



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Thursday, 24 January 2019
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

This meeting will be webcast at
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AGENDA

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. 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.

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

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 November, 2018.

- 4. IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY AND DATA TRACKER UPDATE**

Presentation

5. **SUMMARY OF STANDARDS PROVISIONAL OUTCOMES FOR KEY STAGE 4 AND KEY STAGE 5 (Pages 15 - 36)**
6. **PARTICIPATION AND DESTINATION ANALYSIS OF WIRRAL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16 TO 19 (Pages 37 - 48)**
7. **IMPROVING LIFE CHANCES STRATEGY**
Report to follow.
8. **LOCAL ACTION TO TACKLE OBESITY (Pages 49 - 54)**
9. **REALITY CHECK VISIT FEEDBACK REPORT (Pages 55 - 70)**
10. **2019/2020 BUDGET SCRUTINY WORKSHOP REPORT (Pages 71 - 86)**
11. **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT (Pages 87 - 94)**
12. **ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS APPROVED BY THE CHAIR**

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 13 November 2018

Present:

Councillor T Usher (Chair)

Councillors	D Burgess-Joyce	C Meaden
	W Clements	J Stapleton
	A Gardner	J Walsh
	P Hayes	KJ Williams
	C Povall	G Wood
	K Cannon	AER Jones
	EA Grey	A Brame (In place of C Carubia)

18 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Carubia. The Committee also received apologies for absence from Co-opted Members Julie Johnson and Chris Penn.

19 **COUNCILLOR MOIRA MCLAUGHLIN**

The Chair reported that Councillor Moira McLaughlin was no longer a Member of the Committee. He paid tribute to her informing he was aware that Councillor McLaughlin had given the Committee a lot of her time, was very knowledgeable about its work and remit and was a fantastic mentor and a great credit to Wirral Council.

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

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.

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.

21 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 25 September 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

22 2018/19 QUARTER 2 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE

A report by the Head of Intelligence introduced the 2018/19 Quarter 2 (July – September 2018) performance against the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Appendix 1 to the report provided an overview of the progress made in Quarter 2 and available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Quarter Two Wirral Plan Performance was summarised as follows:

- Provisional data for the Early Years Foundation Stage had showed good progress for children being ready for school. The headline outcome indicated that Good Levels of Development (GLD) had increased by 1.2%, taking performance above 70% for the first time since the launch of the Wirral Plan.
- It was very encouraging that GLD had also improved in priority groups with the achievement gap for children eligible for free school meals and their peers closed by 4%, which was a significant achievement; and there was an encouraging increase in children looked after achievement.
- Infants and children receiving development checks were below the targets set, work was underway to share good practice with GPs to improve infant checks and a centralised appointment system had been developed for children's checks to support children being seen on time.
- The achievement gap (provisional data) 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 had widened overall by 1.5% to 23.5%. Within this figure the attainment of both cohorts had increased however non-FSM pupils had increased by 2.9% more than double the FSM pupils (1.4%).
- Provisional Progress 8 Score (2017-18 Academic Year) had improved from the previous year to 0.03. The National average Progress 8 score was 0 and Wirral was slightly above the average and better than the North West and Statistical Neighbours.

