

Friday, 24 September 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 THE LAST MEETING (Pages 1 - 8)**
 4. **09:10 PROPOSED GOVERNMENT CHANGES FOR CHILDREN'S TRUSTS (Pages 9 - 10)**
 5. **09:20 PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN (Pages 11 - 12)**
 6. **09:30 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2010/11 QUARTER 1 (Pages 13 - 22)**
 7. **09:45 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2010/11 QUARTER 1 (Pages 23 - 32)**
 8. **10:00 SAFEGUARDING 2010/11 QUARTER 1 (Pages 33 - 34)**
- 10:15 BREAK**
9. **10:30 COMMISSIONING UPDATE (Pages 35 - 38)**
 10. **10:50 NARROWING THE GAP ACTION RESEARCH IN SCHOOLS (Pages 39 - 42)**
 11. **11:15 MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE YOUTH ENGAGEMENT (Pages 43 - 46)**
 12. **11:35 'WIRRAL'S FUTURE' CONSULTATION PROCESS**
 13. **11:55 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
 14. **12:00 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 19 NOVEMBER 2010, 09:00 - 12:00**



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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 13th July 2010

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	Sheila Clarke (Chair)
	Councillor	Tom Harney
	Councillor	Chris Meaden
		Marie Armitage
		Jo Beet (representing Gillian Thomas)
		Howard Cooper
		Bob Gittins
		Tina Long
		Richard Longster
		Bev Morgan
		Jane Owens
		Andy Styring
		Hazel Thompson
<u>In attendance:</u>	Officers	Nancy Clarkson
		Mark Ellis
		Julia Hassall
		Maureen McDaid
		Caroline McKenna

1. Apologies

Peter Brandrick
Sue Brown
Paula Dixon
Kathryn Podmore
Thelma Wiltshire
Gillian Thomas (represented by Jo Beet)

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Meaden's daughter works for Children's Services.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Councillor Sheila Clarke welcomed new members to the Board – Councillor Chris Meaden and Jane Owens, Chair of the Wirral Governors' Forum.

Jane Owens noted that she would be able to ensure information from the Children's Trust is shared across the schools arena.

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Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting on the 28th May 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. Contact Point Update

Mark Ellis updated the board on Contact Point arrangements. The team have decommissioned local users and security tokens are in the process of being retrieved. Work is ongoing to ensure the data protection act is upheld.

Cabinet Office Structural Reform Plan ICT Strategy will support the Department for Education in reviewing Contact Point with a timescale for June – December 2010.

Alongside that, the Munroe review will evaluate how ICT can contribute to strengthening good practice in social care. This will inform the Contact Point Review. Final report due in April 2011.

The Chair requested an update at a further meeting when more information was available.

Resolved: That a further update be provided to a future Board meeting.

5 Commissioning Update

Peter Wong was unable to attend the meeting. This item is a standing item and will be revisited at the next meeting.

Resolved: Commissioning item to be discussed at the next meeting.

6 Safeguarding Update Year End

Howard Cooper updated the Board. The LSCB has been reformed with a new Independent Chair. There is a national review of Serious Case Reviews. Currently executive summaries and action plans are published, however there has been a proposal that full reports should be published but not individual management reviews. All cases after the 10th June will be included in this change.

In Wirral there is a SCR ongoing relating to a family; no child deaths were involved. Independent management reports are with the independent author. The report will be sent to Ofsted in October. Agencies are already taking action in response to this review.

The Munroe Review will also consider Serious Case Reviews (SCRs). Professor Munroe works with the Social Care Institute of Excellence (SCIE) and North West authorities

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have previously commissioned a project from the SCIE. Wirral is involved in the project and is a pilot authority in trialling new SCR methodology. It is an appreciative enquiry method and effectively draws out relevant information. A conference has been run with the other pilot authorities Lancashire and Salford. Wirral is submitting information to the Munroe Review.

Resolution: The report is noted.

7 Wirral Children's Trust and LSCB Safeguarding Protocol

The protocol had been discussed in detail at the previous meeting. The protocol was now ratified by the Local Safeguarding Children Board and was provided to the Children's Trust Board to be formally adopted.

Resolution: The board formally adopted the Children's Trust and Local Safeguarding Children Board protocol.

(8) Annual Review of the Memorandum of Understanding

Nancy Clarkson introduced the annual review of the memorandum of understanding. The new Children's Trust Board and LSCB protocol was embedded into the memorandum.

Tina Long suggested and the Board were in agreement that the memorandum is sent to the Chief Executive of each partner organisation to maintain awareness of the work of the Children's Trust. All organisations have given a commitment in Wirral to work through a multi-agency approach to maximize outcomes for children, young people and families of Wirral.

Resolution: With minor amendments the memorandum is endorsed and will be provided to partner organisations.

(9) Child Poverty Act 2010

Nancy Clarkson updated the board on the implications arising from the Child Poverty Act and work currently underway in Wirral to fulfil the new statutory requirements.

Bob Gittins stated that financial support is the key to tackling poverty and that the current effect of public sector cuts should feature on the LSP risk register.

Jo Beet raised the importance of partner early involvement. Marie Armitage would like to inform any commission regarding health inequalities work and identifying areas for

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investment which can have the largest impact with evidence based examples of what could be done.

Councillor Sheila Clarke agreed that to make an impact the commitment of all organisations was required.

Resolution: The Board noted the report.

(10) Positive Contribution Strategy Group Annual Report

Maureen McDaid updated the board on the work of the Positive Contribution Strategy Group. This is a well attended multi-agency group with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory partners. Underpinning the group is an infrastructure of additional groups of children and young people through which the development of decision making processes and engagement are carried out.

Key achievements were outlined with very positive results in a range of areas including reducing anti-social behaviour and first time entrants into the youth justice system; improved play opportunities and active engagement in democratic process.

Councillor Chris Meaden noted that the work of the children and young people at the Youth Parliament event is exceptional.

Jane Owens and Councillor Sheila Clarke noted how outstanding the young people were leading the opening of the Youth Hubs.

Bob Gittins noted Restorative Justice is now in place in the Police Custody Suite which will have a positive effect for young people.

Howard Cooper noted that next year will be challenging:

- Funding will be an issue.
- National Volunteer Service – every 16 year old in the country volunteering in the summer. This will be a very large enterprise.
- The Big Society Trust will entail more work for the Third Sector.
- There are potential developments for new youth initiatives regarding a successful youth model in Bolton.
- Developments are also underway regarding the Third and Voluntary sector organizations working across the districts to enhance the offer for young people.

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(11) Staying Safe Strategy Group Annual Report

Julia Hassall updated the Board on the Staying Safe Strategy Group (SSSG). The group has a very broad multi-agency representation. Each meeting focuses on specific area and the impact and outcomes being delivered.

A key area is to safely reduce the number of LAC. An Integrated Preventative Services Group has been formed this year to enhance the impact on this priority indicator and reports directly into Staying Safe Strategy Group.

A wide range of key recent achievements were outlined within each staying safe priority area. Key issues being addressed by the SSSG were outlined and key challenges ahead were outlined.

A key focus area is ensuring that appropriate thresholds are being applied to referral into social care. (NI68). A range of initiatives have been applied to ensure good practice in this area. An in-year improvement occurred to give year end 74% which exceeded the LAA target; a significant impact.

Remodelling social work delivery is a further key area where significant developments are taking place. This has led to a range of benefits including more support for the 'team around the child' philosophy, improved co-ordinated responses, meeting needs earlier and improved links with the local neighbourhood.

Jane Owens noted the issues with the recruitment of social workers.

Julia Hassall noted that 17 newly qualified (NQ) social workers were recruited. These usually go into frontline teams. There is now a NQ programme run through the CWDC which provides extra supervision and providing 80% of cases of qualified social workers. With the new Social Care Structure there are experienced managers as well as advanced Social Work practitioners in each team to support newly qualified social workers.

Richard Longster asked what proportion of children in care don't have permanence. Of 648 children in care 100 are fostered with a family member, ideally the relative can take special guardianship to make it a permanent arrangement. 85 are on care orders but living with parents; these can be reviewed and approximately 10 have recently come back into care. The remaining 53 are in care homes and others in foster care. There are very small number waiting for the adoption to be ratified. Some are very settled with their foster carers who will not be moved. The clear aim is for children to have very clear plans that lead to permanence.

Resolution: The report is noted.

