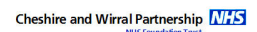


Tuesday, 18 January 2011 commencing at 9.00 am
Professional Excellence Centre, Acre Lane, Bromborough

1. **09:00 APOLOGIES**
2. **09:00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
3. **09:05 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING (Pages 1 - 8)**
4. **09:10 CHILDREN'S TRUST COMMISSIONING ANNUAL REPORT**
5. **09:40 THE HEALTH WHITE PAPER**
6. **10:10 GP COMMISSIONED SERVICES - WIRRAL DEVELOPMENTS AND IMPACT ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES**
10:40 BREAK
7. **10:55 EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT AND COMMISSIONING (Pages 9 - 26)**
8. **11:15 THE ANNOUNCED INSPECTION OF SAFEGUARDING AND LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**
9. **11:40 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-12 UPDATE (Pages 27 - 28)**
10. **11:50 ANNUAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSESSMENT 2010 (Pages 29 - 38)**
11. **11:55 AOB**
12. **12:00 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: 18 MARCH 2011, 09:00 - 12:00**



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Public Document Pack **Agenda Item 3**
WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 22 November 2010

Present: Councillor Sheila Clarke (Chair)

David Armstrong
Kathryn Podmore
Sue Brown
Fiona Johnstone
Debbie Mayor
Bev Morgan
Jane Owens
Lynn Loughran
Phil Sheridan
Chief Supt. John Martin

Barbara Baker representing Andy Styring
Pat Higgins representing Adrian Hughes
Iris Batman representing Andy Styring

In attendance:

Nancy Clarkson
Tracy Little
Mark Ellis
Mike Potter
Sheila Lynch
Mark Parkinson
Anne Tattersall

1 09:00 APOLOGIES

Cllr. Tom Harney
Cllr. Chris Meaden
Peter Brandrick
Andy Styring
Emma Dodd
Jill Billinge
Richard Longster
Shanila Rhooi

2 09:00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3 09:05 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

With regard to item 4 of the previous minutes, the Director will be writing to schools to request that they continue to cooperate with the Children's Trust Board as per current practice. The engagement of Head teacher representation at the Board has strengthened the Board and it is a benefit to all Children's services that this engagement remains in place.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

4 **09:10 CONTACT POINT**

Mark Ellis updated that Contact Point for Wirral was officially closed down on the 6th August 2010. Work is underway nationally to explore alternative arrangements for recording professional contact and involvement with children.

He added that the Monroe report is being carried out nationally and investigating how the use of ICT may aid that work being undertaken in Children's Social Care.

Resolved: The Board noted the report.

5 **09:20 CHILD POVERTY**

Nancy Clarkson outlined the Child Poverty report. The new strategic lead for Child poverty will be Emma Degg. The Child Poverty Bill received Royal Assent and became an Act of Parliament on 25th March 2010. The Act establishes national targets to end Child Poverty in the UK by 2020 and places a number of duties on local authorities and other local delivery partners to work together to tackle child poverty.

A 'National Review of Poverty and Life Chances' has been charged with studying the extent of poverty in the UK and making recommendations to help less affluent families. This review is being headed by Frank Field MP and is due to report in December 2010.

Wirral is planning to develop and approve a Child and Family Poverty Strategy to be in place by April 2011. It will outline how co-ordinated services will tackle child and family poverty up to 2020 and will be reviewed every three years. There will be an opportunity in future years to integrate the Child and Family Poverty Strategy with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Bev Morgan noted that she has met with Emma Degg to discuss further consultation to inform a more robust needs analysis.

Sue Brown reiterated the importance of the involvement of all partners and the other partners expressed an interest on being involved in future planning.

It was noted that significant notice would be preferable to allow attendance at any meetings. The board would also like to see the timescales of the future stages and information regarding the governance of the strategy to be shared.

Nancy Clarkson noted that timescales for consultation and the project will be revised in light of the new lead.

Resolved:

The Board noted the report and confirmed the Children's Trust Board support and involvement.

6 09:35 HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS

Anne Tattersall gave a presentation on the delivery of Health Services in Schools, (HSIS).

- In July 2008 the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Charter for Children and Young People was launched.
- The National Support Team (NST) for teenage pregnancy visited the Borough at the same time. The NST recommended the role out of the charter to all secondary schools. This move was supported by senior leaders within CYPD and the community.
- The vision for HSIS is to improve health and wellbeing both in schools and the community. It is linked to the Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) and Personal , Social, Heath and Economic (PSHE) areas of the curriculum.
- Early results show that the service is being well accessed by both genders of young people. Services accessed include a teenage health check, lifestyle and weight management, Chlamydia and pregnancy testing.
- Feedback from users of the service is positive comments from users include:
"I feel more confident about saying no to sex" and "You don't need to drink alcohol to have a good time" and "I am not going to have a baby until I am least 25!"

Area Commander John Martin asked if the anti social aspects of alcohol use is addressed as well as health impacts. Anne noted that this is covered and also included as part of the PHSE curriculum.

Debbie Mayor asked if the impact of the HSIS on teenage pregnancy can be measured directly. Anne noted that information could be collated and overall teenage pregnancy rates are decreasing across the Borough.

Sue Brown asked if the HSIS profiles users of the services, especially with regard to the prevalence of ADHD. Barbara Baker noted that young females

present differently from males with ADHD and may be more likely to need to access the service. Anne noted that this wasn't recorded at the moment but that it is something that could be looked into.

Fiona Johnstone asked what additional services may be in place from January. Anne responded that smoking cessation and further targeted support for contraception services. Overall this would be delivered by ensuring that staff are skilled within these areas. Staff training will enhance the level of service provided in the core offer.

Cllr Sheila Clarke thanked Anne for a very informative presentation and noted the importance of this work and the resulting positive outcomes for young people.

Resolved: The Board noted the presentation.

7 10:00 COMMISSIONING UPDATE

Peter Wong sent his apologies; Debbie Mayor reported that Peter would circulate his report to the Board.

Councillor Sheila Clark recommended that a future meeting would be focussed on commissioning.

Bev Morgan added that many VCF organisations have funding that ends in March. Meetings are currently taking place to discuss priorities and work in children's services. Maureen McDaid will be attending the January Board with a paper detailing priorities and areas of needs. David Armstrong noted that the council will not receive details of the settlement figure from central Government until early December; at this point it will be a clearer to make decisions on spending. Bev Morgan added that these timelines will prove very difficult for some VCF organisations.

Fiona Johnstone added that the Public Health Bill paper is due to be published and will impact on commissioning for Children's Services. The PCT will still be the accountable body for spending until 2013.

Fiona added that the GP consortia are currently forming; as they develop their role in commissioning their representation at the Board will need to be established.

Fiona Johnston or representative from the GP consortia will give an update at a future meeting.

Resolved: That the next meeting will have a commissioning focus.

8 10:40 YOUNG PEOPLE NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION OR TRAINING UPDATE

Mike Potter and Sheila Lynch and gave a presentation on the current position of young people NEET in Wirral. The NEET TIGER team was established in March 2010 to target the reduction of young people NEET in Wirral. It is expected to be a short term team to review the situation and propose changes and recommendations to reduce NEET.

The team is made up of Wirral Council, Connexions, Wirral Further Education establishments and Rocket training. The team looked in detail at the origins within the 16 to 18 NEET cohort, detailing local variations across the Borough and identifying local hot spots. The team also examined the NEET joiners and leavers profile and found that a significant amount of young people became NEET as they were coming from terminating a programme.

The current position is 100 young people less NEET that this time last year. The age of those young people NEET is now more concentrated on those young people aged 17 to 18.

Mike Potter added that with new proposed coalition government funding colleges and universities will be more selective in placing students and that places are capped, in addition the future of the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is not certain. The loss of EMA will discourage some young people from applying for further education.

Kathryn Podmore noted that level of prior attainment of the NEET cohort would inform better provision planning for these young people. Sheila Lynch responded to say that work is underway in this area to establish an information sharing agreement to enable prior attainment profiling of the NEET cohort.

David Armstrong gave thanks to Mike Potter and Sheila Lynch for their hard work on this issue.

Concern remains around the ability to hit the target of 6.9%.

Cllr. Sheila Clarke thanked Mike and Sheila for their presentation and the work carried out towards reducing NEET in the Borough.

Resolved:

The Broad endorsed the report;

The board noted the intention of the Tiger Team to end at the target period of January 2011;

Noted the potential request for additional funding to continue the NEET reduction work;

Endorsed the actions taken by the Tiger Team;

Endorsed the need for continuing focus on 16-18 NEET.

Mark Parkinson outlined the annual report of the Enjoy and Achieve strategy group.

Key achievements include:

- Good progress on the primary and secondary school review. A summary report will go to cabinet shortly, at the end of this 6 year project.
- Improvements around narrowing the gap at the early years phase.
- For primary schools maths has improved significantly.
- KS4 has improved by more than 4%. All but one school now above the National Challenge floor targets, the one school that remains below floor target just fell short.
- The Extended school programme has now finished. All schools in the Borough now provide the full core offer. The programme will now become mainstreamed into schools.
- Children's Centres continue to develop, the full complement of centres and satellites will soon be complete.
- One to one tuition programme has been successfully implemented.
- Leadership Management Programme has been noted as an example of good practice.
- Results for Looked After Children at KS2 and KS4 are good.
- Foundation Stage learning programmes are being rolled out and are having an impact on engaging young people.

Areas for improvement include:

- Challenging targets still remain for early years.
- Measuring the impact of children's centres.
- Academic achievement of boys in early years, especially with regard to communication and writing skills.
- Development of e-learning and the virtual learning environment.
- Narrowing the gap for SEN and FSM children.
- Improve academic performance at post 16.
- Implication regarding the increase in participation age to 18.

Issues for Concern

- Schools White Paper will set the direction for school improvement services and the role of the local authority.
- Changes to funding in the LA and the subsequent reduction in capacity.

Mark added that this report could and should be circulated with interested partner agencies.

Cllr Sheila Clarke added that the Enjoy and Achieve outcome for children had a very positive year, the case studies in the report are very interesting and to be celebrated. Cllr Clarke added that there should also be focus of the “enjoy” aspect of the outcome. Mark responded that some case studies have been compiled to illustrate successes within the “enjoy” outcome.

Resolved: The Board noted the report.

10 **11:30 CHILDREN FIRST STRATEGIC BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

Mark Parkinson gave a brief background on the CFSB, which focuses on the needs of children aged up to five. Mark presented the report which highlights changes to the membership of the Board and strengthened the terms of reference.

Sue Brown suggested a representative of YOS may be available to attend the Board.

Resolved: The Board approved the amendments to the terms of reference and to the membership of the Children First Strategic Board.

11 **11:40 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2010/11 QUARTER 2**

The second quarter performance report was presented to the board. Nancy Clarkson informed the Board that nationally a review of National Indicators and data collections from schools and the local authority was taking place. Any national changes will be reflected in local reporting. In addition, Local Area Agreements (LAA) have been abolished by the coalition government. Monitoring of these targets will continue until the end of the year and the situation would be reviewed.

Resolved: The Board noted the report.


12 **11:45 LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT 2010/11 QUARTER 2**

Nancy Clarkson gave an overview of the performance of the LAA indicators for quarter two.

Mike Potter commented on the importance of working to the 2010/11 LAA NEET target despite that the national abolishment of the LAA. Nancy Clarkson noted that this issue had been highlighted at the Children’s Trust Executive and that locally this target would remain.

