



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 14 November 2017
Time:	6.00 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / PARTY WHIP**

Members are asked to consider whether they have any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

Members are reminded that they should also declare 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.

3. **MINUTES** **(Pages 1 - 14)**

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2017.

4. **IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY - UPDATE**

Presentation.

5. **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN ANNUAL REPORT (2016/17)**
(Pages 15 - 122)

6. **DOMESTIC ABUSE - STRATEGY DELIVERY UPDATE**
(Pages 123 - 136)
7. **FINANCIAL MONITORING - 2017/18 Q2**
(Pages 137 - 142)
8. **2017/18 QUARTER 2 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE**
(Pages 143 - 160)
9. **REALITY CHECK VISIT TO THE LEAVING CARE SERVICE -
FEEDBACK** (Pages 161 - 166)
10. **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
- WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT** (Pages 167 - 174)
11. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR
(PART 1)**
12. **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND
PUBLIC**

The public may be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

RECOMMENDATION – That in accordance with section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by the relevant paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The public interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

13. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR
(PART 2)**

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 26 September 2017

Present: Councillor T Usher (Chair)

Councillors	T Anderson	W Ward
	A Brighthouse	G Wood
	W Clements	B Berry (In place of A Sykes)
	P Hayes	A Leech (In place of M McLaughlin)
	T Jones	J McManus (In place of B Kenny)
	C Meaden	I Williams (In place of J Stapleton)
	C Povall	
	W Smith	

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Kenny, M McLaughlin, J Stapleton and A Sykes; and Ms J Johnson (co-opted member).

12 ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Chair proposed, and it was unanimously agreed that item 11 on the agenda (Scrutiny and Wirral Safeguarding Children Board Workshop - Feedback) be considered immediately after item 6 on the agenda (Children and Social Work Act – Implications for the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board) given the synergies and overlapping nature of the information under report.

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

Members were asked to consider whether they had any disclosable pecuniary interests and/or any other relevant interest in connection with any item(s) on this agenda and, if so, to declare them and state the nature of the interest.

Members were reminded that they should also declare whether they were 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. The following declarations were made:

Name	Nature of Declaration
Councillor Tom Usher	Personal – by virtue of his employment as a Supported Living Support Worker.

Councillor Chris Meaden	Personal – by virtue of her daughter's employment within the CYPD.
Councillor Wendy Clements	Personal – by virtue of her being a school governor at two schools in the borough.

14 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting of the committee held on 20 June 2017, be confirmed as a correct record.

15 **MERSEYSIDE POLICE - ROLE IN SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES**

Chief Superintendent Ian Hassall introduced his presentation on the role of the police in effective safeguarding of children and young people, the effectiveness of the partnership arrangements (relevant to safeguarding) and the impact of the establishment of the Safer Wirral Hub on Member's role in terms of safeguarding. The Chief Superintendent provided an overview of the structure of policing on the Wirral and collaboration planning that informed decision making and actions in the use of intelligence in the delivery of criminal justice and custody as part of the Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB).

Chief Superintendent Hassall informed of the functioning of the 'Local Policing Area' level of service and how research and analysis information gathered was used as part of a weekly Threat Harm Risk (THR) meeting, and its importance when dealing with vulnerable missing persons (Misper). He further informed on the 'Force level' analysis and case studies, using local information and intelligence, information such as registered sexual offenders (RSOs) and prison releases – all of which helped in identifying gangs (young people) committing offences, but may be being exploited by older males.

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee were also apprised of the move away from policing along County Lines and the use of anti-social behaviour legislation in dealing with public nuisance.

Members noted the Merseyside Police Force's approach to crime i.e. the 4P's – prepare, pursue, prevent, protect and that between September 2016 and May 2017 an increased number of young people were presenting at Arrowe Park Hospital with effects of the drug MDMA. As part of the trend identification, all 6 Forces in the North West had seconded staff into the Regional Organised Crime Unit – TITAN. This resulted in Operation Manhattan, the outcome of which had been:

- A raid on a Pill factory in Birkenhead – producing 5000 Ecstasy pills per hour;
- 17 addresses had been raided by TITAN on Thursday 21 September; resulting in

- 14 people having been charged with a variety of offences, related to drugs supply of Ecstasy, Cocaine and Amphetamine.

Chief Superintendent Hassall informed the links between the Mersey Police Force and the Safer Wirral Hub launch, MASH demand, Early Help Foundation and the involvement of PCSOs. He added that information provided via the Crime Stoppers helpline 0800 555 111 was pivotal in gathering evidence, sharing of data that helped with safeguarding of vulnerable young people and the partnership's aims of early intervention.

Members asked a number of questions of Chief Superintendent Hassall regarding some of the issues relating to the availability of drugs, grooming and how schools and Birkenhead HIVE were communicating with young people about the issues. Members also commented on the Safer Wirral Hub and Common Assessment Framework that helped enable team interventions.

The Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Hassall for his presentation.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

16 **IMPROVEMENT PLAN - UPDATE PLUS POSITION STATEMENT**

Ms Deborah Gornik, the Interim Director of Children's Services introduced her presentation that provided Members with an update on the Council's Improvement Plan and a number of actions that had been taken since her last report to the Committee in June. These included:

- The appointment of a new Director of Children's Services - Mr Paul Boyce, currently Executive Director for Children and Knowsley, had been appointed and would be taking up the role early December;
- The Council Budget Setting process had begun, looking at 3 year budget cycle, with continued pressures for the Children and Young People's (CYP) services;
- Overview and Scrutiny - a successful Joint Workshop had been held with the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board on 23 August, with the new work programme very much aligned to the improvement journey; and
- Elected Member training - CSE training had taken place and a full member training programme was currently being developed.

The Interim Director of Children's Services informed the Committee that the revised improvement plan focussed on the connectivity between the required improvement and transformation and how a number of the blockages in the system could be removed to enable practice improvement to flourish. She

informed that some areas would require a quick, agile response (Sprint), with others requiring a much more committed project approach.

Ms Gornik explained how, by keeping an eye on the now and the future CYP services would continue to strive to achieve the most effective improvements through sustained activity and will 'circle the cause' until officers felt the solution had delivered the most effective long term improvements - using the Sprint methodology to drive the identification of the action and the delivery of the solution. Ms Gornik further explained that the Tracker that had been developed would capture detail against each action so that the service can track, and demonstrate, how improvement was being managed and implemented. This information was to be reported back to the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) each month.

The Interim Director of Children's Services also informed that, working with the Council's Digital Service it had been agreed that a mobile working trial using Windows 10 functionality would be supported and a team of social workers and support staff to trial the kit over a 1 month period from Sept-Oct had been identified. During the trial they would capture their thoughts and feedback into a diary. At the end of the month the feedback would be collated and assessed. This would determine whether the trial had been a success and consideration would be given as to whether a rollout across the wider department would be actioned. Ms Gornik reported that the staff who have received the training have provided positive feedback already and were excited to be able to use the kit to help them be more flexible in the day to day work.

The Interim Director of Children's Services concluded her report with information on sickness absence statistics for the August period – informing that long terms sickness equated to 16 staff out of an establishment figure of 220 full time equivalent positions (primarily stress related due to the area of business / frontline service). Eight of these were Social Workers, the remaining staff being support officers or from other areas of the business. The sickness outturn for these 8 was 15.8 days and individuals were in some form of absence management process.

The Chair thanked the Interim Director of Children's Services for her presentation.

Resolved – That the presentation be noted.

17 **CHILDREN AND SOCIAL WORK ACT - IMPLICATIONS FOR THE WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN BOARD**

The Chair informed that a workshop to discuss the future relationship between scrutiny and the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) had been held on 23 August and that possible long term changes to the framework under which local safeguarding children boards operate were raised. He informed that the report of the WSCB included in the agenda pack provided further

detail regarding the long-term plans which had been requested during the workshop.

Mr David Robbins, WSCB Manager introduced the report that set out the background to the foundations of the Children and Social Work Act, insofar as it applied to Local Safeguarding Children Boards, based on the Wood Review of LSCBs. The aim of the review had been to:

'lead a fundamental review of the role and functions of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) within the context of local strategic multi-agency working. To include the child death review process, and consideration of how the intended centralisation of serious case reviews (SCRs) will work effectively at local level'.

The report further informed of background to the Children and Social Work Act, Looked After Children, Implications for the WSCB, Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panels and Local Arrangements for Safeguarding and Promoting the Welfare of Children.

Mr Robbins informed that guidance on the Act was still awaited, but the changes contained within the Act signalled the end of the current LSCB structure. He advised the Committee of the report recommendations that had been identified for consideration / action by the WSCB and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, namely:

For the WSCB:

- to ensure early conversations begin between the LA, CCG and Police about the shaping of safeguarding arrangements in the future, including funding, resourcing and governance arrangements;
- to consider whether arrangements will exist at the current single LA footprint level or whether a wider footprint area was preferred (and how Merseyside CDOP might continue); and
- for the WSCB to participate in the consultation.

For the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- to be aware of the planned changes and the implications for the WSCB and oversight of safeguarding; and
- to participate in the consultation to help shape future local arrangements.

The Chair thanked the Manager, Wirral Safeguarding Children Board for his report.

The Chair advised the Committee that it was difficult for local areas to move forward at present until more detailed guidance on the changes had been provided. He informed that a consultation on the subject had been scheduled for November, to coincide with the release of the statutory guidance in the Autumn, and it was hoped that this might assist in allaying concerns.

Resolved – That

- (1) the report and recommendations contained therein, be noted; and**
- (2) a further report be brought back to the Committee once arrangements for LSCBs were clearer.**

18 WORKSHOP REGARDING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCRUTINY AND THE WSCB - FEEDBACK

Following on from the previous item, the Chair reported on the workshop that had been held by, and for, Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 23 August 2017 - the purpose of which had been to discuss the future relationship between scrutiny and the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB).

The report informed that a number of members had attended a safeguarding training event provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny in January 2017. A key message for the scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements was the establishment of strong relationships with key partner bodies and organisations. The Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was clearly a key partner. Therefore, a workshop had been arranged for 23 August 2017 at which Committee members were better able to understand the key links between scrutiny and the Board and to recommend ways in which those links could be improved. All members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been invited to the session.

The report informed that a session commenced with a presentation delivered by the Chair of Wirral's Safeguarding Children Board, Professor Maggie Atkinson followed by a wide-ranging discussion with Members and key officers. The presentation included the role of the Local Safeguarding Children Board; the relationship between the LSCB and the host Local Authority; and current challenges for the Board. *Members note: Chair of the WSCB, Professor Maggie Atkinson is not an Officer of the Council.*

The Chair informed that the Executive, and the WSCB had each recently endorsed the outcomes of the workshop, namely:

- It would be positive to develop a complimentary relationship between Wirral's Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee via a protocol to enhance the working relationship between the two bodies (a draft version of the protocol was attached as Appendix 2 to the report).
- Based upon Wood Review investigation into the future role of LSCBs and recommendations to review the role of LSCBs, it was agreed that a report on the future of LSCBs should be presented to the September

meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

- The work programme of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be amended to include updates on the work taking place at the HIVE and the employment prospects for care leavers.

Resolved – That

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) the draft protocol regarding the future working relationship between Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee be approved; and**
- (3) the proposed additions to the Committee’s Work Programme relating to the Youth HIVE and the employment prospects for care leavers be agreed.**

19 SUMMARY OF STANDARDS – PROVISIONAL OUTCOMES FOR EARLY YEARS, KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 AUGUST 2017

Mrs Sue Talbot, Lead Commissioner Schools introduced the report of the Director of Children’s Services that provided a summary and detailed analysis for the pupil outcomes at the age of 5 (Good level of development), the age of 7 (Key Stage 1 SATs) and at the age of 11 (Key Stage 2 SATs).

The report informed that comparisons have been made with the results nationally wherever possible. However many of the national results had not yet been published. When the statistical first releases were published at the end of September the report would be amended. At the time of writing the report, the following summary applied:

- Early Years – The percentage of children attaining a good level of development (69.4%) is similar to last year.
- Year 1 – Fewer children achieved the national standard in phonics.
- Year 2 – More children at the age of 7 attained the standard this year in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM). Writing showed the biggest improvement.
- Year 6 - More children at the age of 11 attained the standard this year in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM). Mathematics saw the biggest improvement.

This report provided a detailed analysis of pupil outcomes which can be used to measure the impact of work undertaken in the following pledges: Children are ready for school, Young people are ready for work and adulthood, and Vulnerable children reach their full potential.

This report provided the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a very detailed analysis of outcomes for all pupil groups at the end of each key stage in the primary phase of education. The analysis of outcomes has also been provided by locality (Birkenhead, South Wirral, Wallasey and West Wirral).

Mrs Talbot informed that the report had been shared with Primary Head Teachers just prior to consideration by Members. Members were apprised of a number of key statistics as detailed in the report executive summary relating to:

- **Early Years** - The percentage of children attaining a good level of development (GLD) at the age of 5 has remained static for the last 3 years (69.4%).
- **Year One** - Fewer children achieved the standard in phonics (76%). Less children in the Birkenhead locality met the standard. The largest decrease from last year was in the Wallasey locality (-7.2%). There were some real anomalies this year, for example one school's results plummeted from 88.2% to 28.6%.
- **Key Stage One** - More children at the age of 7 attained the expected standard this year (an improvement of 4%) for attainment in reading and writing and mathematics combined (RWM). Attainment remains below the national average but the gap is narrowing. Fewer children looked after met the expected standard this year.
- **Key Stage Two** - More children at the age of 11 attained the expected standard in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM) than last year – an increase of 8% (49% to 57%). However attainment remains below the national average by 4%.

Members of the Committee asked a number of questions on the background factors that impacted on the statistical evidence. Mrs Talbot responded accordingly and provided information on how monitoring of individual schools, partner working between schools and interventions by school improvement officers all contributed to addressing any concerns. She added that a wide variety of contributory factors could affect the statistics e.g. staff sickness and cohort size, but all identified anomalies were thoroughly investigated and schools challenged / helped in equal measure.

Resolved – That the Summary of Standards – Provisional Outcomes for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 August 2017 as appended to the report be noted.

20 **FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 1 2017/18**

Mr Andrew Roberts, Senior Manager Financial Management introduced the regular report of the Assistant Director: Finance and Section 151 Officer that

set out the projected revenue and capital monitoring position for 2017/18 as at the close of quarter 1 (30 June 2017).

The report summarised information that had been drawn from the relevant sections of the most recent Cabinet revenue and capital monitoring reports and combined with additional relevant service information to produce a bespoke report for the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee that included the following:

- Performance against the revenue budget (including savings, income and debt); and
- Performance against the capital budget

The Senior Manager Financial Management provided Members with a summary presentation that further informed that there were a number of in-year cost pressures forecast for 2017/18 as follows:

Pressures	£m	Offset by	£m
Improvement	10.0	Transformation	10.0
Care Costs	6.0	Contingency	5.0
Staffing – agency	1.4	One Offs	0.9
Disability	0.8	Total	15.9
Specialist Transport	0.3		
Youth and Hive	0.5		
Youth Offending	0.1		
Total	19.1	Shortfall	3.2

Members noted a breakdown summary for the planned improvements to the service that included the following key points:

	Posts	£m
Social Care	108	7.4
Safeguarding	17	0.8
Early Help	12	0.8
Disability	5	0.2
Commissioning /Performance / Improvement	13	0.5
Support and IT	4	0.5
Total	159	10.2

Resolved – That

- (1) the quarter 1 revenue forecast overspend of £3.2 million be noted; and
- (2) the performance of the capital projects within this area be noted.

21 2017/18 QUARTER 1 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE

Ms Deborah Gornik, the Interim Director of Children's Services introduced her report that provided the 2017/18 Quarter 1 (April – June 2017) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report provided a description of the progress in Quarter 1 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

The Interim Director's report informed the Committee that:

- The take-up of the two year old offer by eligible families had continued to improve with 92.6% at quarter one, compared to 88.1% in 2016-17.
- Challenging targets had been set for women accessing maternity services with the target not achieved at quarter 1.
- Targets had also not been achieved for the three health check and health visitor reviews, although two of the measures linked to Health Visitor reviews show improved performance compared to the previous year. Analysis indicated that take up of reviews in the community pilot areas was lower than overall take up and additional focus was now in place for these areas.
- School Ofsted inspections had highlighted attendance in a number of schools to be in the lowest 10% nationally. Attendance needed to be a relentless focus for all schools.
- Continuous focus on vulnerable children was in place in response to the 2016 Ofsted Inspection. Both the children in need and children subject to a child protection plan rates had increased at Quarter 1. Work continued on developing joint approaches based on the needs of children such as the Strengthening Families Enhancing Futures programme.
- Work was on track towards the creation of an All Age Disability and Mental Health Service in Wirral. This project was part of the Council's Transformation Programme and would seek to develop better integration across the disability and mental health pathways. This will lead to improved quality and consistency of service provision and reduce service barriers related to age and eligibility.
- The Safer Wirral Hub had now been established and this was leading to developing improved ways of working across the partnership. This new, integrated service delivery model was creating opportunities for all agencies to work more closely and share insight to better problem solve, plan and target services more effectively.

- Reporting at quarter one 2017-18 illustrated the complex picture of Domestic Abuse in Wirral. Agencies were working to ensure victims have confidence to report crimes, and reporting had increased in number of cases per adult female and children and young people experiencing domestic abuse. However repeat incidents and high risk referrals to the Family Safety Unit had also increased. New initiatives through the Safer Wirral Hub were being put in place.
- A new Peer Mentor Coordinator had been appointed to support and develop the work of the Domestic Abuse Community Champions. This will focus on the hotspot areas of Birkenhead, Seacombe and Wallasey. A new focus for this work will target Children's Centres to identify young parents and families that may be at risk of abuse.

The Chair thanked the Interim Director of Children's Services for her report.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

22 **POLICY INFORM**

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the September 2017 Policy Inform Briefing Paper that included an overview of ongoing and recent national legislation, potential implications for the Council, and emerging policies.

The Policy Inform Briefing Paper outlined the key features of the policies and legislation that had emerged from the Queen's Speech 2017 and provided an update on the developments of recent legislation and highlights any emerging implications. The Policy Inform briefing also alluded to any potential implications for Wirral Council.

Resolved - That the contents of the September 2017 Policy Briefing papers be noted.

23 **FEEDBACK FROM JOINT WORKSHOP ON ALL-AGE DISABILITIES AND MENTAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION PROJECT**

Councillor Usher introduced the joint report of the Chairs of the Adult Care and Health OSC (Cllr Julie McManus) and the Children and Families OSC that informed of the joint workshop involving members of the two Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

The report informed that as part of their work programme, members had previously agreed to scrutinise proposals arising from the Council's Transformation Programme. This form of pre-decision scrutiny gave non-Cabinet members the opportunity to influence developing proposals. It was, therefore, agreed to hold a workshop to provide members the opportunity to review the proposals being developed by the All Age Disability and Mental

Health Service Transformation Project. The report summarised the findings of the workshop, which was held on Wednesday 2 August 2017.

The workshop enabled a review of the outline business case that formed part of Wirral Council's Strategic Transformation Programme. The business case related to the All Age Disability and Mental Health Service Transformation Project. As the scope of the project had potential implications for recipients of both children and adult services, all members of the Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend. Eleven committee members attended the session. The Director of Health and Care and the Assistant Director of Health and Care Outcomes led a presentation to explain the details of the outline business case, followed by a question and answer session to give members the opportunity to comment on the proposals.

The report informed that full details of the proposals for change were available in the outline business case for the All Age Disability and Mental Health Service Transformation Project. The Outline Business Case set out a proposal to transform the Council's Mental Health Service and the Disability Teams across Children's and Adult Services to develop integrated pathways to work more closely with key partners to drive forward integration and service efficiencies. Members noted that National policy for 'All Age Disability Integration' and 'Health and Social Care Integration' provided the national direction for change as a key driver for local transformation across services.

Resolved – That

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) the report be referred to a future meeting of Cabinet; and**
- (3) the Full Business Case is developed to ensure that the key points made by Elected Members, detailed in the report, are addressed.**

24 REALITY CHECK VISIT TO THE MULTI AGENCY SAFEGUARDING HUB (MASH) - FEEDBACK

The Chair introduced his report that provided feedback on the recommendation of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee regarding the principle of undertaking a series of Reality Check visits by small groups of members to enable those members to engage directly with frontline staff. He informed that the first of these visits had taken place to the Integrated Front Door / Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) at Moreton on Thursday 7 September 2017.

The Chair informed that visiting Members were impressed by the warm welcome which was received during the visit and the willingness of all organisations to participate in discussion. He added that considerable partner agency buy-in was evidenced by the number of organisations actively engaged within the Integrated Front Door / MASH environment and that the

deployment and increase in the number of social workers within the MASH on a permanent basis appeared to have created a more stable working environment and enabled the application of more consistent processes / thresholds.

Resolved – That

- (1) the report be noted; and**
- (2) a further visit to the Integrated Front Door / MASH to the Reality Check be included into the Committee Work Programme once the service has transferred to the new location at Solar Campus.**

25 **CHILDREN & FAMILIES OSC - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

The Chair introduced his report that set out the process of developing and managing the scrutiny work programme for the Municipal Year. The report informed the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other three Overview and Scrutiny Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme.

The Chair highlighted a number of key points pertinent to his report, namely:

- the value of reality check visits – the Chair expressed a view that a similar visit be scheduled for a group of 5-6 Members of the Committee meet with the ‘leaving care’ team; and
- a Member training session was being planned for later in the year; and that
- during scrutiny of the 2017 / 18 budget proposals, former members of the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee had requested further updates regarding future proposals to re-model the Specialist Transport service. As any proposals would impact on service delivery for both children and adults, it was suggested that a joint workshop will be held and members of both the Children and Families OSC and the Adult Care and Health OSC be invited to attend. It was currently envisaged that the session would be held before the end of 2017.

Resolved – That the proposed Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18 be approved.

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How do we measure the Journey of Children and Young People?

The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) receives reports from agencies detailing the work they are undertaking to keep children and young people safe. The WSCB is particularly interested in how our most vulnerable young people are safeguarded and in the past year has received reports about:

- The number of children who are young carers
 - The reports to the WSCB reveal that identified young carers are well supported by agencies but agencies are not aware of all the young carers in Wirral
 - The number of private fostering arrangements
 - Wirral has a lower number of notifications than we would expect
 - How effectively agencies intervene at the earliest opportunity
 - Early Help response is robust and continues to be developed
 - The effectiveness of arrangements to protect children from harm, including those who are sexually exploited and suffer abuse and neglect
- Multi-agency arrangements are improving as part of the post Ofsted Improvement Plan. Children in need of protection receive a swift and effective service
- Multi-agency arrangements to safeguard children who are looked after
- Arrangements to keep children safe are strong. Wirral is better at keeping in touch with care leavers and is developing stronger processes so we know about all children who are placed in Wirral.

Supporting Families Enhancing Futures

The WSCB has developed a new single model for working with families called Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF). The model will be used for families in Team Around the Family, Child in Need and Child Protection processes. The model has a focus on looking closely at the child and family's daily lived experience and creating effective outcome focused and realistic plans. The model was introduced in October 2017.



What are the Partnership Challenges?

- Safeguarding challenges for the partnership over the next 12 months are:
- Implementing the Children and Social Work Act which will replace local safeguarding children boards with other local arrangements led by the local authority, police and clinical commissioning group
 - Launching and embedding the SFEF model
 - Embedding the Right Service Right Time strategy
 - Continuing to progress the improvement journey
 - Ensuring the delivery of and attendance at training
 - Safeguarding in austerity and budget and resourcing challenges

What has the WSCB Achieved in the Past Year?

Safeguarding boards are made up of over 25 representatives from a range of organisations who deliver services to children. They are responsible for ensuring agencies (including schools, the local authority, police and health organisations) effectively work together to keep children and young people safe. The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board does this in a number of ways including:

- Co-ordinating multi-agency safeguarding activity and holding agencies to account for how they keep children safe
- Publishing safeguarding policies, procedures, guidance and resources
- Delivering safeguarding training for professionals
- Reviewing cases where children have died or suffered abuse and neglect.



What does our Improvement Journey look like?

Since the review of the effectiveness of the WSCB by Ofsted in 2016 found the safeguarding board to be inadequate an improvement plan has been developed to address the 7 recommendations from the report. Improvement work completed by the WSCB includes:

- Appointment of Maggie Atkinson as Independent Chair
- Revised structure and operating framework in place
- Revised 'top 20' safeguarding performance dataset scrutinised by the WSCB
- Challenges to partner agencies tracked and recorded
- All serious incidents referred to the WSCB
- Improvement plan progress is swift and sure



What has the WSCB Achieved in the Past Year?

Over the past year the WSCB has undertaken the following work to improve safeguarding across the partnership:

- Completed design of the Supporting Families Enhancing Futures model
- Established an Improving Outcomes group to evidence impact of activity
- Delivered Right Service Right Time conferences which included launch of the revised thresholds of need and publication of tools for professionals
- Developed the 'top 20' multi-agency safeguarding performance indicators
- Met with young people from the Children in Care Council to find out how safe they feel
- Delivered training to over 1,100 professionals
- Appointed a new Chair and revised the WSCB's terms of reference
- Revised strategies and tools to combat exploitation and neglect.

The Right Service Right Time strategy is designed to improve the understanding of thresholds of need to ensure that once a child's needs are identified the partnership response is swift, effective and leads to positive outcomes.



How does the WSCB support Learning and Improvement?



Learning from Serious Case Reviews
As well as statutory Serious Case Reviews the WSCB undertakes other reviews where lessons may be learned. These are shared with the partnership through trainings, resources and briefings and impact is tested through audits. Key lessons from reviews:

- transition plans need to evidence effective multi-agency planning
- importance of partnership understanding and application of thresholds
- importance of the multi-agency escalation procedures
- to ensure all relevant agencies are invited to multi-agency meetings
- to ensure that key professionals access appropriate training.

How is the WSCB Organised, Governed and Led?

The WSCB is an independent statutory multi-agency body led by an Independent Chair supported by a small team. Much of the work of the WSCB is carried out through its multi-agency committees including:

- Performance and Improving Outcomes Committees (audits, data and impact)
- Case Review Committee (Serious Case and Multi-agency Reviews)
- Learning and Development (Training)
- Exploitation and Domestic Abuse (strategic groups)
- Child Death Overview Panel (pan Merseyside statutory group).



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Foreword by Dr Maggie Atkinson, Independent Chair WSCB



I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) for 2016-17. The report sets out how the WSCB has responded to the Ofsted Inadequate judgment delivered in 2016. It captures how the Board, and each partner agency required to be part of it, have delivered their safeguarding activities and placed children and young people's wellbeing at the centre of their concerns. It also sets out how the Board as an independent challenge and scrutiny body has met its statutory responsibilities and assessed the effectiveness of Wirral-wide, all-agency arrangements to safeguard children in 2016-17. The report focuses on how the WSCB has delivered its priorities and seeks to capture and report not only on the activities, but crucially, on what proven positive difference safeguarding activity has made for children, young people, families and communities. It also records the development of a new model for use by all agencies in their work with children and young people, in ways that will make them true partners in, as well as recipients of, crucial services.

As in several previous years, 2016-17 has continued to be a year of great financial challenge in services across the partnership the Board both represents and holds to account. Budgets, and the activities they fund, have continued to face reductions in key areas of work. This means that all agencies have had to begin to work differently and in ever stronger partnerships. Agencies have continued to identify efficiencies, even as demand for services has continued to grow, at all levels of need. Across Wirral, year on year budget cuts look likely to continue for at least the rest of this decade, meaning that the challenge of "doing still more with still less" remains a key concern across the board.

The future of local safeguarding children boards was settled in the 2017 Children and Social Work Act. We expect that by 2019, the change in the law brought by this Act will mean there will be no statutory requirement for a LSCB, or an independent Chair. At the same time, there will be a statutory requirement for the Council, CCG and Police to form and run an effective and active Local Safeguarding Partnership, with other local bodies as these three statutory partners see fit. How this development will be undertaken, what the national frameworks will come to look like and what will be expected all remain to be confirmed, and in the coming year our major challenge will be to ensure that safeguarding, which is everybody's business, does not suffer in a period of change and its inevitable accompanying uncertainties. There remain considerable implications for how the effectiveness of local arrangements to safeguard children will be assured. Preparation for a new model, tailored for Wirral and trying not to lose our developing strength of purpose and practice, will take up much of our time and effort in 2017-18 and beyond.

In a year of increased scrutiny by Ofsted and the DfE, the Board led the borough's work on combatting child sexual exploitation, other forms of abuse, grooming and the abuse of adult power over vulnerable children. Our work has also continued to address the many impacts of domestic abuse, parental mental ill-health, substance misuse and the negative effects of neglect, poverty and low expectations and aspirations in some Wirral communities, on the children and young people who have least power to effect positive change on their own behalf. The safeguarding board has led on the development of revised multi-agency materials, Supporting Families Empowering Futures (SFEF) for use by all agencies, accompanied by strong training and implementation approaches.

In 2016 Ofsted judged the safeguarding board as inadequate, leading to a year of work to address shortcomings, as well as to develop new ideas and new practice across the borough. The safeguarding board has delivered its improvement plan to address the failings, and this annual report both captures that delivery, and turns everybody's thinking towards proving outcomes, not simply counting activities or recording what has been done.

I recommend this report – which bears close reading, as it provides assurance of progress and determination - to member of the WSCB as a Partnership, its Executive, the Council's Chief Executive and Elected Members, professionals across all agencies and services, and the children and young people in Wirral. It is these young citizens who assure Wirral of its future, and who therefore must remain at the centre of all we do.

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About the Annual Report

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Purpose

It is a requirement of Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) for the Independent Chair of each Local Safeguarding Children Board to publish an annual report.

The purpose of the WSCB Annual Report is to provide a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who live in Wirral.

Content

The annual report is set out into 6 sections, each one focused on a different aspect of arrangements to safeguard children.

Pages 9 to 12 describe the local background including what statistics based on if Wirral had 100 children and also describes the WSCB improvement journey so far since the Ofsted Review of the Effectiveness of the WSCB.

Pages 14 to 33 include information about the journey of the child in Wirral. Information is presented about participation at reviews and what children and young people tell us, the voice of young people through team around the family, a review of children kept in custody overnight, private fostering arrangements, children who are young carers and a description of the new Supporting Families Enhancing Futures model for working with Families. The child's journey section also presents key performance information which compares where Wirral is with national indicators.

The progress and achievement section from pages 35 to 59 sets out the

progress the WSCB has made against the five priorities set last year. Reports are also provided from key safeguarding activity including activity to combat child sexual exploitation, the provision and evaluation of multi-agency training, how allegations against professionals are managed, changes to the Integrated Front Door and the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub and reports from WSCB committees.

Pages 60-81 set out the activity undertaken by the WSCB as part of its learning and improvement framework. This includes the results of the Section 11 audit of safeguarding arrangements across partner agencies, the multi-agency audits undertaken by the WSCB, case reviews including statutory serious case reviews and the statutory child death overview panel.

Pages 82-96 include reports from the WSCB's constituent partners outlining activity undertaken to support safeguarding arrangements.

Pages 97-101 set out the governance arrangements for the WSCB including its membership, structure and resourcing.

In line with statutory requirements and best practice, the WSCB Annual report has been published on the WSCB website and has been sent to the following:

- The Chief Executive, Wirral Council
- The Lead Member for Children's Services
- The Director of Children's Services
- The Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner
- The Chair of the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board
- The Chair of the Wirral Children's Trust Board
- The Chair of the Wirral Community Safety Partnership





Glossary of Terms

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CADT	Central Advice and Duty Team – <i>‘front door’ into children’s social care</i>
CAF (FCAF)	(Family) Common Assessment Framework – <i>early help assessment</i>
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group – <i>commission health services</i>
CDOP	Child Death Overview Panel – <i>reports on every child death</i>
CIN	Child in Need – <i>social care intervention to ensure child’s needs are met</i>
CIR	Critical Incident Review – <i>review of a case to provide learning</i>
CLA	Child who is Looked After
CP	Child Protection – <i>social care intervention to ensure child is kept safe</i>
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation – <i>child(ren) exploited by adults for sexual activity</i>
CTB	Children’s Trust Board – <i>set local strategy to help all children thrive</i>
CWP	Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
YPD	Children and Young People’s Department – <i>local authority children’s services</i>
DA	Domestic Abuse – <i>wide term for all aspects of domestic oppression</i>
DBS	Disclosure and Barring Service – <i>undertake criminal record checks</i>
DV	Domestic Violence
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation – <i>illegal practice of female circumcision</i>
FM	Forced Marriage
FSW	Family Support Worker – <i>helps families who experience difficulties</i>
HBV	Honour Based Violence – <i>crimes committed to defend ‘honour’</i>
HWBB	Health & Wellbeing Board – <i>local body to set strategy to improve wellbeing</i>
IFIP	Intensive Family Intervention Programme – <i>helps most troubled families</i>
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer – <i>ensure plans for children are robust</i>
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – <i>identifies health and wellbeing needs</i>
LADO	Local Authority Designated Officer for Allegations
LP	Lead Professional – <i>leads a multi-agency intervention for a child</i>



LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board – <i>statutory lead body for safeguarding</i>
MAPPA	Multi-agency Public Protection Arrangements – <i>management of offenders</i>
MARAC	Multi-agency Risk Assessment Conference – <i>to discuss risks to DV victims</i>
MASH	Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub – <i>enables rapid information sharing</i>
MFC/ MFH	Missing from Care/ Home— <i>relates to children and young people who go missing</i>
OFSTED	Office for Standards in Education – <i>inspects children’s services and LSCB’s</i>
OPERATION ENCOMPASS	- <i>Police initiative to inform schools of DV call outs with children present</i>
QA	Quality Assurance
QAF	Quality Assurance Framework
S11	Section 11 (of the Children Act) – <i>organisations safeguarding responsibilities</i>
S17	Section 17 (of the Children Act) – <i>criteria for Child in Need</i>
S47	Section 47 (of the Children Act) – <i>criteria for Child Protection</i>
S175	Section 175 (of the Education Act) – <i>schools safeguarding responsibilities</i>
SAPB	Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board – <i>adult services version of the WSCB</i>
SCR	Serious Case Review – <i>review undertaken by LSCB’s</i>
SUDIC	Sudden Unexpected Death of an infant or child
SWAN	Social Work Assessment of Need – <i>social care led assessment—now called single assessment</i>
TAF	Team Around the Family— <i>a multi-agency early help intervention</i>
TNA	Training Needs Analysis – <i>annual survey to assess training needs</i>
VCF	Voluntary, Community and Faith – <i>term for all non statutory agencies</i>
WT 2015	Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 – <i>statutory guidance</i>
WSCB	Wirral Safeguarding Children Board – <i>our Local Safeguarding Children Board</i>
WUTH	Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
YOS	Youth Offending Service



Local Background

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About Wirral

The Metropolitan Borough of Wirral encompasses 60 square miles (160km²) of the northern part of the Wirral Peninsula and is bound by the river Mersey to the east, the Irish Sea to the north and the river Dee to the West. Major settlements include Birkenhead, Wallasey, Bromborough, Heswall and West Kirby.

Wirral is a place of great disparity in terms of social and economic indicators including health and predicted need outcomes. The western part of Wirral contains some of the wealthiest wards in Britain with very high educational outcomes reported from both grammar and state schools. In the eastern part of the borough, particularly in the built up towns along the river Mersey, there are high levels of poverty which impact upon children's lives and their development.

Approximately 22% of children in Wirral live near or below the poverty line but almost 100% of these children live close to the eastern shore in a line from Liscard in Wallasey, through Birkenhead and into Rock Ferry. Wirral remains the 60th most deprived borough nationally in the Index of Multiple Deprivation (2010) but a number of the Birkenhead wards are in the top 3% most deprived nationally.

The population of Wirral is 320,200 including approximately 70,500 children and young people (0-18). The population is predominantly white British (93%) but significant ethnic minority groups exist, particularly Irish, Chinese and Polish.

It is a challenge for agencies working in Wirral to eliminate the differences in outcomes for children and young people and to ensure our most vulnerable families receive help at the earliest opportunity. Research tells us that effective early help interventions are less costly than social care interventions, when a family's situation may have deteriorated and problems may have become more entrenched. For this reason ensuring the effectiveness of early help has remained a priority area for the WSCB.

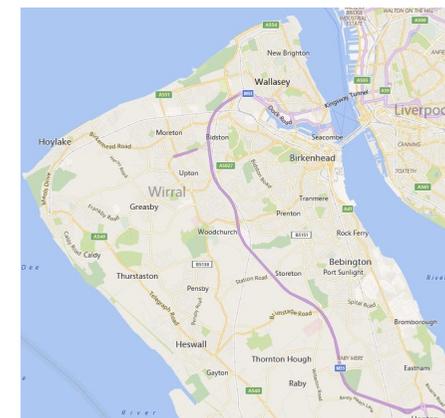
The WSCB is an active partner in the Council's Five Year Plan: Taking Wirral Forward - A 2020 Vision. The 2020 strategy is multi-agency in its very nature and the WSCB makes an important contribution to several of these priorities:

- children are ready for school
- young people are ready for work and adulthood
- vulnerable children reach their full potential
- zero tolerance of domestic violence.

Wirral still has a very high number of children who are looked after. The current rate of children looked after equates to 113.5 per 10,000 of the child population in Wirral. This is significantly above the rate for England and amongst other local areas in the NW of England, which both remain at about 80 per 10,000. As well as the impact on children and young people of becoming looked after, the high number puts pressure on services and budgets in times of continued austerity. The partnership is rightly focusing a lot of resource into Early Help to ensure issues and concerns are identified at an early opportunity to ensure children and their families get the right service at the right time. The children's partnership should expect the numbers of children looked after to fall as an indicator of success.

The WSCB is completing its development of the Supporting Families Enhancing Futures model for working with families. This model will provide a robust single framework for engaging with and supporting families across the continuum of need. The intention is for the model to be introduced in Autumn 2017.

Implementation of the model will support activity to combat and respond to neglect and domestic abuse which remain the main reasons why children are referred for statutory services in Wirral.



If Wirral had 100 Children



19 would live in lone parent families



49 would be girls

51 would be boys



14 would have a special education need

2 of whom would have an education and health care plan



20 would be living in families in receipt of tax credit or universal credit



2 would get into enough trouble to be referred to the Youth Offending Team



75 would achieve a good level of development at age 5

93 would be white British

7 would be from ethnic minorities

1 or 2 would speak English as an additional language



3 would have an allocated social worker

1 would have a Team Around the Family plan

1 would be in care

Fewer than 1 would be subject to a Child Protection Plan.

22 would be living at or below the poverty line



9 would not be in education, employment or training



WSCB Improvement Journey

In July 2016, Ofsted carried out a single inspection of Wirral's arrangements for children in need of help and protection; children looked after and care leavers. At the same time, Ofsted reviewed the effectiveness of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board.

During the 4 week inspection period Inspectors scrutinised a comprehensive range of WSCB documentation including Board and sub committee minutes and met with a number of multi-agency focus groups related to particular committees or safeguarding themes.

The Ofsted inspection report was published in September and Ofsted's judgement was that the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board was inadequate. Children's Services overall judgement was also inadequate.

Recommendations

The inspection report made 7 recommendations for the WSCB and required the Board to develop an improvement plan to detail how the Board will address the requirements of each recommendation.

The 7 recommendations for the WSCB are:

1. WSCB should urgently review its governance and business arrangements to ensure that the board is independent of influence, as required by statutory guidance, and that it has the capacity and shared resourcing to meet business needs.
2. Ensure that the chair of WSCB has sufficient influence to meet WSCB priorities and that statutory partners are held to account for influencing WSCB priorities within their agencies.
3. WSCB should ensure that any challenges from the board are explicitly recorded and that there is a mechanism for effectively tracking progress and resolutions.
4. Ensure that the board has oversight of how well the needs of both

children living in the area who were placed by other local authorities and those who are privately fostered are being met in Wirral.

