



Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Thursday, 26 January 2012
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

Contact Officer: Andrew Mossop
Tel: 0151 691 8501
e-mail: andrewmossop@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

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 November, 2011.

3. CORPORATE PLAN (Pages 9 - 38)

In accordance with Council minutes 77 and 78 (12 December, 2011), the Committee is requested to consider those parts of the Corporate Plan within the remit of this Committee.

3 a COUNCIL MOTION (Pages 39 – 40)

The attached motion has been referred to all Overview and Scrutiny Committees by the Council at its meeting on 12 December, 2011

(minute 76 refers) and is to be considered in connection with the Corporate Plan.

4. YOUTH PARLIAMENT PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2012 (Pages 41 - 50)

5. EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT SECOND QUARTER MONITORING REPORT (Pages 51 - 74)

Tony Gallagher, Her Majesty's Inspector, will be in attendance at the meeting and will be invited to make a contribution to the discussion on this item.

6. REFERRAL FROM COUNCIL - EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT (Pages 75 - 76)

Council at its meeting on 12 December, 2011, considered the following objection to the Cabinet minute 216 (8 December, 2011) – Budget Projections 2012-15, and in accordance with part (1) of the objection this matter has been referred to this Committee.

“Proposed by Councillor Jeff Green
Seconded by Councillor Lesley Rennie

(1) That the decision to cut £1m from the Early Intervention Grant be referred to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

(2) That the sum of £1.4m pay provision be referred to the Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Having applied the guillotine in accordance with Standing Order 7(8) the Council did not debate this matter.

Resolved (64:0) (One abstention) – That the objection be approved.”

Cabinet minute 216 is attached and the Committee's attention is drawn to paragraph (6)iv of the resolution.

7. TRANSITION OF PUPILS FROM THE SANDERLING UNIT TO THE RESOURCE BASE, UNIVERSITY ACADEMY, BIRKENHEAD (Pages 77 - 82)

8. WIRRAL LIFELONG AND FAMILY LEARNING SERVICE (Pages 83 - 106)

9. OAKLANDS (Pages 107 - 116)

10. THE '100 CLUB' PROJECT (Pages 117 - 124)

11. SICKNESS ABSENCE TRENDS IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT (Pages 125 - 132)

12. APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION - CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000 (Pages 133 - 136)

13. WORK PROGRAMME

Report to follow.

14. FORWARD PLAN

The Forward Plan for the period January to April 2012 has now been published on the Council's intranet/website and Members are invited to review the Plan prior to the meeting in order for the Committee to consider, having regard to the Committee's work programme, whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan and, if so, how it could be done within relevant timescales and resources.

15. 0-19 STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES (Pages 137 - 140)

To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7 December, 2011.

16. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR

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CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 16 November 2011

Present:

Councillor S Clarke (Chair)

Councillors

W Clements
J Crabtree
D Dodd
P Hayes
B Mooney

C Povall
T Smith
W Smith
P Williams

Co-opted:

Mrs N Smith

Mrs J Owens

Apologies

Mr A Scott

29 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.

Councillor W Clements declared a personal interest in the items, 'Ofsted Children's Services Assessment' and, '2011/12 Second Quarter Performance and Financial Review' by virtue of her employment (see minutes 33 and 36 post).

Councillor J Crabtree declared a personal interest in the item, 'Fostering Service Report on Inspection' by virtue of him being a foster carer (see minute 34 post).

Councillor S Clarke declared a personal interest in the item, 'Fostering Service Report on Inspection' by virtue of her membership of the Fostering Panel (see minute 34 post).

30 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 20 September, 2011.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of 20 September, 2011 be approved as a correct record.

31 ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report which presented an annual analysis of complaints registered under the Children Act 1989 Representations Procedure (England) Regulations 2006 during the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

Dawn Stanley-Smith, Complaints Investigations Officer, introduced the report and stated that over the twelve month reporting period 2010/11, the following complaints had been registered:

Stage 1 - 66 complaints (compared with 78 complaints in 2009/10)

Stage 2 - 5 complaints (compared with 5 complaints in 2009/10)

Stage 3 - 1 complaint (compared with 1 in 2009/10)

The report also gave statistics on compliments received and also on a review of effectiveness.

Responding to comments from Members Dawn Stanley-Smith outlined the process for complaints made by children and the work being carried out in collaboration with the Children in Care Council, including a re-designed welcome pack.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

32 EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT - LESSONS LEARNT

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report on the lessons learnt following an evaluation of the process used to commission services funded by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG). The commissioning process was complex and a report to identify lessons learnt was requested as a means of identifying improvements in any future commissioning activities.

Maureen McDaid, Principal Manager (Commissioning / Participation) introduced the report. She apologised for the absence of Tony Gallagher, Her Majesty's Inspector, who was due to be present for this item but who had been unavoidably delayed.

She outlined the main aim of the EIG activities which was to effectively intervene to help children, young people and families to move down the continuum of need from high levels which required high cost interventions to a lower level of need and eventually moving to a stage using universal lower cost open access services.

The approach was in line with the corporate priority of providing early intervention and support for vulnerable children and families. Although too early to be specific about the impact of the commissioned services, providers were clear about the expectations of their services and also about the way in which they would be monitored to ensure a focus on outcomes. If the required outcomes were achieved, and the level of need was reduced, it was to be expected that future costs would also be reduced for the Council and its partners.

Responding to comments from Members, Maureen McDaid outlined the tendering process and the reasons why the contracts were for one year only, it was likely that

permission would be sought to extend the contracts as the commissioning time took 6 – 9 months. She gave details of the evaluating panel members and explained that there was a system for decommissioning if providers had underperformed.

The Acting Director commented that there was a system of quarterly monitoring but there was currently only information on one quarter's performance. He would be happy to bring a report back linked into an evaluation of all programmes and which mapped out the parenting programme into units.

Resolved – That the report be noted and the thanks of the Committee be accorded to the panel members and the team involved in the EIG programme.

33 **OFSTED CHILDREN'S SERVICES ASSESSMENT**

The Acting Director of Children's Services reported upon the Ofsted Children's Services Annual Assessment which was published on 8 November, 2011. Wirral Children's Services had been assessed as 'performs excellently' a maximum score of four on a four point scale. The report gave details of the 2011 assessment findings and the actions put in place to address the two areas identified by Ofsted for further improvement.

Responding to comments from Members, the Acting Director referred to the two areas for improvement. In respect of childminders and day care this was a large part of Sure Start's work and a quality improvement process had been developed for childminders. It was also reported that parents were provided with reports from Ofsted. With regard to 'Narrowing the gap at age 19', he acknowledged that this was a challenge. There was now a need for a much broader curriculum because of a broader range of children now staying on into the 6th form.

The Chair expressed the Committee's thanks for all the work in achieving this excellent result.

Resolved –

(1) That the report be noted and the Committee's congratulations be accorded to the department's staff.

(2) That the issue of childminding services in the private sector be added to the work programme.

34 **FOSTERING SERVICE REPORT ON INSPECTION**

The Acting Director of Children's Services reported upon the outcome of the announced inspection of the Wirral Fostering Service by Ofsted and an update on the work of the Fostering Service since the last report in January 2010 (minute 51 refers). This was the first report and inspection since the publication of new Fostering National Minimum Standards and since updated guidance and regulations had come into force on 1 April 2011.

The overall quality rating by Ofsted for the fostering service was 'good' for the quality of care with some 'outstanding' outcomes for children and young people who were fostered. Appended to the report was an action plan which had been developed by

the Fostering Service to address the areas for improvement which would be monitored through a Fostering Task Force which had membership of senior managers, staff from the Fostering Service, foster carers, training and development, and other professionals supporting children in care.

According to the new statutory guidance for family and friends care, the allowance paid to connected carers had to be calculated in the same way as mainstream foster carers, with any variation relating to the child's needs, the skills of the carer or some other relevant factor that was used as a criterion for all of the service's foster carers. Currently connected carers received the fostering allowance without any skills based fee unless they in addition fostered children that were not known to them. The additional cost for all connected carers to be paid an additional skills fee for each child in their care was estimated to be in the region £450,000. It was intended that the budget implications to address a required amendment in the foster carers' payments policy would be reported to Cabinet as part of the budget process.

Responding to comments from Members, Simon Garner, Strategic Service Manager and the Acting Director commented that the fostering network had led on the drive to professionalise foster care. There was a need to use professional organisations where it was in the best interests of the child especially those with specialist needs. With regard to the pupil premium, the Acting Director had written to all schools requesting details of what this money had been spent on.

With regard to the drive to professionalise foster care, the Chair commented upon the need not to lose sight of the loving and nurturing standards which were required of all foster carers.

Julia Hassall, Acting Deputy Director, commented upon the recent publication of the Adoption League Table and that Wirral, in the three years up to the end of March, 2010 had placed 69% of children up for adoption within 12 months. This placed Wirral 105th out of 152 local authorities nationally.

Resolved –

(1) That this Committee, having considered the information in the report, is satisfied that the service is being managed effectively and that there are good outcomes for the children and young people that are fostered.

(2) That the financial implications arising from the payments to connected carers are reported to Cabinet and this Committee expects these payments to be made.

35 CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY - ACTION PLAN / IMPLEMENTATION

The Chief Executive submitted a report which set out the work that had been undertaken to date, in accordance with the report to the Cabinet on 14 April 2011 (minute 386 refers), to develop a Wirral Child Poverty Strategy and action plan in partnership with local organisations and agencies, including the voluntary, community and faith sector. This included the contribution of the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group, which had been established to make recommendations to the Council and its partners about a local Child Poverty Strategy and action plan.

The report also provided a progress report on the £10,000 policy option agreed by the Cabinet and Council in February 2010 to invest in targeted engagement with Wirral organisations and local communities and set out the proposed next steps in relation to the further development of the action plan.

The report also detailed the links between Wirral's local approach and the development of a strategy for the Liverpool City Region, which had been shaped by the City Region Commission on Poverty and Life Chances, chaired by Frank Field MP.

At its meeting of 13th October 2011, Cabinet:

“(a) Noted the progress that has been made to date in relation to the development of a child and family poverty strategy for Wirral, including the excellent contribution of the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group, and approves the draft strategy and initial action plan at Appendix 1;

(b) Authorised the Chief Executive to undertake further consultation on the draft strategy and prepare a final version for approval and adoption by the Council and partners;

(c) Authorises the Chief Executive (and any other officer nominated by him) to undertake any other steps and action incidental and conducive to finalising the strategy and progressing the action plan, including working with relevant partners and stakeholders as considered necessary and appropriate;

(d) Agreed that the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group should continue to meet to oversee the further development of the strategy.”

Cabinet further resolved to make tackling child poverty a key priority for 2012/13 and to make sure that all Council strategies and plans were properly amended to include this as a major priority for the Council, with subsequent referral to Council as appropriate.

Jane Morgan, Corporate Policy Manager in the Department of Regeneration, Housing and Planning, responded to comments from Members and informed the meeting that a more detailed 3 year action plan would be brought back to meetings of the Cabinet and this Committee in the new year, once more work had been undertaken.

The Acting Director, responding to comments from Members, stated that discussions were being held with the Finance Department regarding the realignment of the free school meals allocation process which was currently slow to respond to changes in circumstances along with being more generous than the current national framework.

With the permission of the Chair, the Leader of the Conservative Group addressed the meeting and welcomed the report. He expressed the hope that work would continue with voluntary, community and faith based organisations as there were many people whose expertise and time could be tapped into to help in tackling the issue of child poverty. There was also the need to break the inter-generational nature of child poverty.

Resolved –

(1) That this Committee notes the progress made to date on the draft child poverty strategy.

(2) Committee receives regular updates on progress on the implementation of the recommendations as agreed by Cabinet on 13 October 2011.

36 2011/12 SECOND QUARTER PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Acting Director of Children's Services reported upon the performance of the Council's Corporate Plan 2011-2014 for July to September 2011 in relation to children and young people. He provided an overview of performance, resource and risk monitoring and highlighted what was working well, future challenges and risks.

In respect of the projected overspend for 2011/12, he reported that the best estimate for the year end was £1.6m.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

37 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF LITERACY LEVELS AT KEY STAGE 2 - PROGRESS REPORT

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a progress report which provided an overview of the progress made since the publication of the original scrutiny report into literacy levels at Key Stage 2 (minute 54 (21/1/10) refers). The initial brief for the Scrutiny Review was to review literacy levels at Key Stage 2, however, this had subsequently been extended to include an investigation of issues from babyhood to Early Years to Foundation Stage to Key Stage 1 and finally to Key Stage 2.

The scrutiny report contained a total of 24 recommendations and an appendix to the Acting Director's report outlined the actions that had been taken since the scrutiny report was written, the impact so far and proposals for further action. Moving forward, Wirral Children's Trust partnership and the Council's Children and Young People's Department (CYPD) would address the ongoing recommendations through actions in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and would ensure that they were embedded in the refresh of the CYPP for 2011-12. They would also be addressed through the delivery of the Council's Strategic Objectives through the Corporate and CYPD Department Plan.

Mark Parkinson, Acting Deputy Director, responding to comments from Members, stated that the gap in literacy levels was narrowing and that he would be happy to bring a report back to a future meeting.

Resolved – That the report be noted and Committee receive a report in 12 months time on the action still to be taken.

38 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES - DEMOGRAPHIC UPDATE

Further to minute 7 (1/6/11) the Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report which provided updated information on current and projected changes in the

roll of Wirral's secondary schools. The report also gave details of the potential implications of the falling roll, with particular reference to budgetary and staffing implications in the current year.

An appendix to the report gave an outline of the current situation with regard to academy conversion, 13 of the 22 secondary schools had or were in the process of becoming academies.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

39 **SCHOOL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW - POST 16 STANDARDS**

Further to minute 23 (20/9/11) Vivian Stafford, Strategic Service Manager (Post -16), gave a presentation on the headline figures for post-16 results (Key stage 5).

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

40 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received an update on its work programme including the reports to be scheduled for the January meeting.

The Chair suggested the addition of childminding services and the private sector to be added to the work programme (see minute 33 ante). She also suggested the need for a training session to which all Councillors could be invited, on the issue of serious case reviews and the relationship with the Safeguarding Board.

Resolved – That the Work Programme be agreed with the above additions.

41 **FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee had been invited to review the Forward Plan prior to the meeting in order for it to consider, having regard to the Committee's work programme, whether scrutiny should take place of any items contained within the Plan and, if so, how it could be done within relevant timescales and resources.

Resolved – That the forward plan be noted.

42 **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR - CO-OPTED MEMBER REQUEST**

Further to minute 25 (20/9/11), the Chair referred to the current position regarding the request from Ms Louise Reece Jones for a co-opted position on the Committee. As she was not currently a parent governor she could not apply to become a parent governor co-optee.

The Chair suggested that she be thanked for her interest and as the Council was currently looking at its own corporate governance arrangements, now would not be the time to extend the numbers of co-opted members on the Committee.

Resolved – That the suggestion of the Chair be agreed.

43 **THANKS**

The Acting Director commented that this would be the last meeting of the Committee prior to the retirement of the former Director of Children's Services, Howard Cooper, now Interim Director of Adult Social Services, and he thanked the committee for all their support both to Howard and himself.

The Chair expressed her and the Committee's thanks to Howard for all his work in the Department and with the Committee.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

8TH DECEMBER 2011

SUBJECT:	CORPORATE PLAN 2012-13
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR STEVE FOULKES
KEY DECISION:	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report presents the Council's draft Corporate Plan for 2012-13 at Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The draft Corporate Plan reflects the needs of Wirral and priorities for local people. It also puts in place a clear commitment and actions to ensure that the Council's corporate governance failings are addressed through engaging the entire organisation in the challenge and opportunities this presents.
- 1.3 The Corporate Plan provides a clear framework for budget and departmental planning for 2012-13. The plan will directly inform the Council's budget for 2012-13 and departments will prepare individual business plans, which will set out in more detail how the actions in the Corporate Plan will be delivered.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet approves the draft Corporate Plan to be referred for adoption by full Council on the 12th December 2011 for implementation from the 1st April 2012.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 On 17th March 2011, the Council agreed a three year Corporate Plan for 2011-14, with a focus on the activity that would be delivered during the current year (2011-12). In line with best practice, and to ensure that the changing needs and priorities of local people are addressed alongside the corporate governance challenges and opportunities faced by the Council, the Corporate Plan has been fully reviewed and refreshed to ensure that it is fit for purpose for 2012-13.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The draft Corporate Plan at Appendix 1 describes the challenges for the Council and how we will address these.

4.2 The draft Corporate Plan demonstrates how the Council will respond to a number of key drivers. These are:

- The findings of the independent report considered by Cabinet on the 22nd September 2011 entitled 'Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council's Corporate Governance Arrangements: Refresh and Renew' and the subsequent development of a robust work programme and identification of key lines of enquiry to address these findings;
- The recent consultation undertaken across Wirral to inform the development of Neighbourhood Plans for each of the Council's eleven Area Forum areas;
- The development of a child and family poverty strategy for Wirral;
- The Council's revitalised Investment Strategy;
- The effective integration of the Public Health function and new leadership role for local authorities in health and wellbeing

4.3 Subject to approval by Cabinet and Council, the Corporate Plan at Appendix 1 will provide a clear framework for the Council's budget and departmental delivery plans for the period April 2012-13. The timetable for the production of departmental plans and the agreement of the Council's budget is set out in the appendix to the Comprehensive Work Programme report considered by Corporate Governance Committee on the 26th October 2011. Action is now being undertaken in line with this timetable to ensure that departmental plans and the Council's budget are in place by January 2012 and February 2012 respectively. The You Choose Consultation took place between 19 August 2011 and 30 November 2011 and is one element of the ongoing consultation process for setting the 2012/13 Budget. An overview of the process and a summary of the responses are the subject of a separate report on this agenda.

4.4 Prior to the commencement of the 2012-13 financial year, Cabinet is requested to note that the work being undertaken to review and improve the Council's arrangements for policy, corporate and business planning and performance management will impact on the way the Corporate Plan is monitored in 2012-13, for example in respect of the frequency and content of reports to Cabinet and/or Scrutiny Committees, and the way in which corporate and business planning will be delivered in future years. This work, and related recommendations, will be considered by Cabinet as appropriate and in line with the governance arrangements established in respect of the Corporate Governance Committee.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 The corporate risk register will be revised in line with the draft Corporate Plan for 2012-13 to ensure that any risks to delivering the Council's goals are understood and mitigating actions put in place as appropriate.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 Not applicable

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 As indicated in 4.2, consultation with local people about their priorities for services has been undertaken through the recent consultation on Neighbourhood Plans. This process engaged individuals and organisations in all areas of Wirral.
- 7.2 The draft child and family poverty strategy which has informed the Corporate Plan is based on consultation with local stakeholders about the needs of children and families in Wirral.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 The draft Corporate Plan sets out actions in relation to working with voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to improve outcomes for local people.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 The Corporate Plan informs the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Annual Budget which seek to allocate available resources to deliver the priorities as set out in the Plan. By 10 March each year the Council has to agree a Budget, and set Council Tax levels, for the following financial year.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Legal implications relating to the actions set out in the draft Corporate Plan will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix 2.
- 11.2 In developing individual business plans, departments will also be expected to address equalities implications as appropriate, including through undertaking Equality Impact Assessments in line with corporate requirements.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 Carbon reduction is a specific goal in the draft Corporate Plan. Any carbon reduction implications relating to other goals and actions will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 Planning and community safety implications relating to the actions set out in the draft Corporate Plan will be addressed by departments as appropriate.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Jim Wilkie
Chief Executive**

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Draft Corporate Plan 2012-2013

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Previous Council and Cabinet reports as detailed in the subject history below

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Meeting	Date
Corporate Plan 2011-2014	Cabinet – 17th March 2011 Council – 18th April 2011
Independent Review	Cabinet – 22nd September 2011
Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan – Progress Report	Cabinet – 13th October 2011
Neighbourhood Plans and Area Forum Funding	Cabinet – 24th November 2011

FOREWORD FROM THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

This Corporate Plan is about a journey we are all taking together – Councillors, Officers, Council Staff and the people of Wirral. Travelling with us are our partners from public, private and voluntary sector organisations.

Our destination is a Wirral that is healthy and prosperous with a sense of well being that permeates all levels of our society.

It sounds simple but conditions for the journey are not good at the moment. We are in the middle of a Global and European financial crisis. Money is in very short supply and resources for the Council will be very limited for the foreseeable future. Individuals are feeling the pinch too, with pay increases restricted, jobs in short supply and prospects for the future very uncertain.

You might think this was the time to get our heads down, retreat into ourselves and try to weather the storm quietly. Think again.

The ground breaking Education Act which provided free secondary education for all was passed in 1944 at a time of great financial hardship for the Nation. Four years later, in a period of post war austerity, the National Health Service was created, providing free health care for all. Great changes are not just about money. They are about dreams and aspirations and a fierce collective determination to make things work, whatever obstacles may be thrown in the way.

We've come a long way since that post war period, but we haven't come far enough. Over 60 years later, if you live in one of Wirral's poorest areas the statistics show that you are likely to die (ten years) earlier than your counterpart in one of Wirral's wealthiest areas. That has to change. That mortality gap should not be tolerated in a civilised society.

We have a unique opportunity to make that change. The Public Health role is moving from the Health Service to Local Authorities which will allow us to work very closely together, using all our joint facilities and infrastructure, to tackle some of the most challenging problems which mean that gap stubbornly resists any attempt to narrow it.

