underperforming, thereby triggering extra support where appropriate. Schools were acting in a way which they believed was equal and fair to all pupils who might be 'off-track'. This conclusion is reasonable.
- 2.7 However, it is the second finding that explains in large part why the attainment gap persists. Schools reported that the targets they set for pupils were, to a very large extent, based on the pupils' prior attainment at Key Stage 2. This practice is now believed to be almost universal across the country.
- 2.8 The key fact here is that pupils in receipt of FSM attain less well at Key Stage 2 than non-FSM pupils (as, indeed, they do at every stage of education). Therefore targets that use Key Stage 2 results as a starting point inevitably include a bias against pupils in receipt of FSM, resulting in them having lower GCSE targets.

This has the unavoidable consequence of setting targets to inadvertently generate an attainment gap (assuming that pupils achieve their targets). Pupils in receipt of FSM do not show up on schools' tracking and monitoring systems as often as they need to if the gap is to be closed – because in general they are being tracked and monitored against lower targets and are found to be on track to meet these lower targets.

- 2.9 If the gap is to be finally eradicated it is an essential requirement that pupils in receipt of FSM, as a group, are set targets which equal those of non-FSM pupils.
- 2.10 To support this requirement the local authority has developed a target-setting system which automatically generates pupil-level targets that, on average, are equal for both groups.

In addition, the system indicates the stages pupils need to be at in order to meet their targets. This in itself would address both findings simultaneously. When pupils in receipt of FSM have higher targets than they would otherwise have had, they are more likely, in the early stages of their secondary education, to be performing below the level needed to achieve the targets. This, through schools' tracking and monitoring systems, will flag up those pupils for extra support to get them back on track. Earlier intervention is the key here.

- 2.11 Three schools have volunteered to participate in the Raising Attainment for Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY) project, which is a trial of the target-setting process with their current Year 7 and 8 cohorts. The first data indicating the progress of the FSM cohort will be available in late January and, by summer term, a clear picture should emerge as to whether the pilot is having the expected consequences.
- 2.12 While the final attainment gap for these pupils will not be known until 2016 and 2017, the live data provided by the schools over this academic year will enable the local authority to judge the likely success of the RADY project.
- 2.13 One of the schools reported that, during a recent Ofsted inspection, the inspectors had been very impressed with this unique approach through the RADY project.

2.14 CONCLUSIONS

If the pilot in 2012-13 is successful, the target setting system will be made available to all schools. In itself, it is a simple and cost-free process. Possible costs to schools may result from a likely upsurge of extra support for pupils in receipt of FSM, as a result of their being found to be underachieving in the early stages.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The School Improvement Team needs to monitor the progress of the pilot to ensure it is producing the desired effect on the progress of pupils in receipt of FSM.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 There is regular consultation with schools to determine future plans and strategies to raise standards further.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are no plans to formally consult with other partners at this stage.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 There are no direct financial implications in terms of finance, IT, staffing and assets. The financial resource implications are that the Learning and Achievement Branch has allocated a further £40,000 to extend the project into the 2012-13 academic year, from School's Forum DSG funding.

7.2 The resources of the School Improvement Team are used to monitor the gaps at school and local authority level.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None identified.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None identified.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None identified.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 The Overview & Scrutiny to note the report.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 N/A

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APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children And Young People Overview And Scrutiny Committee	26th January 2012

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Stuart Bellerby

Email address: stuartbellerby@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Vivian Stafford

Chief Officer: Julia Hassall

Department: Children & Young People's Department

Date: December 20th 2012

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

NARROWING THE GAP AT KEY STAGE 4

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes Overview and Scrutiny

January 21st 2013

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services
- The workforce
- Communities
- X Other (Schools)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- X Advances equality of opportunity
- X Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

- No (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Socio-economic status	A negative impact is that pupils in receipt of FSM attain lower than their non free school meals peers. Close monitoring and evaluation of attainment at all key stages will have a positive impact in raising attainment and the '100 Club' and RADY projects are intended to raise attainment for pupils in receipt of FSM.	School Improvement Associates to monitor and evaluate pupils eligible for free school meals and non free school meal pupils' attainment to continue to narrow the attainment gap	Stuart Bellerby	January 2013 – August 2013	None

Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Actions will be monitored by the Principal Managers in the School Improvement Team each term with a report completed in the Autumn and Summer term in the academic year.

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The School Improvement Team focuses on raising attainment for all pupils. In particular the focus is to narrow attainment and achievement for vulnerable groups.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Data from the Local Authority Information Section and the National Statistics Gateway has been compared and analysed.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

Yes – with secondary schools.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

Through secondary Headteacher meetings.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- b) **Send this EIA to your Head of Service for approval.**
- c) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to your Head of Service for approval then to your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	METRO CATERING INCOME PROCEDURES – AUDIT ACTIONS
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Following an audit of Metro Catering's procedures for the management of meal income, it was requested by the Audit and Risk Management Committee that a progress report be presented to inform them of the actions taken to address the issues identified in the report, it was also requested that this report be considered by the CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The proposed actions will promote the Councils priorities to implement its Improvement Plan.
- 1.2 The Audit and Risk Management Committee on 26 November 2012 resolved that (1) the actions following the audit recommendations be noted and (2) the report be referred to the CYP Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Metro Catering service provides a meal service to 83 schools in the Borough and has produced 730,903 meals in the current financial year April – October 2012 to date, this equates to 7,458 meals being produced on a daily basis. The meal service ensures that meals are available to all pupils on free school meals, that menus meet all current food/nutrient standards and that all Food Safety and Health and Safety requirements are met.

Charges for school meals are set at £2.00 per meal however, the method of collection of the lunch money varies from school to school due to banking procedures and staffing arrangements i.e. by school secretaries and/or Metro Catering staff.

- 2.2 An audit of school meal cash collection on 31 May 2012 identified a number of weaknesses in procedures and made a series of recommendations.
- 2.3 Guidance Documentation
At the time of the audit it was found that there were varied levels of understanding across schools for the correct recording of income, primarily due to inadequate guidance and in some schools no guidance being available at the time of the audit.

Action taken: Draft guidance has been produced which addresses the collection, recording and banking of monies. This is currently being tested for ease of use by catering staff and is due to be implemented at the start of the Spring term (January 2013) with full implementation following a series of training sessions by the end of March 2013.

2.4 Staff Training and Accuracy of Records

The catering service relies on the correct completion of “meal deal” service reports which indicate the take-up of meals by pupils, staff and visitors on a daily and weekly basis. This number is then reconciled against the money either collected by those paying for meals or entitled to free school meals. This is a complicated system as schools have different methods for collection of monies e.g. payment in advance, collection by school employee, collection by Metro cashier etc.

Action taken: The guidance produced now takes the various school methods of cash collection into account and provides a recording mechanism which is auditable. The implementation of the new guidance will be done via training sessions and subsequent site visits by Metro Catering supervisory staff who will reinforce this training and guidance to their staff. Headteachers will be responsible for ensuring correct procedures are adhered to by school staff i.e. non Metro.

2.5 Accounting for Free School Meals

In some schools it was found that meals served were not identified in the records as either paid or free. There were also found to be errors in that some kitchens were recording the number of meals paid for and not the actual meals served which again may result in a loss of income to the service.

Action taken: The guidance document and training will address this issue. A recording mechanism has been set up to ensure that “meal deal” reports confirm the cash collected and free school meal notifications.

2.6 Income Reconciliation

There was found to be poor recording of banked meal income at some sites. Reconciliation of school returns by CYPD staff was also found to be inconsistent due to limited staff resources.

Action taken: The guidance document includes a section of good practice to ensure that the income received is regularly reconciled to actual monies banked. CYPD staff would endeavour to undertake reconciliation of all school returns on a regular basis from the general ledger and any discrepancies investigated and resolved.

2.7 Timely Payments of Staff Meals

In some schools where staff received meals they did not ensure that payment was received on a regular basis which had led to excessive outstanding income.

Action taken: Schools to ensure that staff meals are paid for in a timely manner.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 If training and guidance is not provided then it is likely that errors in the collection and banking of monies will lead to discrepancies in the trading account through loss and misappropriation.

3.2 The complex collection and recording of meals taken, produced and paid will continue to be a significant burden for Metro and school staff with the requirement for ongoing

training and support. It is therefore considered that other collection and recording systems are explored.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Many Local Authorities have switched to an electronic payment system for school meals which parents' access remotely. This would provide a simpler process than the current system, but would have an initial cost implication. Demonstrations of payment systems have been arranged in order to explore options further.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 None.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 The proposals will require a significant input for training for Metro Catering and school staff but will be met from existing resources.

7.2 The introduction of a cashless system would have financial implications but would be considered within a business case proposal.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 None.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.2 That the actions following the audit recommendations are noted.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To ensure that actions are completed in accordance with audit recommendations.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Jeannette Royle**
Head of Service (Capital & FM)
telephone: (0151) 666 5604
email: jeannetteroyle@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Audit report dated 31 May 2012

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Audit & Risk Management Committee	26 November 2012

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	INTENSIVE FAMILY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME (IFIP)
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report outlines the progress achieved in establishing and implementing IFIP, a targeted, multi-agency service for families with multiple and complex needs.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP) is Wirral's local response to the national Troubled Families agenda. Nationally all 152 upper-tier local authority areas have signed up to the Troubled Families initiative with £450 million being invested to turn around the lives of 120,000 families. According to the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) these families cost the public purse approximately £75,000 each per year.

- 2.2 The criteria for being identified as a troubled family is as follows:

- (i) A child within the family whose attendance at school is less than 85%
- (ii) A member of the family is involved in criminal or anti-social behaviour
- (iii) A member of the family is in receipt of out-of-work benefits

In addition to the above we are able to apply a fourth local filter which can be changed throughout the duration of the project.

