



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 2 June 2010
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members are asked to consider whether they have personal or prejudicial interests in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state what they are.

Members are reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March, 2010.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

If the Council has not appointed Vice-Chairs of Committees, the Committee is invited to appoint a Vice-Chair.

4. PRESENTATION ON FOURTH QUARTER PERFORMANCE 2009/10

The Fourth Quarter Performance Report on activities relevant to Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee is available to view in the web library and a presentation will be made to

the Committee.

5. **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2008-2013 ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 9 - 132)**
6. **ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT (Pages 133 - 178)**
7. **AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN (Pages 179 - 194)**
8. **TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD (SOCIAL CARE) (Pages 195 - 202)**
9. **APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION - CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000 (Pages 203 - 206)**
10. **WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 207 - 214)**
11. **0-19 STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (Pages 215 - 220)**
 - (a) To receive the minutes of the meetings held on 23 March and 19 April, 2010.
 - (b) To appoint the membership of the Sub-Committee for 2010/11. In the last year membership consisted of the three party spokespersons (with the remaining committee members serving as deputies) plus the diocesan and parent governor representatives.
12. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR**

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 16 March 2010

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	S Clarke (Chair)	
	Councillors	F Doyle T Harney K Hayes P Hayes	C Povall W Smith A Taylor
<u>Deputies:</u>	Councillors	J Salter (for J George) A Jones (for PA Smith)	
<u>In attendance:</u>		Mr R Neale	Mrs J Owens
<u>Apologies</u>		Mr M Clarke	Mrs J Kearney

58 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

Members were asked to consider whether they had a personal or prejudicial interest in connection with any item on the agenda and, if so, to declare it and to state the nature of such interest. Members were reminded that they should also declare, pursuant to paragraph 18 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, whether they were subject to a party whip in connection with the item to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.

Councillors Taylor and Jones declared personal interests in minute 69 (Committee Referral – Draft Protocol – Scrutiny of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership) by virtue of their membership of the CDRP.

59 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 21 January, 2010.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January, 2010, be approved as a correct record.

60 WELCOME

The Chair welcomed Richard Neale, who was attending his first meeting as the new co-opted Church of England Diocesan representative.

The Chair expressed her thanks on behalf of the Committee for all the work of the previous C of E Diocesan representative, Mrs Margaret Liddy, and stated that a letter of thanks had been sent to Mrs Liddy on behalf of the Committee.

61 CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL UPDATE

The Director of Children's Services provided an update on the progress made in the development of the Wirral Children in Care Council, and also submitted the first Children in Care Council Annual Report which set out achievements over the first year of the Council and the future work plan.

The cost of running the Children in Care Council for 2010/11 had been estimated at £5,000 for which the appropriate budget had been identified. This cost included making payment to the Children in Care Council members, training, and team building activities for the young people.

Julia Hassall, Head of Children's Social Care, introduced 4 of the young people who were members of the Children in Care Council, Amanda, Kim, Philip and Martin and they gave a brief update on the report, other activities, future actions and the pledge, copies of which were circulated to the Committee.

Fiona O'Shaughnessy, Children's Involvement Officer, and Julia Hassall responded to Members' comments and informed the Committee that membership of the Council would be 12 – 15 members. Younger people in the 8-12 years of age bracket were consulted with but they were also conscious of the need for more involvement and this was being progressed.

Resolved – That this Committee notes and formally accepts the pledge and as corporate parents of young people in care the Committee promises to do its best in making their experience the best.

62 AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT 0-19 COMMISSIONING

The Director of Children's Services submitted a report which responded to the recommendations made at the meeting of the Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 20 April 2009, convened to consider the call-in of the 0-19 Parenting and Prevention Commissioning process. Members had identified a number of areas for development to be learnt and specifically requested a report in due course on the outcome of the LINK Forums review of the procurement process.

Regular meetings with the LINK Forum took place to ensure continuous joint learning, and a joint conference was scheduled for July. The Director highlighted the fact that improvements had been made as evidenced by the Aiming High for Disabled Children commissioning process. Clear documentation, adequate timescales, and full parental engagement in the panel process, along with partner agencies, including the VCF sector, had resulted in a range of new services being delivered which had received universally positive feedback from children and carers. A presentation had been made to the Committee about Aiming High and this was positively received. It was intended that a further report would be presented in June, 2010.

Members commented upon the report and welcomed the improvements to the commissioning and procurement process, in particular the new electronic system for tendering and quotations (known as The Chest). This system would allow existing and potential suppliers to view forthcoming contract opportunities for Wirral and other Councils in the North West. The CYPD Contracts Team had been briefed about this new process.

Resolved – That the officers be thanked for the report and that the report be noted.

63 **YOUTH OUTREACH SCRUTINY REVIEW UPDATE**

The Director of Children's Services submitted an update on the positive progress that had been made with the suggested recommendations made by the Scrutiny Panel into Youth Outreach following submission of the review to the Children's Services and Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 November 2008.

The majority of the recommendations had been responded to through improved partnership working and through changes to service delivery. This included the commissioning of four Hubs in Birkenhead, Wallasey, South Wirral and West Wirral, which were due to be launched this month with opening nights to include Fridays and Saturdays. There would also be nine smaller satellite clubs open for three nights a week.

The Director also gave details of a number of structural changes which had been made to the Children and Young People's Department and the Department for Regeneration including the transfer of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Youth Offending Service to the Participation and Inclusion Branch. Other recommendations had been considered as part of team plans and would be responded to over longer time periods.

Responding to Members' comments Peter Edmondson, Head of Participation and Inclusion, stated that there would always be some gaps in coverage across the whole of the Borough but work was being undertaken with transport colleagues to increase the opportunities for young people to access this provision at both hubs and satellites. The soon to be launched new website would also help in engagement and giving young people information on all the opportunities available.

Restorative justice had had an impact in helping to reduce re-offending levels. There was also real opportunity to increase outreach work and to map out the services provided by the voluntary and faith sectors.

Resolved – That the progress with coordinating and partnership working be noted alongside structural changes which include the development of Youth Hubs and the transfer of the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Youth Offending Service to the Participation and Inclusion Branch.

64 **PRESENTATION ON THIRD QUARTER PERFORMANCE 2009/10**

Nancy Clarkson, Head of Planning and Performance, gave a presentation on the third quarter performance report and upon key projects which were relevant to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

She gave details of what was working well, including:

- This year's GCSE and A-level results had shown that Wirral students had, once again, performed better than ever – achieving results way above the national average.
- The performance of pupils for who English was an additional language had improved consistently over the last 4 years.
- 100% of schools were engaged in the one to one tuition programme, a pool of tutors had been recruited to deliver this.
- Aimed at 14-19 year olds, a brand new way of learning was underway in Wirral with the introduction of eight new diploma lines in September 2009.
- Due to the success of the 117 new apprentice positions created in local companies, 22% were taken up by previously NEET (Not in education, employment or training) young people, funding for 50 additional places had been agreed.
- 86.7% of children adopted had been placed within 12 months of the decision being made.
- Targets exceeded at quarter three for the stability of placements of looked after children.
- Partnership funding had been secured for the Local Safeguarding Children Board. A new business manager was in post and a new independent chair had been recruited.
- Teenage conception rates for Wirral were showing a steady decline. This was against the national and regional trend. Wirral being one of two areas included in a Government Office national press statement as an area demonstrating significant improvement.

In her presentation Nancy Clarkson also referred to key performance issues and key risks including the progress being made with the transfer of Learning and Skills Council (LSC) duties to the Local Authority. Also, phase two of the academies project was at risk due to sponsorship and school selection issues. This had since been mitigated with a refreshed report to Cabinet on 14 January and progress was being made with a revised replacement Academy for Park High and Rock Ferry.

In respect of the financial position, it was forecast that there would be an overall balanced position at the year-end.

The Director elaborated upon the success of the apprenticeship scheme and the numbers of young NEETs in employment compared with other authority areas.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

65 **MUSIC SERVICE**

Further to minute 55b (21/1/10) the Director of Children's Services submitted a report which outlined the current Instrumental Music Service provision, together with an overview of funding and the latest financial position.

There were three key ways in which the Music Service acted as provider:

- (i) Traditional provision: Direct individual or group tuition funded by parents/carers.

- (ii) Pupils who attended ensembles and paid separately but who did not have Music Service tuition in their schools.
- (iii) Wider Opportunities tuition: There were 1,500+ pupils undertaking tuition either under this national initiative or where the school paid the Music Service directly for regular instrumental tuition or the delivery of curriculum music in the school.

As of February 2010, the total number of pupils benefiting from the Music Service was approximately 3,900. This was an increase of 350 pupils on the previous year.

The music service had an expenditure budget of £1.3m. This was funded from a combination of Standards Fund Grant, parental charges and other income. In 2009-10 there was a projected budget overspend of £100,000. Although parental income would meet the budget target, there was a shortfall in income from schools. In addition, staff costs would exceed the agreed budget, a result of current tuition requirements and sickness supply cover. The department continued to work to identify budget solutions that were sustainable in the longer term.

Marie Lawrence, Strategic Service Manager, and Andrew Roberts, Principal Officer - Finance, responded to Members' comments and explained the budget for the service including the method of invoicing and also the operation of the fourth music centre, BeMu, at Wirral Grammar for Girls, which was not run by the music service.

Members expressed their appreciation of the service and the value for money it provided.

Resolved – That the report be noted and a further report be brought back to a future meeting.

66 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received an update on its work programme, which included the proposed outline meeting schedule for the next meeting scheduled for June, and progress on the “Narrowing the gap” – Impact of deprivation funding’ scrutiny review.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

67 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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

68 **OFFICERS' VISITS TO WIRRAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT CHILDREN'S HOMES**

The Director of Children's Services reported on visits carried out by officers under Regulation 33 of the Care Standards Regulations over the period 1 April 2009 to 31 December 2009.

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

Resolved – That the report be noted.

69 **COMMITTEE REFERRAL - DRAFT PROTOCOL - SCRUTINY OF THE CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION PARTNERSHIP**

The Director of Law, HR and Asset Management, submitted a referral from the Scrutiny Programme Board (minute 50 – 4/3/2010) of the draft scrutiny protocol for the scrutiny of Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP).

Resolved – That the draft scrutiny protocol for the scrutiny of Wirral's Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership be endorsed.

70 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR**

The Chair referred to the Consultative Committee for the Visually Impaired Service, which Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had met with some of its members prior to the meeting commencing.

The group, which was aimed at supporting the Visually Impaired Service throughout the Wirral, supported and monitored visually impaired children in mainstream schools, in three vision bases and also in the special schools. The group, which had amalgamated with the Paediatric Eyecare Group (PEG) in October 2006, met three times a year. There were three representatives of the Council on the group and Councillor Harney attended regularly.

The group felt that it was very important that specialist multi-agency and service user groups for children with hearing and visual impairment met on a regular basis to improve and monitor services across the Wirral.

It was also suggested that the representation on the group be examined and this be addressed in a further report to the Committee.

Resolved –

(1) That the report be noted.

(2) That the matter of representation be brought to a future meeting and an annual report from the Paediatric Eyecare Group (PEG) be submitted to the Committee.

(3) That the Committee expresses its thanks to the PEG for all its work and they be assured that their views will be taken into account in future.

71 **VOTE OF THANKS**

As it was the last meeting of the municipal year, the Committee expressed its thanks to the Chair for her chairing of the Committee over the past 12 months and also thanked the officers for all their work.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2ND JUNE 2010

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

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

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the production of the Children and Young People's Plan Annual Review.

1. Background

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

2. Financial Implications

There are none arising from this report.

3. Staffing Implications

There are none arising from this report.

4. Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment has been carried out with the CYPP. The outcome of the assessment highlights how the implementation of the CYPP will have a significant impact on improving equality of opportunity for children and young people. The list of potential negative impacts has been developed into an equality action plan. The

progress of the implementation of the action plan is monitored by Wirral Children's Trust Executive.

5. Community Safety Implications

The implementation of the CYPP in particular the Staying Safe section will have impact on improving the safety of children and young people.

6. Local Agenda 21 Implications

There are none arising from this report.

7. Planning Implications

There are none arising from this report.

8. Anti-poverty Implications

The implementation of the CYPP will have impact on improving outcomes for children, young people and families which are related to the impact of poverty.

9. Social Inclusion Implications

The implementation of the CYPP will have a significant impact on improving social inclusion and quality of opportunity for children, young people and families.

10. Local Member Support Implications

There are none arising from this report.

11. Background Papers

11.1 Children and Young People's Plan Year 2 Annual Review – Part 1 Overview

11.2 Children and Young People's Plan Year 2 Annual Review – Part 2 Delivery Plan

RECOMMENDATIONS

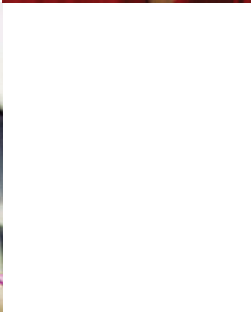
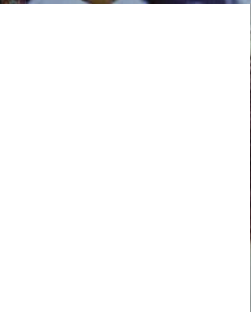
That

(1) That the Committee note the Children and Young People's Plan Annual Review.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

children and young people's plan 2008 - 2011

2009 - 2010 annual report - part 1 overview





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vision for children and young people

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



Councillor Phil Davies

Cabinet Member for
Children's Services & Lifelong
Learning
Chair of Wirral Children's
Trust Board

Handwritten signature of P.L. Davies in black ink.



Howard Cooper

Director of Children's
Services, Children and Young
People's Department

Handwritten signature of Howard Cooper in black ink.

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



introduction

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

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

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

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

areas that are the most urgent to address, and we continue to take every opportunity to work with disadvantaged children and to find ways to improve their life chances.

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

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

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

“Wirral Children’s Trust aims to make sure that all children are safe, healthy, enjoy life, can achieve to their full potential and are prepared for adult life and work”

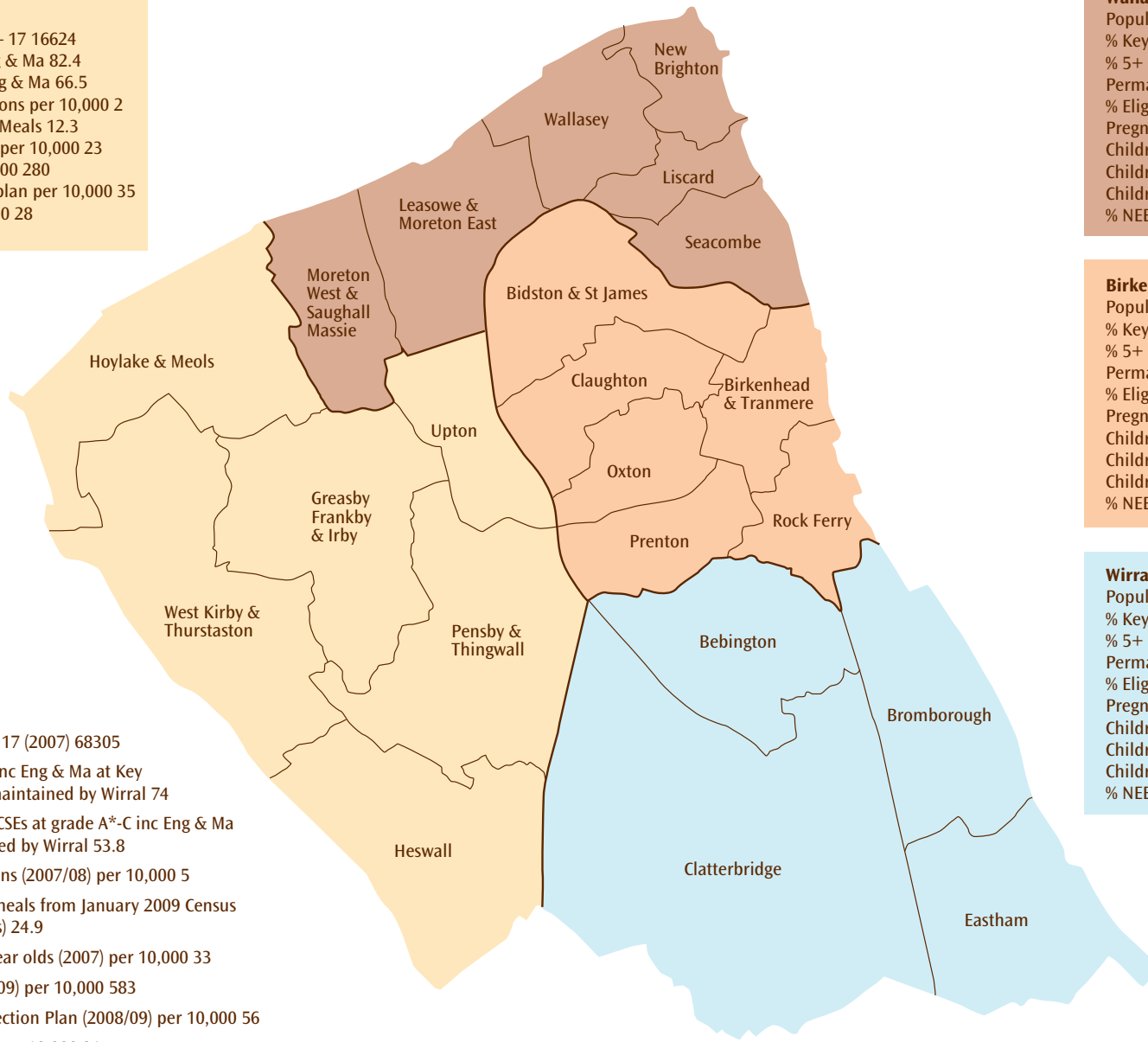


Wirral West

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

Wirral

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



Wallasey

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

Birkenhead

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

Wirral South

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

Figure 1: A snapshot of Wirral

children's services

Wirral Children's Services are delivered by a number of agencies working together through a shared vision and values.

We organise our work around children and young people; what they say, where they are and what they need. We value every child equally and strive for positive outcomes for all of them.

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

- Every child matters
- Keeping our children safe through effective safeguarding
- Improving outcomes for children, young people and their families
- Organising around children and young people
- Operating across the partnership as a single integrated Children's Service

- Continuing to build on excellent partnership working
- Integrated strategy and governance
- Integrated delivery and processes
- Equal value and common standards
- Fitness for purpose utilising new approaches and technology to improve our efficiency and service
- Responsibility and accountability.

“We value every child equally and strive for positive outcomes for all of them.”

safeguarding

Protecting our children and young people from harm is a key priority for the whole partnership and is led by the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB).

The LSCB has a clear vision that places safeguarding at the centre of the Children's Trust's overall commitment to supporting children and the families it serves. The Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services have clear roles and responsibilities as champions for children, young people and their families. The Director reports directly to the Council Chief Executive.

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

Key areas of work completed in 2009-10 include:

- A Child Death Overview Panel rapid response procedure is embedded in partnership processes. The first Annual Report on child deaths has been published.
- Strengthening prevention by learning lessons from Serious Case Reviews (SCR) and Critical Incidents. In 2009/10 two SCRs were undertaken, both were graded adequate.

- Wirral LSCB was invited to be part of a regional pilot to develop Serious Case Review development with the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE). The work of Wirral LSCB will inform national developments on improved framework and practice within the SCIE model.
- The establishment of an Esafety sub-committee to develop the national toolkit for agencies to enhance personal safety of children.
- Development of a public health promotion video and literature to raise local awareness of two key themes: safer sleep and 'everyone's responsibility to protect'.
- Merseyside LSCBs in collaboration with Health and Police undertook a regional audit of 66 children's cases to review compliance with Working Together. A local conference produced an action plan for improvements in practice monitored by a regional Governance Group.
- Local procedures on children running away from home or care were revised. Progress is monitored through the commissioned work of Barnardos.
- Refreshed local guidance on allegations management in light of a national consultation.

- Increased partner contribution to the LSCB budget has allowed the establishment of an LSCB Manager, a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) and an Interim Common Assessment Framework (CAF) officer. The LSCB has appointed an interim independent chair.

Key areas for development in 2010-11 include:

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



integration of services

Wirral's Children's Trust supports Lord Laming's view that:

"I am in no doubt that effective support for children and families cannot be achieved by a single agency acting alone. It depends on agencies working together. It is a multi-disciplinary task."

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

A good start in life is essential if children are to fulfil their potential and provision of integrated high quality early years provision and family support services is a priority for Wirral. By 2011, 16 children's centres, 3 satellite centres and various outreach points with footprints based on the areas of need will be developed ensuring

all parents and carers with children under 5 years old can access integrated services that are responsive to local need. To ensure consistent development of provision across the borough 'Wirral's Children First' Strategic Board ensures sharing of good practice and coherent policies across the centres. The co-location project will amplify the effectiveness of the centres through the extension of their offering.

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

In 2009-10 an ambitious re-organisation of Integrated Youth Support (IYS) provision was undertaken. This integrated existing central services such as the youth service, the anti-social behaviour team, and the Youth Offending Service. In addition Connexions Services were commissioned across the City Region. The development of the IYS Strategy in Wirral is a significant opportunity for the Children's Trust to maximise value for money

in service delivery. During 2010-11 benefits will be realised from the re-structure such as more effective outreach services available to the community supporting young people and families to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drug use. In addition each District will have a Youth Hub open for extended hours including Friday and Saturday nights. Each Hub will offer a broad Youth Curriculum and have a responsibility for co-ordinating Youth Activity in the District.

Effective partnership working with the Third Sector LINK Forum is underpinned by the Wirral Compact, and a range of high quality services are provided.

Effective workforce development underpins our integrated approach. We lead the Greater Merseyside Learn Together Partnership in developing innovative training in multi-disciplinary working with local universities. In 2009/10 Wirral Children's Workforce Strategy was agreed by the Children's Trust and a programme of workforce development and integrated working for staff of all Wirral Children's Trust partners has commenced. Our aim is that by the end of 2010/11 there will be a comprehensive and common programme or induction and leadership/management development designed to ensure that all will have the skills and specialist knowledge relevant to their professional practice.

“The impact will be better facilities and activities for young people with improved locations and opening times and more effective outreach services available to the community”

integrated processes

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

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

ContactPoint aims to make services better for children and young people by providing practitioners who work with them a quick way to find out who else is working with the same child.

This means they won't waste time trying to find out this simple information, or doing work already being done by other services; as a result professionals can spend more time working with and helping children and young people. In September 2009 the Children and Young People's Department met all the required standards to become accredited in the use of ContactPoint. The first practitioner successfully completed their training and was given access to the live system in December 2009. All other agencies working with children and young people are involved in aligning their existing procedures with those required by ContactPoint. This will enable them to become accredited partners, access training and become users of the live system during the first quarter of 2010.

2010-2011 will see the connection of local case management systems to ContactPoint, this will mean that local data will be seen alongside the national data already in the live system, thus further increasing the effectiveness of ContactPoint.

Joint commissioning of services is underpinned by a clear understanding of local needs. All planning and commissioning decision making is informed by needs analysis, prevention

priorities and performance and risk analysis. To further develop commissioning in Wirral in 2010-11 a new commissioning strategy will be developed with the Children's Trust Board and embedded across the partnership.

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





resources

The partnership continues to work towards greater budget co-ordination and wherever possible supplement resources through bidding opportunities. Effective value for money and efficient use of resources is a key activity for the Wirral partnership in order to effectively deliver our priorities and create better outcomes for children and young people.

Children and Young People Planned Spend 2010-11

<u>Service/Activity</u>	<u>£000</u>	<u>Service/Activity</u>	<u>£000</u>
Children's Services:		16-19 commissioned college and 6th form education	17,237
Assessment and care management	12,913	Support for:	
Residential care	6,857	Individual schools budget	205,509
Fostering services	7,527	Contingency	2,435
Adoption services	1,527	Special education needs budgets	12,475
Safeguarding	915	Early years	4,737
Short breaks for disabled children	2,528	Standards funds	23,126
Home care services	953	Other schools services	2,000
Children and family support	4,040		
Looked after children - education support	227	NHS Wirral:	
		Child Health in the Community	14,477
Youth and Community Services	7,647	Childrens Hospital Services	17,422
Youth Offending Service	2,229	Maternity & Neonatal Services	18,885
Children's Centres and Surestart	10,722	CAMHS	5,163
		Family Support Services	933
Support for schools:		Children & Young Peoples Welfare Services	467
Education psychology	1,338	Services for Young People	850
Home to school transport	5,019	Childrens Support Services	124
Education welfare	893		
School improvement	3,986	Total Budgeted Expenditure	417,241
Asset management	4,626		
Other LA functions	295		
Strategic management	2,634		
Premature retirement compensation	3,519		
Capital financing charges	11,005		

performance management

Multi-agency strategy groups have been established to deal with each ECM outcome area.

All CYPP priorities are owned by the multi-agency strategy groups and are performance managed by the Children's Trust Executive.

The Council performance management system PIMS can be accessed by partner organisations to regularly update information and to facilitate streamlined reporting.

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

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

Robust monitoring arrangements are also place to report against the Local Area Agreement (LAA) priorities to the Children's Trust Board and the Local Strategic Partnership

Board (LSP). The LSP will ensure that we are held to account as a partnership and that the support of all partners is available to achieve the progress we have agreed to be necessary.

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

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



equality and diversity

Wirral Children's Trust has a commitment to ensuring that in relation to the equalities agenda any barriers to services are removed and diversity is supported.

A comprehensive equality impact assessment was carried out in 2009 involving all partners and young people representing the different equality strands. The assessment highlighted the positive and negative impacts of each plan priority for each of the six strands of the equality standard of: race, disability, gender, sexuality, age and religion.

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

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

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

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



1. being healthy

There are five every child matters outcome areas...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Being active is an excellent way to maintain a healthy lifestyle and we have invested in the development of a range of play opportunities across the borough”

2. staying safe

There are five every child matters outcome areas...

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

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

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

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

Management oversight has been developed including reflective supervision to better retain experienced social work practitioners in our front line social work teams. Eight new Principal Team Managers will drive performance management to ensure we deliver excellent outcomes for children, continuous improvements in practice and ensure good workload management systems are embedded. Our Team Manager posts have been being re-designated to become Practice Managers, who will supervise social workers, chair critical meetings which drive children's plans, and make sure that children's needs are at the centre of all activity. An additional Care Management Team is being created, as well as placing a Practice Manager within the Call Centre to oversee all incoming work. Our Senior Practitioners have become Advanced Social Work Practitioners,

promoting best practice within each Team, working alongside newly qualified social workers, and co-ordinating student placement activity.

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

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

“The voices of children and young people remain central to our work. We have District Youth Forums and a Youth Parliament to help us plan the delivery of services”

3. enjoying and achieving

There are five every child matters outcome areas...

Educational standards for students of all ages in Wirral are high, they continue to improve and for most National Indicators we perform in line with or better than national and statistical neighbour figures.

The quality of educational provision for the children and young people in Wirral is high as evidenced by the Ofsted profile of inspections for primary, secondary and special schools. One of our continuing issues is how to narrow the gap in performance between those children on Free School Meals (FSM) and those that are not.

Improved educational standards are dependent on many factors. One of the most important factors is the quality of leadership and management in schools and settings. There is a comprehensive and very successful programme of leadership and management development across all levels in schools. Another factor is high quality teaching and learning; schools, with support from National Strategies' professional development programmes, continue to raise standards of learning and teaching. Behaviour and attendance are addressed through a co-ordinated approach an increase in attendance and a reduction in permanent exclusions in secondary schools in 2009-10 can be reported. With the exception of the newly

formed Academy, all schools now meet the full core offer for Extended Services. We continue to refine and develop the provision for 0-5 year olds through the Sure Start programme.

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

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

“Educational standards for children of all ages in Wirral are high and are consistently in line with or better than national and statistical neighbour figures”



4. positive contribution

There are five every child matters outcome areas...

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

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

Young people told us that transport is a major barrier to them being able to access positive activities. Young people from the Youth Opportunity Fund Grant panel held numerous discussions

with chief Executives from the bus companies, Merseytravel, Wirral Council officers and Wirral councillors and significant progress has been made. The travel companies will visit the new youth hubs to meet with the young people to evaluate the operation of transport routes to the new activities that have been commissioned. The Chief Executives have agreed to attend the Youth Voice Conference in October 2010 and be questioned by the young people.

Commissioning has extended the range of opportunities for young people to make a positive contribution. Each district has a part time participation worker to support young people in the operation of district youth forum meetings and to attend other adult meetings such as Area Forums.

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

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

The Children in Care Council, the development in February of bi-monthly youth forums, the Executive Youth Board, Connect-uz, the Youth Opportunity and Youth capital Fund Grant Panels, Schools Councils and Healthy Pupil Panels are tangible evidence of the range of opportunities available to young people. However,

it is the numbers of young people involved in the decision making process and influencing those decisions that are proof of what has been achieved.

There is always more to do. In 2010-11 we will focus on the allocation of the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund, increasing young people's involvement in democracy through the Councillor Shadowing Scheme and working with public transport companies to improve access to youth activities.

“The impact will be better facilities and activities for young people with improved locations and opening times”

5. social & economic well-being

There are five every child matters outcome areas...

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

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

NEET continues to be a priority but significant progress is being made. The 2009 Year 11 activity survey has resulted in the highest ever rates of young people into learning (93.9%) and the lowest

NEET (4.6%). The September Guarantee targets for an offer of learning for young people in Wirral were exceeded and current 16-18 NEET levels are lower than at the same time last year (November 2009 9.10% compared to 9.52% November 2008), despite the ongoing global recession. Wirral is an active participant in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Employment and Skills agenda and has contributed to the development of the strategy and commissioning framework, which identifies key growth areas in terms of jobs, income and volumes of activity as:

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

The local offer for learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) has been redesigned supported via the Wirral brokerage project. The key to the success of the brokerage project is the alignment of outputs with findings from the NW Learning for People

with LDD analysis. The project contributes to addressing a number of areas including: reducing the numbers of learners attending residential colleges outside of Wirral; increasing participation rates of LDD learners in Greater Merseyside; reducing NEET rates for young people with LDD. The current project also meets Wirral Borough Council's corporate priorities of employment, inclusion, a safe and sustainable environment and raising aspirations for young people.

