



## Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Monday, 12 November 2012</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Room 3 - Wallasey Town Hall</b>

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### AGENDA

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

Members of the Committee are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary and non pecuniary interests, in connection with any item(s) on the agenda and state the nature of the interest.

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 11 September, 2012.

**3. 2012/13 QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL MONITORING (Pages 9 - 32)**

**4. 2012 POST 16 ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESSION (Pages 33 - 44)**

**5. WIRRAL LIFELONG AND FAMILY LEARNING SERVICE UPDATE (Pages 45 - 66)**

6. **CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN - PROGRESS REPORT (Pages 67 - 70)**
7. **LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN REVIEW PROJECT - UPDATE (Pages 71 - 86)**
8. **WORK PROGRAMME**  
Report to follow.
9. **FORWARD PLAN**
10. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR**

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 11 September 2012

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	W Clements (Chair)	
	Councillors	J Crabtree D Dodd P Doughty P Hayes B Mooney	C Povall W Smith P Williams Smith Owens
<u>Co-opted:</u>		Mrs J Owens Mrs N Smith	
<u>Apologies</u>		Mr A Scott	

### 19 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP

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Councillor Jim Crabtree declared a non pecuniary interest in Minute 26 post by virtue of him being a foster carer.

Mrs Jane Owens declared a non pecuniary interest in Minute 26 post by virtue of her work for Social Enterprise and being a member of a Foster Panel.

Councillor Wendy Clements declared a non pecuniary interest in Minute 23 post by virtue of her employment and as a Governor of a school.

### 20 MINUTES

Members were requested to receive the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 6 June, 2012.

**Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of 6 June, 2012 be approved as a correct record.**

### 21 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair agreed to vary the order of business.

## 22 **2012/13 QUARTER ONE PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL REVIEW**

The Acting Director of Children's Services reported upon the performance of the Council's Corporate Plan 2012-13 and Departmental Plan 2012-13 for April 2012 - June 2012, in relation to children and young people. She provided an overview of performance, resources and risk monitoring.

For Quarter one of 2012/13 there were 25 performance indicators that could be reported, of these 88% were achieving or exceeding target. The report gave details of the corrective action being taken for those indicators missing their target.

The Acting Director of Children's Services further reported upon pressures of £4.9 million that had been identified by the Children and Young People's Department. The main areas of pressure related to looked after children including residential placements and foster care allowances and home to school transport. Numbers of children in care continued to remain high compared to similar Councils. Budgetary control measures were in place and expenditure was being closely monitored.

Responding to comments from Members, Nancy Clarkson, Strategic Service Manager Infrastructure, provided an update relating to children subject to a child protection plan for a second or third time.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## 23 **REVIEW OF ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESS AT THE END OF EYFS, KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2**

The Acting Director of Children's Services provided a summary of the standards attained at the end of the Early Years & Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 for 2012. Priority 2 of the Corporate Plan 'My Family' stated the objective "Support schools and other settings to improve educational provision and attainment maintaining a specific focus on addressing the impact of poverty". This analysis linked with the Enjoying & Achieving outcome area of the Children & Young People's Plan 2012-13 – in particular area 2 "Improve the educational outcomes for children and young people affected by poverty and disadvantage including children in care."

The report gave details of the main areas by which success was measured. It further provided the performance indicators that would be evaluated as key milestones in the Learning & Achievement Branch Plan through the implementation of the new School Improvement Strategy to ensure statutory duties were met.

Sue Talbot, Strategic Service Manager (Early Years and Primary) and Stuart Bellerby, Strategic Service Manager (Secondary), gave a comprehensive presentation on the headline figures for the 2012 test results at Early Years, Key stages 1, 2, 3 and 4 and Looked After Children.

Officers elaborated on the information in the presentation in response to Members' questions and reported that every main provisional stage result was up on the previous year and that no school was in OFSTED categories.

**Resolved – That**

- 1) the report and presentation be noted.
- 2) congratulations be offered to the schools and officers be thanked for their work in supporting young people.

## 24 VALUING OUR SAFEGUARDING EMPLOYEES

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report in response to the Notice of Motion "Valuing our Safeguarding Employees" that had been approved by the Council on 16 July 2012. (Minute 35 refers).

The Acting Director of Children's Services reported that the Children's Social Care service provided a front-line social work service to children in need and at risk in Wirral. By its nature, the service worked with children who were exposed to varying levels of harm and stress. The Performance Report which was presented to members of the committee on a quarterly basis outlined the key performance areas and some of the demands on the service.

It was further reported that the service had received a number of inspections in the last two years. The outcomes of these inspections had been previously reported to members but in summary the service continued to deliver a good and in parts an outstanding service to children and young people.

The Acting Director of Children's Services responded in detail to the points raised to the Notice of Motion.

In response to comments from Members, Tracey Coffey, Acting Head of Branch, noted that newly qualified social workers would have a reduced and protected caseload for the first 3 months and for the remainder of their first year as 10% of their time was protected for learning and development.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

## 25 ADOPTION SCORECARD

The Acting Director of Children's Services outlined the Government's approach to addressing delays in the adoption system which had been detailed in An Action Plan for Adoption: Tackling Delay (published by the Department for Education in March 2012).

She reported that one of the government's measures was the publication of the Adoption Scorecards for each local authority. The report showed Wirral Council's performance for the Adoption Scorecard for the 3 year average (2008-09 to 2010-11) as published in May 2012, and specified the steps that were being taken to improve performance.

In addition the report detailed the action being taken by Wirral in response to the measures relating to reducing delays in the court process and the implementation of the Adoption Agencies (Panel and Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2012 which prohibited adoption agencies from referring cases to an adoption panel before making a decision whether a child should be placed for adoption where they intended to apply to court for a Placement Order.

The report outlined the importance of using additional contextual information to make comparisons of local authorities' performance as the time taken for adoption could be longer for some children and may be dependent on other agencies such as the family court justice system.

It was noted that previous Inspections of Adoption Services had not specifically focused on delay and Wirral's performance in relation to the Adoption Standards and Regulations had been assessed by Ofsted in 2011 as 'Good' with 'Outstanding features'.

The Acting Director of Children's Services further reported that the purpose of the Adoption Scorecard was to publish the minimum expectations on local authorities for timeliness in the adoption.

In May 2012 the Department for Education had published the adoption scorecard for the 3 year average period April 2008 to March 2011 which measured all local authorities' performance against three key indicators.

An action plan for the implementation of new models of practice for decision making for adoption was attached as an Appendix to the report.

**Resolved – That**

- 1) the report be noted.**
- 2) the proposed actions for the implementation of new models of practice for decision making for adoption attached as an Appendix to the report be accepted.**

26 **FOSTERING SERVICE REPORT**

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report that provided a quarterly update on developments and performance in Wirral's fostering service in accordance with the requirements of the Fostering Regulations and Guidance 2011 National Minimum Fostering Standards. The fostering service provided quality foster care for children who need to be looked after in public care; this was at a much lower cost than other regulated children's placements.

Local Authorities had to ensure that they were able to provide sufficient foster care placements for those children who needed family based care in accordance with the relevant Regulations and Standards governing such services.

The report also gave details of the financial implications, both in terms of the previous year and the current year. It was further reported that there was a CYPD plan to reduce the overall costs and the number of children in foster care, however this continued to prove challenging.

**Resolved – That**

- 1) following consideration of the report the Committee noted it was satisfied the service was being managed effectively and that there were good outcomes for the children and young people that are fostered.
- 2) the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee continue to receive an annual report about the fostering service, but in the future the 3 month report be presented to the Corporate Parenting Group.

27 **RESPONSE TO THE REPORT FROM THE JOINT INQUIRY INTO CHILDREN WHO GO MISSING**

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report that advised members of the Government's response to the concerns raised about the care received by children who go missing from care, highlighted by the Derbyshire and Rochdale criminal cases of men who were convicted of abusing and exploiting young girls in care. The report also set out the process and timescale for producing a local response.

She reported that an All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Runaway and Missing Children and Adults had called a parliamentary Inquiry to examine these issues more closely. The Inquiry had heard from children, professionals, national agencies such as Ofsted and Minister who had all agreed that urgent action was needed to safeguard children who go missing and run away from care.

The APPG had reported in June 2012 and made 31 recommendations and on 3rd July Tim Loughton, the Children's Minister had responded stating that he would set up a task and finish group on placement planning on out of borough placements to report in September 2012. There would also be an action plan to drive up quality and safety.

In Wirral the Local Safeguarding Children Board had brought together key agencies such as the Police, Public Health, Barnardo's, Independent Provider representation and other key partners to consider the APPG report and to begin to bring together data on the extent of the issues contained within the recommendations.

This group would report back to the LSCB in December 2012 on key issues identified locally and a work plan that would seek to make improvements in the analysis and data management between agencies. Following this the Head of Safeguarding would report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the plans agreed by the LSCB.

The Children and Young People's Department had commissioned Barnardos locally to respond to children who run away since 2003. This service ensured that each child had an interview with Barnardos on their return from running through a reporting system developed with Merseyside Police. The LSCB received quarterly information on the number of children missing, the length of time they were missing, the homes from which they ran (either from their foster, residential or family home). This service would continue to be offered whilst the review described above was being conducted.

**Resolved – That**

- 1) the All-Party Parliamentary Group report be noted.

**2) a further report be submitted to the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee once the local assessment is completed under the auspices of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.**

28 **YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2012**

The Acting Director of Children's Services submitted a report that had been produced at the request of the Committee and provided a progress report on planning arrangements for the next Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament. These annual events provided young people with the opportunity to present their views to councillors on matters that were important to them. This year they would take place at Wallasey Town Hall on 9 October 2012.

A list of schools registered for the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament was attached as an appendix to the report and it was anticipated that the target of 20 would be reached.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

29 **CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMISSIONING**

The Committee was invited to consider a letter received from Wirral Link Forum.

Wirral Link Forum was an umbrella organisation for voluntary, community and faith sector organisations that worked with children, young people and families in Wirral, offering them a voice through representation on the Children's Trust Board, Local Safeguarding Children Board and Every Child Matters Outcome Groups. It also acted as a conduit between the statutory and voluntary sectors, cascading information through its website, weekly bulletins and at monthly meetings. Link Forum had been set up in 2005 because existing infrastructure organisations were unable to provide the services/support/information needed for those voluntary organisations that were working with children, young people and families. The organisation worked closely with Wirral's Children & Young People's Department, who had funded a paid worker for several years, and were committed to doing so for the foreseeable future.

At a recent meeting of Link Forum members, concern had been expressed regarding the plans for commissioning of children's services from April 2013. A representative of Link Forum played an active part in the planning meetings for the commissioning process, and the letter informed that Commissioners were restricted from meaningful forward planning due to the uncertainty around the Council budget. The impact on the voluntary sector of this lack of clarity was set out in the letter.

Julia Hassall, Acting Director of Children's Services responded to the points raised in the letter.

On a motion by Cllr Wendy Clements and seconded by Cllr Bernie Mooney it was:-

**Resolved (11:00) – That**

**1) the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee note Link Forum members concern over the restrictions that 12 month contracts bring to the commissioned services they provide.**



2) while recognising the opportunities for re-focussing which each round of commissioning brings; the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee ask the Lead member for Children's Services and Life-long Learning and Acting Director to consider the potential benefits to commissioned services (and thereby their service users) of a 3 year commissioning cycle. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend this be for as many services as possible and as soon as feasible.

3) the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee suggest that over this timescale: regular reviews of effectiveness and outcomes etc would enhance the service offered to children and young people while probably costing less than full scale tendering processes each year.

30 **APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION - CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000**

The Acting Director of Children's Services provided an update to Members, in accordance with the Constitution of the Council, of those instances where delegated authority had been used by the Acting Director of Children's Services with respect to the acceptance of tenders and to the appointment of Contractors.

Details of tenders and appointment of contractors that had been accepted by the Acting Director of Children's Services under delegated authority were provided.

**Resolved – That the report be noted.**

31 **BUDGET CONSULTATION - SCRUTINY WORKSHOPS**

Jane Morgan, Corporate Policy Manager, gave the Committee a presentation that outlined details of the budget consultation – Consultation and Engagement to inform improvements, budgets and plans. The budget consultation was intended to engage the public, staff and stakeholders in developing a 3 Year Corporate Plan and a 3 Year Financial Plan. The presentation outlined key milestones, the questionnaire, Scrutiny Workshops and the key points in the budget consultation. The workshop for the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be held on 4 October, 2012.

**Resolved – That the presentation be noted.**

32 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee was requested to consider suggested additions to its work programme for the ensuing municipal year. The Committee's attention was also drawn to Minute 7 of the Scrutiny Programme Board, 18 July, 2012, in particular part (1) 1 of the resolution.