5. Ensure that all serious incidents are notified to Ofsted within the timeframe set out in statutory guidance.
6. Ensure that the board uses accurate data to inform conclusions about the safeguarding of children, and publishes an annual report with an informed assessment of the effectiveness of child safeguarding and the performance of local services.
7. Ensure that multi-agency audits focus on the outcomes and experiences of children and families, form clear actions from findings, and include managers and practitioners to develop the workforce and share learning.

Improvement Plan

The WSCB accepted the findings of the Ofsted review of the safeguarding board and has developed an improvement plan with clear actions and intended outcomes which has been shared with Ofsted.

Ofsted will monitor the plan closely and will scrutinise the work of the WSCB over the next 12-18 months through quarterly monitoring visits. A multi-agency improvement board has also been established to oversee the LA and WSCB improvement plans.

Improvement Action since the Inspection

The improvement board meets monthly to review and test progress being made by both the Local Authority and the WSCB on their improvement journeys. Ofsted complement the work of the improvement board through a series of monitoring visits, usually quarterly. The monitoring are smaller scale thematic inspections which focus on one or two areas of practice. The first monitoring visit had a focus on the Integrated Front Door and MASH. Ofsted have reported that the continue to be encouraging signs of improvement.

A summary of actions taken against the 7 recommendations for the WSCB is shown overleaf.





Recommendation One: Review of Governance Arrangements

Work Completed:

- Independent Chair established as chair of the WSCB Executive
- WSCB externally facilitated development sessions completed
- A revised terms of reference and operating framework have been developed and published including a review of the WSCB structure
- A second lay member has been appointed
- Review of the budget and resourcing of the WSCB underway

Recommendation Two: Ensuring the Influence of the Safeguarding Board

Work Completed:

- The WSCB has appointed Professor Maggie Atkinson as the new Independent Chair.
- A revised Memorandum of Understanding has been developed which will define the WSCB's relationship with other influential and statutory boards
- Improvement plan for the WSCB published
- Revised committee and chairing structure, reflecting the partnership has been put in place

Recommendation Three: Recording and Tracking Challenges

Work Completed:

- WSCB has a mechanism in place to record and track challenges to partner agencies made by the safeguarding board.
- Partner agencies have been challenged to assure the WSCB about their arrangements to identify children who are privately fostered; to assure the board that they are compliant with the 24 hour time-scale for reporting allegations against professionals; and staff are appropriately using the graded care profile in neglect cases.

Recommendation Four: Oversight of Children Looked After Placed in Wirral and those who are Privately Fostered

Work Completed:

- The safeguarding unit now oversee all private fostering arrangements and ensure visits and assessments are held within timescales and are of suitable quality.
- The safeguarding unit have presented the Private Fostering annual report to the WSCB. The Board continue to deliver regular multi-agency briefings to partner agencies about private fostering

Recommendation Five: Notification of Serious Incidents

Work Completed:

- The WSCB has published a protocol for notifying Ofsted about Serious Incidents and cases being considered for serious case reviews. The protocol clarifies the respective responsibilities of the WSCB and Local Authority. The three notifications made this year have all been within set timescales.

Recommendation Six: Accurate Performance Information

Work Completed:

- The WSCB has reviewed the performance information dataset and a mechanism is in place to verify and validate performance information
- A 'top 20 indicators' has been developed which is scrutinised by both the WSCB and the improvement board

Recommendation Seven: Ensuring Audits focus on Outcomes for Children and Include Practitioners and Managers

Work Completed:

- The WSCB has revised its audit framework to include frontline practitioners and managers in the multi-agency audit process
- WSCB is exploring establishing thematic audit days to maximise participation by practitioners and professionals in the audit process



The Child's Journey

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Participation at reviews

The participation of children at reviews is monitored on a monthly basis as part of the Safeguarding Unit monthly report.

During 2016/17, **33%** of Looked After reviews were attended by young people. This includes **32%** where the young person attended and spoke for themselves and **1%** where the young person attended without contributing.

5% Child Protection reviews held during 2016/17 were attended by young people. This includes **4%** where the young person attended and spoke for themselves and **1%** where the young person attended without contributing.

The Safeguarding Unit have acknowledged the small numbers of young people attending their reviews and have begun a consultation exercise with looked after children to gather their views and the reasons for non-attendance. This is undertaken on a monthly basis and the feedback is reported to the Independent Reviewing Officer's.

The Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) model will further promote the capturing of the views of children and young people.

Learning from Serious Case Reviews

Always question each other if you feel I am being left at risk

Challenge the actions and decisions of other professionals and escalate concerns about a child's safety



Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility....

For more information please read the WSCB guidance:
http://wirrallsccb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_esc_other_age.html



Right Side of Care/Voice of the Child

Throughout the year, various consultation activities have been undertaken with young people in Wirral. The WSCB has used the website to facilitate polls and questionnaires to gather views of young people and as a mechanism to reveal important safeguarding topics according to young people.

For example, young people were asked to describe what safeguarding means and what makes them feel safe, some of their responses are presented below.

'What makes me feel safe is knowing that I have got people to talk to such as my carer and my friends'

'Safeguarding is providing protection and security, what makes me feel safe is knowing the people I love are there for me and I'm there for them'

'I personally feel that safeguarding is very important for children, young adults and vulnerable adults. As I am a product of the social care system, I feel that safeguarding was crucial for me to live a happy life and have the positive upbringing that I did'

'My definition of safeguarding would outline the actions taken to promote the overall welfare of people, which conveys that they are protected from any harm. The policy would protect people from possibly being abused whether that would be at home or in a school environment for example.

'I suggest that safeguarding is key for a young person's growth and development. If a person has dreams or goals that they want to achieve then it should be assisted as much as possible. Nothing should hold a person back from achieving their dreams and safeguarding allows a person to be individual and have a voice'





Another way the views and wishes of young people are captured is through the use of Right Side of Care leaflets.

On becoming Looked After, every child, where appropriate is provided with a 'Right Side of Care' pack. This provides information about what it means to be a Looked after Child, the child's rights and the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer. It also contains useful contact details and additional information for example; the Advocacy Service, Children's Complaints Officer and Independent Visitor Scheme.

It is essential for children and young people to be able to participate or contribute to their reviews; however, it is acknowledged that there are some young people who choose not to attend. Although the Right Side of Care leaflets are not mandatory, young people are encouraged to fill them in to share their views to express and articulate their wishes and views, particularly those who do not usually attend their review.

These feedback leaflets as well as providing evidence on a child's journey through care are also useful in highlighting the role of the Independent Reviewing Officer's and their relationship with a child.

To date, there has been a total of **358** Right Side of Care leaflets returned to the Safeguarding Unit by Looked After Children.

Right Side of Care leaflets have proved to be informative and valuable to ensure that the young person fully understands their Care Plan and has the opportunity to share their wishes and feelings in relation to specific activities or areas such as school, placement and contact.

Every quarter, the Safeguarding Unit review the responses from young people and will progress any issues identified.

Throughout the year, Young people commented on what they felt was the most important topic to be discussed at their review, some of their responses can be found below:



- 'any areas of improvement'
- 'how I am getting on at school'
- 'any changes'
- 'contact with my family'
- 'my health'
- 'leaving care'

General comments made by young people:

I am not happy that I may have to have another social worker.

I have had lots of change of SW and I don't feel I could cope with it.

'I like my placement. I get on with the staff and they never have favourites'

'I enjoy going to youth club on Fridays and cadets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I also enjoy playing badminton and riding my bike'

My placement is absolutely fantastic, best carer + foster home any child in care could ask for

Children in Care Council

The Children in Care Council is a group of young people who have been in care, who have had different experiences and would like to change things for the better. The Children in Care Council is always looking for new members. They meet once a month to make sure views and ideas are listened to by those making decisions about young people.

The Children in Care Council promote the following aims and objectives:

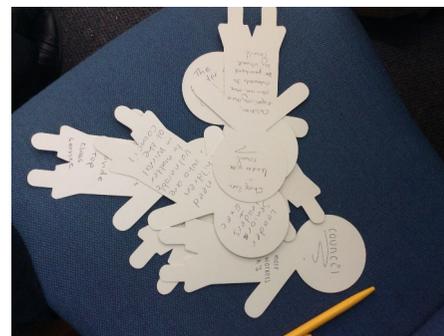
- To be able to put our views and ideas of all our work from the CICC across to the Director of Children and Young People's Department and the Lead Member.
- To make sure the CICC is recognised by all agencies and that the agencies are committed to listening to and resourcing the CICC.
- To make sure all looked after children are listened to and are able to give their views through the CICC.
- To meet with key people who make decisions to work together to resolve any issues that involve looked after children.
- To meet with looked after children to discuss what their views are and what actions / outcomes they would like to be taken.
- To make sure looked after children are consulted in regard to information that is provided to them.
- To investigate when looked after children have identified concerns and report their concerns to any appropriate committee of trusted members.
- To be consulted and involved in both the review and the writing of the Children and Young People's Plan.

Children in Care and Care Leavers Conference 2016

The annual Children in Care and Care Leavers Conference was held on 11th October 2016. The event was arranged by the Children in Care Leavers Council's and the Inclusion Team.

Over 70 professionals and young people attended the event at Wallasey Town Hall and the group got together to talk about how to offer the best service to children looked after and care leavers. The event is now in its second year and aims to encourage positive relationships between social workers and young people.

A number of activities and workshops were undertaken during the Conference including an activity where a member of the Care Leaver's Council asked everybody to write down the things they cared about the most in their lives. They then asked everybody to cross out a number of those things in stages until everything was crossed out – asking them how they felt at each stage. The things written down varied, but most people included their children, partners, houses, jobs, photographs and pets. People said that they felt worse each time they lost something, until eventually they were “devastated”. Lucie explained that many young people lose everything they care about when they become looked after, and this loss of control and upset can be devastating. Their life then becomes about working to find and have those things back again.



Early Help Quality Assurance

Introduction and Purpose of the Report

The Early Help Quality Assurance group (EH QA Group), a sub group of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board meets monthly to assess the quality of Early Help. One of the ways this is done is by quality assuring a random sample of completed CAFs from agencies across Wirral.

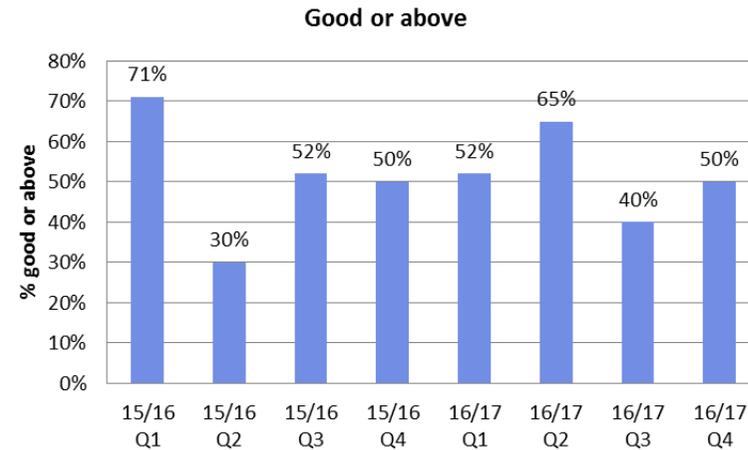
Summary of Findings

The Early Help Quality Assurance (QA) group met throughout 2016 and quality assured 130 CAFs. This is a decrease of 28 CAFs from the previous year.

- The majority of CAF QA's were completed by schools and colleges (69%).
- The overall score findings (51%) show that there was a slight improvement in the CAFs graded as good or outstanding in 2016/17 (2% increase).
- There has been a sustained increase in evidencing the voice of children within the CAF assessments from 43% in 2015/16 to 57% 2016/17.
- There has been a steady increase in the number of CAFs evidencing the completion of the Child CAF within the CAFs sent in for QA purposes from 45% in 2015/16 to 55% 2016/17.
- There has been a consistent rise in the distance travelled figures being returned evidencing positive impact from 36% of the total received in 2015/16 rising to 64% in 2016/17 in comparison. This is still low in comparison to the numbers of TAFs closing.
- 100% of the feedback suggested that participants found the TAF training useful in 2016/17.

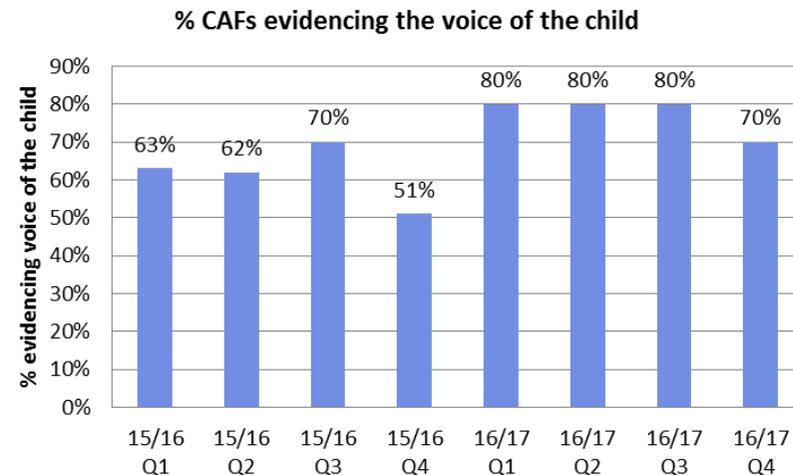
Quality of CAFs

The graph below charts the findings from the EH QA Group in terms of CAFs that have scored Good and above.



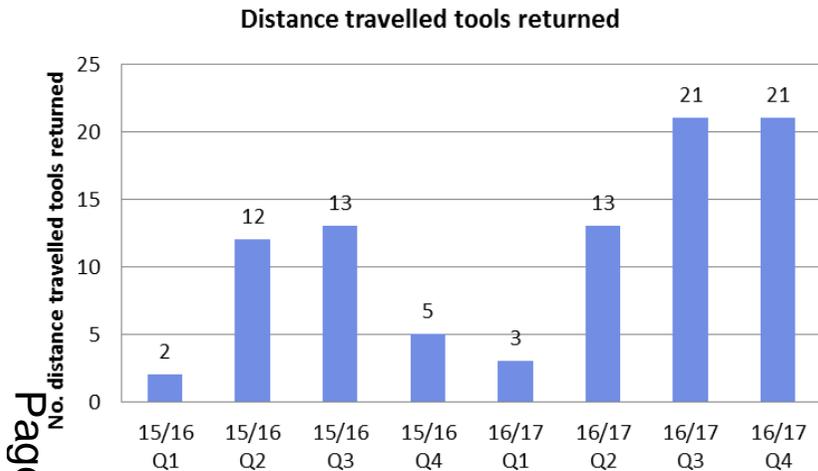
Voice of the Child

As the graph below shows there has been a sustained increase in evidencing the voice of children within the CAF assessments.



Impact- Distance Travelled Scores

The distance travelled tool provides evidence of the impact that the Team Around the Family has from the family's perspective. As the graph below shows there has been a consistent rise in the distance travelled figures being returned evidencing positive impact.



100% of the Distance Travelled Tool figures returned have shown improvement from the families perspective when the TAF closed.

In conjunction with the Distance Travelled figures LPs are now being contacted 3 months after the TAF has ended with a questionnaire for the children to complete. As this is relatively new there are not enough figures to include within this annual report but figures will be included within the quarterly reports.

Case Study

Presenting issues

- *Parental ill health conditions*
- *Young carers anxious about leaving their parent*
- *Financial issues including significant debt*
- *Mums partner in prison*
- *Parent socially isolated*
- *Poor attendance level for both children (young woman 14yrs and young man 11yrs)*
- *14 year old participating in risk taking behaviour*
- *Unhelpful family members*
- *Father alcohol misuse*
- *Anti-social behaviour*
- *Family wanting to move to an area nearer school into a property that meets mums physical needs.*
- *Both children having problems with healthy relationships*

Actions and Support in place

- *A family CAF was completed and TAF meetings held*
- *Distanced travelled completed with each child (potato people) and with the family as a whole.*
- *The parent and both children attended the meetings, all stating their thoughts and feelings*

One to one support provided for the children around age appropriate information about mums health and a safe environment to share their anxieties and ask questions. Internet safety, healthy and positive





- *relationships, self-esteem and confidence.*
- *'Message in a Bottle' work was completed with family to identify key people the family members can talk to if worried about mum and also who can be contacted in an emergency*
- *A well-being star – long term condition outcome star completed with mum to address issues around supporting her own health needs and empower her to make changes to support her own emotional well being*
- *Relevant benefits put in place*
- *Referral to Adullam for support around housing*
- *A referral was made to Involve NW to support with debt*
- *Followed up referral via GP to Inclusion matters and emphasise mums need, mum has now been offered sessions.*
- *Catch-22 carried out 3 sessions around 'Staying Safe' in relation to young woman participating in risk taking behaviour.*
- *Young woman attended the 'Girls Project' Relevant benefits put in place*
- *Referral to Adullam for support around housing*
- *A referral was made to Involve NW to support with debt*
- *Followed up referral via GP to Inclusion matters and emphasise mums need, mum has now been offered sessions.*
- *Catch-22 carried out 3 sessions around 'Staying Safe' in relation to young woman participating in risk taking behaviour.*
- *Young woman attended the 'Girls Project'*
- *Referral for respite activities, family events and residential.*
- *Anti-social behaviour logged and family given a pack to report any further incidents. Advice given about who to call.*

- *Professionals and family communication was excellent throughout.*

Outcomes

- *The children's attendance has improved significantly*
- *Both the children have engaged well with support and their anxieties have reduced and emotional resilience has improved*
- *There have been no further reports of the young person (14yrs) participating in risk taking behaviour.*
- *The correct benefits and debt support are in place*
- *Mum and the children have the correct support and strategies in place to deal with emergencies*
- *The family are continuing to be supported to move to a more appropriate property and she has been placed on a higher level of need*
- *Mum is utilising the skills and strategies that she learnt from the Triple P, this has empowered her as a parent. Mum also made some social connections reducing her social isolation.*
- *The family have made some positive memories by attending some of the events provided by the young carers service. The young male has also been a keen attender of activities and he has made some good relationships with fellow young carers.*
- *Mum has responded to the outcomes star work and this has enabled the project worker to challenge some boundaries that she was putting in place.*
- *The family have felt more empowered to report any incident of anti-social behaviour and now have a log book.*

The Future

The Early Help Strategic Board has agreed to review the arrangements for quality assuring CAF assessments and TAF interventions through 4 key activities:

- Access to Early Help QA Meeting
- CAF Assessment QA Programme
- Multi-Agency TAF Episode Reviews
- CAF and TAF Training QA

The new arrangements for QA will be underpinned by the 5 key principles of the Strengthening Families Enhancing Futures model, which are:

- Understand the world of the child
- Understand the world of the adult(s)
- Recognise family strengths as well as concerns
- Engage families in the change process
- Measure change through interventions and actions

Each QA meeting will consider 2x referrals for children 0-5 years, 2 x referrals for children 6-11 years and 2 x referrals for 11-18 year olds. Risks and resolutions will be identified at each meeting and the Chair will hold responsibility for the completion of appropriate action.

Voice of the Child

During the TAF process children and young people are actively encouraged to talk about their concerns, needs and hopes for the future. A summary of the most common concerns expressed by children is shown in the table below as well as the response from services to meet the children's needs.

Issues identified by the child in the Child	Changes in TAF Plan for the child due to the Child CAF
Housing, family, area and skin	Child concerned that she couldn't walk her dog due to new houses being built, dad now takes her to a different field so this can carry on
Nervous, anxious, don't want to be on my own, family	End of every meeting the children attended, high school adapted the child CAF for the child and their needs were discussed individually
Feelings and attitudes	CAMHs was accessed and counselling support given
Friendships	Nurturing sessions were tailored due to child CAF
Living skills	Home routines with mum working on his (the child's) independence
Anxieties	Referred to counsellor in school with advice from CAMHs
Health, feelings, family, finances	Discussed with mum, why the child felt these concerns and worked with mum to address these issues
Child upset when brother punches him in the face	Specific work was completed on whole family in relation to the issue identified by the child CAF/tools
Feelings, how I see myself	Specifically due to the Child CAF Barnardo's youth working was contacted, lots of pieces of work including mind maps and a 7 month project was offered and accepted called unlocking potential. Due to this the child went to London and met Dame Kelly Holmes
Football, feelings	Child was put into the football team but unfortunately this was unsuccessful so they joined a nurture group
Who looks after me, housing, money, area where I live	Met youth inclusion officer due to what he had said and became involved in activities





Children in Custody Scrutiny Panel

The children in custody scrutiny panel have been meeting for approximately two years. The purpose of the meeting is to offer scrutiny around the children being held in custody overnight. Some of the areas for analysis have been the reasons why children were taken into custody in the first instance but the main area of concern looked at was why they were kept in custody for lengthy periods and could other opportunities have been offered to them.

This level of scrutiny has offered partners an insight into the complexity of these cases and in particular the barriers that the police are facing on a daily basis. The group have also evidenced gaps in provision for children who require accommodation for the night which is why they have been held in custody, often for misdemeanours.

Methodology

The multi-agency group of professionals meet on a bi monthly basis. The group consists of partners from across the pan Merseyside footprint including Sefton, St Helens, Liverpool, Wirral and Knowsley. The members are made up of agencies from police, YOT, health, LSCBs, EDT and children's social care.

Over the previous twelve months several documents have been produced by the panel and have been shared with the individual LSCBs, children homes, police and children's social care. There were 167 episodes of young people detained in custody from 21st July to 8th December 2016. This equates to 130 children as several children were detained more than once. 32 children accounted for 75 custody visits within the recording period. The children in custody scrutiny panel have discussed more than 20 individual children over the last 12 months in depth using an updated audit tool.

Main Findings from 2016 to 2017

The main findings from the children in custody scrutiny panel are set out below:

- Care homes have not been using the process prior to calling the police and are not using the 10 Point Checklist there by criminalising children unnecessarily.
- In many of the cases relating to Children Looked After in residential care homes, staff from the homes are not acting as the appropriate adult (AA) due to the fact staff are the victims, they are short of staff or the residential home is refusing to have them back. If the care homes do say children can return the staff are often not collecting them and leaving children in police custody for unacceptable periods of time.
- Police potentially handing children over to parents without knowing if that is the appropriate person.
- No accommodation available; either secure or not secure. This seems to be one of the biggest issues that the panel has seen when scrutinizing cases.
- Children placed in Merseyside from other parts of the country are being left in custody overnight due to confusion over who is accountable, refusal by the other local authority to act as AA and/or collection.

Police are working outside the law by holding children with no reason because there is no one to collect them, these are often children looked after by the local authority. Young people are often then kept in Police Stations/Custody Suites as places of safety.

Police Handing Children to Parents

One of the findings from the audit work carried out by the group was that when a child is asked who their parent is, the parent is contacted. This has been carried out in the past with no checks. However, since the auditing



has begun it has been noted that when a young person is asked who could act as their Appropriate Adult the young people on most occasions ask for their parent. It was noted by the Police and Panel that on occasions the Parent of the Child is not the most appropriate person to act. The resolution to this is the police will now phone children's social care every time a child comes into custody to verify their situation and if an order is in place in the first instance. This will ensure that children are only collected by adults who are appropriate and lawful.

Accommodation

An ongoing discussion for the scrutiny panel has been about accommodation. It was agreed that if a child comes into custody late at night and is going to court the next morning it is appropriate for them to remain in custody for the rest period. However, there are many cases when a child is kept in custody due to a lack of someone to collect them as identified earlier. In these circumstances, the child at times are being kept unlawfully. This issue, has been raised during every scrutiny panel to date and has been identified as an area of concern.

Members of the committee are taking this issue to their own LA commissioning managers. There is also the confusion over the Barton Moss secure placement. It would appear that no LA has utilised this accommodation for several reasons.

- As it is based in Manchester, this could cause more upheaval for the child due to the distance.
- If the child is under the influence, has mental ill health, is particularly violent who would transport the child? The staff's safety has to be taken into account.

A possible solution to this accommodation issue is for LA's to work together and create a suitable place locally.

Children out of Borough

The panel have discussed several children who have been placed in Merseyside from other parts of the country. There was some confusion about who has responsibility for these children. The panel have agreed that the ultimate responsibility for accommodating the children is the local authority who has PR for them and pays for the accommodation they are placed in. This means that the police should phone the originating LA in the first instance. If they are unable to act as an AA due to distance/travel issues, the LA where the child is currently residing will act as AA until the home LA arranges accommodation. Therefore the process is as follows:

- Police contact originating LA (eg London).
- If originating LA cannot act as AA they will contact the LA who are accommodating the child and they will act as AA.
- The originating LA must secure accommodation for the child or arrange for collection.

Police Responsibility

Ultimately, the findings from the children in custody scrutiny panel is that due to outside circumstances out of the control of the police, the police are being put into a vulnerable position as they are left detaining children whilst they wait for accommodation and/or an appropriate adult (usually for a child residing in a care home) to collect the child.

The panel considers that contracts and commissioning within each Local Authority need to address this locally, and look at a possible solution as time and time again, it is left to the police to hold the young person or EDT to arrange. Although the numbers of young people being held in custody for long periods of time or overnight have reduced this is still an ongoing issue.

Children In Need of Help and Protection— Performance

Contacts and Referrals

A contact is a request for a service to be provided by Children’s Social Care. This is in respect of a case where the child is not previously known to the Local Authority, or where the case was previously open but it is now closed.

A contact can only be accepted when the MASH Manager/Advanced Social Work Practitioner decides that the threshold for Level 4 intervention is met or where further information needs to be gathered to consider whether a child is in need and therefore requires a service. This decision should be made within one working day.

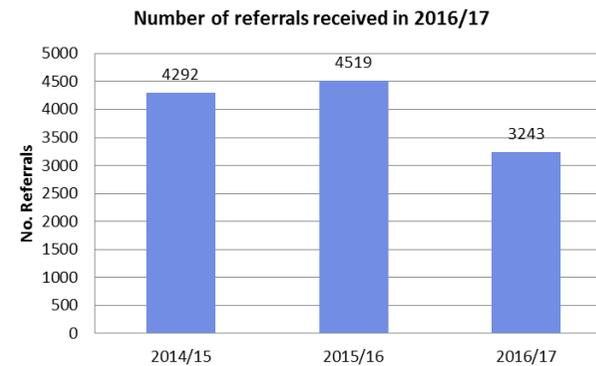
A new MASH process was introduced in January 2017 as part of the Integrated Front Door. The ability to load contacts on closed cases was locked down to the Integrated Front Door staff only and a Significant Incident form was introduced to enable district teams to record contact types without actually loading a contact.

The timescales of MASH do vary from 4 hours to 72 hours and depending on the identified needs, the most appropriate response time is set. A simple MASH completed in timescales measure has been formulated to capture the % that achieved the prescribed timescales which has reflected more accurate performance in this areas. However, a target of at least 90% timescale compliance should be aimed for. The timeliness of MASH assessments is variable due to the RAG rating systems which can change according to new information , staffing capacity and demand.

Comparing the process in 2016 with the process in 2017 shows that the combination of Contacts, MASH assessments and Significant Incident forms is broadly similar to total contacts during 2016, although a reduction has taken place as the year has progressed.

Overview

In 2016/17 Wirral Specialist Services (Integrated Front Door) received a total of **3243** referrals compared to 4519 during 2015/16. The rate of referrals equates to 480.4 per 10,000 of the child population in Wirral.



The number of referrals received this year is the lowest number of new referrals since 2012/13 (3783). Although the rate of referrals is low, it is still in line with our statistical neighbours. This is a pattern observed across the North West in the recent past and, according to regional analysis, is particularly noticeable across the Merseyside and Liverpool City region. One likely possibility, is that the development of Early Help services is drawing off into preventative services children who might previously have been defined as children in need.

Re-referrals

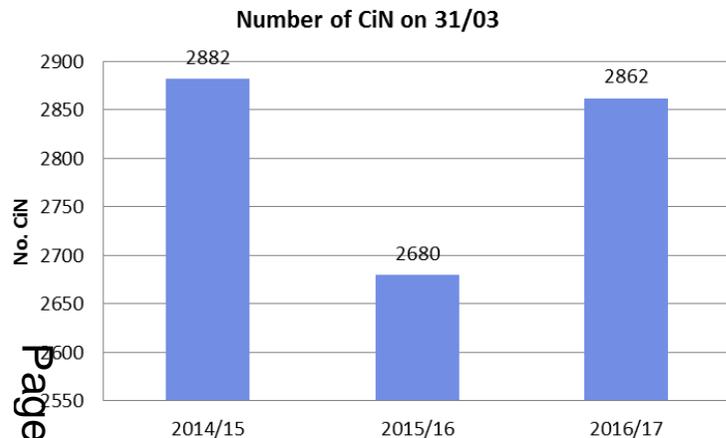
The 2016-2017 year-end repeat Referral rate was the lowest for three years and was well within the range of our statistical neighbours. Children who have been the subject of a Repeat Referral represent a diminishing proportion of all Referrals. This is good, although the converse interpretation of performance is that a sixth of all children whose Referral ends become the subject of a further one within a year. An audit of re-referrals is planned at the Integrated Front Door.



Children in Need (CiN)

At the end of March 2017, there were a total of **2862** Children in Need compared to 2680 at the end of March the previous year. This is an increase of 6%.

The graph below shows the number of Children in Need (CiN) over the last 3 financial years.



As illustrated, 2014/15 saw an increase in the number of CiN but this was followed by a decrease of 7% in 2015/16 and then a further increase of 5% this year.

The rising CiN rate this year does not correlate with the decrease in the referral rate. This may be indicative of some drift and delay in the transfer of cases but also reflects the drop in timeliness of completing assessments as a result of reallocation. Children's services would expect the overall CiN rate to fall as children's emerging needs are increasingly managed in early help.

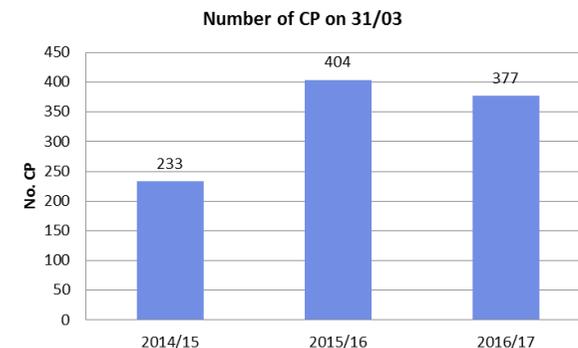
Child Protection (CP)

Following a section 47 investigation, an Initial Child Protection Conference is held to bring relevant professionals, family members and the child (where appropriate) together.

The conference provides a multi agency setting to analyse information provided by professionals and the outcome of the social worker's assessment (referred to as a Single Assessment) The conference will further examine the information available around the child's developmental needs and the capacity of the parents'/carers to respond to the child's needs.

The conference is chaired by an Independent Reviewing Officer in the Safeguarding Unit who will consider the information provided as part of the assessment and information presented at conference to discuss and determine the requirement of a Child Protection Plan. A new Supporting Families Enhancing Futures model will be implemented in October. This will have a key focus on understanding the child's daily lived experience and focus on what needs to change to improve the outcome for the child. This will give be a radical shift for Wirral to measure the outcome and changes in a child's life to evidence the appropriateness of the Child Protection Plan.

On 31st March 2017, **377** children were subject to Child Protection Plan, this equates to 55.9 per 10,000 of the child population. The graph below illustrates the number of children subject to a CP plan over the last 3 financial years.





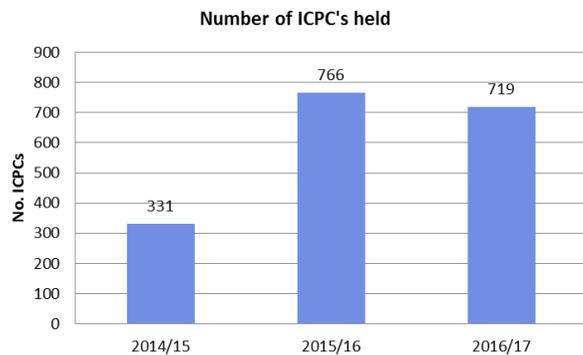
The graph shows the significant increase of children with a plan in 2015/16 (73%) and the decrease of 6% this financial year. The number of children subject to a plan is now within Wirral's target range.

Whilst the figures of Child Protection have slightly reduced, this is against a backdrop of a rising Looked after population. We do know a significant number of children coming off a plan become Looked After. Work has been undertaken with staff to improve the quality of the plans to move towards an evidence based approach by using assessment tools, i.e. the graded care profile. This enables the Independent Reviewing Officer to have the evidence to determine if a plan is protecting a child.

The significant increase of plans 2015/2016 was in relation to directions from the Senior Management at that time, to take all children to Conference who had been Child in Need for 12 months. In addition, as identified by Ofsted, there was not a consistent understanding of thresholds. Better shared understanding of thresholds and the introduction of the consultation with the Independent Reviewing Officer before proceeding to Case Conference, has moved the authority into the position of having more confidence of the children being presented to conference as being the right children.

Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC)

During 2016/17, 719 Initial Child Protection Conferences (ICPC) were held compared to 766 in 2015/16, which is a decrease of 6%.



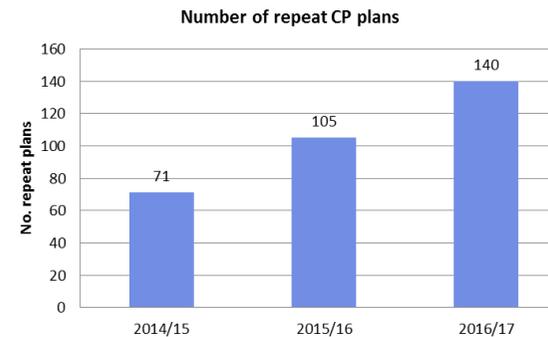
2 Year Child Protection Plans

In 2016/17, **641** Child Protection Plans ended and **5** of these plans had been in situ for 2 years or more. If a plan is not effecting change and reducing risk within 12 months there are concerns about the effectiveness of that plan. The Service Managers within the Safeguarding Unit now have regular meetings with the Local Authority Service Managers and children subject to a plan exceeding 12 months will be reviewed. There has been a steady decrease in these numbers over the last two financial years following a significant reduction in 2014/15.

Multiple Child Protection Plans

A total of **615** Child Protection Plans started in 2016/17, of these **140** were repeat plans. 22% of plans starting in 2016/17 were for the second or subsequent time. This is higher than local and national statistical neighbours, which is concerning. The investment from the Local Authority into a new model of Supporting Families Enhancing Futures will address motivation and capacity to change within families. This should address some of the issues resulting in second or subsequent periods resulting in Child Protection Planning where this capacity for sustained change has not been fully considered.

The graph below shows the year on year increase of repeat plans.



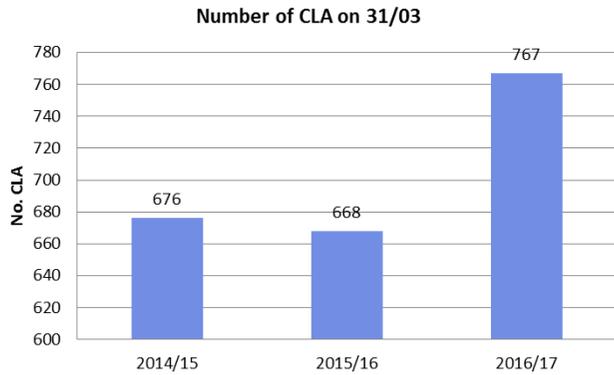
Due to the large number of children who have been subject to a CP plan, this figure will become more challenging to reduce.



Children Looked After (CLA) - Performance

Wirral provides support and placement for Children Looked After (CLA) in areas including adoption, foster care, residential care and leaving care. The service aims to provide children and young people with a range of placement options to help them be safe, secure and develop in order to meet their full potential.

On 31st March 2017 there were **767** children looked after in Wirral compared to 668 in 2015/16. This is an increase of **14%**. The rate of children looked after equates to 113.5 per 10,000 of the child population in Wirral.



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The rising numbers of looked after children continues to be a cause for concern and has developed over the course of the last 2 year period. During this time the number of admissions has risen but the level of discharges of children from care has reduced. Children's Services have undertaken initial diagnostic work which is showing high numbers of children coming into care through interim care orders, and when entering through Section 20 a significant proportion are converted to care orders.

A large proportion of children coming into care are also pre-school and primary aged children. While this suggests a focus on those children that may be seen as the most vulnerable, it is likely that these children are then remaining in care rather than returning to their parents care at some point. A working group has been convened to look at undertaking some more detailed work to address the areas of concern.



Right Side of Care website for Wirral's children in care.

Private Fostering

Private Fostering is when a child or young person under 16 years old (or under 18 if disabled) lives with someone for 28 days or more by private arrangement (without the involvement of a local authority) with someone who is not a:

- parent
- close relative (brother, sister, aunt, uncle, grandparent or step parent)
- guardian or a person with parental responsibility

Private Foster cares might be:

- friends of the child's family
- Someone willing to care for a child of a family they don't know
- Relatives such as a cousin or great aunt

Private Fostering arrangements are reported through the Integrated Front Door and are transferred to the appropriate district social work assessment team and the Safeguarding Unit. The Social Worker will undertake a Private Fostering assessment which will assess the suitability of the arrangement and will undertake a joint visit with Targeted Services.

Each Privately Fostered child will be reviewed by the designated Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) within 3 months following the authorisation of the arrangement and every 6 months thereafter.

The IRO will chair the meeting and will discuss the child's developmental needs, contact arrangements, targeted support, views of the child/parent/carer and any significant events.

Wired provide a commissioned service to review all Private Foster carers on an annual basis and promote relevant training for the carer.

The majority of arrangements do not continue for longer than 12 months, to ensure that all Private Foster carers receive a review from Wired, it has been recommended that future reviews will be undertaken before each meeting chaired by the IRO at a frequency of 3 months following the suitability of the arrangement and then every 6 months thereafter. A representative from Wired will attend the child's review to provide feedback.

Wirral's Privately Fostered Children

- During 2016/17 **3** new Private fostering arrangements commenced, of these new arrangements **2** remained open at the end of March 2017.
- **2** Private Fostering arrangements ended in 2016/17, they both became looked after.
- At the end of March 2017, there were **3** Private Fostering arrangements. All of the children are White British.
- During 2016/17, **1** in 3 Private Fostering Assessments were completed on time. This an area which requires improvement.
- Private Fostering visits are due every 6 weeks for the first 12 months, and every 12 weeks thereafter. In **2** out of 3 cases, subsequent visits were held in timescales.
- Following the notification, a visit should be held within 7 days. In **2** out of 3 cases the initial Private Fostering visits were undertaken within timescales.



Private Fostering Report from Safeguarding Unit

The Safeguarding Unit identified an Independent reviewing officer in February 2017 who has responsibility to monitor, track, quality assure and chair the reviews of privately fostered children in the Wirral. Private Fostering cases represent a minority of the Safeguarding Unit's Core Business. (Three cases identified in the reporting period).

We may conclude from this that there are ongoing barriers to identifying these children. However this coming year there are already three further cases identified / assessed and reviewed within this category, since April 2017.

As part of the efforts to identify Wirral children within the Private Fostering category the CYPD / Safeguarding Unit produced posters /flyers and leaflets with detailed information for professionals and families. These were distributed at Private Fostering multi-disciplinary training and briefing sessions and also circulated to all social care staff. The flyers were also posted in public areas such as GP surgeries.

Following this there was a small increase of referral activity which may suggest the raising of public awareness and professional understanding is something to extend and repeat in order to improve the successful identification of children in this category.

Also identified by the Independent reviewing officer is that the commissioned service for the review, support and training of private foster carer's (Contracted to WIRED) is not appropriate and would benefit from a review.

Analysis of Cases in the Reporting Period

1. Child A - This child remains subject of P.F Procedures. She is well placed and receiving a good quality of care. The assessment was well written and comprehensive. It fully details the suitability of the carers / care arrangements, and subsequent reviews have endorsed the arrangements as fully meeting the child's needs. Initial assessments / visiting frequency and

reviews have taken place in full compliance with current procedures.