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





consultation

with young people

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

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

Area	Young People Priorities	Young People Defined Activities	Action in 2010/11
Being Healthy	Reduce obesity in children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More access to school sports facilities • Healthy food in schools (schools should not sell sweets, pastries & cakes) • Free gym passes for 16-19 year olds • More sporting activities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of children & young people participating in the Schools Sports Partnership. • Ratification of Wirral's Healthy Food Policy to ensure schools participate. Additional package of support provided to targeted schools during the National Child Measurement Programme. • Over 100 free gym passes are funded through the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and Connexions; we will explore the potential to fund more. • Support schools with the implementation of statutory Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education (scheduled September 2011).
	Sexual health services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better teaching of sex and relationships including information on sexuality transmitted infections • Relationship workshops • More sexual health services in different areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support schools in the implementation of the revised DCSF Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) guidance and include information and advice relating to healthy relationships. • Continue to promote the PSHE Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for teachers, teaching assistants, nurses and youth workers. • Health Services in Schools to include Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) advice and screening to be extended to all participating Secondary Schools and Youth Hubs during school holiday periods.
Staying Safe	Staying safe at school including reducing bullying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop links with charities to help victims of bullying • Activities with schools should promote staying safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively promote and celebrate the work of Bully Busters in schools. Re- publicise the helpline number across the borough. Develop the Wirral Anti Bullying Strategy, focusing on schools, school transport and community facilities. • YOS involvement in school cluster programme to assist families with young people assessed as developing anti social behaviour. Barnardo's working with secondary schools targeting young people at risk of running away, targeting schools with highest incidence. Termly Healthy School pupil panels will support young people to express concerns and contribute to policy.
	Improved relationships between the police and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More visible policing More supervision by police in parks • Reduce anti-social behaviour. Better reviews of anti-social behaviour Section 30 dispersal orders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation Stay Safe will provide more targeted visible policing in the community. • Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team is now part of Children and Young People's Department and contributes to Integrated Youth Support activities. This provides increased opportunity to focus on issues of concern to young people.

Area	Young People Priorities	Young People Defined Activities	Action in 2010/11
Enjoy & Achieve	Improve teaching standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved delivery of Personal Social Health and Economic education in schools. Involve young people in deciding teaching methods. Teachers to take a more relaxed approach, young people are being put under pressure in schools. More outreach services. Extra help with school work Fun based interactive challenging educational activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools continue to develop their programmes for PSHE & the Local Authority will provide advice & training. Continue to promote the PSHE Continuing Professional Development programme for teachers, teaching assistants, nurses and youth workers. Schools continue to improve the quality of teaching and learning and make more use of the “pupil voice” in evaluating the success of teaching and learning styles. Continue to consult pupils via The Healthy Schools Pupil Panel on school related issues, policies and procedures. Schools continue to develop extended services, study support which includes the use of Virtual Learning Environments.
Positive Contribution	More places to go and things to do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of youth clubs. Youth facilities available on more nights closer to where people live. Youth Clubs to be open at weekends. Increase numbers of YP participating in Duke of Edinburgh Award. Increasing the participation in activities by young people who have disabilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through commissioning and district planning involving young people we will ensure a broad youth offer is made available. We will work with transport providers to identify where bus routes can be revised to ensure where youth clubs are not close to where people live access is improved. We will agree a specification for youth hubs and monitor provision to ensure it is working to requirements. Duke of Edinburgh Award will be available in each district through the youth hubs thereby improving accessibility. In addition, Wallasey Fire Station will be an open Award Centre. District Youth Provider Planning Groups will be required to ensure they take account of needs of young people with disabilities.
	More involvement in decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find better ways to feedback to young people in schools and youth clubs. Youth Committees on estates. Develop the role of Peer Educators in schools. Find ways to ensure more young people are consulted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new website for young people to be launched in 2010 will be a major tool for developing dialogue between Wirral Council, youth providers, Youth Support Agencies and young people. The development of youth committees on estates would require significant resource investment not currently available. Youth forums will be encouraged to gather the views of young people from specific areas. The development of peer educators in schools will be dependant on resources available. To enhance the routes already available, the new website will be used as a consultation tool for young people.

Area	Young People Priorities	Young People Defined Activities	Action in 2010/11
Social & Economic Well Being	Improve opportunities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities to access different training especially for those who do not want to stay in school. • Fair access to Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA). • Free travel to college or training jobs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Borough Education, Training and Employment Strategy has been refreshed and approved by the Children's Trust Board. This outlines the 'offer' for young people in Wirral including an extension to the Activity Agreement Pilot for young people to support their progression and a further 50 apprenticeships. • The Government has set the following thresholds to qualify for EMA. Your annual household income must be below £30,810 (for tax year 2008-09). Income up to £20,817 per year, EMA is £30 per week. Income £20,818 - £25,521 per year, EMA is £20 per week. Income £25,522 - £20,810 per year, EMA is £10 per week. More than £30,810 per year no EMA entitlement • Wirral Travel Training Scheme is open to all age 16 plus and provides a 1 to 1 travel training service to enable young people to use public transport independently and with confidence. Wirral travel team attending colleges and events promoting transport options and providing free travel cards to young people to attend interviews or assist with first months travel. Delivery of WorkWise scheme to assist young people with the provision of a 6 month loan of a scooter or a cycle where public transport cannot serve the journey.

annual review

Annual Review of progress against priorities 2009-10

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

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

- schools are developing a range of models for the delivery of tuition.
- Continued improvement in levels of attendance at targeted schools.
 - We have achieved a reduction in First Time entrants to the Criminal Justice System.
 - The Wirral Young Carers Project is continuing the process of engaging harder to reach Young Carers and their families from BME communities, those living with the consequences of parental problematic drug and alcohol use and those living with the consequences of parental mental health problems.
 - The findings from a 'Feel Safe, Play Safe' survey were converted into an action plan designed to reduce children's fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment.
 - Over 200 young people received an Open College Network qualification in 'Personal and Social Skills' via their participation in programmes with Wirral Brook.
 - The Youth opportunity Fund Grant panel decided to top slice one hundred thousand pounds from the Youth Opportunity Fund for allocation to the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector.
 - The successful delivery of the 'Wirral Apprentice' programme which received national recognition.
 - The redesign of the local offer for learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) supported by the Wirral brokerage project.

- The delivery of the September Guarantee for 16 and 17 year olds in Wirral.
- The extension of the Activity Agreement Programme for vulnerable Not in Education, Employment and Training (NEET) young people aged 16 and 17.
- Continuing year on year reductions in the number of young people NEET despite the global recession.

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

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



refreshed priorities

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

Priority

Be Healthy

- Reduction in the harmful consequences of risk taking behaviour.
- Encourage and support all children and families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle (REFRESHED).
- Implement the Child Health Strategy.
- Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.

Staying Safe

- More children grow up in secure, stable families where they belong, either through receiving timely, earlier intervention and support within their communities, or through belonging to permanent, substitute families.
- Reduce the incidence of anti social, risk taking and harmful behaviour experienced by children and young people.
- More children are safe at home, at school and in the community, including reducing road traffic accidents and bullying.
- Children in care are safe and supported.
- Implement the government action plan in response to Lord Laming review of the protection of children in England.

Enjoy and Achieve

- Public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools.
- Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of Children's Centres.
- Children and families are supported with their social and emotional development.
- Extended Services, delivered through schools and partners working in clusters, impact upon the outcomes for children and families.
- Continue to raise standards in schools and settings by continuing to improve the quality of leadership and management, curriculum, assessment and learning, thereby ensuring none fall into an OFSTED category.
- Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement.

Positive Contribution

- Fewer children and young people are involved in offending and anti social behaviour.
- Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play and developmental opportunities which meets their needs.
- Children & Young People are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making processes.

Economic wellbeing

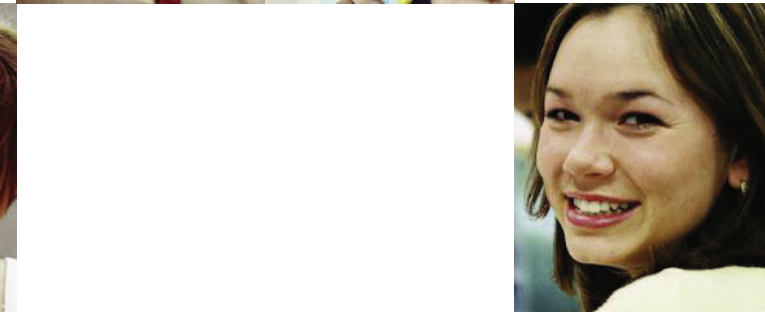
- Increase the number of young people who are participating and achieving their potential.
- Reduce numbers of 16-18 vulnerable young people NEET in line with LAA targets and the PSA 2010 trajectory.
- Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty and minimise the number of children and young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



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children and young people's plan 2008 - 2011

2009 - 2010 annual report - part 2 delivery plan





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annual review

Annual review of progress against priorities 2009-10

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

- A continued reduction in the number of teenage conceptions through robust monitoring of the teenage pregnancy Strategic Action Plan.
- 100% of Wirral schools achieving the national Healthy Schools status well ahead of target.
- Launch of the Health Services in Wirral Secondary Schools programme with twelve schools participating as part of the first phase with a further six schools to follow, including special schools.
- Working in collaboration with the School Sport Partnerships to support the Active Lifestyles Project which will be piloted with 30 schools. These schools have been identified using the National Child Measurement Programme data.
- Target for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccinations achieved.
- Launch of breastfeeding peer support programme in March 2010 to support breastfeeding mothers.
- Improved support for child care workers engaged with vulnerable children through monitoring and quality assurance of Common Assessment Framework and Team Around the Child activity.
- More children in care are living in stable placements (72.1%

of children in care have lived in the same placement for 2 or more years), and fewer children in care have experienced 3 or more placement moves (9.7%).

- More children with a disability are accessing a wider range of short break services through the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme; with children and families telling us, and being involved in commissioning what they need.
- More Police presence to tackle teenage alcohol consumption through Operation Stay Safe; 3,264 teenagers are engaged with a wide range of services.
- Fewer children in care are living in independent sector residential placements (currently 45 compared to 52 in the previous year).
- We have responded positively to the National Challenge, Gaining Ground and Extra Mile programmes.
- The Intensive Support programme in primary schools has demonstrated positive impacts on raising standards.
- There is now a very comprehensive programme of leadership and management development for schools.
- The Managed Moves Protocol has become firmly embedded into secondary sector and has reduced the level of permanent exclusions.
- 100% of Wirral schools engaged in the 1-1 tuition programme & schools are developing a range of models for tuition delivery.

- Continued improvement in levels of attendance at targeted schools.
- We have achieved a reduction in First Time entrants to the Criminal Justice System.
- The Wirral Young Carers Project is continuing the process of engaging harder to reach Young Carers and their families from BME communities, those living with the consequences of parental problematic drug and alcohol use and those living with the consequences of parental mental health problems.
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- The impact of the recession creates an uncertain financial climate in which to plan future services.

outcome area:
being healthy

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

Priority: Reduction in the harmful consequences of risk taking behaviour

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>1. Implement the Children and Young People's (CYP) Substance Misuse Plan which addresses issues around drugs and alcohol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a package of interventions for families at risk of substance misuse to improve parenting skills. • Refresh pathways to reduce the number of Hospital Admissions, including A&E attendance and improve links to Young People's Services. • Support the expansion of the Young Persons Alcohol Intervention Project through recurring funding to 2013. • Develop and deliver a Wirral wide social marketing campaign in relation to Young People and parents / carers. 	<p>Project commissioned with CYPD to develop a model of evaluated service delivery based on the 'whole families approach' to ensure provision of support services to families of alcohol users, specifically children (age 14-17) of harmful/hazardous drinkers, with particular emphasis on engagement of alcohol affected families with specific needs that are less likely to engage.</p>	In progress on track
	<p>Joint commissioning of CAMHS / Youth Service to work alongside A&E staff to look at trends of young people admitted to A&E where alcohol misuse is related presentation and employ alcohol pathway. Findings of this project will be available to NHS Wirral by the end of March 2010.</p>	In progress on track
	<p>Continued provision of interventions to support young people at risk, to improve confidence & competence and encourage them to make the right decisions about drinking alcohol. Parents supported to educate their children about the risks of alcohol, and supported to stay together and break the cycle of problems being transferred between generations.</p>	Completed
	<p>Insight work into social marketing campaign completed. Campaign Wirral wide Summer 2010.</p>	In progress on track
<p>2. Implement the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase strategic leadership and direction through appointment of teenage pregnancy strategy champions. • Implement and support 'The Family Nurse Partnership' across Wirral for vulnerable first time teenage parents. • Enhance provision and support available to children in care to recognise their vulnerability to teenage pregnancy. • Embed support for teenage parents in targeted youth support agenda, including the development of the Joseph Paxton Site. • Review YAIP pathways to include EHC service for young people. • Monitor the effectiveness of the Young Woman's Antenatal Group run through Children's Centres. • Monitor and evaluate targeted support for teenage parents delivered by Children's Centres, e.g. Beacon Babes. 	<p>Strategic Leaders appointed across Children's Trust along with champions & accountable leads for priority areas.</p>	Completed
	<p>Steering Group established and Coordinator and Nurses appointed (November 2009).</p>	In progress on track
	<p>Joint commissioning of targeted support for Children in Care (CiC) and Foster Carers. Holistic assessments conducted for all CiC through LAC Nursing service.</p>	In progress on track
	<p>Better Support Sub Group of the Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group is chaired by Head Teacher from Joseph Paxton site.</p>	In progress on track
	<p>Pathway reviewed & young people signposted for sexual health services through engagement with youth service.</p>	Completed
	<p>Referral route established and implemented successfully, evaluation of effectiveness required.</p>	In progress milestone rescheduled
<p>Groups in existence but evaluation of effectiveness required.</p>	In progress milestone rescheduled	

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan and Parenting strategy are joined up to reflect role of parents in reducing conceptions and raising aspirations. 	<p>Parenting commissioner attends Being Healthy Group and Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group to ensure strategies joined up. Newly appointed TP Coordinator to further develop links between the two groups.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p>
<p>3. Implement the Sexual Health Plan including increasing the proportion of eligible young people screened for Chlamydia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Chlamydia screening sites by 25% through implementation of Health Services in Schools (HSIS) within Schools and Colleges and across Children's Centres. Increase availability and access to young people friendly sexual health and contraceptive services through HSIS and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) in Pharmacies. Formally launch the Sexual Health Policy and Guidance across Children's services and include in training for all staff. Establish robust Condom Distribution scheme across Wirral using accessible and user friendly settings for young people to comply where possible with You're Welcome Quality Criteria. 	<p>HSIS launched November 2009 across twelve schools in the first phase. Chlamydia screening offered with further targeted approach to those sites providing highest positivity and development of a call / recall marketing norm across all sites.</p> <p>Phase two HSIS to include further twelve schools by April 2010.</p> <p>Policy still to be launched although features in sexual health training for front line staff.</p> <p>Withdrawn from NHS Strategic Plan due to poor evidence base for effectiveness. Agreed to include as requirement in all commissioned outreach services.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress on track</p> <p>In progress milestone rescheduled</p> <p>Deleted</p>
<p>4. Increase the take up of Kooth.com.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate within the Healthy Schools Action Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action plan to increase take-up of Kooth.com is incorporated within Healthy Schools Action Plan. Rolling programmes of delivery and sign up are embedded within 11 secondary schools. A pilot scheme across Wirral was trialled in 7 primary schools to support Year 6 pupils with transition in the Summer Term 2009. A presentation and workshop was delivered to the Primary Pupil Panel which accessed 70% of all primary schools to raise awareness of Kooth.com in the Summer Term 2009. In March 2009 there were 1836 registered users. From April to December 2009 the number has increased to 4051 registered users with sustained uptake in the 12-15 year old age range. From March to September 2009 the number of male users increased from 25% to 34%. Healthy schools is represented on the Kooth.com steering group. 	<p>Completed</p>
<p>5. Develop and deliver actions to prevent accidents within and outside of the home environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an action plan including actions for each Children's Centre aimed at reducing local accidental injury rates. 	<p>Review undertaken of accident prevention scheme and joint development of Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) scheme across the NHS, Children's Centres, and Homestart Wirral.</p> <p>Also reported through Staying Safe</p>	<p>In progress on track</p>

Priority: Reduction in the prevalence of overweight children and obesity in children.

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>1. Implement the Child Obesity Action Plan incorporating the care pathways for children 0-2yrs, 2-4yrs and 4-16yrs, which includes action on physical activity, food and drink, breast feeding & Healthy Schools, Pre-Schools and Children's Centres.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) to include staff training, production of appropriate resources and providing feedback to parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weighing and measuring of children May - July 2009, target coverage achieved. School Nurse Support Team delivered activities on healthy eating and physical activity alongside the measuring which was well received by school children and staff. 6,900 Feedback letters sent to parents of all children measured informing them of their child's weight. Parents drop in sessions offered by school nurses, five 'healthy weight workshops' were offered over the school holidays for Year 6 families and a focus group for parents, this is under review due to low uptake. Specially designed workbooks have been produced and distributed to school nurses and child weight management services. 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission additional providers to target weight management in early years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of new adult, child and family weight management services took place in March 2009 with over 130 professionals attending. New child referral forms have been developed and distributed to a wide range of health professionals. Additional services for adolescents have been commissioned. 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor existing contract with MEND and Lifestyle and Weight Management service to ensure referral targets met. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of referrals is low and behind target - marketing and publicity campaign planned for 2010/11 to boost take up of service. 2 physical activity 'clubs' are available specifically for Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do It! (MEND) and LWMS children. 	In progress milestone rescheduled
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure access to relevant activity sessions for 0-5 year olds in Children's Centres, e.g. Top Tots, Active Tots, Fizzy Tots and that Active Tots resources are incorporated into the Healthy Child Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Children's Centres offer a wide variety of physical activity sessions aimed at children of different ages, e.g. Karmatime Yoga, Giggle & Wiggle, Indoors & Outdoors and Merry Movers, and are well attended. 10 Active Tots sessions held in December and resource packs distributed in January and February 2010. 	In progress on track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure school children aged 5 – 16 have weekly access to 2 hours of high quality PE and Sport in school and a further 3 hours outside school hours. To be monitored through the School Sport Partnership Programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71% of schools have achieved the 2 hours of high quality PE. Pensby School Sport Partnership (SSP), (35 Primary and 9 Secondary Schools): 46% of school children are achieving 3 hours of PE and School Sport and 40% achieving 5 hours. Park SSP – (35 Primary and 10 Secondary Schools): 48% of school children are achieving 3 hours of PE and School Sport and 40% achieving 5 hours. Bebington SSP – (29 Primary and 7 Secondary Schools): 47% of school children are achieving 3 hours of PE and School Sport and 39% achieving 5 hours. 	In progress on track

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Active Families Sport England & Physical Activity Alliance Project for 0-17 year olds and their families. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Buggy Park Fitness classes available in two parks with an average attendance of 22 women. 3 Teen Fitness sessions commenced in November at West Kirby Concourse Leisure Centre. Currently investigating the development of a Junior Invigor8 pass to target overweight and obese children. 	In progress on track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Sport England's Free Swim programme for under 18's across Wirral Leisure Centres. Ensure Obesity Action Plan and Parenting Strategy are joined up to reflect role of parents in reducing obesity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Between May – Aug 2009 10,733 children registered for the Free Swim initiative. Parenting coordinator now attends Being Healthy to take this action forward. 	Completed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure BMI data from childhood screening programme (aged 2-2½ years) is collated and used as a measure to inform appropriate commissioning of services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff given training in preparation for the launch of the Healthy Child Programme July 2009. Health Visitors, Community nursery nurses and staff nurses are competent to complete reviews. Child Health data systems are being prepared to collate at 2-2½ years. 	In progress on track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement 'Wirral's Taste for Healthy Food Policy', including specific guidance on public venues and residential settings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Food Policy & guidance have been produced and now in the process of working with the PCT and the Council to adopt these policies. Policy has been presented at the Council's Corporate Health Group & Cabinet. Early Years settings and Schools have had exemplar food policies for a number of years and 93% of Wirral Schools have a Whole day Food and Nutrition Policy. 	In progress on track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Breastfeeding Strategic Action plan to increase initiation & prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks, to include roll out of BOAT integrated ante natal programme across Wirral, recruiting an Advanced Practitioner for Infant Feeding, implementing UNICEF Baby Friendly standards in the hospital and the community, maintain Baby Friendly Status in Children's Centres and developing a peer support programme and an effective communication strategy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breastfeeding initiation and duration rates continue to be collated quarterly. Advanced Practitioner appointed by PCT in October 2009 to proceed with achieving the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative in the community. Successful funding application to Department of Health to increase capacity at Hospital to achieve UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative. Infant Feeding Specialist and administrator appointed. UNICEF Project management training attended by key staff. Peer Support Provider identified. Scheme co-ordinator and administrator appointed. Peer Support Volunteers to attend UNICEF training and programme launched March 2010. NHS Wirral has joined an existing social marketing campaign. Campaign materials developed to be tested with the public. Campaign awareness days arranged for professionals to take place in March 2010. 	In progress on track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Healthy Eating Groups to parents with very young children through Children's Centres, along with advice on healthier lifestyle choices based on the 'Change 4 Life' programme. 	<p>Family Support Teams advise families on "Healthy Eating" following the key messages from Change4Life and signpost to weaning groups facilitated by Health Visiting teams. Sessions delivered include Bumps to Babes, Beacon Babes, Looking at Cooking, Fun with Food etc.</p>	In progress on track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the Henry Programme is accessed by all Children's Centres and Early Years practitioners. 	<p>Training programme developed to enable roll-out of the 'Heath, Exercise and Nutrition for the Really Young' (HENRY) programme. Sub-regional planning taking place for delivery across the area.</p>	In progress on track

Priority: Implement the Child Health Strategy

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

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

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

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

outcome area:
staying safe

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

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

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

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

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
13. Develop the appropriate involvement of children’s centres in the delivery of support to all children 0-5 subject to a child protection plan.	13. Children’s Centre leads are routinely invited to child protection conferences for 0-5 year olds, and other significant child in need meetings.	In progress on track
14. Implement early intervention and planning of services to families with children under five involving midwives, health visitors, children’s centre outreach workers and social care professionals with a focus on the needs of the reach population of the centre.	14. Family support referrals to Children’s Centres received from a range of professionals. A range of programmes are offered dependent on local need.	In progress on track
15. Improve consistency of response, in accordance with regulation to children living with Private Foster Carers.	15. Multi-agency training programme delivered – specific programme for social workers regarding process and timescales. District Manager audit of cases to ensure threshold consistency with report to LSCB annually. 37 private foster carers approved, majority visiting children from Belarus.	In progress on track
16. Implement the Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding restructure, to increase the number of social workers, increase capacity to deliver improved management and performance oversight, and expansion of LSCB activity.	16. Number of posts recruited to with ongoing advertising. Structure implemented by April 2010. Safeguarding induction/refresher training developed to ensure new and existing staff have core competencies. LSCB Business Manager in post, key task to develop sub-committees and oversight of agency performance against section 11 standards. Reviewed LSCB budget: additional funding from schools allows for Common Assessment Framework post to continue.	In progress milestone rescheduled

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Sustain and strengthen joint working between the CYPD, NHS Wirral and Wirral Family Safety Unit to further reduce the incidence of domestic violence and repeat occurrences.	1. All health visitors, NHS Trust staff and 7 Children's Social Care Teams have been trained in MARAC (Multi-agency Risk Assessment Committee) and domestic abuse (DA) awareness. MARAC repeat cases reduced to 12% (NI 32) (nationally 23%). Agreed process between Central Advice and Duty Team and Family Support Unit (FSU) to check all contacts to inform decision making. FSU representation at TAC meetings following MARAC referral. LSCB review of Domestic violence policy and practice has embedded clear referral pathways.	In progress milestone rescheduled
2. Continue to develop more consistent targeting of services for children at risk of offending, through early identification systems triggering YOS input.	2. Wirral Youth Offending Service involvement with the Challenge and Support Respect Project and School Cluster Programmes assisting families with young children who are assessed as developing anti social behaviour.	In progress on track
3. Review Merseyside Protocol and further develop services for children identified as missing from home / care, and / or involved in sexual exploitation.	3. Merseyside Protocol reviewed, endorsed by LSCB and issued following national guidance. Contract awarded to current provider (Barnardos) for Safer Future project (missing from home/care, sexually harmful behaviour & sexual exploitation). Barnardos working with secondary schools on young runaways, targeting areas with the highest incidence.	In progress on track
4. Monitor and review children's accident and emergency referral pathway, to continue to reduce the incidence of children presenting following excessive alcohol consumption / substance misuse.	4. A risk taking behaviour pathway is in place within the A&E department. From April to December 2010, 80 young people under the age of 16 attended either the Children's Emergency Department or the main Accident and Emergency Department following ingestion of alcohol. Of the 80 attendees, 36 took up the offer of an appointment with Response and 13 engaged with the service. There is currently work ongoing to better target these patients through staff education by Response workers and possibly having a Response worker working in the department at times of peak attendances.	In progress on track
5. Jointly deliver Operation Stay Safe, and monitor the impact upon reduced incidence of young people's excessive consumption of alcohol.	5. 12 Stay Safe operations between June and November 2009. 3,264 children engaged with by a variety of agencies. 12 young people moved to a place of safety, none by use of legislative powers. Evaluation to include impact on young people's consumption of alcohol.	In progress on track
6. Promote, develop and deliver parental guidance and awareness raising strategies to keep children safe, including the co-sleeping awareness campaign.	6. Care of the Next Infant scheme to be commissioned and delivered by Wirral NHS provider services and Wirral University Teaching Hospital. Safe sleeping guidelines ratified across the Health economy and delivered to midwifery & Health Visiting staff. Awareness raising event in local shopping centre took place in October with promotional leaflets given to local residents.	In progress on track
7. Continue to deliver comprehensive LSCB training plan for all staff, level 1-3 and refresh Section 11 Audit and Action plan by all LSCB Board members.	7. Training plan delivered. Section 11 Audit overview report completed by independent consultant and reported into LSCB.	In progress on track

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Implement the road safety strategy for children through the Road Safety partnership.	1. Road safety strategy continues to be delivered.	In progress on track
2. Extend and develop opportunities for children and young people to tell us what makes them feel unsafe, and deliver programmes to improve their safety and resilience.	2. 244 Children and young people were consulted on what would make them feel safe when playing out. This information has been used to develop training programmes delivered in February 2010 for play staff to promote protective behaviours, road safety and promoting positive behaviour. Opportunities are built into the Youth Voice Conference and Youth parliament for young people to tell us where they are concerned about safety. These returns are used to inform programmes in youth clubs and commissioning of services. The Healthy Schools Pupil Panels, convened on a termly basis, are a forum for expressing concerns and contribute to consultations on policy and practice. The panels link directly to the school councils.	In progress on track
3. Continue to support the development of anti-bullying strategies in schools, on school transport, and in community facilities. Develop and disseminate an LA Anti-Bullying Policy; raise awareness among parents of bullying – specifically e-safety and cyber-bullying (in line with the national focus for 2009).	3. 16 workshops were delivered for parents and carers on cyber bullying during Wirral Anti-bullying week (16-20 November). Draft policy statement is undergoing stakeholder consultation with a launch scheduled for September 2010.	In progress milestone rescheduled
4. Implement and evidence learning from Child Death Overview Panels.	4. Annual report on local child deaths agreed at LSCB and available on website. Wirral are active members of regional and sub-regional group on learning from child death events.	In progress on track
5. Children’s centres to develop action plans and activities designed to reduce the rate of emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children aged 0 – 5 resident in the reach area of the centre.	5. Range of activities developed and implemented – “Beep Beep” road safety awareness; first aid training for parents; parenting courses and parenting support; domestic violence awareness, signposting and ‘freedom’ training. CAPT training for staff and parents. New Child Safety Scheme with additional capacity to be implemented by April 2010.	In progress on track

Priority: Children in care are safe and supported.