**Resolved – That the Committee notes the following on the list of topics on the suggested work programme:**

**SEN – leave on as it is at present.**

**Serious case review training – complete.**

**Scrutiny review: agreed that Chair / Spokesperson will carry out a review building on/updating the previous literacy work done.**

**Children with child protection plan numbers – completed 11/9/12.**

**Sickness absence - outstanding.**

**Post 16 standards report – due in November.**

**Lifelong and family learning service – update due in November meeting.**

**Family and friends policy – be considered by Corporate Parenting.**

**Tackling sexual exploitation - future agenda.**

**Childminding and private sector – report received 21/03/12.**

**A report on Child Poverty strategy be included on future agenda reports.**

33 **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.**

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

12 NOVEMBER 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	2012/13 Quarter Two Performance and Financial Review
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Acting Director of Children's Services
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	No

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report sets out performance of the Council's Corporate Plan 2012-13 and Departmental Plan 2012-13 for July 2012 - September 2012, in relation to children and young people and provides members with an overview of performance, resources and risk monitoring.

For Quarter two 2012/13 37 performance indicators can be reported upon, of these 70% are achieving or exceeding their target.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

##### 2.1 Performance Summary

This report provides an overview of 2012-13 quarter two performance including corrective action for performance issues.

##### 2.2 What's working well?

- Educational attainment in Wirral continues to improve with the best ever provisional results for children and young people recorded in the academic year 2011/12.
  - Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage improved by 3.1%;
  - The attainment gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the early years Foundation Stage and the rest decreased by 1.7%;
  - Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and maths at Key Stage 2 improved by 2.2%;
  - The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peer achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2 reduced by 2.4%;
  - The achievement of 5 or more A\*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths improved by 1%;
  - The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4 reduced by 4.5%


- Looked after children achieving 5 or more A\*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and maths improved by 1% whilst those gaining 5 or more A\*-C improved by 16%.
- 100% of child protection cases were reviewed within required timescales.
- Provisional data related to teenage conceptions indicates a reduction in quarter two to a rate of 34.3 per 1,000 15-17 year olds compared to 53.5 in quarter one.


### 2.3 Performance against Strategic Change Projects


There are no children and young people strategic change projects.

### 2.4 Performance against Corporate Plan Indicators:

The following indicators have missed the quarter two target and are therefore assessed as **red**:

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	70.3%	70%	63.2% (E)	<b>Amber</b>	
				(Higher is Better)			
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	A particular concern is related to teenage placements. A wrap around service for foster carers has been put in place to work with fostering to identify placements at risk of breakdown at an early stage and provide appropriate interventions. The number of long term foster placements where a Special Guardianship order has secured permanence for a child impacts negatively on this indicator						
<b>Context</b>	Performance is following a similar trajectory to 2011/12; performance is expected to improve during the year and is on track to achieve the year end target.						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)	10.9%	20.0%	12.0% (P)	Red	
		(Higher is Better)					
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	A full review has been undertaken regarding the GCSE results of Looked After Children by the Virtual School Headteacher. As a result a number of additional actions have been put in place. Enhanced pupil tracking by the Educational Progress Officers has been instigated. Additional work with schools to ensure LAC funding is optimised targeting LAC who require additional assistance is being introduced to impact on future outcomes. Individual LAC will be monitored more frequently to track potential outcomes for 2013. This individualised data will also be used when 2013 expectations are discussed.						
<b>Context</b>	Although the challenging target was not achieved out of a cohort of 33 Looked After Children (LAC) a range of GCSE awards were achieved. 4 out of 33 (12%) achieved 5 A*-C EM ; 1 student achieved 4 A*-C EM; 8 further looked after children achieved 5 or more A*-C grades including a grade D in English and/or Mathematics; 3 of these 8 children achieved a grade D in both English and Maths; 3 of these 8 looked after children achieved a C in English but a D in Maths and 2 of these 8 looked after children achieved a C in Maths but a D in English.						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	102a	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2	20.8%	17.0%	18.3% (E)	Amber	
		(Lower is Better)					
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	Measures put in place both in schools and by the Council have continued to narrow the gap at Key Stage 2 although the challenging target was not achieved. This area is a continued focus for development. The Local Authority will continue to work with schools in all areas including targeting of pupil premium funding.						
<b>Context</b>	Attainment for FSM pupils has increased in all areas. Attainment for non FSM pupils increased in Maths but decreased in English. The gap has narrowed in all areas. The gap has narrowed by 3% points in English to 14.3%. The gap has narrowed in Maths by 0.9% to 14.5%. The English and Maths combined gap has narrowed by 2.4% to 18.3%. All results are significantly narrower than the gap nationally. The Eng/Ma Level 4 + results for the last 3 years indicate a year on year narrowing of the gap.						


Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	1400a	Number of looked after children	673	645	692	Amber	
				(Lower is Better)			
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	The Looked After Children Project has put in place a high level of scrutiny to children's plans in each of the social work teams, ensuring objectives and timescales are clear and managers are held to account. Social workers and managers have had training on the court pre-proceedings protocol which is designed to reduce delay in care proceedings. This area is under constant scrutiny.						
<b>Context</b>	Whilst the number of looked after children has remained relatively stable in Wirral, other Local Authorities nationally and regionally have experienced increases in numbers.						


Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	1411	Percentage of children ceased to be Looked After who become adopted	11.4%	15%	10.5%	Red	
				(Higher is Better)			
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	There is a pre-proceedings protocol in place that will positively affect available Court time but this has yet to take effect and there are still delays in applications for adoption being heard by the courts. There are a small number of children in this category and therefore small variations in number have a significant impact on performance. Wirral also still has a high number of children looked after generally and this has a negative impact on this indicator.						


Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	1600	% SEN attainment at Key Stage 2	n/a	18%	14.7%	Red	n/a
				(Higher is Better)			
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	All schools are required to track the progress of vulnerable pupil groups regularly and take corrective action to address under achievement. Principal Managers in the Primary Team are currently working with twenty schools to ensure pupils make a minimum of 2 levels progress by the end of Key Stage 2.						
<b>Context</b>	Attainment in L4+ English has improved from the previous year, whereas attainment in L4+ maths has decreased slightly. The percentage of pupils attaining both English and Maths L4+ has increased. Attainment is showing an upward trajectory.						


## 2.5 Performance against Departmental Plan Indicators:


The following indicators have missed the quarter two target and are therefore assessed as red or amber:

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	67.1%	75%	58.9% (E)	Red	
				(Higher is Better)			
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	Managers now have to report on a weekly basis their compliance and give reasons for out of date assessments and their proposed corrective action. Prompts have been added to the case record to reduce data errors and the procedures in this area have been reviewed. There are still a number of out of date assessments to be completed but this is reducing and additional capacity has been agreed on a short-term basis. This area is under continued oversight.						
<b>Context</b>	Quarter one performance was 49.1% and as a result of the corrective action put in place an improvement has been made to 58.9% in Quarter two. This figure is also an improvement on 2011/12 Quarter two performance of 48.4%.						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	64	Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	3.5%	4.0%	6.0%	Red	
				(Lower is Better)			
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	Reviews for all children on a child protection plan are in place and required activity is addressed.						
<b>Context</b>	There are no more children who will have a plan at year end that exceeds 2+ years. This figure will reduce as more children are no longer subject to CP Plans and is likely to meet the year end target.						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.	18.6%	15.0%	20.0%	Red	
		(Lower is Better)					
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	A full review of the cases has been undertaken. When children are referred with the same concern for a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time the cases are referred for consideration to a Legal Gatekeeping Meeting. This has been instigated for these cases. Throughout the process there is a clear focus on the children's long term future.						
<b>Context</b>	Keeping children safe is the highest priority and the immediate risk is being appropriately dealt with by placing the children subject to a Child Protection Plan.						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	103a	The percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (excluding exceptions)	100%	100%	85.7%	Red	
		(Higher is Better)					
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	This is a temporary fluctuation due to the complexity of a small number of cases. Closer monitoring is in place to keep these to a minimum.						
<b>Context</b>	Three cases out of 31 were not issued within the required timescales.						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2011/12 Year End Actual	2012/2013 Quarter 2		On target	Direction of travel
				Target	Actual		
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	103b	The percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (including exceptions)	100%	100%	90.0%	Amber	
		(Higher is Better)					
<b>Corrective Action:</b>	Reconfiguring of services is underway to increase the number of assessments completed within statutory timescales.						
<b>Context</b>	The volume of assessments has increased by 25% in the last 12 months with the bulk of assessments in the first half of the year. There is increasing demand for assessment particularly in primary schools.						



## 2.6 Performance Against Department Plan Actions

In addition to outcomes identified by performance indicators 9 actions were identified for delivery in the 2012-13 Department Plan. A quarter two update on activity delivery and rag rating of potential achievement is shown below.

We will focus on... (Corporate Plan focus)	2012-13 Actions / Milestones	Relevant performance measures / indicators	Final Report Quarter	EIA	Quarter 2 Progress update. Please add information regarding the status of delivery of the project at the end of Q2	RAG	Dept Lead
Improving outcomes for children and young people in need of protection.	Commencing the delivery of Munro reforms to ensure that systems are centred on the needs of children and young people.	Project plan approved by the LSCB and Wirral Children's Trust Board by the end of March 2013.	4	Yes	This project is on track with development work underway. A joint event between the Children's Trust and the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board is planned for 19 October 2012.	Amber	T Coffey/ C McKenna
Working to ensure children live in communities where they feel safe, and where harmful behaviour is actively addressed and reduced	Review the operation of Family Support Services.	Pilot changes implemented from January 2013	4	Yes	Following initial scoping, this project has now evolved to a review of all preventative services of which family support is a part. Three workstreams each with a team of staff have been established to develop the basis for consultation of various aspects of the delivery model.	Amber	J Hassall

We will focus on... (Corporate Plan focus)	2012-13 Actions / Milestones	Relevant performance measures / indicators	Final Report Quarter	EIA	Quarter 2 Progress update. Please add information regarding the status of delivery of the project at the end of Q2	RAG	Dept Lead
Implementing and evaluating the new School Improvement Strategy ensuring that we meet our statutory duties.	Further improve capacity within and across schools by developing a framework for school-to-school support which includes Academies and Teaching Schools by the end of March 2013.	Framework embedded in schools by the end of March 2013.	4	No	This project is on track. Preparations are underway to consult with schools on the requirement for the Council to take a strategic role in developments. Early indications are that schools are not looking for the Council to take a strategic lead on this at the moment. Circumstances and the imperative to develop a framework have changed as the Council does not have a Teaching School. The Council is also consulting on whether schools wish us to set up a directory for good practice.	Green	Acting HOB LAT
	Reviewing the provision of behaviour support and reducing school exclusion.	Transparent co-ordinated pathway through behaviour services published to all service users by end of March 2013.	4	Yes	This project is on track. A Consultant Headteacher is now in post and is arranging to meet stakeholders to develop the co-ordinated pathway.	Green	Acting HOB LAT

We will focus on... (Corporate Plan focus)	2012-13 Actions / Milestones	Relevant performance measures / indicators	Final Report Quarter	EIA	Quarter 2 Progress update. Please add information regarding the status of delivery of the project at the end of Q2	RAG	Dept Lead
Improving outcomes for young children and families, especially the most vulnerable, through commissioning effective early years support and intervention and enhancing Sure Start provision.	Implementing the national Children's Centre payment by results research pilot to further improve the quality of targeted provision.	Pilot submission approved by the Department for Education by the end of March 2013.	4	Yes	The project is on track. All 16 Children Centres are participating in the Payment by Results project. The budget has been monitored and approved by the DfE. There is a training plan in place for all Children Centre staff and partners.	Green	S Talbot
Working towards ensuring that every child is ready for school.	Delivery by the University of Cambridge of the Birkenhead ready for school project.  Consult with headteachers and other partners to develop a range of ready for school policy options.	Research report published by the University of Cambridge by the end of March 2013.  Consultation report reported to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	4	No  Yes	This project involves the University of Cambridge working directly with schools. The Local Authority facilitated the initial meeting between the university researcher and schools.  The Cambridge University project is underway with survey work due to be completed in quarter 3. Cambridge University researchers have contacted the Council through Frank Field MP to advise that initial take up of participation by schools is lower than anticipated. The Council will liaise with schools to encourage participation.	Amber	S Talbot

We will focus on... (Corporate Plan focus)	2012-13 Actions / Milestones	Relevant performance measures / indicators	Final Report Quarter	EIA	Quarter 2 Progress update. Please add information regarding the status of delivery of the project at the end of Q2	RAG	Dept Lead
Increasing the numbers of 16-18 young people in education, employment and training including vulnerable groups	Deliver voluntary placement opportunities for NEET young people in the voluntary, community and faith sector.	Delivery of the programme with engagement of 10% of the NEET cohort	4	Yes	<p>Project offer now established with 86 young people being referred. Work placement opportunities have been risk assessed and secured with 23 voluntary, community and faith sector organisations.</p> <p>Two cohorts of young people (26 in total) have completed the full programme. Learners work towards an accredited employability award whilst on placement – 100% of cohort participant's achievement the qualification. Overall 73% of the young people participating across the two cohorts have progressed in to a positive destination, for example, employments, Apprenticeship, further education or continuing with placement.</p> <p>Cohort 3 recruitment has commenced following the establishment of a waiting list.</p>	Green	V Stafford
Providing children and young people with access to a range of appropriate developmental opportunities which meet their needs.	Deliver to project initiation stage the Birkenhead Youth Hub development by end of December 2012.	Project initiation document approved by Cabinet by end of December 2012.	3	Yes	The project is now named Wirral Youth Zone. In February 2012 Wirral Council Cabinet recommended that work was undertaken to investigate the feasibility of the facility. In order to progress this work a steering group is in place consisting of a range of partner organisations and Councillors. A visit to Oldham Youth Zone was carried out in September 2012 which included Councillors and potential investors. A Cabinet report is due on the 29 <sup>th</sup> November in order for Cabinet decision on future developments.	Green	S Pimblett
	Review the structure and provision of integrated youth support by the end of December 2012.	Proposals approved by Cabinet by end of December 2012.	3	Yes	This project is not on track as we have had to suspend it as a result of the budget review which may impact on the future requirements of the service.	Red	S Pimblett

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 The management of children's safeguarding arrangements is a high priority and is under constant review. There continues to be particular issues relating to social care operation in the Wallasey District, these are still being addressed through the deployment additional staff and management. This area is under constant oversight by senior managers.
- 3.2 The continuing adverse economic climate placing further demand pressures on services especially children's social care creates additional challenges. The department continues to face pressures in managing within its budget.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not applicable for this report.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation in relation to the draft Corporate Plan engaged individuals and organisations from across Wirral's diverse communities.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 6.1 The Corporate Plan sets out commitments and clear actions in relation to working with voluntary, community and faith sector organisations to improve outcomes for local people. The VCF sector is a key partner within Wirral Children's Trust Arrangements and their expertise is utilised in the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) commissioning process.

