



MeetingDate commencing at MeetingTime

MeetingLocation

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15 July 2014
9:00 am – 12.00
Professional Excellence Centre, Acre Lane

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|------------|-----|
| 1. | 09:00 Apologies and Introductions | Chair | (I) |
| 2. | 09:05 Declarations of interest | Chair | (I) |
| 3. | 09:05 Minutes of the last meeting and actions arising | Chair | (I) |
| 4. | 09:10 Forced Marriages and Honour Based Violence
(PowerPoint presentation) | J. Barr | (I) |
| 5. | 09:30 SEND Reform (PowerPoint presentation) | P. Ward | (I) |
| 6. | 09.50 Joint Inspection of multi-agency arrangements for the
protection of children
(PowerPoint presentation) | E. Taylor | (I) |
| 10:10 Break | | | |
| 7. | 10.25 YP Showcase - GIRLS Wirral Wide project
for vulnerable young people
(PowerPoint presentation) | C. Druker | (I) |
| 8. | 10.55 IFIP Interim Evaluation | E. Hartley | (I) |
| 9. | 11.15 Preventative Services Developments Next Steps | D. Gornik | (I) |
| 10. | 11.30 Wirral Pyramid of Need – Update
(PowerPoint presentation) | J. Hassall | (I) |
| 11. | 11.50 Child Poverty Update | J. Hassall | (I) |
| 12. | 11:55 AOB | | |

Date and time of future meetings:

23 September 2014
18 November 2014
20 January 2015

17 March 2015
19 May 2015
21 July 2015

(I) = Information (D) = Decision

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families continue to be helped until support is no longer required. Under the new arrangement there is a social worker for each locality as well as the family support workers which strengthens the approach.

Cllr Tony Smith stated that he had received good feedback on the new arrangements and J. Hassall confirmed this. This new arrangement will offer a 7 day service to families who will have their identified link person. J. Hassall also emphasised that the location for the Gateway and plans for the MASH hub to be sited at one centre in Moreton would also be beneficial in that it would offer 'one front door' for families to access support.

On behalf of the Board Cllr Smith thanked Elizabeth Hartley and the team for their continued hard work.

It was resolved that

1) The Board note the update and work of the IFIP team.

5.0 CHILD POVERTY UPDATE QUARTER 4

The Board received the update on actions taken by the Wirral Child and Family Working Group including the development of the school community hubs.

This working group has agreed their terms of reference and is committed to focussing their energies on ensuring that Wirral plays a part in delivering the aims and actions identified in the Liverpool City Region Poverty and Life Chances Strategy 2014-17. A copy of the response to the Strategy consultation from the Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission is attached. A number of priorities have been agreed including the focus in December 2013 to support families in readiness for the introduction of the Universal Credit process. The members were also advised that the Council was looking at the feasibility of setting up a credit union on Wirral.

The Board was also advised of the progress on the work of the two school hubs, in particular the partnership work with other local schools. It was also advised that an early implementation evaluation to consider the challenges of setting up the project and early successes would be completed during the summer. It was also suggested that the headteachers from the school hubs be invited to attend the December Board and present an update on the project.

It was resolved that:

- 1) The Board noted the report and that the next update would be available for the 15 July 2014 Board meeting.**
- 2) Hub headteachers to be invited to attend a Board meeting at the end of the year.**

6.0 SAFEGUARDING UPDATE QUARTER 4

The Board received the safeguarding update from the WSCB on key developments locally and nationally. This update included the work of the Child Sexual Exploitation multi-agency monthly meetings by Merseyside Police; the design of a CSE e-learning module which is due to be available on the website and also the engagement with taxi drivers to raise awareness and support a '**see it and report it**' strategy. There are also plans to hold awareness sessions for elected members.

The Board was also advised of the Practitioners' Development Day which was held on 7 March. This was the result of the findings from the critical incident review of Child G. These recommendations had been translated into actions and would be monitored by the

performance committee of the WSCB. Posters have been developed by the WSCB and distribution channels would be checked to ensure all partner agencies receive copies. This day was aimed at all practitioners who routinely work with teenagers. A legacy meeting would be held to disseminate learning from the session.

In response to the challenge for all local children's services in the UK to develop a coherent integrated and effective response to neglected children and young people, the WSCB and partners have developed a Wirral Neglect Strategy. The board showed significant interest in these developments and requested that progress on the introduction of the Strategy would be reported to a future Board meeting. Julia Hassall suggested that in view of the importance of this work that a launch of the strategy be arranged to include members of the WSCB and the Children's Trust.

The Board was also advised that following the Munro Review of Child Protection (2011) the Single Assessment was introduced in Wirral in spring 2014.

It was resolved that:

- 1) The Board noted the report.**
- 2) Distribution of WSCB posters to be reviewed.**
- 3) A launch of the Neglect Strategy to be arranged and details advised to members.**

7.0 FOUNDATION YEARS TRUST BUSINESS CASE

Z. Munby presented an update on the Foundation Years Trust project, the aim of which was to help reduce child poverty.

By way of background the group was advised that in September 2012 The Council Cabinet made a number of resolutions in respect of the above initiative. This included the release of an initial sum of £50,000 of the Child Poverty Budget to develop a comprehensive business case for the 'Springboard' project and also a pre-pilot phase of work to be undertaken which would involve engaging with thirty families. This business case was submitted to Cabinet in September 2013 followed by an amended summary document and revised budget. In March 2014 it was resolved that £250,000 of the child poverty funding being held in reserve be allocated to the Foundation Years Trust on the basis of the business plan. The plan is designed as a test of a transferable model of family support with the flexibility to complement local strengths and supplement local weaknesses.

At the Board meeting the general view was that the project brief was very wide and that a framework was not yet in place for the Board to performance manage the project including receiving outcome focused updates.

It was suggested and agreed that a meeting be arranged with Z. Munby to address the issues raised and to plan the approach as to how the Board would help influence the work and importantly to performance manage the project. A meeting would be held shortly to progress this suggestion with key board members invited. The outcome of this meeting to be reported to the July Board and quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted.

Cllr Smith thanked Zoe Munby for the update.

It was resolved that:

- 1) Project monitoring plan to be submitted to the July Board.**
- 2) Quarterly updates to include monitoring plans on the progress of the project to be submitted to the Board.**

8.0 TEENAGE PREGNANCY STRATEGY GROUP REVIEW

The Board received the report "Risk and Resilience Strategy 2014-15" which proposed that the approach to teenage pregnancy be via a *risk basis overall approach* rather than focusing on teenage pregnancy alone. This approach would require senior, multi-agency commitment in order to ensure successful implementation. Discussions have also been held with other authorities in the country who have also adopted this same approach.

The next steps would be to develop a risk and resilience strategy to include action to reduce teenage pregnancy in the borough and the establishment of a Risk and Resilience Steering Group to develop the strategy and implantation plan. Cllr Meaden suggested that this group include boys and girls which might help with the process. G. Price welcomed any initiatives which would help to reduce unplanned pregnancies.

It was resolved that:

- 1. The Board noted the report and the recommendations outlined in the report approved.**

9.0 STARTING WELL IN WIRRAL: A JOINT COMMISSIONING STRATEGY

J. Webster introduced the report and reminded members that an initial paper on this subject had been presented to the Board in September 2013. The strategy outlined the multi-agency commissioning intentions for 0-5yrs up to the proposed transfer of early years Public Health Commissioning to local authorities in 2015.

