

Friday, 19 March 2010 commencing at 9.00 am
Professional Excellence Centre, Acre Lane, Bromborough

1. **09:00 APOLOGIES**
 2. **09:00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
 3. **09:05 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING (Pages 1 - 8)**
 4. **09.10 SAFEGUARDING UPDATE QUARTER 3 (Pages 9 - 12)**
 5. **09.20 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT QUARTER 3 (Pages 13 - 22)**
 6. **09:30 LAA QUARTER 3 REPORT (Pages 23 - 40)**
 7. **09.40 ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (Pages 41 - 132)**
- 09:55 BREAK**
8. **10.10 WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST COMMISSIONING STRATEGY (Pages 133 - 144)**
 9. **10:55 SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING STRATEGY GROUP (Pages 145 - 154)**
 10. **11.25 EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING STRATEGY (Pages 155 - 184)**
 11. **11.35 STEPPING UP TO SOCIAL WORK (Pages 185 - 188)**
 12. **11:45 AIMING HIGH COMMISSIONING REPORT (Pages 189 - 194)**
 13. **11.55 GETTING TO THE CORE - WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST AND LINK FORUM CONFERENCE**
 14. **11:58 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 15. **12:00 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**



28th May 2010, 09:00 – 12:00

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 15th January 2010

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	Phil Davies (Chair)
	Councillor	Sheila Clarke
	Councillor	Jean Quinn
		Peter Brandrick
		Howard Cooper
		Bob Gittins
		Tina Long
		Richard Longster
		Bev Morgan
		Kathryn Podmore
		Hazel Thompson
		Thelma Wiltshire
		Anne Tattersall representing Sue Drew
		Jo Beet representing Gillian Thomas
		Barbara Baker representing Andy Styring
<u>In attendance:</u>	Officers	Nancy Clarkson
		Rose Curtis
		Sheila Lynch
		Julia Hassall
		Gary Rickwood
		Terry White
		Peter Wong

1. APOLOGIES

Emma Dodd
 Paula Dixon
 Sue Drew (represented by Anne Tattersall)
 Shanila Roohi
 Sandra Shannon
 Alan Stennard
 Andy Styring (represented by Barbara Baker)
 Gillian Thomas (represented by Jo Beet)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Amendments:
 Item 8 Local Area Agreement Report Quarter 2. Bev Morgan noted that a lot had been done to improve breast feeding.
 Amended to: Bev Morgan noted that a lot was being done to improve breast feeding

Item 13 Workforce Strategy. Hazel Thompson felt it would be difficult for her to implement this.

Amended to: Hazel Thompson felt it would be difficult to implement this.

Resolved – That with the amendments the minutes of the meeting on the 20th November 2009 be approved and adopted.

4 MATTERS ARISING

None.

5 WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

Rose Curtis and Peter Wong presented on the progress of development of a commissioning strategy. Currently Wirral Children's Trust has a Joint Commissioning Framework although implementation has not been consistent across the partnership. It was suggested that the new governance structures for the Children's Trust, the upcoming statutory status of the Trust arrangements, and current financial drivers require a step change in the commissioning capacity of the partnership.

Ali Hardman of the Commissioning Support Programme (CSP) has been working with the Children's Trust Executive to support Wirral arrangements. A workshop was held on Wed 13th January. Stage 1 was a Self Analysis and Planning Exercise (SAPE).

Through self assessment the Children's Trust was rated against twelve standards in three sections.

Section 1- Governance and Framework

The architecture and some arrangements are in place but these are not a consistent whole. The suggestion is that more focus is required on co-ordination and implementation.

Section 2 – Commissioning Activity

Activity was identified to be patchy although some clear plans are in place in some areas.

Section 3 – Capacity and Competence

There is not a common perspective or practice across partners. There is a lack of capacity, expertise and a dedicated resource.

During the exercises three key areas were identified:

- Children with disabilities/complex needs
- Identifying children at risk of poor outcomes
- Major shift towards early intervention and prevention

The SAPE exercise will be continued with various stakeholder groups. The self assessment exercise is 'Gate 1', the exploration part of the process. The next steps are to prepare, deliver and sustain success criteria. The CSP will provide tailored support for one year.

The Board were asked to:

- Note and approve the content of the SAPE.
- Note the key areas for further focus that have been identified as those which will contribute most to a step change.
- Agree that these key areas will be subject to 'deep dives' and that detailed findings and recommendations will be considered in due course.

A discussion regarding the presentation was held.

Tina Long suggested that the Board would have to ask searching questions as to how Wirral should progress such as developing an evolutionary approach or to be more radical such as to set up a joint commissioning unit that operates for the Children's Trust. Tina Long suggests that to deliver effectively a radical approach is required. She suggested that the Children's Trust should set out what we aspire to and that collectively as a Children's Trust that debate has not been held.

Richard Longster suggested that it was a very honest appraisal. He asked what could be learned from other Children's Trusts. Howard Cooper responded that practices have varied from joint units to very little and all points in between. For example Hertfordshire PCT and the Council have merged. Liverpool PCTs and the Council have pooled £450 million. Wigan Children's Services is in the process of establishing a Joint Children's Commissioning Unit. Wirral is currently at the lower end of the continuum.

Hazel Thomson suggested more involvement of partners in the process; Peter Wong replied that the starting point was with the Children's Trust Executive but that this would now be carried out with other groups. Peter Wong and Rose Curtis will discuss this further with Hazel Thompson and Bev Morgan.

Howard Cooper reflected on the national picture and the likelihood of reduced budgets although details of areas for cuts have not yet been determined. It is not known how much, how quickly or in what areas savings must be made. He noted that as people responsible for providing services to children we must look at all options and efficiencies must be found. At the local level we must have clarity on priorities for commissioning and take hard decisions.

Howard Cooper suggested that partner organisations needed to question their appetite to pool sovereignty, it is important to distinguish the impact of this on funding and decision making. This board is the commissioner for children and if that is the case then it should have sovereignty.

Tina Long suggested that the Board should have discussions about what is required to improve outcomes and how this impacts on commissioning and that the Board should influence how sovereignty is defined.

Councillor Davies agreed that a further Board discussion is required but that discussion with parent organisation was also required to define their mandate.

The Board was in agreement that a further report was required, Rose Curtis, Peter Wong and Nancy Clarkson were asked to collate this. Tina Long would facilitate this process. The report would include:

- Discussion of the mandate for organisations including examples, issues and potential impact.
- Options for scope of the commissioning strategy.
- Options for the Wirral commissioning structure.

Councillor Davies thanked the board for a useful discussion.

Resolved - That a further report be presented for the next meeting. That Board members discuss commissioning with their organisations to prepare for the next meeting. That Job Centre Plus to present an overview of their organisation to the Board at a future meeting.

6. CONNEXIONS CORE OFFER

Sheila Lynch, Assistant Director (Performance), Greater Merseyside Connexions presented.

Board members requested this report at the last meeting. Greater Merseyside Connexions service was recently commissioned to provide services across six Merseyside authorities until 31 March 2012. The contract represents a significant reduction of funding in Wirral. A core service is in operation with options for accelerated and advanced services as required. All areas have the option to purchase over and above the core service.

The contract has been defined and is currently being finalised and signed off. Local delivery plans will be developed. Guidance regarding the 14-19 landscape is changing due to the range of 14-19 provision now available and the planned raising of the participation age. Standards for Information Advice and Guidance (IAG), advancements in adult cover and advancement services are being addressed within this changing context.

Core Service Statutory provision includes:

- Career Education and Guidance
- Encouraging participation
- Assessment to support transition
- Achievement of targets including 16-18 NEET, increasing the proportion of 19 year olds achieving level 2, client tracking and contribution to other key targets.

Further detail of the core service was outlined. Personal Advisors deliver IAG in schools and colleges. Targeted support is available for Children in care, young people with learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD), young offenders and young carers. Curriculum support to schools, colleges and learning providers and around IAG. Innovative out of hours provision, including young people developing online services,

virtual groups and podcasts. Services to families, four Connexions Centres also deliver adult services. Services will focus on early intervention to ensure prevention and sustainable outcomes. Vacancy Services including text adverts.

A range of Accelerated and Enhanced Services will be available for LAs, schools and colleges to purchase. Examples include:

- Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) services.
- Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance fund
- 14-19 Curriculum resource pack
- Careers Library Services including source software licences.

Tina Long asked if there were any risks associated with reduced funding. Risk management was addressed in the Commissioning process. The outcome will be the preservation of front line services. Risk to these should be negligible but there will be a shift in services and reductions in other areas.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

7. BEING HEALTHY STRATEGY GROUP REPORT

Anne Tattersall, Head of Health and Wellbeing Children and Young People, Public Health, NHS Wirral and Being Healthy Strategy Lead, introduced the report.

The Being Healthy strategy group was reported to be a very committed multi-agency group, with good partnership working. It is well aligned to a range of sub-committees including the teenage pregnancy, breast feeding, healthy school steering groups and the obesity and sexual health programme boards.

The group works directly to and informs the priorities outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan. The key recent achievements include health services launched in schools, decreased teenage conception rates and exciting developments in the breastfeeding peer support programme.

Some key issues were outlined including the launch of the Healthy Child Programme with no additional funding provided. Key challenges ahead included the sustainability of services linked to funding reductions which may require difficult decisions. Risks outlined included staff availability and recruitment. For example an issue was raised regarding recruitment of health visitors which is being addressed by the PCT.

Regarding developments in the National Child Measurement programme Thelma Wiltshire reported that schools have had no feedback yet. Anne Tattersall reported that analysis is currently being carried out and she will ensure that schools will be provided with the information. Six schools are being piloted for enhancement of the programme and work with families.

Areas for Promotion were discussed and programmes are in development including baby and teen life check, weight management services and immunisation benefits.

Two areas were reported in detail. The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) uptake is 94% for the 2008/09 cohort, the highest in the North West which is the result of a good multi-agency approach. Good progress is being made regarding teenage conceptions and numbers are decreasing. Annual data for 2008 due in February. Excellent programmes are in place and the reducing teenage conceptions profile has been raised, everyone is involved at all levels in all Wirral organisations to drive forward awareness.

Howard Cooper noted that to optimise outcomes as demonstrated by the teenage pregnancy project a comprehensive approach including top level support, good project management, embedding in universal services such as schools can enhance the impact of the project.

Councillor Quinn suggested that like teenage pregnancy, obesity is not just a health issue, and that everyone should be involved.

Thelma Wiltshire noted the importance of health issues for schools and the impact of ill health on attendance and outcomes. Sixth form colleges are included in discussions around the Healthy Child Programme. Anne Tattersall reported that enhanced school representation on the Being Healthy Strategy Group would be beneficial and she would investigate this.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

8. YOUNG PEOPLE AND ALCOHOL BRIEFING

Terry White, Young Persons Programme Manager presented to the Board.

This report was requested at the previous board to provide an overview of alcohol services available for young people.

The Wirral Programme is based within the context of the HM Government's Youth Alcohol Action Plan (2008), the National Drugs Strategy (2008), the Chief Medical Officer's guidance and a Borough specific alcohol needs assessment. Wirral Drugs and Alcohol Team (DAAT)/NHS Wirral has commissioned an alcohol programme targeted towards stakeholders to guide their efforts to reduce the harms that alcohol causes young people, their families and the communities. Funding is provided by government grant and NHS Wirral.

Alcohol is increasingly causing health and other problems for young people. Less young people are drinking, but those who are drinking are consuming larger amounts. The related risk taking behaviour and the impact of this was outlined.

The DAAT has an overall budget of £500,000. The School Drugs Advisor role was outlined and links to other groups including Response, Connexions and LAC nurses. Many agencies are involved and a range of universal, targeted and specialist programmes are in place.

The local needs assessment and plan has been submitted to the National Treatment Agency. It has received good feedback and the recommendation is to immediately implement it, with no changes. It includes a model of working with multi agency partnerships linking A&E admissions to ensure follow up by appropriate agencies. Use of social marketing techniques to deliver information effectively is included in the plan and preventative work and intervention analysis is development with the police. More work with schools and family intervention is in development.

Councillor Davies queried the length of funding streams for this area. The bulk of grants are for three years but some grant funding is annual.

Resolved – That the report and presentation be noted.

9. WIRRAL COMMON ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK ACTIVITY

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) report was presented by Julia Hassall, Head of Branch Children's Social Care, Wirral Council.

The report presented CAF activity April to November 2009 by area, gender, age group, agency, need and outcome areas. The highest activity is in Birkenhead; the lowest in Wirral South and West. This is linked to area team leader capacity. With strong area team leaders more CAFs can be addressed which stops escalation. Helping children stay safe is the primary reason for CAF and team around the child work.

Councillor Davies asked if all agencies fully engaged in CAF. Julia Hassall reported that schools, school nurses, health visitors and Homestart are well engaged. There are gaps in some areas. The Staying Safe Strategy Group update scheduled for May will further report on this area.

Thelma Wiltshire reported that schools had found that there was a tendency for other agencies to assume the school will write the CAF.

The CAF post is funded through the LSCB which partner agencies contribute to. LSCB funding is voluntary and there is no national government formula, commitment to this funding is a challenging area. Continued funding of the CAF post is required to continue the CAF co-ordination and reporting work.

Julia Hassall will organise monthly CAF report to go to all strategy leads to share with strategy group members and further embed CAF across all agencies.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

10. SAFEGAURDING CHILDREN UPDATE

Caroline McKenna, Strategic Service Manager Safeguarding presented to the Board. The briefing updated the Board on the new arrangements for safeguarding resulting from the national response to the Lord Laming report. The report presented outlined new and planned arrangements.

Funding of the LSCB board and budget setting is being investigated. Arrangements are being made for the LSCB annual report to be delivered to the Children's Trust Board. At the moment quarterly safeguarding reports are reported to Children's Trust Board. Current reporting is being evaluated and the Boards may want to develop this further.

A Joint Children's Trust and LSCB event is planned for 28th January "Keeping Wirral Children Safe – True for Us". All Trust and LSCB groups are invited. The event will focus on linking Children's Trust Board and LSC Board and will evaluate the Ofsted Safeguarding and Looked After Children inspections. A self assessment exercise of safeguarding and roles of Children's Trust Board and LSCB will be carried out at the event.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

11. DISTRICT BOARDS REVIEW

Howard Cooper updated the board. A District Board review paper was provided. A refresh of the boards would require:

- Effort required by officers to manage the boards
- Partners are required to engage with the boards
- Clear work programme linked to the CYPP

As resources are required to operate the boards, the benefits need to be realised. Previously there were four boards. We know the need is greater in some areas rather than others. The PCT and Adult Social Care have organised around three districts. One option is to re-align District Boards to three instead of the original four.

Kathryn Podmore reported that membership of the boards is a key factor.

Councillor Quinn suggested that the merger of two boards would result in an area too large to have local ownership.

Tina Long suggested that for the health locality manager to join the boards then three boards are the ideal, however if the number was retained at four different people could attend.

Anne Tattersall suggested that district and area intelligence was key to developing an appropriate action plan.

Councillor Clarke suggested that as Children's Services planning mapped to the four District model and this should be retained for the proposed review year.

Resolved - That the District Boards are retained at four and progress will be reviewed by the Children's Trust Board in a year.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

13. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 19th March 2010, at the Professional Excellence Centre, Acre Lane.

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 19TH MARCH 2010

Report to the Children's Trust Board on Safeguarding Arrangements

1. Introduction and Background

This report forms part of a regular update from the LSCB to the Children's Trust Board on key developments locally and nationally on regulatory reform, updates on progress of local Serious Case Reviews, key performance data and key challenges for the partnership and agencies.

2. National Reform and Statutory Guidance

The national framework for safeguarding, Working Together, was re-drafted following Lord Lamings report *The Protection of Children in England (2009)*, and a full report on the key changes intended was reported to the last CTB in January 2010. The DCSF report that it is expected that following the national consultation the revised Working Together will be published in the spring 2010. Whilst there was much in the consultation draft, there are also a number of key areas which were signalled as the direction of travel. The following is an outline of local changes made as a result:

- Independent chairing of LSCB's, Wirral has appointed an interim chair for initially 6 months, subject to mutual review annually. The funding, expected to be approximately £10,000 is met from the LSCB budget. A contract between the LSCB and the chair has been drawn up, including specification on accountability and reporting mechanisms to the DCS and lead elected member respectively. The DCS will continue to chair until June 2010.
- LSCB membership: the lead elected member will attend the first LSCB as 'participating observer' in March, Adult Social Services have been invited to attend the LSCB, adverts for lay people have been drafted and recruitment will follow in the next 3/4 months, schools have become statutory members and current membership (3 reps) will continue, other non-required agencies such as housing providers and Crown Prosecution Service can be agreed locally.
- Chapter 5 – Managing individual cases –the LA should establish with the referrer: the nature of the concerns, how and why they have arisen; what appear to be the needs of the child; what involvement they are having or have had with child/family; any information on domestic violence, mental illness, substance misuse, and/or learning disabilities. Clearer expectation of first line managers. The LA should 'ensure that practitioners responding to referrals are supported by experienced and competent first line managers' Other changes expected in this chapter which will support the wider responsibility individual agencies already have under duties within Section 11, duty to co-operate. **A key challenge for the LSCB and CTB** is how far agencies understand their duty to co-operate (Section 11 of Children Act 2004) and whether they effectively discharging those duties.
- Relationship between the CTB and the LSCB – the draft version of Working Together outlines the relationship that the two Boards are expected to have.

Work has already begun on a memorandum of understanding between the respective Boards on the role, function and responsibilities of each. This will be presented to the forthcoming Boards when full national guidance is issued.

- Also specifying that LSCB's, in exercising their functions, should keep under review the sources of referrals to local authority children's social care services and monitor the quality and action taken in response, including feedback to the person making the referral. The first report on referral sources and destination will be included within the March 2010 report.
- A new requirement for LSCBs to write an annual report which will capture an analysis of the needs of all children and young people in the area, areas for challenge and key developments. There is a specific role for Chief Executives and Leaders of Councils to ensure that they are satisfied with the safeguarding arrangements by making an assessment of the effectiveness of local governance and partnerships in place for children. The Director of Children's Services has drafted a paper on proposals for developing this area. Changes to the LSCB function requiring this as a statutory report is expected by April 2010, with first submission April 2011. Wirral LSCB will produce the first statutory report by October 2010.
- Making it clear that the Children's Trust Board has a responsibility to ensure that all their partners follow the government's Information Sharing Protocol. There has been much concern over this area of work both from the Baby Peter case and other similar cases. Much confusion has been caused by Data Protection and information sharing and there exists some local examples of agencies and individuals within agencies reluctant or refusing still to share information about children and or adults. This is a **key challenge** for the CTB who have overall responsibility for ensuring agencies understand and adhere to government guidance. Whilst local training has supported developing the understanding it needs to broaden to include adult services in mental health and in General Practice as well as drug and alcohol and social care settings.
- Serious Case Review reform – the national framework has been re-drafted and issued in December 2009. Local changes made are thus far are: independent chair from Government Office supply list is sought for each review undertaken, finance for this is about £50 an hour met from the LSCB budget; independent author is sought from same list and is approximately £50/60 per hour equating to £8-10,000 each review and met from the LSCB budget; the constitution of the SCR sub-committee and the SCR panel have been altered so that the sub-committee is not solely made up of individual agencies authors. The budget has been expanded to allow for these commitments but remains a **key challenge** for the statutory contributing agencies at a time where budgets locally are being reduced.
- SCR's in Wirral – the CF review was submitted in October 2009 and was allocated to for evaluation within Ofsted in February 2010. It was submitted to the Ofsted moderation Panel in February and as yet there has been no written feedback. The Executive Summary has not yet been published as this follows written feedback to the LSCB. A media statement on behalf of the LSCB has been prepared. A second SCR has just been agreed to be undertaken on a family of four children who were subject to court proceedings. The submission

date for this review is September 2010 (six months is the new timescale). Updates on the progress of this review will be contained within each quarterly report to the CTB.

3. Local Performance Indicators

The LSCB receive a quarterly report on key data on child protection activity which informs thresholds and service developments. This data ranges from 'front-door' activity (referral information) to allegations against staff and the outcome of these. The LSCB has responsibility to set thresholds for inter-agency child protection work and monitor agencies application and effectiveness of this. There are a number of ways this is undertaken such as through action plans for SCR, auditing of assessments and child protection plans, critical incident audits and generally section 11 self assessments. In addition core performance data informs child protection activity. Performance data will be provided at the meeting.

4. Key Challenges Recommendations

- Duty to co-operate responsibilities –agencies are clearly charged, through the Children Act regulation, to discharge safeguarding duties and as this is a relatively new requirement the CTB should have a mechanism for measuring this. The LSCB undertook an exercise of self-assessment in 2007 on this area of work and it should be repeated with CTB members to inform the extent to which agencies have implemented this.
- The issues raised about Information Sharing protocols and their application has been raised in local Serious Case Reviews and national enquiries (Baby Peter). The CTB needs to have a mechanism for auditing understanding and use of the national IS protocol. This audit would need to include adult based services such as Mental Health and General Practitioners and third sector organisations who may not be directly represented on the CTB or the LSCB. The Section 11 self assessment completed for the LSCB included a standard on IS and this could be updated and used across the CTB for this purpose. The results of these audits should be shared across the Children's Trust.
- The LSCB budget - the DCSF have not set a formula for the LSCB budget and the draft Working Together have re-stated that it should be left to local need. This is an area of challenge for the LSCB as a number of posts have been created to support the Board's functions and is not stable due to agencies competing priorities and reduction in budgets overall. The LSCB budget is not ring-fenced and further work is required to secure agencies overall commitment beyond annual funding cycles.

5. Recommendations:

1. The Children's Trust Board note the points raised in this report and facilitate any necessary developments required to ensure standards and requirements are met.

Report Author:

Caroline McKenna

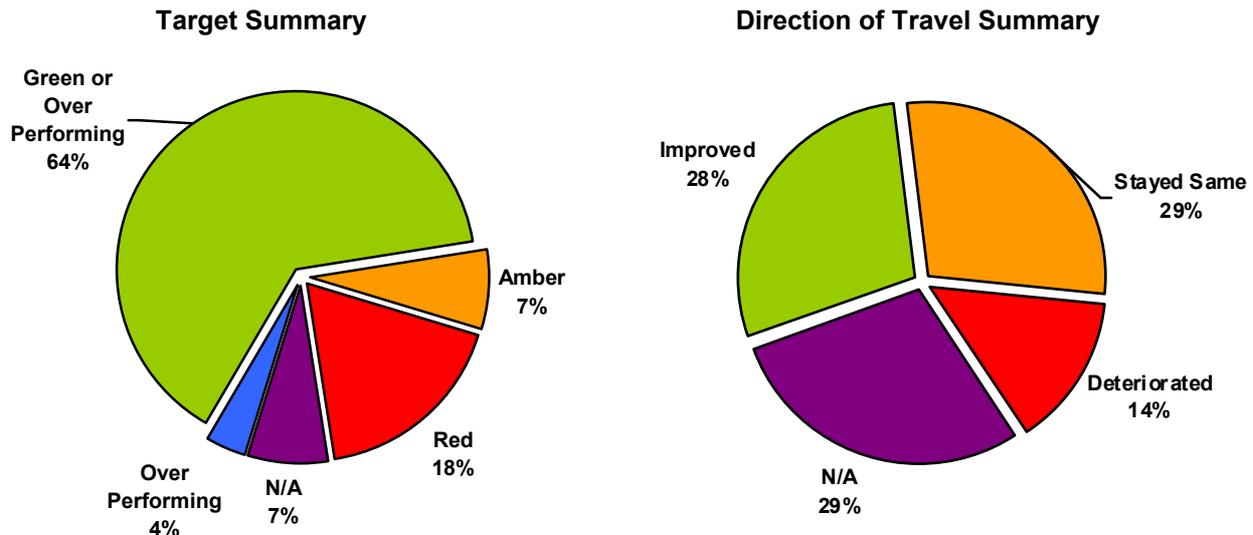
Strategic Service Manager - Safeguarding

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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 There are 28 indicators that can be reported at the third quarter period.



1.3 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.

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

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

2.1 Performance headlines for this strategic objective include:

- This years GCSE and A-level results have shown that Wirral students have, once again, performed better than ever – achieving results way above the national average. Final educational attainment results are encouraging including:
 - 53.8% of pupils achieving A* - C GCSEs
 - Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% and the rest at Early Years Foundation Stage
 - Looked after children achieving level 4 in Maths at KS2
 - Looked after children achieving 5 A*- C GCSEs
- The performance of pupils for who English is an additional language has improved consistently over the last 4 years. In addition the performance of Wirral EAL pupils (56.5%) is higher than the performance of EAL pupils nationally (47.9%).
- 100% of schools are engaged in the one to one tuition programme, a pool of tutors have been recruited to deliver this.

- Aimed at 14-19 year olds, a brand new way of learning is underway in Wirral with the introduction of eight new diploma lines in September 2009.
- Due to the success of the 117 new apprentice positions created in local companies, 22% of which were taken up by previously NEET young people, funding for 50 additional places has been agreed.
- 86.7% of children adopted have been placed within 12 months of the decision being made.
- Targets exceeded at quarter three for the stability of placements of looked after children.
- Partnership funding has been secured for the Local Safeguarding Children Board. A new business manager is in post and a new independent chair has been recruited.
- Teenage conception rates for Wirral are showing a steady decline. This is against the national and regional trend. Wirral is one of two areas included in a Government Office national press statement as an area demonstrating significant improvement.
- The Teenage Pregnancy Media campaign was launched on September 14, 2009 and was repeated in December 2009 for a further month.

2.2 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 Higher Education 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 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.

The following projects have been assessed as **amber** (not all milestones that should have been met at this point have been met):

- 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.

2.3 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 Q3 Target	2009/2010 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children’s Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 45	Young offender's engagement in suitable education, training and employment.	90%	84.8% (P)	Amber	Unchanged
Context: This NI has risen from 82.6% in Q2 to 84.8% in Q3. Over all Wirral figures compare well against both National (73.9%) and North West (73.3%) performance.						
Corrective action: Discussions are scheduled with two new Education, Training and Employment (ETE) providers to scope the provision of a new service to Wirral. This is subject to the securing of LSC funding and will increase opportunities for young people to access ETE if successful.						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q3 Target	2009/2010 Q3 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.	72%	62.6% (P)	Red	N/A

Context: This NI has risen from 57.5% in Q2 to 62.6% in Q3; this is against a backdrop of sustained inflated referrals to Children's Social Care compared to the same period in the previous year.

Corrective action: High numbers of referrals to Social Care have continued this year. A number of new social workers have been in place since October and interviewing for the new Social Care structure is ongoing, the majority of posts are expected to be filled by March 2010. The continued impact of an increased numbers of social workers and the embedding of the new structure is expected to increase the numbers of initial assessments carried out within 7 days by the end of March. New guidance which supports data input into ICS has been issued. However, it is expected that the year end target of 72% will not be reached.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q3 Target	2009/2010 Q3 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	70%	61.1% (P)	Red	N/A

Context: This NI has risen from 55.9% in Q2 to 61.1% in Q3; this is against a backdrop of sustained inflated referrals to Children's Social Care compared to the same period in the previous year.

Corrective action: High numbers of referrals to Social Care have continued this year. A number of new social workers have been in place since October and interviewing for the new Social Care structure is ongoing, the majority of posts are expected to be filled by March 2010. The continued impact of an increased numbers of social workers and the embedding of the new structure is expected to increase the numbers of core assessments completed within 35 days by the end of March. Timeliness of core assessment completion continues to be a focus of action through fortnightly Contact, Referral & Assessment meetings, underpinned by Team plans. However, it is expected that the target of 80% will not be reached.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q3 Target	2009/2010 Q3 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%	64.7% (P)	Red	N/A

Context: This NI has risen from 60.9% in Q2 to 64.7% in Q3; this is against a backdrop of sustained inflated referrals to Children's Social Care compared to the same period in the previous year.

Corrective action: Single Central Advice and Duty Team (CADT) Manager is now in post to provide increased consistency, in addition, increased Area Team Leader capacity will commence from February 2010 to increase support for agencies undertaking Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Team around the Child (TAC) meetings. Partnership work is ongoing to clarify domestic violence referrals, improved guidance in place at CADT. A number of new social workers have been in place since October and interviewing for the new Social Care structure is ongoing, the majority of posts are expected to be filled by March 2010. Further action in progress includes, embedding multi-agency teams, ongoing scrutiny by LSCB of consistent threshold application and consistent Social Care decision making and timely data input. The continued impact of an increased numbers of social workers and the embedding of the new structure is expected to increase this figure further by the end of March. However, it is expected that the year end outturn will fall short of the year end target of 72%.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q3 Target	2009/2010 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	86%	81.6% (A)	Amber	N/A

Context:

Corrective action: There were a number of schools who sent English scripts back for remarking. School Improvement Teams have analysed the attainment data both at LA, school and subject level. In particular they analysed data especially where results had been markedly different from school predictions. Through this the teams identified schools where there was evidence of underperformance and targeted them for detailed monitoring, challenge, intervention and support. There was targeting of intensive consultant support to schools, to ensure there was accelerated progress in English and mathematics. English and mathematics teams have projects and training plans for next academic year to target schools.

There is ongoing National Strategies training that schools are engaging with. School Improvement Partners (SIPs) discussed with head teachers reasons for underperformance and what corrective actions are needed at a school level. SIPs and Consultants in our Intensive Support Programme (ISP) schools held discussions with Head Teachers and Senior Leadership Teams about progress in Year 4 to ascertain the percentage of pupils on track with to achieve one level of progress at KS2, and planned action to support those children that are not on track is being undertaken.

In particular there was a focus on identifying children on track for L4+ in either English or maths but not both and again action has been planned. Where there are specific concerns, schools have been placed into our ISP or, in rare cases have been identified as a School Causing Concern.

The monitoring conversation between the school and the SIP has been used to inform LA support; this has also been reported to the school's governing body.

Effective Pupil Progress meetings were key for the Head Teacher to challenge underperformance with staff and these were part of the ISP. Two key programmes, Assessing Pupil Progress and Assessment for Learning, were undertaken during the autumn term and helped ensure accurate levelling, improved moderation and secure tracking of pupils.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q3 Target	2009/2010 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	Lower=Better	-15.8% (A)	Red	Improved

Context: There is no quarter 3 target for this indicator however it is included for information due to current predictions indicating that the year end target of -39% will not be achieved.

Teenage conception rates for Wirral are showing a steady decline. This is against the national and regional trend. Current performance (Oct 2007- Sept 2008) is 42.6 compared with 47.2 in 2007. Continued commitment by partners is required to implement the initiatives within the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan to deliver this challenging target.

Corrective action: All sections of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan are being progressed. New Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Coordinator in post from 7th December 2009 to drive forward Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan following temporary cover this vacancy. Teenage Pregnancy Media campaign was launched on September 14, 2009 and was repeated in December 2009 for a further month. First phase of Health Services in Schools were launched in the first 12 schools from November 2009 with further schools to follow by the end of March 2010.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2009/2010 Q3 Target	2009/2010 Q3 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)	7.1% Lower=Better	8.71% (A)	Red	Unchanged

Context: Employment Education and Training (EET) and "In Learning" rates continue to improve for young people in Wirral and during November there were 90 leavers from NEET who moved into EET destinations. In terms of NEET churn, the leavers exceeded joiners by 11 young people. This is not necessarily the case across the Greater Merseyside (GM) region. In conclusion NEET rates are continuing to decrease in Wirral in a relatively consistent manner across the area. Of the 16 -18 year old NEET cohort, 48.7% are 18 year olds. This is a trend reflected across the GM region but in Wirral this figure has shown a decrease within the last two months and could be linked to the successful pilot of developing joint working practices between Core Personal Advisors and Adult Next Step Advisers in Bebington.

Innovative approaches are being developed to ensure maximum coverage and the close working relationships that exist with Job Centre Plus are enhancing this. A clear strategy is now in place for supporting 18 and 19 year olds which is beginning to have an impact on the contact rates and tracking in order to be able to best support this cohort. Integrated operational and performance management processes have been agreed to maximise the provision and opportunities available. In comparison to last year there has been a general increase in those young people who are NEET and appear in one or more vulnerable groups, with the exception of Care Leavers. For this group: 47.5% of 19 year olds are in EET, compared to 33.8% November 2008. The general trend follows with vulnerable groups to that of the overall cohort, whereby the highest percentage is 18 year olds.

Corrective action: The Wirral Apprentice programme is continuing to have a positive impact on opportunities for young people. Many of our NEET young people tell us that they want a job and this programme has been able to offer positive choices for young people and some really interesting opportunities from an apprenticeship in Rainwater Harvesting, through to Dairy Farming and Jewellery Design! We now have Cabinet approval for 50 further apprenticeships and the Wirral model is being promoted as an exemplar by North West Employers Organisation (NWEO) to Local Government Association (LGA) groups. Continued improvement in the reduction of those young people not known to Connexions in Wirral means that accuracy of tracking data is enabling earlier interventions and case loading to be put in place and a more rapid response to identification of need. December performance for this was 2.94% (only 349 young people). Inevitably this will have an impact on the NEET figure.

2.4 Projects

Project/Activity	Status	Corrective Action
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.	AMBER	Single Central Advice and Duty Team (CADT) Manager is now in post to provide increased consistency, in addition, increased Area Team Leader capacity will commence from February 2010 to increase support for agencies undertaking Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Team around the Child (TAC) meetings. Partnership work is ongoing to clarify domestic violence referrals, improved guidance in place at CADT. A number of new social workers have been in place since October and interviewing for the new Social Care structure is ongoing, the majority of posts are expected to be filled by March 2010. Further action in progress includes, embedding multiagency teams, ongoing scrutiny by LSCB of consistent threshold application and consistent Social Care decision making and timely data input.

2.5 Risks

Progress is being made with the transfer of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) duties to the LA. Timescales have been agreed for the transition of staff. A cross cutting group has been established to oversee these arrangements.

In quarter three, phase two of the academies project was at risk due to sponsorship and school selection issues. This has since been mitigated with a refreshed report to cabinet on 14th January and progress is being made with a revised replacement Academy for Park High and Rock Ferry.

3.0 Recommendations:

3.1 That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

Report Author:

Nancy Clarkson
Head of Planning and Performance

Contact:

Phone: 6664329
Email: nancyclarkson@wirral.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Performance Indicator Summary

Performance Indicator Summary

Direction of Travel Summary

% PIs	No. of PIs	
28.57%	8	Improved by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance
25.00%	7	Deteriorated by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance
28.57%	8	Stayed within +/-2.5% of previous year's performance
0.00%	0	Awaiting data
17.86%	5	Not applicable
100.00%	28	(Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places)

Target Summary

% PIs	No. of PIs	
64.29%	18	Green (within +10/-5% of the target)
7.14%	2	Amber (missed target by between 5% and 10%)
17.86%	5	Red (missed target by more than 10%)
3.57%	1	Over-performing (more than 10% of the target)
0.00%	0	Awaiting data
7.14%	2	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	Quarter 3 Target	Quarter 3 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 43	Young people within the YJS receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	5% (Lower is Better)	5.1% (P)	Green	↔
NI 45	Young offender's engagement in suitable education, training and employment.	90%	84.8% (P)	Amber	↔
NI 46	Young offenders access to suitable accommodation	100%	96.8% (P)	Green	↔
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services	16	16 (A)	Green	↔
NI 53	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth	29.9%	29% (E)	Green	↑
NI 55	Obesity in primary school age children in Reception	9.37% (Lower is Better)	9.6% (E)	Green	n/a
NI 56	Obesity in primary school age children in Year 6	20.4% (Lower is Better)	20.6% (E)	Green	n/a
NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral.	72%	62.6% (P)	Red	↓
NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	70%	61.1% (P)	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%	86.7% (P)	Green	↑

PI No.	Title	Quarter 3 Target	Quarter 3 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	10% (Lower is Better)	9.6% (P)	Green	↑
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	70%	72.1% (P)	Green	↑
NI 64	Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	2% (Lower is Better)	2.1% (P)	Green	↓
NI 65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.	17% (Lower is Better)	17.7% (P)	Green	↓
NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.	97%	95.3% (P)	Green	↔
NI 67	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	100%	95.6% (P)	Green	↓
NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	72%	64.7% (P)	Red	↑
NI 70	Reduce emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people	97.4 (Lower is Better)	84.4 (E)	Over Performing	↑
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	77%	74% (A)	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%	99% (A)	Green	↑
NI 112	Under 18 conception rate	Annual (Lower is Better)	-15.8% (A)	Red	↑
NI 113	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds	Annual (Lower is Better)	18.5% (E)	n/a	↓
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	7.1% (Lower is Better)	8.71% (A)	Red	↔
LOCAL 1400	Number of looked after children	(Lower is Better)	615 (P)	n/a	↔
LOCAL 1401	Percentage of referrals progressed to CIN assessment (NI 68 proxy)	72%	70% (E)	Green	↔

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 19th March 2010

LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2009/10 - QUARTER 3

1.0 Background

Wirral's Local Area Agreement (LAA) is monitored by the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). Wirral Children's Trust represents the Children's Block of the LSP and is responsible for the delivery of LAA targets related to children and young people. Quarterly reports related to the LAA targets are presented to the Board for scrutiny.

This report provides an update on progress towards targets, in addition information is provided to supply context to the indicators and to highlight any issues with reporting.

2.0 Recommendations:

2.1 That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

Report Author:

Tracy Little
Principle Officer Performance

Contact:

Phone: 6664412
Email: tracylittle@wirral.gov.uk

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Local Area Agreement 2009/10 Quarter 3 Position – December 2009

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Local Area Agreement 2009/10 Quarter 3 Position: December 2009

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Reward Grant Targets

Safely Reduce the Numbers of Looked After Children

Safely reducing the number of looked after children, (LAC) is a key priority for all partners delivering services to children across Wirral. The cost of supporting so many children within the system is high. By reducing the numbers in care it is anticipated that resources can be used to increase family support and early intervention. Children who are LAC do not achieve as well academically as those that are not LAC.

Partners are committed to using the Child Concern Model to enable early identification of children experiencing problems. When this model is operating fully, Social Care staff will focus on prevention and support of families before they get into difficulties and the disruption caused by taking a child into care. Inevitably some cases are severe and, where a child is at risk, care proceedings will be implemented.

This priority also appears the Children and Young People's Plan and has been identified as an area for improvement by OfSTED and GONW.

Indicators used to measure this outcome include:

NI 68 – Percentage of referrals progressing to an initial assessment
Local 1400 – Numbers of Looked After children (NON- REWARD)

Data Collection Interval and Issues:

Data is available on a monthly basis for both these indicators. Annual the information is collected by the DCSF via statutory data returns, the CPR3 and the SSDA 903. This annual collection will form the official year end figure.

NI 68: Percentage of referrals progressing to initial assessment

This indicator seeks to establish whether appropriate thresholds are being used in the cases of children who are in need and whether their needs are being properly assessed. A high percentage of referrals leading to initial assessments may indicate good inter-agency understanding of thresholds for social care services. A low percentage of referrals leading to initial assessments may indicate a lack of understanding for social care services, perhaps due to poor inter-agency understanding or application of thresholds.

The introduction of CAF may affect this indicator as there may be a change in the patterns of referrals between agencies. Significant variation in council's figure from the SN average figure should prompt further investigation. Consideration should be given to the relationship between the processing of referrals and initial & core assessment timescales.

Historical Performance

Previously performance in this area has been volatile, with large variations from year to year.

