



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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| Date: | Thursday, 17 September 2009 |
| Time: | 6.00 pm |
| Venue: | Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall |

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AGENDA

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The members of the Committee are asked to consider whether they have a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any item on this agenda and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of that 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 to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 6)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 2 June, 2009.

3. SCHOOL STANDARDS - HEADLINE RESULTS

The Director will give a verbal report.

4. AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (Pages 7 - 94)

5. ADOPTION SERVICE SIX MONTHLY REPORT (Pages 95 - 98)

**6. VISIT TO SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN ESSEX - EDISON LEARNING
(Pages 99 - 100)**

Report of Councillor Tom Harney

**7. ELECTED MEMBERS' VISITS TO WIRRAL CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT CHILDREN'S HOMES (Pages
101 - 106)**

8. ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT (Pages 107 - 114)

**9. FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/2010 (Pages 115
- 122)**

10. WORK PROGRAMME - REPORTS 1 TO 5 (Pages 123 - 132)

**11. NARROWING THE GAP - IMPACT OF THE DEPRIVATION
FUNDING REVIEW - DRAFT SCOPE DOCUMENT (Pages 133 - 140)**

12. SCHOOL STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE (Pages 141 - 146)

To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 8 and 17 July, 2009.

**13. APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION - CONTRACTS
EXCEEDING £50,000 (Pages 147 - 150)**

14. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 2 June 2009

| | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| <u>Present:</u> | Councillor | S Clarke (Chair) | |
| | Councillors | J George T Harney Karen Hayes Paul Hayes | Cherry Povall A Taylor T Smith W Smith |
| <u>Deputy:</u> | Councillors | A Bridson (in place of F Doyle) | |
| <u>Co-opted Members</u> | Councillors | Mr M Clarke Mrs J Kearney | Mrs M Liddy Mrs J Owens |
| <u>Apologies</u> | | Mrs M Cain | |

1 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and in particular those members new to the Committee.

The Chair referred to the impending retirement on Friday 5 June of Mike Archbold, Principal Committee Officer, and expressed on behalf of the Committee their very grateful thanks for all his work over the past number of years and that he be wished a long and happy retirement.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any item on the agenda and, if so, to declare it and to state the nature of such 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 the item to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement. No declarations were made.

3 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meetings of the Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 16 March and 20 April, 2009.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meetings held on 16 March and 20 April, be approved as a correct record.

4 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

The Committee was asked to consider if it wanted to appoint a Vice-Chair.

On a motion by Councillor Paul Hayes, seconded by Councillor Cherry Povall, it was –

Resolved - That Councillor Karen Hayes be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee.

5 **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Committee was requested to note its revised terms of reference – those specific to this Committee, general terms of reference for overview and scrutiny committees and those of the Scrutiny Programme Board.

Resolved – That the revised terms of reference be noted.

6 **COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2009/10**

The Chair submitted an update on the work programme for the year end 2008/09 and the Committee was requested to agree topics for the 2009/10 work programme.

The Chair referred to the suggestion at the last meeting for the topic of deprivation and the impact on learning outcomes. She suggested that the cross-cutting topic of the alcohol strategy could be included and a report be brought back to the September meeting after consideration by the Scrutiny Programme Board.

The Chair reported that the Scrutiny Programme Board, at its meeting of 27 May, had also suggested that brief finance and performance monitoring reports be presented to overview and scrutiny committees in addition to a presentation.

Councillor Harney suggested a regular item for the agenda on the Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee to give a flavour of what was happening there. He would also bring a report to a future meeting on the fact finding visit made to Eddison Learning in Colchester who specialised in a design and build service for new schools. Councillor Harney also remarked upon the idea of planning a work programme for 2/3 years ahead and suggested the topic of special needs provision for scrutiny.

The Director welcomed these suggestions and also referred to the Children in Care Council and the need to get young people's voices heard.

The Chair suggested that a member of the Executive Youth Board could be invited to present a report to the Committee if they were comfortable to do so.

Resolved – That the comments of members be noted for inclusion on the future work programme.

7 **SCRUTINY REVIEW - LITERACY LEVELS AT KEY STAGE 2 - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Chair submitted a report which provided an update on the progress of the scrutiny review of Literacy Levels at Key Stage 2. The report outlined the variety of methods which were being used for evidence gathering and plans for the remainder of the review. The draft report from the review would be produced during the summer

and the final report would be presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 17 September 2009.

Resolved - That Committee notes the progress of the 'Literacy Level at Key Stage 2' Scrutiny Review.

8 EDUCATION SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICE - DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2007/08

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which gave details of some of the work carried out by the Education Social Welfare Service in the Academic Year 2007/08.

The report identified that school attendance fell slightly in Wirral primary schools from 94.73% in 2006/07 to 94.68% in 2007/08 [-0.05%], in line with national trends, but improved markedly in Wirral secondary schools from 92.18% in 2006/07 to 93.23% in 2007/08 [+1.05%]. Special school attendance also improved considerably from 91.26% in 2006/07 to 92.39% in 2007/08 [+1.13%]. The report outlined some of the achievements of the Service over the year and also sought to analyse the effectiveness of the Service and gave details of Fixed Penalty Notices issued and parents prosecuted for failing to ensure their children attended school regularly.

Peter Edmondson, Head of Participation and Inclusion, introduced the report and together with Mike Clarke, Head of the Education Social Welfare Service, responded to comments from members. Permanent exclusions had reduced in the last year by almost half and they explained the way behavioural problems with children in care were addressed so that every means possible was used to avoid permanent exclusions. They outlined the plans in place to deal with truancy and unauthorised absences. The number of children educated at home was between 40 to 50 over the past 10 years.

The number of truancy sweeps had gone down although they were now more targeted to areas where there had been concerns over anti-social behaviour.

In terms of tracking children moving areas the system was not watertight as there were families capable of falling below the radar. It was acknowledged that a lot of referrals to the service were made concerning children who were out of school as they were looking after a parent.

The Director stated that one of the key priorities revolved around 'narrowing the gap' and that the biggest improvement had been seen in some of the most deprived areas. Although percentage wise a 1% improvement might not appear large, it represented an increase of 40,000 pupil day attendances.

Resolved – That the Committee notes the report and thanks the officers for all the work done in this area.

9 COMPLAINT MONITORING

The Director of Children's Services presented an analysis of complaints registered under The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006 during the period 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009.

During this three month reporting period the following number of complaints had been registered:

20 Stage 1 complaints [compared to 17 complaints the previous quarter]

4 Stage 2 complaints [compared to 4 complaints in the previous quarter]

0 Stage 3 complaints

The Director outlined the time taken to investigate complaints and the current position and Julia Hassall, Head of Children's Social Care, gave a flavour of the types of complaints made by both children and adults.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

10 SCHOOL STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meeting of the School Standards Sub-Committee, held on 1 April 2009, were submitted. The Sub-Committee had considered a number of issues, in particular the Ofsted reports relating to the following schools:

Primary

Satisfactory schools

Christ Church C of E Primary, Moreton

Poulton Lancelyn Primary

Cole Street Primary, Birkenhead

Good schools

Woodchurch Road Primary, Birkenhead

Outstanding schools

Oxton St Saviour's C of E Primary

Secondary

Good schools

Hilbre High

Kilgarth [Special]

Outstanding schools

West Kirby Grammar School for Girls

The Director informed the Committee that with regard to schools in Ofsted categories, Riverside Primary School had in the last two weeks been removed and there were currently no schools in Ofsted categories.

The Committee were requested to appoint the Schools Standard Sub-Committee for 2009/10.

Resolved –

(1) That the minutes be noted.

(2) That the Schools Standard Sub-Committee for 2009/10 comprise the following members, Councillors Sheila Clarke (Chair), Frank Doyle and Tony Smith, with the remaining Committee members serving as deputies, plus the diocesan and parent governor representatives.

11 CO-OPTED MEMBERSHIP

All of the new overview and scrutiny committees were being asked to consider if they wished to extend or initiate co-opted membership.

Resolved – That Committee notes its current co-opted membership of 5 co-optees.

12 EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Resolved - That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act.

13 CHILDREN'S HOMES - REPORT ON VISITS BY OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The Director of Children's Services reported on visits carried out by officers under Regulation 33 of the Care Standards Regulations over the period October 2008 to March 2009.

Russ Tattersall, Service Manager, introduced the report which informed members that Independent Reviewing Officers from the Safeguarding and Quality Assurance Unit had visited each home on a monthly basis and all officers' visits had taken place on time during this period.

Elected Members' visits had been taking place monthly until September 2008 but had since been suspended pending a revision to the corporate parenting role of Elected Members in this area. It was intended that a report would be submitted to the September meeting on all possible options for Members' visits.

In addition there were monthly visits from the Children's Complaints Officer and a representative from an independently commissioned advocacy service (WIRED). Those visits were specifically to the homes for children with disabilities, Rosclare and Willow Tree. A similar service was provided to Brookfield via another independently commissioned advocacy service, Safeguarding Children's Services.

The Committee discussed the role of elected member visits and there was a general consensus that these were needed because of the unique role which members played as a corporate parent. The Director remarked upon the need to build in to members' visits the fact that although these were Children's Homes they were the homes of children who should be accorded the same rights as any other child living at home.

Resolved – That Committee notes the report and the proposal for the lead officer to present a full range of options for members' visits to children's homes at the next Overview and Scrutiny Committee in September 2009.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on progress on the Wirral Local Area Implementation programme for Aiming High for Disabled Children in relation to Short Breaks provision. The approach seeks to transform services across sectors to provide support to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and enable children and their families to live ordinary lives.

The Government are requiring the Council and Primary Care Trust to provide a stepped change to short breaks services and to deliver on what is termed the Full Service Offer, (See Appendix 1) designed to meet the needs of all groups of disabled children. The report advises on action taken in meeting the reporting and performance requirements set out by Together for Disabled Children, who are administering the programme on behalf of the DCSF; prior to April 2009 and the further steps required over the next two years to March 2011.

1. Background

1.1 Context

Aiming High for Disabled Children supports and delivers the aims of Every Child Matters and the Children's National Service Framework (NSF) and more recently the Child Health Strategy. Central to all of these initiatives is an emphasis on joined up working and services which are centred on children and their families. The Government recognises that the individual needs of disabled children and their families are best met through a personal and tailored response from both universal and specialist services. The Government also knows that until now, too many families with disabled children have struggled to get the support they need, rather than having 'the system' meeting their needs effectively.

1.2 Vision

The national vision behind Aiming High for Disabled Children is "for all families with disabled children to have the support they need to live ordinary family lives as a matter of course".

To deliver this vision, Aiming High for Disabled Children has three priority areas:

Access and empowerment

The national expectations of the Core Offer will help make services more accessible. Children, young people and their families will be actively involved in the planning and delivery of services in their local area.

Responsive services and timely support

All professionals responsible for planning services for children, both locally and nationally, will focus on the services disabled children and young people need, particularly at key life stages such as the early years and in transition to adulthood.

Improving quality and capacity

Significant new funding has been allocated to the services families want and need, in particular short break services which families have described as their key priority.

1.3 Making the system work better to deliver better outcomes

Measures to make the system work better are an important feature of the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. Together, these measures reflect a new national and local priority for disabled children. They include:

- A new national indicator on services for disabled children which will be used to measure the experience of families with disabled children, and help us better understand the performance of local authorities and the NHS across England.
- A Core Offer to disabled children and families – a national set of expectations around information, transparency, participation, assessment and feedback. These standards will help shape local services.
- Work to improve the quality and quantity of information held locally and centrally on disabled children, their families and the services they need.

Over the next two years, as the funding and programme reforms take effect, the Government expects local authorities to realise the ambition that:

- Disabled children will have the same opportunities to develop and fulfil their potential as all other children.
- Families with disabled children will get the support they need, when they need it.
- Universal children's services will be more genuinely inclusive of disabled children, including those with complex needs.
- Disabled children will be at the heart of the ongoing change programme for children's services.

2.0 Aiming High Short Breaks

2.1 Funding allocation

The Short Breaks funding allocation for Wirral is:

| | Revenue | Capital |
|----------|---------|---------|
| 2009/10 | 500.9k | 252.2k |
| 2010 /11 | 1615.7k | 588.5k |

The other National funding streams for the programme are:

- **Child Care** - £35m – The Government has set up pilot sites and will provide funding in the next financial year
- **Transition Support** - £19m – Wirral received £10,000 in 2008/9 to undertake a self assessment of current arrangements, and a similar sum in 2009/10 to develop its action plan further.
- **Parents Forum** - £5m – Benchmarking guidance has been provided as part of the initial assessment. Local priorities are the development of the Family Information service and adoption of a Carer Consultation Strategy by the Council and the NHS. Wirral Family Consultation Forum has been supported to secure a further £10,000 grant from the Government to support the development of parent forum support and structures in Wirral.

All funding is channelled through the Sure Start, Early Years and Childcare Service Grant under the Aiming High for Disabled Children Funding Block.

2.2 Funding Conditions:

The memorandum of Grant makes clear that the Government will reduce or withdraw funding at any stage throughout the programme if progress is not made in line with reporting requirements or sufficiently evidenced. The Council have been provided with a new Local Authority Implementation Plan format which it is required to submit on a 3 monthly basis to evidence progress in improving services. (See 2.3)

- Expenditure will not be rolled forwards into future years, this includes all of the capital expenditure which must be spent within the financial year.
- The funding must be used for new activity – and must not be used to substitute for existing preventative services or current short breaks activity.
- Funding out turns for previous years will be interrogated to ensure previous expenditure patterns are enhanced.
- The capital element must not be used to fund *reasonable adjustment* activity within Children`s Centres and Sure Start – and not to substitute replacement of existing residential provisions
- The expectation being that new services will be provided, not just to respond to critical needs and families in crisis, but also to improve quality of life.

- There is no indication of the level of funding from 2011/12 onwards.

2.3 Reporting requirements

Together for Disabled Children published what it termed Readiness Criteria Standards in January 2009, with the requirement that evidence of planning should be submitted across nine key areas. This step was critical in so far that the Government has indicated that where Councils failed to meet these standards, funding may be withheld. A detailed portfolio of information was submitted to the Local Programme Advisor who confirmed that the Council meets all of the standards.

In late April, Together for Disabled Children published a new set of reporting requirements, called the Staged Progression Framework, with expectations that the Council and NHS will evidence progress in working towards meeting the Full Service Offer for Short Breaks.

This sets out 4 key objectives with 4 stages to be met, in terms of:

- Completion of an Initial Needs assessment and embedding consultation
- Evidencing via the Delivery Plan and effective data management, increased levels of provision
- Producing revised eligibility criteria for short breaks provision which parents feel are fair, and are consistently communicated and applied
- Providing a Workforce Plan which addresses the needs of universal service providers and specialist service providers

Together for Disabled Children wrote to each Director of Children Services in July 2009, to confirm the level of support required; they confirmed that Wirral is assessed as requiring medium support at this time. There is no indication within the letter of what support will be provided, or when the level of support will be reviewed. The distribution of authorities at the current time stands at: Intensive (4), High (26), Medium (44), Low (78). Further evidence logs were submitted in July and the Council is on target with reporting deadlines. Now the Project Manager is in post we would also expect to confirm further improvements in our performance over coming months.

2.4 Short Breaks Development Strategy and Delivery Plan

A Short Breaks Development Strategy is at an advanced stage of development. It confirms our needs assessment, vision and key objectives and our strategic direction, within the overarching frameworks of the Childrens Plan and requirements of the Aiming High programme. It is proposed that this will be presented to the Childrens Trust Board and Cabinet during September. The key principles are:

2.4.1 Early intervention and prevention

We know that disabled children do best when they and their families are enabled to lead as ordinary lives as possible. We also know from families that regular and reliable short breaks for carers; make a significant difference in their ability to cope.

Early intervention means intervening soon after the identification of a need. It does not necessarily mean intervening in the early years of a child's life, although frequently the two go together. Early intervention and prevention has been central to our redevelopment of residential and family support services over a number of years.

2.4.2 Personalisation / equipping young people for independence in adult life.

Direct Payments, individualised budgets and supported living initiatives indicate that social policy is moving in the direction of enabling disabled people to manage their own care, choose how they lead their own lives and control the services they need. The aim is to improve outcomes for people, and ensure that they are treated with greater dignity, are safer and lead more fulfilling lives rather than be passive recipients of services.

This policy shift, whilst predominant in adult social care, is also relevant to the strategy for disabled children and young people in three ways:

- Many parents who use carer support services benefit from being in control of these services;
- Some parents also receive support from adult services in their own right
- Equipping young people with the skills and mindset to achieve their potential for independence and fulfilment as young adults must start long before the transition to adult services.

2.4.3 Engagement and Involvement

These principles permeate all strands of the Aiming High programme. Paragraph 2.7 set out our actions in this area

2.4.4 Financial sustainability

Successful implementation of this Strategy depends on managing the twin pressures of rising demand for services and severe financial constraints for the Council and the NHS. Long term pressures remain in terms of rising numbers of children with more complex health needs and Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD) specifically, which will continue to require fundamental changes to the commissioning and delivery of services.

The additional Government funding for short breaks, in the region of £2m revenue and £0.75m capital, is a significant boost for services. This

programme was first announced in May 2007 and has been accompanied by significant publicity since then. With the new money has come greater expectations from an increasing number of families, who may feel their needs have not been met over time, and having been consulted, are keen that they receive increased support.

In essence meeting the needs of disabled young people is a three-way responsibility between parents, universal services for all children, and specialist disability services. For this programme to achieve the right balance, it will involve:

- ensuring commissioning rigour by the Council and NHS, working in partnership;
- increasing choice by removing the barriers to universal services for all disabled children and young people. With suitable support, participating in universal services can be a more cost-effective, as well as child-centred, way of supporting families;
- taking children with lower levels of need out of bureaucratic processes to access “ordinary” services, and removing the requirement for them to have an assessment or care plan for this purpose;
- making sure arrangements are equitable, whereby parents who can afford to do so, contribute to the cost of services.
- a continued shift of resources from residential short breaks services to home and community based support; with improved early intervention, parenting and specialist family support services working in a more co-ordinated fashion,
- reducing “life-time costs” by making sure that disabled people have every chance when young to develop their potential for economically active and independent adult lives.

The Delivery Plan attached, sets out how we will deliver short break service transformation (Appendix 2)

2.5 Governance arrangements

A new governance structure has been submitted and approved by the Strategic Partnership Board. This structure has now been introduced, with terms of reference and group membership confirmed. (Appendix 3a, 3b).

The Executive Group will be extended to include representation from the Link Forum and a parental representative, and will oversee all elements of the Aiming High programmes. The Learning Disability and Difficulty (LDD) Plan for 2009- 2010 will need to be modified to respond to the emerging themes of the Core offer of the wider Aiming High programme.

2.6 Project Management

A Project Manager has been appointed for the 2 year period to oversee the delivery of the programme and Transformation Plan. Three further posts have been created within the Project Team to provide capacity to ensure the

programme now moves forwards at pace, in line with reporting requirements. All of these posts are fixed term contracts at this time.

- *Inclusion and Development Officer (Specialist services)* the post incumbent will focus on ensuring young people are consulted, that specialist services continue to develop person centred models of working and to set up an emergency support scheme. This post has been filled by a temporary secondment from the residential service into this position.
- *Inclusion and Development Officer (Universal services)* the post incumbent will focus on ensuring that new activities are developed and that young people are readily able to access universal provision. The post incumbent will also ensure effective monitoring of contracted activity. This post has been filled after both internal and external advertisement.
- *Team Support Officer* – this post holder will support the team in all administrative functions and support the team in improved data management, and information provision. This post has now been filled by after both internal and external advertisement.

2.7 Consultation and Engagement

The views of children, young people and parents/carers are at the heart of the funding proposals. A comprehensive consultation process has been undertaken to develop our Short Breaks vision and understand the needs of children and young people and parents/carers. This involved:

- A Consultation event in October 2008 to start developing the vision and understand needs from a parent and carers focus;
- A Children and young people's event during October inclusion week;
- A Questionnaire sent to all parents (whose children have Special Educational Needs (SEN) in November 2008;
- A feedback event in January 2009 – to confirm the vision and develop the priority areas in developing the Delivery Plan;
- Fun days were organised in July for young people and their families to talk to parents and young people further;
- Further consultation has been undertaken with groups of young people – across the range of special schools and youth groups. Consultations are planned across several mainstream schools in September;
- A newsletter is being produced every 2-3 months to keep parents and carers up to date with developments.

A Consultation Strategy has been developed with parents, which members are asked to note (Appendix4). The newly formed Engagement & Involvement Group is developing our consultation activity further. Wirral Family Consultation Forum has been supported to secure a further grant from the Government.

A training programme for parents and carers in engagement has been delivered and is currently being evaluated. Ongoing consultation throughout

the next two years is a requirement of the programme, to evidence that change is being driven by children and families, and truly reflects their needs.

2.8 Improving data management

The Secretary of State has written to all Councils to reinforce the need for effective data management to drive forwards the increased investment in services. The Local Programme Advisor has been provided with an action plan which confirms our commitment to improvement in this area.

3.0 Commissioning Intentions & Indicative Funding Proposals

3.1 Revenue objectives

Revenue proposals have been developed to:

- Address gaps in services, thus offering a greater range of options for children, young people and parents/carers;
- Strengthen systems for the involvement and engagement of children, young people and parents/carers;
- Improve access to child care for disabled children, and to universal services: extended schools, children's centres, leisure, youth and play services;
- Improve information for children, young people and parents/carers;
- Invest in developing and supporting the workforce to meet the needs of all children, including children with disabilities;
- Expand direct payments and pilot individual budgets;
- Develop an emergency support scheme, as a matter of priority;
- Increase the financial sustainability of provision throughout and following the programme;

3.2 Outline expenditure

Within the Aiming High programme we have been required to confirm our Delivery Plan and provide an initial outline of our intentional spend in relation to both capital and revenue. (Appendix 5)

3.3 Capital

Proposals continue to be developed via the Capital Sub Group of the Aiming High programme with a key requirement that any offers to enhance service provision in universal services must be over and above Disability Discrimination Act requirements. At this stage a number of potential options are being evaluated by the Capital sub group, and firmer proposals will be submitted in relation to spend across both years.

- **Adaptations** – A nominal allocation has been proposed at this time based on providing several larger schemes of work and a number of smaller schemes

- **Equipment** – It is proposed to reserve funding for the purchase of hoists and beds which might permit other family members to offer support. Currently children are only allocated one set of equipment
- **Transport** – it is proposed to fund new vehicles for the family support and residential provision to improve community access
- **Play equipment** – Within the Play Strategy it is proposed to develop 4 play sites with enhanced facilities across the Borough. It is also proposed to allocate some funding to enhance Leisure services / other providers specialist equipment to improve the offer for young people with physical disabilities
- **Sports and leisure facilities** - it is proposed that schemes of work be considered at the Europa Pools, and other key sites. This will in both circumstances provide enhanced changing facilities which would be accessible during leisure activities and to improve community access for children with continence issues.
- **Community based provision.** - it is proposed to investigate the funding of a minor scheme of works with voluntary sector providers. A bidding scheme has been developed similar to that for the Extended schools
- **Residential and Resource Centre** – these items are purposely allocated to year 2 of the programme, whilst a service review is conducted. Spend will also be linked into the Capital programme for children`s homes

3.3 Increasing community based provision

In view of the timescale required to undertake a comprehensive commissioning process, existing holiday scheme provision for this summer, has been offered additional funding and support., to provide for the immediate increase in provision required within the programme.

3.4 Commissioning Brief

New services have now been commissioned using the Joint Strategic Commissioning Framework ; designed to ensure that services are planned and secured to meet the needs of children, young people and their families and provide best value (considerations of quality and cost). Within the programme requirements we have been able to evidence rigour with regards to establishing the principles of contestability and in stimulating the market.

Existing service level agreements for play schemes were reviewed within this process, including those for Wirral Play Council, Crossroads and Merseyside Autistic Childrens Society, which are to run to December 31st 2009, unless renewed.

A Provider Event was held to share with new and existing providers our Vision, our Commissioning intentions and processes. This was followed by a Procurement workshop within the commissioning process.

A report on the process and outcomes will be presented to the next Cabinet later this month.

3.5 Community Grants

Within the programmes it is proposed to make money available to community organisations and parent led groups who provide short breaks for disabled young people and their families. The purpose is to stimulate activity within this sector; this approach is viewed as good practice within this programme. It is proposed that these grants would be between £500 and £5,000 per year. This process will be less demanding than that of the commissioning brief, and more proportionate given the lower level of grant funding. Organisations would also be offered further advice within the process of other funding streams which they could apply to for funding. We are currently evaluating requests for grants by using a panel approach, to bring key stakeholders into the decision making process. This approach has been used by other Councils, and is seen as good practice within the Aiming High programme. Clear criteria will be attached to this funding to ensure it meets the targeted groups of young people. It will also be the expectation that groups receiving funding will support the programme by acting as a conduit for information distribution and to support consultation activity.

3.6 Service Review

It is proposed that a service review programme is instituted, beginning with residential short break provision. The Government published a review by Price Waterhouse Cooper (2007) "*Market for Disabled Childrens Services – A Review*" in which it reinforced its view that there should be a clearer separation between the commissioning and provision of services within both the Council and NHS. Within Aiming High guidance the Council will be expected to review it's provision to ensure we consider whether services should be commissioned with an external provider, or develop a service level agreement with such services. A more robust approach to the monitoring of costs and outcomes is similarly required.

In addition the NHS are proposing to review it's nursing services which will include :

- Tertiary
- Continuing Care
- Hospital to Home
- End of Life
- Palliative
- Hospice from Home

4.0 Analysis of the Transformation Plan: Implications and Challenges

4.1 Residential provision

The Children with Disability residential service has, over a number of years, changed from providing long term provision and a dependency model, to one of shared care and short breaks services to ensure children can remain happily within their families.