2. Child B. - This child became privately fostered and initial visiting and assessment commenced in full compliance with P.F. Procedures. The placement was deemed not appropriate for the child within the first month and the child subsequently lost her P.F status and became a Looked after Child. All P.F. work ceased at this juncture and the child was reviewed under different Local Authority procedures.

3. Child C. - This child was inappropriately identified as privately fostered. He was placed / accommodated by a voluntary agency as part of an Education Student Exchange Program. The carers had been vetted and supported through the Agency. A welfare check visit was undertaken but P.F procedures were not completed. The child returned to his native country - Australia - on the 8th June 2017.

Recommendations:

1. To improve the identification of P.F. children within the community.

- repeat and widen advertising / information to public
- enlist help of schools to identify pupils who are subject of alternative care arrangements.

2. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of the commissioned contract with WIRED, in relation to the review / support and training provision of private foster carers. Some consideration could be given to nominating a designated officer from W.B.C's Fostering Service to undertake these tasks and perhaps achieve a more integrated service to these carers. This echo's the current arrangement for a designated IRO and would make the servicing of this area more joined up.

3. The IRO's experience is that the training and briefing sessions, whilst positive, have had only limited impact on the knowledge base / professional awareness of social workers and other professionals who may be involved with these children. It is therefore necessary to develop a plan for the opportunity to enhance professional understanding of the role and procedures.





Young Carers

Young Carers are children and young people under 18 who provide regular or ongoing care and emotional support to a family member who is physically or mentally ill, disabled or misuses substances. A Young Carer becomes vulnerable when the level of care-giving and responsibility to the person in need of care becomes excessive or inappropriate risking impact on his or her emotional or physical well-being or educational achievement and life chances.

Research tells us that young carers are an often overlooked cohort of vulnerable children and young people. In Wirral a Young Carers service is run by Barnardo's on behalf of children's services to ensure positive outcomes are achieved by our young carers. The commissioned service includes the statutory assessment of needs, alongside the direct support to 115 young carers and their families.

Government legislation provides a clear framework for local authorities and their partners to take a whole family approach:

- To assessing and supporting adults and young carers
- Delivering support in coordinated whole family way
- Identifying and protecting children and young people at risk of undertaking inappropriate caring roles
- Assessing young carers on appearance of need

The legislation says; Children and young people at risk of undertaking inappropriate caring roles should be identified and protected. In its report, (3) Hidden from View (2013), the Children's Society highlights that:

- One in 12 young carers is caring for more than 15 hours per week. (3 in a secondary school class)
- Around one in 20 misses school because of their caring responsibilities.

- Young carers are 1.5 times more likely than their peers to be from black, Asian or minority ethnic communities, and are twice as likely to not speak English as their first language.
- Young carers are 1.5 times more likely than their peers to have a special educational need or a disability.
- There is no strong evidence that young carers are more likely than their peers to come into contact with support agencies, despite government recognition that this needs to happen.
- Young carers have significantly lower educational attainment at GCSE level, the equivalent to nine grades lower overall than their peers e.g. the difference between nine B's and nine C's.
- Young carers are more likely than the national average to be not in education, employment or training (NEET) between the ages of 16 and 19.
- Children with a parent who has a mental health problem are known to be 3 times more likely to suffer from low levels of mental and emotional health and this group therefore emerges as a particularly vulnerable cohort. They are also the least likely group to be offered an assessment

The results from the 2011 Census show that 2839 young people in Wirral aged under 25 identified themselves as providing unpaid care, with 350 of them providing 50 or more hours unpaid care a week. This is likely to be an underestimate.

Young Carers Supported by Barnardo's in Wirral

The Barnardo's commissioned service supports the statutory assessment of needs alongside direct support to young carers and their families.

In the year April 2016- March 2017, the service supported 152 young carers aged 5-18, these numbers were achieved as a result of throughput (92 cases were newly identified young carers, and 89 were closed to the service) and additional support in kind received by the service.

Age	Count of Case	Percentage
6	4	3
7	3	2
8	9	6
9	12	8
10	14	9
11	13	8.5
12	16	10.5
13	17	11
14	17	11
15	10	6
16	13	8.5
17	13	8.5
18	7	5
19	4	3
TOTAL	152	100

Wirral Young Carers by age 2016-17 working with Barnardos

District	Count of Case	Percentage
None identified	14	9
Birkenhead	61	40
South Wirral	13	9
Wallasey	47	31
West Wirral	17	11
TOTAL	152	100

Wirral Young Carers by area 2016-17

Condition of Cared for Adults

- 52% of young carers were caring for adults with a diagnosed mental health illness.
- 4% children whose parents also had identified drug and alcohol issues and in treatment.
- 26% children were caring for adults with a Physical/illness disability
- 7% were caring for adults with a terminal illness.
- 22% children were caring for adults have a Neurological Condition (e.g. MS Brain Tumour, Stroke, Dementia)

Support Provided by the Young Carers Service

A range of support is provided based on the assessment of need and includes:

- Support, someone to talk to who will listen
- Support around emotional health & well-being
- Group work (focused/targeted)
- Participation in service design
- Information & advice about illness & disabilities of the cared for person
- Breaks from caring
- Opportunity to meet other young carers
- Support around education, employment and training
- Emergency planning
- Support for the cared for person including referral to adult services to address unmet need

Partnership/ Multi Agency Working

The service has developed and maintained strong partnership work across statutory and voluntary sectors, adult and children's services including:

Awareness raising to professionals –

Barnardo's delivered a short session at each of the 6 Care Act update training sessions for Adult Social Care staff, including the No Wrong Door DVD which was made by young carers supported by the service. This has resulted in a slight increase in referrals from adult services although this is still identified as a gap.

Children's Services Locality meetings – Barnardo's raised awareness of the service at 6 locality meetings - Youth Provision and supporting families where poor mental health is a factor.

Kidstime - A project worker from the service is a member of the planning and delivery team for the Kidstime project which meets monthly.





Kidstime is accessed by families where there is parental mental ill health and comprises sessions for parents and children/young people separately and then together. The Kidstime assessment now includes a question about whether the child may be caring which may lead to a referral to the service.

Community Health - Barnardo's have worked with Wallasey Community Health Team to develop a pilot to increase awareness of Young Carers in the team, to improve identification and promote joint working

Wirral Met College – Barnardo's deliver awareness raising sessions to students as well as have an information stand at fresher week

Identification of Young Carers

Young Carers remain a hidden population of vulnerable children and young people, often coming to the attention of services when there is a crisis. (5) The 2011 census statistics reveal there are 166,363 young carers in England, compared to around 139,000 in 2001. This is likely to be an under representation of the true picture as many remain under the radar of professionals.

The low number of referrals from both adult and children's services could be an indication of a lack of young carer awareness within the workforce

Recommendations from Wirral Young Carers

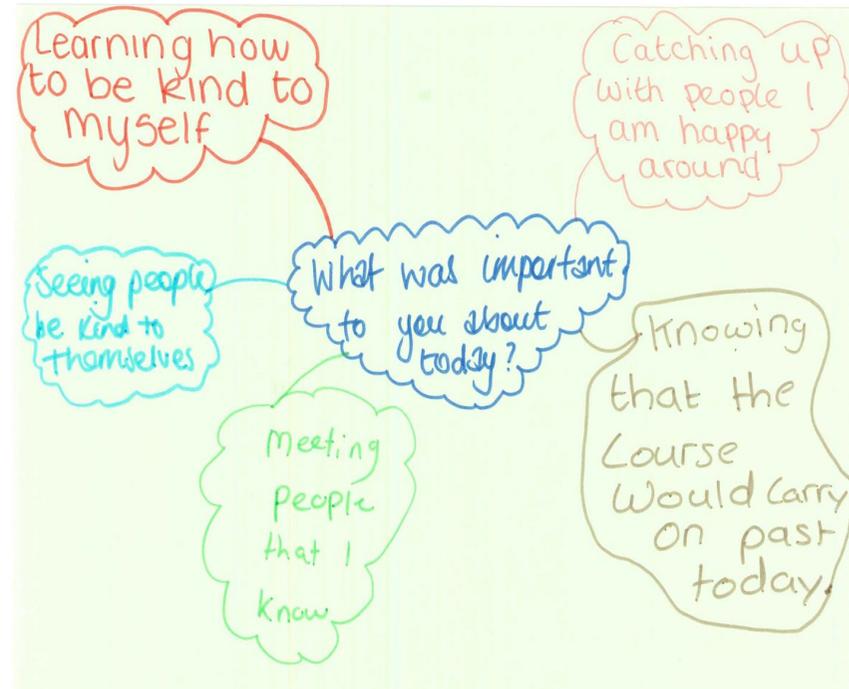
All of the young people surveyed by Barnardo's felt that the service was great the way it is and they wouldn't want to change it. However, they did say though that more work could be done around tackling stereotypes and with schools:

"There is often a stereotype to young carers, often people think you just do things like take them to the toilet. They don't realise that this isn't always the case and a lot of our caring is emotional as well as physical!"

"More work in schools is needed. Schools often don't recognise young carers so more work is needed on this. Posters and leaflets get sent to them but often don't get put up!"

"Teachers should be trained on it, including substitute ones!"

Feedback from Young Carers who have attended group sessions with Barnardo's



Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF)

Introduction

The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) and partner agencies are developing a new model for undertaking family interventions and Child Protection Conferences. The WSCB have chosen to develop a bespoke model which draws on current research and practice (including the strengthening families and signs of safety approaches) to meet the recommendations detailed in Professor Eileen Munro's report into Child Protection (2011-12).

The WSCB devised a specification and appointed Professor Jan Horwath from Sheffield University to lead the implementation of the project and in July 2015 established a multi-agency operational and steering group to develop the model. The model will be introduced for initial child protection conferences and core groups but following a successful introduction and evaluation it is anticipated the model will be extended across the continuum of need as a model for all services working with families.

Background

Ofsted inspections, Serious Case Reviews and research studies have all identified several practice issues in relation to the operation of the current child protection system. These issues include:

- A lack of child-centred practice
- Focus on presenting parenting behaviours
- Superficial engagement with children and their parents leaving the family confused regarding concerns of professionals and expectations placed on the family.
- Lack of clarity amongst professionals regarding thresholds for different levels of intervention.

- Assessments that do not take sufficient account of parental ability and motivation to change.
- Lack of attention to family history and patterns of engagement with services.
- Too much time spent at conference on information-sharing rather than analysis and action planning.
- Focus on parent/s completing actions with little attention paid to impact of these actions on the child.
- Failure to address underlying problems meaning that children and families are constantly 'patched up and dispatched'.

The WSCB recognised that these practice issues were not uncommon in Wirral and wished to address this. With this in mind, the WSCB sought to develop a bespoke model that will assist practitioners promote better outcomes for children. The Board commissioned Emeritus Professor Jan Horwath to facilitate the project.

The bespoke model, which draws upon current research and practice, was initially developed to improve outcomes at child protection level, but as the model developed it became clear that the principles and approach would benefit all work with children and families. It is therefore the ambition of WSCB and its partners that the SFEF model underpins all professional engagement with children, young people and families, across all levels of need.

The SFEF model will aim to improve how practitioners and volunteers, engage with families, undertake assessments, write plans, conduct meetings, and measure change.



SFEF Launch Event June 2017





It will make the experience for children, adults, families, and professionals more meaningful, easier to engage with and more focussed on improving the daily lives of children in Wirral.

SFEF is underpinned by 5 key principles:

1. Understand the world of the child
2. Understand the world of the adult(s)
3. Recognise family strengths as well as concerns
4. Engage families in the change process
5. Measure change through actions and interventions

Adopting these principles into everyday practice will help practitioners build long-lasting and meaningful relationships with the children and families they work with.

What are the benefits of SFEF?

Older models for working with families suffered from:

- A lack of child-centred practice
- Focused on negatives
- Focused on the presenting issue rather than the underlying problems
- Focused on parents completing actions with little attention paid to the impact of these actions on children
- Superficial engagement with children and their parents leaving families feeling confused
- Lack of focus on family history and patterns of engagement with services
- Families left feeling alienated-things happened to them, not with them

The SFEF model aims to be:

Better for Children

- Children will have a voice
- What day-to-day life is like for them will be accurately described
- The things that they think are important and want to change will be clear
- All children in a sibling group will be involved and considered

Better for Parents/Carers

- What life is like for the them and the pressures they face will be clearly described
- Strengths as well as concerns will be identified, acknowledged and built upon
- The things that they think are important and want to change will be clear as will be the expectations of them
- Processes will be easier to engage with and create a culture of working together rather than having been 'done to'

Better for Practitioners

- A single assessment which everyone contributes to
- Meetings will have more purpose and discussion will focus on what needs to change and how
- Better use of professional knowledge and previous experience

The WSCB will undertake a rigorous evaluation of the model to ensure it is improving outcomes for children and their families.

*'Right Service
Right Time'*



Supporting Families



Enhancing Futures



Progress & Achievement

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Progress and Achievement

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) details the statutory framework in which LSCB's work. Working Together states that the Independent Chair of the LSCB:

'Must publish an annual report on the effectiveness of child safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the local area. The report should provide a rigorous and transparent assessment of the performance and effectiveness of local services. It should identify areas of weakness, the causes of those weaknesses and the action being taken to address them as well as other proposals for action' Chapter 3 page 70.

The WSCB undertakes the majority of its work, both statutory and non statutory through its committees. The work completed by the committees against each of the priority areas set in the Business Plan is presented in the following pages.

In 2016-17 the WSCB set 5 priority areas of work in its Business Plan:

- Children who are in need of help and protection are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity by services effectively working together
- Children are protected from sexual exploitation by a skilled workforce and the wider community is equipped to understand and respond to concerns
- Children and Young People who are Looked After, including those placed in Wirral by other Local Authorities are supported by agencies who effectively work together to keep them safe
- Through its effective governance and relationships with influential forums and groups the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board ensures all partner agencies meet the needs of Children and Young people

- The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board discharges all of its statutory duties and ensures the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people

The Business plan was set as a two year plan, with a review and refresh in 2017. It was inevitable that the priority areas for the safeguarding board would be strongly influenced by the outcome of the Ofsted review of the effectiveness of the WSCB undertaken in 2016 which found the safeguarding board to be inadequate.

In response to the findings and recommendations from the Ofsted report the WSCB published an improvement plan. Progress against the plan was presented monthly to the multi-agency and independently chaired improvement board established to oversee the LA and WSCB improvement journeys.



Further information about the improvement journey is on page 12. More detail about progress made in 2016-17 by the WSCB partnership is detailed in pages 34-59.



Priority One: Children who are in need of help and protection are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity by services effectively working together



DESIRED OUTCOMES	PLANNED ACTIVITY	WHAT WE DID	TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) Model ensures children and young people receive the right help at the right time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFEF model finalised by July 2017 Practice guidance published including principles Training programme established Model launched at conferences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The SFEF model was finalised. It was agreed that the model would be introduced for both levels 3 and 4 on the continuum of need (TAF, CIN, CP) Practice Guidance published Training plan and content finalised and training programme begun Two launch events held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the multi-agency training and the bespoke training for social workers and IRO's Roll out the model beginning October 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measurement of the effectiveness and impact of services on children, young people and their families demonstrates positive outcomes for children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service reports received by Improving Outcomes committee Scrutiny of dataset by Performance Cttee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving Outcomes Committee established with robust terms of reference Reporting framework and operating framework published Core dataset presented for scrutiny 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and publication of neglect strategy, multi-agency escalation strategy and risk register
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of evidenced based tools across partner agencies demonstrably supports practice and improves outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools published on WSCB website Use of tools included in WSCB training Reporting of usage and impact received by Improving Outcomes committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tools published on WSCB website. Tools re-launched in Thresholds conferences and embedded in training Use of tools audited by the WSCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCB to evidence routine use of tools to support assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate performance information clearly evidences how safe children and young people are 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core and enhanced datasets established by the performance committee 'top 20' dataset presented quarterly to WSCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Datasets agreed, published, presented to and scrutinised by the WSCB. Datasets include a 'top 20' for the Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trends over time to be identified and responded to
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the multi-agency thresholds of need improves understanding and application and ensures children and young people receive the right help at the right time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thresholds rewritten and re-presented Conferences held Impact measured by Improving Outcomes and Performance (audit) Committees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three multi-agency thresholds conferences launched Thresholds reviewed and re-presented Application of thresholds audit undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit activity with professionals needed to test confidence and understanding
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The voice and feedback from children, young people and families informs the commissioning and delivery of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency reports presented to Improving Outcomes committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of a youth engagement officer for the WSCB Review of and publication of new guidance and ways of providing feedback 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence needed that young people are receiving the right help at the right time

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Priority Two: Children are protected from sexual exploitation by a skilled workforce and the wider community is equipped to understand and respond to concerns



DESIRED OUTCOMES	PLANNED ACTIVITY	WHAT WE DID	TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's services professionals and wider community have a good understanding of signs, symptoms and impact of CSE and are aware of when and how to report concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency audit activity through the CSE and Missing, Performance Committees and LA Children's Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommissioned Catch22 to deliver monthly multi-agency CSE training Developed a CSE audit plan and undertook bi-monthly audits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the CSE protocol, practice guidance and pathway
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency lead officers are identified in every partner agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSE Committee published Lead Officer guidance CSE Development Officer identifies and publishes details of lead officers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead officer guidance published Lead officer details published on the WSCB website 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead officers to demonstrate impact of activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agencies demonstrate the effectiveness of their response to CSE and missing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidenced through audit activity Scrutiny of CSE action plan standing agenda item at WSCB Receipt of reports by CSE Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of ongoing audit programme including identification of learning and themes shared with partnership Review and refresh of the multi-agency CSE action plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assurance from partner agencies about compliance needed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continual programme of auditing demonstrates swift and effective partnership working to combat CSE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency audit activity through the CSE and Missing, Performance Committees and LA Children's Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Audit tool developed and programme in place Ongoing audit programme in place through 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learning from audits to be embedded and tested
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perpetrators are identified, pursued and successfully prosecuted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sharing of intelligence, including through MACSE process, CSE Cttee and WSCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSE problem profile developed by Merseyside Police and intelligence shared at MACSE meetings CSE is a standing item at each Board meeting Police led major CSE operation in Wirral 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police to review effectiveness of current strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children at risk of CSE are identified at the earliest opportunity and victims are supported for as long as is needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of CSE Development Officer Use of CSE workspace and flags CSE training and promotion of tools, literature, learning and research 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSE Development Officer appointed by the WSCB to support this priority area Promotion of the multi-agency training and continued delivery of briefings, including to taxi drivers and licensees Introduction of the CSE workspace in children's services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longer term study of the effectiveness of support given to young people is required
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are involved in the testing and review of the effectiveness of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports from the commissioned service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Catch22 provide reports to the WSCB including feedback from children and young people supported by the service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better evidence across services required

Priority Three: Children and Young People who are Looked After, including those placed in Wirral by other Local Authorities are supported by agencies who effectively work together to keep them safe



DESIRED OUTCOMES	PLANNED ACTIVITY	WHAT WE DID	TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An established Care Home Governance group under the auspices of the safeguarding board offers assurance about the quality of service provided to children looked after in residential settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCB Executive establish Care Home Governance group Committee reviews arrangements to scrutinise quality of safeguarding at residential settings Committee publishes and oversees protocol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care Home Governance group was established along with terms of reference and guidance protocol With protocol in place governance moved to the auspices of LA commissioning with assurance provided to the WSCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure cycle of assurance reporting is established into the improving outcomes committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCB can demonstrate how children and young people are positively listened to and responded to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Receipt and scrutiny of agency reports and reports from young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children in Care Council presented their views and thoughts on safeguarding to the WSCB Views are routinely captured and responded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To ensure that the voice of young people is captured across the partnership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people who are subject to Private Fostering arrangements and their families are well supported and kept safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of annual report and operating protocol to WSCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Private Fostering assurance annual report into the WSCB established A named Independent Reviewing Officer has oversight of all arrangements in Wirral for quality assurance Training, briefings and challenge delivered in 2016-17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refine dataset to focus on the number of referrals Test partnership compliance with agreed arrangements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young people placed in Wirral by other local authorities are aware of the 'local offer' and support is provided to make sure they are safeguarded 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Database of placements held by the LA safeguarding unit Placements procedure established including welfare contact Receipt of reports by Corporate Parenting Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Unit holds accurate database of all children placed in Wirral Through commissioning arrangements all placing authorities aware of their responsibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review to be undertaken with young people to evidence their safety and access to services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children currently living in Wirral whilst their immigration or asylum status is determined have access to services and are kept safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LA presents report about identification of young people and provision of services to the WSCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action is still to be completed. All children regardless of status can access services to keep them safe. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An assurance report to be presented

Priority Four: Through its effective governance and relationships with influential forums and groups the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board ensures all partner agencies meet the needs of Children and Young people



DESIRED OUTCOMES	PLANNED ACTIVITY	WHAT WE DID	TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findings from the Ofsted review of the effectiveness of the WSCB and subsequent improvement action plan improve the governance and influence of the safeguarding board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCB Improvement Plan devised and agreed by Improvement Board Improvement Plan updated each month and presented to the Improvement Board by WSCB Progress is a standing item at each WSCB meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement plan developed and scrutinised at each Improvement Board and WSCB meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase two of the improvement plan to focus on evidencing improved outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WSCB development days inform a clear improvement action plan which positively influences the governance and functioning of the safeguarding board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake two facilitated development days to inform revised operating framework Publish operating framework/ terms of reference Devise and publish improvement plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development days completed. WSCB reviewed governance and functioning and published a revised operating framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development sessions needed for the Children and Social Work Act
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WSCB is prepared for the implementation of the forthcoming Children and Social Care Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Wood review recommendations and Children and Social Care Act implementation plan to WSCB Safeguarding Partners participate in government consultation Proposal for new arrangements to be agreed by April 2018 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and Social Work Act presented to the WSCB WSCB agreed to participate in the consultation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCB are awaiting the consultation from the DfE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WSCB can demonstrate through its work with other influential bodies a clear and smart approach to the commissioning of services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise terms of reference and memorandum of understanding with other influential groups to ensure statutory scrutiny of safeguarding arrangements are in place Children's commissioning intentions to be reported to the Improving Outcomes Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorandum of understanding with influential groups revised and published in Operating Framework Children's commissioning manager member of the Improving Outcomes committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship strengthened with the Health and Wellbeing Board
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WSCB actively supports the Council led partnership 2020 vision and can evidence the positive impact on and improved outcomes for children and young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCB through its sub committees to receive assurance about the improved effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements resulting from the 2020 implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through its committees WSCB actively supports several of the pledges particularly protecting vulnerable children and zero tolerance to domestic abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WSCB to continue to support the 5 year plan through its committees
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are positive about the effectiveness of services they have received which demonstrate measurable outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reports to the Improving Outcomes Committee and WSCB evidence positive feedback from children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This action is to be completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure children have opportunities to review services

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Priority Five: The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board discharges all of its statutory duties and ensures the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people



DESIRED OUTCOMES	PLANNED ACTIVITY	WHAT WE DID	TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WSCB devises an improvement plan to address the 7 recommendations made in the Ofsted review of the effectiveness of the WSCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish the WSCB improvement plan including actions, timescales and evidence of outcomes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement plan published. Plan is presented to and scrutinised at Improvement Board and WSCB meetings to ensure progress is being made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase one completion of improvement plan actions to be agreed by Improvement Board and WSCB
<p>Page 57</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is completed through the Board and committees and other groups established to ensure actions derived from the recommendations are completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress against the recommendations to be a standing agenda item at WSCB and WSCB Executive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A rigorous work plan was established to ensure completion of the actions from Ofsted recommendations. Significant progress was made during 16-17 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase two of the improvement journey to be developed: evidence of impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The improvement plan is reviewed and challenged at each full meeting of the WSCB and the multi-agency improvement board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement plan to be updated each month and presented to Improvement Board for scrutiny Improvement plan presented at each meeting of WSCB and Executive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement is scrutinised on a monthly basis by the improvement board and bi monthly by the WSCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase two of the improvement plan to be developed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WSCB demonstrates progress and full achievement against all the actions within 18 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG rating of actions and outcomes to evidence completion of plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase one of the improvement plan was completed - the actions were all addressed. Phase two is underway - the WSCB to evidence improved outcomes for children, young people and their families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence positive impact on children and families following completion of the actions.

Priority Areas for 2017-19



Priority Area	Activity
1. Children who are in need of help and protection are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity by services effectively working together	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the Supporting Families Enhancing Futures Model of Child Protection Measurement of the effectiveness and impact of services on children, young people and their families Agencies evidence the use and impact of evidenced based tools to support practice and improve outcomes
2. Children are protected from sexual exploitation by a skilled workforce and the wider community is equipped to understand and respond to concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's services professionals and wider community have a good understanding of signs, symptoms and impact of CSE and are aware of when and how to report concerns Multi-agency lead officers identified in every partner agency, and the workforce is competent and confident to respond to CSE Agencies demonstrate the effectiveness of their response to CSE and miss-
3. Children and Young People who are Looked After, including those placed in Wirral by other Local Authorities are supported by agencies who effectively work together to keep them safe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a care Home Governance group under the auspices of the safeguarding board WSCB can demonstrate how children and young people are positively listened to and responded to Children and young people who are subject to Private Fostering arrangements and their families are well supported and safeguarded
4. Through its effective governance and relationships with influential forums and groups the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board ensures all partner agencies meet the needs of Children and Young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Findings from the Ofsted review of the effectiveness of the WSCB and subsequent improvement action plan improve the governance and influence of the safeguarding board The WSCB development days inform a clear improvement action plan which positively influences the governance and functioning of the safeguarding board The WSCB is prepared for the implementation of the forthcoming Children
5. The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board discharges all of its statutory duties and ensures the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The WSCB devises an improvement plan to address the 7 recommendations made in the Ofsted review of the effectiveness of the WSCB Work is completed through the Board and committees and other groups established to ensure actions derived from the recommendations are completed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Performance Information dataset developed to clearly demonstrate how safe children and young people are Review of the multi-agency thresholds of needs and testing of application and understanding Voice and feedback from children, young people and families informs the commissioning and delivery of services Continual programme of auditing demonstrates swift and effective partnership working Perpetrators are identified, pursued and successfully prosecuted Children at risk of CSE are identified at the earliest opportunity and victims are supported for as long as is needed Children and young people are involved in the testing and review of the effectiveness of services Children and young people placed in Wirral by other local authorities are aware of the 'local offer' and support is provided to make sure they are safeguarding Children and young people currently living in Wirral whilst their immigration or asylum status is determined have access to services and are safeguarded The WSCB can demonstrate, through its work with other influential bodies a clear and smart approach to the commissioning of services The WSCB actively supports the Council led partnership 2020 vision and can evidence the positive impact on and improved outcomes for children and young people Children and Young people are positive about the effectiveness of services they have received which demonstrate measurable outcomes The improvement plan is reviewed and challenged at each full meeting of the WSCB and the multi-agency improvement board The WSCB demonstrates progress and full achievement against all the actions within 18 months The WSCB develops Phase two of improvement plan to evidence outcomes for children and

CSE & Missing

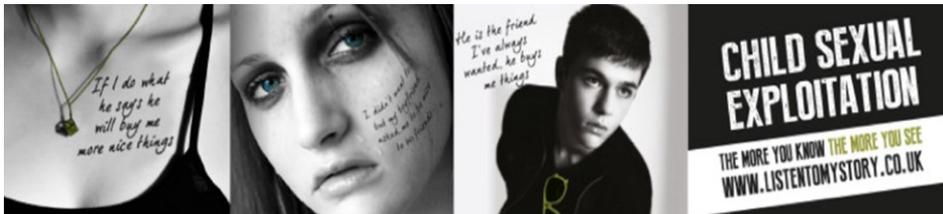
Tackling child sexual exploitation remains a top priority for the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and the partnership.

Catch 22, a commissioned service, attended schools and colleges across Merseyside to raise awareness of CSE during the week leading up to CSE Awareness day on March 18th 2017. A message was sent via Twitter which was retweeted by the National Working Group.

The purpose of Operation Stay Safe (jointly facilitated by Police, Catch 22, Youth Outreach Workers and Response) is to give young people advice, safety pits and raise awareness of CSE. It is also a good way to gather intelligence. This intelligence is then shared with Police and licencing for test purchasing and other disruption tactics. The group targeted New Brighton funfair and bowling alley, as well as other areas of concern, provided leaflets and posters and offered a free 2 hour briefing session for staff.

Catch 22 continue to provide multi agency CSE training which aims to provide practitioners across all agencies with best practice principles for working with children and young people who have been, or are at risk of being, sexually exploited.

Further information and advice about CSE, whether you are a professional, child or young person, parent or carer, or a member of the public, can be found on the www.listentomystory.co.uk website.



The WSCB CSE and Missing committee are undertaking quarterly multi-agency audits of children and young people's cases which involve concerns for CSE. The aim of the audits is to assess the following:

- if the correct processes have been followed in line with the CSE procedure and protocol
- if the correct forms and tools have been completed and if they are of good quality
- if the response to CSE was timely and appropriate
- if information is consistently shared between agencies
- if the voice of the young person is evident within plans, assessments and decision making

The agencies involved with the audits include Health, Police, Education and Social Care.

The findings and recommendations from the audits will then be circulated to all agencies and published on the WSCB website: <https://www.wirral Safeguarding.co.uk/>





As part of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board CSE and Missing action plan, the CSE protocol and practice guidance for all agencies is regularly reviewed and updated accordingly.

During this procedure it was found that the referral process for reporting concerns of CSE was slightly onerous due to the number of forms that were to be completed. This included a CSE screening tool to identify the nature and level of the CSE concerns, a CSE1 referral form to report the concerns of CSE and a Multi-Agency Request for Services form. Feedback from the agencies resulted in the CSE and Missing Committee agreeing to the CSE1 referral form being removed from the reporting process, therefore reducing bureaucracy and simplifying the reporting process.

A quarterly CSE and Missing report is produced by the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board. The Local Authority's data system produces a report highlighting all the children who have been classed as missing from home or care across Wirral. This information is cross referenced with the children permanently absent data, provided by the Education Social Welfare service, and data taken from both the Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation conference (MACSE) minutes and information provided by Catch 22. At the conclusion of the report observations from the data provided are recorded and recommendations are made.

One of these observations included an issue regarding the inconsistency of the application of CSE warning flags on a child or young person's case file on liquid logic, social care's computer system. It was revealed that there was confusion amongst social care staff as to when and how the warning flags were to be applied. There has since been a development in the digital process, a CSE pathway has been created. Now when a social worker is recording a report of concerns for CSE, via the CSE pathway, the system automatically applies a CSE warning flag when the report hits a certain level of concern.

Another observation was that there was not an up to date list of CSE lead officers for each agency. CSE Lead Officers are expected to drive practice improvements ensuring consistency across the whole service. The lead officers' details, which include the person's role and contact details, have now been collated and published on the WSCB website.

The Wirral Safeguarding Board has undertaken Serious Case Reviews where Child Sexual Exploitation was a key factor. Learnings from the local reviews have been published on the WSCB website, as below, and posters have been circulated to all agencies.



Local Learning from Serious Case Reviews Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Learning from local reviews where Child Sexual Exploitation was a key factor tells us:

- The language YOU and others use will determine how you and other agencies respond. Avoid using phrases such as "putting themselves at risk" "lifestyle choices" as this makes the child responsible for their abuse
- When older children try to control the situation- it maybe they feel "out of control". What they see as the solution may not always be the best/life plan
- Children who are physically or emotionally neglected are MORE vulnerable to CSE. When thinking about neglect think about the physical and the emotional environment for children- use the screening tool whenever neglect is a feature
- Frequently alcohol misuse and domestic violence are evident in families where neglect is a factor. These are also common features in the parents of children vulnerable to CSE
- Children CANNOT consent to abuse
- Children and vulnerable young adult describing older "boyfriends" ALWAYS requires workers to use Professional Curiosity to know what is really happening
- Children who are experiencing CSE do not always recognise themselves as victims- We MUST not fall into this trap

Please read the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board CSE Practice Guidance which sets out warning signs and vulnerabilities for children who may be at risk

<https://www.wirral Safeguarding Children Board.co.uk/professionals/child-sexual-exploitation/>
<https://www.ishistorystory.co.uk/>



Below is a CSE case study from June 2017 which had a positive outcome for the young person involved :

A 14 years old female was reported missing by her mother in January 2016. This was her first missing incident. When spoken to by a police officer, upon returning home, it was evident there were CSE concerns related to the missing incident. The young person was associating with older peers and using alcohol. She was in a relationship with a male 10 years older than her and disclosed that a sexual act had taken place with him after he had given her alcohol. The young person was very vulnerable and did not recognise the risk or danger of her relationship or behaviours. She had also witnessed a significant amount of domestic violence within the family home, which her father was currently in prison for.

The mother had begun to notice changes in the young person's behaviour around 1 month before the missing incident. She had started coming home later than usual, sometimes smelling of alcohol, and with gifts, although she had no money to purchase them (i.e. cigarettes and takeaway food). She had also begun using her phone excessively and had been associating with older peers. During the police investigation it was discovered that the young person had met the perpetrator approximately 1 month before the missing incident, which explained some of the noticed changes in her behaviour. This resulted in the arrest of the perpetrator.

When Catch 22 delivered a CSE awareness intervention to the young person's mother she found it difficult to understand the concept of CSE and that her daughter had been a victim as opposed to a willing party. Through extensive support and awareness work, over the period of 15 months, the young person and her mother began to understand that CSE involves coercion and manipulation by a groomer to engage a young person in sexual activity for their own benefit. The young person had believed that the perpetrator loved her and was her boyfriend, despite

him being on remand in jail during this period, whilst a police investigation was underway.

When the prosecution trial began Catch 22 supported the young person throughout the trial. This was an incredibly emotional and stressful time for the family. The trial concluded as a successful prosecution, the perpetrator being found guilty. Mother stated that she was ecstatic with the verdict and the young person hugged her Catch 22 support worker.

Catch 22 continued to support the young person after the trial was over and she has since stated that **“through the support of Catch 22 I have realised I can be open and honest about stuff that's going on in my life and can trust some adults.”** And **“I would only get into a relationship with someone close to my age. I don't go to strangers' houses any more. I have learnt the difference between what a good and a bad friend is.”**

Going forward the CSE and Missing Committee is progressing with plans to manage Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE). A CCE screening tool and measurement tool are to be piloted in the Wirral, similar to the CSE procedure. Training will run from September 2017 to assist practitioners in using the tools. It has been agreed that the Multi Agency Action Group (MAAG) will be the forum for managing CCE, and it will operate similar to the Multi Agency Child Sexual Exploitation meetings (MACSE). The pathway document has been completed along with terms of reference. There will be a roll out of training for schools which will also include CSE training. The CSE and Missing Committee will also need to consider an audit process for CCE processes. Catch 22 have started to include an element of Child Criminal Exploitation in their CSE multi-agency training, and also have an allocated Catch 22 worker who will discuss CCE with young people.

Multi-agency Training

Learning and Development

The WSCB is responsible for ensuring that high quality multi-agency safeguarding training is available for all professionals, working in the Childrens workforce, to attend. The training function for children's safeguarding is managed through the multi-agency Learning and Development Committee of the WSCB. The committee is responsible for developing, reviewing, promoting and quality assuring training and for establishing and overseeing a training pool of trainers drawn from the partnership.

The training function is supported by a Safeguarding Training Officer who is responsible for ensuring the day to day delivery of training, monitoring attendance at training and managing the evaluation strategy.

Competency Framework

The Learning and Development Committee publishes an annual safeguarding training calendar which is available on the Safeguarding Board website, www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk. The calendar sits alongside the training competency framework for partner organisations.

The competency framework provides baseline for standards of competence that are expected from those individuals and organisations, across a range of sectors, that have a responsibility to ensure that the children, young people they work with are sufficiently safeguarded. It also assists in the development of training packages and provides a framework for performance management. Partner organisations can use this framework to help them decide the relevance of training courses to particular staff groups and individuals.

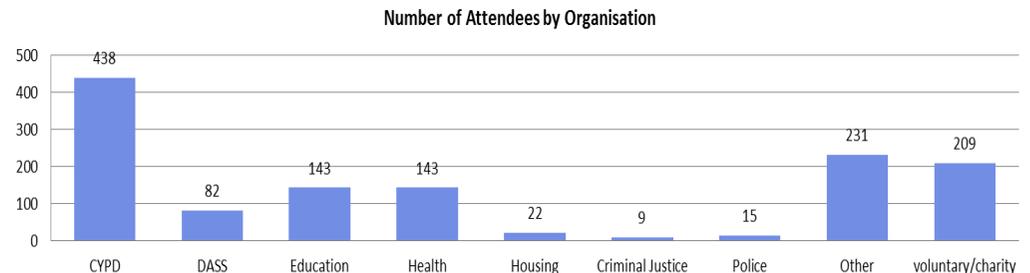
Training Calendar

The training calendar details all the courses offered by the WSCB over a 12 month period. A summary of each course is provided along with recommendations of which staff groups the event is appropriate for based on the competency framework. Throughout the year the training calendar is regularly updated to integrate and respond to learning emerging from SCRs and CIRs and to meet the continuing demands of the Childrens workforce.

The process for applying for these courses is via an electronic booking system through the Safeguarding Board Website. All of the training offered by the WSCB is designed for a multi-agency children's services audience. The training is provided free of charge to professionals.

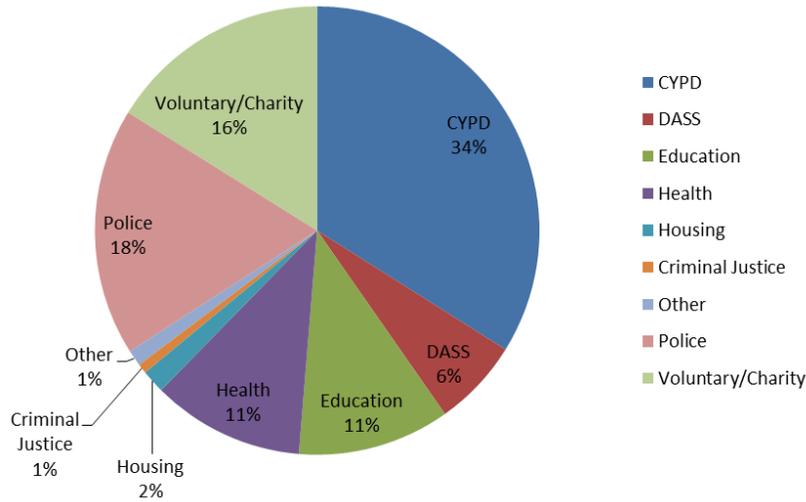
In 2016-17 the training calendar offered a total of 66 training events, both full day training events and half day briefings. These training events included; Working Together to Safeguard Children, Neglect, Child Sexual Exploitation, Engaging Effectively with Resistant Families/Risk in Practice, Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent and Safer Recruitment all delivered with or by local professionals with relevant expertise.

From April 2016 to end of March 2017 a total number of 1292 people attended the multi-agency training across all the events. A breakdown of numbers from each organisation is shown in the following graph. For the purposes of this report CYPD includes Social Care and Targeted Services and Criminal Justice includes Probation and YOS.





Attendees by Organisation



Training Evaluation

Since October 2016 the WSCB has implemented a more comprehensive evaluation strategy in order to measure the effectiveness of the multi-agency training. This new evaluation strategy has three stages:

- At the end of the course professionals complete an initial evaluation which details how their practice will change having completed the training but also asks them to rate the course on a scale of one to five—with five being excellent.
- Approximately three months after attending the course professionals complete a second evaluation which details how attendance at training has influenced practice and strategy in their organisation
- Four to five months after attending the course a range of professionals are invited to attend a WSCB facilitated focus group to evidence impact of training on outcomes for children and young people and as such demonstrate how effective the training has been.