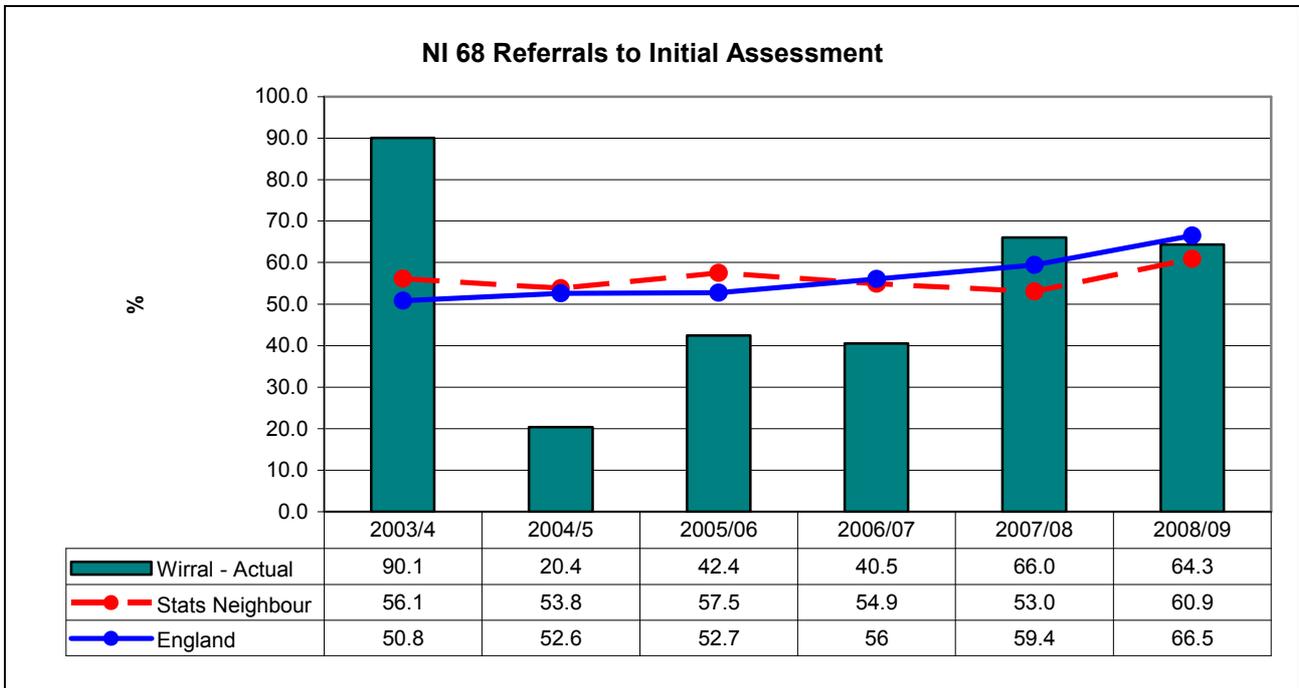


Chart 1: Historical comparator data source: OfSTED

Current Position and Targets

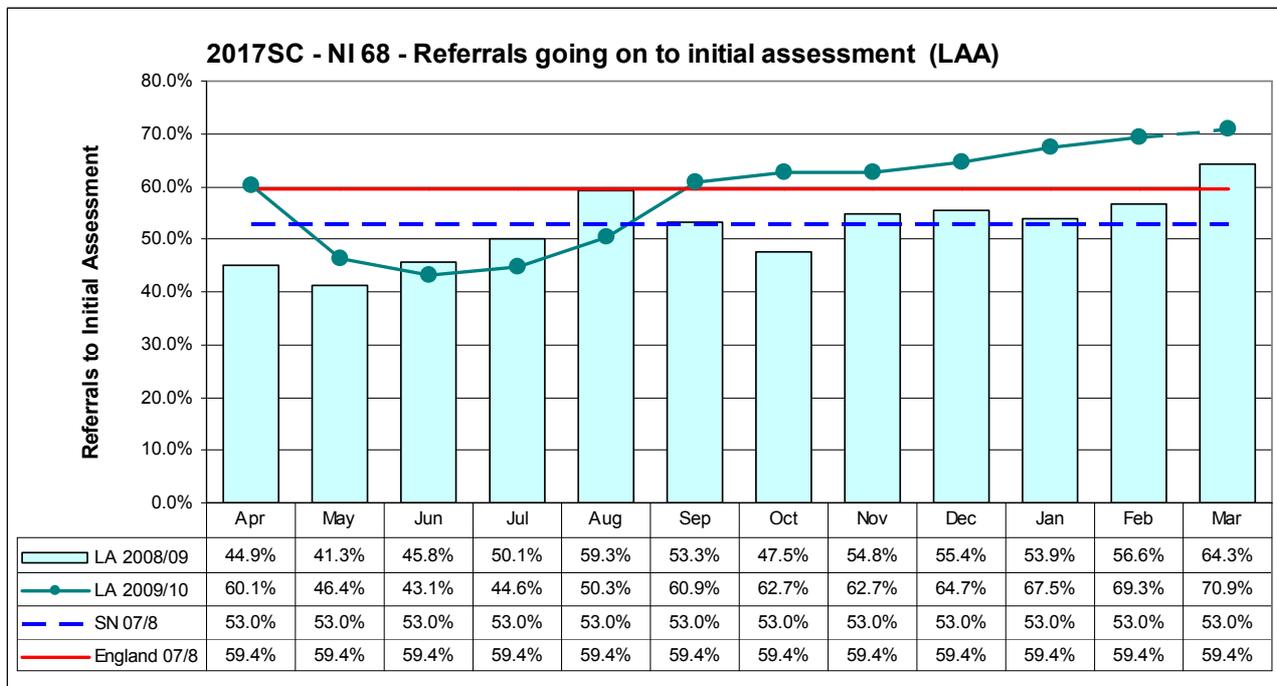


Chart 2: Data source ICS and DCSF

Latest figures as at 28th February 2010 show that 3185 referrals have been recorded as received by social care teams. Along side this 2207 initial assessments have been completed. This gives a current rate of 69.3%, a significant increase from the previous quarter figure. This reflects an increase of 18% in referrals and a 44% increase in the number of initial assessments completed from the same period in 2009.

Single Central Advice and Duty Team (CADT) Manager is now in post to provide increased consistency, in addition, increased Area Team Leader capacity will commence from February 2010 to increase support for agencies undertaking Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Team around the Child (TAC) meetings. Partnership work is ongoing to clarify domestic violence referrals, improved guidance in place at CADT. A number of new social workers have been in place since October and interviewing for the new Social Care structure is ongoing, the majority of posts are expected to be filled by March 2010. Further action in progress includes, embedding multi-agency teams, ongoing scrutiny by LSCB of consistent threshold application and consistent Social Care decision making and timely data input. The continued impact of an increased numbers of social workers and the embedding of the new structure is expected to increase this figure further by the end of March. However, it is expected that the year end outturn will fall just short of the year end target of 72%.

Reduction in the Numbers of Young People NEET

Significant progress has been made in reducing the numbers of 16 -18 year olds who are not in employment, education or training. Although higher than average numbers of young people continue in learning after year 11, the proportion of young people NEET is above similar councils. More recently the recession has seen an increase in the number of young people who are leaving employment, particularly with no qualifications up to Level 2.

The number of young people NEET is higher than at 16 and there is still much work to be done to remove barriers to participation in learning or employment, particularly for the vulnerable groups of young people i.e. those who are looked after, those with learning disabilities and difficulties, those with substance misuse issues, teenage parents and young offenders.

In response to consultation young people expressed views regarding the information that they needed if they were to make a successful transition to the labour market. Concerns about finance were significant in relation to fees, benefits, EMA and how to avoid getting into debt. The ability to become financially independent and have the means to access suitable housing was also a worry; these concerns have been addressed in the improvement strategy.

This priority also appears the Children and Young People's Plan and has been identified as an area for improvement by OfSTED and GONW.

Indicators used to measure this outcome include:

NI 117: Percentage of 16 – 18 year olds not in education, employment or training

Data Collection Interval and Issues:

Data is available on a monthly basis for this indicator; it is collated by the Connexions service. Quarterly data is submitted by the Connexions service to the DCSF. The annual figure is calculated using the November, December and January average. This methodology has been introduced and is the second such change since the LAA targets were initially agreed with GONW.

NI 117: Percentage of 16 – 18 year olds not in education, employment or training

Historical Performance

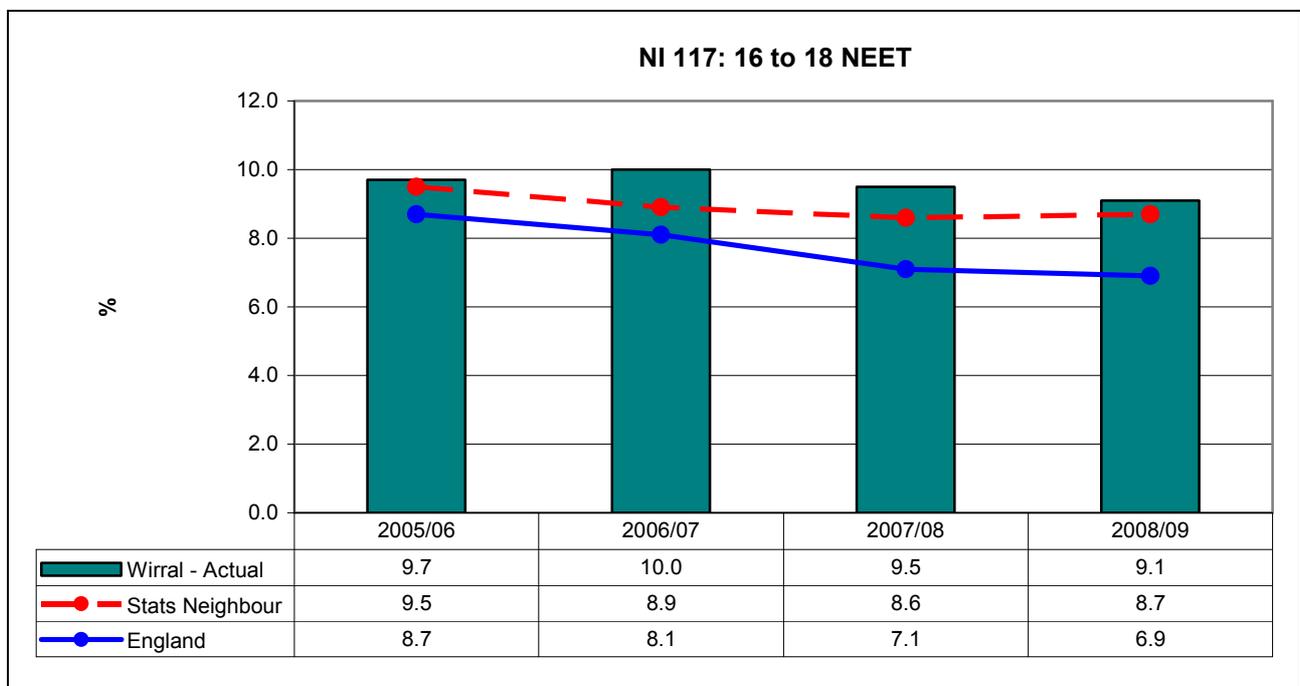


Chart 3: Historical data source - OfSTED and DSCF

Current Position and Targets

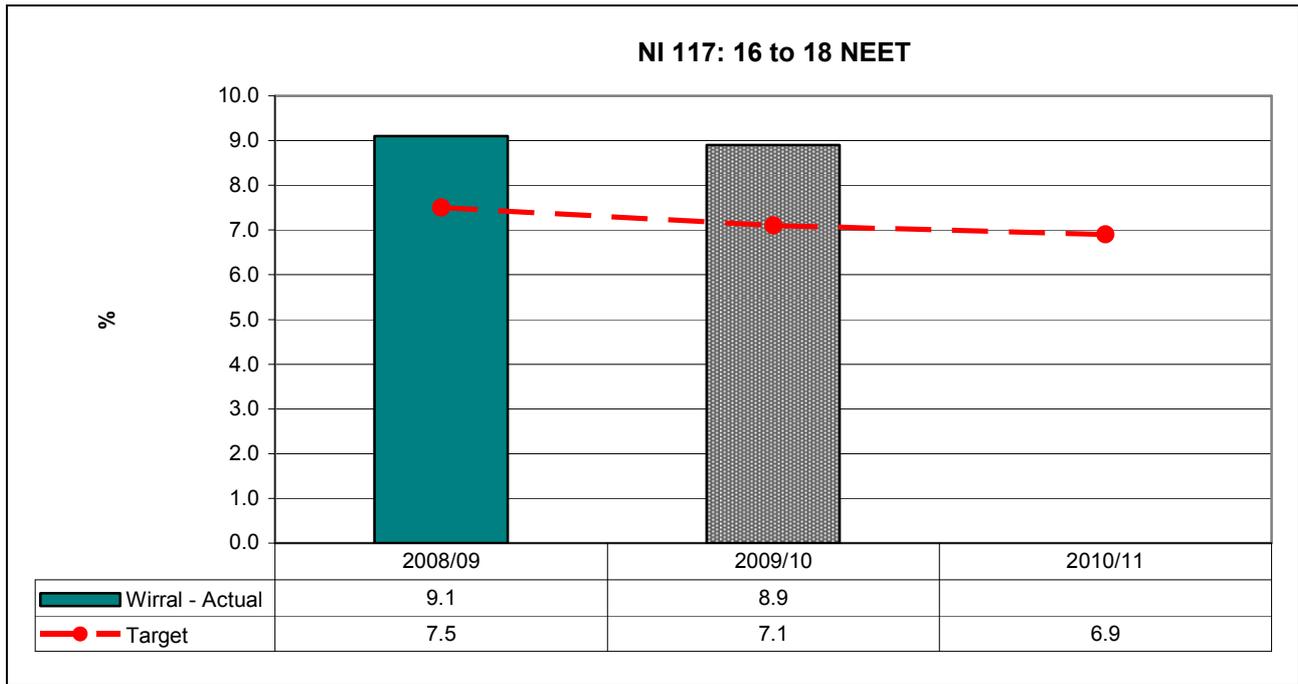


Chart 4: Performance against target

Employment, Education and Training and In Learning rates continue to improve for young people in Wirral and during November there were 90 leavers from NEET who moved into EET destinations. In terms of NEET 'churn', the leavers exceeded joiners by 11 young people. This is not necessarily the case across the Greater Merseyside (GM) region. In conclusion NEET rates are continuing to decrease in Wirral in a relatively consistent manner across the area.

Of the 16-18yr NEET cohort, 48.7% are 18 year olds. This is a trend reflected across GM region but in Wirral this figure has shown a decrease towards the end of 2009 and could be linked to:

- Following its' successful pilot in Bebington, Wirral is making excellent progress in terms of developing joint working practices between Core PAs and Adult Next Step Advisers. Innovative approaches are being developed to ensure maximum coverage and the close working relationships that exist with Job Centre Plus are enhancing this.
- A clear strategy is now in place for supporting 18 and 19 year olds which is beginning to have an impact on the contact rates and tracking in order to be able to best support this cohort. Integrated operational and performance management processes have been agreed to maximise the provision and opportunities available. In comparison to last year there has been a general increase in those young people who are NEET and appear in one or more vulnerable groups, with the exception of Care Leavers. For this group: 47.5% of 19 year olds are in EET, compared to 33.8% November 2008. The general trend follows with vulnerable groups to that of the overall cohort, whereby the highest percentage is 18 year olds.
- The Wirral Apprentice programme is continuing to have a positive impact on opportunities for young people. Many of our NEET young people tell us that

they 'want a 'job' and this programme has been able to offer positive choices for young people and some really interesting opportunities from an apprenticeship in Rainwater Harvesting, through to Dairy Farming through to Jewellery Design! We now have Cabinet approval for 50 further apprenticeships and the Wirral model is being promoted as an exemplar by NWEO to LGA groups. Continued improvement in the reduction of those young people not known to Connexions in Wirral means that accuracy of tracking data is enabling earlier interventions and case loading to be put in place and a more rapid response to identification of need. December 2009 performance for this was 2.94% (only 349 young people). Inevitably this will have an impact on the NEET figure.

- 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.

Reduction in the number of Teenage Conceptions

Reducing teenage pregnancy is a key strategic objective for partners. Young parenthood remains an acceptable lifestyle choice in the most deprived wards where there is a lack of economic opportunity and a high number of young people are disengaged from education or employment. Wards with a high level of deprivation persistently exhibit rates that are near to or twice the national average. Young women in these wards are more likely to get pregnant and continue with their pregnancy. However, it is also important to note that terminations occurring in more affluent wards of West Wirral are also contributing to the over conception rate. This priority also appears the Children and Young People's Plan and has been identified as an area for improvement by OfSTED and GONW.

Indicators used to measure this outcome include:

NI 112: % Change in rate of teenage conceptions since baseline

Data Collection Interval and Issues:

Data is collected from a number of sources and published annually by the ONS. As conception can result in either, a termination or a live birth, a full set of conceptions figures are not available until five months after gestation period. This means a fourteen month lag from time of conception until the national data is made available by the ONS. Data is also supplied on a quarterly basis, subject to the same delay.

Local data is also captured on a more regular basis. This data is very sensitive both in its nature and the small number of cases involved on a monthly basis. It is used locally with caution as this data often differs from that provided by the ONS.

Rates per 1,000 of the target population are supplied by the ONS along side the NI 112 measure the % change from baseline. Baseline was taken in 1998; the rate at this time for Wirral was 50.6 per 1,000. Government target is to half the rate of teenage conceptions by 50% by 2010. Because of the lag in reporting data it is expected that this data will not be available until February 2012.

NI 112: % Change in teenage conceptions since baseline

Historical Performance

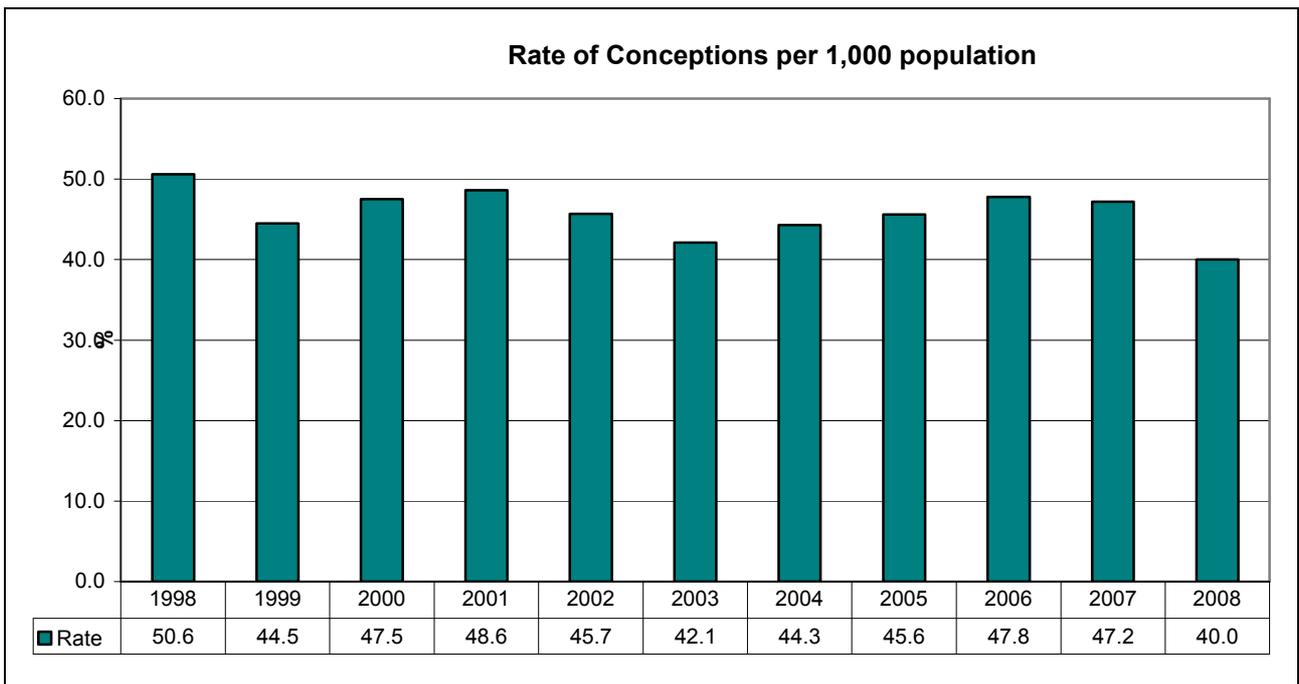


Chart 5: Historical data source - ONS

Current Position and Targets

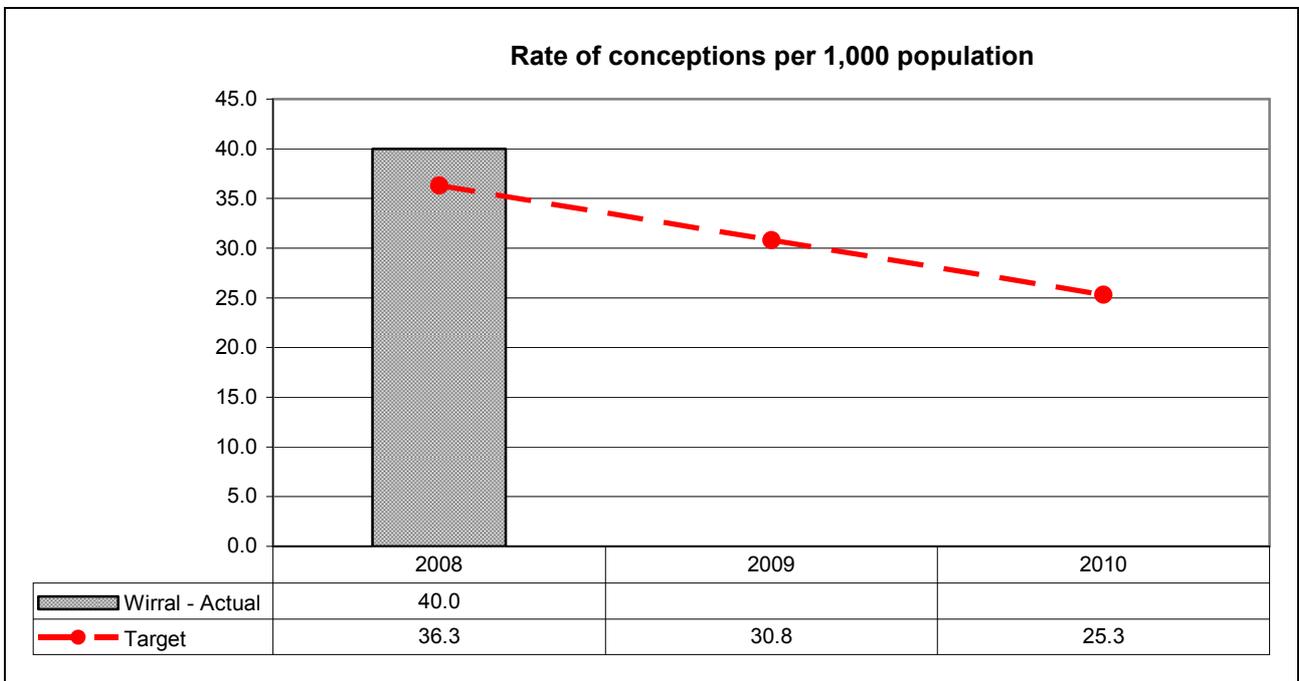


Chart 6: Data for 2008 Provisional (Source: <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG0020/>)

Reduction in the number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System

The rate of first-time entrants (FTE's) to the youth justice system per 100,000, where first-time entrants are defined as young people (aged 10-17) who receive their first substantive outcome (relating to a reprimand, a final warning with or without an intervention, or a court disposal.) National levels of FTE's have been falling over the last few years. There has been a local bucking of this trend and FTE's have been increasing.

Indicators used to measure this outcome include:

NI 111: Rate of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System

Data Collection Interval and Issues:

Historically data was submitted to the Youth Justice Board for the local Youth Offending Service local data system. This process was changed with the introduction of the new National Indicator in April 2008 and the counting process is now based on the data that is held by the Police National Computer, PNC. There was an initial delay in the recalculation of the data from the PNC and the final figures were released in late 2008.

The PNC figures were much higher than the local figures that had been submitted, on average for the three years, 29% higher.

Data for 2008/9 is due for release in November 2009, it is anticipated after this data that information will be released on a quarterly basis. Local data is still being collected and submitted and for forecasting purposes national figures are estimated using the average percentage increase.

NI 111: Rate of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System

Historical Performance

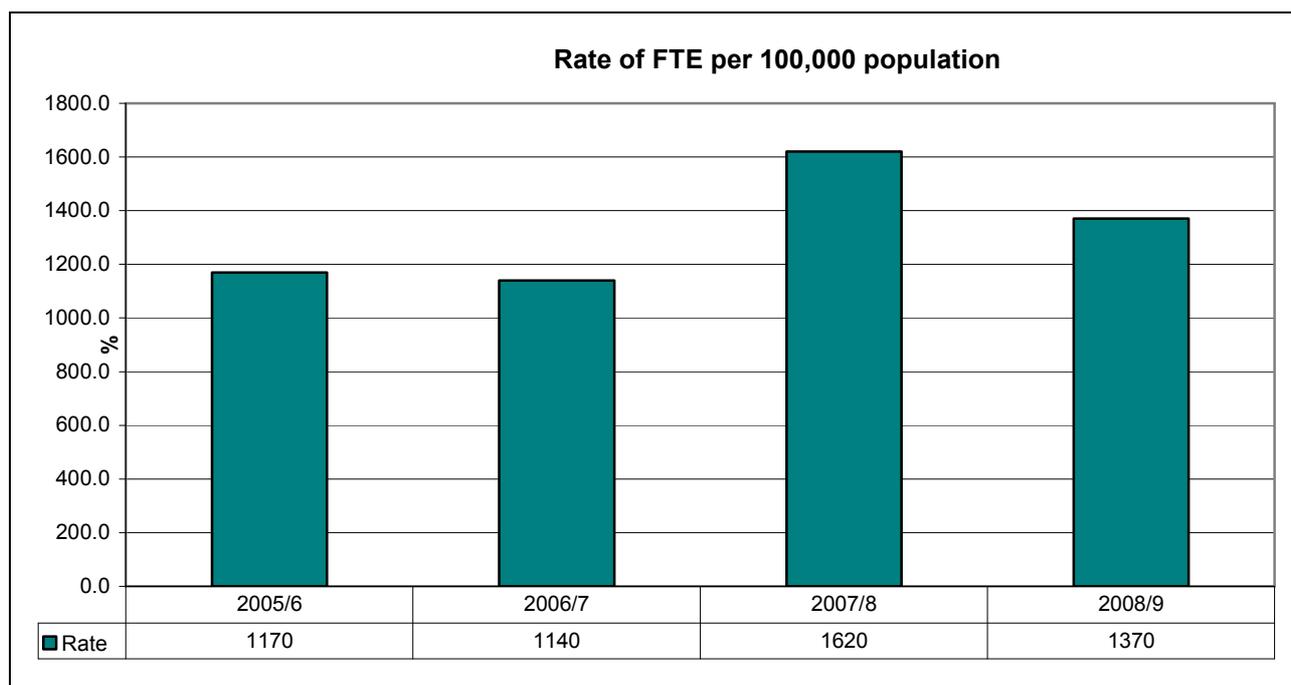


Chart 7: Data Source DSCF

Current Position and Targets

There are no targets set for 2008/9 performance. This is a targeted indicator for 2009/10 and 2010/11. Targets were set in March 2009 before data was released in September 2009. The move to use of police data rather than Youth Justice Board data meant that the figures were lower than expected, the targets have already been met. In addition there is a declining cohort (10-17 year olds).

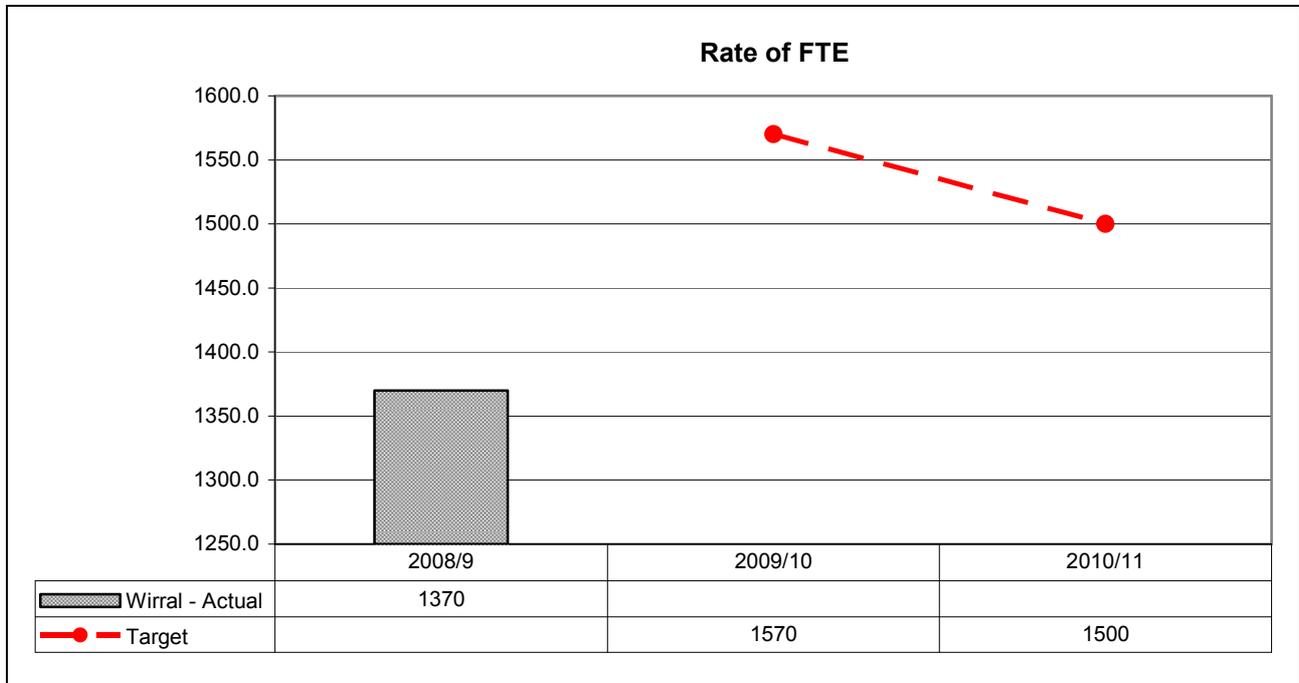


Chart 8: Estimated current position against targets.

The recent addition of Restorative Justice to the options of disposals for young offenders should help reduce the numbers of first time offenders entering the justice system.

Reduction in the number of incidence of Childhood Obesity

Being an obese child often means that obesity will continue into adulthood and be a contributing factor to many health risks.

Indicators used to measure this outcome include:

NI 55: Obesity in Reception age Children

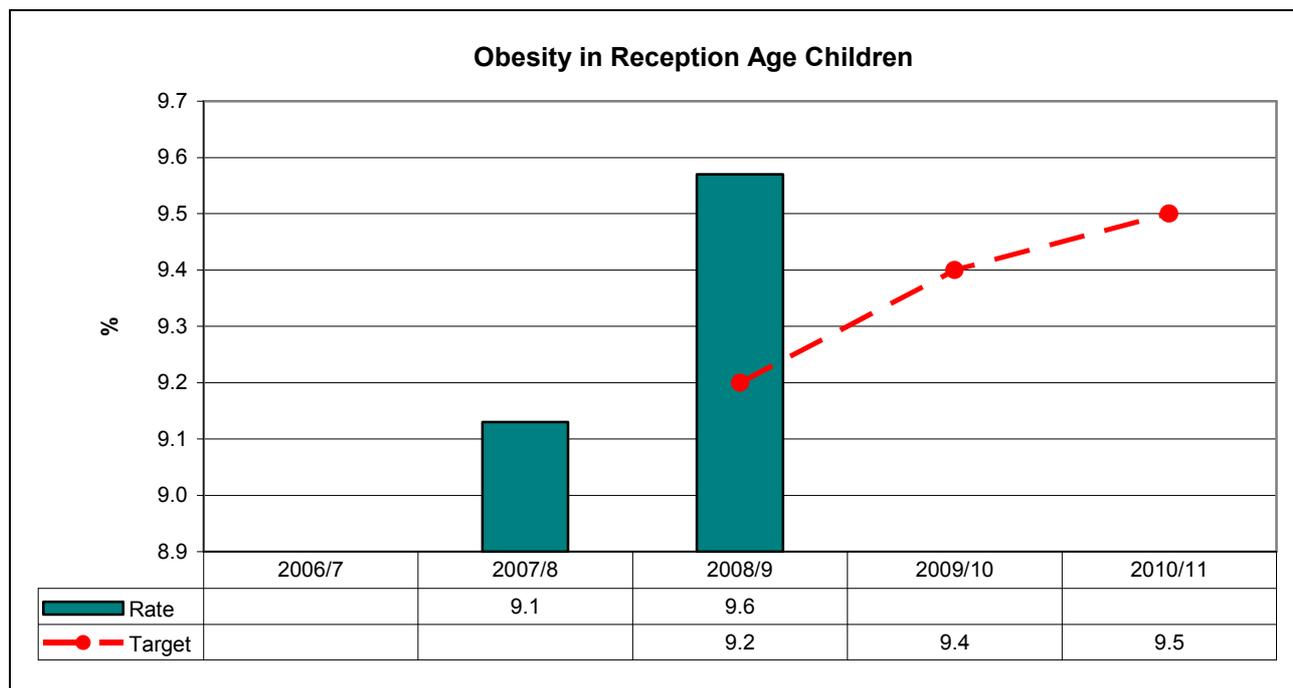
Data Collection Interval and Issues:

Data is collected each academic year through the National Child Measurement programme which takes place annually for children in both reception year and year six.

Although the aim is reduce childhood obesity, it increasing at a strong rate. This means that targets, though increasing over the LAA period, are actually a reduction in the rate that would be expected without action. It is aiming to slow down the rate of obesity before it can actually be reduced.

NI 55: Obesity in Reception age Children

Historical Performance



Current Position and Targets

Awaiting data for 2009/10.

Non - Reward Grant Targets

Safely Reduce the Numbers of Looked After Children

Indicators used to measure this outcome include:

NI 68 – Percentage of referrals progressing to an initial assessment (REWARD)

Local 1400 – Numbers of Looked After children

Data Collection Interval and Issues:

Data is available on a monthly basis for both these indicators. Annually the information is collected by the DCSF via statutory data returns, the CPR3 and the SSDA 903. This annual collection will form the official year end figure.

Local Indicator 1400: Number of Children Looked After

This indicator gives an actual count of the number of children that are in care to the Local Authority at a given time.

Historical Performance

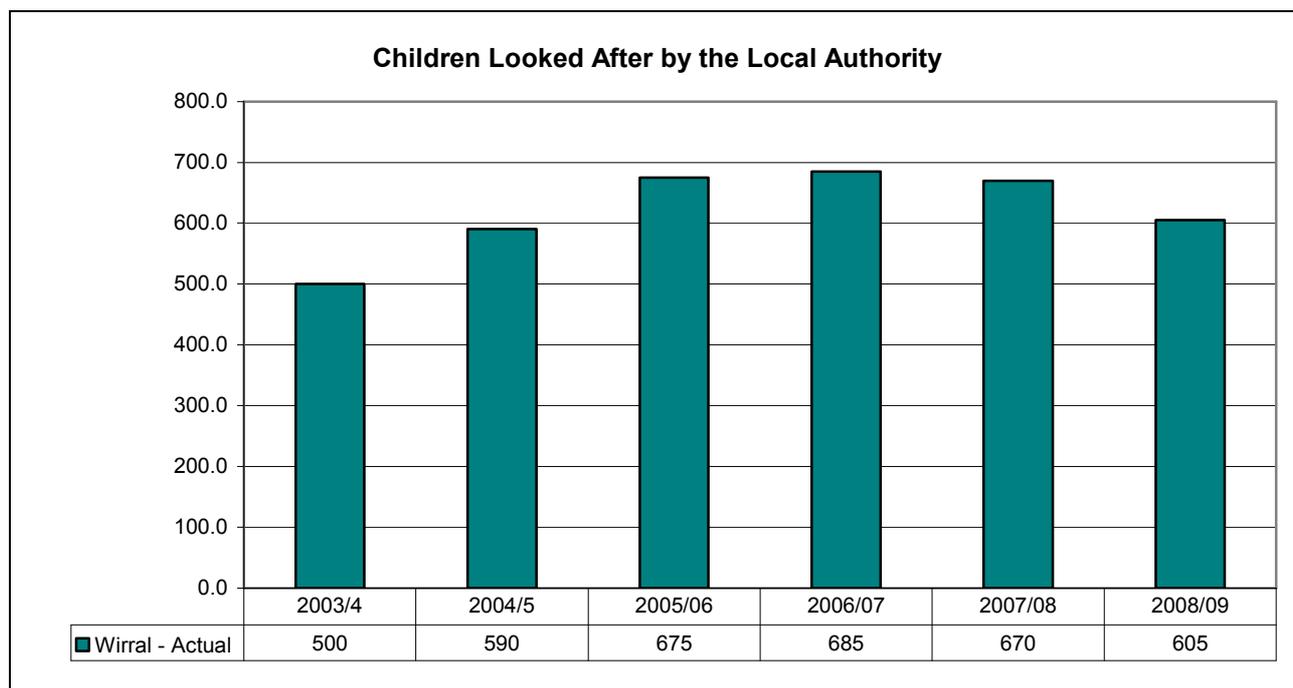


Chart 9: Historical Data Source DCSF via 903 publications

A significant number of children became looked after during 2003/4 and again in 2004/5. This remained relatively static for the three preceding years. Significant work has been undertaken to reduce the numbers of children looked after and this can be seen with a significant reduction in 2008/9 to 605 children. This missed the first year of LAA targets by 15 children. Since the start of 2009/10 a slight increase has been seen in numbers and currently, (September 2009) 618 are in care to the LA.

Targets and Current Position

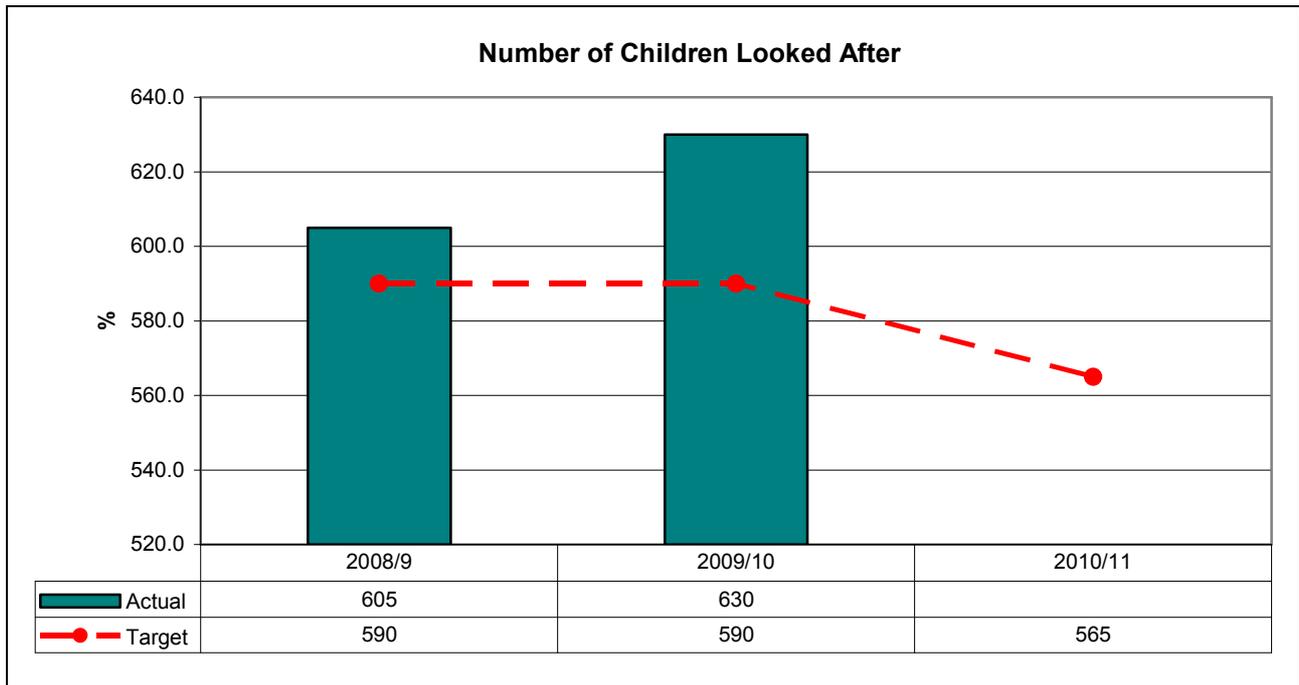


Chart 10: 2009/10 data shows latest position (February 2010) of 630 LAC

Increase Young Peoples Participation in Positive Activities

Indicators used to measure this outcome include:

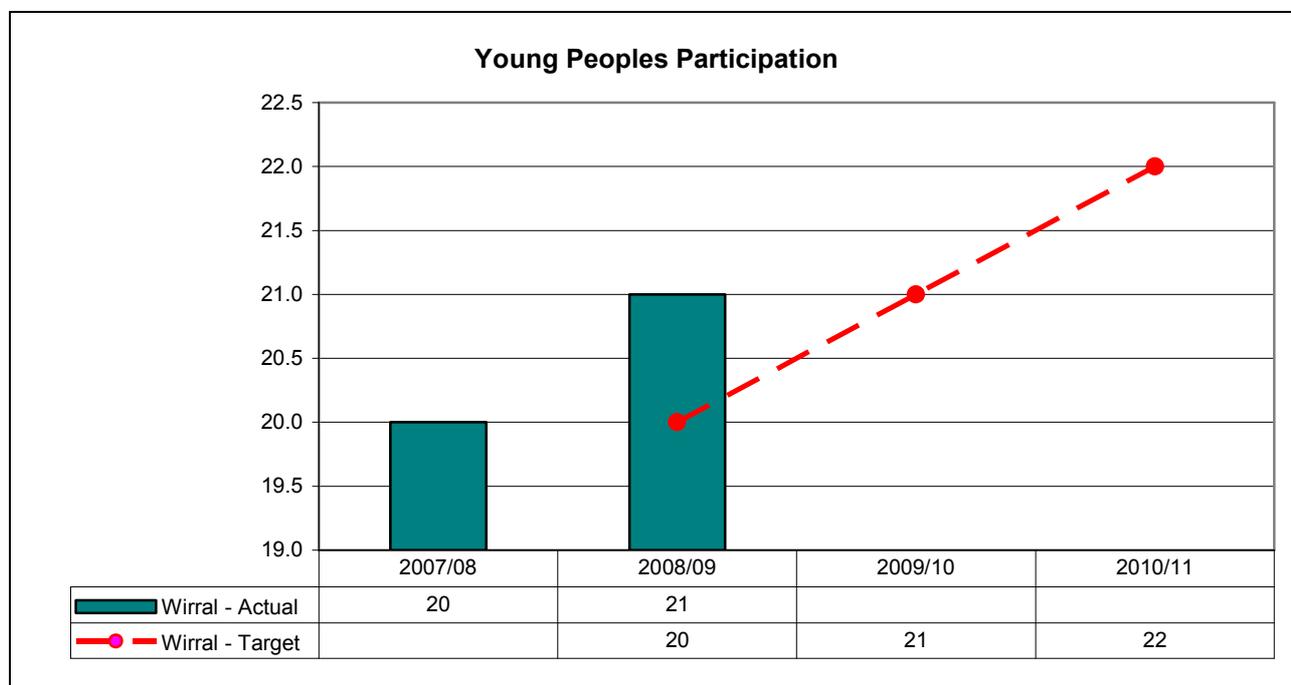
Local 1700 –Young peoples participation in activities

Data Collection Interval and Issues:

Data is available on an annual basis from the Youth Service. As a new electronic system becomes fully operational during the year it is expected that this will make data available on a more frequent basis.

Local 1700 –Young peoples participation in activities

Historical Performance and Targets



Statutory Targets

Statutory targets not included in the reward scheme.