All the evidence shows that poverty is one of the key factors in physical and mental ill health. Poor quality housing, poor job prospects, unemployment, low levels of education, low aspirations, failing family relationships, poor parenting, poor nutrition, fuel poverty, anti social behaviour, all play their part in creating the conditions which take away any sense of well being and allow ill health to flourish.

As a Council we have traditionally reacted to problems when they became apparent. But we've all heard the saying "Prevention is better than Cure". Well, that's the journey we are setting out on now, and which we are ideally placed to undertake. Identify the causes of problems and tackle them before it's too late. Before the consequences show themselves. Before it costs a great deal more money to put things right.

But this is something we all have to agree on. Preventing things happening is usually not visible. If we are successful, and there are no problems to point at, people may well

ask what we are spending the council tax payer's money on. If we change our priorities to release more money into early detection and prevention activities, there may be other areas that have to manage on less than before, which won't be popular.

We will need to be absolutely clear what we are doing, and why, and we will need real, hard evidence to back up what we are doing. No more decisions based just on anecdotes! If we don't have the evidence, then we will need to set up pilot schemes which can be properly analysed and evaluated first, before we move into a larger arena.

This does not apply only to new initiatives. We have been criticised by the District Auditor for taking decisions to let contracts without having sufficient detailed information and costings in place about our own activities to allow us to prove that an external contract will provide better value for money. From now on we will make sure that the right information is collected and evaluated on all the Council services so we truly demonstrate we are providing value for money for the Council Tax Payer. At a time when resources are limited this is more important than ever.

This brings me to the final element of our journey. We know where we are headed. We know the route map we are using to get to our destination. But we also need to know how to travel that route safely and cost effectively.

It's like driving a car. If you ignore the highway code, crash the gears, stall the engine at stop lights, forget to signal, take short cuts which turn into long cuts, u-turn illegally when you're lost, you may still reach your destination - eventually. But you may well have had several accidents along the way. You are likely to be stressed and exhausted. Your passengers will have had a very uncomfortable ride, and the costs of your journey will have escalated because of your bad driving.

Well right now everyone involved in driving Council activities forward is being put through the equivalent of an advanced driving course. The formal name is a Corporate Governance Review. The aim is to make sure that the basic rules and procedures which govern the way the Council runs, (a kind of Local Authority Highway Code), are brought up to date, and are understood and followed by everyone. That bad habits which have become standard over a period of time are eradicated and replaced with good habits, and that the whole process eventually becomes as automatic to staff and councillors as changing gears becomes to an experienced driver.

It's not newsworthy. It's not particularly exciting. It's a lot of hard graft without any instant rewards. But it is very, very necessary. This way we travel safely. We make sure taxpayers get real value for their money. We make sure services are delivered fairly and consistently, and we avoid unnecessary disasters. And we reach our destination more quickly.

Welcome to our journey to a healthy and prosperous Wirral, where the well being of every resident matters.

Cllr Steve Foulkes

Leader of the Council.

The Destination

Our Vision for Wirral.

A Healthy and Prosperous Wirral where a sense of well being permeates every level of society and where the place you live and the amount you earn no longer effects how long you live.

- **A thriving society, with plentiful employment opportunities, and high levels of skills in the local workforce.**
- **A learning society with excellent nursery or pre-school facilities, excellent schools and excellent colleges for young people or older adults who want to re-train or improve their qualifications.**
- **A caring society that protects vulnerable people**
- **A decently housed society where warm, well insulated and affordable housing is readily available.**
- **A stress free society where no one lives in fear because of criminal activities, or anti-social behaviour, or excessive noise or threatening neighbours.**
- **A clean society with a rubbish and graffiti free environment and responsible dog owners.**
- **A relaxed society with plenty of opportunities for leisure and fitness activities.**
- **A greener society that works to reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment.**
- **A conservation minded society that respects its heritage and works together to protect everything that is best about Wirral, including our unique countryside, open spaces and coast line.**

The Journey

The route map we need to follow.

- We will focus on the new Public Health role given to Local Authorities.
- We will seek in everything we do to recognise the way in which Council activities can have a direct impact on the Health and Well Being of Wirral residents.
- We will listen to what local residents and communities tell us are the priorities to improve their neighbourhoods and we will respond by providing services that meet their needs and aspirations.
- We will continue to tackle anti-social behaviour and work with all our partners to reduce crime
- We will ensure that effective safeguarding procedures are in place to protect vulnerable adults and children.
- We will work with our partners to reduce the numbers of children and young people living in poverty and support them and their families to build the foundations for prosperous, healthy and happy lives.
- We will respond quickly and effectively to local circumstances and needs and any potential impact of welfare reform.
- We will work actively to initiate and support early detection and prevention programmes for children and adults which seek to tackle potential problems before they develop.
- We will make sure those programmes are based on well researched evidence which can be analysed and evaluated in order to ensure the very best return in outcomes for any resources invested.
- Where evidence is not readily available, we will seek to run pilot programmes where outcomes can be properly assessed and used as guidance for future programmes.
- We will seek to raise the income of Wirral people by doing everything possible to build a strong and vibrant economy with high levels of employment and opportunities for Wirral residents to improve their skills and find work. We will focus on making sure our young people can achieve their full potential in education and in the workplace.
- We will work to improve the condition of Wirral's housing stock and improve the energy efficiency to reduce levels of fuel poverty.

Travelling Safely

Changing the way we do things. (Improving Corporate Governance).

- We will make sure that this Corporate Plan informs Service Development Plans and is reflected in the budget process.
- We will review and redraft the Council's Code of Corporate Governance
- We will make sure there is a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities between the centre of the organisation and individual departments.
- We will review the Council's Internal Audit Service and make sure any warnings they issue are acted on immediately.
- We will set up a Council Policy Unit to act as a think tank for the organisation, to link together new and established initiatives, to advise on best practice elsewhere and to give advance warning of the impact of any new legislation or policies.
- We will review the way information and advice is given to councillors, and the way in which reports are written, in order to create a democracy which is as open and transparent as possible.
- We will radically improve Corporate Performance Management so the cost of a Service, the way the Service is delivered, and the achievements of the Service are linked together so we can see exactly what the result is of any investment of Council Tax payer money. We will use this information to hold councillors and officers to account for the success or failure of service delivery and we will undertake effective staff training to help us change the culture of the organisation to one that is open, transparent and focussed on positive change.
- We will ensure that the Council meets best practice in respect of equalities and diversity legislation, in all areas of activity including policy development, service delivery, community needs and recruitment.
- We will create a fairer system by implementing a comprehensive schedule of fees and charges for all appropriate Council services in line with the law, the Council's Constitution, accepted best practice and the Council's objectives and we will review that schedule annually.
- We will make sure that anyone elected as a Councillor, on the back benches or in the Cabinet, receives the proper help and training to allow them to carry out their roles and responsibilities effectively, to question and challenge, and be questioned and challenged themselves where necessary. We will ensure that any democratic structures reflect the best possible way of carrying out Council business in the interests of the Council Tax Payers.

Our Values

We will put the interests of all the people of Wirral above other considerations.

Elected members and staff will behave with honesty and integrity at all times.

We will practice openness and transparency and remain focussed on positive change.

We will welcome suggestions on how the Council can improve and positively encourage members, staff and the public to tell us when we have got something wrong.

We will be a “learning” organisation, where good practice is captured and rolled out across the Council, and where we actively seek ideas from other local authorities and external agencies.

We will make sure our decisions are based on clear evidence.

We will welcome public involvement in the work of the Council and we will carry out effective consultation, where appropriate, with the public and key stakeholders.

We will make sure that Council services fairly and transparently take into account the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups when changes are made and that the Council is responsive to the diversity of Wirral’s communities.

We aim to be excellent in everything we do.

Health and Wellbeing

In following our route map:

- We will focus on the new Public Health role given to Local Authorities.
- We will seek in everything we do to recognise the way in which Council activities can have a direct impact on the Health and Well Being of Wirral residents.
- We will work in partnership to develop clear priorities and joined up services for improving the health and wellbeing of Wirral residents.
- We will improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people and maintain a clear focus on tackling health inequalities that exist within Wirral. This is a priority area in our child and family poverty strategy to ensure that we increase the impact of our activities in partnership with others.
- We will make sure services are in place to help keep older people fitter for longer and that the value and contribution they can make to society is properly recognised and respected.

Child Poverty

In following our route map:

- We will work with our partners to reduce the numbers of children and young people living in poverty and support them to build the foundations for prosperous, healthy and happy lives.
- We will work actively to initiate and support early detection and prevention programmes for children and adults which seek to tackle potential problems before they develop.
- We will make sure those programmes are based on solid evidence which can be analysed and evaluated in order to ensure the very best return in outcomes for any resources invested.
- Where evidence is not readily available, we will seek to run pilot programmes where outcomes can be properly assessed and used as guidance for future programmes.
- In developing approaches to early detection and prevention, we will build on existing activity such as Wirral's involvement in developing Community Budgets around the needs of families with multiple problems.
- We have placed child poverty as a central theme of this Corporate Plan; we will ensure that Council services are developed in line with the needs of children and families in poverty.

- **The Council will also lead co-ordinated action to work with partners and local communities to improve the lives of children and families living in poverty and add value to existing services and activity.**
- **We will improve information sharing amongst partners about best practice, and ‘what works’ in identifying and addressing issues of poverty.**
- **We will take co-ordinated action with partners to engage more children and families experiencing issues of poverty**

Neighbourhood Plans

In following our route map:

- **We will listen to what local residents and communities across the borough, from the poorest to the wealthiest areas, tell us are the priorities to improve their neighbourhoods. We will respond by providing services that meet their needs and aspirations.**
- **We have recently completed a major consultation exercise with Wirral’s communities to listen to what local people like about their neighbourhoods, and what they would like to see improved. We will use this consultation to help shape our neighbourhoods and the services they receive and we will continue to listen to local people’s views as we do this.**
- **We will help each area to use the devolved funds available to improve and shape where they live.**
- **Local people overwhelmingly told us that they have pride in their community and that neighbourhoods in Wirral have strong senses of identity and community spirit. We will work to build on this positive asset to strengthen our neighbourhoods and engage local people to help make a real difference to where they live.**

Investment Strategy

In following our route map:

- **We will pay particular attention to Wirral’s revitalised Investment Strategy which aims to build a strong, vibrant economy, through increasing the competitiveness of our people, places and businesses.**
- **We aim to have a borough with high levels of employment and investment, where businesses flourish, and all residents have the skills and opportunities to work. We will place a clear focus on increasing the number of jobs and employment opportunities for Wirral residents alongside our efforts to ensure longer-term prosperity through our Investment Strategy.**

- **We will seek to address the high levels of economic inactivity in disadvantaged groups and in the most deprived parts of Wirral through improving access to employment and skills, and tackling barriers to work. We will ensure that our young people are engaged in education, training and employment and are developing the skills they need for the future.**
- **We will make Wirral one of the most business friendly Councils in the country and a leading, vibrant global location for businesses and visitors. The delivery of our Investment Strategy is supported by a clear investment package and brand, including support for Wirral's tourism and visitor economy and a strong focus on international investment marketing.**
- **The Wirral Waters investment opportunity is now being promoted on an international basis. The Wirral Waters site has been designated as an Enterprise Zone, which will assist businesses through tax incentives, superfast broadband, improved infrastructure and simplified planning rules. We will also work hard to maximise the opportunities presented by the proposals to develop an International Trade Centre on the Wirral Waters site.**

Your ECONOMY

- We will seek to raise the income of Wirral people by doing everything possible to build a strong and vibrant economy with high levels of employment and opportunities for Wirral residents to improve their skills and find work. We will focus on making sure our young people can achieve their full potential in education and in the workplace.
- As the global recession has impacted on Wirral's economy, the Council has maintained a focus on supporting businesses and individuals during difficult economic conditions. We will make Wirral Council one of the most business friendly and supportive Councils in the country and develop the role of social enterprises in Wirral's economy.
- If we are to deliver a better future for Wirral and eliminate poverty, we need to improve access to employment and skills and tackle barriers to work for our most disadvantaged communities. We will work with partners and local communities to identify innovative ways of achieving this.
- We will position Wirral as a leading, vibrant global location for businesses and visitors. We will continue to support international trade links and develop our relationships with the private sector, to maximise inward investment and enable Wirral businesses to access new markets, sectors and opportunities. We will support Wirral's tourism and visitor economy and a strong focus on international investment marketing.
- We will work hard to deliver all of the opportunities presented by the Wirral Waters development.
- We will support the creation and growth of small and medium sized businesses.

Your ECONOMY	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
Improve access to employment and skills and tackle barriers to work	<p>Increasing the number of jobs and employment opportunities for Wirral residents</p> <p>Ensuring that new investment, economic and business growth is linked to tackling worklessness</p> <p>Tackling barriers to work and low skills in parts of Wirral and within disadvantaged groups, working with partners to ensure that pathways for skills and employment provide the best route out of poverty for local people and families</p> <p>Ensuring that our young people have excellent skills and opportunities into employment, including through Wirral's Apprenticeship programme</p>

	<p>Ensuring that young people not in education, employment and training are effectively supported to access the opportunities available</p> <p>Working with our partners to provide sustainable transport opportunities to access centres of employment.</p>
<p>Position Wirral as a leading, vibrant global location for businesses and visitors</p>	<p>Promoting and expanding our portfolio of high quality opportunity employment sites through the facilitation of priority projects</p> <p>Supporting the start up and development of key sectors by facilitating investment into specific key projects such as the infrastructure for renewable energy opportunities.</p> <p>Continuing to improve our relationships with the private sector to increase levels of inward investment and increase jobs</p> <p>Developing and implementing the Wirral Waters Enterprise Zone to support the Wirral Waters proposals</p> <p>Market Wirral as a business and visitor location through supporting Wirral's Tourism Business Network and delivery of successful visitor attractions including the 2012 Women's Golf Open</p>
<p>Make Wirral Council one of the most business friendly and supportive Councils in the country</p>	<p>Maximising available resources by co-ordinating all business support services through Invest Wirral</p> <p>Supporting the development of successful businesses, particularly those in key growth sectors</p> <p>Enabling an increasing role for social enterprises in Wirral's economy</p> <p>Adopting a more targeted approach to promoting Wirral as an investment location on an international stage and supporting Wirral businesses to access new markets and opportunities</p>

YOUR FAMILY: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Reducing child poverty is a priority for the Council and we are clear about what we will do to achieve this. We will have a strong foundation to achieve this on the basis of the excellent Children's Services we provide and history of strong partnership working in Wirral.**
- **We will continue to work with our partners to protect children and young people from harm and improve the lives of the children and young people already in our care.**
- **We promise to deliver Children's Services that give all children the best possible start in life. As we are clear from our commitment to work actively to initiate and support early detection and prevention programmes, we will provide early intervention and support for vulnerable children and families through projects and activities with a focus on identifying problems early and stopping them developing.**
- **We will ensure that the services provided through our Sure Start and Children's Centres deliver effective support based on the needs of our local residents and communities.**
- **We will pay particular attention to early intervention measures, including the need to make sure youngsters are school ready and that outreach work and the multi agency approach contained in the Roots and Wings programme are used to make contact with hard to reach families.**
- **The attainment of children who are affected by poverty and disadvantage is an area of focus for the Council and its partners. We will therefore focus on ensuring that these children and young people have the additional support they need to improve their attainment and achieve their full potential and that 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training can access opportunities**
- **Local people have told us that activities for children and young people in their area are an important priority for them. We will ensure that children and young people have access to a range of activities.**
- **We will continue to engage with our children and young people through forums such as the Youth Parliament and the Children in Care Council to ensure that the views of children and young people are central to the design of the services we provide.**
- **Our success in designing services to divert vulnerable young people from crime and anti-social behaviour has received external recognition. We will continue to work in partnership to promote an integrated approach to supporting young people.**

Your FAMILY: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
Protect children and young people from harm and improve the lives of the children and young people already in our care	<p>Safeguarding children and young people in need of protection</p> <p>Ensuring that children in care and care leavers have appropriate support which best meets their needs</p> <p>Commencing the delivery of Munro reforms to ensure that systems are centred on the needs of children and young people</p>
Support schools and other settings to improve educational provision and attainment, maintaining a clear focus on outcomes for those children and young people affected by poverty and disadvantage	<p>Implementing and evaluating the new School Improvement Strategy; ensuring we meet our statutory duties and meet the needs of schools, including Academies, through effective traded services</p> <p>Improving educational outcomes for children and young people affected by poverty and disadvantage</p> <p>Improving the educational attainment of children in care</p> <p>Improving provision, choice and outcomes for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities</p> <p>Reviewing the provision of behaviour support and reducing school exclusion</p>
Provide early intervention and support for vulnerable children and families	<p>Commissioning effective support and intervention services, for example Sure Start, improving outcomes for vulnerable children and families through parenting programmes, children and young people with disabilities and tackling harmful behaviour in children, young people and families</p> <p>Implementing the national Children's Centre payment by results research pilot to further improve the quality of targeted provision</p> <p>Ensuring every child is school ready</p> <p>Further developing effective partnership working to deliver joined up services for vulnerable families with complex needs through the delivery of the Community Budget pilot</p>
Ensure children and young people have opportunities to	<p>Providing children and young people with access to a range of appropriate developmental activities which meet their needs and encourage take up by making activities easily accessible</p>

<p>participate in activities which will help them achieve their potential</p>	<p>Providing opportunities for children and young people to be actively engaged in community and democratic decision making processes</p> <p>Ensuring that all young people aged 16-18 particularly those in vulnerable groups are effectively supported to access the education, employment and training opportunities available and, as part of this, implement the strategy for raising the participation age to 18 by 2015</p>
<p>Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people, maintaining a clear focus on tackling health inequalities</p>	<p>Effectively implementing the Child Health Strategy and so reducing inequalities in the physical and mental health of children and young people</p> <p>Encouraging and supporting all children and families to achieve and maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle</p>

YOUR FAMILY: ADULTS

- We will safeguard vulnerable adults in Wirral and seek to protect them from harm through working in partnership to ensure that our arrangements and policies for protecting are robust.
- The way the Council delivers social care services is changing. Wirral is now amongst the best in the country for the numbers of eligible people using Personal Budgets, which give adults more choice about the support they receive.
- We will build on these improvements to ensure that local people receive excellent standards of support and care and are protected and feel safe.
- We will listen to people who use services, their carers and communities, to enhance the quality of life of the people of Wirral who have care and support needs. We will work with our local communities to ensure that people can access services that meet their needs locally, and have greater choice and flexibility in the packages of support and care available to them.
- In circumstances where people develop care needs, we will work effectively with our partners to provide them with appropriate support to help them recover and regain their independence as quickly as possible.
- We will make sure that the services we commission from other organisations are high quality, cost effective and meet the needs of local people.
- We will place a specific focus on ensuring that when children with disabilities move into adulthood, they receive quality information, advice and support services to make sure this transition is seamless.

Your FAMILY: ADULTS	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
Enhance the quality of life of the people of Wirral who have care and support needs	<p>Transforming in-house day services through engagement with local communities, residents and carers</p> <p>Providing integrated, high quality services in local settings</p> <p>Ensuring that people can manage their own support as much as they wish so that they are in control of what, how and when support is delivered to match their needs</p> <p>Provide support for people with learning disabilities and mental health needs to access training and employment opportunities</p>

<p>Delay and reduce the need for care and support</p>	<p>Ensuring that when people develop care needs the support they receive enables them to recover and regain their independence</p> <p>Reduce the need for formal care by increasing the use of high quality cost effective preventions services</p> <p>Ensuring that services commissioned from the voluntary, community and faith sector are cost effective and appropriately targeted</p>
<p>Ensure that the people of Wirral who use services have a positive experience of care and support</p>	<p>Ensuring that children with disabilities are effectively supported with the transition into adulthood</p> <p>Providing universally accessible information and support to people and their carers so that they are able to make choices about the care that they need to remain independent</p> <p>Ensuring that people who use social care and their carers are involved in the planning and evaluation of services, and are satisfied with their experience of care and support services</p>
<p>Safeguard people in Wirral whose circumstances make them vulnerable and protect them from avoidable harm</p>	<p>Ensuring that there are robust arrangements and procedures in place and followed in order that vulnerable people are kept safe and protected</p> <p>Ensuring that the provision of support and care in the independent sector is of the highest possible quality</p>

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

- In line with the results of the Neighbourhood Plans, we will continue to use devolved funding to allow each area to meet the specific needs of their own communities.
- We will continue to tackle anti-social behaviour and work with the police and other partners to reduce crime. Local people told us that feeling safe in their neighbourhood is an important priority.
- We will work with partners to improve the condition of Wirral's housing stock and improve the energy efficiency to reduce levels of fuel poverty.
- Reducing Wirral's carbon footprint is an important priority for us and we work in partnership with local residents, partners and the private sector to address this.
- We have made impressive year on year progress to improve the amount of waste recycled in Wirral. Forty per cent of all household waste is now recycled and we will continue to build on this success, improving our recycling rates and reducing waste being sent to landfill sites.
- Local residents in all parts of Wirral have told us that having streets that are clean and tidy is an important priority to them. We will ensure that we deliver a reliable street cleansing service in all parts of the borough and use feedback from local residents to help us maintain standards. Wherever possible we will trace and prosecute flytippers
- Local people also want us to focus on having safe and well maintained roads. We have seen reductions in accidents on some of Wirral's busiest roads and we will continue to make Wirral's roads safer and target our resources effectively and in line with what local people have told us about their areas.
- Wirral's parks and countryside are very important to local communities and we will secure their future by improving how they are managed. We will also create even more opportunities for people to get involved and benefit from using these well-loved facilities in the areas in which they live and elsewhere in the borough. We will also encourage greater use of our high, quality and value for money leisure and cultural facilities in Wirral.
- We will respond effectively to the impact of welfare reform on the availability of and access to housing, including close partnership working with landlords in the borough.
- We will support those who are experiencing or who are at risk of homelessness and we will continue to work hard to improve access to advice and information about the housing options that local people have.
- The Council recognises that vulnerable people, including some of our children and young people, have additional housing needs and we will review the services we deliver to ensure that support is effective and targeted appropriately.