- 2.3 In Wirral we are expected to work with 900 families between now and 31st March 2015 to improve school attendance, reduce criminal/anti-social behaviour and raise aspirations regarding employment and training.
- 2.4 IFIP will work persistently and consistently with families who have a history of non-engagement with services, or those, who despite multi-agency support, have failed to maintain positive changes. One key worker will work intensively with the whole family to co-ordinate all interventions. This will make the intervention less chaotic for the family, reduce the amount of resources deployed by agencies and address issues of duplication.
- 2.5 The programme will be intelligence-led. Using an intelligence hub, staffed by key partners such as police and health, a comprehensive history of the family including

their involvements with agencies will be produced to allow more effective targeting of services and resources. This will give the Key Worker a greater understanding of who the family are, their historical issues as well as their current needs. The intelligence hub will also provide Key Workers with 'real time' updates on key events such as admissions to hospital, police call-outs and non-attendance at school, allowing immediate action to be taken.

- 2.6 A Strategy for Sanctions will be employed to ensure that families are aware from the very outset the risks they face if they are unable to make the necessary changes to their behaviour. We will not be introducing any new sanctions, rather we will be applying a more explicit and consistent approach to utilising and acting upon sanctions.
- 2.7 As described above, the use of sanctions will offer challenge to families to change their behaviour. In addition to this we will be offering families a support packages which builds on the existing offer within the local authority area. Specialist support will include counselling for parents, couples and/or family groups, fast-tracking to mental health services, substance misuse services and debt/housing advice. In addition to this a *Family Role Model* service will be provided through the voluntary sector.
- 2.8 In the first phase of the project we are working with families in the Seacombe area. This will involve enhancing the Area Team, based within the Children's Centre, by bringing in more adult-focused services, implementing the intelligence hub, and using the Family Assessment, Family Contract and Team Around the Family processes. We aim to target 80 families in Seacombe who meet the criteria for selection. In the second phase of the programme we will extend the model to work with approximately 400 families in Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry.
- 2.9 In addition to using the project as a means by which we improve the way we work with families, we aim to support community development. Working with partners such as Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Wirral Community Patrol, Voluntary, Community and Faith organisations and the Youth Service, we will be hosting events and supporting community-based initiatives to enhance family life within the areas that they live.
- 2.10 The project is governed by the IFIP Programme Board. Membership of the Board is at Senior Manager level and includes Children and Young People's Department, Adult Social Services, Department of Regeneration, Merseyside Probation Service, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Health, Voluntary Community and Faith Sector, and Wirral Strategic Housing Partnership.
- 2.11 The current contract for Intensive Family Support provision, delivered by Catch 22, has been extended to allow an additional 25 families to be supported within the pilot area of Seacombe. These families have been identified and will receive support through this new delivery model.
- 2.12 On Tuesday 20th November 2012, Louise Casey CB, Director General-Troubled Families, met with the Director of Children's Services, IFIP Co-ordinator and two local families who have benefitted from Intensive Family Support. As part of a feature for a BBC Radio 4 documentary the above persons were interviewed by Winifred Robinson on the positive outcomes that this approach can help families to achieve.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The Troubled Families initiative is a payment by results scheme in which part of the income available for each family worked with is dependent on achieving the desired outcomes. The outcomes of the programme and the budget will be monitored on a bi-monthly basis by the IFIP Programme Board.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 There are no proposals for consideration in this report; therefore there are no other options to consider.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Throughout the period of designing the programme and within the initial stages of implementation consultation has taken place through a Stakeholder Group. Membership of the Stakeholder Group consists of appropriate representation from multi-agency partners working with both children and adults. This group is further enhanced by having 2 lay persons, both of whom have been previous recipients of Family Intervention.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 This programme is a multi-agency service for which voluntary, community and faith groups have had continual involvement with. In addition to consultation and development activities, the Family Role Model service and Intensive Family Support services will be commissioned as integral parts of IFIP. Bids for these services have been received from VCF groups and are being considered through the CYPD commissioning process.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 7.1 Delivery of the IFIP programme has the potential to earn £3.3m. A guaranteed £2.1m will be paid to the council through attachment fees and staffing grant, the additional £1.2m is available through the Payment by Results scheme.
- 7.2 The recruitment process for IFIP Key Workers will allow opportunities for staff currently 'at risk' to apply for fixed-term posts until March 31st 2015.
- 7.3 Two posts have been created to support the delivery of the project. Recruitment for An Information Analyst (1.0 fte) and an Administrator (0.5 fte) will commence in January 2013. Both are fixed-term posts until March 31st 2015 and will be offered to internal candidates only.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no legal implications in relation to this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

Yes.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no carbon reduction implications related to this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Criminal and anti-social behaviour are both considered in the identification criteria for Troubled Families. One of the main aims of the programme is to make significant reductions in both. Links and communication channels are well established with relevant partners and the programme will take referrals directly from the ASB Governance Group and Wirral’s Harm Reduction Team.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 Members consider the information in the report and satisfy themselves that this new initiative is being developed and implemented in a manner which is beneficial for the council and its partners, and that it will promote good outcomes for the children and parents in families with multiple and complex problems.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To provide the Committee with information relating a new multi-agency approach to working with children and families.

REPORT AUTHOR: Elizabeth Hartley
IFIP Programme Leader
telephone: (0151) 666 4437
email: elizabethhartley@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

N/A

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	15/03/2012

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

Section 1: Your details: Elizabeth Hartley

EIA lead Officer: Elizabeth Hartley
Email address: elizabethhartley@wirral.gov.uk
Head of Section: Simon Garner
Chief Officer: Julia Hassall
Department: Children and Young People's Department
Date: 02 January 2013

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP)- Wirral's Troubled Families initiative

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

Overview & Scrutiny Committee 21 January 2013

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- ✓ **Services**
- ✓ **The workforce**
- ✓ **Communities**
- ✓ **Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

- ✓ Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- ✓ Advances equality of opportunity
- ✓ Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

No (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Minority groups	Positive impact- Support will be provided to those families in greatest need. Intervention will be undertaken to reduce family breakdown and improve community cohesion.	N/A	Elizabeth Hartley	March 2015	Investment from Central Government through the Troubled Families agenda.
Disability	Positive impact- Targeted families will receive support to reduce family breakdown and the need for specialist services. Those with disabilities will be supported to develop skills which promote resilience and enable families to be more self-sufficient.	N/A	Elizabeth Hartley	March 2015	Potential savings from reduction in need for specialist services.
Families	Positive Impact- Targeted families will receive support to reduce family breakdown and the need for specialist services. The programme should reduce the number of families facing care proceedings.	N/A	Elizabeth Hartley	March 2015	Potential savings from reduction in need for specialist services.

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Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

These will be monitored by the IFIP Programme Board, which consists of Senior Managers from partnership organisations and relevant council departments. Meetings of the IFIP Programme Board are bi-monthly and utilise set agenda items to monitor progress/actions.

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The IFIP programme does not rely on a referral process. Families are identified using the prescribed government criteria. This ensures that selection is based on data. Families who meet the criteria will be automatically offered this service.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

National research and data, mostly that provided through the Department of Communities and Local Government and it's Troubled Families Team.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

No – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

Consultation has already been undertaken in establishing the project. On-going review and consultation will take place through the Stakeholder Group (which contains Lay Members) and through evaluations completed by the families.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

Section 9: Have you remembered to:

- a) Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- b) Send this EIA to your Head of Service for approval.**
- c) Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to your Head of Service for approval then to your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	RAISING PARTICIPATION AGE 2013 AND 2015
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs Overview and Scrutiny about the progress made in relation to the 14-19 Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) Plan 2012/13 (see appendix 1).
- 1.2 Delivery of RPA is a statutory duty for Council's across England and the duty will impact on current year 11 pupils who will have to stay in education or training during the academic year in which they turn 17 (2013/14).
- 1.3 Key areas of activity contained in the plan still to be achieved include:-
 - a) Agreement of local participation targets,
 - b) Evaluation of the Risk of NEET (Not in Education, Employment and or Training) Indicator (RONI) Tool.
 - c) Identification of high impact interventions to support progression and participation.
 - d) Further development of the careers information, advice and guidance offer (pre and post 16)
 - e) Mapping the evolving and complex provision landscape for NEET young people.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The Education and Skills Act 2008 legislated to raise the age of compulsory participation in education or training to the end of the academic year in which young people turn 17 from 2013 and to at least their 18th birthday from 2015. This was in response to the need for the United Kingdom to develop a more highly skilled workforce to compete internationally in a fast changing global economy.
- 2.2 In addition there is the desire to create a fairer and more equal society by dealing with the consequences of leaving education or training at the age of only 16, recognising the strong correlation between being NEET and engaging in risky behaviour, having poor health and low income.
- 2.3 Achieving full participation of young people in education or training until age 18 will require all parts of the education system to play a role. Ultimately, however, it is the council that is responsible for ensuring young people in our area participate, and for

providing the support young people need to overcome any barriers to learning. The 14-19 RPA strategy suggests that the council will need to work through the 14-19 Social and Economic Wellbeing Strategy (SEWB) Group to deliver a more integrated response and tailored offer to all young people.