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(12) Any other business

- (12) (i) Councillor Clarke proposed Councillor Meaden as the Deputy Chair of the Children's Trust Board. This was agreed by the Board.

Resolution: Councillor Meaden is the Board Deputy

- (12) (ii) Marie Armitage is retiring from Public Health from September. Fiona Johnston will be replacing her. Councillor Sheila Clarke thanked Marie Armitage for her contribution to the board.

(12)(iii) Health White Paper 2010

Tina Long updated the board on the recent publication of the White Paper which sets out plans to reform the NHS. Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts (PCT) will be abolished by 2013 subject to a law change. At the moment the PCT is responsible for commissioning. The responsibilities will be devolved to GP Consorting. On Wirral there are currently 3 defined health areas. Of the budget, 95% of £6 million will sit with GP consortia.

Marie Armitage updated the board on public health. A national public health service will be formed and the public health resources will sit with the LA and a health and wellbeing board will be established. On Wirral we have a Health and Wellbeing board as part of the LSP.

A number of further documents will follow to outline detail. There will be a public health White Paper in December. A consultation paper is on the website.

Tina Long noted that it would be important for the Children's Trust Board to discuss this further. An additional area is the community service area such as health visitors.

By April 2011 all PCT provider areas will cease. There are a number of options in this area such as social enterprise, hospitals or children's services.

Further discussion is required regarding how the best outcomes for Children and Young People in Wirral can be achieved.

Howard Cooper raised the enormous impact these proposals will have in tandem with proposed public sector cuts.

The Board agreed to arrange a half day special meeting on how this change will affect services.

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12(iv) Local Government and Area Based Grant Cuts

Howard Cooper updated the board on Area Based Grant cuts. There is a proposed £6.2 billion reduction overall; £1.2 billion in Local Government mainly Area Based Grant, the highest proportion in Children Services. Children's Services total ABG in Wirral 2010/11 is £12 million. The Council will decide on how the ABG cuts will be apportioned.

Bev Morgan commented on the concern in the Third Sector of public sector cuts and wide scale changes.

Tina Long requested that Howard Cooper call a strategic meeting of organisations on how Wirral should be positioned to deliver excellent outcomes for children and young people regarding the implications of government proposals.

Richard Longster noted the Children's Trust Board were guardians of Wirral children and young people and should take the initiative in furthering discussions in this area.

Howard Cooper noted that the Secretary of State indicated he may remove the statutory requirement to have a Children's Trust and Children and Young People Plan. Local areas should develop arrangements that best served children and young people.

Howard Cooper, Councillor Sheila Clarke and the Board agreed the benefits of having a Children's Trust and developing the multi-agency plan.

Resolved: That a half day special meeting of the Board is called to discuss the proposed changes and the implications for Wirral children and young people.

13. **Date and time of next meeting:**

The next meeting is the 24th September 2010, 9:00 – 12:00.

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD 24th SEPTEMBER 2010

PROPOSED GOVERNMENT CHANGES FOR CHILDREN'S TRUSTS

1.0 Background

In July 2010 The Secretary of State has indicated that he proposes to amend the current legislation regarding Children's Trusts in the Education Bill which will be published in the autumn. The Children's Trust Board has discussed the proposed changes at a previous meeting where consensus was that Wirral Children's Trust arrangements were valuable in promoting and developing partnership working, shared planning and priorities and outcomes for children, young people and families. This report seeks to formalise the future arrangements for Wirral Children's Trust.

2.0 Introduction

Children's trusts are local partnership arrangements to improve children's well-being through the five Every Child Matters outcomes. They are not defined in legislation but are underpinned by a 'duty to co-operate' in section 10 of the Children Act 2004. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 amended section 10 by bringing schools, colleges and Jobcentre Plus under the duty to co-operate and requiring all local areas to have a children's trust board. This Board has a duty to prepare and publish a jointly owned Children and Young People's Plan by April 2011.

3.0 The Proposals

The Secretary of State has indicated that he proposes to:

- remove the duty on schools to co-operate through Children's Trusts via the forthcoming Education Bill;
- remove the requirement on local authorities to set up Children's Trust Boards and the requirement on those Boards to prepare and publish a joint Children and Young People's Plan, at the first available legislative opportunity;
- revoke the regulations underpinning the Children and Young People's Plan and withdraw the statutory guidance on Children's Trusts, in the autumn.

The government suggests that this does not mean Children's Trust partnerships are no longer a priority but that it supports effective local partnerships and is freeing them to address local issues with innovative solutions. The basic duty to co-operate will continue but the list of statutory partners will be reviewed. The government will introduce legislation to remove the duty to co-operate from schools, revoke the regulations and withdraw the guidance in the autumn. The other proposed legislative changes to children's trusts will follow as soon as possible.

There has been a national response to the announcement led by the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS). They are urging schools to continue taking part in local children's trust arrangements, despite government plans to remove their statutory duty to co-operate. Schools play a key role in the lives of children and young people, and children's ability to learn is affected by their lives outside schools and their wider needs.

The view is that it is vital that schools are represented at the strategic table when decisions are made about services for children in the area. The ADCS outlined that in many areas children's trust arrangements are working well and will continue to do so after these changes. In addition the ADCS noted that the legislation underpinning children's trusts and children and young people's plans has helped agencies work together towards local priorities. Planning together helps partners to allocate their resources more effectively through shared understanding of costs and benefits which is of great benefit in difficult financial times.

4.0 Recommendations:

4.1 That Wirral Children's Trust Board recommends the continuation of Wirral Children's Trust arrangements in its current form.

4.2 That Wirral Children's Trust Board approves the continuation of the involvement of schools in Children's Trust arrangements and requests that the Director of Children's Services in collaboration with the school representative Board members communicate with schools regarding their continued participation.

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD 24th SEPTEMBER 2010

PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

1.0 Background

The Secretary of State has indicated that he proposes to revoke the regulations underpinning the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) in the Education Bill due to be published in the Autumn. This report outlines a proposal for the development of the new Wirral CYPP.

2.0 Introduction

Through current legislation Wirral Children's Trust Board has a duty to prepare and publish a jointly owned Children and Young People's Plan by April 2011. If government proposals are carried out the regulations will be revoked and there will be no requirement to produce a new CYPP in April 2011 unless the local area wishes to do so. In addition local partners can decide how the plan is put together and what it contains.

3.0 Proposals for the Development of a new CYPP

Through the Children's Trust Executive (CTE) planning for the production of a new CYPP for 2011 onwards is in progress. The CYPP is developed through a multi-agency approach involving all Strategy Groups in addition to consultation with children, young people and families. The CYPP is based on thorough needs analysis and is driven by the Sustainable Community Strategy and aligned with organisational plans including the Council Corporate Plan and the Local Safeguarding Children Board Plan.

In addition to the proposed legislative change a number of recent national and local initiatives have led to a review of the production of the CYPP by the CTE.

The October Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) will have a significant impact on the strategic planning of future services and the production of the new CYPP. The timing of the CSR and the subsequent analysis required will have implications for the production of a three year plan in April 2011.

In addition to the proposed 'austerity measures' through the CSR a number of government White Papers are planned in the autumn. These include the Schools White Paper in September and the Health White Paper in December. The content of these papers and subsequent guidance will have a large impact on the provision of services across the Children's Trust and implications for any strategic planning.

Wirral Council is currently undertaking a large scale public consultation exercise to inform Council strategic planning. The timing of the consultation and subsequent analysis will impact on the ability to include this information in a three year CYPP to be published in April 2011.

The CTE is in agreement concerning the importance of a multi-agency strategic plan and the benefits this can produce for service users and all agencies involved.

As a result of the factors described above particularly the uncertain position of both public sector finance and organisational structures prior to the publication of government White Papers the Children's Trust Executive suggests an interim one year CYPP is produced for 2011-12. This would allow partner organisations to fully analyse the implications of proposed changes before the production of any longer term plan. This proposal seeks to ensure that any plans produced are robust, relevant and achievable, and that the good practice developed by Wirral Children's Trust in delivering improved outcomes through effective strategic planning is maintained.

4.0 Recommendations:

4.1 That if the regulations are amended and there is no requirement to publish a three year CYPP in April 2011 Wirral Children's Trust Board approves the production of a refreshed one year plan for 2011-12.