Your NEIGHBOURHOOD	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
Reduce anti-social behaviour and ensure that people feel safe in their neighbourhoods	<p>Working in partnership to ensure that preventative measures to reduce anti-social behaviour are in place and that there is a quick response when incidents occur</p> <p>Engaging with the community to ensure that Community Safety interventions are effective</p>
Reduce Wirral's carbon footprint	<p>Delivering the Council's carbon budget</p> <p>Working with local residents, partners and the private sector to improve energy efficiency</p>
Minimise waste by encouraging waste reduction and recycling	<p>Educating and raising awareness to reduce the amount of household waste being sent to landfill and improving recycling rates</p>
Have high standards of environmental quality in all of Wirral's neighbourhoods	<p>Delivering a reliable street cleansing service to keep Wirral's streets clean and tidy</p>
Have a safe and well-maintained highway network for all users	<p>Maintaining and improving Wirral's roads through a programme of highway maintenance and road safety improvements</p>
Provide and maintain high quality parks and countryside in partnership with local communities	<p>Delivering an improved in-house parks and countryside service that is value for money</p> <p>Working with local communities to maximise the use and benefits of Wirral's neighbourhood parks and open spaces</p>
Provide high quality, value for money leisure and cultural facilities for Wirral residents	<p>Promoting the leisure opportunities available within Wirral to impact positively on health and well being</p>

<p>Prevent and alleviate homelessness</p>	<p>Providing a range of interventions to assist people who are at risk of homelessness</p> <p>Ensuring a co-ordinated partnership approach in response to welfare reform, including providing benefits advice</p> <p>Improving access to privately rented accommodation</p>
<p>Support for people, including those who are vulnerable, to access suitable housing options</p>	<p>Reviewing housing services for vulnerable people in order to deliver efficiencies and improved outcomes</p> <p>Developing a plan to address the housing needs of vulnerable children and young people, incorporating the review of housing services for at risk young people and young people in care</p>
<p>Provide high quality and affordable homes and make the best use of the existing housing stock</p>	<p>Responding to housing market failure and restructuring housing market with partner organisations</p> <p>Exploring alternative funding and delivery mechanisms to provide high quality new and affordable homes</p> <p>Improving housing standards in the existing stock to make a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing</p> <p>Bringing empty properties back into use</p> <p>Developing partnership working with landlords to respond to the impact of welfare reform</p>

YOUR COUNCIL

- We will complete the actions under the Corporate Governance Review, (outlined above under Travelling Safely.)
- We will subject the Council to an external peer review in the summer of 2012 in order to assess how effective those actions have been.
- We will make sure that we know what outcomes are being delivered for the level of investment in resources used, both within the Council and in the commissioning of external services.
- We will make sure that we collect and evaluate the appropriate information in order to allow sound judgements to be made on whether or not we are delivering Value for Money in house, and whether or not any planned external contracts would provide better Value for Money or not.
- In taking key decisions, or planning new initiatives, we will move away from the use of anecdotal based evidence to the use of well researched factual evidence which can be clearly used to demonstrate the benefits of a planned course of action.
- We will make sure that the democratic structures in place reflect the most effective way of delivering sound services.
- We will be a skilled, committed and flexible workforce that is willing to go the extra mile for our local residents.
- We will take into account the needs of all Wirral residents and communities and meet our statutory duties in relation to equalities.

Your COUNCIL	
Our goals for the next three years are to...	This year, we will focus on...
<p>Ensure Wirral Council's Corporate Governance arrangements are robust, transparent and effective</p>	<p>Ensuring members and officers continue to work together to build on the foundations put in place by the Corporate Governance Review</p> <p>Ensuring that the Council's policies and practices are fit for purpose, consistently applied and transparently used by everyone</p> <p>Implementing outcomes of peer review taking place in Summer 2012</p>

<p>Improve the efficiency and value for money of Council services</p>	<p>Improving the delivery of services within available resources</p> <p>Ensuring the information provided for all service delivery decisions includes value for money considerations</p>
<p>Ensure we have a well led, skilled, committed and flexible workforce working to deliver excellent services to Wirral's communities</p>	<p>Ensuring Council staff are engaged and supported through cultural change</p> <p>Ensuring Council staff have the skills, training and capacity to deliver the Council's priorities and policies</p> <p>Ensuring the effective integration of the public health workforce and function into the Council</p> <p>Embedding our approach to equalities to ensure the Council fully meets its statutory duties relating to employees</p>
<p>Ensure that Council services fairly and transparently takes into account the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups when changes are made and that the Council is responsive to the diversity of Wirral's communities</p>	<p>Developing, consulting on and implementing the Council's Equality Scheme</p> <p>Ensuring that the Council publishes and uses information relating to customers who share protected characteristics to shape services.</p>

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Equality Impact Toolkit (new version July 2011)

Section 1: Your details

Head of Service: Jim Wilkie

Department: Policy Unit

Date: November 2011

Section 2: What Council function / proposal is being assessed?

The Council's Corporate Plan 2012-13

Section 3: Is the Council function / proposal relevant to equality? (please tick relevant boxes)

- In services**
- In the workforce**
- In communities**
- Other** (please state)
- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Within the Equality Duty 2010, there are 3 legal requirements. Which of the following are relevant to the Council function / proposal? (please tick relevant boxes)

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- To advance equality of opportunity
- To foster good relations between groups of people

Section 5: Will the function / proposal have a favourable or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any negative impact.

Protected characteristic	Favourable or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All	Potential	Equality Impact Assessments identified / undertaken in relation to the specific actions identified in the Corporate Plan	Chief Officers / Heads of Service as appropriate and in conjunction with the Corporate Equality Group	By January 2012, in line with production of departmental plans	To be determined

Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

The Corporate Equality Group will monitor the programme of Equality Impact Assessments linked to the Corporate Plan. An initial exercise will be undertaken to identify the actions in the Corporate Plan which require EIA; some will be covered by existing assessments.

If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

-

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

The Corporate Plan has been informed by a number of key drivers, including consultation with local people and evidence-based priorities for addressing child poverty. Both of these activities have been undertaken with a clear understanding of inequalities issues and the need to target and engage with protected groups.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council function / policy?

No – (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

The Corporate Plan has been directly informed by consultation with local people and organisations.

(please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place?

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

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COUNCIL – 12 DECEMBER, 2011

76. MOTION: COUNCIL PROCESSES AND PURPOSE

Resolved (35:29) (One abstention) –

- (1) Council notes the ongoing activity to improve the Council's Corporate Governance processes.
- (2) Council believes that as the activity to improve its processes continues it becomes even more important to restate our purpose.
- (3) Council therefore commits itself to the following principles:
 - A commitment to making Wirral a bigger and stronger society.
 - Creating the environment and developing the skills needed to make Wirral a place where local employers succeed and businesses choose to invest – an economy with high levels of private sector employment, which retains and attracts our young people and provides the job opportunities for all to realise their full potential.
 - Placing the views of Wirral, residents, employers, Community and Voluntary groups at the heart of all we do, providing opportunities for people to improve their neighbourhoods, lives and those of their families, ensuring that no part of Wirral is ignored.
 - Actively supporting the Coalition Government's commitment to ending child poverty by 2020, providing support services to children, young people and their families that help to alleviate the effects of poverty and, in the long term, break inter-generational cycles of deprivation.
 - Providing services that meet the needs and aspirations of all Wirral people, fostering a real pride in the borough, ensuring high standards of cleanliness, environmental protection and public safety, creating a clean, safe and sustainable environment.
 - Working everyday to keep children and vulnerable people safe and tackle the gross inequalities in health and education outcomes experienced by our residents. Services provided for our most vulnerable, disadvantaged or excluded citizens, wherever they may live, should be founded on fairness, raise aspirations, promote choice and improve quality of life.

That the motion be deferred to the next Full Council meeting and that, in the meantime, the motion is referred to all the Council's OSCs for consideration, alongside the draft Corporate Plan. That the views of the OSCs on the motion be included in the report to the next Council on the Corporate Plan.

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	YOUTH PARLIAMENT PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2012
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report is produced at the request of the Committee and outlines proposed arrangements for planning the next Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament. Both events are held on the Tuesday of Local Democracy Week, last year this was the 11th October. This year the date has not been confirmed but the 9th and 16th October are possible dates. The aim of both events is to provide young people with an opportunity to influence council decisions by presenting the views of young people.

1.2 This report has no exempt sections.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report and forward it to Cabinet for inclusion in the Corporate Plan.

3.0 REASON FOR THE REPORT

3.1 To allow for the Youth Parliament in 2012 to be planned and progressed.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Youth Voice Conference started in 2003 and the Youth Parliament started in 2006. Each year there has been an overarching theme which previously has been identified by the Executive Youth Board and Grant Panel. In previous years themes debated have included the Public Perception of Young people; The Priorities for the Executive Youth Board and the Priorities which would underpin the Youth Offer for young people on Wirral in 2007.

4.2 Schools are notified in the preceding June and are invited to send up to 4 young people to the day event (Youth Conference) and 2 young people to the evening event (Youth Parliament). The numbers for the Youth Parliament are supplemented by young people who have been nominated by staff from the Youth and Play Service and voluntary youth organisations. This provides an opportunity for young people who may not normally get invited through schools to access the event. The rationale is that this should be a positive experience for young people and one that further develops Youth Engagement.

- 4.3 The themes of the workshops are identified by the Executive Youth Board. The Youth Voice Conference includes a Hot Seating Session when young people are able to question chief officers, councillors and senior officers from other organisations such as the police and Mersey travel. Central to the ethos of both events is that it is planned and supported in delivery by young people.
- 4.4 The Youth Parliament takes place in the evening with a debate in the Council Chamber. The aim of the debate is to enable young people and councillors to have a structured debate on an issue which is relevant to both groups. Each year in preparation for the Youth Parliament, young people have been involved in meetings to help them prepare for the forthcoming Youth Parliament. Although there has been increased involvement by young people in the debates, there is still room for improvement. This report outlines a number of strategies that will support improvement in the Youth Parliament and contribute to better outcomes for young people.
- 4.5 For the October 2011 Youth Parliament a change in the planning process was introduced. Councillors were invited to attend local planning meetings and to help young people prepare for the Youth Parliament.
- 4.6 In addition, district meetings took place during September and October 2011 to prepare more young people from the districts. (In the course of the Parliament, there were four debates, one for each district). Many of the young people were better prepared and understood the debating procedures as a result; however, there were others from schools who did not fully engage. We need to involve schools at an earlier stage and introduce them to the roles and expectations of the Youth Parliament.
- 4.7 It is recommended that there is an earlier start to the planning process this year. This will allow:
- i) Schools time for preparation which can be built into the curriculum.
 - ii) Broader representation at District (including councillors).
- 4.8 With this in mind the following actions have been identified: (A proposed timeline is attached at Appendix A listing tasks, responsible person and deadlines).
- i) Time line with key dates prepared to steer planning process.
 - ii) Schools contacted to identify their willingness to be involved.
 - iii) Planning meetings with schools representatives take place in January 2012. Dates for follow up meetings to be agreed at this time.
 - iv) Roles and Responsibilities document prepared for all parties involved (young people, councillors, teachers and organisers). This will ensure that expectations are clarified and people understand their roles.
 - v) Training for elected members provided in February to include support for councillors involved in district planning.
 - vi) Executive Youth Board roles and duties to be reflected in the time line.

- vii) Progress report to YAPSAC midway in process April/ May.
- viii) Induction training on Youth Engagement to take place in June 2012 to support newly elected councillors in their involvement in the youth engagement agenda.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 If no action is undertaken, the Youth Parliament could be less regarded as a key part of the Council's agenda for engaging young people. This could result in school support for the Youth Parliament declining.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Other options considered were to continue as in previous years but such an approach has been regarded as too late to enable schools and councillors to be fully involved.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Discussions have been undertaken with young people, colleagues within CYPD and staff from local secondary schools. In addition colleagues from the Positive Contribution Strategy Group have been consulted. Further consultation meetings with schools are arranged for 25 January and 1st February.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 There are no implications for Voluntary, Community and Faith Groups.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 There are none arising from this report

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The recommendations seek to increase the opportunity for young people from different abilities to fully engage with opportunities presented by the Youth Parliament

- 11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - (a) Is an EIA required? Yes
 - (b) If 'yes', has one been completed? Yes

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are none arising from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are no planning and community safety implications linked to this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Maureen Mc Daid
Principal Manager (Commissioning/ Participation)
051-666- 4508
email: maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES Appendix 1

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Draft Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament Planning Timeline 2012

Activity	Timeline Overview									
	Who	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	September
Set up planning meeting with schools	MMcD/	15								
Brief EYB re timeline for next year's programme	IMcC									
Meeting with schools takes place	MMcD/IMcC		25	1 st						
Roles and responsibility briefing prepared for young people taking part in Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament (YVC/YP)	MMcD		15							
Consultation with schools regarding themes for YVC/YP	IMcC		25							
Finalise with schools and District Youth Forums the theme for Youth Voice Conference and debate topic for Youth Parliament	MMcD/IMcC				1 st					
Agree dates for preparation meetings with Youth Forums and schools	IMcC				1 st					
Training for Councillors on engaging with young people in districts.	MMcD									
Inform Councillors of themes for YVC and debate for YP and dates for preparation meetings with young people	MMcD									
Debate preparation meetings take place with young people in districts and schools	Youth Workers					TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Training for newly elected Councillors on engaging with young people	MMcD/IMcC							TBC		
Names of possible participants for main speakers. Agree dates for follow up meetings during holidays	Schools/youth workers					TBC				

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Equality Impact Toolkit (new version July 2011)

Section 1: Your details

Council officer: Maureen Mc Daid

Email address: maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Service: Andrew Roberts

Department: CYPD

Date: 20/12/11

Section 2: What Council function / proposal is being assessed?

The operational planning for the Youth Voice Conference which is due to take place in October 2012.

Section 3: Is the Council function / proposal relevant to equality? (please tick relevant boxes)

- In services**
- In the workforce**
- In communities**
- Other** (please state)
- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Within the Equality Duty 2010, there are 3 legal requirements. Which of the following are relevant to the Council function / proposal? (please tick relevant boxes)

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- To advance equality of opportunity
- To foster good relations between groups of people

Section 5: Will the function / proposal have a favourable or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any negative impact.

Protected characteristic	Favourable or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Age (young people aged 13-19)	Favourable	Not Applicable			
Race	Favourable	Not Applicable			
Disability	Favourable	Not applicable			

Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Not applicable

If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The aim of the report is to identify approaches to increase the take up by young people from the following groups:

Aged 13-19, with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities and from different ethnic backgrounds in the Youth Parliament. If the recommended approaches are introduced this will increase the opportunity for young people to take part in the Youth parliament.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Returns from the Youth parliament showing the level of take up by young people and schools.

Feedback from teachers, councillors and other colleagues involved in organising the Youth Parliament.

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council function / policy?

Yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place?

Through planned meetings with representatives from secondary schools.
Planned consultation at the Positive Contribution strategy group meeting.
With young people at the Executive Youth Board and District Youth Forum meetings

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	EARLY INTERVENTION GRANT SECOND QUARTER MONITORING REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report informs Committee about the second quarter's performance of Early Intervention Grant commissioned services. After contracts were awarded, performance measures to underpin service delivery were agreed with each of the service providers. The Priority areas for which services were commissioned were:

PA1 – Parenting/Compromised Parenting

PA1 – Short Breaks for Disabled Children

PA3 – Risk taking Behaviour in Children and Young People

1.2 Delivery against the performance measures have been RAG rated Red, Amber or Green. A Red rating denotes underperformance; Amber reflects work in progress broadly in line with expectations and Green is meeting or exceeding expectations. Red and Amber ratings are followed up by commissioners in one to one discussions at which corrective actions are identified to improve performance.

1.3 This report has no exempt sections.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

3.1. From 2011/2012 the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) replaced specific grant funding for a range of programmes supporting children, young people and families:

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

Funding for EIG will run from 2011 until 2015. The guidance from the Department for Education indicates that the EIG should support the following services:

- Sure Start Children's' Centres
- Short breaks for disabled children
- Targeted support for vulnerable young people
- Targeted support for families with multiple problems.

3.2 Early Intervention Grant funded services are delivered within the following principles:

- Early intervention: to intervene to stop the problem developing.
- Early prevention: acting proactively to ensure that problems do not arise in the first place.
- Early identification: identifying problems early or identifying the risk of problems early.
- Personalisation: the provision of greater personalised support.

3.3 In Wirral, the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) has been used to drive service delivery which is prompt, appropriate, effective and planned around the family and the child.

3.4 In Quarter one the performance returns indicated in each of the priority areas the following:

Priority Area 1 (P.A.1) Parenting/Compromised Parenting

3.4.1 There are thirteen areas and two areas which were a concern to delivery in quarter one. These were Parenting Groups run by Action for Children and Relationship Abuse in 16-18 year olds being delivered by Barnardo's. The RAG rating for both these areas was red.

3.4.2 In quarter two Action for Children have begun to deliver in 3 of their 4 areas and by the end of quarter three it is expected that they will be on track to deliver this service. Barnardo's have also begun to deliver. Both areas have changed from red to amber.

3.4.3 One of the highlights in this quarter for PA.1 is the development of a Parenting Course for Parents with children and young people with ADHD. This is in partnership with Wirral NHS and it is being piloted and targeted at those children and young people who have mild to moderate ADHD as a clinical pathway with a view evaluate whether this is an alternative to prescribing medication.

3.4.4 Over the past 6 months PA1 has regularly supported 691 families to ensure better outcomes.

Priority Area 2 (P.A.2) Short Breaks for Disabled Children

3.4.5 There are 13 areas and in quarter 1 the performance of most contracts are on target except for two which are red. Some contracts had delivered slightly less than expected due to lead in time but all are now delivering effectively and are rated as 'amber' or 'green'.

The 2 services demonstrating concerns in quarter 1 were:

- i) Weekend Activities delivered by the Sports Development Unit of Cultural Services. The sessions had not started by the end of quarter 1 and were due to start in October 2011. The contract expected delivery over 46 weeks in the year which cannot take place given the lead in time to establish sessions. The commissioner and provider have discussed more sessions being delivered each weekend to deliver the agreed volume.

In quarter two the service is now established and numbers attending are good. There is still some concern they will deliver the expected outputs by the end of the contract. The commissioner will meet in January 2012 to confirm if they can, or discuss a claw back under a variation of contract.

- ii) Contract Carers Scheme, delivered by Action for Children. This service has been more difficult to establish than first anticipated by both the provider and commissioner, due to challenges of recruiting full time carers. The contract is a continuation from an original contract for the period 1st November 2009- 31st March 2011. 2 carers have now been appointed with children allocated who carers have met and carried out introductory sessions such as tea visits. Therefore the delivery started in October 2011. The provider is changing employment arrangements to be more flexible for other carers to be recruited.

The contract carer scheme is now delivering with extremely positive feedback from families and the service is clearly meeting a need for a target group of children. The total output will still not be as expected for this contract and the commissioner is meeting with the provider in January to discuss this and confirm next steps.

Priority Area 3 (P.A.3) Risk Taking Behaviour in Children and Young People

3.4.6 In quarter one the areas of concern in targeted provision were Enhanced Outreach Play for young people aged 8- 13 and Enhanced Outreach Sports. The Enhanced Outreach Play is still red and this is due to the non appointment of Play Workers. The Enhanced Outreach Sport has progressed to Amber and it is anticipated that this will improve in the next quarter. In the Universal element of PA 3 the area of concern was the Outdoor Education Programme. There was an issue with the external provider who did not have the capacity to deliver the required programme. Performance in this area has moved to Green.

3.4.7 In quarter two there is more scope for analysis and to take account of the expected outputs and performance. On a positive note for PA3 there has been an increase in the number of front line staff trained by Response, Integrated Youth Support Service in Alcohol and Substance Misuse. As a result more young people are being supported to consider their alcohol/substance usage and helped to make better informed choices on the impact of their relationships and health.

Performance expectations in the Universal element of P.A. 3 have been met or exceeded examples in respect of Big Nights however attendances were varied. The events had positive feedback but the take up might have been greater had they taken place in neutral venues as opposed to being linked to specific youth venues. Commissioners will be following up performance in the Providers Forum meetings and in one to one performance review meetings.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

4.1 Monitoring of performance ensures providers deliver commissioned services.

5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 In the event of continued underperformance a variation to the contract would be considered.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 Consultation is ongoing with service users, providers, colleagues on the Joint Commissioning Group and the Children's Trust Strategy Groups.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 Services are being developed in partnership with Voluntary Community and Faith groups.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 Funding for all organisations is subject to satisfactory performance.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Variations to contracts would be undertaken through the Children and Young People's Department Contracts Team following advice from Central Procurement and the Borough Solicitor.