NI	New National Indicators	LAA Improvement	
		2009/10 Target	2009/10 Actual
72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	56.0%	52.0% (A)
73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	77.0%	74.0% (A)
75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	55.2%	53.8% (A)
87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	6.4%	
92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	30.2%	31.3% (A)
93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	86.0%	81.6% (P)
94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	79.0%	77.8% (P)
99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	44.0%	60% (P)
100	Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	44.0%	52% (P)
101	Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	7.4%	7.3% (P)

THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2008-2013 ANNUAL REPORT

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is a statutory document developed by the Local Authority and its partners (Section 17 of the Children Act 2004). It is an overarching strategic plan for all organisations providing services for the children and young people of Wirral. The CYPP must be reviewed each year.
- 1.2 In April 2008 Wirral published its three year CYPP 2008-2011. The plan covers all the services for children and young people in the Borough and brings together all the strategic and operational plans to improve their lives and enable them to achieve their potential. It covers every aspect of children and young people's lives from before birth to their 19th birthday and beyond that if they have a disability or have been in care.
- 1.3 The CYPP annual review was carried out by multi-agency strategic groups linked to the five Every Child Matters Outcomes. The groups consist of representatives from all agencies working with children and young people in Wirral. In addition, consultation was carried out with a range of children and young people. A range of information and performance data was reviewed and through needs analysis identified emerging areas for focusing activity around priority areas.
- 1.4 The annual report is both a review of progress in the second year of the CYPP (2009/10) and an opportunity to refresh the priorities in order to be responsive to national and local change. The report is produced in two sections. Part 1 is an overview report and Part 2 is a detailed delivery plan outlining progress in year one and how refreshed priorities for the next two years will be delivered.
- 1.5 The progress of the implementation of the action plan will be monitored by Wirral Children's Trust Executive and the activities will be actioned by the strategy groups.

2. Background Papers

- 11.1 Children and Young People's Plan Year 1 Annual Report – Part 1 Overview
- 11.2 Children and Young People's Plan Year 1 Annual Report – Part 2 Delivery Plan

3. Recommendations

- 1) That the Board endorse the Children and Young People's Plan Annual Review.

Report Author:

Nancy Clarkson
Head of Planning and Performance

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wirral children and young people's plan 2008 – 2011

2009 -10 annual report - part 1 overview DRAFT



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vision for children and young people

Children and young people are society's future and with them rest our hopes and aspirations. Supporting their interests and welfare is paramount. Our most important principle is that we will secure an active partnership of parents, carers and services, working together to deliver the best outcomes for all our children and young people and thus enabling them to fulfil their potential.

Our vision is

“To enable Wirral’s children, young people and families to access services quickly in order to be secure, healthy, have fun and achieve their full potential.”

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Councillor Phil Davies
Lead Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning
Chair of Wirral Children's Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P.L. Davies".



Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services
Children and Young People's Department

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Cooper".

introduction

In April 2008 Wirral published its three year Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) 2008 - 2011, an overarching strategic plan for all organisations providing services for the children and young people of Wirral.

The plan covers all the services for children and young people in the Borough and brings together all the strategic and operational plans we have to improve their lives and enable them to achieve their potential. It covers every aspect of children and young people's lives from before birth to their 19th birthday and beyond that if they have a disability or have been in care.

Wirral is home to almost 78, 000 children and young people aged 0-19. Wirral is a good place to grow up and most children and young people will fulfil the aspirations that we and their parents and carers have for them. However there are disparities in Wirral related to economic and social well being and some children and young people experience real disadvantage and hardship. Figure 1 illustrates some of the differences in outcomes for children and young people living in different Wirral districts.

Wirral Children's Trust aims to make sure that all children are safe, healthy, enjoy life, can achieve to their full potential and are prepared for adult life and work. Thorough needs assessment ensures the work of partners is focused on those areas that are the most urgent to address, and we continue to take every opportunity

to work with disadvantaged children and to find ways to improve their life chances.

Through our multi-agency strategic groups all agencies working with children and young people in Wirral have contributed to this review. The views of service users contribute to a continuous assessment of our services. Consultation with a range of children and young people has been carried out to find out their views on our success in achieving our aims and what should be our priority areas for the future. We have reviewed our information and performance data and through needs analysis identified emerging areas for focusing activity around our priority areas.

We have been working hard to make progress in achieving the targets we set out in our plan to deliver continuous improvement for our children, young people and families. We are now reaching the final year of our plan and although much has been achieved we know that there are areas that require more work. However through strong partnership working we can rise to the challenges presented.

This Annual Report is both a review of our progress in the second year of our CYPP 2009/10 and an opportunity to refresh the final year priorities in order to be responsive to national and local change. This document is Part 1 of our Annual Report. If you would like to find out more about our progress in year two and how we will deliver our refreshed priorities for the next year detailed information is published in Part 2 of this Annual Report.

Figure 1: A Snapshot of Wirral

Wirral West

Population of children 0 – 17 **16624**
 % Key Stage 2 L4+ inc Eng & Ma **82.4**
 % 5+ GCSEs at A*-C inc Eng & Ma **66.5**
 Permanent School Exclusions per 10,000 **2**
 % Eligible for Free School Meals **12.3**
 Pregnancies in under 18s per 10,000 **23**
 Children In Need per 10,000 **280**
 Children with Protection plan per 10,000 **35**
 Children in care per 10,000 **28**
 % NEET **4**

Wallasey

Population of children 0 – 17 **19924**
 % Key Stage 2 L4+ inc Eng & Ma **71.6**
 % 5+ GCSEs at A*-C inc Eng & Ma **46.8**
 Permanent School Exclusions per 10,000 **4**
 % Eligible for Free School Meals **28.4**
 Pregnancies in under 18s per 10,000 **36**
 Children In Need per 10,000 **604**
 Children with Protection plan per 10,000 **54**
 Children in care per 10,000 **80**
 % NEET **10.2**

Birkenhead

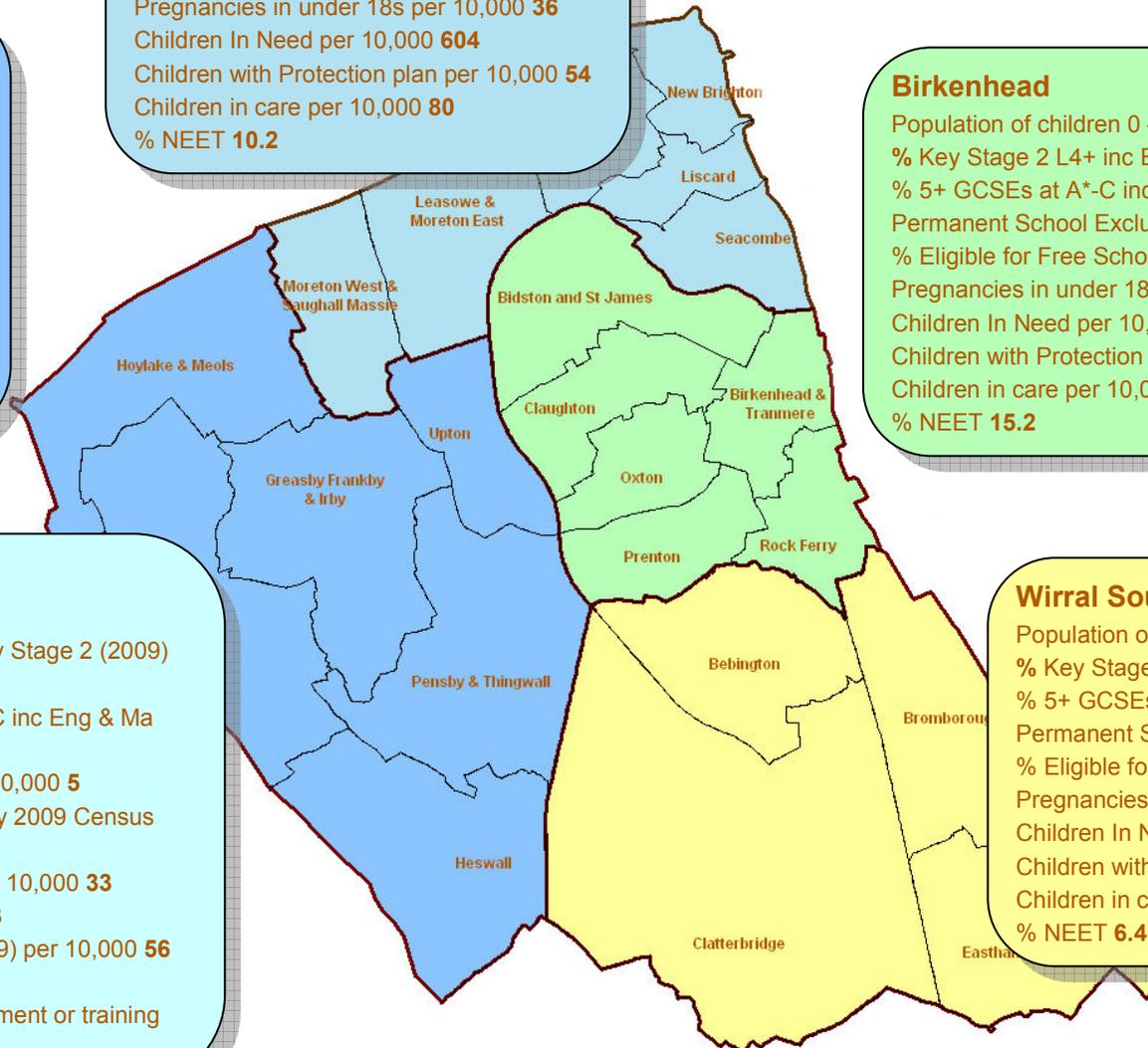
Population of children 0 – 17 **19784**
 % Key Stage 2 L4+ inc Eng & Ma **67.7**
 % 5+ GCSEs at A*-C inc Eng & Ma **44.3**
 Permanent School Exclusions per 10,000 **9**
 % Eligible for Free School Meals **38.6**
 Pregnancies in under 18s per 10,000 **49**
 Children In Need per 10,000 **985**
 Children with Protection plan per 10,000 **96**
 Children in care per 10,000 **173**
 % NEET **15.2**

Wirral

Population of children 0 – 17 (2007) **68305**
 % of pupils attaining L4+ inc Eng & Ma at Key Stage 2 (2009) in schools maintained by Wirral **74**
 % of pupils attaining 5+ GCSEs at grade A*-C inc Eng & Ma (2009) in schools maintained by Wirral **53.8**
 Permanent school exclusions (2007/08) per 10,000 **5**
 % Eligible for Free school meals from January 2009 Census (excluding part time pupils) **24.9**
 Pregnancies in under 18 year olds (2007) per 10,000 **33**
 Children In Need (2008/2009) per 10,000 **583**
 Children with a Child Protection Plan (2008/09) per 10,000 **56**
 Children in care (2008/09) per 10,000 **91**
 % 16-18 Years olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) (Dec 2009) **8.7**

Wirral South

Population of children 0 – 17 **11973**
 % Key Stage 2 L4+ inc Eng & Ma **77.5**
 % 5+ GCSEs at A*-C inc Eng & Ma **60**
 Permanent School Exclusions per 10,000 **7**
 % Eligible for Free School Meals **14.7**
 Pregnancies in under 18s per 10,000 **18**
 Children In Need per 10,000 **307**
 Children with Protection plan per 10,000 **22**
 Children in care per 10,000 **35**
 % NEET **6.4**



children's services

Wirral Children's Services are delivered by a number of agencies working together through a shared vision and values. We organise our work around children and young people; what they say, where they are and what they need. We value every child equally and strive for positive outcomes for all of them.

Children's Services is governed by the following principles as described in the 2008 - 2011 CYPP:

- Every child matters
- Keeping our children safe through effective safeguarding
- Improving outcomes for children, young people and their families
- Organising around children and young people
- Operating across the partnership as a single integrated Children's Service
- Continuing to build on excellent partnership working
- Integrated strategy and governance
- Integrated delivery and processes
- Equal value and common standards
- Fitness for purpose utilising new approaches and technology to improve our efficiency and service
- Responsibility and accountability.

Safeguarding

Protecting our children and young people from harm is a key priority for the whole partnership and is led by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB). The LSCB has a clear vision that places safeguarding at the centre of the Children's Trust's overall commitment to supporting children and the families it serves. The Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services have clear roles and responsibilities as champions for children, young people and their families. The Director reports directly to the Council Chief Executive.

The board promotes high standards in safeguarding work across the partnership and has the responsibility to hold organisations to account to ensure these standards are met. The LSCB Business Plan is integrated with the Children and Young People's Plan through the work of the Staying Safe Strategy Group.

Key areas of work completed in 2009/10 included:

- A Child Death Overview Panel rapid response procedure is embedded in partnership processes. The first Annual Report on child deaths has been published.
- Strengthening prevention by learning lessons from Serious Case Reviews (SCR) and Critical Incidents. In 2009/10 two SCRs were undertaken, one being graded as 'adequate' the other is awaiting grading following submission in October.
- Wirral LSCB was invited to be part of a regional pilot to develop Serious Case Review development with SCIE. The work of Wirral LSCB will inform national developments on improved framework and practice within the SCIE model.
- The development of an Esafety sub-committee to develop the national toolkit for agencies to enhance personal safety of children.

- Development of a public health promotion video and literature to raise local awareness of two key themes: safer sleep and 'everyone's responsibility to protect'.
- Merseyside LSCBs in collaboration with Health and Police undertook a regional audit of 66 children's cases to review compliance with Working Together. A local conference produced an action plan for improvements in practice monitored by a regional Governance Group.
- Revised local procedures on children running away from home or care and monitoring the progress through the commissioned work of Barnardos.
- Refreshed local guidance on allegations management in light of a national consultation.
- Increased partner contribution to the LSCB budget has allowed the establishment of an LSCB Manager, a LADO and an Interim Common Assessment Framework (CAF) officer. The LSCB has appointed an interim independent chair.

Key areas for development in 2010/11 include:

- Learning further from SCR's and embedding improvements from the SCIE pilot.
- Support to schools to comply with the new Ofsted safeguarding framework through a series of training sessions.
- Development of a local tracking tool for Team Around the Child (TAC) including multi-agency quality assurance.
- Implementation of the action plan developed from a referral procedures appraisal.
- Development of a revised training plan for GP's following action from a SCR which will alter contracts and make child protection training compulsory.

integration of services

Wirral's Children's Trust supports Lord Laming's view that:
"I am in no doubt that effective support for children and families cannot be achieved by a single agency acting alone. It depends on agencies working together. It is a multi-disciplinary task."

In order to be responsive to local need Wirral has organised services linked to district and areas with the development of area teams. Co-location of the services of different partners is in development across Wirral within this area design. Provision of a range of services in one place will provide benefits including positive outcomes for service users, enhanced processes of professionals working together and synergy of service delivery leading to greater efficiency and effectiveness. Learning from the successful co-location pilot, the Well Lane Area Team, is being utilised in the development plan. During 2010/11 there are firm plans to expand the number of colocated Area Teams in both Primary School and Children Centre Settings. Agreement has been reached for Teams to be Co-located in Seacombe Children's Centre, New Brighton Children's Centre, Eastway Primary School and Pensby Children's Centre. Additional Area Team bases are in development in the Birkenhead, Woodchurch and Eastham areas of Wirral.

A good start in life is essential if children are to fulfil their potential and provision of integrated high quality early years provision and family support services is a priority for Wirral. By 2011, 16 centres, 3 satellite centres and various outreach points with footprints based on the areas of need will be developed ensuring all parents and carers with children under 5 years old can access integrated services that are responsive to local need. To ensure consistent development of provision across the borough 'Wirral's Children First' Strategic Board ensures sharing of good practice and

coherent policies across the centres. The co-location project will amplify the effectiveness of the centres through the extension of their offering.

The extended services agenda through schools is also being developed. By the end of 2009/2010 all schools now meet the full core offer offering extended services for the children, families and communities they serve, the highest in the region. Every school will, through the full core offer, provide access to childcare, parenting support, health and other services determined by local need.

In 2009/10 an ambitious re-organisation of Integrated Youth Support (IYS) provision was undertaken. This integrated existing central services such as the youth service, the anti-social behaviour team, and the Youth Offending Service. In addition Connexions Services were commissioned across the City Region. The development of the IYS Strategy in Wirral is a significant opportunity for the Children's Trust to maximise value for money in service delivery. During 2010/11 benefits will be realised from the re-structure such as more effective outreach services available to the community supporting young people and families to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug use. In addition each District will have a Youth Hub open for extended hours including Friday and Saturday nights. Each Hub will offer a broad Youth Curriculum and have a responsibility for co-ordinating Youth Activity in the District.

Effective workforce development underpins our integrated approach. We lead the Greater Merseyside Learn Together Partnership in developing innovative training in multi-disciplinary working with local universities. In 2009/10 Wirral Children's Workforce Strategy was agreed by the Children's Trust and a

programme of workforce development and integrated working for staff of all Wirral Children's Trust partners has commenced. Our aim is that by the end of 2010/11 there will be a comprehensive and

common programme or induction and leadership/management development designed to ensure that all will have the skills and specialist knowledge relevant to their professional practice.

integrated processes

All partners agree that the implementation of integrated processes is crucial to address unmet needs and help children access the right services earlier.

Wirral's Integrated Processes for children with additional needs have been in place since February 2005. In April 2009 Wirral's Team around the Child (TAC) was formally incorporated into the Integrated Working Guidance, replacing the Child Concern Model. By March 2009 over 600 practitioners from a variety of disciplines had been trained to use the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and to undertake the role of the Lead Professional. Development of the Lead Professional role across the partnership is working to reduce overlap and inconsistency in the services received by children and families. The Lead Professional acts as single point of contact for the child or family and co-ordinates the delivery of agreed actions. Robust and effective processes are now in place to collect, monitor and quality assure CAF activity across the partnership. Feedback on the use of the framework is that CAF and the TAC process helps practitioners to understand and respond to the needs of the child and their family and allows a preventative approach through early identification of additional needs.

ContactPoint aims to make services better for children and young people by providing practitioners who work with them a quick way to find out who else is working with the same child. This means they won't waste time trying to find out this simple information, or doing work already being done by other services, as a result professionals can spend more time working with and helping children and young people. In September 2009 the Children and Young People's

Department met all the required standards to become accredited in the use of ContactPoint. The first practitioner successfully completed their training and was given access to the live system in December 2009. All other agencies working with children and young people are involved in aligning their existing procedures with those required by ContactPoint. This will enable them to become accredited partners, access training and become users of the live system during the first quarter of 2010. 2010/2011 will see the connection of local case management systems to ContactPoint, this will mean that local data will be seen alongside the national data already in the live system, thus further increasing the effectiveness of ContactPoint

Joint commissioning of services is underpinned by a clear understanding of local needs. All planning and commissioning decision making is informed by needs analysis, prevention priorities and performance and risk analysis. To further develop commissioning in Wirral in 2010/11 a new commissioning strategy will be developed with the Children's Trust Board and embedded across the partnership.

In 2009/10 the structure and governance of the Children's Trust and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board was reviewed in light of Government guidance. In 2010/11 the new arrangements will strengthen our partnership working and to provide an effective and transparent framework and clarity of roles and responsibilities to sustain and improve outcomes for all our children and young people.

resources

This plan identifies the priorities for improving the lives of children and young people in Wirral and provides a clear focus for all who work in this field. The partnership continues to work towards greater budget co-ordination and wherever possible supplement resources through bidding opportunities. Effective value for money and efficient use of resources is a key activity for the Wirral partnership in order to effectively deliver our priorities and create better outcomes for children and young people.

[Finance information in development.](#)

performance management

Multi-agency strategy groups have been established to deal with each Every Child Matters outcome area. All CYPP priorities are owned by the multi-agency strategy groups and are performance managed by the Children's Trust Executive. The Council performance management system PIMS can be accessed by partner organisations to regularly update information and to facilitate streamlined reporting.

Performance on outcomes is reported quarterly to the Children's Trust Board. The Board's role is to support practitioners in delivering outstanding performance and to challenge underperformance. Wherever the information suggests that action needs to be taken to ensure progress is maintained against our priorities the Children's Trust Board will see that this is done.

In addition to the CYPP there are many detailed plans and projects underlying the CYPP priorities. The Children's Trust Board can focus special attention and debate on a specific theme or area. The board will analyse the relevant data presented and where

appropriate make recommendations or facilitate activity related to that work area.

Robust monitoring arrangements are also place to report against the LAA priorities to the Children's Trust Board and the Local Strategic Partnership Board. The LSP will ensure that we are held to account as a partnership and that the support of all partners is available to achieve the progress we have agreed to be necessary.

Performance is also reported on a quarterly basis to Wirral Council Cabinet. One of the five strategic objectives in the Council's Corporate Plan is "to help children and young people achieve their full potential". The Director of Children's Services reports to each meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee where quarterly performance management is reported.

Our progress against the priorities in this plan will also be challenged by our regulators through the Comprehensive Area Assessment including Ofsted, and by the Government Office for the North West through the strategic engagement cycle.

equality and diversity

Wirral Children's Trust has a commitment to ensuring that in relation to the equalities agenda any barriers to services are removed and diversity is supported. A comprehensive equality impact assessment was carried out in 2009 involving all partners and young people representing the different equality strands. The assessment highlighted the positive and negative impacts of each plan priority for each of the six strands of the equality standard of: race, disability, gender, sexuality, age and religion.

The resulting equality action plan has enabled children's services in Wirral to highlight the ongoing work that is undertaken on equality and diversity as well providing a focus on some areas of equality that need addressing. Over the last year there has been considerable achievement in many areas to promote equality of opportunity and to remove barriers to services. Some highlights are as follows:

- Encouraging the engagement of father and grandfathers in Children's Centres and Extended Schools through specifically targeted work and creating more male friendly environments.
- Developing more services for back and racial minority families with a new drop-in group and employing two new bilingual project officers.

- Improvements to the voice of young people from a variety of communities being heard through the Children in Care Council, the 'You're Welcome' health commissioning process and general assessments of needs for specific groups.
- Shifting the emphasis to 'achieving a healthy weight and lifestyle' campaign rather than the 'overweight and obesity'.
- New services being developed for disabled children, young people and families such as short breaks through the 'Aiming High for Disabled Children'.
- Targeted interventions to ensure there is access to employment, education and training for young people leaving care, young offenders and young parents.
- An increase focus on monitoring access to services and outcomes for the equality groups.

The implementation of the equalities action plan is monitored by Wirral Children's Trust Executive and the activities will be actioned by the ECM five outcome areas strategy groups. An annual report on progress on equality and diversity and the full equality impact assessment can be retrieved from Wirral Council Children's Trust website.

five every child matters outcome areas being healthy

In 2009/10 all Wirral schools engaged in the National Healthy Schools Programme with 100% of schools having achieved National Healthy School Status. Being active is an excellent way to maintain a healthy lifestyle and we have invested in the development of a range of play opportunities across the borough. We have encouraged schools to offer high quality PE and sport and 71% of schools have achieved two hours of high quality PE per week.

We know our children and young people are concerned about obesity and we are closely monitoring the implementation of our Child Obesity Action Plan and have commissioned an external evaluation of our children's weight management service to help inform service delivery and development. National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) data for 2008/09 suggests that we have maintained the level of obesity in reception year (9.6%) but that our obesity levels for year 6 have risen from 19.1% to 20.6%. However, participation in the measurement programme increased from 83.1% to 88.2% for this year group. This area is seen as a priority for us as reflected by the reception year group targets being included in our Local Area Agreement (LAA).

Wirral Young Persons Alcohol Intervention Project is a multi-agency approach to reduce the number of alcohol-related admissions to hospital for underage drinkers. Hospital admissions for alcohol for age 0-17years reduced by 10.6 % between 2007/08 and 2008/09 with 144.70 per 100,000 young people requiring admission during 2008/09 and further reduced by 1.67% (month 7 2009/10) to 142.29 per 100,000 young people during 2009/10.

The Young Peoples Substance Misuse commissioning process has been revised to integrate the new Alcohol Strategy to ensure more efficient and effective delivery of services and further preventative investment has funded several research projects to ensure effective delivery of key outcomes in a refreshed and combined Substance Misuse and Alcohol Plan.

Being healthy covers both physical and mental health and Wirral Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) has built on its Beacon status and offers a comprehensive access to advice and support through strong partnership arrangements. A range of initiatives have been developed to work with schools to promote children's emotional well-being.

We are working with young people to ensure they have access to the kind of sexual health and relationship advice they want and have implemented the first phase of our health services in schools programme across twelve schools as one measure to reduce teenage conceptions across Wirral. We have commissioned an external evaluation of this programme to influence service developments. This high priority area is reflected by the setting of challenging targets to reduce teenage pregnancy in our LAA. Current data reflects a significant decrease in teenage conceptions rates from 47.2 per 1000 young women in 2007 to 40.0 per 1000 young women in 2008. However we recognise that we still have some way to go to achieve the national target.

In 2010/11 we will further develop the range of health services available for communities with a particular focus on our local Children's Centres and early year's settings.

staying safe

In 2009 Wirral Council made a significant investment to strengthen services for children and ensure sustainability to assess and meet needs effectively; changes were made in the following areas:

- Integrated preventative services;
- Increased social work capacity;
- Systems support;
- Management and supervision of practice;
- Safeguarding, quality and review;
- Workforce development.

In 2009 the 11 Virtual Area Teams were transformed into a permanent new structure. Following review, 4 areas with greatest social stress now have a full time Area Team Leader. Each Area Team has the new post of Information Sharing Co-ordinator, to ensure robust systems are in place to monitor Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Team Around the Child (TAC) activity in each Area, and provide support to agencies in undertaking work with children with additional needs. The delivery of co-located Area Teams in easily accessible locations is supported by the award of a co-location grant.

Eleven new social worker posts have been established. An additional Senior Practitioner will support the delivery of Special Guardianship and post adoption support. To support the more effective roll out of the Integrated Children's System, a Project Manager and 4 Data Officers have been recruited. This will positively impact on electronic recording which support the delivery of best social work practice.

Management oversight has been developed including reflective supervision to better retain experienced social work practitioners in our front line social work teams. Eight new Principal Team

Managers will drive performance management to ensure we deliver excellent outcomes for children, continuous improvements in practice and ensure good workload management systems are embedded. Our Team Manager posts have been being re-designated to become Practice Managers, who will supervise social workers, chair critical meetings which drive children's plans, and make sure that children's needs are at the centre of all activity. An additional Care Management Team is being created, as well as placing a Practice Manager within the Call Centre to oversee all incoming work. Our Senior Practitioners have become Advanced Social Work Practitioners, promoting best practice within each Team, working alongside newly qualified social workers, and co-ordinating student placement activity.

Multi-agency Safeguarding children services have been strengthened. A Safeguarding Children's Board Manager has been recruited. A professional practice officer has been recruited to support the production of policies and procedures, and a new Independent Reviewing Officer role will focus on Children in Need. We are putting in place better management arrangements for Children's Involvement and Children's Complaints.

The new career pathways for social workers and managers will now be supported by a Staff Development Officer who will draw on best practice informed by the work of the Social Work Task Force and school effectiveness principles. The voices of children and young people remain central to our work. We have Area Youth Forums and a Youth Parliament to help us plan the delivery of services. The Children in Care Council drives improvement for children in care and children and young people have devised and produced DVDs (My Ideal Social Worker, My Ideal Foster Carer and My Ideal Teacher) which are a core part of staff induction and training.

enjoying and achieving

Educational standards for students of all ages in Wirral are high, they continue to improve and for most National Indicators we perform in line with or better than national and statistical neighbour figures. The quality of educational provision for the children and young people in Wirral is high as evidenced by the Ofsted profile of inspections for primary, secondary and special schools. One of our continuing issues is how to narrow the gap in performance between those children on FSM and those that are not.

Improved educational standards are dependent on many factors. One of the most important factors is the quality of leadership and management in schools and settings. There is a comprehensive and very successful programme of leadership and management development across all levels in schools. Another factor is high quality teaching and learning; schools, with support from National Strategies' professional development programmes, continue to raise standards of learning and teaching. Behaviour and attendance are addressed through a co-ordinated approach and can report an increase in attendance and a reduction in permanent exclusions in secondary schools in 2009/10. With the exception of the newly formed Academy, all schools now meet the full core offer for Extended Services. We continue to refine and develop the provision for 0-5 year olds through the Sure Start programme.

Effective progress has been made in reducing surplus places through a continued programme of reviews. Through a series of

primary school closures and amalgamations over 1700 places have been removed. Approximately £1.5 m of savings has been returned to the schools budget to be distributed to the remaining schools and a £2.62m capital receipt has been reinvested through the Council's Capital programme. In secondary, the proposals to close two schools and create a new Academy in September 2011 continue to move forward. There are proposals to federate the two Pensby High Schools. If implemented, this will reduce the number of secondary schools and make more effective use of resources which contributes towards raising standards. Our special school children and their families tell us they would like more choice particularly post 16 and plans are in development in partnership with local colleges to re-organise special school provision ensuring a focus on post 16 courses.

Wirral is an area of great disparities in wealth in particular there are high levels of poverty on the Mersey side of the peninsula and in the more affluent areas pockets of deprivation. Narrowing the gap in attainment between those affected and other children in Wirral is a high priority for us. This is particularly the case at Key Stage 4 where the gap is wider in Wirral than the national and statistical neighbour figures. We will continue to focus on reducing the achievement gap for vulnerable groups of children such as those with special educational needs and children in care.

positive contribution

The work supporting young people to make a positive contribution continues to thrive. More opportunities are made available for young people to positively make an impact on the decision making process about issues that affect them. Young people can be involved formally and informally and their contribution is invaluable.

In 2010/11 the new structure for the delivery of youth activities will be in place. Each District will have a hub which will act as the focus for the planning of positive activities for young people. Hubs will be established in the following buildings: Shaftesbury, Wallasey Fire Station, Eastham Youth Centre and West Kirby Concourse. Youth Forums (one in each district) will be re-launched in March 2010 and will be supported by district based part time participation workers. In response to requests from young people the Youth Forums will be held on a bi-monthly basis. The impact will be better facilities and activities for young people with improved locations and opening times.

Young people told us that transport is a major barrier to them being able to access positive activities. Young people from the Youth Opportunity Fund Grant panel held numerous discussions with chief Executives from the bus companies, Merseytravel, Wirral Council officers and Wirral councillors and significant progress has been made. The travel companies will visit the new youth hubs to meet with the young people to evaluate the operation of transport routes to the new activities that have been commissioned. The Chief Executives have agreed to attend the Youth Voice Conference in October 2010 and be questioned by the young people.

Commissioning has extended the range of opportunities for young people to make a positive contribution. Each district has a part time participation worker to support young people in the operation of

district youth forum meetings and to attend other adult meetings such as Area Forums.

There has been success in the Healthy Schools Programme. Wirral reached its target of 100% of schools being designated Healthy Schools. Children have been able to influence to continued roll out of the Play Strategy. They have been directly involved in the design of the Lottery funded Play Builder play areas and have influenced the training of play workers so that they are able to respond the children's fears about playing out.

Work has been undertaken with homeless young people specifically through the Stop Gap project. This provides emergency accommodation for homeless young people and then accesses them to other support programmes with a view to moving them to long term accommodation or work in mediation between the young person and carers to stop them becoming homeless.

The Children in Care Council, the development in February of bi-monthly youth forums, the Executive Youth Board, Connect-uz, the Youth Opportunity and Youth capital Fund Grant Panels, Schools Councils and Healthy Pupil Panels are tangible evidence of the range of opportunities available to young people. However, it is the numbers of young people involved in the decision making process and influencing those decisions that are proof of what has been achieved.

There is always more to do. In 2010-2011 we will focus on the allocation of the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth capital Fund, increasing young people's involvement in democracy through the Councillor Shadowing Scheme and working with public transport companies to improve access to youth activities.

social and economic wellbeing

We continue to make good progress in implementing 14-19 reform in Wirral. The new Diploma Qualifications started in September 2009. Plans are underway for Foundation learning and transition arrangements are in place with the LSC in preparation for the transfer of responsibilities in 2010. An Ofsted Inspection survey in November 2009 focussing on 14-19 Reforms, Diplomas and Functional Skills judged the effectiveness of strategic direction, leadership and management in taking forward the Diplomas and the quality of teaching and learning as good.

Effective partnerships is a strength and this has been demonstrated by the success of the 'Wirral Apprentice'. This is a programme, funded by Working Neighbourhood Fund, to support employers by fully funding 100 apprentices for 2 years, matched by a pledge of permanency from the employer. This has resulted in appointments of individuals 22% of whom were previously Not in Education Employment or Training (NEET). The programme has now received approval for funding for a further 50 apprentices.

NEET continues to be a priority but significant progress is being made. The 2009 Year 11 activity survey this year has resulted in the highest ever rates of young people into Learning (93.9%) and the lowest NEET (4.6%). The September Guarantee targets for an offer of learning for young people in Wirral were met and exceeded and current 16-18 NEET levels are lower than at the same time last year (November 2009 9.10% compared to 9.52% November 2008), despite the ongoing global recession. Wirral is an active participant in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Employment and Skills agenda and has contributed to the development of the strategy and commissioning framework, which identifies key growth areas in terms of jobs, income and volumes of activity as:

- The LCR Culture and Visitor Economy (Leisure, Travel and Tourism, Business)
- Liverpool Superport (Business, Retail and logistics manufacturing, maritime)
- The Low Carbon Economy (Science, Technology, Engineering, Energy Management, Waste and Health and Safety)
- The Knowledge Economy (Workforce Development, Health Research, Teaching, Medical, Skills increase at level 4).

The local offer for learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) has been redesigned supported via the Wirral brokerage project. The key to the success of the brokerage project is the alignment of outputs with findings of the NW Learning for People with LDD analysis. The project contributes to addressing a number of areas including: reducing the numbers of learners attending residential colleges outside of Wirral; increasing participation rates of LDD learners in Greater Merseyside; reducing NEET rates for young people with LDD. The current project also meets Wirral Borough Council's corporate priorities of employment, inclusion, a safe and sustainable environment and raising aspirations for young people.

The proportion of our young people living in low income households is 23% against the national position of 20% and within Wirral there are great disparities in wealth in different areas. Our multi-agency approach to tackling poverty has focused on a 'whole family' approach to tackling worklessness including improving outreach of children's centres to vulnerable families. In 2010/11 this will be further developed through Children's Trust involvement in the development of a Local Strategic Partnership Child Poverty needs assessment and strategy.

consultation with young people

In the preparation of the three year CYPP a consultation exercise involving children young people and families helped inform the three year priorities. For this review young people across the Wirral were asked for their views on our progress towards achieving our outcomes and what new areas should be future priorities. The consultation was held with a range of groups in different areas of the borough including: youth clubs, the Executive Youth Board, the Youth Inclusion Programme, Connect-uz and Wirral Brook participants. Over 100 young people were involved in the feedback and discussions were facilitated by youth workers.

In reviewing the priorities identified in the CYPP the young people were asked if they met their needs. 85% of the young people said yes, 3% thought they partially did and 12% said they did not. The groups were then asked why their needs were not being met and what priorities and activities should be considered in the future. The key areas in which young people defined additional priorities and activities are outlined below. In response planned actions outlined by strategic leads on how these requests will be addressed in 2010/11 are also included.

Area	Young People Defined Priorities	Young People Defined Activities	Action in 2010/11
Being Healthy	Reduce obesity in children	More access to school sports facilities.	Increase the number of children and young people participating in the Schools Sports Partnership.
		Healthy food in schools (schools should not sell sweets, pastries and cakes).	Ratification of Wirral's Healthy Food Policy to ensure schools participate. Additional package of support provided to targeted schools during the National Child Measurement Programme.
		Free gym passes for 16-19 year olds.	Over 100 free gym passes are funded through the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Connexions; we will explore the potential to fund more.
		More sporting activities.	Support schools with the implementation of statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education (scheduled September 2011).
	Sexual health services	Better teaching of sex and relationships including information on sexuality transmitted infections.	Support schools in the implementation of the revised DCSF Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) guidance and include information and advice relating to healthy relationships.

Area	Young People Defined Priorities	Young People Defined Activities	Action in 2010/11
		<p>Relationship workshops.</p> <p>More sexual health services in different areas.</p>	<p>Continue to promote the PSHE Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for teachers, teaching assistants, nurses and youth workers.</p> <p>Health Services in Schools to include Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) advice and screening to be extended to all participating Secondary Schools and Youth Hubs during school holiday periods.</p>
Staying Safe	<p>Staying safe at school including reducing bullying</p> <p>Improved relationships between the police and young people</p>	<p>Develop links with charities to help victims of bullying.</p> <p>Activities with schools should promote staying safe.</p> <p>More visible policing. More supervision by police in parks.</p> <p>Reduce anti-social behaviour. Better reviews of anti-social behaviour Section 30 dispersal orders.</p>	<p>Actively promote and celebrate the work of Bully Busters in schools. Re-publicise the helpline number across the borough. Develop the Wirral Anti Bullying Strategy, focusing on schools, school transport and community facilities.</p> <p>YOS involvement in school cluster programme to assist families with young people assessed as developing anti social behaviour. Barnardo's working with secondary schools targeting young people at risk of running away, targeting schools with highest incidence. Termly Healthy School pupil panels will support young people to express concerns and contribute to policy.</p> <p>Operation Stay Safe will provide more targeted visible policing in the community.</p> <p>Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team is now part of Children and Young People's Department and contributes to Integrated Youth Support activities. This provides increased opportunity to focus on issues of concern to young people.</p>
Enjoy & Achieve	Improve teaching standards	Improved delivery of Personal Social Health and Economic education in schools.	<p>Schools continue to develop their programmes for PSHE and the Local Authority will provide advice and training.</p> <p>Continue to promote the PSHE Continuing Professional Development programme for teachers, teaching assistants, nurses and youth workers.</p>

Area	Young People Defined Priorities	Young People Defined Activities	Action in 2010/11
		<p>Involve young people in deciding teaching methods.</p> <p>Teachers to take a more relaxed approach, young people are being put under pressure in schools.</p> <p>More outreach services. Extra help with school work Fun based interactive challenging educational activities</p>	<p>Schools continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning and make more use of the “pupil voice” in evaluating the success of teaching and learning styles.</p> <p>Continue to consult pupils via The Healthy Schools Pupil Panel on school related issues, policies and procedures.</p> <p>Schools continue to develop extended services, study support which includes the use of Virtual Learning Environments.</p>
Positive Contribution	More places to go and things to do	<p>Increase the number of youth clubs.</p> <p>Youth facilities available on more nights closer to where people live.</p> <p>Youth Clubs to be open at week-ends.</p> <p>Increase numbers of YP participating in Duke of Edinburgh Award.</p> <p>Increasing the participation in activities by young people who have disabilities.</p>	<p>Through commissioning and district planning involving young people we will ensure a broad youth offer is made available.</p> <p>We will work with transport providers to identify where bus routes can be revised to ensure where youth clubs are not close to where people live access is improved.</p> <p>We will agree a specification for youth hubs and monitor provision to ensure it is working to requirements.</p> <p>Duke of Edinburgh Award will be available in each district through the youth hubs thereby improving accessibility. In addition, Wallasey Fire Station will be an open Award Centre.</p> <p>District Youth Provider Planning Groups will be required to ensure they take account of needs of young people with disabilities.</p>

Area	Young People Defined Priorities	Young People Defined Activities	Action in 2010/11
	More involvement in decision making	<p>Find better ways to feedback to young people in schools and youth clubs.</p> <p>Youth Committees on estates.</p> <p>Develop the role of Peer Educators in schools.</p> <p>Find ways to ensure more young people are consulted.</p>	<p>The new website for young people to be launched in 2010 will be a major tool for developing dialogue between Wirral Council, youth providers, Youth Support Agencies and young people.</p> <p>The development of youth committees on estates would require significant resource investment not currently available. Youth forums will be encouraged to gather the views of young people from specific areas.</p> <p>The development of peer educators in schools will be dependant on resources available.</p> <p>To enhance the routes already available, the new website will be used as a consultation tool for young people.</p>
Social & Economic Well Being	Improve opportunities for young people	<p>More opportunities to access different training especially for those who do not want to stay in school.</p> <p>Fair access to Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA).</p> <p>Free travel to college or training jobs.</p>	<p>The Borough Education, Training and Employment Strategy has been reviewed and refreshed for approval by the Children's Trust Board in March. This outlines the 'offer' for young people in Wirral including an extension to the Activity Agreement Pilot for young people to support their progression and a further 50 apprenticeships.</p> <p>The Government has set the following thresholds to qualify for EMA. Your annual household income must be below £30,810 (for tax year 2008-09). Income up to £20,817 per year, EMA is £30 per week. Income £20,818 - £25,521 per year, EMA is £20 per week. Income £25,522 - £20,810 per year, EMA is £10 per week. More than £30,810 per year no EMA entitlement</p> <p>Wirral Travel Training Scheme is open to all age 16 plus and provides a 1 to 1 travel training service to enable young people to use public transport independently and with confidence.</p> <p>Wirral travel team attending colleges and events promoting transport options and providing free travel cards to young people to attend</p>

Area	Young People Defined Priorities	Young People Defined Activities	Action in 2010/11
			<p>interviews or assist with first months travel. Delivery of WorkWise scheme to assist young people with the provision of a 6 month loan of a scooter or a cycle where public transport cannot serve the journey.</p>

annual review of progress against priorities 2009-10

In the second year of our plan (2009/10) much has been achieved to improve the outcomes for Wirral's children and young people with significant improvements in key areas, including:

- A continued reduction in the number of teenage conceptions through robust monitoring of the teenage pregnancy Strategic Action Plan.
- 100% of Wirral schools achieving the national Healthy Schools status well ahead of target.
- Launch of the Health Services in Wirral Secondary Schools programme with twelve schools participating as part of the first phase with a further six schools to follow before the end of the financial year, including include special schools.
- Working in collaboration with the School Sport Partnerships to support the Active Lifestyles Project which will be piloted with 30 schools. These schools have been identified using the National Child Measurement Programme data.
- Target for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccinations achieved.
- Launch of breastfeeding peer support programme in March 2010 to support breastfeeding mothers.
- Improved support to child care workers engaged with vulnerable children through monitoring and quality assurance of Common Assessment Framework and Team Around the Child activity.
- More children in care are living in stable placements (72.1% of children in care have lived in the same placement for 2 or more years), and fewer children in care have experienced 3 or more placement moves (9.7%).
- More children with a disability are accessing a wider range of short break services through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme; with children and families telling us, and being involved in commissioning what they need.
- More Police presence to tackle teenage alcohol consumption through Operation Stay Safe; 3,264 teenagers are engaged with a wide range of services.
- Fewer children in care are living in independent sector residential placements (currently 45 compared to 52 in the previous year).
- We have responded positively to the National Challenge, Gaining Ground and Extra Mile programmes.
- The Intensive Support programme in primary schools has demonstrated positive impacts on raising standards
- There is now a very comprehensive programme of leadership and management development for schools
- The Managed Moves Protocol has become firmly embedded into secondary sector and has reduced the level of permanent exclusions.
- 100% of Wirral schools engaged in the 1-1 tuition programme and schools are developing a range of models for the delivery of tuition.
- Continued improvement in levels of attendance at targeted schools.
- We have achieved a reduction in First Time entrants to the Criminal Justice System.
- The Wirral Young Carers Project is continuing the process of engaging harder to reach Young Carers and their families from BME communities, those living with the consequences of parental problematic drug and alcohol use and those living with the consequences of parental mental health problems.