- Officers working collaboratively with head teachers of secondary schools had reduced the amount of permanent exclusions by a third. They were focusing on secondary and specialist schools to continue to reduce permanent exclusions by providing appropriate challenge as well as timely interventions.
- Wirral was ranked in the lowest quintile for both primary and secondary absence and persistent absence levels had increased compared with a decrease nationally. Reducing persistent absence and improving attendance for all pupils with a specific focus on the most vulnerable was a key priority. Work was underway to examine and implement the recommendations of the independent review of the Education Social Welfare Service seeking to develop a consistent partnership approach to reducing attendance. Improving the process of issuing fixed penalty notices as result of a new Education Social Welfare Service was underway.
- The children looked after rate had seen a reduction since 2017-18 year end; however, this was still double the national average figure and 35% higher than Wirral's nearest statistical neighbours.
- The number of children in need had increased on the previous quarter but remained over 20 percent above the national average. However, the Quarter 2 figure represented a 5.3% improvement since start of the Wirral Plan.
- The rate of children who became the subject of a child protection plan at Quarter 2 was 65.6 per 10,000; a 26% increase since the last quarter. This was 51% above the national average, 21% higher than the North West and 22% higher than Wirral's nearest statistical neighbours.
- The employment rate for people aged 16-64 who were Equality Act core of work limiting disabled had improved again to 48.8% and was at its highest since the Wirral Plan had been launched.
- The proportion of people who were feeling supported to manage their condition was 60.1% for the period January 2018 - March 2018. This had reduced from 67.2% the previous year which reflected a reduction nationally (national average 59.6%, down from 64% last year).
- A total of 813 cases had been dealt with at MARAC in the 12 months prior to September 2018. This equated to 59.3 cases per 10,000 female population. A high level of absenteeism in the Family Safety Unit had meant a reduction in contact attempts. A reduced level of contact could impact on the number of cases taken to MARAC. Emergency measures had been put in place to ensure that all gold level victims received

appropriate support and work was underway to build resilience into this service.

Members asked the Officers present, including the Corporate Director for Children Services and Lead Commissioner Community Services & Resilience a number of questions which were answered accordingly. Matters highlighted included the following:

- The attainment gap between boys and girls in KS1 was continuing to widen and there were various interventions that needed to be put in place to address this. This was not just a specific local issue. It was a national issue. The curriculum was being reviewed and consideration was being given to whether it would be possible to change how certain subjects were taught so boys could be better engaged. They did not do well in examinations but fared better with continuous assessment.
- Wirral was ranked in the lowest quintile for both primary and secondary absence and persistent absence levels had increased compared with a decrease nationally. Officers were involved in ongoing dialogue with schools regarding the causes of absence and the Service was being redesigned to ensure an improvement in provision. It was important to communicate to parents the importance of not keeping their children off school. The responsibility to ensure children went to school rested with their parents and schools undertook enforcement action. Schools should contact parents to let them know that their children were not in school. There needed to be a campaign approach to promote the benefits of children going to school and Children's Services would work with the schools to promote it.
- Staffing issues that had had an effect on the figures within the report – Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence. There had been a high degree of absence which had now been addressed by employing temporary staff. During the period there had been an unexpected and unique rise in domestic abuse. It was expected that there would now be a reduction in the number of victims of domestic abuse. The reporting mechanism was better but there were concerns that there may be a spike at Christmas. The Service was in the position to know who had been flagged as high risk and there needed to be resources available to manage an extreme level of high risk. This was a high risk process and the Council was working with its third sector partners on this e.g. Tomorrow's Women Wirral.

RESOLVED:

That the content of the report be noted.

IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY, DATA TRACKER AND ALL-AGE DISABILITY SERVICE TRANSFORMATION - UPDATE

The Corporate Director for Children Services made a presentation to the Committee on the Children and Young People's Services' Improvement Journey. He provided:

- A summary of the progress made to date;
- Performance Headlines; and
- Details in respect of the All Age Disability Service's transformation.

The Committee was reminded that there would be another OFSTED Inspection in a matter of months. In this calendar year there had been three OFSTED monitoring visits and the progress made had been noted. Social Work practice was making a difference, thresholds were embedded and there was increased resilience. A two day appraisal by the Department for Education, at the beginning of October 2018, had led to a letter being sent to the Minister for Children on the progress made. Unfortunately, it was not a letter that would be put in the public domain. It was a conversation between the Department for Education Adviser and a Minister but the Corporate Director had been informed that it mirrored exactly what he had reported on the progress that had been made so far.

The Corporate Director reported on what was still to be done to bring about improvement in Children's Services. He informed that there were challenges around the recruitment of permanent and experienced social workers and there were still too many children in care.