The need for long term provision has reduced over the last few years and numbers of children looked after and / or placed out of Borough has

significantly reduced, by the delivery of improved parenting support. Following concern expressed in the 2007 Annual Performance Assessment about the lack of placement choice for long term placements, a tendering exercise was completed last year which has identified a number of local providers who could respond to this need within the private sector, as and when the need arose.

A number of young people are also shortly to move into Adult provision which will leave significant capacity within the residential service at Rosclare House. It is proposed that a thorough review should be undertaken of both Willowtree and Rosclare to determine the future configuration of residential short break provision within Wirral, which reflects the further shift in balance to providing increased family based short breaks and family support. An increased alignment between the Children with Disabilities Service (CYPD) with the Learning Disability CAMHS service will underpin this approach, and reinforce effective parenting strategies.

The service review will scope out the next stages of this development, and a further report will be presented to Cabinet, which provides recommendations for the structuring and best positioning of these services.

4.2 Fostering provision

The programme provides an opportunity to increase capacity in family based short break provision by developing a Contract Carer scheme within Wirral, and should also provide opportunity to review the structure of current fostering provision for children with disabilities provided by the Council.

A Contract Carer is a person who is paid a professional rate to provide support in their own home across the full year. Each Carer would typically provide 230 nights support each year. Both of these elements will be critical in our meeting the full service offer, and should, over time, reduce the demands on residential provision, support greater choice and provide better value for money. The Shared Care Network is indicating a 60% lower unit cost for overnight care within a Contract Carer placement than residential care.

In relation to the capital element of the Aiming High programme, this will support the adaptation of properties for the Contract Carers and the provision of equipment. The Council will need to put in place legal agreements with families where significant adaptations are made. It is envisaged that a several schemes of work will need to be undertaken, which should be able to be managed in a timely fashion given our current adaptation expertise in the Council. The use of *pod* designs are also being considered, as they offer a quick and ready adaptation which can be put in place in weeks, and moved if the foster carer does not want to continue with the scheme.

The Contract Carer scheme has been put within the commissioning process to allow a full consideration of best value for money. This will provide the fostering service for children with a disability, opportunity to consider the

benefits of applying to increase their staffing compliment, review payment structures and promotional activity.

4.3 Family Support Provision

The children with disabilities service provides a team of family support workers who work with children with complex needs. They provide planned and emergency support to children and families to prevent family breakdown by implementing various programmes, including parenting strategies and home based work to understand the child's condition. From first level discussions approximately 20 young people with severe disabilities and a cohort of 20—25 young people with Social Communication have been identified who would benefit from a wrap around approach. The teams will provide short breaks tailored to the young person's needs. The indicative spend proposals look to increase the capacity of these specialist teams, or other specialist providers in a phased approach. The NHS are also considering the extension of these teams by also funding several posts in this area

4.4 Workforce Development

The Aiming High programme envisages significant workforce development – which Council services will need to support. A Workforce Group has been established with the remit to ensure a coherent workforce plan, and a set of recommendations which will need to be considered jointly by the Council and NHS.

4.5 Direct Payments

Through our approach to developing and managing the market, we will look afresh at the provision of Direct Payments; to ensure that parent / carers' directly employing personal assistants remains a positive option. A number of new service providers have entered the market; who are offering support with the recruitment and training of personal assistants. Direct Payments workshops have focused up on improving support to parents with an information package ready for launch, and offering parents support on administrative and employment processes. Another key area for development will be in relation to the numbers of young people taking up payments at 16-17 years of age. With the enhanced project capacity it should be possible to create good links with the Transition Person Centred Review Group – which will be important in creating a new vision for young people as they reach adulthood.

4.6 Individual Budgets

Individual Budgets focus on a resource allocation process to improve the transparency of assessment decisions and choice of provision. The shape of schemes also envisage the potential to use different funding streams within the process, and some degree of flexibility being offered in how funds are used, to ensure that the specified outcomes of the care plan are met . At this

time there is a pilot scheme being run within the Department of Adult Social Services. Nationally there are a number of new Pathfinders who are piloting an Individual Budget scheme, and they are committed to providing leadership in developing schemes for children. Locally we have a number of families who would be keen to join a pilot scheme.

4.7 Emergency Support scheme

Within the Delivery Plan it is proposed to develop this scheme as a key priority. The Inclusion and Development Officer will develop an outline scheme for submission.

Work has been undertaken to consider what constitutes an emergency, which focuses mainly on the hospitalisation of close family members, or one off events such as funerals. The proposed scheme envisages a registration process to be set up, and following this an emergency plan to be developed with carers, which includes drawing together a support plan.

Within the Commissioning Brief providers are being sought who will be able to arrange for staff to support families at short notice

5 Financial implications

The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme is grant funded. The revenue and capital allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are shown in paragraph 2.1.

The indicative spend plans are included in Appendix 5.

There are no indications of the level of funding from 2011-12 onwards; although it is likely financial commitments for Short Breaks will increase.

6 Staffing Implications

6.1 The programme has required increased Project Management capacity within year 2 to drive the Delivery Plan forwards.

6.2 The service review may recommend changes to the residential and family support teams.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 The changes are driven by the imperative that disabled youngsters should have personal and developmental opportunities and be supported to lead an ordinary life as valued members of their community.

7.2 Short breaks should therefore not just be used as a crisis intervention, but should also be used routinely to help parents and carers to maintain and improve the quality of care they naturally wish to provide.

- 7.3 Within the first stages of the Transformation Plan a needs analysis will be undertaken to identify if there are groups of disabled children who currently do not receive effective support.
- 7.4 Involving parents in the design of services is a critical part of this programme and the delivery of the Core offer.
- 7.5 Young people with disabilities have more significant difficulties in communicating their preferences and will need more imaginative and individualised approaches in ensuring their involvement.

8 Human Rights Implications

Decisions on all aspects of the proposed changes will be informed by the Convention on Human Rights to ensure that the rights of children in our care and our employees are protected.

9 Local Agenda 21 Implications

No specific implications emerging from this report.

10 Community Safety Implications

Improved commissioning of care provision should reduce the vulnerability of disabled young people to bullying and for some young people to being engaged in or subject to crime.

11 Planning Implications

There are none arising from this report.

12 Local Member Support Implications

Disabled young people live in all wards.

13 Background Papers

Aiming High for Disabled Children

Updates on these and other measures are available at

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ahdc

Recommendations

1. To note the content of this report
2. To note the Consultation Strategy for Parent Carers
3. To note the Commissioning Brief

Howard Cooper
Director Children's Services

Appendix 1

Full Service Offer

A short breaks service should:

- be based on a needs assessment of the local disabled child population, taking into account the voice of disabled children, young people and their families (Participation and feedback);
- offer a significantly greater volume of short break provision set against a 2007-08 baseline, reflecting the additional funding levels available from Government;
- use fair, understandable and transparent eligibility criteria that enable short breaks to be used as a preventative service and which do not restrict provision to those threatened by family breakdown or other points of crisis (Assessment);
- offer a wide range of reliable local short break provision, tailored to families needs and including:

a) support for disabled children and young people in accessing activities in universal settings, delivered through the following:

- the support of a befriending, sitting or sessional service;
- measures that build the skills of universal service providers;
- measures specific to severely disabled children that are undertaken to meet their physical access requirements in universal settings. These would build on and exceed DDA compliance and ensure that the most disabled are not disadvantaged.

b) overnight breaks, with care available in both the child's own home *and* elsewhere.

c) significant breaks during the day, with care available in the child's own home *and* elsewhere:

- provide positive experiences for children by promoting friendships and by encouraging social activities, new experiences and supportive relationships with carers;
- provide culturally appropriate provision that meets the racial, cultural, linguistic and religious needs of disabled children and their families;
- ensure that provision is available on a planned and regular basis and at the times when families and young people, need breaks – this should include evenings, weekends and holiday provision, and have the capacity to respond to urgent care requirements;
- provide fit for purpose and age appropriate provision which ensures the following groups are not disadvantaged in accessing short breaks:

a) children and young people with ASD. These are likely to have other impairments, such as severe learning disabilities or have behaviour, which is challenging. Not all children on the Autistic Spectrum will require specialist additional short break services

b) children and young people with complex health needs which includes those with disability and life limiting conditions who have reached the palliative care stage of their life cycle as

well as other children and young people with complex health needs as well as other impairments – physical, cognitive or sensory impairments.

c) children and young people aged 11+ with moving and handling needs that will require equipment and adaptations. These children are likely to have physical impairments, and many of them will also have cognitive impairments and / or sensory impairments;

d) children and young people where challenging behaviour is associated with other impairments (e.g. severe learning disability). Children in this group will display behaviour which challenges services or behaviour which causes injury to themselves or others;

e) young people 14+. The young people who fall into this group are young people who are severely disabled and require services that are appropriate to their age.

- utilise the service provider that offers the best possible combination of skills and experience to deliver services of the highest possible quality to meet individual needs at the most efficient cost;
- promote information about available provision to the public, including details of eligibility – including threshold criteria – and routes to accessing the service (Information and transparency).

Aiming High for Disabled Children: Short Breaks Transformation Programme

DELIVERY PLAN

□ □ **WIRRAL**

OUR VISION:

We will transform the opportunities for short breaks available for disabled children, young people and their families in Wirral, to ensure families experience flexible and helpful support which supports them to lead ordinary family lives.

This will be done through increasing the amount, range, choice and quality of activities and/or breaks, including specialist provision and support and by improving access to services and activities available to all children, young people and families, and by actively promoting their social inclusion.

Fundamental to this transformation is a change in attitudes and practice in a wide range of services and organizations. We will work with stakeholders to promote inclusion as a responsibility of all services, including universal services, specialist disability services and families themselves.

We will be family, child and person centred in our approach, promoting greater creativity and flexibility in planning, provision and service delivery to ensure that short breaks provision meets the needs of families, children and young people.

KEY ROLES

| Role and Responsibility within this Plan | Title | Person |
|---|---|---|
| Core Team members | | |
| Aiming High Short Breaks Programme Lead with TDC | Service Manager CYPD | Clive Groves |
| PCT Lead – Leading Complex Health activity / commissioning and workforce Operational Lead | Childrens Integrated Service Manager | Rosemary Curtis |
| | AHDC Project Manager | Dawn Tolcher |
| Project Team Members | Inclusion and Development officer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist services • Universal Services | Louise Midwinter (Seconded) To be advertised |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| Key Support Personnel | | |
| Support in Commissioning activity | Contracts Manager | Alison Abraham |
| Supporting specialist service redesign | Residential Manager | Debbie Kewley |
| Supporting Direct Payments redesign | Direct Payments Co-ordinator | Lois Snow |
| Workforce Strategy Lead | Training Manager CYPD | Huw Wilkie |
| Engagement Leads | Inclusion Manager SEN Partnership Manager | John Williamson Tricia Moroney |
| | | |

1. Engagement with parents and disabled children and young people.

Overview of approach:

The engagement of parents, carers, disabled children and young people in the development of short break services and opportunities is underpinned by a strategic approach developed by Wirral Children's Services over a number of years. 'The Valued Partners Charter' is a consultation and service information framework for parents and carers of disabled children and young people. The aim of producing this charter was to lay out a set of guiding principles to support all partner agencies in the process of working with parents and carers who use services for children, and to enable their effective participation in service development and decision making. The charter is to be reviewed in March 2009 and with a view to increasing support to parents with leadership of the Forum.

The Wirral Family Consultation Forum is the primary vehicle for engaging with parents and carers of disabled children and was formally launched in May 2006. The Family forum has links with the Parent Support Group Forum and together they contribute to the parents and carers AHDC working group. The aim of Wirral C&YPD and the PCT is to support the further development of these forums and parent and carer representation on all the AHDC planning sub-groups. In addition a number of consultations regarding the short breaks transformation programme have taken place and there was recognition for the need for ongoing involvement.

A bi-monthly newsletter informs parents & carers of ongoing developments & feedback from consultation events.

'The Charter of Participation' was developed in 2006, by Wirral Children and Young People's strategic partnership.

The aim of the Charter is to ensure that policies and standards for the participation of children and young people are in place and provide opportunity for planning opportunities for children and young people to participate in decisions that affect their lives. Using this as a framework, a clear strategy will be developed across the strategic partnership to involve disabled children and young people in the short breaks transformation programme. As part of this the forum for disabled young people 'We R able 2' will be reviewed and an action plan agreed to further develop and strengthen this forum. A number of consultations have taken place with children and young people, in schools. Further events are being planned, to incorporate consultation as part of 'fun days'. A regular newsletter will be produced for children & young people. A Communication Strategy has been developed which will be taken forwards by the Engagement and Involvement Sub Group.

Section 1 – Engagement with parents and disabled children and young people

| Action | Responsible | Completion date | Status |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 1.1 Disabled children and young people have a route through to shaping short breaks development | | | |
| An Engagement group will be formed to take forwards consultation with both parents and young people, support will be sought from S< / CAMHS /SESS in the structuring of activity around young people | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Terms of reference and group membership have been confirmed |
| In line with the five charter principles of the Charter of Participation we will develop a plan for the full involvement of disabled children and young people, including those with limited communication. This will link with the workforce strategy re communication skills. The Engagement Group will be tasked to confirm a detailed programme for young people with LDD. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Terms of reference and group membership have been confirmed |
| A Inclusion and Development officer will be appointed to support children and young people's involvement and the development of the 'We R able 2' group, including working with children, young people & schools in identifying alternative communication methods and support where appropriate. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Seconded member of staff now fulfilling these responsibilities Job description being drafted. |
| The 'We R able 2' group will be further developed & supported to engage children & young people in the short breaks transformation programme, and supported to develop a newsletter for children & young people. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Seconded member of staff developing further consultation activity – with a task group |
| The short breaks transformation programme will be promoted in schools and opportunities developed for children & young people to be involved. Disabled children & young people in mainstream schools will be targeted and enabled to participate through a range of | Inclusion and Development officer | April 2009 | Seconded member of staff developing further consultation activity – with a task group |

| | | | |
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| mechanisms, including fun events, newsletters & feedback opportunities. | | | |
| Children & young people will be involved in producing regular newsletters, & feedback on progress. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Task identified within Draft Communication Strategy |
| Further work will be undertaken to seek further views from young people regarding the range of activities they would want from within the Full Service Offer | Project Manager | Feb 2009 | Task identified within Draft Communication Strategy |
| 1.2 Family involvement in developing short breaks is evidenced through their key involvement in decision making regarding commissioning and decommissioning of services | | | |
| The Wirral Family forum is holding an event in March 2009 to explore ways and mechanisms for engaging with more families, particularly working parents, those from BME & traveller communities, and parents with disabilities themselves. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Consultants engaged to facilitate the day |
| The Wirral Family Forum is running a Networking Event in February 2009 to stimulate working across Parent Support Groups, and to revitalise this part of the Forum | Parent Support Co-ordinator | February 2009 | Done – report to be concluded / actions feedback to Forum |
| The Family forum will lead a review of 'Valued Partners' (parent and carers charter) in April 2009, seeking to engage with parents and carers of disabled children across Wirral. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Consultants engaged to facilitate the day |
| The AHDC Engagement working group will act as a link from services to other parents and carers, to develop further involvement using a range of approaches, focusing on involvement in decision making and short break developments. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Terms of reference and group membership have been confirmed |
| A parent and carer training programme has been commissioned and will be piloted over 8 weeks, beginning Feb 09. The programme will seek to respond to the training needs of parents and carers and focus on communication | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Consultants engaged to facilitate the programme |

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| skills, developing confidence and working in partnership. The programme will be open to all parents and carers of disabled children, seeking to develop skills to ensure full involvement in service development and decision making processes. The programme will be delivered 4 times in 2009/10 and will include training of parents as trainers to deliver the programme year 2 onwards. | | | |
| Parents and carers involved in the LDD Strategy and AHDC Groups will be invited to participate in the recruitment and selection of the short breaks project manager in February 2009. | Service Manager CYPD | February 2009 | Done – parents will be engaged in further appointments |
| Services for parent support and SEN parent partnership have been drawn together between the Council and PCT - tendering will be completed in February 2009 with a view to new service being in place for July 2009 | Service Manager CYPD | May 2009 | Tendering complete – Engagement Group will facilitate new provider arrangements |
| 1.3 There is a clear communication strategy for dissemination of information regarding short breaks services for parents and carers | | | |
| Communication strategy in development and responsive to changing issues of parents, carers, children & young people. The strategy includes identifying key messages & information for parents & carers; mechanisms for feedback; ongoing involvement of parents, carers, children & young people. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Terms of reference and group membership have been confirmed for Engagement Group – who will confirm action plan |
| Provision & funding of a parent & carer bi-monthly newsletter as part of communication strategy | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Task identified within Draft Communication Strategy |
| Website development re specific information on provision and activities for disabled children and families. This will link with FIS strategy & One Stop Shops to include specialist knowledge of disability issues. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Task identified within Draft Communication Strategy |

2. Provision

Please use this section to set out how you wish to develop short break provision in your area. The overview section should be used to explain your overarching strategy to providing a range of provision in keeping with the FSO and utilising the funding being made by Government. The tables below enable you to tell us about the key tasks, milestones and targets associated with this strategy.

Overview of Approach:

The key focus is to promote “fair access to support” for all disabled children and young people that is based on their needs and their family needs. This will include:

- Providing clear points of access to support
- The development of a resource centre at Willow Tree which will be used for staff training, parent/care training, awareness raising, parent and family groups and activities, access to information and resources
- To extend the role of universal services and build capacity to provide more varied short breaks to families and fun activities for disabled children and young people
- To develop an independence facility which can be used by young people to develop their independent living skills and to have supervised sleepovers with friends
- To specifically review specialist residential and family support services to increase the level of home based supports for young people with ASD and complex challenging behaviours
- To lessen dependency on residential based models of care in favour of more integrated support packages which incorporate these services in a more family centred manner
- Develop fun activities for disabled children and young people

This approach will be developed through a “hub and spoke” model with the current residential units (Rosclare and Willow Tree) remodelled to operate at the hub where all short break activity is co-ordinated and planned. Willow Tree will also be used as resource centre and Rosclare will develop a provision for young people for learning independence on having fun breaks. The centres will “house” a short breaks team who will provide residential care, care in family’s own home, emergency/urgent care and a team of support workers and enablers working out in the communities.

The hub and spoke model is used to enable universal provision to develop its provision to support more disabled children and young people to access support and to provide specialist provision where needed.

Short breaks eligibility criteria to be reviewed (section 4) and new criteria to be published for all parents and carers to access.

Section 2 – Provision

| Action | Responsible | Completion date | Status |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 2.1 Residential overnight stays | | | |
| Working group of Council / PCT, parents, young people and short breaks team to oversee the increase range and choice of specialist provision | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Terms of reference and group membership will be confirmed before 24/2/09 |
| To conduct a formal review of specialist provisions at Willow tree / Rosclare / Family Support. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Terms of reference for review to be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |
| To develop these staff team to extend the capacity of the support workers in working with young people and promoting independence. (Links to workforce strategy) | Residential Manager | July 2009 | Workforce Strategy Group has now been formed |
| To extend family support staff teams working with young people in the home | Service Manager CYPD | March 2010 | PCT Report dates to be confirmed |
| To develop the short break teams to support friendship groups of young people wishing to stay away from home | Residential Manager | March 2010 | Will form part of scoping of the review model |
| To develop overnight provision at Rosclare residential unit as part of a further realignment of services. | Residential Manager | July 2009 | Work in progress |
| To confirm plans to establish a young people's independence facility for individual or groups of young people. | Residential Manager | July 2009 | Will form part of scoping of the review model |
| To develop a Aiming High Short Breaks Project team lead by the Short Breaks Project Manager based at Willow Tree to take a lead on supporting breaks for disabled children | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Further recruitment planned CYPSPB |

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| including health and support needs with complex health needs ie to develop a short breaks team that is the hub at the centre of the model. | | | |
| To ensure an effective link with Continuing care team to provide health support on 24/7 basis for young people to be able access Contract carer / residential / other community based activity. | Service Managers CYPD & Wirral NHS | March 2009 | Terms of reference and group membership will be confirmed before 24/2/09 |
| Working group of PCT, parents, young people and short breaks team to explore possible ways of increasing range and choice within provision | Service Managers CYPD & Wirral NHS | March 2009 | Terms of reference and group membership will be confirmed before 24/2/09 |
| To establish the need/demand for overnight stays in hospices for children and young people with life limiting conditions and/or palliative care needs, and working links between service providers | Service Managers CYPD & Wirral NHS | March 2009 | Terms of reference and group membership will be confirmed before 24/2/09 Meeting arranged for 24/2 with Hospice |
| 2.2 Family based overnight stays | | | |
| Commission contract carer scheme to provide care during family breaks e.g. holidays . Targeted to young people with ASD / complex health. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Commissioning brief to be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |
| Ensure the contract carer scheme will also provide care in family's own home. | | | |
| Review the best commissioning arrangements for foster care / short breaks provision (in house / externalisation) | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Commissioning brief to be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |
| Develop fostering provision to include short break foster carers through the provision of a Development Worker post. Foster carers will provide short periods of care in their own | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Commissioning brief to be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |

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| home to disabled children. They will provide overnight, weekend and or holiday stays in family home as required | | | |
| 2.3 Family based or individual day care | | | |
| Develop/commission a home based sitting service that families can access through direct payments or self funding | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Commissioning brief to be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |
| To develop the short breaks team to include a wider workforce that is able to provide support workers to support individual children and young people or groups of children and young people to go for trips out/days out. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Commissioning brief to be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |
| 2.4 Group based short breaks provided during the day through specialist provision (individual or group – financially supported by short break service) | | | |
| Work with special school heads to extend provision out of school hours to all disabled children including those not on the roll of the special school. Provision to include weekends and evenings. Link access to provision with transport strategy, workforce strategy, Youth and Play Strategies and the Extended schools strategy. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group will be set up Terms of reference and group membership will be confirmed before 24/2/09 |
| Commission further specialist and inclusive leisure, play and social activities at weekends. | Service Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up Commissioning brief to be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |

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| 2.5 Short breaks provided during the day through non-specialist group based provision (individual attendance purchased by short break service) | | | |
| Project Manager of the short breaks team will have responsibility for organisational aspects and training of the new staff team. The short breaks team will need to be developed and it is envisaged that it is likely to include: educational assistants, learning mentors, school support staff, nursery nurses and others. The skills of non-specialist team will be built to respond to the needs of disabled children, young people and their families. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Workforce Strategy Group has now been formed Audit of need to be conducted |
| Work with extended school managers to extend provision out of school hours to all disabled children. Provision to include weekends and evenings, after school clubs, breakfast clubs and activity based provision. Link access to provision with transport strategy, workforce strategy and the extended schools strategy. Short breaks team to work with schools to develop provision and provide support for individual children to access the provision, train existing staff to respond to needs of individual children. All children and young people who have an identified need and meet revised eligibility criteria to be funded to access provision. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |
| Work with staff and managers within universal services to extend provision during weekends and evenings to all disabled children. Link access to provision with workforce strategy. Short breaks team to work with providers to develop provision and provide support for individual children to access the provision, train existing staff to respond to needs of individual children. | Project Manager | Sept 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |
| 2.6 How will you support access to non-specialist group based provision? | | | |
| Link with extended schools plan/workforce strategy/ transport plan to facilitate access to after school and pre-school | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |

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| provision and make it accessible to all disabled children and young people. Work with extended school managers to develop services and increase inclusion. Provide additional funding and additional specialist equipment where needed to support inclusive provision. | | | |
| To work with extended school team to develop after school care for children and young people from the age of 11 years in the borough's secondary schools. To provide seed funding to establish provision. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |
| To work with providers of holiday schemes to expand provision to include children and young people over the age of 11 years and to promote inclusion of all disabled children. Provision of funding to support this change, training awareness, specialist training (link to workforce strategy) e.g. by community nurses and equipment. To provide seed funding to establish provision. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |
| To work together with parents to review current provision of out of school care pre and post 11 to develop inclusive provision. | Project Manager | Sept 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |
| Enable disabled children to access extended school services through local schools by including them in the extended schools planning. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |
| Developing Inclusive Provision Working Group to review access and use of universal leisure and social activities. Short breaks team to act as "enablers" to work alongside existing staff to support a child or young person to access provision. The "enabler" will train up staff and ensure appropriate support mechanisms are in place. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------|-----------|---|
| Short breaks team to act as “enablers” to work alongside existing Play and youth services staff to support a child or young person to access provision. The “enabler” will train up staff and ensure appropriate support mechanisms are in place. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision Group set up |
|---|-----------------|-----------|---|

3 Direct Payments

While the Government is keen to promote the use of direct payments, local authorities should not presume the market will automatically meet parents' needs without support. The Government expects the range of provision set out in the FSO to be available in all cases, and where direct payment take up is high - this may require the local authority to be proactive in supporting the market to make sufficient provision to meet independent demand. This section should set out how direct payments will be promoted, take up increased, and their use effectively supported and managed.

Overview of approach:

We have a well established support scheme established with a private sector organisation (to provide advocacy and employment support) ; who work in partnership with our Direct Payment co-ordinator in offering support to people using the scheme. It is now recognised that to increase take up of Direct Payments further work is now required to promote the benefits of the scheme to new parents, and with key professional groups. The scheme maintains close links with the Department of Adult Services in that young people who will be eligible for support into adulthood should experience a consistency of approach. Within the personalisation agenda a pilot project is being run over the next 3 months in relation to Individual Budgets, this will include several young people in transition.,

We have held several workshops in 2009 with parents using the scheme to look at the support package offered by the scheme. An extensive information package has been developed ready for launch which together with the practical support being offered by the Co-ordinator should boost parental confidence, and their preparedness to promote the benefits of controlling your own support. Parents have identified the need for improved arrangements to support in the recruitment of personal assistants – and we will be considering with our support service how this might be best commissioned. We will also review training arrangements. Our intent is to increase access to Direct Payments to a wider group of children and young people – especially young people with social communication difficulties and sensory impairments. We will also be considering how with the increased use of CAF we may make Direct Payments available for these 2 groups of young people in particular.