- The findings from a 'Feel Safe, Play Safe' survey were converted into an action plan designed to reduce children's fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment.
- Over 200 young people received an Open College Network qualification in 'Personal and Social Skills' via their participation in programmes with Wirral Brook.
- The Youth opportunity Fund Grant panel decided to top slice one hundred thousand pounds from the Youth Opportunity Fund for allocation to the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector.
- The successful delivery of the 'Wirral Apprentice' programme which received national recognition.
- The redesign of the local offer for learners with Learning Difficulties and disabilities (LDD) supported by the Wirral brokerage project.
- The delivery of the September Guarantee for 16 and 17 year olds in Wirral.
- The extension of the Activity Agreement Programme for vulnerable Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) young people aged 16 and 17.

- Continuing year on year reductions in the number of young people NEET despite the global recession.

We also recognise that there are key areas that continue to be a challenge, these include:

- Reducing teenage conception rates with an aim to achieve very challenging national targets.
- Realisation of the investment in social care resulting in supporting more vulnerable children in the community, making children's plans more timely and robust and safely reduce the high number of children in care (617 December 2009).
- The reduction of 16-18 NEET to meet targeted levels.
- The ongoing recession and narrowing the gap between experiences and economic well being in different parts of the Borough.
- The impact of the recession creates an uncertain financial climate in which to plan future services.

refreshed priorities

Wirral priorities have been re-evaluated in response to the activities undertaken in the second year of the plan and national and local changes.

<p>Be Healthy Reduction in the harmful consequences of risk taking behaviour. Encourage and support all children and families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle (Refreshed). Implement the Child Health Strategy Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.</p>
<p>Staying Safe More children grow up in secure, stable families where they belong, either through receiving timely, earlier intervention and support within their communities, or through belonging to permanent, substitute families. Reduce the incidence of anti social, risk taking and harmful behaviour experienced by children and young people. More children are safe at home, at school and in the community, including reducing road traffic accidents and bullying. Children in care are safe and supported. Implement the government action plan in response to Lord Laming review of the protection of children in England.</p>
<p>Enjoy and Achieve Public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools. Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of Children's Centres. Children and families are supported with their social and emotional development. Extended Services, delivered through schools and partners working in clusters, impact upon the outcomes for children and families. Continue to raise standards in schools and settings by continuing to improve the quality of leadership and management, curriculum, assessment and learning, thereby ensuring none fall into an OFSTED category. Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement.</p>
<p>Positive Contribution Fewer children and young people are involved in offending and anti social behaviour. Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play and developmental opportunities which meets their needs. Children & Young People are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making process.</p>
<p>Economic Well Being Increase the number of young people who are participating and achieving their potential. Reduce numbers of 16-18 vulnerable young people NEET in line with LAA targets and the PSA 2010 trajectory. Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty and minimise the number of children and young people living in poor housing.</p>



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wirral children and young people's plan 2008 – 2011

2009 -10 annual report - part 2 delivery plan DRAFT



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annual review of progress against priorities 2009-10

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- The ongoing recession and narrowing the gap between experiences and economic well being in different parts of the Borough.
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OUTCOME AREA - Being Healthy

“We want to improve all children’s health and to narrow the gap in health outcomes experienced by our most disadvantaged children.”

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
Priority: Reduction in the harmful consequences of risk taking behaviour.		
<p>1. Implement the Children and Young People’s Substance Misuse Plan which addresses issues around drugs and alcohol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a package of interventions for families at risk of substance misuse to improve parenting skills. • Refresh pathways to reduce the number of Hospital Admissions, including A&E attendance and improve links to Young Peoples Services. • Support the expansion of the Young Persons Alcohol Intervention Project through recurring funding to 2013. • Develop and deliver a Wirral wide social marketing campaign in relation to Young People and parents / carers. <p>2. Implement the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase strategic leadership and direction through appointment of teenage pregnancy strategy champions. • Implement and support ‘The Family Nurse Partnership’ across Wirral for vulnerable first time teenage parents. • Enhance provision and support available to children 	<p>Project commissioned with CYPD to develop a model of evaluated service delivery based on the ‘whole families approach’ to ensure provision of support services to families of alcohol users, specifically children (age 14 -17) of harmful/hazardous drinkers, with particular emphasis on engagement of alcohol affected families with specific needs that are less likely to engage.</p> <p>Joint commissioning of CAMHS/ Youth Service to work alongside A&E staff to look at trends of young people admitted to A&E where alcohol misuse is related presentation and employ alcohol pathway. Findings of this project will be available to NHS Wirral by end March 2010.</p> <p>Continued provision of interventions to support young people at risk, to improve confidence and competence and encourage them to make the right decisions about drinking Alcohol. Parents supported to educate their children about the risks of Alcohol, and supported to stay together and break the cycle of problems being transferred between generations.</p> <p>Insight work into social marketing campaign completed. Campaign Wirral wide Summer 2010.</p> <p>Strategic Leaders appointed across Children’s Trust along with Champions and Accountable Leads for priority areas.</p> <p>Steering Group established and Coordinator and Nurses appointed (November 2009).</p> <p>Joint commissioning of targeted support for Children in Care (CiC) and Foster Carers. Holistic assessments conducted for all CiC through LAC Nursing service.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>in care to recognise their vulnerability to teenage pregnancy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed support for teenage parents in targeted youth support agenda, including the development of the Joseph Paxton Site. • Review YAIP pathways to include EHC service for young people. • Monitor the effectiveness of the Young Woman's Antenatal Group run through Children's Centres. • Monitor and evaluate targeted support for teenage parents delivered by Children's Centres, e.g. Beacon Babes / Girls Aloud. • Ensure TP Action Plan and Parenting strategy are joined up to reflect role of parents in reducing conceptions and raising aspirations. 	<p>Better Support Sub Group of the Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group is chaired by Head Teacher from Joseph Paxton site.</p> <p>Pathway reviewed and young people signposted for sexual health services through engagement with youth service.</p> <p>Referral route established and implemented successfully, evaluation of effectiveness required.</p> <p>Groups in existence but evaluation of effectiveness required.</p> <p>Parenting commissioner attends Being Healthy Group and Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group top ensure strategies joined up. Newly appointed TP Coordinator to further develop links between the two groups.</p>	<p>on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress on track</p>
<p>3. Implement the Sexual Health Plan including increasing the proportion of eligible young people screened for Chlamydia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase Chlamydia screening sites by 25% through implementation of Health Services in Schools (HSIS) within Schools and Colleges and across Children's Centres. • Increase availability and access to young people friendly sexual health and contraceptive services through HSIS and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) in Pharmacies. • Formally launch the Sexual Health Policy and Guidance across Children's services and include in training for all staff. • Establish robust Condom Distribution scheme across Wirral using accessible and user friendly settings for young people to comply where possible with You're Welcome Quality Criteria. 	<p>HSIS launched November 2009 across twelve schools in the first phase. Chlamydia screening offered with further targeted approach to those sites providing highest positivity and development of a call / recall marketing norm across all sites.</p> <p>Phase two HSIS to include further twelve schools by April 2010.</p> <p>Policy still to be launched although features in sexual health training for front line staff.</p> <p>Withdrawn from NHS Strategic Plan due to poor evidence base for effectiveness. Agreed to include as requirement in all commissioned outreach services.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>Deleted</p>
<p>4. Increase the take up of Kooth.com.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate within the Healthy Schools Action Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action plan to increase take-up of Kooth.com is incorporated within Healthy Schools Action Plan. • Rolling programmes of delivery and sign up are embedded within 11 	<p>Completed</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>5. Develop and deliver actions to prevent accidents within and outside of the home environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an action plan including actions for each Children's Centre aimed at reducing local accidental injury rates. 	<p>secondary schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A pilot scheme across Wirral was trialled in 7 primary schools to support Year 6 pupils with transition in the Summer Term 2009. A presentation and workshop was delivered to the Primary Pupil Panel which accessed 70% of all primary schools to raise awareness of Kooth.com in the Summer Term 2009. In March 2009 there were 1836 registered users. From April to December 2009 the number has increased to 4051 registered users with sustained uptake in the 12 – 15 year old age range. From March to September 2009 the number of male users increased from 25% to 34%. Healthy schools is represented on the Kooth.com steering group. <p>Review undertaken of accident prevention scheme and joint development of Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) scheme across the NHS and Children's Centres.</p> <p>Also reported through Staying Safe</p>	<p>In progress on track</p>
<p>Priority: Reduction in the prevalence of overweight children and obesity in children.</p>		
<p>1. Implement the Child Obesity Action Plan incorporating the care pathways for children 0-2yrs, 2-4yrs and 4-16yrs, which includes action on physical activity, food and drink, breast feeding and Healthy Schools, Pre-Schools and Children's Centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) to include staff training, production of appropriate resources and providing feedback to parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weighing and measuring of children May - July 2009, target coverage achieved. School Nurse Support Team delivered activities on healthy eating and physical activity alongside the measuring which was well received by school children and staff. 6,900 Feedback letters sent to parents of all children measured informing them of their child's weight. Parents drop in sessions offered by school nurses, five 'healthy weight workshops' were offered over the school holidays for Year 6 families and a focus group for parents, this is under review due to low uptake. Specially designed workbooks have been produced and distributed to school nurses and child weight management services. 	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission additional providers to target weight management in early years. • Monitor existing contract with MEND and Lifestyle and Weight Management service to ensure referral targets met. • Ensure access to relevant activity sessions for 0-5 year olds in Children's Centres, e.g. Top Tots, Active Tots, Fizzy Tots and that Active Tots resources are incorporated into the Healthy Child Programme. • Ensure school children aged 5 – 16 have weekly access to 2 hours of high quality PE and Sport in school and a further 3 hours outside school hours. To be monitored through the School Sport Partnership Programme. • Implement the Active Families Sport England & Physical Activity Alliance Project for 0 – 17 year olds and their families. • Implement Sport England's Free Swim programme for under 18's across Wirral Leisure Centres. • Ensure Obesity Action Plan and Parenting Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of new adult, child and family weight management services took place in March 2009 with over 130 professionals attending. • New child referral forms have been developed and distributed to a wide range of health professionals. • Additional services for adolescents have been commissioned. • The number of referrals is low and behind target - marketing and publicity campaign planned for 2010/11 to boost take up of service. • Two physical activity 'clubs' are available specifically for Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do It! (MEND) and LWMS children. • All Children's Centres offer a wide variety of physical activity sessions aimed at children of different ages, e.g. Karmatime Yoga, Giggle & Wiggle, Indoors & Outdoors and Merry Movers, and are well attended. • 10 Active Tots sessions held in December and resource packs distributed in January and February 2010. • 71% of schools have achieved the 2 hours of high quality PE. • Pensby School Sport Partnership (SSP), (35 Primary and 9 Secondary Schools): 46% of school children are achieving 3 hours of PE and School Sport and 40% achieving 5 hours. • Park SSP – (35 Primary and 10 Secondary Schools): 48% of school children are achieving 3 hours of PE and School Sport and 40% achieving 5 hours. • Bebington SSP – (29 Primary and 7 Secondary Schools): 47% of school children are achieving 3 hours of PE and School Sport and 39% achieving 5 hours. • 3 Buggy Park Fitness classes available in two parks with an average attendance of 22 women. • 3 Teen Fitness sessions commenced in November at West Kirby Concourse leisure centre. • Currently investigating the development of a Junior Invigor8 pass to target overweight and obese children. • Between May – Aug 2009 10,733 children registered for the Free Swim initiative. 	<p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>are joined up to reflect role of parents in reducing obesity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure BMI data from childhood screening programme (aged 2-2½ years) is collated and used as a measure to inform appropriate commissioning of services. • Implement 'Wirral's Taste for Healthy Food Policy', including specific guidance on public venues and residential settings. • Deliver the Breastfeeding Strategic Action plan to increase initiation and prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks, to include roll out of BOAT integrated ante natal programme across Wirral, recruiting an Advanced Practitioner for Infant Feeding, implementing UNICEF Baby Friendly standards in the hospital and the community, maintain Baby Friendly Status in Children's Centres and developing a peer support programme and an effective communication strategy. • Deliver Healthy Eating Groups to parents with very young children through Children's Centres, together with advice on choosing healthier lifestyles based on the 'Change 4 Life' programme. • Ensure the Henry Programme is accessed by all Children's Centres and Early Years practitioners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting coordinator now attends Being Healthy to take this action forward. • Staff given training in preparation for the launch of the Healthy Child Programme July 2009. Health Visitors, Community nursery nurses and staff nurses are competent to complete reviews. Child Health data systems are being prepared to collate at 2-2½ years. • Healthy Food Policy and guidance have been produced and now in the process of working with the PCT and the Council to adopt these policies. Policy has been presented at the Council's Corporate Health Group and Cabinet. • Early Years settings and Schools have had exemplar food polices for a number of years and 93% of Wirral Schools have a Whole day Food and Nutrition Policy. • Breastfeeding initiation and duration rates continue to be collated quarterly. • Advanced Practitioner appointed by PCT in October 2009 to proceed with achieving the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative in the community. • Successful funding application to Department of Health to increase capacity at Hospital to achieve UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative. Infant Feeding Specialist and administrator appointed. • UNICEF Project management training attended by key staff. • Peer Support Provider identified and contract signed. Scheme co-ordinator and administrator appointed. Peer Support Volunteers to attend UNICEF training and programme launched March 2010. • NHS Wirral has joined an existing social marketing campaign. Campaign materials developed to be tested with the public. Campaign awareness days arranged for professionals to take place in March 2010. <p>Family Support Teams advise families on "Healthy Eating" following the key messages from Change4Life and signpost to weaning groups facilitated by Health Visiting teams. Sessions delivered include Bumps to Babes, Beacon Babes, Looking at Cooking, Fun with Food etc.</p> <p>Training programme developed to enable roll-out of the 'Heath, Exercise and Nutrition for the Really Young' (HENRY) programme. Sub-regional planning taking place for delivery across the area.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
Priority: Implement the Child Health Strategy		
<p>1. Implement the Healthy Child Programme (0 – 5 years), in partnership with Children’s Centres, to include targeted and universal care packages and incorporating support from the Family Nurse Partnership Programme for vulnerable and hard to reach families.</p> <p>2. Monitor the effective provision of CAMHS including the embedding of the CHICC project and design and implement a workforce development strategy and implement recommendations arising from the plan.</p> <p>3. Early Years and Teen Life Check programmes available and easily accessible to parents and young people and offered through a range of services, to include HSIS, and Children’s Centres.</p> <p>4. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Health Promoting Early Years Programme.</p> <p>5. Monitor and evaluate the BOAT (Better Outcomes Achieved Together) Project within Children’s Centres.</p> <p>6. Implement the Healthy Schools Action Plan arising from the Self Evaluation Toolkit to ensure that 10% of schools are engaged in the ‘Enhanced Healthy Schools Programme’ by 2010 and ensure nutrition and oral health training is provided to 50% of all Wirral schools throughout 2009/10.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing teams led by health visitors. • Schedule developed and implemented in June 2009. • Family Nurse Partnership set up, in progress and on target. • Developments of CHiCC to include commissioning strategy. • Planned CPD for all practitioners, to include GPs, to ensure competency. • Maternity review implemented. • Think Family developed. • Integrated Working Guidance reviewed. • Ongoing delivery of parenting strategy. <p>Continue to deliver comprehensive CAMHS.</p> <p>Lifecheck steering group established and promotional plan agreed and delivered across target groups. Youth workers employed to promote Teen Lifecheck and ensure links made to Kooth.com.</p> <p>56 settings are committed to the health promoting early years programme (HPEY) with 6 achieving HPEY status in June 2009.</p> <p>BOAT programme delivered in some children’s centres and early years’ settings evaluated in December 2009 for further programme roll out in March 2010.</p> <p>100% of schools achieved Healthy School status. Over 50% of schools have received oral health and nutrition training.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
Priority: Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.		
<p>1. Ensure Actions relating to CYP in the Health Inequalities Plan are included in the Being Healthy Strategic Action Plan. Monitor and evaluate the plan throughout the period to ensure outcomes are being met to reduce health inequalities.</p> <p>2. Develop specific actions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the number of dental caries through the Fluoride Milk Programme, the Bright Smiles Programme and the Dental Bus • Reduce the proportion of women who continue to smoke throughout pregnancy. • Ensure all Children's Centres have fully integrated plans on smoking cessation, obesity, breast feeding, oral health and services for disabled children including access to relevant specialist agencies and ensure these plans are fully aligned with complimentary service plans and activities. <p>3. Implement actions to increase (and maintain) the take up of childhood vaccinations and immunisation programme. Implement new vaccination programmes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan monitored through Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group and Being Healthy Group. • Child Accident Prevention Scheme under review and reported through Staying Safe Group. • Obesity programme and breastfeeding rates monitored through Obesity Programme Board and reported through Being Healthy. • Actions to reduce smoking in pregnancy reviewed through Being Healthy and closer links forged with NHS strategic plan smoking programme. <p>Health visitors deliver dental health advice at 9 month and 2 year reviews. Oral health dental bus visits children's centres.</p> <p>Smoking cessation nurse employed to work across WUTH. Midwives and health visitor discuss at every opportunity (through hand held notes system) and refer for support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BOAT programme delivered in some children's centres and early years' settings, following conclusions of evaluation in March 2010 will roll out programme. • FEAST courses run for parents in most children's centres. • Pro-Score activities commissioned in 10 children's centres identified as having highest rates of obesity in reception aged children. • Active Tots and Health Promoting Early Years Programme across all children's centres. • Breast feeding baby cafes in most children's centres. • BOAT programme delivered in some children's centres. • Oral health dental bus visits children's centres. • Aiming High programme to roll out across children's centres. • Parents groups run through children's centres for parents of children with disabilities. • Regular meetings between children's centre managers and health visitor managers to align plan and activities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target for HPV vaccinations achieved. • Swine Flu vaccination to be implemented as directed. 	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress on track</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>effectively ensuring high uptake from inception</p> <p>4. Develop and implement actions to reduce the number of infant mortalities.</p> <p>5. Implement and start to embed the TaMHS (Targeted Mental Health in Schools) project in Wirral.</p> <p>6. Develop CAMHS to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint commissioning of mental health promotion and early intervention support • Enhanced service for CYP with Learning Disabilities • Appropriate accommodation for 16 – 17 year olds who require in patient placements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hour cover in partnership with the Acute Hospital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Visiting teams routinely raise awareness of immunisation programme and review status with families to promote uptake. • Co-sleeping policy drafted and campaign delivered in local shopping centres in partnership with LSCB. • CONI and CONI+ programme supported through health visiting service. • Accident data reported through Staying Safe. • Collision Reduction Partnership developing actions to reduce children killed or injured on roads – to be reported through Being Healthy. • Baby Lifecheck programme being implemented across all early years settings and promoted by health visitors through hand held notes system. • New born screening programme implemented to ensure early identification of congenital abnormalities. • External trainers commissioned to train health visiting teams for early identification of mothers with mental health needs and use of Edinburgh Post Natal depression scale and HADS. • A joint commissioning group consisting of multi agency partners meets quarterly. This feeds into the Being Healthy group. <p>Additional investment from NHS Wirral has increased the size of the Learning Disability team. The team are now in process of drawing up professional pathways and transition documents and increasing contact across the multi-agency forum for this group of children and their families.</p> <p>Maple ward has now been opened in Chester for any young person requiring inpatient care with a higher level of psychiatric need than admission to YPC. This in line with government directive regarding young people not being admitted to Adult Mental Health beds where possible.</p> <p>24 hour cover is in place with a policy of procedures jointly agreed with Arrowe Park Hospital Paediatric department, for any young person with psychiatric or Mental Health needs being admitted out of hours.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p>

OUTCOME AREA - Staying Safe

“We want to support children earlier, closer to their communities and wherever possible by supporting families.”

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
Priority: More children grow up in secure, stable families where they belong, either through receiving timely, earlier intervention and support within their communities, or through belonging to permanent, substitute families.		
1. Embed improved system and process underpinning the child concern model, which measures and supports Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and Team Around the Child (TAC).	1. Monthly data reports produced to monitor CAF’s completed and needs identified; 402 completed by December 2009. Monthly CAF Quality Assurance (QA) report produced following multi-agency assessment monitoring. Six month CAF review undertaken and reported. Integrated Working Guide updated, briefings held in spring 2010.	In progress on track
2. Review and improve systems and processes to support and deliver timely multi-agency plans for children in need.	2. Post of Children in Need (CIN) quality assurance/Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) established. Cross agency audit of CIN and TAC cases undertaken in February 2010. LSCB reviewing escalation process and protocol for domestic violence referrals with the Police.	In progress milestone rescheduled
3. Implement the strategic plan to support the coherent and joined up development of Area Teams / Children’s Centres and Extended Schools.	3. Integrated working group has continued to implement improvements e.g. Integrated Working Guide, Co-location plan for Area Teams, national co-location funding secured. New Preventative Services Project Board to be implemented from 1 April 2010.	In progress milestone rescheduled
4. Continue to provide credible programmes for courts to consider as alternatives to custody, for ‘prolific and serious’ offenders including implementation of Multi-Systemic Therapy.	4. Youth Rehabilitation Order (YRO) implemented, alongside Scaled Approach to increase flexible, proportionate approach to young people who offend. Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST) implemented, targeted at 11-17 year olds at risk of care or custody.	In progress on track
5. Implement the Area Team development plan, which includes co-locating Area Teams.	5. 7.5 Area Team Leaders permanently recruited, new Information Sharing Co-ordinators (7.5) recruited. Plan supported by national remodelling findings. Family Nurse Partnership have attached HV’s in Area Teams with new health screening to allow for early alert to health, speech and language difficulties.	In progress milestone rescheduled
6. Review and refresh the Parenting Strategy; implement PEIP; monitor the impact on improved outcomes delivered by commissioned services.	6. Multi-agency Parenting Steering group meets bi-monthly, mapping survey issued January 2010. 0-19 Commissioning undertaken – monitoring group meets bi-monthly. PEIP (Parenting & Early Intervention Programme) co-ordinator in post from January 2010 offering training to deliver a coherent approach to supporting parents. Parenting Development Co-ordinator & Catholic Children’s Society delivered Nurturing Programme. Family Group	In progress on track

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
7. Implement plans to further develop and co-located services to deliver IYSS / TYS.	Meeting training delivered for Area Team Family Support. 7. Youth provider meetings in each District, to ensure co-ordination of local offer to meet the needs of 13 – 19 year olds.	In progress milestone rescheduled
8. Support more children and adolescents with their families through developing the work of the Adolescent Support Team. Extend capacity to deliver more family group meetings, and increase short break provision to support more children and adolescents with their family in the community.	8. Rolling programme of adolescent workshops with required attendance for all newly qualified social workers. Fostering Service prioritising increased short breaks for adolescents.	In progress milestone rescheduled
9. More timely progression of plans, for more children to be adopted or achieve permanence through adoption, Special Guardianship and Residence Orders, where this will best meet their needs.	9. Tracking systems for children to achieve adoption placement within 12 months of decision enhanced. Sessions of permanence training delivered and the Special Guardianship service has been reconfigured. The results are improved timescales, reduced waiting times and closer monitoring. Current projections are that 75% of children are placed within 12 months of the “should be placed for adoption” decision.	In progress on track
10. Implement the multi-agency ‘Turning the Curve’ action plan to safely reduce the numbers of children in care, particularly focusing on reducing the number of children in care placed at home with parents.	10. Turning the Curve action plan delivered resulting in: an increase in the number of children achieving Special Guardianship Orders (SGC); reduction in Placed with Parents by 20 since 2008; 617 children in care at December 2009, a slight reduction on the previous year; increased placement stability (NI 62) with fewer children having 3 or more moves; an increase in children in care for 2.5 years or more staying in the same placement for 2 years, from 67.8% to 72.1% (NI 63).	In progress milestone rescheduled
11. Sustain improved processes for contact, referral and assessment – the ‘front door’ into social care.	11. New Permanent Practice Manager at Central Advice and Duty Team. Weekly monitoring of a new Contact, Referral and Assessment Action Plan and a re-launched MARF to track feedback to agencies, improve escalation procedures and formally review thresholds through auditing, Cross Merseyside Review of 66 priority cases with an action plan delivered through the LSCB. The number of referrals progressing to initial assessment (NI 68) is 64.7% at December 2009 a slight increase from 64.3% April 2009. Increase of 611 assessments undertaken in 9 months, compared to same period in previous year.	In progress on track
12. Provide strong organisational and operational links between Children’s Centres and fieldwork services, focussing on safeguarding systems and training to	12. Improved joint working between Children’s Centres and Social Care in all Districts including joint training delivered e.g. Team Around the Child and Domestic Violence.	In progress on track

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>meet assessed needs.</p> <p>13. Develop the appropriate involvement of children's centres in the delivery of support to all children 0– 5 subject to a child protection plan.</p> <p>14. Implement early intervention and planning of services to families with children under five involving midwives, health visitors, children's centre outreach workers and social care professionals with a focus on the needs of the reach population of the centre.</p> <p>15. Improve consistency of response, in accordance with regulation to children living with Private Foster Carers.</p> <p>16. Implement the Children's Social Care and Safeguarding restructure, to increase the number of social workers, increase capacity to deliver improved management and performance oversight, and expansion of LSCB activity.</p>	<p>13. Children's Centre leads are routinely invited to child protection conferences for 0-5 year olds, and other significant child in need meetings.</p> <p>14. Family support referrals to Children's Centres received from a range of professionals. A range of programmes are offered dependent on local need.</p> <p>15. Multi-agency training programme delivered – specific programme for social workers regarding process and timescales. District Manager audit of cases to ensure threshold consistency with report to LSCB annually. 37 private foster carers approved, majority visiting children from Belarus.</p> <p>16. Number of posts recruited to with ongoing advertising. Structure implemented by April 2010. Safeguarding induction/refresher training developed to ensure new and existing staff have core competencies. LSCB Business Manager in post, key task to develop sub-committees and oversight of agency performance against section 11 standards. Reviewed LSCB budget: additional funding from schools allows for Common Assessment Framework post to continue.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p>
Priority: Reduce the incidence of anti social, risk taking and harmful behaviour experienced by children and young people.		
<p>1. Sustain and strengthen joint working between the CYPD, NHS Wirral and Wirral Family Safety Unit to further reduce the incidence of domestic violence and repeat occurrences.</p> <p>2. Continue to develop more consistent targeting of services for children at risk of offending, through early identification systems triggering YOS input.</p>	<p>1. All health visitors, NHS Trust staff and 7 Children's Social Care Teams have been trained in MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Committee) and domestic abuse (DA) awareness. MARAC repeat cases reduced to 12% (NI 32) (nationally 23%). Agreed process between Central Advice and Duty Team and Family Support Unit (FSU) to check all contacts to inform decision making. FSU representation at TAC meetings following MARAC referral. LSCB review of Domestic violence policy and practice has embedded clear referral pathways.</p> <p>2. Wirral Youth Offending Service involvement with the Challenge and Support Respect Project and School Cluster Programmes assisting families with young children who are assessed as developing anti social behaviour.</p>	<p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress on track</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>3. Review Merseyside Protocol and further develop services for children identified as missing from home / care, and / or involved in sexual exploitation.</p> <p>4. Monitor and review children's accident and emergency referral pathway, to continue to reduce the incidence of children presenting following excessive alcohol consumption / substance misuse.</p> <p>5. Jointly deliver Operation Stay Safe, and monitor the impact upon reduced incidence of young people's excessive consumption of alcohol.</p> <p>6. Promote, develop and deliver parental guidance and awareness raising strategies to keep children safe, including the co-sleeping awareness campaign.</p> <p>7. Continue to deliver comprehensive LSCB training plan for all staff, level 1-3 and refresh Section 11 Audit and Action plan by all LSCB Board members.</p>	<p>3. Merseyside Protocol reviewed, endorsed by LSCB and issued following national guidance. Contract awarded to current provider (Barnardos) for Safer Future project (missing from home/care, sexually harmful behaviour and sexual exploitation). Barnardos working with secondary schools on young runaways, targeting areas with the highest incidence.</p> <p>4. A risk taking behaviour pathway is in place within the A&E department. From April to December 2010, 80 young people under the age of 16 attended either the Children's Emergency Department or the main Accident and Emergency Department following ingestion of alcohol. Of the 80 attendees, 36 took up the offer of an appointment with Response and 13 engaged with the service. There is currently work ongoing to better target these patients through staff education by Response workers and possibly having a Response worker working in the department at times of peak attendances.</p> <p>5. 12 Stay Safe operations between June and November 2009. 3,264 children engaged with by a variety of agencies. 12 young people moved to a place of safety, none by use of legislative powers. Evaluation to include impact on young people's consumption of alcohol.</p> <p>6. CONI scheme to be commissioned and delivered by Wirral NHS provider services and Wirral University Teaching Hospital. Safe sleeping guidelines ratified across the Health economy and delivered to midwifery and Health Visiting staff. Awareness raising event in local shopping centre took place in October with promotional leaflets given to local residents.</p> <p>7. Training plan delivered. Section 11 Audit overview report completed by independent consultant and reported into LSCB.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p>
<p>Priority: More children are safe at home, at school and in the community, including reducing road traffic accidents and bullying.</p>		
<p>1. Implement the road safety strategy for children through the Road Safety partnership.</p> <p>2. Extend and develop opportunities for children and</p>	<p>1. Road safety strategy continues to be delivered.</p> <p>2. 244 Children and young people were consulted on what would make them feel safe when playing out. This information has been used to develop training</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>young people to tell us what makes them feel unsafe, and deliver programmes to improve their safety and resilience.</p> <p>3. Continue to support the development of anti-bullying strategies in schools, on school transport, and in community facilities. Develop and disseminate an LA Anti Bullying Policy; raise awareness among parents of bullying – specifically e-safety and cyber-bullying [in line with the national focus for 2009].</p> <p>4. Implement and evidence learning from Child Death Overview Panels.</p> <p>5. Children’s centres to develop action plans and activities designed to reduce the rate of emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children aged 0 – 5 resident in the reach area of the centre.</p>	<p>programmes delivered in February 2010 for play staff to promote protective behaviours, road safety and promoting positive behaviour. Opportunities are built into the Youth Voice Conference and Youth parliament for young people to tell us where they are concerned about safety. These returns are used to inform programmes in youth clubs and commissioning of services. The Healthy Schools Pupil Panels, convened on a termly basis, are a forum for expressing concerns and contribute to consultations on policy and practice. The panels link directly to the school councils.</p> <p>3. 16 workshops were delivered for parents and carers on cyber bullying during Wirral Anti- bullying week (16-20 November). Draft policy statement is undergoing stakeholder consultation with a launch scheduled for September 2010.</p> <p>4. Annual report on local child deaths agreed at LSCB and available on website. Wirral are active members of regional and sub-regional group on learning from child death events.</p> <p>5. Range of activities developed and implemented – “Beep Beep” road safety awareness; first aid training for parents; parenting courses and parenting support; domestic violence awareness, signposting and ‘freedom’ training. CAPT training for staff and parents. New Child Safety Scheme with additional capacity to be implemented by April 2010.</p>	<p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p>
Priority: Children in care are safe and supported.		
<p>1. Complete the review of residential short break and community services for children with learning disabilities and complex health needs in accordance with Aiming High for Disabled Children Strategy.</p> <p>2. Improve the quality of multi-agency transition arrangements for children in care with learning disabilities and / or mental health issues.</p>	<p>1. Aiming High programme implemented and is low risk rated due to its impact and the progress made. A strong parent forum, good governance structure and workstreams are in place. New services have been commissioned with full parental engagement in commissioning process and services are being delivered to a wide service user base.</p> <p>2. Co-located Transition Team with Department of Adult Social Services in place following agreement in January 2010. 49 young people aged 16 plus to be allocated to the Team; 116 aged 14 plus to receive joint planning from the Transition Team.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>3. Ensure good or excellent standards of care in all directly provided residential care, foster care and commissioned services.</p> <p>4. Improve the quality and choice of provision for children becoming looked after, particularly in LA fostering provision and reduce the number of children living in out of borough independent sector residential placements.</p> <p>5. Maintain a full complement of trained and skilled social workers, so that all children in care have a qualified and suitably trained social worker to meet their needs in a timely way.</p>	<p>3. Practice review completed in 2 residential homes (for children with a disability) achieving adequate in inspections, improvement plan in progress. Adoption Task Force monitored action plan has lead to an improvement in the numbers of children with adoption plan. In January 2010 20 children have been adopted, 12 placed and papers lodged and 11 placed not yet lodged. Proposals confirmed to increased capacity to provide post adoption support. Fostering service retained "good" Ofsted rating with 268 approved carers. Mainstream Children's Home retained "good" Ofsted rating.</p> <p>4. Provider forum meets to plan how services provide support for children with the most complex needs locally. Independent Placement Panel monitors use of independent placements, ensuring in house alternatives used wherever possible and placements achieve good quality outcomes and value for money. A LAC Service Manager is in post and the fostering recruitment strategy has been refreshed. Numbers out of Borough have reduced from 52 in April 2009 to 45 in December 2009.</p> <p>5. Rolling recruitment in place and new staff development officer in post from February 2010 to develop training pathways for all social work staff including embed NQSW (Newly Qualified Social Worker), Early Professional Development and ASW (Advanced Social Worker) outcomes framework for training and supervision. 102 social workers in post, out of a full complement of 111 (9 new posts confirmed in year). December 2009 94.3% children allocated to a qualified social worker.</p>	<p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p>
Implement the government action plan in response to Lord Laming review of protection of children in England.		
Delivery plan outlined in the Local Safeguarding Children Board Business plan.	LSCB have reviewed the capacity to deliver key elements of the national and local requirements and changes made thus far: interim independent chair secured for 2010 for 24 days per year; LSCB Business Manager recruited; Local Authority Designated Officer post established; Independent chair for Serious Case Review Panel and CAF Quality Assurance Officer post agreed and financed through Board; Lead Member now a 'participating observer'. Review of Children's Trust and LSCB relationship following national Working Together consultation carried out in January 2010. PCT and Acute Trust reviewed safeguarding capacity against national guidance (NICE) and capacity increased. Wirral LSCB taking part in Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) pilot for improving the Serious Case Review framework.	In progress on track

OUTCOME AREA – Enjoy and Achieve

“We want to raise the achievement of all our young people and to narrow the gap in attainment experienced by our most disadvantaged children.”