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Complete the review of residential short break and community services for children with learning disabilities and complex health needs in accordance with Aiming High for Disabled Children Strategy.	1. Aiming High programme implemented and is low risk rated due to its impact and the progress made. A strong parent forum, good governance structure and workstreams are in place. New services have been commissioned with full parental engagement in commissioning process and services are being delivered to a wide service user base.	In progress on track
2. Improve the quality of multi-agency transition arrangements for children in care with learning disabilities and / or mental health issues.	2. Co-located Transition Team with Department of Adult Social Services in place following agreement in January 2010. 49 young people aged 16 plus to be allocated to the Team; 116 aged 14 plus to receive joint planning from the Transition Team.	In progress milestone rescheduled
3. Ensure good or excellent standards of care in all directly provided residential care, foster care and commissioned services.	3. Practice review completed in 2 residential homes (for children with a disability) achieving adequate in inspections, improvement plan in progress. Adoption Task Force monitored action plan has led to an improvement in the numbers of children with adoption plan. In January 2010 20 children have been adopted, 12 placed and papers lodged and 11 placed not yet lodged. Proposals confirmed to increased capacity to provide post adoption support. Fostering service retained "good" Ofsted rating with 268 approved carers. Mainstream Children's Home retained "good" Ofsted rating.	In progress milestone rescheduled
4. Improve the quality and choice of provision for children becoming looked after, particularly in LA fostering provision and reduce the number of children living in out of borough independent sector residential placements.	4. Provider forum meets to plan how services provide support for children with the most complex needs locally. Independent Placement Panel monitors use of independent placements, ensuring in house alternatives used wherever possible and placements achieve good quality outcomes and value for money. A LAC Service Manager is in post and the fostering recruitment strategy has been refreshed. Numbers out of Borough have reduced from 52 in April 2009 to 45 in December 2009.	In progress on track
5. Maintain a full complement of trained and skilled social workers, so that all children in care have a qualified and suitably trained social worker to meet their needs in a timely way.	5. Rolling recruitment in place and new staff development officer in post from February 2010 to develop training pathways for all social work staff including embed NQSW (Newly Qualified Social Worker), Early Professional Development and ASW (Advanced Social Worker) outcomes framework for training and supervision. 102 social workers in post, out of a full complement of 111 (9 new posts confirmed in year). December 2009 94.3% children allocated to a qualified social worker.	In progress milestone rescheduled

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
Delivery plan outlined in the Local Safeguarding Children Board Business plan.	LSCB have reviewed the capacity to deliver key elements of the national and local requirements and changes made thus far: interim independent chair secured for 2010 for 24 days per year; LSCB Business Manager recruited; Local Authority Designated Officer post established; Independent chair for Serious Case Review Panel and CAF Quality Assurance Officer post agreed and financed through Board; Lead Member now a 'participating observer'. Review of Children's Trust and LSCB relationship following national Working Together consultation carried out in January 2010. PCT and Acute Trust reviewed safeguarding capacity against national guidance (NICE) and capacity increased. Wirral LSCB taking part in Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) pilot for improving the Serious Case Review framework.	In progress on track

outcome area:
enjoy and achieve

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

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Remove surplus capacity in Primary & Secondary Schools through phased reviews of provision across the Borough	Work continues with the phased programme for the review of surplus places in both primary and secondary schools. In primary schools we are in the process of completing Phase 5, which is delayed as a consequence of the request to explore sites. The analysis for Phase 6 has begun. In secondary schools we are in the process of supporting the DCSF to establish an Academy as part of Phase 1. Phase 2A is making good progress.	In progress milestone rescheduled

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Further develop the governance and scrutiny function of 'Wirral's Children First' Strategic Board. Develop sharing of good practice & ensuring consistency of policy and approach across Children's Centres in all their work.	Membership has been revisited to ensure that the Early Years Outcome duty is fully represented.	Completed
	Policy review cycle in place in partnership with Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) lead, which has resulted in all policies meeting the requirements of EIA quality indicators.	Completed
2. Ensure priority is given to improving the outcomes for vulnerable families in the 5 ECM themes, via continuous data analysis, regular reports to the board, development of case studies of good practice. Deliver a conference to showcase the work of the Children's Centres.	Soft smart has been replaced by E Start. This is a more effective management information system for managers to use to measure impact in the future.	In progress on track
	Children's Centre Managers and the Team Leader provide reports to every board meeting.	Completed
	A conference is to be planned for Autumn 2010.	In progress on track
3. Use of tighter performance management structures and common agendas across children's centres; develop integrated multi-agency networks across areas and districts.	New Performance Management system in place which has resulted in priorities identified linked to targeted resources.	In progress on track
4. Create robust information sharing protocols and systems across all partners.	First for Families model in place, however, more discussion with health colleagues required.	In progress milestone rescheduled
5. Develop and pilot the role of Portage as key workers to some families, integrate early support into the First for Families model and explore locality-based delivery through Children's Centres.	Piloted Portage Key Working in June - December 2009. Identified key strengths and weaknesses and Integrated Early Support documentation into the protocols. Aligned Portage/EPs with District model of delivery.	Completed
6. Publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Audit	Childcare sufficiency audit has been published and subsequently refreshed with an action plan implemented to address gaps in provision.	In progress on track
7. Launch of Information System for parents and providers.	ISSP has been replaced by Parent Know How. Initial implementation plan in place, however, there are still some technical issues.	In progress milestone rescheduled
8. Completion of Phase 3 Children's Centre developments	Phase 3 developments in place.	In progress on track

Priority: Children & families are supported with their social & emotional development

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Ensure priority is also given to work with vulnerable families on emotional and social development, e.g. via Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programmes, Family Works, and nurturing training provided by Special Educational Support Service (SESS).	• All primary schools and special (primary) schools and have been offered ongoing support to develop SEAL through a detailed action plan;	In progress on track
	• One primary school has been identified as a national SEAL tracker school.	Completed
	• 14 Secondary schools and 4 secondary special schools have SEAL action plan, and have received support (including INSET) to sustain development.	In progress on track
	• 4 secondary schools have achieved the Family Welcome Plaque.	In progress on track
	• Family Works embedded in 65 primary schools.	Completed
2. Further embed the Managed Moves protocol in secondary and in primary schools especially in order to further reduce the levels of exclusion.	• The following data has been collected, collated and analysed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of SEAL skills; • Impact on reading and writing. 	In progress on track
	• Data has also been collected and matched to Ofsted parental questions, for example: 'I know how my child's school helps my child prepare for the future'	In progress on track
2. Further embed the Managed Moves protocol in secondary and in primary schools especially in order to further reduce the levels of exclusion.	Managed Move Protocol firmly embedded into secondary sector reducing permanent exclusions by a further 20%. Unable to introduce protocol into primary sector due to staffing and capacity issues.	In progress milestone rescheduled
3. Continue to roll out Restorative Practices training.	Five, 3 day Facilitator Skills Training courses held plus one Restorative Circles event held with more planned.	In progress

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Continue to implement the Extended Services Action Plan.	Action Plan has been implemented - All schools except the new Academy have achieved the Full Core Offer (FCO).	In progress on track
2. Priorities for 2009-2010 are: a. All clusters to have robust plans clearly targeted using allocated resources effectively b. Improve measurement of impact c. Implement training programme for ACES, governors, chairs of clusters d. Further training on School Improvement Toolkit e. Develop extended Services around Special Schools f. Achieve the Full Core Offer across all schools by 2010	a. Each cluster has robust action plan completed following audit linked to identified needs against a clear budget. b. All plans have clearly identified impact statements – all ACES have had training on Turning the Curve and Outcome Based Accountability (OBA). c. Training programme has been delivered to all groups. d. All clusters have received training on Toolkit. e. All special schools now meet the Full Core Offer and have attended training and are working with the co-ordinator to offer support. f. Academy has just joined LA and is working to meet the offer by April 2010.	In progress on track

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status																																
1. Put revised School Improvement Policy into practice; provide appropriate briefings of councillors, governors and head teachers	A new Wirral Improvement Strategy for Schools and Educational Settings is being developed. This is in response to new national statute and guidance. Councillors, Governors and Headteachers have been briefed on developing the new strategy that will apply across all Wirral schools, settings and partners and CYPD. Approval has been given for the next stage of development.	In progress on track																																
2. Ensure primary schools causing concern or in an Ofsted category make sufficient progress to be removed in the shortest possible time.	As of December 2009, two schools have fallen into an Ofsted category, Manor and Well Lane. Manor has had a first monitoring visit. Progress was judged to be inadequate due to the lack of evidence about impact. The LA action plan was judged satisfactory and is on track. The LA action plan for Well Lane is being prepared and the school is already being supported and challenged.	In progress on track																																
3. Identify underachieving and underperforming schools, subjects and groups within schools (including underperforming vulnerable learners) through analysis of data. This includes ensuring through the National Challenge and Gaining Ground programmes that by Summer 2011 no secondary school is below 30% for 5+A*-C grades (including English and mathematics).	<p>Primary: Analyses of the 2009 SATs identified schools requiring intervention. Targets for 2010 have been analysed and show the following related to Fischer Family Trust (FFT) estimate D, the national top 25% of schools benchmarked data:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No <FFTD</th> <th>% <FFTD</th> <th>% FFTD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>En/Ma Level 4 Plus</td> <td>30/86</td> <td>35%</td> <td>65%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>En 2 Levels Progress</td> <td>33/86</td> <td>38%</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ma 2 Levels Progress</td> <td>31/86</td> <td>36%</td> <td>64%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Adjustment of one child in each of these schools would make the following difference:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No <FFTD</th> <th>% <FFTD</th> <th>% FFTD</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>En/Ma Level 4 Plus</td> <td>15/86</td> <td>17%</td> <td>83%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>En 2 Levels Progress</td> <td>16/86</td> <td>19%</td> <td>81%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ma 2 Levels Progress</td> <td>19/86</td> <td>22%</td> <td>78%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Schools setting below FFTD: SIPs & Contact Officers revisit potential schools with a view to adjusting the overall targets.</p>		No <FFTD	% <FFTD	% FFTD	En/Ma Level 4 Plus	30/86	35%	65%	En 2 Levels Progress	33/86	38%	62%	Ma 2 Levels Progress	31/86	36%	64%		No <FFTD	% <FFTD	% FFTD	En/Ma Level 4 Plus	15/86	17%	83%	En 2 Levels Progress	16/86	19%	81%	Ma 2 Levels Progress	19/86	22%	78%	In progress on track
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What we said we would do	What we did	Status																																			
	<p>Secondary 2009 GCSE 5+A*-C including English & Maths results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall the provisional result for all Wirral schools in 2009 was 53.5% which was up 3.3% from the previous year. The average rise in the 6 National Challenge schools was 5.2% compared with a rise of 1.1% in all other Wirral secondary schools from 2008 to 2009. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>School</th> <th>2007 Result</th> <th>2008 Result</th> <th>2009 Result</th> <th>Change from 2008</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Park High School</td> <td>23%</td> <td>26%</td> <td>27%</td> <td>+1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pensby High School for Boys</td> <td>26%</td> <td>25%</td> <td>40%</td> <td>+13%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ridgeway High School</td> <td>27%</td> <td>38%</td> <td>47%</td> <td>+10%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rock Ferry High School</td> <td>18%</td> <td>23%</td> <td>25%</td> <td>+2%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Oldershaw School</td> <td>28%</td> <td>18%</td> <td>27%</td> <td>+9%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wallasey School</td> <td>29%</td> <td>29%</td> <td>29%</td> <td>-1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall the 2 Gaining Ground schools had an average increase of 3.3% compared with a rise of 1.5% in all other Wirral secondary schools from 2008 to 2009. Overall, the rise in attainment for Free School Meals pupils in National Challenge schools was over 3%, compared with a rise of 2% in all other Wirral schools from 2008 to 2009. As of December 2009, 12 secondary schools had been rated as Outstanding at their most recent Ofsted report, 7 rated as good, 3 as satisfactory with none in an Ofsted category. 	School	2007 Result	2008 Result	2009 Result	Change from 2008	Park High School	23%	26%	27%	+1%	Pensby High School for Boys	26%	25%	40%	+13%	Ridgeway High School	27%	38%	47%	+10%	Rock Ferry High School	18%	23%	25%	+2%	The Oldershaw School	28%	18%	27%	+9%	Wallasey School	29%	29%	29%	-1%	
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4. Ensure early intervention in potential schools causing concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 schools receive Intensive Support Programme / Wirral Intensive Support Programme support. In secondary over 50% of curriculum support has been targeted at National Challenge schools for 2009/10. 	In progress on track																																			
5. Measure impact of support provided.	<p>The impact of support is monitored and evaluated through quality assured SIPs and full LA school reviews. Outcomes establish a benchmark for support. Evaluations of impact indicate positive improvement where support has focussed intensively on standards of achievement, progress, leadership and management and the quality of teaching and learning. Termly meetings with National Strategies also provide a measure of impact and indicate that our progress and support is good. At primary, RAG ratings are now predominantly green or dark green.</p> <p>Feedback so far indicates that Special Educational Need (SEN) support has been at least satisfactory and often good. No special schools are currently in an Ofsted category for improvement.</p>	In progress on track																																			

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
6. Increase accuracy of assessment and consistency of moderation at transition points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EYFS and Key Stage 1 statutory Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QDCA) plans have been approved and acted upon successfully. The QDCA reported that robust processes were in place. • In primary, lead SEN practitioners are involved in supporting standardisation and moderation activities in special and mainstream schools. • Two additional secondary Assessment Consultants have been appointed and are raising the profile of assessment and in particular Assessing Pupil Progress strategies. • Wirral Special schools are developing in-house moderation procedures. They are also part of Greater Merseyside special school network which involves moderation activities at all levels of ability. The Special Education Support Service have completed transition packs, special schools involved in person centred planning activities and SEN specialist support identified is being implemented. 	In progress on track
7. Ensure priority is given to ISP and WISP in primary schools; and coordinated, targeted support in secondary schools. Focus in particular on raising standards in English and maths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Intensive Support Programme (ISP) schools were prioritised for support and challenge. A dedicated ISP/WISP adviser was allocated to support ISP/WISP. Raising Achievement Plans were initiated, resourced and managed with progress against plans evaluated at regular intervals. • In addition, a second layer of 10 schools were identified for WISP support. RAPs were negotiated and resourced as above. • All SIPs and Principal Managers are regularly updated on SEN data/pupil progress issues. Key comparative data sources have been introduced to all schools, in particular new National Strategies Progression Guidance and Comparison and Analysis of Special Pupil Attainment (CASPA). • Provisional GCSE English Language results for 2009 improved by 2% on 2008 whilst provisional Mathematics GCSE results improved by 2.9%. 	In progress and on track
8. Develop strategy for succession planning in schools as part of enriched Leadership and Management programme.	The strategy for supporting the development of Leadership and Management across schools, especially with teachers but increasingly with other staff, is now well established. Feedback and evaluations from the professional development activities are very good and this is impacting upon the quality of leadership and management in schools at all levels.	Completed
9. Identify models of excellent leadership and management within our school which especially enables all head teachers to influence the raising of standards and achievement, closing the attainment gap and meeting the challenges of the ECM agenda.	There are a range of programmes to support leadership and management in schools. In addition we have reviewed the programme of support, updates and briefings for head teachers.	Completed
10. Implement curriculum changes in line with the 21st Century School programme and the review of the Primary Curriculum	Funding has been found to facilitate the secondment of a suitable practitioner to support the additional work involved in the implementation of this initiative. A task and finish group has been set up to co-ordinate implementation. A number of separate projects through Extended Schools Funding have been agreed for headteachers.	In progress on track

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
11. Develop a high quality e-learning community that supports an improving and developing curriculum and encourages collaboration.	The vast majority of Wirral schools have embraced the Wirral Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) as their preferred learning platform. All schools that are participating in this project have received initial training and ongoing support. There is a variety of online activity that is stimulating learning both within the ICT curriculum and across all other curriculum areas. The VLE is being developed with positive collaborative activities happening between schools.	In progress on track
12. Support the implementation of the new Framework for the inspection of schools in England from September 2009.	Briefings have taken place for headteachers, governors and other relevant staff which have raised awareness of the new Ofsted Framework and its implications for schools. One result of these briefings is that schools have updated their safeguarding monitoring procedures. There have been joint lesson observations with senior leaders in two secondary schools against the new framework so far resulting in increased levels of confidence and accuracy in making judgements about the quality of teaching and learning in these schools.	Completed
13. Embed APP across English, mathematics, science and ICT teaching.	Targeted Assessing Pupil Progress (APP) training has taken place for primary and secondary schools. This has been followed up where appropriate with tailored in-school support on developing APP. Active work being undertaken in secondary BESD schools. Primary schools are trialing writing frames for investigations that match new primary science APP criteria	In progress on track
14. Further develop effective teaching and learning strategies and the sharing of good practice to raise the quality of learning.	Tailored in-school curriculum and teaching and learning support is being offered across primary and secondary schools. All secondary schools were judged at least satisfactory for learning and teaching in their last Ofsted visit. 98% of primary schools were judged to be at least satisfactory. Schools are being supported in their validation of their teaching and learning judgements. Inclusion Award identifies areas of good practice to be shared with other colleagues.	In progress on track
15. Implement the next phase of 1-1 tuition extending from KS2 to KS3 and KS4; identify and support schools	100% of Wirral schools engaged in programme. Schools are developing a range of models for delivery of tuition. The LA has recruited a pool of tutors for schools to access. The programme is managed cross-phase and strategies are in place to ensure information sharing and engagement from colleagues at Primary, Secondary and LA level.	In progress on track

Priority: Close the attainment gap where poverty affects achievement.

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Improve outreach of all Children's Centres to vulnerable families.	New footprints have been developed with Together for Children, resulting in a more even spread of services across Wirral.	Completed
2. In collaboration with Speech and Language Team from PCT, initiate training programme for TAs, and VCF sector, in Hanen approaches to language development, in order to narrow gaps at EYFS.	A number of training programmes have been held. 'Learning Language and Loving It' and 'Encouraging Language Development in Early Childhood' were delivered to participants from early years and children's centre settings with some courses specifically directed at staff involved with deaf children.	In progress on track
3. Implement data training programme, including neighbourhood data, on effects of poverty on achievement across the partnership	A range of Narrowing the Gap projects targeted at areas of deprivation are being supported over 2009-2010. A working group looking at performance and deprivation has been established. There has been a comprehensive programme of training for the workforce around teenage pregnancy. SIPs in secondary schools have been trained and as part of their monitoring visits have discussed the levels of and issues surrounding teenage pregnancy.	In progress milestone rescheduled
4. Develop the use of range of intervention strategies to support under-achieving and under-attaining groups of pupils, e.g. via dissemination of Action Research findings of EPs.	Provided training to 39 schools over five sessions. Schools were invited to take part in action research to determine the effectiveness of Accelerread/ Accelewrite. The analysis will be used in a Headline report in April 2010.	In progress milestone rescheduled
5. 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. Report progress in narrowing the gap to Children & Young People's Strategic Management Board, & the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary: Analyses undertaken of vulnerable groups and information included in the new 'Super Report'; analysis available for schools and SIPs via the web based Wirral Data Portal. Schools and SIPs were briefed at training in September 2009. • At secondary a Wirral Initiative on Narrowing the Gaps one-year action research project has been initiated with 10 schools opting into the programme. Individual school plans have been produced and are being acted upon. • A focus on each special schools core subject attainment gaps, with particular reference to 1, 2 & 3 levels of progress gains, from one key stage to another, has been a key focus of this year's special school SIPs target setting activities. SIPs use new Progression Guidance to challenge schools individual and cohort targets. 	In progress on track
6. Promote and develop the implementation of the National Strategies Inclusion Development Programme in all Wirral schools to improve the overall quality of Quality First Teaching	7 pilot schools selected and have received 4 days additional training on Quality First Teaching. The impact of IDP Phase 1 and 2 materials will be evaluated by end of summer term 2010. IDP Steering group recently formed.	In progress on track
7. Improve the progress of the lowest attaining 20% of pupils in mainstream schools and narrow the SEN/non-SEN achievement gaps at KS2 in English/Maths and increase the number of SEN/LDD pupils achieving A*-C GCSE English/Maths.	Improvement in the % pupils not achieving level 3 or above in KS2 English and maths combined and in English alone. The SEN non-SEN gaps remain above the national but are improving.	In progress on track

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
8. Make effective use of the new progression guidance (2009-2010) to set accurate and challenging core subject targets for the lowest attaining pupils in the borough.	Extensive support and guidance been enacted and developed since its introduction in 2009. Extensive guidance materials made available to SIPs and school support staff.	Completed
9. Work with schools to reduce the level of Persistent Absence (PA) in primary schools and secondary schools.	Education Social Welfare Service (ESWS) provided additional training and support for eight identified PA Priority Secondary Schools via Attendance Leaders Network Meetings focusing on sharing good practice. By the end of half term 5, five of the eight schools had reduced levels of PA in comparison with the previous year, two schools showed increased levels of PA and one school showed no change. Similar work in partnership with the Primary Behaviour Manager together with identified PA Primary Schools resulted in improved attendance in eight of the twelve schools by the end of half-term 5. Presentations in relation to the Persistent Absence Agenda were also given at Head Teachers Conferences, Behaviour & Attendance Partnership Meetings, and at the School Governors Training Forum.	In progress on track
10. Work with the Virtual School to improve the school attendance of Looked After Children.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESWS produces a monthly attendance report of all children in Wirral schools. This is examined and discussed at a monthly meeting between the Head of ESWS and the Virtual Headteacher. Also considered at the meeting are the reports received from Welfare Call, commissioned to monitor the attendance of children looked after by Wirral and placed in schools outside Wirral. • At the meeting pupils are identified and prioritised for support through the LACES Team, ESWS, and the Virtual School Attendance Officer. A strategic approach to improving attendance is also utilised. The Head of ESWS reports on attendance of children in care to LAC-EAT group and Virtual School Governing Body Meetings. • The Outcomes for Children (OC2) return to DCSF requires LA's to report on the percentage of pupils who have been in care for 1 year or more who have missed more than 25 days of school for any reason. This year 12.5% of children in care missed 25 days or more. Whilst this is a disappointing increase on last year's figure it compares with a National figure of between 12-13% for the last 5 years. Children living at home on a care order are disproportionately represented in those with low school attendance. The reasons for this are complex and are being addressed through multidisciplinary Turning The Curve Group. 	In progress on track

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status																		
<p>11. Improve the outcomes for children who have English as an Additional Language.</p>	<p>5+ A*-C grades inc. English & mathematics</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th></th> <th>2006</th> <th>2007</th> <th>2008</th> <th>2009</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National</td> <td>Other than English</td> <td>41.7</td> <td>43.5</td> <td>44.8</td> <td>47.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WIRRAL</td> <td>Other than English</td> <td>51.9</td> <td>47.1</td> <td>53.6</td> <td>56.5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The performance of EAL pupils has improved over the last 4 years. In addition the performance of Wirral EAL pupils is higher than the performance of EAL pupils nationally.</p>			2006	2007	2008	2009	National	Other than English	41.7	43.5	44.8	47.9	WIRRAL	Other than English	51.9	47.1	53.6	56.5	<p>In progress on track</p>
		2006	2007	2008	2009															
National	Other than English	41.7	43.5	44.8	47.9															
WIRRAL	Other than English	51.9	47.1	53.6	56.5															
<p>12. Reduce child poverty by supporting families experiencing unemployment through family, adult and employability programmes</p>	<p>A wide variety of lifelong and family learning and employability courses aimed at targeted groups are on offer.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p>																		
<p>13. Raise standards of Looked After Children so their outcomes are comparable to their peers'</p>	<p>In terms of National Indicators we have dropped slightly at KS2 with 59% of pupils achieving level 4 in English, 50% in maths and 77% in science. This is well ahead of national average last year of 46% in English, 44% in maths and 60% in science of pupils achieving level 4. We have concentrated our resources on supporting looked after pupils at KS2 and have narrowed the gap in performance between them and their peers who are not looked after. There is still a gap but it has been reduced. At KS4 19% of pupils achieved 5A*-C at GCSE, 50% of pupils achieved 5A*-G and 76% achieved at least one GCSE pass. These compare favourably with National averages for looked after learners but still demonstrate a serious gap between looked after learners and their peers. The figure of 7% achieving 5A*-C inc E&M is disappointing, though this was the estimated figure based on prior attainment.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p>																		
<p>14. Ensure that the educational needs of Looked after Children are identified at an early stage and appropriate support put in place which tracks attainment and progress and increases levels of attainment</p>	<p>We have introduced a tracking system to monitor the attainments of children in Wirral's care. The information collected is used to inform their Personal Education Plans and Reviews and regular discussion with Designated Teachers in order to prioritise pupils in need of additional tuition or support either from the schools' own resources, LACES Learning Mentors, or specifically commissioned support.</p>	<p>In progress on track</p>																		

outcome area:
positive contribution

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

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. Quarterly analysis of FTE data to ensure targeted prevention resources to reduce numbers entering the youth justice system.	1. Data returns indicate a reduction in the number of First Time Entrants entering the Youth justice System	In progress on track
2. Expansion of the Restorative Justice (RJ) Protocol to ensure RJ principles are followed effectively and that all young people entering the youth justice system for the first time are considered for RJ as an alternative to prosecution.	2. There is a Protocol between The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), Merseyside Police, Youth Offending Service (YOS) and CYPD, to ensure that RJ is used with regards to Looked after Children. The funding of the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) identified a YOS officer within the Merseyside Police Custody Suite to work using RJ principles with young people who have never been involved in the Criminal Justice System. There are also plans to train more Police Officers to deliver RJ on the streets.	In progress on track
3. Increase use of Restorative Practice in schools to reduce exclusions.	3. Training continues within school staff in the delivery and understanding of RJ Conferences. Five, three day, facilitator training courses have been held plus one, one day, Restorative Circles Training Day. Permanent exclusions have fallen considerably and restorative practices may play some part in this reduction.	In progress on track
4. Ensure all young people are assessed at the point of entry to YOS and that ETE needs are addressed in intervention planning.	4. We continue to perform well in this area, all start assess ETE needs and intervention reflects need, including referrals to Connexions or Education Social Work services.	In progress on track
5. Annual Partnership Agreement between Connexions and YOS reviewed and refreshed to sustain positive partnership working as cited during recent Ofsted ETE inspection.	5. Discussions delayed due to local authority commissioning implications. Connexions is no longer commissioned to provide "Attachments to YOS". There will be detailed discussions between YOS and Connexions on new operating procedures.	In milestone rescheduled

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
6. Connexions Personal Adviser support to YOS reconfigured to include Activity Agreement Advisor enabling direct access to the programme for Young Offenders.	6. This dedicated PA resource was trialled from April to November 2009 and resulted in no significant increase in referrals. Referrals now come direct from YOS manager to Connexions Additional services Manager for assessment and allocation. There is an evaluation of the delivery of the current AAP Models to enable best value and services to young people, as AAP has been extended to March 2011. To date three courses have run with an average of five offenders per course.	In milestone rescheduled
7. ETE mentors recruited and trained to support young people accessing ETE.	7. New Mentors with ETE mentor availability will be provided with training early 2010.	In milestone rescheduled
8. Work with current providers to ensure an increase in accommodation available for young people whose previous convictions or behaviour might otherwise prevent them from being accommodated.	8. Meetings have taken place with service providers and we are working towards service level agreements. The YOS contributed half the annual cost of the Stop Gap project which worked to provide accommodation for vulnerable young people and those who are difficult to accommodate.	In milestone rescheduled
9. Substance Misuse Strategy supports early intervention to reduce harm in children and young people.	<p>9. The partnership's capacity to deliver alcohol interventions to young people and their parents has been increased. The current commissioning processes were reviewed to better support the effective and consistent delivery of young people's substance misuse interventions across a range of strategic approaches and planning groups. Universal and targeted providers were involved in the adoption and delivery of appropriate early identification and screening processes between all young peoples' substance misuse services.</p> <p>The impact has been a continuous decrease in Hospital admissions for alcohol for age 0-17, rate per 100, 000:</p> <p>2006/07 181.89 2007/08 161.83 (11% decrease from the previous year) 2008/09 144.70 (10.6% decrease from previous year) 2009/10 142.29 (1.67% decrease from previous year (7 months data))</p>	In progress on track

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. The Commissioning of Hubs to provide a focus for District planning to make youth service provision available over six nights a week.	1. Local planning groups established to oversee the implementation of District provision. Plans are in place to recommend to Cabinet that the Youth and Play service advisory Committee acts as the overarching monitoring group reporting on the provision of commissioned and non commissioned activities.	In progress on track
2. The Youth Opportunity Fund/ Youth Capital Fund will be used to commission access to leisure facilities for young people aged 13-19.	2. Established a Commissioning sub group with representatives from the Grant Panel, Executive Youth Board (EYB) and UK Youth Parliament (YP). This group made the following decisions: a. Each Hub was allocated £18,400 to develop the facilities. b. £100,000 was top sliced from the Youth Opportunity Fund for third sector organisations to enhance their provision for young people. c. A further 19 organisations have received funding.	Completed
3. The District activity fund will be used to commission specialist support organisations to ensure there is engagement with young people from vulnerable groups.	3. PSS Wirral Young Carers worked closely with the young carers participation group to apply for Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) monies, they were successful in receiving funds for positive and self-esteem building activities and issue based materials and equipment. Sixteen organisations have been commissioned either directly or in consortia arrangements to ensure there is engagement with young people from vulnerable groups. • 2134 Specialist units or 6402 hours of activities have been commissioned to work with young people providing access to specialist programmes. • Four part time participation workers have been commissioned to promote engagement in positive activities in each of the districts.	Completed
4. The District Activity Fund will be used to commission additional activities to enhance the District Youth Offer and to engage with a broader range of young people.	4.The following additional activities have been commissioned to enhance the District Youth offer: • 166 Youth Arts / cultural units • 104 Sports Development nights • 23 Hip Hop Units (3 hours) • 15 Big Nights / talent concerts / Skate Events • 24 Urban Adventure units (3 hours)	Completed
5. Young Carers will be taking part in a twelve week programme designed by Young Carers. The programme seeks to provide opportunities to explore areas of concern and also to provide fun and challenging activities.	5. PSS Young Carers completed questionnaires with regards to issues that they felt impacted on their life due to their caring role. A large majority of the young carers wanted to experience fun activities and have respite from their caring role. Issues they felt were important were safety around the home, first aid, healthy eating and sexual health. Other issues that were covered were choices and consequences to build on personnel power, drug and alcohol workshops and bullying.	Completed

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
6. All young carers will receive a pack which contains information on activities available in their areas, health guidelines, useful phone numbers and Young Carers Project update.	6. A small group of young carers became involved in the manufacturing of the monthly newsletter, which includes sections covering project updates, free family days out in the Wirral, useful telephone numbers, healthy recipes, young carers pictures and articles about specific issues.	Completed
7. We will continue to ensure that Children in Care are able to access leisure activity programmes during the holiday periods.	7. This programme was run as a pilot for 2009, providing supporting evidence for a successful lottery bid for £87,000. Ten week courses for young people in care from 2010-2012 will be funded.	Completed
8. Promote play opportunities for children and young people on quarterly basis in conjunction with extended school cluster groups.	8. Play ranger sessions, play practitioner projects and summer provision, promoted with extended schools clusters via promotional leaflets and Extended Schools co-ordinators.	Completed
9. Collate baseline data to establish how C&YP feel about playing out.	9. We surveyed 244 children and young people on how safe they felt when playing out. The data was analysed and the key findings were developed into tasks as part of the 'Feel Safe, Play Safe' Action Plan. The plan highlights training needs and the initial survey will be repeated in April 2010 to evaluate any improvements in children feeling safe playing outdoors.	Completed
10. Complete action plan to address areas of concern raised by October 2009.	10. Action plan developed from findings of survey which established areas of concern.	Completed
11. Play Staff will be trained to manage areas of concern with training undertaken in January 2010.	11. Training sessions on protective behaviours, road safety and promoting positive behaviour were held. Baseline data and Play Training sessions are being carried out with playworkers and play rangers.	In progress on track
12. Complete "Feel Safe, Play Safe" action plan by Mar 10.	12. "Feel Safe, Play Safe" action plan will be completed by March 2010.	Completed
13. C&YP make presentation to Wirral Play Partnership.	13. End of year annual review involving children and young people in contributing to Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee (YAPSAC) in 2010.	In progress on track
14. Consult with C&YP on four equipped play areas.	14. We provided more challenging play equipment in response to feed back from a Children and Young People Department consultation on Play areas.	Completed
15. Membership of play Partnership or commissioned organisation is dependent on signing up to Play Strategy Implementation plan.	15 Organisations represented on Wirral Play Partnership signed up to Play Strategy Implementation Plan in December 2008.	Completed