- 2.4 The government subsequently made clear its commitment to RPA in the 2012 Spending Review announcement, the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' and Departments for Education, Work and Pensions, and Business, Innovation and Skills strategy ***Building Engagement, Building Futures: Our Strategy to Maximise the Participation of 16-24 year olds in Education, Training and Work***. The Building Engagement, Building Futures strategy states:

"We are raising the participation age (RPA).....Young people will have a number of participation options including full-time education in a school or college, an Apprenticeship, or other full-time work alongside part-time education or training. We want young people to participate actively and voluntarily and so we will ensure that the education system has in place attractive options and the necessary support to make young people enthusiastic about learning.....young people will be under a duty to participate, but it puts the onus on the system to offer young people the tailored education and training programmes and targeted support they need to engage" (para 3.3, 3.4)

- 2.5 The strategy sits alongside the new duty on schools to provide independent and impartial careers guidance for Years 9-11 (2012), the introduction of a new KS4 Destination Measure integrated into school performance tables, transforming vocational education following the Wolf Review, the review of the National Curriculum (2014), a new scheme to support colleges in testing out dedicated work experience schemes for 16-19 year old NEETs, the Youth Contract (Oct 2012 for Wirral) and further support for those most in need through the Work Programme, Job Centre Plus and ultimately the Universal Credit system.

3.0 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 Phase 1 of the National Department for Education (DfE) RPA trials ran between September 2009 and March 2010 with ten Local Authorities (LA's) involved. Phase 2 of the RPA trials began in April 2010 and ran until March 2011. Four new LA's were chosen to join the 11 phase 1 areas who all continued into Phase 2.

- 3.2. As in Phase 1 the trial areas in phase 2 were asked to focus on specific themes during the trial period:

- a) How LA's can work most effectively in securing full Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) offer for young people to support the increase in the participation age;
- b) How LA's can plan and deliver a system, building on the September guarantee, which effectively picks up those 16 and 17 year olds who disengage with learning though the year and re-engages them in education or training;
- c) The development of an area-wide strategy to enable full participation of all young people in education or training. This model will assess the overall challenges and barriers, and implement solutions at a local level.

- 3.3. The approach taken by the 14-19 Team has been to review the DfE publication detailing 'Lessons from the RPA Trials' (DfE, 2011), and take from that document examples of best practice for inclusion in the Wirral 14-19 RPA plan to ensure the Wirral Council's statutory duty in respect of RPA will be met and how this will be achieved. The 14-19 Team also completed an initial assessment tool designed, published by the DfE, to enable local authorities to identify gaps in process and knowledge thus helping to inform the development of the 14-19 RPA Plan.
- 3.4. The Wirral 14-19 RPA plan is intended as a living document which is used to guide both major strategic decisions and operational day to day decision making. We owe the young people of Wirral the very best support on their journey from school or college into the world work, so that they may continue to make a positive contribution to society and economy.
- 3.5. Consultation took place with members of the 14-19 Social and Economic Wellbeing Outcome Group (SEWB) during January and March 2012. The RPA plan was signed off by the Children's Trust Board in March 2012.
- 3.6. The Wirral 14-19 RPA plan is split into the following six sections:-
 - a. Understanding the cohort
 - b. Set local priorities and challenges
 - c. Manage transitions and tracking
 - d. Establish support mechanisms
 - e. Identifying and meeting provision needs
 - f. Communicating the message

3.7. **Understanding the Cohort**

This section is the starting point in terms of planning for the achievement of full participation and is concerned with deepening our understanding of future cohorts of 16 and 17 year olds, how they are changing over time and where the future 16 and 17 year olds are in our current system.

- 3.8 The 16-18 cohort declined from 2008–2012 by 10.33%; this equates to 1336 young people. Between 2012 and 2013 the 16-18 cohort is projected to decline by 1.78% and between 2012 and 2015 by 4.99%. The first group of learners who will be affected by the RPA are those pupils in current year 10 (2011/12). The January 2012 Spring School Census states there are 3829 pupils on the Wirral who are in year 10; 19% (722) of these pupils are eligible for free school meals leaving 81% (3107) of pupils who are not eligible. Of the 3829 pupils in year 10, there are 58 (2%) who are looked after.
- 3.9 In April 2012 the 14-19 team were successful in bidding to DfE for RPA trial funding which has supported two family partnership secondments. The RPA project Family Partnership role is to work alongside the 14-19 RPA team in preparation for RPA; (One focuses on KS4 (16 year olds); the second focuses on Post 16 (17 year olds)). This is being done by piloting innovative activity with families to support NEET learners back into Employment, Education and or Training (EET). This compliments activity through the Wirral Council's family support service which adds value to existing practices.

- 3.10 Using research gathered from learner voice survey activity as a starting point into non-participation and dropout, further investigations are being made into the highest drop-out rates at schools in identified wards (targeting schools with poorest destination measures, highest persistent absences, highest fixed or permanent exclusions, low achievement and highest FSM) with a specific focus on vulnerable groups. The impact on families will have sustainable benefits for future cohorts of young people and their peers.
- 3.11 Currently work is being undertaken, led by the 14-19 in consultation with stakeholders, to understand the concept of which has been termed by the DfE as 'reasonable excuse' for a young person eligible for RPA but not participating. A paper has been drafted, for consideration, at the, January 2013, SEWB meeting detailing a proposed Wirral approach and key principles. It is also planned to agree targets for an increase in the participation rates of 17 year olds during 2013 from vulnerable groups at the January SEWB meeting inline with RPA.
- 3.12 The 14-19 Team have also building on the Spring 2012 Learner Surveys and have drawing up a long term plan for collecting learner voice information. The learner surveys have a focus on why learners leave. The next round of learner voice interviews (Sept 2012) is to identify and collate information around reasons given by 16 year old young people as to why they do not participate; why 17 years olds drop out in there first year and how 16 and 17 year olds feel about the availability and quality of targeted and universal information, advice and guidance.

3.13 **Setting Local Priorities and Challenges**

The question to ask now is what interventions will make the biggest difference to the chances of young people participating. Whatever the issues, the next step is identifying what actions or interventions could be taken that would help to address them. The Risk of NEET Indicators tool and other activity including Narrowing the Gap will enable the evaluation of intervention approaches.

3.14 **Manage Transitions and Tracking**

In this section the activity is to start to identify the range of support and activity that already exists to support young people at each stage of their education, starting with the support for young people in years 8 and 9. The focus will then move to the support that takes place whilst young people are studying for GCSEs or equivalents. Finally we will look at what support is offered to young people who might be at risk of not participating post 16, for example, the new council commissioned targeted information, advice and guidance (IAG) service for NEET young people aged 16 to 18 currently delivered by Connexions.

- 3.15 To meet the duties and responsibilities that the local authorities have in the Education act 2011 the City Region IAG Connexions Commissioning Group (IAGCG), and the Directors of Children's Services have endorsed, the following 3 delivery strands:

- 1) Data and tracking – to enable local authorities to track young people and meet the requirements to supply data to Department for Education (DfE). This involves work and data exchange with schools and colleges. Given the travel to learn patterns this is a sub-regional solution, through a single provider.

- 2) Targeted IAG advisory service for NEET and vulnerable young people. One contract across the city region, but with costs, staffing and operational delivery determined in each LA.
- 3) Web/portal to provide accessible information and guidance to support young people. The portal offers some common themes across all local authorities (LAs), but each area has a tailored product to meet individual area needs.

3.16 The Wirral 14-19 Team have developed a number of resources and services to support schools in meeting their new statutory duties from September 2012 in relation to the provision of impartial and independent IAG, detailed in the Education Act 2011. On 1st April 2012 the LA launched the Greater Merseyside Interactive (GMI); this is an education resource aggregation system which aims to support Wirral schools and academies to independently and impartially present the breadth of learning, employment and FE opportunities available to their young people. In addition to the GMI we are also providing an additional package of support to schools and academies which includes full access to the U-Explore CEIAG tool and professional support from IAG qualified practitioners to assist in maximising the potential of U-Explore in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) programmes. The U-Explore tool includes the following:-

- Excellent CEIAG teaching and learning resource for teachers and learners available online.
- 360 virtual tours.
- Work related learning and enterprise resources including job casts, business and sector info.
- Job bank – video case study interviews and text based profiles.

3.17 As mentioned above, the Council has also provided a new free interactive web portal, 'Mersey Interactive' (www.merseyinteractive.com). Mersey Interactive has been developed with the other five Liverpool City Region local authorities and it brings together a number of carefully chosen free and chargeable careers education resources. The resources can be accessed via the internet by young people, parents / careers and teachers to facilitate and enable informed career path decision making.

3.18 The RPA plan identifies a number of groups with specific barriers (e.g. Teenage parents, learners with learning difficulties and / or disabilities (LLDD), Children in Care (CiC)/Care leavers, under-aspirations in learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, FL); we will engage an RPA reference group to discuss and identify differentiated strategies and approaches which are needed to address their particular, individual needs. A full report will be received by SWEB in November 2012. The 14-19 team have already completed a provision mapping exercise in which gaps in provision have been identified; these will be discussed with relevant stakeholders.

3.19 **Establish Support Mechanisms**

The systematic identification pre and post 16 of young people becoming NEET through analysis of their data is a critical step which can compliment schools/academies and providers' own identification of young people who might be at risk. This for Wirral will be measured by a risk of NEET indicator (RONI).

3.20 In the trial areas, the first step in the process of identifying young people at risk of disengagement came from providers' own pastoral care and support systems and from sharing of information between pre and post-16 providers. Trial areas believe that provider systems can be complimented and enhanced by the development of an area wide RONI to identify those at most risk of disengagement and ensure the appropriate support is in place.