Since the introduction of the Health & Social Care Act 2012 work with partners has progressed and the paper outlined the proposed Joint Commissioning Strategy for service for the 0-5yrs which helped to give clarity to existing and potential providers. The strategy was not intended to replace existing commissioning plans but rather to align with them to ensure that all children have the best start in life through the provision of high quality universal services.

It was also advised that a review of needs in relation to health outcomes, benchmarked against national and regional positions, identified a number of agreed areas or priority for improvement across the early year's life course. The following priorities aim to maximise health outcomes for children aged 0-5 yrs.

- Maintenance of quality antenatal preparation (e.g. antenatal education classes).
- A focus on maternal lifestyle support in pregnancy and early years
- Improve maternal mental health
- Partnership action to increase breastfeeding, refreshing the Wirral strategy
- Reduce accidents in the early years.

In discussions a request was made for school readiness to receive prominence and the document would be amended accordingly.

It was resolved that:

- 1. With the above amendment the Board signed off the strategy.**
- 2. The Board would receive regular updates.**

10. COMMISSIONING STRATEGY UPDATE

The Board received the report covering the Children's Services Commissioning. The information is an update to inform the Board about the performance and also to advise that the accompanying RAG report covers the period from 1 May 2013 to end of March 2014. It was further noted that all contracts with the exception of one have been rolled over for a further 11 months and as part of budget saving options each contract has had a reduction in funding for the coming year. These contracts would be monitored over the coming year. Currently there are two organisations which present as a concern and the commissioners are in discussions regarding performance.

The Board was further advised that two new areas of commissioning have taken place. One covers the Adoption Reform Grant and the other is the local offer for the new SEND reforms. The Family Forum has been commissioned to co-produce this with the local authority and partners. A commissioning opportunity would also be available on The CHEST for the development of a website.

The other area of note is the provision of short breaks during the summer and the cost associated with this service. Cllr Smith was concerned that all was being done to maintain this service. Janice Monty will provide an update at the November Board.

B. Morgan stated that the information reported against the Out of Care service was related to the lack of referrals coming through to the service. This was acknowledged by J Monty as an area where further work had been taking place to address the issue.

Discussions took place regarding the provision of service around domestic violence provided via the Zero Centre. Phil Sheridan went on to advise the Board of the initiative by Merseyside Police on domestic violence called "Operation Encompass". This initiative ensured that if children witnessed domestic violence then the school would be informed. The group was advised that the local authority was looking at this issue and a report would be available in the near future. Wirral is signed up to the scheme and it will be launched pan-Merseyside on the 6th October 2014 by Merseyside Police using Knowsley as its focus for T.V. reports. However there will be parallel reports going to local newspapers quoting local police officers and other local representatives. Prior to this launch, training of school key adults will be undertaken by the LSCB trainer in the first two weeks of the September term. The LSCB Board will continue to train up Key adults through the Autumn term.

J. Hassall informed the Board of the recent work undertaken by the Council whereby every service had been scrutinised and of the work currently underway looking at the provision of services for children and council wide commissioning.

It was resolved that:

- 1. The Board note the report.**
- 2. J. Monty to submit an update to the November Board on the provision of short breaks.**

11. CHILDREN'S INTEGRATION WORKSTREAM (VISION 2018)

The Board received the first report on the inaugural meeting of the workstream which would be chaired by J. Hassall. In response to the significant financial challenges faced by all areas of the economy, local leaders of health and social care in Wirral have agreed to work in partnership to develop a health and social care strategy called "Vision 2018". This group of local partners would work together to address these challenges to ensure the residents of Wirral enjoy the best quality of life possible being supported to make informed choices about their own care, and being assured of the highest quality services. A number of themes had

been identified from the first meeting and the next steps would involve the setting of priorities and a programme of work for the group to take forward.

It was resolved that:

- 1. The Board note the work of the Children's Integration Workstream**
- 2. The Board receive regular updates on the progress of the work of the group**

12. ANNUAL REVIEW OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

The Board received the report on the annual review and refresh of the Plan. This review and refresh had been agreed by the Board in 2013 and provides the evidence to show the positive difference being made and to ensure that the Plan remains relevant and fit for purpose.

Progress in the first year has been reviewed against outcomes achieved and exceptions have been provided where activities have been delayed. It was also advised that the Children's Trust Executive is the forum to deliver the Plan working alongside the sub groups. The Plan is expected to evolve and change each year as part of the review process and is driven through The Children's Executive Group. Two years of the Plan remain and there is continued commitment from all partner organisations to work together to deliver the priorities and vision.

A number of exceptions had been highlighted in the Plan under the following priorities:

Priority 1: From conception to age five Wirral Children have the best possible physical, social emotional and psychological start in life.

Priority 2: From 5 – 19 years, Wirral children and young people's health and wellbeing will continue to develop.

Priority 6: To ensure that there is appropriate support and challenge to educational settings.

Priority 7: To ensure children and young people across Wirral will have improved attainment levels and skills, to enable them to fulfil their aspirations.

Priority 9: Improve the educational outcomes for vulnerable children and young people.

Priority 11: Enhance the involvement of children and young people in the decision making process.

It was resolved that:

- 1. The Board approve the Children & Young People's Plan 2013-2016 Review 2013-14 and Refresh 2014-16**

13. PERFORMANCE REPORT QUARTER 4

The Board received the report covering Quarter 4 and was advised that the year-end report would be available alongside Quarter 1 2014/15 when further data was available.

The accompanying RAG report outlined the performance to date and it should be noted that all indicators reported are rag rated green related to targets. The following highlight positive key areas of note.

Outcome 1:

Excess weight in Reception and Year 6 shows a reduction.

Outcome 2:

The timeliness of adoption has increased by 10%.

Children subject to a CP for a second or subsequent time has reduced from 17.1% to 11.9%; below the England average (2013).

Outcome 3:

NEET levels have significantly fallen from 7.5 in 2013 to 5.9% in 2014 in line with the England average of 6.1% (2013).

Outcome 4:

Care Leavers in Education Employment and Training show a significant improvement on the previous year.

Outcome 5:

The HELP Survey will be run in September this year.

It was resolved that:

2. The Board noted the Quarter 4 report and that the year-end report would be available at the July 2014 Board.

14. AOB

No items had been submitted for discussion.

CLOSE:

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.50 hrs.

DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

9.00 am 15 July 2014
9.00 am 23 September 2014
9.00 am 18 November 2014
9.00 am 20 January 2015
9.00 am 17 March 2015
9.00 am 19 May 2015
9.00 am 21 July 2015

CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY 2014-17: CONSULTATION

RESPONSE FROM THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CHILD POVERTY AND LIFE CHANCES COMMISSION

The Liverpool City Region (LCR) Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission is a non-executive body which is charged with holding the City Region and its' organisations to account for the progress in tackling child poverty and improving the life chances of children and young people. It is chaired by the Rt. Hon Frank Field MP and includes representation from local councils, Merseyside Police, Merseytravel, health, education, the social housing sector, work programme providers, community and voluntary sector providers.

