



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 3 July 2018
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

Contact Officer: Mark Hardman
Tel: 0151 691 8546
e-mail: markhardman@wirral.gov.uk
Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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.

2. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 12)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 22 March 2018.

3. 2017/18 QUARTER 4 AND YEAR END WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE (Pages 13 - 42)

4. IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY - UPDATE

To receive a presentation from the Director of Children's Services providing an update on the Council's Improvement Plan and actions taken since the previous meeting of the Committee.

5. WIRRAL IMPROVEMENT BOARD DATABOOK (Pages 43 - 60)

- 6. CHILDRENS AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT (Pages 61 - 70)**
- 7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

To consider any further business that the Chair accepts as being urgent.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Thursday, 22 March 2018

<u>Present:</u>	Councillor	T Usher (Chair)	
	Councillors	M McLaughlin B Berry A Brighthouse W Clements T Jones B Kenny C Meaden	J Stapleton A Sykes W Ward G Wood KJ Williams S Williams
<u>In attendance:</u>	Councillor	B Mooney	
<u>Apologies</u>	Councillors	T Anderson P Hayes	C Povall
	Co-Opted Member	J Johnson	

47 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 –

Councillor Chris Meaden made a declaration of personal interest in respect of the agenda generally by virtue of her daughter's employment in the Children and Young People's Department.

A general declaration of personal interest on behalf of the Members of the Committee was made by virtue of the holding of positions of School Governor at various schools.

Councillor Warren Ward declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 'Improving Life Chances Strategy – Pledge Update' by virtue of his employment with the Department for Work and Pensions.

48 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 January 2018 be approved as a correct record.

49 **2017/18 QUARTER 3 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE**

The Committee received a report presenting the 2017/18 Quarter 3 (October - December 2017) performance report for the Wirral Plan Pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The performance report, which was included as an Appendix to the submitted report, provided a description of progress in Quarter 3 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

The performance report contained details of the progress made, and overviews of that progress from the Lead Cabinet Member, in respect of individual measures being pursued with regard to the following Wirral Plan Pledges pertinent to the Committee -

- Children are Ready for School;
- Children are Ready for Work and Adulthood;
- Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential;
- Reducing Child and Family Poverty (Improving Life Chances);
- People with Disabilities live Independent Lives; and
- Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence.

Paul Boyce, Director for Children presented the performance report and invited comment from Members on the content contained therein –

Councillor Moira McLaughlin noted the reduction in performance related to pregnancy scans and, while pleased to see improved performance in respect of development checks of infants by the time they were 8 weeks old, noted declining performance for health visitor reviews at 12 months and at 2–2 ½ years. The Director undertook to respond to the query.

The Chair queried the roles and functions of the Panels referenced against the 'rate of looked after children' indicator. The Deputy Director – Children's Services advised that the Planning for Children Panel focussed predominantly on children in the care system with a care package or placement in place, or on children who received a costly care package: this Panel brought together all aspects of health, education and social care. The Edge of Care Panel

focussed on children at risk of becoming looked after and through a multi-agency approach considered what could be put in place for such children.

The Chair noted a reported decline in the number of child protection plans and queried whether this was necessarily a positive. The Deputy Director – Children’s Services advised that when the Pledge was written the number of such plans was very high and so a reduction would have been seen as a positive at that time. Over time, following a levelling off of the numbers of children coming into care and the inspection report, the ratio was now in line with other local authorities. The situation would continue to be monitored as a continuing downward trend might be a matter of concern.

The reported reduction of 40% in the number of young people presenting to A&E following self-harm or attempted suicide was noted, and it was queried whether that could be attributed to the recently introduced advice line. The Director indicated that while that was unlikely to be what the data suggested, take up of the advice line was positive, particularly with regard to parents seeking support. There was a need to further interrogate the data to understand what was happening.

Councillor Moira McLaughlin referenced work in relation to the Improving Life Chances pledge, noting the lack of performance data and the resultant ability to judge progress. In a similar vein, Councillor Steve Williams noted the delay on data being provided in respect of the reduction of medication for ADHD.

Councillor Alan Brighouse noted the work being done for children coming out of care and queried the work undertaken by the Council to support the NEET (not in employment, education or training). The Committee was advised that the 14-19 Team worked hard to try and ensure that young people were in employment, education or training. Benchmarking on this issue had recently changed and it would now require 12 months data to comment definitively on progress. Overall, it was thought that performance in the 16-17 years age group was good, but that there were issues about sustainability at the ages of 18-19 years. Further to this issue, it was noted that a number of asylum seekers placed in the Borough had never been to school, and approaches as to how to engage with this group were under consideration.

RESOLVED –

That the report be noted.

50 **FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 3 2017/18**

Andrew Roberts, Senior Manager – Financial Management, introduced his report presenting financial monitoring information for Children and Families as at close of the third quarter of the 2017/18 financial year that gave a consideration of performance against the revenue budget, including savings,

income and debt, and a commentary on performance against the capital budget. The report was supported by a presentation addressing issues highlighted within the report and considering the anticipated financial position for the following financial year.

The Committee was advised of a predicted current year £3.9 million overspend after the allocation of £5 million from Contingency linked primarily to the costs of care and of agency staffing. Agency costs were impacting the budget due to a number of vacant posts and a further number requiring sickness / maternity cover. The numbers of looked after children continued to rise, and in certain key areas there had been significant increases in placement costs. The identified savings for Children and Families had proved difficult to progress given the increasing demand in the service.

The funding for the Improvement Plan taking advantage of capital flexibilities introduced the previous year was considered. These flexibilities had provided funding for 166 additional posts, 80% of which were within Social Care / Safeguarding and for which recruitment was in progress. However, the capital flexibilities required such investment to transform delivery and to either reduce costs of or demand for services going forward. Funding was focussed towards the needs of those leaving care, strengthening the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) and Safeguarding teams, addressing high caseloads, improving information within the department, and enhancing Early Help and Prevention services.

Councillor Alan Brighthouse queried the rules applying to the use of capital receipts in the transformation budget and whether transformation had to be demonstrated. It was confirmed that it was required to demonstrate how the investment would reduce costs. The initial period to demonstrate the return had initially been two years, though this had now been extended in recognition that some results might take time to work through the system.

The comparative figures for the Children and Families 2017/18 (as revised) and 2018/19 budgets were considered. While the net figures were comparable, the Committee was advised that the savings target should not be underestimated as there was an inflationary impact to note, that the increased numbers in care had had a part year only effect in 2017/18, and that a number of significant one-offs had assisted in achieving the current year budget.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the quarter 3 revenue forecast overspend of £3.9 million be noted;**
- (2) the performance of the capital projects be noted.**

51 IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY - UPDATE

Mr Paul Boyce, the Director for Children introduced a presentation providing Members with an update on the Council's Improvement Plan and a number of actions that had been taken since the previous report to the Committee in January 2018. These included a summary of progress to date and work underway to create the right conditions for improvement, together with an update on an Ofsted Monitoring Visit that had taken place on 14-15 March 2018.

The Improvement Plan sought to provide a clear direction with purpose and pace; develop strong and visible leadership at all levels; to wrap the Council around the service and find solutions; to secure a permanent and motivated workforce; and to focus on the child and the child's journey. In all this work, the focus was to be on getting the basics right. To deliver the Improvement Plan, five key performance areas have been identified –

- Create a clear vision and engage staff and partners
- Recruitment, retention and professional pathways
- Lines of accountability and proactive decision making
- Effective Integrated Front Door
- Is practice improving and are children better off?

With reference to the key performance areas, Mr Boyce highlighted a number of particular matters. A staff engagement session held on 6 March 2018 that had produced a range of views in feedback. Indicative of changing culture within the service, he reported on the new working arrangements being introduced, with all social work teams being based at Cheshire Lines and staff being provided with mobile technology to enable remote working while maintaining managerial and team contacts. With the relocation of staff and the roll out of new technology, service structures were being reviewed to reduce unnecessary tiers of management. Both caseloads and workflows coming in were stabilizing, and this provided an opportunity for people to do good practice. While there was evidence to suggest practice was improving, there was still much work to do.

Mr Boyce reported on the Ofsted Monitoring Visit of 14-15 March 2018 that had reviewed the Integrated Front Door or those arrangements to make sure that children got access to the right services as soon as possible. Feedback indicated a number of key areas were being addressed, including information gathering being coherent, a multi-agency approach to engage with families, safeguarding making timely interventions etc. Overall, the view was that things had improved, but that there still remained work to do. Issues identified included some evidence of delay and that some follow up responses might not be as consistent as they could be. However, it was considered to be the most positive visit to date, and a further Visit would be held on 29 May 2018.

The Chair queried how previously reported software issues were being addressed. The Committee was advised that the system used by the Council was in use across the north west of England, and was to be reviewed: previous implementations or uses of the software might have had impacts on functionality. With regard to the roll out of mobile technology, it was noted that this appeared to have run, to date, without a hitch. In response to a query from Councillor Adam Sykes concerning security, it was confirmed that all devices were fully encrypted and the Council was aware of enhanced data protection requirements from May 2018.

With regard to the location of all social work teams at Cheshire Lines, Councillor Chris Meaden queried car parking provision. In response, it was noted that while this would be the base for approximately 450 staff, it would only have a limited number of staff either permanently located there or working on the duty system: it was anticipated that desk occupancy would be below 50% at any one time. If car parking became a big issue there would be a need for consideration.

With regard to current social work buildings, it was advised that many would now not be needed and that some were generally not fit for purpose. This applied to the Rock Ferry office, but the Pensby office would remain, albeit with management moving to Cheshire Lines.

Councillor Alan Brighthouse referred to previous presentations that stressed the need to focus on addressing issues raised by Ofsted as opposed to undertaking departmental restructuring, noting that restructuring was now report in the Director's presentation as being progressed. Mr Boyce confirmed that the authority could not re-organise itself out of the problem, but there was a need for some modification and realignment of the social care structure.

With regard to the number of cases held by individual social workers, it was confirmed that a number held more than 20 cases. However, the throughput and closing of cases was thought to be a factor, and this would be further looked into.

RESOLVED -

That the Director for Children be thanked for his presentation to the Committee.

52 **LEARNING FROM AUDIT**

Kerry Mehta, Head of Children's Safeguarding, introduced her report that provided an update on the use of audits in social work practice and how these are then used to improve practice. Audits were considered to be key tools for looking at the quality of practice, allowing an opportunity to understand the

impact of services provided on an individual child and their family, and also identify any training gaps. Case auditing is also used by Ofsted as a key part of the inspection and monitoring process.

The Committee was advised that the audit approach sought to consider the impacts of service inputs and then make any changes. Audits undertaken since October 2017 had been a mixture of 'deep dive' audits where case reviews included social workers and social work managers, and a number of 'dip samples' where cases were reviewed against outcomes. The conclusions or outcomes from audits, the submitted report containing identified strengths and areas for development identified recently, were reported to individuals, teams and the Improvement Board, enabling learning from good practice and the highlighting of concerns. The audits also provided an overview to assess where the organisation was at, and a tool for managers to reflect on. In response to a query from Councillor Adam Sykes regarding the wider dissemination of learning when audits were undertaken at the individual worker level, the Committee was advised that learning was circulated in the form of key messages, and was not made personal to a named worker.

Councillor Alan Brighouse queried the response of Social Workers and Team Managers to the presence or input of the Audit Team and any effect this might have on team building, and how the quality of audits undertaken were assured. In reply it was noted that the success of an audit team would be to not have one as a result of having embedded good practice into Teams. The approach of the audit team was to work alongside practitioners, rather than to be seen as adversarial. With regard to audit quality, the Committee was advised that these were moderated within the audit group and by managers.

Councillor Wendy Clements asked whether individual audits were returned to for consideration of any improvement. It was confirmed that within the cycle of audits there was opportunity to revisit and to measure changes resulting. The Director for Children, reflecting on Members' questions, suggested that the word 'audits' as a descriptor did not do justice to the process, and that it might be best to regard them as a case review process or a reflection – at the beginning a practitioner might be challenged, but through the process you improve and go through the cycle again.

Councillor Tony Jones asked whether the Council had picked on any exemplars for audits, rather than solely developing its own. Simone White, Deputy Director for Children's Care Services advised that the audits were a developing, rather than a static, process. Initially focused on compliance, they were now moving towards quality issues: it was considered that in time they would be focused solely on quality as compliance became embedded in the organisation.

Members noted the need to have an assurance as to the audit process and that learning points were being identified and carried through. To this end it

was suggested that Members give further consideration to the audit tool and its use, and review a six month cycle of audits, including their outcomes and how they feeds into training.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) The report be noted; and**
- (2) The Committee give further consideration to the undertaking of audits and the audit tool, and undertake a review of a six month cycle of audits, including their outcomes and how they feeds into training, this consideration and review to be in the form of spotlight session.**

53 **REALITY CHECK VISIT - PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD - FEEDBACK REPORT**

The Chair introduced a report advising of the Reality Check Visit undertaken to review the Performance Dashboard that took place on 19 February 2018 at Hamilton Building. Councillors Tom Usher (Chair), Alan Brighthouse, Chris Meaden and Jean Stapleton had taken part in the visit, hosted by Simone White (Deputy Director) and accompanied by a number of managers and staff who either supported the development of the Dashboard or interrogated the data held within it.

Members had been provided with a demonstration of the on-line dashboard used to monitor performance within children’s social care and which provides a strategic overview. The dashboard is updated daily with data from the primary system used by social workers. While the dashboard had been operational for five months and was to undergo further development, an assessment of alternative systems was also due to take place. Members were also given an opportunity to review a hardcopy of the Data Tracker which provides a snapshot of data on a monthly basis and is used to provide a regular update to the Improvement Board, focussing on key performance indicators.

The conclusions of Members arising from the review of the performance Dashboard were presented within the submitted report, which included the submission of a report on audits (as considered at this meeting) and an agreement that regular reporting of information from the Data Tracker to this Committee would strengthen Members’ ability to scrutinise the ongoing improvement of the service; this would be of particular importance in the future when the Improvement Board was no longer in place. At that time the Overview and Scrutiny Committee would need to feel confident that the framework was in place to enable Members to provide appropriate scrutiny and oversight of children’s services.

RESOLVED -

That the report and conclusions of the Reality Check Visit in respect of the Performance Dashboard be noted and supported.

54 IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES STRATEGY - PLEDGE UPDATE

The Committee received a report presented by Bev Morgan, Chief Executive Officer of Home Start Wirral and Chair of the Improving Life Chances Steering Group, providing details of progress in respect of the Improving Life Chances pledge and the identified five priority action areas –

- Overarching actions
- Supporting parents into sustainable employment
- Improve life chances for children and young people
- Supporting families to become financially resilient
- Tackling the immediate effects of poverty.

The multi-agency Improving Life Chances Steering Group work to a strategy looking at opportunities to tackle child and family poverty in Wirral communities and break the cycle of disadvantage as a means of delivering the Improving Life Chances pledge. The Steering Group has specific leads for each of the five priority action areas who work in partnership with appropriate agencies to deliver the identified actions. The submitted report provided an overview of activity and outcomes for 2017-18 in respect of the five priority areas, and a quarter 3 report for 2017-18 was appended to the submitted report.

The focus of work had been on establishing community pilots in Seacombe, Bidston and St James and Beechwood to target action and evaluate the impact of this effort. A further appendix to the submitted report presented a review of actions undertaken and their impacts.

The Committee was advised that while the evidence pointed to positive effects of the work undertaken into improving the situation with regard to the immediate effects of poverty, there was no evidence of lifting people out of poverty. It was considered that in order to strengthen the commitment to lifting children and families out of poverty, the Pledge could not stand alone but needed to be core and central. The Improving Life Chances Pledge needed to be embedded within other strategies, examples provided included children's strategies and how to get the best start in life and housing strategies to mitigate the effects of poverty on living conditions etc.

Councillor Moira McLaughlan, in echoing the comments of the Steering Group Chair with regard to the good work on the ground to support people but with little evidence of demonstrable overall improvement in a wider sense, welcomed the intention to work in different ways. Councillor Jean Stapleton likewise welcomed the intention to work with other Strategy Groups to

strengthen the visibility of the Pledge and work towards ensuring a child poverty theme in each Strategy, and noted that action plans for all strategies were being reviewed currently, so it was important to have early discussions with each Strategy Group to ensure recognition of child poverty issues before new action plans were launched in the new Municipal Year.

Councillor Wendy Clements queried who would scrutinise the Pledge actions and progress should the Pledge be reflected in other strategies, and commented on the need to ensure that the other Overview and Scrutiny Committees were aware of what issues to look for. Bev Morgan advised that the Improving Life Chances Steering Group would continue to meet and monitor the Pledge, and could report on progress to this Committee.