Take up rates for the service have stalled over the last 2 years, and it is recognised specific work will be required to :

- Target young people at 16 – there are currently no young people who receive payments in their own right
- Extend the groups of disabled young people who have previously taken up payments ie young people with social communication difficulties
- Improve support arrangements – including information, support with recruitment , payroll and inland revenue
- Increase promotional activity to confirm the benefits of Direct Payments
- Commission activity which supports parents in their recruitment of personal assistants Direct Payment

Section 3 – Direct payments/ Individualised budgets

| Action | Responsible | Completion date | Status |
|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| 3.1 Measures to promote the take up of direct payments | | | |
| Aiming High Newsletter to include article bi -annually | Project Manager | On going | To be scheduled |
| Schedule for Awareness raising session – across SESS / District Teams / Parent information events / Parent groups / schools | Project Manager DP Co-ordinator Support scheme workers | On going | To be scheduled |
| Confirm budgetary provision within programme to increase take up rates from 150 families in 2009 / 175 families in 2010 | Service Manager | March 2009 | Commissioning brief to be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |
| Targeted workshops for young people and parents to explore how young people 16 + can be supported | Project Manager DP Co-ordinator Support scheme workers | Sept 2009 and ongoing | To be scheduled |
| 3.2 Measures to support the take up of direct payments | | | |
| Publication of the information pack / production of CD | DP Co-ordinator Support scheme workers | July 2009 | To be scheduled |

| | | | |
|--|--|------------|-----------------|
| Quarterly Parent workshops | DP Co-ordinator Support scheme workers | Ongoing | To be scheduled |
| Awareness raising schedule Parent groups / schools | Project Manager DP Co-ordinator Support scheme workers | Ongoing | To be scheduled |
| Targeted support to increase numbers of parents submitting on line IR returns | DP Co-ordinator | Ongoing | To be scheduled |
| Review of payroll support options available to parents | Project Manager DP Co-ordinator | July 2009 | To be scheduled |
| To work with Parents Support Groups to explore processes for pooling payments and personal assistant recruitment | Project Manager | July 2009 | To be scheduled |
| To confirm with DP parents support group best methods for commissioning personal assistant recruitment activity | Project Manager | April 2009 | To be scheduled |
| 3.3 Clear evidence that LA has engaged with local providers to ensure the market supports choice | | | |
| Provider commissioning event) to stimulate market to ensure increased availability of trained workers available to offer support / and favourable market rate for parents. | Service and Project Manager | March 2009 | Scheduled 10/3 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|---|
| Review IB pilot within DASS, seek to establish regional learning set with TDC support | Service and Project Manager | July 2009 | To be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |
| Confirm project plan for launch of IB pilots within CYPD | Service and Project Manager | Oct 2009 | To be confirmed with CYPSP Board March 13 |

4 Features of Provision

This section focuses on how the provision you wish to see developed will meet the needs of those currently under provided for, and how it will meet other requirements set out in the Full Service Offer (4.7 - 4.8 below).

Overview of approach:

This section describe our over-arching approach to meeting the needs of:

- Group A - Children with autism spectrum disorder and/or challenging behaviour as a result of their impairment;
- Group B - Children with complex health needs - including the technology dependent child and those requiring palliative care - and/or those with moving and handling needs that will require equipment and adaptations.

We will work in partnership between the Council and PCT to ensure the agendas for “Aiming High” , “Better Care, Better Lives” and “Healthy Lives, Better Futures” result in joined up approaches to the commissioning of support.

We will review eligibility criteria for short breaks provision in partnership with parents and carers to reflect:

- the prioritising of Children with autism spectrum disorder and/or challenging behaviour as a result of their impairment and children with complex health needs - including the technology dependent child and those requiring palliative care - and/or those with moving and handling needs that will require equipment and adaptations
- the increase in funding

All referrals for short breaks will go directly to the short breaks team who will ensure families are supported through the required assessment processes

An increased range and volume of more flexible provision will be provided to meet the needs of disabled children, young people and their parents.

To increase family based services – as an alternative to residential respite provision where this fits with the needs of the children and families. To improve access to specialist family support provision.

To develop increased flexibility of Continuing Care services in delivering increased range and choice of provision.

To ensure sufficient capacity is available from specialist health professionals to provide for effective workforce support

To ensure a stable funding platform for the hospice in Wirral and support regional partnerships

Section 4 – Features of provision for children with complex needs (For groups A and B)

| Action | Responsible | Completion date | Status |
|--|--|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 4.1 Residential overnight stays | | | |
| To establish a specialist service working group to develop tasks identified within section 4 | Service and Project Manager | March 2009 | Pending |
| To work with and consult with parents, children and young people who currently use residential provision at Willow Tree and Rosclare to ensure a rigorous approach to engagement | Project Manager Residential Manager | May 2009 | Pending |
| To complete further building works at Rosclare to respond to needs of groups A & B as required | Service and Residential Manager | Sept 2009 | Pending |
| To review the staffing arrangement of Rosclare and Willow Tree to ensure needs of all children are met | Residential Manager | May 2009 | Pending |
| Offer residential stays in other venues apart from residential units. To work with capital planning group to audit what other potential residential facilities are available. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Pending |
| Develop independent living provision at Rosclare to provide supported overnight/short breaks for young people. | Project Manager Residential Manager | Sept 2009 | Pending |
| Local authority in partnership with the PCT to identify and work with children's hospice providers as part of the palliative | PCT lead manager | March 2009 | Meeting scheduled for 24/2 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|------------|---|---------|
| care commissioning strategy to provide short breaks for children with palliative care needs. | | | | |
| Local authority in partnership with the PCT to review provisions at Rosclare residential unit, to develop provision for residential stays for children with complex health needs and severe physical disabilities. Link with Continuing Care Team. | Project Manager Residential Manager | July 2009 | Pending | |
| To support planning working group to develop creative ideas and approaches to residential care inc trips to other areas to see provision. | Project Manager Residential Manager | July 2009 | Service Review agreed – scope and model of review to be confirmed | |
| 4.2 Family based overnight stays | | | | |
| Recruit specialist foster carers trained to work with the priority groups A & B to provide short breaks and / or commission with existing providers to provide specialist foster carers. | Service and Project Manager | Sept 2009 | Confirmed with Commissioning Brief | |
| Develop a strategy to make adaptations to foster carers own homes both general adaptations such as bathroom, wheelchair accessibility, hoists and specific where appropriate once matched with a child. Specific consideration of PODs / Link with ICES. | Capital Lead and Service Manager | July 2009 | Pending | Pending |
| Develop proposals for the existing team at Rosclare and Willow Tree to form a team which provides care in family's own homes and support trips away. Carers to be provided with specific training around the individual needs of children and/or young people. | Project Manager Residential Manager | April 2009 | Service Review agreed – scope and model of review to be confirmed | |
| To support extended families to be able to offer short breaks by providing an equipment lending scheme and training e.g. moving and handling. Link with existing equipment service | MPN Co-ordinator Capital Lead | July 2009 | Pending | |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| ICES. | and Service Manager | | |
| 4.3 Family based or individual day care | | | |
| Link with young carers project to develop proposals for siblings with caring responsibilities to have a break and access services. Link with Wirral Carers Strategy. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Pending |
| To provide training for commissioned sitting service around the specific needs of individual children and young people to enable them to look after children in groups A and B in their own home. | Project Manager | Oct 2009 | Pending |
| To provide training for the extended family in the meeting the needs of individual children and young people. | Project Manager | Oct 2009 | Pending |
| Develop/commission a contract carer scheme with trained workers in working with groups A and B to provide care in family's own home. | Service and Project Manager | Sept 2009 | Confirmed with Commissioning Brief |
| To develop the short breaks team to include a workforce that is able to provide support workers to support individual children and young people or groups of children and young people to go for trips out/days out. | Service and Project Manager | Sept 2009 | Workforce Strategy being developed |
| 4.4 Group based short breaks provided during the day through specialist provision | | | |
| Widen criteria for families needing to access specialist short break provision and to provide clarity on eligibility criteria for such provision. | Service and Project Manager | July 2009 | Paper prepared for Planning Group March |
| Work with special school managers to extend provision out of school hours to disabled children from groups A and B including those not on the roll of the special school. Provision to include weekends and evenings. Link access to provision | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision to be formed March 2009 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|--|
| with transport strategy, workforce strategy and the extended schools strategy. | | | |
| Commission specialist leisure and social activities at weekends. | Service and Project Manager | July 2009 | Confirmed with Commissioning Brief |
| Review existing school holiday provision with parents. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision to confirm added activity for summer 2009 |
| 4.5 Short breaks provided during the day through non-specialist group based provision | | | |
| Develop a team of “enablers” linked to the short breaks team to support children and young people in groups A and B to access sport and leisure clubs (time limited) and to train existing staff in supporting that child/young person to access the facility. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision to confirm added activity for summer 2009 |
| Full audit (undertaken with parents) and detail of equipment already available and shortfalls identified. Provision within universal leisure and sports services to link with workforce strategy and lending resource (ICES). | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision to confirm |
| To develop proposals with the play and youth services to support all young people to access play scheme and youth club provision. Training of staff and buddies to provide support young people. Link with youth services inc voluntary sector and faith organisations youth services to support disabled young people to participate | Project Manager | July 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision to confirm added activity for summer 2009 |
| Link to workforce strategy, building disability understanding and dealing with challenging behaviours and identifying specific needs | Project Manager LD CAMHS | July 2009 | LD CAMHS invited to join Workforce Strategy Group |

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------|---|
| Support access to universal provision by providing support structures inc training peer support people eg within the guide and scout movement. | Project Manager | Oct 2009 | Developing Inclusive Provision to confirm |
| 4.6 Provision is culturally appropriate | | | |
| All short break staff team and short break carers to participate in culturally appropriate provision that meets the racial, cultural, linguistic and religious needs of disabled children and their families. Link with workforce strategy and communication strategy. | Service and Project Manager | July 2009 | Confirmed with Commissioning Brief |
| Ensure access to interpreter /translator services as appropriate. | Service and Project Manager | July 2009 | Confirmed with Commissioning Brief |
| Offer a culturally sensitive service that takes into account individual family needs alongside specific cultural or religious requirements e.g. offer female support staff where appropriate for religious needs. | Service and Project Manager | July 2009 | Confirmed with Commissioning Brief |
| Ensure short breaks staff team have knowledge or kept updated of multi-cultural events/ organisations that respond to specific BME needs, | Project Manager | July 2009 | Pending |
| Provision of culturally appropriate resources – link with ICES. | Project Manager | July 2009 | Pending |
| 4.7 Plan to deliver services at times when they are needed (24 hours) and are able to respond to emergencies | | | |
| Establish an emergency support scheme. Linked into the Short Breaks hub team which can ensure support is provided for emergency/urgent care to respond to family crises | Project Manager | July 2009 | Agreed as priority with CYPSP Board – scheme details in development |

5 Capital

Overview of approach:

The Capital projects group has been established to oversee all Capital expenditure and to ensure that activity is co-ordinated with all other capital expenditure within the Council. The Council has undertaken a Strategic Asset Review of all of its buildings.

Capital has been identified within the Council `s programme to upgrade residential provision – planning will be dovetailed to meet the needs identified following a review of this provision.

Developing a Resource Centre Model is favoured to improve a one stop model which improves access to short breaks and specialist provisions

The Play Strategy will look to develop 4 play areas which are fully accessible to disabled young people

The Youth Strategy will look to cluster activity around the 4 Districts and “My Place”

Our spend will look link into programmes within key leisure centres to ensure changing facilities which are suitable for people with moving & handling needs are able to be met – given these venues will be accessible between 8am and 10pm to maximise opportunities for this group to maximise their use of community facilities.

We will develop a Contract Carer Scheme – providing support for adaptations to facilitate access by Group A&B children and those with moving and handling needs

We will work in partnership with local service providers to improve the accessibility of provision beyond DDA levels to specifically improve play scheme and leisure activities, targeting equipment expenditure.

We will work with our local ICES to provide a store of equipment which may be loaned to families to enable young people to more readily visit other family members / friends

Section 5 – Capital projects

| Action | Responsible | Completion date | Status |
|--|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5.1 Ensuring capital expenditure is not replacing DDA compliance requirements | | | |
| To establish a Capital Group to develop and monitor all bids for capital spend chaired by the CYPD Capital Programme Lead. | Service Manager CYPD | October 2008 | Terms of reference to be reviewed |
| Capital Sub Group to meet monthly to support processing of bids | AHDC Capital Lead | | |
| Capital Sub Group to review options for expenditure and establish links with Play / Youth / Leisure services / Childrens Centres | Service Manager CYPD | January 2009 | |
| Capital Sub Group members to submit 1 st tranche of community bids | AHDC Capital Lead | | |
| Capital Sub Group members to review and develop bidding process | AHDC Capital Lead | March 2009 | |
| 5.2 Clear plans in place to show how capital will be used | | | |
| To confirm detail required for Implementation Plan | Service Manager CYPD AHDC Capital Lead | January 2009 | |
| To confirm an outline of Intentional spend to meet TDC Readiness criteria standard | Service Manager | February 2009 | |

| | | | |
|--|--|------------|-------|
| | CYPD AHDC Capital Lead | | |
| To confirm an outline of Intentional spend to C&YPSP Board | Service Manager CYPD AHDC Capital Lead | March 2009 | Areas |
| To commission further programme spend | Service Manager CYPD AHDC Capital Lead | April 2009 | |

6 Workforce

The transformation of short breaks provision will require a significant development of the short break workforce. Local partners need to address capacity issues, and the need to develop specific knowledge and expertise in a wider range of settings to provide for those children currently considered 'hard to place'. Please use the overview section to set out your overall approach to workforce development making clear the roles of both the authority and the PCT, and considering the need to develop staff working outside to the statutory bodies own provision.

Overview of approach:

The focus of the Workforce Strategy for the transformation of short breaks provision is to:

- establish a matrix of range and numbers of workforce needed in order to deliver on the transformation programme.
- highlight the additional skills and knowledge needed by both the universal workforce and the specialist workforce to meet the needs of disabled children and young people, including those with complex needs. This strategy needs to be considered alongside the Wirral Children's Workforce Strategy (2008) which includes training in the ECM common core of skills and knowledge.

The transformation of short breaks requires a workforce that has a broad understanding of the issues for disabled children and families, including understanding of the social and medical models of disability, participation and inclusion and safeguarding. Varying depths of knowledge relating to other aspects of disability will be needed across the workforce, including health professionals, social care and early years. In addition professionals within universal services will require training in a range of areas, and the Voluntary, Community, Faith and independent sector.

Additional skills and knowledge will include both internal training and development, and external training for additional qualifications. Leaders and managers across the workforce who are responsible for short breaks provision will be supported in developing high levels of skills and knowledge in direct relation to the services and provision they are responsible for.

Section 6 – Workforce

| Action | Responsible | Completion date | Status |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 6.1 Actions needed to ensure LA/PCT core management is adequate | | | |
| Confirming Project management responsibilities / joint working with PCT LA Service manager has joint responsibility with Director of Strategic partnerships in the PCT | Service Manager CYPD | January 2008 | Completed 1 st meeting scheduled for 19 Feb 2009 |
| Establish reporting to AHDC steering group on a monthly basis. Joint Commissioning Manager / PCT Leads / Heads of Branch within CYPD | Service Manager CYPD | January 2008 | Schedule of dates in place |
| PCT AHDC Lead briefed | Service Manager CYPD | February 2008 | Completed |
| Appointment of AHDC Short breaks Project Manager. | Service Manager CYPD | February 2008 | Candidate identified / HR processes being followed |
| Interim project management and Work plan | Service Manager CYPD | February 2008 | Reviewed Feb 12 |
| Induction of project manager and team will be planned | Service Manager CYPD | April 2008 | To be done |
| Project Team to be established. Proposals to CYPSP Board in March | Service Manager CYPD | May 2008 | Proposals developed for Steering Group |

| | | | |
|---|---|------------------|--|
| 6.2 Development of short breaks workforce strategy and workforce planning | | | |
| Confirm Workforce Strategy Sub Group / TOR | Service Manager CYPD | February 2009 | Scheduled |
| Link to Wirral Workforce Strategy | | | |
| Complete draft of Workforce Strategy | Interim project team | March 2009 | Scheduled |
| Confirm Work plan for Workforce Strategy Group | Interim project team | April 2009 | Scheduled |
| 6.3 Development and delivery of a training and development strategy for all sectors | | | |
| Workforce planning will audit current workforce capacity across residential, specialist and universal services. | Training Manager CYPD | May 2009 | Scheduled |
| Confirm Development plan with Workforce Strategy Group | Training Manager CYPD Service Manager CYPD | June 2009 | Not started |
| Confirm Development plan with PCT Board and CYPSP Board | Service Managers CYPD & PCT | July 2009 | Not started |
| Review with PCT specialist training capacity reflecting Training Directory | Service Managers | July 2009 | Work progressed on Training Directory to be |

| | | | |
|---|--|------------|--|
| | CYPD & PCT | | taken forwards by Complex Health Provision Group |
| Short breaks team to be trained in the personalisation agenda and providing person centred support packages. | Inclusion Development Officer | July 2009 | Not started |
| 6.4 Actions needed to recruit sufficient staff for priority groups in all settings | | | |
| Provider Workshop to identify Commissioning Intent and Workforce development support | Service Manager CYPD Contracts Manager CYPD | March 2009 | Scheduled for 6 March |
| Provider Forum to be established to support service developments | Service Manager CYPD Contracts Manager CYPD | July 2009 | Not started |
| Specialist services development partnership arrangements with new providers to support induction | Service Manager CYPD | July 2009 | Not started |
| Identifying recruitment support providers who will assist in recruitment and training of Direct Payment workers | Service Manager CYPD | July 2009 | Not started |

7 Commissioning and market development

Overview of approach:

The Children & Young People's Partnership has agreed a Strategic Joint Commissioning Framework for Children & Young People in Wirral. This sets out the vision, principles, shared priorities and methodology for commissioning services underpinned by joint working and collaboration, to ensure a range of quality, flexible and effective services are developed based on individual need which represent value for money.

The Framework is currently being applied to parenting and prevention commissioning (contracts start 1st July 2009) where we have:

- Secured cross agency/stakeholder commitment and involvement in the process
- Drawn together funding streams from Public Health, PCT, Social Care, Children's Fund, Children's Centres, Teenage Pregnancy into a joined up commissioning process
- Included third sector partners in developing the commissioning brief
- Held Procurement Workshops for providers to share vision, explain commissioning brief and tender process
- Included the views of parents, carers and children and young people in the evaluation of 1st stage tender documentation (through evaluation of a leaflet about the service and meeting their needs)
- Included third sector and parent representative on the 2nd stage interview panel
- Focussed on outcomes and priorities within the children and young people's plan and PCT commissioning strategy
- Used Results Based Accountability to measure quality, efficiency and effectiveness of services

Note: The SEN Parent Partnership, Parent Forum support and advocacy services are included within the above process.

This commissioning process will be applied for Aiming High for Disabled Children funding from April 2009.

The aim will be to develop market capacity by extending the number of providers and developing more integrated working relationships with our local providers. Workforce development will underpin our improved commissioning as we seek to increase the capacity of all providers to provide personalised services.

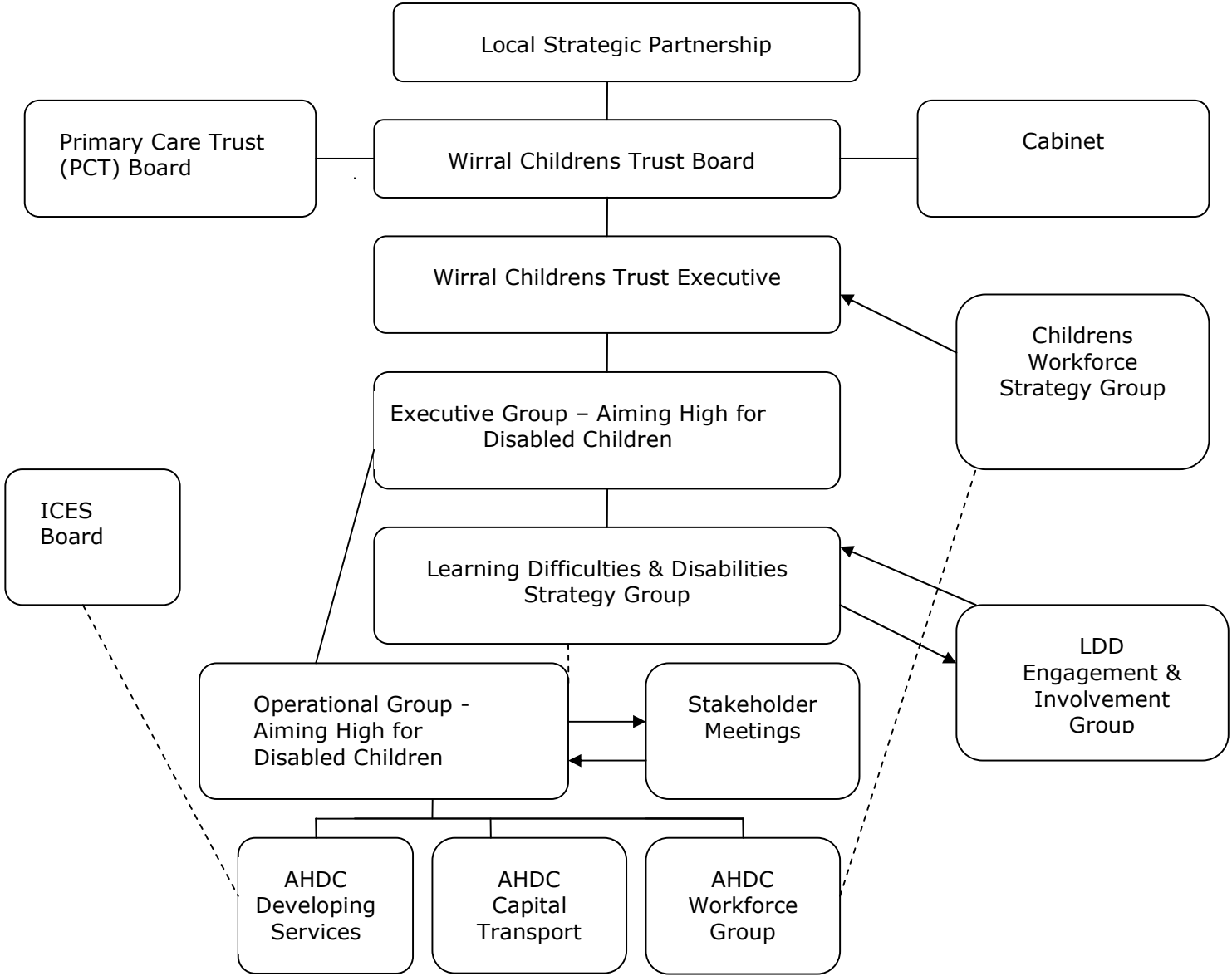
Section 7 – Commissioning

| Action | Responsible | Completion date | Status |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 7.1 Actions taken to better understand need | | | |
| Review of Speech and Language nearing completion – findings will be considered as part of service developments/investments | SALT Lead | April 2009 | In progress |
| Develop system to bring together information from children. Young people parents and carers i.e. strategic level (e.g. formal consultations), service level (e.g. specific to services) and individual level (e.g. care plan reviews and resource panel) | Project Manager | October 2009 | Not started |
| 7.2 Develop relationships with a range of providers to ensure sufficient competition | | | |
| Stage 1 - Provider Workshop: (Parenting and Prevention commissioning process) (includes SEN Parent Partnership and parent groups support and advocacy) | Joint Commissioning Manager and Contracts Manager | held 18 th November 2008 | Completed |
| Stage 2 – Provider Workshop: (Aiming High for Disabled Children Grant and current contracts) | Service Manager, Disabilities and Contracts Manager | March 6 th 2009 | In progress |
| Newsletter to be sent to Wirral providers – AHDC programme, notification of workshop | Service Manager/Contracts Manager | February 2009 | In progress |
| Presentation to LINK Forum re AHDC | Service Manager | February 2009 | Completed Small Grant process to be developed |
| 7.3 Actions planned to improve financial and management data | | | |
| Review data requirements and data management systems across C&YPD and PCT | Data and Finance Sub-Group and | May 2009 | In progress |

| | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Project Manager | | |
| Develop model for joint data capture and data sharing | Data and Finance Sub-Group and Project Manager | July 2009 | Not started |
| Ensure data is captured within Joint Strategic Needs Assessment | Project Manager | November 2009 | Not started |
| Develop pooled budgets and unit costings for AHDC | Data and Finance Sub-Group | January 2010 | Not started |
| 7.4 Improve coherence and effectiveness of commissioning | | | |
| Report to Cabinet to devolve financial decision making to C&YSPB | Director of Children's Services, Service Manager Disabilities | March 2009 | In progress |
| Report to C&YPSMB to agree commissioning intentions | Service Manager Disabilities | March 2009 | In Progress |
| Extend existing service level agreements and contracts until September 2009 to allow for commissioning process | Contracts Manager | February 2009 | In Progress |
| Develop commissioning brief | Service Manager/Contracts Manager | March 2009 | In Progress |
| Institute procurement process for existing contracted services and additional AHDC grant funding (procurement timeline April 2009 – contract start date 1 st September 2009) | Contracts Manager | From April 2009 – September 2009 | In progress |
| Develop contract monitoring programme | Contracts Manager/Project Manager | July 2009 | Not Started |

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Governance Arrangements – Aiming High for Disabled Children



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!WIRRAL

Children & Young People's Department

Aiming High Governance Structures

The Aiming High programme aims to transform services for disabled children to deliver :

- The Full Service Offer in relation to Short Breaks
- The Core Offer in relation to all services
- A wider set of Transition arrangements which includes all young people with SEN and complex health issues

A revised Governance Structure is therefore proposed as set in appendix 1 , the intent being over the course of the following 12 months to review how more integrated planning and commissioning arrangements are put in place across the Council, PCT and health services

Aiming High

Within Aiming High there is a reporting requirement to evidence progress in meeting of the Full Service Offer, and Short Breaks Plans. Monthly reporting requirements are in place

1.1 AHDC Executive Group

To ensure planning occurs in a co-ordinated manner across Council and PCT an Executive group will be formed. This group will oversee commissioning decisions in relation to the programme. Cabinet approval is being sought for the Children And Young People`s Strategic Partnership Board, to have delegated authority to approve spend.