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 An Equality Impact Tool kit has been completed and no unfavourable impacts have been identified.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Local delivery of services will positively impact on Carbon Reduction.

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are positive Community Safety Implications in this report. An example of this is the Youth Inclusion Support Panel which is specifically targeted at preventing young people reoffending. EIG programmes will reduce the risk of vulnerable children, young people and families becoming involved in anti-social behaviour.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Maureen Mc Daid**
Principal Manager (Commissioning/ Participation)
051-666 4508
Email: maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	2nd June 2011
Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny	16th November
Children's Trust	22nd November

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Appendix A PA1 EIG Parenting/Compromised Parenting Q1 (1st July -30 September 2011)

Service/Provider	Predicted Outputs	Actual Outputs QTR 1	Actual Outputs QTR 2	R/A/G QTR 1	R/A/G Qtr 2	Comments
PA1.1 Early Intervention Home Visiting Home Start	250 families	139	167	Green	Green	This organisation is on target to achieve their outputs. Since July they have supported 203 families which in turn has supported 274 children under 5. In over 95% of parents who have completed an assessment considered the support received to be successful. Nearly 80% families have been supported earlier to reduce inappropriate referrals and over 80% have received home safety advice/equipment
PA1.2.1a Action for Children Triple P Parenting Programme	14 Parenting Groups	1	2	Red	Amber	The commissioner for this area has had regular meetings with this provider to ensure that delivery and outcomes are achieved. Part of the reason for this is that the organisation has reported that they have had difficulty in recruiting staff as they have successfully appointed 3 times and the people have withdrawn because the contract offered is too short. This is due to the short term funding of EIG as well as a shortage of qualified parenting practitioners. They have now delivered 2 courses this quarter and firm plans are in place and actively seeking referrals for 6 more courses for quarter 3 with plans to deliver another 4 within Quarter 4. By the end of Quarter 3 (March 2012) they will have delivered 10 courses which will bring them on track to complete delivery. A point worth noting is that they are piloting a Triple P course for parents of children with ADHD in partnership with NHS Wirral. This will be targeted at children who are either awaiting a diagnosis or have mild to moderate ADHD as an alternative to prescribing medication.
PA1.2.1.b Action for Children Nurturing Parenting Programme	8 Parenting Groups	1	2	Red	Amber	This organisation has sub contracted 4 nurturing programmes to Catholic Children's society as well as Parenting Solutions. By the end of Quarter 3 (March 2012) they will have delivered 6 of these programmes which brings them on track to complete delivery. They supported 23 parents and 100% who completed an evaluation rated the service as successful. With 77% of parents reporting that they felt that both their confidence and relationships with their children had improved. 72% of parents also reported that they were able to use strategies learnt to cope better with their child's behaviour.
PA1.2.1.c Action for Children Strengthening Families 10 -14	6 Parenting Groups	0		Red	Red	As yet there are no plans to deliver this course. Part of the difficulty with this is that there are this is a labour intensive course and needs trained practitioners. In discussion with the provider it has been agreed that we will be issuing a variance to this contract to reflect this underperformance.
PA1.2.1.d Action of Children Strengthening Families/Strengthening Communities	5 Parenting Groups	0		Red	Red	Although they have not delivered any of these courses there are firm plans to deliver 2 courses in Quarter 3 which will bring them on track for this area. This means that in the next quarter this rating will change from red to either amber or green depending on performance.
PA1.2.2 Catch 22 Intensive family support	75 families	65	55	Green	Green	This organisation is performing well and have had a high demand for their service. They are currently supporting 55 families with 17 new families being assessed and matched with a key worker. They have regularly supported 83 families since July. 66% of families rated the service as successful and on completion of the service, 92% had a reduction in anti-social and offending behaviour which reduces the risk to their children and themselves. 86% reported a reduction in the number of incidents of domestic violence with 76% reporting an improvement in children and young people's attendance and behaviour at school which in turn has reduced their levels of truancy and exclusion
PA1.2.3 Catholic Children's Society Home Visiting 5-19	120 Families	45	80	Green	Green	This organisation is performing well and have had a high demand for their service. They are currently supporting 80 families which in turn supports 158 children. They have also completed work with 22 families this quarter. From their evaluations over 50% of the parents worked with are either a lone parent or have a disability. On completion of evaluation 100% reported that they had improved mental health with 66% reporting a reduction in risk taking behaviour
PA1.2.4a Zero Centre	80 children	11	17	Amber	Amber	This project had a short delay due to staff sickness have now delivered 2 courses simultaneously to catch up. They

Domestic Violence 5-13						have regularly supported 26 families and another course is yet to be completed which begun in this quarter but figures will be added to the next quarter. Out of the cohort that they have supported this quarter 82% were lone parents. 100% of the evaluations received rated the service as successful and 70% reported that parents had an improved relationship with their children, also 70% of children attending the programme reported to feeling safer. Over 50% benefited from the course as they were able to discuss their traumatic experiences in a safe environment. Feedback from the Youth group (11-13/15) has been unanimously excellent. Parents have reported improved family relationships and communication, in some cases significantly so. Several young men in the group who were 'acting out' aggressively with each other and peers during the group have spent time addressing that behaviour and professionals and families report improved and calmer behaviour.
PA1.2.4b Barnardos Domestic Violence 16-18	65 young people	3	12	Red	Amber	This is a new programme and they have had a short delay due to recruitment which they have now overcome. They are working with 12 young people and 33% of them are lone parents aged 16-18 and 33% have an additional need or disability. This organisation has been working hard to increase their referrals and now have 12 new referrals which are now being processed. The outcomes are not available as yet as the young people have still to complete their intervention programme.
PA1.2.5 Wirral Multicultural Organisation Family Support for BME	100 families	32	51	Green	Green	This organisation has regularly supported 30 families which in turn supports 51 children. Over 65% of the families supported are lone parents. One of the main outcomes for this organisation is to help agencies cooperate more effectively in relation to BME children, young people and their families and have been actively involved in supporting Seacombe Children's Centre to enable a Women only Strengthening Families/Strengthening Communities programme. They are also supporting several BME families who have recently been identified as having children with complex social and communication difficulties and feel isolated by cultural taboos. In the evaluations completed 100% reported improved mental health.
PA1.2.6 Barnardos Young Carers	140 young people	89	108	Green	Amber	This organisation has supported 143 families since July 2011 and the number of children and young people they are currently supporting is 108. Over 60% of the parents have a disability which has an impact on the children and can increase their caring role. From the assessments completed 82% rated the service as successful. The outcomes stated are slightly lower than expected but this is due in part to a crossover from PSS (the previous provider) and young people's natural transition after being with PSS for length of time and actions completed/no longer needing service.
PA 1. YOS Parenting	100 parents	36	54	Green	Green	This organisation is currently supporting 54 parents which in turn is 88 children and young people but have actually worked with 82 parents. Over 70% reported that this service was successful with 28% rating it as average and on completion of the service over 80% reported that their confidence had improved and that they were experiencing better relationships with their children. The same percentage of parents reported that they had experienced a wider circle of acquaintances which reduced the need for statutory intervention.
YISP	70 young people	37	37	Green	Green	This service is currently supporting 37 young people and they have only one young person has completed their intervention therefore outcomes are not available yet although a significantly factor is that none of the young people from this cohort have re-offended.

Appendix 2

Short Break Services for Disabled Children- RAG rating 1st July-30th September 2011

2.1 Weekend/Weekday

SERVICE/PROVIDER	Q1 R/A/G	Q2 R/A/G	Q2 PREDICTED OUTPUTS	Q2 ACTUAL OUTPUTS	Q2 % OF DELIVERY	COMMENTS
Activate Arts Creative Workshops	Amber	Green	36 sessions 15 children attending each	32 sessions 17 attending weekday 22 attending weekend	89% 113% 147% weekday weekend	Significant progress has been made to establish a new service. They have changed the day and format of the weekday session based on feedback from young people. This caused a couple of weeks delay in this quarter therefore fewer weekday sessions have been delivered. ACTION TAKEN/PLANNED: They will continue to listen to feedback from young people and adapt sessions to meet their needs.
Crossroads Barnstondale Weekends	Green	Green	2 weekend breaks 20 children per break	1 weekend 11	50% 55%	They delivered an extra weekend in quarter 1 so have delivered what was expected in the first 6 months. The numbers vary each weekend which reflect the needs of the children to ensure appropriate

					grouping.	
Crossroads Barnstondale After School	Amber	Green	12 sessions 20 children per session	9 14	75% 70%	<p>Significant progress has been made to establish a new service. Even though numbers are lower than originally expected it is reaching a group of children who were not accessing short breaks regularly, therefore meeting a need.</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN/PLANNED: Sessions to continue to be promoted, especially as it is new service this year.</p>
Crossroads Complex Health After School	Amber	Amber	36 sessions 7 children per session	28 3-5	78% 50%	<p>Number of children attending low due to transport not being available and families resistant to collect children.</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN/PLANNED: meeting arranged with commissioner, with NHS Wirral, school Headteacher and Crossroads to discuss actions to aim to improve attendance.</p>
Crossroads Complex Needs Activity	Green	Green	48 sessions 48 children	48 45	100% 94%	<p>Children attend based on social worker referral.</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN/PLANNED:</p>

					Commissioner to speak to team leader to ensure referrals are at a maximum.	
Wirral Autistic Society Activity Clubs	Green	Green	52 sessions	56	108%	Sessions format been adjusted to meet needs of families, continuing to operate effectively.
Wirral Play Council Specialist Playschemes	Green	Green	60 sessions 96 children aged 5-14 29 children aged 14-18	57 88 31	95% 95%	Continuing to operate effectively.
WC (Sports Development) Sports Sessions	Red	Amber	12 weekday sessions 13 weekend sessions 20 children per session	14 weekday 9 weekend Average of 20 children	117% 69% 100%	Significant progress made to establish new service. There have been some changes to weekend session based on feedback from families that have been discussed with commissioner and will be implemented.
Wirral Resource Centre Play sessions for 0-7	Amber	Amber	52 sessions	44	85%	The Tuesday evening session has been very popular but numbers have been very low attending the Wednesday session. To compensate for this they delivered some extra sessions in the Christmas holidays. ACTION TAKEN/PLANNED: agreed Wednesday session to be changed to another day and gain parents feedback.

2.2 Sitting Service

SERVICE/PROVIDER	Q1 R/A/G	Q2 R/A/G	PREDICTED OUTPUTS	ACTUAL OUTPUTS	% OF DELIVERY	COMMENTS
Wirral Autistic Society	Amber	Amber	598 sessions	279	47%	<p>Service has come across some operational issues which has reduced the volume of delivery they expected to be able to do. Full time staff are appointed but delivery time is predominantly evenings and weekends.</p> <p>The commissioner and provider have met and discussed some points of action to address this problem and increase delivery.</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN/PLANNED: agreed Commissioner to meet with them again in January to discuss how these issues can be overcome.</p>

2.3 Direct Payment Support Scheme

SERVICE/PROVIDER	Q1 R/A/G	Q2 R/A/G	PREDICTED OUTPUTS	ACTUAL OUTPUTS	% OF DELIVERY	COMMENTS
Wired	Green	Green	21 hours of support	21 hours	100%	

2.4 Family Support

SERVICE/PROVIDER	Q1 R/A/G	Q2 R/A/G	PREDICTED OUTPUTS	ACTUAL OUTPUTS	% OF DELIVERY	COMMENTS
Wirral Council Family Support	Amber	Green	483 x 2hour sessions	442	92%	There was a delay in recruitment of support workers. All in place now and number of children accessing service has increased.

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Contract Carers

SERVICE/PROVIDER	Q1 R/A/G	Q2 R/A/G	PREDICTED OUTPUTS	ACTUAL OUTPUTS	% OF DELIVERY	COMMENTS
Action for Children Contract Carer Scheme	Red	Amber	To recruit 4 carers 24 children to be supported 218 nights support	2 recruited 5 children 19 nights 51 sessional hours	50% 21% 9%	Difficulty recruiting contract carers. The contract carers have used time on a sessional basis getting

		delivered		<p>to know the children through tea visits, trips etc. This was a total of 51 hours.</p> <p>ACTION TAKEN/PLANNED: 4 short break carers will now be recruited instead of contract carers. This will ensure services are developed quicker.</p>
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**Appendix 3 a
Early Intervention Grant Priority Area Three Universal Provision (1st October- 30th December) Qtr 2**

Service	Predicted Outputs	Actual Outputs	% activity	RAG Q1	R/A/G/ Qtr 2 sessions	R/A/G Qtr2 attendance	R/A/G LDD Qtr 2	Impact/Comments
PA3.3a Youth and Play (Outdoor accredited outcomes)	8 sessions per quarter 8-10 young people per session	7 sessions 21 unique individuals	94%	G	G	G	N/A	100% participants have achieved a nationally accredited outcome
PA3.3a Youth and Play (Youth Arts)	10 units of arts activities per week	10 units @Pilgrim Street + 7 units a week in youth hubs,clubs, schools and vol orgs 128 units in total 104 new recruits 229 unique individuals	100%	G	G	G	G	Programme progressing according to targets set Universal provision As a result of the taster sessions, specific projects have been set up with the following schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observatory School • Hospital School • Multi-cultural Centre • Due to demand a Visual Arts Project will be provided from Saturday's in January. • Dance work with young men has focussed on anger management
PA3.3a Youth and Play (Youth Arts)	Accredited opportunities	30 young people on Bronze Arts award 16 yp on OCN Level 1 in Peer mentoring	100%	G	G	G	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On going programme • 100% of young people are recruited on to accreditation schemes • Sessions are provided for young people with additional needs and integration has proved successful facilitated by the role of the peer mentor. 59 yp with a disability attend regularly, 2 of those are now developing as Peer Educators
PA3.3a Youth and Play (Youth Arts)	Public performance	Youth Expo Festival SWING 175 young	100%	G	G	G	N/A	Five performances were successfully delivered. Over 600 parents, carers and friends attended performances. The following is a quote from one on the carers:

		people involved in 5 public performances						<p>“xxx has gained more confidence and developed skills with meeting other people outside his peer group.”</p> <p>“xxx has only been coming for a few weeks but really enjoys technical theatre. He is very quiet and shy but doesn’t mind coming on his own- feels useful.”</p>
PA3.3b Involve Northwest Big Nights Wallasey	One event 2/12/2011 Capacity 120 10% in attendance with learning difficulties and disabilities	39 attendees – mixed age range from 13-19 10yp with learning difficulties and disabilities	100% output 32% attendance 100% LDD	G	G	R	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 planning and preparation in place • Poor weather and delay in marketing responsible for lower attendance than expected • Brook in attendance and engaged with 5 young people in relation to Sexual Health and 15 attendees in relation to personal interests and aspirations.
PA3.3b Involve Northwest West Kirby	One event 9/12/2011 Capacity 120 10% in attendance with learning difficulties and disabilities	79 attendees – mixed age range 5 in attendance with learning difficulties and disabilities	100%output 66% attendance 6% LDD	G	G	A	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 planning and preparation in place • Feedback indicated that young people really enjoyed engaging with the Impact Dance crew. • Brook confirmed engagement with 15 yp throughout the evening
PA3.3b Involve Northwest Shaftesbury	One event 16/12/2011 Capacity 120 10% in attendance with learning difficulties and disabilities	47 attendees – mixed age range No attendees with LED	100% output 39% attendance 0%LDD	G	G	R	R	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 planning and preparation in place • Feedback indicated that opening times were a disappointment (9.30 pm finish) • Inconsistent advertising in the area. • Restricted access for those with disabilities as event took place on the second floor. • Brook and Response were in attendance and engaged with 18yp • Discussions have taken place with the provider to identify corrective actions for future events. Neutral venues and improved marketing have been identified.

PA3.3b Involve Northwest Eastham	One event Capacity 120 10% in attendance with learning difficulties and disabilities	47 attendees – mixed age range 11 in attendance with learning difficulties and disabilities	100% output 39% in attendance 23% LDD	G	G	R	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q1 planning and preparation in place • Good feedback from attendees. Response was in evidence. • As with Shaftesbury and Wallasey the option to use neutral venues if similar event to take place in future will be considered. • Marketing of events has increased.
PA3.4 Youth and Play Drama Workshop	30units 30 young people engaged	30 units 30 young people have been involved as Peer Educators 110 yp consulted on RTB issues across Wirral	100% output 100% attendance	G	G	G	G	Work is on target to deliver three packages of drama/dance performance and workshop to be delivered in Youth Hubs, Youth Clubs and Schools from March – June 2012.
Birkenhead Youth Club	48 sessions	48 sessions	100%	G	G	No info	No info	
St Mary's The Bank	64 sessions > 35 yp per session	64 sessions 80 unique individuals Including those at risk from being excluded and at risk from offending	100% on sessions	G	G	G?		100% participants have achieved a nationally recognised accredited outcome.
PA3.1B Positive Futures	80 units per quarter 15yp per session	40 units Number of unique yp =408	50% 80%	R	R	A	No info	Sessions were not able to go ahead as partner agencies were not able to go ahead ((Community Group West) Young People. Young people had indicated they wanted certain activities and then did not attend and sessions were cancelled.

								Discussions with provider have identified the marketing has to be improved and provider to identify how to support young people to attend activities. This will be discussed at provider forum.
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Appendix 3 b

Early Intervention Grant Priority Area Three Targeted Provision (1st October- 30th December)) Qtr 2

Service	Predicted Outputs	Actual Outputs	% activity	R/A/G Qtr 1	R/A/G Qtr 2 outputs	R/A/G outcomes	Impact/Comments
Pa3.1b Merseyside Fire & Rescue Life Project	2 x 1 week course (5 days) 2 x12 referrals	1 (1 week, 5 days) delivered 12 people referred and 12 completed	50%	G	A	G	12 First Aid Certificates 12 MRFS completion certificate Dates were incompatible and course was ahead in Q3
PA3.1b Merseyside Fire & Rescue : Beacon Project	2 (1 day a week) 12 week course 12 young people referred	2 (1 day a week) 12 week course 12 young people referred – 9 young people completed the course (1) 12 young people referred – 5 young people completed the course	100%	G	G	G	(1) 9 First Aid certificates 9 Asdan awards 9 MFRS completion certificates (2) 5 First Aid Certificates 5 MFRS completion certificates
PA3.1a Youth & Play Service: Risk taking Behaviour 8-13 years (Enhanced Outreach – Play Peripatetic Team).				R	R	R	Additional staff required to deliver this programme. Process on hold corporately.

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PA3.1B Youth & Play Service: Risk taking Behaviour 13-19 years (WYT ARTSMART PLUS)	Programme 1 – delivered via 4 stages Recruit 20 young people	10 sessions successfully completed 5 yp recruited from LAC, receiving CAHMS service and from low socioeconomic background		A	G	A	The young people in this stage will be supported to progress to be involved in Change4life after-school club
PA3.1B Risk Taking Behaviour 13-19 (Enhanced	18 units 15-20 young people from all priority groups	13 units delivered in Seacombe area 2 units delivered in Mersey		R	G	G	Positive engagement of up to 50% of participation Outreach workers have been signposting

Outreach-Sports)		Park area 15 – 20 participants registered at each session 41 unique yp from Seacombe) 15 unique young people from Mersey Park					to the sessions from surrounding areas feedback very positive
PA3.1 Positive Futures	22 units this quarter 15 young people per session	45 units Full attendance Unique young people =211		G	G	G	
PA3.1 B Risk Taking Behaviour 13-19 years (Grange Baptist)	11 sessions per quarter 80+ young people per session 75% of young people from priority groups	11 sessions > 300 unique individuals CIC, young people at risk from offending, BME		G	G	G	Successes in addressing previous bullying issues. Provision for promoting a healthier lifestyle. Developing volunteering opportunities for young people in their community.
				G	G		
				No Info	No info		
PA3.2 Advice / Guidance / Support Services (Alcohol Interventions).	60 staff trained to deliver brief interventions (15 per quarter. 250 interventions per quarter 112 per quarter	37 participants attended 2 training sessions. 78 unique young people 5 groups – 52 young people	100% 31% 50%	G	G	N/A	Alcohol Alright training has commenced staff who have attended are now delivering brief interventions with young people in relation to their alcohol use. Initial feedback is very good with staff reporting increased confidence in dealing with young people
				A - Lead In Period	A	N/A	
				A - Lead in period	A	N/A	

Equality Impact Toolkit (new version July 2011)

Section 1: Your details

Council officer: Maureen Mc Daid

Email address: maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Service: Andrew Roberts

Department: CYPD

Date: 22/12/11

Section 2: What Council function / proposal is being assessed?

The performance of services commissioned through the Early Intervention Grant

Section 3: Is the Council function / proposal relevant to equality? (please tick relevant boxes)

- In services**
- In the workforce**
- In communities**
- Other** (please state)
- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Within the Equality Duty 2010, there are 3 legal requirements. Which of the following are relevant to the Council function / proposal? (please tick relevant boxes)

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- To advance equality of opportunity
- To foster good relations between groups of people

Section 5: Will the function / proposal have a favourable or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any negative impact.