Councillor Alan Brighouse queried the statistic used to determine the proportion of children in low income families. The Committee was advised that the figure used was a national measure and that the delay in publishing figures was frustrating. Other sources that might enable alternate relevant data to be obtained in a more timely fashion to allow the identification of families in poverty were under consideration.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) The report be noted; and**
- (2) The intention to embed a child poverty theme into other Strategy action plans be welcomed and supported, and the Improving Life Chances Steering Group continue to monitor progress towards delivery of the Improving Life Chances Pledge and to report to this Committee on progress made.**

55 PUPIL ATTENDANCE AND EXCLUSIONS IN WIRRAL SCHOOLS

Sue Talbot, Lead School Commissioner, presented a report considering issues of pupil absence and attendance and school exclusions prepared in response to Members' concerns regarding the level of school exclusions in the Borough. The submitted report also provided an evaluation of this issue as they impacted on the Wirral Plan Pledges - Children are Ready for School; Young People are Ready for Work and Adulthood; and Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential.

The Committee was advised that absence was an acknowledged issue, and that authorised absence within the Borough's schools was high when compared with elsewhere. Work would continue with Head Teachers to improve attendance, particularly with regard to persistent absence which, if flagged up in Ofsted reports, meant that it was difficult to achieve a 'good' rating. It was intended to review support and launch a new initiative in

September that would wrap round services in support of attendance a lot earlier.

With regard to school exclusions, the Committee was advised that the national trend was for exclusions to rise as schools transferred to academy status, but that work was being undertaken locally with Head Teachers to talk through issues and cases and to look to wrap around services to address issues. The results were promising, with exclusions over the spring term showing a marked decrease over a similar period last year.

The Chair referred to concerns expressed previously by the Committee regarding home schooling, including the numbers being home schooled and how the quality of this schooling was checked. The Committee were informed that there were 148 electively home schooled children in the Borough, of whom 13 had never regularly attended school; 135 children had started in school provision but had been removed subsequently, a number of whom had contact with the children and mental health service; and of the 148 children, 106 had no form of special educational need. The Committee was advised that the Education Act 1996 placed the duty to ensure a child's education on the parent. Should a parent write to a Head Teacher to electively home school, a referral was made to the Education Welfare Service to seek a home visit to assist the parent in considering how to home school and to signpost to resources. There was also an annual visit which the parent could refuse.

It was advised that home schooling was an area of vulnerability that the Department was concerned about. Members noted the concern, but stressed that the Committee was interested in all reasons for withdrawal from the school system and that these concerns needed to be presented in a manner that did not suggest a particular implication on parents exercising their right to home school. Councillor Moira McLaughlin presented, as a safeguarding issue, a suggestion that some schools were encouraging home schooling as a means to prevent exclusion. It was confirmed that the Department were aware of such suggestions, and the Education Welfare Officers were tasked with challenging parents where such indications were given to ascertain the position.

Councillor Warren Ward noted the provided figures regarding permanent and fixed term exclusions, but queried the use by schools of internal exclusions which had no particular limits attached. Noting that schools have their own approaches and tolerances, he asked whether it would be possible to see how many such exclusions there were, suggesting that internal exclusions led to permanent and fixed term exclusions and that they might reflect a particular demographic. It was agreed that the information might prove useful, but noted that Academies were not obliged to provide such information.

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the Absence / Attendance and Exclusions Report 2018, appended to the submitted report, be noted; and**
- (2) a further report be submitted to this Committee considering issues related to home schooling, including the geographic spread of home schooling across the Borough and, where home schooled children had previously been in a school setting, which school(s) they had attended.**

56 CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

The Chair introduced his report advising that this Committee, in co-operation with the other three Overview and Scrutiny Committees, was responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme. The work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which were within the remit of the Committee.

The Chair's report provided an update regarding progress made since the Committee meeting held on 25 January 2018, and the current work programme made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, workshops, standing items and requested Officer reports was appended.

RESOLVED -

That the updated Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme 2017/18 be approved.



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 3 July 2018

REPORT TITLE:	2017/18 Quarter 4 and Year End Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2017/18 Quarter 4 (January - March 2018) 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 4 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

The Year End closedown report is included as Appendix 2 and provides a summary analysis of improvement of performance against measures and Wirral Plan delivery of Pledge strategy actions at year end.

Quarter Four Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- The percentage of women booked to access professional maternity services on or before twelve and six week gestation has a year end position of 76% against a target of 90%. The figure is lower than the previous year (83.3%) and that at the start of the Wirral Plan (80.8%).
- Both infant development check measures have shown an improvement with the percentage of infants who received a check by 8 weeks and (86%) by 12 months (87%) both higher than the previous year (8 weeks 84.9%, 12 months 75.9%) and the start of the Wirral Plan (8 weeks 84.6%, 12 months 66.4%).
- Wirral continues to support a large population of children looked after; the rate has increased each quarter in 2017/18. Targets have been set to safely reduce the number of looked after children in Wirral. January and February 2018 saw the first reduction in the number of CLA however there has been a rise in the last month of 2017/18.
- The CiN rate has risen since January 2018 however it is in line with recent comparator data for the North West Region. A review is underway of children on long-term CiN plans i.e. 9 months and over, to ensure that they are receiving the right levels of support.

- There has been a significant reduction in the Child Protection Plan rate over the last 12 months, with end of year figures (39.3) lower than the rate for the previous year (55.7). A review has been undertaken and has not highlighted any concerns with regards to decision making. The decline in CPP needs to be considered alongside the increased numbers of children looked after.
- Although the take up of the 2 year old offer by eligible families is slightly lower than the previous quarter the year end figure of 91.6% is higher than both the previous year (88.1%) and that at the start of the Wirral Plan (70%). Work is underway with partners to ensure that families receiving Universal Credit have knowledge of the entitlement to enable them to take it up.
- Reporting at quarter 4 continues to illustrate the complex picture of Domestic Abuse in Wirral. The planned approach to increase awareness of domestic abuse has led to an increase in the number of high risk cases compared to the previous year. We are also supporting a higher number of children experiencing domestic abuse and are seeing a significant increase in the rate of referrals to social care for domestic abuse (age 18+ years). The intention is that in future years, once reporting levels have improved, the rate will reduce.

Year End Closedown Summary

The closedown report provides the committee with an overview of progress in 2017-18 to assist with scrutiny of the effectiveness of Wirral Plan delivery. It provides analysis in relation to progress measured through the suite of performance indicators related to the Children and Families Pledges compared to the start of the Wirral Plan, with focus on the areas that did not improve in 2017-18. It also provides a summary of progress against delivery for each of the activities identified in the Pledge strategy action plans. For the Children related pledges a programme of actions were identified to deliver the Pledge outcomes and a summary of progress for each of these is shown.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 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 – Paul Boyce
- Children are Ready for Work and Adulthood – Paul Boyce
- Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential – Paul Boyce
- 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>

REPORT AUTHOR: Nancy Clarkson
Head of Intelligence
telephone: (0151) 691 8258

email: nancyclarkson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Children and Families Committee 2017-18 Quarter 4 Pledge Reports

Appendix 2: Wirral Plan Children and Families 2017-18 Year End Closedown Report

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
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14 November 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	22 March 2018

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Children and Families Committee 2017-18 Quarter 4 Reports



Children are ready for school

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Whilst the analysis of trends in this report indicates a downturn in several areas, for most the drop is slight and does not represent significant change. However, there are two areas which will require more intensive focus over the coming months: the % of women booked to access professional maternity services on or before 12+6 weeks gestation and achievement of a Good Level of Development for disadvantaged children (this includes those eligible for Free School Meals and those who are looked after children).

As described in the report below, changes to the booking pathway for pregnant women have had an impact in the timeliness of this function. As part of the national drive to deliver booking appointments in community venues, services in Wirral have been moving to new venues, which is proving to be better for women and their families. There have however been issues with the IT system for bookings which were appropriately escalated to senior leaders and are being resolved. Where a community venue is well established, such as in Seacombe, performance against this target is 100%. It is our ambition to achieve this performance across Wirral.

With regards to achievement of Good Levels of Development for disadvantaged children, the recent refresh of the pledge provided an opportunity to review our collaborative approach to the work plan, and it was agreed that for the remaining 2 years of the Wirral Plan, we will focus our combined efforts on children belonging to a disadvantaged group. Use of the progress tracking tool to monitor the cohort will be important to improving outcomes, as will improving the quality of Personal Education Plans for children looked after, the uptake of the Integrated Review at 2 years, and a focus on the home learning environment to ensure that children taking up funded nursery places are well-supported in their development by parents. Collaborative work across agencies and forming new partnerships with regional and national groups will enable better progress to be made in this area.

In March, a Birthing Suite opened in Seacombe Children's Centre. This is the first of its kind nationally, and marks excellent progress for providing community-based care. Seacombe Children's Centre, through collaboration between Local Authority and Health services, now offers co-ordinated care through pregnancy, childbirth, post-natal care and early years child development. This holistic approach is expected to improve sustained engagement with families and have a positive impact on outcomes for under 5's. We will be monitoring the impact throughout the coming months and years.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	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: 70.7% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 67.9% (2016-17 Acad Year)	69.6% (2015-16 Acad Year)					69.4% (2016-17 Acad Year)	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%).
The percentage of women booked to access professional maternity services on or before 12+6 weeks gestation	Quarterly Higher is better	80.8% (Q3 2014-15)		83.3% (2016-17)	Amber Actual: 81.2% Target: 90.0% (Q1 2017-18)	Amber Actual: 81.6% Target: 90.0% (Q2 2017-18)	Amber Actual: 81.2% Target: 90.0% (Q3 2017-18)	Amber Actual: 76.0% Target: 90.0% (Q4 2017-18)	Amber Actual: 76.0% Target: 90.0% (2017-18)	Worse	This figure is currently provisional. Awaiting finalisation of March data but overall performance has reduced due to changes to booking pathway.
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% (2016-17)	92.6% (Apr-Jul 2017)		95.0% (Sep-Dec 2017)	91.6% (Jan-Mar 2018)	91.6% (Jan-Mar 2018)	Worse	Funding data is collected on a termly basis. The current figure of 91.58% is from the Spring headcount and is currently provisional. Families on Universal Credit (UC) are not on the list from the DfE that inform us of families eligible for two year funding, therefore the slight reduction in take up is expected. We are working with partners to try and ensure that the implementation of UC does not have a greater impact, for example health visitors / marketing / Job Centre Plus etc. DfE have assured that families on UC will be on the list in the future, however a date has not yet been confirmed. We are continuing to ensure that families have knowledge of the entitlement and take it up.
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: 20.0% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 18.0% (2016-17 Acad Year)	18.0% (2015-16 Acad Year)					22.0% (2016-17 Acad Year)	Worse	Final data for the 2016-17 Academic Year is 22.0%. This shows an increase in the gap of 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: 22.60% (2016-17) North West: 23.90% (2016-17)	22.90% (2015-16)					25.60% (2016-17 Acad Year)	Worse	2016/17 results published in October 2017. Although this shows an increase from the previous year, guidance for interpreting the data suggests that figures should be analysed as a 5 year average to avoid natural variation. The 5 year rolling average for Wirral is still below the North West average. Further analysis is underway to understand the distribution across Wirral.
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: 83.5% (Q2 2017/18) North West: 87.8% (Q2 2017/18)	84.9% (2016-17)	Amber Actual: 82.0% Target: 90.0% (Q1 2017-18)	Amber Actual: 84.0% Target: 90.0% (Q2 2017-18)	Green Actual: 86.0% Target: 90.0% (Q3 2017-18)			Better	Figures not yet released but submitted to NHS England. Quarter 3 2017/18 latest performance available. The latest quarter shows an improvement in performance from Quarter 2 2017/18.
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: 74.9% (Q2 2017/18) North West: 83.4% (Q2 2017/18)	75.9% (2016-17)	Green Actual: 86.0% Target: 85.0% (Q1 2017-18)	Green Actual: 83.0% Target: 85.0% (Q2 2017-18)	Green Actual: 87.0% Target: 85.0% (Q3 2017-18)			Better	Figures not yet released but submitted to NHS England. Quarter 3 2017/18 latest performance available. The latest quarter shows an improvement in performance from Quarter 2 2017/18.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Percentage of children who received a 2-2½ year Health Visitor review	Quarterly Higher is better	73.0% (Q1 2015-16)	England: 75.6% (Q2 2017/18) North West: 84.2% (Q2 2017/18)	76.7% (2016-17)	Green Actual: 82.0% Target: 85.0% (Q1 2017-18)	Green Actual: 81.0% Target: 85.0% (Q2 2017-18)	Green Actual: 81.0% Target: 85.0% (Q3 2017-18)			Same	Figures not yet released but submitted to NHS England. Quarter 3 2017/18 latest performance available. The performance has remained static when compared to quarter 2's performance.
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: 126.3 (2016-17) North West: 184.4 (2016-17)	158.6 (2015-16)					143.7 (2016-17)	Better	Latest data is for 2016-17 which became available in 2017-18.
Percentage of early years childcare providers rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	78.0% (Aug 2015)	England: 94.0% (Dec 2017) North West: 91.0% (Dec 2017)	90.0% (Dec 2016)		89.0% (Aug 2017)	91.0% (Dec 2017)		91.0% (Dec 2017)	Better	The latest data available from Ofsted DataView is as at 31 Dec 2017 (91.0%). This shows a 13% improvement since the start of the Wirral Plan. This figure shows an increase of 2% in the percentage of early years childcare providers rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Wirral's figure is equal to the regional North West figure, and is only slightly below the national figure of 93%.
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% (2015-16 Acad Year)					47.8% (2016-17 Acad Year)	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

There have been some really good successes during 2017/18. The Locality model of school to school support has been further developed. Senior HMI have endorsed this model providing bespoke training for the headteachers involved in the process. There is more cross school support and collaboration than ever.

The new format of the Personal Education Plans (PEPs) has resulted in a clearly documented journey for each child who is looked after. Training has been provided to improve the quality of PEPs so that the targets focus on outcomes which will improve children's resilience, mental health and behaviour as well as academic progress and attainment. Quality assurance processes have ensured that every effort is made to continually improve the plans.

Persistent absence (attendance of 90% or less) remains stubbornly high with some schools focusing relentlessly on improving attendance. The percentage of free school meal pupils who are persistently absent is higher than the national average so there is more work to do.

The following case study exemplifies the impact of the Advice Line:

The biggest users of the Advice line are parents, followed by school staff. A mother contacted the Advice line due to concerns about her son's low mood and anger issues. Following an anger outburst he would make statements such as 'I wish I was dead' and 'everybody hated him'. Whilst the son had always struggled to manage his emotions, this had exacerbated following the separation of his parents and his dad had recently had another baby. It was agreed that the Primary Mental Health Link worker for the boy's school would liaise his school regarding low level support that could be put in place for him. The Primary Mental Health link worker subsequently met with the schools emotional well-being worker and discussed the school conducting some work around emotional labelling, to help the boy recognise the early signs of anger. Resources were provided to the school and to parents. Both school and family were advised that they could contact the advice line if they required any more advice or support. There was no further action for CAMHS and to date, there has not been any further contact via the advice line.

Here is a case study to exemplify good practice supporting vulnerable young people into employment and training:

An Employability Coach in the 14-19 service, started supporting a Year 11 student who was living in a women's refuge with her mother and 4 younger sisters and had a very disruptive home life. She was supported in looking at various colleges and courses as she wanted to work with vulnerable children or older people in a care work environment. She started a Health and Social Care course but found it overwhelming and left within the first half term.

At this time the Get Real Programme, an Employability Programme aimed at supporting Care Leavers and Children Looked After into education, employment or training started. This young person was identified as perfect candidate. She needed to build on her confidence, employability and interpersonal skills, and careers guidance support to help her figure out what she wanted to do next. A compulsory part of the programme was a two night residential at Brathay Hall in the Lake District. With a lot of encouragement she attended the residential. This was a real turning point. She showed fantastic teamwork and leadership skills, and really pushed herself. She completed a 4 week Internship at Leverhulme Hall and was immediately signed up on a 12 month Intermediate Labour Market Programme (ILM). This programme offers support to employers to employ young people who are making their first steps into the world of work, allowing them time to develop skills and behaviours to be successful in the workplace. The young person made excellent progress including winning an employee of the month award. When the ILM programme came to an end the employer decided to train her through an Apprenticeship. The 14-19 team were able to support the employer to do this through the Wirral Apprentice Programme, aimed at supporting local business to invest in apprentices. She is still there now. Over the last two years this young person has transitioned from being a school leaver lacking confidence, having anxiety and low self esteem to a young adult who has a real belief in her future being positive and successful.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	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% (Dec 2017) North West: 85.0% (Dec 2017)	90.0% (Mar 2017)		Amber Actual: 90.0% Target: 100.0% (Aug 2017)	Amber Actual: 89.0% Target: 100.0% (Dec 2017)		Amber Actual: 89.0% Target: 100.0% (Dec 2017)	Worse	The latest data available from Ofsted DataView is as at 31 December 2017. This shows a 5% improvement since the start of the Wirral Plan. This is a 1% decrease since the figure as at 31 August 2017, but compares favourably to national performance of 89%.
	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)	England: 6.0% (2016-17) North West: 6.7% (2016-17)	5.3% (2016-17)	7.0% (Jun 2017)		4.7% (Dec 2017)	5.8% (Mar 2018)	5.3% (2017-18)	Same
Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Progress 8 Score for Wirral	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)	North West: -0.14 (2016-17 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: -0.21 (2016-17 Acad Year)	-0.04 (2015-16 Acad Year)					0.01 (2016-17 Acad Year)	Better	The Progress 8 score for Wirral is 0.01. The average P8 score is 0, Wirral is slightly above the average. Wirral's P8 score is better than the North West and Statistical Neighbours.
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: 22.0% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 22.0% (2016-17 Acad Year)	27.0% (2015-16 Acad Year)					22.0% (2016-17 Acad Year)	Better	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 was 22%. This is a 2% improvement compared to the previous year (27% in 2015-16).
The percentage of children in good or better schools as rated by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	81.0% (Aug 2015)	England: 87.0% (Dec 2017) North West: 85.0% (Dec 2017)	90.0% (Mar 2017)		89.0% (Aug 2017)	88.0% (Dec 2017)		88.0% (Dec 2017)	Worse	The latest data available from Ofsted DataView is as at 31 December 2017. This shows an 7% improvement since the start of the Wirral Plan.
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 is for Q3 2016-17 (1.80). The Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is currently unable to provide updated data.