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 7.1 Pressures of £4.4 million have been identified by the Children and Young People's Department. The main areas of pressure relate to looked after children including residential placements and foster care allowances and home to school transport. Numbers of children in care continue to remain high compared to similar Councils. Budgetary control measures are in place and expenditure is closely monitored.

### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(c) No because this report relates to quarterly reporting on the Councils plans which have appropriate equality impact assessments in place.

9.2 The Corporate Plan has a clear focus on supporting those who are disadvantaged, including the delivery of specific services and through ensuring that all of Wirral's diverse communities are equally able to access services.

9.3 Equalities implications relating to the actions set out in the Corporate Plan will be addressed by departments as appropriate, and details set out in individual departmental plans. This work is also monitored by the Corporate Equalities and Cohesion Group and the Council Excellence Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 Carbon reduction is a specific goal in the Corporate Plan, with associated actions and measures.

## **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Planning and Community Safety is a specific goal in the Corporate Plan, with associated actions and measures.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

12.1 That the content of this report be noted.

## **13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 This report provides quarterly progress on delivering the children and young people's section of the Council's Corporate Plan and the outcomes framework of the Children and Young People's Department Plan. It includes the performance of relevant projects and indicators and the associated financial and risk monitoring information.

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## **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Children and Young People Performance Indicator Summary

## **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

## **SUBJECT HISTORY**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
CYP OSC – 2012/13 Quarter One Performance and Financial Review	11 Sept 2012
CABINET – 2011/12 Year End Performance and Financial Review	21 June 2012
CYP OSC – 2011/12 Year End Performance and Financial Review	6 June 2012
CABINET – 2012/13 Draft Corporate Plan	29 March 2012
CYP OSC – 2011/12 Q3 Performance and Financial Review	21 March 2012
CABINET – 2011/12 Q3 Performance and Financial Review	02 Feb 2012

CYP OSC – 2011/12 Q2 Performance and Financial Review	16 Nov 2011
CABINET – 2011/12 Q2 Performance and Financial Review	03 Nov 2011
CYP OSC – 2011/12 Q1 Performance and Financial Review	20 Sept 2011
CABINET – 2011/12 Q1 Performance and Financial Review	21 July 2011
CABINET - Delivering the Corporate Plan	17 April 2011
COUNCIL - Adoption of Corporate Plan 2011-14	14 April 2011
CABINET - Draft Corporate Plan for 2011-14	17 March 2011

## APPENDICES



### Appendix 1 Children and Young People Performance Indicator Summary

#### Direction of Travel Summary





% PIs	No. of PIs	
45.95%	17	Improved by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance
21.62%	8	Deteriorated by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance
24.32%	9	Stayed within +/-2.5% of previous year's performance
0.00%	0	Awaiting data
8.11%	3	Not applicable
<b>100.00%</b>	<b>37</b>	(Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places)







#### Target Summary





% PIs	No. of PIs	
51.35%	19	Green (within +10/-5% of the target)
10.81%	4	Amber (missed target by between 5% and 10%)
18.92%	7	Red (missed target by more than 10%)
18.92%	7	Over-performing (more than 10% of the target)
0.00%	0	Awaiting data
0.00%	0	Target not set
0.00%	0	Not Applicable
<b>100.00%</b>	<b>37</b>	(Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places)



PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
NI 53	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth	35.1%	35.1%	33.1%	31.6% (E)	Green		
NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	75.0%	75.0%	75.0%	58.9% (A)	Red		Managers now have to report on a weekly basis their compliance and give reasons for out of date assessments and their proposed corrective action. Prompts have been added to the case record to reduce data errors and the procedures in this area have been reviewed. There are still a number of out of date












PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
								assessments to be completed but this is reducing and additional capacity has been agreed on a short-term basis. This area is under continued oversight.
NI 61	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	90%	90.0%	80%	90.0% (A)	Over Performing		This has been an area of increased focus following the Governments publication of the Adoption Action Plan and Balanced Scorecard for adoption.
NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	9.0% (Lower is Better)	9.0%	10.3%	9.8% (A)	Green		
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	70%	70.0%	70.0%	63.2% (E)	Amber		A particular concern is related to teenage placements. A wrap around service for foster carers has been put in place to work with fostering to identify placements at risk of breakdown at an early stage and provide appropriate interventions. The number of long term foster placements where a Special Guardianship order has secured permanence for a child impacts negatively on this indicator.
NI 64	Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	4.0% (Lower is Better)	4.0%	4.0%	6% (A)	Red		There are no more children who will have a plan at year end that exceeds 2+ years. This figure will reduce as more children





PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
								are no longer subject to CP Plans and is likely to meet the year end target.
NI 65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.	15.0% (Lower is Better)	15.0%	15.0%	20.0% (A)	Red		A full review of the cases has been undertaken. When children are referred with the same concern for a Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time the cases are referred for consideration to a Legal Gatekeeping Meeting. This has been instigated for these cases. Throughout the process there is a clear focus on the children's long term future.
NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	95.0% (E)	Green		
NI 67	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0% (A)	Green		
NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	90.0%	90%	97%	100.1% (A)	Green		
NI 70 a	Reduce emergency hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in 0-4 years	240 (Lower is Better)	240	243	223 (A)	Green		
NI 72	Achievement of at least 78 points	60%	61%	60%	61% (P)	Green		



PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
	across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy							
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	80%	79%	80%	79% (P)	Green		
NI 75	Achievement of 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	64%	65.3%	64%	65.3% (P)	Green		
NI 92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	27% (Lower is Better)	28.1%	27%	28.1% (P)	Green		
NI 99	Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	50 %	64.3%	50%	64.3% (P)	Over Performing		In a cohort of 28 children the improved performance represents 4 additional Looked after Children achieving L4+ in English. The reasons for this include improved monitoring, tracking and awareness of the Looked After Children in Primary Schools. Primary Schools have used the Personal Education Allowance to support Looked After Children, not only this year but in

PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
								previous years with targeted Looked After Children, this will also have contributed to the success.
NI 100	Looked after children reaching level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2	50 %	57.1%	50%	57.1% (P)	Over Performing		In a cohort of 28 children the improved performance represents 2 additional Looked after Children achieving L4+ in Maths. The reasons for this include improved monitoring, tracking and awareness of the Looked After Children in Primary Schools. Primary Schools have used the Personal Education Allowance to support Looked After Children, not only this year but in previous years with targeted Looked After Children, this will also have contributed to the success.
NI 101	Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)	20%	20.0%	20%	12.0% (P)	Red		4 out of 33 (12%) looked after children achieved 5 A*-C EM in 2012. 1 looked after child achieved 4 A*-C EM. 8 further looked after children achieved 5 or more A*-C grades including a grade D in English and/or Mathematics. 3 of these 8 children achieved a grade D in both English and Maths. 3 of these 8 looked after children achieved a C in English but a


PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
								D in Maths and 2 of these 8 looked after children achieved a C in Maths but a D in English
NI 102a	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2	17% (Lower is Better)	18.3%	17%	18.3% (P)	Amber		Attainment for FSM pupils has increased in all areas. Attainment for non FSM pupils increased in Maths but decreased in English. The gap has narrowed in all areas. The gap has narrowed by 3% points in English to 14.3%. The gap has narrowed in Maths by 0.9% to 14.5%. The English and Maths combined gap has narrowed by 2.4% to 18.3%. All results are significantly narrower than the gap nationally. The Eng/Ma Level 4 + results for the last 3 years indicate a year on year narrowing of the gap. This is a continued focus for development.
NI 102b	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 4	29% (Lower is Better)	29.7%	29%	29.7% (P)	Green		
NI 103a	Percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Excluding exceptions).	100.0%	89.5%	100.0%	85.7% (A)	Red		Temporary fluctuation due to complexity of small number of cases. Closer monitoring to try to keep these to a minimum.
NI 103b	Percentage of final SEN statements	100.0%	90.7%	100.0%	90.0% (A)	Amber		Reconfiguring of services is underway to

PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
	issued within 26 weeks (Including exceptions)							increase the number of assessments completed within statutory timescales.
NI 113	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds	30.00%	30.00%	11.0%	10.5% (E)	Green		
LOCAL 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	9% (Lower is Better)	9.0%	8.7%	8.8% (P)	Green		
LOCAL 1400a	Number of looked after children	615 (Lower is Better)	650	645	692 (A)	Amber		The Looked After Children Project has put in place a high level of scrutiny to children's plans in each of the social work teams, ensuring objectives and timescales are clear and managers are held to account. Social workers and managers have had training on the court pre proceedings protocol which is designed to reduce delay in care proceedings. This area is under constant scrutiny.
LOCAL 1405	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 10 working days of referral	75.0	75.0	75.0	71.4 (A)	Green		
LOCAL 1406	Number of Foster Carers	35	35	18	22 (A)	Over Performing		Initial enquiries to foster are managed effectively through a call centre approach, the team manager monitors the assessment process, and the foster panel has

PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
								been strengthened by the appointment of a new independent chair.
LOCAL 1411	Percentage of children ceased to be Looked After who become adopted	15 %	15%	15%	10.5% (A)	Red		There is a pre-proceedings protocol in place that will positively affect available Court time but this has yet to take effect and there are still delays in applications for adoption being heard by the courts. There are a small number of children in this category and therefore small variations in number have a significant impact on performance. Wirral also still has a high number of children looked after generally and this has a negative impact on this indicator.
LOCAL 1503	Number of Early Years settings judged as inadequate	0 (Lower is Better)	0	0	0 (A)	Green		
LOCAL 1504	Number of Early Years settings delivering flexibility in relation to the 15 hour free entitlement	42.0%	50.0%	42.0%	50.0% (A)	Over Performing		Increased interest in flexibility from parents has encouraged more pre-schools and day nurseries in particular to consider offering flexibility. The Early Years funding formula incorporates a flexibility payment to providers which incentivises delivery of flexible provision.
LOCAL 1505a	Percentage of 0 - 4 year olds	80.0%	80.0%	80.0%	79.4% (A)	Green		

PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
	registered at a Children's Centre							
LOCAL 1505b	Percentage of 0 - 4 year olds registered at a Children's Centre (Disadvantaged Backgrounds)	80.0%	85.0%	80.0%	85.0% (A)	Green		
LOCAL 1507	Percentage uptake of schools receiving School Improvement Services.	85.0	94.0	85.0	94.0 (A)	Over Performing		The success of the Education Quality package from the initial launch year of 2011/12 has continued into 2012/13. Although a slight reduction in schools purchasing the service was estimated this has not occurred and buy back has remained at a relatively high level. Fundamental to the success of EQ is the business model adopted of a joint partnership between the Local Authority and schools ensuring the product is fit for purpose and valued by schools.
LOCAL 1600	% SEN attainment at Key Stage 2	18%	14.7%	18%	14.7% (P)	Red	n/a	All schools are required to track the progress of vulnerable pupil groups regularly and take corrective action to address under achievement. Principal Managers in the Primary Team are currently working with twenty schools to ensure pupils make a minimum of 2 levels progress by the end of Key Stage 2.
LOCAL 1601	% SEN attainment at	10%	10.5 %	10%	10.5% (P)	Green	n/a	