Whilst we welcome the Government's invitation to comment on the approaches set out in the Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2017, and the renewed commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020, we feel that the overarching aim of the strategy to "tackle poverty at its source – be it family breakdown, educational failure, addiction, debt or worklessness" misses the point and ignores many contributing factors of child poverty such as health, social mobility, low pay, and rising housing costs. We are also equally, or more interested, in what are the drivers to child poverty and, in particular, what strategy might be effective in preventing poor children from becoming poor adults. The strategy would benefit from revisiting the findings and recommendations of the Marmot Review of 2010.

The new strategy contains some actions that are undoubtedly important in mitigating the causes of child poverty. For example extension of free school meals, breakfast club vouchers, continuation of the healthy start programme and free fruit scheme will have a positive impact on health for children in low income families.

It is also commendable to see that a review of zero hour contracts will be conducted, as low pay and low income is well documented as one of the critical factors leading to child poverty. The LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission urge Government to make a commitment to act on the findings of this review.

We support the intention of the strategy to regulate the payday loan industry, but request further information about how central Government intends to effectively achieve this.

We find the new strategy is limited in scope and lacking in decisive ideas. It lacks substance in its stated aim of eradicating child poverty and there is little depth around tackling specific drivers of poverty. For example there is too much focus on simply getting people into work and not enough focus on early intervention and parenting; despite well documented evidence around the importance of early intervention.

Whilst parents being in work is important in terms of household income and overall wellbeing, it is just one of a number of factors that reduces the risk of being in

poverty. The strategy's overwhelming focus on work as the primary means of reducing child poverty fails to address those other factors.

Is it right for the Government to attach the importance it does to the 'troubled families' agenda? Evidence suggests that children living in 'troubled families' make up only a small proportion of children living in poverty across the country. By implying such a strong link between 'troubled families' and child poverty the Government is implying 'problem' families, worklessness and child poverty are synonymous; which is wrong.

A major concern is that none of the actions appear to have been designed with child poverty specifically in mind. The strategy is also dependent on the success of Universal Credit to put people into work. However the Commission have concerns over the ongoing uncertainty over the timescale for full introduction of Universal Credit. If Universal Credit fails to deliver over the lifetime of this strategy, there is a very real chance that reforms to the welfare system will increase child poverty. We are also yet to see the full impact of the 'bedroom tax' though the early signs are that people who are on low incomes are suffering financial losses representing a high proportion of their total income. The strategy fails to address the fundamental lack of smaller accommodation in the social rented sector across the country that is causing this by preventing people from moving into smaller homes.

Solutions do not necessarily require more investment; effective solutions require investing proportionately and targeting funding to tackle inequalities, particularly in the early or foundation years. The strategy displays little evidence of this with many policies being universal in nature or extended to people with higher incomes.

Lastly, though the strategy recognises that the Government cannot by itself end child poverty and requires efforts by employers, local agencies, and the voluntary and community sector (VCS), we feel that there is too much expectation of the VCS without the necessary support from Government to deliver. The majority of VCS organisations across the country are small charities and groups that are dependant of publically sourced funding to be able to carry out their work. It would have been useful if the strategy would have set out some clear incentives for larger charities to work with smaller charities in delivering support for vulnerable people and those most likely to be negatively affected by welfare reform and austerity measures.

The Commission believe that there are some specific actions that central Government should take now in order to address the causes and symptoms of child poverty, and to ensure proposed approaches are effective. The Commission recommend that central Government conducts a thorough and impartial review of the impact of spending and welfare cuts on deprived families and communities so that the true success of the child poverty strategy is understood.

The Commission believe Government should make Department for Work and Pensions processes more transparent so as to allow local areas to plan more

effectively. This includes better information and analysis on benefit sanctions and evidence from Universal Credit pilots.

The Commission further recommends that Government increases the level of the minimum wage to a living wage and go further in making child care more affordable for low income families by setting a cap on childcare costs. They should also endeavour to protect universal healthcare for children up to the age of 19.

The Government's consultation on European Social Fund Operational Programme 2014 to 2020 offers the opportunity to make full use of the European Social Fund to tackle the root causes of child poverty through early intervention programmes rather than simply focussing on work as the only route out of poverty.

The Commission are concerned about the financial cost of smoking to families in poverty within the Liverpool City Region, and to that end recommend that the Government reconsiders cuts made to funding for 'stop smoking' services. The Government should also press forward with regulation of e-cigarettes to ensure that e-cigarettes do not simply become a replacement for smoking.

All actions set out by Government should follow SMART (*Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound*) principles to ensure that they can be properly implemented, monitored and evaluated. The LCR Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission also requests evidence of how the content of the Child Poverty Strategy 2014-17 links in to the Government's own What Works library of evidence.

Other comments

There are already many good activities taking place across the Liverpool City Region and we set out in our Liverpool City Region Child and Family Poverty Strategy 2011-14 that early intervention is one of our key priorities. However we are finding that ongoing cuts to the welfare safety net is making it more and more difficult to help those most in need and who are most likely to be experiencing poverty. We don't see any evidence in this strategy that things are going to get better.

Given that there has been no indication as to how the Government plans to take forward a new multi-dimensional measure of child poverty following consultation in 2012, we suggest two courses of action. The first is for the Government to consider how the measurements of starting school successfully, reaching the two and a half year old milestone, and starting life successfully are considered as part of any new definition. We would also request further information of the analysis, interpretation and implementation of the findings, conclusions and recommendations from this current consultation on the Child Poverty Strategy 2014-17 once undertaken. We would further request confirmation from the Government that this consultation response has been received and considered.

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – Tuesday 15th July 2014

IFIP Interim Evaluation

1.0 Background

IFIP (Intensive Family Intervention Programme) is Wirral's local response to the national Troubled Families initiative. Delivery commenced in November 2012 and by March 2015 910 families identified against the government criteria will have been worked with to improve school attendance, reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, and support parents into employment.

2.0 Interim Evaluation

Following 18 months of project delivery an interim evaluation of IFIP has been completed. The evaluation considers 4 case studies, reflections from practitioners and families, and identifies the aspects of the programme which are having the greatest impact. Within the evaluation is data relating to outcomes and performance information. Learning from the evaluation will continue to be embedded into services across the Children and Young People's Department.

3.0 Recommendations

The Children's Trust Board notes the learning emerging from the evaluation and considers how it will be disseminated across the partnership to inform practice and improve joint working.

Report Author: Elizabeth Hartley, IFIP Programme Leader
Contact: elizabethhartley@wirral.gov.uk

Appendices: IFIP Interim Evaluation pdf

INTENSIVE FAMILY INTERVENTION PROGRAMME



Interim Evaluation of the Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP)

IFIP is Wirral's local response to the national Troubled Families initiative. Launched in October 2012, the programme works with families from across the borough to improve school attendance, reduce anti-social behaviour and youth crime, and increase the number of adults entering employment. It is a payment by results programme which seeks to turn around the lives of some of our most vulnerable families. Delivered in collaboration with Catch 22, Home-Start Wirral, and the Local Authority's Children's Services (CYPD), the model promotes a partnership approach with colleagues from a range of key services seconded onto the programme team.

Key drivers of the national initiative are to tackle intergenerational worklessness, reliance on public services and the high cost to the public purse these families generate. Research into the cost of supporting Troubled Families shows that they cost approximately £75k each per year.

Beyond the costs which can be measured in financial terms are the human costs: the cost to family life, children's futures and to local communities. The value in helping a family turn their lives around, and giving them the skills to sustain those changes, will have further reaching benefits than balanced budget sheets.