Page 22

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 0.66 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 0.43 (2016-17 Acad Year)	0.75 (2015-16 Acad Year)					0.60 (2016-17 Acad Year)	Better	The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4 is 0.60 (this figure is -0.38 for disadvantaged pupils, and 0.22 for their peers). This is a reduction of 0.25 in the gap since 2015-16, which is in line with the reduced gap regionally. The national gap has increased. Wirral's gap of 0.60 is in line with the national gap of 0.66, however it is not as good as the regional figure of 0.43. Wirral's disadvantaged pupils are performing better than those nationally (-0.40) and regionally (-0.55). Likewise, Wirral's non-disadvantaged pupils are performing better than those nationally (0.11) and regionally (0.03).
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: 1.11 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: -1.05 (2016-17 Acad Year)	0.86 (2015-16 Acad Year)					1.21 (2016-17 Acad Year)	Worse	The latest 2016-17 figure shows that the gap in progress between pupils with a SEN Statement/EHCP and their peers at KS4 is 1.21 (this figure was -1.08 for pupils with SEN Statement/EHCP and 0.13 for their peers). This is an increase in the gap since 2015-16. Wirral's gap is in line with the national figure of 1.11. The latest figures show that Wirral's children without a SEN Statement/EHCP are performing better than those regionally (-0.06). Wirral's children with a SEN Statement/EHCP are performing in line with those regionally and nationally.
The percentage of persistent absence in Wirral Schools (post 2016)	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 10.80 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 11.10 (2016-17 Acad Year)	12.50 (2015-16 Acad Year)					13.10 (2016-17 Acad Year)	Worse	Latest published performance is for 2016-2017 and shows an increase in the percentage of persistent absence compared to the previous year. This is the same as the figures regionally and nationally, which both saw an increase in the percentage of persistent absence in schools.
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)	England: 17.5% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 16.8% (2016-17 Acad Year)						16.7% (2016-17 Acad Year)	n/a	Latest data is for the 2016-17 academic year and shows that 16.7% of children looked after attained a grade 4 or above in English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 4. This figure is in line with North West (16.8%) and England (17.5%).
Progress 8 Score for Children Looked After in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)	England: -1.18 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: -1.37 (2016-17 Acad Year)	-1.52 (2015-16 Acad Year)					-1.17 (2016-17 Acad Year)	Better	This measure monitors the progress for all children who are looked after from Primary School to the end of Key Stage 4. The Progress 8 score for Children Looked After in Wirral was -1.17 in 2016-17 academic year. This is an improvement of since 2015-16, which shows that Wirral is performing better than those nationally and regionally (both of which have seen a decrease in the average Progress 8 score for children looked after).
Reduce the percentage of permanent exclusions in Wirral primary schools	Annual Lower is better	(2012-13)	England: 0.02% (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: 0.03% (2015-16 Acad Year)	- (2014-15)					- (2015-16 Acad Year)	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)	England: 0.17% (2015-16 Acad Year) North West: 0.24% (2015-16 Acad Year)	0.12% (2014-15)					0.25% (2015-16 Acad Year)	Worse	Latest published performance data of 0.25% is for 2015-16 and became available in July 2017. This is an 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 - 2013/14)	England: 89.8 (2014/15-16/17) North West: 131.0 (2014/15-16/17)	171.9 (2013/14-15/16)					179.2 (2014/15 - 2016/17)	Worse	There has been an increase in the rate of hospital admissions due to substance misuse in young people aged 15-24 years. The most recent figure was 179.2 (2014/15 - 16/17), a 7.3 increase from the previous reporting period (2013/14 - 15/16). England saw a slight decrease in the rate of admissions, from 95.4 in 2013/14 - 15/16 to 89.8 in 2014/15 - 16/17. The North West also saw a slight decrease in the rate of admissions, from 139.6 in 2013/14 - 15/16 to 131.0 in 2014/15 - 16/17. This local increase is being examined closely by Public Health and partners, and possible causes are being investigated, including an understanding of the age breakdown as this data includes young adults up to 24 years of age.
Under 18 conceptions - rate per 1,000	Annual Lower is better	33.7 (2013)	England: 18.8 (2016) North West: 22.3 (2016)	25.7 (2015)					26.2 (2016)	Worse	Under 18 conception rate was 24.8 (December 2016), this is a slight decrease on the previous quarter (26.9, Sept 2016). The rolling annual rate for 2016-17 is 26.2, which is higher than the North West rate, but lower than both Liverpool and Knowsley.

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

There has been a range of activity ongoing this quarter to support the Vulnerable Children pledge.

The MASH has been reviewed and recommendations have been fully implemented to launch an Integrated Front Door (IFD). The Ofsted March 2018 monitoring visit found the IFD to be coherent and effective.

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.

Senior officers are working to ensure key strategies are put in place a) to provide support aimed at preventing admissions to care 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. Targets have been set to safely reduce the number of looked after children in Wirral. January and February saw the first reduction in the number of CLA however there has been a rise in the last month of the year.

The Adolescent Support Team, Response, Family Group Conferencing and Targeted Youth Support have been reviewed and consultation with staff has been completed. The realigned services will come into operation on 1st May 2018. This new offer will include a dedicated adolescent edge of care team. A multi-agency edge of care panel has been established to ensure children and young people who are at the edge of care or edging towards care receive the most appropriate timely support.

An Early Help Social Worker has been allocated to every school in Wirral. Schools are now receiving regular support to ensure there is a co-ordinated approach to supporting all children in need of additional help.

The current position of accommodation within the borough has been reviewed and this has identified the need for a comprehensive Sufficiency Strategy which is currently in the process of being drafted.

The take-up of 2 year old offer by eligible families as identified by Department of Work and Pensions has slightly decreased since the last quarter and is now 91.6% take up, however there has been an overall increase of 3.5% since quarter 1.

The Regional Adoption Agency "Adoption in Merseyside" is now operational. This has resulted in closer partnership working across the Liverpool City Region with improved intelligence and understanding of need and the market position.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000	Monthly Lower is better	99.3 (2014-15)	England: 62.0 (2016-17) North West: 86.0 (2016-17) Statistical Neighbours: 92.3 (2016-17)	113.0 (2016-17)	115.0 (Jun 2017)	120.9 (Sep 2017)	124.4 (Dec 2017)	125.6 (Mar 2018)	125.6 (P) (2017-18)	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. A workgroup of senior officers is working to ensure key strategies are put in place a) to provide support aimed at preventing admissions to care 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. Targets have been set to safely reduce the number of looked after children in Wirral. January and February saw the first reduction in the number of CLA however there has been a rise in the last month of 2017/18.
Children in Need rate per 10,000 0-17 population	Monthly Lower is better	426.3 (2014-15)	England: 330.4 (2016-17) North West: 372.3 (2016-17) Statistical Neighbours: 419.0 (2016-17)	423.2 (2016-17)	400.9 (Jun 2017)	393.5 (Sep 2017)	371.3 (Dec 2017)	397.9 (Mar 2018)	397.9 (P) (2017-18)	Worse	The CiN rate has risen since January 2018 following 5 consecutive months reducing, albeit below that of our statistical neighbour group. The year end rate is slightly higher than it was in March 2017, and is in-line with statistical neighbours. However, it is rated as amber due to the need to review the link between CiN/CP Plan numbers and CLA. The CiN rate is now more inline with the target range and below that of our statistical neighbour group. It is worth noting that is inline with that of the most recent comparator data for the North West Region. This will need to be set against the falling number of CP Plans and the number of children looked after. A review is underway of children on long-term CiN plans i.e. 9 months and over, to ensure that they are receiving the right levels of support.
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: 43.3 (2016-17) North West: 54.1 (2016-17) Statistical Neighbours: 53.8 (2016-17)	55.7 (2016-17)	57.6 (Jun 2017)	50.2 (Sep 2017)	43.4 (Dec 2017)	39.3 (Mar 2018)	39.3 (P) (2017-18)	Better	There has been a significant reduction in the CPP rate over the last 12 months. Whilst there have been slight variations from month to month there has been a significant downward trend, with end of year figures lower than the rate for March 2016. The rate was just within +1 standard deviation of the 2015-2016 statistical neighbour group average. A review of decision making at the point of consultation and where a conference has been held and a Protection Plan has not been put in place has been undertaken. The review has not highlighted any concerns with regards to decision making and therefore is not felt to be a contributory factor to the decline in figures. The decline in CPP needs to be considered alongside the increased numbers of children looked after.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	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% (2016-17)	92.6% (Apr-Jul 2017)		95.0% (Sep-Dec 2017)	91.6% (Jan-Mar 2018)	91.6% (Jan-Mar 2018)	Worse	Funding data is collected on a termly basis. The current figure of 91.58% is from the Spring headcount and is currently provisional. Families on Universal Credit (UC) are not on the list from the DfE that inform us of families eligible for two year funding, therefore the slight reduction in take up is expected. We are working with partners to try and ensure that the implementation of UC does not have a greater impact, for example health visitors / marketing / Job Centre Plus etc. DfE have assured that families on UC will be on the list in the future, however a date has not yet been confirmed. We are continuing to ensure that families have knowledge of the entitlement and take it up.
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% (2015-16 Acad Year)					47.8% (2016-17 Acad Year)	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: 21.90% (2016-17) North West: 21.70% (2016-17) Statistical Neighbours: 19.20% (2016-17)	21.00% (2016-17)	17.80% (Apr-Jun 2017)	16.00% (Apr-Sept 2017)	18.40% (Apr-Dec 2017)	18.70% (Apr 2017 - Mar 2018)	18.70% (P) (Apr 2017 - Mar 2018)	Worse	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 the first part of the year but has increased since 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)			343 (Apr-Jun 2017)	350 (Jul-Sept 2017)	428 (Oct-Dec 2017)	271 (Jan - Mar 2018)	1,392 (2017-18)	n/a	This is a new measure, the end of year figure will be used as a baseline for 2018-19 trend. Performance is reported for the number of individual cases by children and not by family. This is consistent with other reporting measures within the Local Authority. As part of the process for collating YE figures the data has been quality assured. This QA has amended the quarterly figures, as the data is snapshot data and only as accurate as the day the report was run.
Children's Centre's sustained contact with priority groups in early years	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)			54.91% (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017)	57.80% (Oct 2016 - Sept 2017)	63.83% (Jan-Dec 2017)	65.18% (Apr 2017 - Mar 2018)	65.18% (2017-18)	Better	The performance in quarter 4 is 65.18% based on sustained contact between April 2017 and March 2018. This shows a 1.35% 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.

There has been significant progress in Seacombe during the last quarter. The Improving Life Chances pilot has set up a new brand called 'Seacombe Lives'. A door knock was delivered in February 2018 by residents and key stakeholders in the area, including Merseyside Police, Connectors, and Wirral Environmental Network. Wirral Environmental Network made soup and sandwiches at the community catch-up in Seacombe library. The library has agreed for the 'Seacombe Lives' project to use their space as a community hub for 2 days per week. This is a significant step forward for the 'Seacombe Lives' project because there has been a request for community space in the area. 'Seacombe Lives' used its February door knock to ask residents to get involved in volunteering in the area. They now have a database of volunteers who will get involved in clean-ups, litter picks and in bloom.

An evaluation of the ILC community pilots has been completed and the findings presented to the Steering Group in February. The discussion concluded that the pilot areas have been successful in community engagement and increasing volunteering, however, the impact on actual child poverty has been limited beyond tackling the immediate impact of poverty. Therefore, it was agreed that an alternative approach needed to be developed to tackle child poverty. There is clear evidence that reducing worklessness and improving the skills and opportunities for parents and young people is critical in linking economic growth and poverty reduction which clearly link to the Growth pledge as an example. It was proposed and agreed at the Steering Group Meeting that it would be more effective to have child poverty as a strand running through appropriate pledge areas and for a 'champion' to be identified within those pledges to ensure that actions within other pledges seeks to address child poverty. It was also agreed that in order to sustain the efforts that have gone in to establishing the pilots that they should be transitioned into the Wirral Together community engagement and volunteering strategy. The Steering Group will continue to meet to ensure that progress is made within the alternative pledge areas.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	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: 16.6% (Aug 2015) North West: 18.5% (Aug 2015)	23.3% (Aug 2014)					19.9% (Aug 2015)	Better	The latest update available is a snapshot as at 31st August 2015. This was published in February 2018 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: 78.4 (Jan 2017 - Dec 2017) North West: 76.5 (Jan 2017 - Dec 2017)	69.7 (Apr 2015 - Mar 2016)	70.8 (Apr 2016 - Mar 2017)	71.3 (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017)	71.2 (Oct 2016 - Sept 2017)	72.6 (Jan 17-Dec 17)	72.6 (Jan 17-Dec 17)	Better	Wirral's employment rate this quarter is 72.6% this is the highest recorded figure since reporting started in 2004. Wirral has increased by 1.4% this quarter which is more than triple the regional and national average. This has resulted in Wirral narrowing the gap with the NW to just 0.4% for the first time since September 2015.
Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	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	'A Better Life' (ABL) has changed their service offer and each client is required to sign up to a smokefree pledge when joining the service. This approach ensures that the client is able to decrease the dangers of second and third hand smoke within their home and maximise their chances of remaining smokefree. In 2016/2017 500 people were still smokefree at 6 months and had signed up to a smokefree pledge. Using this as a proxy indicator against the number of people who have set a quit date in 2017/2018, it can be estimated that 700 people will still be smokefree at 6 months each with a smokefree pledge.
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% (2016-17)	84.0% (Q1 2017-18)	83.1% (Q2 2017-18)	77.6% (Q3 2017-18)			Worse	Quarter 3 2017/18 latest figure available. Performance has been improving steadily over the last 12 months but the latest quarter has shown a decrease in performance (83.1% in q2). Anecdotal feedback from parents has also indicated that parents were not prioritising the reviews in December. It has also been suggested that this decrease may be due to the pressure on the service in delivering the flu immunisation programme. The service is working to get uptake of the reviews back up to the previous level and developing plans to ensure that this dip is not repeated in q3 next year.
Increase number of organisations signed up to Wirral Credit Union	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		21 (2016-17)					24 (Apr 2016 - Mar 2018)	Better	2 new companies signed up to our payroll deduction scheme in Q4: Autism Together and Wirral Women's & Children's Aid.

Page 26

People with disabilities live independent lives

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

It's pleasing to see that the health related quality of life for people with long term conditions has improved for our residents since March 2016. Wirral is closing the gap on the average across the country.

The Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled measure from the Office for National Statistics has increased from 37.5% since the start of the plan to 44.1% and has remained the same over the course of this year. Work continues to attempt to increase this figure further which falls short of national and north west averages. Wirral Metropolitan College's Supported Internship Programme has now successfully supported 25 people with a Learning Disability into full time employment and uptake is increasing and The Institute of Leadership and Management scheme supported 24 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities young people. A conference is planned in May with the Department of Work and Pensions to engage local businesses to support more disabled people to employment.

36 Small to Medium Sized Enterprise (SME) employers across Wirral are Disability Confident accredited; 22 at Level 1, 12 at Level 2 and one at Level 3. Plans are in place to include Disability Confident as part of Wirral Council's new Supplier / Contractor code of practice. The Council became a Disability Confident Employer in July 2017 (Level 2).

It's really positive to see that the number of disabled people in receipt of personal budgets has increased from 669 to 808 people this year. A key driver of this was the introduction of pre-payment cards.

Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation has decreased slightly this year from 84.0% to 82.71% however Wirral is above the latest National average of 75.4%. A number of sites are being considered for Extra Care housing which if progressed would see 300 units developed and there has been an increase in Extra Care schemes throughout the borough. A Liverpool City region coordinated return has been completed and submitted to Government in relation to them announcing a supported housing assessment plan will be required as part of the new funding model.