PI No.	Title	Yr End Target	Yr End Forecast	Quarter 2 Target	Quarter 2 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel	Corrective Action
	KS4							
NI 1702	Reduce the under 18 conception rate per 1,000 15-17 year olds	44.9 (Lower is Better)	44.9	44.9	34.3 (E)	Over Performing	n/a	The Wirral Teenage Pregnancy Steering Group continues to implement the Teenage Pregnancy Action Plan with a targeted approach. Plans include implementing a dedicated vulnerable young women's worker (through secondment agreement with the LA) to work with those young women most at risk of becoming pregnant and targeting those wards with the highest number of conceptions recorded.
LOCAL 7031	Percentage of under-age sales of alcohol during test purchase exercises	15% (Lower is Better)	15%	0%	0% (A)	Green		

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>2012 POST 16 ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESSION</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	NO

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report brings to overview and scrutiny an analysis of how well Wirral resident young people aged between 16 and 18 achieve post 16. The report details how well our young people performed post 16 across all education sectors including:-
- i. school / academy sixth form provision (2011/12 academic year data),
  - ii. Wirral further education provision (2010/11 academic year data) and
  - iii. Wirral young people accessing Apprenticeship opportunities (2010/11 academic year data)
- 1.2 Analysis in the report specifically focuses on those young people engaged in and achieving full level qualifications or programmes leading to a full level 3. Full level 3 programmes include, young people undertaking two or more A-Levels, three or more AS levels, a BTEC National Certificate or Diploma or an advanced/higher level Apprenticeship. The report reviews level 3 attainment because it is widely recognised that level 3 programmes of study are a key driver of business competitiveness and growth. If businesses are to meet the increasing forces of globalisation and retain a market share our young people need have level 3 qualifications and skills.
- 1.3 The report has a specific focus on the achievements and progress made by our more vulnerable young people, including children in care (CiC), teenage parents, learners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LLDD) and young offenders.
- 1.4 Outcomes and success rates for young people in the further education and Apprenticeship sectors are based on 2010/11 academic year data. Young people's data for such sectors is submitted to and analysed by the National Data Service not the LA.
- 1.5 Overall, satisfactory levels of attainment and progress are made by Wirral young people post 16 on level 3 programmes. It is also recognised that overall improvements in level 3 outcomes across all sectors is contributing to the Local Authority's (LA) improved performance in relation to National Indicator (NI) 80. NI 80 relates to the achievement of a level 3 outcome by age 19. Between 2009 and 2011 NI 80 has improved by 7 percentage points (ppts) to 53% achievement at age 19. However,

narrowing the attainment gap at level 3 (NI 82) still remains a challenge. Key findings in the report by education sector include:-

1. Post 16 outcomes for young people in Wirral schools and academies undertaking vocational and / or academic programmes have improved over the last three academic years.
2. Advanced apprenticeship success rates for Wirral young people (aged 16 to 18) have been improving year on year; however, success rate levels still lag behind both regional and national benchmarks.
3. Further Education (FE) full level 3 success rates for young people (aged 16 to 18) have improved year on year with 86 percent (2010/11) of learners achieving a full level 3 qualification.

## 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Young People's (those aged 16-18) Post-16 Attainment by Education Sector

Young People Undertaking A-Level (A2) Qualifications in Wirral Schools and Academies with a Sixth Form

- 2.1 Outcomes for young people in Wirral schools and academies with a sixth form undertaking vocational and / or academic programmes have improved over the last three academic years.
- 2.2 The average QCA points per pupil increased significantly between 2010 and 2012 from 764.4 to 781.4. This meant that they went from being 0.9 percentage points (ppts) behind the national average to 17.2 ppts above national consortium of exam results (NCER) average.
- 2.3 In terms of QCA points per entry the gap between the Wirral and national average closed between 2010 and 2012, i.e. from 3.4 ppts to 1.3 ppts. In 2012 average points per entry on Wirral was 210.4 compared to 208.6 in 2011 and 206.8 in 2010. Appendix 1 illustrates the academic qualification grades associated with the numbers of QCA points achieved.
- 2.4 A level pass rates in 2012 were as follows: 5.9 percent achieved A\*; 48.3 percent achieved A\*-B; 99.5 percent achieved A\*-E and 0.5 percent failed. By comparison, in 2011 A level pass rates were as follows: 7.1 percent achieved A\*; 46.8 percent achieved A\*-B; 98.9 percent achieved A\*-E and 1.1 percent failed.
- 2.5 The table below show the percentage of pupils on the Wirral achieving 3 or more A-Levels and 2 or more A-Levels between 2010 and 2012:-

	Percentage of pupils achieving 3 or more A-Levels			
	A*	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
2012	1.1	9.1	25.3	82.6
2011	1.5	10.2	24.7	78.8
2010	1.6	9.3	24.9	77.5

	Percentage of pupils achieving 2 or more A-Levels			
	A*	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
2012	3.2	18.2	41.7	96.5
2011	4.1	20	41.5	93.7
2010	2.9	16.3	40.4	94.8

(Source: EPAS / National Consortium for Exam Results, October 2012)

### Full Level 3 Vocational Curriculum Standards in Schools / Academies with a Sixth Form

- 2.6 In terms of non A / AS Level full level curriculum, there were 18 entries for International Baccalaureate; 12 entries for OCR National Certificate; 29 entries for BTEC National Awards; 6 entries for BTEC national certificates and 803 entries for vocationally related qualifications (VRQ).
- 2.7 The table below shows the pass rates for each of the qualifications types found in Wirral schools / academies with sixth forms.

Qualification Name	2010/11 Academic Year				2011/12 Academic Year			
	Total Entries	A*	A*-B	A*-E	TOTAL ENTRIES	A*	A*-B	A*-E
International Baccalaureate	15	0	27.7	93.3	18	0	16.7	94.4
OCR National Certificate	22	0	77.3	100	12	0	66.7	100
BTEC National Award	260	0	63.1	100	29	0	48.3 (54.5)	100 (100)
BTEC National Certificate	77	0	58.4	100	6	0	0 (60.6)	100 (100)
VRQ Level 3 (Edexcel)	483	0	25.1	99.4	803	0	36.9 (30.3)	100 (99.8)

(Source: EPAS / National Consortium for Exam Results (NCER), October 2012)

- 2.8 With the exception of one young person who failed to achieve the International Baccalaureate qualification all young people undertaking vocational full level 3 programmes have achieved a pass grade. When compared to the National College Exam Results (NCER) benchmarks, with the exception of BTEC National Certificate outcomes, young people generally achieve the higher grades (A\*-B) as expected.

### Wirral Resident Young People aged 16 to 18 Participating in Advanced Apprenticeship Opportunities

- 2.9 Success rates for Wirral young people (aged 16 to 18) undertaking an advanced Apprenticeship (full level 3 programme) have been improving year on year; however, levels of attainment still lag behind both regional and national benchmarks.
- 2.10 During the 2010/11 academic year 1,296 young people aged 16 to 18 started an Apprenticeship opportunity of which 18 percent (235 young people) started an advanced Apprenticeship (Full Level 3). The popularity of Apprenticeships as desirable and worthwhile post 16 option has been increasing year on year for the last four years. Some 25 percent more young people started an Apprenticeship in 2010/11

compared to 2009/10 (258 young people). The Wirral Apprenticeship programme has made a significant contribution to the popularity of Apprenticeships and opportunities offered.

- 2.11 An Apprentice will complete a 'basket' of qualifications known as a framework. Frameworks generally include the following industry specific qualifications; a vocational qualification (NVQ), a technical certificate (an applied knowledge qualification) and functional skills (numeracy, literacy and ICT). Apprentices' have to complete and pass all elements of the framework to be successful.
- 2.12 Success rates for Wirral young people (aged 16 to 18) undertaking an advanced Apprenticeship (full level 3 programme) are currently 72.5 percent (2010/11). This was an improvement on the previous years outcome of 71.9 percent (2009/10); however, further work needs to be undertaken to bring Wirral success rates in line with both regional and national benchmarks. Both regionally and national the advanced Apprenticeship success rate is 79.9 percent and 79.0 (2010/11) respectively.

### **Wirral Resident Young People aged 16 to 18 Participating in Further Education Level 3 Opportunities**

- 2.13 Full level 3 success rates have improved year on year with 86 percent (2010/11) of learners, across both colleges, achieving a full level 3 qualification. For Wirral young people this is an improvement of 6.4 pts between 2008/09 and 2010/11.
- 2.14 Success rates in general for young people participating at both WMC and BSFC have been improving year on year. Overall since the 2008/09 academic year overall qualification success rates for Wirral resident young people participating at both WMC and BSFC have improved by 7.6 pts and 4.1 pts respectively. Both colleges compare favourably against regional and national success rate benchmarks for young people.
- 2.15 The level 3 performance of the Wirral further education (FE) sector includes predominantly Wirral young people that attend either Wirral Metropolitan College or Birkenhead Sixth Form College. However, the level 3 curriculum offered by the two colleges is hugely different. The curriculum offered by Birkenhead Sixth Form College (BSFC), in the main includes, more traditional AS and A2 qualifications with the vast majority of learners are aspiring to progress on to higher education programmes.
- 2.16 Wirral Metropolitan College (WMC) does not offer AS or A2 qualification but focus's on the delivery of a wide range of high quality vocational programmes at level 3 including BTEC National's. WMC are also the largest provider of Apprenticeship provision the borough.
- 2.17 Within the Wirral FE sector during the 2010/11 academic year some 1,162 young people started a full level 3 programme of study. There will have been significantly more young people at the end of the academic year however on full level 3 programme. This is due to the way the BTEC qualification system works with young people adding units to increase the breadth of their programme in year.

## 2.18 VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESSION

This section of the report will describe how well Wirral vulnerable young people aged 16 to 24 are supported, achieve and progress. The report identifies four key vulnerable groups, these include; young parents, learners with learning difficulties and / or disabilities (LLDD), looked after children / care leavers and those known to the youth offending service.

### Young Parents

Headline Performance Data for Teenage Parents

16-19 Teenage Mothers Performance	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
2011/12 16-19 TM 16-24 in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) % (Previous Year)	19.5%	20.3%	21.9%	20.6%
2012/13 16-19 TM 16-24 in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) %	22.1%	22.0%	22.1%	21.7%
16-19 TM Cohort	262	259	262	267
16-19 TM EET	58	57	58	58

(Source: GMCP, September 2012)

- 2.19 Data sourced from Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership (GMCP) illustrates that for August 2012 there is a slight reduction in the numbers of 16 to 19 year old teenage mums in education, employment or training (EET) at 11.2 percent compared with 12.5 percent in August 2011. The numbers of teenage parents not in education, employment and training has increased from 50.9 percent in August 2011 to 57.3 percent in August 2012.
- 2.20 In Wirral, less than 5 percent of young people leaving education at 16 move into the 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) group. However, in some parts of Birkenhead, the NEET Group accounts for over 17 percent of the population. Tranmere Community Project (TCP) is a recognised centre in Wirral for delivering programmes to young parents to be and young parents. TCP staff are working in schools and youth settings to deliver the STAR programme which helps young people consider the practical, emotional and financial pressures on young parents. TCP is also delivers a preparation for training programme to help 16 to 19 year olds be successful in their choice of training and employment.
- 2.21 The table below illustrates the retention and achievement rates of young mums attending TCP in each of the last 6 cohorts – at 62 percent and 85 percent respectively. In total across the 6 cohorts there have been 55 learners commencing the programme and 34 who completed.

Cohort	Enrolment	Retention	Achievement (Edexcel young parents to be qualification)	Comments
Oct 10	10	6	5 full award 1 unit credits	5 learners achieved Entry Level Several learners achieved 8+ credits (6 required) All learners on EMA
Jan 11	12		4 full award	Some level 1 option units

		4		achieved No EMA
Apr 11	8	5	4 full award 1 unit credits	Some level 1 option units achieved No EMA
Sept 11	7	5	5 full award	Level 1 Award
Jan 12	11	10	8 full award	Level 1 Award 1 continuing
Apr 12	7	4	3 full award	Level 1 Award
Totals	55	62%	85%	2 partial completion

(Source: TCP, June 2012)

- 2.22 September guarantee reporting by GMCP for 2012 has illustrated that WMC have also been actively worked with the NHS and other agencies to attract a significant number of young mums (circa 30+ aged 16 to 18) on to mainstream programmes in the College. It is hoped that this strategy will help to increase the numbers of teenage parents participating in education and training.

### Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LLDD)

Headline Performance Data for young people LLDD

16-24 LDD Performance	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
2011/12 16-24 in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) % (Previous Year)	57.0%	55.1%	60.4%	60.1%
2012/13 16-24 LDD in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) %	60.6%	67.7%	67.1%	67.3%
16-24 LDD Cohort	1271	1109	1101	1096
16-24 LDD EET	770	751	739	738

(Source: GMCP, September 2012)

- 2.23 Overall the percentage of LLDD progressing in to employment, education and / or training (EET) is improving year on year. In July 2012 7.2 percent more LLDD cohort of young people were recorded as being in EET compared to the same counting period in 2011. Further work needs to be undertaken to develop provision for those young people with behavioural, social and emotional needs.
- 2.24 The LA and both FE Colleges (WMC and BSFC) have worked tirelessly to develop programmes and improve specialist facilities and support for LLDD young people post 16.
- 2.25 The LA has demonstrated significant leadership in bringing together a stronger multi agency approach to better align resources, expertise and opportunities for LLDD young people. Key partners include schools, the colleges, health colleagues and the NHS.
- 2.26 Improvements in the quality of local FE provision for learners with LDD has been key in terms of impacting on those learners and their parents that may have considered costly independent specialist provision (ISP) outside of the borough. Consequently, this has resulted in a continued reduction of out of area (ISP) numbers from 6 in



2010/11 to 4 in 2011/12. For 2012/13 the LA has received 5 applications of which 2 could potentially be educated locally.

*Developed Education Provision to Support LLDD Young People*

- 2.27 Wirral Metropolitan College offers courses for young adults and school leavers with learning difficulties. The supported entry level courses have a high level of support to enable learners to develop their independence, take responsibility for their choices and actions as well as develop the skills needed to work in an adult environment. All learners have additional tutorial support to help them keep on track and achieve their goals. Birkenhead Sixth Form College also organise integrated support at levels 1, 2 and 3 in vocational, GCSE, AS and A2 subjects.
- 2.28 There are a variety of training providers offering education and training opportunities under foundation learning in: Personal and Social Skills, Functional Skills, Maths, English & ICT, Construction – Bricklaying, joinery, plastering, Business Administration, Retail, Customer Service, Army Preparation, Sports and Leisure, Hair & Beauty, Motor Vehicle. The qualifications available are: BTEC, ASDAN and CG. There are also work placements and access to apprenticeship opportunities. Providers such as Shaw Trust aim to empower young people back into work or training and help them to live independently within the local community.

**Your Future Your Choice Event**

- 2.29 Now in its fourth year the Council has run the ‘Your Future Your Choice’ conference for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. The event brings together the young people, their families and their teachers with a range of providers, both voluntary and statutory; in order that the young people could be fully informed of the options available to them post 16 and, therefore, make informed choices for their future. The event also targets LLDD NEET although numbers were slightly down against previous years. The working group who manage this event have agreed to work with partners and target NEET for this year’s event. The event took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012.
- 2.30 Overall numbers again increased against previous years and the event has proved extremely successful in providing information for parents and young people for transition to Post 16 education.

**Children in Care (CiC)**

Headline Performance Data for CiC

<b>16-19 Care Leavers (CL) Performance</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>
<b>2011/12</b> 16-19 CL in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) % (Previous Year)	49.7%	46.4%	48.4%	48.1%
<b>2012/13</b> 16-19 CL in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) %	58.8%	61.4%	60.9%	59.3%
16-19 CL Cohort	211	207	202	199
16-19 CL EET	124	127	123	118

(Source: GMCP, September 2012)

- 2.31 The Looked After Children Education Service in 2011/12 tracked and monitored 119 CiC young people in equivalent of academic years 12 to 14. In 2011/12 69 percent of the post 16 CiC engaged in some form of education or training during that academic year. More recent data from GMCP illustrates that a greater percentage of CiC are entering EET compared to the same period in the previous year.
- 2.32 Post 16 the key National Indicator and target in the current Children and Young People's Plan is 148. NI 148 is concerned with the percentage of Care leavers in education, employment or training at age 19. In this years counting period, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013, there are currently 69 care leavers that the 14-19 Team are tracking and supporting. The 2012/13 target is to get 65 percent of this cohort in to EET. In 2011/12 52 percent of care leavers progressed to EET at age 19.
- 2.33 The August 2012 GMCP data illustrated that the percentage of Care Leavers who are engaged in employment, education and / or training (EET) has increased from August 2011 by 5.3 ppts to 33.2 percent. The percentage of care leavers who are NEET has decreased from 33.0 percent in August 2011 to 27.9 percent in August.
- 2.34 Significant investment has been put in by the Council to establish the CiC Employability Team. The team exists to offer mentoring type support and interventions to CiC and Care Leavers to ensure they make a successful transition in to post 16 education. Further detail regarding some of the specific interventions and progression model developed by this team can be made available.
- 2.35 Further work is needed in relation to the 2012 school leavers due early intelligence regarding the take up of post 16 opportunities.

**Young Offenders**

Headline Performance Data for Young People Known to the Youth Offending Service

10. 16-18 YOS Supervised Performance	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
2011/12 16-18 YOS in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) % (Previous Year)	43.8%	40.1%	38.3%	36.9%
2012/13 16-18 YOS in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) %	45.9%	43.6%	45.0%	42.7%
16-18 YOS Cohort	109	117	120	117
16-18 YOS EET	50	51	54	50

(Source: GMCP, September 2012)

- 2.36 GMCP data for August 2012 showed that the percentage of young offenders who were in education employment or training was 35.1 percent; this has increased by 8 ppts from 27.1 percent in 2011. The number of young offenders who are NEET has decreased dramatically from 35.7 percent in August 2011 to 19.1 percent in August 2012.

**3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 The current spending freeze and ongoing budgetary concerns will impact on the following:-
  - i. Numbers of Wirral young people NEET will start to increase if intervention activity ceases. Wirral NEET for the last twelve months has been consistently

holding its own against the backdrop of high youth unemployment (8.77% against the 2011 performance of 11.46%).

- ii. Ceasing to deliver interventions for NEET young people will impact on the LA's ability to deliver its new statutory duties in relation to Raising of the Participation Age 2013 and 2015.
- iii. The LA will not meet, what are already challenging, National Indicator targets for care leavers in EET at age 19.
- iv. The more vulnerable young people, for whom the LA has a statutory obligation to report on in term of participation, will be disadvantaged.

3.2 The 14-19 Team have completed and submitted expenditure authorisation forms in accordance with LA policy to continue NEET project activity.

#### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 Not applicable.

#### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 Not necessary.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

6.1 There will be funding implications for the voluntary, community and faith sector if the 14-19 'Get Involve' partnership delivered work experience programme for NEET young people aged 16 and 17 ceases to be supported.

#### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

7.1 None.

#### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 Not applicable.

#### **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(c) No because of another reason which is

This report is for information purposes only.

#### **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 None.

#### **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 None.

#### **12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

12.1 Report for information purposes only and members to note report content.

**13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 Not applicable.

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**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>

APPENDIX 1.

The following table lists a few of the common level 3 qualifications and their point scores based on the QCA point score system as well as their size compared to an A level. Other approved qualifications at level 3 and their point scores can be found on the QCA website, [www.ndaq.org.uk](http://www.ndaq.org.uk)

Grade	Size <sup>1</sup>	Points	Grade	Size <sup>1</sup>	Points	Grade	Size <sup>1</sup>	Points
<b>general/applied A level</b>			<b>general/applied AS</b>			<b>general/applied Double Award</b>		
A	1	270	A	0.5	135	AA	2	540
B	1	240	B	0.5	120	AB	2	510
C	1	210	C	0.5	105	BB	2	480
D	1	180	D	0.5	90	BC	2	450
E	1	150	E	0.5	75	CC	2	420
						CD	2	390
						DD	2	360
						DE	2	330
						EE	2	300
<b>BTEC National Award</b>			<b>BTEC National Certificate</b>			<b>BTEC National Diploma</b>		
D	1	270	DD	2	540	DDD	3	810
M	1	225	DM	2	480	DDM	3	757.5
P	1	165	MM	2	420	DMM	3	705
			MP	2	360	MMM	3	652.5
			PP	2	300	MMP	3	600
						MPP	3	547.5
						PPP	3	495
<b>Advanced Free Standing Maths</b>			<b>Level 3 Key Skill</b>					
A	0.1667	45	P	0.3	63			
B	0.1667	40						
C	0.1667	35						
D	0.1667	30						
E	0.1667	25						
<b>International Baccalaureate Diploma Passes (please note that no points are assigned to Post-16 students achieving IB certificates)</b>								
	45			5				1380
	44			5				1350
	43			5				1320
	42			5				1290
	41			5				1260
	40			5				1230
	39			5				1200

38	5	1170
37	5	1140
36	5	1110
35	5	1080
34	5	1050
33	5	1020
32	5	990
31	5	960
30	5	930
29	5	900
28	5	870
27	5	840
26	5	810
25	5	780
24	5	750

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

12 NOVEMBER 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL LIFELONG AND FAMILY LEARNING SERVICE UPDATE</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report provides an update for Committee on the work of Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service (WL&FLS). The Lifelong and Family Learning Service support the Council's Corporate priorities by providing opportunities for adults and families to learn and develop their skills and confidence. The service is fully funded by Skills Funding Agency (SFA) Community Learning (CL) Grant.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Committee requested an update on national developments, following the report on Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service in January 2012. In April 2012, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) invited Community Learning Providers to apply to pilot Community Learning Trusts (CLTs). This was an opportunity to test out partnership ways of working to plan and deliver local adult Community Learning. A proposal was submitted by Wirral Adult and Community Learning Partnership (formerly Personal Community Development Learning Partnership), however this was not successful, only 15 were selected nationally and the North West has 3, with Cheshire West and Chester and Cheshire East jointly, being the closest. Wirral has been invited to be a shadow pilot and continue to work on our partnership model.
- 2.2 Wirral Adult and Community Learning Partnership is a wide network of organisations, coordinated by Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service including, Colleges and other SFA funded providers, voluntary, community and faith groups, including those who provide learning and who provide other services, registered social landlords, Local Authority services, probation, National Careers Service, Union Learn, NHS and others, who work together to ensure that we are providing a good value, quality, local offer of adult learning. 35 partners had signed up to the CLT model with more interested. The partners were very enthusiastic to showcase our varied and effective partnership and are continuing to work together to plan and deliver adult learning in Wirral.
- 2.3 The Wirral Adult Community Learning Strategic Plan for 2012-13 is attached as Appendix 1. This shows the overall aims and approaches of WACL partnership. It also breaks down achievements for 2011-12 and the targets for 2012-13, for Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service.

- 2.4 The previous report on WL&FLS highlighted the risk of SFA increasing the minimum contract level (MCL) to £1,000,000 or more. This has not been implemented and currently MCL remains at £500,000, meaning that Wirral Council Community Learning contract is above the minimum threshold. Following the evaluation of Community Learning Trust Pilots in June 2013, it is expected that BIS will issue some further direction about the planning and delivery mechanisms expected for Community Learning to be introduced for 2013-14 academic year. It is expected that locally determined models will be supported although further details will not be known until next summer.
- 2.5 Demonstrating impact is very important for Community Learning nationally. Wirral who chair the NW group of LA Adult Learning Services, has secured funding from Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) since 2011 to develop shared practice, benchmarking and impact measures across the NW Authorities. The initial benchmarking information shows the reach of adult learning services on target groups and the penetration in deprived areas, for example, in Wirral in 2011-12, 55% of enrolments came from the 30% most deprived SSOAs. Benchmarking also shows that Wirral Lifelong Learning success rates in 2010-11 were average for NW at 86% whereas achievement rates in Wirral at 95% were higher than the 93% NW average. Further NW impact information is currently being collected and new more in depth impact measures will be introduced for this year 2012-13. This activity led by Wirral is unique to the North West and has been recognised as providing valuable information on the impact of public funding. Appendix 1, Wirral Adult Community Learning Strategic Plan 2012-13 shows the local impact measures that will be collected to support the plan.
- 2.6 In 2011-12 WL&FLS achieved its targets for recruitment and retention and success. The service delivered courses, both directly and through voluntary partners, to over 3000 individual learners in 97 venues across Wirral including schools, community centres, children's centres, libraries, voluntary community and faith organisations. The courses ranged from basic Maths, English, confidence and IT skills to dressmaking, mentoring, community development, healthy eating, family literacy and conservation. Courses were adapted to the needs of local learners, many of whom were very nervous about starting learning activities. Retention and success targets were met, with learners staying to the end of courses running at 95% with 88% of learners staying and achieving their learning goals. Increasingly adults are motivated to learn to help them towards employment. WL&FLS is the only local partner who supports learners with very low levels of skills, for example beginner readers are supported by trained volunteer buddies. More younger adults are now coming forward to try and improve their basic skills, encouraged by Job Centres, Children's Centres, housing organisations and others.
- 2.7 The service supports the child poverty agenda. Through adult learning people can gain the skills to better plan and manage their money and to understand concepts like interest payments. The service been able to support some of the people who will be affected by welfare reforms, with training on how to manage budgets, cooking on a budget and managing your money and it is expected there will be more demand for this type of course. Other courses that support people to make their money go further are currently very popular including dressmaking and grow your own food.