4.2 That Wirral Children's Trust Board recommends a review of the development of a future CYPP by the CTE in 2011.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 24th SEPTEMBER 2010

FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE REPORT 2010/11

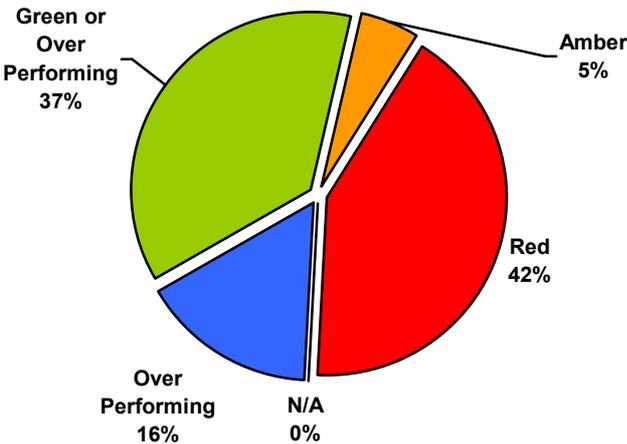
1.0 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of progress made against the indicators for 2010/11 and key projects which are relevant to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny committee.
- 1.2 Overview and scrutiny committees will receive a performance report for the relevant performance indicators and key projects that are contained within the Council's corporate plan and department plans.

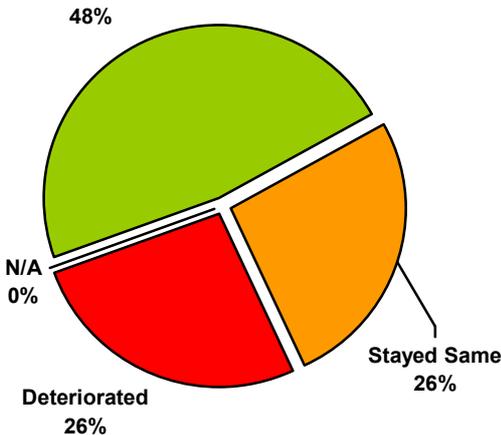
2.0 Performance Summary

- 2.1 The following charts provide a summary of performance at quarter one in relation to targets set, the direction of travel compared to prior year quarter one position and progress on key projects.
- 2.2 There are 23 indicators and 17 projects that can be reported at the first quarter period.

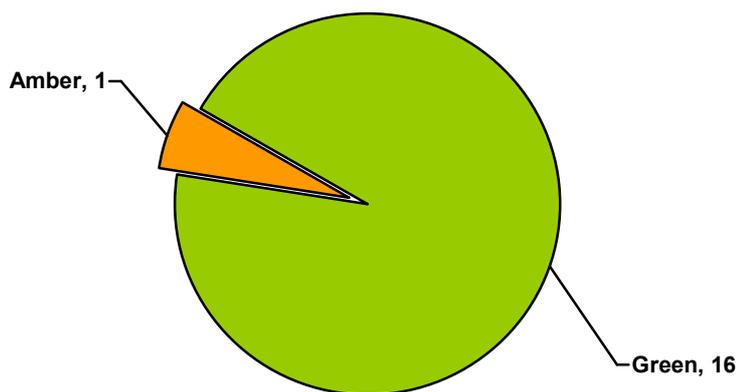
Target Summary



Direction of travel Summary



Project Summary



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

3.0 Performance Analysis

3.1 Performance headlines for the strategic objective 'raise the aspirations of young people' include:

- The percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Excluding exceptions) has exceeded the target set and reached 100%.
- There has been an increase in placement choice for foster care. The figure of 7.0% falls in the OFSTED "Very Good" category.
- Through effective planning and alternative provision arrangements no children have child protection plans lasting more than 2 years.
- All child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales

3.2 Performance Indicator Exceptions

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)

Strategic Objective: To create a clean, pleasant, safe & sustainable environment

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	LOCAL 1701	Number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	3487.25 Lower=Better	4122.00 (A)	Red	Unchanged

Context: Performance against this indicator is better than for the same period in 2009/10 (4129.00 cumulative incidents) however the target is challenging when set against already significant reductions in incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB). This is further complicated by a sustained period of warm dry weather.

Corrective action: In addition to normal governance and monitoring processes (as set out in the Community Safety Partnership's ASB Strategy 2009-2012), a weekly Police Governance Meeting is taking place, attended by the Council's ASB Manager, to review hot-spots of ASB and deploy resources accordingly. Officers within the ASB Team have also commenced ad hoc evening enforcement patrols in hot-spot locations.

Strategic Objective: To help children and young people achieve their full potential

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 53	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth	35.1%	27.4% (E)	Red	Deteriorated

Context:

Corrective action: 1. Launch of breastfeeding social marketing 'breast milk it's amazing' campaign in June to staff and media - materials and banners distributed and website launched. 2. Production of breastfeeding training schedule – ongoing training delivered to health visitors, midwives and children centre staff. 3. Submission of stage 1 UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative accreditation for the community. 4. Peer support programme launch in April and all volunteers now supporting new mums and meeting them on the hospital wards. 5. Draft breastfeeding care pathway drawn up by multidisciplinary working group. 6. The Infant Feeding Specialist at the Hospital now trained to deliver UNICEF breastfeeding training.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	80%	58.3% (P)	Red	Improved

Context:

Corrective action: An issue relating to the recording of assessments has been identified. Good practice guidance notes have been produced and circulated to the area teams and Data Officers are working with staff to improve performance in this indicator.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 61	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	80%	60.0% (P)	Red	Deteriorated

Context: Small numbers affect this indicator. Three out of the five children adopted to date have been adopted within 12 months of the decision that they should be placed for adoption. The 2 that were not adopted in the required time scale are siblings. It is more difficult to arrange for adoption where there are 2 or more siblings.

Corrective action: Continuous monthly monitoring of this indicator.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	72%	62.2% (P)	Red	Deteriorated

Context: There have been a high number of children placed with their parents. A number of these placements have ended resulting in a move for the children back into Local Authority foster care placements.

Corrective action: Continuous activity to ensure placement stability of looked after children where appropriate. Statutory reviews of children in care placements are carried out at prescribed intervals. This indicator is monitored on a monthly basis.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.	14.0% Lower=Better	16.5% (P)	Red	Improved

Context: Of the 18 children that have become subject to a plan for a second or subsequent time, the majority of these children come from three large family groups. It is anticipated that this figure will stabilise during the year.

Corrective action: Any case presenting with repeat child protection plans are automatically being referred for audit in the Team Manager/ District Manager case file audit approach. Any cases presenting with either three or more case conferences or child protection plans are automatically referred to the Children's Social Care Management Team case file audit team and the Social Care Head of Branch.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.	100.0%	93.2% (A)	Amber	Unchanged

Context: There has been an increase in both children subject to a child protection plan and looked after children. The Independent Reviewing Officers are responsible for reviewing both sets of children which has impacted on workload.

Corrective action: Team audit completed to ensure all children have timetabled statutory reviews within regulatory timescales. This exercise will be repeated on a bi-monthly basis.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	6.9% Lower=Better	8.2% (P)	Red	Improved
Context: Performance has improved from 8.9% reported at 2009/10 year end.						
Corrective action: A range of initiatives through the Tiger Group are on going. Connexions and Jobcentre Plus advisers are working together to support 18 year olds into an opportunity that best meets their needs.						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q1 Target	2010/2011 Q1 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	LOCAL 1400	Number of looked after children	565 Lower=Better	644 (P)	Red	Deteriorated
Context: The increase in children becoming looked after is a national trend, reported in the most recent Association of Director of Children's Services survey.						
Corrective action: Specific action to reduce the trajectory includes focused preventative activity; specifically multi-systemic therapy, increased family group conferencing capacity and refocusing the work of the Adolescent Crisis Team. The focus on improving permanence planning for children who cannot return home is strengthened by the recruitment to new management posts in the revised Social Care Branch structure.						

3.3 Project Issues

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

Project/Activity	Status	Corrective Action
All phases: 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.	AMBER	Four primary schools are in OFSTED category. Statements of action are provided by the Local Authority and verified by OFSTED. The Head of Branch, The Head Teacher and the Chair of Governors monitor the action plan on a half-termly basis.

Appendix 2 provides a list of projects that have been completed or assessed as green.