The proportion of people who are feeling supported to manage their condition is 67.2% for the period January 2017 - March 2017. Whilst this has reduced from 68% the previous year it's higher that 66.7% at the start of the plan and also higher than the National average of 64%. The implementation date of the All Age Disability and Mental Health service has been reviewed to allow for further service modelling and a report to be submitted to the Council's Cabinet in July 2018 will include the full details of the proposal with an expected date of completion of the 19th August 2018. The Council are working collaboratively with Cheshire and Wirral NHS Partnership Trust over the arrangements. The service will lead to improved quality and consistency of service provision and reduce service barriers related to age and eligibility.

Additionally as a result of reviewing other authorities models of travel training provision and considering what Wirral residents' need a decision has been made to develop an all age travel training service.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	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 (Jul 2014 - Mar 2015)	England: 0.737 (Jan-Mar 2017)	0.695 (July 2015 - Mar 2016)					0.700 (Jan-Mar 2017)	Better	Health-related quality of life for people with long-term conditions improved to 0.700 from 0.695 the previous year but falls short of the average for the rest of England (0.737). For the 2016/17 reporting period, the timing of the GP Patient Survey (GPPS) fieldwork has changed. Historically two waves have been run, one wave between July and September one year, and the next wave between January and March the following year. The 2016/17 GPPS survey condensed these two fieldwork periods into a single period between January and March. They have maintained the overall sample size of the survey.
Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled	Quarterly Higher is better	37.5% (Jul 2014 - Jun 2015)	England: 52.9% (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017) North West: 47.9% (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017)	44.0% (Jan-Dec 2016)	43.1% (Apr 2016 - Mar 2017)	42.2% (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017)	45.3% (Oct 2016 - Sep 2017)	44.1% (Jan - Dec 2017)	44.1% (Jan - Dec 2017)	Better	The Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled measure from the Office for National Statistics has increased since the start of the plan but remained the same over the course of the year.
Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	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: 1.11 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: -1.05 (2016-17 Acad Year)	0.86 (2015-16 Acad Year)					1.21 (2016-17 Acad Year)	Worse	The latest 2016-17 figure shows that the gap in progress between pupils with a SEN Statement/EHCP and their peers at KS4 is 1.21 (this figure was -1.08 for pupils with SEN Statement/EHCP and 0.13 for their peers). This is an increase in the gap since 2015-16. Wirral's gap is in line with the national figure of 1.11. The latest figures show that Wirral's children without a SEN Statement/EHCP are performing better than those regionally (-0.06). Wirral's children with a SEN Statement/EHCP are performing in line with those regionally and nationally.
Proportion of people with long term conditions who feel supported to manage their condition	Annual Higher is better	66.7% (Jul 2014 - Mar 2015)	England: 64.0% (Jan-Mar 2017)	68.0% (Jul 2015 - Mar 2016)					67.2% (Jan-Mar 2017)	Worse	The proportion of people who are feeling supported to manage their condition is 67.2% for the period January 2017 - March 2017. Whilst this has reduced from 68% the previous year it's higher that 66.7% at the start of the plan and also higher than the National average of 64%. For the 2016/17 reporting period, the timing of the GP Patient Survey (GPPS) fieldwork has changed. Historically two waves have been run, one wave between July and September one year, and the next wave between January and March the following year. The 2016/17 GPPS survey condensed these two fieldwork periods into a single period between January and March. They have maintained the overall sample size of the survey.

Page 27

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
The number of disabled people in receipt of personal budgets (including Direct Payments and Personal Health Budgets)	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		669 (2016-17)	863 (Q1 2017-18)	852 (Q2 2017-18)	824 (Q3 2017-18)	808 (Q4 2017-18)	808 (2017-18)	Better	More people are in receipt of personal budgets this year mainly due to the introduction of prepayment cards. 605 adults were reported by the Department of Adult Social Services to be in receipt of personal budgets (which is down from 621 last quarter). 203 young people were in receipt of personal budgets which includes 192 direct payments, 3 Education, Health and Care Plan and 8 personal budgets. (the same as last quarter).
Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 75.4% (2015-16) North West: 85.6% (Q3 2017-18)	84.0% (2016-17)	83.7% (Q1 2017-18)	84.1% (Q2 2017-18)	84.0% (Q3 2017-18)	82.7% (Q4 2017-18)	82.7% (2017-18)	Worse	Ensuring people with disabilities have stable and appropriate accommodation improves their safety, increases their independence and reduces their risk of social exclusion. The year end figure of 82.71%, is ahead of the National average but slightly down from the start of the year and is behind the latest available North West averages. There has been an increase in Extra Care schemes throughout the borough, which aims to increase the number of adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation.

Zero tolerance to domestic violence

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

During 2017/18 significant progress has been made around our key priorities and a number of impressive outcomes have been achieved. An overview of these key achievements is provided below.

Key achievements by end of Quarter 4 include:

- 14 Peer Mentors have been recruited since January 2018 with a further 15 participants attended training in April. From April 2018, both Seacombe and Brassie Street Childrens Centres will be used for Peer Mentor outreach. We are also working with Wirral Ways to Recovery trialling a peer mentor at a hub where male victims present. To support this work the Peer mentor programme has been funded until March 2020.
- Very pleasing to announce that funding for an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) has been approved by Wirral University Teaching Hospital. This will allow for domestic abuse victims who present themselves to have immediate access to professional support through an IDVA

There are a number of risk and challenges which the board are proactively addressing, these include:

- There has been limited progress delivering programme of interventions across domestic abuse services through joint commissioning approach. We will be look to address this in 2018-19.
- Mapping of domestic abuse service provision in Wirral to ensure that effective services are commissioned will be carried out in 2018-19.
- In 2018-19 an independent review of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Cohort will be commissioned and will be reported to the Domestic Abuse Committee and Safer Wirral Partnership Board.

Following a successful workshop in February, the Domestic Abuse Alliance agreed next years priorities and work programme which is set out in the 2018-19 action plan.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	Year End 2017-18	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Number of domestic abuse Wirral MARAC cases per 10,000 adult females	Quarterly Higher is better	54.0 (2014-15)	Most Similar Force Group: 44.0 (2016-17) National: 35.0 (2016-17)	51.7 (2016-17)	Green Actual: 13.3 Target: 13.0 (Apr-Jun 2017)	Green Actual: 27.3 Target: 27.0 (Apr-Sept 2017)	Green Actual: 37.7 Target: 36.0 (Apr-Dec 2017)	Green Actual: 52.3 Target: 52.0 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	Green Actual: 52.3 Target: 52.0 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	Better	The number of domestic abuse Wirral MARAC cases between April 2017-March 2018 was 717 which was higher than the same period last year (709). This is further evidence to support that our zero tolerance campaign is resonating with the public leading to increased referrals.
Children and young people experience domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	Quarterly Higher is better	1,289 (2014-15)		1,211 (2016-17)	355 (Apr-Jun 2017)	727 (Apr-Sept 2017)	936 (Apr-Dec 2017)	1,302 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	1,302 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	Better	This is a 7.5% increase on the same period last year (1,211). We have invested in training front line staff to identify signs and symptoms of domestic abuse and this increase in reporting would seem to evidence that this training is effective.
Percentage of incidents of repeat domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	Quarterly Lower is better	16.0% (2014-2015)	Most Similar Force Group: 31.0% (2016-17) National: 26.0% (2016-17)	28.0% (2016-17)	Green Actual: 31.1% Target: 25.0% (Jul 2016 - Jun 2017)	Green Actual: 29.3% Target: 25.0% (Oct 2016 - Sept 2017)	Green Actual: 28.5% Target: 25.0% (Jan-Dec 2017)	Green Actual: 28.3% Target: 25.0% (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	Green Actual: 28.3% Target: 25.0% (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	Worse	There were 717 MARAC cases from April 2017 to March 2018 of which 203 were repeat incidents (28.3%). This is similar to the previous period when there were 28.5% of incidents of repeat domestic abuse. We are monitoring this statistic which represent those high risk repeat perpetrators to ensure that the effective risk control measures plus the prevention/behaviour change programmes are effective.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2016-17	2017-18 Q1	2017-18 Q2	2017-18 Q3	2017-18 Q4	Year End 2017-18	Trend	Comment
Number of Domestic Abuse cases referred to the Family Safety Unit (FSU)	Quarterly Higher is better	949 (2014-15)		1,092 (2016-17)	221 (Apr-Jun 2017)	462 (Apr-Sept 2017)	682 (Apr-Dec 2017)	916 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	916 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	Worse	Between April 2017 to March 2018, the number of domestic abuse referrals made to the FSU was 916 which is a reduction of 16% when compared to the same period last year (1,092). 2017-18 has seen the lowest number of referrals overall and lowest monthly average over the past 3 years (928 for year, average of 77 per month). Work is underway across the Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse pledge to ensure that all domestic abuse cases are reported and agencies are able to respond appropriately.
% of children and Young People single assessments authorised with Domestic Violence (DV) related factors	Quarterly Lower is better	(n/a)		36.7% (2016-17)	35.5% (Apr-Jun 2017)	33.8% (Apr-Sept 2017)	34.3% (Apr-Dec 2017)	33.3% (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	33.3% (P) (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	Better	Data is for the period April 2017- March 2018. This shows a reduction from the same period last year (36.7%).
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 (2016-17)	3.15 (Apr-Jun 2017)	7.49 (Apr-Sept 2017)	16.56 (Apr-Dec 2017)	21.29 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	21.30 (P) (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	Better	Data is for the period April 2017-March 2018. This shows a significant increase from the same period last year (12.62) which is in line with the objective to raise awareness of domestic abuse in the first years to address under reporting.

Report Key

Trend - Performance is shown as Better, Same or Worse compared with the last reporting period except for: Number of domestic abuse Wirral MARAC cases per 10,000 adult females, Children and young people experience domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC Cases), 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.



Page 31
Wirral Plan - People (Childrens & Families)
2017-18 Year End Report

Wirral Plan 2020

People - Children and Families Summary

Key Achievements:

Children are ready for school

- A new birthing suite was opened in Seacombe Children's Centre, the first of its kind nationally

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

- The Locality model of school to school support has been further developed, endorsed by Senior HMI providing bespoke training for head teachers and resulting in more cross school support and collaboration than ever
- Personal Education Plans (PEPs) has resulted in a clearly documented journey for each child who is looked after

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

- A multi-agency edge of care panel was established to ensure that young people at the edge of care, or edging towards care, receive the most appropriate support
- An Early Help Social Worker has been allocated to every school in Wirral and the regional adoption agency "Adoption in Merseyside" is now operational.

Improving Life chances

- Food hubs have been established in each community pilot area, which also provide a range of other support including employment and financial resilience advice

People with disabilities live independently

- Wirral Metropolitan College's Supported Internship Programme has supported 25 people with a learning disability into full time employment

Zero tolerance to domestic abuse

- Launched the Safer Wirral Hub in October 2017 integrating domestic abuse resources into one co-located team under the Operational direction of the Police
- Involve North West, a domestic abuse peer mentors outreach programme, is now delivering outreach work in St James, Seacombe, Ganney's Meadow, Rock Ferry and Pensby

Areas for Improvement:

Children are ready for school

- Improving the achievement of a Good Level of Development for disadvantaged children (including those eligible for Free School Meals and looked after children)
- Increasing the percentage of women booked to access professional maternity services on or before 12+6 weeks gestation

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

- Persistent absence in schools remains stubbornly high with the % of free school meal pupils who are persistently absent higher than the national average

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

- Rate of Looked after children per 10,000 has increased from 99.3 to 125.6

Improving Life Chances

- Although higher than 2016-17, the take up of the 2-2.5 year Health Visitor child development reviews in the Community Pilot areas have decreased through 2017-18

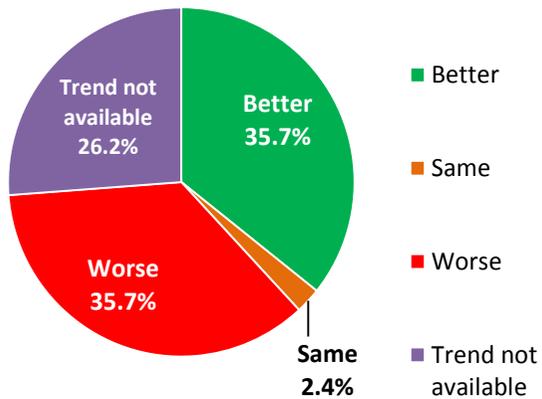
People with disabilities live independently

- The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN Statement/EHCP and their peers at KS4 has increased from 0.86 last year to 1.21 this year

Zero tolerance to domestic abuse

- Mapping of domestic abuse service provision in Wirral to ensure that effective joint intervention services are commissioned will be carried out in 2018-19

**PEOPLE (Children & Families)
Trend
- compared to 2016-17**



Outcomes for Residents- Compared to the Previous Year

Children are ready for school

- 3 measures better including a 9.4% reduction in hospital admissions for unintentional and deliberate injuries (aged 0-4 years)
- 5 measures worse including Foundation Stage % of children looked after achieving a good level of development fell 4.8%

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

- 4 measures better including Wirral's progress 8 score up from -0.4 to .01
- 7 measures worse including the percentage of persistent absence in Wirral Schools (post 2016) up from 12.5% to 13.1%

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

- 4 measures better, 2 worse. The rate of children in need (0-17) fell by 6% however rate of looked after children was up by 9.7%

Improving Life Chances

- 2 measures are better including the proportion of children in low-income families (reduced from 23.3% to 19.9% in Aug 2015)

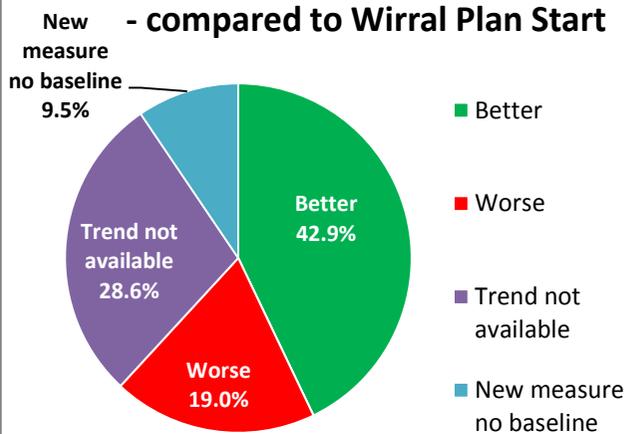
People with disabilities live independently

- 1 measure is worse: Progress gap between pupils with SEN/EHCP and their peers increased from 0.86 to 1.21.

Zero tolerance to domestic abuse

- 2 measures better: Child MARAC cases 1,211 to 1,302. Child assessments with domestic violence 36.7% to 33.3%

**PEOPLE (Children & Families)
Trend
- compared to Wirral Plan Start**



Outcomes for Residents – Since the Start of the Wirral Plan

Children are ready for school

- 7 measures are better, including Early years childcare providers rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted up from 78% to 91%
- 4 worse including Percentage of children aged 4-5 classified as overweight or obese has increased from 22.4% to 25.6%

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

- 3 measures are better, including % of children in good or better schools rated by Ofsted, up 7% to 88%
- 2 worse, including permanent exclusions (secondary schools) up by 14% to 25%

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

- 4 measures are better, 2 worse; take-up of year 2 offer up by 21.6% to 91.6% but rate of looked after children was up by 26.48%

Improving Life Chances

- 3 measures are better including the proportion of children in low income families now 19.9%

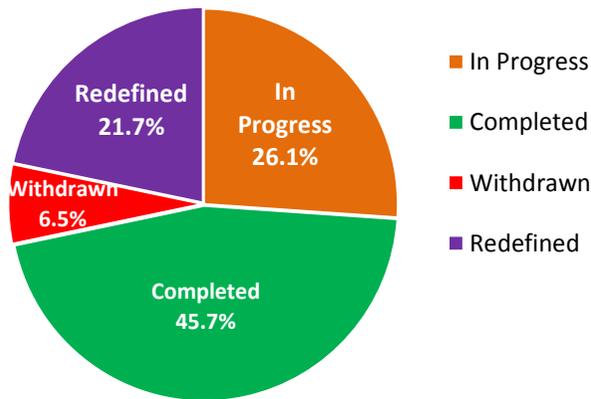
People with disabilities live independently

- Only 1 measure, which was not reported at the start of the Wirral Plan so no comparison available

Zero tolerance to domestic abuse

- 1 measure performing better: Child DA MARAC cases increased from 1,289 to 1,302

People (Child & Family) - Year End Action Status



Delivery – Doing What We Said We Would

Children are ready for school

- An audit around safe sleep in Wirral has been completed

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

- Young Chamber Behind the Scenes events for children and teachers have taken place with key local businesses

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

- The Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has now been established and is operating as an effective front door.

