

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

11 SEPTEMBER 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RESPONSE TO THE REPORT FROM THE JOINT INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN WHO GO MISSING</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	<b>NO</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the Government's response to the concerns raised about the care received by children who go missing from care, highlighted by the Derbyshire and Rochdale criminal cases of men who were convicted of abusing and exploiting young girls in care. The report also sets out the process and timescale for producing a local response.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 An All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults called a parliamentary Inquiry to examine these issues more closely. The Inquiry heard from children, professionals, national agencies such as Ofsted and Minister who all agreed that urgent action was needed to safeguard children who go missing and run away from care.

2.2 The APPG reported in June 2012 and made 31 recommendations (report can be viewed via the link provided under appendices at the end of this report) and on 3<sup>rd</sup> July Tim Loughton, the Children's Minister responded stating that he would set up a task and finish group on placement planning on out of borough placements to report in September 2012. There would also be an action plan to drive up quality and safety.

2.3 In Wirral the Local Safeguarding Children Board have brought together key agencies such as the Police, Public Health, Barnardo's, Independent Provider representation and other key partners to consider the APPG report and begin to bring together data on the extent of the issues contained within the recommendations.

2.4 This group will report back to the LSCB in December 2012 on key issues identified locally and a work plan that seeks to make improvements in the analysis and data management between agencies. Following this the Head of Safeguarding will report to this Committee on the plans agreed by the LSCB.

2.5 Children and Young People's Department have commissioned Barnardos locally to respond to children who run away since 2003. This service ensures that each child has an interview with Barnardos on their return from running through a reporting system developed with Merseyside Police. The LSCB receive quarterly information on the number of children missing, the length of time they were missing, the homes from which they ran (either from their foster, residential or family home). This service will continue to be offered whilst the review described above is being conducted.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 The APPG describes in detail 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.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 None.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

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

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

6.1 None specifically identified.

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

7.1 Finance for the commissioning has been met by CYPD budget.

### **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?

No because the APPG report has been carried out by a Parliamentary working group which will be subject to equality impact assessments.

### **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 Members note the APPG report and agreed to a further report once the local assessment is completed under the auspices of the LSCB

## 13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The issues were identified by an All-Parliamentary Working Group

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## APPENDICES

The report *Recommendations from the APPG on children who go missing from care-2012* can be found via the following link:

[http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/u32/joint\\_appg\\_inquiry\\_-\\_report...pdf](http://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/tcs/u32/joint_appg_inquiry_-_report...pdf)

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date