*Current membership of this group
(previously called Steering Group)*

PCT

Director of Strategic Partnerships (Chair)
Children`s Integrated Services Manager
(PCT Lead)

Participation and Inclusion Branch

Head of Branch

Social Care Branch

Head of Branch
Commissioning Manager (Project Lead)
CWD Service Manager (Council Lead)

Additional members

SEN Strategic Manager
Link Forum representative
Capital Lead
Project Manager

1.2 AHDC Operational Group

Within Aiming High there is a reporting requirement to evidence progress in meeting of the Full Service Offer, and Short Breaks Plans. In developing the AHDC Short Breaks programme it is now proposed to form an Operational Group to work to the Executive Group in the development of the Full Service Offer for short breaks. Monthly reporting requirements are in place.

They will retain responsibility to :

- Structure commissioning planning to deliver on the Implementation Plan
- Monitor performance management requirements to ensure the Council and PCT progress delivery in line with the Staged Progression Framework as set out by Together for Disabled Children to meet the Full Service Offer
- Co-ordinate workforce development issues across the services
- Monitor group structures to confirm the need for additional task and finish pieces of work and or other sub groups
- Develop eligibility criteria.
- Ensure Data and Financial planning is being effectively supported
- Monitor service reviews of specialist Short Breaks and Family Support

1.3 AHDC Stakeholder Meetings

In place of the planning group it is now proposed to have stakeholder meetings

This will help monitor the vision for short break services as informed by all stakeholders : children and young people, parents and carers, professionals and service providers.

Initially we will meet 4 times this year

1.4 AHDC Sub Group Structure

It is proposed to simplify the new sub group structure reporting to the Executive group.

To drive forwards the AHDC Short Breaks Strategy it is now proposed to have 3 groups

Developing Services

The Short Breaks Plan should prompt the bringing together of activity across Play and Youth Strategies, Extended Schools, and develop Holiday play schemes, youth and leisure services for children with SEN and widen opportunities for socially inclusive

activity. This work should for this group of young people develop planning that has been started in these currently separate strands.

Capital and Transport

This group will work to oversee capital developments which should support the key objectives of the programme, and ensure that it also fits with other key strategies. Transport and equipment will form secondary strands of this groups key tasks – with links being made to the Integrated Community Equipment Stores Stakeholder group as required.

Workforce Development

The task of developing both specialist services and inclusive provision will require a joined up approach across Council and PCT. A further key element in relation to training will be to ensure that the training programmes in place for mainstream services supports the social inclusion of all disabled youngsters. There is a clear expectation of engaging parents in delivering training to staff, and to providing learning opportunities for families. This group will report to the Workforce Strategy Group

2.0 LDD Strategy Group

Aiming High provides benchmark standards in relation to the provision of information, consultation and participation, which will require the Council and PCT to develop joined up and effective mechanisms for these 3 areas. The LDD Group will need to review how it moves forwards the wider Core Offer, and one new group has been commenced to improve the co-ordination of Information and Consultation principally.

Engagement and Involvement Group

A new tender is to be confirmed in the next month which it is expected will bring together parent support and SEN partnership services, with the new provider working with the Council and PCT to ensure consultation and participation is developed in a more strategic manner.

A formal Consultation Strategy has been developed, and an new action plan will be agreed with key stakeholders for the next 12 month period. Additional parent representative training sessions have been commissioned to reinforce parent's capacity.

It is proposed to talk to key parents involved with the LDD, AHDC groups and Forums how they would choose to be involved within this group, and leadership roles. The new group will otherwise include representative from Council and PCT, and the new service providers.

Transition & LDD Progression through Partnership

Transition forms a discrete strand within Aiming High, with raised expectations in relation to all young people who have a statement of SEN, and need for support from a range of health care services. It is proposed to maintain the current Transition Strategy and LDD Progression through Partnership Strategy Groups; however to draw together the Governance Groups at this time. These are not represented on this diagram given the varied reporting arrangements with different agencies.

VALUED PARTNERS TOWARDS A PARENT CHARTER

A Consultation and Service Information Framework

**For parents of children and young people
with a learning difficulty or disability.**

Agreed by:

Tina Long Director of Strategic Partnerships, Wirral PCT
Julia Hassall Head of Branch Children's Social Care
Peter Edmondson Head of Branch Children's Participation and Inclusion

Implemented :

Lead Officers

Clive Groves, Service Manager, Children with Disabilities, CYPD
Rose Curtis, Head of Integrated Children's Services, Wirral PCT
John Williamson, Social Inclusion Officer, CYPD

Issue Number: 1

Review Date: 1st April 2010

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1 PURPOSE

The Children & Young Peoples Department and Primary Care Trust have sought to work with parents and carers across Wirral to establish a Wirral Family Consultation Forum.

The Forum has confirmed its terms of reference, to underpin its work along with a Statement of Expectations. (Appendix 1)

This Charter provides further guidelines to inform agencies and organisations working across Wirral (Children's Services), about good practice that involves engagement, involvement and participation activities with parents and carers of children and young people who have learning difficulties and or disabilities. The participation of children and young people in our view is interwoven with that for parents and carers, and both should equally shape service design and direction.

The aim of producing this charter is to lay out a set of guiding principles to support all partner agencies in the process of engaging and working with parents and carers who use services for children, and to enable their effective participation in service development and decision making. It is hoped that these principles will be of assistance in ensuring that parents and carers feel valued as equal partners. All the principles will be explored with parents and carers to ensure it reflects their views and enables them to inform policy and strategy processes.

Definition of participation

Participation is the process that enables individuals and groups to influence decision making and bring about change. Parent and Carers participation is just as relevant to individual decision-making (for example, relating to a child's health or education) as it is to strategic decision-making.

Meaningful participation requires that Parent and Carers have access to information which is readily understandable and relevant to their circumstances. They may need advice and support to develop their views and ideas for making change happen. It requires decision-makers to be open and honest, committed and persistent in their communication and who respond quickly to proposals, requests, questions or demands.

In collective participation, parents and carers will also benefit from the opportunity to meet and discuss their views and experiences with others in similar situations. Participation often enables children and young people to hold decision-makers to account.

Consultation

Is the process by which parents and carers are asked their opinions: this can be on a specific issue (e.g. what times are best for this meeting?) or it can have a broader agenda (e.g. what is needed in this area to help improve transition?).

In undertaking consultation we will seek to evidence that we are listening and giving due weight to the views expressed. We will also aim to ensure that consultation activity is systematic across services so that ideas expressed in one place are readily shared across services.

We also recognise that consultation is informal and a part of care planning and the everyday co-ordination of services – we will aim to ensure that the professionals who work within services readily share this activity to ensure we continue to provide better services.

Parents or Parent Carers.....

Within forming the Forum there has been discussion of the terms parent and carer.

Many parents do not necessarily see themselves as being carers and do see themselves as parents. Sometimes this reflects that their child does not have a physical or severe learning disability – yet still have a child with a range of additional and or complex needs.

There are also carers who are not parents or may have or not have full parental responsibility, grandparents, kinship carers and or foster carers.

The significant issue being that the child or young person who needs support is aged between 0 and 19.

The aim of **the guiding principles** in section 3 of the Charter is to enable everyone to work together in an environment of respect, openness and commitment.

It is recommended that agencies and organisations working across Wirral providing services to children and their families adopt these principles and values to support the effective engagement of parents and carers.

These principles are flexible and generic and can be adopted by agencies and organisations working across a wide range of service delivery including the following areas:

- Children & Young People `s Department
- Schools – special and mainstream
- Health Services – PCT and Provider Trusts
- Connexions
- Learning Skills Council
- Voluntary and community organisations
- Parent and carer support groups
- Regeneration & housing associations
- Leisure services

This document is designed to compliment:

- The Young Carers Strategy
- The Charter for Participation for Young People
- Comprehensive engagement strategy

2 THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

2.1 The National Context

There are now a range of government initiatives and documents promoting the involvement and participation of parents and carers, as well as children and young people themselves.

These now culminate in the National Core Offer.

Shortcut to:

<http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/files/8C6C272B2B76A4E6FE6E8408DED7A2EC.pdf>

These include;

- **Standard 8 National Service Framework (NSF) for children, young people & maternity services.** (Oct 2004) makes it clear that local areas need 'services and staff who are able to respond in a sensitive way which encourages engagement and provides high quality support for young people'. A marker of good practice being that "Disabled children and young people and their families are routinely involved and supported in making informed decisions about their treatment, care and support, and in shaping services."
- **Special Educational Needs Code of Practice** (2002) One of the fundamental principles that inform the Code is that 'parents have a vital role to play in supporting their child's education. To make communications effective professionals should acknowledge and draw on parental knowledge and expertise in relation to their child. The guidance also outlines the requirement for the Council to make provisions for Parent Partnership Services, and inform parents, schools and others about the arrangements for the service and how they can access it. The (*SEN Toolkit 2002*, DfES 558/2001, Department for Education and Skills 2001, S.1) explains how schools, Councils all who support pupils with SEN should actively seek to work with parents.
- **Together from the Start** (2003) Regarding provision of services for the early years, this guidance states that: Professionals should approach work in this area with the expectation that they must work in partnership with families, with parents fully involved in any decision-making processes effecting the provision of support to their child.
- **Removing Barriers to Achievement: The Government's Strategy for SEN** (2004) This strategy emphasises the need for local services to work in partnership with parents of children with SEN. It refers to the section in the SEN Code of Practice, which states the expectation that all professionals will work actively with parents and value the contribution they make. This document is further endorsement of the case for increasing levels of parent participation across services.
- **Early Support Programme** – a piloted programme to support families with young disabled children & the professionals who work with them. Covering all disabled children below the age of five, it provides parent carers of disabled children with condition-specific information and enables them to gain knowledge about other important areas such as education and financial help.

- **Audit Commission report 'review of services for disabled children' (2003).** One of the key principles is that 'disabled children, young people and their families are involved in assessment and planning at all levels'.
- **Aiming Higher for Disabled Children 2007.** Highlighted that agencies locally must work together in listening to parents and carers. Within the roll out programme in 2008 a National Core Offer has been published. It will require all services to develop a core offer focused on 3 key elements if information and transparency ; assessment; participation and feedback.
- **Our health, our care, our say(2006),** announced a New Deal for Carers. This has been followed in June 2008 by Carers at the heart of 21st century families and communities. This provides further expectations that recognise parents and carers having multiple responsibilities which may be towards different generations in the extended family. These frameworks put information carer training and support in response to emergencies.
- **The NHS Operating framework** (October 2008/09), which sets out the specific business and financial arrangements for the NHS in any given year, has made specific references to supporting carers for the first time this year.

2.2 Key Legislation

The Government has supported two major pieces of legislation and introduced two more which have impacted directly on carers' lives.

- **The Carers and Disabled Children Act 2000** made four principal changes to the law:
 - councils were given powers to support carers by providing services to carers directly;
 - carers were given the right to an assessment independent of the person they care for;
 - local authorities were enabled to make direct payments to carers;
 - councils were given options to support flexibility in provision of short breaks through the short-break voucher scheme.
- **The Carers (Equal Opportunities) Act 2004,** which made three main changes to the existing law around carers' services:
 - there is now a duty on councils to inform carers, in certain circumstances, of their right to an assessment of their needs;
 - when assessing carer's needs, councils must now take into account whether the carer works or wishes to work, undertakes or wishes to undertake education, training or leisure activities;
 - there should be co-operation between authorities in relation to the provision of services that are relevant to carers.
- **The Disability Discrimination Act(s)** recognises the right of people in society to equal citizenship, which will benefit both carers and the people that they care for and support. Placing a duty on the Council and schools in particular to actively promote the position of disabled young people.

2.3 The Local Context

A number of events involving parents and carers have been held from 2002 onwards in building towards the framework of local involvement.

2.3.1 The first event led by Social Care at that time identified why involving parents of disabled children is so important:

- Parents and Carers of disabled children are experts in their own right.
- People use services over a long period
- People have their own ideas which professionals should not attempt to second guess

That parental involvement was important to:

- Reinforce the positive regard for and social confidence of the child
- Ensure informed decision making for the child becomes more accountable
- Ensure service design and delivery is appropriate
- Stimulate learning and professional development
- Challenge discrimination and increase equity

2.3.2 From this event a number of consultation and information events were held over subsequent years initially on a single agency basis involving social care staff, and from 2004 onwards drawing in staff from across all agencies. Throughout 2005 and 2006 a series of 6 multi agency Partnership Information Events were held which provided parents with information and opportunity to help shape the Council `s Joint Area Review.

2.3.4 A "Partners in Policymaking" course was run locally to support local parents to develop their confidence to help shape the agenda.

Parents were at this time invited to join the new Strategy Group for children with Learning Difficulties and children with Disabilities, which it was agreed locally should take forwards planning for this group of young people. It was felt important that the parents who joined this group should be there from the off set.

As the LDD group supported by the parent representatives contribute to the development of the Children` s Plan and LDD Plan. It was agreed that effective scrutiny arrangements should include the development of a regular Forum in which parents would receive full briefings by lead professionals from the key agencies.

2.3.5 The Special Educational Needs Advisory Committee (SENAC) was established by the Wirral Education Committee over nine years ago to monitor the implementation of Wirral's Special Educational Needs Development plan for Special Educational Needs. SENAC meets 3 times a year, with a member from each political party. It originally comprised a variety of interested parties who had a professional interest and/or responsibility for developing more effective SEN provision across the borough. The group still involves key stakeholders from health, social care and education services. It still seeks to actively listen and respond to the opinions of pupil and parent representatives. The committee is currently looking to re-define its purpose and membership in this next year, in order to best fulfill its intended scrutiny function.

2.3.6 The Wirral Family Forum was formally launched in May 2006. Terms of reference were agreed, name of the forum and logos, expense payments have been worked through within various meetings. The Forum over an 18 month period had several periods of operating more effectively, though with changes of support staff lost focus. The decision was taken to re-launch in November 2007, with strengthened links with the Parent Support Group Forum and plans to develop a web site presence.

DRAFT

3 BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES IN PARTNERSHIP WORKING

3.1 The principles of partnership working

Parents within the Wirral Family Forum have the view that the following principles should guide how professionals work together with parent carers:

- to be recognised as equal partners
- to have a choice
- to be treated fairly
- to be consulted
- to have access to information
- to provide practical help
- to ensure joined up service responses
- to promote inclusion and challenge discrimination

3.1 Working together in practice

The following values are proposed as being important for services to adopt if they are wishing to work in partnership with parents and carers.

- To develop a culture of mutual respect and trust, sharing information and promoting openness that enables parents and carers to meet with professionals on equal terms
- To build relationships between people that enables the and development of honest and open dialogue, with no hidden agenda enabling the development of trust between all parties
- Working in partnership means working together with the needs of the child and family as the central focus
- Working together involves **really** listening to each other whilst acknowledging different perspectives and respecting each others views and ideas
- Working in partnership means valuing the expertise, knowledge and skills of parents, carers and professionals, and demonstrating **how** this is valued
- All people that are involved need to be committed and to demonstrate this by attending meetings and groups, and acting responsibly and respectfully

- Taking the involvement of parents and carers seriously and recognizing the value of each individuals input
- Ensuring parents and carers involvement is part of a continuing process that 'one off' consultation does not support effective partnership working
- Working in partnership means that parents, carers and professionals are jointly involved in decision making processes
- Professionals need to provide adequate time when they seek to engage with parents in structuring information and consultation properly
- Professionals need to ensure that they confirm what they will do and explain if there are limitations to what can be done
- Professionals need to report back to parents on how there views have shaped the service.
- Professionals need to learn how to support parents and be open to learning from parents

3.2 Supporting parents and carers involvement.

The following principles are proposed as being important for services to adopt if they are wishing to support parents and carers effective involvement in service development:

- Parents need opportunities to develop confidence and skills in order to fully participate, across a range of services. This requires access to resources and training opportunities
- Parents will need access to support from advocates, development workers and voluntary organisations
- Professionals need to develop skills in working in partnership with parents and carers, and attend joint training events for parents, carers and professionals.
- Parents and carers should always be offered travel expenses in a timely and no intrusive manner. This demonstrates recognition of their valuable input and a commitment to an ongoing process.
- The Wirral Family Consultation Forum is part of network of groups – all of which are vital to developing effective consultation and communication.
- There needs to be active partnership working between key Officers of the Council, PCT , key voluntary organisations in the field to actively promote the involvement of parents and carers in service development.

3.3 Promoting access to Information

The following principles have been developed to enable agencies in the provision of information to parents and carers:

- Parents and carers are very busy people
- Parents want information to be accessible and be provided in a range of ways and formats, easy to obtain, relevant to them, joined up and informative.
- Parents, carers and professionals need to have access to the same shared information in order to promote partnership working, whether this be information on service developments, and or involvement in key strategic meetings.
- The use of a variety of methods of communication support the engagement of a wide number of parents and carers
- The provision of a meaningful and accessible directory that provides a range of information on services for disabled children and their families will support parents and carers to access and engage with services
- The use of jargon and abbreviations should be avoided so that no one is excluded from participating.
- Providing information is not sufficient in itself parents often need support and time to explore the best options for themselves
- Supporting opportunities for parents for networking with other parents is a vital component of any information approach ; in so far that other parents will have a greater appreciation of the emotional support parents may require and pressures they experience
- Professionals should take time in explaining things and seek feedback on the usefulness of information.
- In supplying information to parent carers, services should use a variety of channels including newsletters, web-sites, support groups, e-mail and direct mailing.
- Schools have a key responsibility as the lead service provider in most children `s lives in the forwarding of information on behalf of different services

4.0 NEXT STEPS

The following next steps have been set out to guide developing the Strategy over the next 12 months and will be reviewed and a new action plan agreed.

| No. | Action | Outcome | Who - Timescale |
|------------|---|--|---|
| 1. | <p>Consultation on guiding principles.</p> <p>Review with all stakeholders via web site , key groups and an Information event</p> | To consult on a Consultation Strategy with a view to the formal adoption by the Children & Young People Strategic Partnership and PCT Boards | <p>1/ JJ/ Wirral Family Consultation Group</p> <p>2/ Any other comments to CG</p> |
| 2. | <p>Development of service specification for support services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tender proposals confirmed • Review with interested providers / parties | Tender specifications produced which brings together existing activity in a co-ordinated manner | <p>CG/ JW/TM</p> <p>4/12</p> <p>January 2009</p> |
| 3. | Review of LDD plan 2007/8 | Parents will receive feedback on service development | <p>JW</p> <p>December 2008</p> |
| 4. | Feedback report on consultation activity undertaken in 2008 | Parents will receive feedback on service development and their own contribution | <p>CG /JW</p> <p>February 2009</p> |
| 5. | Production of plain English version of the LDD Plan | <p>Parents will receive information which is more readable.</p> <p>The plan will confirm the role of the WFF in providing for effective scrutiny of the LDD Plan</p> | <p>JW</p> <p>February 2009</p> |
| 5. | Confirmation of scrutiny activity with Wirral Family Consultation Forum. | The WFF Consultation Group will identify 3-4 areas for increased scrutiny | <p>JJ/ Wirral Family Consultation Group</p> <p>March 2009</p> |
| 6. | Further day with external facilitator to develop the Forum | Plan for developing the Forum is published | <p>JJ/ Wirral Family Consultation Group</p> <p>May 2009</p> |

| | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 7. | Identification of a group of parents who will be prepared to receive information, documents and plans with a view to providing comment on accessibility | Documents circulated to parents are easy to follow | JJ/ Wirral Family Consultation Group March 2009 |
| 8. | Confirmation of funding bid for 2009/10 from Together for Disabled Children and moving forwards the areas of activity in 2008/9 | Forum will continue to develop in partnership with parents, support groups | JJ / JW/ CG / TH March 2009 |
| 9. | Parent Support Group Forum – to extend the network of groups that are linked. | Increased circulation of information to groups. | |
| 10. | Jargon busting information on SEN web site to be reviewed | Information to be understandable and its availability on different web sites made known | JJ/ AM/ GS March 2009 |
| 11. | Step by step guide to be put on WIRED Parent carers website. | Parents feel able to use web site to seek information and discuss issues of interest | JJ March 2009 |

Appendix 1 : Wirral Family Consultation Forum Terms of reference

Terms of reference for the Forum were agreed with parents and officers of the Council in 2007.

The terms of reference mirror those set for the LDD Strategy group.:

- In developing a shared vision for services for children and young people who have a learning difficulty and/or who are disabled.
- In being one of the primary means of ensuring that parents/carers and children and young people are fully engaged in the design, delivery and evaluation of service.
- Support to the LDD Strategy Group in advising the Strategic Partnership Board and Every Child Matters Strategy Groups on actions that need to be taken to improve outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Advising on models of inter agency work and assessment procedures for children & young people with learning difficulties and disabilities
- supporting policy development and commenting on guidance for staff / services
- promoting the professional and cultural development of staff .
- helping to promote inclusive processes and challenge discrimination

Appendix 2 : Wirral Parent Support Group Forum – Terms of Reference

AIMS

- To promote working and information sharing amongst voluntary and statutory groups concerned with families of children with disabilities and/or additional needs
- Support to the LDD Strategy Group in advising the Strategic Partnership Board and Every Child Matters Strategy Groups on actions that need to be taken to improve outcomes for children and young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- Being one of the primary means of ensuring that parents/ Parent Carers and children and young people are fully engaged in the design, delivery and evaluation of service.
- To ensure that family views are being represented and to influence local policy.
- Helping to promote inclusive processes and challenge discrimination

MEMBERSHIP

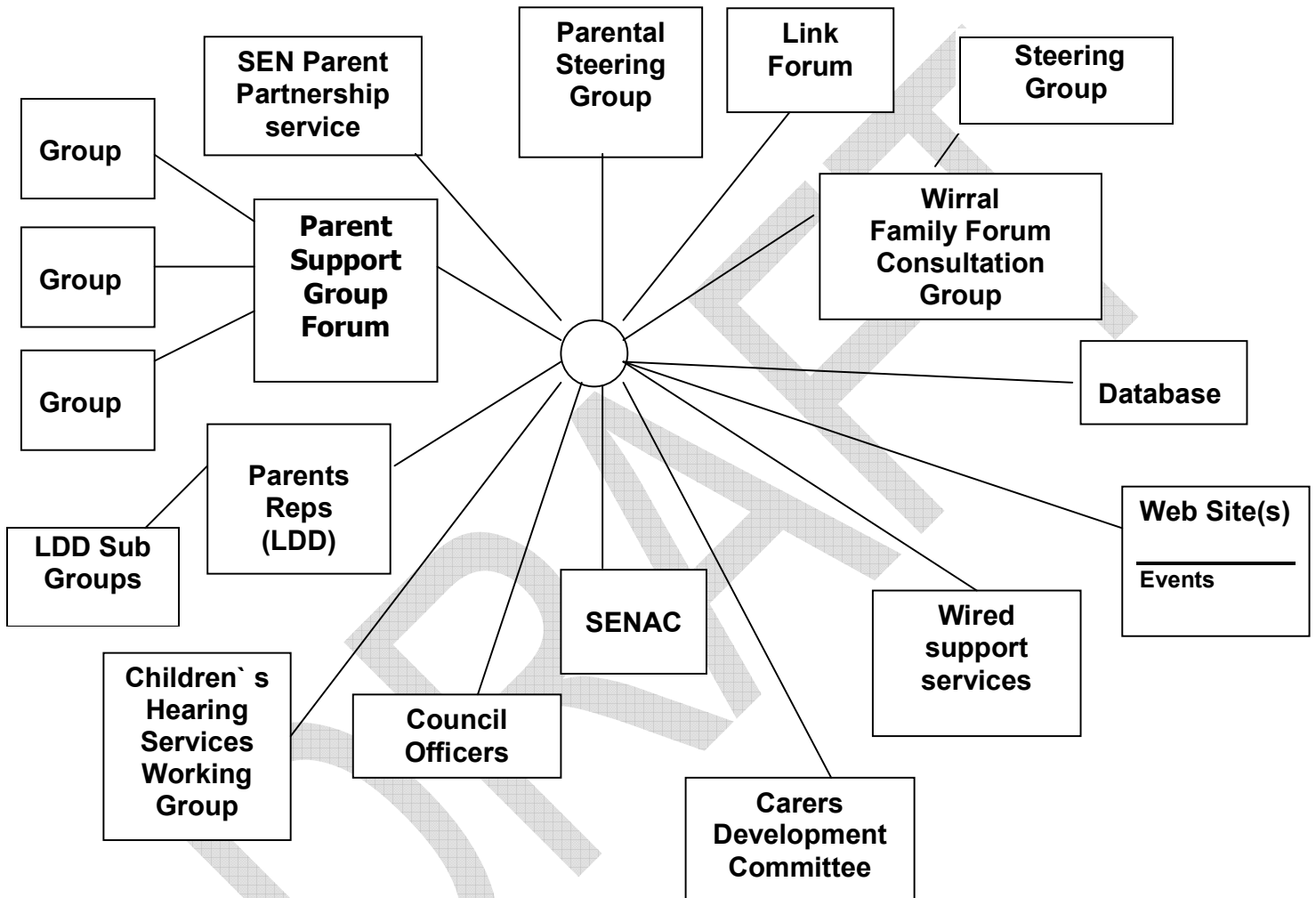
- Membership is open to voluntary organisations concerned with families of children with disabilities and/or additional needs.
- Each support group shall be represented by one person from the group at each forum meeting.
- The forum reserves the right to include statutory agencies as appropriate. At this time this will include nominated officers of the Council and Primary Care Trust.
- Members attend the forum to represent the interests of their individual organisation and as such must feedback any information received through the forum.
- Members can only represent the forum at other meetings if previously nominated to do so.