Improving Life Chances

- Implemented a neighbourhood approach to tackle food poverty in Community Pilot areas

People with disabilities live independently

- The Council became a Level 2 Disability Confident Employer
- Wirral has 22 SME employers Disability Confident Employers at Level 1, 12 at Level 2 and 1 at Level 3

Zero tolerance to domestic abuse

- Provided a young person's domestic abuse victim support service through Listening Ear
- Full funding secured for an Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor. Follow-up is planned to develop a young person's MARAC process

Next Steps

Children are ready for school

- Launch a pilot Infant Edge of Care Team to work intensively with 16 families where there is a risk of the infant becoming a looked after child

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

- Conduct an independent consultation on Special Educational Needs provision with all key stakeholders

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

- Finalise the Sufficiency Strategy, ensuring adequate supply of high quality accommodation and aspirational care in Wirral for children and young people who are looked after
- Monitor the use of the Graded Care Profile to ensure that it is being used consistently to inform assessment and planning at an early stage

Improving Life Chances

- Child poverty will be a strand running through appropriate pledges with identified 'champions' ensuring that actions within other pledges seek to address child poverty

People with disabilities live independently

- Develop an all age travel training service to support more people to travel independently to school, work or activities
- Promote the take up of Disability Confident Accreditation Level 3 with all partners

Zero tolerance to domestic abuse

- Commission a Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service offering 24/7 support
- Establish clear Domestic Abuse Pathways for children and young people
- Develop a Young Person's Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) process to manage increasing numbers of young domestic abuse perpetrators

Children and Families

Pledge : Children are ready for school

Priority 01: To improve multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and protect our youngest children

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Increase in the number of unborn children and/or children under 2 years whose parents are supported through co-ordinated multi-agency plan	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 02: Children in Wirral will start life well

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Deliver against initiatives that contribute to the Healthy Child Programme in Wirral	Apr 2015 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
Increase the uptake of maternity services delivered by integrated teams in locality-based settings.	Jun 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 03: Children receive sensitive and responsive care from their main caregivers in the first years of life

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Deliver multi-agency training for early years practitioners which focusses on the attachment needs of babies and infants	Jun 2016 - Mar 2020	Redefined	The wording of this action has been made more specific to ensure clarity of delivery
Develop a Wirral wide parenting pathway of evidence-based parenting programmes, peer-led and community based activities to address all areas of needs; through joint work with LA and health commissioners	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 04: Increase the % of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the early years foundation stage

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Progressively implement a Data tracking tool across early year's settings to better support early identification and track progress of vulnerable individuals and groups	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	Redefined	The wording of this action has been made more specific to ensure clarity of delivery
Provide targeted support and intervention for schools who have been identified from analysis of Early Years Foundation Stage Profile data	Sep 2017 - Jun 2018	In Progress	
Working with Early Years Childcare providers increase the percentage of schools and childcare settings rated good or outstanding	Jan 2016 - Mar 2020	Withdrawn	This has been determined as operational / business as usual, and will continue to be monitored internally

Pledge : Young people are ready for work and adulthood

Priority 01: Young people have access to high quality learning experiences which support them into employment

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
All children are supported to achieve their full potential, with a particular focus on children who are looked after	Oct 2017 - Dec 2017	Completed	
Progress for children with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people - that they will achieve well in their early years, at school and in college, and lead happy and fulfilled lives	Feb 2016 - Sep 2018	Redefined	The timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19
Pupils attend schools that are good or outstanding	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	Withdrawn	This has been determined as operational / business as usual, and will continue to be monitored internally
Reduce the amount of permanent exclusions	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
To diminish the difference in attainment between those young people in receipt of free school meals and their peers	Sep 2015 - Mar 2020	Redefined	The wording of this action has been made more specific to ensure clarity of delivery
To provide challenge to schools/education establishments so that all pupils make at least expected progress across each key stage	Oct 2017 - Dec 2017	Completed	
To reduce persistent absence and strive to improve attendance for all pupils with a specific focus on the most vulnerable	Sep 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 02: Children and young people enjoy good health and well-being into adulthood

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
To reduce risk taking behaviour for young people, in particular the most vulnerable young people	Apr 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
To support agencies and parents/carers to promote resilience, early intervention and prevention for young people	Apr 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
Work with schools and other stakeholders to roll out the 'Future in Mind Strategy' designed to provide support so that schools and colleges are more equipped to work with young people with lower levels of mental health	Apr 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 03: Children and young people effectively participate in their communities and contribute to the local economy			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Support delivery of the 2020 Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Strategy	Apr 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
To establish and coordinate Careers Education and Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) through a Wirral Hub on behalf of schools	Oct 2017 - Dec 2017	Redefined	The timescales and wording have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19.
To promote citizenship with a specific focus on community involvement	Mar 2015 - Mar 2020	Withdrawn	This has been determined as operational / business as usual, and will continue to be monitored internally
To raise aspirations, engage local employers and improve vocational awareness develop opportunities for young people	Apr 2016 - Sep 2017	Redefined	The timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19

Pledge : Vulnerable children reach their full potential

Priority 01: Support children to live at home in their own community and preventing them entering statutory social care			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Ensure that multi-agency pathways for early help and interventions to support families on the edge of care prevent the escalation of need	Apr 2017 - Oct 2018	In Progress	
Ensure the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) operates as an effective single front door for children, young people and families to access support and services when needed	Apr 2017 - Sep 2017	Completed	
Provide evidence-based support and interventions to children who are at risk of not meeting expected levels of development.	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Completed	

Priority 02: Children who need protecting have good, consistent plans to support them to be safe

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Consistently implement a pre-birth assessment tool specifically for those expectant parents known to present as higher risk	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Completed	
Fully implement the graded care profile for children's services, to increase the early identification of vulnerable people	Apr 2017 - Jul 2017	Completed	
To provide a theoretical delivery model for children's services that will ensure children receive the right services at the right and are safe	Apr 2017 - Dec 2017	Completed	

Priority 03: Children who cannot live at home with their family or extended family live in homes where they feel safe, secure and supported to reach their full potential

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Deliver a Sufficiency Strategy to ensure there is a good supply of high quality accommodation and excellent aspirational care in the borough for children and young people who are looked after	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Redefined	The timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19
Develop a city and regional approach to delivering adoption services to increase choice and opportunity, ensuring children are more quickly placed in permanent, loving, adoptive homes	Apr 2017 - Jan 2018	Completed	

Pledge : Reduce child and family poverty**Priority 01: Overarching actions:**

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Co-ordinate and support volunteering groups in each Community Pilot area	Apr 2015 - Mar 2018	Completed	
Reduce smoking in Community Pilot areas	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Completed	
To monitor the impact of Community Pilots	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Completed	
To organise an annual Improving Life Chances/Child Poverty conference to raise awareness of issues affecting local families, highlight local services and celebrate achievements and to further develop opportunities for joint actions	Jun 2016 - Oct 2017	Completed	
To target specified agencies to complete the child poverty awareness training	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	Redefined	The action has been moved to the 'Vulnerable children reach their full potential' pledge action plan so that it is in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19

Priority 02: Supporting parents into sustainable employment

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Promote affordable childcare opportunities in Community Pilots to enable parents to return to work	Apr 2015 - Mar 2018	Completed	
Provide employment and training courses at children's centres and appropriate settings in the Community Pilot areas	Apr 2016 - Mar 2018	Completed	

Priority 03: Improve life chances for children and young people

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
To increase take up of breakfast clubs/holiday provision in Community Pilot areas	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Completed	
Work with Health Visitors to maximise the impact of Healthy Child Programme in Community Pilot areas	Apr 2015 - Mar 2018	Completed	

Priority 04: Supporting families to become financially resilient			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Increase uptake of Wirral Credit Union among partner organisations and the wider community	Jul 2016 - Mar 2018	Completed	
To target staff who have direct contact with the public to raise awareness of debt and financial advice in Community Pilot areas	Jul 2016 - Mar 2018	Completed	

Priority 05: Tackling the immediate effects of poverty			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Ensure the selective licensing scheme connects to the work of the Improving Life Chances pilots	Sep 2017 - Mar 2020	Redefined	This action and activities will be monitored through the Housing Strategy action plan
Implement a neighbourhood approach to tackle food poverty in Community Pilot areas	Apr 2016 - Mar 2018	Completed	

Pledge : People with disabilities live independent lives

Priority 01: All People with disabilities are well and live healthy lives			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Implement an All Age Integrated Disability Service in Wirral	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Redefined	The wording and timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action during 2018-19.

Pledge : Zero tolerance to domestic violence

Priority 02: Provision - Children and Young People at the Heart of our Domestic Abuse Response

Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Identify and secure funding for the establishment of Domestic Abuse advisors to engage Domestic Abuse victims presenting at Accident + Emergency	Apr 2017 - Dec 2017	Completed	
Map access to supported accommodation for victims of domestic abuse to support a Strategic Review of Supported Accommodation for Victims of Domestic Abuse	Apr 2017 - Sep 2017	Completed	
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 2017 - Mar 2018	Completed	

This page is intentionally left blank



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday, 3 July 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Wirral Improvement Board Databook
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

Attached to this covering report is the Wirral Improvement Board Data Tracker for May 2018. This Data Tracker is produced monthly for the Improvement Board and also shared with the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board.

The Data Tracker sets out performance for a set of key performance measures related to the child's journey, plus measures related to staffing in Children's Social Care.

The key points to be noted are included in a short summary at the front of the Data Tracker.

RECOMMENDATION

That the performance set out in the Data Tracker be noted.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The Wirral Improvement Board Data Tracker is a core tool in measuring performance improvement.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Data Tracker identifies areas for improvement. This includes the need to safely reduce the numbers of children looked after, although it should be noted that this number has remained steady for 5 months, rather than continuing to increase.

Other areas for improvement include the need to reduce the current vacancy rate of 31% of social care staffing and to reduce sickness rates in the service. Both of these are part of a wider approach to creating a stable, high quality workforce.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

None.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The key risks relating to improvement in performance are that the service quality does not improve outcomes for children and their families, and that the scale of demand for services creates a large financial burden on the Council and partner organisations.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The Data Tracker is reviewed monthly by the Wirral Improvement Board and the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

(b) No because there is no relevance to equality.

REPORT AUTHOR: Carly Brown
Assistant Director Modernisation and Support
telephone: (0151) 666 4288
email: carlybrown@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Wirral Improvement Board Data Book

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
n/a	

This page is intentionally left blank



Wirral Children's Services

Improvement Board

Data Tracker

Reporting Period April 2018 - March 2019

Data Extract : May 2018 for April 2018 Reporting

Performance Commentary For Current Month - April 2018

For April the key areas of change or with a red flag within the performance book are:-

Contacts: The number of recorded contacts appears to have risen significantly in April. This is not actually the case. Previous overall numbers of contacts had to be established by taking data from a number of systems the rise demonstrates that all contacts are now recorded in the same system. This gives a better analysis and a clear oversight of practice. It also ensures that all information on cases is recorded. Having a more detailed knowledge of family's history helps to improve practice.

Assessments: The overall number of assessments completed within timescales in April although better than the year end figure remains too low. An analysis of the data demonstrates that this is due to a significant number of assessments documents being opened in the children in care teams but then the actual assessment not being undertaken for some time. Whilst this demonstrates that children in care workers now understand the importance of regular reassessments for children in care it demonstrates that they do not understand how opening and assessment to early in preparation can impact on the overall performance data. I Sarah If we disaggregate the figures this can be seen more clearly

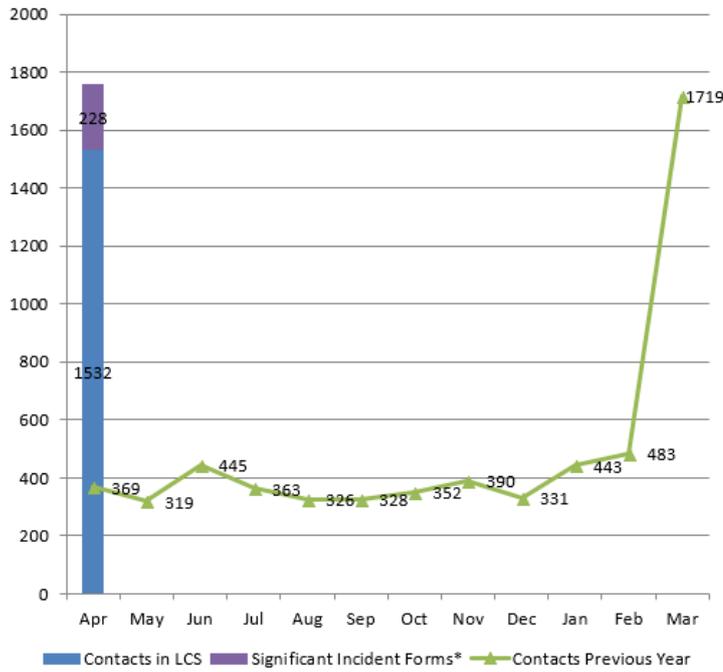
- frontline CIN/CP teams 81 of 428 assessments were out of time so 81% in time
- for children looked after 50 of 77 assessments were out of time so 35.1% in time
- for children with disabilities 2 of 11 assessments were out of time so 82.8% in time

Action is currently being taken to ensure that assessments are not being opened if they are not about to be completed and to ensure workers stop the practice of opening assessment document and then not undertaking the work for several months.

There are been no major changes in **child protection numbers or plans**. There has also been no major or notable change in the overall **numbers of children looked after**. However, it is pleasing to note that despite a short-term blip in March of approximately 10 extra children the number of looked after children has stayed relatively stable since November and April is the first month in over 12 months when the number of children leaving care has been greater (if only by a very small margin) than the number of children becoming looked after. Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board has a single item agenda for May on Children Looked After.

Staffing: Little significant change in staffing, with one fewer agency staff than last month. In social care staffing the overall vacancy rate remains steady at 31% as does agency at 26%. Days lost to sickness per FTE has increased slightly from 18.74 days to 19.08 days, with increases in both the percentages for mental health and long term sickness.

Contacts Summary

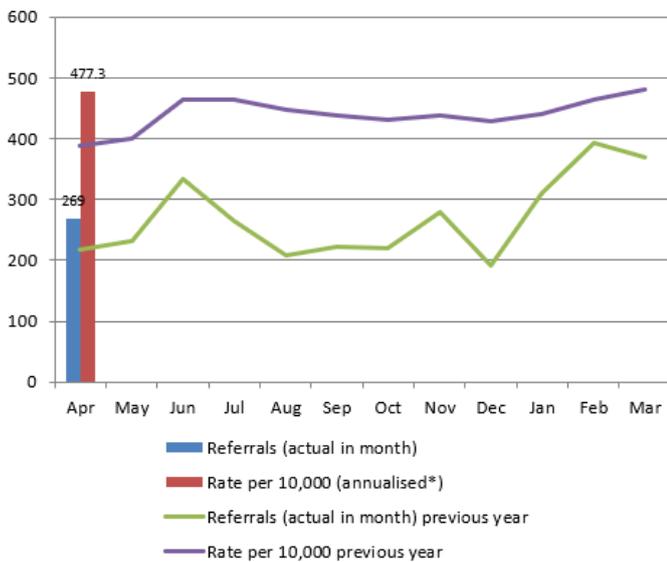


RAG



R2: Referrals

Rate of referrals per 10,000 0-17 population

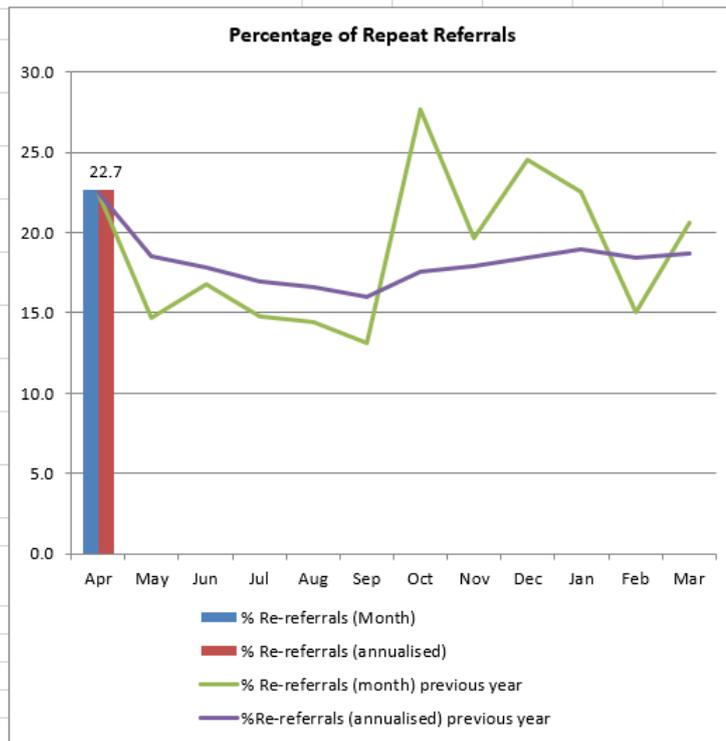


RAG



Rate of referrals per 10,000	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	634.9	669.3	479.5	480.4	478.2
Target Range*	665.3 - 507.2				BELOW
Stat Neighbours	566.3	552.5	580.3		
North West	616.8	583.6	593.2		
England	548.3	532.2	548.2		