In Wirral we have identified the families eligible for the programme against the government criteria, and report our results in the same manner, however, we recognise that the criteria often relate only to symptoms of more complex issues. Using a holistic approach with the whole family, and with the commitment of our multi—agency partners, we aim to promote independence and raise the aspirations of our most vulnerable families.

Family breakdown	Small networks
Domestic Abuse	Low expectation
Teenage pregnancy	Self-medication
Anti-social behaviour	Fear
Mental Health	Apathy
Isolation	Debt
Substance Misuse	Lack of education
Illness	Learning Difficulties

Fig 1: Issues faced by IFIP Families

Believe in the possibility that things can be different

Any change process is difficult, and turning around the lives of families may be one of the most difficult to achieve. Meaningful change requires psychological, physical and emotional commitment as well as a long, testing journey. For some of our families, where there are intergenerational issues, family members may never have known anything different and some even struggle to comprehend that there are issues to be faced. Others want their lives to be different but can't imagine how that could be possible and don't know where to begin. IFIP aims to give these families the opportunity to experience a different family life.

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<i>Uneducated</i>	<i>Poor</i>
<i>Excluded</i>	<i>Resigned</i>
<i>Isolated</i>	<i>Unworthy</i>
<i>Disliked</i>	<i>Lacking</i>
<i>Stuck</i>	<i>Marked</i>
<i>Desperate</i>	<i>Labelled</i>

Fig 2: Families' Self-perceptions

"I think of my role as trying to move families forward so that they can turn around their own lives. Turning their lives around takes a long time. What I do is plant a seed, show them what they are capable of doing." IFIP Key Worker

Using family case studies (names have been changed), practitioners' reflections and key data sets, this report seeks to demonstrate that meaningful change can occur for Wirral families when we believe in the possibility that things can be different.

Will's Story...see me differently

Will is 15 years old and with his mother. His father, who is diagnosed with schizophrenia, has moved out of the family home but keeps in regular contact. Will was missing from education and concerns were growing about his involvement in anti-social behaviour through associations with an older group of friends.

Agencies Involved:

*IFIP Team
Social Housing Provider
Pupil Referral Unit
Tranmere Community Project
Rocket Training/ Basetech
Youth Service Art Centre
GP
IFIP Police Secondee*

THE ISSUES:

School attendance- Will's school attendance had been below 85% for 3 years. At the beginning of the academic term he had been moved to a Pupil Referral Unit, which after 2 months he hadn't attended.

Family health problems- Will is medicated for ADHD. His mother has mobility problems and finds it difficult to walk short distances. In addition to schizophrenia, Will's father suffers with Gulf War Syndrome. Their different conditions contributed to their sense of isolation.

Anti-social behaviour- Missing school left Will with a lack of structure to his week and concerns grew about his behaviour in the community. Will's family were worried about the influence the group were having on him but felt powerless to tackle it. Will had become known to the Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

At home- The family are tenants with a social housing provider. Their property was in need of refurbishment and despite numerous attempts by the provider to inspect the property and make arrangements for repairs mother would not engage or give them access to the house. Mother's inability to meet or work with services was contributing to the barriers and isolation the family faced.

The hook...not giving up on Will was the key to helping him turn his life around.

Dad wasn't ready to give up on him and neither was his Key Worker.

WHAT WAS DONE:

Engagement- The Key Worker's first priority was to establish engagement with Will and his family. Knowing that Will's mother had avoided contact with services over several years, the Key Worker took a persistent and consistent approach.

Education- The Key Worker acted on behalf of the Attendance Officer. Working in close contact he negotiated a placement with an alternative education provider on Will's behalf. Initially the Key Worker met with Will everyday at his placement to ensure he participated. Over time they began planning how Will's education would continue.

Anti-social behaviour- Breaking links with the group involved in anti-social behaviour was vital to Will's progress therefore the Family Plan involved participation in local youth groups.

Relationships- Understanding the importance of the relationship between Will and his father, the Key Worker ensured that dad was an integral part of the plan and meetings.

Housing improvements- With mother's permission the Key Worker co-ordinated the inspection and supported mother to manage the arrangements for refurbishment.

THE OUTCOME:

Education: Will's attendance at the alternative education provider was consistently over 85%. Will has now commenced a 2 year apprenticeship as a Motor Vehicle Technician.

Positive Engagement: Will regularly attends a local arts centre run by the Youth Service and there have been no further concerns about his associations or involvement in anti-social behaviour.

Improved home conditions: Improvements have been made to the family home, including new doors and windows, and mother is more confident in engaging with the housing provider. Will's mother has gained a lot from this experience and is more able to deal with problems when they arise.

Relationships: Will's father continues to play an active and positive role in his life. The Family Meetings gave dad the opportunity to positively reinforce the progress Will has made in taking control of his future.

"Mum has said I always look at the positives with Will, no matter what the situation." Will's Key Worker

Reflections on the role of the Key Worker

One of the key learning point from Will's Story, and a feature of most IFIP cases, is a history of non-engagement with services. Will's mother would not engage with her housing provider and after 3 years of pursuit by the Attendance Officer, there had only been one face-to-face contact. Gaining and maintaining meaningful engagement is vital to helping families turn their lives around.

IFIP Key Workers have reflected on how this is best achieved:

"Make yourself useful."

"Be persistent...let them know you're not going to abandon them."

"Sometimes you need to be ready to interrupt their cycle of crises."

"Listen to them. Families feel everything is against them, even within their own family. They feel like there's nothing out there for them."

"Explain things to families without jargon. Sometimes the most useful thing I can do is help families navigate their way through services, so that they understand in plain language."

"Keep the momentum going."

"Help them have a voice. Let them experience something different."

"Families need to believe in the services they are offered. A lot of the time they think they have tried it already. Sometimes it's easier for families to stick to what they know and the minute you let them down you lose them."

Families can be turned around where...

• Intensive and flexible support is provided. Some families need to have contact with their Key Worker several times per week and often outside of normal office hours. To achieve this it is essential that caseloads are small (5-7 families)

• Interventions are co-ordinated by a single Key Worker. Families often disengage from support when they are overwhelmed with the number of professionals, assessments and plans they face. A lead Key Worker can co-ordinate multi-agency work in a manner which is more accessible for families.

• Trust is established through open and honest conversations. For families to change their lives they need to understand the consequences, both positive and negative, of their behaviour. This requires honesty and openness, using language that families understand and being consistent.

The Barrett Family's Story...see families differently

At 21 years old, Kerry found herself at crisis point. A single mother to two boys aged 4 and 5, she became special guardian to her brother (15) and sister (13) following the deaths of both their parents from alcohol-related illness within a year of each other. A recommendation for care proceedings had been made.

Agencies Involved:

*IFIP Team
Children's Social Care
Youth Inclusion Project
Children's Centre
National Citizen Service Co-ordinator
Housing Provider
Youth Offending Service
Education
Child Sexual Exploitation Service
Property Pool Plus*

THE ISSUES:

Family History- the household Kerry grew up in was neglectful. Both parents were alcoholics and Children's Services had had a lot of involvement with the family. Unfortunately Kerry remembers this as a negative experience and had become reluctant to engage with services.

School attendance- all children had an average school attendance of approximately 60%. Kerry had not been a regular school attender and had left without any qualifications. When the children did attend school there were numerous difficulties in managing their behaviour.