Resolved: The Board note the report.

13 **11:50 HOUSING STRATEGY CONSULTATION**



Cllr. Sheila Clark requested that any comments on the paper circulated should be sent to Nancy Clarkson.

14 **11:55 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

David Armstrong updated on the latest position within the Children and Young People's Department. Currently a staffing review is underway; a letter went out to staff in October to invite staff to take voluntary severance and staff will be informed of the decisions later this week. Decisions have been taken in respect of statutory duties and front line service delivery.

15 **12:00 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was moved to the 18th January 2011, 09:00 – 12:00, PEC, Acre Lane

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 18 JANUARY 2011

EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT AND COMMISSIONING

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides an update on the range of activities currently commissioned by the Children's Trust through external funding grants to be replaced by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). These were:-

- 0-19 (including the Strategic partnership Contribution)
- Think Family
- Teenage Pregnancy
- Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)
- Sure Start
- Youth Opportunity Fund
- Youth Crime Action Plan
- Young People's Alcohol and Substance Misuse
- Aiming High for Disabled Children and Families (AHDC)

The report includes proposals for the priorities to underpin the next round of commissioning and offers options for the length of the contracts and suggests a time line for the process

2.0 Background

2.1 The use of commissioning as a tool to identify the most appropriate providers of both targeted and universal services is growing across the public sector. Commissioning not only identifies providers it can also be used to underpin change management in respect of improving performance in service providers and also by involving service users in the decision making process. Over the last few years there has been an increase in commissioning as the means of identifying new providers to deliver services to meet specific policy requirements of government.

2.2 On 31 March 2011, the specific funding of the following programmes outlined in section one of this report, will cease. In the 2011-12 budget statement the government announced the launch of the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). Funding for this will run from 2011 until 2015. The guidance from the Department for education indicates that the EIG will cover the following:

- Sure Start children's centres
- Free early education places for disadvantaged two-year-olds
- Short breaks for disabled children
- Targeted support for vulnerable young people

- Targeted mental health in schools
- Targeted support for families with multiple problems.

The government also announced that while the EIG will fund these programmes the grant is not ring fenced and local decision making would determine priorities and commissioning requirements.

- 2.3 A number of providers in both the voluntary and statutory sector are currently funded by a number of grant regimes such as the Area Based Grant, Aiming High for Disabled Children and Sure Start and as already stated, funding will cease on 31 March 2011. The Commissioning process can take up to six months and in Wirral's case, Wirral Council has signed a Compact with the Voluntary Sector agreeing that commissioning will not take less than six months. Clearly commissioning would not be completed in time to enable contracts to be awarded by 31 March 2011. To ensure continuity of service provision, the Council has agreed to roll over the grants to voluntary and community organisations for an additional three months until 30 June 2011. With regard to the statutory sector, a number of their programmes, previously covered by the ABG, have been included in the main budget for 2011-12.
- 2.4 The Early Intervention Grant will, subject to agreement by the Council, be used to cover a number of priority areas. The allocation for the Early Intervention Grant for 2011-12 is £15.1 million. In addition, the range of interventions required will mean that commissioning will have to be very specific in its requirements and required outcomes. In some instances it will be units of specific interventions that will be commissioned as opposed to whole services. With this as the context for commissioning for 2011-12, commissioners have been meeting with strategic leads, colleagues from Health and the Voluntary and Community Sector with the intention to scoping the issues to be addressed in the commissioning process.

3.0 Early Identification of Priorities

- 3.1 It is essential that priorities are identified following analysis of evidence. Within Wirral there is more information and data to support decision making than has previously been available. These themes are in line with the national priorities and provide a framework for tackling issues that have been identified from Common Assessment Framework (CAF) returns, ASSET, the Youth Offending Service Evaluation tool kit and other returns from internal monitoring returns. There is now more evidence available to guide decision making regarding priorities (Please see Appendix Two). In essence, Commissioning should meet priorities and priorities should underpin themes.

Future commissioning themes are suggested as follows:

- Parenting and Compromised Parenting
- Children and Young People with Disabilities
- Behaviour in Children, Young People and Families.

- 3.2 In summary returns from both CAF and ASSET assessments show that the localities most in need run through Birkenhead, Tranmere, Rock Ferry, Liscard and Seacombe. In terms of gender White British Boys make up the biggest number of the CAF cohort. Behaviour, Parenting and Adult Mental Health were the main triggers that lead to the use of CAFs. The evidence from ASSET suggests that it is generally more white British Boys involved with the YOS. Both sources of evidence point to behaviour as the main causes of concern with parenting support being offered following both assessments.

4.0 Priorities identified from Corporate Consultation

- 4.1 As part of its approach to identifying its priorities, Wirral Council embarked on a corporate consultation (Wirral's Future Be part of It) with local people and businesses and voluntary organisations. With regard to the Children and Young people's Task Force areas identified included:

- Explore increased delivery of services by the Voluntary Community and faith Sector.
- Scrutinise the operation of Children's Centres for Best Value.

- 4.2 With these areas are aligned to needs assessment the commissioning priorities for the purpose of the Early Intervention Grant are suggested as follows:

- Sure Start.
- Parenting, Behaviour and Family Support.
- Aiming High for Disabled Children.

- 4.3 These priorities provide a framework within which services can be commissioned and are complementary to the Council Priorities. In addition, these priorities also allow for a co-ordinated planned response to key issues arising from the programmes listed in 3.1 and which contribute to the issues identified from the CAF and ASSET analysis.

5.0 Timeline

- 5.1 There is a requirement for Wirral Council to keep to its compact with the Voluntary Sector and informal conversations with representatives from the voluntary sector indicate that agreed timescales should be retained. With this in mind, the Time line (Appendix B) is attached for approval.

This timeline takes account of the need to report to Cabinet and also to allow preparation time for Pre-qualifying Questionnaires and method Statements thereby meeting Compact requirements. Commissioners, will liaise with colleagues from corporate procurement to ensure any requirements linked to the commissioning rules contained in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), are adhered to.

6.0 Other Considerations

- 6.1 As part of the response to the Wirral's Future Be Part of It, consultation, the Council agreed to consider the management of children's' centres. This could result in a decision to commission new providers of services. In line with any commissioning of new providers there might also be the opportunity to revise delivery models to produce efficiencies and future savings. To achieve such an outcome it would be necessary to commission on a joined up basis to maximise the opportunity to make improvements. However any changes identified would not be in place in the next 3-6 months outside of the timeframe for this proposed round of commissioning, thereby requiring a second round.
- 6.2 With paragraph 6 in mind, there are two options presented for the commissioning of services from 2011-15. Both rounds would consecutively run for the period of the EIG 2011-2115. However in this approach, there are options to be considered with regard to the length of contracts to be commissioned.
- 6.3 Option One, commission for twelve months with the option to extend contracts as necessary if arrangements are not in place to start the second round of commissioning. The second round of commissioning would be for a period of at most 33 months subject to any contract extensions from round one. This would ensure that any necessary in-house operational changes would be identified in time to be included in commissioning proposals for round two. There is a risk with this approach in that an initial twelve month contract would not be attractive to some providers given the risk that they might not be re-commissioned.
- 6.4 Option Two, commission for 21 months and then for twenty four months. This would provide a contract that would be more attractive to providers and possibly encourage more organisations to bid. The risk with this approach is that any internal changes would be completed ahead of 21 months leaving in place arrangements not matched to priorities and not conducive to efficient working.
- 6.5 A key requirement from this commissioning is for services to be delivered more effectively to produce better outcomes for both service users and the commissioning authority. Therefore the second round of commissioning will be required to ensure that all priorities are addressed; provision is complementary and seamless; and effective in meeting improvement targets. Option One allows for necessary changes to take place and enables commissioning to progress if necessary in house changes have been made.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 There is a budget of £15.1 million available. The actual allocation between priorities has yet to be agreed. Of this money approximately £500,000 was allocated to fund the rollover of contracts.

8.0 Recommendations

The Children's Trust Board are asked to approve

1. The priorities as outlined in Section 4.4
 - Sure Start
 - Parenting, Behaviour and Family Support
 - Aiming High for Disabled Children
2. The Time line (Appendix One) as attached
3. Option One as the agreed contract period for commissioning in round one.
4. The Trust Board are also asked to agree that the Children's Trust Executive oversee and agree service specification and be accountable for the time line.

David Armstrong
Interim Director of Children's Services

DRAFT TIMETABLE 1
Contract Details

Contract Title:	CYPD Early Intervention
Annual Value:	Above £156k
Procurement Process:	Restricted Without PIN
Contract Duration:	TBC
Period of Contract:	TBC

It is mandatory that for purchases over £10,000 in total value, all tenders and 'requests for quotation' must be channelled through Corporate Procurement to be posted through the approved e-tendering and sourcing portal – 'The Chest'.

Procurement Timetable (Above OJEU Threshold – Restricted Procedure)

Task	Complete by	Action
1 Completion of the PQQ, ready to send, With particular reference to the Technical Section which should mirror the final tender evaluation. A compliance schedule is useful for evaluation purposes.	21 st February 2011	Commissioning Managers (CM), Alison Abraham (AA) Corporate Procurement (CP)
2 Issue of OJEU Notice and PQQ – Restrictive Procedure, Corporate Procurement will upload the OJEU Contract Notice and PQQ onto the approved e-tendering and sourcing portal – 'The Chest'. Suppliers will be able to download blank PQQs from 'The Chest'.	25 th February 2011	CP
3 Supplier Workshop, Face-to-face discussion with potential tenderers to clarify tender document particulars and process.	4 th March 2011	CM, AA, CP
4 Develop Tender Documentation, scoring matrix and evaluation criteria Including additional specification if required, pricing schedule, scoring matrix to include price & quality). Outline plans for contract monitoring, state Performance Indicators if appropriate. More contract specific – relate to each aspect of the specification	Completed by March 2011	CM, AA, CP
5 Return Date for Completed PQQ and submission of support information (minimum 30 days) PQQs will be returned to 'The Chest' Do not ask for supplementary documentation unless necessary.	29 th March 2011	CP
6 Evaluation of PQQ Selection Criteria and support criteria including financial searches. Shortlist suppliers who meet selection criteria and issue with tender documents See Evaluation matrix and standard evaluation criteria in guidance. Can give more 'weight' to more important criteria for eg Technical.	30 th March 2011 – 8 th April 2011 (8 working days)	CM, AA
7 Issue of Tender Documents (40 days, including Easter/Royal Wedding Bank Hols) Issue shortlisted suppliers with tender documents. Tender documents will be returned to 'The Chest'.	11 th April 2011	CP
8 Issue of Reference Questionnaires to Short List. To nominated referees	If required	CP
9 Return of Reference Questionnaires Allow at least 2 weeks to respond Attach completed questionnaires to 'The Chest'	If required	CP
10 Return of Tender Documents Law, HR and Asset Management will arrange for opening of submitted tender documents from 'The Chest'.	23rd May 2011	Legal/CP
11 Tender Evaluation Use evaluation matrix and award criteria (with weightings) to score providers	24 th May – 8 th June 2011 (12 working days)	CM, AA, CP