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
1. The Executive Youth Board (EYB) will review its annual progress and make recommendations for future activity.	1. The review produced a revised priorities list and agreement on how the Board will conduct future work in relation to engagement with other organisations.	Completed
2. EYB will prepare an action plan and progress will be reported to schools, youth organisations through Schools Councils, Youth Forums, Connect-uz.	2. The role of the EYB has been linked into the District Youth Forum Structure. EYB members are accountable to their District Board and will be responsible for reporting back on any actions to address concerns.	Completed
3. Arrangements are in place to consult with children and young people on the priorities and actions included in the Children and Young People's Plan.	3. Youth consultation week held in December 2009. Consultation involved young people from a diverse range of youth organisations.	Completed
4. EYB meets with representatives of Older People's Parliament to identify appropriate structures for co-working to address community cohesion concerns.	4. EYB met with representatives and agreed a number of further meetings to agree on areas of mutual interest and joint working.	In progress on track
5. Young people will be trained in recruitment and selection procedures. Eight young people in 2009/10 and twelve young people in 2010/2011.	5. Seven young people undertook and completed the 'Involving Young People in Recruitment and Selection' training day. All successfully completed the course and are eligible for the Young People's Interview Panel (YPIP). In late 2009, the existing Young People's Panel have also taken part in interviewing for the position of Local Safeguarding Children's Board Manager.	In progress on track
6. Four Young carers will be trained in recruitment and selection in 2009/10 and they will then be involved in the recruitment of staff within the Young Carers project. All children and young people who come into the care of the local authority will be directly contacted.	6. Seven young carers were trained in Recruitment and Selection and were able to utilise these new skills in two rounds of recruitment for two different roles. The young carers devised their own questions for interviews with the candidates for project worker posts.	Completed

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What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>7. All young people who access the AAP programme will complete a questionnaire to gather their views on provision accessed. These views will feed into the commissioning and direct purchase of future provision.</p>	<p>7. One hundred and sixty one young people completed the programme and completed evaluations. These views will feed into the commissioning and direct purchase of future provision to ensure further take-up of AAP and other opportunities. This will also help to embed the good practice of this unique practitioner support to young people across Wirral.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>8. For 2009/10 a young people's grant panel have been established to distribute the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund. The young people identified two priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic commissioning (£293,220) to improve young people's access to transport and leisure facilities. • General fund (£100,000) applications which specifically address priority areas identified by children and young people will be given priority. (Areas include: reducing teenage pregnancy; substance and alcohol misuse; homelessness; music, arts and media projects for young people; environmental projects which benefit the community). 	<p>8. The group have had a number of meetings with Mersey travel, Wirral Council Forward Planning Team, Elected Members and Managing Directors of Bus Companies with the following results:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements are being put in place for the YOF to fund a number of transport initiatives. • Secured agreement from the bus companies to assist young people accessing extended school activities. • Secured agreement from bus providers to further explore how they could support Big Events Nights in the Youth Hubs. • Established the existence of a discount travel card for young people aged 16-22. • Secured agreement from two of the bus companies directors' to be hot seated at the Youth Voice Conference in 2010. 	<p>Completed</p>



outcome area:
social and economic well-being

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

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>1. Continue to progress the 14-19 reform agenda and to provide a range of opportunities and courses of high quality through the implementation of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-19 Plan. • LSC Quality Assurance Framework post-16. 	<p>1. A range of developments through the plan and framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participated in National Test & Trail of Foundation Learning at KS4 and post 16 to develop positive progression pathways 14-19. • Delivered engagement opportunities through European Social Fund and KS4 Engagement programme. • Developed and trialled 14-19 QA Framework. • Developed and trialled School Sixth Form Quality Monitoring & Evaluation Framework. • Roll out of eight Diploma lines in September 2009. • Increase in courses at Wirral Metropolitan College with multiple entry points. • Expanded the Young Apprenticeship offer to include Health & Social Care, Engineering and Construction. 	In progress on track
<p>2. Increase post 16 participation and achievement through the implementation of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough EET Strategy. • IYS Strategy. 	<p>2. Borough Education, Employment and Training (EET) Strategy has been reviewed, refreshed and approved by the Children’s Trust Board. Integrated Youth Support (IYS) Strategy has been reviewed and refreshed and received Cabinet approval in November 2009.</p>	In progress on track
<p>3. Support Wirral Care Leavers to access HE and achieve academic success.</p>	<p>3. Wirral Care leavers continue to be supported to access Higher Education and Aim Higher is now ring-fencing Summer School places for year 10 Children in Care.</p>	In progress on track
<p>4. Provide young people with confidence and skills, and information to travel independently using public transport, or by walking or cycling.</p>	<p>4. Wirral Travel Training Scheme is open to all age 16+, provides 1 to 1 travel training service to enable young people to use public transport independently and with confidence. A specific project was delivered pupils with special educational needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wirral travel team attend colleges and events promoting transport options and providing free travel cards to young people to attend interviews or assist with first months travel. • Development of transport pages of young peoples website “teen wirral” to provide specific information regarding issues that affect young people. • Development work with the Young Peoples Parliament with regard to identifying specific projects to benefit young people using external funding. • Delivery of the WorkWise scheme to assist young people with the provision of a 6 month loan of a scooter or a cycle where public transport cannot serve the journey. • Cycle training offered to all secondary schools. 	In progress on track

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

What we said we would do	What we did	Status
<p>1. In recognition of the current economic climate and global recession we will refresh the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough EET Strategy • IYS Strategy • 14-19 Plan <p>With a specific focus and monitoring of the progress of vulnerable groups and appropriate preventative and targeted intervention including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked After Children • Teenage mothers • Young Offenders • Young People with SEN/LDD • Those with substance misuse issues. 	<p>1. Borough EET Strategy has been reviewed, refreshed and approved by the Children's Trust Board. IYS Strategy has been reviewed and refreshed and received Cabinet approval November 2009. 14-19 Plan is being implemented.</p> <p>Progress into EET of vulnerable groups is monitored monthly to ensure interventions can be targeted effectively specifically focussing on teenage mums, those leaving care, those young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LDD) and young offenders.</p> <p>The 'Wirral Apprentice' programme has been given additional funding to target vulnerable groups including those leaving care.</p> <p>The 'brokerage project' is bearing fruit to support the redesign of the local offer of learning for those with Special Educational Needs (SEN) /LDD.</p> <p>The Greater Merseyside Sensory Education Service has been established.</p>	In progress on track
<p>2. Deliver the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Agreement Pilot • Positive Activities for Young People programmes. 	<p>2. Activity Agreement project has been delivered and though due to complete in March 2010 has now been extended to March 2011.</p> <p>The current PAYP programme ended in December 2009 and commissioning of key worker resource is underway for 2010.</p>	In progress on track
<p>3. Develop Borough Strategy and implementation plan for the local application of the National standards for Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG).</p>	<p>3. The implementation plan for the local application of the National IAG standards has been developed and a self assessment process has been completed.</p>	In progress on track
<p>4. Extend the employability programmes for NEET Young people and specifically vulnerable groups and implement the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme.</p>	<p>4. The 'Wirral Apprentice' programme phase 1 has commenced and offering 112 places in the borough. 22% of young people previously NEET have been appointed to local apprenticeships. Phase 2 has been agreed with funding from Wirral Neighbourhood Fund for 50 additional apprenticeships. The programme has been identified as a model of good practice by the North West Employer Organisation.</p>	In progress on track

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

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



refreshed priorities

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

Priority

Be Healthy

- Reduction in the harmful consequences of risk taking behaviour.
- Encourage and support all children and families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle (Refreshed).
- Implement the Child Health Strategy.
- Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.

Staying Safe

- More children grow up in secure, stable families where they belong, either through receiving timely, earlier intervention and support within their communities, or through belonging to permanent, substitute families.
- Reduce the incidence of anti social, risk taking and harmful behaviour experienced by children and young people.
- More children are safe at home, at school and in the community, including reducing road traffic accidents and bullying.
- Children in care are safe and supported.
- Implement the government action plan in response to Lord Laming review of the protection of children in England.

Enjoy and Achieve

- Public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools.
- Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of Children's Centres.
- Children and families are supported with their social and emotional development.
- Extended Services, delivered through schools and partners working in clusters, impact upon the outcomes for children and families.
- Continue to raise standards in schools and settings by continuing to improve the quality of leadership and management, curriculum, assessment and learning, thereby ensuring none fall into an OFSTED category.
- Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement.

Positive Contribution

- Fewer children and young people are involved in offending and anti social behaviour.
- Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play and developmental opportunities which meets their needs.
- Children & Young People are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making processes.

Economic wellbeing

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

outcome area:
being healthy

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

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

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Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Reduction in the harmful consequences of risk taking behaviour (continued).</p>	<p>3. Implement the Sexual Health Plan including increasing the proportion of eligible young people screened for Chlamydia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase accessibility and provision of Chlamydia screening through implementation of HSIS within Schools and Colleges and across Children’s Centres. • Increase availability and access to young people friendly sexual health and contraceptive services through HSIS and EHC in Pharmacies. • Formally launch the Sexual Health Policy and Guidance across Children’s services. <p>4. Review contract with Kooth.com and establish local goals.</p> <p>5. Monitor accident prevention scheme and develop an action plan to include actions for each Children’s Centre aimed at reducing local accidental injury rates.</p>	<p>NICE PH 003 One to one interventions to reduce the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV, and to reduce the rate of under 18 conceptions, especially among vulnerable and at risk groups.</p> <p>NI 50 Emotional health of children.</p> <p>NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services.</p> <p>NI 70 Reduce emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people (Also reported through Staying Safe).</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Encourage and support all children and families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle.</p>	<p>To achieve a reduction in the prevalence of overweight and obese children through the implementation of the key child targets within the Obesity Action Plan and pathway by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhanced delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) 2009-10. A coordinated approach with the Active Lifestyles Project with a minimum of six schools through engagement with parents and children and continue to provide feedback to parents. 2. To promote and monitor the child weight management providers (MEND & Lifestyle and Weight Management Service) to ensure referral targets are met. 3. Ensure BMI data from childhood screening programme (aged 2-2½ years) is collated and used as a measure to inform appropriate commissioning of services. 4. Implement Wirral's Taste for Healthy Food Policy including specific guidance on public venues and residential settings. 5. To provide support for overweight and obese pregnant women by producing a care pathway, developing exercise classes and providing healthy eating information. 6. To provide a programme of physical activity sessions for 0-5 year olds in Children's Centres, e.g. Top Tots, Active Tots, Fizzy Tots. 7. Deliver Healthy Eating Groups to parents with very young children through Children's Centres, together with advice on choosing healthier lifestyles based on the 'Change 4 Life' programme and link in with the 'Start 4 Life' campaign. 8. Ensure the Henry Programme is accessed by all Children's Centres and Early Years practitioners. 9. To implement the Health Promoting Early Years Programme. 10. To increase the percentage of pupils aged 5-16 who take part in 2 hours of high quality PE and sport in school and a further 3 hours outside school hours – to be monitored through the School Sport Partnership Programme. 11. Implement the Active Families Sport England & Physical Activity Alliance Project for 0-17 year olds and their families. 12. Continue to implement Sport England's Free Swim programme for under 18's across Wirral Leisure Centres. <p>Implement key targets within the Breastfeeding Action Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. To deliver a breastfeeding peer support service for breastfeeding mothers targeting the most deprived areas of Wirral. 14. To deliver a social marketing programme to encourage the initiation and duration of breastfeeding. 15. To continue to promote Healthy Start. 16. Deliver the breastfeeding strategic action plan to increase initiation and prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks, to include the roll out of one BOAT integrated antenatal programme in each locality with additional parent education classes at other venues' and support Hospital and Community settings to achieve the UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative. 17. To develop joint work with Healthy Schools to support breastfeeding education in schools and settings for children and young people. 	<p>NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year.</p> <p>NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6.</p> <p>NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport.</p> <p>PH017 Promoting physical activity for children and young people.</p> <p>NICE PH008 Guidance on the promotion and creation of physical environments that support increased levels of physical activity.</p> <p>NI 53 Prevalence of breast feeding at 6 – 8 weeks from birth.</p> <p>VS09 Childhood Obesity.</p> <p>VS11 Prevalence of breast feeding at 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>NICE PH011 Guidance for midwives, health visitors, pharmacists and other primary care services to improve the nutrition of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers and children in low income households.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Implement the Child Health Strategy.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the Healthy Child Programmes - Pregnancy 0-5 years and 5-19 years programmes - across the Children's Trust Partnership. 2. CHiCC to be reshaped as Parent Infant Mental Health Service (PIMHS). Commissioning strategy to be completed, workforce development to be integrated into Children's Trust Workforce Development Strategy and CPD delivered to ensure competency. 3. Baby Lifecheck and Teen Life Check programmes available and easily accessible to parents and young people. Baby Lifecheck to be integrated into delivery of Children's Centres and HCP 0-5 years; Teen Lifecheck to be integrated into delivery of HSIS, PSHEE curriculum and HCP 5-19 years. 4. Roll out one BOAT in each locality with additional parent education classes and health promoting early years to be provided at other early years' venues. 5. Implement the Healthy Schools Action Plan arising from the Self Evaluation Toolkit to ensure that 10% of schools are engaged in the 'Enhanced Healthy Schools Programme' by 2010 and ensure nutrition and oral health training is provided to 50% of all Wirral schools throughout 2009-10. 6. Conduct regular reviews of young people's website (11-19 years) to ensure up to date health information is provided and key messages are accessed, aligned and consistent across Children's Trust partnership. 7. Improve health services for children with complex needs and disabilities. 8. Implement Aiming High for Disabled Children Strategy. 	<p>NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year.</p> <p>NI 50 Emotional health of children.</p> <p>NI 51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services.</p> <p>You're Welcome Quality Framework.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement relevant actions relating to CYP in the Health Inequalities Plan. Monitor and evaluate the plan throughout the period to ensure outcomes are being met to reduce health inequalities. 2. Ensure all children's centres have fully integrated plans to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reduce the inequalities in oral health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue the Fluoride Milk Programme, the Bright Smiles Programme and the Dental Bus service. • Develop the dental pilot to roll out across relevant areas. b. Protect children from the harmful effects of tobacco: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the proportion of women who continue to smoke throughout pregnancy. • Ensure all Children's Centres have fully integrated plans on smoking cessation. • Train smoking cessation advisors within children's centres. c. Ensure breastfeeding remains integral part of obesity programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop pathway to ensure peer support programme is embedded in ante natal clinics within children's centres. d. Services for disabled children: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roll out aiming high programme across children's centres including access to relevant specialist agencies and ensure these plans are fully aligned with complimentary service plans and activities. 3. Implement actions to reduce inequalities in the take up of childhood vaccinations and immunisation programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement new vaccination programmes effectively ensuring high uptake from inception. • Undertake baseline review of National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidance and implement action plan. • Link with dental pilot to identify children who have missed immunisations and offer on the spot. Consider roll out across areas of low take up. • Identify schools where uptake is low and target approach, e.g. consider using Gillick competency to increase uptake of school leaver booster for those aged 15 years. 4. Develop and implement actions to reduce the number of infant mortalities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Public Health intelligence to highlight target groups and plan coordinated approach across Being Healthy and Staying Safe outcome groups. 5. Develop and implement plans to increase uptake of Healthy Start vitamin supplements amongst eligible women and children. 6. Embed the TaMHS (Targeted Mental Health in Schools) project in Wirral. 7. Develop CAMHS to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced service for CYP with learning disabilities. • Appropriate accommodation for 16-17 year olds who require in-patient placements. • 24 hour cover in partnership with the Acute Hospital. 	<p>NI 112 Under 18 conception rate.</p> <p>VSB08 Teenage Pregnancy.</p> <p>RTA measure.</p> <p>NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year.</p> <p>NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6.</p> <p>dmft (5 year olds).</p> <p>DMFT (12 and 14 year olds). (decayed, missing and filled teeth).</p> <p>Proportion of women who continue to smoke throughout pregnancy.</p> <p>VSB 10 Individuals who complete immunisation by recommended ages.</p> <p>Infant mortality rate.</p> <p>NI51 Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services.</p> <p>Increase uptake from 0.4% (children) and 0.1% (women) (September 2009 snapshot).</p>

outcome area:
staying safe

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

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

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Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>More children grow up in secure, stable families where they belong, either through receiving timely, earlier intervention and support within their communities, or through belonging to permanent, substitute families (continued).</p>	<p>11. Safely reduce the numbers of children in care, particularly focusing on reducing the number of children in care placed at home with parents.</p> <p>12. Sustain improved processes for contact, referral and assessment – the ‘front door’ into social care, implementing the findings from the Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Services.</p> <p>13. Provide strong organisational and operational links between Children’s Centres and fieldwork services, focussing on safeguarding systems and training to meet assessed needs.</p> <p>14. Develop the appropriate involvement of children’s centres in the delivery of support to all children 0-5 subject to a child protection plan.</p> <p>15. Implement early intervention and planning of services to families with children under five involving midwives, health visitors, children’s centre outreach workers and social care professionals with a focus on the needs of the reach population of the centre.</p> <p>16. Embed consistency of response, in accordance with regulation, to children living with Private Foster Carers.</p> <p>17. Deliver the Children’s Social Care and Safeguarding restructure, to increase the number of social workers, increase capacity to deliver improved management and performance oversight, and expansion of LSCB activity.</p>	<p>NI 59 Initial assessments for children’s social care carried out within 7 working days of referral.</p> <p>NI 60 Core assessments for children’s social care carried out within 35 working days of their commencement.</p> <p>NI 61 Stability of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption.</p> <p>NI 63 Stability of placements for looked after children: length of placements.</p> <p>NI 68 Referrals to children’s social care going on to initial assessment.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of adolescents placed in care and those placed have a clear plan about the purpose for being looked after and their needs into adulthood.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Reduce the incidence of anti social, risk taking and harmful behaviour experienced by children and young people.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sustain and strengthen joint working between the CYPD, NHS Wirral and Wirral Family Safety Unit to further reduce the incidence of domestic violence and repeat occurrences. 2. Continue to develop more consistent targeting of services for children at risk of offending, through early identification systems triggering YOS input. 3. Review Merseyside Protocol and further develop services for children identified as missing from home / care, and / or involved in sexual exploitation. 4. Monitor and review children's accident and emergency referral pathway, to continue to reduce the incidence of children presenting following excessive alcohol consumption / substance misuse. 5. Jointly deliver Operation Stay Safe, and monitor the impact upon the incidence of young people's excessive consumption of alcohol. 6. Promote, develop and deliver parental guidance and awareness raising strategies to keep children safe, including the co-sleeping awareness campaign. 7. Continue to deliver comprehensive LSCB training plan for all staff, level 1-4 and refresh Section 11 Audit and Action plan by all LSCB Board members. 8. Develop a Risk Governance procedure within the LSCB that supports individual and multi-agency risk management and ensures that the risk management plans for those at very high risk are clear, co-ordinated, defensible and appropriately resourced. 	<p>NI 32 Repeat incidents of domestic violence.</p> <p>NI 43 Young people within the Youth Justice System receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody.</p> <p>NI 19 Rate of proven re-offending by young offenders.</p> <p>NI III First time entrants to the Youth Justice System age 10-17 (reported through Positive Contribution).</p> <p>NI 64 Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more.</p> <p>NI 65 Children becoming the subject of a child protection plan for a second or subsequent time.</p> <p>NI 67 Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales.</p> <p>NI 70 Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children and young people.</p> <p>NI 71 Children who have run away from home / care overnight (Measured from 2009 onwards).</p> <p>Agency use of the Risk Governance process. Young people's risk management plans lead to reduced risk for the young person and the community in general.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>More children are safe at home, at school and in the community, including reducing road traffic accidents and bullying.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the road safety strategy for children through the Road Safety partnership. 2. Extend and develop opportunities for children and young people to tell us what makes them feel unsafe, and deliver programmes to improve their safety and resilience. 3. Continue to support the development of anti-bullying strategies in schools, on school transport, and in community facilities, and implement a strategic rollout of the Anti-Bullying policy with all partners and interested parties. Liaise with Anti-Bullying Alliance and the National Strategy - Behaviour and Attendance to develop a Wirral Anti-Bullying Strategy. 4. Implement and evidence learning from Child Death Overview Panels. 5. Children’s centres to develop action plans and activities designed to reduce the rate of emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries to children aged 0-5 resident in the reach area of the centre. 	<p>NI 48 Children killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.</p> <p>NI 69 Children who have experienced bullying.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
Children in care are safe and supported.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure effective multi-agency planning and commissioning of services for children with disabilities in accordance with the Aiming High for Disabled Children framework. 2. Improve the quality of multi-agency transition arrangements for children in care with learning disabilities and / or mental health issues. 3. Ensure good or excellent standards of care in all directly provided residential care, foster care and commissioned services. Complete review of in house residential services. 4. Improve the quality and choice of provision for children becoming looked after, particularly in LA fostering provision and reduce the number of children living in out of borough independent sector residential placements. 5. Maintain a full complement of trained and skilled social workers, so that all children in care have a qualified and suitably trained social worker to meet their needs in a timely way. 6. Establish the Corporate Parenting Body (through re-designating the Virtual School Governing Body) and develop / implement the Corporate Parenting Strategy. 7. Continue to ensure that the mental health needs of children in care are recognised and responded to through a continuum of provision from consultation, advice, training, specialist assessments and interventions through to specialist placement provision. 8. Increase the number of former care leavers aged 19 years in suitable accommodation and in employment, education and training. 	<p>NI 62 Stability of placements of looked after children: number of moves.</p> <p>NI 66 Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.</p> <p>NI 58 Emotional and behavioural health of children in care. (Reported through Being Healthy).</p> <p>Improvement in performance against PSA 16 targets.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
Implement the government action plan in response to Lord Laming review of protection of children in England.	Delivery plan outlined in the Local Safeguarding Children Board Business plan.	Review completed and implemented.

outcome area:
enjoy and achieve

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

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
Public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remove surplus capacity in Primary & Secondary Schools through phased reviews of provision across the Borough. 2. Implement a programme to review and improve Special School provision. 	<p>% of surplus places in primary schools.</p> <p>% of surplus places in secondary schools.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of Children's Centres.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve outreach of all Children's Centres to vulnerable families. 2. Ensure priority is given to improving the outcomes for vulnerable families in the 5 ECM themes, via continuous data analysis, regular reports to the board, development of case studies of good practice. 3. Use of tighter performance management structures and common agendas across children's centres; develop integrated multi-agency networks across areas and districts. 4. Create robust information sharing protocols and systems across all partners. 5. Publication of the Childcare Sufficiency Audit. 6. Launch of Information System for Parents and Providers. 7. Completion of Phase 3 Children's Centre developments. 	<p>NI 92 narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in Early Years Foundation Stage profile and the rest.</p> <p>NI 118 Take up of formal childcare by low income working families.</p> <p>NI 109 Number of Children's Centres.</p> <p>Numbers of children and families accessing services and the proportion from vulnerable/disadvantaged backgrounds.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
Children and families are supported with their social and emotional development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure priority is given to work with vulnerable families on emotional and social development, e.g. via Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programmes, Family Works, and nurturing training provided by Special Educational Support Service (SESS). 2. Further embed the Managed Moves protocol in secondary and primary schools especially in order to further reduce the levels of exclusion. 3. Continue to roll out Restorative Practices training. 	<p>Number of children excluded from school (fixed and permanent exclusions).</p> <p>Numbers of schools engaged with the SEAL programmes.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
Extended Services, delivered through schools and partners working in clusters, impact upon the outcomes for children and families.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to implement the Extended Services Action Plan. 2. Priorities for 2010-2011 are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. All clusters to continue to have robust plans clearly targeted using allocated resources effectively. b. Improve measurement of impact. c. Achieve the Full Core Offer across all schools by 2010. 	<p>NI 88 Number of extended Schools.</p> <p>RAG rating by Extended Services Regional Team.</p> <p>Number of children accessing services.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>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.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Put revised School Improvement Policy into practice; provide appropriate briefings of councillors, governors and headteachers. 2. Ensure primary schools causing concern or in an Ofsted category make sufficient progress to be removed in the shortest possible time. 3. Identify underachieving and underperforming schools, subjects and groups within schools (including underperforming vulnerable learners) through analysis of data. This includes ensuring through the National Challenge and Gaining Ground programmes that by Summer 2011 no secondary school is below 30% for 5+A*-C grades (including English and mathematics). 4. Increase accuracy of assessment and consistency of moderation at transition points. 5. Ensure priority is given to ISP and WISP in primary schools; and coordinated, targeted support in secondary schools. Focus in particular on raising standards in English and maths. Implement the World Class Primary Curriculum. 6. Implement curriculum changes in line with the 21st Century School programme and the review of the Primary Curriculum. 7. Develop a high quality e-learning community that supports an improving and developing curriculum and encourages collaboration. 8. Implement the Masters in Teaching and Learning Programme. 9. Embed APP and AFL across English, mathematics, science and ICT teaching. 10. Further develop effective teaching and learning strategies and the sharing of good practice to raise the quality of learning. 11. Implement the next phase of 1-1 tuition, monitor and evaluate the impact. 12. As appropriate implement the requirements of the Children Schools and Families Bill and disseminate to school settings and partners. 	<p>NI 89 Reduction of number of schools judged as requiring special measures and improvement in time taken to come out of the category.</p> <p>All DCSF attainment targets and linked NI's will be measured.</p> <p>NI 78 - Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and maths.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement.</p>	<p>Better Communication Strategy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement new models of service delivery for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs. 2. Identify and pilot effective screening tools. 3. Develop and implement a costed training plan for professional development across the workforce for parents/carers. 4. Refine outcome and impact measures for this area of work. <p>Narrowing the Gap</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Interrogate more deeply performance data including neighbourhood data, on effects of poverty on achievement across the partnership. Devise a strategy based on action research and the National Strategy Narrowing the Gap programme. 6. Reduce child poverty by supporting families experiencing unemployment through family, adult and employability programmes. <p>Inclusion and Special Education Needs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Develop the use of range of intervention strategies to support under-achieving and under-attaining groups of pupils, e.g. via dissemination of Action Research findings of Educational Psychologists. 8. Further reduce the SEN/non-SEN gap at the end of all Key Stages in the core subjects. 9. Further develop greater collaborative working between schools to ensure that all mainstream schools have effective SEN provision maps that utilise provide and reliable intervention approaches and contribute towards raising SEN standards/achievements. 10. Ensure all schools are making good use of IDP and progression Guidance materials to improve Quality First Teaching and enable them to set challenging and reliable targets to raise the achievements of all pupils. <p>Attendance</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Work with schools to reduce the level of Persistent Absence in primary schools and secondary schools. 12. Work with the Virtual School to improve the school attendance of Looked After Children. <p>English as an Additional Language</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Improve the outcomes for children who have English as an Additional Language by building capacity in schools and evaluating the effectiveness of support. <p>Looked After Children</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Raise standards of Looked After Children so their outcomes are comparable to their peers through capacity building in schools and evaluating the effectiveness of support. 15. Ensure that the educational needs of Looked after Children are identified at an early stage and appropriate support put in place which tracks attainment and progress and increases levels of attainment. 	<p>NI 92 narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in Early Years Foundation Stage profile and the rest.</p> <p>NI 102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at KS2 and 4.</p> <p>NI 87 proportion of pupils who are Persistently Absent in secondary schools.</p> <p>Proportion of Children In Care who miss 25 days or more of school.</p> <p>NI 99 Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2.</p> <p>NI 100 Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2.</p> <p>NI 101 Looked After Children achieving 5 A*-C GCSE's.</p> <p>% care leavers in education, employment or training at age 19.</p>



outcome area:
positive contribution

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

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Fewer children and young people are involved in offending and anti social behaviour.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quarterly analysis of FTE data to ensure targeted prevention resources to reduce numbers entering the youth justice system. 2. Expansion of the Restorative Justice Protocol to ensure RJ principles are followed effectively and that all young people entering the youth justice system for the first time are considered for RJ as an alternative to prosecution. 3. Increase use of Restorative Practice in schools to reduce exclusions. 4. Ensure all young people are assessed at the point of entry to YOS and that ETE needs are addressed in intervention planning. 5. Annual Partnership Agreement between Connexions and YOS reviewed and refreshed to sustain positive partnership working as cited during recent Ofsted ETE inspection. 6. Connexions Personal Adviser support to YOS reconfigured to include Activity Agreement Advisor enabling direct access to the programme for Young Offenders. 7. ETE mentors recruited and trained to support young people accessing ETE. 8. Work with current providers to ensure an increase in accommodation available for young people whose previous convictions or behaviour might otherwise prevent them from being accommodated. 9. Embed the Substance Misuse Strategy with identified actions reported through the integrated Youth Support Strategy. 10. Provide courtroom skills training for Wirral young people giving them the opportunity to explore the consequences of offending and anti-social behaviour. 	<p>NI 111 First-time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10-17.</p> <p>NI 86 Number of secondary schools judged as having Outstanding Behaviour.</p> <p>NI 45 Young offender's engagement in suitable education employment and training.</p> <p>NI 46 Young offenders access to suitable accommodation.</p> <p>NI 115 Tellus Survey, the total number of young people reporting either frequent use of drugs, or alcohol or both is lower compared to the number of respondents in October 2007 returns.</p> <p>NI 39 Alcohol harm-related hospital admission rates.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play and developmental opportunities which meets their needs.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Hubs to provide a focus for District planning, delivering and monitoring of provision to improve the quality of services. 2. The Youth Opportunity Fund/ Youth capital Fund will be used to support the Youth Offer. 3. Young Carers will be taking part in a programme designed to provide opportunities to explore areas of concern and also to provide fun and challenging activities. 4. We will continue to ensure that Children in Care are able to access leisure activity programmes during the holiday periods. 5. Promote play opportunities for children and young people on quarterly basis in conjunction with local feeder schools. 6. Children and young people can participate in a range of inclusive and accessible play activity in areas of identified need. 7. Review and evaluate year one PlayBuilder sites. 8. Deliver Play Safe action plan to address fears and concerns highlighted by children playing outdoors. 9. Consult with Children and Young People on the design and improvement of eleven equipped play areas. 10. Increase the percentage of Wirral schools working towards eco-school status which provides suitable outdoor play areas for all young people. 	<p>NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport.</p> <p>NI 110 Young People's participation in positive activities.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Children & Young People are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making process.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Executive Youth Board will annually review progress, make recommendations for future activity and report through District Youth Forum meetings. 2. Establish robust consultation mechanism building on existing structures to consult with children and young people on the New Children and Young People's Plan. 3. EYB agree with Older People's Parliament appropriate actions for co-working to address community cohesion concerns. 4. Young people will be trained in recruitment and selection procedures. Twelve young people in 2010/2011. 5. All children and young people who come into the care of the local authority will be directly contacted. 6. Young people will continue to informally evaluate the Activity Agreement Programme. 7. A grant panel will be established to oversee the allocation of the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds. The outcomes will be reported to both the Positive Contribution and the Integrated Youth support strategy Groups. 8. The Commissioned youth activities will be monitored to ensure agreed targets and performance measures are achieved. Young people will be involved in the monitoring process. 9 Pupil Panels for pupils from Special Schools will be developed to increase the involvement of young people with LDD in the decision making process. 10 Young people will be actively involved in developing resources to support KS2/3 transition and will contribute to the launch and training of relevant professionals. 	<p>NI 110 Young People's participation in positive activities.</p> <p>10% of schools engaged in Healthy Schools Enhancement model.</p> <p>Representatives from 4 districts are engaged in the decision making process with the Executive Youth Board.</p> <p>NI 110 Young people's Participation in positive Activities</p>

outcome area:
social and economic wellbeing

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

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Increase the number of young people who are participating and achieving their potential.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to progress the 14-19 reform agenda and to provide a range of opportunities and courses of high quality through the implementation of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14-19 Plan. • 14-19 Quality Assurance Framework. • School Sixth Form Quality Monitoring & Evaluation Framework. 2. Increase post 16 participation and achievement through the implementation of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough EET Strategy. • IYS Strategy. 3. Support Wirral Care Leavers to access HE and achieve academic success. 4. Provide young people with confidence and skills, and information to travel independently using public transport, or by walking or cycling. 	<p>NI 90 Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas.</p> <p>NI 79 Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19.</p> <p>NI 80 Achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19.</p> <p>NI 117 Reduce the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education employment or training (NEET).</p> <p>NI 91 Participation of 17 year olds in education or training.</p> <p>NI 148 Care leavers in Education, employment and training.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Reduce numbers of 16-18 vulnerable young people NEET in line with LAA targets and the PSA 2010 trajectory.</p>	<p>1. In recognition of the current economic climate and global recession we will refresh the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borough EET Strategy. • IYS Strategy. • 14-19 Plan. <p>With a specific focus and monitoring of the progress of vulnerable groups and appropriate preventative and targeted intervention including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looked After Children. • Teenage mothers. • Young Offenders. • Young People with SEN/LDD. • Those with substance misuse issues. <p>2. Deliver the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity Agreement Pilot. • Positive Activities for Young People programmes. <p>3. Develop Borough Strategy and implementation plan for the local application of the National standards for information, Advice and Guidance.</p> <p>4. Extend the employability programmes for NEET Young people and specifically vulnerable groups and implement the Wirral Apprenticeship Programme.</p>	<p>NI 117 16-18 year olds not in education employment or training (NEET).</p> <p>N148 Care leavers in Education, employment and training.</p> <p>NI 45 Young Offenders engagement in suitable education employment and training.</p>