Anti-social behaviour and crime- reports of anti-social behaviour at the property were common. This included inappropriate callers, parties, disrepair, and noise nuisance at night, leading the landlord to serve notice to quit. Kerry's sister had received a conviction for arson and her relationships with older men raised concerns that she was at risk of sexual exploitation.

At home- housing conditions were poor, with limited furniture and unsightly rubbish at the front and back. With no routines or boundaries the household was often chaotic. Kerry had no support network and her peers were a negative influence.

Parenting capacity- Kerry's own childhood experience was poor. Pregnant at 15 she found herself in a violent relationship which eventually she managed to escape. Now she found herself struggling to manage the dynamics between being a sister, a mum and her own self.

The hook...understanding what this family had been through, what everyday life was like for them and helping them to overcome their fears was the key to turning their family life around

WHAT WAS DONE:

Understanding the family: The Key Worker recognised that the circumstances of this family were different and that their experiences and fears were overwhelming them. Time was spent by the Key Worker everyday at the home, experiencing early mornings and bedtime visits, talking and listening with all members of the family.

Parenting- Kerry was supported to complete a parenting course in her local Children's Centre. This was complemented by 1:1 parenting in the home from her Key Worker. Hands on support to put theory into practice enabled Kerry to manage routines and create 'home rules' with the family.

Housing- An Acceptable Behaviour Contract was implemented by the landlord rather than evict. The ABC contract was reviewed by Kerry and her Key Worker everyday as part of their Family Plan. Various charities were accessed to improve the home conditions and communal areas.

Joint Working- The Key Worker supported Kerry to understand and comply with YOS and Children's Social Care, helping her to fulfil the Contract of Expectations and Risk and Vulnerability plans.

Self-esteem- Kerry undertook adult learning classes in basic literacy, numeracy and IT. Practical cooking sessions and budget planning in the home helped increase her confidence as a parent. A referral was made to the ESF Work Programme to support Kerry in considering her own future path.

THE OUTCOME:

School attendance: Attendance for all children has increased to over 85% and the concerns re their behaviour in school have significantly reduced.

Crime and anti-social behaviour: The housing ABC was complied with and has since expired. No further reports of anti-social behaviour have been made and Kerry now feels she is on 'friendly' terms with the neighbours. Kerry's sister has successfully completed her referral order and has found new interests in creative arts.

Parenting capacity: The improvements Kerry has made in parenting have had a far reaching effect on all aspects of family life. Children's Social Care are no longer involved with the family. Kerry is linked with a volunteer and will receive further low level support to help maintain positive changes.

The future: Kerry's brother has enrolled on the National Citizen Service and is making plans for college life. Kerry gained work-ready skills through the ESF Work Programme and is now employed with Allied Health Care.

"Previously people had focussed on the children, not on the family or Kerry as their carer. Now Kerry is proving to be a positive role model for them all." Kerry's Key Worker

Reflections on the approach

The Barrett Family's case study highlights the importance of understanding dynamics in any family home. The concept of 'family' has evolved over past decades and while we all recognise that traditional concepts are no longer prevalent, there is a marked difference between mapping out a family tree and understanding how the family functions. IFIP Key Workers reflect on the importance of listening skills, empathy and understanding the motivations and conflicting forces within families.

"Get in the boat with them."

"They don't want to be told what their lives should look like, it's our job to find out what they want their life to be like."

"Spend time with them. Families get battered down by their own issues."

"I often think, 'how would I feel in their shoes?'"

"Sometimes their lives are so chaotic they can't see a way out. How does that feel?"

"Often the ones facing sanctions have buried their heads in the sand furthest."

"Be there at the right times of the day, the times when things are hardest. When you can experience that then you're in a better position to help them."

"Your issues and their issues may not be the same, but we have to treat them equally."

Families can be turned around where...

• Practical, 'hands on' support is provided to help parents make positive changes. Sometimes the task is just too big for one person to face, or a new skill is easier to understand when it has been demonstrated. Working side-by-side with parents can achieve powerful results and foster better relationships.

• Plan for lots of small steps and celebrate the small wins as well as the big ones. Families make better progress where big tasks are divided into smaller, more achievable ones. Small positives open the door for further work and help foster more genuine engagement.

• Good quality reflective supervision is vital. Working flexibly, creatively and safely is achieved through regular supervision where the supervisor, like the practitioner, has a small caseload. It's not just the families who need to recognise the small steps, supervision helps key workers recognise where progress is being made and how to build on it.

Vicki's Story...see parents differently

Vicki is 42, lives in Seacombe and is a single parent to 10 children aged between 2 and 20 years. Vicki was facing eviction, investigation for benefit fraud and about to face one of the highest benefit cap amounts in the borough. One of her children had voluntarily moved into foster care and the seven others still living at home were being referred to Children's Social Care for neglect. Vicki and her family had been known to Children's Services for 18 years.

Agencies Involved:

IFIP Team
IFIP Job Centre+ Secondee
Housing Providers
Tomorrow's Women
NACRO
Children's Centre
Health Visitor
Schools
GP

THE ISSUES:

Eviction- Vicki had fallen into rent arrears. Her limited capacity to maintain the decoration of her large house, to repair 'wear and tear' damage to the interior, to clear out the rubbish from the exterior and maintain the front garden meant that the home living conditions were poor. Her landlord had initiated eviction procedures.

Financial crisis- Vicki had not been employed during her adult life. She was being investigated for benefit fraud and the implementation of benefit cap would reduce her income by £650 per X. Vicki was avoiding all contact with DWP and could not see any means by which to keep providing for her children.

Family Health- Several of Vicki's children are diagnosed with conditions such as ADHD and epilepsy. Professionals were concerned about her youngest child being obese and that her development was impeded through lack of social interaction. Vicki too had poor general health and reported low moods and anxiety.

Isolation- Vicki and her children lived a confined life at home. The children reported that they often faced bullying, and 3 of the children had recently moved school because of this. Vicki too spoke about the taunting they faced in their own community and neighbourhood.

Childcare concerns- At various stages over the last 18 years, Vicki's children have been involved in Child in Need, Child Protection and legal proceedings. At the point of referral one child was subject a Team Around the Child intervention which was proving ineffective. Professionals doubted Vicki's capacity to meet the wide needs of her children and so referred the children to Social Care.

The hook...recognising that this woman, who was bringing up ten children, was actually very resourceful and skilled... then getting her to see that in herself.

WHAT WAS DONE:

Housing- The locally agreed Strategy for Sanctions was implemented placing a 3 month hold on eviction procedures. An immediate action plan was implemented to address the tenancy issues.

Intensive Support- An IFIP Key Worker was assigned to the family with the flexibility and capacity to provide daily support to Vicki and her children. Practical activities were completed in the home and community based services accessed to assist.

Financial position- The IFIP Job Centre+ Secondee worked closely with Vicki to enable her to address her financial position. Meetings were held with Job Centre+ and plans put in place. As part of that plan Vicki's employment and training opportunities were considered as a priority.

Health and development needs- Support was provided to help Vicki manage and attend health appointments for the children. Vicki registered with her local Children's Centre and was able to access a funded nursery place for her 2 year old.

Time- A considerable amount of time was spent supporting Vicki at home and engaging with all children in the family. Understanding their needs and ensuring that their voice could be heard was resource intensive. The older children were supported to consider their employment and training opportunities.