Indicators which have most often appeared in trial areas have been:

- Attendance indicators including Persistent Absence, Fixed or Permanent Exclusions, Number of Managed Moves, Number of schools attended, Out of year plus or minus one;
- Attainment indicators including both absolute measures of attainment and progression measures like number of levels, progress made between key stages;
- Free School Meals or some other postcode indicator (also to consider transport links);
- Other specific categories e.g. Statement of Educational Need (SEN) or School Action Plus, Gifted and Talented;
- Identified by Social Care through a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) or by the Youth Offending team;
- Identified as having suffered bullying at school;
- Identified as an alcohol or substance misuser;
- Identified as a being at risk of teenage pregnancy, already pregnant or have a child.

3.21 Based on the early pilot work Wirral have now developed and agreed a range of local "at risk of NEET indicators" associated with disengagement and social exclusion at pre 16. The indicators were developed by looking at the characteristics of NEET young people over 3 years to see how closely correlated each characteristic contributed to them becoming NEET at 16. This data will be used to inform discussion between pilot schools in terms of identifying young people who may require a period of early intervention and targeted support to help retain them in education. This activity is taking place between September and October 2012. A full roll out of the Wirral RONI tool will take place June 2013.

3.22 Early intervention has been identified as the key building block for delivering enhanced outcomes for vulnerable children and their families. Intensive early support can make a positive difference to the lives of children and their families in even the most challenging circumstances. An estimated 20-30% of children and young people have additional needs at some point in their lives. It is this group for whom targeted support within universal settings will be the most appropriate.

3.23 **Identifying and meeting provision needs**

Getting the right offer and provision in place to meet the needs of young people in Wirral is one of the biggest challenges in delivering RPA. Having a better understanding of our specific gaps and provision needs is essential if we are to have a chance of successfully filling them. We will also need to think creatively and imaginatively about how to secure changes in existing provision or establish new provision, at a time of significant resource pressures. This will involve working collaboratively with existing providers, potential new entrants to the market and other groups like employers.

- 3.24 Meeting RPA requirements means we need to ensure that we have the provision in place across the borough which is able to support a wide range of diverse needs. A provision mapping exercise was carried out to look at what is available at each of the levels in each of the sectors and also to look at available progression routes. We are currently looking to identify to what extent current provision meets the current interests and aspirations of learners and those in 2013/2015.
- 3.25 A NEET Action group was set up with the remit of reducing the numbers of NEET young people in Wirral and increasing sustained participation in line with priorities identified in Wirral Children and Young People's Plan, through a case conference approach.
- 3.26 The September Guarantee thresholds were met in Wirral, with 94.95% of Year 11 leavers having a recorded offer of a place in Education, Employment or Training and 80.51% of 17 year olds identified for the Guarantee (inc. those young people on one year programmes, those on Entry to Employment (E2E) / Foundation Learning (FL) and those young people who are NEET in April, May and June 2012) having a recorded offer of a place in Education, Employment and Training.
- 3.27 From August 2012, Wirral have been working with Groundwork as part of the Deputy Prime Ministers £1bn Youth Contract with the remit of supporting 16 and 17 year olds (without any GCSEs) back into work or training. Groundwork have many years experience of delivering bespoke projects that use the environment and local community as catalysts for building a more sustainable future. The programme is to be delivered over three years with the help of a number of other charities such as Barnados, YMCA, Riverside Housing, Prince's Trust and Brathay.

3.28 **Communicating the message**

Although the final element of the Wirral 14-19 plan, communicating the message underpins everything else that we need to do to deliver RPA. It comes last in the draft plan in many respects but it was one of the first things that we needed to get actions agreed for.

- 3.29 The 14-19 team identified early on the key stakeholders we would need to reach in order to ensure the RPA message was communicated as widely as possible. It is important that all of these stakeholders understand the contribution that they can make to supporting RPA in Wirral and that young people and parents know and understand what the impact of the raising of the participation age will mean for them.
- 3.30 It is equally important that the education and training workforce understands not only the practical implications of the raising of the participation age, but also the range of learning options available through the current curriculum reforms. The workforce is critical because evidence suggests young people naturally turn to their teachers / trainers for Information, Advice and Guidance (this also came out of the Spring 2012 learner voice survey) and it is important to equip the workforce for this role. This is an area that we need to focus on over the coming months.
- 3.31 We have raised the profile of RPA by communicating the key messages through a range of mediums, including the use of the Council's internet and intranet; screens at one stop shops and connexions. Further work with schools is planned to reinforce the message with parents; particularly those who do not have access to the internet. We

will build on existing communication channels with FE colleges, schools and providers to ensure that they are well informed and actively support the implementation of Wirral's RPA strategy.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The 14-19 Social and Economic Wellbeing Group has been the reference and consultation group. The current 14-19 2012/1 RPA plan was agreed and signed off by the Children's Trust.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 The voluntary, community and faith sector have been involved in approving the 14-19 RPA Plan as members of the Children's Trust Executive. The voluntary, community and faith sector are also consulted in respect of 14-19 RPA Plan developments as members of SEWB Group.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 None.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Delivering Raising Participation Age for young people age 17 in 2013 and young people aged 18 in 2015 is a statutory duty for the Council. Early indications are that the Council will have to submit performance data to DfE, via the National Client Caseload Information Suite, on a quarterly basis.

9.2 Performance against RPA and our locally agreed targets will also potential come under scrutiny in a Council Children and Young People's Department Ofsted inspection scenario.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached –

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Not applicable.

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Council Members please note report and progress being made in preparation for 2013.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 Not applicable.

REPORT AUTHOR: Paul Smith
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email: paulsmith@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Wirral 14-19 Raising Participation Age Plan 2012/13

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

Section 1: Your details

EIA lead Officer: Paul Smith

Email address: paulsmith@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Section: Vivian Stafford

Chief Officer: Julia Hassall

Department: Children and Young People

Date: 7th January 2013

Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

The Council 14-19 Raising Participation Age Plan 2012/13. The plan details the Council approach, strategy and actions necessary for the Council to ready to meet its new statutory duty in 2013.

Raising of the Participation is concerned with the statutory duty for young people aged 17 in 2013 and those young people aged 18 in 2015 to continue to participate in either education, training or employment.

Section 2b: Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes – CYPD Overview and Scrutiny, 21st January 2013

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

√ **Services**

The workforce

√ **Communities**

√ **Partners**

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

None (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council (please tick relevant boxes)

√ Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

√ Advances equality of opportunity

√ Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

No (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 5:

Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Race, Religion and belief, gender, disability	Insufficient provision available to meet demand.	Complete an annual strategic review of learning opportunities and potential demand on an annual basis. Ensure and gaps in provision are highlighted to the Education Funding Agency using the appropriate process.	Paul Smith	September 2012	None
All young people	Young people unaware of their duty to participate.	Ensure that the marketing and communications plan promotes the new statutory duty to all young people, specifically those aged 14 to 16.	Paul Smith	January 2013	None
Socio-economic status of individuals	Those young people from low income backgrounds unable to access education and / or training opportunities.	Ensure providers are appraised of any individual difficulties identified by the targeted CEIAG service and are using the 16-19 Bursary funding as appropriate.	Paul Smith	From 1 st April 2013 - ongoing	None

Race, Religion and belief, gender, disability	Young people do not have access to the Council commissioned targeted careers, information advice and guidance service (CEIAG).	Ensure young people have access to the targeted CEIAG service in geographically accessible locations. Ensure that CEIAG resources and support are also available remotely via the internet.	Paul Smith	31 st January 2013	None
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Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

All actions will be monitored via 14-19 Team meeting and through the Social and Economic Wellbeing Outcome Group as appropriate.

Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

- Borough statistics for those young people aged 16, 17 and 18 not in employment, education and / or training (NEET). Specifically geographical hotspots.
- Demographic information.
- Attainment data for vulnerable groups.
- Consideration of protected characteristics groups by geography.
- Information on Wirral education and training opportunities.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?

yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?

Consultation will take place with young people through 1:1 direct and telephone interviews.

Consultation will also take place with other key stakeholders through the 14-19 Social and Economic Wellbeing Outcome Group, the NEET Action Group, Learning Provider Network etc....

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for re-publishing.

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14-19 RAISING THE PARTICIPATION AGE (RPA) PLAN

The Education and Skills Act 2008 legislated to raise the age of compulsory participation in education or training to the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from 2013 and to at least their 18th birthday from 2015, in response to the UK need to develop a more highly skilled workforce to compete internationally in a fast changing global economy. In addition there is the desire to create a fairer and more equal society by dealing with the consequences of leaving education to training at the age of only 16, recognising the strong correlation between being NEET and engaging in risky behaviour, having poor health and low income.

The RPA Strategy clearly indicates that Local Authorities *are the strategic lead* in delivering RPA, since they are best placed to bring in the contribution of a range of partners. It suggests that LAs will need to work through the 14-19 Partnership (Wirral Social and Economic Wellbeing Strategy Group) to deliver a more integrated response and tailored offer to all young people.

The government subsequently made clear its commitment to RPA in the 2012 Spending Review announcement, the White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching' and Departments for Education, Work and Pensions, and Business, Innovation and Skills strategy ***Building Engagement, Building Futures: Our Strategy to Maximise the Participation of 16-24 year olds in Education, Training and Work***

We are raising the participation age (RPA).....Young people will have a number of participation options including full-time education in a school or college, an Apprenticeship, or other full-time work alongside part-time education or training. We want young people to participate actively and voluntarily and so we will ensure that the education system has in place attractive options and the necessary support to make young people enthusiastic about learning.....young people will be under a duty to participate, but it puts the onus on the system to offer young people the tailored education and training programmes and targeted support they need to engage (para 3.3, 3.4)

The strategy sits alongside the new duty on schools to provide independent and impartial careers guidance for Years 9-11 (2012), the introduction of a new KS4 Destination Measure integrated into school performance tables, transforming vocational education following the Wolf Review, the review of the National Curriculum (2014), a new scheme to support colleges in testing out dedicated work experience schemes for 16-19 year old NEETs, the Youth Contract (April 2012) and further support for those most in need through the Work Programme, Job Centre Plus and ultimately the Universal Credit system

Following the publication of 'Lessons from the RPA Trials' involving 16 local areas, the attached plan sets out how we, in Wirral Council, may meet our obligations to ensure that RPA is successful. It is intended as a living document which is used to guide both major strategic decisions and operational day to day decision making. We owe the young people of Wirral the very best support on their journey from school or college into the world work, so that they may continue to make a positive contribution to society and economy.

