

## **Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Tuesday, 13 November 2018**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>2018/19 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Director for Children's Services</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report provides the 2018/18 Quarter 2 (July - September 2018) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides an overview of the progress in Quarter 2 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

### **Quarter Two Wirral Plan Performance Summary**

- Provisional data for the Early Years Foundation Stage shows good progress for children being ready for school. The headline outcome indicates that Good Levels of Development (GLD) have increased by 1.2%, taking performance above 70% for the first time since the launch of the Wirral Plan.
- It is very encouraging that GLD has also improved in priority groups with the achievement gap for children eligible for free school meals and their peers closed by 4%, which is a significant achievement; and there is an encouraging increase in children looked after achievement.
- Infants and children receiving development checks are below the targets set, work is underway to share good practice with GPs to improve infant checks and a centralised appointment system has been developed for children's checks to support children being seen on time.
- The achievement gap (provisional data) between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the 'expected standard' in English, reading, English writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2 has widened overall by 1.5% to 23.5%. Within this figure the attainment of both cohorts increased however non-FSM pupils increased by 2.9% more than double the FSM pupils (1.4%).
- Provisional Progress 8 Score (2017-18 Academic Year) improved from the previous year to 0.03. The National average Progress 8 score is 0 and Wirral is slightly above the average and better than the North West and Statistical Neighbours.

- Working collaboratively with head teachers of secondary schools we have reduced the amount of permanent exclusions by a third. We will focus on secondary and specialist schools to continue to reduce permanent exclusions by providing appropriate challenge as well as timely interventions.
- Wirral is ranked in the lowest quintile for both primary and secondary absence and our persistent absence levels have increased compared with a decrease nationally. Reducing persistent absence and improving attendance for all pupils with a specific focus on the most vulnerable is a key priority. Work is underway to examine and implement the recommendations of the independent review of the Education Social Welfare Service seeking to develop a consistent partnership approach to reducing attendance. Improving the process of issuing fixed penalty notices as result of a new Education Social Welfare Service is underway.
- The children looked after rate has seen a reduction since 2017-18 year end, however, this is still double the national average figure and 35% higher than Wirral's nearest statistical neighbours.
- The number of children in need has increased on the previous quarter but remains over 20 percent above the national average. However, the Quarter 2 figure represents a 5.3% improvement since start of the Wirral Plan.
- The rate of children who became the subject of a child protection plan at Quarter 2 is 65.6 per 10,000; a 26% increase since the last quarter. This is 51% above the national average, 21% higher than the North West and 22% higher than our statistical nearest neighbours.
- The employment rate for people aged 16-64 who are Equality Act core of work limiting disabled has improved again to 48.8% and is at its highest since the Wirral Plan began.
- The proportion of people who are feeling supported to manage their condition is 60.1% for the period January 2018 - March 2018. This has reduced from 67.2% the previous year which reflects a reduction nationally (national average 59.6%, down from 64% last year).
- A total of 813 cases were dealt with at MARAC in the 12 months prior to September 2018. This equates to 59.3 cases per 10,000 female population. A high level of absenteeism in the Family Safety Unit has meant a reduction in contact attempts. A reduced level of contact can impact on the number of cases taken to MARAC. Emergency measures have been put in place to ensure that all gold level victims receive appropriate support and work is underway to build resilience into this service.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivering the Wirral Plan.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the approved performance management framework for the Wirral Plan. As such, no other options were considered.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure effective monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2018/19 year end column.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators, a trend is shown (better, same or worse). In most cases, this is determined by comparing the latest data with the previous reporting period i.e. 2017/18 year end. In some cases, i.e. where data accumulates during the year or is subject to seasonal fluctuations, the trend is shown against the same time the previous year. This is indicated in the key at the end of the report.
- 3.5 For some indicators, targets have been set. Where this is the case, a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high-level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on all activities set out in the supporting strategy action plans. The link to this web page is: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

3.7 Each of the Wirral Plan Pledges has a Lead Commissioner responsible for overseeing effective delivery. The Lead Commissioners for the Pledges in the report at Appendix 1 are as follows:

- Children are Ready for School – Paul Boyce
- Children are Ready for Work and Adulthood – Paul Boyce
- Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential – Paul Boyce
- People with Disabilities live Independent Lives – Graham Hodgkinson
- Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence – Mark Camborne

#### **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

#### **7.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

7.1 The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes.

#### **8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

8.1 The priorities in the Wirral Plan pledges were informed by a range of consultations carried out in 2015 and 2016 including the Wirral resident survey.

#### **9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:  
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Children and Families Committee 2018/19 Quarter 2 Pledge Reports

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

### **SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8 September 2016
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 November 2016
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23 March 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 June 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	26 September 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14 November 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	22 March 2018
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3 July 2018
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 September 2018