3.4 Risks

Regarding Academies risk continues regarding the Birkenhead University Academy project which is subject to national review, although funding for Birkenhead Girls Academy has been confirmed. Capital adjustments have impacted on programmes and every step is being taken to ensure commitments do not exceed revised allocation.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) transfer of duties to the LA was successfully completed but new government guidance has been received. Funding for the Sixth Form College and Wirral Metropolitan College will now be managed by the Young Persons Learning Organisation which has implications on the recent staffing transition. This will take place from September 2010.

4.0 **Financial Monitoring**

Financial monitoring reports have identified significant pressures on the budget. These have been estimated to be in the region of £4.7m; resulting from in year grant reductions in funding of £2.6m and additional demands on services, most significantly residential and foster care. Uncommitted expenditure on Area Based Grants has been halted and this is estimated to reduce cost pressures by £1.5m. Cabinet also agreed that the remaining balance of the £2.6m reduction (£1.1m) would be found from within the Working Neighbourhood Fund. There are tight restrictions in place on all spend. At this time the projected variation is £1.8m.

5.0 **Recommendations**

5.1 That the Wirral Children's Trust Executive note the report

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Performance Indicator Summary

Appendix 2 – Key Project Summary

Performance Indicator Summary

Direction of Travel Summary

% PIs	No. of PIs	
30.43%	9	Improved by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance
21.74%	5	Deteriorated by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance
21.74%	5	Stayed within +/-2.5% of previous year's performance
21.74%	0	Awaiting data
4.35%	0	Not applicable
100.00%	19	(Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places)

Target Summary

% PIs	No. of PIs	
26.09%	7	Green (within +10/-5% of the target)
4.35%	1	Amber (missed target by between 5% and 10%)
34.78%	8	Red (missed target by more than 10%)
13.04%	3	Over-performing (more than 10% of the target)
21.74%	0	Awaiting data
0.00%	0	Target not set
0.00%	0	Not Applicable
100.00%	19	(Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places)

PI No.	Title	Quarter 1 Target	Quarter 1 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services	16	16	Green	
NI 53	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth	35.1%	27.4% (E)	Red	
NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral.	76%	74.3% (P)	Green	
NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	80%	58.3% (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%	60.0% (P)	Red	

PI No.	Title	Quarter 1 Target	Quarter 1 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	9.0% (Lower is Better)	7.0% (P)	Over Performing	
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	72%	62.2% (P)	Red	
NI 64	Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	4.0% (Lower is Better)	0.0% (P)	Over Performing	
NI 65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.	14.0% (Lower is Better)	16.5% (P)	Red	
NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.	100.0%	93.2% (A)	Amber	
NI 67	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	100.0%	100.0% (P)	Green	
NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	75%	90.7% (P)	Over Performing	
NI 71	Children who have run away from home or care	15	15 (P)	Green	
NI 103a	Percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Excluding exceptions).	100.0%	100.0% (A)	Green	
NI 103b	Percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Including exceptions)	94.0%	100.0% (A)	Green	
NI 113	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds	8% (Lower is Better)	8.1% (E)	Green	
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	6.9% (Lower is Better)	8.2% (P)	Red	
LOCAL 1400	Number of looked after children	565 (Lower is Better)	644 (P)	Red	
LOCAL 1701	Number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	3487.25 (Lower is Better)	4122.00 (A)	Red	

Projects Assessed as Green

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

- Removal of surplus places to ensure public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools.
- Implement the Extended Services Action Plan especially so that all clusters have robust plans clearly targeted using allocated resources effectively.
- Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of Children's Centres
- All phases – narrow the gap through improving the performance of the most vulnerable children and those at risk of under-achievement.
- Primary and Secondary. Ensuring that an increasing number of pupils make 2 levels of progress in each key stage, especially those pupils from deprived areas.
- 14-19 Education Plan and machinery of government changes.
- Implement the Borough Education, Employment and Training Strategy
- Implement the Integrated Youth Support Strategy.
- Target Activity for Children in Care
- Implement the Integrated Preventative Services Development Plan
- Implement the Contact, Referral, Assessment and Safeguarding Development Plan
- Implement the Corporate Parenting Development Plan
- Implement the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan
- Support the delivery of health services in schools and other youth settings
- 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.

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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 Reporting at Quarter 1

At quarter 1 there is limited data available and all of the Key Stage data is provisional. For reporting purposes the LAA indicators can be separated into three groups:

1. Reward indicators
- Non-reward indicators:
2. Attainment indicators
3. Local indicators

Reward indicators carry a financial reward if the targets set for these indicators are met.

3.0 Reporting

Reward Indicators

PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 1 Target	Quarter 1 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	75%	75%	75%	90.7% (P)	Over Performing	
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	6.9% (Lower is Better)	6.9%	6.9%	8.2% (P)	Red	

For NI 68 significant improved performance in 2009/10 has been maintained in quarter 1. Current trajectory analysis indicates that the year end target will be met. For NI 117 although there has been sustained improvement the current economic climate impacts heavily on this indicator. Although continuing intervention work is underway and the direction of travel is improving economic uncertainty makes achieving the 2010/11 target challenging.

Reward Indicators with no data at quarter 1

PI No.	Title	08/2009 Actual	09/2010 Actual	2010/2011 Actual	2010/2011 Target
NI 55	Obesity in primary school age children in Reception (lower is better)	9.57	9.3%		9.50%
NI 111	First time entrants into the YJS aged 10 – 17 (lower is better)	1578	N/A		1500
NI 112	Percentage reduction in the under 18 conception rate	-6.3	-21%		-39%

NI 55 is determined by an annual measurement programme. Wirral did achieve the 2010/11 target in 2009/10 however the expectation is for obesity to increase and the target set is to reduce this increase.

Data from the Youth Justice Board for NI 111 is not yet available. The impact of partnership intervention programmes particularly police involvement in restorative justice indicates that improvement on the 2008/09 figure will be possible.

For NI 112 although significant improvement was achieved in 2009/10 and intervention programmes are in place the 2010/11 year end target remains extremely challenging.

Provisional attainment indicators for 2009/10 academic year (reported in the 2010/11 Financial Year)

PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 1 Target	Quarter 1 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 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	57%	57%	57%	57.1% (A)	Green	
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	78%	75.0%	78%	75.0% (P)	Green	
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	57.0%	58.3%	57.0%	58.3% (P)	Green	
NI 92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	28.6% (Lower is Better)	27.9%	28.6%	27.9% (A)	Green	
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	87%	84%	87%	84% (P)	Green	
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	82%	83%	82%	83% (P)	Green	
NI 99	Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	53.1%	51.9%	53.1%	51.9% (P)	Green	n/a
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2	56.3%	55.6%	56.3%	55.6% (P)	Green	
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)	6.3%	6.1%	6.3%	6.1% (P)	Green	

Attainment data for 2009/10 academic year is reported in the 2010/11 financial year. Provisional data for attainment indicators shows that although challenging DCSF set targets have not been achieved for all indicators, the direction of travel is positive. Small numbers and cohort mobility of looked after children affect the indicators NI 99, 100 and 101.

Attainment indicators with no data at quarter 1

PI No.	Title	09/2010 Actual	2010/2011 Actual	2010/2011 Target
NI 87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	4.5%		5.5%

Local Indicators

PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 1 Target	Quarter 1 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
LOCAL 1400	Number of looked after children	565 (Lower is Better)	In development	565	644 (P)	Red	
LOCAL 1701	Number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	17207 (Lower is Better)	16488	3487	4122 (A)	Red	

Nationally the numbers of looked after children are increasing. Current trajectory indicates that the 2010/11 target for 1400 will not be met.

For 1701 the quarter 1 target was not achieved the warm June weather impacted on this quarters data and that the cumulative total will even out over the year. Although budget cuts and proposed government policy changes will impact on this indicator the current trajectory suggests that the year end target will be met.

Local Indicators with no data at quarter 1

PI No.	Title	09/2010 Actual	2010/2011 Actual	2010/2011 Target
LOCAL 1700a	Participation in and outcomes from youth work: Participation	18%		22%

In 2009/10 significant changes in the Youth Service including a restructure impacted on participation and the year end figure did not achieve the target set. Although the new youth hub structure is now in place, reduced budget proposals including 2010/11 in-year cuts to youth grants will impact significantly on this indicator.

Data source: PIMS Report, 8 September 2010

4.0 Additional Detail of Reward Indicators

Further detail regarding reward indicators that have data at quarter 1 and indicators that are red or amber are included in appendix 1.