Priority: 1	Understanding the cohort Through greater understanding of future cohorts of young people Wirral CYPD is better placed to signal demand for learning provision in the borough.
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How We Will Deliver (Objectives)	How We Will Be Judged (Performance Indicators)	Milestones (Actions and Targets)	By When	Lead	Done
IDENTIFY AND PROJECT THE COHORTS OF 16 AND 17 YEAR OLDS					
A. To ascertain cohort and project scale of participation in 2013 and 2015	Standardised and robust data sources indicate number of 16 and 17 year olds in each year, and where the 16 year olds in 2013 and 17 year olds in 2015 are now in the system	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review data sources (including GIS) available to the LA (as per the Strategic Overview) in liaison with key stakeholders and internal LA officers 2. Agree data sources and data collection cycle to enable a robust assessment of the 16 and 17 year old cohort 3. Work with the LA Data team to interrogate the SIMS database to identify pupil numbers aged 16 & 17 cohort over the next 3 to 5 years 4. Analyse and present quantitative information with regards to population change 2013-2015 to RPA Planning team 	<p>May 2012</p> <p>May 2012</p> <p>May 2012</p> <p>May 2012</p>	<p>YR</p> <p>YR</p> <p>YR</p> <p>YR</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
B. To identify key groups / number of vulnerable young peoples	Clear understanding of numbers of vulnerable young people coming through the education system by cohort group.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Analyse data on numbers of young people in the vulnerable groups that will be aged 16 and 17 over the next 3 to 5 years (LLDD, LAC, teenage parents and young offenders) 2. Work directly with schools and LA officers (Attendance / SEN team / FSM / YOS, teenage parents) to capture further evidence. 3. Agree targets / ambition for stretch in participation rate for vulnerable young people 	<p>Jan 2013</p> <p>May 2012</p> <p>Sept 2012</p>	<p>PA</p> <p>PS</p> <p>PS via SEWB</p>	<p></p> <p>✓</p> <p></p>
UPDATES B		3. Next Meeting Tuesday 13 th November (PS)			
C. To gain improved understanding of risk factors associated with non-participation	Clear understanding of factors associated with non-participation at age 16 and 17, the inter-relationship between risks and relative importance and the relationship between present risk factors and Post -16 outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and collate information available on previous cohorts 2. Review pre and post 16 risk of NEET indicators which have been used to target existing interventions 3. Analyse risks to non-participation and agree local indicators 4. Analyse and evaluate measurable impact of interventions on participation 5. Agree levels of intervention and range of strategies to best meet the needs of the cohort 	<p>May 2012</p> <p>May 2012</p> <p>March 2013</p> <p>Nov 2012</p>	<p>14-19 Team</p> <p>14-19 Team</p> <p>NAG / SEWB</p> <p>Ref Gp</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p></p> <p></p>
C		5. To pick up when we run RONI Test and Trial. – This is partially done (YR)			
D. To understand current performance	Clear identification of issues affecting local participation, distribution of 'at risk' pupils and areas to be targeted and	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify and collate information available with regards to reasons given by young people in relation to why 16 years olds do not participate, why 17 years olds drop out in the first year and how 16 and 17 year olds feel about the availability and quality of IAG and Provision (Learner voice interviews, Exit interviews, Provider 	Oct 2012	Jo to lead Sue D / Colette M	

	issues to inform planning of provision	<p>Leaver forms)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To analyse how 'at risk' pupils are distributed across secondary schools To use available NEET data to analyse how well secondary schools and Learning Community areas perform against a Post 16 progression and destination measure? To analyse dropout rates at age 17 by provider To analyse trends in take-up of provision (by subject and level) by provider and identify areas of oversupply or demand in order to inform planning of provision 	<p>Feb 2013</p> <p>Nov 2012</p> <p>Nov 2012</p> <p>Dec 2012</p>	<p>14-19 Team</p> <p>PS</p> <p>PS</p> <p>YR</p>	
E. To develop and implement a learner voice strategy for Wirral and improve planning by responding to learners perceptions of the education system through learner voice survey(s)	<p>Detailed Learner Voice Plan.</p> <p>Agreed protocol for collection and co-ordination of data</p> <p>Summary reports used to inform planning of provision</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify target cohorts, information needs and mechanism for collecting views (eg what young people want to study, where they want to go, barriers to participation) Liaise with providers, schools and colleges to collate and improve understanding of what learner satisfaction information is collected and how it is used to influence developments Develop a long term plan for collecting learner voice information and how this will inform planning (focus on why leavers leave). 	<p>May 2012</p> <p>Feb 2012</p> <p>Nov 2012</p>	<p>RJ / SE</p> <p>RJ / SE</p> <p>RJ / SE / SEWB Ref Gp</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
F To learn from, and build upon, best practice in order to inform RPA planning	Best practice integrated into future planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete consultation with WLPN, schools / academies and other partners on why some cohorts of young people do not participate in education Benchmark Wirral cohort against other (similar) LA areas willing to share best practice Review current research and identify best practice models (nationally (DfE Effective Practice) and locally) Complete research into lessons learnt from RPA Trials eg East Sussex and identify different ways of tackling the issues to inform future planning. 	<p>June 2012</p> <p>June 2012</p> <p>Dec 2012</p> <p>Dec 2012</p>	<p>PS / SE</p> <p>JS / PS</p> <p>14-19 Team</p> <p>FPW Team</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
G To deliver a DfE funded RPA locally-led delivery project	Learning from project integrated into future planning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and submit application for RPA Trial project phase 4 (RPA Intervention project – to assess impact of Family Partnership Workers (2) on participation rates) Prepare Action Plan for DfE approval Appoint two workers, set up line management structure, deliver induction, agree cross department protocol (Action Plan Objective 1) Deliver project outcomes (Action Plan Objective 2) Evaluate impact, share learning and fulfil all DfE evaluation requirements (Action Plan Objective 3) Disseminate learning in order to design future service delivery 	<p>Jan 2012</p> <p>Mar 2012</p> <p>April 2012</p> <p>July 2012</p> <p>Mar 2013</p> <p>April 2013</p>	<p>14-19 Team</p> <p>14-19 Team</p> <p>FPW Mgt team</p> <p>FPW Mgt team</p> <p>VS/PS/ SEWB</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>

Priority: 2	Set system level priorities and challenges Corporate Plan Reference: xxxxxxxx 10% more young people aged 17 participating in learning.
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How We Will Deliver (Objectives)	How We Will Be Judged (Performance Indicators)	Milestones (Actions and Targets)	By When	Lead	Done
IDENTIFY THE KEY BARRIERS TO PARTICIPATION AND THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEMS					
H. To identify gaps in planning for RPA. To prioritise actions to inform planning of RPA strategy	Progress monitored against the national indicators.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the National DfE RPA self evaluation tool / RPA Readiness Tool Discuss and agree on strengths and areas for targeted development in RPA planning 	Dec 2011 July 2012	14-19 Team SEWB Ref Gp	✓ ✓
	Clear strategy, identified on the basis of impact and which targets priorities for young people by geographical area.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse data (priority 1) and agree common issues which have the greatest impact on participation in Wirral Complete priorities / impact matrix and identify interventions or actions that will have a significant impact. Take the completed impact / priorities matrix out for wider consultation with key stakeholders to ensure buy-in Agree priorities for increasing participation rate Identify actions which have the greatest impact on priorities (ease of implementation and with resource allocation). Identify and agree actions which may cease in order to channel resources more effectively Produce action plan, agreed and shared by partners 	Dec 2011 Dec 2011 Nov 2012 Sept 2012 Oct 2012 Feb 2013	14-19 Team 14-19 Team 14-19 Team / WLPN SEWB SEWB Ref Gp SEWB Ref Gp	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
H.		3.			
I. To plan trajectory and monitor progress	<p>Clear vision of what full participation means and how many young people may have a reasonable excuse at any one time</p> <p>Clear trajectory between the current level of participation and full participation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Refine action plan with timescale and impact measures Identify the shape of the trajectory based on when impact is expected over time Discuss and agree on what constitutes 'reasonable excuse' and identify anticipated numbers as anticipated Plan interim data points for the purpose of monitoring progress against the trajectory Consult and agree with stakeholders to ensure buy-in Monitor, analyse and evaluate achievement of interim milestones 	Sept 2012 Oct 2012 Ongoing	SEWB	✓
J. To establish a Governance and Leadership model for monitoring the implementation of RPA	<p>Clear roles and responsibilities for RPA.</p> <p>RPA progress and performance is monitored effectively through Governance structure.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all stakeholders / partners to be involved in partnership delivery of RPA Plan Discuss and draft governance to ensure clear roles and responsibilities at both LA level and amongst a full range of partners from all sectors (partners to include schools, colleges, providers, Connexions, WLPN, VCS, Leaving Care Team.) Consult all partners on draft governance model and amend as necessary Seek approval from the Children's Trust Board and SEWB Strategy Group 	Nov 2011 Nov 2011 Nov 2011 Jan 2012	SEWB SEWB SEWB CT	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