GENERAL MEETINGS

- Meetings will be held bi-monthly.
- The forum will be facilitated by a voluntary group individual.
- Minutes will be taken at each meeting and distributed as soon as possible. (Support to be provided by the Council at this time)
- All members will be expected to give due consideration to confidentiality of all matters discussed.
- Terms of reference will be reviewed annually or as otherwise appropriate

Appendix 3: Wirral Forum Virtual Map

The map was produced in November 2007 to represent the different elements of the consultation processes.



1. **SENAC – Special Educational Needs Advisory Committee**
The group was formed as a key scrutiny process for monitoring of SEN provision and the LDD Plan. Meets every term. Meetings are co - chaired by Councillors from each political party. Group is serviced by the Inclusion Project Manager CYPD 5-6 parents are invited to attend the group .
2. **Parents Support Group Forum**
Have agreed new terms of reference and is facilitated by Wired. The Forum will meet for a Networking Day twice a year – and receive a bulletin monthly
Membership list available from WIRED

3. Wirral Family Forum Consultation Group

Have agreed new terms of reference and receives facilitation by Wired. The group meets monthly – an each second month receives an update report from key officers within the Council and PCT. Membership list maintained by WIRED. Chair and vice chair are parents of young people with a LDD.

4. Parent representatives

Joined the LDD group at its inception in June 2005, during this period several parents have joined and left the group. The Wirral Family Forum is the key group which will guide Officers in relation to new representatives joining the group.

5. Children`s Hearing Services Working Group

Includes parent representatives working alongside professionals. 3 monthly meeting

6. Link Forum

Provides a representative onto the LDD Strategy Group – elected by voluntary organisations within the area

7. Web sites

Are maintained by Wired and SEN Parent partnership.

Appendix 4 : Wirral Family Forum Consultation Group Statement of Expectations

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Purpose | To ensure that all meetings and processes within the Forum reflect the following values |
| Principles | <p>The Forum is based on the principles of partnership working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to be recognised as equal partners ▪ to have a choice ▪ to be treated fairly ▪ to be consulted ▪ to have access to information ▪ to get practical help ▪ to receive joined up service responses ▪ to promote inclusion and challenge discrimination |
| Values | |
| Openness & Honesty | It is a shared responsibility to ensure that all able to express opinions in safety |
| Participation & Equality | Anyone's contribution is to be recognised and valued |
| Open to Challenge | Everyone attending the Forum may be challenged in order that we should learn and change |
| Fairness | All must ensure that everyone involved has an equal voice by whatever means are appropriate |
| Accountability | The Forum is ultimately accountable to the people of Wirral , via the LDD Group of the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board ; to work to the best outcomes for children and young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities. |

Ground Rules

- Respect and accept other people's contribution, even if you disagree
- Listen, you may learn something
- Be patient, recognise and accept differences in people's ability to communicate
- Use clear, simple English
- Make sure that everyone has the support they need in order to contribute fully
- Explain processes clearly
- Recognise and record minority views

Support

- Parent Support co-ordinator
- Travel expenses
- Officer support
- Administrative support
- Information from and to LDD groups

Quality

The processes and meetings conducted within the Forum will be measured against this statement of expectations. Responsibility to ensure they are adhered to lies with us all

Appendix 5 : What is participation

1.0 Participation

Participation is one of those words that can have many different meanings.

In 1969 Sherry Arnstein first attempted to draw out the different 'levels' of participation in her Participation Ladder, this is represented in relation to parental involvement below. It has been used to consider the links between service commissioners and providers, parent and carers in the review, planning, development and monitoring of services. In essence, the further up the participation ladder services climb, the more power and responsibility they devolve to people. It is important to consider that different types of involvement and participation are valid for different people at different times, according to their own wishes as well as what is possible for the service. It will be apparent that reaching 'the top' is not achievable or indeed appropriate in all cases, whilst the bottom 3 positions are not appropriate in a modern society. It is also clear that you may choose to adopt any position on the ladder rather than having to 'climb it'. Positions toward the top of the ladder will be marked by the existence of processes and mechanisms that ensure greater levels of participation.

| | |
|---|---|
| 8 | Parents & professional share decision making |
| 7 | Parents lead and initiate action |
| 6 | Professional initiated, shared decisions with parents |
| 5 | Parents consulted and informed |
| 4 | Professionals decide – Parents informed |
| 3 | Parents tokenised |
| 2 | Parents therapised |
| 1 | Parents manipulated |

2.0 Hear by Rights

Hear by Right offers tried and tested standards for services across the statutory and voluntary sectors to map and improve practice and policy on the active involvement of children and young people and to encourage continual improvement in the service.

There are seven standards for organisational change: **Shared values, Strategy, Structure, Systems, Staff, elected members and trustees, Skills and knowledge, Style of leadership**. Each relies on the other to move forward. They all link back to the shared values and require self-assessment at three levels of performance, emerging, established and advanced. Each level builds on the previous one.

The standards were used to support the development of Wirral `s Charter of Participation for Young People.

Appendix 6 : What parents want – a research article

Bryony Beresford, Parvaneh Rabiee and Patricia Sloper from the Social Policy & Research Unit, (2007), identified a number of outcomes parents wanted for themselves, including:

1. Personal identity

Work, interests, and personal relationships were the 3 main areas identified by parents as reinforcing their sense of personal identity. Having some free time and access to high quality care and support for their child being what they felt helped them

2. Physical and emotional well-being

Physically back injury and coping with sleep deprivation impact on well being and capacity to cope. In relation to emotional well being the impact of adjustments to the disabled child, distress or ill health of their child, difficulty in getting the right support and quality of services were the main things parents found difficult.

3. Feeling skilled and informed

Positive outcomes in this area were helping parents to feel more competent and in control, which in turn helped their ability to planning and make decisions. Parents want professional support as they acquired and then use new skills. The need for information was on-going and needed to be available when parents needed it.

4. The balance between caring and parenting

Parents want 'quality' time with both their disabled child and their non-disabled children. Having fun, and a relaxed time with their children and to develop their relationships.

5. Maintaining family life

In maintaining family life, developing shared experiences and activities, and do things as a whole family was seen by parents as important. Keeping the mother-father relationship 'intact', and the involvement of the father in the care of the disabled child was seen by some parents as needing extra effort to maintain.

6. Positive adjustment of siblings

Parents wanted their other children to lead ordinary lives and enjoy everyday childhood experiences, and a positive relationship between the disabled child and his/her siblings.

7. Practical and financial resources

Advice and support to meet the additional costs to the family created by the disabled child were significant.

8. Experiences as a service user

Being ; a sense of working in partnership with services and having confidence in the services being used by the child.

The full article is available at : <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/research/pdf/priorities.pdf>

Appendix 7 : Useful web sites

CONTACT A FAMILY: A UK-wide charity which provides support, advice and information for families with disabled children, including information on transition.

www.cafamily.org.uk

COUNCIL FOR DISABLED CHILDREN: Provides a national forum for the discussion and development of a wide range of policy and practice issues relating to service provision and support for disabled children and young people and those with special educational needs.

www.ncb.org.uk/cdc

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION AND SKILLS (DFES): The website has information about the department, including departmental records and strategy.

www.dfes.gov.uk

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: The website has information about strategy, policy, guidance, publications and more.

www.doh.gov.uk

DISABILITY RIGHTS COMMISSION: Gives advice and information to disabled people, employers and service providers. It also supports disabled people in getting their rights under the Disability Discrimination Act.

www.drc-gb.org

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE (HMSO): Full text of Acts of Parliament.

www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/acts.html

MENCAP: Provide a range of information and support for people with learning disabilities and their families.

www.mencap.org.uk

PARTICIPATION WORKS : Provides information and resources to support the development of participation of young people. www.participationworks.org.uk

ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND (RNIB): Provides information, support and advice to people with visual impairments.

www.rnib.org.uk

ROYAL NATION INSTITUTE FOR THE DEAF (RNID): Provides information about hearing loss. It also campaigns and lobbies government to change policies.

www.rnid.org.uk

SCOPE: Provides information and advice about cerebral palsy. It also campaigns and undertakes research projects.

www.scope.org.uk

SEN REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS: Set up to help local authorities and providers work together to share experience and knowledge and to plan services as a region rather than individually.

www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/regional

TRANSITION INFORMATION NETWORK: An alliance of organisations and individuals with the aim of improving young disabled people's transition to adulthood. It produces a magazine "My Future Choices" for young people.

www.myfuturechoices.org.uk

VALUING PEOPLE: The website of the Valuing People support team. It includes information, resources to download and links to regional pages.

www.valuingpeople.gov.uk

**Aiming Higher for Disabled Children
Revenue**

| | | Year 1 £000 | Year 2 £000 |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| Specialist Provision | | | |
| Contract Carer Scheme | Family Breaks Overnight | 60 | 240 |
| ASD, (Complex Social Communication) | Family Breaks Individual Day Care | 28.5 | 29.5 |
| ASD, (Complex L.D.) | Family Breaks Individual Day Care | 28.5 | 177 |
| Direct Payments | Direct Payments & Individual Budgets | 50 | 125 |
| Individual Budgets | Direct Payments & Individual Budgets | 0 | 150 |
| Project Posts & Budget | Mangement Overheads | 137 | 141 |
| Team Support Officer | Mangement Overheads | 17.6 | 18 |
| | | 321.6 | 880.5 |
| Commissioned Services | | | |
| Summer and other Play Schemes | Group Based Short Breaks Provided During the Day 50% Specialist 50% Non Specialist | 129.3 | 634.8 |
| Extended Schools | | | |
| Sensory Impairment | | | |
| Holiday Provision | | | |
| Adolescent Suppoer Scheme | | | |
| Volunteer & Mentoring Schemes | | | |
| Support Groups | Non Specialist Short Breaks | 50 | 100 |
| | | 179.3 | 734.8 |
| Total Revenue | | 500.9 | 1615.3 |
| Revenue Grant | | 500.9 | 1615.7 |
| Capital | | | |
| Contract Carer Scheme | | 72 | 50 |
| Residential Unit (+200k from capital) | | 0 | 350 |
| Resource Centre | | | |
| Sports Centre Facilities | | 60 | 60 |
| Transport Buses | | 40 | 60 |
| WPC | | 10 | |
| Play Equipment | | 25 | 40 |
| Holiday Provision Access | | 25 | |
| Loan Equipment Provision | | 20 | 20 |
| Total Capital | | 252 | 580 |
| Capital Grant | | 252.2 | 588.5 |

| | | | | Top of Band plus oncosts plus 2.45% uplift | | | | | |
|--|--|--|-----|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | | Year 1 | | | Year 2 | | |
| | | | | 2009-10 | | | 2010-11 | | |
| | | | | E | F | G | E | F | G |
| ASD- Complex Social Communication Team | Family Support Worker | | | 25,084 | 28,408 | 33,591 | 25,883 | 29,419 | 34,665 |
| Complex LD | Family Support Worker | | | 25,084 | 28,408 | 33,591 | 25,883 | 29,419 | 34,665 |
| Complex LD | Family Support Worker | | | | | | 25,883 | 29,419 | 34,665 |
| Complex LD | Family Support Worker | | | | | | 25,883 | 29,419 | 34,665 |
| Complex LD | Family Support Worker | | | | | | 25,883 | 29,419 | 34,665 |
| Complex LD | Family Support Worker | | | | | | 25,883 | 29,419 | 34,665 |
| Complex LD | Family Support Worker | | | | | | 25,883 | 29,419 | 34,665 |
| | | | | 50,167 | 56,815 | 67,183 | 181,181 | 205,932 | 242,658 |
| | Project Manager | | PO8 | 47,564 | 47,564 | 47,564 | 48,748 | 48,748 | 48,748 |
| | Inclusion & Development Officer (Specialist) | | H | 37,375 | 37,375 | 37,375 | 38,458 | 38,458 | 38,458 |
| | Inclusion & Development Officer (Universal) | | H | 37,375 | 37,375 | 37,375 | 38,458 | 38,458 | 38,458 |
| | | | | 122,315 | 122,315 | 122,315 | 125,665 | 125,665 | 125,665 |
| | | | | 122,315 | 122,315 | 122,315 | 125,665 | 125,665 | 125,665 |
| | | | | C | D | | C | D | |
| | Admin Support - 20 hours | | | 17,591 | 12,535 | 12,535 | 18,057 | 13,035 | 13,035 |
| | | | | 17,591 | 12,535 | 12,535 | 18,057 | 13,035 | 13,035 |
| | | | | 190,073 | 191,666 | 202,033 | 324,902 | 344,631 | 381,358 |

**Aiming Higher for Disabled Children
Revenue**

| Specialist Provision | Category | Year 1 £000 | Year 2 £000 |
|---------------------------------------|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Direct Payments | Direct Payments & Individual Budgets | 50 | 125 |
| Individual Budgets | Direct Payments & Individual Budgets | 0 | 150 |
| ASD, (Complex Social Communication) | Family Breaks Individual Day Care | 28.5 | 29.5 |
| ASD, (Complex L.D.) | Family Breaks Individual Day Care | 28.5 | 177 |
| Contract Carer Scheme | Family Breaks Overnight | 60 | 240 |
| Project Posts & Budget | Management Overheads | 137 | 141 |
| Team Support Officer | Management Overheads | 12.5 | 13 |
| | | 316.5 | 875.5 |
| Commissioned Services | | | |
| Summer and other Play Schemes | Group Based Short Breaks Provided During the Day 50% Specialist 50% Non Specialist | 134.4 | 640 |
| Extended Schools | | | |
| Sensory Impairment | | | |
| Holiday Provision | | | |
| Adolescent Supporter Scheme | | | |
| Volunteer & Mentoring Schemes | | | |
| Support Groups | Non Specialist Short Breaks | 50 | 100 |
| | | 184.4 | 740 |
| Total Revenue | | 500.9 | 1615.5 |
| Revenue Grant | | 500.9 | 1615.7 |
| Capital | | | |
| Contract Carer Scheme | | 52 | 70 |
| Residential Unit (+200k from capital) | | 0 | 340 |
| Resource Centre | | | |
| Sports Centre Facilities | | 50 | 53.5 |
| Transport Buses | | 30 | 40 |
| WPC | | 5.2 | |
| Play Equipment | | 30 | 40 |
| Holiday Provision Access | | 65 | 20 |
| Loan Equipment Provision | | 20 | 25 |
| Total Capital | | 252.2 | 588.5 |
| Capital Grant | | 252.2 | 588.5 |

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□ **WIRRAL**

Children & Young People's Department

Aiming High for Disabled Children Indicative Spend

Specialist Services Gap Analysis

1) Contract Carer Scheme

To widen choice of service options for children with complex health - moving and handling needs. (Ages 4 – 18yrs)

- To widen choice of service options for children with ASD Complex LD (Ages 4 – 14yrs initially)

Scheme proposals in development – consideration required of benefits of developing in house capacity vs. tendering

£60K Year 1 £240K Year 2 revenue **£72K Year 1 £50K Year 2 capital**

2) ASD, Complex (Social Communication)

To continue to provide individualised short breaks for target group of 25-30 young people with Complex Social Communication issues (5-18yrs).

Support workers employed within CSCST – jointly funded with Children's Fund Workers will also address parenting needs.

Young people will receive programmes of individualised activity with specialist advice from Psychologist.

£28.5k Year 1 £29.55k Year 2

3) ASD (Complex L.D)

To provide individualised short breaks to a target group of young people (age 3-18yrs).

3 Support Workers within FST will provide for individualised breaks. Workers will also receive support from LD CAMHS in considering parenting strategies.

£28.5k Year 1 £177k Year 2

4) Direct Payments / Individual Budgets

Parents have consistently identified PA recruitment as an issue which limits current take-up. Further support has also been requested in the start up phases of packaging with understanding payroll requirements and to process tax returns on line. Promotion of this scheme similarly needs increasing. There are currently 100-110 families using this service – we would want to increase 'take up' by 20 - 30 families. Part of the spend for each year would be spent on improved support services, with the rest on the payments. It is proposed Individual Budgets will be brought on line in year 2

£50k Year 1 £125k Year 2

6) Project Posts

a) The Project Manager

The Project Manager will need to be supported by a range of additional posts.

b) Inclusion and Development officer (Specialist)

Consultation with young people currently is limited with Person Centred Planning still limited to specialist services in social care. It would therefore be proposed to transfer funding from the existing Childrens involvement officer for young people post into this project. This post holder would work directly with pupils' advocate to develop SEN Consultation. In relation to information the person would work with Speech and Language Therapy to ensure information to the young person is individualised/PECS and other communication shared.

An Emergency Support scheme needs to be created. This will require a person to create and maintain a scheme – it being envisaged the person will also undertake on additional responsibility within the extended specialist family support services.

The post would be 35 hours per week,

c) Inclusion and Development officer (Universal services)

Will work to the Project Manager and oversee all administrative activity for the team, including financial planning. Data management in compiling information for the Implementation Plan has been difficult given the varied streams of activity. The person will also lead all commissioning activity within inclusive provisions

Parents in their response to the questionnaire have consistently identified lack of information on specialist child care and short breaks to be problematic.

The post holder will ensure the AHDC newsletter is appropriately circulated and parent database is developed together with new service providers for Parent Supporting activity.

The post holder will be for 35 hours per week.

d) Team Support Officer

This person will ensure effective business processes are established for the project. Ensuring effective data support is in place, information requests are co-ordinated from parents, budgetary activity and project planning activity is supported.

The post holder will be for 30 hours per week.

Project posts & budget

£149.5k Year 1 £159k Year 2

Individual Budgets

Scheme will be developed in Year 1

£150k Year 2

Commissioned Services

Commissioning Brief developed separately

Intentional Spend subject to CYPSPB/ Cabinet approval

Support Groups

Process to be co-ordinated via PCT / Link Forum / small bids process.

Capital

Must be spent before April 2011 – can be rolled from year 1 to year 2 if required. More definitive plans will be developed.

| | 2008/9 | 2009/10 | 2010/11 |
|---------|---------|----------|------------|
| Capital | 0 | £252,200 | £588,500 |
| Revenue | £60,000 | £500,900 | £1,615,700 |

SEE ATTACHED SPREADSHEET WITH BUDGET PLAN

| Revenue | Year 1 | Year 2 |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| | £, 000 | £, 000 |
| <i>Specialist provision</i> | | |
| Contract Carer Scheme | £60 | £240 |
| ASD, Complex (Social Communication) | £28.5 | £29.5 |
| ASD (Complex L.D) | £28.5 | £177 |
| Direct Payments | £50 | £125 |
| Individual budgets | £0 | £150 |
| Project posts & budget | £154.6 | £159 |
| | £321.6 | £880.5 |
| <i>Commissioned services</i> | | |
| Summer and other play schemes | £129.3 | £635.2 |
| Extended schools | | |
| Sensory Impairment | | |
| Holiday provision | | |
| Adolescent support scheme | | |
| Volunteer & mentoring schemes | | |
| Support Groups | £50 | £100 |
| | £179.3 | £735.2 |
| Revenue Totals | £500.9 | £1,615.7 |
| Capital | Year 1 | Year 2 |
| | £, 000 | £, 000 |
| Contract Carer Scheme | £72 | £50 |
| Residential unit (+200k from capital) | £0 | |
| Resource Centre | | £350 |
| Sports Centre facilities / Changing Places | £60 | £60 |
| Transport buses | £40 | £60 |
| WPC | £10 | |
| Play equipment | £25 | £40 |
| Holiday provision / other access | £25 | |
| Loan equipment provision | £20 | £20 |
| Other | | £8.5 |
| Capital Totals | £252.2 | £588.5 |

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17
SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ADOPTION SERVICE SIX MONTHLY REPORT

Executive Summary

This report updates Elected Members about the work of the Adoption Service in accordance with the requirements of the National Adoption Standards as set out in the Adoption and Children Act 2002. The report sets out the relevant performance information since the last report in March 2009.

1 Background

- 1.1 Under the requirements of the National Adoption Standards Elected Members, in their role as Corporate Parents, should be informed on a regular basis about the activity of the adoption service. Information set out in the reports should include the numbers of prospective adoptive families approved by the adoption panel, the numbers of children placed for adoption and the number of adoption orders granted.
- 1.2 Information should also be provided on the time taken in approving prospective adoptive families and the timeliness of placing children within an adoptive family once they have had a 'Should be Placed for Adoption' recommendation at panel.
- 1.3 This report will also outline some of the post adoption services that Wirral are able to offer. Adoption has changed over time, and legislation now recognises that the granting of an adoption order is not the last time a family will need to have contact with adoption support services. Rather than mainly relinquished babies, the children now being placed for adoption have at times experienced significant disadvantage in society and they and their adoptive families will continue to need ongoing support. The aim of the service is to enhance the quality of family life and to prevent family breakdown.

2 Approval of Prospective Adoptive Families 1st April to 31st July 2009

- 2.1 During this period 3 prospective adoptive families were approved as 'Suitable to Adopt'. Two assessments took six months to complete and the third took five months, well within timescales laid down in National Minimum Standards.
- 2.2 Two of these families are waiting for a suitable match to be identified, with the third family currently being considered for a match with a sibling group of two children.
- 2.3 The adoption service are mindful to recruit, train and assess families swiftly, who can meet the needs of children who are waiting. To this end pre and post approval

training is offered to all adopters to help them understand fully the needs of children being placed.

3 Children who were adopted from 1st April to 31st July 2009

- 3.1 During this period 6 children have been granted Adoption Orders. Of those 6 children, 5 were placed with their prospective adopters within 12 months of having a 'Should Be Placed for Adoption' decision (NI 61 Timeliness of adoptions). This gives us a figure of 83%.
- 3.1 The one child outside of this standard was an older boy who needed direct work to prepare him for and adoptive placement. He also experienced a disruption in the introductions with the first family identified.

4 Children placed for Adoption, not yet Adopted

- 4.1 It is important to note that with the introduction of the new National Indicator Set, which started 1st April 2008, the key performance indicator now used is focusing on the timeliness of placing children with adoptive families, rather than simply the number of children adopted.
- 4.2 Currently there are 23 children in adoptive placements awaiting Adoption Orders. Of those children 14 were placed within 12 months of having a 'Should Be Placed for Adoption' Decision.
- 4.3 For 5 of the 23 children there were some difficulties to finding them an adoptive family within the 12 month target, due to either their age, being part of a sibling group or a medical condition.
- 4.4 4 of the children are placed with foster carers who are applying directly to the court for an Adoption Order, therefore there is no 'Should Be Placed for Adoption Decision' and Placement timeline, and should be discounted from the overall calculation.
- 4.5 If all the children above are adopted before the end of the financial year, taking account of the 6 already adopted this will amount to 19 out of 25 children being adopted within 12 months of a 'Should Be Placed for Adoption Decision' which is 76%.

5 Matching Wirral Children with Wirral Adopters

- 5.1 As a local authority, it is important that prospective adoptive parents are recruited who can meet the needs of the children we have waiting for an adoptive family.
- 5.2 Of the 6 children adopted so far this year and the 23 placed for adoption, 23 were placed with or adopted by, Wirral adopters and the remaining 6 with outside agencies.

6 Adoption Support Services

- 6.1 Currently there is a mailing list of 177 families across Wirral whom all receive a Bi-monthly News letter, with feature articles, available training and notification of social

events. There is also a page dedicated to children and young people with articles, competitions and information on events.

- 6.2 There is a fortnightly parent and tots group, dedicated to adoptive families. This is gaining membership and friendships are being forged beyond the groups.
- 6.3 There is a fortnightly Adoption Youth Club, which is very well attended and feedback from parents and children is positive. The aim of the youth club is to offer young people, through a variety of activities, a safe environment in which they can practice their social skill with their peers.
- 6.4 There is a Bi-monthly support group, which meet in the evening and is well attended. This is used for general discussion, but also at times has speakers and used for training. Some of the Post Adoption Support Services have developed as a direct result of discussions in this group.
- 6.5 Adopters living in Wirral also have access to assessment of needs to enable them to access other post adoption support services or to be signposted to other agencies.
- 6.6 The adoption team have also held a Christmas party for adoptive families and will be holding a summer fun day in September. These events are held outside of work time and staff willingly contribute to supporting them.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 As is indicated in this report the timeliness of placing children with adoptive families is expected to improve on last years figures. Although it is unlikely to ever achieve 100% on this performance indicator, the adoption service are working hard to make improvements.
- 7.2 Also highlighted in the report, more Wirral children are being placed with Wirral's own adopters, which is of benefit to children generally and illustrates that the adoption service recruitment strategy is meeting the needs of children and adopters.
- 7.3 Post Adoption Support Services are in place to enable adoptive parents to redress some of the damage and help children recover. To achieve this, the service has highly skilled and trained staff, who need to continue to be supported and resourced in working preventatively.
- 7.4 The next report will be provided at the beginning of April so that a full years adoption performance figures can be provided. The six monthly reporting thereafter will then ensure committee has as full and accurate information on adoption performance in future. The April 2010 report will also include the Annual Report of the Adoption Panel.