5.0 Recommendations:

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

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Local Area Agreement 2010/11 Quarter 1 Position

Appendix 1

2010/11

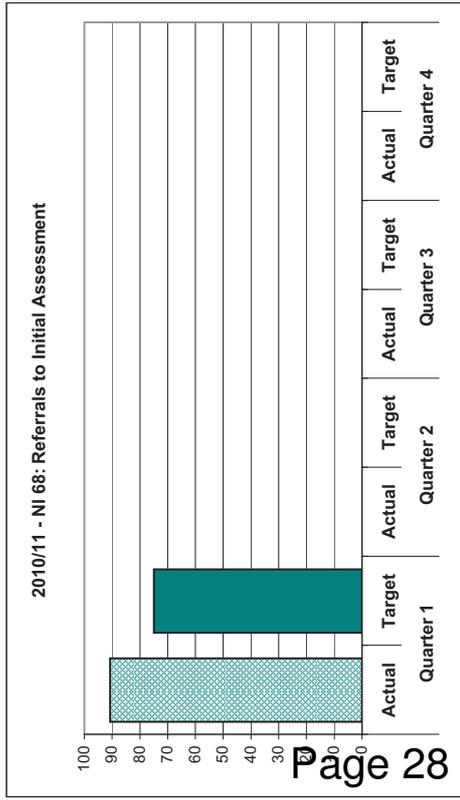
Quarter 1: April - June

Wirral Children's Trust - Local Area Agreement Report 2009/10

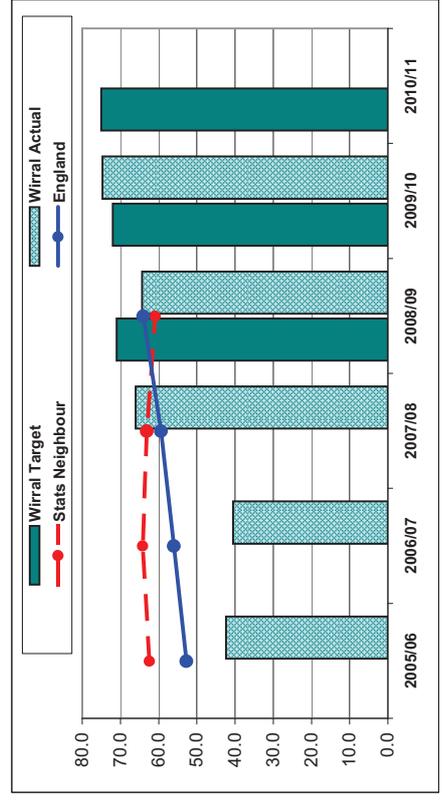
LAA Improvement Priority	Safely Reducing the Number of Children Looked After
Performance Indicator	NI 68: Referrals to Initial Assessment
Sponsor	Howard Cooper
Lead Organisation	Children's Social Care
Service Area	Children and Young People's Department

Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
90.7	75	-	-	-	-	-	-

Improvement Direction: Up



	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Wirral Target	-	-	-	71.0	72.0	75.0
Wirral Actual	42.4	40.5	66.0	64.3	74.7	-
Stats Neighbourhood	62.4	64.1	63.1	60.9	-	-
England	52.7	56.0	59.4	64.0	-	-



Context

There has been an improved understanding of the threshold for referrals going on to assessment across the multi-agency partnership.

Position Statement

Quarter One

Quarter Two

Quarter Three

Quarter Four

RAG

Green

Green

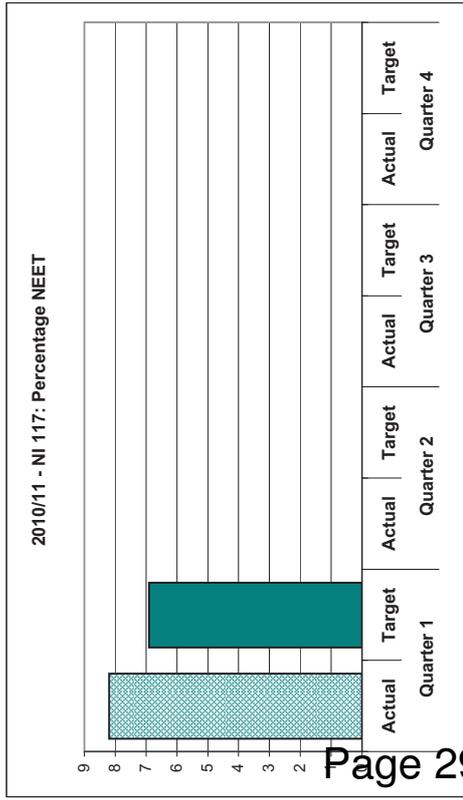
Green

Green

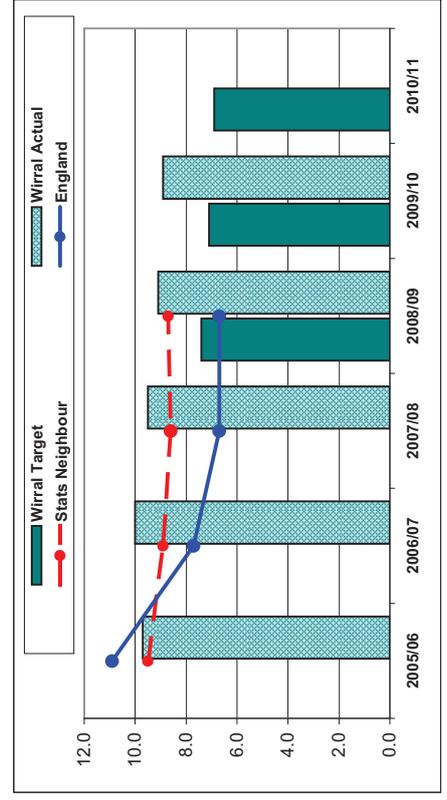
Wirral Children's Trust - Local Area Agreement Report 2009/10

LAA Improvement Priority	Reduction in the numbers of NEETs	
Performance Indicator	NI 117: Percentage NEET	
Sponsor	Sheila Lynch	
Lead Organisation	Connexions	
Service Area	Children and Young People's Department	

		Improvement Direction: Up			
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Actual	Target
Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
8.2	6.9	-	-	-	-



	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Wirral Target	-	-	-	7.4	7.1	6.9
Wirral Actual	9.7	10.0	9.5	9.1	8.9	-
Stats Neighbour	9.5	8.9	8.6	8.7	-	-
England	10.9	7.7	6.7	6.7	-	-



Context	Performance has improved from 8.9% reported at 2009/10 year end.
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Position Statement	RAG
Quarter One	Red
A range of initiatives through the Tiger Group are on going. Connexions and Jobcentre Plus advisers are working together to support 18 year olds into an opportunity that best meets their needs.	

Quarter Two	Red
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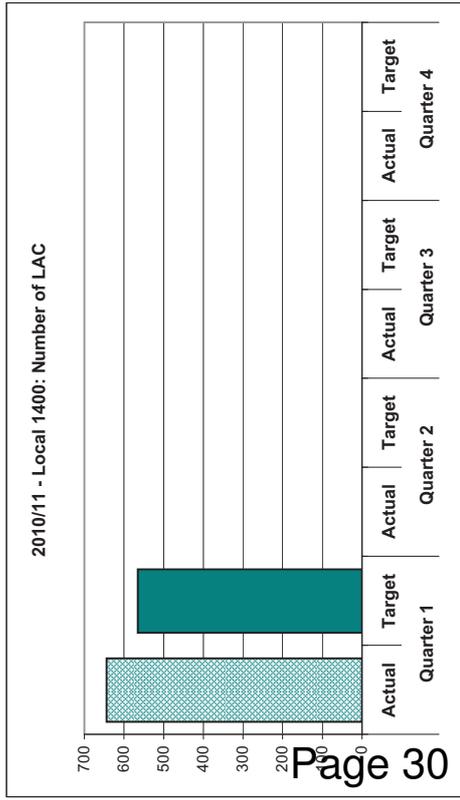
Quarter Three	Red
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Quarter Four	Red
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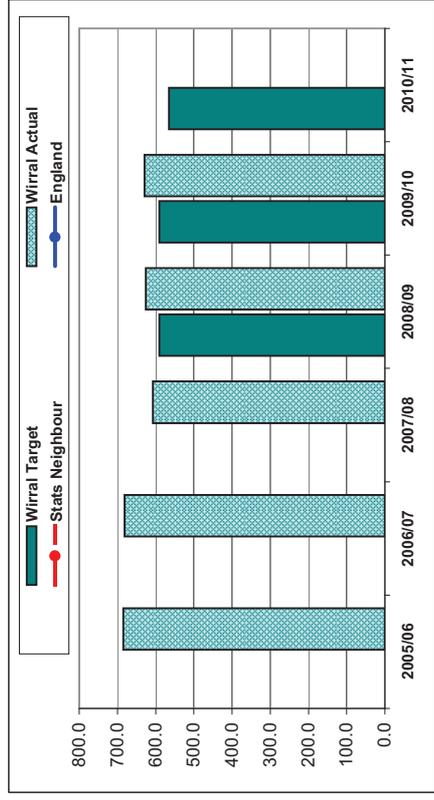
Wirral Children's Trust - Local Area Agreement Report 2009/10