Priority: 3	Managing Transitions and Tracking NI 117 Reduce the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education employment or training (NEET) Increase participation of 16-18 year olds in learning by 2% to 89%
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How We Will Deliver (Objectives)	How We Will Be Judged (Performance Indicators)	Milestones (Actions and Targets)	By When	Lead	Done
k. To review effectiveness of early intervention at KS3 and transition arrangements at various key stages	A plan for co-ordinated and effective support for young people at each transition stage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Working with schools / academies and providers to identify and collate information in order to map existing interventions and strategies for young people at each transition stage (mid year, KS3->4, KS4->Post 16, Post 16) Identify any overlaps and/or gaps in existing practice. Identify additional support needed to support all young people Identify additional support needed to support specific groups (or rationalise existing resources to re-focus target groups?) Identify actions to support first cohort of RPA Working with stakeholders, discuss and develop a Post 16 Transition Protocol for Foundation Learning, adopted by FLOG 	Mar 2013 May 2012 (EIG??) May 2012 (EIG??) Jan 2013 Jun 2013	JS / PS / SEWB Ref Gp PS / SE VS / PS SEWB Ref Gp SE	 ✓ ✓ ✓
L. To develop IAG protocols and strategies which ensure Wirral young people receive Impartial Information, Advice and Guidance	Improved feedback from learners. Increased participation rates Delivery of September Guarantee	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse feedback from Learner Voice interviews/surveys, with regards to perceptions about quality of IAG at aged 16 and 17 Implement the education resource aggregation system – Wirral Interactive Portal Ensure all stakeholders are clear about roles and responsibilities between schools and LA Support schools in planning for the introduction of the new duty to secure access to independent careers guidance from September 2012 and improve quality of IAG Provision of resources (U Explore) through EQ as a traded service. Commission targeted Careers Education and IAG for vulnerable groups and young people at risk of becoming NEET Analyse LA performance on September Guarantee process - matching places against demand in order to inform planning of provision 	May 2012 May 2012 May 2012 May 2012 May 2012 April 2012 Oct 2012	RJ / SE PS WASH PS / GJ GJ VS / JS JS	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓

<p>M. Increase participation of vulnerable groups of young people, with specific barriers</p>	<p>Improvement in school destinations measures</p> <p>Delivery of From Care to Work Plan</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Using data (priority 1), identify a small number of groups with specific barriers (eg Teenage parents, LLDD, LAC/Care leavers, under-aspirations in learners from disadvantaged backgrounds, FL) 2. Discuss and identify differentiated strategies and approaches which are needed to address the particular needs of the above identified groups 3. Research and identify best practice in terms of using Pupil Premium funding to support the most vulnerable young people at risk of NEET. 4. Work with a number of targeted schools to explore ways in which Pupil Premium can be used to support vulnerable KS4 learners 5. Deliver targeted intervention to identified care leavers including 1:1 mentoring, work tasters and development of employability skills. Continue to monitor, track and report on the progress of the care leaver population. 6. Support foster carer taskforce group and designated teachers in schools building their capacity in terms of understanding the education landscape and support arrangements for young vulnerable people. 7. Establish a LAC Employability Team that will refresh and implement actions in the From Care to Work Plan. 8. Further develop the Education Equality 14-19 progression to Higher Education service offer, targeting under aspirations. 9. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of joined-up LA strategies and interventions for all vulnerable groups (incl. those with mental health issues) 	<p>June 2012</p> <p>Oct 2012</p> <p>Nov 2012</p> <p>Jan 2013</p> <p>June 2012 Ongoing</p> <p>June 2012 Ongoing</p> <p>April 2012</p> <p>June 2012</p> <p>Jan 2013</p>	<p>14-19 Team</p> <p>PA/BJ/BT</p> <p>YR</p> <p>SEWB</p> <p>GJ</p> <p>GJ</p> <p>GJ</p> <p>PS / BT</p> <p>SEWB</p>	<p>✓</p> <p></p> <p></p> <p></p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
<p>M</p>		<p>2. Agreed to have focused team meeting in October 2012. BT and BJ to do evaluation. PA to update LLDD/LACES</p> <p>3. To be addressed at individual school meetings relating to RONI Test and Trial.</p>			

Priority: 4	Establishing Support Mechanisms				
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How We Will Deliver (Objectives)	How We Will Be Judged (Performance Indicators)	Milestones (Actions and Targets)	By When	Lead	Done
IDENTIFYING AND SUPPORTING THOSE YOUNG PEOPLE MOST AT RISK OF DISENGAGING INCLUDING: IDENTIFICATION OF AT-RISK YOUNG PEOPLE, HOW SUPPORT CAN BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE FOLLOWING:-					
N. To identify young people at risk of NEET	Reduction of NEET 16-18 Reduction in drop out and disengagement from age 14. School developing internal mechanisms for identifying at risk learners based on hierarchy and RONI information	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect data to identify the main reasons for drop out/disengagement in schools and Post 16, by geographical area (focus on top 5 schools with highest drop out rate) 2. Analyse reasons behind dropout from schools and gather information on the worst effected wards. 3. Develop a RONI based the principal reasons behind drop out and which wards are affected the most (maybe to include diagnostic assessment – covering individual learning, social, behavioural and study skills needed). Explore possibility of linking RONI into the SIMs operating system in schools. 4. Test and Trial the RONI with the 5 sample schools identified in the research for the most vulnerable groups. 5. Monitor over two terms at school, tracking the learner focusing on their future plans, levels of participation, progression and achievement. 6. Evaluate the use and value of the RONI. 7. Gain individual success cases and feedback from schools on the use of the RONI and its impact as an early intervention tool. 8. If positive, role trial out to all schools in the borough to go live in September 2013. 	Jan 2013	PS	
			Nov 2012	14-19 / SEWB Ref Gp	✓
			July 2012	PS	✓
			Oct 2012	PS / RONI Team	✓
			April 2013	PS / RONI Team	
			April 2013	PS / RONI Team / SEWB Ref Gp	
			June 2013	PS / RONI Team / SEWB	
			Sept 2013		
O. To provide targeted support for those young people who are high risk of NEET post-16 through a multi agency approach.		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and clarify arrangements for all schools and providers to notify the LA if a young person is disengaged or drops out of learning 2. Establish criteria to be used to determine if a young person has a reasonable excuse which has been shared and discussed with partners (priority 2). 3. Establish systems and processes to determine when reasonable excuse should, and should no longer, apply to young people. Share and discuss with partners to ensure consistency 4. Continue the work of NAG in order to support NEET young people with multiple needs or who no longer fit the criteria of reasonable excuse and need support to re-engage in education/training 	July 2012	VS / JS / NAG	✓
			Oct 2012	SEWB Ref Gp	✓
			Nov 2012	SEWB	✓
			ongoing	JS / NAG	✓

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Priority: 5	Identifying and Meeting Provision Needs
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How We Will Deliver (Objectives)	How We Will Be Judged (Performance Indicators)	Milestones (Actions and Targets)	By When	Lead	Done
IDENTIFY AND MEETING PROVISION NEEDS FOR RPA					
P. To map and identify provision gaps	Accurate and detailed analysis of provision, updated regularly. Clear progression opportunities. Gaps identified	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Complete provision mapping exercise to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capture current offer by academic level, entry and access points (including apprenticeship opportunities) (LLDD, FL – Entry and level I, Level II, Level III, Level IV) Identify Entry points / RORO (roll-on, roll-off) Analyse take up / recruitment and identify over demand and under subscription Analyse data/information from Learner Voice interviews (priority 1) with regards to reasons for non-participation and drop out, in particular issues related to quality of provision and/or learning provision, lack of suitable provision and/or gaps in provision (ability, interests, aspirations, poor progression routes opportunities, barriers eg transport) Identify to what extent current provision meets current interests and aspirations of learners and those in 2013/2015? Identify unmet learner demands and map to LMI data Discuss and agree identified gaps / over provision and produce local statement of need Develop online prospectus linked to interactive portal Develop Alternative Provision catalogue in response to identified needs. Ensure schools, providers and advisers know about the full range of re-engagement provision available 	Dec 2011	SE	✓
			Dec 2011 Ongoing to Sept 2012 May 2012	SE JS (Sept Guarantee) RJ / SE	✓
			Oct 2012	SEWB (CXS)	✓
			Nov 2012	SE / GJ / NAG (JS)	✓
			Oct 2012	SEWB Ref Gp PS	✓
			July 2012		
			March 2013	RJ	
	Summary report on intended destinations used to inform planning of provision	Undertake the September Guarantee process to ensure every young person in the borough has an offer of an appropriate place in learning post-16.	Sept 2012	PS / JS	
	Identify the needs and demands of employers in response to trends in the employment market locally and regionally	Analyse Labour Market demand <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current JWT Current Analyse shifts in demand (eg for apprenticeships) Future 	Ongoing	GJ YR (SO)	
	Summary report to inform planning	Complete mapping of progression opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Analyse existing progression routes Consider entry requirements for each Analyse young peoples' needs, interests and aspirations Identify gaps in progression routes / unmet needs 	Draft Dec 2011	SE	✓