Members asked the Corporate Director a number of questions which were answered accordingly. Matters discussed included the following:

- Issues identified with staff recruitment had been addressed and there had been massive improvement. The Council was an organisation that understood the purpose of social work and provided an appropriate environment for social workers to operate within. The Council was considered an attractive employer to work for and as a result more candidates were applying for jobs.
- Issues raised at the Youth Parliament held on 6 November 2018 about young people's services, young people of Wirral's concerns about homelessness and the Aspiration Project – the aspirations and feelings of Looked After Children.
- Level of sickness in respect of social workers and the problems caused when a child's social worker did not turn up at Foster Carer's first

review. The Corporate Director agreed to investigate the situation and report back to Members.

- Absence Management Strategy – the average was 14 days of sick per annum and the most common cause was stress. The number of days was reducing. There was a clear process to follow and was in the process of being embedded. Patterns of consistent non-attendance were being investigated with the help of HR officers. As a consequence some employees were being performance managed and some had left the organisation because of their sickness patterns through dismissal.
- Arrangements over the Christmas period when some families may struggle. The Service was retained and well prepared and would be responsive.
- A significant document had been published and would be debated at the National Conference. It identified factors that caused significant pressure in the system.
- Relationships between the Police and the Health Service and what was being done to ensure they were working together in a more positive way. Multi-agency working had been discussed extensively with partners and the response had been extremely positive. The problem would be resolved by the time of the next OFSTED visit. There had been a number of meetings to ensure issues were identified and were dealt with appropriately. There had been a lack of willingness to challenge each other's organisations. This had been worked through and an additional command lead had been put in.
- If the Council did not get the results it wanted from OFSTED it may impact on social worker recruitment and it currently did not have all that it needed. Children's Services had suffered significant reputational damage by being rated as inadequate twice. One way to ensure this did not happen again was to recruit experienced staff. Twenty social workers were required and 10 had already been selected for interview so progress was being made. Children's Services were doing all it could to avoid the risk of failure. There was 100 days to go. There was still a lot to do and there had been some good appointments made in respect of senior roles during the last few months.
- Apprenticeships created and gifts for Wirral's Care Leavers.
- Christmas arrangements and gifts for Wirral's Looked After Children.

RESOLVED:

That the Corporate Director for Children Services be thanked for his informative presentation.

24 **SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT**

The Independent Chair of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board, Professor Maggie Atkinson, introduced the Board's Annual Report 2017-18 which had been circulated with the agenda. The purpose of the Annual Report was to provide a transparent assessment on the effectiveness of arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people who lived in Wirral. It provided a clear sense of the multi-agency activity which had taken place to ensure children were safe and show how effective that work had been.

Professor Atkinson also made a presentation to the Committee which included details on the following:

- the Statutory Objectives and Functions of the Board;
- the Structure and Sub-Committees of the Board;
- local background and Safeguarding Context for 2017-18;
- progress against Five Priorities:
 - Children who are in need of help and protection are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity by services effectively working together;
 - Children are protected from sexual exploitation by a skilled workforce and the wider community is equipped to understand and respond to concerns;
 - Children and Young People who are Looked After, including those placed in Wirral by other Local Authorities are supported by agencies who effectively work together to keep them safe;
 - through its effective governance and relationships with influential forums and groups the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board ensures all partner agencies meet the needs of Children and Young People;
 - the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board discharges all of its statutory duties and ensures the effectiveness of arrangements

to safeguard and promote the welfare of Children and Young People;

- the Board's key activities during 2017-18; and
- the Board's Business Plan.