12	Designated Day for Presentations/ Interviews. If required site visits and presentations scheduled for specific dates. All key personnel to be made available.	9 th & 10 th June 2011	CM, AA
13	Final Analysis – Tender Evaluation After Presentation/Interview final period to possibly amend scores and decide on final awards	13 th June – 15 th June 2011	CM, AA
14	Final Analysis – cabinet report Preparation and posting of report to Cabinet Must sit on server 3 weeks prior to Cabinet If total contract value is over £500k Cabinet must approve the decision before award letters are issued (letters subject to Alcatel) If total contract value is under £500k, award letters can be issued before Cabinet and subject to Cabinet approval and Alcatel	16 th June onward	CM, AA
15	Award of Contract Subject to Cabinet approval Clarify Terms and Conditions with Colin Hughes (unless they accept our own). Borough Solicitor to draw up contract. Need to issue successful / unsuccessful letters.	TBC	CM, AA, CP
16	Alcatel Ruling, 10 Day stand still Cool Off Period	TBC	CP
17	Award Notice to OJEU Please advise Corporate Procurement of contract award details OJEU AWARD Notice will be placed through 'The Chest'	TBC	CP
18	Hand Over Period – if required	TBC	
19	Contract Start Or a date as soon after evaluation and award as approved by Cabinet/Governors	1 st July 2011	

Future Commissioning Needs Assessment Needs Identified by CAF/TAC Process and YOS (v2)

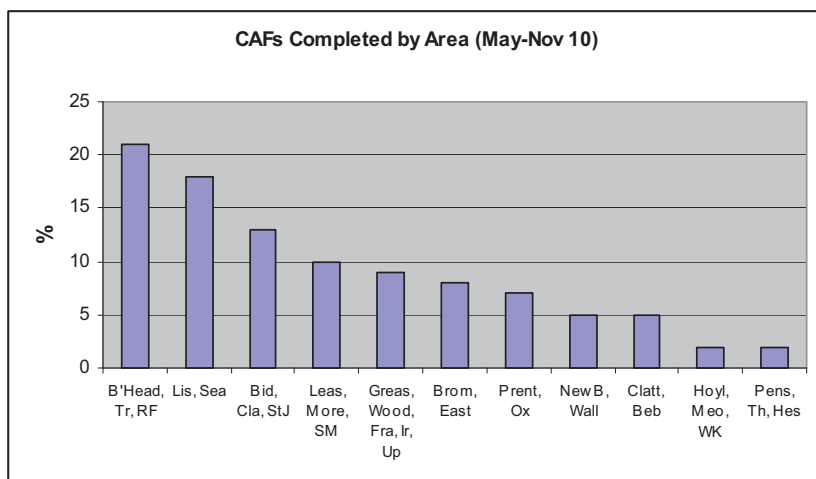
Summary

- This report is a summary of CAF data from the 11 Area Teams for May - November 2010
- Birkenhead/Tranmere/Rock Ferry (21%) and Liscard/Seacombe (18%) areas produced the most CAFs
- Primary (21%) and Secondary (20%) schools and health agencies (15%) author the most CAFs
- Most CAFs are completed on young people in the 5-10 age group (33%)
- 59% of CAFs are completed on boys; 41% on girls
- Where ethnicity is stated, 96% of C&YP describe themselves as white British
- 16% of CAFs are completed on C&YP with a disability
- Enjoy and Achieve (26%) reported as greatest need
- Behaviour (24%), Parenting (13%) and Health (10%) issues are the common triggers for a CAF
- Support from FSW, School Nurses, Health Visitors and Parenting Programmes are most requested services from CAF.

Introduction

This report is a summary of relevant findings from the CAF Activity reports produced between May and November 2010 and a recent audit of 154 CAFs produced in the same period. The presented data reveals the patterns of demand across the area teams and details identified needs and the agencies requested through the CAF and TAC (Team Around the Child) process. Also presented is a summary of youth offending activity for one year reported by the Youth Offending Service. The report also includes general population and specific deprivation data for comparison from the 2008 JSNA and the Office for National Statistics (ONS).

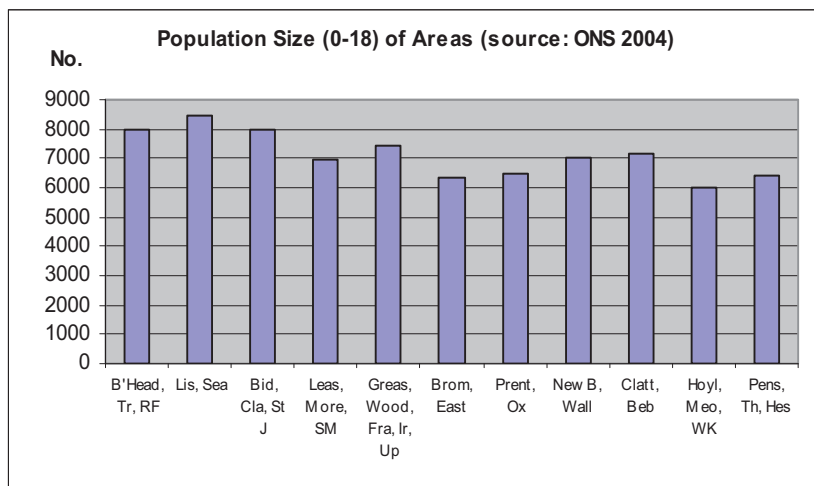
CAFs Completed by Area



11 multi agency area teams are located throughout Wirral based on the 2004 Ward boundaries. Each area team is responsible for monitoring all the CAF and TAC activity for agencies in their area.

The first graph shows the number of CAFs completed in each area between May and November 2010. It clearly shows that the three greatest areas of need are Birkenhead/Tranmere/Rock Ferry (21%) Liscard/Seacombe (18%) and Bidston/Claughton/St James (13%). The data also shows that need is at its lowest in West Wirral which accounts for less than 4% of CAF activity.

The second graph shows the comparative size of population (0-18) for each area. The graph reveals that the population size of each area is similar and does not reflect the pattern of need shown in the graph above. Data from both graphs has been used to show how many CAFs per '000 of the 0-18 population are produced by each area. The results are shown in the table overleaf.



CAFs completed per '000 of 0-18 Population

CAFs Completed in May to Nov 2010		
Area	Completed CAFs %	CAFs per '000 (0-18 popn)
Birkenhead, Tranmere, Rock Ferry	21	14
Liscard and Seacombe	18	12
Bidston, Cloughton, St James	13	8
Leasowe, Moreton, Saugh Mass	10	8
Greasby, Woodchurch, Frankby, Irby, Upton	9	6
Bromborough and Eastham	8	7
Prenton and Oxton	7	6
New Brighton and Wallasey	5	4
Clatterbridge and Bebington	5	4
Hoylake, Meols, West Kirby, Thurst	2	1
Pensby, Heswall, Thingwall	2	2

By comparing the 0-18 year olds population data for each area to the number of CAFs undertaken the number of CAFs completed can be calculated. This information is shown in the accompanying table.

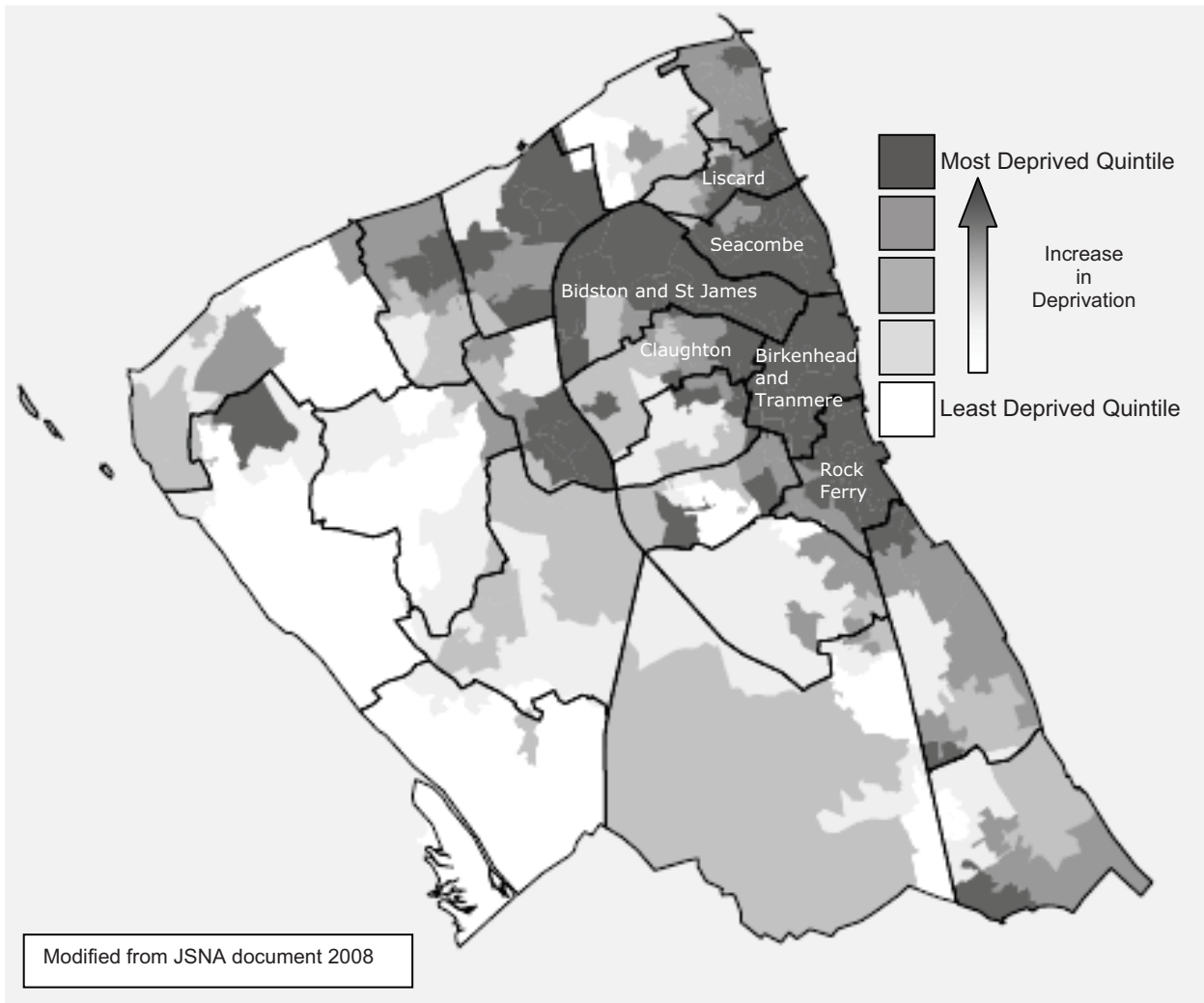
The information clearly shows that in the busiest areas more CAFs are completed per '000 children and young people rather than the busiest areas having a bigger population.

This supports findings which suggest that need is greatest in the area between Liscard and Rock Ferry.