LAA Improvement Priority	Safely Reducing the Number of Children Looked After	
Performance Indicator	Local 1400: Number of LAC	
Sponsor	Julia Hassall	
Lead Organisation	Children's Social Care	
Service Area	Children and Young People's Department	

		Improvement Direction: Down			
Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Actual	Target
Actual	644	-	-	-	-
Target	565	-	-	-	-



	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Wirral Target	-	-	-	590.0	590.0	565.0
Wirral Actual	685.0	681.0	607.0	626.0	629.0	-
Stats Neighbourhood	-	-	-	-	-	-
England	-	-	-	-	-	-



Context

The increase in children becoming looked after is a national trend, reported in the most recent Association of Directors of Children's Services survey.

Position Statement

Quarter One RAG
Red
 Specific action to reduce the trajectory includes focused preventative activity, specifically multi-systemic therapy, increased family group conferencing capacity and refocusing the work of the Adolescent Crisis Team. The focus on improving permanence planning for children who cannot return home is strengthened by the recruitment to new management posts in the revised Social Care Branch structure.

Quarter Two

Red

Quarter Three

Red

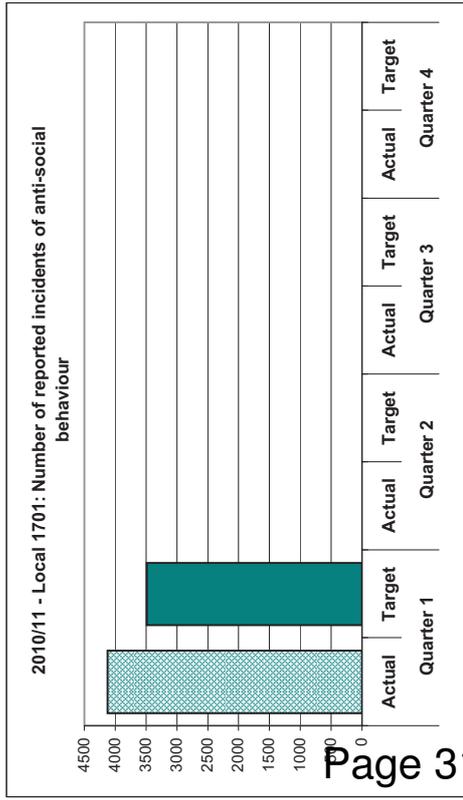
Quarter Four

Red

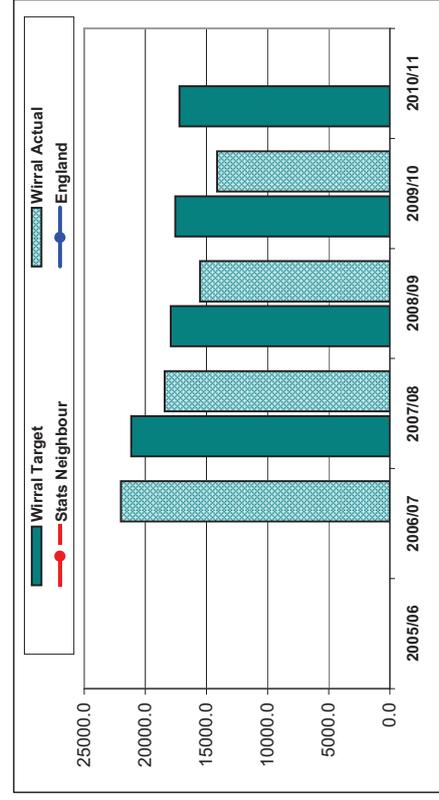
Wirral Children's Trust - Local Area Agreement Report 2009/10

LAA Improvement Priority	Number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	
Performance Indicator	Local 1701: Number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	
Sponsor	Steve McGilvray	
Lead Organisation	Safer Communities	
Service Area	Children and Young People's Department	

		Improvement Direction: Same					
		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4	
Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target
4122	3487.25	-	-	-	-	-	-



	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11
Wirral Target	-	-	21152.0	17917.0	17558.0	17207.0
Wirral Actual	-	21994.0	18414.0	15524.0	14125.0	-
Stats Neighbourhood	-	-	-	-	-	-
England	-	-	-	-	-	-



Context

Performance against this indicator is better than for the same period in 2009/10 (4129.00 cumulative incidents) however the target is challenging when set against already significant reductions in incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB). This is further complicated by a sustained period of warm dry weather.

Position Statement

Quarter One
 In addition to normal governance and monitoring processes (as set out in the Community Safety Partnership's ASB Strategy 2009-2012), a weekly Police Governance Meeting is taking place, attended by the Council's ASB Manager, to review hot-spots of ASB and deploy resources accordingly. Officers within the ASB Team have also commenced ad hoc evening enforcement patrols in hot-spot locations (which is being done on a purely voluntary basis as the team has no spare capacity to off set this time from normal working hours.)

Quarter Two

Red

Quarter Three

Red

Quarter Four

Red

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 24th September 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 and key challenges for the partnership and agencies.

2. National reform and statutory guidance

- Membership of the LSCB- the newly required organisational/agency membership of the Board has, in the main, been complete. Two lay persons have been recruited to as well as the 6th Form College. Further discussion is being held over independent school representation. A newly appointed LSCB Business Manager has taken up post in September. An induction programme has been agreed for new members as well as agreement to have all board members CRB checked.
- Chapter 5 – Managing individual cases -The LSCB has agreed to commission an agency who provides web based procedures along with other North West authorities. The tendering process has already begun for this work with a view to moving to the new system in December 2010.
- The statutory annual report- the LSCB have revised the timetable for this to be now finalized by January 2011 with submission in April 2011.
- SCR's in Wirral – **W/Mc case**- extension on submission to Ofsted is now moved from the 18th October to the 21st November 2010 due to further work being identified by agencies involved. **Baby B case**- the LSCB has begun this SCR following the death of a new born baby and a mother who was 13 years at the time of birth. The submission date for this review is 31st January 2011.
- SCIE (Social Care Institute of Excellence) - project update. The final report is being presented to the LSCB on the 4th October 2010 with key recommendations for consideration on changes to the current methods of data collection, analysis and ways of learning through collaborative practice. Extended invitations have gone to senior officers in DASS to develop more 'Think-Family' approach to cases.

3. Recommendations:

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

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD 24th SEPTEMBER 2010

Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients - Consultation on proposals

1. 0 Introduction:

The consultation document *Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for patients* (2010) provides more detail on the intended arrangements for GP commissioning and the role of the NHS Commissioning Board. It specifically outlines:

- **Responsibilities:** the scope of the services for which consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible, their responsibilities as commissioners of these services, and the relationship between the responsibilities of the NHS Commissioning Board, GP consortia and individual GP practices.
- **Establishment of GP consortia:** the statutory form that consortia will take.
- **Freedoms, controls and accountabilities:** the freedoms and flexibilities that consortia will have to decide how best to commission services and how they will be held accountable, both to the patients and local communities they serve and to the NHS Commissioning Board, for the outcomes they achieve and for control of resources.
- **Partnerships:** how consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board will work with patients and the public, with local government, and with other health and care professionals to secure more patient-centred and integrated delivery of care.
- **Implementation and next steps:** the timetable for the transition to GP practice commissioning and the establishment of the NHS Commissioning Board.

Although views are sought on specific consultation questions across all of the areas, the Children's Trust response will be mainly focussed on the 'partnerships' section.