2.8 Adult learning supports local priorities, including, Go On Wirral Digital Inclusion campaign, preparing for employment, supporting families and supporting local people and communities. Through learning, Wirral residents have developed in many different ways, for example: gaining confidence, skills for employability, improved health and well being, setting up community groups and activities and helping their children from preschool, to prepare for school and to support their children to learn. Many of the learners coming to WL&FLS have low level or no qualifications and their previous experiences of learning are negative. The community learning courses provide a positive route into learning for people who can then progress in different ways. Flexible locally designed courses and highly skilled staff encourage adults and families to develop confidence to achieve and to go on to make a positive contribution in their communities.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

3.1 None.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 None.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service work very successfully with local providers of adult learning, voluntary and community groups and other services through the Adult and Community Learning Partnership to identify local needs in adult learning. Local groups support the service to consult on the needs of their service users and stakeholders to help plan suitable learning, for example by working with voluntary organisations supporting mental health issues, or working with Wirral Partnership Homes, needs are identified and courses set up. Learner feedback is regularly collected and acted upon as part of the quality assurance processes of the service. Community Learning Champions and digital champions will be engaged and trained to support widening the consultation and support processes in the community.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

6.1 Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service works with a wide range of voluntary, community and faith (VCF) groups and subcontracts some work through Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities (NLDC) to VCF organisations. NLDC funding is subcontracted to organisations who can reach new, harder to engage learners. There are many examples in the past 5 years of very successful activities being delivered in Wirral by VCF organisations under this funding. 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.

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

7.1 The Lifelong and Family Learning Service Community Learning (CL) provision is fully funded, approximately £836k per year, from the SFA grant. The grant has remained at the same level for the last 6 years. 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 some external grants from LSIS to support quality development.

## 8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

## 9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010-0>

## 10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Environmental awareness is encouraged as an underpinning area in Lifelong and Family Learning. Partner projects are encouraged to reflect this priority. Learning has supported a local green network of community gardens and allotments and courses on green issues, conservation and environment.

## 11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None

## 12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 Committee note the report

## 13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1

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## APPENDICES

1 Wirral Adult Community Learning Strategic Plan 2012-13

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

Community Learning Trust Prospectus, New Challenges and new Changes Further Education System reform Plan, BIS, April 2011

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
<b><u>CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</u></b>	January 2012

# Wirral Adult Community Learning Strategic Plan 2012-13

## Introduction

**The Wirral Adult Community Learning Partnership**, aims to create a coherent co-operative approach to providing community learning in Wirral, that puts the needs of local people at its heart. The two recipients of SFA Community Learning Funding in Wirral, Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service and Wirral Metropolitan College, plan their provision to develop a shared approach to showing the impact of learning, in collaboration with the wider partnership of organisations.

We contribute to the aims of Community Learning, as outlined in New Challenges New Chances:-

- Maximise access to community learning for adults, bringing new opportunities and improving lives, whatever people's circumstances.
- Promote social renewal by bringing local communities together to experience the joy of learning and the pride that comes with achievement.
- Maximise the impact of community learning on the social and economic well-being of individuals, families and communities. (2011 BIS)

Priorities and plans are agreed with the support of partners. Through focusing on local needs as the driver for all community learning, the wide range of partners will collaborate to design a dynamic learning programme that offers appropriate opportunities to the diverse communities of Wirral. Through collaborative planning and delivery we will demonstrate the contribution made through community learning in key priority areas for Wirral - including tackling worklessness, alleviating child poverty and health inequalities - viewed within the context of the wider range of services and support on offer locally.

The WACL Partnership brings together the CL funded providers and other local partners and providers such as Health, Union Learn, Social Landlords, Children's Centres and many different organisations from the community and voluntary sector. This wide base of support from the voluntary and community sector and others will lead to innovative delivery of community learning of different types across Wirral that can be developed to suit the needs of communities and groups. Through the involvement of all the partners we will be able to identify and respond to the needs and aspirations of the people of Wirral, especially to reach those most vulnerable people who require support from intermediaries to express their needs and access services.

### **Widening participation**

Community Learning aims to widen participation in adult learning by offering learning opportunities of high quality, and to assist learners to progress on to further opportunities in

a variety of suitable options. We will promote and mainstream equality and diversity through widening participation and inclusion and this approach to widening participation will be characterised by going out to people in the first place. Widening participation will be mainly through targeted courses which are developed in partnership to meet wider needs. Targeted courses will be designed through partnership working 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. A broad curriculum will be offered and adapted and to give a range of learning opportunities to meet new needs and different groups of people throughout the year. Some examples of how this will work are through partnership with :- schools and children's centres to develop courses that target parents and families new to learning and experiencing disadvantage; local specialist 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; Probation service and voluntary groups to support ex offenders into learning and progression.

**Collaborative and partnership working will continue to develop the effective working relationships with a wide range of partners at different levels**

*Working with*

- Partners through the WACL 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 as subcontractors to WL&FLS over recent years and to breakdown barriers to learning through activity in local areas and grassroots work with local groups.

### **Target groups of learners for Community Learning 2012-13**

Lifelong & Family Learning Service 2680

Wirral Met College 900

Wirral target of 3580 individual learners from SFA CL funding

### ***Groups and priorities for Wirral Adult and Community Learning***

- *Identify and support vulnerable groups and people affected by changes in benefits*
- *Widening participation -Going out to people in the first place.*
- *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, volunteering and work.*
- *Links to wider policy and strategy documents.*
- *Marketing and sharing resources across the partnership.*

### **Progression**

We will support a wide range of progression outcomes, which will vary according to the individual and group needs. Improved confidence will be a key indicator for us in terms of engaging new learners from different groups who need to develop their skills to cope and their interpersonal skills. Specific courses such as Confidence Building and short Skills for Life courses will focus on confidence and communication skills for learners. Other courses such as IT, gardening, creative writing, arts, will enhance confidence through successful learning and interaction as a group.

Improved mental and physical health and well being will be the focus for some courses but will be a soft outcome for others. Through the partnership with health providers we will develop enhanced tools to track health improvements in individuals. A growing area will be to develop the skills needed to be a volunteer. One aspect of this is to develop peer mentors for substance abusers and mental health services with partners like The Social Partnership, Phoenix Futures, Probation, Advocacy Wirral.

Also volunteers will be trained to be CLCs, Learning Buddies, Literacy Buddies and for new developing roles. This will support progression into volunteering, civic engagement and social integration. Progression onto further learning and volunteering will be tracked and celebrated eg through the 100 hr Volunteering award and ALW awards.

All learners will be asked about how learning has made a difference to them, they will be actively involved in tracking their own progress through learning, including the soft outcomes.

Support will be available to help learners choose where and how they progress. There will be information and advice about further training, employment or self employment, through the good links we have with various local partners in IAG, Colleges, training, Work

programme, Invest Wirral. Enterprise training is a progression option for those moving towards self employment from eg craft, cake dec, floristry, dressmaking etc.

Progression for parents through family learning, parenting courses etc could be to further learning, volunteering in schools and children's centres and within the family they will have increased skills and understanding to support their children.

Engagement with community learning will lead to positive outcomes for adults around issues that affect families such as family health, raising the ambitions for children, moving out of poverty and debt. These impacts will be monitored through a range of evaluation tools.

**Wirral Lifelong and Family Learning Service (WL&FLS) plan** outlines how the service will develop its adult and family learning provision over the period 2012-2013.

The Lifelong and Family Learning Service is a direct deliverer of (Skills Funding Agency) SFA funded adult learning. This plan covers SFA Community Learning (CL) which includes Family Learning and Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities.

**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.***

<b>Aim of the Lifelong and Family Learning Service</b>
Engage and motivate disadvantaged families, encourage achievement and progression and strengthen communities through Lifelong and Family Learning provision

<b>Lifelong and Family Learning Services Strategic Objective</b>	<b>Links to New Challenges New Chances themes (BIS)</b>	<b>Priorities from the Enjoy and Achieve Section of the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2013</b>
1 To promote a learning culture and actively work with partners to further develop coherent, relevant, local adult learning provision	Using effective local partnerships to bring together key providers and relevant local agencies and services	
2 To widen participation and support inclusion and achievement for all	Focussing public funding on people who are disadvantaged and least likely to participate - with reference to the specific needs of Wirral  Widening participation and transforming people's destinies by supporting progression relevant to personal circumstances	Improve the educational outcomes for children and young people affected by poverty and disadvantage
3 To assure quality in teaching, learning and assessment and aim for continuous improvement in all aspects of adult learning		

## 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"> <li>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</li> <li>2. Develop strategies to reach and engage new learners and a flexible curriculum to meet identified needs</li> <li>3. Help people to develop the skills and confidence so they can be involved in their local communities and services</li> <li>4. Develop opportunities for learners to progress into learning, work and volunteering</li> </ol>
2 To widen participation and support inclusion and achievement for all	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Promote and mainstream equality and diversity through widening participation and inclusion</li> <li>6. Embed skills for life and employability skills across curriculum areas</li> <li>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</li> <li>8. Ensure all learners are safe and promote a wider awareness of safeguarding, specifically to vulnerable adults</li> </ol>
3 To assure quality in teaching, learning and assessment and aim for continuous improvement in all aspects of adult learning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. Improve the quality of teaching, learning and assessment and the quality of planning to take account of different abilities within groups, and also to develop the use of ILT in the classroom to enrich teaching further.</li> <li>10. Support all staff and partners to deliver a continually improving high quality service</li> <li>11. Continue strategic links with partner local authority services to develop quality improvement strategies and share good practice and explore shared services</li> </ol>

### The service will offer 3 types of courses

#### 1 TARGETED COURSES FOR IDENTIFIED GROUPS

- Unemployed people, particularly those who are:
  - those with low level Functional skills
  - not on active job seeking benefits and not able to access other programmes
  - low skilled people with disabilities
  - Ex offenders with low level skills
  - BME groups with low levels of English
  
- 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

## 2 OPEN ACCESS COURSES - INCLUDES FEE PAYERS/ FEE REMISSION

People

- living in areas of high deprivation
- On low incomes
- Adult returners to learning/ unemployed : who need to upskill/retrain
- People with disabilities
- Retired people
- Socially isolated people

## 3 LEISURE/FEE PAYING INCLUDING TRAINING & WORKSHOPS

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

### 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	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2011-12	2012-13
% of enrolments	Actual	Actual	Targets	Actual	Targets
BME	6	7.75	5	10	8
Disability	12	15.9	15	16	14
10% most deprived areas	35	41.2	39	40	41
Male	28	26.5	28	26	27
no/ below L2 quals	48	54		54	55
Unemployed	35	39.6		50.5	

We will report on EDIMS by targets for curriculum areas

We will also collect information on participation by

- unemployment
- ex-offenders
- substance abuse
- travellers
- social housing
- mental health issues
- homeless
- equality strands

### 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 previous years  
Community Learning Learner numbers**

	2009/10 Individuals	2009/10 Enrols	2010/11 Individuals	2010/11 Enrolments	2011/12 Targets - Individuals	2011/12 Individuals	2011/12 Enrolments
Lifelong Learning	1372	2671	1316	2550	1306	1769	3462
Family Learning	897	1217	839	1071	660	768	1008
Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities	793	1172	736	1031	442	714	889
<b>Total</b>	<b>2970</b>	<b>5149</b>	<b>2760</b>	<b>4636</b>	<b>2408</b>	<b>3041</b>	<b>5361</b>

<b>ASL Retention rate</b>	<b>Retained 2009/10</b>	<b>Retained 2010/11</b>	<b>Target 2011/12</b>	<b>Retained 2011/12</b>	<b>Target 12/13</b>
<b>Actual %</b>					
Lifelong Learning	89	91	91.5	94	94
Family Learning	97	97	97	97	97.5
NLIDC	92	92	93	95	95
<b>Total all courses</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>92.5</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95</b>

**ASL achievement rate**

<b>Actual %</b>	<b>Achieved 2009/10</b>	<b>Achieved 2010/11</b>	<b>Target 2011/12</b>	<b>Achieved 2011/12</b>	<b>Target 12/13</b>
Lifelong Learning	95	95	95.5	93	95.5
Family Learning	95	96	96.5	94	96.5
NLIDC	93	96	96.5	94	96.5
<b>Total all courses</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>95.4</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>

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

**ASL Success rates**

<b>Actual %</b>	<b>Success 2009/10</b>	<b>Success 2010/11</b>	<b>Target 2011/12</b>	<b>Success 2011/12</b>	<b>Target 12/13</b>
Lifelong Learning	85	86	87	87	87.5
Family Learning	92	92	92.5	91	92
NLIDC	85	88	88.5	89	89.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88.5</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>88.5</b>

**Summary Statement of Activity**

<b>Targets for SFA for 2012-13</b>	
Number of learners undertaking Safeguarded Adult Learning (Total)	2680
of which: Number of learners undertaking FLLN	600
of which: Number of learners undertaking WFL	60
of which: Number of learners undertaking NLIDC	600
of which: Number of learners undertaking Personal and community development learning	1420