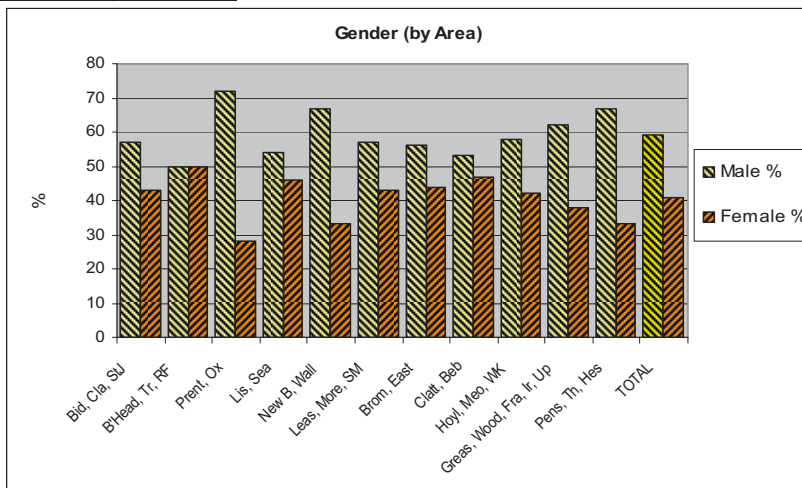
Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007

The Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2007 is a combined measure of different indicators of poverty. It uses local data about income deprivation, employment deprivation, health deprivation and disability, education skills and training deprivation, barriers to housing and services, living environment deprivation, and crime to inform where a particular district sits in a rank order of deprivation. Wirral is the 60th most deprived of the 354 districts in the country and is in the bottom 20% nationally. Within Wirral however, local variations exist. The map below illustrates how levels deprivation and affluence vary across Wirral.

The map clearly shows that the most deprived areas are those in the north east of Wirral. The most deprived areas identified by the 2007 IMD are Seacombe, Bidston and St James, Birkenhead and Tranmere. It is in these areas where CAF activity is at its greatest.



CAF's by Gender



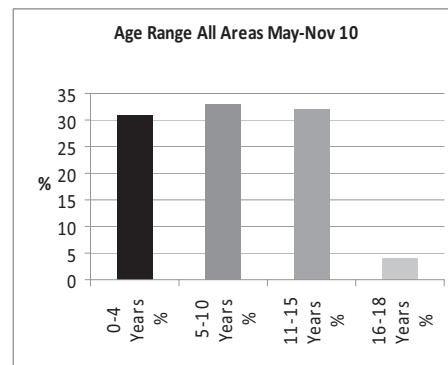
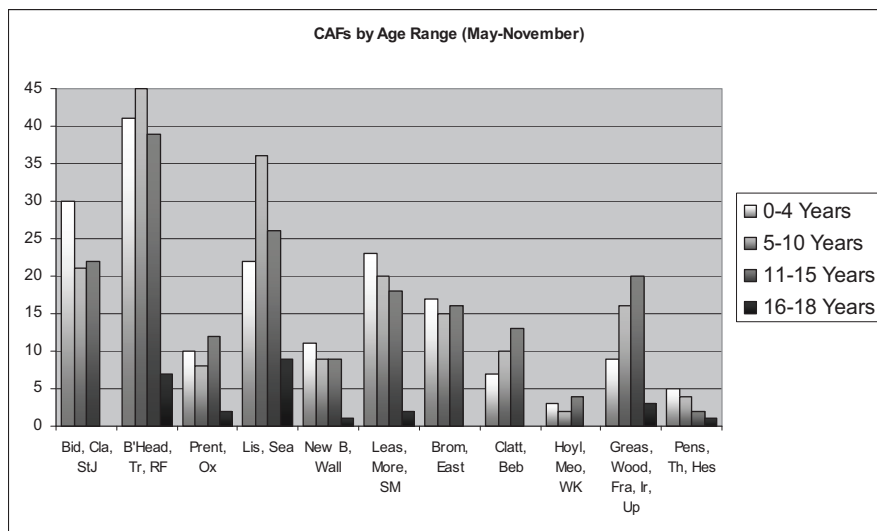
The majority of CAFs are completed on boys (59%) and this has been reported in every month apart from October 2010 when girls (52%) accounted for more CAFs for the first time.

This dominance by boys does not match the gender balance of Wirral as a whole where females account for 53% and boys for 47% of the population. The graph shows that boys dominate the CAF process in Prenton/ Oxtan, New Brighton/ Wallasey, Greasby/ Woodchurch & Pensby areas.

Girls are more visible in the CAF process in south Wirral, Birkenhead/Tranmere/Rock Ferry & Bidston/Claughton/St James areas.

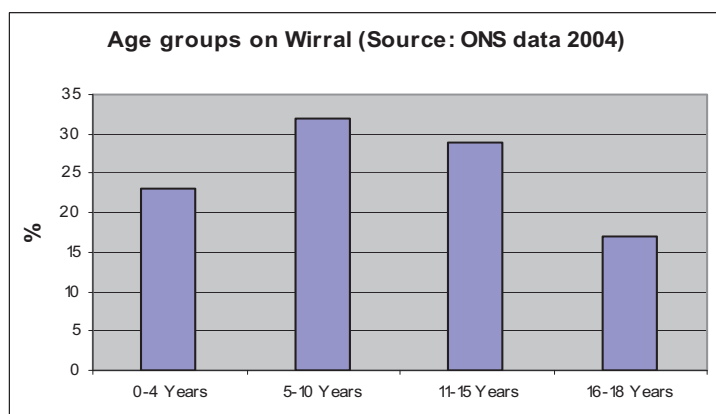
Schools author nearly half of all CAFs (Primary and Secondary both 21%). Health agencies, mainly health visitors, also undertake a significant amount (15%).

CAF's by Age Group



The graphs above show a breakdown of CAF clients by age group for each area. They show that local variations exist across area teams. Significantly they also show that in the two busiest areas (Birkenhead/Tranmere/ Rock Ferry and Liscard/ Seacombe) more CAFs are completed on 5-10 year olds.

Overall across Wirral 5-10 year olds have the greatest need (33%), with 11-15 year olds (32%) and 0-4 year olds (31%) showing similar demand for CAFs. Few CAFs (4%) are undertaken on 16-18 year olds.



The graph on the left shows the actual age breakdown of the 0-18 population on Wirral. The graph shows that 5-10 year olds account for 33% of the population followed by 11-15 year olds (27%) and 0-4 year olds (23%). This data would suggest that for the size of population 0-4 year olds have more CAFs completed than might be expected. Significantly, the opposite is true for 16-18 year olds who make up 17% of the 0-18 population but only account for 4% of CAFs.

Ethnicity of Child/Young Person

The CAF form records the ethnicity of the child/young person. This data shows that CAFs are overwhelmingly (96%) undertaken on children/ young people who consider themselves to be White British. There are no significant differences between recorded ethnicity across areas. Other groups recorded in the past year who account for less than 1% each are Polish, Black Caribbean, White and Black African, Asian, Chinese and Hungarian.

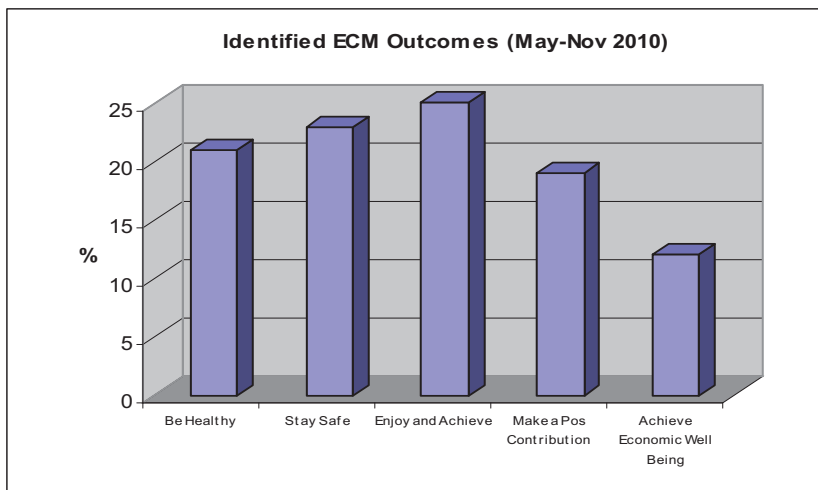
Data provided by the Office for National Statistics reveals that across all age groups on Wirral approximately 96% of people describe themselves as white British and the CAF data reflects this.

Recorded Disability

The form also records whether the child/ young person has a disability. Where this has been recorded it shows that 16% of CAFs are completed on a child/ young person who has a disability. This figure is fairly evenly reported from each area.

Identified Needs and Outcomes

Agencies are asked to indicate which of the 5 Every Child Matters outcomes apply to each completed CAF form. This data can then be analysed to inform what provision should be made available to each C&YP. This information is presented in the graph overleaf:



Enjoy and Achieve (26%) is identified as the greatest need in Bidston, Birkenhead, Liscard, Wallasey, Hoylake and Pensby areas.

Stay Safe (21%) is identified as the greatest need in Leasowe, Bromborough and Clatterbridge areas.

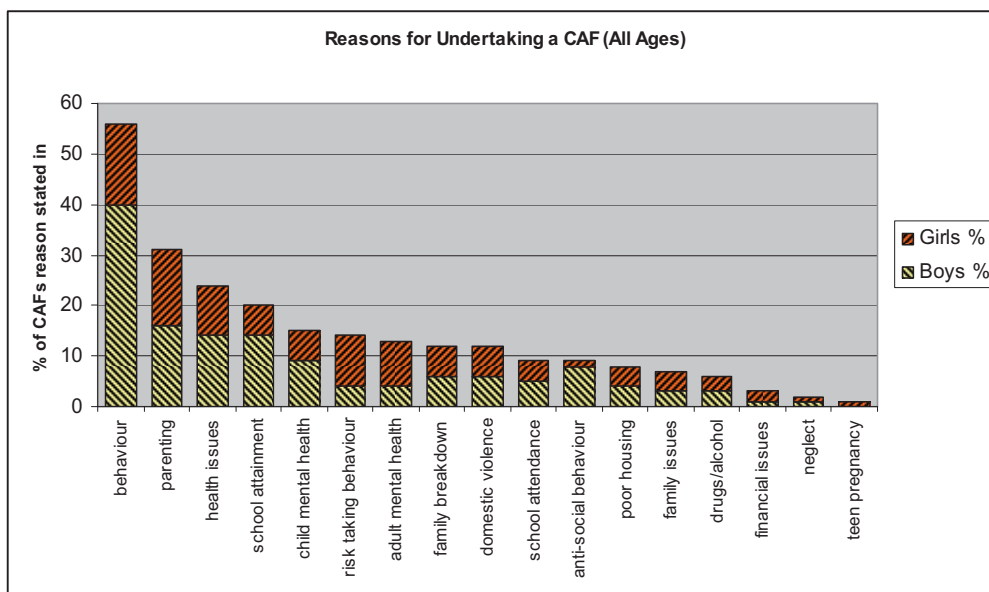
Make a Positive Contribution (20%) is identified as the greatest need in Greasby/Woodchurch area.

Be Healthy (18%) is identified as the greatest need in Prenton/Oxton area.

Enjoy Economic Wellbeing (15%) is not identified as the greatest need in any area.