THE OUTCOME:

Care- The child who had voluntarily entered foster care has returned home and is attending college. She hopes to become a dance teacher for children with SEN. Children's Social Care have had no further contact with the family.

Education- All children have school attendance above 90%. The youngest child is in nursery and has made significant developmental progress.

Housing- The family have moved to a smaller, more affordable property and there have been no issues regarding their tenancy.

Finances- The rent arrears and investigation for benefit fraud have been resolved and Vicki is managing her weekly budget. Vicki is now self-employed. Supported through NEA, Vicki has harnessed her talents for knitting, crocheting and dress-making to set up her own small business. The family have a higher income than when they were benefit reliant.

Health- Vicki is managing the health of all her children and reports that her own mental health has improved.

"I want a better life for my children." Vicki

Reflections on partnership working

Vicki's Story demonstrates how taking an asset-based approach, seeing the potential for change and putting support from the right people at the right time can enable enormous transformation to take place. After 18 years of involvement with services Vicki was known to a vast number of professionals, and it is understandable that the majority of them would not have predicted that she would be self-employed and managing her family life within a year. Likewise, Vicki herself would not have predicted it either. Practitioners have reflected on the importance of perceptions, labels and taking a non-judgemental approach.

"Find the hook. There's always something a family does well which can be built on."

"Sometimes there's apathy from agencies who feel like they've tried everything and bent over backwards and we need to cajole them as well, to get them to work with us on a fresh approach."

"Challenge their perceptions of themselves. Show them what they do well. They're not used to thinking that they've achieved."

"Challenge other professionals to think, 'this time something we do has to be different'."

"Make sure all the other agencies involved know about the positive steps that a family make. I've not gone as far as starting a family newsletter, yet, but sometimes we're the only defender of the family and I need to constantly tell other people what they've achieved."

"Be ready to challenge perceptions, from everyone."

Families can be turned around where...

• Multi agency services work flexibly together. Bringing partnership agencies together to deliver the model is key. This brings agency expertise to the family in a meaningful way and enables targeted interventions to be delivered to the most vulnerable cohorts.

• Employment, training and learning are on the agenda from day 1. Seeing parents as more than care givers in the home is a cultural change within the service which is beginning to be fruitful. We are now recognising the positive impact on parenting through the soft-outcomes of employment such as improved mental health, self-esteem, and financial status.

• Taking a joint approach to the implementation of sanctions. At times families will face the prospect of a sanction. Agencies need to work together to ensure that Family Intervention is considered as early as possible in order to avoid the sanction. The timing of this is key to its success.

Tracy's Story...see life differently

At 26 years old Tracy's life had been marked with trauma which had a detrimental effect on her mental health and ability to be a mum to her two girls aged 8 and 3. Tracy was unemployed, struggling to establish any kind of routine and feeling very withdrawn. At the point of referral the children were subject to a Child Protection Plan.

Agencies Involved:

*IFIP Team
GP
Primary School
Family Safety Unity-IDVA Service
Housing Providers
Children's Centre
Health Visiting Service
Children's Social Care*

THE ISSUES:

Domestic violence- Tracy had suffered domestic violence from the fathers of both children. This cycle of violence continued with a third partner until the relationship broke down. Tracy's eldest child had witnessed violence in the home which impacted on their mother-daughter relationship.

Trauma- Only months before the intervention commenced, the father of Tracy's second child committed suicide. This had a detrimental effect on Tracy and she became more withdrawn.

Mental Health- The impact of trauma and domestic violence on Tracy was clear and she was unable to undertake daily tasks such as using public transport because of her anxiety. Her oldest daughter was also becoming more withdrawn. School staff reported that she lacked confidence and wasn't engaging well with her peers.

Parenting Capacity- Tracy was developing reliance on alcohol as a means to cope with her poor mental health. Her lack of motivation meant that routines in the home had deteriorated and that living conditions were poor with the house being cold, damp and bare.

School attendance- At the point of referral the eldest child's school attendance was only 51%.

The hook...helping mum to see that her future could be so different from her past

WHAT WAS DONE:

Risk management- Tracy was supported to access the services of an IDVA. This allowed practical activities such as safety planning and risk management to be completed. It also gave Tracy the opportunity to talk about her experiences openly and to recognise the need to re-engage with her family.

Engaging with Services- The Key Worker co-ordinated support from a number of agencies including Children's Social Care, substance misuse services, housing providers, and health professionals. Acting in an advocacy role, the Key Worker was able to help Tracy make sense of her situation and what responsibility she had to make improvements.

Increasing Tracy's Support Network- Tracy was introduced to a local support group for women where she could access practical courses and gain emotional and wellbeing support. Links were re-established with her family and the Key Worker supported Tracy to attend family activities in their local community.

Parenting- Routines and boundaries in the home were addressed through 1:1 parenting support from the Key Worker. Together they developed a Family Plan which was based around what worked for mum, and what worked for the girls. A crucial aspect of the support plan was the ability of the Key Worker to offer challenge to Tracy when it was required.

Housing- A housing conditions assessment was undertaken and essential household and cleaning items provided in order to be able to meet the outcomes of the Family Plan. Support to explore opportunities to move to a smaller, more suitable property were provided in partnership with housing providers.

THE OUTCOME:

Parenting- Involvement with Children's Social Care has ended and the case continues to be supported at a lower level of intervention.

Domestic violence- Tracy has established a good relationship with the Family Safety Unit and understands the cycle of violence she was involved in and how to undertake safety planning. There have been no further instances of domestic violence.

School attendance- Tracy's daughter's school attendance has increased from 51% to 90% and staff report that her engagement has also improved.

Support Networks- Tracy continues to attend the local Women's Group and take the children to family activities in the community. Tracy is now confident enough to use the train and bus services and thus the family are far less isolated. As her confidence has increased so too has that of her children who are now having regular contact with their family network.

A fresh start- The family have moved to a smaller, more suitable property and are looking forward to a new life.

"It's great to see how affectionate the family are now and the progress Tracy's daughter has made in school building relationships." Tracy's Key Worker

Reflections on the impact of the past

Whilst IFIP practitioners state that 'no two families are the same', there are a number of issues which they share. The most prevalent of these is their historical involvement with services. Families within the target group have often been in receipt of statutory services for a number of years, indeed parents were often known to these services during their own childhoods. This intergenerational involvement with services can have 2 very distinct outcomes: those who do not wish to engage and those who wish to rely on services. Neither of these outcomes are beneficial to enabling families to turn their lives around or to sustain long term independence. Families need practical support to establish an independent life as part of a supportive community.

IFIP Key Workers reflect on families feeling 'stuck':

"Families need something to turn around for."

"Sometimes they're so used to the situations they're in that they can't see how unhealthy or damaging they are. Even more difficult is when they don't want to see it as they're too afraid."

"Families respond well to visual and physical prompts. Sometimes we need to take them out-physically and metaphorically to get them to think differently."

"Making changes means leaving things behind. That's scary."

"A lot of our parents feel they don't fit in with their communities, that they have nothing to offer. It's very rare that they even consider themselves belonging to a community. We need to help them change that and see that they can change their community from the inside."

Families can be turned around where...

• They can establish a strong network of support from the wider family, friends and their local community. So many of the Troubled Families cohort find themselves socially isolated. It is imperative, for their

• Parents are able to take responsibility for their family, their actions and their outcomes. Too often families report feeling 'done to', that expectations of them and plans for their families are prescribed by professionals. Parents and children must drive their support plans.