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider need for Employability skills development Consider suitability of progression opportunities <p>In order to inform annual commissioning process EFA 2012</p>			
<p>Q. To convert jobs without training to Apprenticeships</p> <p>(Corporate Plan Reference – improving the Local Economy)</p>	<p>A clear local strategy for increasing number and range of apprenticeships</p> <p>All potential JWT converted to apprenticeship</p> <p>Progress of young people in JWT closely tracked</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work with local employers to identify the JWT cohorts Work with employers to increase Apprenticeships Continue to track and support young people in JWT to move into an Apprenticeship place 	<p>Sept 2012</p> <p>Mar 2013 (ongoing)</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>GJ (WAP rnd 4)</p> <p>Cncl Apps Officers Gp</p> <p>14-19 Team / SEWB</p>	✓
<p>R. To develop new innovative provision which better meets the needs of learners</p>	<p>Local statement of need</p> <p>LA/Providers plan to establish new provision to meet unmet needs</p> <p>A joined up plan for full participation</p> <p>Online prospectus which is accessible to all (families/parents, Connexions, Providers, Employers)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the gaps and provision needs and share with existing providers / WLPN Working collaboratively with existing partners /providers, VCFS, new entrants to the market and employers, plan creatively and imaginatively how to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure changes in existing provision Establish new provision. 	<p>Dec 2012</p> <p>Jun 2012</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>RJ</p>	✓

Priority: 6	Communicating the message
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How We Will Deliver (Objectives)	How We Will Be Judged (Performance Indicators)	Milestones (Actions and Targets)	By When	Lead	Done
S. To prioritise audiences and key messages	Clear communication strategy in place, which has prioritised audiences and identified key messages for each	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify all groups and stakeholders / audiences who need to understand RPA Contact Benefits Agency to clarify possible effects RPA will have on family allowance or benefits Research best practice in Trial LAs to enable speedy development and production of a Myth buster / 'What will the choices be for young people' leaflet and include impact on family allowances Analyse Learner voice feedback to establish current level of awareness and any misunderstanding regarding RPA Develop a Key messages document for use by all stakeholders - families/parents, schools, Connexions, providers..... (appropriate, short and to the point, consistent message) Develop a core script for LA staff and partner organisations 	Dec 2011 Dec 2011 Feb 2012 May 2012 Jun 2012 Sept 2012	14-19 Team 14-19 Team 14-19 Team SE SE PS	✓ N/A (prod DfE) ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
	Accurate and consistent message communicated to all stakeholders, which allays fears regarding RPA and implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priority groups for information (eg first 2 cohorts affected; parents/carers of these cohorts) Consider additional requirements for LLDD and BME learners/families Communicate message via RPA letter in schools Invite parents/carers to form a small focus group? Use feedback to refine activity plan, messages and /or method of dissemination 	Sept 2012 Sept 2012 Sept 2012	14-19 Team PA / SH VS / PS SEWB Ref Gp	✓ ✓
T. To communicate message to partners and all stakeholders	<p>All LA staff able to communicate basic RPA messages</p> <p>All opportunities for disseminating RPA message are used to the full and at minimal cost</p> <p>Partners understand local approach</p> <p>Employers engage with and understand obligations around RPA and employment 2013</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify opportunities for LA staff briefing Identify all existing communication channels / naturally occurring opportunities to disseminate the message more widely and on a regular basis <p>PS to raise at WASH re: best way to inform parents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Plan a schedule of meetings, training opportunities and other media (eg letters to parents) that may be used to get message across Include information in work experience booklets Identify RPA Champion at each One Stop Shop (to lead and be the main source of information around RPA) Disseminate RPA Plan to stakeholders eg WLPN..... Include message on Invest Wirral's Business Forum 	June 2012 Oct 2012 Oct 2012 N/A N/A June 2012 Sept 2012	VS 14-19 Team 14-19 Team N/A N/A PS Invest Wirral	✓ ✓ ✓
U. To produce materials and resources	Materials and resources available to support RPA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify available budget for publications? Review and ensure all existing resources have RPA messages inserted in them and 	May 2012 Nov 2012	VS / PS 14-19 Team	✓

	message and within budget limitations	/ or produce leaflets for distribution and inclusion in existing documents 3. Ensure all IAG professionals and tutors receive appropriate communication(s) 4. Include a countdown clock on Council website and VLE 5. Update Teen Wirral website	Nov 2012 Nov 2012	JS (via Jackie G) JS (M McDaid)	✓
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ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS USED IN RPA PLAN

CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CT	Children's Trust
CXS	Connexions
cncl apps officers gp	Council Apprenticeship Officers Group
DfE	Department for Education
EFA	Education Funding Agency
EIG	Early Intervention Grant
EQ	Education Quality
FL	Foundation Learning
FLOG	Foundation Learning Operations Group
FPW	Family Partnership Worker
FSM	Free School Meals
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
IAG	Information, Advice and Guidance
JWT	Jobs without training
KS3	Key Stage 3 (11-14 year olds)
KS4	Key Stage 4 (14-16 year olds)
LAC	Looked After Child(ren)
LLDD	Learners with learning difficulties and disabilities
LMI	Labour Market Information
NAG	NEET Action Group
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training
RONI	Risk of NEET Indicator
RPA	Raising of Participation Age
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEWB	Social and Economic Well-being Group
SEWB Ref Gp	SEWB Reference Group
SIMS	Schools Information Management Systems
VCFS	Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector
VLE	Virtual Learning Environment
WASH	Wirral Association Secondary Headteachers
WLPN	Wirral Learning Providers Network
WRL	Work Related Learning
YOS	Youth Offending Service

Key Personnel

VS	Vivian Stafford
PS	Paul Smith
PA	Paul Arista
YR	Yvonne Ryan
JS	Jo Smith
GJ	Gareth Jones
SE	Sue Elliott
RJ	Rhonda Jacques
SH	Sarah Howarth
BJ	Belinda Jones

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

21ST JANUARY 2013

SUBJECT:	APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION – CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members, in accordance with the Constitution of the Council, of those instances where delegated authority has been used by the Acting Director of Children's Services with respect to the acceptance of tenders and to the appointment of Contractors.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 The following tenders and appointment of contractors have been accepted by the Acting Director of Children's Services under delegated authority.

Capital Contracts

These are schemes approved by Cabinet as part of the CYPD Capital Programme.

Date	Scheme Details	Contractor	Amount
04/01/2013	Raeburn Primary School – Classroom Extension	Mellwood Construction Ltd	£210847 (£35843.99 fees)

Out of Authority Placements

This budget makes education provision for a number of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) whose needs cannot be met in maintained schools. The placements not previously reported costing in excess of £50,000 per annum are listed below.

Start Date	School	Ref	Cost
01/09/12	The Oracle School	MS	£241714
01/09/12	Talocher School	JE	£140000
01/09/12	Walton Progressive School	JT	£55601

Children's Residential Care Placements

This budget makes provision for Independent Residential Care of Looked After Children. The placements not previously reported costing in excess of £50,000 per annum are listed below.

Start Date	Provider	Swift Reference	Annual Projected Cost
07/09/12	Good Foundations	152523	£116740
10/10/12	Good Foundations	70142	£116740
08/11/12	Radical Services	153899	£166400
09/11/12	TACT Fostering	187874	£59072
09/11/12	Foster Cares Ltd	410590	£72800
25/11/12	Good Foundations	404876	£116740
27/11/12	Dove Adolescent Services	157770	£242060
28/11/12	Chrysalis Care (Family Assess)	490788	£56520

Supply of Hired Vehicles Contract – contract through the Merseyside Collaborative Contract - £100,000

The Integrated Transport Unit hires commercial vehicles for use by Departments and for best value a collaborative contract is procured on behalf of Merseyside Authorities. The contract starts on 17th September 2012 and ends on 16th September 2015. The main use of the contract is to hire light commercial vehicles.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The number of independent residential care placements increases the financial pressure on this budget, which has in previous years significantly overspent.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Decisions taken following tendering process or consideration of child's individual needs to identify the most cost effective response.

5.0 CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Consultation has taken place with the appropriate bodies/partners before the decision is made.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 6.1 Voluntary, community and faith organisations are involved where appropriate.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 The financial implications are included in the regular monitoring reports to members.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Contractual agreements.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No – However all procured services are subject to equality impact assessment at the point of procurement.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Taking into consideration the needs of the child wherever possible the placements are made within the authority or as close to the authority as possible.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Any planning permission would have been completed prior to capital contracts being accepted.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That the report be noted.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To inform members of significant items of expenditure in accordance with the Council's Constitution

REPORT AUTHOR: MALCOLM STREET
HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
0151 666 4284
malcolmstreet@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICIES

There are no appendices for this report.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Reference material not required for this report.

SUBJECT MATERIAL

Council Meeting	Date
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	11 th September 2012
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	6 th June 2012
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	21 st March 2012
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	26 th JANUARY 2012
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	20 th SEPTEMBER 2011
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	1 st JUNE 2011
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	15 th MARCH 2011
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	26 th JANUARY 2011
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	14 th SEPTEMBER 2010

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 21st JANUARY 2013

REPORT OF THE LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN SCRUTINY PANEL MEMBERS

'OUTCOMES OF LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN' SCRUTINY REVIEW - PROGRESS REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides an update on progress with the 'Outcomes of Looked After Children' Scrutiny Review.

1. Background

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 7th November 2012, Members discussed the possibility of commencing an in-depth Scrutiny Review regarding the outcomes for Looked After Children.
- 1.2 An in-depth Scrutiny Review has been previously undertaken regarding the Outcomes for Children in Foster Care. A report of the work done by a Members' working group was produced in April 2008. Subsequent reports have been provided to this Committee on 11th November 2008 and 21st January 2010 giving an officer response on the progress towards implementing the recommendations from the Members' report.
- 1.3 It is now considered appropriate to undertake a follow-up review on this related issue. It is intended that the new review will investigate the steps which the Council and other partners are already taking and consider further actions that may be feasible in order to improve the outcomes for Looked After Children.