CAF Audit

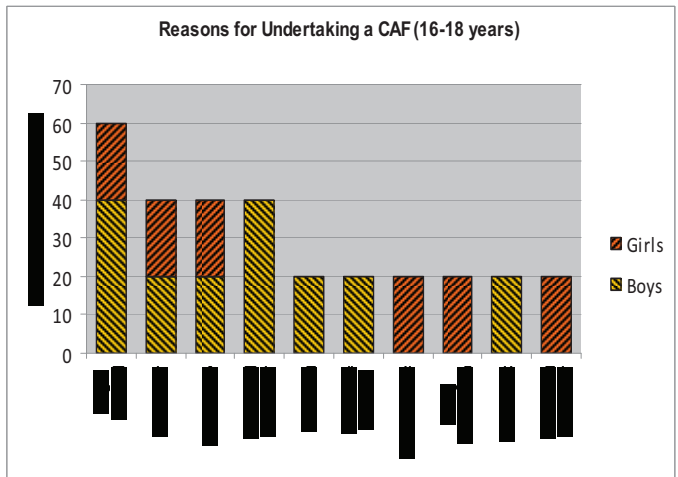
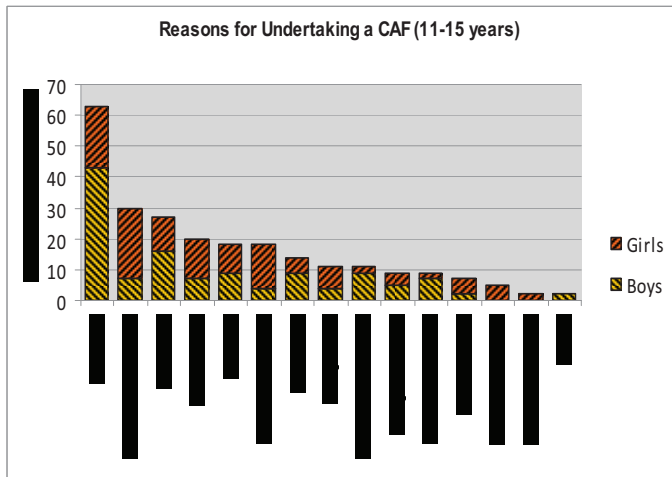
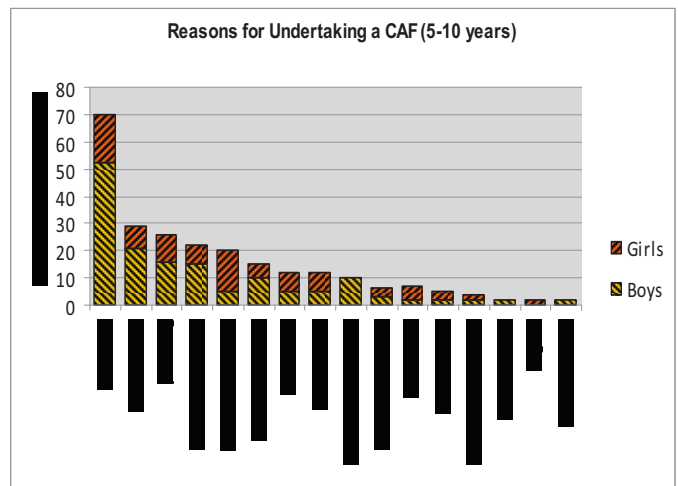
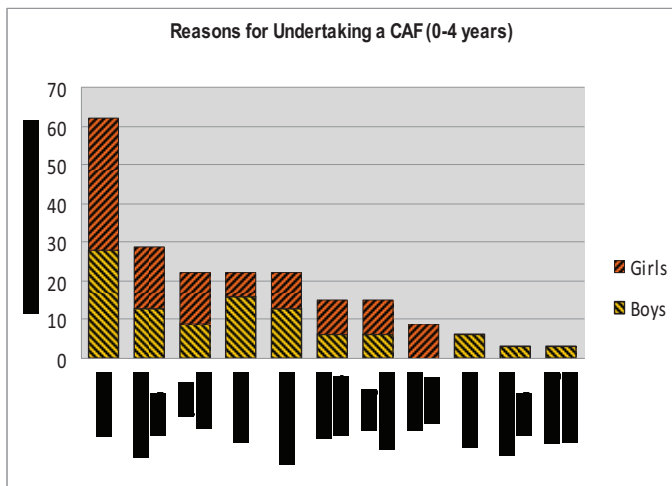
An audit of 154 CAFs completed between May and October revealed the following information:



The graph shows the reasons for CAFs being undertaken (by gender). It tells us that issues relating to behaviour (57% of CAFs), compromised parenting (31%) and general health issues (23%) are the most often cited reasons for a CAF being undertaken. Significantly the graph also shows that while general behavioural issues are 3 times more likely to relate to boys than girls, the opposite is true for risk taking behaviour which is dominated by girls.

The audit also revealed that 12% of CAFs cite the mental health needs of parents and 11% cite issues with domestic violence as contributory reasons for the CAF being undertaken.

Graphs which show the reasons for undertaking a CAF by age group are shown overleaf:



The four graphs show how the reasons for undertaking a CAF change as the child/ young person gets older.

0-4 Years

For under 5's issues around compromised parenting (stated in 62% of CAFs), health and housing are most common.

5-10 Years

For 5-10 year olds the important issues are related to behaviour (stated in 70% of CAFs), health and compromised parenting.

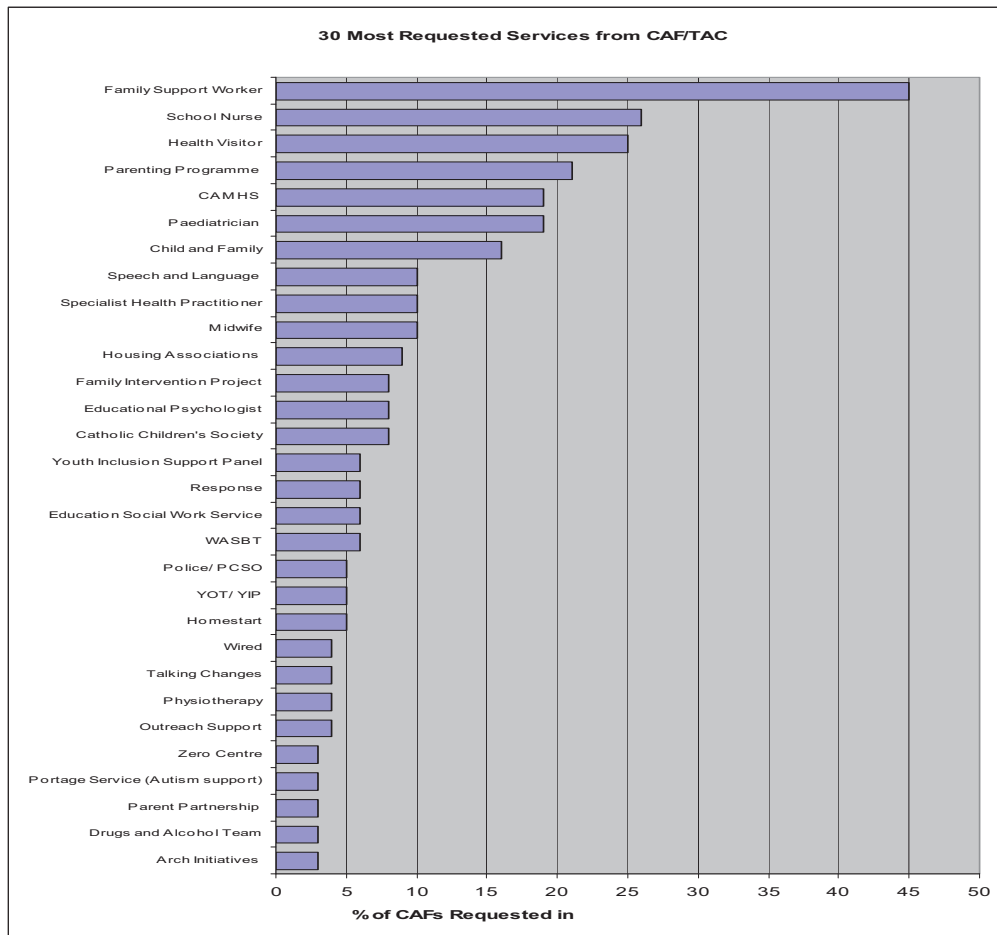
11-15 Years

Children in the 11-15 year age group are most likely to have issues with behaviour (stated in 62% of CAFs) and risk taking behaviour.

16-18 Years

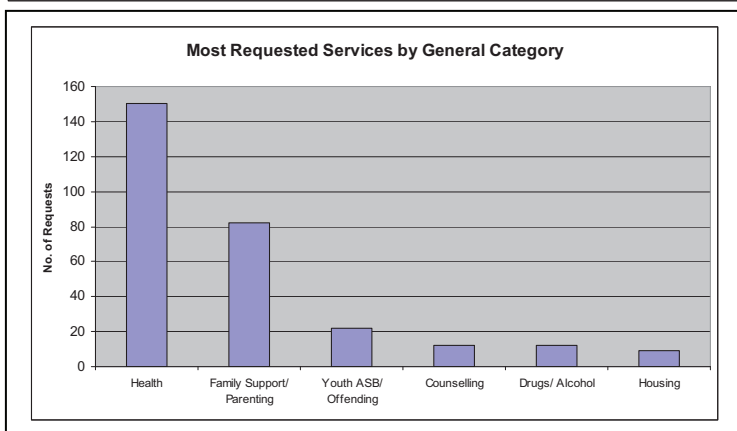
The needs of 16-18 year olds are dominated by drugs/ alcohol issues (stated in 60% of CAFs), behaviour and attendance. Although it should be noted that as few CAFs are undertaken on this age group the sample size is very small.

Services most Requested from CAF



The graph shows the 30 services which are most requested for Team Around the Child (TAC) meetings. The results are based on an audit of 154 CAFs completed across the area teams between May and Nov 2010.

The most requested service is that of a Family Support Worker (requested for Team Around the Child meetings from 45% of CAFs) who can work with the family on many issues which do not require a specialist input. School nurses (27% of CAFs) and health visitors (25% of CAFs) are also often requested as are access to parenting programmes (22% of CAFs) and more specialised health interventions.



The graph also confirms that many agencies from across the statutory and voluntary sector are actively involved with CAF and TAC.

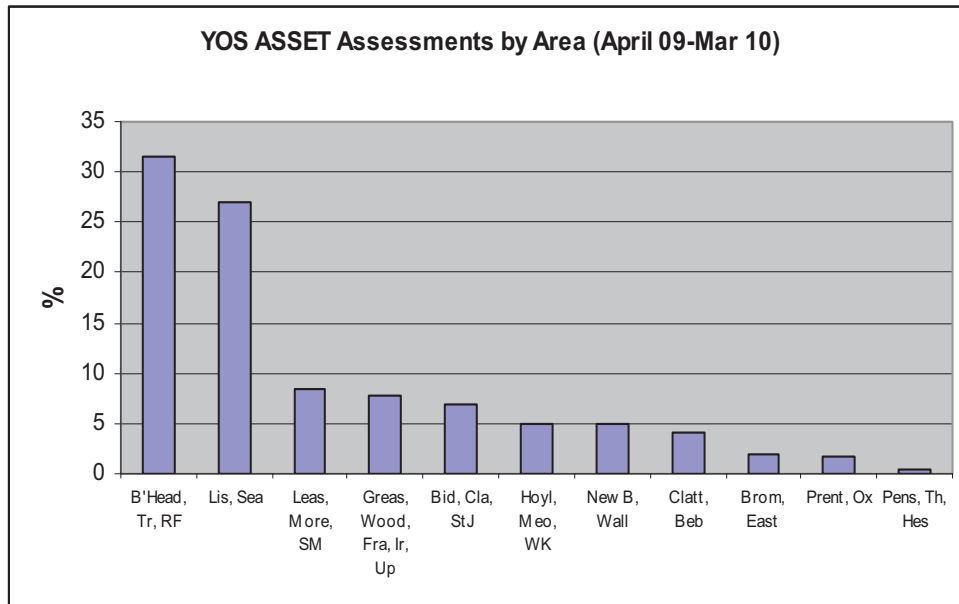
The second graph shows the most requested services by general category. By far the two most requested agents of intervention are health and family support/ parenting.