Following the presentation Members asked Professor Atkinson a number of questions which she answered as appropriate. The ensuing discussions centred on:

- The latest Section 11 and 175 audits.
- The number of allegations made against school staff on Wirral and the number that were substantiated.
- Wirral Safeguarding Children Board stood outside any partnership arrangements that schools had. This would need to be picked up in the new arrangements going forward so that the partners could question each other's practices.
- The current levels of central Government funding. Wirral had done a sterling job in attracting funding but it was not known if it could be sustained.
- The main area requiring improvement was in relation to all schools/education settings staff understanding the thresholds of need. Only 52% had said that all of their staff understood this.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board's Annual Report be noted; and**
- (2) Professor Maggie Atkinson be thanked for her informative presentation.**

25 **FUTURE SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS**

The Chair informed that the Local Children's Safeguarding Board was standing down and the Council had to agree new multi- agency safeguarding arrangements. Consequently, he invited Chief Superintendent Ian Hassall to make a presentation to the Committee on the Development of new Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements (MASA). Members noted that the Children and Social Work Act 2017 replaced Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) with new local safeguarding arrangements, led by the three statutory safeguarding partners:

- Wirral Council
- Merseyside Police
- Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

It also placed a duty on child death review partners (LA and CCG) to review the deaths of children normally resident in the local area (previously an LSCB function).

Chief Superintendent Hassall informed that the three safeguarding partners must set out how they would work together and with any relevant agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. The Committee was informed that the partners must also set out how their arrangements would receive independent scrutiny. Once agreed, the safeguarding partners must publish the arrangements. All schools must be included in the arrangements. The partners must also set out how their arrangements would receive independent scrutiny. Once agreed, the safeguarding partners must publish the arrangements.

The Committee noted that the purpose of the new local arrangements which were still under development was to support and enable local agencies to work together in a system where:

- excellent practice is the norm;
- partner agencies hold one another to account effectively;
- there was early identification of 'new' safeguarding issues;
- learning was promoted and embedded;
- information was shared effectively; and
- the public could feel confident that children are protected from harm.

Chief Superintendent Hassall also informed that there were three parts to the Model:

- Governance – arrangements developed last to ensure they reflected how the Model would to work.
- Services – strong partnership arrangements were crucial to the success of the Model. This included how services were arranged to ensure positive outcomes for children.

- Practice – developing excellent practice was the basis of the Model. Supporting Families Enhancing Futures (SFEF) approach would sit at the centre of the approach and include shared values and behaviours.

Members noted that the Model would include an ‘intelligence function’ to support an evaluation of the effectiveness of safeguarding. This would include data analysis, auditing, reviews and peer reviews, feedback from children and families, views of frontline professionals, regular learning events, inspection results and ‘what works’ from research.

The local MASA Model would include approaches to:

- arrangements to ensure children received the right help at the right time – including publication of thresholds;
- a Model and methodology for undertaking local reviews;
- continued development and evaluation of SFEF;
- arrangements for monitoring, scrutiny and challenge;
- arrangements for embedding and testing of learning;
- arrangements for multi-agency training; and
- local governance arrangements including relationships with other bodies and the mechanisms for independent scrutiny and annual reporting.

Opportunities for local and regional collaboration would be pursued where it was beneficial.

Chief Superintendent Hassall provided the Committee with an overview of the draft Model, detailed its key features and set out the next steps along with a timeline. It was expected that the Model would be in place in shadow form by April 2019 and fully in place by September 2019. The Committee noted the opportunity to have a say on the design of the Council’s safeguarding arrangements so that it could be held to account.

Members then asked a number of questions that were answered as appropriate by the Chief Superintendent and the Corporate Director for Children’s Services. Issues explored included the following:

- C100 forms - Applying for a court order to make arrangements for a child or resolve a dispute about their upbringing and the procedure if it was broken.

- How to avoid grooming issues. There had been some recently on the Wirral. Would the new arrangements ensure there was no further grooming within certain communities?
- The closeness of the working arrangements between the partners who worked together on cases and across county lines. The joint investigations that could help mitigate risks.
- Multi-agency training.
- Local strategies would reflect best practice from outside Wirral. The dynamics that existed on Wirral did not exist in the rest of the Liverpool City Region.
- If all of the partners who scrutinise each other were part of the Children's Safeguarding Board, how would the independent element be guaranteed?
- The external audit processes in place.
- Future arrangements could be to retain the current independent Chair of the Children's Safeguarding Board, reciprocal arrangements with another Council or electing a different Chair each year. A preference would need to be formulated for Members to consider at some stage.