Priority	How we will deliver	How we will be judged
<p>Contribute to the reduction in levels of child poverty and minimise the number of children and young people living in poor housing.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementation of the CES Employment Strategy, WEDS priorities and Borough EET Strategy including the 'whole family' approach to addressing worklessness acknowledging the current economic climate and impact of the recession. 2. Improve access to life opportunities such as education, employment or training, healthcare and social/recreational opportunities by providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work wise (scooters, cycles and travel cards) • Travel Team (travel advice and journey planning) • Travel Training. 3. Support young people including care leavers to access and maintain accommodation where needed by developing and progressing the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of households containing children and young people that are referred to power Health through Warmth for heating and insulation grants, thereby reducing fuel poverty amongst this group. • Monitor support/accommodation provided to lone teenage parents. 	<p>NI 116 Proportion of children in poverty.</p> <p>NI 176 Working age people with access to employment by public transport (and other specified modes).</p> <p>NI 118 Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families.</p> <p>NI 45 Young offenders access to suitable accommodation.</p> <p>NI 147 Care leavers in suitable accommodation.</p>

outcome framework performance indicators

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

National Indicator	Actual				Targets				Historical performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 52a - Take up of school lunches - Primary (%)	-	-	40.8	-	Target setting from 2010				-
NI 52b - Take up of school lunches - Secondary (%)	-	-	38.5	-	Target setting from 2010				-
NI 53 - Prevalence of breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks from birth (%)	-	-	29.0	-	29.9	Target setting from 2010			-
NI 54 - Services for disabled children (%)	-	-	-	63.0	Baseline year 2010 Target setting from 2011				-
NI 55 - Obesity in reception aged children (LAA) (%) (lower is better)	9.13	9.57	9.55	-	9.23	9.37	9.50	-	↓↑
NI 56 - Obesity in year 6 aged children (%) (lower is better)	19.7	19.1	20.6	-	20.4	20.9	-	-	↓↑
NI 57 - Participation in sporting activities (%)	67.0	71.0	71.0	-	-	84.0	90.0	95.0	↔
NI 58 - Emotional health of children in care (lower is better)	-	-	15.3	-	Target setting from 2011				-
NI 59 - Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral (%)	81.6	78.8	77.4	-	72.0	76.0	78.0	80.0	↓
NI 60 - Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement (%)	82.4	89.8	79.1	-	80.0	80.0	82.0	84.0	↓↑
NI 61 - Timeliness of adoption (%)	76.2	55.6	61.1	-	68.0	80.0	85.0	90.0	↑
NI 62 - Stability of placements: number of placements (%) (lower is better)	10.3	12.5	10.2	-	10.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	↑

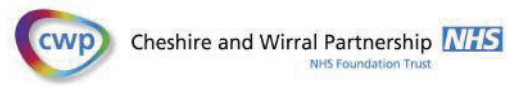
National Indicator	Actual				Targets				Historical performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 63 - Stability of placements: length of placement (%)	62.3	51.9	67.5	-	70.0	72.0	72.5	73.0	↓↑
NI 64 - Child protection plans lasting 2 years or more (%) (lower is better)	7.7	3.4	4.8	-	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	↑
NI 65 - Child protection plan for a second or subsequent time (lower is better)	8.9	14.5	11.2	-	15.0	14.0	13.0	13.0	↓↑
NI 66 - LAC cases which were reviewed within required timescales (%)	89.8	95.2	96.3	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	↑
NI 67 - Child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales (%)	100.0	100.0	99.2	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	←→
NI 68 - Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment (LAA) (%)	40.5	65.9	64.3	-	72.0	75.0	77.0	80.0	↓↑
NI 69 - Children who have experienced bullying (results for NI 69 are not directly comparable due to changes in the questionnaire) (%) (lower is better)	-	-	45.9	26.8	Target setting from 2010				N/A
NI 70 - Reduce emergency admissions to hospital relating to unintentional and deliberate injuries to children (lower is better)	155.9	161.1	159.6	-	129.9	Target setting from 2010			↓↑
NI 71 - Young Runaways (number between 1-15)	-	-	14.0	-	-	15.0	15.0	15.0	-
NI 72 - Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage (LAA) (%)	45.0	46.0	49.0	52.1	56.0	57.0	To be agreed with Youth Justice Board		↑
NI 73 - Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and maths at Key Stage 2 (LAA) (%)	72.0	72.0	75.0	74.0	77.0	78.0	To be agreed with Youth Justice Board		↑
NI 75 - 5+ GCSE A*-C (Inc English and maths) (LAA) (%)	46.3	48.4	50.2	53.8	55.2	57.0	To be agreed with Youth Justice Board		↑

National Indicator	Actual				Targets				Historical performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 76 - Number of schools where less than 55% achieve L4 KS2 English and maths (lower is better)	16.0	11.0	8.0	11.0	-	16.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↓↑
NI 78 - Number of schools where less than 30% achieve 5+ GCSE including English and maths (lower is better)	6.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	-	2.0	0.0	0.0	↑
NI 79 - Achievement of level 2 by the age of 19 (%)	69.3	70.8	74.0	-	-	-	82.0	-	↑
NI 80 - Achievement of level 3 by the age of 19 (%)	44.4	43.9	48.0	-	-	-	54.0	-	↑
NI 81 - Inequality gap at level 3 by the age of 19 (%) (lower is better)	32.4	33.1	32.8	-	-	-	28.0	26.0	←→
NI 82 - Inequality gap at level 2 by the age of 19 (%) (lower is better)	50.8	51.0	59.5	-	-	-	64.0	66.0	↑
NI 84 - 2 or more A*-C GCSE science (%)	50.8	54.5	53.4	60.5	58.7	60.6	63.0	64.0	↑
NI 85a - Post-16 participation in physical sciences (physics)	-	-	128.0	133.0	-	-	-	-	↑
NI 85b - Post-16 participation in physical sciences (chemistry)	-	-	246.0	270.0	-	-	-	-	↑
NI 85c - Post-16 participation in physical sciences (maths)	-	-	276.0	306.0	-	-	-	-	↑
NI 86 - Secondary schools judged as having good or outstanding standards of behaviour (%)	81.8	86.4	86.4	-	-	90.0	90.0	90.0	↑
NI 87 - Secondary schools persistent absence (LAA) (%) (lower is better)	8.0	7.1	4.9	-	6.4	5.5	To be agreed with DCSF		↑

National Indicator	Actual				Targets				Historical performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 88 - Schools offering extended services (%)	-	-	85.0	98.0	70.0	72.0	72.5	73.0	-
NI 89a - Number of schools judged as requiring special measures (lower is better)	-	-	-	-	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	-
NI 89b - Average time taken for schools to come out of category (lower is better)	-	-	-	-	15.0	14.0	13.0	13.0	-
NI 90 - Take up of 14 - 19 Learning Diplomas	-	-	-	-	Introduced in 2009/10 Target setting from academic year 2010/11				-
NI 91 - Participation in of 17 year olds in education or training (%)	79.0	79.0	-	-	-	-	To be agreed		-
NI 92 - Narrowing the gap at FSP (LAA) (%) (lower is better)	37.4	34.3	31.9	31.3	30.2	29.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 93 - Progression of 2 levels English KS1 - KS2 (LAA) (%)	80.5	83.8	87.2	84.0	86.0	87.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↓↑
NI 94 - Progression of 2 levels maths KS1 - KS2 (LAA) (%)	73.7	74.8	77.2	80.0	79.0	82.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 99 - LAC reaching L4 English at KS2 (LAA) (%)	36.0	41.0	62.0	-	44.0	53.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 100 - LAC reaching L4 maths at KS2 (LAA) (%)	36.0	52.0	62.0	-	44.0	56.0	To be agreed with DCSF		↑
NI 101 - LAC achieving 5+ A*-C (Including English & maths) (LAA) (%)	-	-	10.5	7.3	7.4	6.3	To be agreed with DCSF		-
NI 102a - FSM/non-FSM gap at KS2 English and maths (%) (lower is better)	25.4	23.7	21.7	-	-	-	To be agreed with DCSF		↑

National Indicator	Actual				Targets				Historical performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 102b - FSM/non-FSM gap at KS4 English and maths (%) (lower is better)	34.8	36.5	37.6	-	-	-	To be agreed with DCSF		↓
NI 103a - SEN statements within 26 weeks (excluding exceptions) (%)	-	-	97.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
NI 103b - SEN statements within 26 weeks (including exceptions) (%)	-	-	91.0	100.0	95.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
NI 104 - SEN/non-SEN gap at KS2 English and maths (%) (lower is better)	56.2	55.9	51.2	48.6	-	-	46.0	44.0	↑
NI 105 - SEN/non-SEN gap at KS4 English and maths (%) (lower is better)	43.7	44.1	46.4	50.4	-	-	47.0	45.0	↓
NI 106 - Young People from low income backgrounds progressing to university (%)	30.0	31.0	-	-	-	27.0	26.0	25.0	-
NI 109 - Delivery of Sure Start Centres (%)	-	-	95.0	-	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	-
NI 110 - Young peoples participation in positive activities (%)	-	-	80.5	63.7	-	Target setting from 2011			-

National Indicator	Actual				Targets				Historical performance
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	
NI 111 - First time entrants into the Youth Justice System (LAA) (lower is better)	1440.0	1620.0	1370.0	-	1570.0	1500.0	-	-	↑↓
NI 112 - Reduction in the under 18 Conception Rate (LAA) Data subject to timeframe of gestation and registering of birth. (lower is better)	-5.6	-6.7	-	-	-28.0	-39.0	-50.0	-	↑
NI 113 - Prevalence of chlamydia in under 25's (%) (lower is better)	-	21.6	-	-	-	Target setting from 2010			-
NI 114 - Permanent exclusions from school (%) (lower is better)	0.10	0.10	0.08		0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	↑
NI 115 - Substance misuse by young people (%) (lower is better)	-	-	11.1	13.9	-	Target setting from 2011			-
NI 117 - Percentage of 16 - 18 year olds NEET (LAA) (%) (lower is better)	10.0	9.5	9.1	8.9	7.1	6.9	Target setting from 2010		↑
NI 118 - Take up of formal childcare by low-income working families (%)	19.4	21.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NI 147 - Care leavers in suitable accommodation (%)	80.5	91.1	91.4	-	-	95.0	95.0	95.0	↑
NI 148 - Care leavers in EET (%)	56.1	40.0	55.2	-	-	Target setting from 2010			↑↓



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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2nd JUNE 2010

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

THE ADOPTION SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members about the work of the Adoption Service in accordance with the requirements of the National Adoption Standards as set out in the Adoption and Children Act 2002. This report serves as an annual report for 2009/10 and updates the performance information provided in the report of September 2009.

1. Background

- 1.1 Under the requirements of the National Adoption Standards Elected Members, in their role as Corporate Parents, should be informed on a regular basis about the activity of the adoption service. Information set out in the reports should include the numbers of prospective adoptive families approved by the adoption panel, the numbers of children placed for adoption and the number of adoption orders granted.
- 1.2 Information should also be provided on the time taken in approving prospective adoptive families and the timeliness of placing children within an adoptive family once they have had a 'Should be Placed for Adoption' recommendation at panel.
- 1.3 This report will also outline the details of the post adoption services that Wirral is able to directly provide and commission.

2 Approval of Prospective Adoptive Families 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

- 2.1 During this period 14 prospective adoptive families were approved as 'Suitable to Adopt'. With only one exception each of the Prospective Adopter's Reports (PAR) were completed and approved within the timescales laid down by the Adoption National Minimum Standards 2003.
- 2.2 The one exception involved a couple who were originally not approved by panel. A lengthy process then followed involving the Adoption Independent Review Mechanism which eventually resulted in their approval.
- 2.3 Of the 14 approved prospective adoptive families, at 1st April 2010; 8 families were waiting a match, 5 families had been matched with children and 1 family had been deregistered at their own request.
- 2.4 The adoption service are mindful to recruit, train and swiftly assess families, who can meet the needs of children in Wirral. It therefore anticipated that at least 7 of the 8 families will be matched in the near future. There is one approved prospective adoptive family, who are unlikely to be matched with any children in Wirral due to their particular religious background. The details of this prospective adoptive family have been shared with Adoption 22 Consortium, which comprises of the Northwest adoption agencies, in order for a match to be achieved regionally.

2.5 In order to improve the quality of their PARs all staff within the adoption service are now trained in undertaking 'Attachment Style Interviews'. As a result more information is now available to the service concerning the risk/resilience of prospective adopters and their ability to access support when under stress.

2.6 Prospective adoptive families continue to be offered training prior to the PAR commencing to help them understand fully the needs of children being placed.

3 Children who were Adopted from 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

3.1 During this period, 24 children have been granted Adoption Orders.

3.2 National Indicator 61 is concerned with the timeliness of adoptions and requires that an Adoption Order be granted within 12 months of the Adoption Panel's 'Should Be Placed for Adoption Decision'. Of the above children, 21 were placed within 12 months of the 'Should Be Placed for Adoption Decision'; which translates as 87.5%. There is a table in appendix one which outlines Wirral's performance against NI 61 alongside that of comparator authorities.

3.3 All of the 3 children who did take longer to place did have more complex needs than most children. One of the children had previously experienced an adoption breakdown, so eventual adoption was inevitably delayed as a second suitable match was made and supported.

3.4 In order to achieve such positive results, the adoption service, has worked hard at each stage of the process. The LAC Service Manager now takes a lead for quality assuring the Child Permanence Reports (CPR). By improving the quality of CPRs, it is hoped that the task in relation to matching and placing children with prospective adopters will become easier.

3.5 Several members of the adoption team are now trained in completing 'story stem' work. This is a therapeutic technique which is used to assess children's attachment and readiness for adoption. Clearly better quality information concerning children's attachment will contribute to better matching.

3.7 The adoption team also ensure that the information they provide to the Court is sufficiently detailed and clearly outlines the birth parent's perspective. To this end the team have been commended by the Court in relation to the quality of the reports presented. It is also worth noting that the Team Manager has been particularly forthright in ensuring that Court dates do not delay performance against NI 61.

4 Children placed for Adoption, not yet Adopted 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010

4.1 During this period there were 21 children placed in adoptive families but not yet adopted. Of these children 9 were awaiting a Court date following an adoption application having been lodged. The adoptive families for the other 12 children had yet to lodge their application.

4.2 Some of the 9 children with applications lodged and awaiting a Court date have waited for some time for the adoption to be finalised. Within this group however are children who were previously placed for adoption and experienced a disruption and children with more complex needs.

- 4.3 For these children the delay in securing an adoption order could be viewed more positively as significant preparation work is being undertaken with these children to ensure their preparedness for adoption and to avoid future breakdowns.
- 4.4 In order to ensure children are sufficiently prepared for adoption there is now a staff member trained in undertaking 'Theraplay'. This is a technique aimed at ensuring children and parents are prepared for adoption through attachment based play.
- 5 Matching Wirral Children with Wirral Adopters 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010**
- 5.1 As a local authority, it is important that prospective adoptive parents are recruited who can meet the needs of the children we have waiting for an adoptive family.
- 5.2 Of the 24 children adopted during 2009/2010 and the 21 children placed for adoption all except one have been placed with Wirral adopters. The one child placed with another agency was placed within the Merseyside area.
- 6 Post Adoption Support Services**
- 6.1 In October 2009 a process of development in relation to post adoption support services began. Four Social Workers who previously made up the Assisted Residence Order and Discharge Team (ARD) joined the Adoption Team. In addition a new Senior Practitioner post has also been created, this post has recently been recruited to with the successful candidate due to start on the 1st June 2010.
- 6.2 With the additional posts it is proposed that the adoption team will be able to offer a dedicated post adoption support service. The Senior Practitioner will take on the role of the Adoption Support Advisor (as outlined in the Adoption Agencies Regulations 2003) and will take a lead role in developing post adoption support. It is intended that the Adoption Team will become the Adoption and Permanence Team, as the team will also be responsible for delivering support following the making of a Special Guardianship Order (SGO).
- 6.3 The adoption team continues to produce a newsletter for families which includes feature articles, available training and notification of social events. There is also a page dedicated to children and young people with articles, competitions and information on events.
- 6.4 The fortnightly parent and tots group, dedicated to adoptive families continues to run successfully.
- 6.5 Negotiation is currently taking place with the Youth Service, with a view to securing their involvement in the future of the Adoption Youth Club.
- 6.6 The Bi-monthly support group, which meets in the evening, continues to be well attended. This is used for general discussion, but also at times has speakers
- 6.7 The adoption team also held a summer fun day and Christmas party for adoptive families. Each event was well attended and willingly supported by staff giving up time during their weekend.
- 6.8 Adopters living in Wirral also have access to assessment of needs to enable them to access other post adoption support services including financial support or direct work via the child and adolescent psychotherapist who is linked to the team.

- 6.9 In addition to providing support to adoptive families the agency also has a duty to provide support to birth families affected by adoption. Currently in order to avoid a conflict of interest support to birth families is delivered through an arrangement with After Adoption which is a voluntary sector adoption agency. There is a plan to re-tender for this service during 2010/11.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The adoption service is rightly proud that 24 children have been adopted during 2009/10 and that the NI 61 was at 87.5% on the 31st March 2010. It is clear that the adoption service is on track to ensure a good number of children are adopted in 2010/11 with 9 adoptive families having already lodged applications on the 31st March 2010.
- 7.2 It is clear that Wirral is able to recruit sufficient prospective adoptive families to meet the needs of children with a 'Should be placed for adoption' decision.
- 7.3 Post Adoption Support is now developing into a service in its own right. It is anticipated that this service will strengthen in 2010/11 through the leadership of the new adoption support advisor.
- 7.4 The next report in six months will ensure elected members continue to receive full and accurate information on adoption performance.

8. Risk Assessment

If the Adoption Service does not perform in relation to the national indicators then there is a risk that the outcomes for some children will be adversely affected. Children need permanence in order to form strong and secure attachments to their carers and to have positive outcomes as they grow up. Adoption is a significant means to achieving this for some children.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 None

10. Staffing Implications

- 10.1 None

11. Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

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

12. Community Safety Implications

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

13. Local Agenda 21 Implications

- 13.1 None

14. Planning Implications

14.1 None

15. Anti-poverty Implications

15.1 None

16. Social Inclusion Implications

16.1 None

17. Local Member Support Implications

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

18. Background Papers

Adoption National Minimum Standards 2003
Adoption Agencies Regulations 2003
Adoption and Children Act 2002
Adoption Service Inspection Report Sept 2008.
Adoption Service Six Monthly Report Sept 2009

RECOMMENDATIONS

That

(1) Members are asked to note and comment on this report

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

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Wirral Adoption Panel Annual Report 2009

1 Introduction

This is the third adoption panel report written by the members of the Adoption Panel since it was formed in accordance with the regulations which came into force on 30 December 2005.

Previous reports were for the following periods:

- February 06 to December 07
- January 08 to December 09

Plus a 3 years review was completed in December 2009

2 Panel Membership

There have not been any changes to the panel membership; however there has been a change of agency adviser.

2.1 Membership in December 2009

- Dorothy Lewis – chairperson
- Sue Jamieson-Quinn – vice chair & independent member
- Colleen McNamara - social work representative
- Ann Downes- social work representative
- George Bragan- social work representative
- Martin Lyon - independent member
- Caryn Lock- independent member
- Christine Comer – medical adviser
- Sheila Clarke – councillor

Advisers to the panel:

- Vicki Shaw – legal adviser
- Simon Garner – agency adviser

Plus Debi Kenyon as panel administrator

2.2 Observers

Sue Leedham, Adoption Team Manager, has been an observer at most panel meetings during 2009 with the exception when she acted as the agency adviser. Also there were other observers at 50% of panel meetings: these ranged from trainees [social work & psychology] to a new member of adoption team.

2.3 Quoracy

There was only one occasion when quoracy was an issue in relation to having a social work representative present; however this was resolved by two of the social work representatives each attending part of the panel.

2.4 Succession planning

There is a need to put in place succession planning as some members terms will finish in 2011, also this will ensure there is a proactive approach to having full membership.

3 Meetings and attendance

Panel planned and met 14 times during 2009.

Members are required to attend at least 75% of the meetings and this has been achieved except for one member and that related to a period of illness. The majority of non attendances have arisen from members taking holidays and, in some cases for the social workers, work matters such as attending court.

4 Panel Workload

During 2009 panel has concentrated on dealing with the cases presented and, as required, discussed some specific issues.

The number of cases presented to panel totalled 68; this has averaged 5 cases per panel although this has varied from 1 to 7 cases. Panel members agreed in 2007 that the maximum number of cases presented at any panel must not exceed 8.

Of the 68 cases presented formally to panel a couple of cases have been presented to panel on more than one occasion as they were previously deferred.

Of these 68 cases the following information has been collated:

[refer to annex 1 for greater details]

4.1 Children

22 cases were presented consisting of 34 children:

Panel:

- recommended that 28 children should be placed for adoption – 2 of these children had already been recommended as should be placed for adoption but were required by the court to reconsider [panel's original recommendation was not changed]
- did not support the proposed change of care plan from adoption to long term foster care for 1 child
- deferred 5 [2 individual children & sibling group of 3]

The children presented were:

- 12 individual children
- 8 sibling groups of 2
- 2 sibling groups of 3

4.2 Adopters

22 cases were presented consisting of 17 couples applicants; 3 single applicants; an approved couple for deregistration and a review of an approved couple.

Panel recommended that:

- 16 couples be suitable to be adopters
- 1 couple were not suitable to be adopters
- 3 single applicants be suitable to adopt
- 1 couple be deregistered
- 1 couple continue as approved adopters

4.3 Matching of adopters and children

24 cases presented consisting of 29 children with 17 couples and 6 single adopters plus a rescinding of a proposed match. Of the 24 cases represented

1 proposed match with a single adopter was deferred and reconsidered at a later date.

Panel recommended that all the children presented be matched and the rescinding of a previous agreed match.

5 Policies, procedures and practices

Panel has continued to consider a number of issues throughout the year; for details refer to annex 2.

The key issues were:

- completion of panel's 3 years review
- implementation within the agency of the new children permanence report developed by the panel
- increase of documents to be read by panel members
- complaint by panel to CAFCASS
- agreement for adopters to attend panel for matches [commenced 2010]
- possible change of venue
- possible need for new members

6 Panel development and training

In 2009 members planned initially to have 3 training and development days, these were to be in January, June and October. However, as one of the key topics was subsequently booked to take place in April 2010, only 2 development days took place; these were held on 30 January and 25 September. The January day was jointly held with and delivered by the members of the Adoption Team.

January development day

- Work of the adoption team from preparation group to post adoption support to matching considerations.

October development day

- Post adoption support and child attachment

7 Feedback to panel

Panel members recognise that it is important to continually develop and improve and try to ensure that those attending panel experience it as positively as possible irrespective of the recommendations being made. Therefore feedback from those who present or attend panels is very important. Unfortunately no formal feedback has been sought during 2009. It has been agreed that a robust system needs to be in place for 2010.

8] Summary about Panel's performance

In comparison to previous years panel has had a period of relatively stability in so much as panel membership has not changed; there has not been any changes to regulations, guidances or agency's policies that could have impacted on the working practices of the panel. This stability has given the members greater opportunities to get to know each other better and become more consistent in approach to considering matters.

8.1 Commitment

Panel members continue to develop individually and together and consider the performance of panel in fulfilling it's responsibilities.

The requirement for panel members to have access to and hence read all independent expert witnesses reports for children being considered for 'should be placed for adoption' has increased the time required. This additional expectation has been accepted by all panel members without complaint, again demonstrating continued commitment.

Panel members continue to ensure that those attending panel experience it as positively as possible irrespective of the recommendations being made whilst at the same time recognising that any recommendation made has to be child centred and is life changing for the child and adults.

8.2 Future issues

In 2010 panel will be dealing with the following:

- attendance of proposed adopters when being considered for a match with a child/ren panel
- the new National Minimum Standards due to be produced in 2010 and any impact for panel
- attachment style interviews as part of the assessments of adults.

Although panel fulfils all the tasks requested of it there remains a number of tasks not yet presented to panel on a consistent basis, these are:

- children who are the subject of a placement order and not placed within the first 6 months review [nine months from placement order being made]
- information about disruptions from which panel can learn and fully participate in the child's future planning

In addition a 'business session' needs to be established on a regular basis that deals with the following:

- 6 monthly presentation on statistical information including children who are placed or are waiting a placement; adopters who have had children placed or awaiting placement
- agency adoption report is to be presented to panel for comments / information prior to scrutiny committee
- new information i.e. regional approaches developed through Adoption22

The use of the 'any other business' session at the end of each panel will continue to capture other information and development issues.

Other matters that remain outstanding are:

- production of the leaflet that includes panel members
- confirmation of remuneration for independent members

- commitment to a robust feedback system

9] Aspirations for the following year

The aspirations for 2010 continue to be those expressed last year:

'We as panel members want to continue to improve and ensure that the role we fulfil in participating in the lives of children and adults is of the highest standard'.

The Adoption Panel members January 2010

10] Adoption agency's comments about panel's performance

During 2009 the Wirral Adoption Panel has continued to go from strength to strength in its commitment to meeting the needs of some of the most vulnerable children, who need to achieve permanence through adoption.

The significant commitment to continuously improve the quality of Child Permanence Reports, the timeliness of adoption placements and the approval of adopters from diverse backgrounds to meet Wirral children's needs has been impressive.

It has been a busy year, during which there has been considerable commitment by all Panel members to attend meetings regularly, participate in training and development and to rigorously challenge, enquire and understand children and families in a thoughtful and professional manner. This has led to many children being placed within families, providing nurturing environments within which children can flourish and achieve their full potential.

The Panel has high aspirations for improving further, through addressing the future issues identified at the end of this report. This will support the continued journey to achieve the aspirations of the Panel for 2010.

Julia Hassall

Head of Branch
Children's Social Care
May 2010.