Protected characteristic	Favourable or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Disability	Favourable	None			
Race	Favourable	None			

Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Not applicable

If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

The aim of the Early Intervention Grant is to improve the outcomes for families, children and young people. Services commissioned are to provide either targeted support for children, young people and families or open access universal positive activities. Performance measures have been set to ensure priorities are being met. The monitoring of performance will contribute to an improvement in provision and better outcomes for the priority groups involved as service users.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

Returns from Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and /Team Around the Child (TAC) assessment meetings.

Youth Offending Service ASSET assessment tool

Returns from internal monitoring

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council function / policy?

Yes

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place?

Consultation is undertaken with service users as an ongoing requirement of the service specification.

Consultation is formally taken through the Joint Commissioning Group and at the Departmental Management team meetings.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

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CABINET – 8 DECEMBER, 2011

216. BUDGET PROJECTIONS 2012 - 2015

The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Finance reported that information in relation to the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement (LGFS) was only now beginning to emerge from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and more detailed information would follow, although it appeared that the basic Formula Grant figures were in line with figures previously reported. He was not able to substantiate reports in the national press of significant reductions in local government finances, but indicated that details of specific grants would come out in the coming months. In the absence of detail in relation to the LGFS, the Director presented the latest Budget Projections for 2012-2015.

He set out the assumptions that underpinned the budget projections and provided detail on grant negotiations, other legislative issues, balances, agreed savings and relevant risks. The budget projections set out in an appendix to the Director's report represented the most likely outcome from a wide range of available options and indicated a shortfall of £22.6m in 2012/2013, £30.8m in 2013/2014 and £46.9m in 2014/2015. The Government was consulting on a number of options which would impact on the budget projections and the Director confirmed that he responded to all consultation to try to ensure the best outcome for Wirral.

On a motion by Councillor Foulkes, seconded by Councillor P Davies, it was –

Resolved –

- (1) That Cabinet recognises that the projected budget gap is still subject to the Local Government Finance Settlement, which is expected from this afternoon, and which will need further analysis in order to reach a conclusion on the actual size of the budget gap faced by this Council.**
- (2) That, in a move to provide some good news at Christmas, however gloomy the economic forecasts may be, Cabinet is however prepared to give a commitment to Wirral residents that, whatever the details of the settlement, the final budget proposal will set a zero Council Tax increase for Wirral.**
- (3) Cabinet welcomes the enthusiastic response of Wirral residents both to the consultation on Neighbourhood Plans, which looked in detail at what people wanted in the areas where they live, and the Budget Simulator exercise which gave people the chance to set their own budget for Wirral and in so doing allow us to analyse in more detail what their priorities for services are.**
- (4) That Cabinet notes that this analysis is on tonight's agenda, and will be giving it full consideration before it draws up the final budget proposal. Cabinet also recognises that service specific consultation may be required should any decisions on budget reductions alter the level of**

service provided and affect third parties, and that it has particular responsibilities where services to people with disabilities are concerned.

- (5) Cabinet notes that, should such a situation arise, the Chief Executive has been granted delegated powers, in consultation with the Leadership of the Council, to carry out the relevant consultation.
- (6) That, in the meantime, pending the outcome of the final settlement, Cabinet proposes the following initial measures to continue the process of closing the budget gap.
 - i. That the sum of £1.4m, which was the provision for pay for 2010/2011, which is no longer required, be set against this gap.
 - ii. That the revenue sum of £1.075m, which is in the base budget for the provision of a broadband facility for businesses and is now additional to requirements, be set against this gap.
 - iii. That, in view of the fact that it has not been physically possible to deliver the house insulation programme as quickly as the enhanced rate would demand, the programme be rephrased over a seven year, rather than four year period, and the additional sum of £1m be set against this gap.
 - iv. That the budget for the Council's Early Intervention Grant, which totals £17.9m in 2011/2012, is reduced by £1m in 2012/2013 to reflect the current cost of services provided and commissioned. This will enable the Acting Director of Children's Services to continue the same targeted and universal intervention programmes in 2012/2013 as 2011/2012.
- (7) That the Director of Finance be asked to report back to Cabinet on the potential for Procurement Savings.
- (8) That the Director of Finance also be asked to report back to Cabinet on projects within the Strategic Change Programme considering savings for 2012/2013, 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.
- (9) That, in the light of the guarantee given by this administration that proper opportunity would be given to Scrutiny Committees to consider budget proposals, in line with the Constitution, Cabinet asks Council to approve those items where there is all party support and, in so doing, to suspend paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b) of the Budget and Policy Framework Rules. Where there is no such agreement, Council is asked to refer the relevant item to the appropriate Scrutiny Committee for discussion and subsequent referral to Cabinet and Budget Council.

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	THE TRANSITION OF PUPILS FROM THE SANDERLING UNIT TO THE RESOURCE BASE, UNIVERSITY ACADEMY BIRKENHEAD
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested a report on the progress of pupils who previously attended the Sanderling Unit at Rock Ferry High School and, upon the closure of Rock Ferry High, transferred to a newly commissioned resource base at the University Academy of Birkenhead.

Not all the students who were attending The Sanderling Unit transferred to the Academy. This was for a number of reasons detailed in 7.1 However, the majority of students who transferred to the new provision have done so successfully with only two requiring additional support from the Educational Psychology Service. The students have responded well to the new challenges they have faced and the new opportunities they are afforded and they and their families are to be applauded on how well they have responded to what was potentially a very difficult change process.

- 1.2 There is no Exempt information contained in this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee note this report and extend their congratulations to the children and young people and families involved in the change and the teachers and other staff in the academy who have supported them through the process.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 All significant change is potentially difficult and for many of this group of pupils coping with change is something that they are not terribly good at. They were often extremely anxious if not outright fearful at the prospect. In the end not only have they coped but many have positively blossomed and this needs to be recognised.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Sanderling Unit was a forty place special educational needs unit which was housed in its own premises within the grounds of Rock Ferry High School. The unit, which was under the management of the head teacher of the main school, specialised in working with children and young people who, whilst broadly of mainstream ability, experienced not only specific learning difficulties but also additional difficulties e.g. social and communication difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders, ADD/ADHD, dyspraxia, emotional/early mental health problems.

These additional problems frequently made the young people vulnerable within a mainstream setting and needing considerable extra support. The ultimate aim for the young people, however, was always inclusion as they were unlikely to warrant or receive additional support beyond school age. The support, therefore, needed to be tempered with challenge and the learning of new skills of resilience.

With the planned closure of Rock Ferry High as part of the review of secondary school places there was a need to consider alternative placement for the Sanderling pupils. Given the nature of the pupil's needs it was determined that something similar was required but no other secondary school on Wirral had the existing facility to replicate the provision at Rock Ferry. As it was envisaged that the majority of Rock Ferry pupils would transfer to the new UAB it was decided to commission the academy to provide for the Sanderling pupils and this proposal was included in the consultations on the closure of Rock Ferry and the opening of the academy.

The creation of a new provision within the new academy presented opportunities to rethink how the provision was structured and how it operated in achieving the best balance between nurture/support and challenge for the students. As the resource base would need to be within the main body of the school the Sanderling pupils would be far more 'included' than they had been previously. This brought with it difficulties of ensuring that students needs, academic, social and emotional continued to be met within an environment that was both challenging but also safe and secure.

A number of models were considered before settling on the one that is now in operation. This will be detailed in the presentation to members and the power point attached as Appendix 1. In summary, however, it entails the younger pupils (Years 7 and 8) being taught largely within the resource base (a suite of rooms adjacent to the school's assembly hall) by a reduced number of staff and with dedicated support staff (Achievement Tutors) from the resource base.

As the students move from Key Stage 3 to 4, which in the academy will take place in Year 9, they will move on to taking their options (GCSE/vocational subjects). Accordingly they will be taught more often in the main body of the academy and will receive support from faculty (subject specialist) achievement tutors. This model will not be fixed and, where necessary, may be adapted by the use of person centred planning.

Pupils who need additional literacy or numeracy support will receive this under the guidance of Orret's Meadow outreach services. For pupils who need it social spaces e.g. in the cafeteria have been designated for resource base pupils where support staff will be available.

The details of these arrangements and how they are working will be included in the presentation by the Assistant Principal of UAB responsible for the resource base (power point presentation attached as appendix 1).

From the authority's point of view they are working well. This was a major change exercise for a vulnerable group of young people and their families. Whilst there were some early difficulties regarding timetabling and provision of support, which were resolved quickly and there are two pupils who require in-going support there have been no major difficulties and already the pupils are demonstrating positive progress. This has been achieved largely by the staff of the academy, especially the responsible Assistant Principal, being prepared to be responsive and flexible in meeting student's needs and particularly by maintaining clear communication with families and authority officers and intervening early where necessary.

As part of this early review of the new resource base and how it is operating the academy were keen to gain the views of parents/carers and the pupils themselves.

All parents/carers were asked for their views regarding what was working well, what was working less well and what improvements could be made, by a letter home. Two responded, which tempts the view that the others were satisfied with how things were. One of the parents commented that "xxxxxx has coped really well socially and we are excited about his future" and felt that improved communication and understanding between school and home regarding her child's needs was beneficial. She also felt that staff needed more training around some of the more complex needs the children and young people experience. The other parent, whilst again commenting on the good communication and the inclusive opportunities, also felt that some staff were inexperienced in dealing with complex needs and that their responses sometimes exacerbate rather than help in some circumstances.

Pupils views were ascertained by academy staff but also by the school's educational psychologist and school nurse repeating consultations they had had previously as part of the change process. The pupil voice is given in the power point presentation.

These needs for improvement and additional staff training are already being

acted upon and will be included in the development plan for the academy resource base in the new-year.

A further review of the resource base and its effectiveness will take place at the end of the academic year as part of the commissioning agreement with the Academy. The immediacy of this review does not reflect any concerns on behalf of the authority regarding the academy's capacity to deliver but rather the novelty of the commissioning arrangement i.e. with an academy.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 The most significant risk that emerged during the consultation was that parents would not agree to their children transferring to the new provision in the academy. This did not transpire, however, and parents of prospective pupils for September 2012 are very positive about what is on offer.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 None.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Initial consultations took place as part of the overall consultation process regarding the closure of Rock Ferry High School and the opening of the University Academy of Birkenhead. Specific consultations were held with parents/carers of pupils at the Sanderling Unit in September 2010 and January 2011. These were followed up with individual meetings by way of annual reviews of the pupil's statements of special educational need in April/May/June 2011. Where necessary/requested, further individual meetings were held. This was an understandably anxious time for the young people and their parents as it coincided with negotiations regarding the establishment of the new academy and many of their questions were hard to answer at the time.

The children and young people themselves were consulted independently by the school's educational psychologist and school nurse. Their comments and feelings were fed anonymously into the change planning process.

Through the Annual Process, which asks some searching questions about the appropriateness of the statement and the provision, it was determined, in agreement with parents/carers to change the provision for a number of pupils. Three subsequently returned to mainstream schools, 2 moved onto BESD provision, 2 to West Kirby Residential School and 1 moved with her family to Ireland. All but of one of these changes were fully supported by the local authority and in the exception it was determined that it would be appropriate to agree with parental preference. Such moves and changes are not unusual for the population group of the Sanderling though the high number in a short time scale was caused by the overall change process.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 There are none arising from this report.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 The forty SEN places as described are subject to a commissioning agreement with the University Academy of Birkenhead. Current funding is £372k per annum and will be reviewed in line with the Authority's procedures for the funding of specialist provision.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? NO

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none arising from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are none arising from this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Graham Mount**
Strategic Development Manager
telephone: (01513466601)
email: grahammount@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Power Point Presentation by University Academy of Birkenhead

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Not applicable

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL LIFELONG AND FAMILY LEARNING SERVICE
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an update for Committee on the work of Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service. The service provides adult and family learning activity for learners age 19+, in line with the requirements of the Skills Funding Agency (SFA), who provide the grant which fully funds this work. The Lifelong and Family Learning Service support the Council's Corporate priorities by providing opportunities for adults to learn and develop their skills. The report highlights the success of the service and potential government changes to the funding and planning of adult community learning.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 That Committee note the work of the Lifelong and Family Learning Service and the Strategic Development Plan and ask for an update of any future changes following BIS announcements.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 This report updates Committee on the picture of adult and family learning in Wirral and identifies areas of potential future change and risk.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service (WL&FLS) receives funding from Dept Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), through the Skills Funding Agency, for Adult Safeguarded Learning split into categories of personal and community development learning, neighbourhood learning for deprived communities and family learning. The Service produces an annual Strategic Plan on priorities for adult learning in Wirral which feeds into the CYPD plan. (See Appendix 1 for Strategic Development Plan 2011-12.) Adult and family learning supports Wirral residents in many different ways, for example: to develop skills for employability, improve their health and well being through learning, gain confidence and help their children to learn. Many of the learners have only low level or no qualifications and have not undertaken learning since leaving

school. The service provides a valuable entry into learning for people who can then progress in different ways. Supportive staff and a flexible curriculum encourage adults and families to develop confidence to achieve and to go on to make a positive contribution in their communities.

Quality of Lifelong and Family Learning

- 4.2 In the inspection of WL&FLS in January 2010. OFSTED graded all areas as “Good” including Community Development, Skills for Life, Family Learning and Arts curriculum areas and the Service was awarded “Outstanding” for Equality and Diversity. The Service undertakes Self Assessment against Ofsted post 16 criteria and a comprehensive annual Self Assessment Report (SAR) is submitted each December to SFA. The Self Assessment process has judged the service an overall “Good” for 2010-11 academic year. A Quality Improvement Plan outlines actions for the Service to prioritise for the following year. (See Appendix 2 for summary SAR 2011).

The impact of Lifelong and Family Learning

- 4.3 Adult Learning has a positive effect in developing stronger communities and supporting community involvement. As a result of courses some good examples of local impact are:-

- Several groups have gone on to set up community allotments
- Learners have progressed to volunteer roles with adult learning and in DASS day centres
- Parents have joined school as volunteers and as PTA members
- Learners have voted for the first time
- Learners have gone on to set up self help groups

- 4.4 The service is dynamic and has changed focus to meet local needs. Job Centre Plus and Work Programme providers work in partnership with the service to refer learners to courses. We are seeing an increasing number of adults coming forward for support with basic levels of literacy, numeracy, IT skills and confidence in order to develop their employability skills.

Addressing child poverty

- 4.5 Adult learning is a key part of the Council’s action to address child poverty. Through engagement in lifelong and family learning adults are able to start to address real issues such as lack of understanding of finance and problems asserting their rights. They can then recognise their potential and begin to take positive steps. There are also positive effects on children’s achievement through enhanced parental involvement in learning and NIACE recommends every school should offer family literacy as a way to support both children and adults. Learning has a recognised positive effect on mental and physical health, and there are many case studies locally of people who have used their new found confidence to the benefit of themselves, their families and the local communities.

Strong partnership working

- 4.6 WL&FLS works very well with partners on several levels. At local level courses are planned with Wirral Met and other local providers to avoid duplication and reach the maximum numbers of target groups, through the work of the Personal and Community Development Learning (PCLD) partnership, which is led by the

Service. (See Appendix 3 for PCDL Partnership plan). Across Greater Merseyside there is a well established Adult Learning managers network and Quality Improvement Network, with curriculum subgroups, that takes on the role of a Peer Review and Development Group. This group has recently extended to become part of the Learn Together Partnership, including both Cheshire and Warrington Authorities. The Head of Service has been co-chair of the NW Local Education Authority Forum for Education of Adults (LEAFEA) since 2009 and successful joint projects have been led across the 23 NW Authorities. This also involves representing the region at national discussions with NIACE, BIS and others. The reputation of Wirral as a good provider of adult learning is recognised, for example by the BBC who recently visited as part of research for short dramas they are making on adult literacy.

New guidance from the Dept Business Innovation and Skills (BIS).

- 4.7 BIS, following consultation in 2011, have confirmed their continued support for a universal community learning offer for adults, in their document New Challenges New Chances (Dec 2011). There is a “clearer commitment to using public funding to support access and progression in its widest sense, for people who are disadvantaged and who are therefore least likely to participate”. Services will be expected to continue to collect fee income from those who can afford to pay and use this to extend provision. In 2012/13 new locally based community trust models will be piloted, with the full model expected to be rolled out from summer 2013. Details of these trusts will be announced in Spring 2012. In Wirral we have effective ways of adult learning providers working together to meet local needs, so we would hope to be able to pilot one of the new trust models. Proposals can be further developed once the full prospectus is available.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 There is a future risk that external levels of funding may not be sustained if BIS decide to reallocate funding on the basis of population and deprivation, however this is not currently planned for 2012-2013.
- 5.2 Skills Funding Agency in 2011-12 introduced minimum contract levels (MCL). Currently the minimum value of a total contact with an organisation is £500,000. If the minimum contract value rises to £1,000,000 or higher then on current funding levels Wirral would be under that value. (Section 9 gives a financial breakdown). In order to continue to receive the funding to offer the service we would be expected to form a consortium with other provider/s and make a joint application. Several other nearby Local Authority Adult Learning Services would be in the same position and given our strong history of joint working this would be a possible solution. In 2011-12 Local Authorities with contracts of >£500,000 have been able to ask SFA for dispensation from MCLs for at least a year, so there is the possibility that this would happen again.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 The service is working with others in Learn Together Partnership to explore sharing aspects of support services, for example Management Information Services, for future cost savings.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service work very successfully with local providers of adult learning, voluntary and community groups and other services through the Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) Partnership to identify local needs in adult learning. Local groups support the service to consult on the needs of their service users and stakeholders, for example by working through schools and children's centres the needs of parents/ carers are identified. Learner feedback is regularly collected and acted upon as part of the quality assurance processes of the service.
- 7.2 Additional methods of consultation may need to be adopted to meet the requirements of BIS to "devolve planning and accountability to neighbourhood levels, with local people involved in decisions about the learning offer" (New Challenges, New Chances). More will be known in spring 2012.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service works with a wide range of voluntary, community and faith groups and in some cases subcontracts to them. There are many opportunities for partnership working in different ways. The service offers courses to VCF client groups, they work together to identify need, design learning and deliver learning and there are subcontracting opportunities. Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived communities funding is subcontracted annually to organisations who can reach new, harder to engage learners (Ref: Report to Cabinet Sept 2011). There are many examples in the past 5 years of very successful activities being delivered in Wirral by VCF organisations under this funding.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 The Lifelong and Family Learning Service Adult Safeguarded (ASL) provision is fully funded, approximately £836k per year, from the SFA grant. The Council contributed £13,100 to the service in 2011-12 financial year.
- 9.2 The ASL budget was protected at the same level for 2011/12. The four individual funding allocations of ASL – Personal and Community Development Learning, Family Literacy, Language and Numeracy and Wider Family Learning and Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities have been combined into a single allocation. Providers are free to decide how they meet their commitments and how they respond to their local communities but must deliver a balance of provision across all four areas of ASL. The Skills Funding Agency expects each provider to ensure that they reach at least as many learners as in 2010/11 and where possible exceed this number.

	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Personal and Community Development Learning	£382,762	£382,762	
Family Learning	£273,915	£273,915	
Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities	£179,181	£179,181	
Total	£835,858	£835,858	£836,199
Learner targets for LSC /SFA	2408	2408	2408

Actual learner nos. for LSC/SFA	2970	2760	
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9.3 WL&FLS has achieved and exceeded its learner target numbers each year despite having a static income. The Service is responsive to local needs and has secured external grants to support high quality new areas of development.

9.4 Between 2010 and 2012 additional external grant funding was bid for and secured from Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS). This has supported projects as set out in the table below.

Grant	Amount	Project
Regional Response Fund	£44,000	Developing impact measures and leading CPD across the NW Local Authority services
Flexibility and Innovation Fund	£33,800	Developing a volunteering strategy for adult learning in Wirral
Leadership in Technology	£6,000 x 2	Enhancing use of technology in exciting courses for adult learners
STEM support	£3000	CPD and action research in numeracy
Equality Diversity and Inclusion	£5000	To develop a partnership approach to supporting people from the traveller community to engage with and succeed in learning.
Equality and Diversity Framework pilot	£5000	To pilot a new E&D framework with our Greater Merseyside partner Authorities.

9.5 There are no specific implications arising from this report at present.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report at present.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Lifelong and Family Learning play a valuable contribution to improving the skills of Wirral residents. Much of the provision is located in disadvantaged communities and encourages people back into learning and employment. OFSTED judged Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service to be "Outstanding" in Equality and Diversity. NLDC and other adult learning courses will reach some of the more disadvantaged adults in Wirral. Much of the targeted provision is located in disadvantaged communities with high unemployment and the aim is to encourage people back into learning and to take the first steps that will lead to employment. Adult learning has a major impact on child poverty by helping families to gain confidence and skills, which help them to cope better with their lives and move on towards employment. There are many examples of learners who have gone on from short courses to further learning or to work. There are clear links between areas of deprivation and those with low levels of adult qualifications. Adult

learning helps to enhance social inclusion and community cohesion, by offering people the opportunity to learn together and mix with people they may not have met before, whilst at the same time developing their confidence, skills and knowledge. It also enables people to give a contribution back to their community and Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service encourages and supports volunteers to become involved in learning as Learning Champions promoting learning, or Learning Buddies supporting other learners. OFSTED commented that Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service make a positive contribution to community cohesion in Wirral.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

a) Is an EIA required? Yes

b) If yes has one been completed? Yes

An EIA for the Lifelong and Family Learning Service is completed annually.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Environmental awareness is encouraged as an underpinning area in Lifelong and Family Learning. Partner projects will be encouraged to reflect this priority.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Sarah Howarth

Principal Manager Lifelong Learning

telephone: (0151) 346 6613

email: sarahhowarth@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Lifelong and Family Learning Service Strategic Development Plan 2011-12

Appendix 2 Self Assessment Summary 2011

Appendix 3 PCDL Partnership Plan

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Department for Business Innovation and Skills, New Challenges New Chances:

Further Education and Skills System Reform Plan, 1st December 2011

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet NLDC contracts	Sept 2011
Cabinet Fees 2011	April 2011
Cabinet NLDC contracts	Sept 2010
Cabinet Fees 2010	July 2010
Learning Revolution White Paper	June 2009

**Wirral Lifelong and
Family Learning Service
Strategic Development Plan**

2011-12

**“Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning
Service is outstanding at promoting
equality and diversity in the local
community” OFSTED**

Introduction

This plan outlines how Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service (WL&FLS) will develop its adult and family learning provision over the period 2011-2012.