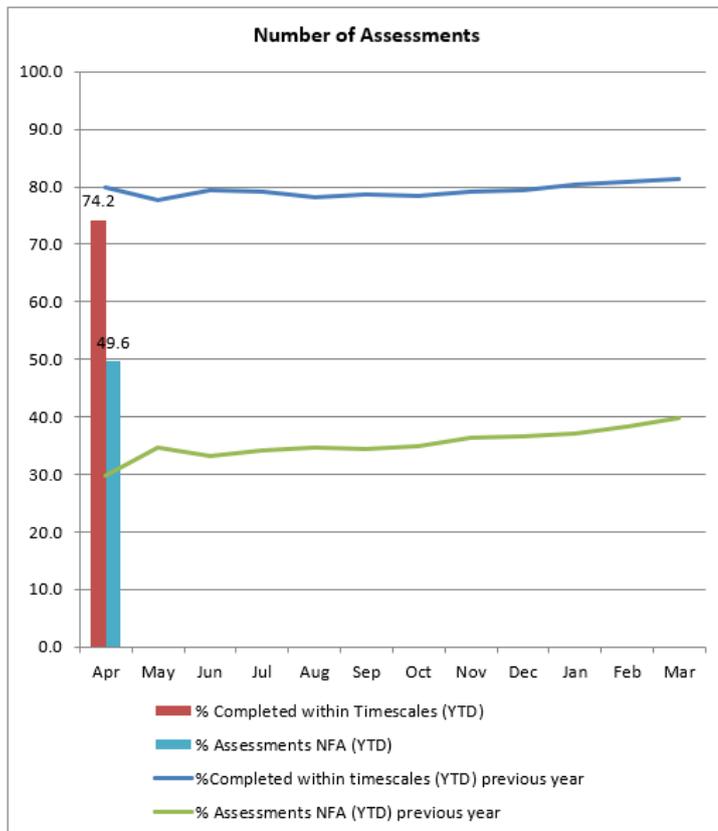
* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean



RAG

Percentage of Repeat referrals	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	22.8	28.6	21.0	18.7	22.7
Target Range*	23.28 - 18.48				Inline
Stat Neighbours	22.4	17.2	19.2		N/A
North West	25.5	21.9	21.7		N/A
England	24.0	22.3	21.9		N/A

* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean

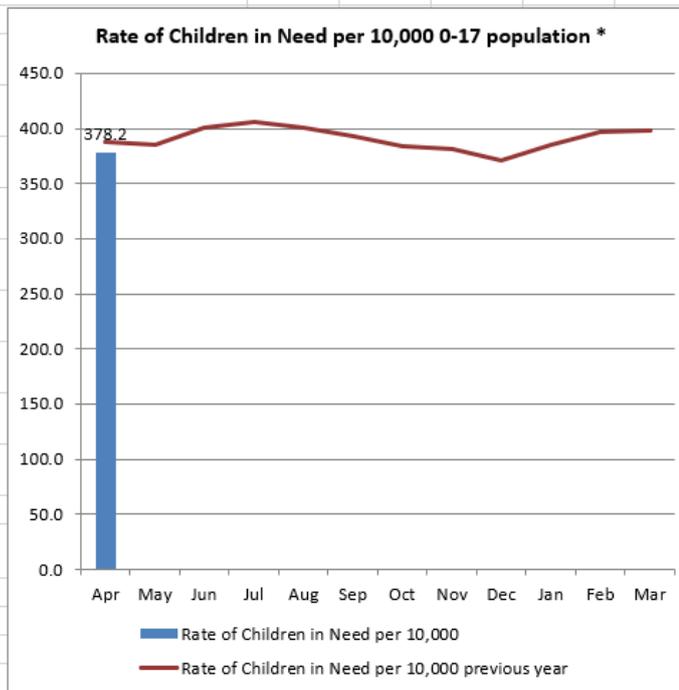


RAG

% of Assessments Completed in Timescale	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	82.7	80.9	83.3**	78.9	74.4
Target Range*	94.4 - 84.4				BELOW
Stat Neighbours	86.2	86.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
North West	82.2	83.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
England	81.5	83.4	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean

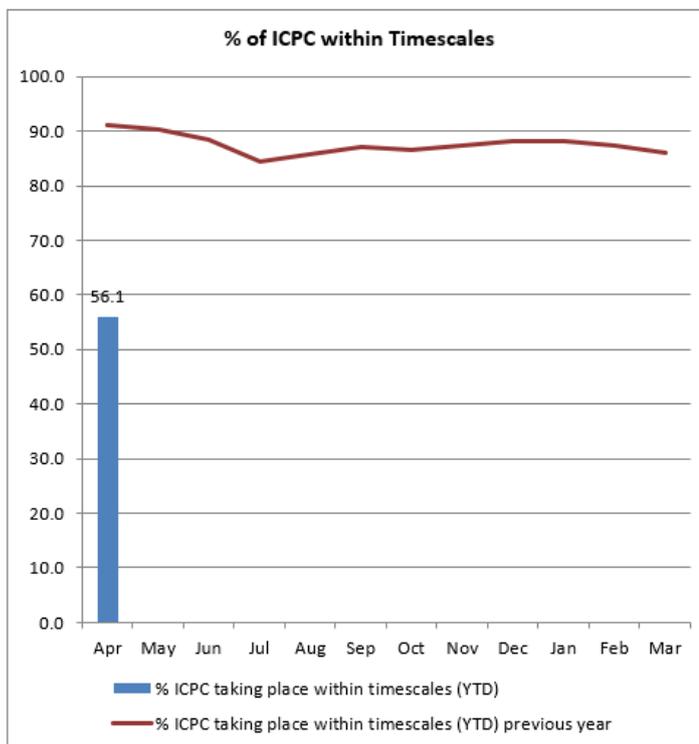
** Provisional year end data to be confirmed following publication of data



RAG

Rate of Children in Need per 10,000 *	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	426.3	397.2	423.2	397.9	379.0
Target Range*	420.9 - 387.6				Inline
Stat Neighbours	406.5	419.5	419.1	N/A	N/A
North West	367.7	380.1	372.3	N/A	N/A
England	337.3	337.7	330.4	N/A	N/A

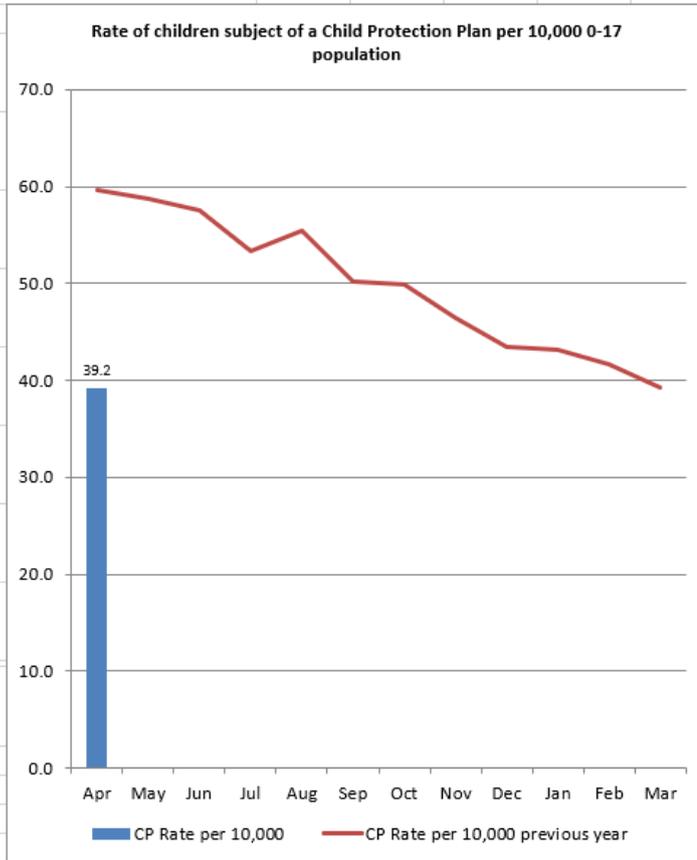
* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean
Table above is Rate of Children in Need per 10,000 up to age 25



RAG

% of ICPC within Timescales	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	75.8	50.2	89.9**	86.0	56.1
Target Range*	80.10 - 65.24				ABOVE
Stat Neighbours	83.9	85.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
North West	74.1	74.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
England	74.7	76.7	N/A	N/A	N/A

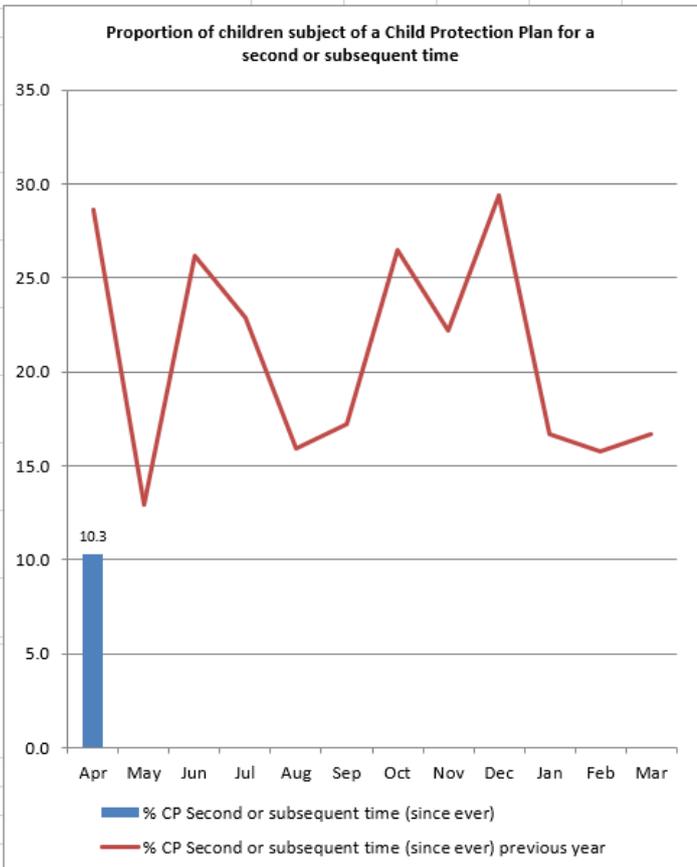
* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean
** Provisional year end data to be confirmed following publication of data



RAG

Rate of Child Protection Plans per 10,000	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	34.5	59.8	55.7	39.3	39.3
Target Range*	58.0 - 45.2				BELOW
Stat Neighbours	57.1	56.4	53.8	N/A	N/A
North West	49.9	55.2	54.1	N/A	N/A
England	42.9	43.1	43.3	N/A	N/A

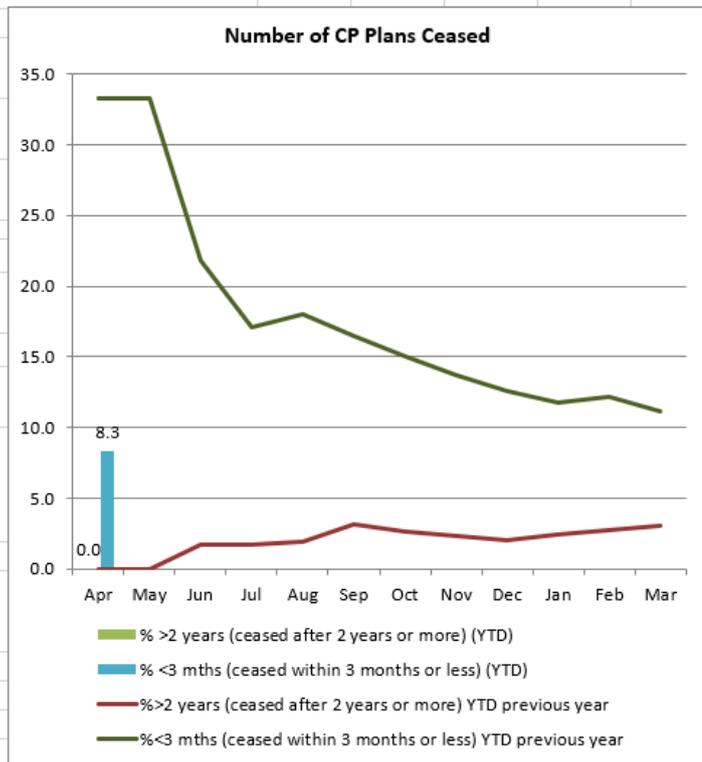
* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean



RAG

Percentage of Second or Subsequent CP Plans	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	22.0	17.1	22.8	16.7	29.3
Target Range*	17.5 - 13.5				Inline
Stat Neighbours	17.4	17.5	16.7	N/A	N/A
North West	17.8	18.2	18.4	N/A	N/A
England	16.6	17.9	18.7	N/A	N/A

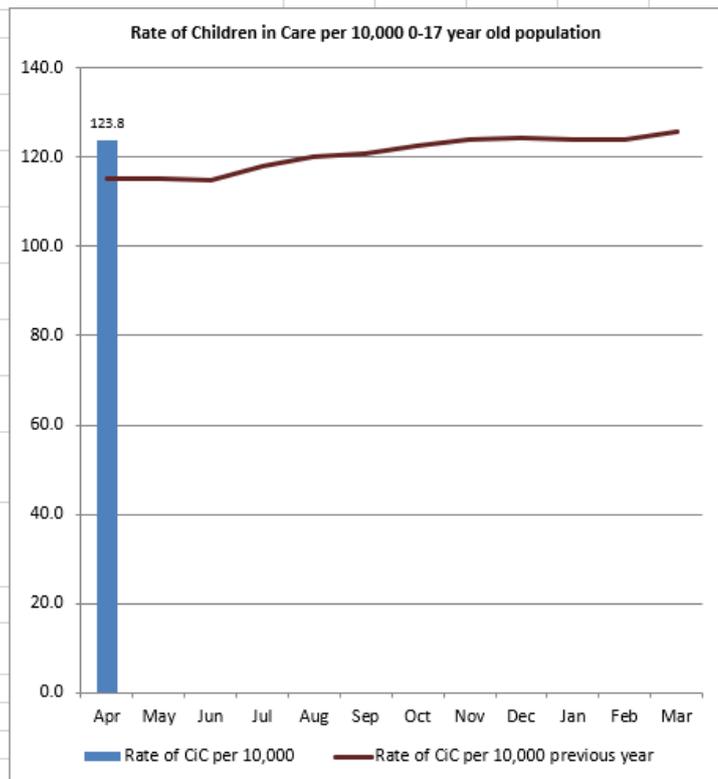
* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean



RAG

% >2 years (ceased after 2 years or more)	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	6.3	1.6	0.8**	3.0	0.0
Stat Neighbours	2.4	4.7	3.9	N/A	
North West	3.7	3.7	3.1	N/A	
England	3.7	3.8	3.4	N/A	

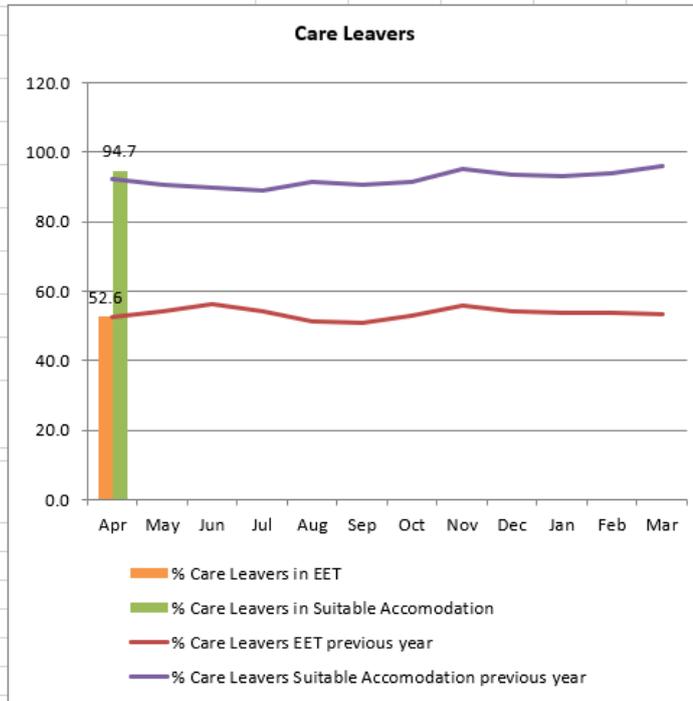
** Provisional year end data to be confirmed following publication of data



RAG

Rate of Children in Care per 10,000	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	99.0	99.0	113.0	125.6	124.0
Target Range*	84.9 - 75.4			ABOVE	
Stat Neighbours	81.9	85.3	92.3	N/A	
North West	82.0	82.0	86.0	N/A	
England	60.0	60.0	62.0	N/A	