Appendix 1

Panel dates	SHOPA	Adopter[s]	Matches	Other presented cases & information about cases	Total number of cases considered
7 January	2 Siblings 2 siblings 1 child	1 couple 1 single adopter			5
11 February	None	3 couples [1 same sex] 2 single adopters	1 child with a couple 1 child with a couple	disruption discussion	7
11 March	2 Siblings deferred 1 child	1 couple [same sex]	1 child with single adopter 2 siblings with a couple 1 child with a couple		6
8 April	3 separate children 2 siblings	none	1 child with a couple 1 child with a couple [same sex]	<i>Reconsidered, as requested by guardian, 2 siblings [twins] – panel had previously recommended they should be placed for adoption & did not change their recommendation. Informed that a panel recommendation for approval of adopter had been deferred by ADM pending further considerations.</i>	7
6 May			2 Siblings with a couple	<i>Panel considered rescinding the matching of a child with a couple and recommended that the match not proceed. Panel informed that a case presented may have given panel misleading information – matter to be represented to panel in July</i>	2
3 June	none	none	1 child with a couple 1 child with a couple 1 child & single adopter 1 child & single		4

			adopter - deferred		
1 July	1 child	2 couples	1 child & single adopter	<i>Deregistration of a couple approved as adopters. Presentation on reasons why there had been a change of care plan for a child following the recommendation of panel and the decision by the ADM. The matter will need to be represented to panel if the change of care plan is supported by the court.</i>	5
15 July	1 child deferred 3 siblings	none	1 child with a couple 2 siblings with a couple [same sex]	<i>12 months update on approved couple – panel supported that they be considered for another child</i>	5
26 August	1 child		1 child with single adopter		2
9 September		1 couple			1
30 September	2 siblings 1 child	3 couples – 1 couple not recommended	1 child with a couple		6
21 October	none	1 couple	2 siblings with a couple 1 child with a couple 1 child with a single adopter		4
18 November	2 siblings 1 child	3 couples	1 child with a couple	<i>Panel considered change of plan for a child from adoption to long term care – panel did not concur with change of plan & recommendation adoption as continuing to be in the child's best interest</i>	7
16 December	2 siblings 1 child 3 siblings - deferred	2 couples	1 child with a couple 2 siblings with a couple	ADM's reasons for disagreeing with panel's recommendation not to approve a couple as adopters shared.	7
					68

Appendix 2

Panel date	Issues considered under any other business	Update
7 January	Development day 30 January : the programme is on the work of the Adoption Team	The programme was well received by Adoption Panel members- was very informative and facilitated an opportunity for the panel and team members to quality time together. Propose to have joint development day annually. The positive comments by the ADM about the panel and the team were much appreciated.
	The Adoption Panel Annual Report 2008 with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3 Years Review • Individual annual reviews issues papers 	Report completed and submitted to the agency. The ADM added comments to the annual report- both were presented to the LA Scrutiny Committee
	New CPR	Was initially piloted and has been adopted by the agency.
	Inclusion of all assessments	These has been addressed by the agency and all expert assessments included in the panel members' papers
11 February	Leaflet for those attending panel	Draft agreed but as yet has not been produced
	Proposed development of replacement form for assessing adopters	Informed by Adoption22 that national ICS programme will standardise BAAF new PAR form. Panel no longer to pursue developing new form.
	April development day – programme was to be replacement form for assessing adopters; appropriateness of item no longer valid	Day deferred to June 09
11 March	Meeting of Adoption Panel chairs & Judge De Haas	Brief resume of content offered and that future meetings are planned.

	Planning development days: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26th June 2009- topic: parenting capacity, with & without children. • 23rd October 2009 – topic: attachment styles for both adults and children. 	Days cancelled: attachment style to following agency training in 2010
	Panel members' annual reviews: November dates agreed	Most annual reviews completed in November: 2 deferred to January 2010
8 April	Panel chair's meeting with Head of Service /ADM	Brief resume of content shared with panel members
	Panel's formal complaint to CAFCASS	Complaint letter agreed by panel members-chair to act on panel's behalf.
3 June	Complaint letter to CAFCASS – update following meeting with the CAFCASS manager and panel chair. further information identified to be shared with CAFCASS.	No formal response received following the complaint letter and subsequent information.
1 July	Development day September 2009.	
	Panel Observer Simon Garner, Strategic Service Manager	Comments from Simon well received by panel members
	Agency Adviser Matter raised with Julia Hassall with a number of other issues.	Simon acknowledged the issues
15 July	Development day Confirmation 25 September – topic: post adoption support and child attachment. To be facilitated by Sue L & Martin L.	
	Chair's meeting with Head of Service /ADM Brief resume of content of discussions given especially issue of agency advisor and new Service Manager not able to cover this role. Annual meetings will consist of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st – review of annual report etc and review of chair's activity for previous year; • 2nd - joint meeting chair & vice chair to discuss general issues relating to panel & agency's performance; • 3rd - chair's annual review. 	Agency adviser is Simon Garner; Sue Leedham is deputy. Dorothy confirmed that Julia is pleased with the work of the Panel.
26 August	Development day – 25th September 2009: agreed Julia Hassall and Katharine Radclyffe to be invited.	

	Development on attachment style is planned for 15 th April 2010	
	Panel members Acknowledge that changes within the agency will mean new social representative[s] needed for panel membership.	Yet to be concluded
	Appointment Agency Adviser Simon Garner appointed as Agency Adviser to the Panel. Sue Leedham will act as deputy agency adviser.	
9 September	New Agency Adviser welcomed to panel	
30 September	Rota for panel observers to be created Agreed maximum of 1 observer per panel	Yet to be completed
21 October	Annual reviews Confirmation of times, dates and self evaluation forms .	Most completed
	Timing of Panel items Proposed new time allocations for presentation at panel: matches to be 30 minute slot; approval to adopt be 45 minutes.	In place
	Frequency of panels Agreed to place on December agenda for 2010 - specific periods in the year when the volume of cases to be presented increases.	Increase in panels in autumn period
18 November	Change of Panel venue Discussed requirements of a new venue for 2010.	Agency continuing to seek suitable venue
	Panel members' personnel files Stock take of files to be undertaken by Dorothy prior to annual reviews.	Requirements identified for agency to follow up.
	Draft Adoption National Minimum Standards – circulated to members for information- consultation period to December 09.	Awaiting agency's feedback on comments.
	End of calendar year panel members to consider : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • annual review • development programme for 2010 	
16 December	Draft panel member's annual reviews Circulated for amendments and agreement	Amendments etc for January 10 panel
	Adopters to panel for matching	Invites to commence January 2010
	New venue for panel	Searches continue

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Wirral Borough Council Adoption Service

Statement of Purpose

March 2010

Sue Leedham
Adoption and Permanence Team Manager
Children & Young People's Department
Conway Centre
Conway Building
Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 6IA

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Wirral Adoption Service Structure and Personnel:

Head of Branch: Children's Social Care

Julia Hassall

Children & Young People's Department
Hamilton Buildings
Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 4FD

Strategic Service Manager

Simon Garner

Children & Young People's Department
Hamilton Buildings
Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 4FD

Service Manager

Katharine Radclyffe

Children & Young People's Department
Conway Centre
Conway Building
Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 6LA

The Adoption and Permanence Team:

Team Manager

Sue Leedham

3 Senior Practitioners (includes 1 new post currently being recruited to which comprises of the Adoption Support Advisor role)
10 Full time equivalent Social Workers
1 Full time equivalent Post Adoption Support Social Worker
1 Half Post - Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychotherapist
1 Social Work Assistant
3 Team Support Officers
1 Panel Administrator

Children & Young People's Department

Conway Centre
Conway Building
Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 6LA

Telephone Number 0151-666-5653
Email: - jasonworrall@wirral.gov

The manager and all of the Adoption and Permanence Team social workers hold a relevant social work qualification and have extensive experience of Children and families social work. There are four social workers who have recently moved into the team, who are currently undergoing induction and training in the specialist area of adoption.

The manager has completed the ILM Level 5 management course and has access to other management training.

Introduction

Wirral Borough Council Children and Young People's Department is committed to ensuring the provision of a comprehensive Adoption Service.

The Adoption Agency's services are delivered within and comply with the following legislation and guidance:

- Children Act 1989
- Adoption and Children Act 2002 and Statutory Guidance
- National Adoption Standards for England, Department of Health 2001
- National Minimum Standards and Regulations Adoption, Care Standards Act 2002
- Adoption Support Agencies Minimum Standards (England)
- Adoption Agencies Regulations 2005
- Suitability of Adopters Regulations 2005
- Adoption Act 1976
- Local Authority Adoption Service (England) Regulations 2003
- Adoption Support Agencies (England) and Adoption Agencies (miscellaneous amendments) Regulations 2005
- Placement of Children Regulations 1991
- Adoption Support Services (England) Regulations 2005
- Disclosure of Adoption Information (post-commencement Adoptions) Regulations 2005
- Adoption Information and Intermediary Services (pre-commencement adoptions) Regulations 2005

The Government's aim is for every child, whatever their background or circumstances, to have the support they need to enable them to:

- Be healthy
- Stay Safe
- Enjoy and achieve
- Make a positive contribution.

- Achieve economic well-being

Wirral Borough Council believes that all children and young people have the right:

- to feel safe, happy and be healthy;
- to be valued, respected and loved; and
- to have high hopes for their futures.

Adoption Service Objectives

Wirral Borough Council seeks to ensure that all children grow up as part of a loving family that can meet their needs throughout childhood and into adulthood. Where children are unable to live within their own birth family, a range of services and resources will be provided in order to assist families to resume the care of their children. Where that is not possible, the Council aims through its Adoption Service, to find permanent alternative families who will promote the child's well-being and development by providing the highest possible standards of care according to his or her individual assessed need.

The objectives of the Adoption Service are:

- To provide children with a loving, permanent alternative family that can meet their needs and enable them to achieve their full potential
- To ensure that adoption is given active consideration as an option for all children who need to be cared for away from their birth family
- To recruit adopters in sufficient numbers and from diverse backgrounds so as to enable the Service to meet the needs of Wirral children requiring adoptive placements
- To provide support to children placed for adoption and to their prospective adopters in order to ensure that the placement is secure and stable
- To provide a range of support services to birth families, adopted children and adopters, in accordance with legislation, regulations and guidance
- To ensure that all Wirral children, for whom adoption is an appropriate plan, are placed for adoption, supported and adopted in a timely fashion.

Guiding Principles

The work of Wirral Borough Council's Adoption Service is guided and informed by the following principles:

- The needs of the child are the central consideration in all decision making and planning processes.
- Every child is entitled to a permanent family throughout their childhood that meets all of their needs.
- A child's sense of identity should be actively promoted, with particular awareness of diversity and difference.
- Children's wishes and feelings should be sought and taken into consideration in decision-making.
- Children should only be separated from their siblings where there is clear evidence to support this as being in the interests of the children.
- Continuing contact with birth families will be promoted where it remains consistent with the welfare of the child.
- Every child is entitled to information about their birth family in order to promote their sense of identity.
- All adoptive applicants will be welcomed equally, with openness and respect. No applicant will be discriminated against on the grounds of ethnicity, culture, language, gender, age, financial status or sexuality.
- All applicants will be made aware of the issues considered during the assessment process and any concerns will be shared with applicants as they arise.
- Birth families will be treated with openness and respect.
- Birth families will be given access to independent professional help, advice and counselling.
- Birth families will be fully informed about the adoption process and what their rights are in respect of the process.
- Birth families will be given information about their child's adoptive family in a way that does not compromise the safety and security of the child or the prospective adopters.
- Adoption is a complex and emotive process. Adoption Service staff will conduct themselves at all times in a manner that is sensitive, open and respectful of the wishes and feelings of all those involved.

Services Provided for Children & Adults

Wirral Borough Council Adoption Service is responsible for service delivery for adoption under these broad headings.

- Full case responsibility for the child
- Preparation of the child
- Family finding and matching
- Minimising Delays
- Information on adoption, and support
- Recruitment and assessment of prospective adoptive parents
- Post adoption support services

Case Responsibility

The adoption social worker takes on full case responsibility for a child with a care plan of adoption, once care proceedings are completed, and a placement order has been granted. Prior to the completion of proceedings, the adoption social worker will work jointly with the district social worker, as agreed at the 'Tasks and Timescales' meeting which will be held once adoption or 'Twin Tracking' has been identified at the four month statutory review.

Preparation of the Child

Wirral Borough Council recognises the importance of preparing a child for adoption. All those involved in the process, including the child's social worker, the adoption family finding social worker, foster carers, health service professionals and birth family members may directly or indirectly work with or have contact with the child during the preparation period. Wirral Borough Council's Adoption Service will aid and support the work of all parties involved in planning and preparation as follows:

- All children whose care plan is adoption will have an identified social worker.
- Every child will have a care plan, which is monitored and reviewed.
- When adoption has been identified as in the child's best interest, delays will be monitored and minimised.
- Statutory visits to the child will be adhered to and monitored. These take place six weekly in the first twelve months of the placement. If the child is not adopted within twelve months, visits then take place on a quarterly basis. As a matter of good practice, children who are placed for adoption are visited weekly for six weeks at the beginning of their placement.

- Wirral Adoption Service will provide advice and guidance to all parties involved in the adoption process.
- Wirral Adoption Service will assist a child to understand the reasons for becoming looked after and why he/she cannot return to live within his or her birth family, through life journey books and later life letters etc.
- Social workers use workbooks such as “Nutmeg gets Adopted” produced by BAAF, which tells children in a simple way, about the adoption process from start to finish. Using ‘direct work’ techniques, social workers help children work through some of the strong feelings associated with separation and loss.
- All children of an age and understanding are encouraged to share their views and opinions at their Statutory Review. Their wishes and feelings are also included within the child permanence report which is presented to the Adoption Panel, for a ‘Should be Placed for Adoption’ decision.

Family Finding and Matching

Adoption social workers are invited to attend a child/children’s four month looked after children review when, adoption has either been identified as their primary care plan, or when a twin track plan is being proposed.

Following the four month review a ‘Tasks and Timescales’ meeting is held between the area social worker with case responsibility, a social worker from the Adoption and Permanence Team and chaired by one of the adoption senior practitioners.

This meeting will identify the tasks needed to take the care plan forward and who is best placed to complete those tasks. It will also set time scales for completion of tasks in order to avoid delay in care planning. At this point the Adoption and Permanence Team mainly have an advisory role.

After the Adoption Panel has recommended the adoption plan for a child/children and either parental consent or a placement order has been obtained, the family finding process will begin. An adoption team social worker will take on the role of family finder and work closely with another adoption social worker who has case responsibility for the child/children, to ensure the following processes are incorporated in the family finding plan.

- To develop a clear picture of the specific needs of the child/children so that an appropriate family can be sought who matches those needs.
- Where it is in the child’s best interests, Wirral Borough Council will look to place children with adoptive families within its boundaries. However, due to safety considerations for the child it is sometimes inappropriate to place a child for adoption within Wirral’s boundaries. In the first instance we

would look to Wirral adopters who live outside of Wirral's boundaries. If no suitable match can be identified an adoptive placement will be sought outside of Wirral.

- To feature specific, local adverts to attract potential adopters for particular children. To feature children's profiles at pre-approval training.
- To be pro-active in identifying as many potential suitable matches as possible, either within the local authority if appropriate, through the Mersey Region Consortium and Adoption 22 Consortium, or through advertising in the publications, 'Be My Parent' and Adoption UK.
- To track the process of the family finding and update the Team Manager of the Adoption Team.
- To collate details of potential adoptive families from their Prospective Adopter Reports (PAR) and to hold a short-listing meeting.
- To shortlist down to two or three families using the child's matching needs and to visit one of those families, with the foster carer of the child, where possible.

A matching meeting will then be convened within two weeks and be chaired by the Adoption and Permanence Team Manager. If a match is not proposed then another family from the shortlist will be visited.

This proposed match will then be presented to Wirral Borough Council's Adoption Panel at the earliest date available.

Minimising Delays

Wirral Borough Council recognises that delays in adoption can have a severe impact on the health and development of children and should be avoided. We have therefore set up a monitoring system, which will:

- Identify all children whose plan for adoption has been recommended at their second looked after children review.
- Identify all children where the plan for adoption has been recommended at the Adoption Panel.
- Track those children in care proceedings, where the plan is adoption.
- Place relinquished infants children less than six months old for adoption within three months of the 'Should be Placed for Adoption Decision'.
- Monitor all children in achieving an Adoption Order.

- It is the responsibility of the Adoption and Permanence Team manager to monitor the above information.

Information and Support

Wirral Borough Council believes that children have a right to information and support throughout the adoption process. All children will be provided with a copy of BAAF Publications, 'Adoption: What it is and What it means: What happens in Court', and Wirral's 'Children's Guide to Adoption' once a decision has been taken that adoption is the plan. Where it is appropriate, children will also be given pre-placement information about prospective adopters who have been identified for them. This information will take the form of photograph albums or video recordings.

Recruitment and assessment of prospective adopters

Prospective adopters in Wirral Borough Council will receive a service that responds to their interests in adoption promptly, fairly, openly and with respect.

Prospective adopters will be supplied with an information pack about adoption within twenty-four hours of their enquiries. Leaflets cover the following areas:

- Initial visits and training.
- The sorts of children in need of adoption, including a description of a range of experiences, behaviours and needs of these children.
- The process involved in becoming approved as an adoptive parent and the timescale for approval.
- The role of the Adoption Panel.

Within two weeks of an information pack reply slip being sent back, enquirers will be offered an initial visit to explain the process, highlight the Wirral Children that we need placements for and to discuss their personal circumstances in more depth. This provides an opportunity for prospective adopters to ask further questions about adoption and reach a decision as to whether or not they wish to proceed to the preparation group stage. The adoption social worker will be making an assessment about the suitability of the prospective adopters to meet the needs of Wirral's children at the same time. Sometimes a second visit is necessary at this point in order to enable prospective adopters and social workers to make an informed decision about whether it is appropriate to move on to the next stage.

Recruitment Strategy

Wirral Adoption and Permanence Team considers applications to adopt children of all ages. Applications from people who are considering adopting a sibling group or an older child or a child with a disability, are prioritised.

In terms of recruiting adopters for specific children, children's profile sheets are produced for those children for whom we would find it difficult to recruit adopters. They are sent to other Local Authorities within the Mersey Region Adoption Consortium, and Adoption 22 Consortium. The BAAF publications "Be My Parent" and Adoption UK are also used.

Prospective adopters receive information about the recruitment, assessment and approval process in Wirral.

Wirral Adoption Service will not automatically exclude on any grounds, other than those stated in the Regulations, but will pay particular attention to the following:

- Single applicants must be 21 years of age. Married applicants must also be 21 years of age, unless one of the applicants is a birth parent in which case the applicant must be 18 years of age (this type of situation is more common to step-parent adoptions). We would advise such birth parents to seek legal advice on the matter.
- It is expected that the applicants will be of sufficient health and vigour to raise a child through his or her childhood.
- Encouragement to applicants to lead a healthy lifestyle, which may include a non-smoking environment. The negative impact on health and smoking is well established. The effects of passive smoking and the role model presented by parents to children also need to be considered, especially in relation to very young children or to children with particular health problems i.e. asthma.
- Where applicants have pets in the home, we would want to ensure that they are managed appropriately and that they do not present a risk to children. We issue BAAF guidelines "Placing Children with Dog Owning Families" to all prospective applicants as necessary.
- If the applicants are childless through infertility, they are advised that embarking upon an adoption application at the same time as undergoing infertility treatment can prove to be extremely stressful. We advise applicants to complete any treatment they may be undergoing, and to have a break before beginning an adoption application.
- Applicants are expected to attend all adopters' preparation groups and will be invited to subsequent training sessions.

- Where the enhanced Criminal Records Bureau disclosure form indicates that the applicants, or an adult member of the household, has a caution or conviction leading to Schedule 1 Offender status, the applicant will be notified in writing specifying the caution/conviction as soon as possible and stating that their application cannot proceed. Where a CRB check is received with offences, which the Head of Branch considers relevant, a decision will be made as to whether this excludes the applicant from further consideration. If so, a letter will be sent advising of the adverse reference. Where the offence is considered to be minor or some time passed, the adoption social worker will discuss the contents with the applicant and write a report to be considered by the Service Manager for Looked After Children and the Head of Branch who will decide on whether the applicant can proceed.
- Applicants who work within Children's Services will be referred onto other local adoption agencies. Applicants with other links to the Division who work for another part of Wirral Borough Council will be considered on a case-by-case basis with referral onto another agency being an option where the link is considered too close to ensure adequate independence in terms of the approval process. When applicants are identified as knowing Panel members, the Panel can then be informed in advance to ensure that contingency arrangements can be made. One option will be for applicants to be taken to another Panel. Another would be for a Panel member to stand down during the discussion of that assessment.

Consideration will be given to each applicant irrespective of marital status, age, disability, ethnicity, gender, sexuality or employment. No particular type of family, parent or relationship will be reviewed as inherently better than any other.

The following checks are required in relation to potential adopters:

- Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau
- Children's Social Care and Adult Social Services
- Personal References
- Family references
- Employment references if the applicant works with children
- Applicants ex-partners reference if there were children from the relationship
- Department of Health
- Medical
- Ofsted

Preparation

Wirral Borough Council provides adopters with a comprehensive preparation course. The programme utilises materials and exercises from a training course based upon British Association for Adoption and Fostering, which is nationally recognised.

The aim of the course is to equip prospective adopters with an understanding of the complexities surrounding Looked After Children and issues relating to adoption. The preparation course is an integral part of the process of raising awareness and informing prospective adopters of the challenges and difficulties they may face, as well as the rewards of adoption. In this way, prospective adopters are helped to make informed decisions about whether they can make the lifelong commitment to an adopted child/children.

The Home Study Assessments

The Home Study consists of interviews in the home of the applicants. Wirral Adoption Service utilises the BAAF Prospective Adopters Report format and guidance for gathering a range of information about applicants, their lifestyle and their capacity to adopt. Overall, the assessment is evidence based and is intended to ensure that applicants are equipped to meet the needs of children through Adoption. Among the areas being assessed are:

- The applicants' ability to build and sustain close relationships with a child.
- The ability to acknowledge and understand how past events or experiences have impacted on the child and the actual or likely implications for parenting.
- The applicants' ability to acknowledge and understand how a child's responses to being adopted may change over time.
- The applicants' ability to acknowledge and value the child's birth heritage.
- How the applicants own personality, past experiences and relationships have shaped their personality and attitude and the implications of these for adoptive parenting.

During the Prospective Adopters Report Assessment, we ask all adopters for an undertaking to contact the Service if a child who has been placed with them for adoption dies.

Approval

Following the home study, the adoption social worker writes a comprehensive report. Applicants will receive a copy of the assessment report before it is

presented to the Adoption Panel and are invited to provide their own comments in writing on the content of the report.

Prospective adopters will be made aware that at any time during the stages from initial enquiry through to assessment, Wirral Adoption Service may decide that it is unable to support an application to be approved. In such cases, enquirers or applicants can expect full verbal or written explanations regarding the reasons for this. If enquirers or applicants remain dissatisfied, they can make representation or complains through the Council's procedures.

If applications are not approved by the Panel, applicants may appeal to the Agency Decision Maker, or the Independent Review Mechanism.

Applicants will be informed that the whole adoption procedure from enquiry to presentation at the Adoption Panel should take no more than eight months as required by the National Adoption Standards for England. They will be given an opportunity to comment on their adoption report at least twenty-eight days before an Adoption Panel. All applicants are encouraged to attend the Adoption Panel. If applicants are happy to dispense with the twenty-eight day period, then they are asked to sign a 'waiver' to say that they wish to do so.

The approval process in relation to the assessment of foster carers as adopters should not take more than four months.

The Role and Function of the Adoption Panel

The composition, terms of reference and functions of Wirral's Adoption Panel are set out in the Adoption Agency's Regulations 2005. The Adoption Panel is a body of people who are empowered to consider whether: -

- A child in the care of the Council should be made available for adoption.
- Prospective adopters should be approved to adopt, and
- Particular adopters are suitable for a particular child or children.

The recommendation of the Panel is then passed to the Agency-Decision Maker. In Wirral this is the Head of Branch, Children's Services. The Agency Decision-Maker will decide within seven days, whether or not to support the Panel's recommendation.

Wirral's Adoption Panel meets monthly and the membership includes:

- An Independent Chair
- The Medical Adviser
- Two Social Workers from Children's Social Care

- An Independent Member who has previously adopted
- An Independent Member who is an Education Professional and also a vice chair.
- An Independent Member who is a Consultant Psychotherapist
- A Wirral Borough Councillor

The Panel also has two advisers who are not members, but are present when the Panel meet, to offer advice, the legal advisor and the agency advisor.

All members are subject to Criminal Records Bureau checks. Where applicants are identified as knowing Panel members or vice versa, Panel members can be informed in advance to ensure that contingency arrangements are made.

Panel members receive at least one days training per year.

Panel members are provided with reports relating to the adoption activity of the department, including regular statistical updates.

Panel members regularly receive relevant papers and information to enable them to contribute to the formulation of policy and practice. Likewise, practice issues arising from Panel discussions are considered and actions agreed and recorded.

Inter Country Adoption

Wirral Borough Council Adoption Service will arrange a service to people who would like to adopt a child from abroad.

Inter-country adoption is forming an increasing proportion of the work of adoption agencies in the United Kingdom and Wirral Adoption Service recognise that there are many circumstances in which people may wish to adopt a child from overseas.

Prospective adopters for inter-country adoption undergo similar preparation training as domestic adopters, although additional information is given regarding cultural issues and the legislative framework surrounding inter-country adoption. Prospective adopters are also informed about the specific criteria or procedures applicable in different countries.

Foster Carers Who Wish To Adopt Their Fostered Child

Foster carers who make a formal application to adopt children in their care are entitled to the same information and preparation as other prospective adopters.

Foster carers will be assessed in the same way as any other prospective adopters. However, the Assessment will focus on the specific long-term needs of the child in question. Some of the primary considerations to be taken into consideration are:

- The quality of the attachment between the child and the foster carers.
- The wishes and feelings of the child.
- The actual or likely availability of other adopters for the child.

Foster carers making a formal application to adopt a child in their care will be assessed within four months in line with the National Adoption Standards for England.

Partner Counselling and Adoption

Where a birth parent has remarried and their partner wishes to adopt the birth parent's child, Wirral Borough Council's Adoption Service counsel the family regarding the process and whether an alternative Legal Order might be more appropriate. Families who choose to adopt are then assessed by adoption social workers, and their case is presented to Court.

Services for Approved Adopters

Following approval, adopters receive written formal notification. They will be contacted by their supervising social worker within the Adoption and Permanence Team, who will provide them with clear information about how a match is made, Consortium arrangements and the Adoption Register. Regular contact will be maintained to ensure that adopters are informed of the efforts that are being made to identify a match.

Wirral Borough Council review approved adopters, if a match has not occurred, annually.

When a potential match is identified, prospective adopters are given full written information about the child, which includes emotional, developmental and health needs. The adopters will also be provided with clear and detailed information about any behavioural issues and the implications and demands that may be placed on their family.

They receive a copy of the child permanence report, and any other relevant information which is available. Prospective adopters are provided with every

opportunity to liaise and discuss with other professionals, such as those from Education or Health as well as any foster carers who have previously been involved with the child.

Preparation work focuses on not only the prospective adopters but also any child or other adult within the household. Wirral's Adoption Service makes every effort to prepare and protect all those involved.

Approved adopters will be supported from the point that the child is introduced to them through to the making of an Adoption Order. After the adoption, direct support sometimes continues as necessary – if this is not needed, then the carers are informed that they are welcome to come back to the Adoption Team for advice, and to request support at any time. On request and subject to an assessment of needs, they will be offered or assisted in obtaining appropriate support throughout the duration of the adoptive placement. Visits to adopters with a child in placement will take place weekly at first and then reduce to monthly, depending on need. Where adopters are awaiting placement, the visiting pattern is decided in agreement with the Adoption and Permanence Team Manager.

Wirral Borough Council also offers adopters informal support, which can assist them by facilitating contact with other adopters and keep them up to date with the local and national developments in adoption. There are well-established adopters support groups in Wirral, which meet on a regular basis.

Services for Birth Families

Wirral Borough Council is committed to ensuring that birth parents are fully consulted about the care plans for their children. It is recognised that adoption is a life-long process for all those involved. As part of our commitment we include birth parents in the process.

All birth parents will be invited to convey their wishes and feelings to Looked After Children reviews on their children. If the care plan is for adoption they will be given written information about what adoption means. Birth parents will also be given the opportunity of reading what is written about them within the child permanence report presented to the Adoption Panel. They are also encouraged to contribute to what has been written. The child permanence report will be signed wherever possible by birth parents. This information will be shared with panel members. Its aim is to provide the birth parents with an opportunity to give positive information about themselves to the Adoption Panel and to their child in later life.

Counselling

Wirral Borough Council ensures that adoption counselling is made available to birth family members.

This is a delicate and sensitive role and there is an acknowledgement for the birth family's experience of grief and loss. Where it is not appropriate for Council social workers to provide this type of support then referrals can be made to the voluntary organisation, After Adoption, with whom Wirral Adoption Service has a working relationship. Birth family members often access this support as it is seen as independent from the child's social worker.

Other services provided by 'After Adoption', an independent organisation under contract with Wirral Borough Council are as follows:

- Help line service.
- Counselling.
- Support groups.

Relinquished Infants

There are occasions when mothers voluntarily opt to request their child be placed for adoption. Wirral Borough Council Adoption Service recognises that such situations must be handled with great sensitivity. Relinquishing a child for adoption is a complex situation for both birth mothers and birth fathers, and their families.

In these situations, the expectation is that a match with suitable adoptive parents will be identified and approved by Panel within three months of the agency agreeing that a child 'Should be Placed for Adoption'.

Post Adoption Support Service

Post-placement, and depending upon assessed needs, a child may receive information via the Council's letterbox contact system. All letterbox arrangements entered into are child focused and must be in their best interests. Adopters and birth parents are encouraged to understand that if an older child indicates that he or she does not wish the information exchange to continue, that we should fully respect their wishes. The Adoption Service oversees the system and information is passed on between birth family members, including siblings and children or adopters acting on behalf of children. The type of information passed on, together with the frequency of exchange are set out in a written agreement, which all parties sign and are expected to adhere to. Birth family members are offered assistance to write letters to place on an adopted child's file. If the birth parent does not wish for a Wirral Borough Council social worker to undertake this task with them, then a referral will be made to contracted adoption service providers if they prefer this.

Wirral Borough Council's Adoption Service is committed to supporting children, young people and their adoptive families throughout their lives. The child's needs for Adoption Support Services are assessed at different stages of the Adoption Process. These are as follows:

- When Wirral Borough Council is considering adoption for the child.
- When it is proposed that a child be placed with particular prospective adopters.
- When a child's placement for adoption is being reviewed.
- The child's needs will also be assessed following a request from the child or the adoptive parents at any point following the making of an Adoption Order.
- Where support services are agreed, a support plan will be prepared.
- The plan, where necessary, will make reference to other services such as those provided by Education or the Health Care Trust. Such other services will, therefore, be consulted in the preparation of the plan.
- The primary goal of the provision of Adoption Support Services is to ensure the continuance and success of adoptive placements. In the event of adoption placements disrupting, a meeting will be held with a view to establishing what action can be taken, both to enable good planning for the child concerned and with a view to contributing to our understanding of factors affecting the outcome of Adoption. Our aim is to prevent adoptive placements disrupting and best practice would be to ensure that a meeting is held pre-disruption to ensure that all services possible have been utilised with the aim of preventing the breakdown.
- Financial support can be requested after an adoption order has been made and means tested assessments will be undertaken by the Adoption and Permanence Team.