8 Financial and Staffing Implications.

There are none arising from this report.

9 **Equal Opportunities Implications.**

An effective and efficient Adoption Service promotes children's equal opportunity to be considered for permanence through adoption.

10. **Human Rights Implications.**

The promotion of permanence through adoption specifically supports children's right to a family life.

11. **Local Agenda 21 Implications.**

There are none arising from this report.

12. **Community Safety Implications.**

Children and young people who are secured permanently within families are more likely to grow up to be mature and responsible adults.

13. **Planning Implications.**

There are none arising from this report.

14. **Local Member Support Implications.**

Children whose plan is to achieve permanence through adoption are likely to originate from all wards within the authority.

15. **Background Papers.**

Adoption National Minimum Standards 2003
Adoption Agencies Regulations 2003
Adoption and Children Act 2002
Adoption Service Inspection Report Sept 2008.

16. **Recommendation**

16.1 Members are asked to note and comment on this report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

Agenda Item 6

Visit to Special Schools in Essex 31st March 2009

At the NEEC in 2009 at Wirral / Chester there were discussions between Cllr Tom Harney and EdisonLearning. EdisonLearning is a consultancy company presently working in many parts of the country giving support to Local Authorities on the Building Schools for the Future programme.

EdisonLearning are at present working with special schools in Essex and offered to show some of this work to a party from Wirral. This was organised for 31st March 2009. Those who attended from Wirral were Cllr Sheila Clarke, Cllr Tony Smith, Cllr Tom Harney and Peter Edmondson, Head of Branch, Participation and Inclusion.

The visit started in the morning when the group met representatives of EdisonLearning at breakfast. They were then shown two schools where EdisonLearning were working. In each case two existing schools had amalgamated and new building was taking place.

The first school was in Chelmsford where the group were shown the new unit for younger children at Columbus School and College. This is a 2 – 19 school. They were shown the new unit for younger children – the first stage in replacing existing buildings. The headteacher showed them around, explained the history of the amalgamation and answered questions.

The second school, Pioneer School in Basildon, was in a building which had been completed in January 2009. Again this was a 2–19 school which had also been formed by the amalgamation of two existing schools. The school had been built as three 'schools within a school'. Again the group were shown around by the Headteacher who described the project and answered questions. Finally, after a lunch at Pioneer School, the representatives of EdisonLearning described their role in the ongoing developments in Essex.

Inevitably the most vivid impression was of the new buildings and the equipment in them. It is interesting to look at the experience in Essex and see what lessons might be learned for Wirral.

The present situation is the culmination of a number of years work by Headteachers and governors, facilitated by Essex County Council. A great deal of stress has been placed upon the development of a vision. This has been incorporated in the idea of 'New Model Special Schools.' A booklet on this is available.

It was also stressed that parents were involved throughout – there was pride in the lack of opposition when statutory consultation took place to achieve the amalgamations. It did help that there were no compulsory redundancies and even the governors were able to stay on the new governing bodies.

After the vision had been worked at, the schools who took part in the development programme were those who were keen to do so.

The involvement of other agencies in the work of the school was stressed – as was the need for flexible working to maximise the effect of input from people like occupational therapists. The headteacher needed to be able to write a timetable which was not subject to the needs of other agencies. One solution is for the school to have the resources to buy in the professional help needed. There was an obvious need to work towards the maximum of team working so that the staff in the classroom understood the needs of the child and were able to continue the programme designed by the occupational therapist, speech and language therapist and so on.

It was obvious that EdisonLearning contributed to the process because they provided people with an understanding of the work of the schools, and provided the extra capacity needed to actually organise the programme of meetings, staff development sessions and so on. The staff of the schools would have found it very difficult to make the same progress when there were the inevitable day to day problems to deal with.

EdisonLearning were asked to give their take on the day, and this is available.

Tom Harney
September 2009

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 17
SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Elected Members' visits to Wirral Children and Young People's Department Children's Homes

Executive Summary

Elected Members' visits to children's homes are carried out as part of their corporate parenting role under recommendation 61 of the 2000 Waterhouse Report (Lost in Care).

1. Background

- 1.1 Existing Elected Member visits to children's homes were born out of the Quality Protects government initiative from 1998 where the concept of corporate parenting was first developed. Subsequent legislation in the intervening years has reinforced the concept and in 2008 the DCSF published "Care Matters: Time to deliver for Children in Care" which is a detailed implementation plan for local authorities. The key role for Elected Members in the development of corporate parenting is embedded in this guidance.
- 1.2 Clearly Members' visits to our children's homes can be just one aspect of corporate parenting and has been interpreted and implemented in a variety of ways by different local authorities.
- 1.3 The legislative requirement for officer visits to children's homes is contained in Regulation 33 of the Children's Homes Regulations 2001. This statutory requirement is conducted in Wirral by our Independent Reviewing Officers based in the Quality Assurance/Safeguarding Unit. There is no statutory requirement for separate Members' visits; however, most local authorities, Wirral included, have accepted it is a key strand in corporate parenting and have accordingly established Member visits in a variety of ways.
- 1.4 Some local authorities, Cheshire East Council being our nearest, have combined the Regulation 33 requirements with their corporate parenting strategy and have Elected Members conducting their monthly Regulation 33 visits – the overwhelming majority, however, conduct the two requirements separately.

1.5 Current arrangements

- 1.6 The existing arrangements for Member visits to Wirral's children's homes (suspended since September 2008) were established in 2003. Each month two Members are accompanied by the Service Manager, Quality Assurance/Safeguarding, on an unannounced visit to one of our three children's homes. Staff and young people are usually spoken with and a general tour of the building conducted. Members then complete a proforma report on their observations and return this to the Service Manager.

- 1.7 The scrutiny and inspection requirements for children's homes are now covered across a number of interventions, from scheduled Ofsted inspections to our monthly unannounced Officer visits and independent advocacy services. Members' role therefore requires a re-definition within the corporate parenting role which will always include every member being subject to enhanced CRB checks to comply with the Barring and Vetting scheme being phased in throughout 2009/10.
- 1.8 "Care Matters: Time for Change" was published by DCSF in June 2007 and sets out the steps to be taken, with local delivery partners, to improve the outcomes for children and young people in care. At the beginning of 2008 the DCSF published "Care Matters: Time to Deliver for Children in Care" which is a detailed implementation plan for local authorities. The key role for Elected Members in developing corporate parenting is embedded in this guidance.
- 1.9 The section of the implementation guidance which emphasises the importance of corporate parenting can usefully be quoted here:

"Every child needs a good parent who looks out for them, speaks out on their behalf and responds to their needs. For children in care, this is a statutory role for local authorities – all local councillors and council officers share the corporate parenting responsibility. This responsibility is paramount and councillors and council officers should carry it with them as they go about their daily business. They should also be clear about how, as corporate parents, they work with and support the Lead Member and Director of Children's Services in their strategic roles."

1.10 Options

1.11 Option 1: Monthly unannounced visits

- 1.12 Members may wish to re-establish the existing arrangements for children's home visits with some improvements.
- 1.13 This would entail all members of this Scrutiny Committee agreeing to a monthly rota of unannounced visits. Two Members per month would be accompanied by the Service Manager, Quality Assurance/Safeguarding, with each Member completing a pro forma report on their findings. This report would be processed by the Quality Assurance/Safeguarding Service Manager via the appropriate operational manager, with any identified areas of concern actioned accordingly.
- 1.14 Progress on these action points would be reported into Scrutiny Committee as part of the cycle of reporting around Regulation 33 Officer visits to children's homes.
- 1.15 This option would be accompanied by some refresher training to Members on the corporate parenting role as it relates to our children in Wirral children's homes.
- 1.16 Children's homes managers and staff would also receive briefings on the corporate parenting role of Elected Members.

1.17 Pros and Cons of Option 1

- 1.18 Pros

- 1.19 Unannounced visits should allow Members to see our children's homes as they really are without the potential for staff to engage in preparation for the purposes of the visit.
- 1.20 Monthly visits allow Members to duplicate the visiting cycle of Regulation 33 Officer Visits, therefore enabling a twin-tracking of both statutory and corporate parenting issues arising from children's homes visits.
- 1.21 Cons
- 1.22 Unannounced visits often occur when either most or all the young people are out of the building at school or engaged in activities with staff. Also, if key management staff are not on duty, Members' questions to the available junior staff are often limited in scope.
- 1.23 Children's homes receive scheduled and unannounced visits from both Ofsted and Council Officers. They also receive visits from independent advocacy services. There is a danger, therefore, that our attempts to reinforce the concept of 'home' to looked after young people is undermined by the frequent arrival of visitors.

1.24 Option 2: Scheduled Meetings

- 1.25 The second option would entail two to three Elected Members meeting on a 3-monthly cycle within the Children's Homes; so one home would be visited per quarter. Attendees would be relevant managers and young people, Head of Branch Children's Social Care, two existing or former looked after young people, Children's Involvement Officer, Service Manager Quality Assurance/ Safeguarding and Service Manager Children with Disabilities Service.
- 1.26 The focus of the agenda for the meeting would cover most recent Ofsted reports and recommendations. In addition internal audit action plans, Regulation 33 Officer visit feedback, children and young people meetings feedback, recorded complaints and Elected Members' comments/concerns would also be covered.
- 1.27 Members would need to consider identifying a core group of three to six Members from Select Committee to conduct this corporate parenting role.

1.28 Pros and Cons of Option 2

- 1.29 Pros
- 1.30 Quarterly meetings with key relevant managers and young people will provide Members with opportunity to scrutinise current findings from internal and external formal inspections of our children's homes. In addition, there will be opportunity to hear from relevant staff and young people about their experience of living and working in their respective homes with opportunity for young people to prepare for this.
- 1.31 Cons

1.32 Although less frequent in occurrence than the previous monthly unannounced Members' visits there would be more preparation required for the quarterly meetings on key items such as findings from Ofsted inspection reports and this may pose more demands on Elected Members than the previous system.

1.33 Spreading the commitment to these corporate parenting tasks across all Scrutiny Committee Members, rather than a core group, may dilute the effectiveness of achieving a satisfactory outcome to particular themes or actions raised by individual members.

1.34 Proposal

1.35 The proposal is that Option 2 Scheduled Meetings would best meet the corporate parenting role requirement of Elected Members.

1.36 Training/briefings

1.37 All of the options for Elected Member visits to children's homes include a commitment to providing up to date training and briefings to both Members and relevant staff on their respective roles in this corporate parenting task.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 There are no immediate additional financial implications other than those mentioned within this report.

3. Staffing Implications

3.1 There are no immediate additional staffing implications other than those mentioned within this report.

4. Equal Opportunities Implications

4.1 All Children's Homes accommodate children assessed as in need and recognise the importance of meeting these individual needs, with awareness of race, culture and disability issues.

5. Community Safety Implications

5.1 Good quality childcare helps ensure the young people in our care are appropriately supervised. This reduces the potential opportunities for them to be involved in inappropriate behaviour in the community.

6. Local Agenda 21 Implications

6.1 All Children's Homes aim to promote an awareness of society and aim to equip young people to be able to take a positive part of society's future.

7. Planning Implications

7.1 There are no planning implications in this Report.

8. Anti-poverty implications

- 8.1 Children in care come from a range of backgrounds but many of our most vulnerable children and young people are over-represented from the poorest and most deprived families in Wirral.

9. Social inclusion implications

- 9.1 All children's residential homes actively seek to involve their children and young people in activities which provide links with their peers in the wider community.

10. Local Member Support Implications

- 10.1 There are no Local Member support implications in this report.

11. Background Papers

- 11.1 Relevant Children's Homes, Operational Managers and Children's Involvement Officer were consulted in the preparation of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- (1) The Committee Members note the report and consider a response to the proposed options for Elected Members' visits to Wirral Children & Young People's Department Children's Homes.
- (2) The Committee Members consider the proposal that Option 2 Scheduled Meetings is the preferred option.

Howard Cooper
Director of Childrens Services

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 17 SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS SERVICES

ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT

Executive Summary

This report provides information on compliments, representations and complaints received by the Social Care Branch of the Children and Young People's Department for the year 1st April 2008 to 31st March 2009.

The report gives an overview of complaint trends, performance and areas for development.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006 and associated guidance "Getting the Best from Complaints" came into force on 1st September 2006 and underpins the Branch's Complaints Procedure.
- 1.2 The Regulations stipulate that an Annual Report is produced and presented to staff and appropriate Local Authority Committees. The report should also be available to the Regulator and the general public.
- 1.3 The Regulations provide a statutory framework for dealing with representations relating to statutory social services functions under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989; and certain functions under the Adoption Support Regulations 2005 and Special Guardianship Support Regulations 2005.
- 1.4 The Regulations stipulate who may make a complaint; this is generally the young person themselves or an adult with either parental responsibility or day to day care of the child. For any other person the Department has the discretion to decide whether they 'qualify' to make a complaint.
- 1.5 For representations regarding functions outside of the Regulations; or for a person who does not qualify to make a statutory complaint the Branch operates within the remit of the Corporate Complaints Policy and Procedure.

2. Applying the Regulations

- 2.1 The Customer Resolution and Information team have ensured that only those complainants who 'qualify' under the Regulations and wishing to make

a complaint regarding statutory services under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989 have been given access to the Children and Young People's Departmental Representations and Complaints Procedure.

- 2.2 During the reporting period 8 complainants wanting to register a formal Stage 2 complaint under the Representations and Complaints Procedure have been given information and advice as to why they do not qualify and were relevant have been signposted to other procedures/processes.

3. Resolved at First Contact

- 3.1 14 complainants had their complaint resolved at first contact by the Customer Resolution and Information Team without the need to formally register a complaint. These cases were generally about difficulties in contacting workers or receiving the outcome of a decision; and the Customer Resolution and Information Team were able to facilitate a response within the same day.

4. Alternative Resolution

- 4.1 Four complainants who initially wanted to register a formal Stage 2 complaint agreed that the proactive involvement of the Complaints Manager via alternative resolution would expedite a more timely resolution. These cases included a joint review of practice across social care and education; 2 cases where the outcome of a previous complaint set a precedent and the issue could be resolved without the need for a formal investigation; and 1 request for the Complaints Manager to review the response to a Stage 1 complaint to ensure accuracy of information.

5. Registered Complaints

- 5.1 Throughout the 12 month reporting period the following complaints were registered:

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| 90 Stage 1 Complaints - Local Resolution | <i>[compared to 109 in 07/08]</i> |
| 10 Stage 2 complaints - Investigation | <i>[compared to 9 in 07/08]</i> |
| 0 Stage 3 complaints - Independent Review Panel | <i>[compared to 1 in 07/08]</i> |

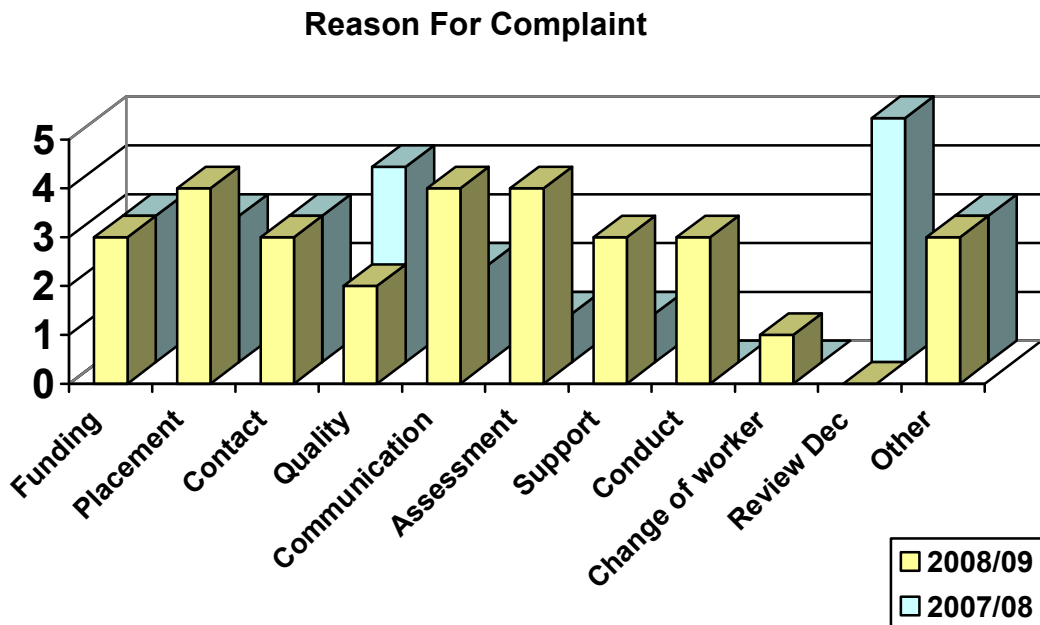
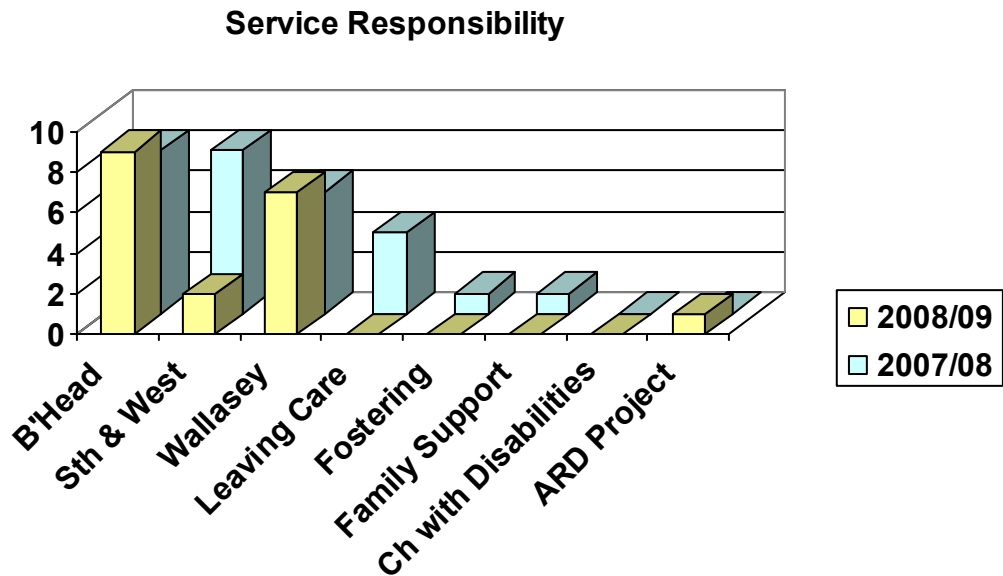
- 5.2 The Local Government Ombudsman concluded one investigation, without publishing a report, recommending a £500 time and trouble payment be made to the complainant. *[Relating to a complaint registered with the Department of Social Services in 2002]*

In addition the Local Government Ombudsman undertook enquiries into two further cases which did not progress to investigation.

6. Stage 1 Complaints

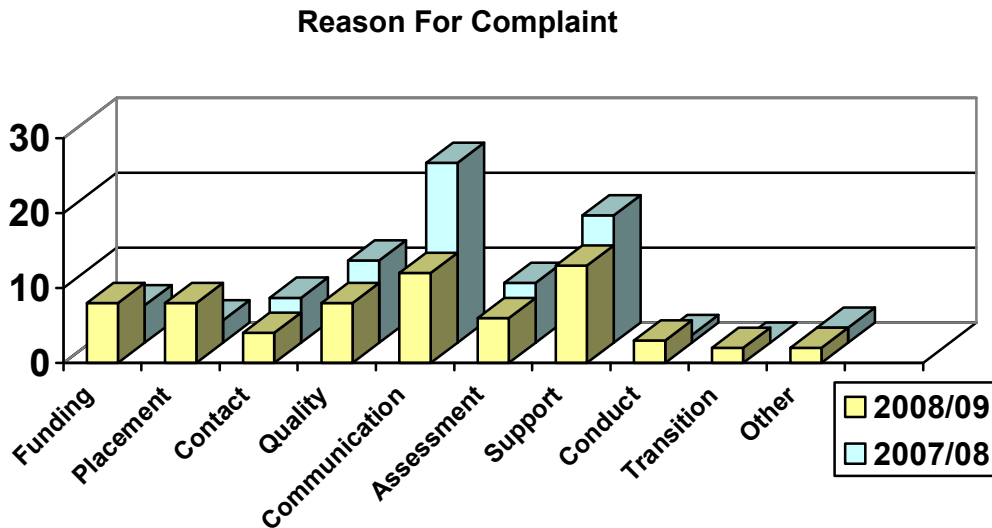
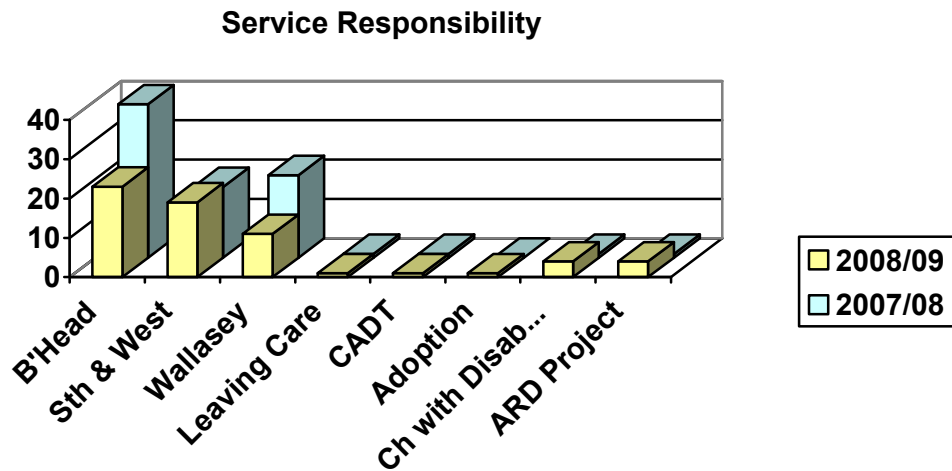
- 6.1 Of the 90 complaints registered at Stage 1 of the complaints procedure 26 were made by the child/young person *[compared to 28 in 2007/08]*. A

breakdown of the 26 complaints made by the child/young person is shown below:-



6.2 Stage 1 complaints made by the child/young person are handled by the Children's Complaints Officer with a focus on achieving resolution by working with the child/young person and the relevant manager.

- 6.3 Independent Advocacy Services are available to all children/young people who make a complaint via the Department's contracts with Wired and Safeguarding Children.
- 6.4 The average time taken to complete/resolve the 26 complaints made by the child/young person was 17.6 working days *[compared to 57.5 in 2007/08]*.
- 6.5 Of the 90 complaints made at Stage 1 of the complaints procedure 64 were made by adults with either parental responsibility or day to day care of the child *[compared to 81 in 2007/08]*. A breakdown of the 64 Stage 1 complaints made by an adult are shown below:-



- 6.6 Stage 1 complaints registered by an adult are dealt with by an appropriate manager within the District with case responsibility. The average time taken to complete/resolve these complaints was 12.5 working days *[compared with 19.8 working days in 2007/08]*.

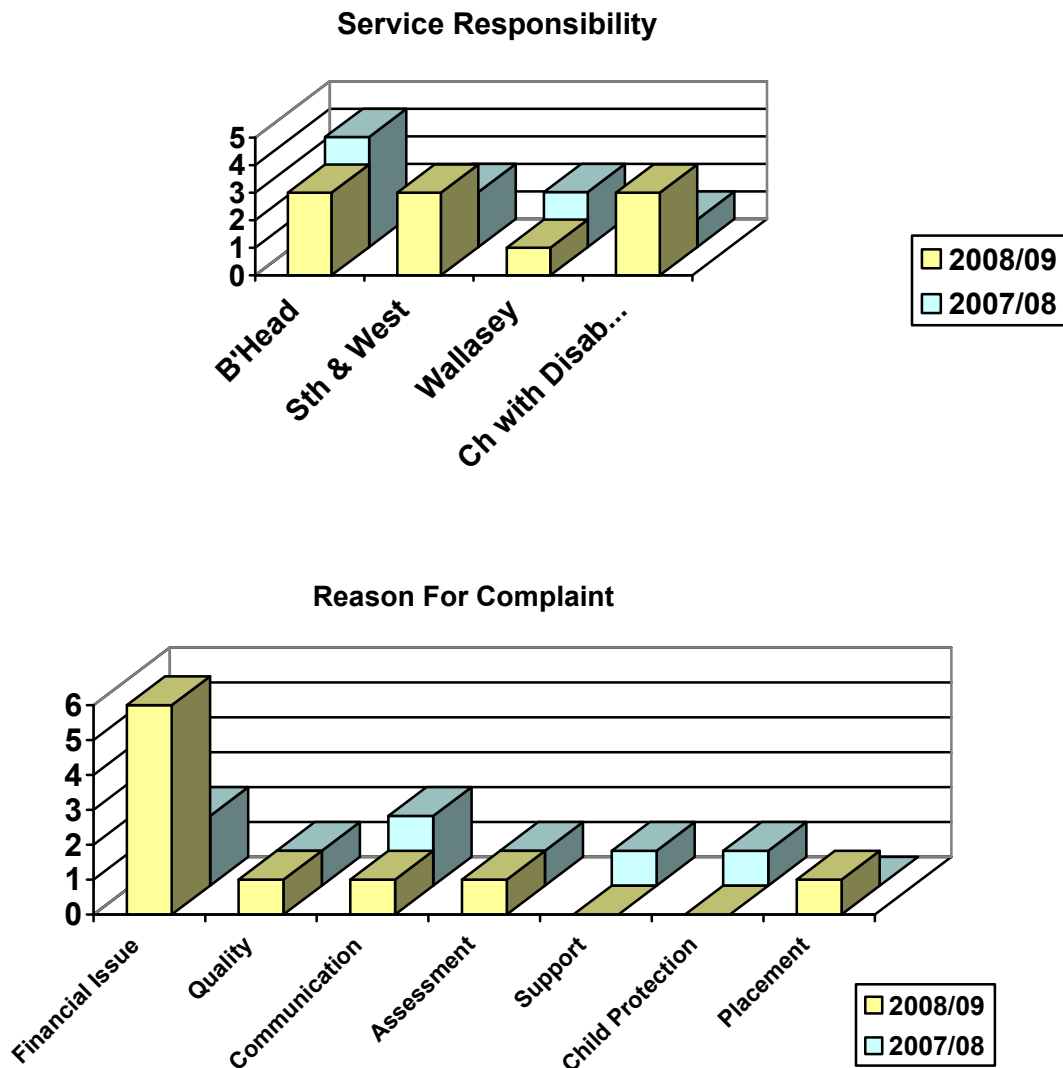
7. Stage 2 Complaints

10 Stage 2 complaints were made by adults with parental responsibility or day to day care of a child/young person receiving a service [compared to 9 in 2007/08].