Immediate feedback from training has always been really positive with comments about both the materials and trainers as being engaging and helpful. Most of the criticism on feedback forms has been about venues being cold/hot or difficulties in parking.

In 2016-17 four focus groups were held considering the impact of the following training events; Neglect, Domestic Abuse, Lead Designated Person and Parental Mental Health. These focus groups have been invaluable in capturing how practice has changed as a direct result of training with one participant commenting that even just attending the focus group made her review her own knowledge and practice.

Feedback from the Domestic Abuse and Neglect focus groups.

It should be noted that as with previous years there were often events that were over-subscribed at the point of booking, which ended up running with less than capacity numbers and so the non-attendance rate on the day continues to remain relatively high.

When considering the figures for non-attendance this does not include those that were cancellations due to unforeseen circumstances, such as sickness or bereavement. We did include those that had made contact but not within the 3 working days timescale, as the cancellation process sets out.

In the period 2016-2017 we had a total of 248 non-attendees across all events. Thus the non-attendance across all agencies sits at approximately 15%. This is a large number of non-attendees that the WSCB continues to address.

Feedback from the Domestic Abuse and Neglect focus groups.

One participant said she is a lot more confident to complete a DASH form and had since made a referral to the MARAC. Another was able to give an example of using her knowledge to make a referral to RASA. The safety planning covered had been helpful in both offering support to those women attending the Freedom Programme, but also as one participant identified, even in a broader context giving the example of working with someone with anxiety issues.

One participant talked about a family she had been working with and how use of the tool had finally brought some clarity and understanding to the parent about their situation, allowing some really meaningful work to follow.

Another participant gave an example of working with a mother and being much more aware of home conditions, particularly those we don't always see. She was able to explore with that family their circumstances in a more holistic way and reported progress and improvement in that family.

Alongside the evaluation of learning of the participants who attend the training, further evaluation of both the events and the trainers is done via live observation and feedback. The Training officer observes every trainer at least once per annum and provides written feedback. The aim of this live observation is to aid development and improvement of training materials but also the personal development of the trainers skills in the training room.

Training Pool

There is a well-established Training Pool of multi-agency trainers who facilitate the training for partner organisations across the area. This pool is made up of colleagues from Childrens Social Care, Health, and Specialist partner agencies. The pool works in collaboration to develop and update materials as well as deliver in their own areas of expertise. The input of knowledgeable, practising colleagues is invaluable to the learning process and well received by participants.

The Training Pool meets bi-monthly to discuss current training issues and explore areas of personal development. They are also offered the opportunity to attend a two day Train the Trainer event lead by The North West Inter-Agency Trainers (NWIAT) group. This training offer was taken up by four of the training pool members in 2016-17 with another three signing up to undertake the training in 2017.

It has been recognised that the Training Pool needs to be expanded to meet the demand for training events and moving through 2017 will include members of staff from Probation/CRC, and YOS. This will give the WSCB a larger pool of experience to draw upon and opportunity to deliver more sessions.

Child Sexual Exploitation

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) remains a priority area of work for the WSCB. In 2016-17 the WSCB commissioned provider Catch22 to deliver 10 multi-agency CSE courses. Over this period a total of 155 professionals attended the training. Moving forward into 2017 this continues to be a priority for the WSCB and Catch 22 continue to deliver that event to all partner agencies. Feedback from these events has always proved to be positive.



I work with teenagers who are at a risk of CSE so it helped me to gain more knowledge, get to know pathways, etc

The information gained at this training will help foster carers be aware of CSE, the indicators, and the agencies that can help

Domestic Abuse

The WSCB continues to provide a well-attended training event around Domestic Abuse and the assessment tools that support this work. This event runs bi-monthly and is always fully subscribed.

Harmful Practices

As a result of a Learning Review concerning a case of potential Forced Marriage the WSCB put together a robust policy around Harmful Practices and with colleagues from the Family Safety Unit developed a one day training package which now runs bi-monthly and is delivered by those staff that developed it.

Initial feedback from the first events was very positive.

Such an awful subject, did not feel confident about this as I was worried I would miss something. Feel I now have access to resources and have been sign-posted to support groups.

Will enable me to understand and help any clients I am working with who are having to deal with issues around harmful practices.

Neglect

The Neglect course continues to promote the use of the Graded Care Profile as the required tool for assessing neglect and is an expectation of the new referral pathway. The event includes input from Police colleagues looking at live local cases and the complexities of working with neglect.

The event is delivered by Health and Childrens Social Care colleagues and continues to receive excellent feedback.

Excellent course, essential to all home visiting teams

We often work with parents re neglect, very useful empowering tool.

Future Developments

Response to the most recent Training Needs Analysis (TNA) was very poor and as such did not assist in the development of the current training calendar due to lack of responses. This is an issue that has been raised with a view to look at how this can be avoided in the future, and how to develop a TNA that will produce more useful results.

The WSCB has been mindful that at a time of austerity and cutbacks attendance at training is something which often suffers. In response to this the WSCB has introduced alternative learning resources although it needs to be recognised that these have not been taken on board by partner agencies as would have been hoped. In partnership with Virtual College the WSCB commissioned a 3 year programme of e-learning with 40 different learning modules available. The take up of this learning resource was initially very slow and the message as to how to access the learning was confused. This has now all been added to the website with clear instruction on how to register and there are over 1500 users now registered. This is an area the WSCB will continue to promote.





The WSCB introduced a suite of 7 minute briefings as a learning tool for organisations to use within their own teams. These briefings will continue to be added to with a view to aligning them with a current theme. National and local issues from Serious Case Reviews and Critical Incident Reviews will continue to be incorporated into the training.

The issue of non-attendance continues to be an issue despite changes in processes which should have made cancelling attendance easier. The WSCB continues to look at how to increase numbers attending training and so reduce the percentage number of non-attendees.

With the imminent introduction of the Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) model for Child Protection Case Conferences, Child in Need meetings and Team Around the Family meetings, the WSCB has the task of rolling out training to over 1000 members of the Childrens workforce. This project of training whilst being a priority for the second half of 2017 will run alongside the already scheduled training events.

Through the year the WSCB has agreed to hold conferences for professionals. Over the past 12 months there have been successful conferences relaunching the Thresholds document and introducing the new SFEF model.

September			
5 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) COURSE DETAILS >	6 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) COURSE DETAILS >	7 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) COURSE DETAILS >	11 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) COURSE DETAILS >
12 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) COURSE DETAILS >	13 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Family CAP and Team Around the Family COURSE DETAILS >	13 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) COURSE DETAILS >	14 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) - Social Workers COURSE DETAILS >
15 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 05:00 Protecting Vulnerable People COURSE DETAILS >	15 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Child Sexual Exploitation COURSE DETAILS >	15 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) - Social Workers COURSE DETAILS >	19 SEPTEMBER 2017 09:30 - 04:30 Harmful Practices - FGM, Honour-Based Violence, Forced Marriage COURSE DETAILS >

Online Booking of training through WSCB website.

WSCB Training Priorities for 2017-18:

- Ensure that the multi-agency training evaluation strategy is robust and evidences the positive impact on children and young people in the Wirral
- Ensure that the training pool is secure well-staffed in order to be the lead delivery vehicle for high quality multi-agency training
- Continue to embed learning from national SCR's and local reviews in training and disseminate through the learning and development committee
- Improve the quality and usage of performance information data to support safeguarding
- Continue to deliver sustainable, quality training by introducing a charging policy for all training events
- Review the venues used for training to balance the quality of provision with the costs associated.
- Assist in embedding the new model Supporting Families Enhancing Futures by co-ordinating and delivering a roll out of training for all staff in the Childrens workforce.

Local Authority Designated Officer for Allegations

Background and Introduction

The Local Authority Designated Officer's (LADO) key role is to provide advice and guidance to employers or voluntary organisations regarding referrals related to concerns about adults in a position of trust with children and young people. They are required to liaise with police and other agencies including Ofsted and professional bodies, to monitor the progress of referrals to ensure they are dealt with as quickly as possible with a consistent with a thorough and fair process. The LADO should also seek to resolve any inter-agency issues, to collect strategic data, maintain confidential records in relation to allegations and to disseminate learning from LADO enquiries throughout the children's workforce. The LADO function is carried out by a full time officer who sits within the WSCB.

This report forms part of the LADO's reporting requirements to the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) regarding Managing Allegations Against Professionals who Work with Children & Young People and the Role of the LADO. It seeks to complement the quarterly performance data reports submitted to the WSCB. The purpose of this report is to assure the partnership regarding the Managing Allegations process, how it is implemented and developed, and the impact of Working Together to Safeguard Children (WTTSC) 2015 and to identify local and national themes and issues relating to the Managing Allegations process.

WTTSC 2006 set out that each Local Safeguarding Children Board had a statutory responsibility to provide a LADO service that would be accountable for co-ordinating the response to concerns that an adult who works with children may have caused them harm. This role has been developed in more recent publications and is included in WTTSC 2015.

WTTSC 2015, Chapter Two, Section Four, states that under Organisations Responsibilities, agencies should have clear policies in line with those from the LSCB for dealing with allegations against people who work with children. Such policies should make a clear distinction between an allegation, a concern about the quality of care or practice or a complaint. This provides the threshold for referrals to the LADO and that a referral should be made when an agency is presented with allegation that may relate to a person who works with children who has:

behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;

possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or

behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

All allegations must be referred through to the LADO within 24 hours of identification, prior to any investigation or action being taken by that agency.



On average, for every one case that is opened, four further cases are discussed with the LADO and concluded as not having met the threshold at that present time.

Managing Allegations against Professionals who Work with Children and Young People

The Managing Allegations Against Professionals who Work with Children and Young People procedure, referral, feedback and support documents can be found on the WSCB website:

<https://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/professionals/lado-allegations/>

along with links to external support such as the Guidance for safer working practice for those working with children and young people and Disclosure and Barring resources. The page was and was last updated in March 2017 and is in line with Working Together 2015. Within this update, guidance has been provided for the police and their duty to engage with the LADO process and provide timely feedback on investigations.

All agencies are under a statutory obligation to refer all allegations, prior to any investigation or action, to the LADO within 24 hours of identification. During the last twelve months, 328 allegations have met the criteria to be opened as a case and approximately a further 1350 initial consultations took place with regard to concerns held within agencies that did not meet the threshold at that time.

The total number of cases opened has increased from 281 during 2015/16 to 328 during 2016/7, a 16.73% increase. This increase is in keeping with the year on year increase over the last five years, but is down from the 22.70% identified last year.

Referrals resulting in opened cases were received from agencies during 2016/17 compared to 2015/16 as follows:

	2015-2016	% of 2015-2016	2016-2017	% of 2016-2017	% +/- between years
Referrals receive from agencies:					
Community	28	9.96%	18	5.49%	-35.71%
Education	150	53.38%	165	50.30%	10.00%
Prison	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Probation	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Police	19	6.76%	20	6.10%	5.26%
Social care	77	27.40%	121	36.89%	57.14%
Health	7	2.49%	4	1.22%	-42.86%
Foster carers	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Total	281	100.00%	328	100.00%	16.73%

During this period, referrals and consultations from Education, Police and Social Care, including the Fostering Service, have seen an increase; this may be due to training and the commitment from WSCB representatives to ensure their agencies refer all allegations to the LADO. As with previous years, referral from certain agencies such as the Probation and Prison services and the Community/Voluntary and Faith sector continue to be low.

Allegations that have been referred from agencies were in relation to staff who work within the following settings:

	2015-2016	% of 2015-2016	2016-2017	% of 2016-2017	% +/- between years
Referrals regarding staff employed by:					
Community	36	12.81%	109	33.23%	202.78%
Education	172	61.21%	160	48.78%	-6.98%
Prison	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Probation	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0.00%
Police	0	0.00%	2	0.61%	0.00%
Social care	15	5.34%	3	0.91%	-80.00%
Health	7	2.49%	10	3.05%	42.86%
Foster carers	51	18.15%	44	13.41%	-13.73%
Total	281	100.00%	328	100.00%	16.73%





Increases in the type of professional subject to allegation shown some significant changes this year, the largest increase being in community based employees for which the increase of allegations against staff in this area has risen 202.78%; whilst it is acknowledged that these referrals did not come from the agencies themselves. During 2017, a large training programme for all nurseries and child minders commenced, delivered by the Local Authority Early Years' Service and supported by the LADO and as such, increases have more recently been seen from community based organisations, particularly Private Day Nurseries. This programme continues into 2018 and should see the amount of referrals increase further, but those working in these settings subject to allegations should reduce.

Allegations regarding staff in education settings has been relatively static, although this is the first time it has been recorded as a decrease in those subject to allegations, whilst cases referred by this agency has increased. It is noted again that following on from last year, many of the referrals made this year with regard to Education staff are in relation to supply staff. Engagement from supply agencies in the managing allegations process remains inconsistent and unfortunately they are not regulated, so escalations can be problematic, which is mirrored by report from regional and national LADOs.

	2015-2016	% of 2015-2016	2016-2017	% of 2016-2017	% +/- between
Type of abuse:					
Neglect	27	9.61%	46	14.02%	70.37%
Emotional	28	9.96%	54	16.46%	92.86%
Sexual	51	18.15%	49	14.94%	-3.92%
Physical	175	62.28%	179	54.57%	2.29%
Total	281	100.00%	328	100.00%	16.73%

All allegations reported to the LADO and opened as cases will fall within one of the four following categories of abuse:

It is noted that there is a significant increase in allegations relating to emotional abuse and neglect, 70% and 93% respectively. Again, the majority of emotional abuse cases were in relation to education settings, whilst neglect cases were across the agencies and predominantly related to incidents pertaining to the children of adults in a position of trust as opposed to children they were responsible for whilst in their position of trust.

Training and Development for a Safer Workforce

During this period a number of briefings and training sessions have been held to promote safer working practices across agencies, this has included sessions for the following:

- Managing Allegations against Professionals for Safeguarding Leads
- Safer Recruitment Training
- Senior Designated Persons Training - Education
- Nominated Safeguarding Lead Training - Multi Agency
- Safer Working Practices briefings
- Cluster group briefings
- Foster Carer Briefings

The LADO area on the WSCB website has been updated and the leaflets and posters for employers, employees and parents and carers have been loaded to the site, along with other support materials which are also available on the WSCB Facebook page and Twitter feed also managed by the LADO.

Other bespoke sessions have been delivered directly to settings upon identification of specific needs. During this period over 785 staff have received direct training from the LADO to support them to develop a safer workforce.

Actions for Partnership

Last year, we reported the findings of Ofsted, 'The management of allegations against professionals is not consistently effective and investigations are sometimes delayed'. It was identified that this 'was largely due to a lack of compliance with procedures. The designated officer was not receiving reports of concerns about professionals quickly enough and the quality of information, when it was provided, was poor. Many referrals were made after the strategy meeting has taken place, without the designated officer present. Communication and feedback to the designated officer from other agencies was poor, with large numbers of investigations remaining open for long periods while police investigations are ongoing.

When children are subject to allegations of abuse by professionals or in their homes, investigations were not always compliant with statutory guidance. The local authority designated officer was sometimes informed retrospectively, after a strategy discussion about an allegation against a professional has taken place. The identification of, and response to, those children in private fostering arrangements and the management of allegations against professionals are inconsistent, so the local authority cannot be fully confident that children are safeguarded quickly and effectively'.

Ofsted went on to make the following recommendation to the WSCB, 'Ensure that procedures for referral to the designated officer are understood and followed by staff to provide a consistent, timely and effective response to allegations against professionals.'

Following this report, WSCB Chair has sought and received written confirmation that all partner agencies will ensure:

- The notification to the LADO within 24 hours where there is or may be an allegation against professional.

- The requirement to report conclusions of investigations and enquiries which they have referred or have been involved in the investigation of within 24 hours of reaching an outcome.

Support materials and access to additional training was also provided to ensure that partner agencies are fully able to meet these requirements and an escalation procedure is in development when agencies fail to meet timescales.

Work is ongoing regarding:

Late referrals from partner agencies – escalation procedures are in development and will be presented to the board in November 2017 for agreement

Some agencies still either do not make referrals about professionals and/or their own staff – some agencies still are shown as reporting very few allegations against their staff and providing poor engagement with the LADO regarding safeguarding measures and steps taken when the LADO raises concerns regarding their employees. This has been discussed by the Board and will also be raised during the LADO presentation to the Board in November 2017.

Investigations undertaken by agencies prior to referral – This period has demonstrated the impact of training and support materials being provided to employers. Agencies investigating allegations prior to making the statutory referral to the LADO has significantly decreased and work will continue to be ongoing regarding this issue.

Owner/Manager based settings – concerns regarding managing allegations in owner based settings continue to be problematic for all LADOs and this has been discussed at the regional and national LADO conferences. Project groups are considering this issue and in the meantime, LADOs seek the support of statutory bodies to remove licences or suspend organisations when there is no senior manager to implement such safeguarding measures.



Staff employed via agencies – as above, this continues to be an area of concern nationally and as such, is being reviewed by the National LADO group.

External HR providers or agencies without HR support – Employers have received advice and support in this area during training sessions and are signposted to ACAS and such bodies to ensure that the LADO remains outside of the investigative process

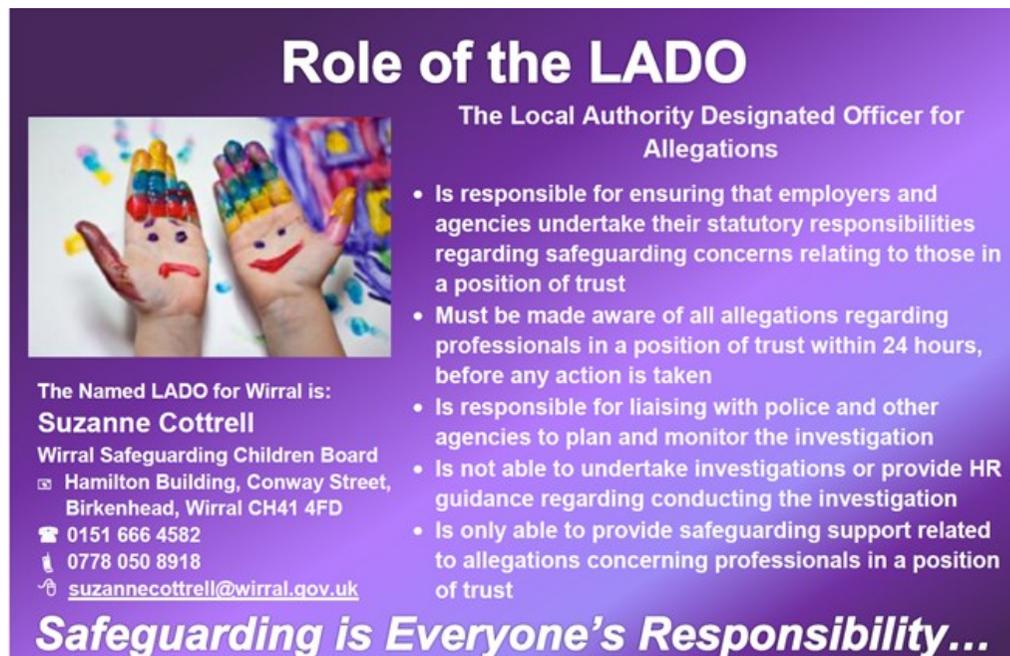
Police investigations, allocation, updates, closure and information sharing – During this year, a procedural flow chart, guide and training has been delivered to officers in relation to timely sharing of information. Unfortunately this currently has had little effective and information sharing by the police remains inconsistent.

Agency notifications to the LADO of progress or closures – Whilst some agencies have demonstrated a significant improvement in ensuring they share closure information with the LADO, this remains inconsistent and is often not timely. Despite assurances to the Board and the Chair providing Board representatives' with information pertaining to historical cases remaining open, many cases still remain without closure information. This will be raised with the Board again in November 2017 when the LADO will seek the Board's approval to escalate this to agency Directors.

Areas of Development for 2017-18

The introduction in January 2017 of the LADO workspace within Liquid Logic has provided a formal electronic recording system for all cases pertaining to the Management of Allegations against Professionals. This system has been in development and in March 2017 the current version was launched in Wirral. This system now allows for the LADO role to record all cases and case management records and track cases to support timely conclusion. The system also provides additional reporting facilities that were not previously available with the paper based recording system.

Discussions relating to the co-location of the LADO within the MASH team continue and this would aim to support information sharing between the police, front door services within Children's Social Care and the LADO function, with consideration being given to the initial LADO contact being made to the front door.



Role of the LADO

The Local Authority Designated Officer for Allegations

- Is responsible for ensuring that employers and agencies undertake their statutory responsibilities regarding safeguarding concerns relating to those in a position of trust
- Must be made aware of all allegations regarding professionals in a position of trust within 24 hours, before any action is taken
- Is responsible for liaising with police and other agencies to plan and monitor the investigation
- Is not able to undertake investigations or provide HR guidance regarding conducting the investigation
- Is only able to provide safeguarding support related to allegations concerning professionals in a position of trust

The Named LADO for Wirral is:
Suzanne Cottrell
Wirral Safeguarding Children Board
Hamilton Building, Conway Street,
Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 4FD
0151 666 4582
0778 050 8918
suzannecottrell@wirral.gov.uk

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The Managing Allegations against Professional's procedure can be found online:
http://wirralscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/p_man_alleg_vol.html



Integrated Front Door and MASH

Service Overview

The aim of the Integrated Front Door and MASH is to provide the children and young people of Wirral with the right service at the right time so that they are safe and can achieve their potential.

The model for service delivery for all requests for service in relation to vulnerable children is predicated on an Integrated Front Door/ MASH, which is multi-disciplinary and therefore allows for more robust identification of services for those children who are vulnerable and in need.

The integrated front door is the first point of contact for professionals and members of the public if they have any welfare concerns for a child. This can be via phone or secure email using the multi-agency request for service. All staff based at the IFD is highly experienced in triaging and prioritising the needs of children depending on the nature of concerns or requests for service and identifying a 'threshold of need' level and most appropriate service will meet the needs of the child. This includes signposting to universal or third sector services which might be able to help. (See appendix 2)

All information being processed and recorded in the MASH/IFD are done so on the child's electronic file. This system is called Liquid Logic (LL). Liquid Logic has a number of modules within it. Early Help Module (EHM), this is where non statutory interventions are recorded. Liquid Childrens System (LCS) is where all statutory social work is recorded.

Within the MASH there are two main hubs of professionals; each hub operates a pathway that allows for a timely response to all requests for service in support of efficient decision making (See appendix 3).

The integrated hub deals with all incoming requests for service and this is where the initial triaging of requests for service is screened. They will make a decision as follows:

- Further information is required and will pass the request for service as a contact into the multi-agency safeguarding 'hub' where information sharing will take place and a threshold decision will be made.
- The request for service asks for information only. (CAFCASS, Probation etc.) these will be passed as contacts to a social worker for single agency screening.
- A referral to early help is required. Referral will go to early help and CAF team
- Immediate safeguarding/section 47 (CA1989) is required. Referral will go to first response.
- The threshold for child in need (section 17 CA 1989) is met the referral will be passed to the relevant district team.
- Does not meet threshold for Level 4/Level 3 continuum of need

The second 'hub' of professionals – MASH, is staffed with our key partners.

The MASH hub is an intelligence gathering hub where information can be shared by agencies in a safe and secure setting. The purpose of the hub is to enable information sharing in relation to children and young people about whom there might be concerns to inform a decision as to the right course of action and provision of services according to threshold of need.

The secure environment ensures agencies can discuss information in a confidential setting keeping the information within a closed environment. This allows for analysis and hypothesis before a decision is made about what information leaves the hub and what level of need and services the child requires, if any. The decisions made by the hub are;

- The level and content of information to be shared outside of the hub.
- Whether the threshold for social care intervention is met. (Section 17/ Section 47 the Children Act 1989-CA89)
- Creating a detailed referral and sending this to either the district teams



for an assessment under S17 CA89 or to the First Response Team under S47 of the Act for a child protection investigation.

- Whether the threshold for early help is met and passing to early help.
- Whether the right service can come from universal services.

Not every request for coming through the integrated front door will need to be sent through the MASH for further assessment.

The First Response Team is based in the IFD. The team is made up of experienced qualified social workers and police officers who provide an immediate safeguarding response where there is a potential risk of significant harm to a child or young person. The team will take referrals directly:

- From the integrated front door (if it is deemed there is an immediate risk)
- From the MASH where a section 47 strategy discussion/meeting becomes appropriate as a result of information sharing.
- From the MASH where the child needs to be seen before a threshold decision in relation to social care's response can be made, due to insufficient information being available.

There is currently a Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)/Missing Service located at the Integrated Front Door. This service works collectively to develop and co-ordinate Wirral's multi agency response to child sexual exploitation (CSE).

The governance arrangements of the IFD/MASH are multi-disciplinary. The MASH operational group meets monthly to manage and track actions as set out in the MASH action plan. The Group reports to the MASH Board and through it to the WSCB.

Key Issues and Challenges

In July 2016 the Single Inspection Framework (SIF) Ofsted Inspection summarised the need to focus on 2 main areas specific to the role and efficiency of the MASH:-

- Thresholds are consistently understood and applied by the Local Authority and partner agencies.
- Strategy meetings are timely and include information from key professionals to inform the identification of risk.

Ofsted conducted a monitoring visit on 25 and 26 January 2017. The visit was the first monitoring visit since the local authority was judged inadequate following an inspection in July 2016.

During the course of this visit, inspectors reviewed the progress made in the area of help and protection, with a particular focus on contact, referral and assessment arrangements.

Some findings from the Monitoring visit specific to MASH are as follows

- Delays in responding to the needs of vulnerable children at the 'front door' have decreased from the time of the inspection in July 2016.
- During this monitoring visit, sampling by inspectors of repeat contacts demonstrated that the risks which emerged from each subsequent contact had been fully considered.
- Inspectors did not find any missed opportunities to intervene in the lives of vulnerable children in the cases that they considered at this monitoring visit.

The design and delivery of a clear and coherent process for dealing with contacts and referrals has been developed in partnership with all key stakeholders. This has led to improvements at the front door of the service. A dedicated multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH)





- now delivers the initial service and, when a risk of harm is identified, referrals are passed quickly to the dedicated First Response team for investigation.
- In the MASH, decision-making on contacts is timely; there were none seen that had been awaiting a decision for longer than one day. Contacts progress swiftly through the system. The triage process ensures that when additional information is required, it is requested quickly. Cases that present an immediate risk of harm are fast-tracked through to the First Response team for a child protection enquiry.
- Clear and largely successful efforts are made to ensure that strategy discussions between partners are timely, and police partners now contribute effectively to discussions. Most cases of children at risk of harm are dealt with promptly and effectively. This is an improvement since the last inspection.
- Inspectors observing practice in the MASH saw effective multi-agency information sharing in relation to current contacts and good intelligence sharing in relation to young people who were missing from home or care. A dedicated team manager and advanced social work practitioners closely supervise the work undertaken.
- The good standard of managerial decision making at the 'front door' means that all decisions taken in relation to thresholds for intervention that were viewed by inspectors were more robust than at the time of the inspection.

The Monitoring visit also advised on areas for development which were represented in the amended MASH action plan. These include consistent chronologies and the recording of consent for example.

Moving forward, through the use of continuous improvement and quality assurance processes, the drive to ensure that improvements are reviewed,

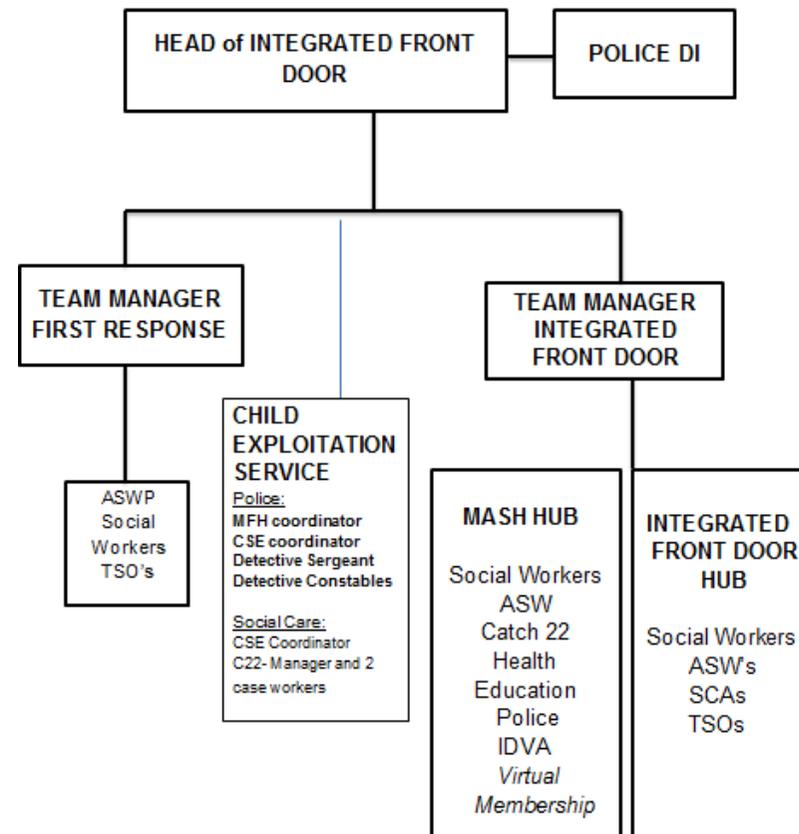
actions delivered, embedded and sustained we need to consolidating our progress and strengthening practice.

As a result the MASH action plan will be refreshed in line with targets set out in the Sprint plan. The sprint plans have been designed to report into the Improvement Board.

The main area for review is application of threshold form professionals requesting a service, developing the Early Help Module (EHM) in Liquid Logic (LL) to move to record all requests for service in that module.

Develop performance reporting in the EHM, recruiting to permanent staff to ensure consistency and a stable workforce that has the capacity to deal with the demand at the IFD.

Integrated Front Door and MASH Organisational Structure



Committee Chair Reports

A selection of WSCB committee chair's have provided an overview of their committee and the work undertaken over the past year.

Case Review Committee

Serious Case Reviews (SCRs) are initiated when abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and the child has died or has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the agencies have worked together to safe-guard the child. Local Multi-Agency Reviews are undertaken when the threshold for initiating a SCR has not been reached but the WSCB believes that analysis of the case will bring significant learning to improve practice across the partnership. The WSCB may also undertake a single agency learning review in cases where the committee believes that there are lessons for that agency.

The Case Review Committee of the WSCB uses a decision making matrix to calculate what type of review is the most appropriate in any case. Their rationale is recorded and once approved by the Independent Chair is shared with the National Panel for SCR's for agreement.

Learning from national and local case reviews are disseminated to agencies

and practitioners in a variety of ways including:

- Presentation of findings and recommendations to the WSCB Board
- Publication of the Overview report (for SCR's)
- Quarterly Training Events
- Safeguarding briefings and
- Publication of learning posters

In the 2016-2017 reporting period the WSCB has undertaken one SCR and has completed three cases below the SCR threshold which were reviewed as a Multi-Agency Learning Reviews. There are three more cases currently being reviewed as Multi-agency case reviews and three single agency reviews.

Unlike for SCR's the WSCB does not publish an overview report for cases below the SCR threshold but does disseminate the learning to improve practice across the partnership. Recommendations from case reviews are translated into multi-agency action plans by the WSCB's case review committee. The WSCB maintains oversight

of all plans until it is assured that the learning has been widely disseminated and understood.

Learning from Reviews

The Case Review Committee ensures that learning from each review becomes embedded in practice through oversight of robust multi-agency action plans. The learning from reviews undertaken in 2016-17 is detailed in the case review chapter from page 76.

Learning from Local Case Reviews

- Placements of children with kinship foster carers must be subject to rigorous planning and review and carers must complete a mandatory series of training courses
- To ensure a rigorous quality assurance framework exists around plans for children who are looked after and to ensure they focus on long term as well as short term outcomes
- For partners to ensure full multi-agency attendance and participation at conferences and reviews
- For the WSCB to be assured that the sexually harmful behaviour service is effective and fit for purpose
- Professionals to be aware of appropriate responses to identified or suspected neglect, including the early use of evidence based tools such as the graded care profile
- Where entrenched parental substance misuse exists it is vital an assessment of parents' capacity to change is undertaken to inform that an appropriate course of action is followed
- To ensure a clear transition plan exists for young people who are leaving special schools to help maintain appropriate levels of support into adulthood
- To ensure professionals do not overestimate the levels of resilience or ability to self-assess risk in young people with moderate learning difficulties

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For more information

<https://www.wirral Safeguarding.co.uk/professionals/serious-case-reviews/>



CSE and Missing Committee

The CSE and Missing sub-committee meets to provide governance and an overview of the multi-agency management of and response to CSE and missing. The sub group meet on a monthly basis. Recently, the group have agreed to ensure that there is a multi-agency response to the management of child criminal exploitation also.

The group is fairly well represented by agencies including health, social care, police, local authority, education, catch 22 and housing associations. Over the last 6 months, the committee have completed a lot of work. We have revised the multi-agency CSE audit tool and process. A first audit has been completed and quarterly audit dates have been set for the remainder of the next financial year. The audit was well attended and assisted us to revise the process so that it is efficient and informative.

We have completed a review the CSE action plan and completed a CE action plan. Work is ongoing to progress these actions to ensure that professionals are trained in how to identify CSE and CE, understand and know how to use the CE and CSE screening and assessment tools and understand how to refer and manage concerns.

We have had a number of task and finish groups to review certain areas of work, which has included:-

- Revising the CSE protocol and practice guidance, which is awaiting ratification.
- A review of persistent absenteeism, which was a piece of work undertaken to ensure that there are sufficient processes in place to manage the safeguarding concerns for young people who are absent from education. This resulted in some revision to working practices to ensure that such concerns are captured and dealt with appropriately.
- Work has been completed to revise the management process of CSE, which has included the introduction of a 'thresholding panel,' which

meets to determine which cases need to progress to MACSE and a revised MACSE process.

- A working group to initiate a process for the management of CE in Wirral. This has resulted in a revised terms of reference for the MAAG group, in order to create a governance process for the management of CE cases; a process for the management of CE in Wirral; approval and acceptance of CE screening and assessment tools for use by professionals. There was a recent presentation to the board regarding the management of CE and further meetings are required to agree certain aspects of the management and administration of CE, including planning for a training programme for professionals.
- The group review a number of reports and consider their findings. These include reports completed by Catch 22, which are completed for commissioners regarding CSE and missing in Wirral. There have also been a number of reports and reviews submitted to the group by the sub group's CSE co-ordinator.

In summary, we have a good working group and there is a good work ethic and thirst to improve on the current working practices and processes that exist in Wirral, including an ambition to create new processes where they are required.

The committees priorities for the next financial year are to:-

- Ensure that professionals working with children are trained in the identification of CSE and CE and understand the relevant referral pathways and what their role is in safeguarding a child.
- Ensure that existing CSE processes are well understood and embedded in working practice.
- Develop the management of CE and embed processes in working practice.





Performance Committee

The Performance Committee has two main areas of responsibility for the WSCB; overseeing the multi-agency audit function of the board, and scrutinising performance information.

The Committee has met 7 times during the 12 month reporting period. One meeting in July was cancelled due to the Ofsted Inspection

The Terms of Reference were renewed and expressions of interest sought for a new chair, however as there was no interest expressed the existing chair has continued

Due to the expanding remit of this group changes were made to the Terms of Reference which included:

- Transferring responsibility of monitoring the action plans from Serious and Local Case Reviews to the Serious Case Review Committee
- Separating the content of the meetings to focus on 2 aspects (1 meeting to focus on performance data/1 meeting to focus on audit related activity)
- The Committee to meet bimonthly for Performance data and alternate bimonthly for audit activity.

These changes came into effect in January 2017

3 audits were undertaken

- 1 dip sample of the quality of case conference reports
- 1 dip sample of the quality of Child Protection Plans
- 1 practitioner audit of the application of thresholds

1 audit could not be undertaken due to lack of quoracy

The section 11 virtual College self-assessment tool was overseen by this committee

The multi-agency performance dataset has been revised and has been streamlined and redefined into 2 sections

- Core dataset: This consists of 22 indicators that the WSCB deemed essential information to receive quarterly to gauge the performance of children's services in Wirral
- Enhanced dataset: This consists of just over 100 indicators that although not essential for the WSCB to receive regularly are necessary to facilitate the identification of themes and trends which may inform future work planning and priority setting.

The performance Committee where possible is utilising data submitted to the Ofsted Improvement Board to avoid duplication or variation.

In addition the gathering of data related to Domestic Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation has been transferred to those Committees.

Priorities for the 2017/18:

- Amending the model which we use to undertake audit activity
- Align our audit calendar closely to the CYPD audit calendar to avoid duplication
- Provide feedback to agencies regarding their compliance with safeguarding standards set out in the section 11 self-assessment audit tool
- Enhance the performance dataset by receiving more qualitative narrative which demonstrates improved outcomes.



Learning and Development Committee

The multi-agency Learning and Development committee oversees the provision and evaluation of multi-agency training provided by the safeguarding board. The committee is also responsible for developing a multi-agency training pool of professionals who deliver the majority of the safeguarding boards training. A detailed report on the provision and evaluation of multi-agency training is provided on pages 45-49.

Policy, Practice and Procedures Committee

This committee is responsible for the provision, review and updating of all the multi-agency safeguarding and child protection procedures published by the safeguarding board. All of the procedures are web based for ease of access and are published on a dedicated website:

<http://wirrallscb.proceduresonline.com/>

Domestic Abuse and Harmful Practices Committee

The domestic abuse and harmful practices committee has been leading the partnership response to the Council led 2020 pledge for *Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence*.

The partnership strategy over the next three years aims to ensure that domestic abuse is never tolerated or accepted, victims are protected and supported and able to live in safety in their own homes where possible.

The approach includes professionals talking directly to victims and offenders to understand the root causes of domestic abuse to better identify and mitigate the triggers, and ensure that the voice of the victim is heard.

The committee has published a clear Domestic Abuse pathway and practice guidance supported by a programme of multi-agency training. The committee also developed a programme of Harmful Practices training.

A new approach

The strategy as aims to introduce a new way of working, with **full integration across all agencies**, to tackle domestic abuse and harmful practices and adopt zero tolerance to violence against children and adults will be established. This will help to embed a culture where domestic abuse is not tolerated, working to increase the skills, confidence and self-esteem of people to help them identify relationships and situations which are harmful and to take action. The committee will also review our response to these issues; making sure that the appropriate action is taken to both support the victim and deal with the offender, either through the criminal process or rehabilitation.

A key part of the strategy will be to work with a range of partners to prioritise early intervention and prevention activities and to ensure that we are working together to deal with domestic abuse and to explore opportunities to bring resources together collectively to tackle domestic abuse effectively through a single team.

Progress

A significant development has been the establishment of a multi-agency Safer Wirral Hub.

This new, integrated service delivery model has created opportunities for all agencies to work more closely and share insight to better problem solve, plan and target services more effectively. There is a continued focus to increase the awareness and reporting of domestic abuse. This will increase the number of referrals to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). This is the reason a direction of improvement of 'higher is better' is being used for a number of the indicators being tracked. It is anticipated that once reporting levels have increased and stabilised to more accurately reflect the number of incidents occurring, the direction of improvement will change to 'lower is better'.



The increase in levels of reporting and referral will increase the possibility of early intervention which should lead to a reduction in the number of high risk cases coming through the system.

A new Peer Mentor Coordinator has been appointed to support and develop the work of the Domestic Abuse Community Champions. This will focus on the hotspot areas of Birkenhead, Seacombe and Wallasey. A new focus for this work will be on targeting Children's Centres to identify young parents and families that may be at risk of abuse. Work is also progressing in partnership with Wirral Change to improve the engagement with and support for the Black and Minority Ethnic communities in Wirral.

[Love, not a Fighter Campaign](#)

The W/SCB has and continues to support the lovernotfighter campaign as part of the awareness raising strategy.