RESOLVED:

- (1) Chief Superintendent Ian Hassall be thanked for his informative presentation; and**
- (2) a Workshop/Spot Light Session be held for Members of this Committee on the progress being made with the development of the new multi- agency safeguarding arrangements, early in the new year.**

26 **REALITY CHECK UPDATE REPORTS**

A report by the Corporate Director of Children's Services reminded the Committee that it had previously agreed that small groups of Members would undertake a series of 'Reality Check' visits to enable direct engagement with frontline staff.

The reports from these visits were then presented to the Committee for consideration along with any recommendations. The following visits had been made:

- MASH 17 September 2018. The Reality Check Visit report was appended to the report as Appendix 1

- Leaving Care Team 18 October 2017. The Reality Check Visit report was appended to the report as Appendix 2.
- Early Childhood Service 7 December 2017. The Reality Check Visit report was appended to the report as Appendix 3.
- Performance Dashboard 19 February 2018. The Reality Check Visit report was appended to the report as Appendix 4.
- Cheshire Lines 30 July 2018.

Members had requested that update reports, for each visit, be presented to the Committee once a year so that Members could receive a progress report on any recommendations previously made. It was noted that as the visit to Cheshire Lines had been recent, it had been agreed that this would not be included in this series of update reports.

The Assistant Director, Early Help and Prevention presented reports in respect of Reality Check Visits to the Integrated Front Door (previously MASH) and the Early Childhood Service and answered Members questions as appropriate.

The Deputy Director for Children presented reports in respect of Reality Check Visits to the Leaving Care Team and the Performance Dashboard and answered Members questions as appropriate.

RESOLVED:

That the reports be noted.

27 FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT

The Senior Manager Corporate Finance presented a report that set out financial monitoring information for Children and Families. The report provided Members with the detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity.

The report included the following:

- performance against the Revenue Budget (including savings, income and debt); and
- performance against the Capital Budget.

The Senior Manager Corporate Finance also made a short presentation to the Committee which included details on the 2018/19 Revenue, the Children's Budget Changes, the 2018-19 Forecast and the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Members expressed concerns that the cost of placements for Looked After Children were increasing. The Corporate Director for Children's Services reported that some children were placed outside of the borough and some were placed inside but not in places provided by the Council. Some places were bought and paid for by the Council and it had agreed to reset weekly fees higher than inflation so it could do this. The Corporate Director also reported that his Department was in the process of delivering an efficiency strategy and was looking at what it needed to do locally to meet children's needs. It was considering whether to enter into any partnership arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the balanced revenue position year end forecast be noted; and**
- (2) the performance of the capital projects be noted.**

28 **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & 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 Committee noted that it was envisaged that the Work Programme would be drawn up from a combination of scrutiny reviews, standing items and requested officer reports. The report provided Members with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the Municipal Year.

Appended to the report at Appendix 1 was a report on a Mental Health Workshop Members had attended on 11 October 2018. Appended to the report at Appendix 2 was the Committee's Work Programme as at 4 October 2018.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the report be noted; and**
- (2) the proposed Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2018/19 be approved.**

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Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 24 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Summary of Standards Provisional Outcomes for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The Standards 2018 report provides an executive summary followed by a more in depth analysis for the pupil outcomes at the age of 16 (GCSEs) as well as a brief summary of GCE outcomes.

Comparisons have been made with the results nationally wherever possible. However many of the national results have not been published yet. When the statistical first releases are published the report will be amended.

There have been ongoing changes to the content and grading system of GCSEs, making the subject content and exams far more challenging. In 2018 grading of outcomes in all curriculum subjects moved to a 9-1 scale, with grade nine being roughly equivalent to a top A* grade and a grade four equivalent to a low to mid grade C.

In Wirral the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English continues to improve and is above the national average. Outcomes in English continue to be higher than in mathematics. In Wirral more disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in English so the gap narrowed by 1.1%.