The Lifelong and Family Learning Service seeks to widen participation in adult learning by offering first rung learning opportunities of high quality, and to assist learners to progress on to further opportunities.

The Service is a direct deliverer of (Skills Funding Agency) SFA funded adult learning. This plan covers SFA Adult Safeguarded Learning funded activity under Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) which includes Family Learning and Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities funding streams. Other funded activity include pre employment activity under Employability Skills Programme (ESP) and Wirral JOBS

Mission

Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service will work towards

The Wirral 2025 vision of a more prosperous and equal Wirral, enabling all communities and people to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Aim of the Lifelong and Family Learning Service	WMBC Corporate Plan 2011-2014
<p>To contribute to the continuing development of a learning culture throughout Wirral; to promote equality and inclusion; to assist regeneration and sustainability; to support family and community safety and well being, by providing and facilitating relevant, accessible opportunities for lifelong and family learning.</p>	<p>Our Purpose: We are committed to making Wirral a bigger and stronger society. We will create the environment and develop the skills needed to make Wirral a place where local employers succeed and businesses choose to invest</p> <p>We will actively support the Coalition Government's commitment to ending child poverty by 2020, providing support services to children, young people and their families that help to alleviate the effects of poverty and, in the long term, break inter-generational cycles of deprivation.</p> <p>We will strive to provide services that meet the needs and aspirations of all Wirral people, fostering a real pride in the borough.</p> <p>We will ensure high standards of cleanliness, environmental protection and public safety, creating a clean, safe and sustainable environment.</p> <p>We will work to keep children and vulnerable people safe and tackle the gross inequalities in health and education outcomes experienced by our residents.</p> <p>Services provided for our most vulnerable, disadvantaged or excluded citizens, wherever they may live, will be founded on fairness, raise aspirations, promote choice and improve quality of life</p>

Lifelong and Family Learning Services Strategic Objective	WMBC Corporate Plan 2011-2014 Key Themes	<u>Priorities from the Enjoy and Achieve Section of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2012</u>
1 To promote a learning culture and actively work with partners to further develop coherent, relevant, local adult learning provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your NEIGHBOURHOOD 	
2 To increase and widen participation and promote inclusion and access in adult learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your FAMILY ○ Your ECONOMY 	Improve the outcomes of children and young people where poverty, disadvantage and context affect their achievement
3 To assure quality in teaching and learning and aim for continuous improvement in adult learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Your COUNCIL 	

For adult learning in Wirral:

Lifelong and Family Learning Services Strategic Objective	Key strategic issues
1 To promote a learning culture and actively work with partners to further develop coherent, relevant, local adult learning provision	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to take a targeted approach based on local priorities and seek ways to work in partnership to meet the wider needs of local areas/ groups 2. Develop a flexible curriculum to meet identified needs and develop marketing strategies to reach and engage new learners 3. Help people to develop the skills and confidence so they can be involved in their local communities and services 4. Develop progression routes for learners into learning, work and volunteering
2 To increase and widen participation and promote inclusion and access in adult learning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Promote and mainstream equality and diversity through widening participation and inclusion 6. Embed skills for life and employability skills across curriculum areas 7. Contribute to actions to alleviate child poverty through developing financial awareness and supporting families and carers to develop their skills and support their children's learning 8. Ensure all learners are safe and promote a wider awareness of safeguarding, specifically to vulnerable adults in partnership with WMBC and other colleagues

<p>3 To assure quality in teaching and learning and aim for continuous improvement in adult learning</p>	<p>9. Improve the quality of teaching and learning and the quality of lesson planning to take account of different abilities within groups, and also to develop the use of ILT in the classroom to enrich teaching further.</p> <p>10. Support all staff and partners to deliver a continually improving high quality service</p> <p>11. Continue strategic links with partner local authority services to develop quality improvement strategies and share good practice and explore shared services</p>
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Target groups of learners for Lifelong and Family Learning 2011-12

1 TARGETED COURSES FOR IDENTIFIED GROUPS

- **Unemployed people, particularly those who are:**
 - those with low level skills in SFL & Functional IT
 - not on active job seeking benefits and not able to access other programmes
 - Unemployed/low skilled people with disabilities, including learning disability, physical disability and mental health
 - Ex offenders, probation clients with low level skills
 - BME groups; with low levels of English, and not able to access other provision, in low paid households

- **Families experiencing poverty and needing additional support**
Including :
 - those needing Family Learning intervention at early stage
 - disadvantaged families/households
 - families needing additional support to help their children to learn eg parents with low levels of English, disability or mental health needs which affects their ability to support their children

2 OPEN ACCESS COURSES - INCLUDES FEE PAYERS/ FEE REMISSION

People

- living in areas of high deprivation (using SSOAs) including small areas e.g. estates in Pensby, Eastham
- Carers
- On low incomes
- BME – through schools, organizations and religious groups
- Adult returners to learning/ unemployed : who need to upskill/retrain
- Male learners
- People with disabilities
- Retired people
- Socially isolated older people on low incomes

3 LEISURE/FEE PAYING INCLUDING TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

- Open to all, any area of Wirral
- Designed to meet needs of local people and organisations

▪ Targeted courses:	1200 learners
▪ Open Access courses:	1300 learners
▪ Leisure Learning:	500 learners

The Service will continue to take a targeted approach to priorities and to seek ways to work in partnership to meet wider needs. Targeted courses are designed through partnership with schools, children's centres, voluntary and community groups, Council services and other partner organisations to ensure a wide range of local needs are met. The overall mix of provision is developed to ensure that the service works towards the annual Equality and Diversity Impact Measures (EDIMs) for deprived areas, male learners, black and minority ethnic learners and learners with disabilities and unemployed learners, people with low/ no qualifications. All target groups are supported to achieve their potential. The service aims to offer a broad curriculum and will adapt and refine a range of learning opportunities to meet new needs and different groups of people throughout the year.

Collaborative and partnership working

The service aims to continue to develop the effective working relationships with a wide range of partners at different levels

Working with

- Partners through the PCDL partnership, including local providers and services, voluntary, community and faith sector organisations and community groups to develop ways of encouraging first steps
- Colleges and other providers on promotion of learning, curriculum and progression routes
- Partners including Wirral CVS and the Volunteer Centre to develop the role of volunteers in supporting adult learning throughout the learner journey
- Schools and children's centres to develop courses that target parents and families new to learning and experiencing disadvantage
- Local organisations, including Wirral Multicultural Organisation, to develop courses targeted at people with English needs and people from black and minority ethnic groups, who are not participating in learning.
- Adult Social Services, NHS and voluntary and community groups to develop provision for adults who have been excluded due to disability or mental health, to identify and develop learning activity that will enhance life skills and employability
- Colleagues in departments and services to integrate lifelong learning with other local strategies and priorities and develop joint working
- Job Centre Plus and other providers and services to reach unemployed people

Also

- continue successful partnership work and multi agency working with schools and children's centres for Family Learning
- identify opportunities to develop new partnerships

The work undertaken through Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities funding has enabled a wider range of organisations to become involved with WLFLS through project funding over recent years and to breakdown barriers to learning through activity in local areas and grassroots work with local groups.

Progression

Progression routes within the service at Level 1 and Entry Level are built into many subjects through the Recognizing and Rewarding Progression and Achievement (RARPA) model of 3 term courses, accredited locally through and the Greater Merseyside LAs certificate. Skills for Life and Family Learning learners can progress from non accredited courses to national tests. Higher level ICT courses are available up to level 2. Additional non accredited language courses have been added to enable continuation. Links to local organisations offer support for learning progression, progression to employment programmes, and voluntary work. There has been a reduction in available progression opportunities in local colleges due to reduced funding for adult learners, so on going discussions will take place with local partners to identify all possible opportunities for learners.

Equality and Diversity Impact Measures

Equality and Diversity Impact Measures and an action plan for implementation are updated annually.

Progress as % of enrolments against EDIM areas:-

EDIM areas	2008-9	2009-10	2010-11	2010-11
% of enrolments	Actual	Actual	Target	Actual
BME	6	6	7.2	7.75
Disability	14	12	13.7	15.9
Deprived wards	38	35	38.6	41.2
Male	28	28	29.6	26.5
Unemployed	32	35		39.6
no/ below L2 quals	54	48		54

We will report on EDIMS by targets for curriculum areas

Ofsted

The service was inspected by the OFSTED in January 2010, achieving a grade 2 (Good) overall and Outstanding for Equality and Diversity. The actions identified in the post inspection action plan, addressing the areas identified in the inspection, have been integrated into the Service Improvement Plan .

Performance against targets 2011/12 compared with 2009/2010

ASL Learner numbers

	2009/10 Individuals	2009/10 Enrolments	Target learner numbers 2010/11	2010/11 Individual learners	2010/11 Enrolments
Lifelong Learning	1372	2671	1306	1316	2550
Family Learning	897	1217	768	839	1071
Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities	793	1172	442	736	1031
Total	2970	5149	2408	2760	4636

ASL Retention rate	Retained 2009/10	Retained 2010/11	target 2010/11
Actual %			
Lifelong Learning	89	91	90

Family Learning	97	97	97
NLIDC	92	92	93
Total all courses	92	92.5	92

ASL achievement rate

Actual %	Achieved 2009/10	Achieved 2010/11	target 2010/11
Lifelong Learning	95	95	96
Family Learning	95	96	96
NLIDC	93	96	92
Total all courses	95	95.4	95

Success non accredited and accredited Defined as achievers /All starters x100/1

ASL Success rates

Actual %	Success 2009/10	Success 2010/11	Success target 2010/11
Lifelong Learning	85	86	85
Family Learning	92	92	93
NLIDC	85	88	85
Total	87	88	86

Summary Statement of Activity

Targets for SFA for 2011-12	
Number of learners undertaking Safeguarded Adult Learning (Total)	2408
of which: Number of learners undertaking FLLN	600
of which: Number of learners undertaking WFL	60
of which: Number of learners undertaking NLIDC	442
of which: Number of learners undertaking Personal and community development learning	1306

ASL Targets %	Retention rate target 2011/12	Achievement rate target 2011/12	Success rate target 2011/12
Lifelong Learning	91.5	95.5	87
Family Learning	97	96.5	92.5
NLIDC	93	96.5	88.5
Total all courses	93	95	88.5

**LIFELONG AND FAMILY LEARNING SERVICE
 Self Assessment Report Summary 2011**

Overall Grade – 2 Good

Capacity to improve

Key Strengths

1. Good progress in the quality of observed teaching and learning
2. Leaders and managers are good at motivating staff to achieve ambitious targets and develop new areas

Key Areas for Improvement

1. Review quality actions needed in light of new OFSTED framework in 2012

Service Targets and achievements 2010-11		Actual	Actual	Actual	Target	Actual
		Learner numbers	Retention %	Achievement %	Success %	Success %
Academic yr targets 2010-11						
Total general community		228	96	99	88	95
9 art, media		149	94	100	90	94
12 languages		230	95	96	93	93
13 training		39	100	96	80	96
14 prep. for life & work		412	89	91	80	81
all ICT		327	85	94	87	79
6 ICT (short)			91	92	93	83
6 ICT long			74	100	79	71
Total PCDL		1316	91%	95%	85	86%
16 Family Learning		747	97	96	93	92
FLIF		188	94	95	74	89
NLIDC		736	92	96	85	88
ALL SFA ASL (SFA Learner Target)	2408	2760	93%	95%	86	88%
Leisure		250	95	99	81	94

(A) Outcomes for Learners

Key Strengths A1-A5

1. Consistently maintained high levels of retention, achievement and success across the service
2. Learners gain a wide range of outcomes which impacts on their social & economic well being and positively contributes to their communities

Areas for Improvement A1-A5

1. Review curriculum and suitability of accreditation in areas where targets for success were not met
2. Further develop marketing approaches for new learners and progression

(B) Quality of Provision

Key Strengths B1-B4

1. Good teaching and learning leads to high levels of retention, achievement and success

2. A diverse and responsive curriculum is developed to attract a wide range of learners and adapted to suit their needs
3. Greater Merseyside quality processes support the service to build on strengths and tackle areas for improvement

Key Areas for Improvement B1–B4

1. Ensure all tutors are observed and that all satisfactory tutors improve by improving systems for OTL and follow up actions with staff and partners
2. Identify possibilities for providing additional childcare support

(C) Leadership and Management

Key Strengths C1-C7

1. Good planning in partnership and good use of finance and resources, including the staff team, supports the service to focus on its priorities and meet the needs of learners cost effectively.
2. Highly effective external partnerships promote inclusion and contribute to removing barriers to learning for all target learners
3. Outstanding promotion of equality and diversity through diverse curriculum offer with clear progression routes
4. Highly effective cross Greater Merseyside quality processes

Areas for Improvement C1-C7

1. Implement more active learning approaches for safeguarding training
2. Seek funding for further development in E&D, Community needs & Teaching and Learning through external bids

Improvement Plan Year: 2011-12 Key Actions

1. Continue to take a targeted approach based on local priorities and seek ways to work in partnership to meet the wider needs of local areas/ groups
2. Develop a flexible curriculum to meet identified needs and develop marketing strategies to reach and engage new learners
3. Help people to develop the skills and confidence so they can be involved in their local communities and services
4. Develop progression routes for learners into learning, work and volunteering
5. Promote and mainstream equality and diversity through widening participation and inclusion
6. Embed skills for life and employability skills across curriculum areas
7. Contribute to actions to alleviate child poverty through developing financial awareness and supporting families and carers to develop their skills and support their children's learning
8. Ensure all learners are safe and promote a wider awareness of safeguarding, specifically to vulnerable adults in partnership with WMBC and other colleagues
9. Improve the quality of teaching and learning and the quality of lesson planning to take account of different abilities within groups, and also to develop the use of ILT in the classroom to enrich teaching further.
10. Support all staff and partners to deliver a continually improving high quality service
11. Continue strategic links with partner local authority services as to develop quality improvement strategies and share good practice and explore shared services

Appendix 3 WIRRAL PCDL PARTNERSHIP ACTION PLAN 2011-12

Wirral background

Wirral is a borough of contrast and diversity has 308,500 residents according to 2009 mid year NOMIS figures, with around 143,500 households, according to council tax figures. Over the past 25 years, Wirral's population has declined by 8%. The population projections for Wirral indicate an increasingly older population figure. Using data from Census 2001, over 98% of the population were classified as white compared to the national figure of 91%. Within the peninsula's 60 square miles the areas around Birkenhead in the east are characterised by high levels of economic, social and environmental deprivation such as higher levels of worklessness and crime and poorer health outcomes and environmental quality.

The West of Wirral experiences significant levels of prosperity with high life expectancy and environmental quality and low levels of worklessness and crime. According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2004, Wirral is the 48th most deprived in the country. The greatest concentrations of Lower Strategic Output Areas (LSOAs) experiencing the most severe levels of multiple deprivation are in the east of Wirral and these areas are amongst the most deprived in the country, although some pockets of deprivation also exist on the west. 35.50% of the working age population have no qualifications.

There are high levels of worklessness in the borough. People with the lowest qualifications are least likely to find employment and there is a strong correlation between low levels of economic activity, poor education and skills attainment and other deprivation indicators. (LAA Partnership agreement Dec 2007).

National Informal Adult and Community Learning further information will be available soon following the consultation on Informal Adult Learning (IACL).

Wirral Council Corporate Objectives

1. Your family
2. Your neighbourhood
3. Your economy
4. Your Council

Priorities for PCDL Partnership 2011

- Widening participation -Going out to people in the first place.
- Links to wider policy and strategy documents.
- Targeting people with most disadvantage.
- Supporting people through linked pathways.
- Support families and parents to help them support children and young people's needs.
- Encouraging volunteers in adult learning.
- Help people to gain confidence to move onto further learning.
- Help unemployed people (where longer term help needed).
- Be proactive about safeguarding.
- Marketing and sharing resources across the partnership.

Success Criteria/Objective

- All adults believe they have had the opportunity to learn to stimulate and support their own wellbeing or to improve their community.
- Local indicators of success could include:
 - increases in the amount and quality of available provision
 - increases in the levels of participation in particular areas or with particular groups
 - increases in learner satisfaction levels possibly assessed by learner surveys
 - evidence that new funding has been levered in from other sources –working together

- Develop a table with key priorities and responsibility and dates for when they are to be completed.

Key Objective 1: To ensure the Wirral has an even more effective PCDL partnership.	
Priorities	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The PCDL Partnership needs to ensure high quality delivery, improving outcomes through effective joint working and raising the aspirations of all. • Be proactive about safeguarding. • The Partnership supports delivery of National targets and is aligned to the Councils Corporate objectives. • To develop a more strategic approach when planning future provision. • Ensure fee policies are consistent across all providers. • A local Learner Needs analysis is developed with Council neighbourhood plans/Area Forum. 	PCDL Providers PCDL Providers PCDL Partnership PCDL Partnership Lifelong Learning Manager PCDL Partnership

Actions 2011/12	Responsibility	Date by when	Update on 10/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular sharing of information on local provision. • Capacity Building – focus on providers working with mainstream funded programmes? • Organisations to share information on safeguarding. • Create effective links with funding bodies and Regional Planning organisations. • Links to local needs/Council plans. 	All partners All partners All partners All partners – Sarah to provide updates at WEDs	Updated every 2 months Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing at every meeting	Updates at the PCDL partnership Completed through the PCDL Partnership. Develop joint training with Adult Social Services. Regular updates via JCP/Next Steps LEP – to be arranged. A4E Work Programmes

Key Objective 2: A Partnership approach to increasing the levels of participation in particular areas or identified priority groups.	
Priorities	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Widening participation – Going out to people in the first place. • Reaching people with complex needs in deprived areas. • Encourage signposting between providers • Make all providers aware of the current provision to aid the progression of the learners. • Look to access non-mainstream additional funding streams. • Continuing and extending our use of volunteers in adult learning including ESOL. • ESOL – meeting the needs of ESOL learners and potential learners on the Wirral. 	PCDL Partnership PCDL Providers Lifelong Learning Manager PCDL/ESOL Providers ESOL Providers

Actions 2011/12	Responsibility	Date by when	Update on 10/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop linked pathways for learners e.g Work 	All partners – using Grapevine	Ongoing	Partnership working examples such as Adult Learners Week

<p>Programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote linkages with all PCDL providers. • Partners to work together to identify and apply for non-mainstream funding. • Continue to extend volunteering. • Develop the ESOL curriculum to meet Learner needs and develop staff with relevant ESOL qualifications. 	<p>All partners</p> <p>All partners</p> <p>All partners – JV to lead</p> <p>All partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>July 2012</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>IACL – Niace – Volunteer Organisations Assistance. LSIS Lottery /Trusts – Reaching Communities. Buddies links to MEAS Work with the CVS on PCDL programmes. Ongoing – June Vernon working on this</p>
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Key Objective 3: To increase the amount and quality of the provision in the area.

Priorities	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Partnership has processes in place to focus on national guidelines and support providers to meet them. • Ensure planning is based around local needs and opportunities. • Further develop Grapevine online facility to support learner choice. • Ensure that teaching is effective in supporting learners. • Links to the Next Step Service – National IAG. 	<p>PCDL Partnership</p> <p>JCP/SFA and partners PCDL Providers</p> <p>PCDL Partnership</p> <p>Lifelong Learning Managers</p> <p>PCDL Partnership</p>

Actions 2011/12	Responsibility	Date by when	Update on 10/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers to share good practice around quality assurance procedures especially safeguarding (look at managing quality assurance within consortia) • Promote Grapevine further to develop local intelligence. • Base planning around local needs and opportunities. • Seek opportunities for Partnership activities to be funded. 	<p>All partners</p> <p>events to promote Grapevine All partners</p> <p>All partners</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>October 2011</p> <p>July 2012</p> <p>July 2012</p>	<p>Regular updates at PCDL partnership. Work with providers outside of the meeting around curriculum planning.</p> <p>Through the OPP</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>The LA paid for Adult Learners week.</p>

Key Objective 4: All Wirral Adults believe that they have had an opportunity to learn to stimulate and support their own well being or to improve their community.

Priorities	Responsibility
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop an area wide approach to PCDL across the borough – focussing on areas where provision is lacking. Link to localism developments in Wirral 	PCDL Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help people to gain confidence to move onto further learning 	PCDL Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help workless people (where longer-term support is required). 	PCDL Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support families and parents to help them support children and young people's needs. 	PCDL Providers PCDL Providers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To bring people together – build social cohesion. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making best use of community facilities. 	