Further information: <https://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/professionals/what-is-domestic-abuse/>





Learning & Improvement

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Wirral Section 11 Safeguarding Audit

The WSCB is the key statutory body for co-ordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children in Wirral. It is the duty of the WSCB to hold agencies to account in terms of their safeguarding arrangements and practices. The principle means by which this is achieved is via the Section 11 Safeguarding Audit.

Section 11 was issued under the Children Act (2004) and has been reinforced in Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015. Section 11 places duties on a range of organisations and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Section 11 places a duty on:

- Local authorities and district councils that provide children's and other types of services, including children's and adult social care services, public health, housing, sport, culture and leisure services, licensing authorities and youth services;
- Schools and colleges (under Sections 175 and 157 of the Education Act 2002).
- NHS organisations, including the NHS Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups, NHS Trusts and NHS Foundation Trusts;
- the police, including police and crime commissioners and the chief officer of each police force in England and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime in London;
- the British Transport Police;
- The UK Border Agency (and under Section 55 of the Borders,

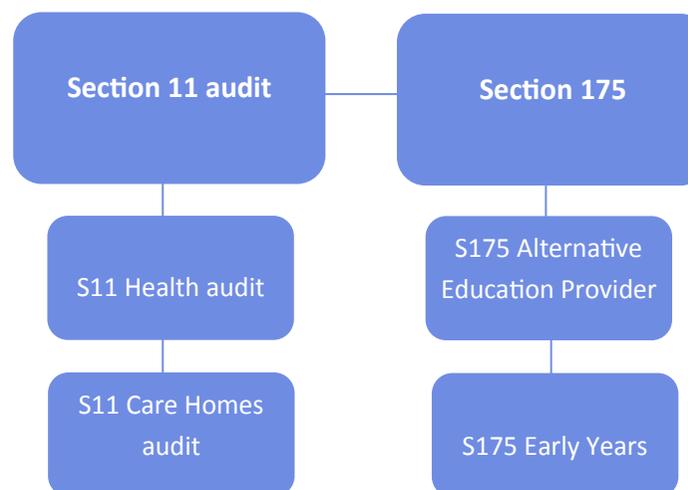
Citizenship and Immigration Act 2009)

- Housing Authorities (and under Part 1 of the Housing Act 2004)
- National Probation Service and Merseyside CRC
- Governors/Directors of Prisons and Young Offender Institutions;
- Directors of Secure Training Centres; and
- Youth Offending Teams/Services (and under Section 38 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998).

The Section 11 audit was completed online for the third consecutive year and agencies were able to log in and update their 2016 submission.

The WSCB agreed to test the effectiveness of safeguarding in schools using the Section 175 every other year and to continue an annual cycle for Section 11. The next Section 175 audit will open in March 2018 and the findings will be included in the 2017/18 annual report.

The full structure of audits is shown below:



Scoring

The self-assessment safeguarding audit consists of a series of questions which relate to specific arrangements, including policies, procedures, management oversight and training which help safeguard children and young people.

For each standard indicator, partner agencies, schools and colleges are asked to score their progress in relation to the following:

0 – No progress in this indicator

1 – The agency is working towards this indicator and there is measurable progress

2 – The agency has achieved the standard of this indicator

Each audit form will be analysed and the WSCB will contact individual agencies where there are concerns about safeguarding arrangements and will offer support.

Staff from the WSCB including the Independent Chair will attend agency forums to provide feedback and agencies will be invited to discuss their audit and action plans with the WSCB.

The WSCB may contact partner agencies to request further information or a meeting to clarify responses given in the audit report.

Results from all the audits will be aggregated and identified themes and trends will form the basis of an overview report which will then be presented to the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board for discussion and agreed action. The report findings will be shared with all participating organisations.

Learning from Section 11/175 audits

Findings and learning from audits will be shared with partner agencies and will inform future practice and awareness raising.

The WSCB also publishes learning and findings posters on the website.

Accountability Meetings

This year, the WSCB held a series of accountability meetings to review and scrutinise the self assessment audits submitted by statutory services in 2016.

The accountability meetings were held over 2 days and a group of multi agency professionals formed the panel, led by the chair of the performance committee.

Overall, the panel scrutinised 25 multi-agency audits and a representative from each agency attended to present their findings and action plan. The panel asked for an update to any actions made last year and agency representatives were asked to think about strengths and weaknesses of their audit and their safeguarding priorities for the year ahead.

The main findings from the accountability meetings are summarised below;

- Agencies have a good understanding of the managing allegations process however safeguarding leads need to ensure that they are attending refresher training every 3 years.



- Agencies have an understanding of the multi-agency escalation procedure however there is little evidence that it is being used. One of the actions made by the panel members at the accountability meetings was to ensure that the use of escalation, including resolution is recorded and evidenced.
- All agencies have made progress with the actions recorded in their action plans.
- Agencies are regularly auditing and learning from findings.

A number of priorities were identified by each agency for the forthcoming year, some example priorities are shown below:

- Multi-agency training
- Providing a robust induction package for staff
- Capturing the voice of children and young people

Participation

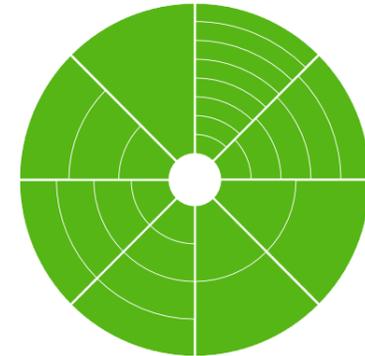
At the time of publication (17/10/16), **97** users from **56** organisations had registered to complete the 2017 Section 11 audit. Of these, **29** completed audits were returned.

Overall, **51%** of organisations who registered for Section 11 completed their audit by the deadline (last year, 84% of organisations who registered completed their audit—this includes Section 175)

The participating organisations were:

- Organisations from the voluntary, community and faith sector

- Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company
- Training providers
- Catch22
- Autism Together
- Housing providers
- **4** Children’s Homes
- Home Start
- Education Social Welfare Service
- Children’s Social Care
- Family Intervention Service
- **11** Health organisations
 - Wirral University Teaching Hospital
 - NHS Community Trust
 - Wirral Ways to Recovery CGL
 - Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre (RASA)
 - One to one Midwives
 - Brook
 - Clatterbridge Cancer Centre
 - XenZone Mental Health Service
 - Inclusion Matters
 - Peninsula Health
 - Claire House



This year, **96%** of organisations who completed the Section 11 audit (including care home and health variations) achieved an overall average grade of 2 (highest possible grade). There was 1 agency that did not achieve grade 2 and their identified weaknesses were:

- Safeguarding procedures
- Safeguarding training
- Managing allegations
- Voice of children and young people

The WSCB will make contact with this agency and offer support to make progress with the actions recorded in their action plan for the forthcoming year including an offer of multi agency training. Agencies will be asked to update the WSCB in relation to progress made to the actions and to provide evidence.

The WSCB will ask all statutory agencies to attend an accountability meeting to present their audit and their action plan. The findings from this will be included in the 2017/18 annual report.

Section 11

At the time of publication, **14** agencies had completed the standard Section 11 audit, 2 of these audits were submitted by national agencies using their own audit tool.

The majority of agencies who completed a Section 11 audit achieved an overall Grade of 2. One agency achieved an average grade of 1.

The graph on the opposite page shows the individual standard headings from the audit and the percentage of agencies achieving Grade 2 overall for that section.

As shown, the safer recruitment section was a particular strength this year; every agency completing the Section 11 achieved Grade 2 for this section. This means that all agencies completing the audit are confident in the following areas:

- Organisations have a robust safer recruitment policy in place which staff are aware of
- Recruitment adverts include the organisation's commitment to safeguard and safer recruitment



There were a number of other strengths identified in the audits this year such as:

- All agencies have a named deputy for safeguarding
- There is an effective complaints policy and system in place for professionals, young people and their families in every agency
- All agencies have a clear policy in line with WSCB guidance for dealing with allegations against professionals and are aware of their responsibility to the managing allegations process, including the 24 hour reporting requirement. There were a small number of agencies with safeguarding leads who have not attended managing allegations training in the last 3 years.

The particular area of weakness in this year's Section 11 was whistleblowing and complaints. As shown in the graph, a number of agencies did not achieve Grade 2 in this area. In particular, a number of agencies said that their staff were not encouraged to use the NSPCC advice line, but all agencies incorporated the need to promote this within their action plan for the forthcoming year.





A number of agencies said that further work was required to encourage staff to access multi agency procedures in relation to escalation. All of these agencies incorporated this into their action plan and included a number of ways that they will ensure that this is embedded:

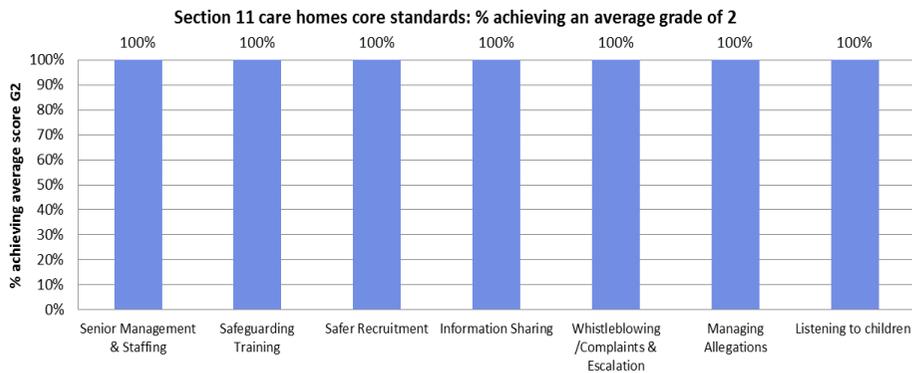
- Ensuring that the procedure is included onto the agency's safeguarding page
- Using team meetings, presentations and supervision to remind staff to access the procedure

Section 11 Care Homes

At the time of publication, 4 care homes had completed the Section 11 audit.

The overall average grade achieved by the participating care homes was Grade 2 which is the highest possible grade.

The graph shows the individual standard headings from the audit and the percentage of care homes achieving Grade 2. As shown, every Care Home provider achieved an overall grade 2 for each of the standard headings.



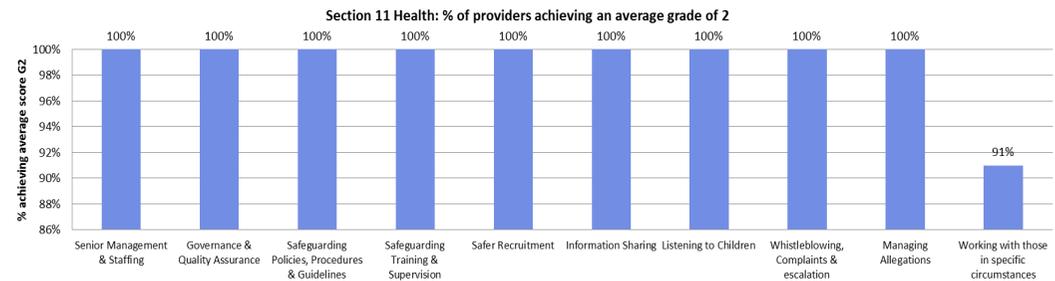
This means that agencies are confident in their safeguarding arrangements. The only area identified as requiring improvement was for agencies to ensure that their staff attend Managing Allegations training every 3 years. The audit found that a small number of agencies said that this was in progress rather than completed. This is consistent with the findings from last year's audit.

Section 11 Health

11 health providers completed this year's Section 11 audit which was adapted specifically for agencies providing health services in Wirral.

The majority of health providers achieved an overall average grade of 2 however one agency achieved an average grade of 1.

The graph below shows the individual headings from the audit and the percentage of health providers achieving an average grade of 2 for each of the core standards. As shown, the majority of standards achieved an overall average grade of 2 however only 91% of providers achieved an overall average of 2 for the 'working with those in specific circumstances'.





The audit found that the reason for a lower average grade for the 'working with those in specific circumstances' standard was due to one agency scoring grade 1 for most of the questions in this section. This provider has uploaded a robust action plan containing 17 actions to address these areas. The action plan includes timescales and the responsible person.

There were a number of key strengths identified in the audits completed by health providers including;

- Learning and improvement frameworks are embedded in organisations
- Providers have a programme of internal audit and review to enable continuous improvement
- Providers have an induction process for staff and volunteers which includes familiarisation with safeguarding responsibilities, policies and procedures
- Safeguarding leads have attended appropriate safeguarding training in the last 3 years
- Safer recruitment is robust and providers are confident that selection and vetting procedures are in place

Overall Findings

This year, the audits have revealed strong commitment to safeguarding in Wirral and affirms that children are being appropriately safeguarded by agencies across the borough.

The key strengths this year were safer recruitment and managing allegations. All section 11 audits revealed a collective understanding and commitment to ensuring safer recruitment within our organisations working with children in Wirral.

Agencies have shown their commitment to ensuring safer recruitment of their employees, which includes ensuring staff receive an induction and are informed of their responsibility to safeguard and protect young people, ensuring recruitment protocols are of a good standard and ensuring references and records of qualifications are obtained

All section 11 audits reflected multi-agency compliance to managing allegations including appropriate policies and the awareness of the 24 hour reporting requirement. The audit highlighted that safeguarding leads need to be encouraged to update their training every 3 years.

There was a decrease in the rate of participation this year which will be brought to the attention of the WSCB and its partners. Although the participation has decreased, the quality of the completed audits has significantly improved this year, with more agencies providing supporting evidence and devising action plans.

Follow up and future development

The WSCB will schedule a series of accountability meetings for agencies to attend and present the findings from their audit and to discuss their safeguarding priorities for the year ahead. Each agency will receive a summary of the areas discussed in the meeting and will be offered support with developing action plans.

96% of organisations who completed the Section 11 audit this year (including care home and health variations) achieved an overall average grade of 2 (highest possible grade). There was 1 agency that did not achieve grade 2, therefore the WSCB will make contact with these agency to provide support with developing an action plan to address the weaknesses identified in their audit and will request that the WSCB is updated with the progress made to the actions throughout the year.

Statutory Framework for Undertaking Audits

The statutory functions of local safeguarding boards are set out in the Local Safeguarding Children Boards Regulations (2006) and published in the HM Government Statutory Guidance Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).

The statutory guidance provides for Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) to evaluate multi-agency working through joint multi-agency audits of case files as part of our duty to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by partners individually and collectively to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and advise them on ways to improve.

Page 27 Learning and Improvement

Working Together to Safeguard Children (2013) requires all LSCBs to maintain a local Learning and Improvement Framework. The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) framework sets out how the partnership should collate the findings and lessons from the full range of case reviews (from statutory Serious Case Reviews and child death reviews, to case reviews below the thresholds of a serious case review), multi-agency and single agency audits and practitioner forums.

The development of the Learning and Improvement Framework enables the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB), its partner organisations and local partnership bodies to be clear about what needs to be learnt, where services and practice require improvement. The full Wirral Learning and Improvement Framework can be accessed here:

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/professionals/learning-and-improvement/>

Why conduct audits?

An audit is undertaken to ensure that policy/procedure is being followed. It provides evidence of best practice and can demonstrate the quality of our work to external bodies and inspectors. It also allows areas of weakness to be identified and acted upon.

The actual process of carrying out an audit can sometimes be as beneficial as the outcomes. It provides staff with the time and space to reflect critically on practice. Where different agencies are involved in an audit, there is an opportunity to learn about different roles and responsibilities.

Why undertake multi-agency audits?

Effective partnership working through the LSCB, a robust and systematic approach to quality assurance and the modelling of a cycle of continuous learning through constructive challenge will establish a culture which will permeate through to front-line practice. Multi-agency audits should be solution-focused and conducted in a spirit of open learning with the intention of further improving outcomes for children.



WSCB Audit framework

The purpose of the Audit Framework is to support and strengthen the WSCB's understanding of the impact of safeguarding practice and services on improving the outcomes for children and young people in Wirral. The focus is on exploring the impact of the work undertaken by Board partners, both jointly and on a multi-agency basis, and also individually in the form of services provided by each of those agencies. Crucially the framework will support a cycle of continuous learning and improvement.

The Audit Framework includes:

- Multi-agency audit cycle and Process
- Role of the Performance Committee
- Responsibility of Individual Agencies and Auditors
- Involvement of Front Line Practitioners
- Involvement of Children, Young People and Families
- Measuring Outcomes
- Key Messages from Auditing
- Multi-agency audits



Multi-agency Audit Cycle

Every year the WSCB undertakes a series of audits and reviews as part of its wider quality assurance function as described in the Operating Framework and the Learning and Improvement Framework. In terms of auditing the WSCB completes two significant annual activities:

▣ The Section 11/175 audits. These are self assessment audits completed to provide assurance to the WSCB that agencies are meeting their duties and responsibilities under Section 11 of the children act. The audits include action plans and are followed up with accountability meetings for statutory partners

The WSCB completes 4-6 multi-agency audits each year.



Request for Co-operation

Partner organisations in Wirral have a statutory duty to co-operate with requests from the WSCB to allow it to fulfil its statutory functions. This includes complying with requests for information.

When undertaking multi-agency audits the WSCB will request and require partner agencies to provide information by completing audit forms for identified cases. The WSCB is keen that this is not an onerous task and the demands made on individual agencies and practitioners will be small. This year, the committee has undertaken some of its multi agency audits online using the Virtual College audit facility. The responses are compiled and the findings are scrutinised and evaluated between partners at the committee meeting before recommendations are agreed.

Voice of frontline practitioners

This year the WSCB has developed a programme of frontline practitioner audits using the virtual college as a vehicle to capture responses from agencies working with children in Wirral. The themes are identified by themes and areas of scrutiny recognised by the WSCB and the sub committees.

The themes identified for 2017 are highlighted below:

- Policies and procedures
- Application of thresholds
- Learning from case reviews
- Safeguarding training
- Private fostering

This year the WSCB Performance Committee has incorporated the views of frontline practitioners into the audit framework and the routine audit planning throughout the year.

Following the main audit activity undertaken by the multi-agency representatives at the committee, the key frontline practitioners working with the young people identified for audit are contacted and asked to provide their reflections in the form of a questionnaire.

The questionnaire informs the practitioner that they have had involvement with one of the cases randomly selected for audit by the WSCB and asks them to answer the following 7 questions:

- What did you feel went well with the case; what is the good multi-agency practice?
- What did you learn from how the case progressed?
- What (if anything) could have been done to provide a more effective multi-agency approach to safeguarding this young person?
- Have there been any barriers to the intervention you were trying to provide? If so what were the barriers?
- Did the case require an escalation? If so, how did you escalate?
- Did you have the opportunity to discuss the case in supervision?
- Was your decision making supported by clear and effective policies, procedures and guidance?

Participation with this activity so far has been positive and has supported the findings of the main audit activity and recommendations.

The WSCB will continue to seek the views of frontline practitioners in conjunction with the multi agency audits undertaken by the Performance Committee.





Role of the Performance Committee

Multi-agency audits are overseen by the WSCB Performance Committee which exists as the primary auditing group of the safeguarding board. The Committee established the annual audit plan which is informed by requests from the WSCB (and scrutiny of the performance dataset), local reviews, priorities and identified concerns about practice or need to understand the impact of a recent policy, procedure or change in practice.

The committee is chaired by a WSCB member and includes participation from statutory and non statutory partners. Each member of the committee is responsible for ensuring agency compliance in the audit process.

The multi-agency audit cycle is illustrated in the diagram below. The purpose of the audit cycle is to ensure that learning from audits is disseminated and understood by the children’s workforce.

Terms of Reference and Audit Tool

To support the audit cycle the WSCB Quality Auditor independently identifies a representative sample of cases and constructs the multi-agency audit tool. The Performance Committee agrees the purpose and terms of reference for each audit and committee members undertake the audit by scrutinising records held in their agencies and the findings are discussed by the wider group who make recommendations and identify learning.

Overview Report

The Performance Committee publishes an overview report for each audit which includes the actions needed. The reports are presented to the full WSCB and widely disseminated.

Confidentiality

All information provided to support audits will be confidentially stored and

securely destroyed following the audit. In any published report no individual child or professionals or organisation will be identifiable.

Action Planning

Following the completion of an audit, the Performance Committee agree the key recommendations identified from the audit findings and compile an action plan with timescales for completion and responsible organisation or person. Agencies represented at the committee are responsible for taking any relevant actions back to their organisation for dissemination and completion.

The committee will review the progress to the actions at every meeting until they have been completed.

Learning from Audits

The findings from multi-agency audits are analysed by the WSCB Performance Committee which includes representatives from partner agencies including education, local authority specialist and targeted services, health organisations, police, housing and voluntary organisations. The Performance Committee publish the learning from audits and disseminate this to partner agencies through the safeguarding board.

Key Messages from Auditing

Audits undertaken over the past 12 months have revealed some key and recurring recommendations:

Multi-agency information sharing is paramount	The quality of plans and assessments requires regular auditing and management oversight
Professionals should have the confidence to escalate concerns using the multi-agency escalation process	Professionals should ensure that they attend relevant multi-agency safeguarding training including refresher training



16-17	Audit Title	Key messages and learning from the audits										
<p>3.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 92</p>	<p>Quality of Child Protection Plans (WSCB Performance Committee)</p>	<p>The WSCB Performance Committee undertook an audit to assess the quality of a sample of Child Protection Plans. A number of strengths and weaknesses were identified by auditors during the audit session;</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="524 277 1771 655"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="524 277 1160 316">Strengths</th> <th data-bbox="1160 277 1771 316">Weaknesses</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 316 1160 384">The plan evidenced robust support mechanisms in place for both child and family</td> <td data-bbox="1160 316 1771 384">The plan did not include start and end dates for actions</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 384 1160 453">The child's voice is apparent throughout the plan</td> <td data-bbox="1160 384 1771 453">The voice of the child was not recorded in their own words</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 453 1160 521">There is evidence that the child's needs are being addressed</td> <td data-bbox="1160 453 1771 521">Actions were non-specific and not SMART targets</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="524 521 1160 655">Actions are very child focused and explain what impact the completion of the action will have on the child i.e. improved relationship with family and sense of belonging.</td> <td data-bbox="1160 521 1771 655">Actions are task focused and not related to improving outcomes for the child</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall, the audit found that the majority of plans sampled were of poor quality and did not meet the criteria set out in the Child Protection Plan Standards. ● The actions set in the Child Protection Plans did not always consistently include what needs to be done and by when and what impact this would have once completed. ● Very few plans included timescales and auditors questioned whether this was due to a technical problem or a training issue as some plans included timescales but these had been free-typed into the template rather than using the box specifically for the date. ● The auditors felt that improved management oversight is required to ensure that the plans have been appropriately updated. Liquidlogic allows social workers to overtype their previous plan, however in some cases the auditors found that plans were identical and had no changes since the last review, including the views of the child. <p>Recommendations/actions were made as a result of the audit and these were added to the Performance Committee Audit Action Plan for monitoring. All recommendations/actions have been addressed.</p>	Strengths	Weaknesses	The plan evidenced robust support mechanisms in place for both child and family	The plan did not include start and end dates for actions	The child's voice is apparent throughout the plan	The voice of the child was not recorded in their own words	There is evidence that the child's needs are being addressed	Actions were non-specific and not SMART targets	Actions are very child focused and explain what impact the completion of the action will have on the child i.e. improved relationship with family and sense of belonging.	Actions are task focused and not related to improving outcomes for the child
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<p>4.</p>	<p>Audit of thresholds (WSCB Performance Committee)</p>	<p>The WSCB Performance Committee has undertaken an audit to measure the application of thresholds across the continuum of need and the effectiveness of the responses to unmet needs of children and young people. The application of thresholds was measured using the WSCB multi-agency thresholds guidance and 'thresholds on a page' alongside the evidence recorded on the child's Liquidlogic record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overall, the audit found that in 3 out of 4 cases the application of thresholds was accurate throughout the young person's journey. It is important to acknowledge that only a small number of cases were audited and therefore the findings from the 4 cases may not be a reflection of the application of threshold's as a whole. ● All auditors were in agreement that the cases are currently being managed at the right level. <p>A practitioner questionnaire was also circulated to the professionals involved with each of the cases audited. Practitioners identified examples of good practice, their learning from cases and the potential barriers to intervention. The responses were collated and illustrated in a poster for partners to share.</p>										



16-17	Audit Title	Key messages and learning from the audits
<p>5.</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 93</p>	<p>Domestic Abuse Audit Report</p>	<p>The findings from the information collected suggested the following: A woman aged 26-45 years residing within the locality of Birkenhead with a child aged between 0-5 years might be vulnerable to DA. It is likely that the children will have witnessed the DA. The DA is likely to be violent and controlling and to have happened previously. Alcohol and mental ill health play a relatively small role with this whereas unemployment is significant. It is also worth pursuing agencies who offer confidence building and low self-esteem work as the data suggests a link to DA.</p> <p>Unemployment is significantly higher within this group than the national average</p> <p>Low self-esteem and confidence have been identified as significant identifiers for DA.</p> <p>A lot of courses and support are being offered to victims of DA</p> <p>Alcohol/ substance misuse are also slightly higher than the national average.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>Unemployment might be a useful heading for the DA Committee to focus attention on with a potential work stream. Why is unemployment within this group so much higher than the national average and what can the committee do to support this.</p> <p>Low self-esteem and confidence could also be a work stream. What confidence and self-esteem courses are currently offered within Wirral and do agencies who offer confidence courses have DA training?</p> <p>The report has identified a lot of DA support, can these courses be accessed by the wider partnership? What are the referral pathways and how many people are attending them and are they full to capacity?</p> <p>What do the courses offer? Perhaps this could also be a task and finish mapping exercise by the DA committee and potentially added to the Safeguarding Board's website</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Impact- Distance Travelled Scores Update Report</p>	<p>There has been an improvement in the number of scores being returned. There is still evidence that 100% of the families showed improvement when receiving support through TAF in the figures returned.</p> <p>59 Distance travelled start and final figures have been returned over the past 12 months. Over half (56%) of these have been from the Family Intervention Service.</p>



16-17	Audit Title	Key messages and learning from the audits
7.	CAF Quality Assurance and Positive Impact Annual Report 2017	<p>The Early Help Quality Assurance (QA) group met throughout 2016 and quality assured 130 CAFs. This is a decrease of 28 CAFs from the previous year.</p> <p>The majority of CAF QA's were completed by schools and colleges (69%).</p> <p>The overall score findings (51%) finds that there was a slight improvement in the CAFs graded as good or outstanding in 2016/17 (2% increase).</p> <p>There has been a sustained increase in evidencing the voice of children within the CAF assessments from 43% in 2015/16 to 57% 2016/17.</p> <p>There has been a steady increase in the number of CAFs evidencing the completion of the Child CAF within the CAFs sent in for QA purposes from 45% in 2015/16 to 55% 2016/17. There has been a consistent rise in the distance travelled figures being returned evidencing positive impact from 36% of the total received in 2015/16 rising to 64% in 2016/17 in comparison. This is still low in comparison to the numbers of TAFs closing.</p> <p>100% of the feedback suggested that participants found the TAF training useful in 2016/17.</p>
8.	Page 94 Young People in Custody QA Report (Jul—Aug)	<p>Report is based on the number of children detained in custody across Merseyside from 21st July to 22nd August 2016, a period of four weeks and four days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56 young people detained in custody from 21st July to 22nd August • The majority of young people detained overnight during this reporting period were identified as male (71%) • The most prevalent age for children to be detained was between the ages of 14 to 16 years (83%). • the majority of children detained reside in Wirral (15 young people) closely followed by Liverpool (14) and St Helens (13) • Between 5-15 hours is identified as the most usual length of time with over half of the children being kept (58%) for this amount of time • The majority of the total children (78%) were kept in overnight • The vast majority of children are kept in custody under the term PACE- Police and criminal evidence act (78%) • The children in this report have had in total 62 previous visits to the custody suite. Only one young person has never had a previous visit. Four children have visited 12 times before <p>The number of children looked after by the Local Authority being kept in custody was 53%</p> <p>Two areas were identified as in need of further scrutiny</p> <p>A clear rationale for keeping children in custody overnight.</p> <p>The vast majority of children are kept in custody under the term PACE- Police and criminal evidence act- this needs clarity</p>



16-17	Audit Title	Key messages and learning from the audits
9.	Views of Children in TAF Report 2017	<p>This report has been put together solely on feedback from children, families and LPs. There are observations and learning that can come from this report especially in terms of the impact of including the voice of children and if their thoughts and wishes are incorporated into the TAF plan outcomes for children can improve considerably. This sits very neatly with the upcoming changes within children’s services and the introduction of the SFEF model and the tools available.</p> <p>The Child CAF is an excellent tool and a way of seeing how family life is from the child’s point of view. All LPs should be using either the Child CAF or similar tools to gain the thoughts, feeling and wishes of the children in the first instance were possible and appropriate.</p> <p>The distance travelled tool is an excellent tool for gaining evidence of the concerns that the family have and showing improvement. This is a great way for families to see what their concerns are and how these are being addressed.</p> <p>Encouraging the child(ren) to attend the TAF and being part of the improvement plan for the family is important. All children should understand what a TAF meeting is for and be given the opportunity to get their views heard either by using an advocate or support from the professionals as appropriate.</p> <p>The tools can be found at https://www.wirral safeguarding.co.uk/team-around-family-ga-tools/</p>
10.	Young People in Custody Update Report	<p>The main findings from the children in custody scrutiny panel are set out below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care homes have not been using the process prior to calling the police and are not using the 10 Point Checklist there by criminalizing children unnecessarily. • In many of the cases relating to Children Looked After in residential care homes, they are not acting as the appropriate adult (AA) due to the fact staff are the victims, they are short of staff or the residential home is refusing to have them back. If they do say they can return they are not collecting the children; leaving the children in police custody for unacceptable periods of time. • Police potentially handing children over to parents without knowing if that is the appropriate person. • No accommodation available; either secure or not secure. This seems to be one of the biggest issues that the panel has seen when scrutinizing cases. • Children placed in Merseyside from other parts of the country are being left in custody overnight due to confusion over who is accountable, refusal by the other local authority to act as AA and/or collection. <p>Police are working outside the law by holding children with no reason because there is no one to collect them, these are often children looked after by the local authority. Police remove from PACE and keep young people in Police Stations/Custody Suites as a place of safety.</p>



17-18	Audit Title	Audit Date	Responsible Committee
1.	Audit of domestic abuse cases	17 th May 2017	Performance Committee
2.	Quality of Children Looked After plans	14 th June 2017	Performance Committee
3.	Audit of children placed in Wirral from other LA's	July 2017	Performance Committee
4.	Development session to plan future audit cycle	18 th October 2017	Performance Committee
5.	Audit of the use of multi-agency escalation	13 th December 2017	Performance Committee
6.	Audit of the application and understanding of thresholds	TBC February 2018 (re-audit)	Performance Committee
7.	Quality of CP Plans (repeat audit – following introduction of the supporting families model)	TBC April 2018 (re-audit)	Performance Committee
8.	Quality of Conference reports (repeat audit – following introduction of the supporting families model)	TBC June 2018 (re-audit)	Performance Committee



Case Reviews

The WSCB Learning and Improvement Framework details our approach to undertaking reviews. Reviews fall into two main categories:

- Statutory serious case reviews
- Multi-agency critical incident/ learning reviews

Statutory Serious Case Reviews (SCR's) are undertaken on those cases reaching the threshold defined in Working Together (2015):

(a) abuse or neglect of a child is known or suspected; and

(b) either — (i) the child has died; or (ii) the child has been seriously harmed and there is cause for concern as to the way in which the authority, their Board partners or other relevant persons have worked together to safeguard the child.

Decisions about whether a case meets the threshold for a SCR are taken locally by the multi-agency SCR Committee and agreed by the Independent Chair. Before decisions are ratified they are scrutinised by the National Panel for SCR's who may challenge the decisions. To undertake a SCR LSCB's must appoint an independent author.

In the timeframe for this annual report (April 16-March 17) the WSCB commissioned one serious case review which is currently ongoing. The learning from the SCR will inform changes to policies, procedures and practice and will be disseminated across the children's workforce.

The WSCB also undertakes its own local multi-agency reviews for cases where the SCR threshold is not met but the WSCB believe there is likely to be learning. In 2016-17 the WSCB undertook three multi-agency reviews.

The learning from these reviews is summarised as follows.

Case Reviews (2016-2017)

In the 2016-17 reporting period the WSCB has completed three multi-agency reviews (Child 4, Child 5 and Child 6) on cases below the SCR threshold. The WSCB commissioned one SCR which was started at the end of the reporting period.

Unlike for SCR's the WSCB does not publish an overview report for cases below the SCR threshold but does disseminate the learning across agencies to improve practice across the partnership.

Recommendations from case reviews are translated into multi-agency action plans by the WSCB's case review committee. The WSCB maintains oversight of all plans until it is assured that the learning has been widely disseminated and understood.

Child 4 Multi-agency Review

Background to the Child 4 Review:

Child 4 was a baby who drowned, but survived with permanent injuries after falling forwards in a baby bath seat and becoming submerged. Child 4 was not supervised at the time.

The learning from the case included professionals, especially midwives and health visitors reinforcing the safe use of bath seats and bath safety advice. Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust produced a Bath Safety Advice Leaflet (shown overleaf) which is routinely given out to families.

The case also had Domestic Abuse as a feature and highlighted the need to ensure that families who move into Wirral are properly assessed when previous domestic abuse has occurred.

Learning points from the Child 4 Review:

- importance of ensuring cases open to MARAC in another authority who move to Wirral are reviewed at the next Wirral MARAC

- awareness raised about the potential dangers from incorrect use of baby bath seats
- domestic abuse training to be mandatory for social workers
- to ensure relevant hospital staff are always invited to multi-agency meetings when children are inpatients

Child 5 Multi-agency Review

Background to the Child 5 Review:

Child 5 was an ex child looked after who was the victim of a physical assault. The case highlighted the need for care leavers to be supported if they feel isolated and for accommodation to be provided as close to family as possible when requested.

Learning points from the Child 5 Review:

- transition plans need to evidence effective multi-agency planning from all relevant agencies
- children's services to be assured that the range and geographical spread of supported semi-independent living accommodation for young people is appropriate
- protocol for sexually harmful behaviour to be reviewed
- review of training for foster carers particularly for managing behavioural disorders
- review of assessment of foster carers for placement of placement of children with complex mental health or behavioural issues

Child 6 Multi-agency Review

Background to the Child 6 Review:

Child 6 was a young girl who tragically died after accidentally setting fire to her clothes after playing with a lighter she found at home.

The review led to the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service highlighting the dangers of lighters and matches and issuing advice. This was also highlighted in the CDOP newsletter in summer 2017 illustrated overleaf.

Bath safety advice for carers of babies and young children

Extensive research suggests baths aids provide false assurance that children are safe.

Key facts about child drowning and bath seats

Page 98
Unintentional drowning remains an important and avoidable cause of child injury and death.

In this country:



About 13 child deaths (under 5yrs) each year are due to drowning



1 in 4 of these drowning deaths occurred in a bath



For each drowning death there are 8 drowning events serious enough to require hospitalisation

A child can drown in as little as a few centimetres of water and in as little as two minutes.



Between 2008-12, 9x more child deaths (under 5yrs) occurred while in a bath than in natural (sea, rivers or lakes)



1 in 3 accidental drowning deaths in children aged 2 years or under involve a bath seat

Babies in infant bath seats have drowned when the:



- suction cups became loose and the seat tipped over
- baby slipped through a leg opening of the seat
- baby tried to climb out of the bath

A bath seat is **NOT** a safety device.



Some parents think that using a baby bath seat will keep their child safe. Baby bath seats do **NOT** prevent drowning.

Actions to prevent drowning in baths:



- never leave young children alone in a bath even for a minute
- keep your baby in sight and within arms reach at all times
- empty the bath after use
- learn simple resuscitation skills

When giving advice to those with responsibility for caring for infants and young children, avoid assumptions regarding health and safety knowledge. Review basic advice that is given routinely and ensure this includes all areas of known misconception/poor consistency around advice.

Thanks to Modupe Omonijo and Dr Marilena Korkodilos PHE (London - Jan 2015)

In partnership with: Barnardo's, Brook and Home-Start Wirral
wirralct.nhs.uk



Learning points from the Child 6 Review:

- partner agencies need to demonstrate and understanding of thresholds of need
- children's Social Care should not use Contracts of Expectation
- WSCB to ensure the Team Around the Family process is well understood
- drug and alcohol services to ensure assessment of need includes impact on all children in the family
- Campaign to raise awareness of match/lighter safety to families in Wirral

Risks from lighters and matches

Serious unintentional injuries can disable and disfigure children for life and in some cases kill them. Children are generally inquisitive and if able to access lighters or matches, candles and tea lights will do so with the potential risk of setting fire to themselves or their surroundings. It is essential that adults take notice of the advice available to reduce the risk of harm to children from fires and burns:

Most fires start in the kitchen through careless cooking and misuse of equipment – however, smoking causes the most deaths

You should have at least one working smoke alarm on each level of your home

You are twice as likely to die in a fire if you are over 65 years old and the highest death rates are among the most disadvantaged families

- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service will conduct Home Fire Safety Checks, offering free smoke alarms to over 65's and high risk individuals and families
- You should close all doors at night and ensure you have an escape plan with your door keys easily accessible on your escape route
- For more fire safety advice go to:
 - o www.merseyfire.gov.uk

If you know a child who displays an interest in matches, lighters or fire-setting you can request a Safety Awareness Fire Education (SAFE) visit from Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service by phoning 0800 731 5958

- Keep matches and lighters away from children
- Smoke kills, but burns can be very serious injuries requiring long periods of treatment
- Make sure cigarettes, candles and tea lights are put out, especially at night
- Don't put clothes or furnishings near fire
- Check for signs of overloaded sockets – hot plugs, scorch marks, fuses often blowing
- Use reputable mobile device chargers and do not leave charging on beds or furniture
- Take extra care around fire when drinking alcohol, using medication or drugs

STAY SAFE – PUT ALL MATCHES AND LIGHTERS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN AND ENSURE THEY HAVE NO ABILITY TO ACCESS THEM!!!!

Learning from Case Reviews

Learning from national and local case reviews are disseminated to agencies and practitioners in a variety of ways including:

- Presentation of findings and recommendations to the WSCB Board
- Publication of the Overview report (for SCR's)
- Quarterly Training Events
- Safeguarding briefings and
- Publication of learning posters (examples shown below)
- Publication of Learning from SCR's briefings



Learning from Serious Case Reviews

This pack provides learning from national and local serious case reviews (SCR's) sourced from organisations such as the NSPCC, the DiE, Ofsted and Reconstruct, as well as from locally published reviews. The pack contains summary briefings which can be used as learning resources within organisations and should be disseminated as widely as possible amongst staff. The SCR summary documents contain recommendations, key practice points and learning to improve practice

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<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/professionals/serious-case-reviews/>

Local Learning from Serious Case Reviews

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Learning from local reviews where Child Sexual Exploitation was a key factor tells us:

- The language YOU and others use will determine how you and other agencies respond. Avoid using phrases such as "putting themselves at risk" "lifestyle choices" as this makes the child responsible for their abuse
- When older children try to control the situation: it maybe they feel "out of control", what they see as the solution may not always be the best/safe plan
- Children who are physically or emotionally neglected are MORE vulnerable to CSE. When thinking about neglect think about the physical and the emotional environment for children– use the screening tool whenever neglect is a feature
- Frequently alcohol misuse and domestic violence are evident in families where neglect is a factor. These are also common features in the parents of children vulnerable to CSE
- Children CANNOT consent to abuse
- Children and vulnerable young adult describing older "boyfriends" ALWAYS requires workers to use Professional Curiosity to know what is really happening
- Children who are experiencing CSE do not always recognise themselves as victims– WE MUST not fall into this trap

<https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/professionals/child-sexual-exploitation/>

<http://www.listentovostory.co.uk/>

Did you know?