Nationally there was a decrease in the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or higher in mathematics. In contrast in Wirral continued to improve and is above the national average. More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in mathematics so the gap narrowed by 1.6%.

The percentage of Wirral pupils attaining a Grade 4+ in English **and** Mathematics is well above the national average and shows an improvement from last year.

Attainment of both boys and girls nationally has increased. It is a similar picture for Wirral pupils. Nationally the gender gap has decreased, however the gender gap in Wirral has widened because more girls achieved higher grades than the boys.

Overall the Progress 8 measure for Wirral increased slightly to 0.04 and is above the national average of -0.02 and the North West average of -0.16. Wirral ranks 2nd in the North West.

This report provides a detailed analysis of pupil outcomes which can be used to measure the impact of work undertaken in the following pledges:

1. Children are ready for school

The Wirral plan indicator scrutinises the percentage of children attaining a good level of development. A supporting measure is the narrowing of the gap between the attainment of children in receipt of free schools meals and those children who are not. Another supporting measure looks at the percentage of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development.

2. Young people are ready for work and adulthood

The supporting measures in this pledge are: - to reduce the gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics at the end of Key Stage 2; to narrow the gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at the end of Key Stage 2 and to increase the percentage of children looked after who attained the expected standard in reading, writing and mathematics.

3. Vulnerable children reach their full potential

One of the supporting measures in this pledge is the same as the one in Children are ready for school pledge e.g. at the end of the Foundation Stage the percentage of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development increases.

This report provides the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a very detailed analysis of outcomes for all pupil groups at the end of Key Stage 4 and some very provisional key headlines for Key Stage 5 in the secondary phase of education.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is therefore a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to approve the Standards 2018 report which is appended to this report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The Key Stage 4 & 5 Standards 2018 report has been produced to evaluate some of the Wirral Plan pledges, in particular Children are Ready for School; Young People are Ready for Work and Adulthood and Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential. The report will be shared with headteachers and used as an essential tool to challenge underperformance as well as celebrate successes/improvements in Wirral schools.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The pupil outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 & 5 are scrutinised by school improvement officers when the data is initially received in August and September each year. At this point the data is provisional with very national averages confirmed. The provisional data is used to determine where there have been improvements and where standards have declined. The data is analysed at a local authority level, then further scrutiny takes place using pupil characteristics such as gender, disadvantage, SEN, children looked after (as and when the data becomes available) to determine underachievement and key areas for development.

Further scrutiny has taken place this year to benchmark attainment (Attainment 8) and progress (Progress 8) with similar schools nationally. For example, the Department for Education published recently the national averages for Attainment 8 and Progress 8 measures for selective schools and non selective schools in selective areas. These comparisons are detailed in the report.

A more detailed scrutiny is undertaken by each of the four localities to determine which schools have underperformed in particular subjects. Conversely school faculties/departments are identified where performance is good so that best practice can be shared.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The Key Stage 4 Standards 2017 report will be a key document used to implement the Wirral Schools strategy. The necessary challenge to underperforming schools will be co-ordinated in partnership by existing staff resource. However the ESG funding of this staff resource ceases in March 2018.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

The Corporate Risk Register will be refreshed in line with the new Wirral Plan developments to ensure that any risks to delivery are understood and mitigating actions are put in place as appropriate.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The report has been shared with all secondary headteachers in December 2018. The School to School Partnership Board will hold the locality boards to account for any work commissioned to improve standards in schools identified as underperforming. The locality boards will scrutinise the data and determine key areas for development. Improvement work will be commissioned and evaluated on a regular basis.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

(a) Yes and impact can be found via the following link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017-1>

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APPENDICES Key Stage 4 & 5 Standards 2018 Report

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

Overview of Outcomes at Key Stage 4
Executive Summary
Provisional Outcomes November 2018

Grade 4+ - the Expected Standard

English

In Wirral the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English increased to 79.1%. Outcomes in English continue to be higher than in mathematics. This is the same for each locality. Three localities showed improvement on last year's outcomes with Birkenhead showing the biggest improvement. South Wirral locality was the only one where outcomes decline.