At the time of reporting two of the Stage 2 complaints have been suspended at the request of the complainant.

At the time of reporting one Stage 2 investigation is ongoing.

A breakdown of the 10 complaints registered is below:-



7.1 The ethnicity of all complainants who registered a complaint at stage 2 of the complaints procedure was White British.

7.2 Three of the complainants at Stage 2 of the complaints procedure were regarding young people with a disability.

- 7.3 Of the seven completed Stage 2 complaint investigations the average time to undertake the investigation was 30.8 working days *[compared to 44 working days in 2007/08]*.
- 7.4 Of the seven completed Stage 2 complaints the average time taken to provide a Departmental response to the investigation was 21.8 working days *[compared to 20.4 working days in 2007/08]*.
- 7.5 All recommendations from Stage 2 investigations are action-planned by the Strategic Managers Group to ensure the Department learns from complaints and to effect service improvement.

8. Stage 3 Complaints (Independent Review Panel)

- 8.1 No requests have been received during the reporting period to progress a complaint to Stage 3 of the complaints procedure.
- 8.2 No Independent Review Panels have been held during the reporting period.

9. Learning from Complaints

- 9.1 Within the 7 completed Stage Two investigations, there were 20 individual complaints, outcomes of these complaints were:-

- 5 were upheld (25%)
- 5 were not upheld (25%)
- 10 were partially upheld (50%)
- 0 were undeterminable

- 9.2 Recommendations made following Stage 2 investigations have included:-

- Introducing a protocol for investigations and/or assessments in respect of employees' children.
- A viability review regarding an integrated transition team for Children With Disabilities.
- Agreeing a protocol for the management of complaints across Department of Adult Social Services and Children and Young People's Department regarding transition cases.

10. Review of Effectiveness

In order to continue to strive to offer a good service to our users the Customer and Resolution Team will in the coming year:-

- Continue to monitor the effectiveness of the adjudication system and its impact on timescales.

- Continue to monitor action planning to ensure recommendations from Stage 2 complaints are completed.
- Undertake a user survey and consultation exercise to ensure users views are heard and have an impact on how the complaints system is operated.
- Financial Remedies: On 3 November 2008 the scheme of delegation was amended meaning that Chief Officers can agree sums of compensation to settle complaints of maladministration, in consultation with the Directors of Finance & Law and Human Resources & Asset Management up to a maximum of £1000; and up to £5000 in consultation with the above Directors and the Chair of the Standards Committee.

11. Compliments

The Customer Resolution and Information Team received 13 compliments during the reporting period about a cross section of staff within the Department. Those compliments have been forwarded to the managers of the individuals concerned.

12. Access To Records

The Customer Resolution and Information Team are also responsible for managing Subject Access Requests under the Data Protection Act 1998.

During the reporting period 142 Subject Access Requests were completed.

58.5% of requests were completed within the statutory timescale of 40 working days; of those not completed within timescale requesters were receiving a service and support from the Data Compliance Officer.

The volume of data to be processed, particularly in the case of care leavers, has an impact on the Data Compliance Officer's ability to complete within timescales.

13. Freedom of Information

The Customer Resolution and Information Team are also responsible for co-ordinating the Social Care Branch's response to Freedom of Information Requests.

During the reporting period 34 Freedom of Information Requests were dealt with; 70% of requests were completed within the statutory timescale of 20 working days.

14. FINANCIAL AND STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial and staffing implications arising from this report.

15. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

17. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

18. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

19. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

20. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

None arising directly from this report.

21. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006
Getting the Best from Complaints 2006

22. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note this report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 17TH SEPTEMBER 2009

FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2009/2010

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of progress made against the indicators for 2009/2010 and key projects which are relevant to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny committee.
- 1.2 This report sets out that overall performance against the 2009/10 projects relevant to the children and young people overview and scrutiny committee is good.
- 1.3 There are 28 indicators that can be reported at the first quarter period.
 - Of the 28 indicators mentioned above, 13 (46.43%) are rated as green or exceeding their targets, 5 (17.86%) are amber and 5 (17.86%) are red. The remaining 5 have no targets set.
 - Some of the data within this report is currently provisional awaiting validation or are estimated figures. This is noted accordingly within the report.
 - Of the 28 indicators mentioned above, 10 (35.71%) have improved by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance, 6 (21.43%) have deteriorated by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance and 5 (17.86%) have stayed within +/-2.5% of previous year's performance. 7 of the indicators have no previous year's data for comparison.

Appendix 1 provides the status of all the 2009/10 indicators that can be reported to this scrutiny committee for quarter one.

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Scrutiny Programme Board meeting on the 27th May 2009, it was agreed that performance information on the activities relevant to each overview and scrutiny committee would be placed in the web library and a presentation made to the next appropriate meeting. In addition Chief Officers would present reports to relevant overview and scrutiny committees on specific financial matters which fell within their remit.

3. Strategic Objective: *Raise the aspirations of young people*

Performance headlines for this strategic objective include:

- Good progress will be made towards improving overall educational attainment particularly lower achieving young people through the announcement of three brand new state-of-the-art academies within Wirral.

- Wirral's apprentice program has been extremely successful with the target of 100 apprentice placements achieved and the program significantly oversubscribed.
- Percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (including exceptions) has exceeded the target set.
- The percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Excluding exceptions) has exceeded the target set and reached 100%, an exceptional effort.
- The number of children on a child protection plan for longer than 2 years has exceeded the target set and is nationally banded as 'good'.

3.1 The following projects have been **completed** or assessed as **green** (all milestones that should have been met at this point have been met):

- Raise overall educational attainment.
- Improve outreach of all Children's Centres to vulnerable families and ensure that the Full Core Offer is met by all Extended Schools to support the ECM agenda.
- Implement training programme re data, including neighbourhood data, on effects of poverty on achievement, to all relevant professionals in schools, across the partnership, and in VCF sector.
- Early Years - To narrow the gap through improving the performance of the most vulnerable children and those at risk of under-achievement.
- To continue to improve the threshold so that all children's performance improves in the EYFSP.
- Primary - Raise KS1 attainment across the board, particularly that of girls in mathematics at L2+ and in all subjects at L2b+ and L3+ for boys and girls.
- Accelerate improvements in Hard to Shift schools and those which are below floor or around the new floor target of 55% floor target for combined English and mathematics at L4+.
- By aiming for all pupils to make at least 2 levels progress and building on the good conversions this year from L3+ to L5, narrow the gap for all pupils that are still at risk of underperformance, particularly including FMS and Children in Care.
- Secondary - Ensuring that in all schools at least 30% of pupils achieve 5 A*-C including English and mathematics (National Challenge).
- Ensuring that an increasing number of pupils make 2 levels of progress in each key stage, especially those pupils from deprived areas.
- Improving attainment in mathematics across all key stages.
- 14-19 Education Plan.
- LSC Quality Assurance Framework post-16.
- Borough EET Strategy.
- IYS Strategy.
- Support Wirral Care Leavers to access HE and achieve academic success.
- Strategically plan to support coherent and joined up development of Area Teams / Children's Centres and Extended Schools.
- More timely progression of plans, for more children to be adopted or achieve permanence through Special Guardianship, Residence Orders, where this will best meet their needs.
- Implement multi-agency plans to safely support more children on the edge of care and in care, incorporating measures to be implemented through the Children in Care Act.
- Implement and sustain improved processes for contact, referral and assessment – the 'front door' into social care.

- Implement the Child Obesity Action Plan which includes action on physical activity, food and drink, breast-feeding and Healthy Schools and pre schools.
- In partnership with local HEIs, deliver targeted activity for the named Aim Higher cohort in secondary schools and colleges as part of the Aim Higher progression framework.

3.2 Performance issues

The following indicators have not met the quarterly target by more than 10% and are therefore assessed as **red** or have missed the target by between 5% and 10% and are assessed as **amber**:

| Data Key | |
|-------------|-----|
| Actual | (A) |
| Estimate | (E) |
| Provisional | (P) |

| Portfolio | PI no | Title | 2009/2010 Q1 Target | 2009/2010 Q1 Actual | On target | Direction of travel |
|--|-------|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Children's Services & Lifelong Learning | NI 59 | Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral | 80% | 65.2% (P) | Red | Deteriorated |
| <p>Context: Children's social care has seen and increase in referrals of 35% based on the same period last year. For this first quarter an average of 300 referrals a month have been recorded, compared to just below 200 a month for the same period last year. In addition some social care staff require training in the use of the Integrated Children's System.</p> <p>Corrective action: There has been an increase in recorded referrals to children's social care following the Baby Peter case. This has had an impact on capacity as the service has a number of vacancies but with some agency social work cover. The vacancies have been recruited to and social workers will come into post during September/October. Children are being seen and safeguarding action taken as required but there is a delay in social workers recording the assessments on ICS given the level of demand. Assessment team managers have been asked to provide action plans by the end of August to address improving recording.</p> | | | | | | |

| Portfolio | PI no | Title | 2009/2010 Q1 Target | 2009/2010 Q1 Actual | On target | Direction of travel |
|--|-------|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Children's Services & Lifelong Learning | NI 60 | Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement | 80% | 52.3% (P) | Red | Deteriorated |
| <p>Context: Children's social care has seen and increase in referrals of 35% based on the same period last year. For this first quarter an average of 300 referrals a month have been recorded, compared to just below 200 a month for the same period last year. In addition some social care staff require training in the use of the Integrated Children's System.</p> <p>Corrective action: There has been an increase in recorded referrals to children's social care following the Baby Peter case. This has had an impact on capacity as the service has a number of vacancies but with some agency social work cover. The vacancies have been recruited to and social workers will come into post during September/October. Children are being seen and safeguarding action taken as required but there is a delay in social workers recording the assessments on ICS given the level of demand. Assessment team managers have been asked to provide action plans by the end of August to address improving recording.</p> | | | | | | |

| Portfolio | PI no | Title | 2009/2010 Q1 Target | 2009/2010 Q1 Actual | On target | Direction of travel |
|--|-------|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Children's Services & Lifelong Learning | NI 65 | Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time. | 20% Lower=Better | 23.6% (P) | Red | Deteriorated |
| Corrective action: Twenty one of the 89 registrations to date have been previously registered. Investigation into the case histories of these children is underway. | | | | | | |

| Portfolio | PI no | Title | 2009/2010 Q1 Target | 2009/2010 Q1 Actual | On target | Direction of travel |
|--|-------|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Children's Services & Lifelong Learning | NI 68 | Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment | 72.0% | 43.1% (P) | Red | Deteriorated |
| Context: Children's social care has seen and increase in referrals of 35% based on the same period last year. For this first quarter an average of 300 referrals a month have been recorded, compared to just below 200 a month for the same period last year. In addition some social care staff require training in the use of the Integrated Children's System. | | | | | | |
| Corrective action: A fulltime Manager has been appointed to the Central Advice and Duty Team and a review of recording and definition of referrals is being undertaken to ensure practice and recording is accurate and in line with national guidance. A full audit of the use of the ICS system has taken place by the newly appointed ICS project manager. As a result of this a revised training schedule has been developed. | | | | | | |

| Portfolio | PI no | Title | 2009/2010 Q1 Target | 2009/2010 Q1 Actual | On target | Direction of travel |
|--|--------|--|----------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Children's Services & Lifelong Learning | NI 117 | 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) | 8.3% Lower=Better | 10.4% (P) | Red | Unchanged |
| Context: There are a variety of factors contributing to the current rise in the number of young people who are NEET. The economic downturn has seen an increase in the number of young people who are leaving employment, particularly with no qualifications up to Level 2. | | | | | | |
| Corrective action: Connexions, LSC and Work Based Learning federation are working closely to ensure that provision is being made available and accessible for young people particularly in relation to ensuring appropriate E2E provision. Additional provision is now in place until the end of contract year and it is anticipated that 2009 leavers should also receive sufficient places. The extension of the September Guarantee to include all 17 year olds who finished statutory education in 2008 means that intensive tracking and support is being put in place to ensure that an offer of a place in learning is an entitlement for the eligible cohort. Combined with the focus on 2009 leavers, this should have a positive impact on re-engaging young people into learning and/or appropriate provision. The focussed activity will help to identify any specific provision issues/gaps which can in turn be raised with the LSC. The advent of the 'Wirral Apprentice' programme will provide a range of opportunities for NEET young people to enter into sustainable learning. The ESF funded Wirral Wise projects also have a specific focus on retaining young people in learning and re-engaging those in the NEET group back into Education, Employment or Training. Alongside this the Activity Agreement Pilot continues to see 70% of young people at the most complex end of the re-engagement spectrum progressing into EET options. | | | | | | |

| Portfolio | PI no | Title | 2009/2010 Q1 Target | 2009/2010 Q1 Actual | On target | Direction of travel |
|---|-------|--|---------------------|---------------------|-----------|---------------------|
| Children's Services & Lifelong Learning | NI 43 | Young people within the YJS receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody | 5.0% Lower=Better | 5.3% (P) | Amber | Deteriorated |
| Context: We have seen the number of cases going through the local youth court decrease but the number of custodial sentences remains the same, this has led to a slight increase in % score. | | | | | | |
| Corrective action: The introduction of the Multi Systemic Therapy team will provide a new alternative to custodial sentences thereby reducing in future the number of sentences to custody. | | | | | | |

3.4 Risks

The continuing slowdown in the economy presents significant short-term challenges for the NEET group, both in terms of a reduction in opportunities and greater competition from adults for those which are available. Therefore attention is being focussed on ensuring suitable and sufficient training and education opportunities particularly for 2009 leavers through initiatives such as the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme and Wirral Wise.

The Baby Peter case has raised the profile of safeguarding nationally and could lead to greater caution and more referrals to children's social care. The Council has responded to this by increasing this area of the budget in 2009/10.

4. Financial implications

The financial position has deteriorated significantly since the last monitoring report. There is currently a predicted deficit of £2.5m for Children's Services in 2009-10. The forecast expenditure on residential care has increased by £1m. This reflects the number of children placed which has increased from 52 at the end of May to 61 in July. All budgets under pressure are being examined with managers and as part of this process proposals to reduce costs are required.

Previous reports have indicated that grants can not be used to the same extent to reduce cost pressures as was possible in 2008-09.

5. Staffing implications

There are no implications.

6. Equal Opportunities implications

There are no implications.

7. Community Safety implications

There are no implications.

8. Local Agenda 21

There are no implications.

9. Planning implications

There are no implications.

10. Anti-poverty implications

There are no implications.

11. Social inclusion implications

There are no implications.

12. Local Member Support implications

There are no implications.

13. Background Papers

There are no implications.

*Howard Cooper
Director
Children and Young People's Department*

This report was prepared by Nancy Clarkson/ Tracy Little who can be contacted on 6664329.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 –Performance Indicator Summary

Performance Indicator Summary

Direction of Travel Summary

| % PIs | No. of PIs | |
|----------------|------------|---|
| 35.71% | 10 | Improved by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance |
| 21.43% | 6 | Deteriorated by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance |
| 17.86% | 5 | Stayed within +/-2.5% of previous year's performance |
| 0.00% | 0 | Awaiting data |
| 25.00% | 7 | Not applicable |
| 100.00% | 28 | (Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places) |

Target Summary

| % PIs | No. of PIs | |
|----------------|------------|---|
| 46.43% | 13 | Green (within +10/-5% of the target) |
| 17.86% | 5 | Amber (missed target by between 5% and 10%) |
| 17.86% | 5 | Red (missed target by more than 10%) |
| 0.00% | 0 | Over-performing (more than 10% of the target) |
| 0.00% | 0 | Awaiting data |
| 17.86% | 5 | Target not set |
| 0.00% | 0 | Not Applicable |
| 100.00% | 28 | (Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places) |

| Data Key | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Actual | (A) |
| Estimate | (E) |
| Provisional | (P) |

| PI No | Title | Q1 Target | Q1 Actual | On Target | Direction of Travel |
|-------|--|-----------|------------|-----------|---------------------|
| NI 43 | Young people within the YJS receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody | 5.0% | 5.3% (P) | Amber | ↓ |
| NI 45 | Young offender's engagement in suitable education, training and employment. | 90.0% | 82.5% (P) | Amber | ↑ |
| NI 46 | Young offenders access to suitable accommodation | 100% | 98% (P) | Green | ↔ |
| NI 51 | Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services | 16 | 16 (E) | Green | ↑ |
| NI 53 | Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth | 29.9% | 31% (A) | Green | ↑ |
| NI 55 | Obesity in primary school age children in Reception | | 9.57% (P) | | n/a |
| NI 56 | Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6 | | 19.11% (P) | | n/a |

| PI No | Title | Q1 Target | Q1 Actual | On Target | Direction of Travel |
|------------|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------------------|
| NI 59 | Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral | 80% | 65.2% (A) | Red | ↓ |
| NI 60 | Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement | 80% | 52.3% (A) | Red | ↓ |
| NI 61 | Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption | 80% | 80% (A) | Green | ↑ |
| NI 62 | Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements | 10.0% | 10.7% (P) | Amber | ↑ |
| NI 63 | Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement | 68.0 | 68.1 (P) | Green | ↑ |
| NI 64 | Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more | 5.0% | 4.8% (A) | Green | ↑ |
| NI 65 | Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time. | 20% | 23.6% (P) | Red | ↓ |
| NI 66 | Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales. | 95.0% | 93.5% (P) | Green | ↔ |
| NI 67 | Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales | 100% | 100% (P) | Green | ↔ |
| NI 68 | Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment | 72.0% | 43.1% (P) | Red | ↓ |
| NI 70 | Reduce emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people | 33.6 | 33.5 (P) | Green | ↑ |
| NI 73 | Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2 | 77% | 74% (P) | Green | n/a |
| NI 93 | Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 | 86% | 81.6% (P) | Amber | n/a |
| NI 94 | Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 | 79% | 77.8% (P) | Green | n/a |
| NI 103a | Percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Excluding exceptions). | 98.0% | 100% (A) | Green | ↑ |
| NI 103b | Percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Including exceptions) | 92.0% | 97.6% (A) | Green | ↑ |
| NI 112 | Under 18 conception rate | | 55.51 (A) | | n/a |
| NI 113 | Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds | | 5.3% (E) | | ↓ |
| NI 117 | 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) | 8.3% | 10.4% (P) | Red | ↔ |
| LOCAL 1400 | Number of looked after children | | 617 (A) | | ↔ |
| LOCAL 1401 | Percentage of referrals progressed to CIN assessment (NI 68 proxy) | 72.0% | 66.9% (E) | Amber | n/a |

UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OSC – 17th SEPTEMBER 2009

It was agreed by the Scrutiny Chairs Group in September 2008 to use the following reports to monitor the work programme for each Scrutiny Committee. The last item on each Scrutiny Committee agenda should be 'Review of the Committee Work Programme'.

Report 1 - Monitoring Report for Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

This report will list all items that have been selected by the Committee for inclusion on the work programme for the current year.

For each item on the work programme, the report will give a description, an indication of how the item will be dealt with, a relative timescale for the work and brief comments on progress.

Report 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

The Work Programme for the Committee should be reviewed at each meeting. This will include members having the opportunity to ask for new Items to be added to the programme. This report will list any newly suggested items. Committee will then have the opportunity to agree (or not) for them to be added to the programme.

Report 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

The report will, for each scheduled Committee meeting, list those items which are likely to be on the meeting agenda. This will give the opportunity for Committee members to take a greater lead in organising their work programme.

Report 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

This report will give a very brief update on progress / timescales for in-depth panel reviews which are in the 'ownership' of the Committee.

Report 5 - Completed Scrutiny Committee Work

This report will show completion of panel reviews and requested officer reports and subsequent decision on monitoring requirements.

REPORT 1

MONITORING REPORT FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 2009 / 2010

Page 124

| Date of New item | Topic Description | How the topic will be dealt with | Estimated Complete Date | Comments on Progress | Committee date |
|------------------|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--|----------------|
| July 2008 | Committee Structure and Governance Arrangements in Children's Services | To be agreed | On hold | Report being produced to detail all committees / panels / working parties / outside bodies for Children's Services. On hold – Director to advise (as at July 09) | |
| July 2008 | Literacy Levels in schools at the end of Key Stage 2 | Panel Review | Final report due Nov 2009 | Draft scope form agreed by Committee on 11th Nov. Data gathering has commenced with visits to schools. | 16 Nov 2009 |
| July 2008 | "Narrowing the Gap" – Impact of deprivation funding review | Panel Review | | Draft scope to be presented to 17 Sept 2009 cttee | 17 Sept 2009 |
| Jan 2009 | Teenage Pregnancy | Panel Review ? | | Item requested by Sheila Clarke (13 th Jan meeting). The OSC meeting on 16/03/09 agreed to receive an officer report at the June meeting. (A similar report will go to Cabinet on 09/04/09). | 16 Nov 2009 |
| | | | | | |

REPORT 2

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 17/09/09

| Topic Description | Topic suggested by | How the topic will be dealt with | Estimated Completion Date |
|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| The identification of deprivation and the impact on learning outcomes | Tom Harney and supported by OSC meeting on 16/03/09 | Consider for inclusion on the work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year | |
| Impact of alcohol on children | Frank Doyle and supported by OSC meeting on 16/03/09 | Possible joint scrutiny work with Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee | |
| Surplus in school budgets (held by some schools) | Tony Smith | Consider for inclusion on the work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year | |
| One to one tuition | | | |
| Members visits to Children Homes | Issue discussed at OSC on 02/06/09 | Lead officer to present full range of options for member visit to OSC Sept 09 | 17 Sept 09 |
| LINK Forum review of the Procurement process for Parenting and Prevention Commissioning. | Agreed by the Children Services OSC meeting to discuss Call-In on 20/04/09 | A report will be presented to a future meeting – poss 21 Jan 2010 | 21 Jan 2010 |
| Members visit to Eddison Learning in Essex | Tom Harney at OSC on 02/06/09 | Member's report to OSC meeting on 17/09/09 | 17 Sept 09 |
| Special Needs | Tom Harney at OSC on 02/06/09 | | |
| Aiming High for Disabled Children | Tony Smith at OSC on 02/06/09 | Officer report to OSC meeting on 17/09/09 | 17 Sept 09 |

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REPORT 3

PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 17/09/09

| Meeting Date | Topic Description |
|--------------|---|
| 17 Sept 2009 | Work programme Reports 1 – 5 “Narrowing the gap” impact of deprivation funding review - draft scope to be agreed |
| | First quarter performance monitoring – Officer report |
| | Annual Complaints - Officer report |
| | School standards – headline results – Officer report |
| | Aiming High for Disabled children – Officer report |
| | Adoption service – Officer six monthly report |
| | Member visits to children’s home – Officer report |
| | Cllr Harney – report on Eddison Learning |

| Meeting Date | Topic Description |
|--------------|---|
| 16 Nov 2009 | Literacy Levels (Scrutiny Panel review 09/10) – final report |
| | Second quarter performance monitoring – Officer report |
| | Special Guardianship – Officer report |
| | Private Fostering - Officer report |
| | Fostering Service Review (Scrutiny Panel review 06/07)– Recommendations progress report |
| | Teenage Pregnancy – Officer report |
| | Crime and Young People Report – STATUTORY |

REPORT 4
PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 17/09/09

| Title of Review | Members of Panel | Progress to Date | Date Due to report to Committee |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Literacy Levels at Key Stage 2 | Sheila Clarke (chair) Frank Doyle Tony Smith | Draft scope agreed at OSC meeting on 11th Nov. Data gathering has commenced. Visits to three primary schools have taken place; one further visit is due to take place later in March. 'Interviews' with key officers have also commenced; others are due to take place during March / April. Report finalised during July/August 09 | 16 th November 09 |
| "Narrowing the gap" – Impact of deprivation funding review | Shelia Clarke (Chair) Frank Doyle Tony Smith | Draft scope to be presented at 17 Sept 09 scrutiny cttee | |
| | | | |

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REPORT 5

COMPLETED SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

| Date of Completion | Topic Description | Type of review | Progress on recommendations/outcomes | Progress review - committee date |
|--------------------|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 2006 | Report on the Support Given to Schools Pre- and Post-Ofsted Inspections | Panel Review | Final Report produced April 2007. Implementation of recommendations to be monitored by Standards sub-committee. | |
| 2006 | Fostering Service Review | Panel Review | Final Report produced March 2008. Report discussed by Cabinet on 10th December. Implementation of recommendations to be monitored | 16 Nov 2009 |
| Oct 2007 | Youth Outreach Review | Panel Review | Final Report to Scrutiny Committee on 11th Nov. Report discussed by Cabinet on 10th December 2008. | 16 March 2010 |
| July 2008 | Update on Special Schools | Officer reports | Report to Committee 11th Nov 2008 OSC members to visit schools. | |
| July 2008 | Transition from Children's to Adult Social Services | Officer Report | Report to Committee 16th March. Item deferred until 21 Jan 2010 | 21 Jan 2010 |
| July 2008 | NEET rates (Not in education, employment or training) - in particular, what has been the impact of specific projects aimed at NEETs? | Officer Report | Report to Committee 13th Jan 2009. OSC to receive further report on preventative measure at key stage 4 and Knowsley apprentice programme | |
| July 2008 | Behavioural Issues and Exclusions | Officer Report | Report noted at OSC - 11th Nov 08 | |
| Oct 2008 | Wirral Music Service | Officer Report | Committee requested a further report during a budget savings debate on the Wirral Music Service 28.10.08 – At 13.1.09 OSC a request for further statistics was made. Annual Report | 16 th March 2010 |
| Nov 2008 | Early Years Education | Officer Report | Item requested by Sheila Clarke (11th Nov meeting). Report noted at OSC 16.3.09 | |

| | | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| Nov 2008 | Private Fostering | Officer report | Item discussed by OSC on 11th Nov 2008. Members requested another report in one year's time. As a result of the Ofsted Annual Performance Letter, it was agreed on 13/01/09 that a report would be produced for the March meeting. | 16 Nov 2009 |
| Nov 2008 | Wirral Adoption Service | Officer Report | Item discussed by OSC on 11th Nov 2008. Further reports to be produced on the Adoption service in the future, including Special Guardianship . | 16 Nov 2009 16 Nov 2009 |
| Jan 2009 | Teenage Pregnancy | Panel Review?? | Item requested by Sheila Clarke (13 th Jan meeting). The OSC meeting on 16/03/09 agreed to receive an officer report at the June meeting. (A similar report will go to Cabinet on 09/04/09). | 16 Nov 2009 |
| Jan 2009 | Child protection STATUTORY | Officer report | As a result of the verbal report on 'The Impact of the Baby P Case' given by Howard Cooper (13/01/09), it was agreed that a further update report would be produced in the future. | |
| March 2009 | Proposed Children in Care Council | Officer report | A future progress report will be produced on the Children in Care Council (CCC) and reps from CCC are to be invited in 12 months time | 16 March 2010 |

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 17 September 2009

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CHAIR - Cllr Sheila Clarke

'NARROWING THE GAP' – IMPACT OF THE DEPRIVATION FUNDING REVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. Background

- 1.1 The 2004 Child Poverty Review discussed what would be necessary to achieve the Government's goals on eliminating child poverty by 2020. The review identified education as a key "building block" to improving the future life chances of children in low income households, and closing the gaps in attainment between different groups as critical to the promotion of a fair and inclusive society.
- 1.2 The Child Poverty Review set out a series of actions for Local Authorities to undertake. One of these actions was for the Local Authority to review its current arrangements for funding schools for the costs of deprivation and consider in conjunction with its Schools Forum whether the formula used to allocate funding between schools should be changed – known as "Deprivation Funding Review".
- 1.3 During the 2008/09 municipal year, notice was given by the Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Overview & Scrutiny Committee that a scrutiny panel review of the Deprivation Funding Review was to take place during the 2009/10 municipal year.
- 1.4 It is proposed that the review will be undertaken by a small panel of members. In due course, the panel will produce a report which will be presented to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee. At the conclusion of the review, the panel will cease to exist.