<b>IMPACT MEASURES (FROM NWLEAFE MEASURES)</b>				
Theme		Outcome		Output / measure for individual learners, tutors, service or organisation and the collective impact of learning in a community.
Focus public funding on people who are disadvantaged and least likely to participate	1	New opportunities for improving lives	a .	Penetration by top 10/20/30% most deprived LSOAs
			d .	LSOAs with the lowest level skills level 2, level 1, no qualifications
			e .	Percentage of new learners (compared to last years)
			f .	Percentage of learners actively seeking work (JSA, ESA)
Widen participation and transform people's destinies by supporting progression relevant to personal circumstances, e.g:	1	Improved confidence and willingness to engage in learning	a .	Participation in learning
			b .	Number of enrolments and unique learners in year
			c .	Self-reported improvements in confidence
			d .	Progression to other provision
	2	Acquisition of skills preparing people for training, employment or self-employment	a .	Numbers of learners on courses to improve employability and self-employment skills as an aim.
			b .	Intended destinations
c .			Actual destinations ( to discuss)	

			.	
			e	Improvement of English and Maths skills
			.	
	3	Improved digital, financial literacy and/or communication skills	a	Number of learners on courses to become more digitally included (definition – use technology to communicate paying bills, emails, tweets, blogs)
	4	Parents/carers better equipped to support and encourage their children's learning and behaviour / development.	f.	No of volunteers supporting digital, financial or communication skills
			a	WFL enrolments and unique learners.
			.	
			b	FELM enrolments and unique learners.
			.	
			c	Other course to support parents/ carers.
	5	Improved / maintained health and/or social well-being.	a	Self-reported overall wellbeing improved
			.	
				Number of learners declaring a mental health condition under learning difficulties and disabilities.
Develop stronger communities, with more self-sufficient, connected and pro-active citizens leading to:	1	Increased volunteering, civic engagement and social integration	a	Number of learners empowered to be more active in their community by volunteering.
Commission, deliver and support learning in ways that contribute directly to the above objectives including:		Using effective local partnerships to bring together key providers and relevant local agencies and services		Income generated by partnership working, in kind contributions from all partners (see table below)
			d	Standard proxy amounts for volunteers etc
			.	

	e	Informal developments with partners such as recruiting learners, mentoring etc.
	f.	Number of courses developed with partners
	g	Satisfaction survey once a year
	.	

## Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

### Section 1: Your details

**EIA lead Officer:** Fiona Bell

**Email address:** fionabell@wirral.gov.uk

**Head of Section:** Sarah Howarth

**Chief Officer:** Julia Hassall

**Department:** CYPD – Wirral Lifelong & Family Learning Service

**Date:** 18/10/12

### Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

**Wirral Lifelong and Community Learning Plan 2012**

**Section 2b:** Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

**Yes** If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

**Overview and Scrutiny 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012**

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

**Section 3:** Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

**Services**

**The workforce**

**Communities**

**Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

**None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 4:** Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council ..... (please tick relevant boxes)

Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation

Advances equality of opportunity

**Fosters good relations between groups of people**

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

**No** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 5:**

Could the proposal have a positive 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)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

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

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
All characteristics	+ve - identifying specific target groups according to locally agreed priorities ,				
All characteristics	but could have a –ve effect on other groups as provision is targeted away from them and amount of provision is limited	work with WACL partners to ensure there is a spread of opportunities for all groups and agree where to target public funding	SH	to start from Sept 12 to be monitored termly	some high need groups are more costly to support
All characteristics	Favourable as support offered but lack of data across some of the new strands	Collect data against all strands to monitor recruitment, achievement and satisfaction Sensitive questions training for staff	SH/FB	from Sept 12  from Oct 12 roll out to relevant staff	data input time  staff training time
transgender	possible negative impact as no data (see above) and staff lack awareness of needs of some of this group	management training in transgender promotion to learners displays for learning centres staff CPD	FB  FB FB	Sept 12  Dec 12 Jan 12	



Age	Negative – growing 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	SH	from Sept 12	
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**Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?**

Via Strategic Action Plan and the Quality Improvement Plan

**Section 5b: 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 and voluntary and community organisations promote access to learning for adults with disabilities both discrete and in general provision hosted in accessible venues. Partnerships with organisations who work with and support other groups eg BME groups ensure we are responsive to need and able to provide appropriate courses and support. Although the service did not reach its target for male learners NW benchmarking has indicated that we have a relatively high % of male learners for this type of service so targets will be revised to be appropriate.

**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 proposal?**

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 Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

## **Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?**

Identified groups consulted through Learner Voice project

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

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

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for re-publishing.

## **Section 9: Have you remembered to:**

- a) **Include any potential positive impacts as well as negative impacts? (section 5)**
- b) **Send this EIA to your Head of Service for approval.**
- c) **Review section 5 once consultation has taken place and sent your completed EIA to your Head of Service for approval then to your Chief Officer for re-publishing?**

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>CLLR TONY SMITH</b>
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to work with partners to develop a Wirral Child Poverty Strategy as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. The Council has made progress in delivering this duty through the development of a draft strategy and action plan, taking into account the contribution of an independent advisory group established for this purpose, the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to set out the governance arrangements for the Working Group and Wirral's child poverty strategy and action plan agreed with Wirral's Children's Trust to facilitate future activity.
- 1.3 Committee members will be aware that the Council has allocated £400,000 as part of its budget for 2012-13 to tackle intergenerational poverty further to the development of the draft strategy and action plan referred to in 1.1 above. This was further considered by Cabinet on the 27th September 2012 (<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=3861&Ver=4>)

#### 2.0 Progress Report

- 2.1 The Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group was established with a specific remit as set out in the Terms of Reference agreed with the Group. This remit was to make recommendations to the Council (as the statutory lead for child poverty) and partners by Autumn 2011 with regard to priorities for the Council and partners in tackling child and family poverty and how these might be achieved through local action. Membership of the Group was based on the need to harness expertise from organisations and individuals external to the Council, and has also benefited from representation from all political groups.
- 2.2 In addition to fulfilling their original remit, members of the Working Group have initiated a number of collaborative projects with the aim of addressing issues of child poverty on the basis of the draft 'Roots and Wings' strategy and largely led by the voluntary, community and faith sector. This has included the development of a

child poverty training module which will be rolled out initially across the children's workforce and the establishment of a 'Roots and Wings' consortia to develop collaborative working across the sector.

- 2.3 Given the positive contribution of the Working Group to date, and the expressed desire of members to continue, it has been proposed that meetings continue with a refreshed Terms of Reference setting out and clear remit for the Working Group in shaping and challenging partner activity in tackling issues of child and family poverty in line with the finalised strategy and updated action plan.
- 2.4 To ensure that the Working Group can fulfil this role, the following governance arrangements are now in place:
- The Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group is a subgroup of the Children's Trust on the same basis as the Joint Commissioning Group.
  - The Children's Trust will oversee the delivery of the child poverty strategy and action plan through receiving quarterly reports on progress. These will be produced by the Council and considered in advance by the Working Group and Children's Trust Executive.
  - The Council's Cabinet will continue to act as the decision-making body in respect of the overall delivery of Wirral's child poverty strategy and action plan given the statutory duty for the local authority in respect of child poverty, with due regard to the role of the Children's Trust in overseeing the delivery of the action plan and of the Working Group in providing challenge.
  - The Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group will take into account the Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy to identify and progress links with wider City Region activities.
- 2.5 To provide a framework for the Wirral Child and Family Working Group, a final version of the child poverty strategy and action plan for the remainder of 2012-13 is being produced and will be presented to the Council's Cabinet as the decision-making body at the earliest possible opportunity. The final strategy and action plan take into account the engagement and discussions with the Working Group and other stakeholders that have taken place since the approval of the draft strategy.
- 2.6 The Council is reviewing how it co-ordinates support for the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group and in the delivery of its role and in respect of co-ordinating activity in line with the strategy and action plan.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 Failure to develop and implement a child poverty strategy and action plan will expose the Council to risk of challenge for failing to discharge a statutory duty.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 This report provides an update on the ongoing approach being undertaken to examine a wide range of options for action by the Council and its partners in relation to eliminating child poverty in Wirral.

## **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The approach set out in this report is based on ongoing consultation with local partners and stakeholders through the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 6.1 The role of the voluntary, community and faith sector in tackling the complex problems faced by children and families living in poverty and in identifying those at risk is recognised through appropriate representation on the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group. In addition, the group is chaired by a representative from the voluntary, community and faith sector. The sector continues to be a key partner in developing and delivering Wirral's strategy and action plan.

## **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 7.1 The activities described in this report are being progressed using existing staff resources from a number of departments.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The local authority has statutory duties in relation to the Child Poverty Act 2010.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 The final child poverty strategy and action plan referred to in 2.5 above will be accompanied by an equality impact assessment attached.

## **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 This report has no specific carbon reduction implications.

## **11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 This report has no specific planning and community safety implications.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 It is recommended that

- Children & Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes the progress made to date.

## **13.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 13.1 At its meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> October 2011, Council requested that regular updates on progress in implementing the recommendations in the report to Cabinet are provided to the Children & Young People and Economy & Regeneration Scrutiny Committees.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Jane Morgan  
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## APPENDICES

None

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

<http://www.liverpoolcitystrategyces.org.uk/> for the Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Strategy

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>CABINET: CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY BUDGET OPTION</b>	<b>27<sup>th</sup> September 2012</b>
<b>CABINET: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> April 2011</b>
<b>CABINET: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> October 2011</b>
<b>CHILDREN &amp; YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW &amp; SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN – PROGRESS REPORT</b>	<b>16<sup>th</sup> November 2011</b>



## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

12 NOVEMBER 2012

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN REVIEW PROJECT – UPDATE</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the Looked After Children Review Project. The objective of the project, which was created as a part of the Strategic Change Programme, is to:-

- Review the provision of care to looked after children in order to ensure that the cost of care and other associated costs are reduced.
- That the numbers of children in care are safely reduced.
- Raise the standard of care that children and young people receive.

1.2 The report also seeks to outline to members the future activities of the project. The intention moving forward with the second phase of the project is to identify further interventions, clearly targeted and based upon a cost / benefit analysis, which will move the objectives of the project forward.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 The Children and Young Peoples Department submitted a Project Initiation Document (PID) to the Council's Strategic Change Programme (SCP) on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010. This sought to initiate a project as a part of the SCP that would review Looked after Children's provision. The objective of the Looked After Children's Project, at that time, was to reduce expenditure in this area and stabilise the departments budget.

2.2 The context at that time for the project was that Wirral had a higher rate of Looked after Children than many authorities regionally and nationally at 93 children per 10,000 compared with a national figure of 58 per 10,000 (SSD903 2009/10).

2.3 This project was set against a substantial increase in referrals coming into Children's Social Care in 2009/10 compared to the previous year following the Baby Peter case. Data indicated that:

- There was an increase in the number of Initial Assessments undertaken (2031 in 2008/09 to 2600 in 2009/10).
- There was an increase in the number of Core Assessment undertaken (698 in 2008/09 to 979 in 2009/10).
- Children subject to a Child Protection Plan have almost doubled since March 2008 to March 2010, from 166 to 321.

In addition 1,853 initial contacts per 10,000 population (0-17) were received by Children’s Social Care nationally in 2010/11, compared to 1,577 in 2009/10. The Association of Directors of Children’s Services (ADCS) in their position statement ‘What is Care For’ (23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012) states that national statistics show that referrals to social care, numbers of care proceedings and numbers of those proceedings resulting in children coming in to care all continue to rise, yet in a small number of local authorities these numbers appear to be stable, or are falling.

2.4 National impact of Baby Peter at that time was that 8% more children became looked after in the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 compared to the previous year. Nationally there were 4.5% more children becoming looked after in 2011/12 compared to the previous year. In Wirral safely reducing the number of children in care is a priority for the Council and against this national increase in Wirral the population remained static, as may be seen in Table 1. However, an increase in the number of children in care did occur in 2010/11 and numbers of children in care have remained high.

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Number of Children in Care as at 31 <sup>st</sup> March	683	671	607	626	629	683	673

**Table 1:** Number of Children in Care as at 31<sup>st</sup> March.

- 2.5 The Looked After Children Review has five objectives which are:
1. To reduction expenditure on Looked after Children by £4.8m over the next three years.
  2. To safely reduce the numbers of Looked After Children from the current level to circa 500.
  3. To reduce the higher cost independent sector residential placements from 48 to 39.
  4. To review in-house placements in Brookfield, Willowtree and Rosclare and their related costs in order to improve services and bring about economies.
  5. Review and streamline practice and processes related to the management of Looked After Children within Children’s Social Care to maximise efficiency.
- 2.6 In order to meet these objectives five ‘work streams’ were developed in order to address specific aspects of the project these included:-

**Work Stream 1 – Willowtree and Rosclare (£620,000 reduction in expenditure)**

Review of in-house residential provision at Willowtree and Rosclare. This review will seek to improve services and produce economies. The cost and quality of provision will be reviewed and benchmarked. The review will explore the potential to combine locations, service delivery and alternative ways of working and provision. (Completed).