Actions 2011/12	Responsibility	Date by when	Update on 10/11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share good practice 	All partners	July 2012	Adult Learners week – May2011.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote local delivery, marketing, and promotion of provision (Sarah to provide regular updates). 	All partners – utilising Grapevine plus my signpost	Update at every meeting	Events throughout the year. (partners to share at Partnership meetings)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop short courses that help workless people. 	All partners	July 2012	Lifelong Learning and FLS/Wirral Met working together to develop short courses.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at possibilities of shared premises – especially links to local groups. 	All partners	Ongoing	Examples such as libraries, housing associations, Development trusts, and local churches.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore links with area forums and neighbourhood plans 	SH	April 2012	

Equality Impact Toolkit (new version July 2011)

Section 1: Your details

Council officer: Fiona Bell

Email address: fionabell@wirral.gov.uk

Head of Service: Sarah Howarth

Department: CYPD – Wirral Lifelong & Family Learning Service

Date: 06.12.11

Section 2: What Council function / proposal is being assessed? Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service Strategic Plan 2011

Section 3: Is the Council function / proposal relevant to equality? (please tick relevant boxes)

- In services**
- In the workforce**
- In communities**
- Other** (please state)
- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 4: Within the Equality Duty 2010, there are 3 legal requirements. Which of the following are relevant to the Council function / proposal? (please tick relevant boxes)

- To eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- To advance equality of opportunity**
- To foster good relations between groups of people**

Section 5: Will the function / proposal have a favourable or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?

Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any negative impact.

Protected characteristic	Favourable or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All characteristics	Favourable	NA	S H		
Gender	Negative – did not meet target for recruitment of male learners	Compare profile with WMC similar courses Develop provision with partners who work with more male learners eg work based programmes/ Phoenix House/WMO/ DASS/PCDL FL targeted courses to attract male learners	SH CL Team AK	Feb 2012 Ongoing ongoing	
Age	Negative – proportion of working age adults enrolling on courses is higher than the Borough, proportion of ‘older’ learners is lower	Fee remission available to socially isolated older people on low incomes Strategic outputs focus on working families and getting people into work Planning with other partners eg 3L’s, has informed our targets & offers alternative learning opportunities for older learners			

Where and how will the above actions be monitored?

Via Strategic Action Plan and the Quality Improvement Plan

If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?

WLFLS key aim is to work with families experiencing poverty and adults with low level or no qualifications living in deprived areas of the Borough. The Strategic Plan reflects these aims and in widening participation considers the needs of individual learners including those with protected characteristics. Policies and procedures are in place and performance is highly effective in supporting individual learning needs through the Learning Support team.

Partnerships with DASS promote access to learning for adults with disabilities both discrete and in general provision hosted in accessible venues.

Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?

EDIM (equality and diversity impact measures) data/Annual Self Assessment Report & Quality Improvement Plan (updated termly) /Benchmarking (NW)/

Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council function / policy?

Yes (please delete as appropriate)

If 'yes' please continue to section 8.

If 'no' please state your reason(s) why:

(please stop here and email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

Section 8: How will consultation take place?

Identified groups consulted through Learner Voice project in Spring term 2012

Consultation will inform changes to existing practices which have highlighted issues for some learners joining courses.

PCDL partnership meets every 6 weeks giving opportunities to consult with partners and inform action plans and progress.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Head of Service who needs to email it to equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk for publishing)

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	OAKLANDS
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an update for Committee on the work of The Oaklands Centre. The Centre provides outdoor education for children, young people and adults. The Oaklands Centre supports the Council's Corporate priorities by providing opportunities for children, young people and adults to learn and develop their skills. The report highlights the success of the centre and future planned developments for the service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 That Committee note the work of The Oaklands Centre and planned future developments.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 This report updates Committee on the picture of outdoor education at The Oaklands Centre and identifies areas for development and potential risks.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Background

4.1 Vision

The Oaklands Centre, a refurbished country house set in the Snowdonia National Park, has a successful 28 year history of providing high quality Outdoor Education. Its vision is to encourage learning about self, others and the environment through a wide range of adventurous experiences and activities such as: canoeing, climbing, expeditions, gorge walking, mine exploration, sea level traversing and orienteering.

4.2 Accommodation

The Centre has had a significant new build extension (2006, Big Lottery funding, £448000) and a major refurbishment (2009, Local Authority funding over £350000). The dormitory style accommodation, sleeping up to 44, is of a high standard with all en suite rooms, three rooms are fully accessible for people with

disabilities. There are en suite facilities for staff. There is a day visit facility consisting of a changing toilet and shower block. There are rooms for relaxation and meetings, giving a professional yet homely feel. The Centre also accommodates groups locally off site in: hostels, bunk houses and campsites.

4.3 User Groups

The range of our users is wide and includes Primary, Secondary and Special Schools, Further Education Colleges, Princes Trust Volunteers, Duke of Edinburgh, Youth Service, Youth Offending Service, Work Based Learning Providers, Connexions, Teacher's and Youth Workers and third sector Community groups. Courses promote health and education and meet many National Curriculum criteria by providing opportunities for learning outside the classroom. Examples include geography course work, English, Maths, History, Science, Art and PE. In addition opportunities to add value to BTEC National Diploma qualifications, GCSE and A Level modules for PE, Duke of Edinburgh Award Training and Assessment Courses for leaders are all in place and form part of the offer.

The Centre has an excellent reputation of working with vulnerable groups of young people with emotional, physical, behavioural issues, including looked after children, young offenders, excluded pupils and children from low income families. The residential outdoor experience is important in building self esteem, developing self-confidence and an awareness of others. The majority of vulnerable groups are by necessity often small and sole use of the centre is required to maintain relationships and give opportunities for development. The Centre in these circumstances is not running at full capacity, however, is offering a valuable service to the young people of Wirral.

In 2010/11 8300 student days, 6000 bed nights and a total of 2833 students visited the Centre during that period. (Appendix 1 Occupancy Figures).

Feedback from programme leaders and pupils is excellent across all measures. (Appendix 2 Feedback Reports).

4.4 Staffing

The staff at Oaklands are highly qualified and experienced. There are 4.7fte outdoor staff who are teacher or youth worker qualified in addition to a part time administrator, two part time cooks, a site manager, and a cleaner. Additionally, there is a freelance staff panel to call on to deliver courses. With the exception of the Head of Centre and Site Manager, all staff contracts are 43 weeks.

4.5 Financial Background

In previous years the Centre has managed to reduce its expenditure and increase its income and throughput of students. A subsidy in excess of £261,000 in 1993 has been reduced year on year to £55000 in 2011/12. Following the consultation "Wirral's Future Be a Part of It," the Centre was tasked to reduce its reliance on council subsidy to zero by 2015. Strategies and actions to achieve a zero budget by 2015 were agreed by The Oaklands Management Committee in September 2011.

Following the transfer of various funding streams from the Local Authority to schools, including funding for extended services, the removal of Area Based Grant and the creation of the Pupil Premium, the Management Committee took the decision to remove fee remitted provision from September 2011. Wirral schools have had Pupil Premium of £430 rising to £488 per FSM pupil in the current academic year this is set to rise to £600 per FSM pupil in 2012/13.

4.6 Actions and Priorities in 2012

4.6.1 Introduce price increases via a new phased pricing structure. A 6% increase in prices from September 2011 until March 2012 and a further increase of 6.6%, from April 2012 to March 2013. (Appendix 3 Pricing Structure)

4.6.2 Implement a new booking system. Booking requests submitted from January each year for the following calendar year, (i.e. taken in January 2012 for 2013), the aim being to dovetail bookings into available slots and maximise usage.

4.6.2 Maximise the allocation of staff time to programmes. Secure confirmation of group numbers as far in advance as possible so that staff time on programme is maximised. Encourage holidays to be taken in quieter periods

4.6.3 Develop, in conjunction with council marketing team, a marketing plan to attract new business from a wider client group with the aim of increasing occupancy at the centre at weekends and during school holidays.

4.6.4 Forge closer links with Invest Wirral through the Business Forum to engage local businesses in fundraising or corporate team building packages.

4.6.5 Through the Oaklands Management Committee establish a 'Friends of Oaklands' group. The aim of this voluntary group will be to fund raise to support vulnerable groups to access the Oaklands experience. Cammell Laird has donated £2500 to work with young people from their community. In May 2012 two fundraising days have been planned, The Contact Company have already agreed to enter two teams, discussion is ongoing with Tranmere Rovers.

4.6.6 The Centre will look to bid for new business by targeting new national initiatives, e.g. Challenge Summer 2012, broadening the Duke of Edinburgh work, extending split week courses over weekends, and introducing arts / music weekends.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 There is a risk arising from transferring the centre to become fully self-financing and encouraging sufficient use of the centre by schools and other customers.

5.2 To mitigate against this risk the actions outlined in 4.6 above will be implemented.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 Learner feedback is regularly collected and acted upon as part of the quality assurance processes of the centre.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 The Oaklands Centre welcomes opportunities to work with a wide range of voluntary, community and faith groups. There are many opportunities for partnership working in different ways, in particular, through 'The Friends of Oaklands' group.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report at present.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no specific implications arising from this report at present.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? No

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Environmental awareness is encouraged as an underpinning area in programmes at Oaklands.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None

REPORT AUTHOR: Vivian Stafford
Strategic Service Manager
Telephone: (0151) 346 6630
Email: vivianstafford@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Occupancy rates
Appendix 2 Feedback Reports
Appendix 3 Course Fees

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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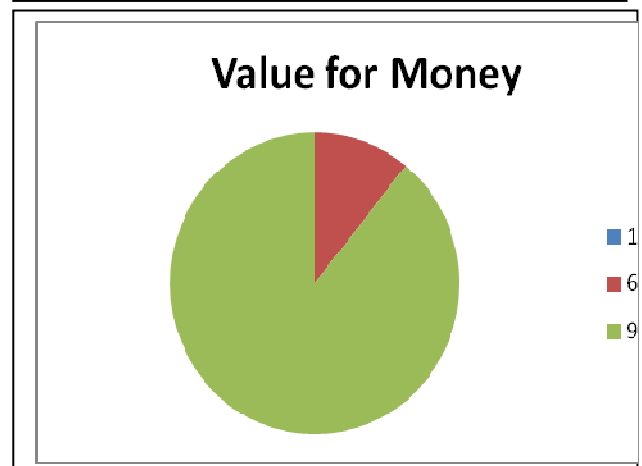
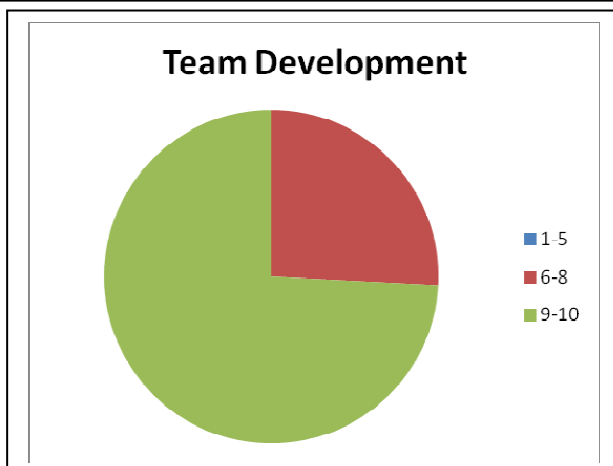
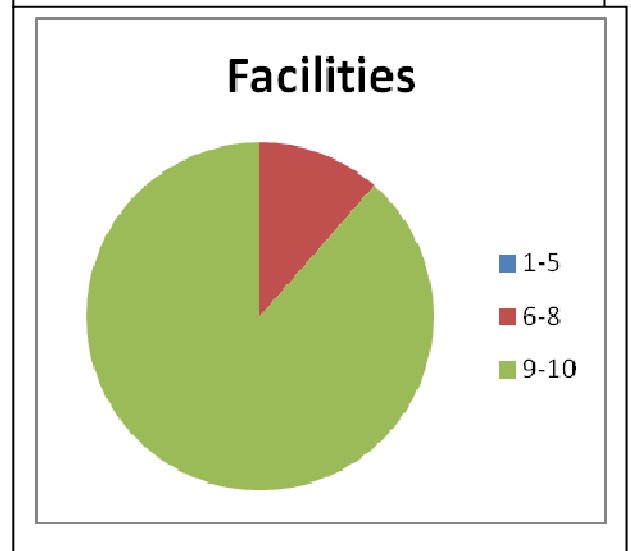
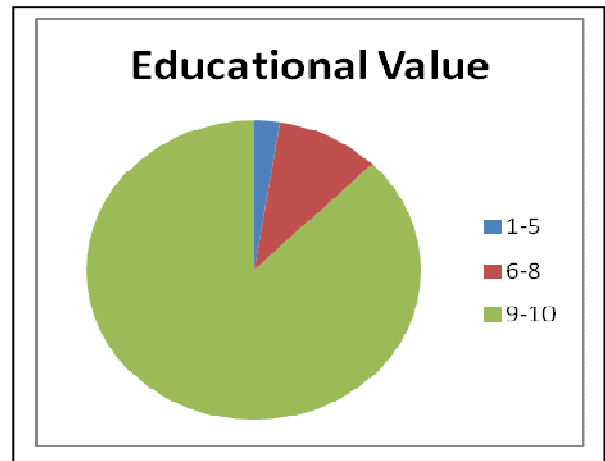
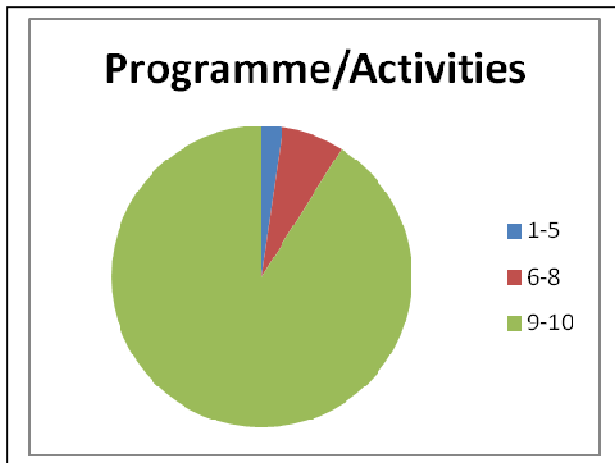
Appendix 1 Occupancy Rates

	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12 to date	2012/13 Bookings already taken	2012 / 13 Targets
Day Visits	34	26	31*	5	34
Weekends	24	27	25*	3	27
Mon – Friday and 7 day courses	22	28	23*	19	22
Split Weeks	44	46	38*	43	43
Total Bookings	124	126	117*	70	126
Bed nights	5405	5998	5730*		
Student Days	7594	8301	8030*		
Course Income	£275 932	£337 269	£300 192*	Actual students nos not known	£339 624
Comments			*Target £320,400 These are predicted to date, 3 months to run	* Expect figures to rise considerably, these are the early school bookings only.	

Appendix 2 Summary of Feedback Reports

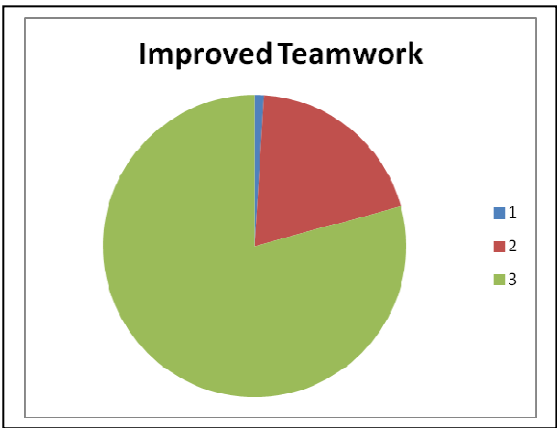
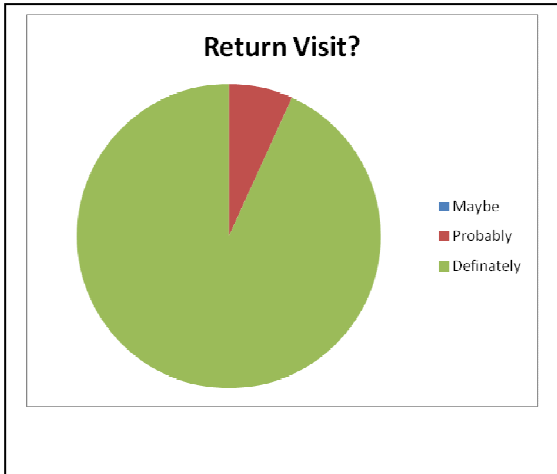
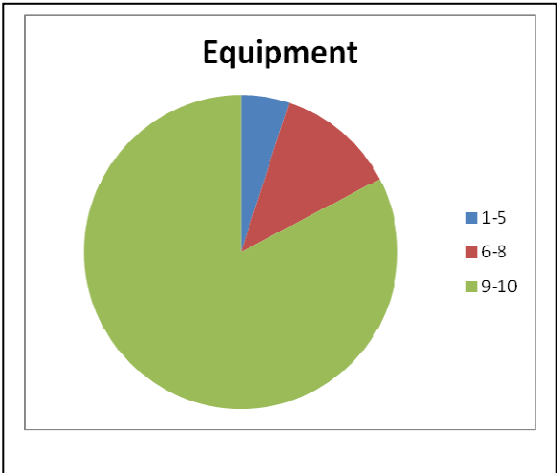
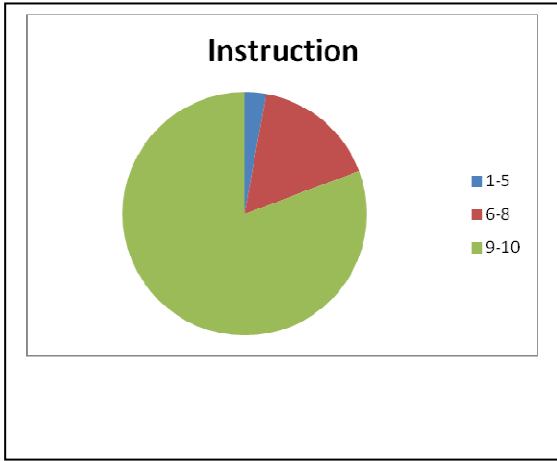
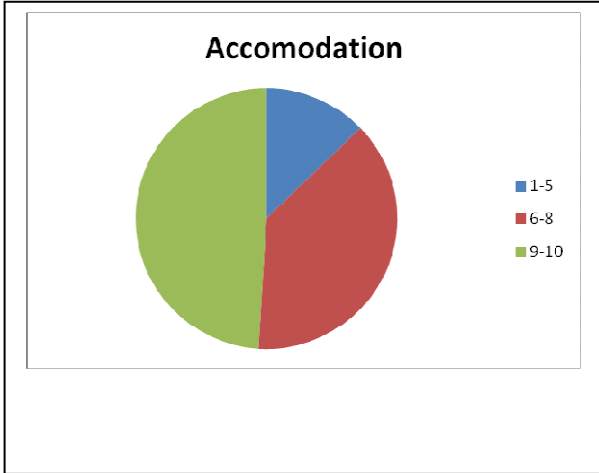
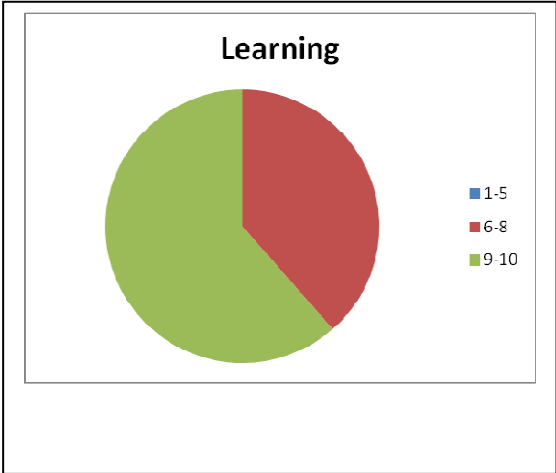
Leaders Feedback Summary 2011

The following is a pictorial summary of feedback from group leaders coming to Oaklands during 2011. Leaders were asked to rate their experiences from 1 -10 with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest score



Student Feedback Summary 2011

The following is a pictorial summary of feedback from students coming to Oaklands during 2011. Students were asked to rate their experiences from 1 -10 with 1 being the lowest and 10 being the highest score.



Leader's Feedback Summary 2011

93% of leaders rated their activity programme very good or excellent

87.5% of leaders rated the educational value of their visit as very good or excellent

97% of leaders rated the staff approach and skills as excellent

87.5% of leaders rated the facilities as very good or excellent

72% of leaders stated that team work skills of their group consistently improved as a result of the Oaklands experience

89% of leaders said that their experience represented excellent value for money

Student Feedback Summary 2011

100% said that they had learnt something from their course that would help them at home or school. The remaining 37.5% said they had probably learnt something that would help them at home or school

65% said the learning was significant

49% said they rated the accommodation as "great" 37.5% said it was "comfortable" and 13.5% rated the accommodation "poor"

85% of students said their instructors made their course challenging and looked after them all the time

89% rated their equipment as excellent

82% of students thought that the course had improved their teamwork

93% said they would definitely come back to the Centre again

Appendix 3

Course Fees April 2012 – March 2013

	5 day Courses	Split Weeks	Weekend Courses
Winter – Nov, Dec, Jan, Feb	£216.00	£121.00	£101.00
Autumn / Spring – Sept, Oct, March	£235.00	£131.00	£112.00
Summer – April, May, June, July, Aug	£245.50	£135.00	£115.50
Day Visits £321.00			

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	THE '100 CLUB' PROJECT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION?	No

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report has been produced to provide information on the running and outcomes of Wirral's '100 Club' project, the aim of which was to narrow the attainment gap at key stage 4 between pupils eligible for free school meals (FSM) and pupils not eligible for free school meals (non-FSM). A further aim was to determine the most effective strategies for this purpose.