2.0 Key statements:

The document makes a number of key statements of interest that have a direct bearing on the featured consultation questions:

2.1 Responsibilities for GP Consortia:

"The specific accountabilities, responsibilities and duties of consortia will be set out through primary and secondary legislation. This will include accountability and responsibility for:

- *Determining healthcare needs, including contributing to the wider joint strategic needs assessment led by local authorities*
- *Determining what services are required to meet these needs and ensuring the appropriate clinical and quality specification of these services".*

"Consortia will have duties to work in partnership with local authorities, for instance in relation to health and adult social care, early years services, public health, safeguarding, services for carers, and to cooperate with local authorities and other agencies in relation to criminal justice".

“Consortia will have a duty to inform, engage and involve the public in identifying needs, planning services and considering any proposed changes in how those services are provided. Where this is likely to result in changes in the configuration of services, consortia will be expected to report on the likely impact of those changes and the impact of public involvement on their commissioning decisions”.

2.2 Establishment of GP Consortia:

“Consortia should be held to account for the outcomes they achieve and for their fulfilment of appropriate duties, rather than for the way in which they constitute themselves. There is no intention to set out detailed or prescriptive requirements in relation to the internal governance of a consortium, beyond essential requirements for example in relation to areas such as financial probity and accountability (e.g. statutory accounting as determined by the NHS Commissioning Board), reporting (e.g. to publish a commissioning plan and report on expenditure) and audit”.

2.3 Freedoms, controls and accountabilities:

“It is essential that consortia have the freedom to make commissioning decisions that they judge will achieve the best outcomes within the financial resources available to them. At the same time, the economic regulator and NHS Commissioning Board will need to develop and maintain a framework that ensures transparency, fairness and patient choice”.

2.4 Partnerships:

This is the section that the Children’s Trust will need to consider in more detail and should provide a response against all the related consultation questions.

2.4.1 Patients and the public:

“One of the principal aims of GP commissioning is to make decisions more sensitive and responsive to the needs and wishes of patients and the public. Good communication and engagement with the public will, therefore, be vital. Both GP consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board will need to find and evolve efficient and effective ways of harnessing public voice so that commissioning decisions are increasingly shaped by people’s expressed needs and wants”.

“As part of the development of GP commissioning and the NHS Commissioning Board, we will promote:

- *Patient, carer and public involvement in decision-making;*
- *Responsiveness to the views and feedback of patients, carers and the public*
- *Accountability to local people for the decisions about their health services made by consortia on their behalf.”*

“Commissioners will need to establish and nurture new relationships including:

- *Local authorities, who will have a new enhanced role in promoting public involvement in decisions about service priorities and changes to local services and in responding to any public concerns about inadequate involvement;*

- *Local voluntary organisations and community groups, who often work with, and represent, the most disadvantaged and marginalised patients and carers.*”

2.4.2 Local government and public health:

“Local government will have an enhanced responsibility for promoting partnership working and integrated delivery of public services across the NHS, social care, public health and other services.”

“Local government will also have an enhanced role in public health, with direct responsibility and funding (allocated to local Directors of Public Health) for improving the health of local communities, through areas such as reducing the incidence of smoking and alcohol misuse and promoting physical activity.”

“This enhanced role for local government will provide a framework through which GP consortia alongside other partners:

- *Contribute to a joint assessment of the health and care needs of local people and neighbourhoods*
- *Ensure that their commissioning plans, and relevant joint commissioning plans, reflect the health needs identified in these assessments*
- *Draw on the advice and support of the proposed health and wellbeing board in relation to population health*
- *Identify ways of achieving more integrated delivery of health and adult social care, for instance through pooled budgets or lead commissioning arrangements (e.g. a local authority becoming the lead commissioner for some older people services)*
- *Support improvements in children’s health and wellbeing*
- *Play a systematic and effective part in arrangements for safeguarding of children and protection of vulnerable adults*
- *Cooperate with the criminal justice system, for instance in relation to tackling misuse of drugs and alcohol, offender health services and assessment of violent offenders.*

2.4.3 Other health and social care professionals:

“Given their key role in co-ordinating care, GP practices are well placed to lead on commissioning care for patients. However, we expect consortia to involve relevant health and social care professionals from all sectors in helping design care pathways or care packages that achieve more integrated delivery of care, higher quality, better patient experience and more efficient use of NHS resources”.

3.0 Consultation Questions:

The questions below are those which are considered directly relevant to issues that the Children's Trust should respond to arising from the detail in the consultation paper which is outlined above:

- 3.1 What safeguards are likely to be most effective in ensuring transparency and fairness in commissioning services from primary care and in promoting patient choice?
- 3.2 What features should be considered essential for the governance of GP consortia?
- 3.3 What safeguards are likely to be most effective in demonstrating transparency and fairness in investment decisions and in promoting choice and competition?
- 3.4 How can GP consortia and the NHS Commissioning Board best involve patients in making commissioning decisions that are built on patient insight?
- 3.5 How can GP consortia best work alongside community partners (including seldom heard groups) to ensure that commissioning decisions are equitable, and reflect public voice and local priorities?
- 3.6 How can we build on and strengthen existing systems of engagement such as Local HealthWatch and GP practices' Patient Participation Groups?
- 3.7 What action needs to be taken to ensure that no-one is disadvantaged by the proposals, and how do you think they can promote equality of opportunity and outcome for all patients and, where appropriate, staff?
- 3.8 How can GP practices begin to make stronger links with local authorities and identify how best to prepare to work together on the issues identified above?
- 3.9 Where can we learn from current best practice in relation to joint working and partnership, for instance in relation to Care Trusts, Children's Trusts and pooled budgets? What aspects of current practice will need to be preserved in the transition to the new arrangements?
- 3.10 How can multi-professional involvement in commissioning most effectively be promoted and sustained?

4.0 Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Children's Trust:

- Submits a collective response to the consultation document to the Department of Health.
- Submits a collective response to NHS Wirral with the purpose of being fed directly into the relevant groups and forums that are beginning to shape the emerging GP Consortia.

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 24 SEPTEMBER 2010

Narrowing the Gap projects 2009 – 2010

1.0 Background

The underpinning principle of Narrowing the Gap (NtG) was that every child should be able to be equipped to succeed in their adult lives, regardless of where they live, where they go to school, or their family background.

In 2008 only 23% of the children entitled to free school meals (roughly the poorest 15% of the population) achieved five or more good GCSEs including English and maths. This equated to them being less than half as likely to get good GCSE grades as their peers who were not entitled to free school meals. Boys generally performed more poorly than girls.

The purpose of Narrowing the Gap was to break the link between disadvantage and low attainment. This link is demonstrated by the 'within school variation' (wsv) outlined in the paragraph above: the variation in pupils' performance *within* individual schools is four times greater than the variation of the performance *between* schools. In other words it is poverty, not individual schools' performance, which is strongly linked to low attainment.

Schools needed to be made aware of this variance and identify groups of vulnerable pupils, monitor their progress and put in place improvement measures to ensure effective teaching of a consistently high standard, year on year, class by class.

In Wirral during 2009 – 2010, support to Narrow the Gap was not only aimed at teaching or at individual schools, as the solutions do not lie uniquely with schools, but stretch across all services for children and their families. Parents, pupils, partners, the community and the teaching and non-teaching staff in schools were all targeted.

2.0 Introduction

Wirral allocated £100,000 for 2009- 2010 to work in collaboration with schools and other stakeholders, to Narrow the Gap. The strategy was to provide training and opportunities which would lead to permanent changes in practice, rather than fund 'one-off' projects whose benefits would not be sustained. While the NtG funding supported a range of activities, examples of which are summarised below, the imperative to narrow the attainment gap permeated far more widely than targeted schools and continues to do so.

3.0 Summary of NtG projects

3.1 Hays Ignition

12 Primary schools ran awareness- and aspiration-raising sessions to help pupils understand the importance of their education and its links to their future working life, and that career paths have specific skills sets and help. It also aimed to help Year 6 children undergo a smoother transition between primary and secondary to avoid the dip in attainment which typically accompanies this period of change. Uptake of the training was cluster-wide in the Oxton/ Prenton cluster which ran the Hays Ignition programme in all its primary schools, with sessions being given to Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 children.