Teenagers can be just as vulnerable and in need of our help as younger children

Be aware of the needs of vulnerable teenagers

- Mental Health
- Sexual Exploitation and abuse
- Neglect
- Homelessness
- Learning Difficulties
- Transition from school and leaving care
- Substance misuse
- Relationships and domestic abuse

Safeguarding Teenagers is Everyone's Responsibility

For more information

Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

The Merseyside CDOP is a sub-group of the five Local Safeguarding Children Boards (Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens, Wirral LSCBs) and has a statutory responsibility to review the deaths of all children up to the age of 18 years old (excluding infants live-born following planned, legal terminations of pregnancy and stillbirths) resident within the five Local Authority areas. The focus of CDOP should be on identifying any modifiable factors that may help prevent unnecessary future child deaths or harm.

In 2016-17 across Merseyside there were 112 deaths notified and reviewed by CDOP. 34 deaths (31% of the total occurred in Wirral). This is shown in chart one below.

Total number of child death's occurring in 2016-17

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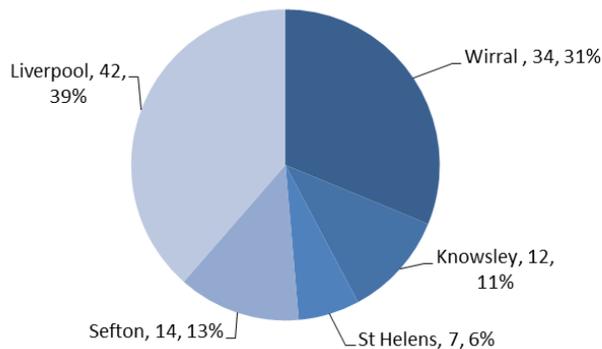
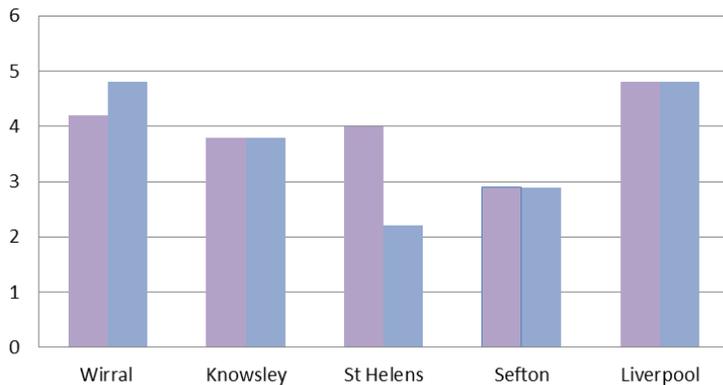


Chart One
Total deaths 2016-

Rate of deaths per 10,000 (0-17 population)



Graph Two
Rate of deaths per 10,000

The rate of deaths for the five areas and for Merseyside as a whole is shown in the graph two. It is clear from the two charts that both the number and the rate of deaths for Wirral is higher than we should expect.

Wirral Summary

- For the last 2 years, the ratio of child deaths in relation to the under 18 population is above the Merseyside figure, despite having lower indices of multiple deprivation
- 97% of deaths reviewed during 2016/17 were completed within 12 months
- 76% of deaths were expected
- 57% of deaths were children under 1 year of age
- 22% of deaths had modifiable factors identified
- The most common modifiable factors identified were smoking in pregnancy, service provision, parental lifestyle and safer sleep

Merseyside Summary

- 93% of deaths reviewed during 2016/17 were completed within 12 months
- 65% of deaths were expected
- 64% of children were aged under 1-year old when they died
- 38% of deaths had modifiable factors identified
- The most common modifiable factors identified were smoking - including smoking in pregnancy, service provision, high BMI, domestic violence, substance misuse and safer sleep





CDOP Achievements in 2016-17

- A CDOP Business Meeting has been established to consider all issues outside individual case meetings
- A Memorandum of Understanding between the Merseyside LSCBs and CDOP support has been drafted for sign off by all parties.
- A CDOP action plan has been developed
- A Safer Sleep Audit has been undertaken with both professionals and parents to assess the uptake, awareness and delivery of safe sleep messages. .
- An independent CDOP Chair was appointed in January 2017.
- CDOP Briefing Sessions to Merseyside agencies
- Sentinel Training and the trigger system has resulted in improvements in responses to requests for information within specified timescales
- CDOP Review recommendations have been implemented and will be kept under review:
 - o CDOP membership has been reviewed and updated its terms of reference in accordance with the review recommendations to ensure consistency and “panel memory” between meetings.
 - o The number of full panel meetings has been reduced, and the increased demand on each panel will be kept under review
- A standard reporting form has been developed providing consistent feedback on issues identified, action taken by CDOP and any potential action required of the relevant LSCB
- The SUDiC Joint Agency Protocol has been updated.
- A SUDiC audit report was produced indicating good adherence to the protocol, outlining specific areas for improvement

- The relationship with Coroners continues to be positive, with ongoing conversations taking place
- Merseyside CDOP continues to play an active role in both regional and national networks, influencing programmes, and gaining insight into proposed changes to the CDOP function in the future
- Following last year’s Annual Report, a suicide prevention group has convened to consider the increasing number of suicides.

Key Recommendation for Merseyside LSCB’s

In view of the recurring modifiable factors which may have contributed to the deaths of children, all LSCBs should assure themselves, through partners, that there are suitably rigorous strategic multi-agency approaches to reduce smoking (particularly in pregnancy), high BMI, substance and alcohol misuse, and domestic violence. In particular, there should be a continued focus on evidence-based initiatives to reduce suicides, as Merseyside has the highest rates within the North West. (Whilst it is recognised that there is no single organisation or partnership that has ultimate responsibility for addressing these issues, all local strategic partnerships should be aware of the effects these issues have on the wellbeing of children, and should ensure that there are plans in place to reduce risks.)

Priorities for 2017-18:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Terms of Reference, Protocol and Performance Framework to be completed and signed off
- Launch of the revised SUDiC Protocol
- Ensure partner agencies with links to the SUDiC protocol undertake staff briefings to raise awareness of the revised protocol and for the LSCB to seek assurance that this has been done
- Safe Sleep Audit to be presented to LSCBs and partners. An action plan to be developed with the task and finish group to monitor progress



Partnership Reports

Page 102



Contributions to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements this year

Cafcass (the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Ministry of Justice. The role of Cafcass within the family courts is: to safeguard and promote the welfare of children; provide advice to the court; make provision for children to be represented; and provide information and support to children and their families. It employs over 1,500 frontline staff.

Revision of both the Quality Assurance and Impact Framework and Supervision Policy which together set out the organisation's commitment to delivering outstanding services, and the ways in which staff are supported to achieve this and the quality of work is to be monitored. The Framework integrates the impact of the work on the child into the grade descriptors so that evidence of positive impact is to be present, alongside compliance with the expectations of Cafcass and the Court, for an outstanding grade to be achieved.

Successes and innovations

Working with a range of partners across family justice, children's services and the voluntary sector. Examples include Local Family Justice Boards (Cafcass chairs 12 of the 46 of these), the judiciary, the Adoption Leadership Board and the Association for Directors of Children's Services with whom Cafcass has developed the social work evidence template for use in care cases, and with whom we are developing good practice guidance for children who are accommodated by the local authority

The development of innovations that are aimed at improving our practice and supporting family justice reform. These include: piloting the provision to our Family Court Advisers of consultations with a clinical psychologist; the extension of Family Drug and Alcohol Courts; the supporting separated parents in dispute helpline (a pilot across five service areas aimed at pro-

moting out-of-court settlements of disputes where safe to do so).

Contributing to the government review of Special Guardianship Orders, including a small piece of research that was included in the government's response to the consultation.

A Service User Feedback Survey, which looked at the interim outcomes of children six to nine months after private law proceedings concluded. Specifically the survey looked into whether arrangements ordered by the court had sustained; how effective communication was between parents before and after court proceedings; and whether participants believed that the court order was in their child's best interests.

Safeguarding challenges

The demand upon Cafcass services have grown substantially since 2015 with a 13% increase in care applications and an 11% increase in private law applications. The grant-in-aid provided by the Ministry of Justice was smaller than the previous year. Notwithstanding this, Cafcass has met all of its Key Performance Indicators.

The following are examples of work undertaken by Cafcass in 2015 to promote the continuous improvement of our work and support reform of the Family Justice:

Implementation of the Equality and Diversity Strategy. This entails: a network of Diversity Ambassadors who support the development of staff understanding and skill; the holding of workshops; a themed audit on the impact of diversity training on practice.

Extending the Child Exploitation Strategy introduced in 2014/15 to include trafficking and radicalisation as well as sexual exploitation. Key elements of the strategy include: Ambassadors (at a service area level) and Champions at a team level to have a 'finger on the pulse' of local issues and to support learning; training and research (including a study of 54 cases known to Cafcass in which radicalisation was identified as a feature).





Contributions to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements this year

Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP) delivers mental health services including both Children and Adult mental health services and Learning Disability services within the Wirral footprint. CWP contribute to the multiagency safeguarding arrangements in the Wirral by having the Director of Nursing, Therapies and Patient Participation attending and participating at the WSCB. The Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children and Head of Safeguarding contribute to WSCB subgroups.

The Director of Nursing, Therapies and Patient Participation also contribute to the work of the Improvement board on the Wirral. CWP have experienced clinicians who also contribute to the delivery of Safeguarding children training and have a training the trainer identified to deliver the forthcoming SEFF training in the Wirral.

CWP Named Nurse for Safeguarding children was pivotal in the design, launch and training of the WSCB threshold document and associated tools (e.g. Graded care profile and CSE screening). CWP have incorporated this within the delivery of the safeguarding training that is delivered internally within CWP. The governance in the scrutiny of child protection work and child protection supervision has been strengthened within the CWP service. CWP standards reflect those of WSCB. CWP continue to attend MARAC, MAPPA and CHANNEL Panels.

CWP have actively participated in numerous multiagency case reviews and have actioned recommendations accordingly.

CWP have refreshed and launched the Safeguarding Strategy 2017-2020. The strategy is underpinned by the principles of 'Person centred care' and 'Think Family'.

Successes and innovations

- Perinatal mental health team to support mothers who have a mental health diagnosis has been launched by CWP
- CWP safeguarding children team regularly attend adult mental health inpatient unit to ensure the needs of the service users' children are addressed appropriately and in a timely manner if support is required.
- CWP continues to provide a comprehensive safeguarding mandatory training programme. This includes level 1, 2 (e learning) and level 3 (face to face) training as well as PREVENT (including WRAP). MAPPA training is now also incorporated within the safeguarding training and promotes the Think Family philosophy. CWP continue to achieve a high level of compliance with training.
- Accredited Safeguarding supervision training for key staff in Wirral CAMHS was delivered this year to roll out a model of safeguarding supervision (based on the model which is currently delivered to CWP FNP service by the safeguarding team).
- Wirral CAMHS have also launched a CAMHS advice line.

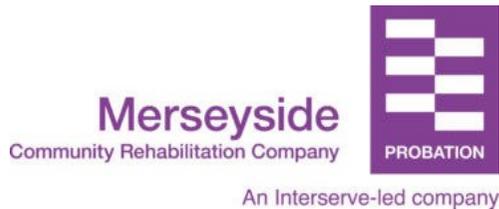
The Wirral CAMHS Primary Mental Health Team has also recently been shortlisted for the Positive Practice in Mental Health Awards 2017 which identify and disseminate positive practice in mental health services. The team carry out consultation and training services for schools and the wider children and young people's (CYP) workforce and have been shortlisted for awards in 'Improving Access and Outcomes in Education' and 'Collaboration between Primary and secondary care categories'.

CWP safeguarding governance arrangements were audited by MIAA (Mersey Internal Audit Agency) and CWP were given significant assurance.



Safeguarding challenges

- Embedding the learning and seeing this being delivered into day to day practice
- Effective escalation to seek resolution to where there are differences between agencies
- Delivery of effective multi agency training



Contributions to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements this year

Merseyside CRC officially came under the ownership of Purple Futures, an Interserve led partnership consisting of P3, 3SC, Shelter and Interserve on 1st February 2015, and is one of 21 CRC's nationally. During 2016, the Company went through a significant transformation programme to fully implement its model of delivery which is known as the Interchange Model. The theory underpinning the model is strengths based, with a focus on rehabilitation as a fundamental outcome. The model emphasises the need to grow strong partnerships within local communities, and multi agency working within the safeguarding arena is paramount to this approach.

New IT enables staff to adopt a more mobile way of working and consequently, the opportunities for co location with partner agencies is enhanced. The new IT is still bedding in so it is very early days. However, we are in discussion regarding co located opportunities with Wirral MASH in its new premises at Solar campus.

The MCRC is proud of it's co - located services with Tomorrows Women Wirral which means that all women service users on Wirral are seen in a woman friendly environment which has a strong focus of interventions

around safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This includes courses on parenting, health and wellbeing and domestic abuse victim awareness for both adults and children. Over the past year over 600 women have accessed the following courses with an average completion rate of 83%

The CRCs are one of the largest providers of domestic abuse interventions nationally and we are currently revising our domestic abuse strategy to bring it in line with current thinking and approaches. We deliver various interventions to perpetrators of domestic violence as well as providing direct support and safety planning to victims and partners of our service-users. Completion rates for programmes run in 2016-17 are:

- All Domestic Abuse Programmes 90% completion
- Happy Healthy Homes Programmes 80% completion
- Parenting Programmes 80% completion
- Solicitor Drop in 5 days per week dealing with Family Law - ongoing
- Emotional Wellbeing Courses 90% completion
- Confidence Building Courses 90% completion
- Domestic Abuse Drop in peer support - ongoing
- Victim Awareness Sessions 60% completion
- Skills for life Programme 80% completion
- Budgeting Programmes 70% completion
- First Aid Programmes - 100% completion
- Acceptance and Commitment Programme 70%

Our suite of interventions includes:

a. The Building Better Relationships (BBR) programme, a nationally accredited programme for reducing domestic abuse related reoffending for those who pose the highest risk of causing harm.

b. The HELP programme which is a voluntary domestic abuse perpetrators programme with an emphasis on a whole family approach to the family and related issues. It is worth highlighting a quote from one of our Wirral



children whose dad participated in a recent Wirral programme,

" I'm glad dad is back and there is no more arguing. he doesn't shout at me no more and i can go to him when I'm worried about things".

Of the 23 men who have completed the HELP programme on the Wirral this year, the following safeguarding outcomes have been achieved:

- 4 cases being closed to Social Services
- 5 cases being downgraded by social services including new born baby moving to interim care order. Initially the baby was more likely to be taken into care but both parents are engaging positively with the programme and social services
- 3 cases where contact with children was re- established
- Several cases where Social Care report improved engagement and lessened animosity towards themselves. Specifically a theme that emerged in a number of instances was that males who had undertaken the Programme exhibited higher levels of responsibility via acknowledgement of problems in the home than their female partners did. This reflected a change and appears partly linked to increased insight but also increased trust in professionals as a result of experiences on the group.
- 5 women who have accessed partner support service have expressed interest in undertaking the women's programme because they 've been pleased by changes they have seen in their partner and believe this could be built upon

Successes and innovations

The Wirral local authority commissioned MCRC to deliver four voluntary domestic abuse perpetrator programmes during 2016/17. Of significant note is the success of the ground-breaking female perpetrator programme and the piloted young persons perpetrator programme. A short film was produced by the young participants on the youth programme and this is viable to view on request. We are hoping to build on the success of these programmes over the next year as we assimilate the learning from these initiatives.

MCRC has revised its training plan to incorporate the voice of the child,

CSE and Harmful Practices. The Company recognises it has much to offer WSCB as it develops its understanding of Child Criminal Exploitation and the devastating impact such early years experiences can have on adults and families. We welcome opportunities to contribute to the training agenda on this particular issue. We have offered our services to WSCB training pool and two of our staff members are now trainers and delivering training in the SFEF programme .

Safeguarding challenges

Probation services have traditionally focused on the offender within the family with a strong focus on adult only interventions to achieve rehabilitation and reduce offending. Opportunities now arise to refocus on early intervention within families with close alignment with other agencies involved in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Over the next year CRC staff on the Wirral will seek to integrate more effectively with the MASH and early intervention multi agency hubs in order to enhance the early intervention offer.

Contributions to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements this year

WCT is the health provider for community health services. WCT's provision includes children's 0-19, therapy services and walk in centres. On 1st June 2017 Adult social care joined WCT creating a truly integrated model of community care. The integration enhances adult community services including community nursing and supports smooth transitions of care for young people moving into adulthood.

WCT are fully committed to discharging its safeguarding duties to protect children and vulnerable adults. WCT are a core member of the WSCB and can evidence full attendance and contribution to WSCB improvement plans over the past year.

WCT's Quality and Governance committee receives quarterly safeguarding assurance reports which reflect WCT compliance with multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. The report reflects both national and local safeguarding driver's including reference to outcomes.

Recent examples include:

- WCT staff attended SFEF multi agency training. In addition WCT have contributed to delivery of multi-agency training programmes including domestic violence, working together and the new SFEF model. This will contribute toward developing a 'shared language and understanding' across agencies ensuring children and families remain at the centre of their care
- Staff and Senior managers have attended workshops regarding thresholds. The updated thresholds were disseminated to WCT practitioners, shared at team meetings and WCT safeguarding Level 3 training has been updated to incorporate details of the updated to generate group discussions through scenarios. This approach creates a neutral environment where staff can ask questions and challenge

themselves and others in a constructive way. This will benefit staff when they are reviewing caseloads and working in a multi agency environment, creating the ability to reflect and challenge differently

- WCT Executive leadership team have attended managing allegations training. This generated a review of the current Managing Allegations policy including lines of responsibility to reflect current executive positions
- WCT are usually notified of an allegation or concern via an external agency. However, staff are also expected to inform their line manager if they are subject to a police investigation that would question their suitability to work with children/vulnerable adults. Support for the individual during the investigation will be explored by the line manager, working in partnership with HR. This shifted sole reliance upon external agencies to inform WCT of concerns
- Developed models of integrated health care including CLA health passport and Early help. A number of young people have been identified to develop the passport. Evidence (local and national) tells us that a number of young people go missing once they leave care. Often these young people have ongoing health issues, including mental health. It is therefore crucial that young people can access their health information regardless of their circumstances to ensure they receive the support and care they need. WCT is pursuing funding (in partnership with CCG and LA) to develop the Health Passport for young people
- WCT and LA are working in partnership to deliver a two year integrated development review. This holistic approach supports families in meeting their child's needs without having to tell their story over and over again.
- Creation of a Teenage team – Consists of 0-19, 16-18 worker, CLA, FNP, Barnardos and Brook. Barnardos support young people with



their emotional health and wellbeing. Pathways are being developed in partnership with LA to promote positive emotional health and wellbeing for all children.

- Brook sexual health services work as part of the team and deliver training and support Health services in school. This increases accessibility for young people in gaining advice and support at a time and place most convenient for them
- Members of the teenage team work aim to meet the health and wellbeing needs of young people through developing packages of care based on the needs identified through assessment/hearing the voice of the young person need. 2017 /18 goal is to expand the team to include other partners in the core team
- WCT has contributed to Multi agency audits including WSCB, Section 11 completion, WSCB Sub group representation including data submissions and reports as required. This work promotes self-assessment, comparative analysis, external scrutiny and evaluations. This leads to service review and wider learning improving practice development and outcomes for children and their families. Organisational representation at WSCB subgroups promotes working in partnership and shared learning between agencies and reduces the risk of agencies working in silos.

Successes and innovations

WCT can evidence numerous innovations and transformation over the past year. WCT staff were invited to highlight the key achievements for 2016/17. The points below reflects their views:

- The creation of the teenage team –The team primarily works with children and young people aged 16-19 who are not in education or training (NEET) and are not, therefore, under the care of a school nurse. The team also works with children from age 13, this is needs led. The team offer Alcohol and Anger Management support, a Teenage Pregnancy co-ordinator and a Drugs Advisor. The team work closely with local colleges, Response, Drug and alcohol service

and the Youth Offending Service with the aim of improving outcomes for the most vulnerable young people

- The team offer Health Needs Assessments (HNA) which evidence the voice of the young person. The assessment outcome determines the package of care going forward including transitional arrangements from child to adult services. This is to avoid ‘stop start’ packages of care and avoid overlap and/or gap in service provision
- WCT have supported a number of multi-agency responses to allegations of CSE and drug misuse. Staff members have worked closely with partner agencies to provide information and support young people during formal investigations. A recent example was a multi-agency response to young people being admitted to A/E following the use of MDMA (Ecstasy). Police intelligence suggested there was possible CSE linked to the incidents. WCT contributed to a multi-agency response to raise awareness in schools. The teenage team coordinated WCT's contribution and delivered sessions within seven days of initial reports. A total of thirty three assemblies were delivered. There were no admissions to WUTH for this specific MDMA related incident following the assemblies. This has generated a review of pathways for information sharing and support systems for young people around drug misuse. WUTH and WCT are working in partnership to identify children at risk. In a wider context if a child is admitted to WUTH and risk taking behaviours are identified but do not meet the threshold for level 4 safeguarding intervention then themes are identified and shared with schools. For example, a number of children from one particular school had been admitted to WUTH over a weekend through alcohol related incidents. The school were notified of the theme and able to highlight the dangers of alcohol during a school assembly. The specific children were referred to response and teenage team for one to one support.



- Development of a CLA nurse session at the care leaver drop in at Response working alongside the social workers & personal advisors offering face to face health advice to any care leavers in attendance.
- A Children Looked after Nurse won a Listen to Me Award following nomination by a care leaver. The nomination was submitted by a care leaver who attended the care leaver drop in clinic at Response.

The care leaver is a 21 year old single mother who appeared distressed & low in mood, she had accessed the foodbank and required fuel support as she had no electricity/gas. The CLA nurse had contact with the care leaver resulting in the CLA nurse referring to the health visiting service as client reported to be socially isolated. The nurse contacted a local charity to request a toddler bed for her as she was not sleeping well as the baby was beginning to climb from her cot – as she was on benefits she was saving slowly for a cot bed but was facing real financial difficulty. The charity had a cot-bed available and delivered the cot to the client’s address the following day.

The CLA nurse reports “The care leaver stated on the nomination that “I helped her with her problems, that she felt embarrassed & low but I listened to her, I didn’t judge her & that I helped her get a toddler bed & a carpet”

- CLA nurses are now offering ongoing health support for young people up to their 19 birthday. This is beyond WCT current remit of 18 years. Health passport being developed
- Development of the Health Needs assessments for all children who are supported through a safeguarding framework. The Health Needs Assessment model is a tiered approach for health practitioners to effectively and efficiently review and monitor the health needs of vulnerable children and young people. The electronic templates support practitioners in regularly meeting with children and young people, ensuring the child’s voice is heard. The practitioner is then responsible for completing an individual care plan, clearly evidencing the role of 0-19, other health agencies, or the family, in improving any unmet health needs. This information is then shared with

relevant agencies including the GP, and social care. An evaluation is planned for November 2017 .Consultation with partners and families will inform what specific data and information would be of benefit to determine how the model adapts and evolves.

- During November 2017 a new multi-agency supervision model will be piloted across LA and health. The head of safeguarding in WCT and LA are currently developing the model.



Wirral University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WUTH) is not only the largest employer in Wirral but is also one of the largest and busiest acute Trusts in the North West of England .Providing a comprehensive range of high quality acute care services, our 5893 strong workforce serves a population of approximately 400,000 people across Wirral, Ellesmere Port, Neston, North Wales and the wider North West footprint. The Trust is committed to safeguarding and this is evident from “Ward to Board” with strong culture of safeguarding vulnerable patients that come into contact with our services and is firmly embedded into the core business of WUTH.

We operate from two main sites:

- Arrowe Park Hospital, Upton – delivering a full range of emergency (adults and children) and acute services for adults in the main hospital building. The Wirral Women’s and Children’s Hospital provides Maternity, Neonatal, Gynaecology, Children’s inpatient, day case and outpatient units.
- Clatterbridge Hospital, Bebington – undertaking planned surgical services, dermatology services, breast care and specialist stroke and neuro rehabilitation services.





We also provide a range of outpatient services from community locations:

- St Catherine's Health Centre, Birkenhead – providing x-ray, community paediatric services, paediatric audiology and a range of outpatient clinics
- Victoria Central Health Centre, Wallasey – providing X ray, some outpatient services and antenatal clinic
- Other locations – a range of outpatient services are provided from GP practices, schools and children's centres.

The full range of our services includes:

- accident & emergency (A&E) services for adults and children
- a diverse range of acute and non-acute specialties
- outpatients services
- day surgery services
- maternity including a midwifery led unit
- neonatal level 3 unit
- diagnostic and clinical support services
- specialist services, such as:
 - renal medicine
 - dermatology
 - orthopaedics (hip & knee)
 - ophthalmology (retinal)
 - urology (cancer centre)
 - stroke (hyper-acute unit)
 - gynaecology (advanced laparoscopic endometriosis centre)
 - neonatal level 3 unit and Ronald McDonald House: charity home away from home accommodation for parents of sick children and premature babies.

Contributions to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements this year

Following the launch of the Protecting Vulnerable People training, the Trust have facilitated this training multi-agency with partner agencies

WUTH is key partner agency in Wirral. This is achieved by:

- Membership of the Safeguard Board
- Actively contributes to a Serious Case Review of a young person. Chronology completed and Attendance at frontline and managerial multiagency meetings have occurred. The Trust is awaiting the subsequent action plan. Any gaps in service will then be monitored internally and externally by the Board. A further two cases did not meet threshold for SCR and Multi-agency review completed. A single agency health review has been undertaken and actions are currently monitored internally.
- Bi monthly attendance at MARAC sharing relevant information and ensuring actions are completed and relevant flag is uploaded onto our IT system.
- Provides data to the Safeguarding Dataset
- Attendance by the Director of Nursing and Head of Safeguarding following OFSTED inspection in July 2016 and subsequent improvement meetings.
- Supporting partnership working the Trust safeguarding team are actively involved in various multi-agency forums and subgroups.
- The Trust has 20 safeguarding supervisors to ensure that all staff who caseload receive quarterly supervision in accordance with policy and national guidance.

The Trust is working collaboratively with partner agencies and the local authority to develop an information sharing solution (CP-IS) that will deliver a higher level of protection to children who attend NHS unscheduled care settings.

In the interim an identifiable flag has been developed on our IT system to assist workforce in identifying safeguarding concerns for both children and adults including domestic abuse.



Successes and innovations

In May 2016, Merseyside Internal Audit Agency completed audit of Safeguarding arrangements at WUTH. The outcome of the report is Significant Improvement. This level of assurance reflects improvements made to the service since 2014 when last audited.

Development of Wirral Pre-Birth Liaison Group chaired by the Head of Safeguarding/Named Midwife to ensure that all causes for concern relating to pregnancy are discussed at a monthly meeting attended by partner agencies to ensure that they receive the Right Service Right Time.

Launch of new Protecting Vulnerable People training strategy in September 2016 which encompasses safeguarding from the cradle to the grave.

The new training strategy will ensure that all 5500 staff have the relevant skills and knowledge to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk including Domestic Abuse, Harmful Practices and PREVENT. Identified Lead in Child Sexual Exploitation and two Prevent Leads have been identified.

Request for Services into social care for both children and adults have been developed and embedded into our Cerner Millennium IT system to ensure streamlined referral into social care and enable the team to quality assure further embed within training

The Trust has ensured that 36 staff have received the CAF/TAF training which provides assurance that the workforce is supported and have the knowledge and skills to ensure that help is received at the right time.

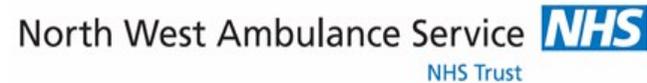
Safeguarding challenges

Single agency -

- To ensure the workforce receives training required
- Embedding of the Right Service Right Time
- Thresholds

- Continuing to raise awareness in key areas e.g. CSE and Multi-agency Escalation process
- Financial resources across the patch

Employment of an IDVA within unscheduled care settings to support victims at the "Golden Hour" when presenting to Trust. Only acute Trust not to have IDVA resource - business case is being presented to Domestic Abuse Committee - 2020 Pledge.



The Safeguarding Team has expanded since taking on two new Safeguarding Practitioners in early 2017. There is now a designated Safeguarding Practitioner working in each geographical area of the Trust, Cumbria & Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cheshire & Mersey. The practitioners work directly to the Safeguarding Practice Manager and under the umbrella of the Clinical Safety Team and the Head of Clinical Safety. The increase in the workforce has allowed a stronger commitment to internal training and support for staff and for a visible engagement with Local Safeguarding Adults and Children's boards.

All of the Safeguarding Practitioners and the Safeguarding Practice Manager and Head of Clinical Safety attend external level 3 training provided by the Local Safeguarding boards on a variety of current topics, such as CSE, Human Trafficking and modern day slavery, and CDOP workshops. The Safeguarding Practice Manager and the Head of Clinical Safety attend level 4 training as the designated professionals for safeguarding.

The information gathered from such training is cascaded through the trust and enables the frontline staff to be empowered with the most up to date information in the local area. Clinical supervision is carried out both within the team and sought from external sources within the local safeguarding arena. This provides the Practitioners and Managers with the opportunity to ensure that the team's practice and training are current and correct.



Safeguarding activity continues to increase each year and is reflected in the increase in the numbers of safeguarding concerns raised about adults at risk and children.

The Vulnerable Persons Policies and Procedures have been updated and designed to highlight current issues and offer guidance and raise awareness of potential risks to vulnerable people in society. The documents are designed to be used by all staff working for or on behalf of the trust. In addition to this, information sharing surrounding current safeguarding issues are circulated using internal bulletins, the intranet and an internal social media platform, known as Yammer.

The Safeguarding Team visit Trust areas on a quarterly basis to raise safeguarding awareness and support staff engagement with the Safeguarding Practitioners to increase their knowledge.

The embedding of the Care Act 2014 into practice has seen a continued rise in requests to be involved in Safeguarding Adult Reviews, Domestic Homicide Reviews and Strategy Meetings. The Safeguarding Practitioners will work alongside senior managers and clinicians to ensure engagement with Local Safeguarding Adult and Children's boards is visible and specific to local needs. There are currently 46 safeguarding boards across the geographical footprint of North West Ambulance Service and the practitioners have committed to attend each board a minimum of once per year, or, as per local board request.

Each board has been formally contacted by the Safeguarding Practice Manager to inform them of our commitment to the boards and establish good working relationships in each area. In addition, practitioners are involved in Local Safeguarding Board sub-groups. Engagement includes:

- Child Death Overview Panel
- Serious Case Review Groups
- Front line visits with local board members
- Wider stakeholder meetings
- County leadership groups

- Multi-agency review meetings following the Sudden Unexplained Death of a Child (SUDC).

Safeguarding challenges

Each month the safeguarding concerns that are rejected by Adult and Children's Social Care are scrutinised to understand the themes and to reallocate concerns to the correct service or to the patients GP. Less than 6% of all adult concerns are rejected and less than 5% for children. The rejections relate predominately to mental ill health for adults.

The Trust has recently appointed a Mental Health Strategic Advisor who will coordinate the partnership work to develop mental health referral pathways. Rejected child safeguarding concerns generally relate to duplicate notifications as each child in a family is referred or being sent to the wrong area (geographical boundaries). These are sent on thereafter to the correct Children's Social Care department.

As an additional safeguard the child concerns are also sent to the relevant community and acute health teams, this helps to facilitate multi-agency working and information sharing. Discussions and communication with social care departments in all areas ensures that safeguarding concerns continue to flow through the use of the ERRIS system.

Feedback from social care is welcomed and actively sought by the Safeguarding Team, this is then passed on to the frontline staff and promotes learning opportunities and discussions and providing clinical supervision.

Successes and innovations

The Safeguarding Team continue to raise awareness of issues surrounding modern day slavery and human trafficking. Local external updates are sourced and disseminated to staff on the frontline. The updated procedures include a pathway for staff to follow if human trafficking is suspected and a list of indicators is included in this information.

- The Safeguarding Team will continue to raise awareness of children who are self-harming, expressing suicidal ideas or attempting suicide.



- The Team are highlighting the importance of making notifications for all children who self-harm through training, bulletins and dissemination to frontline staff of learning resources that have been sourced outside of the Trust.
- The Safeguarding Team are actively involved in several Serious Case Reviews that have been commissioned by the Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards. Issues that are highlighted through this process, such as, the vulnerabilities of children in care, are cascaded back to staff via updates in level 3 safeguarding training, trust bulletins and direct discussions with the members of staff that have been involved in the individual cases.
- Safeguarding awareness events take place each quarter to target specific areas, increase visibility and work with staff to understand barriers to raising concerns. A questionnaire was sent out via Survey Monkey around these concerns with a good response and this was another means of consulting and getting feedback from staff.
- The Trust is committed to the safeguarding of adults with learning disabilities and have engaged with the LeDeR programme which makes all deaths involving adults with learning disabilities notifiable. The learning disabilities mortality review aims to make improvements to the lives of people with learning disabilities. The LeDeR programme was set up following a recommendation from the CIP OLD, funded by the Department of Health, to investigate the premature deaths of people with learning disabilities.

Over 94% of all NWS staff have now received WRAP 3 training which is the ‘workshop to raise awareness of PREVENT’ and part of the Government’s anti-terrorism strategy. The Head of Clinical Safety is the Prevent lead for the Trust.

Prevent is any terror related activity that takes place in the pre-criminal space. WRAP is included within mandatory training for all staff and compliance with this national requirement has increased during 2016/17.

The Safeguarding Team attend events and conferences to meet and discuss the issues surrounding terrorism in order to keep up to date with the latest local and national strategies. This information is then cascaded to frontline staff via bulletins and mandatory training. NWS is in the top 3 of all NHS Trusts for meeting the national training requirements.



Contributions to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements this year

Merseyside Police are very much a strategic partner and have been significantly involved in the review and implementation of processes within the Multi- Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Following an inspection by Ofsted in July 2016, there have been various changes to improve the operational effectiveness of MASH. This has included the formation of the integrated front door, the first response team and a multi-agency CSE team. Additionally, we are a significant contributor to the daily morning multi-agency briefings that take place at MASH to ensure that we capture all incidents that occur, so that safeguarding can be put into place as quickly as possible.

In terms of a multi-agency Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), the police recognised a need to invest in this area of safeguarding and as such have contributed an additional Detective Sergeant and 2 Detective Constables to the CSE team, which already had a police missing from home and child sexual exploitation co-ordinator. Essentially, this means that we are better equipped and structured to manage CSE investigations, working alongside our partners from Catch 22 and Social Care. The team recognise that there is further work to be done to achieve better management of criminal exploitation of children and as such have been instrumental in developing a process for professionals to share and manage concerns.



A governance structure has been agreed and future training is planned for professionals in September 2017. This builds upon existing good practice in Knowsley.

Successes and innovations

Merseyside police recently held a child sexual exploitation training event for all police staff involved in CSE teams across the country. This was an extremely successful event and was an excellent forum for sharing and learning from good practice.

The development of the West Investigations CSE team has been significant and the team are already progressing some significant investigations, which should lead to excellent outcomes for victims. This builds upon the back of the success of Operation Corzola, which was a joint police and social care investigation that concluded in June of this year with significant sentences of 2 males for a string of CSE offences against Wirral children.

We have recently set up a forum for secondary school safeguarding leads to attend over the course of the school year. The first meeting is due to take place in September of this year, but it is hoped that this will become a useful forum for sharing good practice, training of professionals and a general improvement in safeguarding practices.

In addition, Merseyside Police have seconded a Superintendent within the Local Authority to work on the development of the Safer Wirral Hub. This will provide opportunities for a number of agencies to work together and identify those children and young people, who do not fall within the statutory threshold of need and provide support, through early help and intervention, to ensure that they do not reach those higher levels of need and can be diverted towards appropriate third sector support and universal service.

Merseyside Police have worked closely with partners and all local policing officers within Wirral have received training, delivered by the Local

Authority, to understand the threshold of need and have a consistent approach with partners to tackling the vulnerabilities of children and young people together.

Safeguarding challenges

Resourcing levels and increasing demand remains a significant issue for all public service and partner agencies. Despite this, Merseyside Police has invested in safeguarding processes and services that should lead to better management of cases and better outcomes for victims, by providing additional support and appropriate training.

Criminal exploitation of vulnerable young people is a growing area of concern and we are continuing to develop understanding and appropriate processes to identify cases at the earliest opportunity, in order to support those involved and disrupt those who prey on the vulnerable.

Children's Services



Contributions to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements this year

In July 2016 children's services were subject to an Ofsted inspection which judged services providing help and protection as inadequate. Since the inspection the service has been subject to additional oversight and monitoring by the Department for Education and Ofsted.

The inspection made a number of key recommendations regarding our safeguarding practice. These included the need to ensure thresholds were consistently understood and applied, ensure strategy meetings are timely and include key information, improve the quality of assessments and recording, review the work of emergency duty team, get it right for children in private fostering arrangements and be clear about the procedures for referral to the designated officer.

Since then the service has been working hard to drive improvements and the changes required to deliver a good safeguarding service.



Actions in the initial service improvement plan following inspection has been completed and reported to the service improvement board. A further plan is currently being developed with all partners which will take us on the next step of our improvement journey.

Successes and innovations

Some of the actions undertaken include:

Three large conferences were held that included children social care and partner agencies. This has enabled staff and partners to consider the threshold for referring children supporting our aim of achieving the right service at the right time.

A model of service delivery based on a multi-agency safeguarding hub has been developed and a wide range of agencies are now working in a co-located way sharing information and supporting children.

Across the children's services there has been increased focus on thresholds for children becoming subject to a child protection plan or looked after via ensuring managerial decisions are considered and recorded. This is included new guidance on how to record management decisions and monitoring through reports.

The volume of strategy meetings taken place has increased and are now nearly all face to face and well attended. This ensures that the correct information can be considered at the start of a child protection investigation.

Practice standards are been issued to social workers to ensure consistency and quality when undertaking assessments. Additional staff have been employed in order to reduce caseloads and to ensure that social workers have time to undertake the work required.

An auditing program is in place and is now beginning to impact on both compliance and the quality of record keeping this in turn helps improve the quality of social work practice.

Clear processes are now in place when a child is identified in a potential private fostering arrangement and senior managers monitor practice to

ensure statutory guidance is followed.

New procedures have been put in place for referrals to the designated officer and these have been shared with the local safeguarding Board to ensure that all partners are clear about expectations.

Safeguarding challenges

Children's services continue to develop and improve safeguarding practices. Our progress is closely monitored by the improvement board.

The key challenge for the service is to have sufficient skilled permanent social work staff to provide a high quality service.

To manage the increased need and demand for services in a time of fixed or reducing budgets.



Contributions to multi-agency safeguarding arrangements this year

The Clinical Commissioning Group meets its statutory membership requirements through the attendance of the Director of Quality and Patient Safety. The Designated Nurse and Doctor attend the Board in a statutory advisory capacity, providing clinical expertise for the Board where required.

The Clinical Commissioning Group actively supports the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board and subgroups/committees through:

- Chair/Attendance and active contribution at subgroup/committee meetings
- Chair/Attendance and active contribution at strategic multi-agency group meetings

- Chair/Involvement in multi-agency case audit meetings
- Contributing to the development and updating of child protection policies and procedures
- Communicating the wider safeguarding agenda to independent contractors and provider services
- Contributing to the work of the Child Death Overview Panel in Merseyside
- Undertaking Serious Case Reviews and involvement in Critical Case Reviews
- Involvement in provision of multi-agency training
- Dissemination of learning across health organization and implementing recommendations as required
- Work with General Practitioners to increase attendance at initial child protection case conferences and submission of reports for initial and review child protection case conferences
- Provision of Safeguarding Supervision to provider safeguarding leads
- contributed to safeguarding learning and development through:
- Commitment to ensure multi-agency training competencies are in line with the Intercollegiate Document
- Working with the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board training co-coordinator to review and deliver multi-agency training on understanding and assessing neglect.
- The Designated Nurse and the Named GP for Safeguarding Children have delivered Level 3 training sessions for GPs and Nurse Practitioners, and have an annual rolling programme
- The Designated Doctor has delivered multi-agency training on Fabricated/Induced illness in children by parents/carers, and Child Sexual Abuse.