2. Scope of the Review

- 2.1 The three Party Spokespersons have met to discuss the scope of the review. A draft Scope Document, agreed by the Spokespersons, is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Committee members are requested to consider this draft document for approval.
- 2.2 It is proposed that the review will focus on the outcomes for Looked After Children using the following criteria:
 - Educational attainment
 - Employment and training (as opposed to NEET)
 - Home / accommodation circumstances
 - Social / emotional development
 - Rate of entry to the Justice System
 - Problems relating to drugs and alcohol
 - Incidence of teenage pregnancy
 - Transition for children with disabilities

- 2.3 It is also suggested that the three Party Spokespersons undertake the review. Therefore, the membership of the proposed Task & Finish Group will be:
- Councillor Wendy Clements (Chair)
 - Councillor Walter Smith
 - Councillor Pat Williams

3. Evidence Gathering and the Report

- 3.1 The Panel members propose to use a number of methods to gather evidence, including:
- Meetings / focus groups with current and former Looked After Children and with foster carers.
 - Meetings with key officers
 - A possible survey of members regarding their role as Corporate Parents
 - A possible questionnaire of potential and former care leavers
 - Comparative information gathered from national data and from other Local Authorities
- 3.2 It is intended to start the review by meeting with some of those people most directly affected. Plans have been put in place to meet with a small group of Looked After Children in mid-January followed by a meeting with a group of foster parents at the end of January. It is also planned that meetings with key officers will commence during this period.
- 3.3 A progress report will be produced for this Committee's final meeting of the municipal year on 18th March 2013. However, it should be noted that the work of the Group will not be complete by that stage. It is hoped that the Task & Finish Group will be able to continue its investigations and complete its work during the early part of the 2013/14 municipal year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) The Committee agrees that an in-depth scrutiny review regarding the outcomes for Looked after Children should be undertaken.
- (2) A Task & Finish Group will be formed to undertake the review. The membership of the Group will be:
 - Councillor Wendy Clements (Chair)
 - Councillor Walter Smith
 - Councillor Pat Williams
- (3) The Scope for the Looked After Children Scrutiny Review, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved and the progress to date be noted.

Report of the Looked After Children Scrutiny Panel Members:
Cllr Wendy Clements (Chair)
Cllr Walter Smith
Cllr Pat Williams

Appendix 1: Scope Document for the Looked After Children Scrutiny Review

Date: 6th December 2012 (Draft 4)

Review Title: Outcomes for Looked After Children

Scrutiny Panel Chair: Cllr Wendy Clements	Contact details:
Panel members: Cllr Walter Smith Cllr Pat Williams	
Scrutiny Officer: Alan Veitch	Contact details: 0151 691 8564
Departmental Link Officer: Simon Garner	Contact details:
Other Key Officer contacts:	
<p>1. Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?</p> <p>The Council's Corporate Plan 2012/13 includes the following statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will continue to work with our partners to protect children and young people from harm and improve the lives of the children and young people already in our care. • We will ensure that children in care and care leavers have appropriate support which best suits their needs, including fostering and adoption. <p>Specific targets quoted in the Corporate Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the numbers of looked after children achieving Level 4 at Key Stage 2 to 50% in English and to 50% in Maths) and those achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C (including English and Maths) to 20% • Increase the numbers of care leavers in education, employment and training to 65% 	
<p>2. What are the main issues?</p> <p>How well are Looked After Children prepared for adult living, with particular reference to outcomes including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educational attainment • Employment and training (as opposed to NEET) • Home / accommodation circumstances • Social / emotional development • Rate of entry to the Justice System (Note: Children, under the age of 18, in custody or on remand are deemed to be Looked After Children) • Problems relating to drugs and alcohol • Incidence of teenage pregnancy • Transition for children with disabilities <p>Note: Reference will be made during the review to the impact of welfare reforms on care leavers.</p>	

<p>3. The Committee's overall aim/objective in doing this work is: The Council has a responsibility, as corporate parents, for the Borough's Looked After Children. Data consistently shows that outcomes for Looked After Children are poorer than the national average. As an example, the percentage of Looked after Children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths) in 2012 is 12%. This equates to 4 out of 33 children in the cohort. This review will investigate the steps which the Council and other partners are already taking and consider further actions that may be feasible in order to improve the outcomes for Looked After Children.</p>																
<p>4. The possible outputs/outcomes are: 4.1 Understand the current issues for both Looked After Children and the service providers. 4.2 Identify ways in which outcomes for Looked After Children, as listed in section 2 of this document, can be improved.</p>																
<p>5. What specific value can scrutiny add to this topic? Scrutiny will give members the opportunity to assure themselves that the Council and partners are taking all possible steps to ensure that the outcomes for Looked After Children are improved. Scrutiny will enable the experience of those directly impacted by the reforms to help identify any recommendations for changes. These recommendations will be referred to Cabinet.</p>																
<p>6. Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work? 6.1 Appropriate Cabinet members and Directors, Wirral Borough Council. 6.2 Partners of the Council, for example, Housing partners, schools and NHS Wirral.</p>																
<p>7. Duration of enquiry?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Scope document will be reported to the meeting of the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 21st January 2013. • Evidence-gathering will take place between November 2012 and February 2013. • A progress report will be presented to the meeting of the Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 18th March 2013. 																
<p>8. What category does the review fall into?</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Policy Review</td> <td>X</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Policy Development</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>External Partnership</td> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Performance Management</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holding Executive to Account</td> <td></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Policy Review	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Development	<input type="checkbox"/>	External Partnership		<input type="checkbox"/>	Performance Management	<input type="checkbox"/>	Holding Executive to Account		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Policy Review	X	<input type="checkbox"/>	Policy Development	<input type="checkbox"/>												
External Partnership		<input type="checkbox"/>	Performance Management	<input type="checkbox"/>												
Holding Executive to Account		<input type="checkbox"/>														
<p>9. Extra resources needed? Would the investigation benefit from the co-operation of an expert witness? The review will be conducted by councillors with the support of existing officers. However, the panel are looking for advice from people with expertise on this topic.</p>																

10. What information do we need?	
<p>10.1 Secondary information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Government Departmental reports • Relevant national documents • Previous Cabinet / Scrutiny Committee reports • Scrutiny Reports from other Councils into similar topics, for example, Haringey, Hartlepool, Cheshire East • Care Leavers Data Pack, published by Department of Education, October 2012 • Educational Achievement Performance Data for Wirral and statistical neighbours • Evaluation of the Staying Put: 18 Plus Family Placement Programme -Final report (Department of Education) 	<p>10.2 Primary/new evidence/information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with key officers • Interviews with current and former Looked After Children as well as foster providers • Examples of best practice from other Local Authorities • Information relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to leaving care grants • Access to bursaries for those staying in education and higher education • Pathway Plan
<p>10.3 Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet portfolio holder, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc).</p> <p>Potential witnesses include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Julia Hassall, Acting Director of Children’s Services, Wirral Borough Council • Simon Garner, Acting Head of Children’s Social Care Branch, Wirral Borough Council (and Chair of the North West After Care Forum) • Fiona O’Shaughnessy / Dave Walker / Jeanette Geary, Children’s Inclusion Service, Wirral Borough Council • Brian Ronson, Leaving Care Service– Pathway Team Manager • Simon Fisher, Transition Team, Wirral Borough Council • Anne Patterson, Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO), Wirral Borough Council re. What are children saying about the leaving care process? 	<p>10.4 What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</p> <p>How well are Looked After children prepared for adult living, in particular with reference to the outcomes listed in section 2 earlier?</p> <p>Do care leavers have access to information about their care leaver entitlements?</p> <p>How does the Council work with the FromCare2Work programme run by the National Care Advisory Service?</p>

- Vivian Stafford, Strategic Service Manager: Post 16 Commissioning and Economic Generation, Wirral Borough Council (Also to cover the Apprenticeship scheme)
- Phil Sheridan, Consultant Headteacher (Secondary) and Virtual Headteacher, Wirral Borough Council. To also include the Looked After Children's Education Service (LACES) team, Wirral Borough Council
- Anne Tattersall, NHS Wirral and Head of Being Healthy Outcome Group (regarding health and teenage pregnancy issues plus funding arrangements and commissioning arrangements with CCGs)
- Housing Team, Wirral Borough Council – Sheila Jacobs, Supported Housing Manager plus Catherine Green, Rehousing Services Manager
- Pat Rice, Response, Wirral Borough Council (Lead for 16-17 Protocol Group)
- Patricia Jones, Youth Offending Service
- Sue Brown, Assistant Chief Officer, Merseyside Probation Trust (or nominee)
- Members of the Children in Care Council (Contact: Fiona O'Shaughnessy)
- Former Looked After Children (Contact: Brian Ronson)
- Foster carers (Contact: Sue Leedham)
- Private Foster Carer (if possible)
- Teachers / staff from schools, for example, Observatory School, Woodchurch High School, Wirral Alternative School Programme (WASP) (Role of Designated Teacher re. LAC in schools)
- Job Centre Plus re. guidance for supporting care leavers
- Residential Providers Forum

11. What processes can we use to feed into the review? (site visits/observations, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, written questionnaire, etc).

11.1 Meetings with officers listed in 10.3 above

11.2 Meetings / Focus groups with current and former Looked After Children and with foster carers

11.3 Desk-top research / analysis

11.4 Possible survey of members regarding their role as Corporate Parents, including training opportunities

11.5 Possible questionnaire of potential and former care leavers

12. In what ways can we involve the public and at what stages? (consider whole range of consultative mechanisms, local committees and local ward mechanisms).

Meetings / Focus groups with current and former Looked After Children and with foster carers (as described in section 11.2 above). This will include the Children in Care Council

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