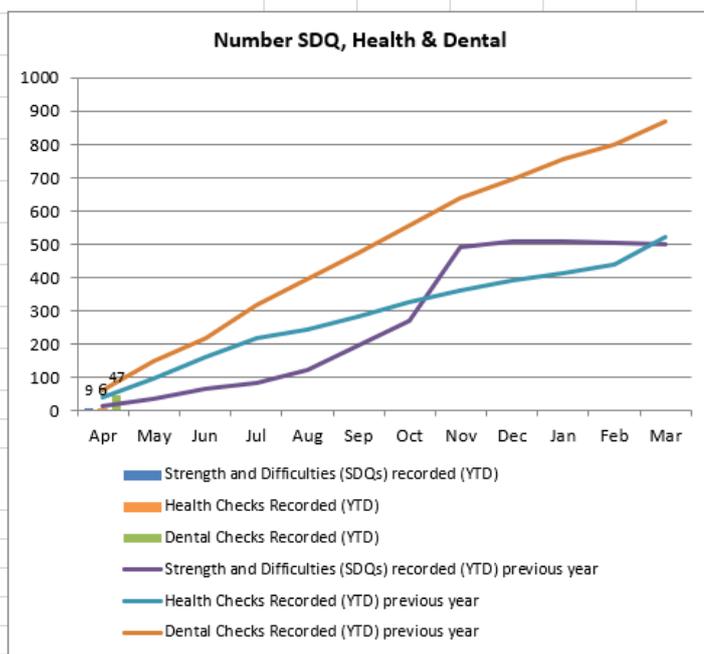
* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean



RAG

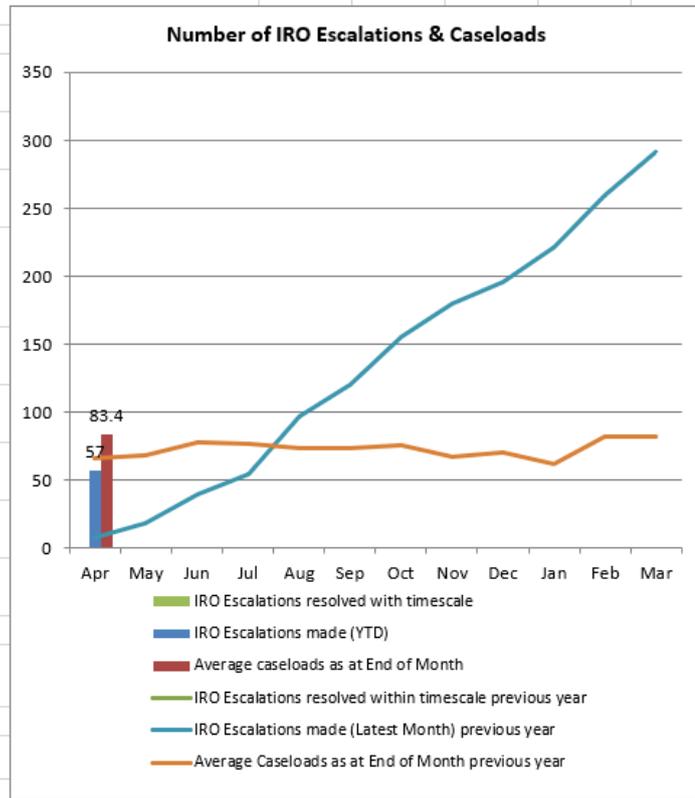
Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	17/18	YTD 18/19
Wirral	75.0	83.0	89.0	96.1	94.7
Target Range*	94.4 - 84.4			WITHIN	WITHIN
EET Target Range*	65.4 - 45.5			WITHIN	WITHIN
Stat Neighbours	87.3	86.0	91.9	N/A	N/A
North West	83.0	85.0	87.0	N/A	N/A
England	81.0	83.0	84.0	N/A	N/A

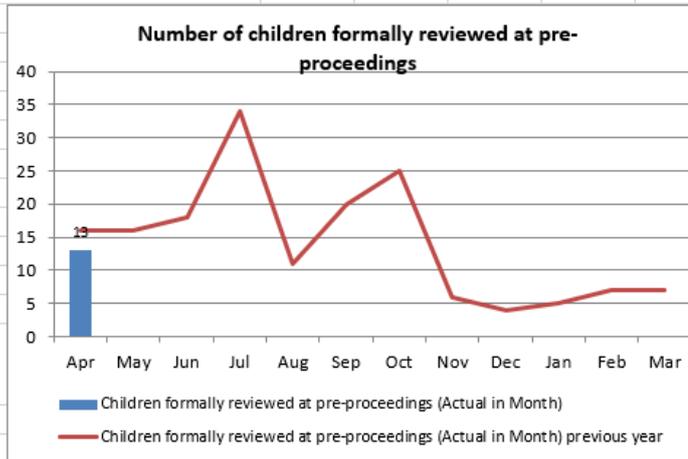
* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean



Average SDQ scores	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Wirral	15.4	13.4	11.0		
Target range*	13.8 - 13.4				
Stat Neighbours	13.6	13.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
North West	13.1	13.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
England	13.9	14.0	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Based on +/- 1 SD from the SN group 2011-2016 five year mean

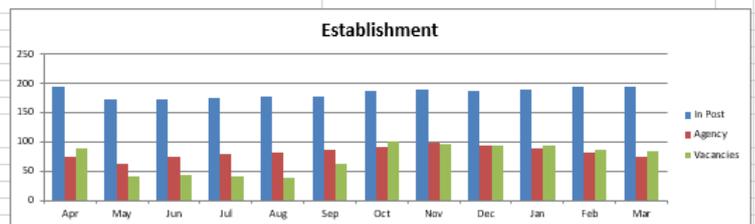




R17: HR Performance Data - Team Profiles (FTE)

Total all posts	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
In Post	195	172	173	175	178	178	187	191	188.6	190.8	195.0	195.8
Vacancies	88.6	42.1	43.4	41.2	39.9	63.9	101	97.2	95.2	95.2	85.8	85.1
Agency	74	62	74	79	82	88	92	100	94.0	90.0	82.0	75.0
Established	283	215	216	216	218	242	283	283	282.8	281.8	280.8	280.8

Social Worker In Post breakdown	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Social Worker ASYE	33	28	28	30.5	29.5	28	31	29	27	30	32	33
Social Worker	37.6	38.9	36.4	34.9	34.9	35.9	33.9	34.9	37.9	36.9	38.9	38.6
Social Worker Experience	47.5	38.8	40.4	40.4	44.4	42.4	41.9	45.4	45.5	46.5	48.5	48.5
Agency	48	35	46	56	51	56	59	65	62	61.7	54	49



Establishment

Independent Reviewing Officer	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
In post	9.5	8.5	4.5	4.5	5.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	9.5
Vacancies	6.2	5	6	6	5	4	9.2	9.2	8.2	8.2	8.2	6.2
Agency	5	9	9	4	11	11	11	11	11	11	9	5
Established	15.7	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.7	15.7

Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carrying 6.20 vacancies delivered through agency. 4 agency IROs now appointed. Data reflects all additional transformation funded posts. Assessment centre February yielded 1 IRO now with start date. Further recruitment underway. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Against a backdrop of national and regional recruitment challenges including at agency level, we have Reviewed the role in context of all other Children's social care roles to include 2 levels of IRO Regional pay Benchmarking complete Launched revised social care offer and microsite 	RAG

Team Support Officer	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
In post	23.2	22.2	23.3	23.3	23	22.9	23.7	24.7	25.7	24.7	24.2	23.3
Vacancies	7.36	3.6	3.8	3.8	4.13	5.16	6.36	5.36	4.36	5.36	5.86	6.86
Agency	3	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	4	4	4	4
Established	30.6	25.9	27.1	27.1	27.1	28.1	30.1	30.1	30.1	30.1	30.1	30.1

Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratio of TSO to SW is 1: 1.62 Data reflects all additional transformation funded posts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewing the requirements of the role 	RAG

Social Workers	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
In post	118	106	105	106	109	106	107	109	110	113	119	120
Vacancies	57	27.7	28.6	27.6	25.8	46.8	69.3	66.7	65.7	61.7	55.7	55
Agency	48	35	46	56	51	56	59	65	62	57	54	49
Established	175	133	133	133	135	153	176	176	176	175	175	175

Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of in part FTE 27.9% are NCSW, 31.8% are Social workers, 40.2% are Exp SW This represents shift to more experienced social workers in part through recruitment and progression of existing staff Vacancy rate increased to 23% Continue to attract NCSW 28 agency workers recruited to permanent employment with a further 3 agency workers offered permanent parts. Assessment centre took place early February, 4 out of 5 social workers now have start dates in part. Data reflects all additional transformation funded parts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional Birkenhead Team 5 established to build extra capacity to meet caseload demand Profiling of workforce into grade 4 into legacy system to improve management of caseload Continual review of workforce profile to inform targeted recruitment campaign Reviewed the role in context of all other Children's social care roles completed Regional pay Benchmarking complete Completion of Recruitment and Retention Plan Launched revised social care offer and microsite Fast track agency to permanent process introduced 	RAG

Advanced Social Worker/Snr	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
In post	23.9	22	24	24	23	22	23.5	24	24	26	24.9	23.9
Vacancies	6.11	1.83	0	-0.17	2	3	5.5	5	5	3	4.11	5.11
Agency	10	9	6	7	8	8	8	10	11	10	9	9
Established	30	23.8	23.8	23.8	25	25	29	29	29	29	29	29

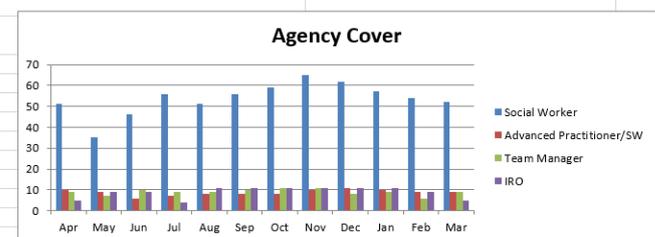
Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratio of Adv SW to SW is 1: 4.9 Data reflects all additional transformation funded parts. Assessment centre took place early February, 2 ASW/Fr now in part. Vacancy rate 18% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional agency capacity across Children Looked After teams Additional Birkenhead Team 5 established to build extra capacity to meet caseload demands Reviewed the role in context of all other Children's social care roles completed Regional pay Benchmarking complete 	RAG

Team Manager	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
In post	20	17	16	17	18	20	22	22	21	19	19	19
Vacancies	12	4	5	4	3	5	10	10	10	11	12	12
Agency	8	7	10	9	9	10	11	11	8	6	6	8
Established	32	21	21	21	21	25	32	32	32	31	31	31

Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent turnover is stable Difficulty in attracting suitably qualified external applicants Ratio of TM to SW is 1: 8.08 Vacancy rate 38% which reflects additional 11 FTE parts established as part of 50m investment Data reflects all additional transformation funded parts. 1 Agency Team Manager appointed through fast track process Assessment centre took place early February, didn't recruit to role. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed the role in context of all other Children's social care roles completed to include 2 levels of Team Managers Regional pay Benchmarking complete Launched revised social care offer and commenced recruitment to fill vacant posts 	RAG

R18: HR Performance Data - Agency Cover

Change from Previous Month	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Social Worker	-1	-16	11	10	-5	5	3	6	-3	-5	-3	-2
Advanced Practitioner/SW	1	-1	-3	1	1	0	1	2	1	-1	-1	-1
Team Manager	-2	3	-1	0	0	1	1	1	-3	1	-3	3
IRO		4		-5	7	0	0	0	0	0	-2	-4
Total		-15	11	5	3	6	4	8	-5	-5	-9	-3

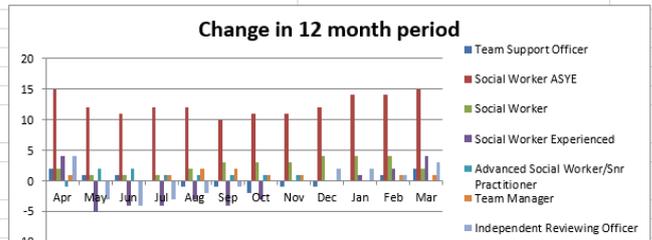


Agency Cover	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Social Worker	51	35	46	56	51	56	59	65	62	57	54	52
Advanced Practitioner/SW	10	9	6	7	8	8	8	10	11	10	9	9
Team Manager	9	7	10	9	9	10	11	11	8	9	6	9
IRO	5	9	9	4	11	11	11	11	11	11	9	5
Total	75	60	71	76	79	85	89	97	92	87	78	75

Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction in SW numbers due to recruitment from agency to permanent. 27% of established posts are agency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implemented rigorous process for recruiting agency workers that includes business case Ensured agency workers are recorded in the HR system to improve monitoring and tracking 33 agency workers recruited to permanent employment 	RAG

R19: HR Performance Data - Turnover 2017/18 Financial Year

Change in 12 month period	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Team Support Officer	2	1	1	0	-1	-1	-2	-1	-1	0	1	2
Social Worker ASYE	15	12	11	12	12	10	11	11	12	14	14	15
Social Worker	2	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	2
Social Worker Experienced	4	-5	-4	-4	-3	-4	-3	0	0	1	2	4
Advanced Social Worker/Snr Practitioner	-1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Team Manager	1	0	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	1	1
Independent Reviewing Officer	4	-3	-4	-3	-2	-1	0	0	2	2	1	3
Total	27	8	7	8	11	10	11	15	17	21	23	27



Turnover	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Starters (rolling 12 mths)	2	4	4	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Team Support Officer	2	4	4	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Social Worker ASYE	18	14	14	15	15	14	15	14	14	16	16	17
Social Worker	4	3	3	3	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	4
Social Worker Experienced	9	1	2	2	3	3	4	6	6	6	8	9
Advanced Social Worker/Snr Practitioner	0	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Team Manager	2	0	0	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Independent Reviewing Officer	6	1	1	1	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	5
Total	41	25	26	26	28	29	31	33	33	35	37	39

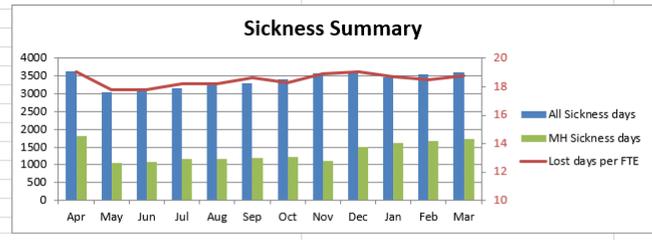
Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
Continue to attract NQSWs	Workforce Strategy Themes:	
Recruitment campaign Dec/Jan including revised offer and microsite	Grow our Own approach	
Assessment centres took place early February to recruit to key roles.	Targeted recruitment campaigns	
	Pay and reward review complete	
	Recruitment and retention plan complete	

Leavers (rolling 12 mths)	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Team Support Officer	0	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	1	0
Social Worker ASYE	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	3	2	2	2	2
Social Worker	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
Social Worker Experienced	5	6	6	6	6	7	7	6	6	5	6	5
Advanced Social Worker/Snr Practitioner	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team Manager	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	2	1	1
Independent Reviewing Officer	2	4	5	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	3	2
Total	14	17	19	18	17	19	20	18	16	14	14	12

Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
Trend of losing more experienced social workers than ASYEs	Workforce Strategy themes:	
Advanced Social Worker retention recently more stable	Development of Progression Opportunities	
Recruitment campaign Dec/Jan including revised offer and microsite	Talent Management & succession planning	
Assessment centres took place early February to recruit to key roles.	Creating the right environment	

R20: HR Performance Data - Sickness 2017/18 Financial Year

Sickness Summary	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
All Sickness days	3627	3056	3063	3166	3241	3308	3402	3581	3602	3471	3551	3599
Lost days per FTE	19.08	17.77	17.8	18.19	18.24	18.61	18.31	18.88	19.05	18.68	18.48	18.74
MH Sickness days	1823	1056	1087	1155	1170	1192	1212	1109	1497	1602	1683	1724
Mental Health % of Total	48%	34%	35%	36%	36%	36%	36%	37%	42%	46%	47%	46%
Long Term % of Total	80%	77%	77%	77%	79%	78%	76%	77%	78%	80%	78%	78%



Rolling 12 mths	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Team Support Officer	327.8	255.4	249.8	254.8	247.0	258.8	284.2	309.8	309.4	297.0	323.9	327.9
Social Worker ASYE	362.9	287.2	319.2	319.2	318.2	420.2	431.7	427.2	395.4	374.4	376.8	367.6
Social Worker	805.5	982.9	951.8	960.1	936.0	900.7	856.3	833.7	791.2	752.5	730.4	778.9
Social Worker Experienced	1310.6	1111.7	1109.9	1181.9	1210.9	1208.9	1270.9	1277.4	1321.2	1235.3	1289.1	1294.5
Advanced Social Worker/Snr Practitioner	451.4	322.0	344.0	345.0	381.0	428.0	465.5	493.0	503.0	504.0	501.9	484.1
Team Manager	154.0	33.9	33.9	50.9	51.9	61.9	60.9	158.9	168.9	164.9	156.0	154.0
Independent Reviewing Officer	214.5	62.7	53.9	53.9	33.4	29.5	32.2	80.7	113.2	142.5	173.0	192.0
Total	3627	3056	3063	3166	3241.3	3308.0	3402	3581	3602	3471	3551	3598.9

Performance Commentary	Supporting Actions	RAG
Social Care Statistics		
80% of sickness is long term	HR engagement with managers has identified that not all sickness data has been recorded in SelfServe. This has contributed to the overall increase in figures	
48% can be attributed to mental health	Measures have been put in place to ensure managers are aware of procedures.	
CSC average FTE days lost is 19.08 of which 15.25 are attributed to long term sickness cases	Targeted support to managers to address absence issues particularly in relation to long term sickness cases, to ensure appropriate action is taken and promote preventative measures	
Childrens Services		
Across the whole of Children's services the average FTE days lost is 14.61	Detailed discussions with the Deputy Director of Children's identifying hotspots and trends within social care and priority action for managers	
67% of sickness has been long term	1:1 training for managers in attendance management training delivered by HR	
46% can be attributed to mental health		
Council Statistics		
The Councils average FTE days lost is 11.90 over the same period. 7.55 days are attributed to long term. Whilst Children's Social Care teams are significantly higher than the overall council figure, there are service areas within Children's where the figures are lower than that of the Council.		