The project, if successful, would support Wirral's corporate priorities in that it would support schools to improve educational provision for pupils eligible for free school meals, thereby ensuring that more were in a position to take fuller advantage of post-16 opportunities.

1.2 There is no specific exempt information.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 That the report is noted.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 The report is to provide information and as such contains no specific recommendations other than it be noted.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 In 2011, provisional data for Wirral showed the key stage 4 attainment gap (at 5+ A*-C including English and maths GCSEs) between FSM pupils and non-FSM pupils was 34%. This compares with the national attainment gap of 27%. Both gaps are long-standing.

- 4.2 Attainment gaps exist at all key stages of education, and tend to widen as pupils progress through their schooling. This is observed both locally and nationally. The gap in Wirral at key stage 4 has narrowed in recent years, down 4% from 38% in 2009, but remains amongst the largest in England.
- 4.3 Wirral's FSM pupils attain broadly in line with FSM pupils nationally, but the attainment of its non-FSM pupils is significantly higher than the corresponding national group.
- 4.4 Much effort has been devoted both locally and nationally to close the attainment gap, with some success. The local authority project manager, in consultation with the Strategic Service Manager (Secondary Education) analysed some of the reported strategies.
- 4.5 Nationally, little hard evidence of the direct impact of strategies on narrowing the gap was found. In some cases the strategies were employed universally, and where supporting data was supplied it pointed to an overall rise in a school's attainment, not a closing of the attainment gap.
- 4.6 Attainment gaps within schools vary greatly from school to school, but can also vary significantly from year to year within the same school. The National Strategies advised that local authorities should concentrate their efforts on schools with the widest internal gaps. However, analysis of the data for one year found that Wirral's gap was larger than any individual school's gap. Representatives of both the DfE and the National Strategies expressed surprise at this finding, but it was accepted after being demonstrated to be accurate. In 2011, Wirral's gap was larger than the internal gaps of all but one school.
- 4.7 It was realised that the issue had to be considered at local authority level as well as on a school-by-school basis. Wirral's gap was found to be driven in part by those schools which had some of the smallest internal gaps. Several of these schools tended to have some of the largest numbers of FSM pupils, and the attainment of non-FSM pupils in these schools was comparatively low. The resulting school-level gap therefore tended to mask the low attainment of the FSM pupils in those schools.
- 4.8 A project ('The 100 Club') was, therefore, conceived and launched in Wirral in September 2010 to establish whether late intervention in a Year 11 group of FSM pupils could narrow the gap. A Principal Manager was charged with overseeing the project. This followed on from a year-long action research pilot, which schools could opt into, focusing on narrowing the gap for various groups of vulnerable children, including FSM pupils. Findings from this pilot were shared with schools participating in the 100 Club project. For the 100 Club, Year 11 was selected as the target group because feedback from the project would be swift, and if evidence of positive impact emerged schools would be in a position to act quickly with current Year 11 FSM pupils and other year groups.
- 4.9 Schools with the largest numbers of FSM pupils were invited to join the project and between them were asked to identify 100 FSM pupils across Wirral who

might benefit from extra support over and above what the school already had planned for them. The pupils were to be identified according to the following criteria:

- a) they were currently considered to be unlikely to attain 5+ A*-C including English and maths;
- b) they were thought to be likely to respond positively to extra support.

The selection process was discussed by the Project Manager with the schools.

- 4.10 A sum of £1200 per identified pupil was allocated to schools to support the interventions they planned. Schools were provided with examples of strategies used previously, both locally and nationally, but given total freedom to innovate. The progress of the 100 pupils was monitored by the local authority through its School Improvement Partner (SIP) programme and through the Principal Manager overseeing the project. Additional support was offered to the schools via the Assessment Consultant. Progress was reported half-terminally to the Head of the Learning and Achievement Branch. It is thought that the approach used on Wirral is unique.
- 4.11 Provisional data suggest that Wirral's gap has narrowed by 2% since 2010. In 2011, the attainment of Wirral's non-FSM pupils rose to 71.4% - an increase 4.8%. The attainment of FSM pupils rose to 38.4% - an increase of 6.6%.
- 4.12 To determine the impact of the project involves attempting to answer the question 'What would have happened had the project not taken place?' No two cohorts of pupils in different years are identical. There are always some differences in their prior attainments and other factors known to correlate with attainment. Therefore any change in the headline results and the gap might simply be due to changes in the relative abilities of FSM and non-FSM groups of pupils, and not the result of targeted interventions.
- 4.13 An important piece of information to answer this question of impact lies in the contextualised value added (CVA) scores for pupils. CVA is the difference between a pupil's attainment and the average attainment, nationally, of pupils with very similar contexts i.e. pupils who have the same prior attainment, gender, month of birth, FSM status, first language and a large range of other factors. By its nature, CVA calculations can be carried out only for those pupils who have both key stage 2 and key stage 4 results. Pupils who are missing either set of results are excluded from the calculations.
- 4.14 CVA is generally interpreted as the *net* effect a school has had on the attainment of its pupils. A positive CVA, where a pupil or group of pupils has attained higher results than very similar pupils nationally, suggests that the school has had a positive net impact on attainment.
- 4.15 If the project were to have impact, apart from narrowing the headline attainment gap, it would be expected that the CVA of the FSM group would improve relative to the CVA of the non-FSM group.
- 4.16 In 2010, the CVA of Wirral's non-FSM pupils was +3.8%: in other words, the 5+ A*-C including English and maths attainment of Wirral's non-FSM pupils

(66.6%) was 3.8% higher than the figure for very similar pupils nationally (62.8%). The attainment of Wirral's FSM pupils (31.8%) was 3.7% higher than that of very similar pupils nationally (28.1%) i.e. a CVA of +3.7%.

- 4.17 From 2010 to 2011, the CVA of the non-FSM pupils rose by 2.4% to +6.2%; the CVA of the FSM pupils rose by 4.4% to +8.1%. This is the first time since 2006 that the CVA of the FSM group has exceeded the non-FSM groups CVA.
- 4.18 While the CVAs of both groups improved, the CVA improvement of the FSM group was 2% greater than the CVA improvement of the non-FSM group. In terms of pupil numbers, this can be interpreted as an extra 19 FSM pupils achieving 5+A*-C including English and maths, compared with what would have happened had the CVAs of the two groups kept pace with each other. The 2% narrowing of the gap is, therefore, the result of a real net improvement in the achievement of FSM pupils compared with non-FSM pupils.
- 4.19 Another question is whether the '100 Club' pupils fared better than other FSM pupils. In terms of attainment, 51% of the '100 Club' attained 5+A*-C including English and maths, compared with 36% of all other FSM pupils. Again, the possibility that this difference in attainment is due to a differences in ability needs to be explored and, again, CVA is currently the best tool available.
- 4.20 The CVA of the '100 Club' pupils was +17.6%. This means that the pass rate for the group of 51% was 17.6% higher than would have been expected, given their prior attainment, gender, month of birth etc. The CVA for all other FSM pupils was +6.9%.
- 4.21 The CVA difference between the '100 Club' pupils and all other FSM pupils was, therefore, 10.8%: by this measure, the pupils who were part of the '100 Club' outperformed other FSM pupils by 10.8%. In other words, had the '100 Club' pupils performed at the same level (in terms of CVA) as the other FSM pupils, 11 fewer of them would have achieved 5+ A*-C including English and maths.
- 4.22 The evidence suggests that the project had a positive impact and resulted in at least 11 more pupils attaining the threshold of 5+ A*-C including English and maths than would have been the case had the project not run. The longer term effects are as yet unknown, but achieving the threshold increases opportunities at post-16. For example, according to the education charity Learning Plus UK, a 16-year old with 5+ A*-C including English and maths has an 83% chance of getting an A level qualification by the age of 19 compared with a 57% chance if their GCSEs did not include English and maths. Furthermore, many employment opportunities require pupils to have 5+ A*-C including English and maths. The policy research group, Centre for Cities, reports that there are strong correlations between the percentages of pupils achieving 5+ A*-C including English and maths and youth unemployment rates, as well as for wage levels for those in employment.
- 4.23 As far as is possible, the progress of the '100 Club' pupils will be followed in an effort to determine any longer term benefits of the project.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

5.1 The main risk to the impact of the project was its relatively short timescale.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 The project could have been run with younger pupils, but this would have meant that information regarding impact would not have been available as quickly.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 This was a single-agency project.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 None

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 As a result of the evidence of success from the first year it was decided to extend the project into 2011-12. There are no resource implications for IT, staffing and assets. The financial resource implications are that the Learning and Achievement Branch has allocated a further £60,000 to extend the project into the 2011-12 academic year.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no equalities implications for protected groups.

11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

(a) Is an EIA required? No

(b) If 'yes', has one been completed? N/A

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Dave Hollomby

Principal Manager and '100 Club' Project Manager

telephone: (0151) 346 6621

email: davehollomby@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Data tables

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

None

Council Meeting	Date

Appendix: Data

Results

Wirral 2011

	All Pupils	All FSM	All Non-FSM	100 Club	FSM pupils not part of 100 Club	100 Club result minus result for other FSM
5+ A*-C inc. English and maths	64%	38%	72%	51%	36%	15%
English A*-C	75%	51%	82%	67%	49%	17%
Maths A*-C	70%	47%	78%	62%	46%	16%
English Points	41.8	36.3	43.7	37.9	36.1	1.8
Maths Points	40	33.2	42.3	36.4	32.8	3.6

CVAs

	All Pupils	All FSM	All Non-FSM	100 Club	FSM pupils not part of 100 Club	100 Club CVA minus CVA for other FSM
5+ A*-C inc. English and maths CVAs	+6.7%	+7.9%	+6.2%	+17.6%	+6.9%	+10.8%
English A*-C CVAs	+5.3%	+6.9%	+4.8%	+17.8%	+5.6%	+12.2%
English Points CVAs	+1.1	+1.4	+1.0	+2.1	+1.3	+0.8
Maths A*-C CVAs	+8.1%	+10.1%	+7.3%	+19.8%	+9.0%	+10.8%
Maths Points CVAs	+1.2	+1.6	+1.0	+3.0	+1.4	+1.6

N.B. CVA figures are rounded to the nearest 0.1%

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	SICKNESS ABSENCE TRENDS IN CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report was requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to provide and analyse the levels of staff absence in Children and Young People's Department (CYPD) over a 12 month period and identify any trends in levels and type of sickness absence in comparison to the Council average.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee to note the contents of the report.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 To ensure that the continued gradual decrease in sickness absence in CYPD is maintained.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 The Council have been recording and reporting on the levels of sickness absence in departments through the best value performance indicators.
- 4.2 The levels of sickness absence have been monitored closely by CYPD over the last few years, and steps have been taken to reduce the level of sickness absence. The department are working with managers to support staff with identified health issues to by offering early intervention to remain in work and /or reduce the amount of time taken off due to sickness absence.
- 4.3 Over the last 12 month CYPD have reduced staffing numbers by 327 employees, who were released under the Councils EVR Scheme. Many staff left on 31st December 2010, and other key staff leaving dates were delayed until either 31st March 2011 or 30th June 2011.

- 4.4 The analysis of the sickness absence report of the last 12 months indicates that there has been a gradual overall reduction in levels of sickness absence in CYPD over the last 12 months.
- 4.5 The level of sickness absence in CYPD is not significantly higher than the council average over the last 6 quarters i.e. April 10 – Sept 11 (Appendix 1).
- 4.6 The level of mental health related illness indicates that CYPD (including schools) has a slightly lower percentage of days lost than the Council average i.e. 0.54%. In addition the overall trend indicates a slight decrease in the number of days lost due to mental health in the last 12 months. (Appendix 2)
- 4.7 The number of sickness absence days lost in the last 12 months in the Children’s Social Care branch indicates higher levels of sickness absence than in other Branches, some of which is attributable to Stress/Depression (Mental Health) related illness.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 If the level of sickness absence in the department raised significantly this would have an impact on both front line service delivery and increase the staffing costs to the department through increased costs for supply staff to cover absent frontline staff.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None arising from this report.

7.0 CONSULTATION

None arising from this report.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

None from this report.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 Frontline services such as early years and social care do require to be covered when off work due to ill health, which places increased pressures on the CYPD budget to pay for supply staff to cover.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 None arising from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The department ensure that they meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, when dealing the staff that have ongoing health problems relating to a disability.

- 11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

- (a) Is an EIA required? No
(b) If 'yes', has one been completed? n/a

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None arising from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 None arising from this report.

REPORT AUTHOR: Susan Blevins

Strategic Service Manager (HR & Workforce Development)

telephone: (0151) 666 4343

email: susanblevins@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Absence Figures by Quarter for Council and Children and Young People's Department based on BVPI formula (10th Oct 2011)

Appendix 2

Number of sickness absence days lost due to mental health

REFERENCE MATERIAL

HR People Management Information - Absence Figures by Quarter for Council Departments based on BVPI formula (10th Oct 2011)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
none	N/a

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Appendix 1

Absence Figures by Quarter for Council and CYP Department based on BVPI formula (10th Oct 2011)

Days lost per FTE	2010 -11				2011-12				Projected Total
	April - June 10 Q1	July - Sept 10 Q2	Oct - Dec 10 Q3	Jan - Mar 10 Q4	April - June 11 Q1	July - Oct 11 Q2	Oct - Dec 11 Q3	Jan - Mar 12 Q4	
Council Average	2.52	2.16	2.85	2.70	2.21	1.81			8.85
CYPD	2.60	2.03	2.97	2.84	2.67	2.03			10.12
Difference	0.08	-0.13	0.12	0.14	0.46	0.22			1.27

Council Target	9.8
CYPD Comparison to target	0.64
	9.8
	0.32

Children and Young People's Department number of days lost per FTE are in most quarters are only just above the council average. In addition the projected number of days lost per FTE is projected to have reduced from 2010-11 to 2011-12 by 0.32 days per FTE

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Appendix 2

Number of sickness absence days lost due to mental health from Oct 10 - Spet 11										
	Oct - Dec 10	Jan - March 11	April - June 11	July - Sep 11	total days lost due to mental health	total days lost due to sickness absence (Oct 10-				
Council	5,251	5,919	5,359	4,532	21,061	90284				23.33%
CYPD (including schools)	2,857	3,673	3,942	2,490	12,962	56868				22.79%

The percentage number of days lost over a year in CYPD (including schools) due to mental health is lower than the council average. The trend in relation sickness absence due to mental health shows an overall decrease .

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26TH JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION – CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000
WARD/S AFFECTED:	All
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR ANN McLACHLAN
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1** That the report be noted.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1** To comply with the Council's constitution.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1** The following tenders and appointment of contractors have been accepted by the Acting Director of Children's Services under delegated authority.

Capital Contracts

These are schemes approved by Cabinet as part of the CYPD Capital Programme.

Date	Scheme Details	Contractor	Amount
21/09/11	Ridgeway High School – Roof Refurbishment	Mac Roofing	£104,600 (£7,845 fees)
28/12/11	Poulton Primary School – Demolition of Former School	North West Construction UK Ltd	£66,360 (£5,972.40 fees)
05/12/11	The Woodlands Primary School – New Extension and External Works	Winstanley & Son Ltd	£353,244 (£60,51 fees)

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
27/06/11	MCJA Supporting Futures	464606	£145600
18/08/11	Eastmoor Secure	464928	£263900
23/08/11	Good Foundations	110712	£118560
24/08/11	Wings School	462055	£162270
26/08/11	MCJA Supporting Futures	118672	£101400
30/08/11	New Reflections	118675	£55639
12/09/11	Foster Cares Ltd	416333	£63383
27/10/11	Wilderness Experience	110951	£241801
27/10/11	New Reflections	152918	£201506
31/10/11	SCS Kinder	120838	£166400
04/11/11	Peterborough City Council	3415	£293384
11/11/11	Good Foundations	406540	£118560
19/12/11	New Pathways	177253	£123341
19/12/11	New Pathways	83142	£123341

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1** The number of independent residential care placements increases the financial pressure on this budget, which has in previous years significantly overspent.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1** Decisions taken following tendering process or consideration of child’s individual needs to identify the most cost effective response.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1** Consultation has taken place with the appropriate bodies/partners before the decision is made.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 Voluntary, community and faith organisations are involved where appropriate.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 The financial implications are included in the regular monitoring reports to members.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Contractual agreements.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Decisions about independent residential care placements will have been made in accordance with the authority's equality and diversity policy.

Is an EIA required? No

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 Taking into consideration the needs of the child wherever possible the placements are made within the authority or as close to the authority as possible.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 Any planning permission would have been completed prior to capital contracts being accepted.

REPORT AUTHOR: MALCOLM STREET
HEAD OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
0151 666 4284
malcolmstreet@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICIES

There are no appendices for this report.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Reference material not required for this report.

SUBJECT MATERIAL

Council Meeting	Date
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	20 th September 2011
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	1 st June 2011
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	15 th March 2011
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	26 th JANUARY 2011
CYPD OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	14 TH SEPTEMBER 2010

0-19 STANDARDS SUB-COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 7 December 2011

Present:

Councillor S Clarke (Chair)

Councillors T Smith

P Williams

Apologies

Councillors Mr A Scott

Mrs N Smith

45 **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Members of the Sub 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.

No such declarations were made.

46 **ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The Chair agreed to vary the order of business.

47 **EARLY YEARS CENTRES AND CHILDREN'S CENTRES OFSTED INSPECTIONS JULY 2011 - OCTOBER 2011.**

The members received a summary of the outcome of recent OFSTED inspections of New Brighton Childrens Centre, Ganneys Meadow Childrens Centre and Claughton Childrens Centre. The outcome in the case of New Brighton Childrens Centre was satisfactory with some aspects that were good, Ganneys Meadow Childrens Centre was good and Claughton Childrens Centre was satisfactory in overall effectiveness. Mark Parkinson, Acting Deputy Director (Children's Services) commented upon each report in turn.

Recommended – That the reports be noted.

48 **PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES.**

Sue Talbot, Strategic Service Manager, Early Years & Primary Education, Learning & Achievement, reported that Castleway Primary School was being inspected the day after this meeting and that the school was well placed and prepared. It was hoped that the school would be out of Special Measures by the end of the week.

Recommended - That the report be noted.

49 **PRIMARY SCHOOLS OFSTED INSPECTIONS MAY 2011 - OCTOBER 2011.**

Members of the Sub-Committee received a summary of the outcomes of recent OFSTED inspections of primary schools. The various schools had been graded as follows:

Satisfactory Schools

Fender Primary School

Good Schools

Mount Primary School
West Kirby Primary School
St Peters Catholic Primary School
Riverside Primary School
Manor Primary School

Outstanding Schools

Liscard Primary School
St Georges Primary School
Gayton Primary School

Members commented upon each school in turn and Sue Talbot commented upon recent progress at the school. In the case of Manor Primary it was noted that the school was no longer in Special Measures. Sue Talbot further reported upon Woodslee Primary School – the OFSTED monitoring of a Grade 3 school.

Members commented that it was a matter of concern that some Secondary schools reported that children were coming into Year 7 with poor literacy skills. Members agreed that it would be useful for Secondary Headteachers to visit Primary Schools and that it would be useful for a Scrutiny Review to be set up with a focus on what work is undertaken in Year 7.

Recommended – That the reports be noted.

50 **SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES**

Stuart Bellerby, Strategic Service Manager – Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Children and Young People's Department, reported that there were no Secondary Schools reported in OFSTED categories.

51 **SECONDARY SCHOOL OFSTED INSPECTIONS JULY 2011 - OCTOBER 2011.**

Stuart Bellerby, Strategic Service Manager – Secondary Education and Lifelong Learning Children and Young People's Department reported upon Wallasey School which had been inspected in October 2011. He noted the main findings of the inspection and reported that the overall effectiveness of the school was satisfactory. Mark Parkinson commented on the report and noted that the team would be supporting the school. Stuart Bellerby also reported upon Hilbre High School which had been inspected in October 2011. He noted the main findings of the inspection and reported that the overall effectiveness of the school was satisfactory. Mark Parkinson commented on the report and noted that the school would be receiving a monitoring visit.

Recommended – That the reports be noted.

52 **SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN OFSTED CATEGORIES**

Mark Parkinson, Acting Deputy Director (Children's Services), reported that there were no special schools in OFSTED categories.

53 **SPECIAL SCHOOLS OFSTED INSPECTIONS JULY 2011 - OCTOBER 2011.**

Mark Parkinson, Acting Deputy Director (Children's Services) reported upon Wirral Hospitals School and Home Education Service Community Base which had been inspected in November, 2011. He noted the main findings of the inspection and reported that the overall effectiveness of the school was good. He further highlighted the positive comments in the report and also noted the positive comments from parents.

Recommended – That the report be noted.

54 **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Recommended – That the next meeting of the 0-19 School Standards Sub-Committee be held on Tuesday 13 March, 2012.

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