Successes and innovations

Co-ordinated the Merseyside Safe Sleep Campaign

- Lead review author for 3 WSCB Multi Agency Case Reviews
- Led and coordinated the health response for the large scale Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) investigation (Operation Corzola)
- One of only two regional CCGs authorised to have student nurse placement
- Led and coordinated the health response to the Ofsted improvement plan
- Part of the first team to become integrated joining with the Local Authority Contracts & Quality Assurance team and the Safeguarding Adult Board team
- The Named GP for safeguarding children has contributed to regional developments via the “Cheshire & Merseyside Named GP forum” (governance by NHSE)

Safeguarding challenges and Priorities

The CCG safeguarding priorities for the coming year are:

- To ensure that NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group meets all the statutory responsibilities and is compliant with the Accountability and Assurance Framework 2015
- To continue to work with the Local Safeguarding Children and Adult Boards to achieve joint safeguarding priorities, including Domestic Abuse and Exploitation.
- To continue to develop the roles of both the Named GP for Safeguarding Children and the Named GP for Safeguarding Adults
- To continue to work with GP practices in strengthening their engagement with safeguarding processes, in particular to ensure the improved attendance at initial child protection case conferences and submission of reports for initial child protection case conferences continues.



- To ensure the Clinical Commissioning Group, along with provider services are well prepared for all external inspections.
 - To continue to work with the safeguarding leads within key provider services to ensure that safeguarding arrangements across the health economy are robust.
 - To continue to monitor the safeguarding arrangements of commissioned services.
 - To continue to work with NHS England to drive improvements in safeguarding practice across the Wirral Health Economy and beyond.
 - To review the terms of reference of the 3 main providers Strategic Safeguarding Groups
-
- For the Designated Professionals to establish formal assurance processes with Public Health Wirral to ensure that Public Health pay due regard to health safeguarding processes and standards when commissioning health services on behalf of the local authority.
 - To ensure that legislative changes and new statutory requirements are impact assessed and recommendations made regarding implementation and compliance
 - To ensure that safeguarding continues to be a golden thread throughout the spectrum of the CCG's business activities.
 - To continue to work with the integrated LA/CCG Quality Improvement team to target all health & social care providers in the development of quality improvement plans
 - Develop robust safeguarding assurance processes for smaller providers including Voluntary, Charity & Faith Sectors (VCFS)





Governance of WSCB

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Purpose and Function of the WSCB

Section 14 of the Children Act 2004 sets out the objectives of the WSCB, which are to:

- (a) co-ordinate what is done by each person or body represented on the Board for the purposes of safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in the area; and
- (b) ensure the effectiveness of what is done by each such person or body for those purposes.

The core objectives of the WSCB are to:

- co-ordinate work by agencies to safeguard children and to promote their welfare; and
- ensure that what is done is effective.

The functions of the WSCB are to:

- develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Wirral;
- raise awareness in Wirral of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, and to provide advice and guidance as to how this can be achieved;
- monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what is done by the Local Authority and WSCB partners, individually and collectively, to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and to advise them on ways to improve
- to participate in the local planning and commissioning of services for children in Wirral and to ensure that they take safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children into account
- to undertake case reviews
- to collect and analyse information about each child death in Wirral and to

put in place procedures for ensuring that there is a coordinated response by the authority, their WSCB partners and other relevant persons to an unexpected death.

The WSCB works towards ensuring the effectiveness of the work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children by member organisations. The identified safeguarding priority areas for each year form the basis of the WSCB's business plan. The WSCB operates a sub committee structure which deliver the statutory functions of the board.

A key aim of the work of the WSCB is to promote high standards of safeguarding work and to foster a culture of continuous improvement. It will also identify and act on identified weaknesses in services.

The WSCB should ensure that its monitoring role complements and contributes to the work of other influential and statutory bodies such as the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Governance

The WSCB operates as an independent statutory body under the direction of an independent chair and it is not subordinate to any other body. The WSCB is led by the Independent Chair. The Local Authority Chief Executive holds the Chair to account for the effective working of the WSCB.

All partners of the WSCB are accountable to the Independent Chair and the Board for their contribution to the work of the Board, whether they are local authority officers, professionals or lay members. Professional members of the Board both represent and 'hold to account' their own organisations. New members receive induction training and an induction pack and are encouraged to attend WSCB training courses. Members of the WSCB, attend regular development sessions. Recent sessions have included business and improvement planning, reviewing governance and developing a new model for child protection.

The 2016-17 membership and committee structure of the safeguarding board are shown overleaf.

Membership of the WSCB 2016-17

Dr Maggie Atkinson Independent Chair (from January 2017)

Bernard Walker Independent Chair (until August 2016)

Julia Hassall Director of Children's Services, CYPD

Tracy Hayes Superintendent, Merseyside Police, Vice Chair

Kerry Mehta, Head of Children's Safeguarding (from January 2017)

Simon Garner, Corporate Safeguarding Manager (until December 2016)

Deborah Gornik Head of Targeted Services, CYPD

Lisa Arthey, Head of Specialist Services, CYPD (until October 2016)

Tony Smith Councillor, Lead Member, Children's Services

Trish Jaggard Lay Member

Lindsay Davidson, Senior Manager, Targeted Services

Amanda Bennett Designated Doctor-Safeguarding Children

Sandra Christie Director of Quality and Nursing, Wirral Community NHS Trust

Debbie Hammersley Designated Nurse-Safeguarding Children

Lisa Cooper Assistant Director of Nursing, Quality & Safety NHS England

Gaynor Westray Director of Nursing and Midwifery WUTH

Rosie Goodwin Assistant Chief Executive, Community Rehabilitation Company

Marie Orrell Head of LDU, Merseyside Probation Trust

Michelle Evans Service Manager, CAFCASS

Jane Harvey Public Health Consultant

Vicki Shaw Borough Solicitor

Keith Billington Service Manager, Career Connect

Andy Davies Primary Schools Representative

Paula Waring Special Schools Representative

Phil Sheridan Secondary Schools Representative

Lorna Quigley Chief Operating Officer NHS Wirral CCG

Paula Simpson Head of Quality and Nursing, Wirral Community NHS Trust

Avril Devaney Director of Nursing, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Trust

Sue Blevins Strategic Service Manager-HR, CYPD

Catherine Court Deputy Principal, Wirral Metropolitan College

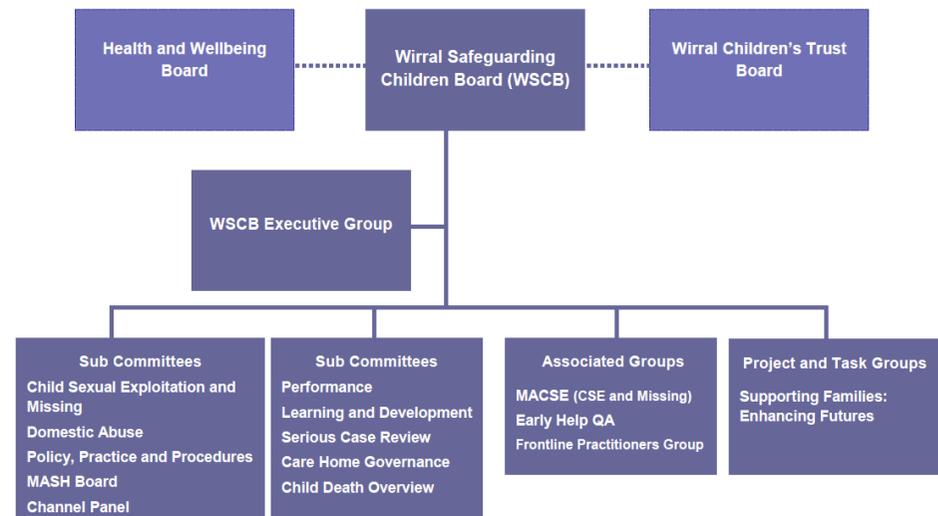
Caroline Crichton Group Manager, Merseyside Fire and Rescue

Anne Steel Head of Housing, Wirral Methodist HA

David Robbins WSCB Business Manager

Mandy Hope WSCB Business Administrator

WSCB Structure 2016-17



WSCB Board Membership and Attendance

Independent Chair		100%	Cheshire West Partnership		100%	National Probation Service		29%
Lay Member		43%	NHS England		14%	Community Rehabilitation Company		71%
CYPD		100%	Merseyside Police		71%*	CAFCASS		29%
Other LA		100%	Education		100%	Career Connect		0%
CCG—NHS		100%	Vol./ Community/ Faith		0%	Safeguarding CYPD		86%
WUTH—NHS		100%	Fire Service		57%	Lead Member		71%
Wirral Community Trust		100%	Housing		43%	Public Health		28%
WSCB Manager		100%	Legal Borough Solicitor		57%			

The Board continues to experience good attendance during 2016/17 with new members adding additional value to co-ordinated partnership working. The Board met seven times between April 2016 and March 2017; with one of the meetings being an Extraordinary meeting in December.

Where an agency has more than one representative the average attendance % is shown. The  represents how many seats there are per organisation.

There are four members representing education, these are Primary School representative, Secondary School, Specialist Schools and Wirral Metropolitan College, please see below for the individual percentage.

Primary Schools		100%
Secondary Schools		100%
Specialist Schools		57%
Wirral Metropolitan College		57%



* Merseyside Police was a 100% attendance however, the percentage shows as 71% this is due to the Police representative also being the Vice Chair. Between October and January the Vice Chair chaired three Board meetings. There was only additional Police representation at one of the three meetings.



WSCB Financial Arrangements

The Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB) is supported financially by its member organisations. Managing the finances of the WSCB is a difficult process as there is no funding formula and contributions from partner organisations are reached by negotiation.

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2015 states:

All LSCB member organisations have an obligation to provide LSCBs with reliable resources (including finance) that enable the LSCB to be strong and effective. Members should share the financial responsibility for the LSCB in such a way that a disproportionate burden does not fall on a small number of partner agencies.'

There is a focus on the role of LSCB's as powerful forces for scrutinising local arrangements and holding partners to account and *Working Together* also adds a number of responsibilities to LSCB's existing duties, including responsibilities for oversight of early help arrangements, clarifying threshold decisions, and developing a local framework for learning and development.

The current Ofsted Inspection Framework which tests the Effectiveness of LSCB's requires that to be judged as good one of the requirements is:

All LSCB partners make a proportionate financial and resource contribution to the main LSCB.

The report for the WSCB commented that funding of the safeguarding board is not equitable and the burden is primarily held by the local authority.

As part of its improvement plan the WSCB has worked to reduce its financial reliance on the Local Authority by, for example funding all the staff who support from the WSCB directly from its own resources.

Expenditure		2016-17
Staffing (inc. Chair and Lay member costs)		£246,000
Training		£6,000
Serious Case Reviews*		0
Advertising/ Marketing		0
Projects		£13,800
Room Hire		0 (included in training)
Operating Costs		£35,680
Total		£301,480
Income		2016-17
LA Children's Services (including reserves)		£197,200
Chair costs from adult's board		£6,000
CAFCASS		£550
Merseyside Police		£12,500
Health		£31,800
Probation Service and CRC		£5,500
Schools Budget		£30,000
Total		£283,550

This is challenging and requires a redistribution of the funding liability amongst partners. Merseyside Police and the Clinical Commissioning Group have both agreed to increase their contributions in 2017-18 but the WSCB finances remain unsustainable in the longer term





WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

14 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT TITLE:	Update on Progress of the Wirral Pledge – Zero Tolerance Towards Domestic Abuse
REPORT OF:	Strategic Commissioner for the Environment

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress made implementing the Wirral pledge – Zero Tolerance towards Domestic Abuse.

It provides an opportunity to highlight the tremendous amount of work that has been undertaken across all statutory agencies and the voluntary and third sector in the 18 months since the launch of the Pledge. In addition the report will also describe the future steps in the bid to eradicate domestic abuse and harmful practices.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are recommended to:

- 1) Note the progress made in the first stages of the delivery against the Zero Tolerance towards Domestic Abuse pledge.
- 2) Endorse the next steps in the Pledge Action Plan 2017/18.
- 3) Pledge their support of the Wirral Domestic Abuse Alliance and the Zero Tolerance campaign.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 Members are asked to support the recommendations as this will further demonstrate that Wirral is a place which has a zero tolerance approach to domestic violence and abuse, where individuals, families and communities are supported to reach their potential and lead safer, healthier and happier lives.
- 1.2 We want to stop violence and improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and families who experience domestic abuse and harmful practices in all its different guises. We want to see local residents and communities free from violence by decreasing the social tolerance and acceptance of domestic abuse. To do this requires all statutory agencies and those partner organisations from the faith and voluntary and third sector to come together in a true partnership.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 It is imperative that all the Wirral pledges undergo scrutiny to ensure that the direction of travel and the performance of all agencies is satisfactory. This is especially important for a pledge such as Zero Tolerance towards Domestic Abuse because there are a plethora of organisations and volunteers who must work together to achieve the desired outcomes.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The pledge and its accompanying action plan are truly multi-agency having been written and delivered via a number of workshops. In common with all the 20 pledges it lays out the 5 year strategy to eradicate domestic abuse and harmful practices across Wirral.
- 3.2 The approaches and actions in the Pledge and its accompanying action plan reflect the very high priority given to Domestic Violence and Harmful Practices across the Wirral Partnerships. It contributes to the overall Wirral Plan, the Health & Wellbeing Strategy the local safeguarding boards for adults and children respectively and more.
- 3.3 To support delivery of the pledge and its accompanying action plan there is an extremely well attended multi-agency group which meets every two months to oversee progress of the agreed actions and also to discuss new initiatives or issues.

4.0 SCOPE & DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC ABUSE & HARMFUL PRACTICES

4.1 The cross-governmental definition of domestic abuse is “any incidence or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercing, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.” This is not a legal definition. Domestic violence or abuse is not of itself a specified crime, but behaviours or incidents such as harassment and assault within a Domestic Violence or abuse context are crimes.

4.2 For the purposes of the Wirral pledge and any operational responses, Domestic Violence and Abuse is:

- The misuse of physical, emotional, sexual or psychological and/or financial control by one person over another, who is or has been in a relationship. This includes family members, for example older children abusing a parent.
- Domestic Violence or Abuse covers a wide range of behaviour and may be actual or threatened physical or psychological harm.
- It can include Forced Marriage, so called “Honour-Based Violence”, Sexual Violence and Stalking.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse can significantly impact on children and is recognised in the multi-agency safe guarding hub and their associated threshold documents, as well as LSC Board policy as a specific child protection and safeguarding risk.
- Domestic Violence and Abuse is a continuous pattern of events and behaviours with exceptionally high recidivism (repeated incidents of abuse). It includes coercive and controlling behaviour which is defined as acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent, by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape, and/or regulating their everyday behaviour. Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assaults, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten a victim.

5.0 WHO EXPERIENCES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE?

5.1 Domestic Violence and Abuse is usually perpetrated by men against women but not exclusively. Nationally the Office of National Statistics estimates around 1.2m woman and 784,000 men experience Domestic Violence and Abuse a year. However, evidence shows women are significantly disproportionately affected by Domestic Violence and Abuse at high risk

levels and are more likely to experience serious physical harm or death from a partner, as well as serious coercive and controlling behaviour. In Wirral 97% of high risk cases engaged with an IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) are females.

- 5.2 Underpinning the action plan is the recognition that both genders, as well as the wider communities we live in, are part of the solution to preventing and reducing violence and abuse. Domestic Violence and Abuse is non-discriminate: it occurs in all groups and sections of society, but domestic violence and abuse may be experienced differently due to, and compounded by race, sexuality, disability, age, religion, culture, class or mental health.
- 5.3 The table at **Appendix 1** captures the high risk MARAC Quarter 2 position (of 2016/2017) against the national statistics. It highlights some grave situations:
- 51 per 10,000 population high risk MARAC cases – Safer lives recommend that Wirral should only be experiencing 40 cases.
 - 1,267 children were present in the house where a high risk Domestic Violence or Abuse case is reported.

6.0 ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE

- 6.1 The Zero Tolerance towards Domestic Abuse pledge methodology is based around the 4 P's approach which was familiar to many of the partners. The 4 P's are:
- Prevention – and Early Intervention
 - Provision
 - Partnership
 - Perpetrators
- 6.2 The first year of the Pledge concentrated on the forming of the Wirral Domestic Abuse Alliance and the raising of the profile of domestic abuse across Wirral communities with some major marketing and branding projects. These included:
- Development of a Wirral pledge logo for 'Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse'
 - Tranmere Rovers pledge support Zero Tolerance and dedicate 3 matches to raising awareness and also taking part in Women's Aid campaign – 'Tackling Domestic Abuse'.
 - Promotion of Leapfrog, Tomorrows Women's Wirral and Peer mentoring scheme

- Participation in the CHAMPS ‘Be a Lover not A Fighter’ campaign and the sponsorship of advertisements on side of local fire engines.
- Local launch of Home Office campaign ‘Disrespect NoBody’ – a campaign to prevent young people – both boys and girls, particularly aged 12 to 18 years old from becoming perpetrators and victims of abusive relationships, encouraging them to re-think their views of abuse, controlling behaviour, and what consent and sexting means within relationships.

As a result of these campaigns and marketing initiatives there has been a greater number of referrals over the last 12 months as captured in the q2 Pledge performance.

- 6.3 In addition to the marketing and advertisement of the first year it has also been necessary to pursue greater integration of statutory services. This has recently been delivered with the opening of the Safer Wirral Hub. The hub is a collocated integrated unit, led by a Merseyside Police Officer and includes a range of services including the IDVA service, Youth Offending Service and Early Help Provision. In addition to these council services there is also a number of dedicated PCSPO’s and representatives from a number of third sector organisations including the Domestic Abuse Peer mentors and the Community Connectors. All these agencies work on a daily basis reviewing referral forms and risk assessing and assigning cases either directly to services in their delivery unit or escalating them to Early Help or the Integrated Front Door.
- 6.4 It has also been imperative to work closer with the plethora of third sector and voluntary organisations who strive on a day to day basis to tackle domestic abuse here on Wirral. We are extremely fortunate to have organisations like Tomorrows Women Wirral, Involve North West, RASA and the Women’s Refuge operating here. These third sector organisations provide a range of services which the statutory undertakers either do not or who actually commission.

To increase the support services to victims of Domestic Violence and Abuse, the Alliance commissioned the setting up of a Domestic Abuse Peer Mentor scheme with Tomorrows Women’s Wirral and Wirral Connect. 29 survivors completed the Peer Mentoring course and a number of them have become Domestic Abuse Champions. This Champions service operates as an Outreach service from 4 Children’s centres. Again this provides victims and survivors of domestic abuse with a non-statutory service to discuss their situation with and received some first-hand advice on what they can do.

- 6.5 The Alliance has also worked with National Probation Service and Merseyside Police to identify a cohort of Domestic Abuse perpetrators within the clients of

the Integrated Offender Management. This pilot scheme on Wirral is tracking and intensively managing 16 of the highest risk Domestic Abuse perpetrators on Wirral. This reduces the risk to the victims of these perpetrators but it is also hoped that this intensive management will bring about real behaviour change in these individuals.

- 6.6 A host of empirical evidence identifies domestic abuse perpetrators lacking in the skills of building a respectful relationship. As a result of this evidence the Alliance was keen to undertake an evaluation of perpetrator programmes. It commissioned the Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Service to deliver some Help courses for specific cohorts to understand how successful they are in changing behaviours. The evaluation was extremely useful and the video from the younger males cohort was especially powerful.

7.0 NEXT STEPS

- 7.1 The Updated Pledge Action Plan is attached at **Appendix 2** to this report. This highlights the current actions and priorities.

- 7.2 In addition to the action plan we are seeking to raise awareness of:

- DfE child abuse campaign 'If you think it Report it'.
- Elder Abuse
- Child on Parent and/or Carer abuse
- Online and cyber abuse
- Child Criminal exploitation and Child Sexual Exploitation.

- 7.3 The Alliance wishes to complete the strategic needs analysis and drill down for further Insight into harder to reach groups – BAME and LBGT.

- 7.4 Finally the Alliance will be seeking other partner agencies to join it in trying to support the Zero Tolerance campaign. This includes a business pledge scheme where local businesses can sign up to a pledge. Early indication is that many organisations wish to join and it is hoped that many of these will agree to support any of their staff or customers who experience any forms of domestic violence or abuse.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

10.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

10.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

11.0 RELEVANT RISKS

11.1 There are no relevant risks arising directly from this report.

12.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

12.1 Full engagement with all members of Wirral Domestic Abuse Alliance to ensure the most up to date position statement could be provided to elected members.

13.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 An equality impact assessment has not been completed due to the nature of this report.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - SafeLives MARAC data Q2- 01/07/2016 to 30/06/2017

APPENDIX 2 – Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse Updated Action Plan 2017/18

REFERENCE MATERIAL

Wirral Pledge – Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet: Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision – Underpinning Strategies: Domestic Abuse	21 March 2016

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Indicator	National figure	Most similar force group	SafeLives recommends	Police force	Wirral
Number of Maracs	289	44	-	5	1
Cases discussed	87,092	22,166	-	3,081	704
Recommended cases	100,400	19,790	N/A	2,350	550
Cases per 10,000 population	35	45	40	54	51
Children in household	110,878	29,522	N/A	4,710	1,267
Year on year change in cases	3%	8%	N/A	-2%	-12%
Repeat cases	27%	31%	28% - 40%	24%	28%
Police referrals	64%	71%	60% - 75%	73%	64%
Referrals from partner agencies	36%	29%	25% - 40%	27%	36%
BME	16.00%	15.00%	8%	6.00%	5.00%
LGBT	1.10%	1.00%	5%+	1.00%	1.00%
Disability	5.50%	3.00%	17%+	2.00%	3.80%
Males	4.70%	4.00%	4% - 10%	4.00%	1.40%
Victims aged 16-17	1,404	410	-	53	11
Cases where victims aged 16-17	1.60%	2.00%	-	2.00%	1.60%
No. harming others aged 17 or below	907	212	-	43	8
Rec. Idva (rec volume)	1,062.00	206.5	N/A	24	5.5
Rec. Idva (current vol)	946.5	232.5	N/A	33	7.5
Rec. Admin (current vol)	250.4	60	N/A	8.6	1.8
Rec. Admin (rec volume)	276.2	53	N/A	6.2	1.4

National includes: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland

Most similar force group: Cleveland, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, Northumbria, West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire, Merseyside

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Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse

Updated Action Plan 2017/18

An annual Review of the Wirral Plan and Pledges has recently taken place to consider progress and impact so far; and to ensure that future priorities and actions remain fit for purpose. The refreshed Action Plans for 2017/18 can be found [here](#)

PRIORITY 01: PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION		
Action	By When	Lead
Develop the role of the Domestic Abuse Peer Mentors to produce 20 Zero Tolerance Towards Domestic Abuse Community Champions	Apr 17- Mar 18	Wirral Domestic Abuse Alliance
Sign 30 businesses up to the Domestic Abuse Pledge Scheme to increase awareness of domestic abuse.	Apr 17 - Mar 18	Wirral Domestic Abuse Alliance

PRIORITY 02: PROVISION - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE HEART OF OUR DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE		
Action	By When	Lead
Report on results of the Early Help and Intervention Programmes commissioned to support vulnerable young people (aged 10 to 16) affected by domestic abuse.	Apr 17 - Mar 18	Wirral Council and commissioning partners
Identify and secure funding for the establishment of Domestic Abuse advisors to engage Domestic Abuse victims presenting at Accident + Emergency.	Apr 17 - Dec 17	Wirral Domestic Abuse Alliance
Map access to supported accommodation for victims of domestic abuse to support a Strategic Review of Supported Accommodation for Victims of Domestic Abuse.	Apr 17 - Sep 17	Wirral Council

PRIORITY 03: PARTNERSHIP - A STRONG COMMUNITY CO-ORDINATED RESPONSE		
Action	By When	Lead
Integrate resources and develop a single partnership team to tackle Domestic Abuse within the Safer Wirral Hub.	Apr 17 - Sep 17	Merseyside Police
Deliver a comprehensive agency, community and voluntary sector programme of interventions across domestic abuse services, through a joint commissioning approach.	Apr 17 - Mar 18	Wirral Council and commissioning partners

Map domestic abuse service provision in Wirral to inform future service delivery and commissioning.	Apr 17 - Dec 17	Public Health
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PRIORITY 04: PERPETRATORS - MAKE VICTIMS SAFER AND REDUCE RE-OFFENDING		
Action	By When	Lead
Evaluate the effectiveness of the Integrated Offender Management Model to manage a cohort of Domestic Abuse perpetrators to inform a future business case.	Apr 17 - Sep 17	National Probation Service
Evaluate the effectiveness of behavioural change programmes, other than the Integrated Offender Management Model, for perpetrators across the Wirral to inform a future business case.	Apr 17 - Mar 18	Safer Wirral Hub

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**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 14 November 2017**

REPORT TITLE:	Financial Monitoring Report Quarter 2 2017/18
REPORT OF:	Assistant Director: Finance

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for Children and Families in a format consistent across the Overview & Scrutiny Committees. The report provides Members with detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity. The financial information is at close of quarter 2, 2017/18.

Information has been drawn from the relevant sections of the most recent Cabinet revenue and capital monitoring reports and combined with additional relevant service information to produce a bespoke report for this Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report includes the following:

- Performance against the revenue budget (including savings, income and debt)
- Performance against the capital budget

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1 The quarter 2 revenue forecast overspend of £3.9 million be noted.
- 2 The performance of the capital projects be noted.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 To provide members with details of the financial performance of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's area.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Not applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 PERFORMANCE AGAINST REVENUE BUDGETS QUARTER 2 (APRIL 2017- SEPTEMBER 2017)

3.1.0 CHANGES TO THE AGREED BUDGET

3.1.1 The 2017/18 Budget was agreed by Council on 6 March 2017. Any increase to the overall Council Budget (but not use of the existing budget contingency) requires agreement by full Council. Changes to the Budget since it was set are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: 2017/18 Original & Revised Net Budget by Wirral Plan Themes

	Original Net Budget	Proposed Budget Change Quarter 1 Use of Contingency	Proposed Budget Change Quarter 1 Use of Balances	Approved Budget Changes Qtr 2	Revised Net Budget
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
People - Children & Families	80,616	5,000	-	-	85,616
Net Cost of Services	80,616	5,000	-	-	85,616

3.2.0 PROJECTIONS AND KEY ISSUES

3.2.1 The projected outturn position as at the end of September 2017 and Wirral Plan: 2020 Vision Themes updates are detailed in the following sections.

Table 2: 2017/18 Projected Budget variations by Wirral Plan Themes

Directorates	Revised Budget	Forecast Outturn	(Under) Overspend Quarter 2	RAGBY Class	Change from prev
People - Children & Families	85,616	89,485	3,869	R	709
TOTAL	85,616	89,485	3,869		709

The report classifies the forecast under/overspends for the above areas using a colour RAGBY rating. The ratings are defined as follows:

- Overspends Red (over +£301k), Underspend Yellow (over -£301k).
- Amber (+£141k to +£300k), Green (range from +£140k to -£140k); Blue (-£141k to -£300k).

3.2.2 Children and Families

- The predicted overspend is £3.9 million which is after the allocation of £5 million from the Contingency as highlighted in Section 3.1.
- Agency social worker costs are impacting due to a number of vacant posts within the existing establishment together with a number of posts requiring sickness / maternity cover. Whilst there is an ongoing strategy to recruit Social Work posts the shortages are a regional / national issue. This accounts for £1.5 million of the forecast year end overspend.
- The numbers of Looked After Children (LAC) are continuing to rise. The current number is 819 (795 were reported in July). Numbers for the remainder of the year have been forecasted using the ARIMA Statistical Model which determines the number by March 2018 will rise to 846. The projected overspend is £7 million with £5 million covered by the Contingency. This assumes a full year provision for children, more of whom are placed through independent fostering agencies. Whilst care placements are carefully managed through the weekly Planning for Children Panel, numbers continue to increase.
- Services for children with disabilities are forecast to overspend by £0.5 million as a consequence of the rising costs of domiciliary care and the impact of direct payments together with the savings in this area proving difficult to deliver through increased numbers.

3.3.0 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

3.3.1 A summary of the position of 2017/18 Children and Families savings at 30 September 2017 is below.

Table 3: Savings Implementation 2017/18 (£000's)

BRAG	Number of Options	Approved Budget Reduction	Amount Delivered at Q2	To be Delivered
R – high risk	2	1,400	0	1,400
Total at Quarter 2 2017-18	2	1,400	0	1,400

Due to overspends within the Childrens and Families theme these savings will not be achieved but will be mitigated by the use of contingency budget.

3.3.2 The savings tracker contains an assessment of the 2017/18 savings by the ratings below.

- **Blue:** Represents savings which have already been realised.
- **Green:** Savings on track to deliver.
- **Amber:** Some concerns regarding delivery and will require closer scrutiny and monitoring.
- **Red:** High risk of not being achieved.

3.4.0 INCOME AND DEBT

3.4.1 The table below shows the outstanding debt by Wirral Plan Theme category and then by invoice raised date. At the end of September 2017 total Council arrears stood at £24.629 million with £1.056 million of this relating to Children

& Families. In overall terms 37,723 invoices have been issued in the year by the council with a value of £43 million raised. £44 million of payments including amounts for prior years have been collected.

Table 4: Accounts Receivable Outstanding Arrears Analysis

Theme	Less than 30 days	More than 30 days	2016/2017	2015/16	Pre 2015/16	Total at 30.06.17
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Children & Families	461,242	147,624	298,347	116,639	32,221	1,056,073

3.4.2 In accordance with proper accounting practice, income is credited to the relevant financial year's accounts of the service area at the point invoices are raised. A provision for bad debt is maintained and is assessed each year. Should non-payment occur after proceeding through all necessary recovery procedures, any properly authorised write off will be charged against the bad debt provision.

3.5.0 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 2 (April-September 2017)

3.5.1 Capital Programme 2017/18 at end of Quarter 2 (30 September)

	Revised Programme	Spend to Date Sept 2017	Funded by: Council Resources	Funded by: Grants
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Children & Families	15,608	4,935	11,682	3,926
Total expenditure	15,608	4,935	11,682	3,926

3.5.2 Of the expenditure incurred so far this year, £2 million relates to schools capital projects. Works to schools are largely programmed to be undertaken during the school holiday periods.

3.5.3 The Transformation Programme includes significant funding (£9.55 million) in respect of the Improvement Plan for Children's Services which is being implemented with investment in staff across a number of critical areas. These will help address the needs of those leaving care with more PA's, strengthen the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Safeguarding teams, address high caseloads, improve information within the department and enhance Early Help and Prevention services. The costs will be transferred to the Capital Programme during the year.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The financial implications of this report are discussed throughout the report. This is essentially a financial monitoring performance update report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The entire report concerns the duty of the Council to avoid a budget shortfall. The Chief Finance Officer has a personal duty under the Local Government Finance Act 1988 Section 114A to make a report to the executive if it appears to them that the expenditure of the authority incurred (including expenditure it proposes to incur) in a financial year is likely to exceed the resources available to it to meet that expenditure.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS; ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The possible failure to deliver the Revenue Budget is being mitigated by:

- Senior Leadership Team / Management Teams reviewing the financial position.
- Tracking system of savings options to monitor progress.
- Use of temporary additional support to assist with revenues collection.
- Use of earmarked reserves and General Fund Balance savings risk contingency.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 No consultation has been carried out in relation to this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report is essentially a monitoring report which reports on financial performance.

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SUBJECT HISTORY

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Capital Programme and Funding 2017/18

Council Meeting	Date
Budget Council	6 March 2017
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 1	17 July 2017
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 1	17 July 2017
Cabinet – Revenue Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 2	6 November 2017
Cabinet – Capital Monitoring 2017/18 Quarter 2	6 November 2017

Capital Programme and Funding 2017/18**APPENDIX 1****People Children & Family**

	Revised Programme £000	Spend to Date £000	Council Resources £000	Grants £000	Total Funding £000
Family support schemes	191	33	191	-	191
Stanley Special additional classrooms etc.	4	-	4	-	4
School condition allocation	3,000	1,077	-	3,000	3,000
Private Finance Initiative	85	-	85	-	85
Basic needs	676	406	-	676	676
School remodelling (Primary places) Transformation Programme (including Children's Services(2,102	543	1,852	250	2,102
	9,550	2,876	9,550	-	9,550
	15,608	4,935	11,682	3,926	15,608



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 14 November 2017

REPORT TITLE:	2017/18 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Director: Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2017/18 Quarter 2 (July - September 2017) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides a description of the progress in Quarter 2 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Quarter Two Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- At Early Years Foundation Stage the % of children achieving a good level of development has shown a slight drop in performance from the previous year, now at 69.4% compared to previous year 69.6%. In addition the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving a Good Level of Development is 21.4% which is an increase in the gap of 3.4% from the previous year (18%). A wide range of targeted support and intervention is in place for schools to support children, particularly vulnerable groups.
- Both health visitor reviews at 12 months and 2-2½ years have improved since the previous quarter illustrating that the engagement with parents to inform service developments has increased uptake.
- The % of infants who received a 6-8 week Development Check by the time they were 8 weeks shows a slight drop in performance from Quarter 4 2016-17. The reviews are completed by GPs and practices vary in their approach to completing these within the timeframe. An initial meeting has taken place with GP colleagues to look at how the improvements made in Health Visiting reviews completed can be replicated.
- At Key Stage 1 more children met the expected standard this year for attainment in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM) combined. The improvement of 4% in RWM mirrors broadly the national picture but attainment remains below the national average, although the gap has slightly narrowed.
- At Key Stage 2 more children met the expected standard in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM) than last year. The increase of 8% (49% to 57%) broadly mirrors the national picture of improvement. However attainment remains below the national average by 4%.

- At Key Stage 2 the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the 'expected standard' in English, reading, English writing and mathematics has reduced by 3.7% from the previous year which is a positive result.
- Latest published data for the % of permanent exclusions in Wirral secondary schools have increased compared to previous year data. Discussions have taken place with the Regional Schools commissioner regarding the increasing number of permanent exclusions in academies. All exclusions are being closely monitored by the Local Authority (LA) and schools challenged appropriately.
- Wirral continues to support a large population of children looked after; the rate has increased and is over 100 higher than at the start of the previous year. A workgroup of senior officers is working to ensure key strategies are put in place to a) provide support aimed at preventing admissions to care and b) ensure that children only remain in care for as long as necessary, and that timely reunification to birth families or extended family members is achieved.
- There has been an overall decline in the Child Protection Plan rate over the last 12 months and work is underway to ensure effective review of these cases.
- The % of repeat referrals to children's social care has shown continuing decrease and is similar to the most recently available statistical neighbour value.
- Reporting at quarter two continues to illustrate the complex picture of Domestic Abuse in Wirral. The launch of the Safer Wirral Hub is enabling an improved multi-agency approach to embed our zero tolerance approach across Wirral.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and highlights any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivering the Wirral Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the approved performance management framework for the Wirral Plan. As such, no other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result of this, not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2017/18 year end column.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators, a trend is shown (better, same or worse). In most cases, this is determined by comparing the latest data with the previous reporting period i.e. 2016/17 year end. In some cases, i.e. where data accumulates during the year or is subject to seasonal fluctuations, the trend is shown against the same time the previous year. This is indicated in the key at the end of the report.
- 3.5 For some indicators, targets have been set. Where this is the case, a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on all activities set out in the supporting strategy action plans. The link to this web page is set out below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

3.7 Each of the Wirral Plan Pledges has a Lead Commissioner responsible for overseeing effective delivery. The Lead Commissioners for the Pledges in the report at Appendix 1 are as follows:

- Children are Ready for School – Deborah Gornik
- Children are Ready for Work and Adulthood – Deborah Gornik
- Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential – Deborah Gornik
- Reducing Child and Family Poverty (Improving Life Chances) – Fiona Johnstone
- People with Disabilities live Independent Lives – Graham Hodgkinson
- Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence – Mark Smith

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The priorities in the Wirral Plan pledges were informed by a range of consultations carried out in 2015 and 2016 including the Wirral resident survey.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan – 2017/18 Quarter 2 Pledge Reports

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8 September 2016
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 November 2016
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23 March 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 June 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	26 September 2017

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Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Children and Families Committee

2017-18 Quarter 2 Reports

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Children are ready for school

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Children's readiness for school is measured most consistently through the Good Level of Development scores awarded at the end of Foundation Stage 1. To achieve school readiness the following elements are vital:

- Children have access to early education;
- That early education is of a good or better quality;
- The individual progress of children is monitored and additional support provided as required.

Our current performance on the take up of 2 year old funding is 92.6%, which demonstrates high engagement in early education. The percentage of providers of early education across the borough who are judged as 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted is 90%. We have implemented the use of the Cohort Tracker tool which monitors progress made by individual children, we have embedded the Early Years SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Team within the Early Childhood Service to provide specialist support to those children with additional needs and there is a significant increase in the number of children completing an Integrated Review at 2-2.5 years of age.

We recognise that it will take another two years for progress with the 2 year old offer to have an impact on achievement at Foundation Stage. The Good Level of Development results achieved this year are for those children who previously accessed early education at a time when engagement (for 2 year olds) was less than 70%.

In order to avoid the Good Level of Development plateauing during the two year period, services will be targeting those 3 and 4 year olds within priority groups who are not accessing early education or who are not making expected progress. A particular focus will be 3 and 4 year old children who are looked after by the Local Authority.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Foundation Stage - % achieving a good level of development	Annual Higher is better	62.8% 2013-14 Acad Year	England: 69.3% (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: 66.7% (2015-16 Acad Year)	69.6%			69.4%	Worse	Provisional data for the 2016-17 Academic Year is 69.4%. This is a slight drop in performance from the previous year (69.6%).

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
The percentage of women booked to access professional maternity services in or before 12+6 weeks gestation	Quarterly Higher is better	80.8% Q3 2014-15		83.3%	Amber Actual: 81.2% Target: 90.0%			n/a	Awaiting data update.
Take up of 2 year old offer by eligible families as identified by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)	Quarterly Higher is better	70.0% Q1 2015-16		88.1%	92.6%			n/a	Funding data is collected on a termly basis, three times per year. The next update will be available in Quarter 3.
The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	Annual Lower is better	20.0% 2013-14 Acad Year	England: 18.0% (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: 19.0% (2015-16 Acad Year)	18.0%			21.4%	Worse	Provisional data for the 2016-17 Academic Year is 21.4%. This shows an increase in the gap of 3.4% from the previous year (18%).
Percentage of children aged 4-5 classified as overweight or obese	Annual Lower is better	22.40% 2014-15	England: 22.10% (2015-16) North West: 23.20% (2015-16)	22.90%				n/a	The 2016-17 year end figure represents the latest annual data for 2015-16 that was released in December 2016.
Percentage of infants who received a 6-8 week Development Check by the time they were 8 weeks	Quarterly Higher is better	84.6% Q1 2015-16	England: 83.6% (2016-17 Q4) North West: 89.6% (2016-17 Q4)	84.9%	Amber Actual: 82.0% Target: 90.0%			Worse	There is a 4 month time lag on the release of this data and the latest release is for Quarter 1 2017-18. The latest quarter shows a slight drop in performance from Quarter 4 2016-17. The reviews are completed by GPs and practices vary in their approach to completing these within the timeframe. An initial meeting has taken place with GP colleague to look at how the improvements with completion of Health Visiting reviews can be replicated.