• Evidence-based approaches, such as solution-focused therapy, are used to achieve positive changes. Work with families needs to have direction. Families should have a clear understanding of what they are working towards. Evidencing outcomes is important not just for reporting but for families to see the reality of what they can achieve.

Delivering Outcomes for IFIP Families

At 31st May 2014 the programme had achieved the following outcomes:

Working with/worked with: 674 families

Achieved positive outcomes for school attendance, anti-social behaviour and/or youth crime: 376

Adults progressing into sustained employment or work programmes: 32

The reach of IFIP in relation to the families identified is as follows:

Percentage of families living in top 3% most deprived areas nationally: 35.1%

Percentage of families living in the top 5% most deprived areas nationally: 43.0%

Percentage of families living in the top 20% most deprived areas nationally: 75.1%

Cost Benefit Analysis

Using the DfE Cost Calculator tool the average saving per family is estimated at £76,557 , with the lowest saving at £2,400.91 and the highest at £147,420.10

At 31st May 2014 the families receiving intensive support from an IFIP Key Worker had achieved the following outcomes:

88% of children's school attendance had increased to over 85%

76% of families with a history of crime and/or anti-social behaviour had stopped offending

94% of families self-assessed that their parenting capacity had improved

51% of families with a history of domestic violence had issues resolved

68% of families with substance misuse issues received support to address their problem

82% of families reported improved mental health

60% of families were supported to register with a GP and/or

Final thoughts...

- *Multi-agency collaboration works*
- *Sharing information across agencies works*
- *A multi-disciplinary approach to delivering the model works*
- *Providing flexible services works*
- *Pooling resources works*
- *Putting families at the centre of their support plans works*
- *Open, honest, simple communication with families works*
- *Utilising skills and resources within the voluntary, community and faith sector works*
- *Believing in families works*

“Just don’t give up on them. Making a difference to just one member of the family can eventually make a difference to them all.”

“If I’ve learned anything at all it’s that things don’t go in a straight line.”

The first phase of the Troubled Families initiative will end on 31st March 2015. An opportunity to extend the programme for a further 5 years has been confirmed by government. Learning from IFIP will shape the delivery of the second phase and should significantly contribute to reducing the numbers of Children in Need, children subject to a Child Protection Plan and those at the ‘edge of care’. With the continued commitment of partnership agencies we will be able to help more families and together build stronger communities.

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD - 15 July 2014

Committing to Making a Difference in Wirral A targeted approach to service delivery :

1.0 Background

Overview – Strategic stakeholder event

Over 70 delegates from key partner organisations attended the strategic 'Committing to making a difference in Wirral' stakeholder event on 1st May. During the event partners were invited to pledge and commit to the 6 agreed principles to deliver Early Help, endorse the Regional Integrated Early Help Strategy, developed through the association of directors of children's services and to nominate representatives for a steering group to act on behalf of the represented organisations.

2.0 Themes and key points

The event was opened by Wirral Council Chief Executive, Graham Burgess. Presentations were delivered by, Clare Fish, Strategic Director Families and Wellbeing, Julia Hassall, Director of Children and Young People, Fiona Johnstone, Director of Public Health, Deborah Gornik, Head of Targeted Services and David Hollomby from School improvement team. All presentations were well received.

Delegates had the opportunity to discuss 6 key principles of Early Help for Wirral. Overall partners agreed that the principles were correct and covered the main areas of Early Help.

Delegates raised the importance of developing services round the needs of children and their families – rather than getting existing services to fit the needs and the importance of the role of a single key worker (lead professional) to act as one point of contact.

Delegates provided examples of what Early Help would look like if it was evident and working well in their organisations and across Wirral. Three main examples told us that there should be;

- **Less focus on assessment and more on support, intervention and outcomes.**

We should listen to families when they ask for help and the default should be to work with them to achieve what they think they should achieve and not give them services we think they need. Echo the needed to focus on strengths and assets.

- **A strong focus on families.**

To do this we need better strategic and operational engagement with adult services. Adults can benefit from early help – intervention should be at the early stages of emergence of an issue.

- **We would use all opportunities to identify need hence aiding early identification and support.**

Two specific examples emerged linked to The Children and Families Act 2014. One example was the replacement of statements of special educational needs with education, health and care plans for 0 -25 yr old, which will give an opportunity to identify additional needs and be proactive in supporting families. The second was Young Carers, when a child is identified as a young carer, the needs of everyone in the family should be considered. This should trigger both children's and adults support services into action – assessing why a child is caring, what needs to change and what would help the family to prevent children from taking on this

responsibility in the first place. It is the responsibility of all agencies to identify young carers and talk to them about accessing services; previously it has been up to a family to request an assessment. This provides a further opportunity to offer early help, and an opportunity to engage with partners in adult services.

The session was eventful with energetic debate and encouraging engagement across the agenda.

3.0 Overview – Locality events

The event was followed by 3 locality events covering the four constituency areas during June. Combined attendance at the events saw over 150 participants from across the range of partners and stakeholders attend. The events were led by local partners and the Senior Locality Managers.

The approach provided delegates with the opportunity for partner organisations to understand the principles for Early Help and what they mean for Wirral families. The events started to identify suggested actions which will be fed back to the steering group for consideration in the action plan and confirmed the governance and quality assurance to link to the children's trust and local safeguarding children's board.

4.0 Next steps

- **Steering group** - A multi-agency steering group to act on behalf of the represented organisations will now be formed with the first meeting set for September (when our school colleagues are back)
- **Local action plan** - The development of a local plan and approach aligned to the Regional Integrated Early Help Strategy
- **Communication** - The development of a communication strategy

5.0 Recommendation:

The Board is asked to note the report.

Report Author:
Deborah Gornik, Head of Targeted Services

Contact:
deborahgornik@wirral.gov.uk
0151 666 4330

Appendices: Targeted Services Report
Stakeholder Event signed pledge

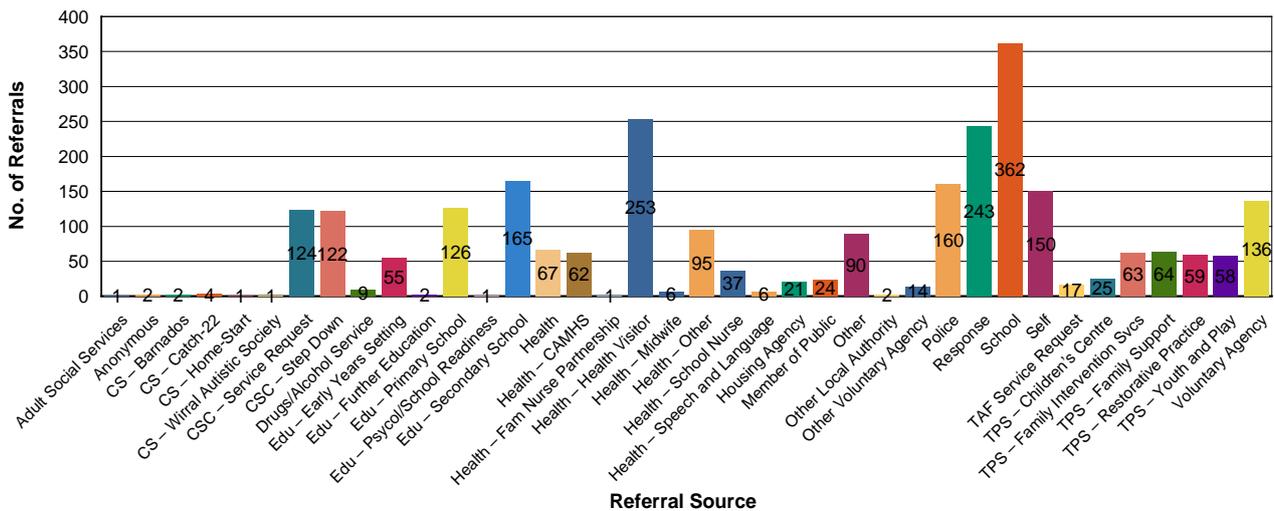
July 2014

Targeted Services Report.