Wirral Youth Offending Service – ASSET Assessment Data

The Youth Offending Service (YOS) uses a standardised assessment using ASSET (a structured assessment tool produced by the Youth Justice Board) for all young people coming into the youth justice system. The assessment includes details about the lifestyle and circumstances of the young people, whether they have specific needs and their educational profile. The information is used to compile a risk assessment and to determine why the young person offended and what appropriate interventions should be employed.

The following few graphs show a summary of ASSET data collected between April 2009 and March 2010 and describes the profiles of young offenders and offences in Wirral.

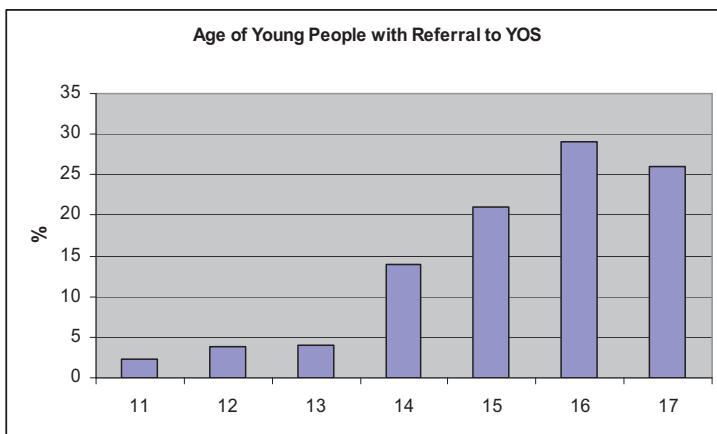
YOS Assessments by Area



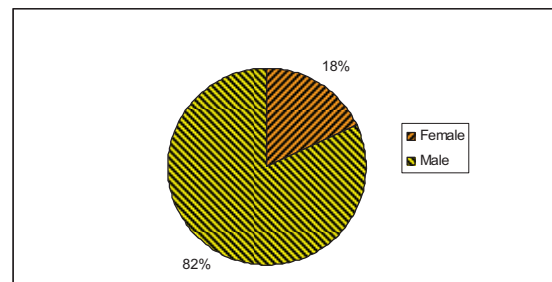
Young people who live in the two areas of Birkenhead/Tranmere/ Rock Ferry (32%) and Liscard/ Seacombe (27%) dominate work undertaken by the Youth Offending Service. These two areas also dominate the CAF activity. With the exception of Prenton/Oxton, South Wirral and West Wirral have the lowest amount of youth offending activity.

As already described earlier in this report, the geographical areas used in this report contain similar population sizes.

YOS Assessments by Age



YOS Assessments by Gender



YOS Assessments by Ethnicity

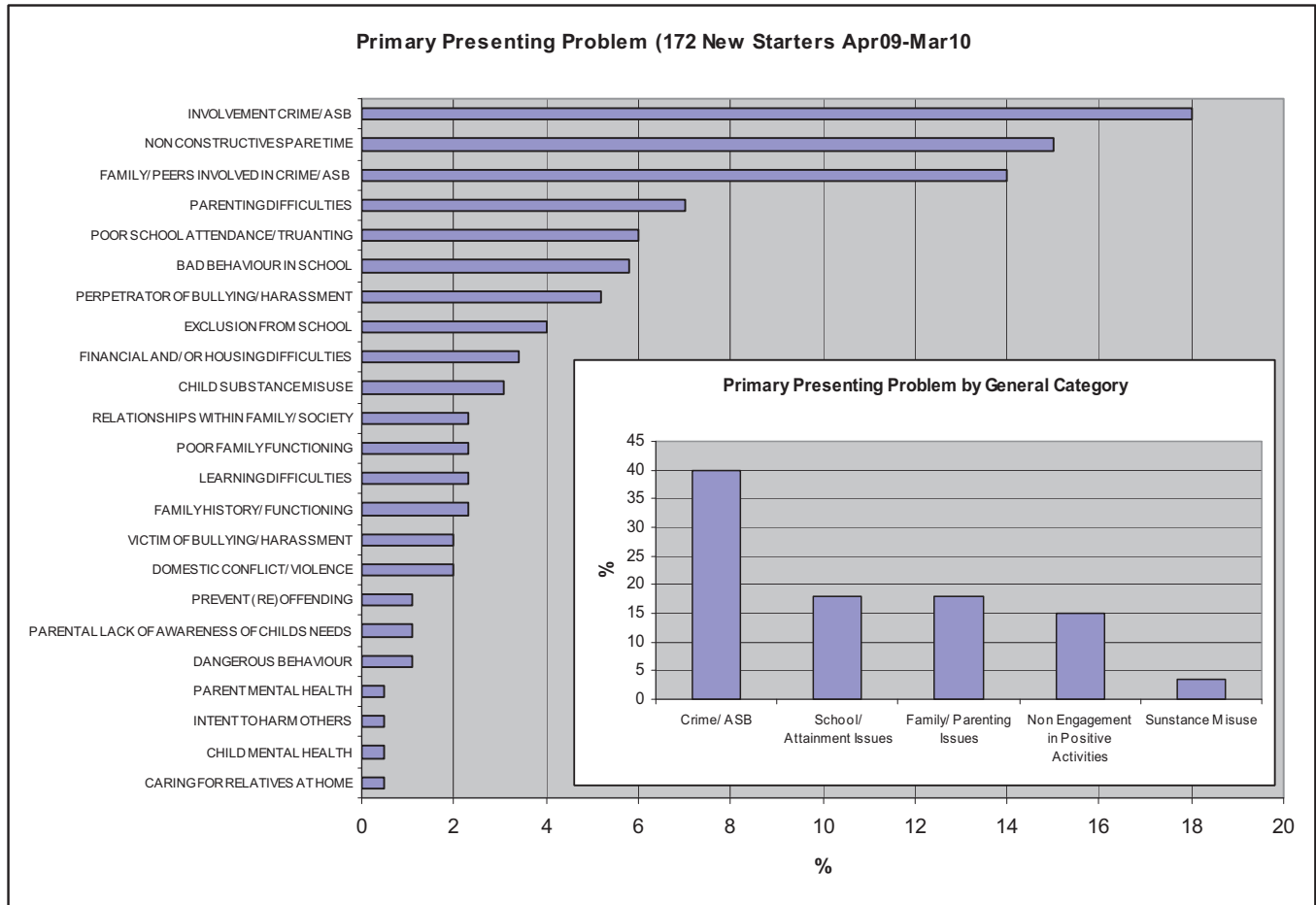
90% of young people described themselves as White British. 5% described themselves as mixed race.

Between April 2009 and March 2010 the YOS was actively supporting children and young people in the 11-17 age group. The graph above illustrates the breakdown by age and reveals that most youth offending is perpetrated by older children/young people.

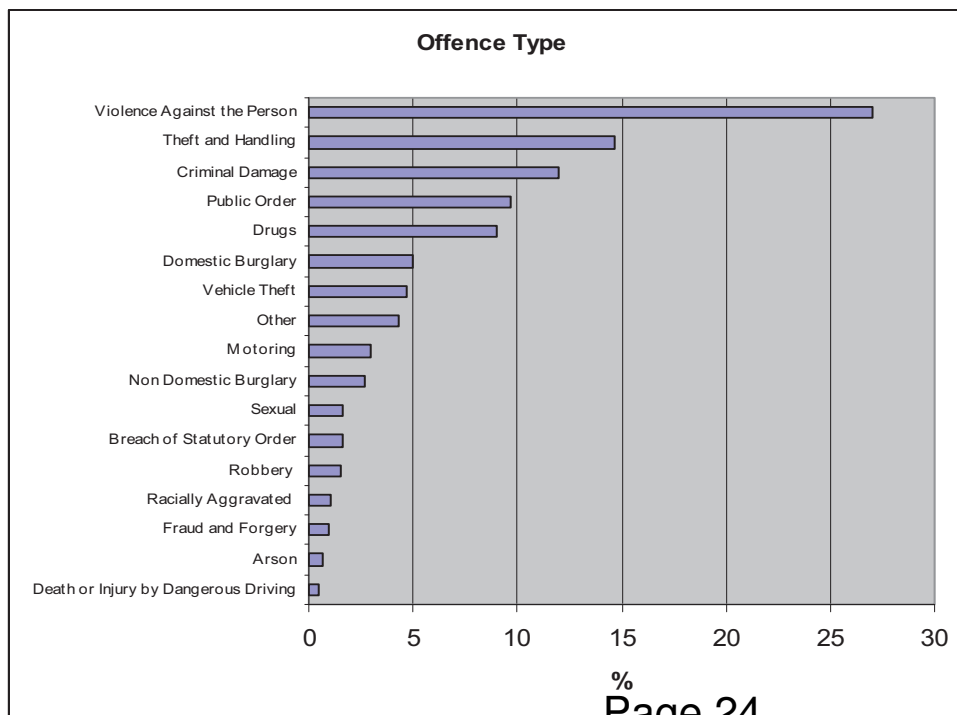
Over 50% of offending youngsters are 16 or 17 years old. The pie chart shows that these young people are overwhelmingly boys (82%). This is a much greater gender imbalance than for CAFs but both are dominated by boys.

The ethnicity profile of young people assessed by YOS is also different than for CAF. The ethnic profile of Wirral is about 96% white British and this is reflected by CAF. Slightly fewer white British (90%) young people appear in the YOS data.

YOS New Assessments by Primary Presenting Problem



The bigger graph above reveals data for 172 children and young people who started on an intervention programme with YOS between April 09 and March 10. The smaller graph shows the problems aggregated into general categories with the top five presented. The graphs detail the main reasons which led the children young people to be started on the programme. Issues involving anti social or poor school behaviour, compromised parenting and family/peer involvement in crime and non engagement in positive activities dominate the reasons why young people are ultimately referred to YOS. The issues, whilst generally more acute, reflect the reasons why CAFs are undertaken which are also often prompted by parenting or behavioural concerns. Health concerns however, are cited much more often on CAFs but mental health concerns (both parental and of the child) do appear on both assessments.



The graph on the left is a summary of the criminal offences involving young people who have been referred to the Wirral Youth Offending Service for an intervention between April 2009 and May 2010.

Offences are dominated by violence against the person (27%), theft and handling (14%) and criminal damage (12%).

Most offences involving young people are related to violence, theft or public order.

Closing CAFs

CAF episodes typically run for between four and six months but the length of individual cases varies depending on the complexity of need and engagement of the family. CAF episodes are mainly closed for the following reasons (where reason has been reported):

Needs met or partly met (47%); Escalated to Social Care (43%); Moved out of area (7%); Disengaged (3%).

Observations

The presented data reveals the pattern of CAF activity across Wirral and shows where the needs are greatest, how the needs of children and young people are changing as they get older and which types of intervention are being requested. Specific conclusions are provided under the headings below:

CAF Cohort

A similar amount of CAFs are undertaken on children and young people in the 0-4, 5-10 and 11-15 age groups, although the most populous of these groups (5-10 year olds) are just identified as the group of most need. More specifically the group is 5-10 year old boys (probably white British) who struggle with achieving the two Every Child Matters outcomes of Enjoy and Achieve and Stay Safe. The CAF audit adds a bit more detail to these needs and reveals that more specifically boys have needs with behaviour, anti social behaviour, compromised parenting and health issues. These unmet needs are mainly identified by schools who usually take on the role of Lead Professional. The data presented also reveals that the needs of boys and girls are often different and the needs of girls are becoming more visible and mainly exist around Stay Safe and Be Healthy.