2. Scope of the Review and Developing Themes

- 2.1 The Spokespersons have produced a draft scope for the review. A copy of the scope document is attached as Appendix 1.

3. Evidence Gathering

The Spokespersons propose to use a number of methods to gather evidence:

- 3.1 Meetings with officers
Meetings will be organised for the panel members to discuss relevant issues with a number of key officers from Wirral Council.

- 3.2 School visits
A number of primary schools will be visited to discuss relevant issues with head teachers, teachers and school governors.
- 3.3 Relevant documents
Information will be gathered from SAT results, Ofsted reports, and previous committee reports.
- 3.4 Comparative information
Comparative information will be gathered from national data and from statistical neighbours.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the Committee approve the Scope for the “Narrowing the gap” – Impact of the deprivation funding, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- (2) That the Panel members for the ‘Narrowing the gap” – Impact of the deprivation funding Scrutiny Review be confirmed as the three party Spokespersons, with deputies where required. Committee is also requested to consider whether a co-opted member of the Committee should be invited to join the panel.

Councillor Sheila Clarke

CHAIR OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DRAFT

Date: 2009

Review Title: "Narrowing the gap" – Impact of the "deprivation" funding

| | |
|--|---|
| Scrutiny Panel Chair: Cllr Sheila Clarke | Contact Details: 0151 608 1154 |
| Scrutiny Officer: Alison Mountney | Contact Details: 0151 691 8652 |
| Departmental Link Officer: | Contact Details: |
| Panel Members: Cllr Sheila Clarke Cllr Frank Doyle Cllr Tony Smith | 0151 608 1154 0151 652 9488 mobile 07734 414789 0151 677 1384 |
| Other Key Officer Contacts: | |

1. National Context:

The Government is taking action to ensure that mainstream school funding is properly targeted at pupils from deprived backgrounds. This is a key element of the drive to close the attainment gap between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.

The 2004 Child Poverty Review (CPR) discussed what would be necessary to achieve the Government's goals on child poverty. It identified education as a key "building block" to improving the future life chances of children in low income households, and closing the gaps in attainment between different groups as critical to the promotion of a fair and inclusive society.

The CPR also found significant variations in funding between schools with similar proportions of children eligible for free school meals.

The CPR set out a series of actions for Local Authorities (LA's), one of which was for each LA to review their formula in order that they had in place, by the time of the 2008-09 Comprehensive Spending Review (CPR) period, a formula that gave sufficient priority to, and adequately reflected the consequences of deprivation.

The following national public service agreements (PSAs) are relevant:

- Halve the number of children in poverty by 2010-11, on the way to eradicating child poverty by 2020 (PSA 9)
- Raise the educational achievement of all children and young people (PSA 10)
- Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers (PSA 11)

2. Local Context

WMBC Strategic Aim 2009 -2014 – (PRIORITY FOR 2009/10)

- Raise overall educational attainment, particularly lower achieving young people.

Related performance indicators NI.72 – NI 109

WMBC Children and Young People's plan 2008 – 2011

- Strategy for improvement: "Enjoying and achievement" (1of 5 outcomes for the Every Child Matters Agenda)

3. What are the main issues?

- 3.1 The formulae used to distribute the "deprivation" funding were determined by an extensive consultation via Schools Forum. During the consultation there were concerns raised regarding possible negative effects upon those schools which did not receive additional funding.
- 3.2 Disadvantaged pupils are more likely to be concentrated in primary schools with high FSM proportions; this is less true in secondary schools. In order to break the link between disadvantage and attainment, it will also be essential for those schools which are **not** serving particularly disadvantaged communities to secure good progress for their deprived pupils.
- 3.3 The Government has made it clear that whilst pleased with the overall improvement in standards that have followed investment in school budgets over the last decade, there is serious concern that the gaps in achievement between children from deprived backgrounds and others have not narrowed significantly and in some cases have increased.
- 3.4 Research has shown that there is little or insufficient evidence to suggest that, considered separately from other measures, assigning more resources to schools, or reducing class sizes has a substantial effect on attainment – the impact largely depends on **how** those resources are used.
- 3.5 That educational attainment and progress for all schools on Wirral is achieved, alongside the concentration on "narrowing the gaps" for the disadvantaged.

4. The Committee's overall aim/objective in doing this work is:

- 4.1 Performance gaps between children from deprived backgrounds and others in Wirral remain too great and have not been narrowing. Has the deprivation funding review carried out by WMBC as per government priorities/criteria had an **impact** on closing the attainment gap?
- 4.2 Has any school in the borough had a negative impact on their standards and or attainments as a result of the "deprivation funding" review.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|---|----------------------|--|------------------------------|---|--------------------|--|------------------------|--|
| <p>5. The possible outputs/outcomes are:</p> <p>To put forward recommendations and observations that will help establish connectivity between the strategies at the highest level through local delivery plans to service/school based activity.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>6. What specific value can scrutiny add to this topic?</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>7. Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</p> <p>Cabinet Other councillors Wirral Head teachers School Forum and Governors Parents</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>8. Duration of enquiry – to be finalised by March 2010</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>9. What category does the review fall into?</p> <table data-bbox="204 1077 687 1261"> <tr> <td>Policy Review</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>External Partnership</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holding Executive to Account</td> <td>x</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Policy Development</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Performance Management</td> <td></td> </tr> </table> | Policy Review | x | External Partnership | | Holding Executive to Account | x | Policy Development | | Performance Management | |
| Policy Review | x | | | | | | | | | |
| External Partnership | | | | | | | | | | |
| Holding Executive to Account | x | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy Development | | | | | | | | | | |
| Performance Management | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>10. Extra resources needed? Would the investigation benefit from the co-operation of an expert witness?</p> <p>The review will be conducted by councillors with the support of existing officers. The panel will seek advice from those with “expertise” on this topic.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>11. What information do we need?</p> <p>11.1 Secondary information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Child Poverty Review (relevant section 5) - DCSF Departmental Report 2009 (Chapter 4 “close the gap in educational achievement for children from disadvantaged backgrounds) - Wirral’s 2nd Local Area Agreement – 2008/2009 - Wirral MBC Corporate Plan – 2009-2010 - Children and young people plan 2008 -2011 - School forum “consultation” brief - School forum “outcomes” - School forum survey to schools | | | | | | | | | | |

Research:

- Statistics on attainment results
- A typology of the functional roles of deprived neighbourhoods
- Influences and leverages on low levels of attainment
- Narrowing the gap – evidence collection
- Breaking the Link – Everyone’s business
- The Extra Mile Project
- National Challenge/Gaining Ground initiative
- “One to one tuition”

11.2 Primary/new evidence/information

- Interviews with LEA officers
- Interviews with head teachers, governors at selected schools (schools selected)
- Ofsted inspection reports
- Contextual attainment data – key stage 2 and 3 results and GCSE results.
- Impact of other funding streams set on the basis of deprivation such as prior attainment score and personalisation

Comments/results from Education Director’s pro-forma on the use of funding - sent to schools who received more than £10k in additional funding with the new formula (sent 29 June 2009)

11.3 Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet portfolio holder, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

Council Officers to include:

School Forum Chair/Members
School Improvement Partners
Head teachers from “winning” and losing” schools
LEA Officers

11.4 What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

LEA Officers:

- “narrowing the gap” LEA strategies
- “Where we are now” up-date
- Collection/sharing good practice

Schools:

- Attainment activities focused upon
- Partnerships used/included
- LEA support received/needed
- Targeting, review and measurement

School Improvement Partners – SIPs were involved in the process of local review, and through their overview of attainment and resource allocation they can contribute.

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

Individual meetings with key officers

Visits to a number of primary schools (head teacher, teachers, governors)

Desk research

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

- Governing bodies – parent governors

There is no plan to involve public meetings or Area Forum meetings.

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SCHOOL STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 8 July 2009

Present: Councillor S Clarke (Chair)

Councillors F Doyle

Apologies Mrs M Cain M Clarke

1 QUORUM

The Sub-Committee did not have a quorum. However, the members present felt it would be appropriate to hear the reports of the officers and make recommendations, as necessary, that could be ratified by the Sub-Committee at a later date (subsequently agreed as 17 July at 2.00pm).

2 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Stuart Bellerby, Strategic Service Manager - Secondary and Lifelong Learning (Learning & Achievement) in the Department of Children's Services, who was attending his first meeting of the Sub-Committee.

3 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Stuart Bellerby reported that there were currently no secondary schools in Ofsted categories. 12 (55%) out of the authority's 22 secondary schools were graded as 'outstanding', only one other authority in the North West (Trafford) being better placed. The national average for outstanding schools was 13%. 7 of the authority's secondary schools were graded as 'good' and 3 as 'satisfactory'.

Recommended – That the Sub-Committee record its thanks and appreciation to all those concerned for this achievement.

4 SECONDARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS APRIL 2009 - JUNE 2009

The members received a summary of the outcomes of recent Ofsted inspections of secondary schools. The two schools had been graded as follows:

Outstanding Schools

Wirral Grammar School for Boys

Pensby High School for Girls

Stuart Bellerby remarked upon the various actions taken in support of the schools, where necessary. Mark Parkinson, Head of Learning & Achievement reported that there was some more work needed around post-16 provision. Letters were now sent to all schools following Ofsted inspections.

Recommended – That the reports be noted and the Sub-Committee record its congratulations to both schools.

5 **PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES**

Marie Lawrence, Strategic Service Manager (Early Years & Primary Education) reported that there had been no further published reports of primary schools in Ofsted categories since the last scrutiny committee.

Recommended – That the report be noted.

6 **PRIMARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS - MAY 2009 - JUNE 2009**

The members received a summary of the outcomes of recent Ofsted inspections of primary schools. The various schools had been graded as follows:

Satisfactory schools

Riverside Primary School

Good schools

Leasowe Early Years and Adult Learning Centre

Overchurch Junior School

Mount Primary School

Marie Lawrence described the various actions taken in support of the schools, where necessary and remarked that Riverside Primary School had made rapid progress in coming out of Ofsted categories. She pointed out that both Leasowe Early Years and Adult Learning Centre and Overchurch Junior School had been recognised as having some outstanding features.

Recommended – That the reports be noted and the Sub-Committee record its appreciation of these results.

7 **NATIONAL CHALLENGE UPDATE**

Stuart Bellerby provided further details of Wirral's National Challenge Plans. The Plan was aimed at ensuring that at least 30% of pupils in every secondary school achieved at least 5 A*-C grades, including English and mathematics, at GCSE by 2011. Of the six schools in Wirral's programme, all were on line to reach their target. Mark Parkinson explained the levels of additional support which was being provided.

Recommended – That the update report be noted.

8 **1 - 1 TUITION**

Marie Lawrence submitted a report upon the 1 - 1 Tuition initiative which was part of an overall intervention strategy for those pupils who were not making the progress they needed. By 2010-11, it was aimed that, nationally, 300,000 pupils a year would

receive 1-1 tuition in English and 300,000 pupils each year would receive 1-1 tuition in mathematics. 1-1 tuition provided funding to enable a child to have 10 x 1 hour sessions of additional tuition from a qualified teacher. Tutors were paid £25 per hour and funding was allocated to a Local Authority based on the projected numbers of pupils who would fulfill the criteria.

She reported that the initiative had been well received in both primary and secondary schools. The first tranche involved 230 places from the Spring Term in primary KS2 and it had now been rolled out into KS3 and 4 of secondary schools. Funding for two places was offered to all schools and most schools wanted to take part. The offer for 1 – 1 tuition had been made to all schools, including special schools. The Authority would complete a full evaluation in the autumn when all of the SATs data was confirmed and there would be some indication as to the success of the first tranche of pupils.

Funding for the scheme was until 2011 and depending on its success the Authority would examine how it could be sustained in the context of its own long term intervention strategy.

Recommended – That the report be noted and a report on the initiative be submitted to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

9 **GAINING GROUND**

Stuart Bellerby submitted a report updating the Sub-Committee on the national Gaining Ground initiative and its implications for Wirral secondary schools. This was part of the Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) plans to make every school a good school following on from National Challenge.

Two schools had been identified and these would be offered support through School Improvement Partners of 4 additional days. Each school would also identify a partner school outside of the Local Authority which could then provide additional support. It was suggested that one of the 4 days' training could be set aside for the governors.

Recommended – That the report be noted.

10 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Recommended – That the next meeting be held on Wednesday 25 November, 2009 at 6.00pm and that further meetings be arranged in consultation with the Chair and party spokespersons.

11 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair referred to the recent awarding of the OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List to Mr Rick Austin, Head Teacher of Higher Bebington Junior School, for his services to education.

Recommended – That the congratulations of the Sub-Committee be accorded to Mr Austin.

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SCHOOL STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Friday, 17 July 2009

Present: Councillor S Clarke (Chair)
Councillors T Smith F Doyle

12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The members of the Committee were asked to consider whether they had a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any item on the agenda and, if so, to declare it and to state the nature of the interest. The following declaration was made:

Councillor Clarke – a personal interest in minute 15 by virtue of her being a Governor of Wirral Grammar School for Boys.

13 INQUORATE MEETING ON 8 JULY

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider the recommendations from the inquorate meeting on 8 July (see minutes 14 to 22 below).

14 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Further to minute 3 (8/7/09),

Resolved – That the Sub-Committee record its thanks and appreciation to all those concerned for this achievement.

15 SECONDARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS APRIL - JUNE 2009

Further to minute 4 (8/7/09),

Resolved - That the reports be noted and the Sub-Committee record its congratulations to both Wirral Grammar School for Boys and Pensby High School for Girls.

16 PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Further to minute 5 (8/7/09),

Resolved - That the report be noted.

17 PRIMARY SCHOOLS OFSTED INSPECTIONS - MAY - JUNE 2009

Further to minute 6 (8/7/09),

Resolved - That the reports be noted and the Sub-Committee record its appreciation of these results.

18 **NATIONAL CHALLENGE UPDATE**

Further to minute 7 (8/7/09),

Resolved - That the update report be noted.

19 **1 - 1 TUITION**

Further to minute 8 (8/7/09),

Resolved - That the report be noted and a report on the 1 – 1 Tuition initiative be submitted to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

20 **GAINING GROUND**

Further to minute (8/7/09),

Resolved - That the report be noted.

21 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Resolved - That the next meeting be held on Wednesday 25 November, 2009 at 6.00pm and that further meetings be arranged in consultation with the Chair and party spokespersons.

22 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Further to minute 11 (8/7/09),

Resolved - That the congratulations of the Sub-Committee be accorded to Mr Austin, Head Teacher of Higher Bebington Junior School, following his recent award of the OBE.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 17th SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION – CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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 Director of Children's Services with respect to the acceptance of tenders and to the appointment of Contractors.

1.0 Capital contracts

1.1 School's Capital Funding for 2009-10 was approved by Cabinet on 28th May 2009. Tenders for capital contracts in excess of £50,000 are listed below.

| Scheme | Contractor | Amount £ |
|--|---------------------------|-------------|
| Bidston Avenue Link and Reception | KGM Ltd | 380,341 |
| Stanton Road HORSAs replacement | EJ Horrocks | 808,883 |
| St Bridget's classroom replacement | Whitefield & Brown | 478,035 |
| Brookhurst Primary PVI classroom | Portakabin | 191,533 |
| Pensby High (Girls) lift installation | JKS Construction Ltd | 78,875 |
| Brackenwood Infants PVI classroom | Danzer Ltd | 236,221 |
| Greenleas Primary classroom extension | Broadless Construction | 324,549 |
| Woodchurch Road Primary Extended Schools/caretakers house | Paragon Building Services | 105,222 |
| Elleray Park extension | EJ Horrocks | 258,873 |
| Park Primary demolition | North West Construction | 68,890 |
| Thornton Hough Primary extension | Broadless Construction | 308,912 |

ICT Harnessing Technology Contracts

This programme totalling £1.6m in 2009-10 is funding from capital grant and a small amount of match funding. The programme provides connectivity and internet access for Wirral's schools. Contracts let in excess of £50,000 are listed below:-

| Scheme | Contractor | Amount £ |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Broadband connectivity for Wirral schools for 3 years | North West Learning Grid | 60,000 p.a. |
| Home internet access (re computers for pupils) | 02 | 500,385 (2 years) |
| Internet filtering | Asavie | 54,756 p.a. |

ICT Harnessing Technology for Targeted Groups

This is a capital grant totalling £156,000 to be spent by 31st August 2009. This funding provides lap tops and internet access for Wirral's Looked After Children currently in Key Stages 3,4,5, FE and HE education. Contracts in excess of £50,000 are:-

| Scheme | Contractor | Amount £ |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 217 laptops and internet filtering | Stone Computers | 85,860 |
| Internet Connectivity | Orange | 62,496 (3 years) |

Advocacy for Children Tender

This contract provides an independent advocacy service for children and those up to 24, particularly those that have been in care. The service has been re-tendered and awarded to the current supplier SCS Kinder (formerly Safeguarding Children's Services Ltd) at a cost of £61,956 for 12 months from 1st September.

Play Practitioner Project

This contract, funded by the Big Lottery is sponsored by Wirral Play Council. The Play Practitioner project will be funded for three years from 16th of February until 15th February 2012. The total funding for the Play Practitioner Project over 3 years will be £137,360.

The project employs a full time Senior Play Practitioner and two part-time play workers to provide supervised open access play provision for children aged 5-13 years in five identified areas of need across Wirral. Each session is a minimum of two hours, five times a week in various locations.

Community Play Ranger

The Play Ranger contract, funded by the Big Lottery is also provided by Wirral Play Council. The project will be funded for three years from 16th February until the 15th February 2012. The total funding available for the Community Play Rangers Project over 3 years will be £284,092.

The project employs 1 full-time Community Play Ranger and 7 part-time Play Rangers providing supervised open play sessions in parks, open spaces, community areas and informal play areas for children aged 5-13 years. These are in four areas; Birkenhead, South Wirral, Wallasey and West Wirral with a minimum delivery of 30 play sessions per week

1.2 Out of Authority Placements

The Schools Budget has an amount of £3,948,000 for Independent School Fees. This budget makes education provision for a number of children with 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.

2009-10 Out of Authority Placements

| Start Date | School | Ref | £ |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| 16.06.09 | Lakeside School | BJ | 52,221 |
| 02.07.09 | Eden Grove School | JG | 137,730 |

1.3 Children's Residential Care Placements

The Children and Young People's Budget has an amount of £5,372,700 for Independent Residential Care of Looked After Children. The placements not previously reported costing in excess of £50,000 per annum are listed below. Expenditure in this area is expected to be significantly over budget.

| Start Date | Provider | Swift Reference | Annual Projected Cost |
|------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 24.04.09 | Care Today | 436234 | 129,546.00 |
| 24.04.09 | Active 8 | 109809 | 71,800.00 |
| 22.07.09 | Keys Care | 109809 | 182,160.00 |
| 14.04.09 | Horizon Care | 157770 | 60,868.00 |
| 17.07.09 | Keys Childcare | 144814 | 92,500.00 |
| 19.02.09 | Care Today | 22174 | 126,568.00 |
| 22.04.09 | Fullwood Care | 138276 | 92,036.00 |
| 01.03.09 | New Pathways Childrens Services | 24431 | 128,968.00 |
| 23.01.09 | New Pathways Childrens Services Ltd | 439867 | 246,183.00 |
| 21.08.08 | Orchard Care (Fostering) | 49999 | 63,336.00 |
| 23.05.09 | Crystal Care Solutions | 7967 | 133,064.00 |
| 11.06.09 | Good Foundations | 48626 | 97,167.00 |
| 19.06.09 | Keys Care | 49525 | 141,450.00 |
| 25.06.09 | Eastmoor Secure Unit | 38335 | 72,450.00 |
| 29.06.09 | Milestones | 187686 | 104,504.40 |
| 29.06.09 | Good Foundations Ltd | 187688 | 91,200.00 |
| 29.06.09 | Good Foundations Ltd | 187685 | 111,026.00 |
| 20.07.09 | Milestones | 431917 | 94,053.96 |
| 03.07.09 | Modus Ltd | 450734 | 185,508.00 |
| 30.07.09 | MCJA Supporting Futures | 430141 | 77,000.00 |

1.4 Extension to existing contracts

A contract with a value of more than £50,000 has been extended for 6 months (1st July-31 December 2009):

Contract with Connexions

Positive Activities for Young People

£169,500

Connexions will continue to employ personal advisors to ensure that targeted young people are involved in worthwhile, interesting, useful activities that will assist their personal development.

A commissioning process is underway for the delivery of this expanded service. The current contract has been extended to align with the main Connexions contract.

1.5 Contract with only one supplier

The Integrated Children's System

The Integrated Children's System (ICS) is an electronic case record system for children's social care. Every council that has a social services responsibility must maintain an Integrated Children's System that complies with the latest business requirements published by the DCSF. The latest requirements known as 'ICS –

Phase 1C' were published on 30th June 2008 and carry with them a target date for local implementations of 31st October 2009.

As 'ICS – Phase 1C' represents an update of the original set of requirements, there is only one viable provider for this software. Northgate Public Services, the supplier of the current Wirral ICS system have therefore supplied the necessary software updates to deliver an 'ICS – Phase 1C' compliant system at a cost of £40,000 for the software along with £10,000 of services to support the upgrade process.

This work has been funded in the Capital Programme mainly through capital grant.

Childminders SLA 2009/11

The National Childminding Association has been commissioned to set up a childminder network on Wirral. The network will include training, assessment and monitoring of provision, to enable childminders to become accredited. The contract will cost £44,860 in 2009/10 and £42,312 in 2010/11 and is funded from Surestart Grant.

2.0 Financial implications

2.1 There are no financial implications other than those identified above.

3.0 Staffing implications

3.1 There are none arising from this report.

4.0 Other Implications

4.1 There are no implications arising out of this report in terms of equal opportunities, ethnic minorities, the elderly or the disabled; nor are there any LA21, community safety, planning, anti poverty, social inclusion and Local Member support implications.

5.0 Background papers

5.1 There are none.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report is noted.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services