**Work Stream 2 – Brookfield (£680,000 reduction in expenditure)**

Review of in-house residential provision at Bookfield. Value for money and appropriateness of the provision be reviewed and modelled. A range of options be produced for appraisal and the decision implemented. (Completed, as the home has now closed).

**Work Stream 3 - Reduction in Fostering Numbers and Agency Foster Care (£1.15m reduction in expenditure)**

This work stream has a number of inter-related strands. It will focus on reviewing current placements in agency foster care and reducing them where safe to do so. In order to reduce future requirements for such care the work stream will review the cohort of children needing foster care and the types of foster carers required to meet the needs of vulnerable children particularly those that are currently hard to place. It will focus on foster carer recruitment and retention, including mainstream foster care and Fostering Futures (intensive support fostering) and adoption. Approval will also be sought for a new special guardianship policy.

**Work Stream 4 - Reduction in Independent Residential Care (£1.18m reduction in expenditure)**

This work stream will focus on both reviewing current placements in independent residential care and reducing them where it is safe to do so and scrutinising new placement proposals. Contract re-negotiation will be reviewed and implemented where appropriate.

**Work Stream 5 - Reduction in other Social Care costs resulting from reduced Looked After Children (£1.17m reduction in expenditure)**

This work stream will monitor the reduction in looked after children, leading to an appropriate reduction in the complement of staff.

- 2.7 Each work stream has specific objectives and targets for its work and is led by a Strategic Service Manager from Children's Social Care. Actions for each work stream are developed and regularly monitored and reviewed against the project plan at monthly project meetings. The financial benefits over the course of the project reflect the following savings targets for each year:-

2011/12 - £1m  
2012/13 - £0.74m  
2013/14 - £1.77m  
2014/15 - £1.29m

- 2.8 The looked after children population is a complex and volatile cohort. For children and young people in care there are a range of legal options such as adoption, special guardianship, residence orders or supervision orders for children who can safely leave care. Added to this there exist a range of different ways of providing care for children who require looking after by the local authority, such as, fostering, treatment fostering, local authority residential provision, independent sector residential provision or fostering, or secure residential placements. Not all children in care incur the same costs and each case requires individual consideration and careful monitoring of care plans. Some children in care require specialist provision that may be high cost. The safety and welfare of these children and young people is of paramount concern to the Council. It must also be recognised that a range of partners also have a role to play, with health and education professionals being a part of the support provided to children in care. Similarly the courts have an important part to play in ensuring that applications to court are dealt with in a timely way. Recently, for instance, a new Merseyside Court Proceedings Protocol has been agreed in order to reduce delay in proceeding and make better use of available court time.

- 2.9 The ADCS in their position statement 'What is care for' believes that aspects of the current system of care are outmoded. Care should be built around the individual needs of each child and young person. There is a need for a new construct of 'care' that is guided by evidence and designed, commissioned and delivered to realise, right placement, at the right time, for every child. The ADCS have identified 3 areas of for further investigation these are:-
- Adolescents, entering the care system
  - The stability of placements, in order to improve life chances
  - Permanence, in all its forms

This project will be monitoring the progress of the ADCS in these areas in order to inform the local design and delivery of services within the overall system.

### **PROGRESS TO DATE (2011/12 & 2012/13)**

- 2.10 The Looked After Children Review has made some progress to date against the objectives laid out in 2.5 (above). In 2011/12 Work Stream 2, the review of Brookfield, was completed. A review of the Brookfield Residential Children's Home found that while the quality of provision was good, as judged by Ofsted, the 'value for money' rating for this provision was higher than similar Independent Residential Children's Homes in the Borough. The decision, endorsed by members, was made to close this provision. This realised a reduction in expenditure of £680,000 in 2011/12. The young people who were placed in this provision were transferred to other placements. This is of particular note in considering the first statistical release of national data for looked after children for the year 2011/12. This indicates that nationally the use of residential accommodation is 9% of all looked after children, down from 10% in 2007/08. In Wirral the use of residential accommodation is lower with 8.1% of children looked after in this way, down from 10.5% in 2007/08.
- 2.11 Progress has also been made in Work Stream 1, the review of Willowtree and Rosclare. The review of this provision concluded that the expanded and improved provision based on the site of the Rosclare Children with Disabilities Residential Home would in future provide all 'in-house' Short Break services for Children with a disability. This led to the closure of the Willowtree Children with Disabilities Residential Home. As a result the number of staff required in order safely run these provisions was reduced. This realised a reduction in expenditure of £320,000 in 2011/12.
- 2.12 The Looked After Children Review introduced a number of schemes designed to divert children and young people away from care proceedings or assist in them obtaining permanence such as Family Group Meetings (FGM), the Adolescent Crisis Team (ACT) and the revised Special Guardianship Order (SGO) policy and implementation.
- 2.13 Further activities are already in progress and will include a cost / benefit analysis in order to identify clearly the results expected from each initiative. These are summarized as:
- The review of the departments use of preventative services in supporting children and families and providing the 'early help offer'.
  - Edge of Care Meetings – providing an opportunity to target resources in order to divert children who are on the edge of care away from the care system.
  - Legal Advice and Action Meetings (LAAM) – supporting the new court protocol in seeking to ensure that all applications to court have been

thoroughly considered and necessary steps taken to ensure that care proceedings are concluded in a timely manner.

- Enhanced monitoring and tracking system provided to the Looked after Children's Performance Board – in order to track cases through to permanence for children and young people in care to ensure that there is the minimum of delay.
- Review the use of Family Support Services in the Children with Disabilities Service.
- Develop a Foster Carer wrap around service to support Foster Carers and raise the quality of care and support.

- 2.14 As members will be aware there is continued high demand for Care. As a result the financial projections for the project indicate that it will not meet the £740,000 reduction in expenditure for 2012/13. Currently budgets for fostering, independent residential care, adoption, court and other associate areas are predicted to overspend by £4,500,000. This has been reported to members in the quarterly Performance and Financial Review.

### **FUTURE PRIORITIES**

- 2.15 As may be seen from this report progress has been made in developing the 'building blocks' for future progress. The overall numbers of looked after children in Wirral remain high placing pressure on staff time and in house foster care provision. Although the percentage use of expensive independent residential and independent fostering is low in comparison to other authorities this remains an area for pressure within the budget. In order to progress the project needs to concentrate on diverting new entrants away from the care system while ensuring that permanence is reached for those already within the system. While this may be simple to say, the challenges that this presents cannot be overstated.

- 2.16 In order to reduce the overall numbers of children in care the project needs to further develop its understanding of the current care population and future demands. Ongoing work involves collecting information on comparator authorities in order to plan effectively for the future. Key elements of this focus of work are:-

- Update and develop the Wirral Sufficiency Strategy in order to identify likely future demand for services.
- Develop a better understanding of the way in which the Southwark Judgment and changes to Remand and Custody will affect entrants to the care system.
- Further develop intelligence from the information available on the reasons for children and young people entering care.

In updating this information Wirral will be better placed in order to target the resources it has on those children and young people who will benefit from intervention. It is also acknowledged that the ADCS will be undertaking work on specific areas of the care system, the outcomes of which will inform the future progress and direction of the project.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 The risks associate with the Looked After Children review are reported in the Risk Log for the project in the Councils Concerto Project Management System. They form part of the Departmental Risk Register.

3.2 In summary the open risks to the project are as follows:-

- Potential increased risk of harm
- An increase in placement instability of looked after children (NI62)
- Reduced intervention activity leading to higher future costs
- A lack of political, corporate, management and staff engagement
- A lack of dedicated capacity to deliver the project
- Capacity in the Fostering Service
- Unsuitable placement activity leading to higher future costs.

3.3 One risk has also been opened as a project issue; this is an increase in demand for children's social care services. This would appear to be the case from the increased number of looked after children receiving services.

#### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

4.1 There are no proposals for consideration in this report; therefore there are no other options to consider.

#### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

5.1 None required for the purposes of this report.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

6.1 None arising from this report.

#### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

7.1 The project is a key part of the departments' plans to reduce the number and costs of looked after children. The current looked after population exceeds resources by £4,500,000.

#### **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None arising from this report.

#### **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(a) Yes and impact review is attached.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

#### **10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no carbon reduction implications.

## 11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no planning implications.

11.2 The community expects that the authority provides appropriate and timely services to safeguard children and care for children in the councils care.

## 12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 Members are asked to note the report.

## 13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Members requested a report on the progress to date of the Looked After Children Review Project.

13.2 Members are asked to note the planned future activity of the project.

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## APPENDICES

## REFERENCE MATERIAL

- Information contained in this report is derived from Wirral Councils Concerto Project Management System (Project 16).
- The Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS): Position Statement 'What is Care For' (23<sup>rd</sup> October 2012)

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

## Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

### Section 1: Your details

**EIA lead Officer:** Matthew Humble, Business & Performance Manager

**Email address:** matthewhumble@wirral.gov.uk

**Head of Section:** Simon Garner, Acting Head of Branch Children's Social Care

**Chief Officer:** Julia Hassall, Acting Director of Children's Services

**Department:** Children and Young People's Department

**Date:** 15/10/2012

### Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

**Looked After Children Review Project**

**Section 2b:** Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes

If 'yes' please state which meeting and what date

\_\_\_\_\_ 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012 \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>



**Section 3: Does the proposal have the potential to affect.....** (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 4: Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council .....** (please tick relevant boxes)

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advances equality of opportunity
- Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

- No** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 5:**

Could the proposal have a positive 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)?

You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.

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

Which group(s) of people could be affected	Potential positive or negative impact	Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact	Lead person	Timescale	Resource implications
Disabled People	<p><b>Positive impact</b> Current policies ensure that disabled people can apply to become foster carers, kinship carers, special guardians and adopters, and appropriate support would be assessed through the supervising social work service and care is taken to match child's needs with carers strengths.</p> <p><b>Positive impact</b> Financial support for adopters, special guardians etc takes into account the additional costs of disability.</p>				
Lesbian, Gay & Bisexual People	<p><b>Positive impact</b> Current policies ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual people can apply to become foster carers, kinship carers, special guardians and adopters, and appropriate support would be assessed through the supervising social work service and care is taken to match child's needs with carers strengths.</p>				

Women	<p><b>Positive Impact</b> Ensure that women and men are equally encouraged to become foster carers, adopters and take on the responsibility within the family.</p>				
Men	<p><b>Positive Impact</b> Ensure that women and men are equally encouraged to become foster carers, adopters and take on the responsibility within the family.</p>				
Black & Racial Minority People	<p><b>Positive Impact</b> Current policies ensure that black and racial minority people are encouraged to apply to become foster carers, kinship carers, special guardians and adopters, and appropriate support would be assessed through the supervising social work service and care is taken to match child's needs with carers strengths.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Carers are given advice and information about support groups, and meeting the cultural needs of the children in their care.</p>				
Older People	<p><b>Positive Impact</b> Grandparent groups run through the children's centres.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Current policies allow people of all ages to apply and would match carers abilities to the needs of children</p>				
Younger People and Children	<p><b>Positive Impact</b> Service ensures that young people and children are provided with the best care and support.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Modern apprenticeship scheme operated by the</p>				

	<p>council for young people in care/leaving care.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Pathway plan covers education, employment and training for children in care.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Virtual school and designated teachers for all CIC.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Health needs being met through specialist nurses and screening tools.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Teenage pregnancy strategy to target and reduce numbers.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Young mothers in care are assessed and where appropriate provided with support to look after their own child.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> CWDC standards implemented for foster carers to ensure best practice for care of children and young people.</p> <p><b>Positive Impact</b> Specialist service for children's involvement and inclusion. Children's Champions, Children's Council.</p>				
Religious / Faith Groups	<p><b>Positive Impact</b> Current policies ensure that people from different religious and faith groups are encouraged to apply to become foster carers, kinship carers, special</p>				

	<p>guardians and adopters, and appropriate support would be assessed through the supervising social work service. Care is taken to match request from parents or the child themselves regarding their religion/faith with an appropriate placement. Or if no appropriate placement available would ensure that carers are given advice and information to meet the religious needs of the children in their care.</p>				
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**Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?**

Actions will be monitored via the Looked After Children's Project Board and the Departments Management Team (DMT) meeting.

**Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?**

There are no negative impacts identified as the purpose of the project is to review service areas in order to improve both the cost of care and provision to all groups.

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

The project has been informed by National and Regional Data on Looked After Children provided by central government, Placements North West, the 'Regional 22' and the North West Regional Improvement Group (RIG).

**Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?**

No – (please delete as appropriate)

**If 'yes' please continue to section 8.**

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

Consultations are to be undertaken during reviews of specific areas as a part of the project in order to engage more effectively with the users of the service rather than a general consultation on looked after children.

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

## **Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?**

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting its legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for re-publishing.

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