However, the presented numbers regarding the group of most need tell only part of the story. The number of CAFs completed on the 16-18 year age group is very low for the size of the population and by contrast more CAFs are completed on the 0-4 age group than might be suggested by its size).

The CAF cohort accurately reflects the ethnic make up of Wirral's population with about 96% being white British. However, it is more heavily gender weighted towards boys (59%) than the general population (47% male).

Areas of Need

Birkenhead, Tranmere & Rock Ferry (21% of CAFs) and Liscard & Seacombe (18% of CAFs) are the two areas where the needs of children and young people are greatest. These two areas account for over a third of all completed CAFs. Needs are also high in Bidston, Leasowe and Greasby/Woodchurch areas. Pensby, Heswall & Thingwall (2% of CAFs) and Hoylake, Meols, West Kirby & Thurstaston (2%) are identified as the areas of lowest need. Each area has its own profile with regards to age groups and needs and these differences should be considered in future planning. The areas of greatest need are also the areas of greatest deprivation as shown by data from the 2008 JSNA and the 2007 index of multiple deprivation. These areas produce more CAFs per '000 of the 0-18 population.

Authoring CAFs

Schools author almost half of all CAFs and this is shared fairly evenly between primary and secondary schools. OFSTED commented positively on the participation of agencies, particularly schools. Over thirty agencies have been involved with the CAF/TAC process and apart from schools the greatest contributors are healthcare agencies, family support and children's centres. Several agencies currently have low levels of engagement with the CAF/TAC process and these include Connexions, WASBT, the Police and Housing (although the picture is slowly improving).

Providing Services

Many agencies are successfully engaged with attending TAC meetings and providing services. The most requested services identified through the CAF/TAC process are family support workers, agencies offering parenting support, health agencies and agencies specifically concerned with anti-social behaviour and youth offending.

YOS ASSET Data

The data from the youth offending service generally supports the findings from the CAF data with regard to areas of highest activity (Birkenhead, Tranmere, Rock Ferry and Liscard, Seacombe). Both are dominated by boys, more so for YOS, and although white British boys dominate both, fewer white British boys (90% as oppose to 96%) are involved with YOS showing that they deal with a higher proportion of ethnic minority groups than is reflected in CAF or in the general population. Issues relating to behaviour, parenting and anti social behaviour/ crime are common reasons why a CAF is undertaken or why a young person is referred to YOS.

Suggested Priorities

The CAF data suggests that adequate services who can offer support to children and their families with behavioural, parenting and health issues should be widely available across Wirral but targeted at the areas of most need. The data shows that these are the areas of greatest social deprivation and lie between Liscard and Rock Ferry.

Within behavioural issues there should also be provision of services who can target poor and anti social behaviour in boys and risk taking behaviour in girls. The profile of the typical boy and girl who are most likely to be the subject of a CAF are shown below. The CAF and YOS data also highlights the strong link between poor behaviour in children and parental and wider family issues such as parental mental health, domestic violence and family breakdown. Services which can effectively address all of these issues are likely to have a very positive effect on improving outcomes for children and young people and may help prevent behavioural problems (in boys particularly) developing and manifesting themselves as anti social and crime behaviours in the future..



Typical Boy:

- 5-10 year old
- White British resident of Birkenhead
- Unmet needs around behaviour ASB, health and parenting



Typical Girl:

- 11-15 year old
- White British resident of Birkenhead
- Unmet needs around risk taking behaviour, health and family issues

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 18th JANUARY 2011

THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2011-2012 PROGRESS REPORT

1. Background

- 1.1 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) is an overarching strategic plan for all organisations providing services for the children and young people of Wirral. It is developed by the Local Authority and its partners (Section 17 of the Children Act 2004).
- 1.2 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 In April 2008 Wirral published its three year CYPP 2008-2011, which ends at the 31st March 2011. At the September 2010 Children's Trust Board meeting the board agreed to produce a new CYPP. Due to the significant national and local changes occurring in the public sector the agreement was to produce a one year plan.
- 1.4 The preparation of the CYPP is carried out by the Children's Trust Executive and 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. As part of the needs analysis consultation was carried out with 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.
- 1.5 This report provides the Board with an opportunity to consider the work carried out on the new CYPP to date and the draft priorities proposed and to provide feedback as appropriate.

2. Proposals for Draft Priority Areas

Priorities have been drafted by Strategy Groups. Each priority will be underpinned by clearly defined projects/activities. Mechanisms for performance management of the priorities will also be identified. These priorities are still under development through the Children's Trust Executive and should be considered as draft proposals. The Executive are meeting in early February to discuss the feedback on the proposals from the Board.

Being Healthy

- Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.
- Implement a Child Health Strategy.
- 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.

Staying Safe

- Vulnerable children, young people and families receive targeted, early intervention and support which meets their needs and improves their life chances.
- There are improved outcomes for children in care and care leavers.
- There are improved outcomes for children and young people in need of protection.
- Children live in communities where they feel safe, and where harmful behaviour is actively addressed and reduced.

Enjoy and Achieve

- Implement the new schools system in line with government policy, including supporting schools converting to Academy status, and continue to review and improve special school provision.
- Young children and families are supported, especially the most vulnerable, through effective early years intervention.
- Support children and families with their social and emotional development.
- Develop and implement high quality traded school improvement services to support schools and settings to provide high quality education.
- Implement the outcomes of Wirral Council's consultation to review and redesign services ensuring cost effectiveness whilst improving service quality.
- Raise standards in schools and settings, with a particular focus on schools below the floor standard, those in danger of falling into an OFSTED category and supporting "satisfactory" schools to become good or better.
- Continue to improve provision, choice and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and/or disability, particularly in response to the national OFSTED report and SEN green paper.
- Improve the outcomes of children and young people where poverty and disadvantage affects their 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 and Young People are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making processes.

Social and 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.
- Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty.

3. Recommendations

1) That the Board consider the process and proposals for the CYPP priorities and provide feedback.

Report Author:

Nancy Clarkson

Head of Planning and Performance, Children and Young People's Department

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 18th JANUARY 2011

ANNUAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSESSMENT 2010

1.0 Background

Wirral Children's Services are assessed annually regarding their ability to deliver the five outcomes for children and young people outlined in Every Child Matters. The assessment is carried out annually by Ofsted in accordance with section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. This report informs Wirral Children's Trust of the 2010 assessment findings and the actions put in place to address areas identified by Ofsted for further development.

2.0 Rating of Children's Services

Wirral Children's Services was assessed by Ofsted in 2010 and the assessment was published on the 9th of December 2010. Wirral Children's Services was found to 'perform well', rated at 3 out of a possible 4 point scale.

The Children's Services Assessment (CSA) is derived from a performance profile of the quality of services and outcomes for children and young people in the local area. The profile includes findings from across Ofsted's inspection and regulation of services and settings for which the local authority has strategic or operational responsibilities either alone or in partnership with others, together with data from the relevant indicators in the National Indicator Set

In 2009 the CSA was included as part of the multi-inspectorate Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA). In 2010 the CAA was abolished however the CSA process was maintained and is carried out by Ofsted.

The 2010 assessment has identified three key areas for further development. The areas identified and the actions that are in place to address them are outlined in this report.

3.0 Areas for Further Development

The key areas for further development are:

- Improve early years and childcare settings so that more are good or better.
- Improve further the achievement of 16-year-olds from low-income families.
- Improve the local arrangements for adoption.

Wirral Children's Trust partnership and the Council's Children and Young People's Department is addressing these issues through actions in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and will ensure that they are embedded in the refresh of the CYPP for 2011-12. They will also be addressed through the delivery of the Council's Strategic Objectives. Current activities and projects underway related to each area are outlined below.

Early Years and Childcare Settings.

Providers in the private, voluntary and independent sector who are registered with Ofsted as childcare providers are inspected by Ofsted to ensure their compliance with statutory regulation. Providers in these sectors include day nurseries, pre-school playgroups, childminders, before and after school care and holiday clubs. Ofsted retains the responsibility for regulation and enforcement of statutory duties in registered provision.

The responsibility of the Local Authority lies with what is termed “retained functions”, that is, to maintain an advice, support and guidance service to potential new and current childcare providers. A key element of the work of the SureStart team is to provide support in respect of quality in provision with a focus working with settings to achieve a ‘good’ inspection judgement. Additional work includes business advice to ensure sustainability, and access to training and workforce development opportunities. The SureStart team range of provision includes:

- Targeted support to providers receiving an inadequate judgement from Ofsted which includes a visit from a Foundation Stage Consultant for early years settings, or from a Childcare development Worker for childminders or out of school schemes. This will also include development of an action plan to support the provider in moving out of the inadequate judgement.
- Implementation of the Quality Improvement Support Programme with early years providers, leading to an action plan linked to focussed support from a Foundation Stage Consultant. This is part of the Local Authority’s role in terms of support and challenge to providers.
- Access to a termly training programme that offers courses in statutory requirements such as Safeguarding and First Aid, as well as comprehensive Continuing Professional Development.
- Advice and guidance to potential new providers that covers business planning, adherence to regulatory frameworks, policy development and the development of quality sustainable provision.
- Access to advice, including 1:1 support and site visits.
- Analysis of trends identified through scrutiny of Ofsted reports which is shared regularly with providers.

Early years Ofsted inspection grades are: outstanding; good; satisfactory and inadequate – with two types of ‘inadequate’; inadequate 1 – weak provision where the standard of care is not good enough and inadequate 2 – poor provision that needs urgent attention. Private, voluntary and independent sector providers are compelled to work with the Local Authority when the judgement is made at inadequate 2 “Notice to Improve”. A judgement of inadequate 1 or above means the provider is not obliged to work with the Local Authority and responsibility to improve rests entirely with the provider.

Currently, there are no early years settings or out of school schemes holding an overall inadequate 2 judgement. Childminders who have received an inadequate judgement are all at Inadequate 1 and are therefore not obliged to work with the Local Authority. However, in most cases support is welcomed and previously when the Local Authority has provided support, the provider has moved either to a satisfactory or good outcome on re-inspection.

The achievement of 16-year-olds from low-income families.

Closing the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement is a priority for children of all ages in Wirral. Ofsted have specifically identified the key stage four as an area where further development is required.

The Narrowing the Gap Project was initiated in academic year 2010/11. All non-selective mainstream schools were included in the project. Schools were asked to identify 100 Year 11 pupils eligible for free-school meals who had a realistic chance of achieving 5+ A*-C including English and maths but were unlikely to do so without significant extra support over and above that already planned by the school.

A total of £120,000 was devolved to schools (£1,200 per pupil) to support extra intervention with the identified pupils. As a condition of the funding, each school was required to submit a plan outlining what strategies they planned to use with the target group, which would be shared with the other schools in the project. In addition, schools were required to submit termly updates of the pupils' progress, responses to the initiative, and predicted performance in the GCSE exams.

In December 2010 feedback from schools was that most pupils (over 80%) were responding well to the project and that approximately 40% of the identified pupils were on track to achieve 5+ A*-C including English and maths (the caveat being that pupil performance was variable and that these figures were indicative only at this stage).