Outcome: Evaluation supplied by pupils and teachers in the schools demonstrated highly positive comments with the percentage marking it as excellent in all aspects in the high 90s. The Oxton/ Prenton head teachers were so pleased with the Ignition programme they have decided use cluster funding to run the project again for the same year groups during the academic year 2010/11. There was no attempt to measure impact as the workshops for Years 3, 4 and 5 only lasted an hour; and potential effects of the longer sessions the Year 6 children will not be apparent until after transition.

3.2 Communication-Friendly Spaces

Running alongside existing projects in Wirral schools which are assessing the home and school environments for young children and the effects these have on their ability to communicate and to learn, Wirral NtG and Elizabeth Jarman Training Ltd designed and ran an enquiry-based project from January – June 09 to look into the preferred learning and communicating environments for boys in three targeted schools. The schools were selected on the basis of their baseline on entry which indicated a gender imbalance with very low language development (some as low as 18 months). The project involved senior staff training and whole-staff briefing, followed by the selection of three boys from each class whose interactions with their environment were observed, followed by the involvement of parents to record the children's behaviour in the home, and to ask which environments the children preferred: small/large; confined/open, cluttered/clear, noisy/quiet etc.

Outcome: On an individual level, the project triggered direct contact with the parents and carers which lead to a more open communication with them; the project encouraged them to become more involved in the development of their child's communication skills. There was also an improvement in communication – particularly listening – reported among the boys who took part, while all the adults reported changes in their thinking and practice and greater communication with the boys.

Despite the short duration of the project, qualitative feedback suggested it made an important contribution to understanding which surroundings are best suited to boys being able to learn: the boys preferred to be in small groups, with 'small world' preferred by younger boys. This learning has been disseminated, with the wider Communication-Friendly Spaces principles, to all primary schools.

3.3 Growing to Learn – Learning to Grow (Kagan)

'Growing to Learn – Learning to Grow' is an ongoing project designed to support the development of Assessment for Learning (AfL) and Assessing Pupils' Progress (APP) through training, networking and consultation. 16 schools, at differing development stages and committed to whole-school AfL improvements, have been enlisted for training from T2T Kagan Training company and support. The aims of the project are to:

- ❖ exploring new AfL strategies to promote collaborative learning,
- ❖ to embed all aspects of AfL across the whole school,
- ❖ to raise attainment, aspirations and expectations of pupils, staff, parents/carers and Governors and
- ❖ to support the continued implementation of APP.

Outcome: At the half way stage in March 2010, the overwhelming majority of schools reported that the project had changed their teaching, the way their children learn and the children's attitude to learning and that it was having a positive impact across the whole school, by helping to raise standards.

3.4 Tranmere Rovers Football Journalism Programme

This project, which took place at the football ground, aimed to improve writing skills for KS2 and KS3 pupils. Targeted groups analysed match before watching a live game at Tranmere and then writing their own report of that game. Following a 2008/2009 pilot, funded by NtG, the 2009/2010 programme was offered to all Wirral primary schools. Schools identified participants based on the expectation that they would not reach the expected level in writing during the academic year. Participating schools targeted groups of 10-20 pupils who attended five sessions at Tranmere Rovers Football Club ground, and a live match.

Outcomes: not all the performance data has been collected, but the following evidence from Greasby Primary School is typical:

Impact on Progress and Attainment:-

Of the 11 pupils who took part, 9 (82%) made better than expected progress in their writing, from July 09 to July 10. Only 2 did not make expected progress, one of whom has English as an additional language.

The expected progress, expressed as Average Points Score, is 3 APS in one academic year. Of the 11 taking part, 6 made progress of 4 APS and 2 made 6 APS (2 years progress in one academic year). One pupil made progress of 10 APS (more than 3 years progress in one academic year). This indicates OUTSTANDING progress made by these children. Of the 11 pupils taking part, 9 achieved Level 4+ with 1 achieving Level 5 in writing. Reading results are even better but given the writing focus of the project, only writing attainment is being considered. The targeted group were pupils identified as needing additional support in order to achieve Level 4. Following this project, 82% achieved Level 4."

Other NtG projects included:

Aim Higher Programme: Engaging a number of schools with the Professor Fluffy Programme run by Liverpool University.

Developing a Curriculum that Matters: linked to the Rose Review, and involved a group of schools working together with Focus Education.

Two opportunities to attend a **One-day Literacy Conference**. For KS1 Literacy Co-ordinators plus headteachers on Big Talk, led by Alistair Bryce Clay.

Conference - Day 2 of the Big Write: for KS2 teachers, led by Peter Halsall. There will be follow up with writing project at Tranmere Rovers for six schools.

Maths Outreach Programme: the development of a maths outreach programme in collaboration with schools which have Maths as a focus for development.

Recommendation

That the Wirral Children's Trust Board notes the report.

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WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – DATE 2010

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service – Children and Young People's Policy

1.0 Background

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service's Youth Engagement Department has an award winning track record of successfully engaging with children and young people across Merseyside. The Children and Young People policy is to inform partners of our overriding purpose.

2.0 Provision of Services

MFRS engages with children and young people as a non- statutory provider of services to its community. As a public body we use our powerful brand to engage with those young people who are often disaffected with education and often have low aspirations.

3.0 Progress

We have an excellent track record over a seven year period of successfully engaging with children and young people including being the only Fire and Rescue Service to have been awarded a Beacon status for 'Early Intervention Children at Risk'.

4.0 Finance

The Youth Engagement Department relies on securing external funding to support the delivery of numerous programmes and initiatives aimed at different age groups. These initiatives are Beacon, LIFE, School Fire Liaison Officers, Prince's Trust, EARLY and Road Traffic Collision Reduction. We hope that with the upcoming Comprehensive Spending Review we will be able to secure new opportunities to work with other partners with the same vision of making our community safer, stronger and healthier.

5.0 Recommendations:

That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 CYP policy

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“An Excellent Authority”

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Document Control

Active date	Review date	Department	Author	Editor	Publisher
Feb 2010	Apr 2011	Youth Engagement	E.Dodd	AM Mark Broderick	AM Mark Broderick

Legislation

Title	
	N/A

Amendment History

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
001	22/02/2010	E Dodd	Reference to national strategy Docs
002	24/05/2010	E Dodd	Changes to text & layout

Equalities Impact Assessment

Initial	Full	Date	Reviewed by	Comments
	x		J.Monkhouse	

Civil Contingencies Impact Assessment

Date	Reviewed by	Comments

Related Policies

Title	Author	Department

Distribution List

Name	Position	I/R

Sign-Off List

Name	Position

Related Documents

Ref No.	Title	Author	Version & Date
	FRS National Strategy for Working with Children and Young People	CLG	2006-10

Target audience

All MFS	X	Ops Crews	Fire safety	Community FS	Civilian Staff
Principal off.		Senior off.	etc	etc	etc

Ownership

Publicly owned document	Yes	X	URL
	No		Reason

Youth Engagement delivers targeted youth and community programmes in partnership with all services concerned with improving the quality of life of young people and their environment. Our work is underpinned by Every Child Matters, the Public Health White paper and the Fire & Rescue Service National Strategy for Children and Young people 2006-2010. This strategy is aimed at everyone concerned with the safety, education and wellbeing of children and young people.

- engage actively with children and young people
- prevent and reduce fire crime and fire setting
- divert children and young people from fire crime and anti social behaviour
- educate children and young people in fire safety skills and responsible citizenship
- ensure that F&RS staff working with these groups are effective and professional
- identify and disseminate good practice in working with children and young people

Areas of involvement include:

Crime and Disorder partnership strategies
Every Child Matters and Local Authority Children and Young People Plans
Performance Framework for Local Authorities and stakeholders
Social Cohesion Strategies
Youth Justice Boards
Fire and Rescue National Framework

Youth Engagement assists MFRS to engage in a multi agency approach to reduce the numbers killed or seriously injured on the roads. Through working in partnership to educate road users and engage vulnerable groups, we are contributing to the wider road safety agenda. We contribute to key PSA targets for which the Department of Transport is responsible, towards locally agreed targets determined through LAA's and local public service and partnership agreements.

The essential features of this department are:

Outcome led vision- a focus on improved outcomes, informed by the views of children and their families;
Integrated front-line delivery – professionals working together around the needs of children, not constrained by organisational boundaries;
Integrated processes- better assessments, information sharing and improved referrals mean children get the services they need quickly;
Integrated strategy – joint commissioning of services and pooling of budgets and resources to drive multi agency working; and
Inter-agency governance – setting a clear framework for strategic planning, resource allocation and accountabilities.

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