Wirral's Adoption and Permanence Team provides the following support services:

- Written information about the services we provide.
- Telephone advice and support, through the Adoption Team's duty system, which operates Monday – Friday 1pm – 5pm. There is an emergency duty system for out of office hours.
- Initial assessments of children and families to establish if sign posting, advice or a full assessment is needed.
- Support for contact arrangements between adopted children and their birth families.

- Therapeutic services through Child Psychotherapist or mainstream Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).
- Counselling in preparation for tracing and intermediary services.
- Access to support groups and links to other adoptive families.
- Access to information about videos, books and training through newsletters.
- A rolling programme of training on issues of behavioural management, attachment, contact, life story work and parenting.
- A bi-monthly newsletter for both adopters and children.
- Mums and tots group – adoptive parents only.

Services for Adopted Adults

Wirral Borough Council Adoption Service provides a service to adults in relation to birth records and Schedule II counselling.

This is provided to adopted adults to enable them to:

- Obtain a birth certificate.
- Locate their adoption file.
- Trace birth family members.
- Take no further action after the counselling if they wish.

The purpose of the counselling is to ensure that the adopted person has considered the possible effect of any enquiries, both on himself/herself and on others. It is imperative that the information sought and to which the adopted person now has a legal right is provided in a sensitive and appropriate manner. Wirral Adoption Service carries out the initial searching work on Schedule II cases. If the service user wishes to contact birth family members directly, then the case is referred to 'After Adoption', where there is a service level agreement for this work.

Intermediary Services

On occasions, relatives of children who go on to be adopted try to find out information concerning their welfare or to ask for contact with them. Some of the issues arising are addressed in the Department of Health's "Intermediary Services for Birth Relatives" (2000).

If an adopted adult over the age of 25 wishes to trace birth family members, they are referred to After Adoption who will undertake the following work on our behalf:

- The Local Authority will act as the intermediary for adopted adults aged between 18 – 25 years.
- Tracing and then contacting the adoptive relative, ascertaining their wishes and feelings on the possible meeting with their birth relative.
- Facilitating and sometimes attending the meeting.
- Recording and placing records on the adopted persons file.

Where a birth relative passes on information of a medical nature as relevant to an adopted person, Wirral Adoption Service will record this on the adopted persons' file and will contact the National Health Central Register (Adoption Section) to facilitate contact between the birth relatives' General Practitioner and the adopted persons General Practitioner.

Wirral's Adoption and Permanence Team will agree to place on an adopted person's file, information to the effect that a birth relative would welcome contact from an adopted person, should they express an interest in this possibility.

An adoptee can request two types of veto's (absolute or qualified). An absolute veto would prevent an intermediary agency from making an approach under any circumstances.

With a qualified veto the Local Authority can approach under circumstances specified by the adoptee.

Arrangements for Monitoring and Evaluating the Quality and Effectiveness of Wirral Adoption Service.

Wirral Borough Council is committed to providing services, which comply with Regulations, National Adoption Standards and Adoption National Minimum Standards. We are always looking to further develop and improve the range and effectiveness of its services for anyone affected by adoption.

Monitoring and evaluation takes place in the following ways:

- Staff working in adoption have a supervision contract and are provided with supervision at least once a month. Supervision includes the completion of a Keys Issues Exchange with all workers, including administrative staff every year.

- All staff are subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks prior to being offered a post within the team, and Criminal Records Bureau checks are renewed at an interval not greater than every three years.
- Wirral Borough Council has good quality management information systems, which are used to track both children for whom adoption is the plan, and prospective adopters. The object of tracking is to ensure that wherever possible, delay is avoided so that children are placed and prospective adopters assessed within National Standards timescales.
- The Children and Young People's Department Quality Assurance and Review Unit and the Head of Branch (Children's Social Care), monitor the timescales affecting children. Reasons for potential or actual delay can therefore be identified, Senior Managers are informed and actions taken to remedy the situation.
- An Adoption Task Force meets on a monthly basis, consisting of the Head of Branch for Children's Service, Principal Manager Childcare, Service Manager Looked After Children, Team Manager Adoption, and any other relevant staff members. The aim of the group is to improve the Councils' performance in relation to adoption by identifying obstacles and shortfalls and ensuring that they are dealt with.

The Adoption Panel has quality assurance and monitoring functions in relation to children and prospective adopters. It is concerned with:

- Monitoring the quality of reports presented and work carried out.
- Monitoring the progress of children towards becoming adopted.
- Advising the Council in relation to practice issues.
- Performance in relation to children placed for adoption, as measured against the National Performance Assessment Framework.

Training

Wirral Borough Council attaches importance to the ongoing training of all staff involved in adoption work, seeing this as integral to the delivery and development of good quality Adoption Service.

Members of the adoption team are involved in the delivery of training to adoption panel members and area social workers.

In terms of research, Wirral Borough Council Adoption Service are willing to co-operate with appropriately authorised research programmes or to collaborate with other adoption agencies seeking to enhance our understanding of adoption issues and will explore ways of monitoring outcomes for children.

Complaints and Representations Procedure

Wirral Borough Council Children and Young People's Department has in place a Complaints and Representation Procedure and a designated Complaints Investigating Officer. The Complaints Procedure underpins all service areas and ensures comments and complaints are heard and responded to in a fair and timely way. The procedures reflect the three stages and timescales in line with current Regulations. We aim to problem solve within 10 days.

When a person using our service has a query or is not satisfied with the service they are receiving, every attempt will be made to resolve the problem. The Council have a specialised Children's Complaint Officer who will work with children to attempt to find a resolution. However, should the matter become a formal complaint, the complaints procedure would be followed. In such cases the complainant is advised to put their complaint in writing. Leaflets giving details of the procedure are made available to people who use our service, these explain the complaints process in full.

Wirral Borough Council has also produced information and leaflets for children who wish to make a comment or complaint. All Looked After Children are provided with a handbook and with this they receive information about how to make a complaint and how to obtain access to an independent person who can help them with the process from Wirral Independent Resource for Equality and Disability (WIRED) or BACUP.

All those involved in the adoption process, children, birth parents and adopters, are advised of their right to complain to OFSTED (see contact details at end). During the period March 2008- March 2010 there was just one formal complaint received regarding the adoption service.

Corporate and Management Responsibilities

Wirral Borough Council's Adoption Policy is an integral part of our commitment to Corporate Parenting.

An identified outcome within the Wirral Children and Young People's Plan is to "increase the number of permanent placements for children in Wirral and Merseyside". Part of this strategy is to increase the percentage of looked after children that are adopted.

We have clear plans and targets to complete the following:

- Improve placement choice for children.
- Promote the adoption of children.
- Increase placement stability.

- Improve the recruitment of adopters.
- Minimise all delays.

Useful Contact Information:

OFSTED

Royal Exchange Buildings St. Ann's Square, Manchester M2 7LA
0800 389 5690

Complaints

Children & Young People's Department
Complaints
Hamilton Building
Conway Street
Birkenhead
Wirral, CH41 4FD
Telephone number: 0151 666 4239

IRM

Contract Manager,
Independent Review Mechanism (IRM)
Unit 4,
Pavilion Business Park,
Royds Hall Road,
Wortley,
LEEDS
LS12 6AJ
Tel No: 0845 450 3956

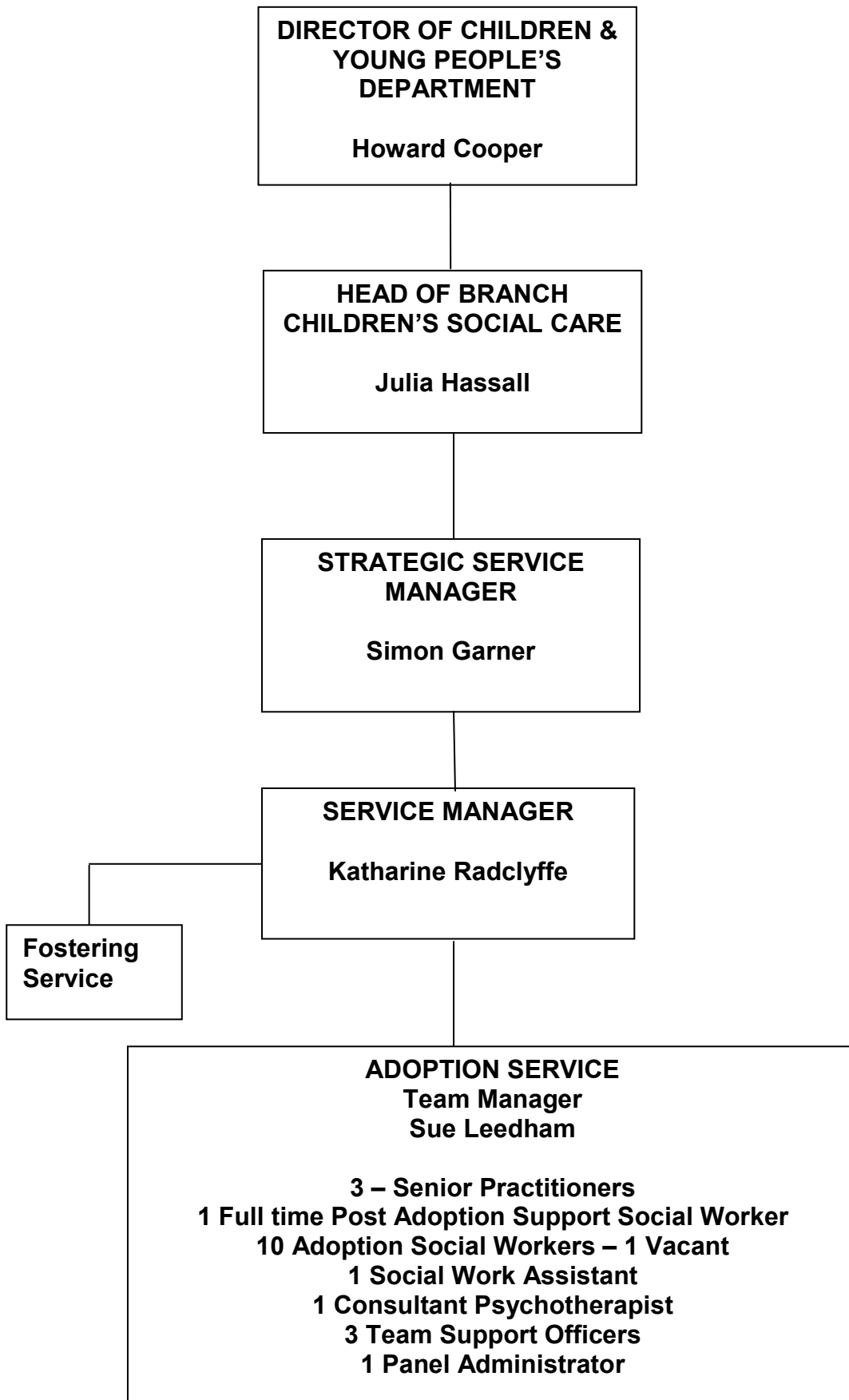
Independent advocates

WIRED
Unit 14, Cavendish Enterprise Centre
Brassey Street
Birkenhead
CH41 8BY
Tel number: 0151 670 1500

BACUP

224 Liscard Road
Wallasey
CH44 6TN
Telephone number: 0151 630 4868

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL



WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2 JUNE 2010.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

AIMING HIGH FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on progress in delivering the Wirral Local Area Implementation programme for Aiming High for Disabled Children in relation to Short Breaks provision. The approach seeks to transform services across sectors to provide support to achieve the best outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and enable children and their families to live ordinary lives. The Government are requiring the Council and Primary Care Trust to provide a stepped change to the delivery of short break services and to deliver on what is termed the Full Service Offer, designed to meet the needs of all groups of disabled children. The report advises on action taken in meeting the programme requirements set out by Together for Disabled Children, who are administering the Short Breaks programme on behalf of the DCSF; to date and the further steps required ahead of March 2011.

The report briefly notes results from NI 54 Survey of Parental Satisfaction and progress on the Parent Participation strand of Aiming High for Disabled Children.

1. Background

1.1 With the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme, the Government expects local authorities to realise the ambition that:

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

The programme has strands on Short Breaks – Parent Participation – Transitions – with a new strand this year on Child Care. This report covers the Short Breaks and notes parental involvement within the programme. A separate report is presented on Transition.

1.2 National Indicator 54

National indicator, NI 54 on services for disabled children is designed to measure the experience of families with disabled children, against the 5 Core Offer areas of Information, Assessment, Transparency, Participation and Feedback. The Council and NHS Wirral, has now received its results for 2009-2010: the headline results are

that 63% of parents are generally satisfied with the services they receive from the Council and PCT locally. (See Appendix 2 for further detail).

1.3 Parent Participation

- 1.3.1 The Council and Primary Care Trust are required to report on how they are developing Information, Consultation and Participation. *Contact a Family*, are the agency which lead on this strand of development on behalf of the Government. During the autumn a self evaluation exercise was conducted to compare the views of professionals with those of parents to indicate whether our performance was, *in development* or *well embedded*. There was a consensus between services and parents that in the areas of Information provision and consultation that we were *in development* – however in the area of participation parents rated services as performing higher than the professionals did, rating it as *well embedded*. This seems to be a positive reflection of work being done to improve participation with the Wirral Family Consultation Forum, and in the commissioning of Short Breaks and its working groups.
- 1.3.2 The Wirral Family Consultation Forum has been supported to secure a £10,000 grant from the Government for each year of the programme to support its development in Wirral. An Engagement & Involvement Group provides opportunity for parents and professionals to work together in developing Participation. A feedback report has been produced identifying areas in which parental views have shaped service developments in the previous period.
- 1.3.3 The new SEN Parent partnership service came into service in July 2009, and a Steering Group has been confirmed including 4 parents. The service brings together all of the information and participation activity under one service level agreement, and a clear remit to provide impartial advice. A training programme for Independent Parental Supporters has been delivered and will provide for a number of parents; who will be able to assist parents of young people with SEN who might want support in dealing with schools and statutory services.

2.0 Short Breaks Delivery Programme

2.1 Reporting requirements

The Short Breaks programme is the major delivery programme at this time, which is dealt with in this report. In addition, an update is provided on two other programme strands.

The Together for Disabled Children reporting requirements is called the Staged Progression Framework, which sets out expectations about how the Council and NHS will evidence progress in working towards meeting the Full Service Offer for Short Breaks.

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

- Completing an Initial Needs assessment and embedding consultation
- Evidencing via the Delivery Plan and effective data management, increased levels of provision

- Producing revised eligibility criteria for short breaks provision which parents feel are fair, and are consistently communicated and applied
- Providing a Workforce Plan which addresses the needs of universal service providers and specialist service providers

Together for Disabled Children wrote to each Director of Children Services in April, they confirmed that they assess Wirral Council as needing low support at this time. This means they are highly confident the authority is delivering in line with the aims and timescales and therefore requires 'low' support from them. There will be a 6 monthly Health Check visit conducted to review progress against all Aiming High strands. There will be a reporting requirement to submit the Local Area Implementation Plan quarterly to provide statistical feedback on increased service take up patterns and progress against service objectives. We now have robust and accurate systems for collecting and collating the data to demonstrate clearly the progress made.

2.2 Parental involvement

The views of children, young people and parents/carers are at the heart of the funding proposals. Members requested that parents were involved in the presentation of this report

A group of parents have been involved in the commissioning of new services:

- within the major tendering exercise for services reported to Cabinet in October 2009 for a range of new services
- within the community based grant process for voluntary groups
- within the capital small grant processes
- within the Executive Group and 3 working groups on Capital – Workforce Development and Developing Services.
- Recruitment of project posts.

In addition:

- The Wirral Family Consultation Forum has been give regular feedback and consulted on key decision points
- Transparency on parental involvement has been maintained by ensuring requests for parents to join groups has been made through the Forum
- Further consultation has been undertaken with groups of young people – across the range of special schools and youth groups. A further series of consultations are planned across several mainstream schools in May 2010.
- Detailed Feedback reports have been produced for all programmes that have been delivered through the project team, e.g. Fun Day, Christmas breaks. Easter breaks, consultation, universal services development.
- The newsletter is currently being produced every 2 months to keep parents up to date with developments.
- A DVD has been produced to share the successes of the programme and to encourage parents to take up services

3.0 Commissioning of services

3.1 Commissioning update

New services were commissioned using the Joint Strategic Commissioning Framework and reported to Cabinet in October 2009. Further work has been undertaken to commission service to meet gaps in relation to sitting services, developing a leisure link scheme – and emergency support scheme these were reported to Cabinet in March 2010.

Within the programme requirements we have been able to evidence due rigour with regards to establishing the principles of contestability and stimulating the market, and have been commended by the Programme advisors.

3.2 Capital

- 3.2.1 As part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children's Project (short breaks element) the grant award to the authority included a capital element. The capital grant for 2009/10 is £252,200 and for 2010/11 is £588,500. To oversee the capital plans a Capital and Transport working group was established, with a wide membership of professionals across a range of services and with 2 parental representatives.

There is a key requirement that any offers to enhance service provision in universal services must be over and above Disability Discrimination Act requirements. The group has been instrumental in reviewing small grant bids and making recommendations via the Aiming High Executive Group for expenditure under delegated decision making.

Spend in the first round amounted to £99,836.15 and in the second round was £165,037.07 details of the grants are attached in Appendix 3.

A further round of bids is currently available with a closing date of 12th July 2010.

- 3.2.2 At this stage a number of potential options are still being evaluated by the Capital group, and firmer proposals will be submitted to the Executive Group, ahead of a further Cabinet report in late June 2010.

3.3 Community Grants

Within the programme a first round of community grants has been provided to community organisations and parent led groups who wanted to provide short breaks for disabled young people and their families. These grants were reviewed by our commissioning group including four parents and were reported under delegated decision making to the Cabinet Lead in February 2010.

Spend in the first round amounted to £64,856.34, details of these are detailed in Appendix 4.

Following the first round of applications it was decided to offer a further application process but splitting the funding into 2 sections: comprising another community grants allocation which would be the same as the first round but also another allocation for 'family based activities'. Some of the applications submitted in the first

round did not meet the criteria of a 'short break' as parent/carers were required to stay with the young person for the activity. However consultation with parent/carers has identified that even if they are required to stay they still value the activity and do think of it as break as the child is engaged in a positive activity which relieves them from the primary caring role. They also find it useful to spend time with other parent/carers. The deadline for these applications was 10th May.

4.0 The Short Breaks Duty

4.1 The Government published new guidance in March 2010 that identifies that there will be a duty placed on Councils from April 2011 to provide a short breaks service. The Council has been required to develop a Short Breaks Development Strategy as part of the Aiming High programme to bring together our needs assessment, vision and key objectives and strategic direction. This initial framework will help the Council fulfilling its new duties. Key principles underpinning this being:

Early intervention and prevention

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

Personalisation

Social policy has been moving in the direction of enabling disabled people to manage their own care, choose how they lead their own lives and control the services they need.

Engagement and Involvement

These principles permeate all strands of the Aiming High programme.

Financial sustainability

Meeting the needs of disabled young people is a three-way responsibility between universal services for all children, specialist disability services and parents. Increasing choice by removing the barriers to universal services for all disabled children and young people can be a more cost-effective, as well as child-centred, way of supporting families.

5 Financial implications

5.1 The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme is grant funded. The revenue and capital allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are:

	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11
Capital	0	£252,200	£588,500
Revenue	£60,000	£510,900	£1,615,700

5.2 There are no definitive indications of the level of funding from 2011-12 onwards. Together for Disabled Children as programme leads have given an early indication of an expectation that funding from year 2012 will match that of 2011, so that Councils can meet their new Short Breaks duties.

6 Staffing Implications

- 6.1 The programme has required increased Project Management capacity within years 2 and 3 to drive the Delivery Plan forwards. It is expected that continued capacity will be required to maintain the commissioned activity.
- 6.2 The programme requires the Council to ensure it has a Workforce Development programme which supports Short Breaks providers.

7 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 7.1 The changes are driven by the imperative that disabled youngsters should have personal and developmental opportunities and be supported to lead an ordinary life as valued members of their community.
- 7.2 Short breaks should therefore not just be used as a crisis intervention, but should also be used routinely to help parents and carers to maintain and improve the quality of care they naturally wish to provide.
- 7.3 Involving parents and young people in the design of services is a critical part of this programme and the delivery of the Core offer.

8 Human Rights Implications

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

9 Local Agenda 21 Implications

No specific implications emerging from this report.

10 Community Safety Implications

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

11 Planning Implications

None at this time.

12 Local Member Support Implications

Disabled young people live in all wards.

13 Background Papers

Aiming High for Disabled children

Updates on these and other measures are available at

www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/ahdc

For copy of Disabled children's services national indicator 2009-10: Local authority (LA) reports

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00667/>

Recommendations

1. To note and comment on the content of this report.

Howard Cooper
Director Children's Services

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Appendix 1

Full Service Offer

A short breaks service should:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Appendix 2

National Indicator 54 : Summary Analysis

National indicator, NI 54 on services for disabled children is designed to measure the experience of families with disabled children. The overall score is based on an average of fifteen sub-indicators which each cover an element of the core offer in one of the three service sectors of health, education, and care & family support services. The five core offer standards are: information, assessment, transparency, participation and feedback; hence there are five sub-indicators for each service sector reflecting these core offer standards. A higher score denotes greater satisfaction with services.

At an overall national level parents rated the services received by their disabled child as 61 out of 100.

Across all local authorities where an indicator score was produced, scores ranged from 55 to 68%. The regional variation is between 58 and 64%. In Wirral parents rated the services received by their disabled child as 63 out of 100. This figure represents a baseline from which to track progress or changes in perceptions and experience in future years.

The survey results are based on 215 responses locally – less than 30 respondents used social care services and there is therefore no rating provided for the domains of assessment, transparency or participation.

Profile of respondents: 31% had a statement of Special Educational need, 18% were in receipt of Higher rate DLA and 23% had 5 or more health conditions – which gives an indicator of those with higher order needs.

Three areas would seem to emerge that would warrant comment:

- **Information:** there were lower results for information about services and entitlements. This will prompt consideration of how information is made available across services and ensuring key professionals have an appreciation of parental expectations that they should be well informed.
- **Assessment :** there were a number of people indicating they felt they needed to repeat information to different people .(30%) This seems to reflect that parents expect that workers will readily have access to reports from other professionals, and strengthens case for parent held record systems.
- **Feedback :** relates to the degree to which we ask opinion of services and change them as a result. There is a low rating nationally and locally: National average (19%) Locally: Health (13%) Education (20%) Care (16%). This reflects that we need to be clearer that when young people have a review that this is a feedback process and the degree to which we need to better publicise the outcomes of service consultation and service developments.

The full report is available at :

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-and-practice/IG00667/>

Aiming High for Disabled Children Project

As part of the Project we have developed database of families who receive direct mail shots every 6-8 weeks containing information about short breaks and services. Currently there are 252 families on the database. We have also developed a professionals database to ensure professionals in contact with families regularly receive the latest information.

A lot of the short breaks developed through Aiming High for Disabled Children now have easier access processes, the majority can be done through self referral.

All the services commissioned are required to obtain feedback from parent/carers and young people every six months as part of the contractual monitoring, this will be fed back to parents and used to develop the services.

Appendix 3- Overview of Capital Small Grants

We have held two rounds of Capital small grants to be awarded to Local Organisations to develop short breaks. Below are details of which organisations received funding and what for. You will see these developments happening over the next few months as they are required to deliver within 6 months.

All Ability Club

The Saturday All Ability Club takes place weekly during school term times. The aim of the club is to provide sporting opportunities aged 8 – 15 who have learning difficulties or disabilities. The aim of the club is to provide regular opportunities for youngsters to be part of a club which will also develop social skills as well as improving physical skills. Parents are not required to stay.

This club has been awarded £5499 to purchase a trampoline and other specialist equipment.

Barnstondale Centre

Barnstondale is an outdoor centre for young people to carry out activities or stay for residential weekends.

This centre has been awarded £9239.44 to repair two paths to improve accessibility for young people to access the spots area.

Charing Cross Methodist Church

This is an inclusive youth club for young people aged 5-25.

The club have been awarded £8643.66 as part payment towards a mini bus to enable them to take young people on trips and visit and support young people who transport to the sessions is a barrier.

Wirral Wheelchair Tennis Group

This is a new club offering wheelchair tennis sessions to young people. The club required specialist wheelchairs as often young people's own chairs are not suitable for sports.

The club has been awarded £21,086 to purchase specialist chairs and equipment to develop wheelchair tennis club.

Wirral Borough Council- Play Department

Wirral's BIG Lottery Fund portfolio 'Play in the Peninsular' will support children's access to outdoor play space through Community Play Rangers and a 'provision together' approach enabling vulnerable children and young people to access local play provision and engage with their peers.

The new and improved play areas will encourage and enable physically active play; which are attractive to 8-13 year olds; and which more children, including disabled children, can access safely. They will be open access, free of charge and with children generally free to independently come and go as they please. They will increase the range of play opportunities in fixed play areas, provide opportunities for children to experience risk, be challenged and stimulate children's abilities and development.

This development has been awarded £21,800 to be purchase specialist playground equipment to be utilised by young people with disabilities.

Wirral Autistic Society

Wirral Autistic Society have started new activity sessions for young people aged 8-18 on the autistic spectrum.

The club has been awarded £7213.50 to purchase a trampoline and specialist equipment to offer specific sessions.

Bounce Back Trampolining Club

This club has been operating for many years offering young people with disabilities Trampolining sessions.

The club has been awarded £3354.55 to purchase specialist soft play equipment to offer activities to young people when they are waiting their turn on the trampoline.

Crossroads Care Cheshire West and Wirral

Crossroads offer various forms of support for young people with disabilities including one to one, Playschemes, residential weekends.

This organisation were awarded £23,000 to purchase a mini bus to enable them to take young people on trips and visit and support young people who transport to the sessions is a barrier.

Everton Foundation

This organisation deliver various sports programmes and have an excellent disability delivery programme, including wheelchair football sessions at local high school in Wirral.

This organisation were awarded £7,546.39 to purchase specialist equipment to be attached to young people's wheelchairs to enable more young people to access the activity.

Wednesday Special Needs Club

This club offer soft play and sensory sessions to young people with disabilities.

They have been awarded £7055.68 to put in new windows in this room. This will improve the airflow in the room that therefore the quality of short breaks.

Cycling projects

This organisation are going to develop a 'Wheels or All' centre in Birkenhead park offering children of all ages and abilities the opportunity to cycle through adapted cycles.

They have been awarded £24,337 to purchase the required specialist equipment.

Wirral Community Narrow Boat Trust

This organisation offer unique short breaks on a narrow boat.

They have been awarded £24,000 to purchase specialist equipment to improve the access to the boat for young people with disabilities.

Barnston Buddies

This organisation has become very popular with families for offering after school club. They are getting more requests for children with more complex needs.

They have been awarded £10,727 to improve the fencing in the garden area and their changing facilities.

Tranmere Rovers in the Community

This organisation provides various sporting opportunities to young people in Wirral. They have recently appointed a new disability officer to improve the provision for young people with disabilities.

They are developing a community based facility to offer short breaks and have been awarded £34,458 to include a changing places facility.

Stick n Step

This organisation provides therapy and short breaks for young people with cerebral palsy.

They have been awarded £16,520 to develop an outdoor play area.

Hilbre High School

This school had a young person wishing to do Duke of Edinburgh with his peer group.

They have been awarded £9,967 to purchase the specialist equipment required to take him on the expedition.

Wirral Borough Council-Environmental Health

We have awarded £25,666 to this department to develop a changing places facility as part of the Phase 2 developments in the New Brighton area.

This will enable families with young people, requiring appropriate changing facilities to access the new developments.

Belvidere Centre

This is a youth club specialising in sessions for young people with disabilities.

They have been awarded £5000 to improve the windows to enable them to offer the short breaks to more young people.

Appendix 4 - Overview of Community Grants

We have held the first round of Community Grants to be awarded to Local Organisations to develop short breaks for young people with disabilities. Below are details of which organisations received funding and what for. You will see these developments happening over the next few months as they are required to deliver within 12 months.

Wirral Athletic Ability Club Ability Club

WACAS are a Wirral club dedicated to helping sensory, physically & learning disabled children & young people in taking part and competing in athletics. Better explained by one of their juniors, "The club helps us have fun with running, jumping and throwing".

This club has been awarded £1850 to develop indoor sessions during the winter.

Bidston Bullets Boccia Club

This is an organisation starting a new Boccia Club. This link below gives more details on Boccia.

<http://www.cpsport.org/boccia/overview.shtml>

The club has been awarded £5800 to start the new club.

Hearing Support Services

This is an after school club specifically for young people with hearing impairments.

The club have been awarded £6040 to develop their services and offer 4 activity days per year.

Downs Syndrome @ Wirral

This organisation is a support group for young people and adults with downs syndrome and their families. They currently offer holiday play scheme during the summer holidays for 4-11 year olds.

The club has been awarded £6000 to deliver an additional play scheme for young people aged 12-18 years during the summer holidays of 2010.

Activate Arts

Activate Arts is an education and employability skills provider who use creative and performing arts as an alternative engagement for learners.

This development has been awarded £3800 to deliver the 'Step Up' Project which will offer activities including singing, drama, dance and film to develop key skills. Care workers and practitioners will be provided to support young people.

For more information on this project contact

Vision Support Services

This club provides weekly activities for young people with visual impairments.

The club has been awarded £2440 to develop the activities.

Active Arts

Active Arts is an organisation who run organised activities including sports, dance and physical activities.

The organisation has been awarded £15,655.70 in total to fund 3 projects to develop a Kids EXCEL (multi sports) session on a Saturday morning, 3 weekly sessions for goalball and 2 dance sessions, including a wheelchair dance session.

Park Roots

This organisation provides community led activities in Birkenhead Park.

They have been awarded £4650 to provide taster angling sessions where children learn how to fish, identify different types of fish and learn about the countryside. These sessions will take place during each of the school holidays.

Wirral Wheelchair Tennis Group

This is a new club offering wheelchair tennis sessions to young people.

The club has been awarded £5650.64 to develop the new club.

Wallasey YMCA

This organisation will be offering play activities for young people aged 8-18 midweek evening during term time. The activities will include team games, ball games, singing, cricket, football.

The club has been awarded £5930 to develop these new activities.

Wirral Resource Centre and Toy Library

This organisation offers therapy through play for young people with additional needs.