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Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Percentage of children who received a 12 month Health Visitor review by the time they turned 12 months	Quarterly Higher is better	66.4% Q1 2015-16	England: 75.9% (2016-17 Q4) North West: 84.0% (2016-17 Q4)	75.9%	Green Actual: 86.0% Target: 85.0%			Better	There is a 4 month time lag on the release of this data and the latest release is for Quarter 1 2017-18. The latest quarter shows an increase in performance from Quarter 4 2016-17 (75.9%), illustrating that the engagement with parents to inform service developments has increased uptake.
Percentage of children who received a 2-2½ year Health Visitor review	Quarterly Higher is better	73.0% Q1 2015-16	England: 77.4% (2016-17 Q4) North West: 85.4% (2016-17 Q4)	76.7%	Green Actual: 82.0% Target: 85.0%			Better	There is a 4 month time lag on the release of this data and the latest release is for Quarter 1 2017-18. The latest quarter shows an increase in performance from Quarter 4 2016/17 (76.7%), illustrating that the engagement with parents to inform service developments has increased uptake.
Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0-4 years), rate per 10,000	Annual Lower is better	133.5 2014-15	England: 129.6 (2015-16) North West: 182.0 (2015-16)	158.6				n/a	
Percentage of early years childcare providers rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	78.0% Aug 2015	England: 93.0% (Mar 2017) North West: 93.0% (Mar 2017)	90.0%				n/a	
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	Annual Higher is better	20.0% 2013-14 Acad Year		52.6%			47.8%	Worse	Provisional data for the 2016-17 Academic Year is 47.8%. This is reduction of 4.8% from the previous year (52.6%), however with a larger cohort more Children Looked After attained a good level of development (12) than in the previous year.

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Early Years

The percentage of 5 year old children attaining a Good Level of Development (GLD) remains similar to previous years. This has resulted in Wirral being just below the national average. Twenty schools have been identified for support from the Early Years team. It is important to see what these schools are putting in place to support pupils so that they can get back on track with national averages. Girls continue to do better than the boys however the gender gap has narrowed by 4% because more boys this year met the standard. More Children Looked After attained a good level of development than in previous years. The percentage of children with special needs but without a statement or Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), who attained a good level of development, increased by 3%. Fewer free school meal children met the standard this year so the gap has widened by 2.6%. South Wirral and Wallasey showed improved outcomes whereas fewer children in West Wirral and Birkenhead met the standard this year.

Key Stage 1

More children met the expected standard this year for attainment in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM) combined. The improvement of 4% in RWM mirrors broadly the national picture which but attainment remains below the national average, although the gap has slightly narrowed. Fewer Children Looked After met the expected standard in RWM combined this year. Writing showed the biggest improvement (an increase of 3.4%) for all pupils. More boys met the expected standard in reading and writing so the gender gap has narrowed. More boys met the standard in mathematics this year so there is no real gap between boys and girls. More Special Educational Needs (SEN) children without statements/EHCPs met the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics and although they remain below the national average the gap is closing. The gap between SEN (without statements/EHCP) and all pupils has narrowed in all subjects. More Free School Meal (FSM) children and non free school meal children met the expected standard in all subjects. The FSM gap narrowed in reading (0.5%) and mathematics (1.9%) but widened in writing (0.5%)

All localities saw improvements on the number of pupils achieving the expected standard in reading and writing and mathematics. South Wirral locality was the highest ranked with West Wirral showing the biggest improvement (up by 5.9% to 64.5%).

Key Stage 2

More children met the expected standard in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM) than last year. The increase of 8% (49% to 57%) broadly mirrors the national picture of improvement. However attainment remains below the national average by 4%. More Children Looked After met the expected standard in RWM this year (17/41). The gap between all Wirral pupils and Children Looked After has narrowed by 1% to 16.2%. Children Looked After performed well across all subjects in terms of attainment and progress.

The percentage of girls and boys attaining the expected standard have increased in all subjects and in RWM combined. West Wirral and South Wirral narrowed the gender gap in reading, Wallasey and West Wirral in writing, and Birkenhead and West Wirral in mathematics. The gender gap in reading and writing has increased because the boys have not improved at the same rate as girls. Girls' progress in mathematics and boys' progress in reading are still an issue. More free school meal pupils and non free school meal pupils met the expected standard in all subjects and the free school meal gaps have narrowed in reading and mathematics. The free school meal gap was narrowed by Wallasey in reading, South Wirral in writing and Birkenhead in mathematics.

Following sign-off of the parenting dashboard and information matrix by commissioners, all parenting providers have been contacted and data sharing has been discussed. All agencies so far have been happy to agree to sharing the data. Information from data gathering will be shared with commissioners in quarter 3 and the future direction of the parenting offer across the Wirral will be discussed. The parenting coordinator is now attending termly pastoral/family support cluster meetings in Birkenhead and Wallasey which is a good way to share information and stay up to date with developments and issues arising in schools.

There have been 328 telephone consultations on the Advice and Duty Line with parents being the largest user group. The 2017/18 training programme is fully booked (500 training places), with new schools and some secondary schools now accessing the training. Secondary schools are however still under represented. Referrals received into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) have reduced by 10% this quarter. Young people presenting to A+E following self-harm or attempted suicide has reduced by 40%. The number of young people on the waiting list for CAMHS choice appointments has reduced by 66%.

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Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Percentage of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	84.0% Aug 2015	England: 89.0% (Mar 2017) North West: 90.0% (Mar 2017)	90.0%				n/a	
The % of young people aged 16 and 17 who are not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or categorised as 'not known' - Post Sept 2016	Monthly Lower is better	n/a		5.3%	7.0%	2.7%		n/a	The NEET rate as at September 2017 is 2.7%. The 'not known' rate however is 72.9% which is disproportionately high but expected for this time of year as young people's post 16 EET (Education, Employment and Training) destinations are confirmed.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Progress 8 Score for Wirral	Annual Higher is better	n/a	North West: -0.15 (2015-16 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: -0.22 (2015-16 Acad Year)	-0.04			0.00	Better	The provisional Progress 8 score for all Wirral Schools for the 2016-17 academic year is zero, it is therefore the same as the national average.
The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the 'expected standard' in English, reading, English writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2.	Annual Lower is better	n/a	England: 21.0% (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: 23.0% (2015-16 Acad Year)	27.0%			23.3%	Better	Provisional data for the 2016-17 Academic Year is 23.3%. This is reduction of 3.7% from the previous year (27%).

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
The percentage of children in good or better schools as rated by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	81.0% Aug 2015	England: 87.0% (Mar 2017) North West: 85.0% (Mar 2017)	90.0%				n/a	
Reduction in use of medication for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) - Number of items prescribed, rate per 10,000	Quarterly Lower is better	1.55 Q4 2014-15						n/a	Latest update received is for quarter 3 2016-17 (1.80). The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) are currently unable to provide updated data and are reviewing alternative methods to report in future quarters.
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Higher is better	n/a	England: 0.48 (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: 0.56 (2015-16 Acad Year)	0.75				n/a	Awaiting provisional 2016-17 Academic Year data.
The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Lower is better	n/a	England: 1.09 (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: 1.00 (2015-16 Acad Year)	0.86				n/a	Awaiting provisional 2016-17 Academic Year data.
The percentage of persistent absence in Wirral Schools (post 2016)	Annual Higher is better	n/a	England: 10.50 (2016) North West: 10.80 (2016)	12.50				n/a	Latest published performance is for 2015 to 2016. Next published release is schedule for March 2018.
The percentage of Children Looked After who attained a grade 4 or above in English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 4	Annual Higher is better	n/a					13.5%	n/a	Latest data is for the 2016-17 academic year and is currently provisional.
Progress 8 Score for Children Looked After in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	n/a	England: -1.14 (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: -1.27 (2015-16 Acad Year)	-1.52				n/a	
Reduce the percentage of permanent exclusions in Wirral - primary schools	Annual Lower is better	2012-13	England: 0.02% (2015-16) North West: 0.03% (2015-16)	-			-	Same	Latest published performance data is for 2015-16 and became available in September 2017. In accordance with the Department for Education policy on confidentiality, percentages based on 5 pupils or fewer have been suppressed to reduce the risk of disclosing the identities of individuals. This is shown as a dash (-).
Reduce the percentage of permanent exclusions in Wirral - secondary schools	Annual Lower is better	0.11% 2012-13 Acad Year	England: 0.17% (2015-16) North West: 0.24% (2015-16)	0.12%			0.25%	Worse	Latest published performance data of 0.25% is for 2015-16 and became available in July 2017. This is a increase of 0.13% from previously reported figures. Discussions have taken place with the Regional Schools commissioner regarding the increasing number of permanent exclusions in academies. All exclusions are being closely monitored by the Local Authority (LA) and schools challenged appropriately.
Rate of hospital admissions due to substance misuse in young people (15-24 years) - per 100,000	Annual Lower is better	166.5 2011/12-13/14	England: 95.4 (2013/14-15/16) North West: 139.6 (2013/14-15/16)	171.9				n/a	Latest published performance is for period 2013-14 to 2015-16
Under 18 conceptions - rate per 1,000	Annual Lower is better	33.7 2013	England: 20.8 (2015) North West: 24.7 (2015)	25.7				n/a	Latest published performance is for 2015 and became available in March 2017.

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Progress continues to be made against all the priority actions in relation to improving outcomes for vulnerable children. Core services that respond to children when concerns are first identified such as the multi-agency safeguarding hub are now a fully functioning single front door for children to access support and services. This multi-agency service has now relocated and sits within the Council Safeguarding Hub at the Solar Campus. This supports the integration of children's safeguarding issues in the wider safeguarding agenda. It recognises that many problems faced by children are as a result of adults' behaviour of concern such as drug taking and domestic violence within the home. Further developments are now planned which build on the core service offer increasing our capacity to deliver the right service at the right time for children.

For vulnerable children who are at risk of not meeting their expectations our Edge of Care Service offer is under consultation, this will support us in intervening earlier and help manage the growing number of children looked after. This is complemented by a wide range of services, such as our two year old offer and an early help team, to provide direct support to schools which are all helping to ensure that vulnerable children are identified early and can meet their expectations. Deprivation and neglect continue to be significant concerns and the introduction and rollout of the graded care profile is now enabling social workers and professionals to more effectively identify children and young people where intervention to protect them is required. Early intervention and support for families is key to changing children's futures. Work has progressed to ensure that across health and social care vulnerable parents who will require support to effectively care or present a risk can be identified pre-birth. Intervening at this stage produces a better outcome by either allowing support services to be available at the earliest point or if the risk is significant and not manageable for the baby to be protected early.

The launch by the Local Safeguarding Children's Board of a theoretical model Strengthening Families and Enhancing Futures has been well received by all children staff and partners. The model allows us to work with children and families in a consistent way at whatever stage of support or intervention they are. It allows a much greater focus on the immediate needs of the child helping us to understand the situation, hear their voice and respond in a way that meets their needs.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000	Monthly Lower is better	99.3 Jun 2015	England: 62.0 (2016-17) North West: 86.0 (2016-17) Statistical Neighbours: 92.3 (2016-17)	114.5	115.0	120.9		Worse	Wirral continues to support a large population of children looked after, the rate having risen for a substantial period of time and is in excess of 100 higher than was the case at the start of the previous fiscal year. High levels of admissions coupled with lower levels of discharges are the primary causes for our increases in numbers. One of the key reasons for increases in children becoming looked after has been an increased focus on improved safeguarding practice and a number of legacy cases where the department has now taken legal proceedings. We are in the process of undertaking a diagnostic exercise in relation to admissions to care and this is showing that 42% of admissions to care are in the pre-school age group and provides an indication that the needs of our youngest and most vulnerable children are being prioritised. A workgroup of senior officers is working to ensure key strategies are put in place to a) to provide support aimed at preventing admissions to care and b) ensuring that children only remain in care for as long as necessary, and that timely reunification to birth families or extended family members is achieved.
Children in Need rate per 10,000 0-17 population	Monthly Lower is better	426.3 2014-15	England: 337.7 (2015-16) North West: 380.1 (2015-16) Statistical Neighbours: 420.0 (2015-16)	392.6	400.9	393.5		Worse	The Child in Need (CIN) rate rose from June 2017 following 4 consecutive months reducing. It is now showing signs of reducing but is more in line with the internal target range. A rise in the CIN rate that does not correlate with a decrease in the referral rate may be indicative of some drift and delay in the transfer of cases. However more data points are required to establish a clear trend in the rate of children in need for the current year.
Rate of children who became the subject of a child protection plan per 10,000 children 0-17 population	Monthly Lower is better	34.5 2014-15	England: 43.1 (2015-16) North West: 55.2 (2015-16) Statistical Neighbours: 56.0 (2015-16)	57.3	57.6	50.2		Better	There has been an overall decline in the Child Protection Plan rate over the last 12 months. Slight variations in the last few months do not allow any conclusions to be drawn. Performance data will be reviewed month on month to establish any correlation with the referral rate/Child in Need rate.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Take up of 2 year old offer by eligible families as identified by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)	Quarterly Higher is better	70.0% Q1 2015-16		88.1%	92.6%			n/a	Funding data is collected on a termly basis, three times per year. The next update will be available in Quarter 3.
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	Annual Higher is better	20.0% 2013-14 Acad Year		52.6%			47.8%	Worse	Provisional data for the 2016-17 Academic Year is 47.8%. This is reduction of 4.8% from the previous year (52.6%), however with a larger cohort more Children Looked After attained a good level of development (12) than in the previous year.
The percentage of referrals to Children's Social Care that are within 12 months of one or more previous referrals.	Monthly Lower is better	22.80% 2014-15	England: 22.30% (2015-16) North West: 21.90% (2015-16) Statistical Neighbours: 17.00% (2015-16)	21.10%	17.80%	16.00%		Better	The 2016-2017 year-end repeat Referral rate was the lowest for three years and was well within the range of our statistical neighbours. The rate fell further in quarter 1 and further again in quarter 2 and is similar to the most recently available statistical neighbour value. Children who have been the subject of a Repeat Referral represent a diminishing proportion of all Referrals. This is good, although the converse interpretation of performance is that approximately a sixth of all children whose Referral ends become the subject of a further one within a year.
Number of Team Around Family episodes closed with needs met	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a			83	226		n/a	This is a new measure that will be reported in 2017-18, the end of year figure will be used as a baseline for 2018-19 trend. Performance is reported for number of individual cases by children and not by family. This is consistent with other reporting measures within the Local Authority.
Children's Centre's sustained contact with priority groups in early years	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a			54.91%	57.80%		Better	Performance in quarter 2 is 57.8% based on sustained contact between October 2016 and September 2017. This shows a 2.89% increase from the previous reporting period.

Reduce child and family poverty

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

The Improving Life Chances (ILC) Steering Group has continued to work to tackle child poverty collectively in Wirral and build on the positive initiatives established in the community pilot areas.

A session was facilitated by the ILC Steering Group on Universal Credit due to the concerns being raised locally around the impact of full rollout scheduled for November 15th. The session is to be repeated for wider stakeholders in October. Ask Us Wirral delivered a workshop in September for agencies working directly with families or supporting community groups. Outcomes from the workshop were increased access to debt and finance information and a greater understanding of pathways to get advice. Another local organisation has signed up for payroll saving with Wirral Credit Union, and a session was held for their staff to raise awareness of the benefits and encourage sign up.

A robust marketing campaign during the summer increased the take up of the 30 hours free childcare to eligible working parents from 60% to 75%, enabling parents to access employment, increase current working hours and take up more permanent working arrangements.

Holiday provision was provided in each of the community pilot areas, including food and holiday clubs. Altogether, 3896 meals were given out in the North End and 360 in Beechwood. Seacombe offered holiday food from 2 church halls, and breakfast bags of cereal from the children's centres.

The Community Connectors are reaching into the pilot area communities and providing holistic support for some of our most vulnerable families. For example, a recent case study of a Mother with learning difficulties and physical health problems with 2 young sons was supported through:

- advice around debt problems
- Fire service for smoke alarms
- Phone calls to housing association for housing repairs and garden/rubbish removal
- Food bank voucher
- Food hamper
- Mersey link for Mother to access appointments
- Bus passes for the boys
- Free Hive youth club passes for the boys
- Skills 2 Build to give regular assistance with the garden

The outcomes of the support being not only being financial, but also improved wellbeing for the whole family.

Preparations are being finalised for the 3rd Annual Child Poverty Event which is scheduled to take place in October. The event is being held in the newly refurbished Little Centre in Beechwood to enable participants to see first-hand developments in one of the community pilot areas. It will also provide the opportunity to learn from the progress of the pilots and share ideas going forward.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
The proportion of children in low income families	Annual Lower is better	21.5% Aug 2013	England: 19.9% (Aug 2014) North West: 22.6% (Aug 2014)	23.3%				n/a	The latest update available is a snapshot as at 31st August 2014. This was published in September 2016 due to a two year time lag. Further updates will be reported when they become available.
Increase the employment rate in Wirral	Quarterly Higher is better	66.7 2014- 15	England: 74.6 (Jul 16 - Jun 17) North West: 72.4 (Jul 16 - Jun 17)	69.7	70.8	71.3		Better	Performance as reported via National Survey Data, has improved by 0.5% this quarter, making this the highest ever rate recorded in Wirral since this has been a national measure (Jan 2004). This increase is in line with the North West and more than two times faster than the national average of 0.2%, therefore narrowing the employment rate gap between Wirral and the rest of the UK.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Percentage of smokefree pledges that are still active with those people who have been smokefree for 6 months in Community Pilot areas	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a						n/a	This is a new performance measure that will look specifically at smoking quitters that are smokefree for 6 months. Data will be provided by the ABL (A Better Life) service and will be reported on quarterly with first update in quarter 3.
Take up of the 2-2½ year Health Visitor child development reviews in the Community Pilot areas	Quarterly Higher is better	65.6% Q1 2015-16	Wirral: 76.7% (2016-17)	70.5%	84.0%			n/a	Latest data is for Q1 2017-18. Performance has been improving steadily over the last 12 months.
Increase number of organisations signed up to Wirral Credit Union	Annual Higher is better	n/a		21				n/a	

People with disabilities live independent lives

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Work continues to be on track towards the creation of an All Age Disability and Mental Health Service in Wirral. This will lead to improved quality and consistency of service provision and reduce service barriers related to age and eligibility. It is proposed that social care assessment and support planning functions will be joined up with a health provider to give us greater flexibility while allowing us to develop a single service for health and social care professionals. This is in a consultation phase with the proposal being taken to Cabinet for a decision in November

Work has progressed to establish insight into the prevalence of disability in Wirral to assess the future demand for services and housing provision. This work has led to a more detailed needs analysis of peoples' housing needs where they have a learning disability. An extra care housing strategy has been produced which is informed by this and is being consulted on. There are sites being considered for extra care developments and the strategy group are working closely together with potential developers to meet the target set.

"Building Vision" is a programme of engagement with service users which will be delivered with partners early in the new year. The aim of this is to reach a wider community of service users and organisations in order to support them collectively to build a vision of supported housing for the future and further inform the strategy.

In terms improving access to employment and greater financial resilience, meetings have taken place with the Chamber of Commerce and a plan is in place to deliver workshops to small businesses to encourage them to engage their support to provide opportunities for employment for disabled people.

The Department of Work and Pensions are promoting Disability Confident with small to medium sized enterprise employers on Wirral. The Council became a Disability Confident Employer on 26th July 2017 (Level 2) and Wirral Council website now has a Disability Confident statement, as do our recruitment pages.

The Council continues to develop its Wirral Independence Service Assistive Technology offer. A number of innovative Health and Care Assistive Technology projects are under way and being implemented which support people being more independent.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Health related quality of life for people with long term conditions	Annual Higher is better	0.698 2014-15	England: 0.741 (Jul 15-Mar 16)	0.695				n/a	This indicator is calculated nationally by NHS England and reported in the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). The latest value for this indicator is 0.695 for the period Jul 15-Mar 16. New data is due to be published later in the year.
Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled	Quarterly Higher is better	37.5% Jun 2015	England: 52.9% (Jul 16-Jun 17) North West: 47.9% (Jul 16-Jun 17)	44.0%	43.1%	42.2%		Worse	There is a time lag with this data which comes from the Office for National Statistics. The Quarter 2 figure relates to the period July 2016 - June 2017.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Lower is better	n/a	England: 1.09 (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: 1.00 (2015-16 Acad Year)	0.86				n/a	Awaiting provisional 2016-17 Academic Year data.
Proportion of people with long term conditions who feel supported to manage their condition	Annual Higher is better	66.7% 2014-15	England: 64.3% (Jul 15-Mar 16)	68.0%				n/a	This indicator is calculated nationally by NHS England and reported in the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC). The latest value for this indicator is 68% for the period July 2015 - March 2016. New data is due to be published later in the year.
The number of disabled people in receipt of personal budgets (including Direct Payments and Personal Health Budgets)	Quarterly Higher is better			669	863	852		Worse	651 adults were reported by the Department of Adult Social Services to be in receipt of personal budgets (compared to 669 last quarter). 201 young people were in receipt of personal budgets which includes 190 direct payments, 3 Education, Health and Care Plan and 8 personal budgets. (194 last quarter)
Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation	Quarterly Higher is better		England: 75.4% (2015-16) North West: 82.6% (Q2 2017-18)	84.0%	83.7%	84.1%		Better	Ensuring people with disabilities have stable and appropriate accommodation improves their safety, increases their independence and reduces their risk of social exclusion. The quarter 2 figure is 84.1% against a North West mean of 82.6% and has increased from 83.7% at quarter 1.

Zero tolerance to domestic violence

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

In delivering our zero tolerance approach to domestic abuse a large number of initiatives are being delivered across the entire Wirral Partnership with engagement within communities increasing. Fantastic news for the Wirral Partnership is that Tomorrows Women's Wirral has been short listed for a national award. The Safer Wirral Hub was officially opened on the 10th October. The hub increases the ability for all partner agencies to liaise and work together to provide support for all victims of domestic abuse and increase preventative activities to bring about a decrease in incidents. An example of this is the new link with the Leapfrog programme which works with children experiencing violence in the home.

A key part of the work around tackling Domestic Abuse is the engagement of the third sector and communities to embed our zero tolerance approach across Wirral. Voluntary sector organisations are embedded in all multi-agency working linking in with business and developing Peer Mentors to provide the right kind of support. Initiatives such as the Community Connectors are linking in their work tackling social isolation and dealing with the most vulnerable in our communities.

We know about the challenges in Wirral our plan to increase awareness of domestic abuse has lead to increases in the number of cases and referrals into the Family Safety Unit and MARAC and this trend is also replicated in the statistics from our Third Sector Partners.

We are continuing with this partnership approach by working together to review the opportunities for joint commissioning of support programmes for the most vulnerable in our communities, which will lead to improved programmes and greater value for money.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Number of domestic abuse Wirral MARAC cases per 10,000 adult females	Quarterly	54.0 2014-15	Most Similar Force Group: 44.0 (2016-17) National: 35.0 (2016-17)	51.7	Green Actual: 13.3 Target: 13.0	Green Actual: 27.3 Target: 27.0		n/a	The number of domestic abuse Wirral MARAC cases between April 2017-September 17 was 374.
Children and young people experience domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	Quarterly	1,289 2014-15		1,211	355	727		n/a	The number of children and young people experiencing domestic abuse between April 2017-September 17 was 727, this is 26% higher than the same period in 2016-17. The policy is to improve reporting in this area to ensure that domestic abuse cases are recorded and dealt with. The intention will be that in future years, once reporting levels have improved, the rate will reduce.
Percentage of incidents of repeat domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	Quarterly Lower is better	16.0% Apr 2014-Mar 15	Most Similar Force Group: 31.0% (2016-17) National: 26.0% (2016-17)	28.0%	Green Actual: 31.1% Target: 25.0%	Green Actual: 28.3% Target: 25.0%		Better	There were 202 repeat incidents of domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases) from October 2016-September 2017.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Number of Domestic Abuse cases referred to the Family Safety Unit (FSU)	Quarterly Higher is better	949 Apr 2014-Mar 15		1,092	221	444		Worse	Between April 2017 to September 17, the number of domestic abuse referrals made to the FSU was 444 which is a reduction of 25.5% when compared to the same period last year (620).
% of children and Young People single assessments authorised with Domestic Violence (DV) related factors	Quarterly Lower is better	n/a		36.7%	35.5%	33.8%		Worse	Performance relates to assessments between April 2017-September 17. There has been a slight increase (0.2%) when compared to the same period in the previous year (33.6%). The use of chronologies within all MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) assessments have taken effect as this became routine from approximately July 2016 and therefore the reflective impact of the past is now readily informing threshold. In addition the triage process from the Integrated Front Door social worker is 'speeding up' the identification of repeat domestic abuse within families and therefore again threshold is being applied more effectively, hence the slight increase in more timely and proportionate assessments.
Rate of referrals to social care presenting Domestic Violence issues (adults aged 18+ years) per 100,000	Quarterly Higher is better	n/a		12.62	3.15	7.49		Better	This shows an improving trend in line with the objective to raise awareness of domestic abuse leading to an increase in referrals.

Report Key

Trend - Performance is shown as Better, Same or Worse compared with the last reporting period except for: Number of domestic abuse cases referred to the FSU, % of children and Young People single assessments authorised with Domestic Violence (DV) related factors, Rate of referrals to social care presenting Domestic Violence issues (adults aged 18+ years) per 100,000 which are compared with same period the previous year.

Target - Where targets apply, these are shown as either Blue, Green, Amber, Red based on the agreed tolerance range for individual measures.

Action - These are shown as either:

- Green (on track to deliver on time)
- Amber (off track but action being taken to deliver on time)
- Red (off track and won't deliver on time)

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Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 14 November 2017

REPORT TITLE:	Reality Check visit to the Leaving Care Service - Feedback
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher

REPORT SUMMARY

Committee members have previously agreed the principle of undertaking a series of Reality Check visits by small groups of members to enable those members to engage directly with frontline staff. This report provides feedback from a visit to the Leaving Care Service on Wednesday 18th October 2017

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the report.
- 2) Considers any points to be learned prior to the next of the Reality Check visits.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The reality visit and subsequent recommendations will enable Committee members to complete part of the Committee's work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Principles of Reality Check visits

Key to the success of scrutiny is the ability of members to check evidence from a variety of sources. While members routinely receive reports from senior management and have access to performance monitoring reports, it is suggested that greater access to frontline staff and service users would enable scrutiny members to triangulate evidence with other sources and would give members greater confidence in the outcomes of their scrutiny work. It was, therefore, agreed at the meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee held in June to establish a programme of Reality Check Visits through which scrutiny members could engage independently and directly with frontline staff.

Key operating principles for the visits include:

- A programme of visits will be scheduled and will form part of the Committee's work programme. A visit will normally take place approximately every eight weeks. Visits will be set or amended taking into account the programme of externally set scrutiny by Ofsted and the Department of Education.
- There will be no direct relationship between each visit. Therefore, Members may volunteer to participate in any particular visit.
- Prior to each visit, a short briefing note will be prepared to inform members of the function of the service area, background information and any issues directly relevant to the Ofsted report.
- Each visit will comprise a maximum of six members supported by a scrutiny officer. A visit will usually take a maximum of 2 hours.
- The visits will give Members the opportunity to talk directly to staff so they can understand their perspective of the service. Members will be able to ask questions directly, for example, on caseloads, support offered to staff, auditing of cases and the outcomes for children and families.
- The findings from each visit will be reported to the next meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

3.2 Visit to the Leaving Care Service 18th October 2017

The visit to the Leaving Care Service in Rock Ferry took place on Wednesday 18th October 2017. Cllrs Tom Usher (Chair), Alan Brighthouse, Wendy Clements, and Chris Meaden took part in the visit, which was hosted by Carole Nixon (Head of the Service). Carole was accompanied by a management team of Jeff Hay, Peter Rogan and Chris Pentecost. Following a presentation relating to the operation of the service, there was an open question and answer session with the Personal Advisor team and managers. Members then spoke to a number Personal Advisors individually.

3.3 Background to the Leaving Care Service

Wirral Council are committed to act as a 'good parent' to young people leaving care for whom it has a corporate parenting responsibility. This means that young people leaving care will receive support whilst they make their transition to adulthood. The support will include assistance with securing suitable accommodation, securing employment, education or training, and personal support e.g. in relation to family relationships, and emotional health and well-being. Support to care leavers is delivered by a team of 16 Full time equivalent Personal Advisors.

Wirral Council's policies are applied in accordance with the definitions in the Children Act 1989 for Eligible, Relevant, Former Relevant and Qualifying Young People. This also includes in certain circumstances young people who are subject to Special Guardianship Orders who were looked after immediately before the order.

The Leaving Care Service in Wirral has traditionally been focused on providing advice, guidance and support to young people in the above categories up to the age 21, or up to the age of 25 if still in full-time education. Legislative changes were introduced earlier this year that require continued involvement for care leavers up to the age of 25. The fine detail and full implications of these changes is yet to be determined and is subject to Department for Education consultation during November.

Services provided are based on identified needs as determined by the Pathway Plan Part 1 (Assessment), and then set out in the Pathway Plan Part 2 (The Plan) that gives a detailed reflection of how their social, educational, accommodation, and other identified needs will be met. Pathway Plans are co-ordinated by the child's social worker prior to leaving care and then by the Personal Advisors post 18. It is expected that the care leavers themselves make a significant contribution to the Pathway plan and that the plan itself reflects their wishes, feelings and aspirations

All preparation for leaving care and provision of after care services will take account of the young person's gender, religion, racial origin, cultural and linguistic background, sexual orientation and any needs arising from them having a disability.

Young people who are also parents have services offered to them as care leavers in their own right, as well as any support or interventions related to their children which would be delivered by district teams.

Young people leaving care who receive a service from the Children with Disabilities Team will continue to receive a service from this team in conjunction with the Pathway Team. This process is managed by the Transition Team Manager based in the Children with Disabilities Team.

The oversight and management of the Leaving Care Service is the responsibility of the Head of Service and Service Manager for Children in Care and Leaving Care. Senior managers provide oversight and input during monthly meetings with Children in Care Team Managers and Advanced Practitioners who provide the direct line management for the Leaving Care Service.

3.4 Findings from the Members' visit to the Leaving Care Service

Key conclusions reached by the Members were:

3.4.1 Positives

- Members were impressed by the energy, dedication and passion of the team. This was evident during the open discussion and from individual conversations with managers and staff. The atmosphere in the team appeared to be very positive.
- Members were reassured that the service has made good progress towards achieving the recommendations outlined by Ofsted during their inspection in July 2016, and following the last monitoring visit in August 2017.
- Managers were realistic about the progress made, and clear about the future challenges and further improvements required to attain best practice within the service.
- Personal Advisors provide an agile and flexible service to support young people and, following recent recruitment, Personal Advisor workloads now compare well against other local authorities.
- Appropriate supervision and support is provided by service managers and the introduction of the traffic light 'RAG' rating of cases is an example of improved management oversight and risk monitoring.
- Members welcomed the introduction of the 'What Makes a Good Personal Advisor' document created using care leavers feedback and the team's aspiration to achieve all listed characteristics.
- The resilience and tenacity of the Personal Advisors' approach to keeping 'in touch' with care leavers was evident. All contacts with care leavers are captured on the Liquid Logic system.
- The Christmas Dinner Project, to provide a meal, gifts and somewhere to meet for care leavers who may otherwise be alone at Christmas, was particularly welcomed by members. It was acknowledged that this project will be supported by the team and others on an entirely voluntary basis and charitable donations, local business and community support were being sought to help fund this project. Members encourage councillors

and officers across the Council to support and raise awareness of this project.

3.4.2 Challenges

- Further progress is required on individualising and improving the quality of Pathway Plans, to ensure that the young person's voice and wishes are reflected. It is hoped that the introduction of new digital agile (tablet) technology and way of working will assist with this in future. Further staff training and benchmarking could be explored regarding reflecting the care leavers' identity in Pathway Plans and ensuring greater care leaver engagement with and ownership of the Plans. Members were reassured that this is an area identified by the team as a priority.
- The Leaving Care Team is currently based in two different locations. Members noted staff comments on the advantage of being in one location, as the team has a mixture of skills and can share information and expertise.
- There is some uncertainty regarding young people in residential care and the transition arrangements to adult services following the integration of services with the NHS.
- The daily drop-in hub was viewed by staff as an important resource for care leavers. It is located in the 'Response' service building (which is an accessible wider service that focusses on the needs of vulnerable young people). This was opened following Care Leavers Council feedback regarding the importance of having a dedicated space for care leavers to drop-in and access support and advice, in addition to resources associated with other services such as the drug and alcohol service. This is currently a temporary facility operating between 1 and 4pm on weekdays. The team hope that premises can be obtained for the establishment of a permanent hub with extended opening times to provide a more responsive service to care leavers. It would create a confidential space to meet with Personal Advisors and provide facilities for support and skills training, such as cleaning and cooking skills. There is evidence of outstanding rated local authorities having these facilities and the team feel that this would enhance the service and support offer to the borough's care leavers.
- There is uncertainty around increased pressure on the service in future in relation to the changes in legislation requiring a service for all care leavers aged up to 25, should they request it. Whilst the impact of these changes should be monitored closely over the coming months, members are impressed with pro-active approach taken by the team so far.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES: None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 14th November 2017

REPORT TITLE:	Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee - work programme update report
REPORT OF:	The Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher

REPORT SUMMARY

The Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other three Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

The report provides an update regarding progress made since the last Committee meeting held on 26th September. The current work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, workshops, standing items and requested officer reports. This update report provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The current work programme for the Committee is attached as an appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the updated Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2017/18, making any required amendments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 UPDATE ON CURRENT SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Since the Committee meeting held on 26th September 2017, activity has taken place relating to the following:

Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review

A task and finish group comprising Councillors Alan Brighthouse, Paul Hayes, Tony Jones, Moira McLaughlin, Chris Meaden and Cherry Povall has been established. The work of this group will focus on the effectiveness and timeliness of statutory care plans. The review will also test the effectiveness of special guardianship orders. A meeting was held in October to review the draft scope document and plan the review in more detail.

A series of evidence sessions are now being planned. These will give members of the task & finish group an opportunity to review randomly selected anonymised care plans as well as meetings with social workers, team managers, Independent Reviewing Officers, a Head teacher representative, foster carers and Special Guardians. A focus group will also be held with children and young people. It is anticipated that this scrutiny review will be completed in time to report back to the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 14th March 2018.

Reality Check Visits

The second of the Reality Check visits took place on 18th October when a group of members visited the Leaving Care Service. A report regarding the outcomes of the visit is included as a separate item on this agenda.

It is proposed that the next Reality Check visit will take place to the Early Childhood Service during December, with a maximum of six members being sought for the visit. The final Reality Check visit for the municipal year will be arranged to a different service area in February 2018.

All Age Disability and Mental Health Transformation Project

A workshop was held on Wednesday 2nd August 2017 to provide members with an opportunity to review proposals for the transformation of the All Age Disability and Mental Health services. A report summarising the findings of the workshop was approved at the meeting of this Committee held on 26th September. That report was due to be included on the agenda of the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 6th November as part of the presentation of the full business case for the project.

3.2 FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

Spotlight session - Specialist Transport

During scrutiny of the 2017 / 18 budget proposals, former members of the People Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested further updates regarding future proposals to re-model the Specialist Transport service. As any proposals will impact on service delivery for both children and adults, it is suggested that a joint workshop will be held with members of both the Children and Families OSC and the Adult Care & Health OSC invited to attend. It is currently envisaged that the session will be held in early 2018.

Training session for members

Further to comments raised by some members at a previous Committee meeting, it is proposed that a training session be held later in the year. Possible dates are being sought in either November or December 2017. It is proposed that the session will include an overview of Children's Services. The session will also be used to inform the future scrutiny work programme.

Budget scrutiny 2018 / 19

In line with previous municipal years, it is anticipated that workshops will be held for members of each of the scrutiny committees to review proposals as the 2018 / 19 budget is being developed. Dates and format for these sessions have yet to be finalised.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work programme

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Tues 14th November 2017

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes from Children & Families OSC (26 th September)	Minutes	
Improvement Journey – Update (including performance data tracker)	Presentation	Deborah Gornik
Safeguarding Children Annual Report (2016/17)	Report	Maggie Atkinson / Kerry Mehta / David Robbins
Domestic Abuse – update on the delivery of the strategy	Report	Mark Smith / Mark Camborne
Financial Monitoring – 2017/18 Q2	Report / Presentation	Peter Molyneux / Andrew Roberts to provide report
Performance monitoring – 2017/18 Q2	Report	Mike Callon to provide report
Report from Member’s proposed Reality Check visit to the Leaving care Team	Report	Report of the Chair (Patrick Torpey to provide report)
Work programme update	Report	Report of the Chair (Alan Veitch to provide report)
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 30th October 2017		

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Thurs 25th January 2018

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes from Children & Families OSC (14 th November)	Minutes	
Improvement Journey – Update (including performance data tracker)	Presentation	Deborah Gornik
Delivery of ‘Children Ready for School’ pledge - Update	Report	Deborah Gornik
Report from Member’s Reality Check visit to Early Childhood Service	Report	Report of the Chair (Patrick Torpey to provide report)
Educational attainment in Wirral 2016/17 (GCSEs and A Levels)	Report	Sue Talbot
Policy Inform	Report	(Rachel Howey to provide report)
Work programme update	Report	Report of the Chair (Alan Veitch to provide report)
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 8th January 2018		

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Tues 14th March 2018

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes from Children & Families OSC (25 th January)	Minutes	
Improvement Journey – Update (including performance data tracker)	Presentation	Deborah Gornik
Edge of care service	Report	Deborah Gornik
Quality Assurance and learning framework	Report	Carly Brown
Statutory Care Plan scrutiny review	Report	Report of the Chair (Patrick Torpey to provide report)
Financial Monitoring – 2017/18 Q3	Report / Presentation	Peter Molyneux / Andrew Roberts to provide report
Performance monitoring – 2017/18 Q3	Report	Mike Callon to provide report
Report from Member’s proposed Reality Check visit	Report	Report of the Chair (Alan Veitch to provide report)
Policy Inform	Report	(Rachel Howey to provide report)
Work programme update	Report	Report of the Chair (Alan Veitch to provide report)
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 26th February 2018		

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Improving Life Chances strategy – update on the delivery of the strategy (last provided: March 2017)	Report	To be agreed	Fiona Johnstone
The HIVE – progress report	Possible report	To be agreed	
Care leavers – employment prospects	Possible report	To be agreed	
Consultation regarding the revised guidance for the future LSCB framework (as agreed by the Children and Families OSC, 26/09/17)	Report	To be agreed	
School strategy – update on the delivery of the strategy	Report	To be agreed	Sue Talbot

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress / Comments
Task and Finish work				
Statutory Care Plans	Task & finish group	To be agreed	Ian Godfrey / Gani Martins / Pat Torpey	
Reality Check visits				
Reality Check visit: MASH	Member visit	Thurs 7 th Sept, 2017 10.00am	Simone White / Liz Davenport	Complete
Reality Check visit: Leaving Care Team	Member visit	18 th Oct 2017	Ian Godfrey / Pat Torpey	
Reality Check visit: Early Childhood Service	Member visit	Dec 2017	To be agreed / Pat Torpey	
Reality Check visit: service area to be determined	Member visit	Feb 2018	To be agreed	
Meet with group(s) of care leavers	Member visit	To be agreed		
Reality Check visit: MASH (re-visit to Solar Campus)	Member visit	To be agreed	Simone White / Liz Davenport	
Spotlight sessions / workshops				
All-age Disabilities and Mental Health transformation project	Workshop	Wed 2 nd Aug 2017, 6.00pm	Graham Hodkinson/ Jason Oxley	Joint workshop with members of Adult Care & Health OSC. Complete
Safeguarding governance - Scrutiny's relationship with the LSCB	Workshop	Wed 23 rd Aug 2017, 5.30pm	David Robbins	Complete
Member training session: Children's Services	Training session	Nov / Dec 2017	Carly Brown / Pat Torpey	
Specialist Transport	Workshop	Jan / Feb 2018	Julie Barnes / Alan Veitch	Potential joint workshop with members of Adult Care & Health OSC
Corporate scrutiny / Other				
Transformation Programme – business cases	Workshop	As and when required		
Budget scrutiny 2018 / 19	Workshop	Possibly Dec 2017		

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