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What we said we would do	What we did	Completed
Priority: Public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools.		
1. Remove surplus capacity in Primary & Secondary Schools through phased reviews of provision across the Borough	Work continues with the phased programme for the review of surplus places in both primary and secondary schools. In primary schools we are in the process of completing Phase 5, which is delayed as a consequence of the request to explore sites. The analysis for Phase 6 has begun. In secondary schools we are in the process of supporting the DCSF to establish an Academy as part of Phase 1. Phase 2A is making good progress.	In progress milestone rescheduled
Priority: Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of Children’s Centres		
1. Further develop the governance and scrutiny function of ‘Wirral’s Children First’ Strategic Board. Develop sharing of good practice and ensuring consistency of policy and approach across Children’s Centres in all their work.	Membership has been revisited to ensure that the Early Years Outcome duty is fully represented. Policy review cycle in place in partnership with Ann Bannister, EIA lead, which has resulted in all policies meeting the requirements of EIA quality indicators.	Completed Completed
2. Ensure priority is given to improving the outcomes for vulnerable families in the 5 ECM themes, via continuous data analysis, regular reports to the board, development of case studies of good practice. Deliver a conference to show-case the work of the Children’s Centres.	Soft smart has been replaced by E Start. This is a more effective management information system for managers to use to measure impact in the future. Children’s Centre Managers and the Team Leader provide reports to every board meeting. A conference is to be planned for Autumn 2010.	In progress on track Completed In progress on track
3. Use of tighter performance management structures and common agendas across children’s centres; develop integrated multi-agency networks across areas and districts.	New Performance Management system in place which has resulted in priorities identified linked to targeted resources.	In progress on track
4. Create robust information sharing protocols and systems across all partners.	First for Families model in place, however, more discussion with health colleagues required.	In progress milestone rescheduled
5. Develop and pilot the role of Portage as key workers to some families, integrate early support into the First for Families model and explore locality-based delivery through Children’s Centres.	Piloted Portage Key Working in June - December 2009. Identified key strengths and weaknesses and Integrated Early Support documentation into the protocols. Aligned Portage/EPs with District model of delivery.	Completed
6. Publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Audit	Childcare sufficiency audit has been published and subsequently refreshed with an	In progress on track

What we said we would do	What we did	Completed
7. Launch of Information System for Parents and providers.	action plan implemented to address gaps in provision. ISSP has been replaced by Parent Know How. Initial implementation plan in place, however, there are still some technical issues.	In progress milestone rescheduled
8. Completion of Phase 3 Children's Centre developments	Phase 3 developments in place.	In progress on track
Priority: Children and families are supported with their social and emotional development		
1. Ensure priority is also given to work with vulnerable families on emotional and social development, e.g. via Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programmes, Family Works, and nurturing training provided by Special Educational Support Service (SESS).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All primary schools and special (primary) schools and have been offered ongoing support to develop SEAL through a detailed action plan; • One primary school has been identified as a national SEAL tracker school; • 14 Secondary schools and 4 secondary special schools have SEAL action plan, and have received support (including INSET) to sustain development. • 4 secondary schools have achieved the Family Welcome Plaque; • Family Works embedded in 65 primary schools. • The following data has been collected, collated and analysed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of SEAL skills; • Impact on reading and writing. • Data has also been collected and matched to Ofsted parental questions, for example: 'I know how my child's school helps my child prepare for the future' 	<p>In progress and on track</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In progress and on track</p> <p>In progress and on track</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>In progress – on track</p>
2. Further embed the Managed Moves protocol in secondary and in primary schools especially in order to further reduce the levels of exclusion	Managed Move Protocol firmly embedded into secondary sector reducing permanent exclusions by a further 20%. Unable to introduce protocol into primary sector due to staffing and capacity issues.	In progress milestone rescheduled
3. Continue to roll out Restorative Practices training	Five, 3 day Facilitator Skills Training courses held plus one Restorative Circles event held with more planned.	In progress
Priority: Extended Services, delivered through schools and partners working in clusters, impact upon the outcomes for children and families		
1. Continue to implement the Extended Services Action Plan.	Action Plan has been implemented - 100% of schools have achieved the Full Core Offer (FCO).	Completed
2. Priorities for 2009-2010 are: a. All clusters to have robust plans clearly	a. Each cluster has robust action plan completed following audit linked to	In progress on track

What we said we would do	What we did	Completed																								
targeted using allocated resources effectively b. Improve measurement of impact c. Implement training programme for ACES, governors, chairs of clusters d. Further training on School Improvement Toolkit e. Develop extended Services around Special Schools f. Achieve the Full Core Offer across all schools by 2010	identified needs against a clear budget. b. All plans have clearly identified impact statements – all ACES have had training on Turning the Curve and Outcome Based Accountability (OBA). c. Training programme has been delivered to all groups. d. All clusters have received training on Toolkit. e. All special schools now meet Full Core Offer and have attended training and using some funding to work with co-ordinator to offer support. f. All schools meet Full Core Offer. Academy has just jointed LA and will meet the offer by April 2010.																									
Priority: Raise standards in schools and settings by continuing to improve the quality of leadership and management, curriculum, assessment and learning, thereby ensuring none fall into an OFSTED category																										
1. Put revised School Improvement Policy into practice; provide appropriate briefings of councillors, governors and head teachers	A new Wirral Improvement Strategy for Schools and Educational Settings is being developed. This is in response to new national statute and guidance. Councillors, Governors and Headteachers have been briefed on developing the new strategy that will apply across all Wirral schools, settings and partners and CYPD. Approval has been given for the next stage of development.	In progress on track																								
2. Ensure primary schools causing concern or in an Ofsted category make sufficient progress to be removed in the shortest possible time.	As of December 2009, two schools have fallen into an Ofsted category, Manor and Well Lane. Manor has had a first monitoring visit. Progress was judged to be inadequate due to the lack of evidence about impact. The LA action plan was judged satisfactory and is on track. The LA action plan for Well Lane is being prepared and the school is already being supported and challenged.	In progress on track																								
3. Identify underachieving and underperforming schools, subjects and groups within schools (including underperforming vulnerable learners) through analysis of data. This includes ensuring through the National Challenge and Gaining Ground programmes that by Summer 2011 no secondary school is below 30% for 5+A*-C grades (including English and Mathematics).	Primary: Analyses of the 2009 SATs identified schools requiring intervention. Targets for 2010 have been analysed and show the following related to Fischer Family Trust (FFT) estimate D, the national top 25% of schools benchmarked data: <table border="1" data-bbox="869 1150 1581 1281"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No <FFTD</th> <th>% <FFTD</th> <th>% FFTD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>En/Ma L4+</td> <td>30/86</td> <td>35%</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>En 2LP</td> <td>33/86</td> <td>38%</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ma 2LP</td> <td>31/86</td> <td>36%</td> <td>64%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> Adjustment of one child in each of these schools would make the following difference: <table border="1" data-bbox="869 1401 1581 1437"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No <FFTD</th> <th>% <FFTD</th> <th>% FFTD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		No <FFTD	% <FFTD	% FFTD	En/Ma L4+	30/86	35%	65%	En 2LP	33/86	38%	62%	Ma 2LP	31/86	36%	64%		No <FFTD	% <FFTD	% FFTD					In progress on track
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What we said we would do	What we did				Completed																																			
	En/Ma L4+	15/86	17%	83%																																				
	En 2LP	16/86	19%	81%																																				
	Ma 2LP	19/86	22%	78%																																				
	<p>Schools setting below FFTD: SIPs and Contact Officers revisit potential schools with a view to adjusting the overall targets.</p> <p>Secondary 2009 GCSE 5+A*-C including English & Maths results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall the provisional result for all Wirral schools in 2009 was 53.5% which was up 3.3% from the previous year. • The average rise in the 6 National Challenge schools was 5.2% compared with a rise of 1.1% in all other Wirral secondary schools from 2008 to 2009. 																																							
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall the 2 Gaining Ground schools had an average increase of 3.3% compared with a rise of 1.5% in all other Wirral secondary schools from 2008 to 2009. Overall, the rise in attainment for Free School Meals pupils in National Challenge schools was over 3%, compared with a rise of 2% in all other Wirral schools from 2008 to 2009. • As of December 2009, 12 secondary schools had been rated as Outstanding at their most recent Ofsted report, 7 rated as good, 3 as satisfactory with none in an Ofsted category. 																																							
4. Ensure early intervention in potential schools causing concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 schools receive ISP/WISP support. • In secondary over 50% of curriculum support has been targeted at National Challenge schools for 2009/10. 				In progress on track																																			
5. Measure impact of support provided.	The impact of support is monitored and evaluated through quality assured SIPs				In progress on track																																			

What we said we would do	What we did	Completed
	<p>and full LA school reviews. Outcomes establish a benchmark for support. Evaluations of impact indicate positive improvement where support has focussed intensively on standards of achievement, progress, leadership and management and the quality of teaching and learning. Termly meetings with National Strategies also provide a measure of impact and indicate that our progress and support is good. At primary, RAG ratings are now predominantly green or dark green.</p> <p>Feedback so far indicates that Special Educational Need (SEN) support has been at least satisfactory and often good. No special schools are currently in an Ofsted category for improvement.</p>	
<p>6. Increase accuracy of assessment and consistency of moderation at transition points.</p>	<p>EYFS and Key Stage 1 statutory Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QDCA) plans have been approved and acted upon successfully. The QDCA reported that robust processes were in place.</p> <p>In primary, lead SEN practitioners are involved in supporting standardisation and moderation activities in special and mainstream schools.</p> <p>Two additional secondary Assessment Consultants have been appointed and are raising the profile of assessment and in particular Assessing Pupil Progress strategies.</p> <p>Wirral Special schools are developing in-house moderation procedures. They are also part of Greater Merseyside special school network which involves moderation activities at all levels of ability. The Special Education Support Service have completed transition packs, special schools involved in person centred planning activities and SEN specialist support identified is being implemented.</p>	In progress on track
<p>7. Ensure priority is given to ISP and WISP in primary schools; and coordinated, targeted support in secondary schools. Focus in particular on raising standards in English and Maths.</p>	<p>10 Intensive Support Programme (ISP) schools were prioritised for support and challenge. A dedicated ISP/WISP adviser was allocated to support ISP/WISP. Raising Achievement Plans were initiated, resourced and managed with progress against plans evaluated at regular intervals.</p> <p>In addition, a second layer of 10 schools were identified for WISP support. RAPs were negotiated and resourced as above.</p> <p>All SIPs and Principal Managers are regularly updated on SEN data/pupil progress issues. Key comparative data sources have been introduced to all schools, in particular new National Strategies Progression Guidance and Comparison and Analysis of Special Pupil Attainment (CASPA.).</p> <p>Provisional GCSE English Language results for 2009 improved by 2% on 2008 whilst provisional Mathematics GCSE results improved by 2.9%.</p>	In progress and on track

What we said we would do	What we did	Completed
8. Develop strategy for succession planning in schools as part of enriched Leadership and Management programme.	The strategy for supporting the development of Leadership and Management across schools, especially with teachers but increasingly with other staff, is now well established. Feedback and evaluations from the professional development activities are very good and this is impacting upon the quality of leadership and management in schools at all levels.	Completed
9. Identify models of excellent leadership and management within our school which especially enables all head teachers to influence the raising of standards and achievement, closing the attainment gap and meeting the challenges of the ECM agenda.	There are a range of programmes to support leadership and management in schools. In addition we have reviewed the programme of support, updates and briefings for head teachers.	Completed
10. Implement curriculum changes in line with the 21st Century School programme and the review of the Primary Curriculum	Funding has been found to facilitate the secondment of a suitable practitioner to support the additional work involved in the implementation of this initiative. A task and finish group has been set up to co-ordinate implementation. A number of separate projects through Extended Schools Funding have been agreed for headteachers.	In progress on track
11. Develop a high quality e-learning community that supports an improving and developing curriculum and encourages collaboration.	The vast majority of Wirral schools have embraced the Wirral Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) as their preferred learning platform. All schools that are participating in this project have received initial training and ongoing support. There is a variety of online activity that is stimulating learning both within the ICT curriculum and across all other curriculum areas. The VLE is being developed with positive collaborative activities happening between schools.	In progress on track
12. Support the implementation of the new Framework for the inspection of schools in England from September 2009.	Briefings have taken place for headteachers, governors and other relevant staff which have raised awareness of the new Ofsted Framework and its implications for schools. One result of these briefings is that schools have updated their safeguarding monitoring procedures. There have been joint lesson observations with senior leaders in two secondary schools against the new framework so far resulting in increased levels of confidence and accuracy in making judgements about the quality of teaching and learning in these schools.	Completed
13. Embed APP across English, mathematics, science and ICT teaching.	Targeted Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) training has taken place for primary and secondary schools. This has been followed up where appropriate with tailored in-school support on developing APP. Active work being undertaken in secondary BESD schools. Primary schools are trialing writing frames for investigations that match new primary	In progress on track

What we said we would do	What we did	Completed
14. Further develop effective teaching and learning strategies and the sharing of good practice to raise the quality of learning.	<p>science APP criteria</p> <p>Tailored in-school curriculum and teaching and learning support is being offered across primary and secondary schools. All secondary schools were judged at least satisfactory for learning and teaching in their last Ofsted visit. 98% of primary schools were judged to be at least satisfactory.</p> <p>Schools are being supported in their validation of their teaching and learning judgements. Inclusion Award identifies areas of good practice to be shared with other colleagues.</p>	In progress on track
15. Implement the next phase of 1-1 tuition extending from KS2 to KS3 and KS4; identify and support schools	100% of Wirral schools engaged in programme. Schools are developing a range of models for delivery of tuition. The LA has recruited a pool of tutors for schools to access. The programme is managed cross-phase and strategies are in place to ensure information sharing and engagement from colleagues at Primary, Secondary and LA level.	In progress on track
Priority: Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement.		
1. Improve outreach of all Children's Centres to vulnerable families.	New footprints have been developed with Together for Children, resulting in a more even spread of services across Wirral.	Completed
2. In collaboration with Speech and Language Team from PCT, initiate training programme for TAs, and VCF sector, in Hanen approaches to language development, in order to narrow gaps at EYFS.	A number of training programmes have been held. 'Learning Language and Loving It' and 'Encouraging Language Development in Early Childhood' were delivered to participants from early years and children's centre settings with some courses specifically directed at staff involved with deaf children.	
3. 4. Implement data training programme, including neighbourhood data, on effects of poverty on achievement across the partnership	<p>A range of Narrowing the Gap projects targeted at areas of deprivation are being supported over 2009-2010.</p> <p>A working group looking at performance and deprivation has been established. There has been a comprehensive programme of training for the workforce around teenage pregnancy. SIPs in secondary schools have been trained and as part of their monitoring visits have discussed the levels of and issues surrounding teenage pregnancy.</p>	In progress milestone rescheduled
5. Develop the use of range of intervention strategies to support under-achieving and under-attaining groups of pupils, e.g. via dissemination of Action Research findings of EPs.	Provided training to 39 schools over five sessions. Schools were invited to take part in action research to determine the effectiveness of Accelerated/ Accelewrite. The analysis will be used in a Headline report in April 2010.	In progress milestone rescheduled
6. Ensure all schools know the extent of their	Primary: Analyses undertaken of vulnerable groups and information included in the	In progress on track

What we said we would do	What we did	Completed
attainment gap; monitor schools on their ability to 'close the gap' for children on FSM and other vulnerable groups. Report progress in narrowing the gap to Children & Young People's Strategic Management Board, and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	<p>new 'Super Report'; analysis available for schools and SIPs via the web based Wirral Data Portal. Schools and SIPs were briefed at training in September 2009.</p> <p>At secondary a Wirral Initiative on Narrowing the Gaps one-year action research project has been initiated with 10 schools opting into the programme. Individual school plans have been produced and are being acted upon.</p> <p>A focus on each special schools core subject attainment gaps, with particular reference to 1, 2 & 3 levels of progress gains, from one key stage to another, has been a key focus of this year's special school SIPs target setting activities. SIPs use new Progression Guidance to challenge schools individual and cohort targets.</p>	
7. Promote and develop the implementation of the National Strategies Inclusion Development Programme (IDP) in all Wirral schools to improve the overall quality of Quality First Teaching	7 pilot schools selected and have received 4 days additional training on Quality First Teaching. The impact of IDP Phase 1 and 2 materials will be evaluated by end of summer term 2010. IDP Steering group recently formed.	In progress on track
8. Improve the progress of the lowest attaining 20% of pupils in mainstream schools and narrow the SEN/non-SEN achievement gaps at KS2 in English/Maths and increase the number of SEN/LDD pupils achieving A*-C GCSE English/Maths.	Improvement in the %pupils not achieving level 3 or above in KS2 English and Maths combined and in English alone. The SEN non-SEN gaps remain above the national but are improving.	In progress on track
9. Make effective use of the new progression guidance (2009-2010) to set accurate and challenging core subject targets for the lowest attaining pupils in the borough.	Extensive support and guidance been enacted and developed since its introduction in 2009. Extensive guidance materials made available to SIPs and school support staff.	Completed
10. Work with schools to reduce the level of Persistent Absence (PA) in primary schools and secondary schools.	Education Social Welfare Service (ESWS) provided additional training and support for eight identified PA Priority Secondary Schools via Attendance Leaders Network Meetings focusing on sharing good practice. By the end of half term 5, five of the eight schools had reduced levels of PA in comparison with the previous year, two schools showed increased levels of PA and one school showed no change. Similar work in partnership with the Primary Behaviour Manager together with identified PA Primary Schools resulted in improved attendance in eight of the twelve schools by the end of half-term 5. Presentations in relation to the Persistent Absence Agenda were also given at Head Teachers Conferences, Behaviour & Attendance Partnership Meetings, and at the School Governors Training Forum.	In progress on track
11. Work with the Virtual School to improve the school attendance of Looked After Children.	ESWS produces a monthly attendance report of all children in Wirral schools. This is examined and discussed at a monthly meeting between the Head of ESWS and the	In progress on track

What we said we would do	What we did	Completed																		
	<p>Virtual Headteacher. Also considered at the meeting are the reports received from Welfare Call, commissioned to monitor the attendance of children looked after by Wirral and placed in schools outside Wirral.</p> <p>At the meeting pupils are identified and prioritised for support through the LACES Team, ESWS, and the Virtual School Attendance Officer. A strategic approach to improving attendance is also utilised. The Head of ESWS reports on attendance of children in care to LAC-EAT group and Virtual School Governing Body Meetings.</p> <p>The Outcomes for Children (OC2) return to DCSF requires LA's to report on the percentage of pupils who have been in care for 1 year or more who have missed more than 25 days of school for any reason. This year 12.5% of children in care missed 25 days or more. Whilst this is a disappointing increase on last year's figure it compares with a National figure of between 12-13% for the last 5 years. Children living at home on a care order are disproportionately represented in those with low school attendance. The reasons for this are complex and are being addressed through multidisciplinary Turning The Curve Group.</p>																			
12. Improve the outcomes for children who have English as an Additional Language.	<p>5+ A*-C grades inc. English & Mathematics</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="869 778 1868 879"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National</td> <td>Other than English</td> <td>41.7</td> <td>43.5</td> <td>44.8</td> <td>47.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WIRRAL</td> <td>Other than English</td> <td>51.9</td> <td>47.1</td> <td>53.6</td> <td>56.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The performance of EAL pupils has improved over the last 4 years. In addition the performance of Wirral EAL pupils is higher than the performance of EAL pupils nationally.</p>			2006	2007	2008	2009	National	Other than English	41.7	43.5	44.8	47.9	WIRRAL	Other than English	51.9	47.1	53.6	56.5	In progress on track
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13. Reduce child poverty by supporting families experiencing unemployment through family, adult and employability programmes	Offering a wide variety of lifelong and family learning and employability courses aimed at targeted groups.	In progress on track																		
14. Raise standards of Looked After Children so their outcomes are comparable to their peers'	In terms of National Indicators we have dropped slightly at KS2 with 59% of pupils achieving level 4 in English, 50% in maths and 77% in science. This is well ahead of national average last year of 46% in English, 44% in maths and 60% in science of pupils achieving level 4. We have concentrated our resources on supporting looked after pupils at KS2 and have narrowed the gap in performance between them and their peers who are not looked after. There is still a gap but it has been reduced. At KS4 19% of pupils achieved 5A*-C at GCSE, 50% of pupils achieved 5A*-G and 76% achieved at least one GCSE pass. These compare favourably with National averages for looked after learners but still demonstrate a serious gap between looked after learners and their peers. The figure of 7% achieving 5A*-C inc E&M is disappointing, though this was the estimated figure based on prior attainment.	In progress on track																		

What we said we would do	What we did	Completed
15. Ensure that the educational needs of Looked after Children are identified at an early stage and appropriate support put in place which tracks attainment and progress and increases levels of attainment	We have introduced a tracking system to monitor the attainments of children in Wirral's care. The information collected is used to inform their Personal Education Plans and Reviews and regular discussion with Designated Teachers in order to prioritise pupils in need of additional tuition or support either from the schools' own resources, LACES Learning Mentors, or specifically commissioned support.	In progress on track

OUTCOME AREA – Positive Contribution

“We want to engage all young people more fully in issues affecting their lives and particularly those at risk of disaffection.”

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
Priority: Fewer children and young people are involved in offending and anti social behaviour.		
1. Quarterly analysis of FTE data to ensure targeted prevention resources to reduce numbers entering the youth justice system.	1. Data returns indicate a reduction in the number of First Time Entrants entering the Youth justice System	In progress on track
2. Expansion of the Restorative Justice (RJ) Protocol to ensure RJ principles are followed effectively and that all young people entering the youth justice system for the first time are considered for RJ as an alternative to prosecution.	2. There is a Protocol between The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Merseyside Police, Youth Offending Service (YOS) and CYPD, to ensure that RJ is used with regards to Looked after Children. The funding of the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) identified a YOS officer within the Merseyside Police Custody Suite to work with young people who have never been involved in the Criminal Justice System to work using RJ Principles with these young people. There are also plans to train more Police Officers to deliver RJ on the streets.	In progress on track
3. Increase use of Restorative Practice in schools to reduce exclusions.	3. Training continues within schools to train staff in the delivering and understanding RJ Conferences. Five, three day, facilitator training courses have been held plus 1, one day, Restorative Circles Training Day. Permanent exclusions have fallen considerably and restorative practices may play some part in this reduction.	In progress on track
4. Ensure all young people are assessed at the point of entry to YOS and that ETE needs are addressed in intervention planning.	4. We continue to perform well in this area, all start assess ETE needs and intervention reflects need, including referrals to Connexions or Education Social Work services.	In progress on track
5. Annual Partnership Agreement between Connexions and YOS reviewed and refreshed to sustain positive partnership working as cited during recent Ofsted ETE inspection.	5. Discussions delayed due to local authority commissioning implications. Connexions is no longer commissioned to provide “Attachments to YOS”. There will be detailed discussions between YOS and Connexions on new operating procedures.	In milestone rescheduled
6. Connexions Personal Adviser support to YOS reconfigured to include Activity Agreement Advisor enabling direct access to the programme for Young Offenders.	6. This dedicated PA resource was trialed from April to November 2009 and resulted in no significant increase in referrals. Referrals now come direct from YOS manager to Connexions Additional services Manager for Assessment & allocation. There is an evaluation of the delivery of the current AAP Models to	In milestone rescheduled

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>7. ETE mentors recruited and trained to support young people accessing ETE.</p> <p>8. Work with current providers to ensure an increase in accommodation available for young people whose previous convictions or behaviour might otherwise prevent them from being accommodated.</p> <p>9. Substance Misuse Strategy supports early intervention to reduce harm in children and young people.</p>	<p>enable best value and services to young people, as AAP has been extended to March 2011. To date three courses have run with an average of five offenders per course.</p> <p>7. New Mentors with ETE mentor availability will be given such training early 2010.</p> <p>8. Meetings have taken place with service providers and we are working towards service level agreements. The YOS contributed half the annual cost of the Stop gap project which worked to provide accommodation for vulnerable young people and those who are difficult to accommodate.</p> <p>9. The partnership's capacity to deliver Alcohol interventions to young people and their parents has been increased. The current commissioning processes were reviewed to better support the effective and consistent delivery of young people's substance misuse interventions across a range of strategic approaches and planning groups. Universal and targeted providers were involved in the adoption and delivery of appropriate early identification and screening processes between all young peoples' substance misuse services.</p> <p>The impact has been a continuous decrease in Hospital admissions for alcohol for age 0-17, rate per 100, 000: 2006/07 181.89 2007/08 161.83 (11% decrease from the previous year) 2008/09 144.70 (10.6% decrease from previous year) 2009/10 142.29 (1.67% decrease from previous year (7 months data))</p>	<p>In milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In milestone rescheduled</p> <p>In progress on track</p>
<p>Priority: Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play opportunities which meets their needs.</p>		
<p>1. The Commissioning of Hubs to provide a focus for District planning to make youth service provision available over six nights a week.</p> <p>2. The Youth Opportunity Fund/ Youth Capital Fund will be used to commission access to leisure facilities for young people aged 13-19.</p>	<p>1. Local planning groups established to oversee the implementation of District provision. Plans are in place to recommend to Cabinet that the Youth and Play service advisory Committee acts as the overarching monitoring group reporting on the provision of commissioned and non commissioned activities.</p> <p>2. Established a Commissioning sub group with representatives from the Grant Panel, Executive Youth Board (EYB) and UK Youth Parliament (YP). This group made the following decisions: a. Each Hub was allocated £18,400 to develop the facilities. b. £100,000 was top sliced from the Youth Opportunity Fund for third sector</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>Completed</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
3. The District activity fund will be used to commission in specialist support organisations to ensure there is engagement with young people from vulnerable groups.	<p>organisations to enhance their provision for young people. c. A further 19 organisations have received funding.</p> <p>3. PSS Wirral Young Carers worked closely with the young carers participation group to apply for Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) monies, they were successful in receiving funds for positive and self-esteem building activities and issue based materials and equipment. Sixteen organisations have been commissioned either directly or in consortia arrangements to ensure there is engagement with young people from vulnerable groups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2134 Specialist units or 6402 hours of activities have been commissioned to work with young people providing access to specialist programmes. • Four part time participation workers have been commissioned to promote engagement in positive activities in each of the districts. 	Completed
4. The District Activity Fund will be used to commission additional activities to enhance the District Youth Offer and to engage with a broader range of young people.	<p>4.The following additional activities have been commissioned to enhance the District Youth offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 166 Youth Arts / cultural units • 15 Big Nights/ talent concerts / Skate Events • 104 Sports Development nights • 24 Urban Adventure units (3 hours) • 23 Hip Hop Units (3 hours) 	Completed
5. Young Carers will be taking part in a twelve week programme designed by Young Carers. The programme seeks to provide opportunities to explore areas of concern and also to provide fun and challenging activities.	<p>5. PSS Young Carers completed questionnaires with regards to issues that they felt impacted on their life due to their caring role. A large majority of the young carers wanted to experience fun activities and have respite from their caring role. Issues they felt were important were safety around the home, first aid, healthy eating and sexual health. Other issues that were covered were choices and consequences to build on personnel power, drug and alcohol workshops and bullying.</p>	Completed
6. All young carers will receive a pack which contains information on activities available in their areas, health guidelines, useful phone numbers and Young Carers Project update.	<p>6. A small group of young carers became involved in the manufacturing of the monthly newsletter, which includes sections covering project updates, free family days out in the Wirral, useful telephone numbers, healthy recipes, young carers pictures and articles about specific issues.</p>	Completed
7. We will continue to ensure that Children in Care are able to access leisure activity programmes during the holiday periods.	<p>7. This programme was run as a pilot for 2009, providing supporting evidence for a successful lottery bid for £87,000. Ten week courses for young people in care from 2010- 2012 will be funded.</p>	Completed
8. Promote play opportunities for children and young	<p>8. Play ranger sessions, play practitioner projects and summer provision, promoted</p>	Completed

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
people on quarterly basis in conjunction with extended school cluster groups.	with extended schools clusters via promotional leaflets and Extended Schools co-ordinators.	
9. Collate baseline data to establish how C&YP feel about playing out.	9. We surveyed 244 children and young people on how safe they felt when playing out. The data was analysed and the key findings were developed into tasks as part of the 'Feel Safe, Play Safe' Action Plan. The plan highlights training needs and the initial survey will be repeated in April 2010 to evaluate any improvements in children feeling safe playing outdoors.	Completed
10. Complete action plan to address areas of concern raised by October 2009.	10. Action plan developed from findings of survey which established areas of concern.	Completed
11. Play Staff will be trained to manage areas of concern with training undertaken in January 2010.	11. Training sessions on protective behaviours, road safety and promoting positive behaviour were held. Baseline data and Play Training sessions are being carried out with playworkers and play rangers.	In progress on track
12. Complete "Feel Safe, Play Safe" action plan by March 2010.	12. Feel Safe, Play Safe" action plan will be completed by March 2010.	Completed
13. C&YP make presentation to Wirral Play Partnership	13. End of year annual review involving children and young people in contributing to Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee (YAPSAC) in 2010.	In progress on track
14. Consult with C&YP on four equipped play areas.	14. We provided more challenging play equipment in response to feed back from a Children and Young People Department consultation on Play areas.	Completed
15. Membership of play Partnership or commissioned organisation is dependent on signing up to Play Strategy Implementation plan.	15 Organisations represented on Wirral Play Partnership signed up to Play Strategy Implementation Plan in December 2008.	Completed
Priority: Children & Young People are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making process.		
1. The Executive Youth Board (EYB) will review its annual progress and make recommendations for future activity.	1. The review produced a revised priorities list and agreement on how the Board will conduct future work in relation to engagement with other organisations.	Completed
2. EYB will prepare an action plan and progress will be reported to schools, youth organisations through Schools Councils, Youth Forums, Connect-uz.	2. The role of the EYB has been linked into the District Youth Forum Structure. EYB members are accountable to their District Board and will be responsible for reporting back on any actions to address concerns.	Completed
3. Arrangements are in place to consult with children	3. Youth consultation week held in December 2009. Consultation involved young	Completed

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
and young people on the priorities and actions included in the Children and Young People's Plan.	people from a diverse range of youth organisations.	
4. EYB meets with representatives of Older People's Parliament to identify appropriate structures for co-working to address community cohesion concerns.	4. EYB met with representatives and agreed a number of further meetings to agree on areas of mutual interest and joint working.	In progress on track
5. Young people will be trained in recruitment and selection procedures. Eight young people in 2009/10 and twelve young people in 2010/2011.	5. Seven young people undertook and completed the 'Involving Young People in Recruitment and Selection' training day. All successfully completed the course and are eligible for the Young People's Interview Panel (YPIP). In late 2009, the existing Young People's Panel have also taken part in interviewing for the position of Local Safeguarding Children's Board Manager.	In progress on track
6. Four Young carers will be trained in recruitment and selection in 2009/10 and they will then be involved in the recruitment of staff within the Young Carers project. All children and young people who come into the care of the local authority will be directly contacted.	6. Seven young carers were trained in Recruitment and Selection and were able to utilise these new skills in two rounds of recruitment for two different roles. The young carers devised their own questions for interviews with the candidates for project worker posts.	Completed
7. All young people who access the AAP programme will complete a questionnaire to gather their views on provision accessed. These views will feed into the commissioning and direct purchase of future provision.	7. One hundred and sixty one young people completed the programme and completed evaluations. These views will feed into the commissioning and direct purchase of future provision to ensure further take-up of AAP and other opportunities. This will also help to embed the good practice of this unique practitioner support to young people across the Wirral CYPD.	Completed
8. For 2009/10 a young people's grant panel have been established to distribute the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund. The young people identified two priority areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic commissioning (£293, 220) to improve young people's access to transport and leisure facilities. • General fund (£100,000) applications which specifically address priority areas identified by children and young people will be given priority. (Areas include: reducing teenage pregnancy; substance and alcohol misuse; homelessness; music, arts and media projects for young people; 	8.The group have had a number of meetings with Mersey travel, Wirral Council Forward Planning Team, Elected Members and Managing Directors of Bus Companies with the following results: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements are being put in place for the YOF to fund a number of transport initiatives. • Secured agreement from the bus companies to assist young people accessing extended school activities. • Secured agreement from bus providers to further explore how they could support Big Events Nights in the Youth Hubs. • Established the existence of a discount travel card for young people aged 16-22. • Secured agreement from two of the bus companies directors' to be hot seated at the Youth Voice Conference in 2010 	Completed

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
environmental projects which benefit the community).		

OUTCOME AREA – Social and Economic Wellbeing

“We want to equip our young people better for adult life and particularly to narrow the gap experienced by our most disadvantaged young people in their prospects.”

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
Priority: Increase the number of young people who are participating and achieving their potential.		
<p>1. Continue to progress the 14-19 reform agenda and to provide a range of opportunities and course of high quality through the implementation of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-19 Plan. • LSC Quality Assurance Framework post-16. <p>2. Increase post 16 participation and achievement through the implementation of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough EET Strategy. • IYS Strategy. <p>3. Support Wirral Care Leavers to access HE and achieve academic success.</p> <p>4. Provide young people with confidence and skills, and information to travel independently using public transport, or by walking or cycling.</p>	<p>1. A range of developments through the plan and framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in National Test & Trail of Foundation Learning at KS4 and post 16 to develop positive progression pathways 14-19. • Delivered engagement opportunities through European Social Fund and KS4 Engagement programme. • Developed and trialled 14-19 QA Framework. • Developed and trialled School Sixth Form Quality Monitoring & Evaluation Framework. • Roll out of eight Diploma lines in September 2009. • Increase in courses at Wirral Metropolitan College with multiple entry points. • Expanded the Young Apprenticeship offer to include Health & Social Care, Engineering and Construction. <p>2. Borough Education, Employment and Training (EET) Strategy has been reviewed, refreshed and approved by the Children’s Trust Board. Integrated Youth Support (IYS) Strategy has been reviewed and refreshed and received Cabinet approval in November 2009.</p> <p>3. Wirral Care leavers continue to be supported to access Higher Education and Aim Higher is now ring-fencing Summer School places for year 10 Children in Care.</p> <p>4. Wirral Travel Training Scheme is open to all age 16+, provides 1 to 1 travel training service to enable young people to use public transport independently and with confidence. A specific project was delivered pupils with special educational needs. Wirral travel team attend colleges and events promoting transport options and providing free travel cards to young people to attend interviews or assist with first months travel. Development of transport pages of young peoples website “teen wirral” to provide specific information regarding issues that affect young people.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p>

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
	<p>Development work with the Young Peoples Parliament with regard to identifying specific projects to benefit young people using external funding.</p> <p>Delivery of the WorkWise scheme to assist young people with the provision of a 6 month loan of a scooter or a cycle where public transport cannot serve the journey.</p> <p>Cycle training offered to all secondary schools.</p>	
<p>Priority: Reduce numbers of 16-18 vulnerable young people NEET in line with LAA targets and the PSA 2010 trajectory.</p>		
<p>1. In recognition of the current economic climate and global recession we will refresh the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough EET Strategy • IYS Strategy • 14-19 Plan <p>With a specific focus and monitoring of the progress of vulnerable groups and appropriate preventative and targeted intervention including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked After Children • Teenage mothers • Young Offenders • Young People with SEN/LDD • Those with substance misuse issues <p>2. Deliver the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Agreement Pilot • Positive Activities for Young People programmes. <p>3. Develop Borough Strategy and implementation plan for the local application of the National standards for Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG).</p> <p>4. Extend the employability programmes for NEET Young people and specifically vulnerable groups and implement the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme.</p>	<p>1. Borough EET Strategy has been reviewed, refreshed and approved by the Children's Trust Board.</p> <p>IYS Strategy has been reviewed and refreshed and received Cabinet approval November 2009.</p> <p>14-19 Plan is being implemented.</p> <p>Progress into EET of vulnerable groups is monitored monthly to ensure interventions can be targeted effectively specifically focussing on teenage mums, those leaving care, those young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) and young offenders.</p> <p>The 'Wirral Apprentice' programme has been given additional funding to target vulnerable groups including those leaving care.</p> <p>The 'brokerage project' is bearing fruit to support the redesign of the local offer of learning for those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) /LDD.</p> <p>The Greater Merseyside Sensory Education Service has been established.</p> <p>2. Activity Agreement project has been delivered and though due to complete in March 2010 has now been extended to March 2011.</p> <p>The current PAYP programme ended in December 2009 and commissioning of key worker resource is underway for 2010.</p> <p>3. The implementation plan for the local application of the National IAG standards has been developed and a self assessment process has been completed.</p> <p>4. The 'Wirral Apprentice' programme phase 1 has commenced and offering 112 places in the borough. 22% of young people previously NEET have been appointed to local apprenticeships. Phase 2 has been agreed with funding from Wirral Neighbourhood Fund for 50 additional apprenticeships. The programme has been identified as a model of good practice by the North West Employer Organisation.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p>
<p>Priority: Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty and minimise the number of children and young people living in poor housing.</p>		

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>1. Implementation of the CES Employment Strategy, WEDS priorities and Borough EET Strategy including the 'whole family' approach to addressing worklessness acknowledging the current economic climate and impact of the recession.</p> <p>2. Improve access to life opportunities such as education, employment or training, healthcare and social/recreational opportunities by providing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work wise (scooters, cycles and travel cards) • Dial a link (DRT bus service) • Travel Team (travel advice and journey planning) • Travel Training. <p>3. Support young people including care leavers to access and maintain accommodation where needed by developing and progressing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of households containing children and young people that are referred to power Health through Warmth for heating and insulation grants, thereby reducing fuel poverty amongst this group. • Monitor support/accommodation provided to lone teenage parents. 	<p>1. The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Employment and Skills Strategy and commissioning framework has been developed and presented to the CES Board in November 2009 identifying key areas of growth and challenges for the LCR.</p> <p>2. Access opportunities improved through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workwise scheme (scooters, cycles and travel cards) has funding until December 2010. Alternative funding sources to be investigated as the project is extremely successful. • DRT bus service pilot was evaluated and not found to be successful and therefore the service was not continued when the funding expired. • The Travel team are funded until December 2010. Successful project involves proactively engaging the community and providing travel advice and journey planning. Distribution of free travel cards to assist with travel to interviews, and first month of employment was successfully rolled out. • Travel training was funded until March 2010 and future support is being investigated for the continuation of the scheme. <p>3. Current Health through Warmth team data not available at the time of this review.</p> <p>37 teenage parents and pregnant teenagers were given advice and assistance on housing matters from the Wirral Council Homeless and Housing Options from April to September 2009. One lone parent homeless case was given a full housing duty.</p> <p>Work is being continued to assist young parents to access appropriate housing in the private rented sector and to access the Tenancy Deposit scheme. Further developments in recording and monitoring processes have been initiated.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p>

refreshed priorities

Wirral priorities have been re-evaluated in response to the activities undertaken in the second year of the plan and national and local changes.

Be Healthy

Reduction in the harmful consequences of risk taking behaviour.

Encourage and support all children and families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle (Refreshed).

Implement the Child Health Strategy

Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.

Staying Safe

More children grow up in secure, stable families where they belong, either through receiving timely, earlier intervention and support within their communities, or through belonging to permanent, substitute families.

Reduce the incidence of anti social, risk taking and harmful behaviour experienced by children and young people.

More children are safe at home, at school and in the community, including reducing road traffic accidents and bullying.

Children in care are safe and supported.

Implement the government action plan in response to Lord Laming review of the protection of children in England.

Enjoy and Achieve

Public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools.

Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of Children's Centres.

Children and families are supported with their social and emotional development.

Extended Services, delivered through schools and partners working in clusters, impact upon the outcomes for children and families.

Continue to raise standards in schools and settings by continuing to improve the quality of leadership and management, curriculum, assessment and learning, thereby ensuring none fall into an OFSTED category.

Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement.

Positive Contribution

Fewer children and young people are involved in offending and anti social behaviour.

Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play and developmental opportunities which meets their needs.

Children & Young People are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making process.

Economic Well Being

Increase the number of young people who are participating and achieving their potential.

Reduce numbers of 16-18 vulnerable young people NEET in line with LAA targets and the PSA 2010 trajectory.

Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty and minimise the number of children and young people living in poor housing.

OUTCOME AREA: Being Healthy

“We want to improve all children’s health and to narrow the gap in health outcomes experienced by our most disadvantaged children.”

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Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Reduction in the harmful consequences of risk taking behaviour.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the Children and Young People’s Substance Misuse Plan which addresses issues around drugs and alcohol. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a package of interventions for families at risk of substance misuse to improve parenting skills. • Refresh pathways to reduce the number of Hospital Admissions, including A&E attendance and improve links to Young Peoples Services. • Recruit 2 posts based within the Children and Young People’s Department to liaise between adult drug treatment services and Young Peoples Services to ensure children of drug using parents are supported in line with key recommendations within Think Family and “Hidden Harms”. • Provide a range of brief interventions to divert young people with less-severe substance misuse problems away from developing more severe problems and substance-related harm. • Increase availability and access to young people friendly substance misuse services through Health Services in Schools (HSIS). 2. Implement the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor progress and performance of ‘The Family Nurse Partnership’ across Wirral for vulnerable first time teenage parents. • Targeted outreach sexual health work with vulnerable at risk groups to include young people involved in offending and Children in Care and monitor impact and outcomes. • Monitor and evaluate targeted support for teenage parents delivered through Children’s Centres, e.g. Beacon Babes / Girls Aloud / BOAT. • Continue roll out of ‘speakeasy’ training to enable parents to speak to children about health relationships. • Support the preparation for the implementation in September 2011 of statutory PSHEE in schools. • Support schools with the implementation of the revised DCSF guidance for Sex and Relationship Education. 	<p>NI 115 Substance misuse by young people (reported through positive contribution).</p> <p>NICE PH004 Interventions to reduce substance misuse among vulnerable young people.</p> <p>NI 39 Alcohol harm-related hospital admission rates.</p> <p>NI 112 Under 18 conception rate. VSB08 Teenage Pregnancy.</p> <p>PSA 11 Narrow the gap in educational achievement between children from low income and disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers.</p> <p>VSB13 Chlamydia Prevalence.</p> <p>NI 113 Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 20 year olds. NICE PH 003 One to one interventions to</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Implement the Sexual Health Plan including increasing the proportion of eligible young people screened for Chlamydia. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase accessibility and provision of Chlamydia screening through implementation of HSIS within Schools and Colleges and across Children's Centres. • Increase availability and access to young people friendly sexual health and contraceptive services through HSIS and EHC in Pharmacies. • Formally launch the Sexual Health Policy and Guidance across Children's services. 4. Review contract with Kooth.com and establish local goals. 5. Monitor accident prevention scheme and develop an action plan to include actions for each Children's Centre aimed at reducing local accidental injury rates. 	<p>reduce the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, and to reduce the rate of under 18 conceptions, especially among vulnerable and at risk groups.</p> <p>NI 50 Emotional health of children. NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services.</p> <p>NI 70 Reduce emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people (Also reported through Staying Safe).</p>
Encourage and support all children and families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle	<p>To achieve a reduction in the prevalence of overweight and obese children through the Implementation of the key child targets within the Obesity Action Plan and pathway by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) 2009/10. A coordinated approach with the Active Lifestyles Project with a minimum of six schools through engagement with parents and children and continue to provide feedback to parents. 2. To promote and monitor the child weight management providers (MEND & Lifestyle and Weight Management service) to ensure referral targets are met. 3. Ensure BMI data from childhood screening programme (aged 2-2½ years) is collated and used as a measure to inform appropriate commissioning of services. 4. Implement Wirral's Taste for Healthy Food Policy including specific guidance on public venues and residential settings. 5. To provide support for overweight and obese pregnant women by producing a care pathway, developing exercise classes and providing healthy eating information. 6. To provide a programme of physical activity sessions for 0-5 year olds in Children's Centres, e.g. Top Tots, Active Tots, Fizzy Tots. 	<p>NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year.</p> <p>NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6.</p> <p>NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport.</p> <p>PH017 - Promoting physical activity for children and young people.</p> <p>NICE PH008 Guidance on the promotion and creation of physical environments that support increased levels of physical activity.</p> <p>NI 53 Prevalence of breast feeding at 6 – 8 weeks from birth.</p> <p>VSB09 Childhood Obesity.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Deliver Healthy Eating Groups to parents with very young children through Children's Centres, together with advice on choosing healthier lifestyles based on the 'Change 4 Life' programme and link in with the 'Start 4 Life' campaign. 8. Ensure the Henry Programme is accessed by all Children's Centres and Early Years practitioners. 9. To implement the Health Promoting Early Years Programme. 10. To increase the percentage of pupils aged 5-16 who take part in 2 hours of high quality PE and sport in school and a further 3 hours outside school hours – to be monitored through the School Sport Partnership Programme. 11. Implement the Active Families Sport England & Physical Activity Alliance Project for 0 – 17 year olds and their families. 12. Continue to implement Sport England's Free Swim programme for under 18's across Wirral Leisure Centres. <p>Implement key targets within the Breastfeeding Action Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. To deliver a breastfeeding peer support service for breastfeeding mothers targeting the most deprived areas of Wirral. 14. To deliver a social marketing programme to encourage the initiation and duration of breastfeeding. 15. To continue to promote Healthy Start. 16. Deliver the breastfeeding strategic action plan to increase initiation and prevalence of breastfeeding at 6 – 8 weeks, to include the roll out of one BOAT integrated antenatal programme in each locality with additional parent education classes at other venues' and support Hospital and Community settings to achieve the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative. 17. To develop joint work with Healthy Schools to support breastfeeding education in schools and settings for children and young people. 	<p>VSB11 Prevalence of breast feeding at 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>NICE PH011 Guidance for midwives, health visitors, pharmacists and other primary care services to improve the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children in low income households.</p>
Implement the Child Health Strategy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the Healthy Child Programmes - Pregnancy 0 – 5 years and 5 – 19 years programmes - across the Children's Trust Partnership. 2. CHiCC to be reshaped as Parent Infant Mental Health Service (PIMHS). Commissioning strategy to be completed, workforce development to be integrated into Children's Trust Workforce Development Strategy and CPD delivered to ensure competency. 	<p>NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year</p> <p>NI 50 Emotional health of children.</p> <p>NI51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Baby Lifecheck and Teen Life Check programmes available and easily accessible to parents and young people. Baby Lifecheck to be integrated into delivery of Children's Centres and HCP 0-5 years; Teen Lifecheck to be integrated into delivery of HSIS, PSHEE curriculum and HCP 5-19 years. 4. Roll out one BOAT in each locality with additional parent education classes and health promoting early years to be provided at other early years' venues. 5. Implement the Healthy Schools Action Plan arising from the Self Evaluation Toolkit to ensure that 10% of schools are engaged in the 'Enhanced Healthy Schools Programme' by 2010 and ensure nutrition and oral health training is provided to 50% of all Wirral schools throughout 2009/10. 6. Conduct regular reviews of young people's website (11-19 years) to ensure up to date health information is provided and key messages are accessed, aligned and consistent across Children's Trust partnership. 7. Improve health services for children with complex needs and disabilities. 8. Implement Aiming High for Disabled Children Strategy. 	You're Welcome Quality Framework
Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.	<p>Implement relevant actions relating to CYP in the Health Inequalities Plan. Monitor and evaluate the plan throughout the period to ensure outcomes are being met to reduce health inequalities.</p> <p>Ensure all children's centres have fully integrated plans to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Reduce the inequalities in oral health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the Fluoride Milk Programme, the Bright Smiles Programme and the Dental Bus service. • Develop the dental pilot to roll out across relevant areas. 2.Protect children from the harmful effects of tobacco: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the proportion of women who continue to smoke throughout pregnancy. • Ensure all Children's Centres have fully integrated plans on smoking cessation. • Train smoking cessation advisors within children's centres. 3. Ensure breastfeeding remains integral part of obesity programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pathway to ensure peer support programme is embedded in ante natal clinics within children's centres. 	<p>NI 112 Under 18 conception rate. VSB08 Teenage Pregnancy.</p> <p>RTA measure</p> <p>NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year.</p> <p>NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6.</p> <p>dmft (5 year olds).</p> <p>DMFT (12 and 14 year olds).</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<p>4. Services for disabled children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out aiming high programme across children’s centres including access to relevant specialist agencies and ensure these plans are fully aligned with complimentary service plans and activities. <p>Implement actions to reduce inequalities in the take up of childhood vaccinations and immunisation programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement new vaccination programmes effectively ensuring high uptake from inception. • Undertake baseline review of National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidance and implement action plan. • Link with dental pilot to identify children who have missed immunisations and offer on the spot. Consider roll out across areas of low take up. • Identify schools where uptake is low and target approach, e.g. consider using Gillick competency to increase uptake of school leaver booster for those aged 15 years. <p>Develop and implement actions to reduce the number of infant mortalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Public Health intelligence to highlight target groups and plan coordinated approach across Being Healthy and Staying Safe outcome groups. <p>Develop and implement plans to increase uptake of Healthy Start vitamin supplements amongst eligible women and children.</p> <p>Embed the TaMHS (Targeted Mental Health in Schools) project in Wirral.</p> <p>Develop CAMHS to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced service for CYP with learning disabilities. • Appropriate accommodation for 16 – 17 year olds who require in-patient placements. <p>24 hour cover in partnership with the Acute Hospital.</p>	<p>(decayed, missing and filled teeth).</p> <p>Proportion of women who continue to smoke throughout pregnancy.</p> <p>VSB 10 – Individuals who complete immunisation by recommended ages. Infant mortality rate.</p> <p>NI51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services.</p> <p>Increase uptake from 0.4% (children) and 0.1% (women) (September 2009 snapshot)</p>

OUTCOME AREA – Staying Safe

“We want to support children earlier, closer to their communities and wherever possible by supporting families.”