They have been awarded £6040 to develop a new Saturday morning play session for young people and their siblings.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 2nd JUNE 2010

JOINT REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

TRANSITION INTO ADULTHOOD (SOCIAL CARE)

Executive Summary

This report highlights developments in improving Transition arrangements for young people as they move into adulthood. Transition forms a discrete strand in the wider Aiming High for Disabled Children programme. There is a service improvement framework led by the National Transitions Team which envisages a more integrated strategic approach across a wider range of local agencies, and which now encompasses the needs of disabled young people between the ages of 14 and 25.

The report outlines progress in the development of a Transitions Team with staff co-located from Childrens and Adult Social Care Services, to ensure an integrated approach for the most vulnerable young people.

1 Background

- 1.1 Transition has been highlighted as an area of concern by the Government over a number of years. Transition will always be a time which provokes anxieties for young people and parents due to the fact that it involves changes in expectations of services and the people who will offer support. There are differences regarding the eligibility of people for services due to the different legislation under which services for children and adults are provided. Without effective transition processes, there is the potential for difficulties to arise as expectations of families exceed the skills and resources available.
- 1.2 Valuing People Now (2008) recommended that each local area has a multi-agency transition strategy. The guidance defines disabled children as including young people with special educational needs in its broadest terms as those young people who receive support at a school action and action plus level besides those in receipt of a statement. Aiming High for Disabled Children also identified Transitions as one of its key strands. New Guidance was produced on behalf of the Government by the Council for Disabled Children in 2008. (Department of Children, Schools and Families/Department of Health transition guides: *(A transition guide for all services and Transition: Moving on Well.)*)
- 1.3 The National Transition Support Team have been monitoring how the Council and NHS Wirral are working together to improve multi agency working, since November 2008. They have done so by requiring the Council to complete a Transition Self Assessment Questionnaire, in both January 2009 and December 2009. The Self Assessment Questionnaire aims to capture a snapshot of how agencies, processes and systems work together at a specific point in time in a local area. Following our initial submission we were rated as requiring a medium offer of support on a 3 tier rating system; which provided for support from a Transitions Support Advisor and an additional £10k of funding.

- 1.4 The Council and partners were required in September 2009 to submit its first Transition Development Plan to evidence its commitment to service improvement.

The National Transition Support Team, produced what it called a Trans Map framework, setting out 5 areas, which should shape our planning :

- Participation of disabled young people and their families.
- Effectiveness of personalised approaches.
- Joint assessments processes within children's trusts and adult services.
- Realistic post 16 opportunities for living life.
- Strategic joint partnership working.

- 1.5 Revised Governance arrangements have been developed to ensure a more strategic and integrated approach to support improved service delivery. The new Transitions Group will need to incorporate planning from across the Special Educational Needs and Health agendas with a wider group of corporate partners including Housing and Leisure. Feedback from the Transitions Self Assessment questionnaire highlights this as a key priority for our local planning.

Members of the previous Transitions Governance Group have now joined the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

Membership and terms of reference for the Transitions Strategy Group has now been widened with an increased strategic remit.

The Transitions Operational Group which was set in place in 2008 continues to meet monthly; tasked with ensuring young people are being tracked through transition effectively.

- 1.6 The second questionnaire completed in December 2009 built on the previous one with an increase in expectations of partnership working between a significantly wider range of agencies; and increased engagement with parents and young people in the planning of services. It being advanced that for disabled young people and their families to experience positive support during transition a wide range of agencies, and that young people need support with transitions over a longer period.

- 1.7 A Transitions protocol was launched in April 2008 between Children and Adult Services to improve Transition arrangements; this followed extensive discussion with all agencies working with young people in transition and consultation with young people and their families. The success of which has led to being able to report significantly improved performance within the Annual Performance Assessment.

The scope of the current Protocol set out arrangements for young people who are in need of the continuity of social care support. Locally we will be expected to review the Protocol to include the role and commitment of all agencies in working with all young people who have a disability as defined by the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Specifically the Protocol should also include young people who:

- have long-term health / medical conditions
- have a statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN), or registered as 'School Action Plus' and are identified by the school as requiring support with their transition.

- 1.8 Parents will be involved in considering service design via the Wirral Family Consultation Forum and the Engagement & Involvement Group. Parent representation is in place on the new Adult Learning Disability Partnership Board and the new Transition Strategy Group. Parent representatives are similarly engaged with current key strategic groups within the Childrens Trust Board governance arrangements. Further planning will be undertaken with WIRED and though securing the views of disabled young people via the Engagement & Involvement Group on current transition processes.
- 1.9 A second “Your Future, Your Choice” information event was arranged in October 2009, with close co-operation between staff from Social Inclusion and Social Care within the Council, Learning Skills Council, Connexions and NHS Wirral. In evaluating the last event it was noted that the numbers of parents attending the events continues to rise and that those young people attending have had support sessions from School and Connexions workers to ensure their attendance is meaningful. There is another event planned for November 2010.

The materials produced for these events have been extended to form an information pack for use by young people, carers and professionals and are available on the I-choose Wirral website. Plans are in hand to extend this information pack further and produce a DVD. We will also be seeking to use the Team Wirral website to ensure information is better targeted to young people. Continued work in the provision of information on a cross agency basis to provide for a stepped improvement.

2 Transitions to Adult Social Care activity

2.1 New Transitions Team

- 2.1.1 The new Transitions team set out in this report is a further stage of service development towards a more integrated model and seeks to provide social care support for young people with Learning Difficulties at this time. The team was brought together from 1 January 2010, and is located at Westminster House. The longer term vision is for a co-located Transitions Team made up of personnel from Children and Young People’s Department, Department of Adult Social Services, Connexions and Health with input from Benefits Advisors, Housing and Employment. In the longer term it is envisaged that the Transitions Team will work with young people aged 13/14 to 25 years old and will provide support for all young people with Special Educational Needs / Learning Difficulties and Disabilities.
- 2.1.2 The current services provided are to support children in need, aged 14 to 25 years old (and their families) who have severe or substantial disabilities, specifically:
- a severe or profound learning disability
 - a severe physical disability
 - a substantial degree of visual impairment / moderate and severe hearing loss
 - a complex Autistic Spectrum with a Severe Learning Disability
 - a complex medical health condition.
- 2.1.3 Most of the young people will leave school after the age 19 and transfer to the appropriate Adult team in the following year once key transitions are complete in terms of setting up local college provision, work or community based support. The two exceptions to this being where further work is required to:
- establish an appropriate accommodation and support package
 - setting up local support following completion of an out of borough residential college course

2.1.4 Young people with a complex Autistic Spectrum and Social Communication Disorder are currently being supported by the Children with Disabilities Service, and a further commissioning gap is evident within transition and Adult services for this group of young people which will require separate consideration.

2.1.5 Key priorities for this team include:

- Ensuring each young person who may require adult social care / are Fair Access to Care Services eligible have a support plan to guide them through transition
- Supporting young people in receiving personalised budgets and support
- Ensuring joint funding assessments are completed in a timely fashion
- Identifying commissioning gaps in relation to accommodation, short breaks, college, other services ; to enable this support to be provided within Wirral and Merseyside
- Streamlining assessment processes across agencies – both those within the team and with other external and linked partners
- Ensuring that young people and their families receive good quality information on transition and the role of the team within Transition is well publicised
- Developing a lead professional system to ensure young people and parents are guided smoothly through transition
- Promoting the engagement of young people and parents in the processes of reshaping services
- Ensuring service thresholds and resource allocation are consistent with those within Department of Adult Social Services, and expectations are managed effectively in moving into adult provision.
- Supporting the Transition Strategy Group in the implementation of the Transition Development Plan.
- Support brokerage project and employment projects in developing increased local provision

2.1.6 Team membership currently includes:

- Team Manager
- Social Workers – 2 from Children and Young People’s Department and 2 from Department of Adult Social Services
- Support Workers – 1 part time from Children and Young People’s Department and 1 from Department of Adult Social Services
- Administrative Support – Team Support Officer.

Meetings are being arranged to discuss the potential secondment of Connexions staff into this team. There is an in principle commitment to co-location of staff, which will need to be worked out once the service level agreement has been confirmed after the final stages of the commissioning process for the Connexions service has been concluded. Tracking of young people is a clear strength that the Connexions service will add to the team.

The Continuing Care co-ordinator is working closely with the Team Manager in relation to joint funding, future commissioning and support effective health action planning. From a Special Educational Needs perspective the Educational Advisor for Medical and Physical difficulties is similarly supporting individuals on a case by case basis.

2.1.7 Other Agencies are continuing to link into the team

- Housing
- Benefits Advice
- Further Education and Schools input
- 14-19 team for work experience

- Employers and Training for employment

Otherwise links will be maintained with:

- Advocacy
- Brokerage
- Enablement – Home Assessment and Reablement Team service
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services 16-19 team
- Voluntary and Community groups for vulnerable young people

2.2 Social Care Service Activity

- 2.2.1 There are currently 29 accommodated or previously accommodated young people with disabilities aged between 16 and 21 years who have a Pathway Plan as directed under the Leaving Care Act and who are allocated a Personal Advisor. These plans are produced at age 16 and reviewed at 6 monthly intervals in conjunction with their Social Worker from either Children and Young People's Department or Department of Adult Social Services. The looked after children population (for this group of young people) continues to reduce given the continued investment in shared care and wrap around family support. However this will create the need for Department of Adult Social Services to review its commissioning arrangements to be able to provide more significant community and family based support packages.
- 2.2.2 There was a total of 24 young people who turned 18 years old in 2008 whose package of care and support were forwarded to Department of Adult Social Services. During 2009 18 young people were referred and accepted; 2010 will see that same number progressed.
- 2.2.3 There were 9 young people returned from college this July who are Fair Access to Care Services eligible. In July 2010 we are predicting an increase of 7, so that there are 16 young people returning to Wirral from college, with a further 11 in July 2011 and another 11 in July 2012.
- The brokerage project last year redirected 9 people who had been previously been considering out of area placements.
 - In looking at this cohort of young people returning in 2012 there were 4 young people who had no social care involvement, 2 whose specific needs were not able to be met in local college provision, 1 looked after child and potentially 1 other who may have needed to be accommodated.
 - For the 2011 cohort 5 of 11 young people had no social care involvement and 1 was attending an out of borough school.
 - In 2010 cohort 8 of 12 young people had no social care involvement, there was 1 looked after young person and 2 others who if they had not gone to college would be likely to have needed to be accommodated due to adverse circumstances.
- 2.2.4 It is proposed that the new team should take casework responsibility at the age of 16 and support joint planning from 14. In terms of young people.

Aged 14+ there are

- 102 young people
- 14 looked after children

Aged 16+ there are

- 44 young people
- 5 looked after children

The Children with Disabilities Team Manager is retaining all responsibilities for contacts and referral and assessment to ensure a clear accountability for assessment timescales, management of child protection activity and to ensure a family centred approach in cases

where there are elements of family dysfunction and or issues with adolescents. In reviewing referral patterns there were few new referrals post 14 and a degree of stability within support plans is felt achievable by the ages of 15-16 for later referrals. In considering the more complex young people most cases achieve a degree of stability behaviourally in post adolescence. Most of the services that are vital to create this stability are clustered around the children`s team – the risk is that without careful risk management that we may increase the potential for being accommodated.

2.2.5 Professional and Management Accountability

Initially the Team Manager continues to receive joint supervision from the Service Manager Adult Learning Disability and the Service Manager Children with Disabilities on a monthly basis. Within the first year of the service it is proposed to form a Steering Group comprising the Service Managers from Children and Adults Social Care, and the Team Manager, with key partners. They will report into the new Transition Strategy Group who will make recommendations to the Learning Disability Partnership Board.

All cases involving child protection activity and looked after children will remain allocated to a qualified children`s worker to ensure clear professional accountability. Any cases involving adult protection activity or statutory mental health assessment will remain allocated to a qualified adult worker to similarly ensure clear professional accountability.

The team will undertake all assessment activity and care planning after 16 within Department of Adult Social Services formats to facilitate joint working. A key priority for the team will be progressing a lead professional model and developing a joined up approach to assessment – which brings together key information – person centred planning and health action planning.

In relation to our Performance Indicators we are able to report well above 90% of young people have a transition plan that are moving between children and adult services, which evidences increased efforts via the Transitions Operations Group system.

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 Within this financial year Wirral has received a nominal allocation from the Transition programme of £25k.
- 3.2 A Further bid has been submitted for a further £20k against Innovations Fund, the bid has received the recommendation of the Programme Advisor. The bid will support Employment activity, web site development and consultation activity delivered via the Wirral Family Consultation Forum.

4 Staffing Implications

It is proposed that the Adult Learning Disabilities Service will host the co- located team. Staff from Childrens Social Care will be seconded to the service under a service level agreement for each staff member.

5 Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

Social care services are provided to the most vulnerable people in the Borough. Services are provided following a fair and open assessment process and improvements in the transition process will enhance the life opportunities of young people with disabilities.

6 Community Safety Implications

Social care services assist in managing risks appropriately and therefore enable people to maintain their independence safely within the community.

7 Local Agenda 21 Implications

None arising from this report.

8 Planning Implications

None arising from this report.

9 Anti Poverty Implications

None arising from this report.

10 Social Inclusion Implications

Improvements in the transition process will ensure that young people's needs to maintain independence and take an appropriate part in their local community are addressed.

11 Local Member Support Implications

People who use social care services live in all parts of the Borough.

12 Background Papers

- **A Transition Guide for all Services** – a view of all the services that need to work together to ensure appropriate support for disabled young people life.
- **Transition: Moving on Well** good practice guide on effective transition from children's to adult services for young people with complex health needs.

Both can be viewed and downloaded from

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/resources-andpractice/IG00322/>.

14 Recommendations

- 14.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of this report, and the formation of a new Transitions Team.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

John Webb
Director of Adult Social Services

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 2nd JUNE 2010

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION – CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members, in accordance with the Constitution of the Council, of those instances where delegated authority has been used by the Director of Children's Services with respect to the acceptance of tenders and to the appointment of Contractors.

1.0 Capital contracts

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

Scheme	Contractor	Amount £
Raeburn Primary School - Extension	North West Construction UK Ltd	£198,000
Somerville Primary School – Staffroom Extension	North West Construction UK Ltd	£73,860
Oaklands Centre - Improvements	JFW Construction Ltd	£342,156
Heygarth Primary Sch – Horsa Kitchen	KGM Bld Contractors Ltd	£268,296
Wallasey Fire Station Alteration	Whitfield & Brown Ltd	£364,186
Gayton Primary Sch - Remodelling	EJ Horrocks Ltd	£406,868
Gilbrook Relocation to Arrowe Hill Prim-Windows	WPF Windows	£141,000
Gilbrook Relocation to Arrowe Hill Prim-Internal Decoration	North West Construction UK Ltd	£32,997 £25,445 £32,178
West Kirby Children's Centre – New Extension	JFW Construction Ltd	£175,000
Greasby Library – New Children's Centre	Horrock's Construction	£226,975
Greasby Infs – Proposed Single Storey Extension PVI	North West Construction UK Ltd	£75,000
Irby Primary – Replacement of Existing Mobile -PVI	Danzer Ltd	£277,634
New Brighton Children's Centre – Caretakers Hse Refurb	North West Construction UK Ltd	£172,250

1.2 DCSF Targeted Capital for School Kitchens and Dining Facilities

A grant of £454,316 (on a 50% matched funding basis) was offered by the DCSF to improve the take up of school lunches to meet one or more of the following goals:

- a. Improving the quality of the food

- b. Increasing the seating capacity of dining areas
- c. Improving the dining environment
- d. Decreasing queuing times

Plans were approved by the Schools Forum to increase meal take up, this will include work at 93 Primary Schools and 5 Special Schools and 1 High School.

2.0 Contract for Services to Children and Young People in a Range of High Risk Categories

This service is part of the Statutory Duty of the Local Safeguarding Board (LSB) and the Children and Young People's Department (CYPD).

The service will provide:

- The initial clarification of, and where required, provision of direct work with children who are at risk of sexual exploitation.
- A specialist assessment of and where necessary provision of direct work with children who have sexually harmful behaviours and who pose further risks to other children.
- The initial clarification of referral onto Children and Young People's Department Social Care of children who run away from home/care where there is a pattern on running away that may give cause for concern.

Following a commissioning process the contract for £169000 was awarded to Barnardos for services up until March 2011.

3.0 Out of Authority Placements

This budget makes education provision for a number of children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) whose needs cannot be met in maintained schools. The placements not previously reported costing in excess of £50,000 per annum are listed below.

2009-10 Out of Authority Placements

Start Date	School	Ref	Cost
17.09.09	Clarence High School	JA	£ 59,067
01.02.09	Eden Grove School	JE	£164,769
14.04.10	Olsen House School	DH	£ 53,202
14.04.10	Olsen House School	JH	£ 53,202
02.09.09	Peterhouse School	RM	£ 59,166

4.0 Children's Residential Care Placements

This budget makes provision for Independent Residential Care of Looked After Children. The placements not previously reported costing in excess of £50,000 per annum are listed below.

Start Date	Provider	Swift Reference	Annual Projected Cost
14.08.09	Good Foundations	138276	£ 118,524
22.09.09	SWISS Foster Care	185854	£ 50,854
09.02.10	Nugent Care - secure	10116	£ 255,892

23.04.10	Horizon Care	422911	£	211,484
11.08.09	Care Today	190224	£	113,116
09.11.09	Good Foundations	151633	£	118,524
10.12.09	Good Foundations	76882	£	118,524
19.10.09	Aldine House Secure	109809	£	245,700
31.10.09	New Pathways	138945	£	144,300
08.07.09	Good Foundations	27665	£	118,524
06.10.09	New Pathways	446492	£	144,333
04.01.2010	MCJA (Semi)	400537	£	128,441
16.11.09	Good Foundations Ltd (Semi)	22173	£	73,968
26.03.10	MCJA (Semi)	38335	£	111,800
15.03.10	New Pathways (Semi)	24431	£	74,878
03.03.10	Good Foundations Ltd	118672	£	118,524
08.03.10	New Pathways	67819	£	144,279
17.03.10	Good Foundations	168022	£	118,524
06.04.10	SCS Kinder	441260	£	192,400
19.04.10	Kremlin Care	134795	£	104,000

5.0 Extension to Existing Contracts

A contract with a value of more than £50,000 has been extended for 12 months (1st April 2010 -31 March 2011):

Contract with Wirral Resource Centre and Toy Library

Children's Special Needs Support Service £54,248

Wirral Resource Centre and Toy Library will continue to offer a support service to families with children under five years of ages with a disability.

6.0 Financial, Staffing, Equal Opportunities/Health Impact Assessment, Community Safety, Local Agenda 21, Planning, Anti-poverty, Social Inclusion and Local Member Support Implications.

There are no implications arising out of this report.

7.0 Background Papers

There are none.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report is noted.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

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UPDATE ON WORK PROGRAMME: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OSC –
2 June 2010

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

Report 1 - Monitoring Report for Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

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

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

Report 2 - Suggestions for Additions to Work Programme

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

Report 3 - Proposed Outline Meeting Schedule for the Municipal Year

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

Report 4 - Progress Report on In-Depth Panel Reviews

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

REPORT 1

MONITORING REPORT FOR SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 2010/2011

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Date of New item	Topic Description	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Complete Date	Comments on Progress	Complete/ Review date
2006	Report on the Support Given to Schools Pre- and Post-Ofsted Inspections	Panel Review		Final Report produced April 2007. Implementation of recommendations to be monitored by Standards sub-committee.	Complete
2006	Fostering Service Review	Panel Review		Final Report produced March 2008. Report discussed by Cabinet on 10th December. Implementation of recommendations to be monitored at a later date.	Review /update January 2010
Oct 2007	Youth Outreach Review	Panel Review	Report agreed Nov 2008	Final Report to Scrutiny Committee on 11th Nov. Report discussed by Cabinet on 10th December 08.	16 March 2010
July 2008	Update on Special Schools	Officer reports		Report to Committee 11th Nov. OSC members to visit schools.	
July 2008	Transition from Children's to Adult Social Services	Officer Report		Report to Committee 16th March. Item deferred until meeting in June 2009	June 2010
July 2008	NEET rates - in particular, what has been the impact of specific projects aimed at NEETs?	Officer Report		Report to Committee 13th Jan 2009. OSC to receive further report on preventative measure at key stage 4 and Knowsley apprentice programme	
July 2008	Behavioural Issues and Exclusions	Officer Report		Report noted at OSC – 11 Nov 08	

July 2008	School Funding	To be agreed		Notice has been given that the Committee intend to scrutinize School Funding during the 2009 / 10 municipal year.	
Oct 2008	Wirral Music Service	Officer Report		Committee requested a further report during a budget savings debate on the Wirral Music Service on 28.10.08. At OSC on 13.01.09 a request for further statistics was made. An Annual report has been requested. – March 2010 A further request for an “Options Report to be brought to Sept 2010 OSC	14 Sept 2010
Nov 2008	Early Years Education	Officer Report		Item requested by Sheila Clarke (11th Nov meeting). Report noted at OSC 16.3.09	Complete
Nov 2008	Private Fostering	Officer report		Item discussed by OSC on 11th Nov 2008. Members requested another report in one year’s time. As a result of the Ofsted Annual Performance Letter, it was agreed on 13/01/09 that a report would be produced for the March meeting.	January 2010
Nov 2008	Wirral Adoption Service	Officer Report		Item discussed by OSC on 11th Nov 2008. Further reports to be produced on the Adoption service in the future, including Special Guardianship .	June 2010
Jan 2009	Teenage Pregnancy	Panel Review		Item requested by Sheila Clarke (13 th Jan meeting). The OSC meeting on 16/03/09 agreed to receive an officer report at the June meeting. (A similar report will go to Cabinet on 09/04/09).	January 2010
Jan 2009	Child protection – STATUTORY ANNUAL Safeguarding REPORT	Officer report		As a result of the verbal report on ‘The Impact of the Baby P Case’ given by Howard Cooper (13/01/09), it was agreed that a further update report would be produced in the future.	Sept 2010

March 2009	Proposed Children in Care Council	Officer report		A future progress report will be produced on the Children in Care Council (CCC) and reps from CCC are to be invited in 12 months time	16 March 09
	Aiming High	Officer report		Officer report presented at Sept 09 OSC – Committee a further report in the future with an invitation to parents.	June 2010
	Members visit to Eddison Learning in Essex	Report by Cllr Harney		Members report to OSC on 17.9.09	Complete
	LINK Forum review of Procurement process for Parenting and Prevention Commissioning			Officer report	
	Members visit to Children Homes	Issue discussed at 02.06.09		Lead officer presented options for member visits at OSC 17.09.09 – Future Member visits to submitted to OSC for information.	Complete

REPORT 2

SUGGESTIONS FOR ADDITIONS TO WORK PROGRAMME

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 02/06/2010

Topic Description	Topic suggested by	How the topic will be dealt with	Estimated Completion Date
The identification of deprivation and the impact on learning outcomes	Cllr Harney and supported by OSC meeting on 16/03/09	Consider for inclusion on the work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year	
Impact of alcohol on children	Cllr Doyle and supported by OSC meeting on 16/03/09	Possible joint scrutiny work with Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee	
Surplus in school budgets (held by some schools)	Cllr Smith	Consider for inclusion on the work programme for the 2009/10 municipal year	
One to one tuition			
LINK Forum review of the Procurement process for Parenting and Prevention Commissioning.	Agreed by the Children Services OSC meeting to discuss Call-In on 20/04/09	A report will be presented to a future meeting –	
Children's Centres	Cllr Doyle	Proposed at 17.09.09 OSC – poss panel review	
Young People and Community Safety	Cllr Clarke Supported by OSC – 16.11.09	Poss. Joint review with Sustainable Communities OSC.	

REPORT 3

PROPOSED OUTLINE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 02/06/2010

Meeting Date	Topic Description
02 June 2010	The Children and Young People's Plan 2008 – 2013 Annual Report
	Transition from Children to Adulthood (Social Care) – Officer Report
	Q4 Performance monitoring (virtual library)
	Aiming High (Short break provision) – officer progress report
	Adoption Service – Annual report (1.4.09 – 31.3.10)
	Approved Scheme of Delegation – contracts exceeding £50,000

Meeting Date	Topic Description
14 Sept 2010	Parenting and Family support strategy (“Think Family”) – final version report
	Safeguarding (Child Protection) – Annual Officer Report
	Extended Schools – officer report
	Music Service – Options Report
	Health Issues in Schools

Meeting Date	Topic Description
16 Nov 2010	

REPORT 4

PROGRESS REPORT ON IN-DEPTH PANEL REVIEWS

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 02/06/2010

Title of Review	Members of Panel	Progress to Date	Date Due to report to Committee
Literacy Levels at Key Stage 2	Sheila Clarke (chair) Frank Doyle Tony Smith	<p>Draft scope agreed at OSC meeting on 11th Nov. Data gathering has commenced. Visits to three primary schools have taken place; one further visit is due to take place later in March. 'Interviews' with key officers have also commenced; others are due to take place during March / April. Report finalised during July/August 09. Report presented to 21 Jan 2010 OSC</p> <p>Recommendations supported by OSC Report to be presented to Cabinet Outcomes of recommendations report be presented to OSC in due course. Report to Children's Trust Board (28 May 2010)</p>	21 Jan 2010 COMPLETED
"Narrowing the gap" – Impact of deprivation funding review	Shelia Clarke (Chair) Frank Doyle Tony Smith Tom Harney Cherry Povall Paul Hayes	<p>Draft scope agreed 17.09.09. Initial Review panel meeting held Nov 09. First round of school meetings – Jan 2010 Further school meetings – 24 Feb 2010</p>	

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0-19 STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 23 March 2010

Present: Councillor S Clarke (Chair)
Councillor T Smith

Apologies Councillor F Doyle Mr R Neale
Mr M Clarke

1 QUORUM

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

2 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Clarke – a personal interest in minute 5 by virtue of her being a governor at The Observatory School.

Councillor PA Smith – a personal interest in minute 10 by virtue of him having a niece who was a teacher at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

3 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair agreed to vary the order of business.

4 SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Paul Ashcroft, Strategic Service Manager – Participation, reported that there were currently no special schools in Ofsted categories.

5 SPECIAL SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010

The members received a summary of the outcome of a recent Ofsted inspection of The Observatory School. The school had been graded as satisfactory.

Paul Ashcroft, Strategic Service Manager – Participation, remarked that the school had been open for just five years and commented upon the progress made at the school.

Recommended – That the report be noted and the Sub-Committee record its appreciation of this result.

6 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Stuart Bellerby, Strategic Service Manager - Secondary and Lifelong Learning (Learning & Achievement) reported that there were currently no secondary schools in Ofsted categories. 12 out of the 22 secondary schools were graded as 'outstanding', only one other authority in the North West (Trafford) being better placed. The national average for outstanding schools was 17%.

7 SECONDARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010

The members received a summary of the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of the Oldershaw School. The school had been graded as good.

Recommended – That the report be noted and the Sub-Committee record its appreciation of this result.

8 NATIONAL CHALLENGE UPDATE

Stuart Bellerby provided further details of Wirral's National Challenge Plans and circulated an update for the Members.

The progress of the schools was monitored by the National Strategies and the DCSF and he gave details of the last two monitoring meetings in December, 2009 and March 2010. There had been general agreement between the LA officers and representatives of the external agencies at the most recent monitoring meeting on 10 March concerning progress at the 6 schools. All schools were either on a sustainable trajectory to be above the floor target (30% 5A*-C including Maths and English) by 2011 or were in or being considered for a structural solution.

There was a provisional agreement at the March meeting to provide total funding for 2010/11 for the schools of £325,000 under the National Challenge programme.

Recommended – That the update report be noted.

9 PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Mark Parkinson, Head of Learning & Achievement, reported on the two primary schools which were in special measures, Manor and Well Lane.

An action plan had been put in place for Manor Primary to address very specific issues and the school was making progress although there were still some actions to be addressed.

An action plan for Well Lane Primary had yet to be returned from Ofsted and much work was still to be done. A first case conference had been held.

Recommended – That the report be noted.

10 **PRIMARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010**

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

Inadequate School

Well Lane

Satisfactory Schools

Birkenhead Christ Church C of E

Cathcart Street

Church Drive

Pensby

St Paul's Catholic

Good Schools

Bidston Avenue

Black Horse Hill Junior

Christ the King Catholic

St Joseph's Catholic

Woodchurch C of E

Outstanding School

Great Meols

Members commented upon each school in turn and Mark Parkinson, Head of Learning & Achievement, confirmed that he did write to every Head Teacher after an Ofsted inspection. With regard to the quality of early years teaching in the private sector he suggested that an annual overview could be provided.

The Chair referred to an email which had been received from Richard Neale, C of E Diocesan representative, with some comments on the various Ofsted reports and Mark Parkinson agreed that he would reply to Mr Neale's comments and forward his response to members of the Sub-Committee.

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

11 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Recommended – That the next meeting be held on Tuesday 13 July, 2010 at 6.00pm.

0-19 STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Monday, 19 April 2010

Present: Councillor S Clarke (Chair)

Councillors F Doyle T Smith

Apologies Mr M Clarke Mr R Neale

12 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Clarke – a personal interest in minute 15 by virtue of her being a governor at The Observatory School.

Councillor PA Smith – a personal interest in minute 20 by virtue of him having a niece who was a teacher at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

13 INQUORATE MEETING ON 23 MARCH

The Sub-Committee was asked to consider the recommendations from the inquorate meeting on 23 March (see minutes 14 to 21 below).

14 SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Further to minute 4 (23/3/10).

Resolved – That it be noted that there were currently no special schools in Ofsted categories.

15 SPECIAL SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010

Further to minute 5 (23/3/10).

Resolved - That the report be noted and the Sub-Committee record its appreciation of this result.

16 SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES

Further to minute 6 (23/3/10).

Resolved – That it be noted that there were currently no secondary schools in Ofsted categories.

17 **SECONDARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010**

Further to minute 7 (23/3/10).

Resolved - That the report be noted and the Sub-Committee record its appreciation of this result.

18 **NATIONAL CHALLENGE UPDATE**

Further to minute 8 (23/3/10).

Resolved - That the update report be noted.

19 **PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES**

Further to minute 9 (23/3/10).

Resolved - That the report be noted.

20 **PRIMARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS DECEMBER 2009 - MARCH 2010**

Further to minute 10 (23/3/10).

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

21 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Resolved - That the next meeting be held on Tuesday 13 July, 2010 at 6.00pm.