In 2010 the attainment gap between Wirral's FSM and non-FSM pupils at Key Stage 4 was 36% (down from 38% in 2008), compared with the national average of 28%. If the schools have been successful in identifying the pupils accurately, their current projections hold, and there are no significant changes in performance of other pupils, the impact of the project on Wirral's gap would be to narrow it by a further 4% in 2011.

In addition to this specific targeted project schools and the Local Authority work in collaboration with all partners through the 14-19 partnership to monitor a range of activities designed to improve the achievement of vulnerable groups including those from low income families. Additional projects that are in place include:

- The implementation of a data training programme, including neighbourhood data, on the effects of poverty on achievement across the partnership.
- A range of intervention strategies to support under-achieving and under-attaining groups of pupils such as dissemination of Action Research and use of the National Narrowing the Gap programme.
- Ensure all schools know the extent of their attainment gap; monitor schools on their ability to 'close the gap' for children on FSM and other vulnerable groups.
- Make effective use of progression guidance to set accurate and challenging core subject targets for the lowest attaining pupils in the borough.
- Oversee the quality of 14-19 Partnership learning delivery through the Wirral Quality Assurance Framework.
- Work with schools to reduce the level of persistent absence.

Improve local arrangements for adoption.

The most recent Ofsted adoption inspection was held in 2008, Wirral received a satisfactory quality rating. The statutory requirements and the recommendations outlined in the inspection report have been addressed as follows:

- Improvements made in the quality of child permanence reports by providing training and support to social workers and the introduction of a quality assurance process before they are presented to the Adoption Panel.
- Record keeping has been improved with clear guidance given to staff about the contents of child's and adopters' files, training provided for staff on using ICS and a quality assurance system introduced.
- A recruitment strategy has been recently reviewed to ensure there is a sufficient pool of adopters that match the needs of the children requiring an adoption placement and changes made to the application process to comply with the standards.
- Improvements have been made within the adoption team to ensure that there are no delays in the progress of any adoption assessments and new systems implemented to improve the health and safety inspections.
- The Agency Advisor has regular meetings with the Agency Decision Maker to ensure that feedback from the panel is communicated and recommendations of the Adoption Panel are progressed to a decision.
- A system has been put in place to ensure that all staff working for the adoption service and members of the Adoption Panel are Criminal Record Bureau checked every 3 years.
- File audits are completed to ensure the quality of recording and record keeping complies with all the standards.

In addition developments to ensure continuous improvement are in place through the following activities:

- The Adoption Task Force was re-established in June 2009 with a remit to oversee continuous improvement in adoption services and post adoption support. This has more recently been extended to special guardianship and post special guardianship services.
- The Task Force monitors the service including the progress of individual children towards adoption, provides guidance on resolving any barriers to achieving adoption, and monitors an action plan that details improvements to be made for the service to meet the requirements of the adoption national minimum standards.
- The capacity of post-adoption support and services has been enhanced by the Council agreeing additional posts to develop and deliver these services.
- Permanence training has continued to be delivered; more than 80 staff members have been trained.
- Briefings have been held to improve the production of Child Permanence Reports.
- The Adoption Panel has delivered training with staff on how to secure children for adoption, through ensuring that information is sought and carefully recorded from the beginning of any involvement.

The service developments have had a significant impact on adoption outcomes. Timeliness of placements for adoption during 2009/10 Wirral performed better than national and Statistical neighbors during the same period with a year end figure of 87.5% or 21 out of 24 children adopted within 12 months. This is a significant improvement on

previous years; the 2008/09 outturn for this indicator was 61.1% or 11 out of 18 children adopted within 12 months.

4.0 Recommendations:

That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

Appendix: Ofsted Annual Children's Services Assessment letter 2010.

Report Author:

Nancy Clarkson
Head of Planning and Performance

Contact:

Phone: 6664320
Email: nancyclarkson@wirral.gov.uk

9 December 2010

Mr David Armstrong
Interim Director of Children's Services
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Hamilton Building, Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral CH41 4FD

Dear Mr Armstrong

Annual children's services assessment

Ofsted guidance published in July 2010 explains that the annual assessment of children's services is derived from the performance profile of the quality of services and outcomes for children and young people in each local area. This performance profile includes findings from across Ofsted's inspection and regulation of services and settings for which the local authority has strategic or operational responsibilities, either alone or in partnership with others, together with data from the relevant indicators in the National Indicator Set (NIS).

In reaching the assessment of children's services, Ofsted has taken account of all inspected and regulated services for children and young people, arrangements for making sure children are safe and stay safe and performance against national measures. More weight has been given to the outcomes of Ofsted's inspections and regulatory visits (Blocks A and B in the performance profile).

The annual assessment derives from a four point scale:

4	Performs excellently	An organisation that significantly exceeds minimum requirements
3	Performs well	An organisation that exceeds minimum requirements
2	Performs adequately	An organisation that meets only minimum requirements
1	Performs poorly	An organisation that does not meet minimum requirements

Within each level there will be differing standards of provision. For example, an assessment of 'performs excellently' does not mean all aspects of provision are perfect. Similarly, an assessment of 'performs poorly' does not mean there are no adequate or even good aspects. As in 2009, while the performance profile remains central to Ofsted's assessment, meeting or not meeting the minimum requirements alone does not define the grade. The assessment has involved the application of inspector judgement.

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council children's services assessment 2010

Children's services assessment	Performs well (3)
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Children's services in Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council continue to perform well.

The large majority of services, settings and institutions inspected by Ofsted are good or better. There is very little inadequate provision. Nursery and primary settings are mostly good or better, as are nearly all secondary schools, special schools and the pupil referral unit. About one quarter of nursery and primary schools, however, are satisfactory. Childcare provision is good in two thirds of settings but this leaves approximately one third which is only satisfactory or worse. Most provision for learning after the age of 16 is good, including the further education college, but five settings made up of four sixth form schools and the sixth form college are satisfactory. Children's homes within the local authority are mostly good or better; of the three homes managed by the local authority, one is good and two are satisfactory. Local authority fostering arrangements are good but adoption arrangements are satisfactory. Nearly all services and settings are good or better at helping children and young people achieve well in their education and most at keeping them safe.

An unannounced inspection of front-line child protection services found much that was strong and no areas requiring urgent action. Satisfactory action has been taken to address the issues identified in the inspection of private fostering arrangements in 2008.

National performance measures show the very large majority of outcomes to be in line with or above the averages for England or for similar areas. This is also the case for educational attainment and progress indicators. Test and examination results for children and young people aged 11 and 16 years are good and in line with similar areas. These continue to improve year on year. At 11 years old children with special educational needs do better than their peers nationally and at 16 years old achieve in line with the national average. However, as more children and young people achieve better results, the gap between the majority and those from low-income families is getting wider. The number of 16- to 18-year-olds not in education, work or training is reducing slowly in line with similar areas and more 17-year-olds stay on in training or education than in similar authorities.

Key areas for further development

- Improve early years and childcare settings so that more are good or better.
- Improve further the achievement of 16-year-olds from low-income families.

- Improve the local arrangements for adoption.

Outcomes for children and young people

Local arrangements to encourage children and young people to live healthy lives are almost always successful and do as well as those in similar areas. Nearly all schools and settings are good at this, although childminders do not do as well. Childhood obesity is being closely monitored by the local authority and levels recorded for reception age children have not increased over the past year. Obesity levels at Year 6, however, have increased slightly and reducing this continues to be a priority in the Children and Young People's Plan. Participation by children and young people in high quality sport is also a priority but take-up is lower than in similar areas and that found nationally. Wirral provides a good range of services to support children and young people with emotional or mental health difficulties is promoted actively in schools. Breast-feeding rates remain low in comparison to the national average but the number of young women under the age of 18 who become pregnant is falling steadily.

Arrangements for keeping children and young people safe are good in most settings although adoption services do less well. Wirral is committed to ensuring children are safe at home, in the community and in schools, and this is a key priority in its Children and Young People's Plan. Partners working together have already had some success: for example, road traffic accidents that kill or seriously injure children have reduced, as have hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries. The local authority reports that good information and procedures are in place to respond to the needs of children missing from home and the recent inspection of front-line child protection services found that children at risk of harm are promptly identified and appropriately supported. Local children in need data show that good improvements have been made in reducing the number of child protection plans lasting for two years or longer and in ensuring looked after children have stable, long-term placements.

Most settings are good at helping children and young people to do well and enjoy their learning but childcare provision is less so. Nearly all national measures show steady year-on-year improvement for the majority of children and young people. The local authority is good at helping the weakest schools improve and this is confirmed by recent monitoring reports to the five primary schools judged to be inadequate. Standards continue to rise in all stages of education, including early years and primary schools and, by the age of 16, more than half of young people gain five or more good GCSEs. One of the biggest challenges for the authority is how to continue to reduce the gap in achievement between the majority of its 16-year-old pupils and those who are from low-income families. Most secondary schools have good or outstanding standards of behaviour and frequent absence rates are low and reducing at a faster rate than elsewhere.

Wirral has a number of successful arrangements for involving children and young people in planning and reviewing local services. Children and young people from a range of backgrounds have contributed to discussions with the local authority on a variety of issues, such as transport as a barrier to getting involved in organised activities, and they have taken part in planning area-based youth 'hubs' and play spaces. An inspection in 2009 found re-offending rates by young people in the Wirral to be comparable with similar areas, and the youth offending service to be working reasonably well. Most young people who offend receive good support to find appropriate work or training. More young people report that they use alcohol or illegal substances more frequently than in similar areas and the local authority's commitment to reduce risk-taking behaviour is a key priority.

As they get older, young people get good support from the large majority of settings to do well as they move in to adult life. Effective partnership working between the local authority, colleges, and local businesses is a key strength and has provided increased choices for young people as they leave school. The numbers of young people who are not in education, work or training have reduced slowly and over time. The Wirral Apprentice scheme has recently placed 167 young people into suitable jobs, including a high percentage that had previously been without work or an education placement. The take-up of formal childcare by low-income families has increased year on year. Fewer young people from this group achieve higher qualifications by the time they reach age 19 although more are now achieving good GCSEs or equivalent. The numbers of care leavers in education, work or training are lower than the national average but most are helped to find suitable accommodation.

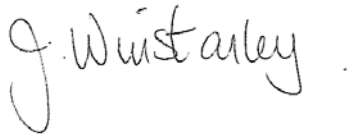
Prospects for improvement

Most outcomes for children and young people living in the Wirral are good and progress has been sustained and in some instances improved upon since last year. The local authority's review of its Children and Young People's Plan shows clearly where further progress is required and its priorities are well chosen. Initiatives to reduce child poverty are given high priority in plans, with a focus on employment. An Ofsted survey of 14–19 developments in Wirral judged strategic leadership and management to be strong. The recent inspection of front-line child protection services found many strengths including good performance management and effective multi-agency work to support families with greatest need. In response to weaknesses in the local adoption service and inadequate private fostering arrangements identified by inspection the local authority made arrangements to review practice and procedures. Too much early years and childcare provision are only satisfactory. However, Ofsted's monitoring visits to weaker schools show that

the local authority is doing good work to help them get better. Reducing the gap in achievement between the majority of young people and those from low-income families is a serious challenge which has been prioritised by the local authority.

This children's services assessment is provided in accordance with section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juliet Winstanley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a trailing dot at the end.

Juliet Winstanley
Divisional Manager, Children's Services Assessment