Wirral Score Card Improvement Tracker

Apr-18

Rec. No.	Measure	January	February	March	April	Direction of Travel Last Month	Direction of Travel last 3 Months	Current Desired Direction
1	Number of Contacts (Latest Month) ALL	443	483	1719	1532	↓	↑	
2	MASH assessments in EHM (Latest month)	698	667	148	0	↓	↓	
3	Rate of Referrals per 10,000 (annualised~)	440.9	464.5	480.4	477.3	↓	↑	↑
4	Number Of Referrals (YTD~)	2480	2874	3243	269	n/a	n/a	
5	Number Of Referrals (Latest Month)	311	394	369	269	↓	↓	↑
Page 58	Number of Re-referrals (Latest month)	70	59	76	61	↓	↓	↓
	% of Re-referrals (Repeat YTD)	19%	18.4%	18.7%	22.7%	↑	↑	↓
8	Number Of Assessments (YTD)	2992	3340	3777	516	n/a	n/a	
9	Number Of Assessments NFA (YTD)	1107	1280	1504	256	n/a	n/a	
10	Percentage of Assessments in 45 days (Latest month)	89.9%	85.1%	84.7%	74.2%	↓	↓	↑
11	Number of Children CPP as at End of Month	291	281	265	265	→	↓	↓
12	Rate of Children CPP per 10,000	43.1	41.6	39.3	39.2	↓	↓	↓
13	Number of Children CiC as at End of Month	838	836	848	837	↓	↓	↓
14	Number of Children CiC per 10,000	124.1	123.9	125.6	123.8	↓	↓	↓
15	Number of Children CiN as at End of Month	2599	2675	2686	2558	↓	↓	

16	Rate of Children CiN per 10,000	385	396.3	397.9	378.2	↓	↓
17	Number of Referral Closures (Latest Month)	234	292	347	369	↑	↑
18	Number of Completed Step Downs from Social Care (Latest Month)	42	36	41	64	↑	↑
19	Number of Children becoming subject to a second or subsequent Child Protection (CP) plan (Latest month)	0	3	0	4	↑	↑
20	% of Children subject to a second or subsequent Child Protection (CP) plan (ever) latest month	16.7%	15.8%	16.7%	10.3%	↓	↓
21	Number of Care Leavers In Touch	227	229	228	228	→	↑
22	Percentage of Care Leavers in Touch Every 8 Weeks *	100%	100%	100%	97.4%	↓	↓
23	Percentage of Care Leavers in EET	53.7%	53.7%	53.5%	52.6%	↓	↓
24	Percentage of Care Leavers in Suitable Accommodation	93%	94%	96%	94.7%	↓	↑
25	Average caseloads as at End of Month	13.9	14.8	14.6	14.0	↓	↑
26	Percentage of ICPCs within timescales	89.7	75.0%	72.9%	56.1%	↓	↓
27	Number of Pathway Plans Completed	63	94	47	62	↑	↓
28	Number of plans (CP) <3 mths (ceased within 3 months or less) (YTD)	49	54	55	2		
29	Number of plans (CP) >2 years (ceased after 2 years or more) (YTD)	10	12	15	0		
30	Number of IRO Escalations made (YTD)	221	260	291	57		
31	Average IRO Caseload as at End of Month **	61.4	81.5	81.7	83.4	↑	↑
32	The number of children formally reviewed at pre-proceedings					n/a	n/a
32	The number of Strength and Difficulties (SDQs) recorded (YTD)	510	505	500	9	n/a	n/a

↓
↓
↑
↑
↑
↓
↑
↑
↓
↑

33	The number of Health Checks Recorded (YTD)	415	440	522	6	n/a	n/a	↑
34	The number of Dental Checks Recorded (YTD)	755	800	869	47	n/a	n/a	↑
35	Number of privately fostered children	3	3	3	4	↑	↑	
36	Number of Missing Episodes***	104	117	109	99	↓	↓	↓

- ↑ ≥ 5% increasing against performance target range
- ↑ ≥ 5% increasing towards performance target range
- ↑ < 5% increase
- ↓ ≥ 5% decreasing towards performance target range
- ↓ ≥ 5% decreasing against performance target range
- ↓ < 5% decrease

* Note this measure has changed

Service reported data whilst system is being updated and calculation verified. Considerable work has been undertaken to

** enhance reporting in this area. This has included ensuring IRO involvements are accurately recorded in Liquidlogic and also to account for the caseloads of both full time and part time IROs.

Rate from April 2017 based on rolling previous 12 months

~

*** new measure - Number of missing episodes – is a count of all newly created missing episodes in that month



Children's and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 3rd July 2018

REPORT TITLE:	Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work programme update report
REPORT OF:	Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher

REPORT SUMMARY

The Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the three other 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.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. Some initial ideas for a work programme are attached as an appendix to this report, based on issues which were of interest to members of the Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the municipal year 2017/18.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the proposed Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19, making any required amendments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Children's & 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 THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND THE WIRRAL PLAN

The work programme should align with the priorities of the Council and its partners. The programme will be informed by:

- The Wirral Plan pledges
- The Council's transformation programme
- The Council's Forward Plan
- Service performance information
- Risk management information
- Public or service user feedback
- Referrals from Cabinet / Council

The specific Wirral Plan pledges and associated strategies of particular relevance to the Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee are:

Pledge	Strategies
Children are Ready For School	https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf
Young People are ready for Work and Adulthood	https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf
Vulnerable Children Reach Their Full Potential	https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Children%20Young%20People%20and%20Families%20Strategy.pdf
Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence	https://www.wirral.gov.uk/sites/default/files/all/About%20the%20council/Wirral%20Plan/Domestic%20Abuse%20%20Strategy.pdf

3.2 PRINCIPLES FOR PRIORITISATION

Good practice suggests that, in order to maximise the impact of scrutiny, it is necessary to prioritise proposed topics within the work programme. Members may find the following criteria helpful in providing a guideline towards ensuring that the most significant topics are prioritised:

Principles for Prioritisation	
Wirral Plan	Does the topic have a direct link with one of the 2020 pledges?
	Will the review lead to improved outcomes for Wirral residents?
Public Interest	Does the topic have particular importance for Wirral Residents?
Transformation	Will the review support the transformation of the Council?
Financial Significance	Is the subject matter an area of significant spend or potential saving?
	Will the review support the Council in achieving its savings targets?
Timeliness / Effectiveness	Is this the most appropriate time for this topic to be scrutinised?
	Will the review be a good use of Council resources?

By assessing prospective topics using these criteria, the Committee can prioritise an effective work programme that ensures relevance and the highest potential to enhance outcomes for residents.

3.3 DELIVERING THE WORK PROGRAMME

It is anticipated that the work programme will be delivered through a combination of:

- Scrutiny reviews undertaken by task & finish groups
- Evidence days and workshops
- Committee reports provided by officers
- Standing committee agenda items, for example, performance monitoring and financial monitoring
- Spotlight sessions
- Standing panels (where deemed necessary)

As some of the selected topics may well cut across the Wirral Plan themes, it is anticipated that some of the scrutiny topics may be of interest to members of more than one committee. In these circumstances, opportunities for members of more than one committee to work jointly on an item of scrutiny work will be explored.

Regular work programme update reports will provide the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

3.4 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME ITEMS

3.5 Transfer of Scrutiny Work Programme Items

A number of work programme items for previous municipal year(s) have been carried over onto the work programme for 2018/19. The following may be of interest to members:

Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review

This Task & Finish was initiated to review the quality and effectiveness of Statutory Care Plans and Special Guardianship Orders.

The First evidence sessions took place in October and December 2017, and it has been agreed that this will be continued in this Municipal Year.

Further Sessions will give Members of the Task & Finish Groups an opportunity to review randomly selected anonymised care plans. This will include 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.

3.6 Forthcoming Activities

Reality Check Visit to Cheshire Lines

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, greater access to frontline staff and service users gives members greater confidence in the outcomes of scrutiny work.

It was agreed at the Meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee held in June 2017 to establish a programme of Reality Check Visits.

The first reality check visit for the Children's and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee is planned for a future date. At the Agenda Setting Meeting, it was agreed that this should take the form of a visit to Cheshire Lines where Children's services are now based.

The visit will focus on the impact and effect that co-location to Cheshire Lines has had on Children's Services. Members will also get the opportunity view the new Agile Working Equipment and consider how this has changed working conditions and practice.

Mental Health Commissioning Workshop

A joint workshop for members of both the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny

Committee is planned for July 2018 (the original workshop date of 7th June 2018 was postponed at the requested of Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) stating that further discussions regarding the procurement process were required in advance of the workshop).

The purpose of the workshop will be to involve members in the proposed 'Improving Access to Psychological Therapies' (IAPT) re-tender, and the future overall mental health procurement exercise. A feedback report on this workshop will be presented to members at a future meeting.

Clinical Senate

Clinical Senates are forums of multi-disciplinary clinical leadership working with patients and the Public to provide independent advice on issues that will transform healthcare, better integrate services and ensure future clinical configuration of services based on the considered views of local clinicians and the best interest of patients.

It is proposed that members of both the Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee and the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee take part in a joint workshop to gain an understanding of the Clinical Senate and how it may benefit future work programme items. This joint workshop is scheduled to take place in July 2018

3.7 SCRUTINY OF RISK

In the previous municipal year, a number of Members highlighted the need for scrutiny to consider risk as part of the scrutiny work programme. To develop Members' understanding of risk and risk management, a number of 'risk awareness sessions' will be delivered early in the municipal year. Proposals for how scrutiny considers risk as part of the scrutiny work programme can then be developed through Member feedback.

3.8 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

It was agreed by the Chair and Party Spokespersons that a workshop would be convened for members for Thursday 21st June 2018. All members of the Committee were invited to discuss work priorities for the Municipal Year. The outcomes from the workshop will be discussed as part of this agenda item, for committee to agree on a work programme for the municipal year.

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.

REPORT AUTHOR: **Anna Perrett**
Scrutiny Support
0151 691 8564
annaperret@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Children’s and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Work Programme

REFERENCE MATERIAL - SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Tues 3rd July 2018

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes from Children & Families OSC (22 nd March)	Minutes	
Performance monitoring – 2017/18 Q4	Report	Nancy Clarkson to provide report
Improvement Journey – Update	Presentation	Paul Boyce
Data tracker (as agreed at Reality Check visit reported to OSC on 22/03/18)	Report	Paul Boyce
Work programme update	Report	Report of the Chair (Anna Perrett to provide report)
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 18th June 2018		

PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS – Tues 25th September 2018

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes from Children & Families OSC (22 nd March)	Minutes	
Performance monitoring – 2018/19 Q1	Report	Nancy Clarkson to provide report
Financial Monitoring – 2018/19 Q1	Report / Presentation	Peter Molyneux / Andrew Roberts to provide report
Improvement Journey – Update	Presentation	Paul Boyce
Data tracker (as agreed at Reality Check visit reported to OSC on 22/03/18)	Report	Paul Boyce
Summary of Standards – Provisional outcomes for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	Report	Sue Talbot
Feedback report from Reality Check visit to Cheshire Lines	<i>Report</i>	<i>Report of the Chair (Anna Perrett to provide report)</i>
Feedback From Work Programme Workshop on 21 st June 2018	<i>Report</i>	<i>Report of the Chair (Anna Perrett To provide Report)</i>
Work programme update	<i>Report</i>	<i>Report of the Chair (Anna Perrett to provide report)</i>
Feedback from Mental Health Workshop	<i>Report/presentation</i>	<i>Report of the Chair (Anna Perrett to Provide Report / Jo Watts)</i>
Clinical Senate Workshop	<i>Work update</i>	<i>To Be confirmed</i>
Work Programme Update	Report	Report of the Chair (Anna Perrett to Provide Report)
Home Schooling (as agreed by OSC)	Report	Sue Talbot

meeting on 22/03/2018)		
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 10th September 2018		

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Statutory Care Plan scrutiny review (on completion of the task & finish review)	Report	To be agreed	Report of the Chair (Scrutiny Officer to provide report)
Fostering update.	Report	To be agreed	Confirm Officer With Paul Boyce
Future safeguarding arrangements - progress	Report	Nov 2018	David Robbins
The HIVE – progress report	Possible report	To be agreed	
Care leavers – employment prospects	Possible report	To be agreed	
School strategy – update on the delivery of the strategy	Report	To be agreed	Sue Talbot
All-age disability service transformation – update on progress (as requested at OSC on 14/11/17)	Report	Nov 2018	
Edge of Care and ASH (follow-up to OSC meeting – 25/01/18)	Report	To be agreed	Lyndsay Davidson
Destination of school leavers at 18 (as proposed at OSC, 25/01/18)	Report	To be agreed	Sue Talbot
Outcomes from Special Needs Education consultation	Report	To be agreed	
Demonstration of agile working equipment (as agreed by OSC meeting on 22/04/18)	Presentation	To be agreed	Member of staff (Social worker)
Safeguarding Children Annual Report 2017/18	Report / presentation	Expected Nov 2018	David Robbins / LSCB Chair: Maggie Atkinson
Summary of Standards – Provisional outcomes for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5	Report	Expected Jan 2019	Sue Talbot
Improving Life Chances Strategy – Annual report (as agreed by OSC meeting on 22/03/18)	Report	To be agreed (Last updated – March 2018)	Fiona Johnstone / Julie Graham / Bev Morgan
Young People ready for work and adulthood pledge – Delivery update	Report		Sue Talbot
Vulnerable children reach their full potential pledge – Delivery Update	Report		Lindsay Davidson
Zero tolerance to Domestic Abuse	Report	Last updated -	Mark Camborne

pledge – Delivery update		Nov 2017	
Children ready for School pledge – Delivery update	Report	Last updated – Jan 2018	Elizabeth Hartley

Note:

It is expected that both Performance Monitoring and Financial Monitoring reports will be reported to committee on the following basis:

3 rd July	Q4 2017/18	27th March	Q3 2018/19
25th Sept	Q1 2018/19	24th Jan	No reports
13 th Nov	Q2 2018/19		

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 / Scrutiny Officer	Ongoing
Reality Check visits				
Reality Check visit: Cheshire Lines	Member visit	July / August 2018	Paul Boyce / Scrutiny officer	Deadline for report to Committee is 10 th Sept 2018
Meet with group(s) of care leavers	Member visit	Late Sept / Early Oct 2018	Paul Boyce / Scrutiny officer	Deadline for report to Committee is 29 th Oct 2018
Reality Check visit: 3	Member visit	Early Dec 2018	Paul Boyce / Scrutiny officer	Deadline for report to Committee is 7 th Jan 2019
Reality Check visit: 4	Member visit	Feb 2019	Paul Boyce / Scrutiny officer	Deadline for report to Committee is 11 th March 2019
Spotlight sessions / workshops				
Work programme Workshop	Workshop	21 st June 2018	Paul Boyce	Work Planning for upcoming year
Mental Health Commissioning/IAPT Workshop	Workshop	Scheduled 7 th June 2018 – catch up session TBA	Jo Watts (CCG)	Consideration to waiting times for CAMHS.
Clinical Senate	Workshop	July 2018	Caroline Baines	Potential joint workshop with members of Adult Care & Health OSC.
Specialist Transport	Workshop	To be agreed	Julie Barnes	Potential joint workshop with members of Adult Care & Health OSC.

				Deferred from 2017/18
Outcomes from audit and case reflection (as agreed by OSC meeting on 22/04/18)	Spotlight session	To be agreed		
Corporate scrutiny / Other				
Transformation Programme – business cases	Workshop	Whenever required	Mike Callon	
Budget scrutiny 2019 / 2020	Workshop(s)	To be agreed	Paul Boyce / Scrutiny Officer	