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>More children grow up in secure, stable families where they belong, either through receiving timely, earlier intervention and support within their communities, or through belonging to permanent, substitute families.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustain improved system and processes underpinning the Team around the Child model, which measures and supports CAF and TAC. 2. Review and improve systems and processes to support and deliver timely multi-agency plans for children in need supported by CIN IRO. 3. Implement the Integrated Preventative Services Plan to support the coherent and joined up development of Area Teams / Children’s Centres and Extended Schools. 4. Continue to provide credible programmes for courts to consider as alternatives to custody, for ‘prolific and serious’ offenders including embedding Multi-Systemic Therapy. 5. Implement the Area Team development plan, and co-locate all Area Teams. 6. Deliver the revised Parenting Strategy; implement PEIP; monitor the impact on improved outcomes delivered by commissioned services. 7. Implement plans to further develop and co-locate services to deliver IYSS / TYS. 8. Refocus the Adolescent Crisis Team towards earlier intervention with adolescents and their families and carers. 9. Extend capacity to deliver more family group meetings, and increase short break provision to support more children and adolescents with their family in the community. 10. Deliver timely plans, for more children to be adopted or achieve permanence through adoption, Special Guardianship and Residence Orders, where this will best meet their needs. Extend and develop capacity to provide post adoption / Special Guardianship support. 11. Safely reduce the numbers of children in care, particularly focusing on reducing the number of children in care placed at home with parents. 12. Sustain improved processes for contact, referral and assessment – the ‘front door’ into social care, implementing the findings from the Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Services. 	<p>NI 59 Initial assessments for children’s social care carried out within 7 working days of referral.</p> <p>NI 60 Core assessments for children’s social care carried out within 35 working days of their commencement.</p> <p>NI 61 Stability of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption.</p> <p>NI 63 Stability of placements for looked after children: length of placements.</p> <p>NI 68 Referrals to children’s social care going on to initial assessment.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of adolescents placed in care and those placed have a clear plan about the purpose for being looked after and their needs into adulthood.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Provide strong organisational and operational links between Children's Centres and fieldwork services, focussing on safeguarding systems and training to meet assessed needs. 14. Develop the appropriate involvement of children's centres in the delivery of support to all children 0– 5 subject to a child protection plan. 15. Implement early intervention and planning of services to families with children under five involving midwives, health visitors, children's centre outreach workers and social care professionals with a focus on the needs of the reach population of the centre. 16. Embed consistency of response, in accordance with regulation, to children living with Private Foster Carers. 17. Deliver the Children's Social Care and Safeguarding restructure, to increase the number of social workers, increase capacity to deliver improved management and performance oversight, and expansion of LSCB activity. 	
Reduce the incidence of anti social, risk taking and harmful behaviour experienced by children and young people.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustain and strengthen joint working between the CYPD, NHS Wirral and Wirral Family Safety Unit to further reduce the incidence of domestic violence and repeat occurrences. 2. Continue to develop more consistent targeting of services for children at risk of offending, through early identification systems triggering YOS input. 3. Review Merseyside Protocol and further develop services for children identified as missing from home / care, and / or involved in sexual exploitation. 4. Monitor and review children's accident and emergency referral pathway, to continue to reduce the incidence of children presenting following excessive alcohol consumption / substance misuse. 5. Jointly deliver Operation Stay Safe, and monitor the impact upon reduced incidence of young people's excessive consumption of alcohol. 6. Promote, develop and deliver parental guidance and awareness raising strategies to keep children safe, including the co-sleeping awareness campaign. 7. Continue to deliver comprehensive LSCB training plan for all staff, level 1-4 and refresh Section 11 Audit and Action plan by all LSCB Board members. 	<p>NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence.</p> <p>NI 43 Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody.</p> <p>N19 Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders.</p> <p>NI III First time entrants to the Youth Justice System age 10-17 (reported through Positive Contribution).</p> <p>NI 64 Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more.</p> <p>NI 65 Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time.</p> <p>NI 67 Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales.</p> <p>NI 70 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people.</p> <p>NI 71 Children who have run away from home / care overnight. (Measured from 2009 onwards).</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<p>8. Develop a Risk Governance procedure within the LSCB that supports individual and multi-agency risk management and ensures that the risk management plans for those at very high risk are clear, co-ordinated, defensible and appropriately resourced.</p>	<p>Agency use of the Risk Governance process. Young people's risk management plans lead to reduced risk for the young person and the community in general.</p>
<p>More children are safe at home, at school and in the community, including reducing road traffic accidents and bullying.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the road safety strategy for children through the Road Safety partnership. 2. Extend and develop opportunities for children and young people to tell us what makes them feel unsafe, and deliver programmes to improve their safety and resilience. 3. Continue to support the development of anti-bullying strategies in schools, on school transport, and in community facilities, and implement a strategic rollout of the Anti – bullying policy with all partners and interested parties. Liaise with Anti Bullying Alliance and the National Strategy – Behaviour and Attendance to develop a Wirral Anti Bullying Strategy. 4. Implement and evidence learning from Child Death Overview Panels. 5. Children's centres to develop action plans and activities designed to reduce the rate of emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children aged 0 – 5 resident in the reach area of the centre. 	<p>NI 48 Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.</p> <p>NI 69 Children who have experienced bullying.</p>
<p>Children in care are safe and supported.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure effective multi-agency planning and commissioning of services for children with disabilities in accordance with the Aiming High for Disabled Children framework. 2. Improve the quality of multi-agency transition arrangements for children in care with learning disabilities and / or mental health issues. 3. Ensure good or excellent standards of care in all directly provided residential care, foster care and commissioned services. Complete review of in house residential services. 4. Improve the quality and choice of provision for children becoming looked after, particularly in LA fostering provision and reduce the number of children living in out of borough independent sector residential placements. 5. Maintain a full complement of trained and skilled social workers, so 	<p>NI 62 Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves.</p> <p>NI 66 Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.</p> <p>NI 58 Emotional and behavioural health of children in care. (Reported through Being Healthy).</p> <p>Improvement in performance against PSA 16 targets.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<p>that all children in care have a qualified and suitably trained social worker to meet their needs in a timely way.</p> <p>6. Establish the Corporate Parenting Body (through re-designating the Virtual School Governing Body) and develop / implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy.</p> <p>7. Continue to ensure that the mental health needs of children in care are recognised and responded to through a continuum of provision from consultation, advice, training, specialist assessments and interventions through to specialist placement provision.</p> <p>8. Increase the number of former care leavers aged 19 years in suitable accommodation and in employment, education and training.</p>	
Implement the government action plan in response to Lord Laming review of protection of children in England.	Delivery plan outlined in the Local Safeguarding Children Board Business plan.	Review completed and implemented.

OUTCOME AREA – Enjoy and Achieve

“We want to raise the achievement of all our young people and to narrow the gap in attainment experienced by our most disadvantaged children.”

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Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
Public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove surplus capacity in Primary & Secondary Schools through phased reviews of provision across the Borough. 2. Implement a programme to review and improve Special School provision. 	<p>% of surplus places in primary schools.</p> <p>% of surplus places in secondary schools.</p>
Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of Children’s Centres.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve outreach of all Children’s Centres to vulnerable families. 2. Ensure priority is given to improving the outcomes for vulnerable families in the 5 ECM themes, via continuous data analysis, regular reports to the board, development of case studies of good practice. 3. Use of tighter performance management structures and common agendas across children’s centres; develop integrated multi-agency networks across areas and districts. 4. Create robust information sharing protocols and systems across all partners. 5. Publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Audit. 6. Launch of Information System for Parents and providers. 7. Completion of Phase 3 Children’s Centre developments. 	<p>NI 92 narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in Early Years Foundation Stage profile and the rest.</p> <p>NI118 Take up of formal childcare by low income working families.</p> <p>NI 109 Number of Children’s Centres.</p> <p>Numbers of children and families accessing services and the proportion from vulnerable/disadvantaged backgrounds.</p>
Children and families are supported with their social and emotional development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure priority is also given to work with vulnerable families on emotional and social development, e.g. via Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programmes, Family Works, and nurturing training provided by Special Educational Support Service (SESS). 2. Further embed the Managed Moves protocol in secondary and primary schools especially in order to further reduce the levels of exclusion. 3. Continue to roll out Restorative Practices training. 	<p>Number of children excluded from school (fixed and permanent exclusions).</p> <p>Numbers of schools engaged with the SEAL programmes.</p>
Extended Services, delivered through schools and partners working in clusters, impact	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to implement the Extended Services Action Plan. 2. Priorities for 2010-2011 are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All clusters to continue to have robust plans clearly targeted using 	<p>NI88 Number of extended Schools.</p> <p>RAG rating by Extended Services Regional</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
upon the outcomes for children and families.	allocated resources effectively. b. Improve measurement of impact. c. Achieve the Full Core Offer across all schools by 2010.	Team. Number of children accessing services.
Raise standards in schools and settings by continuing to improve the quality of leadership and management, curriculum, assessment and learning, thereby ensuring none fall into an OFSTED category.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put revised School Improvement Policy into practice; provide appropriate briefings of councillors, governors and headteachers. 2. Ensure primary schools causing concern or in an Ofsted category make sufficient progress to be removed in the shortest possible time. 3. Identify underachieving and underperforming schools, subjects and groups within schools (including underperforming vulnerable learners) through analysis of data. This includes ensuring through the National Challenge and Gaining Ground programmes that by Summer 2011 no secondary school is below 30% for 5+A*-C grades (including English and Mathematics). 4. Increase accuracy of assessment and consistency of moderation at transition points. 5. Ensure priority is given to ISP and WISP in primary schools; and coordinated, targeted support in secondary schools. Focus in particular on raising standards in English and Maths. Implement the World Class Primary Curriculum. 6. Implement curriculum changes in line with the 21st Century School programme and the review of the Primary Curriculum. 7. Develop a high quality e-learning community that supports an improving and developing curriculum and encourages collaboration. 8. Implement the Masters in Teaching and Learning Programme. 9. Embed APP and AFL across English, mathematics, science and ICT teaching. 10. Further develop effective teaching and learning strategies and the sharing of good practice to raise the quality of learning. 11. Implement the next phase of 1-1 tuition, monitor and evaluate the impact. 12. As appropriate implement the requirements of the Children Schools and Families Bill and disseminate to school settings and partners. 	NI 89 Reduction of number of schools judged as requiring special measures and improvement in time taken to come out of the category All DCSF attainment targets and linked NI's will be measured. NI 78 - Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths
Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement.	<i>Better Communication Strategy</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement new models of service delivery for children and young people with Speech, Language and Communication needs. 	NI 92 narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in Early Years Foundation Stage profile and the rest.

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Identify and pilot effective screening tools. 3. Develop and implement a costed training plan for professional development across the workforce for parents/carers. 4. Refine outcome and impact measure for this area of work. <p><i>Narrowing the Gap</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Interrogate more deeply performance data including neighbourhood data, on effects of poverty on achievement across the partnership. Devise a strategy based on action research and the National Strategy Narrowing the Gap programme. 6. Reduce child poverty by supporting families experiencing unemployment through family, adult and employability programmes. <p><i>Inclusion and Special Education Needs</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Develop the use of range of intervention strategies to support under-achieving and under-attaining groups of pupils, e.g. via dissemination of Action Research findings of Educational Psychologists. 8. Further reduce the SEN/non-SEN gap at the end of all Key Stages in the core subjects. 9. Further develop greater collaborative working between schools to ensure that all mainstream schools have effective SEN provision maps that utilise provide and reliable intervention approaches and contribute towards raising SEN standards/achievements. 10. Ensure all schools are making good use of IDP and progression Guidance materials to improve Quality First Teaching and enable them to set challenging and reliable targets to raise the achievements of all pupils. <p><i>Attendance</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Work with schools to reduce the level of Persistent Absence in primary schools and secondary schools. 12. Work with the Virtual School to improve the school attendance of Looked After Children. <p><i>English as an Additional Language</i></p>	<p>NI 102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2 and 4.</p> <p>NI 87 proportion of pupils who are Persistently Absent in secondary schools.</p> <p>Proportion of Children In Care who miss 25 days or more of school.</p> <p>NI 99 Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2</p> <p>NI 100 Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2</p> <p>NI 101 Looked After Children achieving 5 A*-C GCSE's</p> <p>% care leavers in education, employment or training at age 19</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<p>13. Improve the outcomes for children who have English as an Additional Language by building capacity in schools and evaluating the effectiveness of support.</p> <p><i>Looked After Children</i></p> <p>14. Raise standards of Looked After Children so their outcomes are comparable to their peers through capacity building in schools and evaluating the effectiveness of support.</p> <p>15. Ensure that the educational needs of Looked after Children are identified at an early stage and appropriate support put in place which tracks attainment and progress and increases levels of attainment.</p>	

OUTCOME AREA – Positive Contribution

“We want to engage all young people more fully in issues affecting their lives and particularly those at risk of disaffection.”

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Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Fewer children and young people are involved in offending and anti social behaviour.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarterly analysis of FTE data to ensure targeted prevention resources to reduce numbers entering the youth justice system. 2. Expansion of the Restorative Justice Protocol to ensure RJ principles are followed effectively and that all young people entering the youth justice system for the first time are considered for RJ as an alternative to prosecution. 3. Increase use of Restorative Practice in schools to reduce exclusions. 4. Ensure all young people are assessed at the point of entry to YOS and that ETE needs are addressed in intervention planning. 5. Annual Partnership Agreement between Connexions and YOS reviewed and refreshed to sustain positive partnership working as cited during recent Ofsted ETE inspection. 6. Connexions Personal Adviser support to YOS reconfigured to include Activity Agreement Advisor enabling direct access to the programme for Young Offenders. 7. ETE mentors recruited and trained to support young people accessing ETE. 8. Work with current providers to ensure an increase in accommodation available for young people whose previous convictions or behaviour might otherwise prevent them from being accommodated. 9. Embed the Substance Misuse Strategy with identified actions reported through the integrated Youth Support Strategy. 	<p>NI 111 First-time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 – 17.</p> <p>NI 86 Number of secondary schools judged as having Outstanding Behaviour.</p> <p>NI 45 Young offender’s engagement in suitable education employment and training.</p> <p>NI 46 Young offenders access to suitable accommodation.</p> <p>NI115 Tellus Survey, the total number of young people reporting either frequent use of drugs, or alcohol or both is lower compared to the number of respondents in October 2007 returns.</p> <p>NI 39 Alcohol harm-related hospital admission rates.</p>
<p>Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play and developmental opportunities which meets their needs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Youth Hubs to provide a focus for District planning, delivering and monitoring of provision to improve the quality of services. 2. The Youth Opportunity Fund/ Youth capital Fund will be used to support the Youth Offer. 3. Young Carers will be taking part in a programme designed to provide opportunities to explore areas of concern and also to provide fun and challenging activities. 4. We will continue to ensure that Children in Care are able to access leisure activity programmes during the holiday periods. 	<p>NI 57 Children and young people’s participation in high quality PE and sport.</p> <p>NI110 Young People’s participation in positive activities.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Promote play opportunities for children and young people on quarterly basis in conjunction with extended school cluster groups. 6. Collate baseline data to establish how C&YP feel about playing out. 7. Complete action plan to address areas of concern raised by October 2009. 8. Consult with Children and Young People on four equipped play areas. 9. Membership of play Partnership or commissioned organisation is dependent on signing up to Play Strategy Implementation plan. 	
<p>Children & Young People are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making process.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Executive Youth Board will annually review progress, make recommendations for future activity and report through District Youth Forum meetings. 2. Establish robust consultation mechanism building on existing structures to consult with children and young people on the New Children and Young People's Plan. 3. EYB agree with Older People's Parliament appropriate actions for co-working to address community cohesion concerns. 4. Young people will be trained in recruitment and selection procedures. Twelve young people in 2010/2011. 5. All children and young people who come into the care of the local authority will be directly contacted. 6. Young people will continue to informally evaluate the Activity Agreement Programme. 7. A grant panel will be established to oversee the allocation of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds. The outcomes will be reported to both the Positive Contribution and the Integrated Youth support strategy Groups. 8. The Commissioned youth activities will be monitored to ensure agreed targets and performance measures are achieved. Young people will be involved in the monitoring process. 9. Pupil Panels for pupils from Special Schools will be developed to increase the involvement of young people with LDD in the decision making process. 10 Young people will be actively involved in developing resources to support KS2/3 transition and will contribute to the launch and training of relevant professionals. 	<p>NI110 Young People's participation in positive activities.</p> <p>10% of schools engaged in Healthy Schools Enhancement model.</p> <p>Representatives from 4 districts are engaged in the decision making process with the Executive Youth Board.</p> <p>NI110 Young people's Participation in positive Activities</p>

OUTCOME AREA – Social and Economic Wellbeing

“We want to equip our young people better for adult life and particularly to narrow the gap experienced by our most disadvantaged young people in their prospects.”

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Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Increase the number of young people who are participating and achieving their potential.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to progress the 14-19 reform agenda and to provide a range of opportunities and course of high quality through the implementation of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-19 Plan. • 14-19 Quality Assurance Framework. • School Sixth Form Quality Monitoring & Evaluation Framework. 2. Increase post 16 participation and achievement through the implementation of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough EET Strategy. • IYS Strategy. 3. Support Wirral Care Leavers to access HE and achieve academic success. 4. Provide young people with confidence and skills, and information to travel independently using public transport, or by walking or cycling. 	<p>NI 90 – Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas. NI 79 – Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19. NI 80 – Achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19. NI 117 – Reduce the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education employment or training (NEET). NI 91 – Participation of 17 year olds in education or training. NI 148 Care leavers in Education, employment and training.</p>
<p>Reduce numbers of 16-18 vulnerable young people NEET in line with LAA targets and the PSA 2010 trajectory.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In recognition of the current economic climate and global recession we will refresh the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough EET Strategy • IYS Strategy • 14-19 Plan. With a specific focus and monitoring of the progress of vulnerable groups and appropriate preventative and targeted intervention including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked After Children • Teenage mothers • Young Offenders • Young People with SEN/LDD • Those with substance misuse issues. 2. Deliver the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Agreement Pilot • Positive Activities for Young People programmes. 	<p>NI 117 – 16-18 year olds not in education employment or training (NEET). N148 Care leavers in Education, employment and training. NI 45 Young Offenders engagement in suitable education employment and training.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Develop Borough Strategy and implementation plan for the local application of the National standards for information, Advice and Guidance. 4. Extend the employability programmes for NEET Young people and specifically vulnerable groups and implement the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme. 	
<p>Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty and minimise the number of children and young people living in poor housing.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of the CES Employment Strategy, WEDS priorities and Borough EET Strategy including the 'whole family' approach to addressing worklessness acknowledging the current economic climate and impact of the recession. 2. Improve access to life opportunities such as education, employment or training, healthcare and social/recreational opportunities by providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work wise (scooters, cycles and travel cards) • Travel Team (travel advice and journey planning) • Travel Training. 3. Support young people including care leavers to access and maintain accommodation where needed by developing and progressing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of households containing children and young people that are referred to power Health through Warmth for heating and insulation grants, thereby reducing fuel poverty amongst this group. • Monitor support/accommodation provided to lone teenage parents. 	<p>NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty.</p> <p>NI176 Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes).</p> <p>NI 118 Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families.</p> <p>NI 45 Young offenders access to suitable accommodation.</p> <p>N147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation.</p>

Outcome Framework Performance Indicators

NATIONAL INDICATOR	ACTUALS				TARGETS				Historical Performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 19 - Proven Re-offending by young offenders 10 - 17	-	0.3	1.3	-	1.3	1.2	To be agreed with Youth Justice Board		-
NI 22 - Perceptions of parents taking responsibility for the behaviour of their children in the area	-	-	32.5	-	-	Target setting from 2011			-
NI 43 - Young people within the YJS receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	4.8	3.8	4.0	-	< 5.0	< 5.0	< 5.0	< 5.0	↔
NI 44a - Ethnic composition of offenders on YJS disposals - White	0.9	-0.3	0.3	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↔
NI 44b - Ethnic composition of offenders on YJS disposals - Mixed	-0.1	1.1	0.2	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↔
NI 44c - Ethnic composition of offenders on YJS disposals - Black	0.3	0.4	0.4	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↔
NI 44d - Ethnic composition of offenders on YJS disposals - Asian	-0.4	-0.5	-0.3	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↔
NI 44e - Ethnic composition of offenders on YJS disposals - Chinese	-0.7	-0.6	-0.6	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	↔
NI 45 - Young offender's engagement in suitable education, training and employment	70.1	83.9	82.0	-	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	↑ ↓
NI 46 - Young offender's access to suitable accommodation	97.5	97.3	98.2	-	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	↑
NI 50 - Emotional Health of Children	-	-	60.4	57.2	-	Target setting from 2011			↓
NI 51 - Effectiveness of CAMHS	15.0	15.0	15.0	-	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0	↔
NI 52a - Take up of School Lunches - Primary	-	-	40.8	-	Target setting from 2010				-

NATIONAL INDICATOR	ACTUALS				TARGETS				Historical Performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 52b - Take up of School Lunches - Secondary	-	-	38.5	-	Target setting from 2010				-
NI 53 - Prevalence of Breastfeeding at 6 - 8 weeks from birth	-	-	29.0	-	29.9	Target setting from 2010			-
NI 54 - Services for Disabled Children	-	-	-	63.0	Baseline year 2010. Target setting from 2011.				-
NI 55 - Obesity in Reception aged Children (LAA)	9.13	9.57	9.55	-	9.23	9.37	9.50	-	↑ ↓
NI 56 - Obesity in Year 6 aged Children	19.7	19.1	20.6	-	20.4	20.9	-	-	↓ ↑
NI 57 - Participation in Sporting Activities	67.0	71.0	71.0	-	-	84.0	90.0	95.0	← →
NI 58 - Emotional Health of Children in Care	-	-	15.3	-	Target setting from 2011				-
NI 59 - Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral	81.6	78.8	77.4	-	72.0	76.0	78.0	80.0	↓
NI 60 - Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	82.4	89.8	79.1	-	80.0	80.0	82.0	84.0	↑ ↓
NI 61 - Timeliness of adoption	76.2	55.6	61.1	-	68.0	80.0	85.0	90.0	↑
NI 62 - Stability of placements: number of placements	10.3	12.5	10.2	-	10.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	↑
NI 63 - Stability of placements: length of placement	62.3	51.9	67.5	-	70.0	72.0	72.5	73.0	↓ ↑
NI 64 - Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	7.7	3.4	4.8	-	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	↑
NI 65 - Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.	8.9	14.5	11.2	-	15.0	14.0	13.0	13.0	↓ ↑
NI 66 - LAC cases which were reviewed within required timescales.	89.8	95.2	96.3	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	↑

NATIONAL INDICATOR	ACTUALS				TARGETS				Historical Performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 67 - Child Protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	100.0	100.0	99.2	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	← →
NI 68 - Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment (LAA)	40.5	65.9	64.3	-	72.0	75.0	77.0	80.0	↑ ↓
NI 69 - Children who have experience bullying (results for NI 69 are not directly comparable due to changes in the questionnaire)	-	-	45.9	26.8	Target setting from 2010				N/A
NI 70 - Reduce emergency admissions to hospital relating to unintentional and deliberate injuries to children	155.9	161.1	159.6	-	129.9	Target setting from 2010			↑ ↓
NI 71 - Young Runaways	-	-	14.0	-	-	15.0	15.0	15.0	-
NI 72 - Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage (LAA)	45.0	46.0	49.0	52.1	56.0	57.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 73 - Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	72.0	72.0	75.0	74.0	77.0	78.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 75 - 5+ GCSE A*-C (Inc English and Maths) (LAA)	46.3	48.4	50.2	53.8	55.2	57.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 76 - Number of schools where less than 55% achieve L4 KS2 English and maths	16.0	11.0	8.0	11.0	-	16.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑ ↓
NI 78 - Number of schools where less than 30% achieve 5+ GCSE including English and maths	6.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	-	2.0	0.0	0.0	↑
NI 79 - Achievement of level 2 at 19	69.3	70.8	74.0	-	-	-	82.0	-	↑
NI 80 - Achievement of level 3 at 19	44.4	43.9	48.0	-	-	-	54.0	-	↑
NI 81 - Inequality gap at level 3 aged 19	32.4	33.1	32.8	-	-	-	28.0	26.0	← →

NATIONAL INDICATOR	ACTUALS				TARGETS				Historical Performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 82 - Inequality gap at level 2 aged 19	50.8	51.0	59.5	-	-	-	64.0	66.0	↑
NI 84 - 2 or more A*-C GCSE Science	50.8	54.5	53.4	60.5	58.7	60.6	63.0	64.0	↑
NI 85a - Post-16 participation in physical sciences (Physics)	-	-	128.0	133.0	-	-	-	-	↑
NI 85b - Post-16 participation in physical sciences (Chemistry)	-	-	246.0	270.0	-	-	-	-	↑
NI 85c - Post-16 participation in physical sciences (Maths)	-	-	276.0	306.0	-	-	-	-	↑
NI 86 - Secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour	81.8	86.4	86.4	-	-	90.0	90.0	90.0	↑
NI 87 - Secondary Schools Persistent Absence (LAA)	8.0	7.1	4.9	-	6.4	5.5	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 88 - Schools offering Extended Services	-	-	85.0	98.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
NI 89a - Number of Schools judged as requiring Special Measures	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
NI 89b - Average time taken for Schools to come out of Category	-	-	-	-	-	0.0	0.0	0.0	-
NI 90 - Take up of 14 - 19 Learning Diplomas	-	-	-	-	Introduced in 2009/10. Target setting from academic year 2010/11.				-
NI 91 - Participation in of 17 year olds in Education or Training	79.0	79.0	-	-	-	-	To be agreed		-
NI 92 - Narrowing the Gap at FSP (LAA)	37.4	34.3	31.9	31.3	30.2	29.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 93 - Progression of 2 levels English KS1 - KS2 (LAA)	80.5	83.8	87.2	84.0	86.0	87.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑ ↓
NI 94 - Progression of 2 levels maths KS1 - KS2 (LAA)	73.7	74.8	77.2	80.0	79.0	82.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑

NATIONAL INDICATOR	ACTUALS				TARGETS				Historical Performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 99 - LAC reaching L4 English at KS2 (LAA)	36.0	41.0	62.0	-	44.0	53.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 100 - LAC reaching L4 maths at KS2 (LAA)	36.0	52.0	62.0	-	44.0	56.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 101 - LAC achieving 5+ A*-C (Including English & maths) (LAA)	-	-	10.5	7.3	7.4	6.3	To be agreed with DCSF		-
NI 102a - FSM/Non FSM gap at KS2 English and maths	25.4	23.7	21.7	-	-	-	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 102b - FSM/Non FSM gap at KS4 English and maths	34.8	36.5	37.6	-	-	-	To be agreed with DCSF		↓
NI 103a - SEN statements within 26 weeks (Excluding exceptions)	-	-	97.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
NI 103b - SEN statements within 26 weeks (Including exceptions)	-	-	91.0	100.0	95.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
NI 104 - SEN/Non SEN gap at KS2 English and maths	56.2	55.9	51.2	48.6	-	-	46.0	44.0	↑
NI 105 - SEN/Non SEN gap at KS4 English and maths	43.7	44.1	46.4	50.4	-	-	47.0	45.0	↓
NI 106 - Young People from low income backgrounds progressing to University	30.0	31.0	-	-	-	27.0	26.0	25.0	-
NI 109 - Delivery of Sure Start Children's Centres	-	-	95.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
NI 110 - Young Peoples Participation in Positive Activities	-	-	80.5	63.7	-	Target setting from 2011			-
NI 111 - First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System (LAA)	1440.0	1620.0	1370.0	-	1570.0	1500.0	-	-	↑ ↓
NI 112 - Reduction in the Under 18 Conception Rate (LAA) Data subject to timeframe of gestation and registering of birth.	-5.6	-6.7	-	-	-28.0	-39.0	-50.0	-	↑
NI 113 - Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25's	-	21.6	-	-	-	Target setting from 2010			-

NATIONAL INDICATOR	ACTUALS				TARGETS				Historical Performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 114 - Permanent exclusions from School	0.10	0.10	0.08		0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	↑
NI 115 - Substance Misuse by Young People	-	-	11.1	13.9	-	Target setting from 2011			-
NI 117 - Percentage of 16 - 18 year olds NEET (LAA)	10.0	9.5	9.1	8.9	7.1	6.9	Target setting from 2010		↑
NI 118 - Take up of Formal Childcare by Low-income working families									
NI 147 - Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	80.5	91.1	91.4	-	-	95.0	95.0	95.0	↑
NI 148 - Care Leavers in EET	56.1	40.0	55.2	-	-	Target setting from 2010			↓ ↑



WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 19th MARCH 2010

DEVELOPING COMMISSIONING

1.0 Background

In January 2010 the Children's Trust Board received a presentation regarding developing the commissioning role of the Children's Trust. The Trust Board requested an 'Options Paper' to inform further discussion and decision making at the next meeting (19th March 2010). This report seeks to extend the commissioning discussion and includes information regarding organisational mandate and options for the scope of the proposed strategy and the commissioning structure.

2.0 Commissioning Vision and Context

"A Children's Trust is, in part, a commissioning partnership, commissioning services for children and young people and their families. Strategic Commissioning is a key means by which the Children's Trust partners come together to make a reality of the duty to co-operate and drive cultural change."

(Children's Trusts: Statutory guidance on inter-agency cooperation to improve well-being of children, young people and their families 2008.)

'Every Child Matters', 'The Children's Plan' and The Children's Trust Statutory Guidance 2008 emphasise that effective joint planning and commissioning is central to improving outcomes for children and young people. There are clear expectations for Children's Trusts to become the vehicle for integrated commissioning activity at a local level.

The Wirral Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) has the following vision for children and young people:

"To enable Wirral's children, young people and families to access services quickly in order to be secure, healthy, have fun and achieve their full potential"

Clearly the need for collaboration especially regarding commissioning is not a new message and commitments and action on this predate the Children's Trust in its current form. Published in 2007 the Wirral Strategic Joint Commissioning Framework 2007 – 2010 suggested that in order to achieve our shared vision for children and young people we need to work in partnership to:

- Develop innovative ways of working across organisational and professional boundaries
- Ensure the best use of available resources;
- Focus on commissioning services based on individual need to deliver improved outcomes;
- Invest in effective prevention and early intervention services;
- Develop a transparent process of commissioning, de-commissioning and procurement.

Within the framework, joint commissioning is defined as:

“The process in which two or more commissioning agencies act together to co-ordinate their commissioning, taking joint responsibility for translating strategy into action.”

The Commissioning Support Programme (CSP) facilitated a Self Analysis and Planning Exercise (SAPE) in January 2010. The results indicated that although the framework has been in place for three years, its implementation has been limited and there remains a lack of common understanding of commissioning across the partnership and only limited examples of good practice (0-19 commissioning and some CAMHS initiatives).

3.0 Children’s Trust Board Commissioning Duties

The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learners Act 2009 places new duties on Children’s Trusts including the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the CYPP. They must also demonstrate how partners collaborate to deliver services; guidance related to the introduction of the Bill outlines the responsibilities of individual partner organisations and the CT Board around commissioning. Within this guidance the link between the commissioning processes used to develop and deliver the CYPP are outlined. The guidance also states that Children’s Trust Boards should agree a common commissioning process that all partners can recognise, and in which they can participate, setting the overall strategic direction for commissioning of children’s services locally.

4.0 The Case for Change

Despite the lack of clarity over structure for Children’s Trusts there is emerging evidence, supported by continued demand and desire for agencies to ‘collaborate’, that effective joint commissioning leads to better outcomes. Work by Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People’s Services (C4EO) has shown that the following can be considered to be critical success factors in how Children’s Trusts respond to their commissioning mandate:

- Clear leadership
- Effective governance
- Understanding of commissioning
- Ability to commission workforce development leading to behavioural change amongst frontline staff
- Clarity about the difference between commissioning and provider functions at all levels
- Able to demonstrate ‘contestability’ e.g. ‘make or buy’ decisions
- An agreed vision for the shape of the Children’s Trust system
- Capacity for change

The Children’s Trust, both through the SAPE and asking for this paper to be prepared, is recognising that change is necessary in progression of its commissioning mandate and that, by default, progress from our current benchmark needs to be made along the commissioning continuum. Furthermore it is also accepted that in order to deliver the aspirations of the CYPP that a ‘step change’ is required in commissioning activity for children, young people and their families in Wirral.

5.0 The Joint Commissioning Continuum

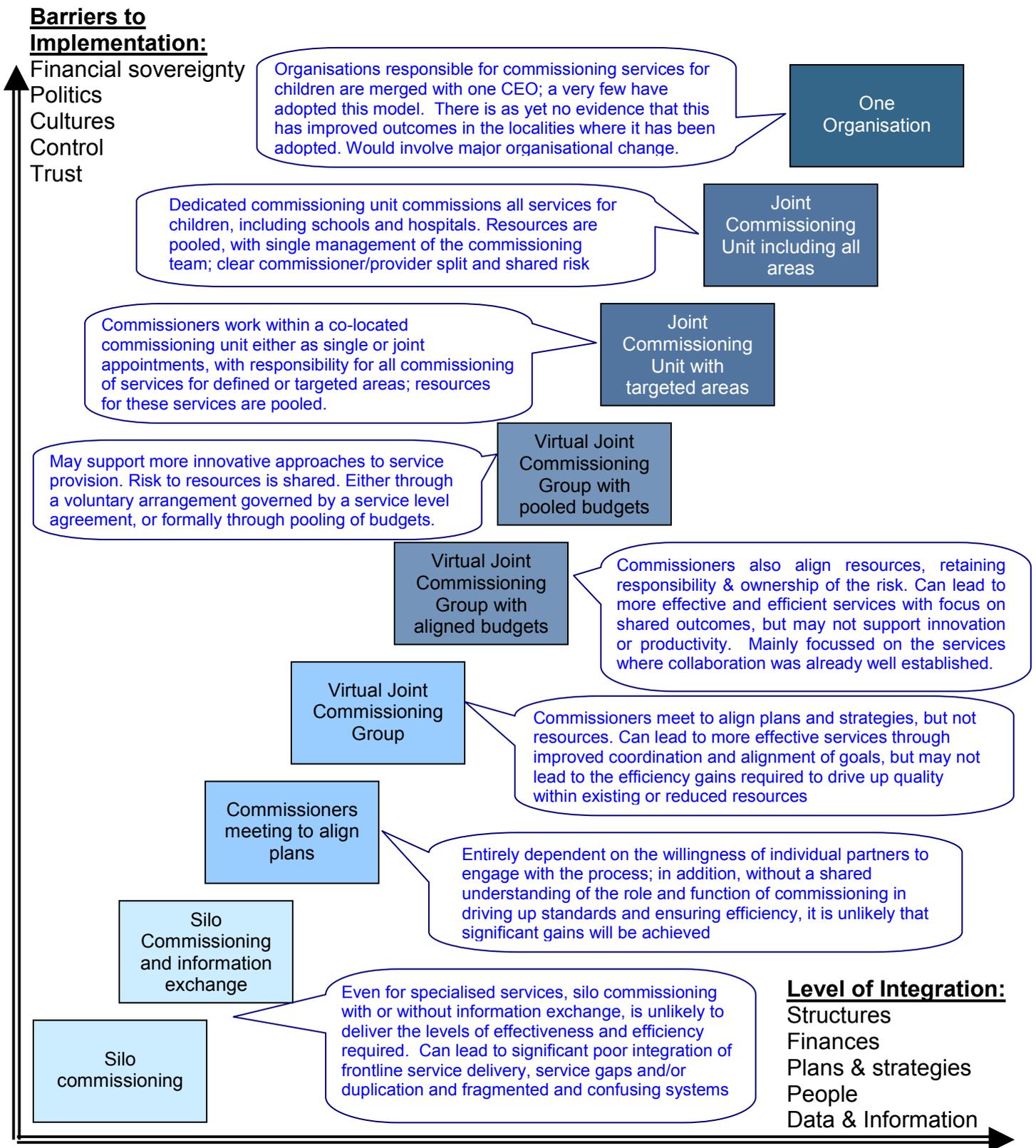
There is currently no explicit guidance on how best to structure Children's Trusts especially in terms of the 'commissioning' expectations. This is clearly reflected by the fact that at present a range of commissioning models and structures are currently in use by Children's Trusts.

Within these structures a variety of processes and arrangements for integrating budgets, management structures, data/information, etc. are used. These vary depending upon the context of the local area with much depending on local and individual partner organisational factors and local 'appetite' for organisational change (barriers to implementation).

Figure 1 illustrates the progression from 'silo commissioning' to a 'one organisation' model. All the points on the continuum have benefits and drawbacks, and it is unlikely that any single model can provide the ideal solution to all circumstances, and as highlighted above organisational factors and local 'appetite' for change will heavily influence the chosen direction of travel.

The SAPE benchmarked Wirral's current situation as being between 'silo commissioning and information exchange' and 'commissioners meeting to align plans', with some examples of 'virtual joint commissioning'.

Figure 1: Joint Commissioning Continuum



6.0 Wirral Priority Areas

The SAPE identified priorities for action for the next year; these are linked to the priorities identified by the financial summit in September 2009. The Board may wish to be mindful of these when considering and exploring commissioning arrangements. These priority areas are:

- Improving the effectiveness and efficiency of services for children with disabilities and complex needs;
- Identifying children at risk of poor outcomes as early as possible and proactively intervening to reduce risk and improve outcomes;
- Effecting a significant shift towards early intervention and prevention;

7.0 Leadership – Governance and Executive Functions

Wirral Children's Trust – Memorandum of Understanding (June 2009) outlines the current structural arrangements of the Trust. It specifies:

That the Board will:

- Take responsibility for setting the strategic direction for services to children, young people and their families. Including setting priorities joint planning and commissioning decisions; alignment of resources at strategic level and agreeing service models based on performance and service specifications.
- Act as the single coordination body for all children's services planning and commissioning arrangements.
- Be responsible and accountable for the performance and commissioning decisions made by all other planning and commissioning groups in children's services.

As the Board fundamentally has a governance role i.e. strategic leadership, accountability and agreement especially for all key strategic developments, the Memorandum of Understanding has created a Wirral Children's Trust Executive (CTE). The CTE operates as the operational development group of the Board and as such is a high level strategic group. It takes responsibility for:

- Providing advice to the Board to support decision-making processes.
- Performance management: including ECM outcomes and the LAA.
- Supporting the Board through a process of delegated and devolved decision making powers (key strategic developments will go to Board for final approval).
- Preparing and reviewing the CYPP.
- Annual review of joint commissioning.
- Developing the strategies required to deliver the expectations of the CYPP.
- Implementing service improvement priorities.

In structural terms any model requires clear distinction between governance and executive functions in order to operate effectively. Therefore it is recommended that the Wirral Children's Trust Executive remains in this executive function. Although each model may require revised or more explicit responsibilities depending upon the structure, roles and relationships proposed it is suggested that developments relating to joint commissioning for the CTE and Board be considered that are not option specific.

Recommendation: That the newly established Children's Trust Executive is not changed and that further development of its executive role is explored.

8.0 Pooled Budgets

Strategic commissioning requires an understanding and overview of how resources are deployed across the Children's Trust. This includes how budgets are aligned with priorities enabling the effectiveness of strategies and programmes to be monitored.

Often discussions about joint commissioning focus on financial resources specifically the creation of pooled budgets. Experience of Children's Trusts in other areas, confirmed by local experience (0-19 commissioning), is that much progress can be made short of formal pooling of budgets and that pursuit of pooling as an end in itself can be time consuming and unnecessary. Where pooled budgets are seen as bringing specific and measurable advantages, then these should be promoted. The absence of pooled budget arrangements should not justifiably be used as an excuse for not improving outcomes or improved joint working. For these reasons it is recommended that decisions about how far the Children's Trust wishes to progress with pooling of budgets is not considered in detail at this stage, although the Board may wish to be mindful of which option provides best for future progression of pooling budgets without the need for further significant change.

Recommendation: That the Board resolves not to seek pooling of all budgets at this stage, rather that piloting of pooled budgets in no more than three key priority areas is taken forward.