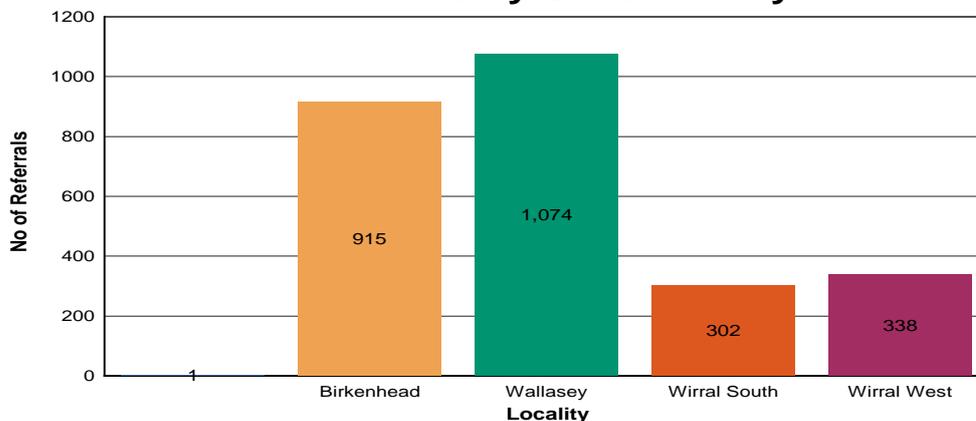
This brief report is a summary of activity of Targeted Services from the launch on 2nd September 2013 until 30th June 2014.

- There were 2,630 referrals into the Gateway during this period.
- Schools referred the greatest number of families (25%)
- 170 Multi Agency Family CAFs were completed representing 320 children aged 0 - 18 years
- There are a further 120 families children receiving support from team around the family as they no longer require statutory support from Children's specialist services.
- This, in addition to families already open to team around the child prior to the launch to targeted Services, brings the total no of families to 344 receiving support from Team Around the Family. This equates to 642 children.
- As part of the early help offer a further 2175 families are or have received a service from a single agency following referral to Gateway.
- This would include services from targeted family support service, which has completed 317 family CAFs accounting for 955 children.

Gateway Referrals by Referral Source



Referrals by Constituency



Cllr Tony Smith
Cabinet Member,
Wirral Council

John Martin
Chief Superintendent,
Merseyside Police

Anthony Hassall
Associate Director of Operations
Women and Children's,
NHS

Bernard Walker
Independent Chair,
Wirral's Local Safeguarding
Children Board

Graham Burgess
Chief Executive,
Wirral Council

Aileen Alexander
Team Leader,
Barnardos

Christine Berry
Healthwatch Senior Advocate,
Healthwatch

Bev Morgan
CEO,
Home Start Wirral

Clare Fish
Strategic Director
Families & Wellbeing,
Wirral Council

Sue Higginson
Principal & Chief Executive,
Wirral Met

Norma Currie
Commissioning Manager,
CCG

Keith Molony
Chief Executive,
Family Housing Association

Mary Quigg
Managing Director,
Leasowe Community Homes

Chris Allen
CEO

Jayne Winders
Executive Director,
Magenta Living



THE PLEDGE

COMMITTING TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We, have signed this pledge to ensure that our people and our organisations work collaboratively to demonstrate our shared commitment to a Targeted Early Help approach and the key underpinning principles it represents.

We endorse the Regional Early Help Strategy to guide our work locally and will endeavour to ensure a preventative approach is embedded in all we do.

We will:

Local Solutions, Local Decisions

- Work with the whole family, ensuring they are central and key partners in processes that affect them
- Identify problems early and intervene quickly with effective solutions, at the right time, by the right organisation

Promoting Independence

- Promote early intervention and prevention, offering help to families with emerging problems to prevent them getting worse
- Help change behaviours and build resilience at a family and community level

Driving Growth and Aspiration

- Improve life chances and aspirations of children and families
- Provide responsive and flexible support based on 'what works' to ensure better outcomes for all, sharing learning so that what we do is based on good evidence

Underpinning and important to driving these key principles is developing services through effective commissioning.

Debbie Hammersley
Designated Nurse for
Safeguarding Children,
Wirral CCG

Dr Hamilton Grantham
Community Paediatrician,
NHS

Fiona Johnstone
Head of Policy & Performance/
Director of Public Health,
Wirral Council

Jane Kennedy
Police & Crime Commissioner
Merseyside

Richard Longster
Chair of Wirral Schools Forum

Julia Hassall
Director CYPD,
Wirral Council

Zoe Munby
Director,
Birkenhead Foundation Tears Project

Steve Newsham
Regional Director West,
Regenda Housing

Stephen Dainty
Consultant Primary Headteacher,
Wirral Council

Simon Gilby
Chief Executive,
Wirral Community Trust

Iris Batman
Service Lead CAMHS Partnerships,
CWP

Phil Sheridan
Secondary Consultant Head Teacher,
Wirral Council

Paul Murphy
Group Manager,
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Lynn Loughran
Link Forum Co-ordinator,
Link Forum

Keith Billington
Senior Executive,
Connexions

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 15 July 2014

CHILD POVERTY UPDATE

1.0 Background

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update on actions being taken by the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working group (herein referred to as the Working Group) and to provide an update on the development of the school community hubs (herein referred to as the Hubs).

2.0 Child Poverty Working Group Update

2.1 There are no updates to present at this current time

Hubs Update

3.1 The Hubs development and implementation commenced in February 2014.

3.2 Both Hubs are preparing for school summer holidays and activities have been scheduled to take place during the majority of the summer break.

Activities have been developed focusing on the following:

- Family and children wellbeing
- Greater awareness of support available to parents in local area
- Increased desire of parents to move into work
- Increased engagement of parents with existing employment and enterprise
- Improved aspirations of children due to rising parental aspirations

3.4 Evaluation work in both Hubs is on-going

3.5 Raising the profile of the Hubs' work across the wider economy is now a priority and a recommendation to the Hubs has been made to consider appropriate forums/meetings of where this could happen

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 It is recommended that the Children's Trust Board:

- Note the updates set out in the report and request further information as required
- Agreed for an update on the Hubs' work to be presented at the Liverpool City Region meeting
- Agreed to receive the next quarterly update on the 23 September 2014

Report Authors:

Bev Morgan, Manager, Home-start Wirral

Chair, Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group

Telephone: 0151 647 8369

email: bevmorgan@homestartwirral.co.uk

Rebecca Mellor, Public Health Manager, Wirral Council

Telephone: 0151 666 5186

email: rebeccamellor@wirral.gov.uk