9.0 Commissioner Vs Provider

To provide contestability and integrity to commissioning activity there has to be clear distinction between provider and commissioner responsibilities. Providers as such can be involved in the commissioning cycle, but not in the governance or executive functions. Clearly senior management within Children's Services who have both roles and are involved in these functions. In these cases it is necessary to identify the commissioning remit of the senior managers and ensure that CTE and Board activity is focussed entirely on commissioning. At all levels there has to be appropriate challenge around conflict of interest when commissioning is taking place, but this should not detract from the importance of commissioners and providers having productive relationships..

Recommendation: That partners provide details and clarity on how appropriate separation of commissioning and providers responsibilities is managed and maintained.

10.0 Lead Commissioner, Commissioning Officers and Commissioning Teams

The improvements and step change the Trust aspires to is fundamentally an issue of change management. All successful change management models have strong and clear accountabilities, responsibilities and co-ordination. This is even more relevant and important to joint and integrated working.

The governance and executive roles of the Board and CTE have been discussed earlier. In terms of operational delivery there are three distinct roles or functions that need to be assigned and performed. Lack of clarity or inefficiency in any of these functions will impede success. It is suggested that it is most useful to classify these functions in the following way:

Lead Commissioner: *Accountable* for:

- Leading commissioning of all key priorities in that field.
- Ensuring that commissioning activity is planned and executed within agreed frameworks and processes e.g. joint commissioning framework.
- Consulting with key stakeholders produce commissioning intentions for all key priorities within their responsibility.
- Regular performance reporting to the CTE.

Ideally there should only be one lead commissioner for each area of responsibility. Typically these will be Director or Deputy/Assistant Director level positions.

Lead Commissioner will be supported by a Commissioning Officer(s).

Commissioning Officer: *Responsible* for:

- Supporting the Lead Commissioner to develop commissioning intentions.
- Co-ordinate all activity to establish need, including engagement and analysis of data and performance.
- Developing a clear understanding of what resource is currently deployed in meeting needs and the quality of existing service provision.
- Developing a vision for 'world-class' provision.
- Working with localities to understand local need and delivery options.
- Establishing clear outcome measures for which delivery and implementation can be monitored.
- Drawing on expertise, as relevant and required from service experts and researching best practice in support of other areas of responsibility.

Commissioning Officers are accountable to Lead Commissioners.

Recommendation: That Lead Commissioners and associated Commissioning Officers are identified for all areas of commissioning across the Children's Trust.

Commissioning Teams:

Within all fields of commissioning certain tasks, duties and stages of the commissioning cycles are generic and are transferable e.g. data analysis, service specifications, contracts, procurement etc. This might be more appropriately be considered to be commissioning support. Such people are already working in the system although they may not be identified or consider themselves as being part of a commissioning team. Without identifying these resources and agreeing what support should be provided the ability of commissioners to deliver improvement through commissioning is limited.

Recommendation: That the Council and NHS Wirral appoint to the currently vacant Joint Commissioning Manager post. On appointment the post holder should map commissioning resources across both organisations and develop proposals for coordinating these resources as a virtual commissioning support team.

11.0 Options for Change

Three options have been selected for exploration by the Board, based on assumptions regarding their potential to provide gains for the partnership in improving outcomes and efficiency. It has been mentioned that no 'off the shelf' solution exists and that the Board should give full consideration of the varying elements and factors discussed in this paper and the options below in identifying its preferred structural model. It can 'mix and match' accordingly.

Option 1

What does the option look like?	<u>Virtual Joint Commissioning:</u> Joint commissioning discussions conducted through CTE. Existing decision making and management arrangements remain unchanged
Governance/ Executive Functions	Executive functions limited due to possible parallel running of existing management structures. Risk of lack of focus or fragmented delivery of strategy. No additional benefit re: working across organisational boundaries.
Commissioner/ Provider	Although systems in place to manage conflicts of interest, no specific additional arrangements to develop distinct commissioning and provider roles.
Lead Commissioner	Lead Commissioners not currently widely identified and may not be aligned with agreed Key Priority areas. Risk of lack of focus or fragmented delivery of strategy. No additional benefit re: working across organisational boundaries.
Commissioning Officers	More clarity over Commissioning Officers. However without further development of lead commissioner roles - risk of lack of focus or fragmented delivery of strategy. No additional benefit re: working across organisational boundaries.
Commissioning Support (Team)	No specific changes to commissioning support. Dispersed throughout the system. Risk is expertise and resource not being used effectively or efficiently, in particular support not fully aligned with key priorities. Lead Commissioners and Officers may be limited by the absence of such support.

Option 2:

<p>What does the option look like?</p>	<p>Joint Commissioning – Targeted Areas: Agreed priority areas for joint commissioning. CTE supported by specific joint commissioning groups that formally conduct joint commissioning discussions. Possibility of joint posts and management structures. CTE and Board formally part of decision making process for these areas of joint commissioning.</p>
<p>Governance/ Executive Functions</p>	<p>PCT and Cabinet would still make final approval, but joint commissioning would require approval through the Children’s Trust structure. Improved focus on priority areas. Working across organisational boundaries improved with benefits to improved services and outcomes.</p>
<p>Commissioner/ Provider</p>	<p>Structure would allow for more transparent and robust mechanisms for maintaining commissioning and provider roles.</p>
<p>Lead Commissioner</p>	<p>Lead Commissioners would be identified for agreed areas of joint commissioning for the Children’s Trust. These may not be joint appointments. Improved focus on priority areas. Working across organisational boundaries improved with benefits to improved services and outcomes. Would require suitable ‘matrix’ management across organisations.</p>
<p>Commissioning Officers</p>	<p>Identified Commissioning Officers would be accountable to a Lead Commissioner for areas of joint commissioning. These Officers can be drawn from throughout the system and may be single or joint appointments. Would require suitable ‘matrix’ management across organisations.</p>
<p>Commissioning Support (Team)</p>	<p>Limited commissioning support functions identified and tasked with supporting the areas of joint commissioning. Ideally such support would be centrally managed and co-ordinated, but matrix management may be necessary depending on roles and team size. Lead Commissioners would agree priorities and workplans for this team. This would provide support more aligned to priorities. Will make more effective use of available resources.</p>

Option 3:

<p>What does the option look like?</p>	<p><u>Joint Commissioning – Whole System:</u> Joint Commissioning for all areas, with few exceptions. CTE supported by specific joint commissioning groups that formally conduct joint commissioning discussions. Joint posts and management structures. CTE and Board formally part of decision making process for all areas of joint commissioning.</p>
<p>Governance/ Executive Functions</p>	<p>PCT and Cabinet would still make final approval, but joint commissioning would require approval through the Children’s Trust structure. Improved focus on priority areas. Working across organisational boundaries improved with benefits to improved services and outcomes.</p>
<p>Commissioner/ Provider</p>	<p>Structure would allow for more transparent and robust mechanisms for maintaining commissioning and provider roles.</p>
<p>Lead Commissioner</p>	<p>Lead Commissioners would be identified for all areas of joint commissioning. These should be joint appointments. Improved focus on priority areas. Working across organisational boundaries improved with benefits to improved services and outcomes. Would require suitable ‘matrix’ management across organisations</p>
<p>Commissioning Officers</p>	<p>Identified Commissioning Officers would be accountable to a Lead Commissioner for areas of joint commissioning. These Officers can be drawn from throughout the system and will be joint appointments. Would require suitable ‘matrix’ management across organisations.</p>
<p>Commissioning Support (Team)</p>	<p>More comprehensive commissioning support functions identified supporting <i>all</i> commissioning for the Children’s Trust. Centrally managed and co-ordinated. Lead Commissioners would agree priorities and workplans for this team. This would provide support more aligned to priorities. Will make more effective use of available resources.</p>

12.0 Development Plan for 2010-11

The CSP is providing bespoke support to Wirral Children's Trust until March 2011 with the aim of facilitating progress towards a developing and implementing joint commissioning structures which effectively support the delivery of the CYPP.

The Commissioning Support Programme will support an agreed development plan for 2010-11, enabling the implementation of the agreed structures over this period of time.

13.0 Recommendations:

Recognising that the aspiration is to bring about suitable 'step change' in how commissioning for children, young people and their families, specifically joint commissioning, the Wirral Children's Trust Board is asked:

To identify a preferred model of joint commissioning and instruct the Children's Trust Executive to develop the detail and proposed implementation plan for further discussion and potential approval by the Board.

Report Authors:

Nancy Clarkson
Rosemary Curtis
Peter Wong

Lead Contact:

Peter Wong
Peter.wong@wirral.nhs.uk
0151 6513987

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST – 19th MARCH 2010

ECONOMIC WELL BEING STRATEGY GROUP REPORT TO THE BOARD

1.0 Introduction

The Economic Well Being outcome area within Wirral's Children and Young People's plan aims to increase the number of young people achieving social and economic well being through the following priority areas:

- Increase the number of young people who are participating and achieving their potential.
- Reduce the numbers of 16-18 year old young people NEET (particularly the most vulnerable) in line with the LAA targets and PSA 2010 trajectory.
- Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty and minimise the number of children and young people living in poor housing.

The Economic Well Being Strategy Group is chaired by the Connexions Assistant Director for the Wirral area. Membership is drawn from multi-agency representation relating to these priority areas and key representatives who can make a difference in this outcome area from across the Children's Trust. There is active membership although this requires regular review. Meetings are held every 6 weeks and an annual programme of focus for each meeting has been agreed. The Strategy Group is closely aligned with the 14-19 team and 14-19 Strategic Partnership.

One of the main functions of the Economic Well Being group is to monitor and report on the progress in this element of the Children and Young People's plan relating particularly to the National Indicators, LAA target areas and any other areas of focus agreed by the Partnership. Other functions of the group include:

- The co-ordination of activities relating to the priority areas to ensure synergy.
- To respond to requests for information or action such as the Equality Impact Assessment.
- To provide information to other groups across the Trust including the Children and Young People's Dept.
- To seek effective arrangements to consult with children and young people, to act on the results and to provide feedback.

2.0 Relevant Performance Indicators

The following National Indicators (NIs) are monitored by the Economic Well Being Strategy Group:

- NI 79 – Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19.
- NI 80 – Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19.
- NI81 – Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19.
- NI 82 – Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19.
- NI 91 – Participation of 17 year olds in education or training.
- NI 116 – Proportion of children in poverty.
- NI 117 – 16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).
- NI 118 – Take up a formal childcare by low-income working families.

3.0 Overview of Progress March 2010

Key recent achievements	1. Priority: Increase the number of young people who are participating and achieving their potential. Wirral participated in National Test and Trial for Foundation Learning at KS4 and post 16 to develop positive progression pathways 14-19 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approx 200 learners engaged• Providers engaged – 5 secondary, 2 special schools, 1 FE college and 3 E2E providers Delivered engagement opportunities through ESF WirralWise and KS4
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Engagement programme.

ESF highlights:

- 464 young people engaged on the programmes
Learn Wise- 195, Stay Wise- 65, Work Wise-204
- 18 partner organisations worked with us to support the learners
- Retention on the courses was 98%
- 97 young people on Learn Wise re-engaged in learning.
- 102 young people have progressed into an EET destination.

KS4 Engagement highlights

- 48% of Year 11 learners achieved a L1 qualification by July 2009 and 11% achieved a L2 qualification.
- 17 Secondary Schools and 8 learning providers work in partnership with Wirral on KS4EP.
- Feedback from 8 providers reveals improvements in learners: Attendance and motivation (from below average to good) and English and maths skills (from poor to average) between the start and end of Year 11.
- 86% of learners had moved to positive destinations by November 2009.
- Survey feedback reveals 100% of parents believe the KS4EP has had a positive impact on their children and 78% of learners would like to continue their training beyond year 11.

Developed and trialled 14-19 QA Framework with 16 off-site learning providers.

Developed and trialled School Sixth Form Quality Monitoring and Evaluation Framework with 14 Secondary Schools.

Therapeutic programmes delivered by the third sector (TCP) successfully re-engaging young people into mainstream education. Programmes also delivered specifically for Young Mums.

Roll out of eight Diploma lines in September 2009 – Society Health & Development, Construction, Engineering, Creative & Media, Hospitality, IT, Business, Administration and Finance, Hair & Beauty. Approximately 180 learners participating.

Diploma survey reported satisfactory progress in the implementation of diplomas with good teaching and learning and leadership and management.

IAG Self assessment tool against the IAG National Standards has been developed and implemented in Wirral and learning providers supported in developing action plans to ensure the quality of provision is improved consistently. Briefings have also been delivered in relation to the publication of Quality Choice and Aspiration – A strategy for young people's information advice and guidance.

Development of FE provision with increased entry points to meet learner needs and respond to the January Guarantee.

Expanded the Young Apprenticeship offer to include Health & Social Care, Engineering and Construction.

- Construction 100% achieved BTEC first Diploma and 85% the full apprenticeship framework;
- Health and Social Care 36% achieved BTEC first certificate, 27% BTEC first Diploma and 36% unit accreditation.

Delivered the LDD Brokerage project by an enhanced local college offer - in support of developing local provision which meets the needs of LDD learners with complex needs who might otherwise attend out of area specialist residential colleges and/or be at risk of becoming NEET.

- Reduction in Out of Borough LDD placements - since 2007/08 with the support of our partners we have reduced the number of out of borough placements from 18 in 07/08, to 9 in 08/09, 10 in 09/10 and provisionally 6 in 10/11.

Progress towards achieving 14-19 National Indicators

Indicator	RAG RATING	
	2007-08	2008-09
NI 79	A	R
NI 80	R	G
NI 81	R	G
NI 82	R	R
NI 91	G	A
NI 117	R	A

Priority: Reduce the numbers of 16-18 year old vulnerable young people NEET in line with LAA targets and the PSA target trajectory.

- The IYS Strategy has been refreshed and approved by the Children’s Trust.
- The EET Strategy has been reviewed and will be presented to the Trust in March.
- In recognition of the particular issues facing us in the current economic climate a NEET Tiger Team has been established as a task and finish group to seek to increase the pace of NEET reduction in Wirral (see further detail in area of reporting focus below)
- Targeted intervention with specific groups has resulted in a year on year increase in EET progression for 17 year olds and care leavers.
- The Activity Agreement Pilot and Positive Activity for Young People programmes have been extended for a further year to Mar 2011.
- The Wirral Apprenticeship Programme ‘initial 100’ has been delivered and a further 50 apprenticeships agreed (to be targeted for NEET young people).
- A Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed with The National Apprenticeship Service.
- Third sector delivery of employability programmes (e.g. Acceler8 and Moving On) to increase participation.

Priority: Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty and minimise the number of children and young people living in poor housing.

- Housing has a major impact on children’s lives, affecting everything from their health and educational achievement, to their emotional well being and life chances. Significant improvements in housing standards have been made in Wirral through the work to ensure all social housing meets the decent homes standard by December 2010.

	<p>However, access to decent, affordable housing continues to be a key element in assisting to increase the number of young people achieving social and economic well being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The links between poor and unsuitable housing, education, health and poverty, are clearly demonstrated when looking at the information at geographical ward level. The wards with the highest NEET levels, also reveal how demand and poor quality housing, houses in multiple occupation, poor health, and Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). • Housing market interventions such as the high profile Housing Market Renewal Initiative (HMRI) which has spent over £90m since 2003 focus on these areas. Further work is being undertaken to target improving property standards and removing health hazards from homes, with the focus on the health and well being of residents. • A range of work has been completed to address enabling young people to access and accommodation and support including incorporating access by young people to social housing into the Wirralhomes review, the housing priority panel facilitating access into housing and coordinating support provision for young vulnerable people, and the housing priority panel working in partnership with Wirral Bond Scheme to improve access into the private rented sector for young people.
<p>Key Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the momentum and improvement in attainment at L2 and L3 for those aged 19 and in particular those with disadvantage. • To continue to develop provision for LLDD learners by identifying and resourcing appropriate routes and reducing the numbers of young people in residential provision through the Brokerage Project. • Securing sufficient volumes of any future pre-apprenticeship provision and participants. • ESF investment on the Wirral will reduce by 75% in the period 2010-2013 compared to 2008-2010. ESF currently funds delivery of NEET prevention, reduction and reengagement activities for up to 1260 learners. It will therefore be essential to consider how providers can embed good practice from these programmes and to begin to develop an effective response to NEET, given the reduction in available resources in future years. • To ensure the mix and balance of education provision takes account of 16-18 cohort decline. • Wirral's housing strategy statement 2005-10, is to be reviewed during 2010. The review will enable the current housing related actions within the CYPP to be refreshed, and further strengthen future joint working.
<p>Key Challenges Ahead</p>	<p>The Government has set out a clear vision for eradicating Child Poverty by 2020, and have established four aspirations to achieve this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • more families in work that pays, and with the support they need to progress; • financial support that is responsive to families' situations; • environments in which children can thrive; • poverty in childhood no longer translating to poor experiences and outcomes. <p>Success in tackling child poverty requires the delivery of services tailored to local needs across a range of policy areas.</p> <p>The Child Poverty Bill places duties on partners:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A duty on local authorities and partners to co-operate to reduce, and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their area. • A duty to conduct a child poverty local needs assessment. • A duty to produce a joint local child poverty strategy. • A duty to take child poverty into account in the production and revision of their Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). <p>To increase the pace of NEET reduction in line with other areas across the LCR (see reporting focus area below).</p> <p>To support the Government's intention to raise the participation age (RPA) in 2013 for those young people aged 17 and by 2015 for those aged 18.</p>																																
<p>Risks to Outcome Delivery and Proposed Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the resource required to assess all out of borough applications for LLDD learners. This was done by LSC Regional Staff but from March 2010 it will be done by LAs. LSC staff transferring to the LA will have some experience of this and for 6 months will have the support of expertise from an LSC staff member transferring to St Helens LA. • The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act will see the end of Programme-led Apprenticeships (PLAs). The transition arrangements between now and 2011 will see a reduction in PLA opportunities. The table below highlights the potential impact of the withdrawal of Programme-led opportunities. <p>Table 1 – Apprenticeship Opportunities in the Liverpool City Region.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="480 1032 1396 1379"> <thead> <tr> <th>Area</th> <th>Total level 2 Apprenticeship starts 2008/9</th> <th>% PLAs</th> <th>Number of PLAs.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Halton</td> <td>306</td> <td>27.5</td> <td>84</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Knowsley</td> <td>593</td> <td>40.5</td> <td>240</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Liverpool</td> <td>1367</td> <td>50.3</td> <td>687</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sefton</td> <td>628</td> <td>35.5</td> <td>223</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St Helens</td> <td>472</td> <td>29.7</td> <td>140</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wirral</td> <td>783</td> <td>27.3</td> <td>214</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greater Merseyside</td> <td>4149</td> <td>38.27</td> <td>1588</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 14-19 Partnership should work closely with NAS to develop apprenticeship opportunities in growth sectors. • 14-19 Reforms – IAG Activity – It will be essential to ensure that young people receive impartial advice and guidance and that IAG standards are embedded across all sectors. 	Area	Total level 2 Apprenticeship starts 2008/9	% PLAs	Number of PLAs.	Halton	306	27.5	84	Knowsley	593	40.5	240	Liverpool	1367	50.3	687	Sefton	628	35.5	223	St Helens	472	29.7	140	Wirral	783	27.3	214	Greater Merseyside	4149	38.27	1588
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<p>Areas Requiring Further Partnership Involvement</p> <p>Equalities Impact Assessment Areas for Development and Progress Made</p>	<p>As we move towards 2013, the LA needs to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan with our partners the learning, training and support offer available to all young people to support participation and progression. • Review membership of the group particularly representation from the full range of learning providers to ensure the prevention, intervention and sustainability aspects of the EET strategy are explored and addressed. <p>Areas for Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access arrangements for disabled young people and effective arrangements for young parents across all learning providers. • Inclusion of 'young dads' in the focus on teenage parents. • Insufficient social accommodation for the under 25 demographic. 																																

<p>Areas for promotion/publicity/ Communication/ engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to engage with young people re energy efficiency. <p>Progress Made</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brokerage project implemented supporting the redesign of the local learning offer for those with LDD. • Greater Merseyside SESS Service established. • Housing panel operational and meets monthly. • Energy project plus has been facilitated as part of the Winter Warmer initiative – this reports in April 2010. • Apprenticeship opportunities • Positive case studies of NEET young people progressing • 14-19 Diploma developments.
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4.0 Areas for Reporting Focus

4.1 National Indicator (NI) 117 – Not in education, employment or training (NEET)

This area is reported for information and partnership support in increasing the pace of reduction required. Reducing the number of young people aged 16-18 that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is a key cross-departmental government priority and a Wirral PSA (6.9% by 2010) and Local Area Agreement target. NEET, as a partnership priority is also reflected in the Children and Young People's Plan and Integrated Youth Support Strategy.

In 2009 we experienced the impact of the global recession. A number of target areas deemed to be impacted upon by the change in the economic climate were adjusted accordingly. The NEET target was not included amongst those adjusted. The critical measuring point is taken as the mean of November, December and January. For 2010 this was 8.89% which was a 'standing still' comparison to 2009 when the mean was 8.90%. The Wirral NEET percentage for January 2010 (latest baseline data) is 8.89%.

- This is a 'stand still' in a year on year comparison
- The target trajectory for the NEET PSA (7.10%) to reach 6.9% has not been met.
- The pace of reduction is slow and achievement of the target is extremely challenging in the current economic climate.
- In terms of the age breakdown a significant number of our NEET young people are in the upper age bracket and for January 2010 15.4% are 16, 34.2% are 17 and 50.3% are 18 years old.
- The data demonstrates that initial participation by the cohort is possible and the issue remains one of sustainability.

Churn

Government statistics suggest that only 1% of the NEET cohort remains NEET for the period between ages 16 and 18.

During January there were 183 joiners to the NEET cohort in Wirral and 158 leavers.

Our tracking capacity has improved and is better than regional and national benchmarks so the evidence we have is more accurate and compelling than ever. Currently we have the lowest ever levels of 16-18 young people not known to the Connexions Service at 2.96%.

NEET levels and the challenges ahead

- N.E.E.T. is reducing in Wirral in a year-on-year comparison.
- However the pace of reduction is still a significant challenge.
- Our NEET group are predominantly 18 and over.
- In terms of the 2009 Activity Survey there are more young people in Wirral continuing in learning beyond Year 11 than ever before.

- The healthy high profile that the September Guarantee brings to Year 11 transition has significantly improved data exchange, particularly between the Learning and Skills Council, Local Authorities, F.E. Colleges and Connexions.
- Whilst outcomes for the Year 11 group as a whole are improving results for the most vulnerable young people are not improving at the same rate. This group has been hit hard by the reduction in the number of jobs with no training element.

NEET and vulnerable groups

- Progress has been made via the focus on 17 year olds and vulnerable groups. The numbers of 16-18 year olds in learning is increasing (85.15% January 2010 compared to 82.60% January 2009), the number of 17 year olds NEET has been decreasing and whilst the impact on more vulnerable young people in these challenging times is noted above the number of Care leavers aged 19 who are in Education Employment or Training (EET) has increased to 44.26% compared to 34.72% at the same time last year. However the number of LDD young people EET has reduced in a year on year comparison 70.15% (compared to 72.70%) and the situation for this group is likely to worsen.

Challenges remaining

The challenge remains to increase the pace of the reduction in line with the trajectory toward the 2010 PSA target of 6.9% which gives us considerable distance to travel. There are also significant priority groups within the NEET group, including those with LDD, care leavers, young offenders and teen mums for whom opportunities often contract more adversely than for their peers at times of economic pressure.

Risks Identified

- Changes in economic climate impacting on availability of opportunities for the NEET group whilst target levels set before the recession are not adjusted.
- The change in the age profile of the NEET group and the challenges presented to Employers and Learning Providers of responding to the needs of the 'older' NEET group.
- Adult employment rates rising.
- The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act will see the end of Programme-led Apprenticeships (PLAs.) The transition arrangements between now and 2011 will see a reduction in PLA opportunities (currently 214 in Wirral).

Continuing action

- The Borough EET Strategy has been refreshed which outlines partner responsibilities and contributions to achieving the NEET target. A task and finish group has now been formed to seek to increase the pace of NEET reduction.
- The Activity Agreement pilot is a programme that focuses on structured activities and incentive payments for NEET young people and is delivered through Greater Merseyside Connexions. Confirmation was received in December that the Activity Agreement Pilot would continue through to 2011.
- The Wirral Wise Programme, supported by ESF, is embedding as part of the Wirral Learning offer.
- The Wirral Apprentice programme is continuing to have a positive impact on opportunities for young people. This programme has been able to offer positive choices for young people. All apprentices appointed are Wirral residents and 22% were previously NEET. Recruitment is underway for a further 50 further apprenticeships.
- The September Guarantee thresholds have been met in Wirral this year, for 16 and 17 year olds and arrangements in place around the January Guarantee.
- Targeted action with vulnerable young people and within NEET hotspot areas continues with enhanced GIS mapping capability.
- Teenagers can now receive text alerts for job vacancies by registering for the Job scan service via www.connexionslive

4.2 Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19

Improving attainment at level 2 is a key cross-departmental government priority. The percentage of Wirral young people attaining a level 2 qualification at aged 19 improved by 3.5% between 2007 and 2008, although this rate of change is slower than that seen nationally and regionally.

The overall 2008 level 2 attainment of Wirral residents at the age of 19 is comparable with the overall percentage for the North West region at 74%. These increases reflect the considerable improvement in FE success rates over this period. Wirral FE college overall 16-18 success rates in the 2007/08 academic year improved by +7.8% compared to 2006/07. Full level 2 qualification success rates improved by +8.1% between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Early indications are that FE has made a further significant improvement in success rates for YP in 2008/09, which will take them too or above National benchmarks. Apprenticeship provision is generally satisfactory or above benchmark with some sector areas performing particularly well. Apprenticeships and advanced apprenticeships framework completions have been increasing year on year and in 2008/09 it was not necessary to remove any provision under the criteria for minimum levels of performance.

4.3 NI 80 – Achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19.

Level 3 at 19 performance in the borough also improved by 4.5% between 2006/07 and 2007/08; however, the attainment levels are below the regional average.

Although there are many high performing school sixth forms, sixth form success rates show a considerable variation across the borough (LSC 2007/08 data). Work continues through partnership groups and the support and challenge process to develop an appropriate framework to underpin the identification of any areas of weakness and to support schools to deliver a high quality and viable sixth form offer.

Wirral FE college overall 16-18 level 3 success rates in the 2007/08 academic year improved by up to 7.5% compared to 2006/07. Full level 3 qualification success rates improved by +2.6% between 2006/07 and 2007/08.

Early indications are that FE has made a significant improvement in level 3 success rates for young people in 2008/09, which will take them too or above National benchmarks. Unverified 2008/09 level 3 full qualification FE College success rates have improved by +19.3%. This positive increase in level 3 attainment will have a significant positive impact on the proportion of LA residents in 2009 reaching a level 3 threshold at age 19.

4.4 NI 82 – Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19.

There has been significant progress in reducing the gap in level 2 attainment for those young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, an 8% improvement between 2006/07 and 2007/08. Level 2 at 19 achievement for those Wirral young people who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) has improved to a position above that of the North West and National rate. The attainment gap between those FSM eligible and not FSM eligible closed significantly between 2006/07 and 2007/08. The gap in 2007/08 was 23% compared to a gap of 31% in 2006/07. This is an overall 8% improvement in narrowing the attainment gap.

4.5 NI81 – Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19.

There has also been significant progress in reducing the gap in level 3 attainment for those young people from disadvantaged backgrounds, a 5% improvement between 2006/07 and 2007/08. Level 3 at 19 achievement for those Wirral young people who are eligible for free school meals (FSM) has improved to a position above that of the North West and National rate. The attainment gap between those FSM eligible and not FSM eligible remained the same between 2006/07 and 2007/08. The gap in 2007/08 and 2006/07 was 33%.

5.0 Brief SWOT Analysis of the Outcome Area

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Active committed members with clear areas of responsibility and accountability. 2. Synergy with 14-19 Strategic Partnership. 3. Significant progress made across key priority areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Constant flux in key partner organisations impacting on continuity of membership. 2. Potential overlapping agendas and duplication of effort. 3. Radically changing 14-19 landscape and volume of priority areas impacting on capacity to deliver.
OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential for alignment of resources/budgets to achieve outcomes. 2. Collaborative approaches leading to improved offer for learners. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Time-limited funding (e.g. ESF) and potential significant reductions in public sector funding impacting on available 'pool'. 2. Taking 'partnership' through to true collaborative provision.

6.0 Summary

Across the Economic Well being area positive progress is being made in delivering outcomes for our young people and meeting relevant national indicators. Self assessment, robust monitoring and action plans in response are embedded into practice.

7.0 Recommendations

7.1 That Wirral Children's Trust Board endorse the report.

Report author

Sheila Lynch
Assistant Director (Performance) Wirral
Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership
Tel: 0151 666 4385
Mobile: 0781 2085639
Email: sheila.lynch@connexionslive.com

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 19th March 2010

WIRRAL EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING STRATEGY

1.0 Background

- Reducing the number of young people aged 16-18 that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is a key cross-departmental government priority and a Wirral PSA (6.9% by 2010) and Local Area Agreement target. Reducing NEET is reflected as a key priority in the Children and Young People's plan and Integrated Youth Support Strategy.
- The first national performance indicator for reducing NEET was set in 2002 for a 10% reduction in NEET between November 2002 and November 2004. Further targets were then set against 'best ever' performance levels and enshrined within PSA and LAA targets.
- **In 2009 we experienced the impact of the global recession. A number of target areas deemed to be impacted upon by the change in the economic climate were adjusted accordingly. The NEET target was not included amongst those adjusted.**
- To achieve this demanding target and successfully enable the sustained progression of young people in Wirral effective partnership working and 'ownership' of the NEET issue is critical.
- This is detailed within the EET Strategy and action plan which is refreshed each year via the Economic Well Being Strategy Group in consultation with the 14-19 Strategic Partnership.

2. NEET levels in Wirral

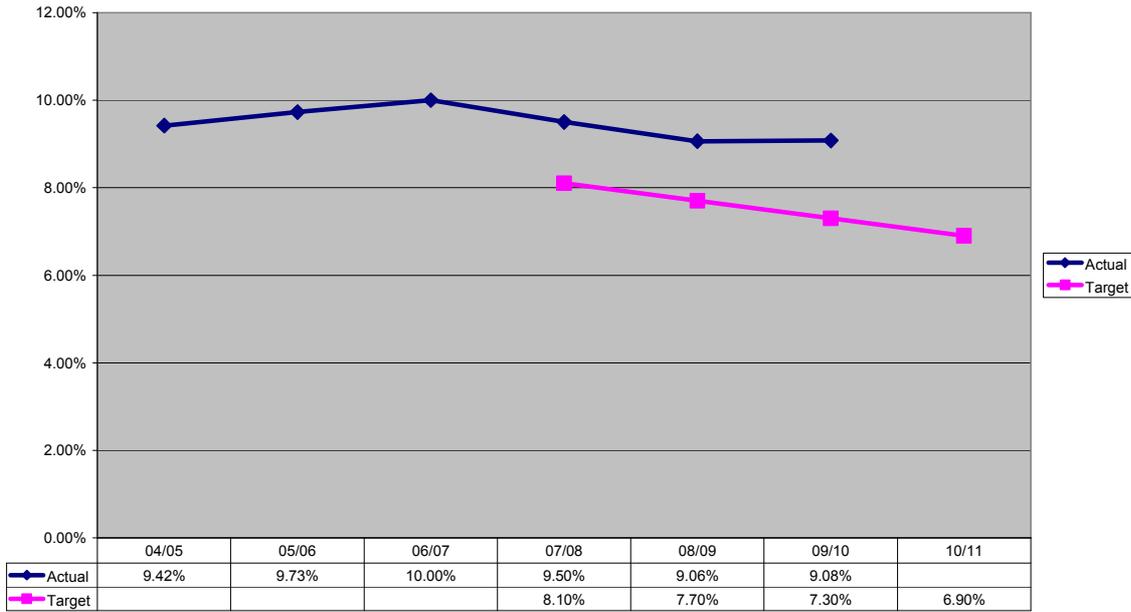
- The Wirral NEET percentage for January 2010 (latest baseline data) is 8.90%

N.E.E.T. percentage by area at end of January 2010 (G.M.C.P. data).

GMCP DATA	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St Helens	Wirral	Company
% Adjusted NEET 2010	10.3	8.93	8.4	6.83	8.95	8.9	8.46
% Adjusted NEET 2009	13.43	12.49	9.98	8.00	9.71	8.89	9.8

- This is a 'standing still' position in a year on year comparison
- The target trajectory for the NEET PSA (7.10% for January) to reach 6.9% by January 2011 has not been met.
- The pace of reduction remains a significant challenge and achievement of the target has been challenged by the economic climate.
- In terms of the age breakdown a significant number of our NEET young people are in the upper age bracket and for **January 2010 15.4% are 16, 34.2% are 17 and 50.3% are 18 years old.**
- The data demonstrates that initial participation by the cohort is possible and a key issue remains one of sustainability.

Wirral PSA Target Trajectory



3.0 NEET levels and the challenges ahead

- The impact of recession has meant that there has been fewer employment opportunities for young people. The hardest hit group are 18 year olds with the most significant issues emerging in relation to progression at 18.
- The outcomes for LDD young people continue to worsen though the situation is not as dire as in most areas (England average NEET rates for LDD young people have increased by 20% between 2009 and 2010).
- The NEET rate for the Liverpool City Region is still higher than for the rest of England.
- There are more young people in Wirral continuing in learning beyond Year 11 than ever before. The numbers who are N.E.E.T amongst the Year 11 leaver group has fallen to it's lowest ever level.
- The challenge remains to increase the pace of the reduction in line with the trajectory toward the 2010 PSA target of 6.9% which gives us considerable distance to travel.
- There are also significant priority groups within the NEET group, including those with LDD, care leavers, young offenders and teen mums for whom opportunities often contract more adversely than for their peers at times of economic pressure.

4.0 Risks Identified:

- Changes in economic climate impacting on availability of opportunities for the NEET group whilst target levels set before the recession are not adjusted.
- The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act will see the end of Programme-led Apprenticeships (PLAs), an element of the learning offer that the Liverpool City Region has become heavily dependent on in recent years. The transition arrangements between now and 2011 will see a reduction in PLA. The table below highlights the potential impact in Wirral of the withdrawal of Programme-led opportunities.

Apprenticeship Opportunities in the Liverpool City Region.

Area	Total level 2 Apprenticeship starts 2008/9	% PLAs	Number of PLAs.
Halton	306	27.5	84
Knowsley	593	40.5	240
Liverpool	1367	50.3	687
Sefton	628	35.5	223
St Helens	472	29.7	140
Wirral	783	27.3	214
Greater Merseyside	4149	38.27	1588

- The change in the age profile of the NEET group and the challenges presented to Employers and Learning Providers of responding to the needs of the 'older' NEET group.
- Adult employment rates rising.

Recommendations

- The Borough EET Strategy has been refreshed which outlines partner responsibilities and contributions to achieving the NEET target.
- The Children's Trust are asked to endorse the Strategy.

Name/Author	Sheila Lynch
Title/Organisation	Asst Director Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership
Contact Number	01516664385
Email	Sheila.lynch@connexionslive.com

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A Wirral Strategy for Increasing Young
People's Participation in Education,
Employment or Training.

2010/2011

DRAFT

1. Introduction

Reducing the number of young people aged 16-18 that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is a key cross-departmental government priority and a Local Area Agreement target for Wirral.

This strategy and action plan is an update of the first joint agency education, employment or training (EET) strategy for Wirral; launched in May 2007 and reported on to the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership Board. and Children & Young People's Management Board

This new document is structured around the DCSF Strategy to increase the proportion of 16-24 year olds in education, employment or training as part of the 'Backing Young Britain' campaign which states that: 'Young people are the future of our country and of our economy. Thanks to record investment in education and training, more young people than ever before are acquiring the skills and qualifications they need for success in life and work. But the economy is changing and we now need to go further to support all young people to build their skills to secure greater productivity and economic growth. The global recession has brought about a new challenge of falling youth employment. We are already taking decisive action to prevent young people from dropping out and support them to engage in education and training in order to gain the knowledge, skills and aptitudes they need for the upturn.

The frame work provides a model and rationale for activity that will lead to an increase in EET and reduction in NEET among young people across Wirral.

The number of young people aged 16-18 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training is an indicator of the number of young people who will be unemployed for long periods in their lives. Long-term unemployment can have a significant negative impact on people's lives. Our vision should be that all young people will have the skills and support they need to engage in learning, in order to build better futures.

The development of an Integrated Youth Support Strategy presents an opportunity to take a more holistic approach to the Youth Offer In Wirral. Targeted Youth Support, as a key element and expectation of IYSS, will be a driving influence for

resource deployment. Every Child Matters, Youth Matters and the 14-19 Strategy all combine to create an opportunity to develop the way organisations work together to achieve the five outcomes, increase participation in learning and reduce the number of young people who are NEET. Furthermore, as we move towards the raising of the participation age, in 2013, the engagement of 16-18 year olds in learning will increasingly influence policy. Based on the principle of 'Something for everyone and more for those who need it' targeted work will be a part of the Universal Service available to all young people.

The EET Strategy supports a range of other plans including the Children and Young People's plan, the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy, the Multi Agency Looked After Plan, the Local Area Agreement, the 14-19 Strategy and the Youth Justice Plan.

	ET	IAG	14-19	CT	FI
Increase Participation (EET) - young people in structured learning and in education employment and training and Reduction in Disengagement (NEET) - young people not in education employment and training.					
Strand	Effective early intervention	Delivery of Advocacy, brokerage and information, advice and guidance (IAG) role	Supply of learning provision across 14-19	Client Tracking	Financial incentives
Principal Activities	<p>Supporting early intervention work with vulnerable young people and families.</p> <p>Supporting local school and college behaviour and retention strategies.</p> <p>Supporting the development of key stage 4 (KS4) alternative curriculum and the identification of young people most likely to benefit.</p> <p>Supporting school and colleges through the delivery of broad based IAG.</p> <p>Ensuring that schools and colleges understand the importance of arrangements for referral to targeted support at the earliest opportunity.</p> <p>Encouraging schools to become more accountable for the destination (outcomes) of their pupils beyond the age of 16.</p>	<p>Sustaining access for all young people to good quality impartial information, advice and guidance through Personal Advisers (PA) and other professional staff.</p> <p>Ensure that Connexions Pas and other key workers have the training they need within the context of the broader children's workforce by developing local professional standards through delivery of advocacy, brokerage and the IAG role.</p> <p>Sustain and link Connexions service delivery at a local level with partner agencies to maximise outcomes for young people including targeted support for those who are, or at risk of becoming, NEET.</p> <p>Helping teenage mothers and care leavers to re-engage in learning.</p> <p>Effective assessment and support given to young people with learning difficulties/disabilities (LDD).</p>	<p>Develop the curriculum to deliver personalised learning.</p> <p>Develop specific strands of work under the local implementation of the specialised national diplomas.</p> <p>Share information on the needs of the young people in the area with the Learning and Skills Council, to inform local planning (particularly in relation to work based learning).</p> <p>Sustain and link effective activity with local employers.</p> <p>Support development of learning prospectus.</p>	<p>Sustaining the forensic use of data to inform local planning and strategies.</p> <p>Developing use of data systems (CCIS/Profile) to meet wider Partnership needs.</p> <p>To work effectively alongside developing Local Authority systems such as Contact Point and database of children missing education.</p> <p>Sustaining the development of information sharing agreements.</p>	<p>Sustaining effective promotion of financial incentives for young people to remain in learning up to the age of 19 (Education Maintenance Allowance and Care to Learn schemes).</p> <p>Supporting enrolment processes to post 16 learning by alerting young people to financial incentives.</p> <p>Sharing analysis and performance with the LSC against % of young people eligible accessing EMA Support young people in the EMA and C2L application process.</p> <p>Promoting the benefits of higher education and providing clear information on financial funding frameworks for higher education in the UK.</p>
Outputs	<p>% Y11 school leavers in learning and "not settled".</p> <p>% half days missed.</p>	<p>% young people with LDD EET/NEET.</p> <p>% teenage mothers EET/NEET.</p> <p>% young offenders EET/NEET.</p> <p>% care leavers EET/NEET.</p> <p>% of young people from BME groups in NEET.</p>	<p>Developing professional standards for the delivery of IAG and ensuring effective transitions for young people at age 16/17 – the September Guarantee.</p> <p>Ensuring all young people who are eligible receive a section 139a review (LLDD).</p>	<p>Reduce the number of young people not known.</p> <p>Consolidate and strengthen data and quality analysis..</p>	<p>Sustaining effective promotion of financial incentives - % improvement in eligible young people accessing EMA.</p>

Targets

This strategy aims to draw together two key outcomes

- Increasing the rate of participation in learning for young people aged 13-19 (EET)
- Decreasing disengagement of young people aged 16-18 (NEET)

Within this broad aim specific targets exist for statutory agencies. The main and relevant targets are as follows

- The Local Area Agreement NEET target for Wirral.
- The Connexions service key drivers and targets.
- The LSC targets for participation in structured learning and the numbers of young people reaching Level 2 and Level 3 at 19 target.

NEET targets

The PSA target for Wirral for the reduction in the number of 16-18 young people NEET by 2010 is 6.9%. The LAA has identified this area within its priorities and the progression towards this is an area identified as a stretch target. Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership has set targets for increasing participation and a trajectory towards 2010. The NEET targets for Wirral are reflected in the LAA, CYPP and IYSS strategies for Wirral.

The targets are as follows:

November 2008	Performance	9.5%
November 2009	Target	7.1%
November 2010	Target	6.9%

The rationale for reducing NEET – the national context

For all those engaged in work with children and young people the rationale for reducing NEET is simple and derives from a determination to help young people to overcome barriers to achievement, be settled, develop their skills through learning and start on a route to a fulfilling and useful adult life. Investigation of the 1970 British Birth Cohort study has shown that being NEET for six months is likely to mean that by the age of twenty one a young man is:

- More than four times likely to be out of work
- Three times more likely to have depression and mental health issues
- Five times more likely to have a criminal record
- Six times less likely to have any qualifications

(Bridging The Gap: New opportunities for 16-18 year olds not in education, employment or training – Social Exclusion Unit 1999.)

Successfully tackling this issue – particularly around young people who are NEET for a prolonged period – is therefore a priority for government, both for preventing enduring disadvantage in adulthood and in relation to our future economic competitiveness.

Reducing the number of NEET will not only improve the life chances of the individual young people, but will contribute towards Social Inclusion; Community Stability and Coherence.

NEET Characteristics & at risk Sub Group

The heterogeneous nature of the NEET group is significant. Effective targeting requires understanding of the different needs of the many different sub-groups which make up the NEET cohort and determining which require intervention.

Evidence points to the following reasons as to why young people may be NEET:

- Some are in between EET opportunities.
- Some choose to be NEET as a consequence of their current influences.
- Some lack the necessary life skills.
- Some have unrealistic EET expectations.
- Some don't find the EET opportunities that they are looking for (Supply and Demand).
- Some find they were given inappropriate information prior to starting at college and drop out.
- Some have chaotic personal circumstances e.g. homeless, substance misuse.
- Some have caring responsibilities e.g. teenage parents, young carers.
- Some have physical/mental/learning difficulties.
- Some for other personal reasons.

Cutting across these definitions is the need to understand the characteristics and categories of young people most likely to experience sustained and problematic NEET status.

Qualitative research conducted by the Connexions Service in Norfolk in 2007 with 77 young people identified the following:

“Triggers” to NEET and “Enablers” to EET

Triggers to NEET	Enablers to EET
<p><u>Primary Triggers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leaving care • Homelessness • Difficult parental relationships • Lack of qualifications • Early school leaver • Criminal record • Caring for a parent • Bullying • Pregnancy <p><u>Secondary Triggers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parental separation • Drug and alcohol misuse • Lack of appropriate advice at school • Moving home frequently • Bereavement • Learning difficulties • Poor access to transport 	<p><u>Primary Enablers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family/parental support • Financial support • Advice, guidance and information from specialists eg. Connexions PAs, support workers • Post 16 education • Entry2Employment (E2E) • Transport • Parenthood <p><u>Secondary Enablers</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being in a stable relationship • Stopping drug/alcohol misuse • Peer activities/influences • Gaining work experience/voluntary work • Career planning

Further research conducted on Wirral in December 2007 found a number of the above characteristics at play with the young people interviewed, but also recognised some of the following traits:

- **A lack of self awareness – a tendency to see themselves as employable when they are not**
- **Confused career choices – a refusal to consider anything but their stated preference, or else have no real preference at all**
- **A likelihood of leaving a course or a job if something else in their life becomes more pressing**
- **A tendency to drift along and allow time to pass without taking action**

The research identified the following solutions:

The need for good preparatory work at school, increasing their self awareness and giving them a good understanding of the choices open to them, their own aptitudes, and career paths

Support as and when other things in their life cause problems that could lead to them leaving their job or course

A greater element of challenge and motivation to prevent aimless drifting and the consequent development of poor routines.

The Local Context:

The most recent National Data available on NCCIS (National client Caseload Information System) shows the NEET rate for England in January 09 is 6.70% of the 16-18 population.

This can be compared with the NEET rates for Greater Merseyside in the table below:

N.E.E.T. percentage by area at end of January 2010 – Nov-Jan average (G.M.C.P. data).

GMCP DATA	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St Helens	Wirral	Company
% Adjusted NEET 2010	10.3	8.93	8.4	6.83	8.95	8.9	8.46
% Adjusted NEET 2009	13.43	12.49	9.98	8.00	9.71	8.89	9.8

The pace of improvement is slow, and does not follow the trajectory towards the 2010 PSA target of 6.9%.

Where EET has increased it reflects the following:

- Continued improvement in retention in post 16 learning (particularly in the September to January period)
- A high proportion of year 11 leavers continuing in learning
- The impact of the September Guarantee, extended to include all 17 year olds.
- A focus on transition beyond year 11 and in sustaining the involvement of young people in Learning & Employment.

Increase in the numbers of 16-18 year olds in learning.

- The overall “in learning” rate across Greater Merseyside has risen to a rate not experienced before and the same can be said for all of the six local areas that comprise the sub-region. Table 3 below outlines the situation in a year-on-year comparison.

16-18 “In Learning” percentage by local area at the end of January 2010.

	Halton	Knowsley	Liverpool	Sefton	St Helens	Wirral	Partnership Total
% of 16-18 who are in learning at end January 2010.	79.8	78.7	81.8	85.9	86.1	82.3	82.9

% of 16-18 who were in learning at end January 2009.	70.7	72.3	78.4	81.8	83.1	79.4	78.8
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- The national trend is a negative one whilst locally we have seen the largest ever rate of increase of the “in learning” population, in part fuelled by the lack of employment opportunities.

The high levels of participation among the 16 year old cohort is not being sustained and we now have the highest numbers of 18 year old NEET at 50.3% of the January NEET cohort.

Sustaining the impact of the first destination survey; by supporting young people to remain in learning throughout their 17 & 18 years is one of the key challenges facing partners in securing a measurable improvement in EET.

Wirral has a high rate of NEET “Churn” with significant numbers of young people moving in and out of learning throughout the year.

The Churn is another key indicator of the NEET challenge. The cohort is in daily flux and significant efforts are afforded to tackling the total cohort (including those in settled destinations) to ensure that all young people across the borough, receive support and guidance when they need it.

Good partnership arrangements are in place to provide information on the ebb and flow of young people in and out of post 16 learning. These will be augmented by Government requirements (outlined in the November 2007 Action Note) for all post 16 Learning Providers to notify the Connexions service as soon as a young person drops out of learning.

In Wirral effective tracking measures are in place and result in low levels of young people not known to the Connexions Service: 2.95 % for January 2010 (compared to 3.44% January 2009).

Supporting Vulnerable Young People:

Improving participation rates for young people will contribute toward other key IYS PSA targets for the Borough reflecting participation and resilience:

- Reduce under 18 conception rates
- Increase participation in positive activities
- Reduce substance misuse harm levels
- Reduce numbers of young people not engaged in education, employment & training
- Reduce number of 1st time entrants to the youth justice system. The table below outlines the participation rates in Education, Employment & Training for the Key Vulnerable groups of young people in Wirral:

	Jan 2009	Jan 2010
16-19 Young Mothers EET	29.58%	25.99%
16-25 LDD in EET	72.70%	70.15%
19 year old Care	34.72%	44.26%

Leavers EET		
16-18 year old Supported by Y.O.S EET	54.07%	52.41%

The year on year comparison shows significant distance to travel to improve EET rates among our most vulnerable young people. In depth analysis of the needs of the young people; a number of whom feature in more than one category is available.

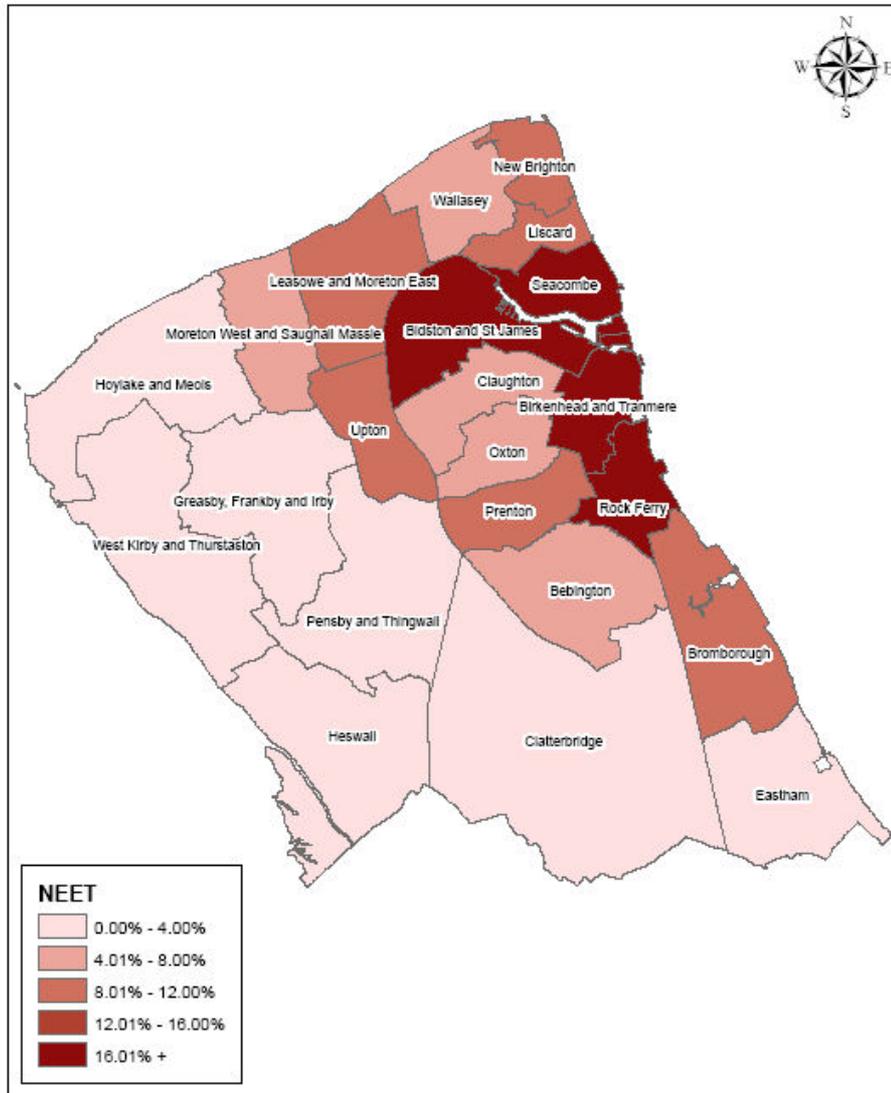
Guidance points to a need for:

- Improved level 1 and entry level provision
- Opportunities with supportive and understanding Employers
- Improved availability and access to childcare
- Supportive personal development youth opportunities etc.

To conclude the local analysis; the following table provides data for January 2010 on levels of NEET and participation by Ward:

Ward	NEET	EET
Bebington	26	471
Bidston & St James	121	461
Birkenhead & Tranmere	85	430
Bromborough	40	392
Clatterbridge	14	339
Claughton	41	472
Eastham	16	388
Greasby, Frankby & Irby	17	443
Heswall	4	343
Hoylake & Meols	18	435
Leasowe & Moreton East	63	478
Liscard	65	498
Moreton West & Saughall Massie	25	408
New Brighton	49	406
Oxton	22	357
Pensby & Thingwall	14	357
Prenton	43	455
Rock Ferry	91	450
Seacombe	102	522
Upton	55	500
Wallasey	25	561
West Kirby & Thurstaston	13	394
No Ward/Non Wirral Ward	29	296
Total	978	9856

Wirral 16-18 NEET Percentage by ward - January 2010

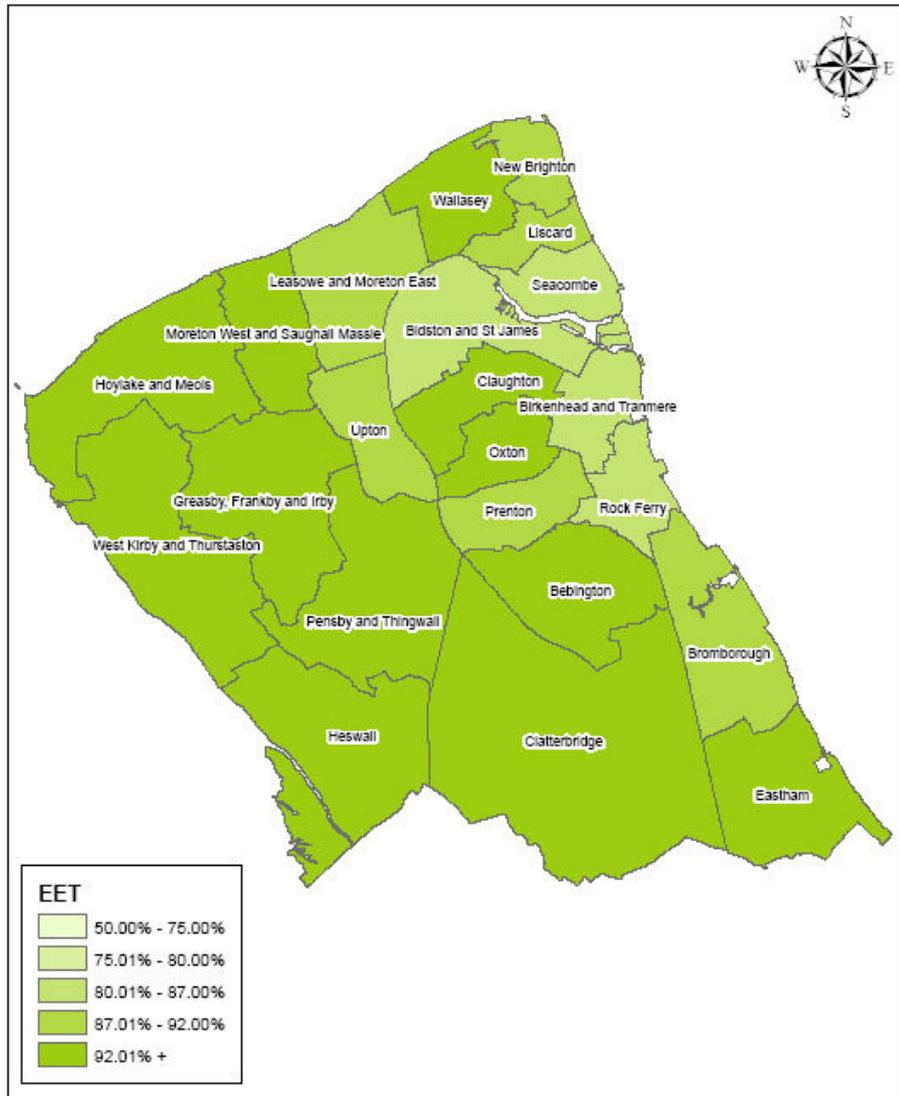


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Maps at scale of 1:100,000

Note: The total cohort figure used in these calculations excludes those young people who have moved out of contact or did not have their ward listed.

Wirral 16-18 EET Percentage by ward - January 2010



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Maps at scale of: 1:100,000

Note: The total cohort figure used in these calculations excludes those young people who have moved out of contact or did not have their ward listed.

The data reveals significant geographical disparities in levels of participation:

NEET

- Highest average 16-18 NEET % in Wirral – Bidston and St James : 20.30%
- Lowest average 16-18 NEET % in Wirral – Heswall : 1.15%
- Average 16-18 NEET – 7.91%

EET

- Highest average 16-18 EET % in Wirral – Heswall : 98.85%
- Lowest average 16-18 EET % in Wirral – Bidston and St James : 80.45%
- Average 16-18 EET – 92.10%

Learning

- Highest average 16-18 Learning % in Wirral – Heswall 97.69%
- Lowest average 16-18 Learning % in Wirral – Bidston and St James 74.00%
- Average 16-18 Learning – 85.91%

Closing the Gap.

In the final analysis, the available data reveals significant (work) for the partnership to improve overall levels of participation for our 16-18 young people.

- Our vulnerable young people are out of step with their peers in respect of achievement and participation.
- Current Headline NEET performance is not on trajectory to achieve the 2010 PSA target.
- Post 16 provision; particularly for vulnerable young people should be mapped against need to ensure supply meets demand.
- The partnership should align provision and maximise opportunities presented by new funding streams to make an impact.
- Other good practice developed via the extension of the Activity Agreement Pilot and the roll out of the September Guarantee to 17 year olds need to be fully embedded.

The action plan that follows is how partners in Wirral will address these issues.

1) Effective Early Intervention

1.	Objectives	Actions	Measure	Lead
1.1	Develop and Deliver a joint training package for pre and post 16 institutions and the Voluntary/Faith sector on the identification and need of the 'at risk to NEET' group. To include information on post 16 opportunities; 14-19 developments, finance including EMA etc.	Establish a Task and Finish group as a sub gp of S and EWB to: Develop Pack and Deliver Information sessions.	Information sessions delivered.	KB/MC
1.2	Consider the Assessment, Planning, Implementation and Review (APIR) framework in light of CAF to identify NEET / employability skills and job ready processes.	Implement revised assessment processes in Autumn 09. Connexions will work with DCFS to develop arrangements to joint monitor progress in relation to CAF delivery and other assessment processes	Numbers of profiles completed. Numbers of action plans agreed.	Jackie Galligan
1.3	Initial assessment to identify support level required by PA. Target support for vulnerable groups. All Schools including special schools have linked PAs and arrangements which are agreed annually for attendance at annual reviews in years 9, 10 and 11, plus post 16 where appropriate	Responsive joint working and referral mechanisms that make services and solutions accessible for young people –agreed through annual PAGs.	Improved contact and intervention rates	Sheila Lynch / Connexions Neighbourhood Managers

2) Delivery of advocacy, brokerage & I.A.G

	Objective	Actions	Measure	Lead
2.1	Develop the curriculum offer to all young people pre and post 16 including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - vocational diplomas pre 16 - Entry and Level 1 course post 16 	Develop and implement a Diploma implementation plan for 2009 delivery Submit diploma application for Gateway 3 Pilot FLT test and trial programme Undertake review and analysis of existing partnership provision and underpinning systems	Plan in place with milestones to be reviewed each term Submission made Autumn 2008 FLT model developed and evaluated Education Plan in place. Protocols and partnership agreements developed and agreed	14-19 Team
2.2	Extend the curriculum offer to young people via the availability of January starts in post 16 learning.	Audit existing opportunities available to young people post Christmas. Identify demand by the NEET Cohort for Post 16 provision to be available for a January start. Explore feasibility of offering new starts to Young People in January.	Report in place for September 14-19 Board mtg- now supported via January Guarantee	Jackie Galligan
2.3	Review the impact of the NEET Hot Spot project & Local Solutions and how examples of good practice	What Next Team Manager will produce an end of project	Report to be received by 14-19	14-19 Manager

	can be sustained upon completion of the project. To include: targeted support for 17 year olds at risk of dropping out:	evaluation report.	Board	
2.4	Evaluate the KS4 Engagement Project and measure the impact on young people who have participated in the programme. Build review and recommendation into the roll out of the programme from September 2009.	Manage the delivery of the KS4 Engagement programme	Bi-annual evaluation	14-19 team
2.5	Promote volunteering and other personal development opportunities through the curriculum; eg Princes Trust and Duke of Edinburgh Award as a pathway to future success in Education; Employment & Training.	Engage with Wirral CVS to identify and promote Volunteering Opportunities	Increased participation of young people in volunteering	Jackie Galligan/CVS
2.6	Review availability of post 16 provision available for the NEET cohort, in particular opportunities at Entry and Level 1.	Audit of Provision.	Report produced and informs provision planning	Andy Cannell/Paul Smith
2.7	Ensure the needs of the NEET young people are reflected in Wirral's Investment Strategy and that new opportunities for young people emanating from this strategy are quickly and widely disseminated.	NEET issues are championed via Wirral Economic Development Strategic Partnership.	NEET issues reflected as key priority.	Sheila Lynch
2.8	Fully engage with employers and other opportunity providers to ensure the local Labour Market is aware of NEET issues, and to secure possible opportunities for young people.	Develop and implement employer engagement plan.	EE Plan in place	14-19 team/Connexions

3) Supply of learning provision across 14-19

	Objective	Actions	Measure	Lead
3.1	Ensure all young people have access to high quality, expert, independent, impartial and appropriate Information, Advice & Guidance pre and post 16, which is consistent with the D.C.F.S IAG quality standards.	All Young people have access to a named Connexions Personal Adviser, attached to their place of learning, or via the 4 Connexions Centres on Wirral. Personal Advisers qualified at NVQ4 in Advice and Guidance or equivalent.	Connexions Local Delivery Plan.	Connexions
3.2	To maximise the September Guarantee for school leavers; ensure that the intended destinations of year 11 and year 12 are recorded; that offers of post 16 learning received by young people are logged and the take up of places in Education, Training & Employment, with learning, is tracked.	Connexions Service records offers received by Young people of Learning Opportunities.	Reports produced by Connexions and shared with Partners	Jackie Galligan/Paul Smith/Vivian Stafford
3.3	Ensure that the extension of September Guarantee offer is available to all 17 year olds; that strategies are in place to sustain current learners and re-engage those who are NEET.	Connexions Service records offers received by Young people of Learning Opportunities	Reports produced by Connexions and shared with Partners	Jackie Galligan/Paul Smith/Vivian Stafford
3.4	Build on the September Guarantee in the implementation of the January Guarantee 2010.	Connexions Service records offers received by Young people of Learning Opportunities	Reports produced by Connexions and shared with Partners	Jackie Galligan/Paul Smith/Vivian Stafford
3.5	Ensure comprehensive information is available on post 16 opportunities for young people and their	Continue to develop and promote www.i-	Prospectus and CAP in place.	14-19 team

	parents & carers. Including continuing development of E.prospectus, i-choosewirral.org.uk.	choosewirral.org.uk and the roll out of the common application process		
3.6	Review support provided to vulnerable young people; young parents; care leavers; young people supported by the Y.O.S and those young people with L.D.D to improve their respective participation routes in comparison with their peers.	Vulnerable Groups Multi Agency Focus Groups to be convened to review current practice, and identify improvement actions.	Focus groups in place. Improvement in Participation recorded.	Neighbourhood Managers.
3.7	Map and evaluate existing support for young people pre and post 16 to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Connexions Targeted & Universal support - P.A.Y.P - Y.I.P - Learning Mentors - ESF projects :Learn Wise, Stay Wise, Work Wise 	Audit support and resources available via the multifarious funding streams available. Produce report which highlights examples of good practice.	Audit completed. Report produced and received.	Jackie Galligan
3.8	Promote and support the process for the Wirral Apprenticeship programme, including NEET young people, those from vulnerable groups and those currently lacking progression routes.	Vacancy details advertised on Connexions Core Data base and applications via NAS website.	Numbers of applications made.	Andy Cannell
3.9	Provide recruitment and matching service to employers across the Borough.	Updates to be provided to all partners on vacancy notification Review the impact of recession on the available opportunities	Increased numbers of vacancies generated and filled	Andy Cannell
3.10	Maximise the opportunities presented by the extension of the Activity Agreement Pilot.	Action Plan for the roll out of the Activity Agreement	Action Plan received	Carol Healey

	Ensure young people not yet ready for post 16 learning are engaged on the Activity Agreement Programme ESF Work Wise programme and other Personal Development Opportunities.	Extension programme produced. Ensure ESF NEET project interfaces with the Activity Agreement		Vivian Stafford
3.11	Implement NEET Tiger Task and finish group to increase the pace of NEET reduction	Task group formed with Senior Leadership. Terms of reference and timeframe agreed.	NEET reduced by 2% by January 2011.	Mike Potter

4) Client Tracking

	Objective	Action	Measure	Lead
4.1	Information of young people who are not attending school; or who are not on the school roll to be shared across the partnership to ensure young people are able to access Information, Advice & Guidance and support about post 16 opportunities.	Systems to be put in place to share information.	Support extended to Young People not engaging with schools	Mike Clarke/Jackie Galligan
4.2	Maintain current tracking interventions which are having an impact including: Home visits; email; phone calls; letters; text; Recognise that there is a significant investment in time in maintaining contact with the cohort and explore ways that this can be streamlined without negating the output.	Connexions Local Delivery Plan, identifies actions and resource for Client tracking and Support.	Percentage of Wirral 16-18 cohort not known to the Connexions Service	Sheila Lynch
4.3	Undertake qualitative work with a group of 18 year old NEET young people to further develop the partnership, understanding of risk and resilience factors and to identify successful strategies for engagement and move on.	Undertake research. Produce report	Improved understanding of barriers to participation	Jackie Galligan
4.4	Post 16 providers of Education & Training are required to provide information of any young people who drop out/leave early or fail to complete their chosen programme to the Connexions Service: as per DCFS guidance.	Systems in place to transfer data on learners not completing post 16 courses.	Support to re engage in EET offered to Young People at the earliest opportunity	Neighbourhood managers.
4.5	All NEET young people are allocated and case loaded to a designated Personal Adviser in order to	Caseloading Strategy in place.	Increase in number of young	Neighbourhood Managers

	encourage application for and commitment to entry and progression within EET opportunities.		people who are EET.	
4.6	All NEET young people are tracked and offered support at a minimum every two weeks.	Systems in place.	Connexions Frequency Of Follow up Reports	Jackie Galligan
4.7	Work in partnership to maximise the potential of using 'Contact Point' to reduce the number of young people not known to services.			LA Lead.
4.8	Action Note Cx237 outlines government plans to introduce a post 16 progression measure, which will make information on the destinations of former pupils available to school. The government plans to make this information available to the public. -	The Partnership should consider how best to: Generate the Information In what format will it be available How the Information will be shared with Schools/Colleges How the information will move into the public domain.	Learning Communities to review data and trends.	Learning Community Chairs

5) Financial Incentives

	Objective	Action	Measure	Lead
5.1	Continue to promote the EMA and Care to Learn grant, and support young people in their applications to these funding streams.	Strategies in place to promote EMA etc	Take up of EMA, Care to Learn etc	LSC/LA
5.2	Review numbers of young people in receipt of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Job Seekers Allowance - Incapacity Benefit Consider how best to support young people in receipt of benefits; to ensure they are able to move on into Education, Employment & Training.	Connexions and Job Centre Plus to review.	Reduce numbers of Young people in receipt of benefits.	Job Centre Plus/Connexions
5.3	JSA/New Deal Support the implementation of Flexible New Deal eligibility whereby mandatory fast tracking in place for all 18 year olds who have been NEET for 26 weeks or more (prior to turning 18). Support the successful implementation of the Future Jobs Fund	Connexions/Job Centre Plus statement of joint working to reflect changing legislation and opportunities to support young people in to Employment, Training and Education Co-location pilot to be developed, evaluated and further rolled out.	Protocols in Place	Job Centre Plus/Connexions

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 19 MARCH 2010

STEP UP INTO SOCIAL WORK

1.0 Background

The Learn Together Partnership consists of the Merseyside local authorities plus Warrington and Halton and on a shared basis develops training and learning for the childrens workforce. Step Up into Social Work is a national pilot programme offering an employment based route to qualifying as a social worker.

2.0 Background

2.1 The Learn Together Partnership

2.2 The Learn Together Partnership (LTP) consists of Sefton, Knowsley, St Helens, Liverpool, Wirral, Warrington and Halton. The LTP's role is to develop training and learning opportunities across the member local authorities to share good practice and develop the childrens workforce. The LTP has close links with our local universities and has successfully developed professional qualifications and training to enhance the skills and knowledge base of the local workforce.

2.3 The LTP has requested that Wirral be the lead local authority for the Step Up into Social Work Programme.

2.4 Step Up into Social Work

2.5 Following the death of Baby Peter, there were a number of national actions to review childrens services and social work. Lord Laming published his report "The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report" in March 2009 and "Building a Safe, Confident Future" was published by the Social Work Taskforce in December 2009.

2.6 Lord Laming identified the national shortage of qualified social workers who wish to work in childrens services as a critical issue for services for children and this was again highlighted in the report of the Social Work Taskforce. Both reports highlight concerns with the quality of the training for social workers and the difficulty in attracting good quality candidates to train in the first place.

2.7 As part of the Government's response, the Childrens Workforce Development Council (CWDC) has been charged with piloting various approaches to supporting social workers once qualified and remodelling social work to ensure that qualified and experienced social workers are retained at the frontline. Wirral is involved with a number of these pilots and is already seeing an impact on the support to staff and retention.

2.8 The Step Up into Social Work programme is targeted at the training of social workers. The normal route to qualify as a social worker is to either undertake a three year BA degree or if a degree is already held a two or three year MA.

- 2.9 The programme aims to attract high quality candidates into social work. It is targeting people with a 2:1 degree who are able to complete a “fast-track” MA course to qualify as a social worker over 18 months. Candidates will be employed on a fixed term contract with a local authority to enable them to complete the academic elements but also to have excellent opportunities for work-based learning.
- 2.10 Regional partnerships were invited to bid to participate in the programme; the LTP was successful as the only partnership in the north-west of England and is one of eight across England.
- 2.11 The CWDC is supporting the pilot programme in a number of ways. It has contracted with two universities to design the qualification and the LTP is linked with Manchester Metropolitan University. The LTP is working closely with Manchester Metropolitan University on the course design of the MA to ensure it meets some of the gaps that employers have identified in current social work training. CWDC is also leading the recruitment to the course via a national advertising campaign and has appointed a recruitment agency to manage the recruitment and application process. The LTP member local authorities will be closely involved in decisions and will have the final say on appointing any candidates.
- 2.12 Financial support is being provided by the CWDC. Set up costs of £60k have been allocated to the LTP to assist with the administration of the programme and it is proposed that a Project Officer is appointed to work part time on a seconded basis to work across the local authorities.
- 2.13 There is funding of £30k per candidate to contribute to salary costs for the duration of the course and the CWDC is also providing £480k for the LTP to procure delivery of the course.
- 2.14 In addition there are placement and supervision costs to support the provision of placements for the candidates up to £224k.
- 2.15 The LTP has committed to providing up to 40 places across the member local authorities.

3.0 Wirral

- 3.1 The set up costs will not only enable the LTP to second to the Project Officer but will also cover the costs Wirral incurs in administering the Project including the procurement process and the financial management and distribution of funds to the member local authorities. Wirral as lead local authority will sign the contract with the CWDC and also receive the funding and distribute to the member local authorities.
- 3.2 Wirral is aiming to have up to 7 of the candidates as part of the programme.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 The programme is funded by the CWDC in principal but also attracts funding from the General Social Care Council (GSCC) and the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFC) for England. The CWDC will co-ordinate the funding.

3.2 The funding breakdown across the LTP is:

Set up costs		£60k
CWDC costs 40x £15k	Year 1	£600k
	Year 2	£600k
HEFCE funding	Year 1	£240k
	Year 2	£240k
GSCC funding	Year 1	£72k
placement costs	Year 2	£72k
CWDC supervision costs	Year 1	£40k
	Year 2	£40k

Total: £1.996m

4.0 Recruitment

4.1 All recruitment is being coordinated via the CWDC with each local authority involved in the assessment centres which will take place in April/May 2010.

4.2 All applications are to be made online via www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/stepup.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 The Childrens Trust Board notes the recruitment campaign and promotes awareness of the programme across all members of the Childrens Trust.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Advertisement

Report Author:

Tracey Coffey
Strategic Service Manager

Contact:

Phone: 0151 666 4330
Email: traceycoffey@wirral.gov.uk

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

TITLE: Aiming High for Disabled Children- Commissioning Phase Two

1. Background

- 1.1 This report outlines recommendations made to Cabinet for approval to procure short breaks services for 2010/11 as part of the delivery of Aiming High for Disabled Children Project. After a thorough and robust commissioning process there were three requested services that contracts were not awarded to: Sitting Service, Enablement Support Scheme and Emergency Support Scheme. Phase two of this process has involved researching the most effective and efficient method to deliver these services.
- 1.2 In May 2009 a tender pack was put together outlining services to be commissioned to develop short breaks as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children Project. The commissioning process then started with an advertisement on 24th June 2009 and interviews were held on week beginning 24th August 2009. Feedback from the voluntary sector representative was that the timescales for the process were good. Internal audit recently carried out a review of the process and stated 'This review has not resulted in any audit recommendations, and the audit opinion for the tendering procedures relating to this project is good.'
- 1.3 We received a total of 20 tenders from 13 organisations for community based provision. The only provider who gave any feedback was in relation to the Contract Carers Scheme, where one agency identified that they did not submit a tender as they felt the length of initial contract was shorter that they would have wished for. The length of contract is dictated by the period of funding. We received no other feedback in relation to timescales or the process as to why an organisation did not submit a tender and are therefore confident that the number of organisations tendering is considered to be a significant proportion of the known local market.
- 1.4 The recommendations from the tendering process were presented to Cabinet on 1st October 2009 and were approved. A contract negotiation meeting was then held with each successful organisation and service level agreements were confirmed with clear outcome and output measures. Within the Aiming High programme the Council is required to report 3 monthly on increased service up take, and therefore rigorous monitoring has been put in place. The commissioned services are all delivering and to a high standard having a lot of impact for young people with disabilities in Wirral and their families.
- 1.5 Together for Disabled Children wrote to each Director of Children Services in December 2009, to confirm the level of support required; they confirmed that Wirral is assessed as requiring low support at this time, which has seen a stepped improvement since our previous rating in July 2009. Feedback offered by the Programme Advisor was that this improved rating reflected the degree of commissioning rigour which had translated into increased support for families. The Council were also offered a further £10k to spend prior to April taken from other Local Authorities who had not to date spent their funding allocation.
- 1.6 However there were three services that were not able to be commissioned through this process due to no tenders being received or these outstanding elements being part of a larger tender but another provider was successful in relation to the other elements of it and following the procurement guidelines we can only award the tender as a whole. There remaining services are :

- The Sitting Service – to support parents of young people by someone ‘sitting’ for the child in their home so they can enjoy some leisure time e.g. night out, hair cut
- Enablement Support Scheme – to support young people to acquire greater independence and be able with support to be able to join youth groups, clubs and develop their confidence in going out
- Emergency Support Scheme – to support parents in emergency situations such as the hospitalisation of a family member

The programme has a requirement to demonstrate that the range, quality and choice of provision are enhanced in line with the Full Service Offer. All of these service areas were determined to be important to ensure they are developed within the period of the project in order to meet these reporting requirements. To identify the most appropriate way to deliver these services the Project Manager carried out further consultation with parent/carers and professionals to draft a more detailed specification for each of the services.

Below is a summary of these findings in relation to each service and a recommendation about how to proceed taking into account we have been to the market, the time limited nature of the funding and the expectancies on the local authority to deliver on the Full Service Offer.

These recommendations have been discussed at the operational group, executive group and will be taken to the Children’s Trust Executive on 11th March 2010.

1.7 **Sitting Services**

Consultation with parents was carried out to discuss this service. Parents identified that ‘trust’ in the provider’s ability to deliver for their child was essential to enable them to have the confidence to leave them in the providers care. The two key target groups for this service are young people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions and young people with Complex Health Needs.

For young people with Autism, Wirral Autistic Society was highlighted as being the most appropriate provider, due to known capability, capacity to deliver in timescales, proven quality and known to the target client group. They were awarded other contracts through phase one of the commissioning process and assessed to have the quality and knowledge to deliver short break services. So far they have proven to be a focused provider delivering to a very high standard, where the families needs are the priority.

After discussions with Wirral Autistic Society they provided a proposal setting out the service they could offer, this was reviewed by the Project Manager, Parenting/Prevention Commissioning Manager (Wirral MBC) and the Business Manager - Strategic Partnerships (NHS Wirral) and was felt to be an appropriate response to the service we were looking to provide.

The key details of this service are:

- It will be a flexible service in the families’ home of a disabled child caring for the child with the disability alone or possibly siblings depending on the families needs.
- It will be delivered by trained staff from within Wirral Autistic Society.
- It will be 2 hour blocks between the hours of 9am-10pm seven days a week for the duration of the contract.

- The service will operate on a booking system for families. Families will be registered to the service.
- The cost of the service for the period of 1st April 2010-31st March 2011 will be £174,510 to provide 4032 sessions to families.

1.8 Identified as an appropriate providers for providing the sitting service for young people with complex health needs were Claire House and Crossroads Care Cheshire and West Wirral. However through discussions with Claire House it was decided it was not in line with their core work and criteria. We had originally hoped that they may be willing to broaden their criteria to provide a service for young people who not meet the criteria for their current services. Discussion with the Continuing Care Coordinator from NHS Wirral has identified that we need this service to provide for young people with health needs that currently do not receive any short breaks as they do not meet the criteria for services from Continuing Care Team or Claire House.

‘Crossroads Care Cheshire West and Wirral’ currently deliver short breaks for young people with health needs and were commissioned to deliver four contracts through phase one of the commissioning process of this project and have proven quality and experience to deliver. Through discussions they have proposed to deliver a sitting service, they key details of this service are:

- A flexible sitting service for children with health needs and their siblings.
- Clear access systems will be devised in conjunction the Continuing Care Coordinator.
- Initially to provide 12 families with 3 hours of a short break every 4 weeks. This will be a total of 168 sessions during the period of the contract.
- The cost will be £8,868.00 up to March 2011.
- The provider will be able to provide more hours if the demand is high for this service. This will be negotiated throughout the contract period.

The young people the service Crossroads will target is a smaller population than the service to be provided by Wirral Autistic Society.

Alongside providing these services further consultation and support will be provided to develop systems for parents/carers of young people with disabilities to recruit their own ‘sitters’ to enable the service to be sustainable. It is proposed that by delivering this service for one year, we will have a clearer indication of the demand for such a service.

Recommendation: To award Crossroads Care Cheshire West and Wirral Autistic Society contracts for the services detailed above.

1.9 Emergency Support Scheme

Through Phase one of the process no tenders were received in relation to this service, and this remains a high priority in meeting the Full Service Offer.

Following consideration by the operational and executive group it is recommended that we devise an Emergency Support Scheme to be managed from within the Children with Disabilities Team. The project plan will be steered by a staff member from within the Aiming High Team, with key managers across the service.

The first stage of the process will be to develop an emergency support plan with families of young people with disabilities, which will identify the steps to be taken if an

emergency occurs. The support plans will be developed by social workers and family support staff. This should confirm how many families will require support, beyond their family networks and the range of situations they might need external support with. This will enable us to map support needs effectively, and then consider which service providers will offer support. The key reasons for this are to provide a service that is sustainable, since current funding is only available until March 2011; also, we do not know the level of demand for this service at present.

The initial costs of this model will be minimal and will only involve workforce training, as required, the purchase of specialist equipment for health needs and the occasional use of an external provider in extreme circumstances. These costs will be managed through the Operational group.

Recommendation: To devise a model for an emergency support scheme that is cost effective and sustainable post March 2011, utilising the Local Authority Children with Disability Services.

1.10 **Enablement Support Scheme**

Through consultation with the project team and with professionals, parents and information generated from young people's consultation, this service will be known as the 'Leisure Link programme'. This is more family friendly and defines the key aims of the service more clearly. This service is for young people, who along with their families, feel that with some time limited support they would be able to access mainstream services independently. Support will be provided to the young person, their family and the provider setting to enable the young person to access a leisure activity of their choice.

The project team are currently carrying out a high level of work developing a lot of services to become more inclusive. This is involving workforce development, support through capital and voluntary grants, advisory support including consultation with families and advertising of their services. It is providing a clear picture of what services are out there and how they can be developed to be inclusive.

Following consideration by the operational and executive group it is proposed to develop the Leisure Link Programme from within the current Aiming High for Disabled Children's Project team, this will ensure the development of services and young people accessing them work closely together.

The key details of this service are:

- It will be for young people who it is anticipated will be able to access the chosen service independently after the support is offered.
- The number of weeks of support will be flexible depending on the young person's needs and how progress is made.
- 4 members of staff will be recruited; this will comprise a coordinator to oversee and develop the programme and 3 link workers providing direct support to the young people.
- 3600 hours of support will be delivered.
- The cost of the members of staff to deliver this service will be £105,409.20.

Recommendation: To develop the Leisure Link programme by recruiting additional capacity within the project team.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 Sitting Service:** Total cost of £183,378. This is for service delivery of 1st April 2010-31st March 2011 as the programme is grant funded until this date.
- 2.2 Leisure Link programme:** Total cost of: £105,409.20. This is for service delivery from 1st April 2010 - 31st March 2011 as the programme is grant funded until this date.
- 2.3 Emergency Support Scheme:** Costs related to workforce development and purchasing of specialist equipment. As we do not know the need for this service a figure can not be stated, it will be managed in the most cost effective method through the operational group.
- 2.4** All financial implications will be covered by the Aiming High for Disabled Children funding grant.

3. Staffing Implications

- 3.1** 4 members of staff will be appointed as part of the Leisure Link Programme; these positions will be filled through secondments through the local authority or NHS Wirral until 31st March 2011, in line with the time period of the funding.

Staffing Implications for the Sitting Service will be the responsibility of the providers.

4. Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

- 4.1** 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.
- 4.2** The development of these routine short breaks will support the health and well being of the families as a whole as it has been evidenced that 'breaks' provide the time apart required to assist with the family functioning.
- 4.3** Developing these services will offer more short breaks to more groups of young people with varying needs; this will enable Wirral to meet the requirements of the Full Service Offer.

5. Community Safety Implications

No specific implications emerging from this report.

6. Local Agenda 21 Implications

No specific implications emerging from this report.

7. Planning Implications

No specific implications emerging from this report.

8. Anti-poverty Implications

No specific implications emerging from this report.

9. Social Inclusion Implications

The development of these services will enable young people with disabilities to access more short breaks. All three of the services detailed are working towards services being more inclusive and sustainable.

10. Local Member Support Implications

Disabled Children live in all wards.

11. Background Papers

Full Service Offer <http://www.togetherfdc.org/Topics/Fullserviceoffer.aspx>

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Childrens Trust Board notes the further discussions and negotiation which have taken place through stage two of the commissioning process for this project.
2. To notes the following recommendations:
 - To award Crossroads Care Cheshire West and Wirral Autistic Society contracts to deliver the Sitting Services.
 - To devise a model for an emergency support scheme that is cost effective and sustainable post March 2011, utilising the Local Authority Children with Disability Services.
 - To develop the Leisure Link programme by recruiting additional capacity within the project team.

Report Author:

Dawn Tolcher
Aiming High Project Manager

Contact:

Phone: 0151 606 6805
Email: dawntolcher@wirral.gov.uk