In Wirral more disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in English (3.1%) so the gap narrowed by 1.1%. More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 4+ in English in three localities: West Wirral increased by 9%, followed by Birkenhead 3.2% and Wallasey 3.1%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in West Wirral by 7.2% to 8.9%. The gap in Wallasey narrowed by 0.6% to 9.8%. The largest disadvantaged gap of 20.3% is in South Wirral which is an increase of 4.3%.

Mathematics

Nationally there was a decrease in the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or higher in mathematics. In contrast in Wirral there was an increase of 1.2% (72.9%). There is a mixed picture for improvement in localities with two showing improvement; Birkenhead by 4.5% and Wallasey by 4.4%. Two localities showed a decrease; South Wirral by 1.7% and West Wirral by 0.6%. Attainment in Birkenhead, South and West Wirral in English was above the national average (69%).

More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in mathematics (2.8%) so the gap narrowed by 1.6%. More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 4+ in mathematics in three localities: Birkenhead increased by 10.6%, followed by Wallasey 6.3% and West Wirral 2.4%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in Birkenhead by 6.1%. The gap in Wallasey narrowed by 1.9%. The largest disadvantaged gap of 21.9% is in South Wirral which is an increase of 4.4%.

English & Mathematics

The percentage of Wirral pupils attaining a Grade 4+ in English **and** Mathematics is well above the national average by 2.6% and shows a 1.6% improvement from last year. In comparison the improvement nationally was 0.7%. The national ranking improved from 55 to 47/152 local authorities.

Three localities showed improvement: Birkenhead by 5.2% to 66.9%; Wallasey by 2.4% to 49.9% and West Wirral by 0.3% to 76.9%. South Wirral showed a decrease of 1.8% to 71.5%. Attainment in Birkenhead, South and West Wirral was above the national average.

Attainment of both boys and girls continues to be above the national average. Girls' attainment increased at a greater rate so increasing the gender gap by 1.4% to 8.5%, which is higher than the national average (7.6%).

More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in English **and** mathematics (2.1%) so the gap narrowed by 0.9%. More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 4+ in English and

mathematics in three localities: Birkenhead increased by 9.4%, followed by West Wirral 5.7% and Wallasey 4%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in West Wirral by 5.1%. The gap in Birkenhead narrowed by 4.2%. The gap in Wallasey narrowed by 1.6%. The largest disadvantaged gap (27.1%) is in South Wirral which is an increase of 6.4%.

Nationally all school groups improved outcomes. The biggest improvement was made by sponsored academies. One Wirral sponsored academy, St. Mary's Catholic College, improved outcomes by 7%.

Calday and West Kirby grammar schools achieved above the national average for selective schools. Two of the boy's grammar schools and a girl's grammar school improved on the 2017 outcomes; Calday by 3% to 100%; Wirral Boys by 0.6% to 98.1%. West Kirby showed an improvement of 0.6% to 98.9%.

Nine non selective schools improved outcomes from 2017. Prenton High School increased outcomes by 10.1%; Birkenhead High School Academy for Girls increased by 7.7%; Weatherhead High school increased by 7%; Pensby High School increased by 5.1%; Birkenhead Park increased by 4.9%; Mosslands increased by 4.3%; Ridgeway High School increased by 2.9%; South Wirral High School increased by 1.4%. One sponsored academy, St. Mary's Catholic College, improved outcomes by 7.2%.

The attainment of both Wirral boys and girls continues to be above the national average. Girls' attainment increased at a greater rate, Nationally the gender gap has increased by 0.3% to 7.6%. The Wirral gender gap has increased by 1.4% to 8.5%.

Grade 5+

English

The percentage of pupils attaining a grade 5 or higher in English increased by 2.7% to 64.5%. Three localities improved outcomes this year: Birkenhead by 8.1%; Wallasey by 4.8% and West Wirral by 4.3%. South Wirral saw a decrease of 4.7%.

Significantly more disadvantaged pupils attained a Grade 5+ in English than in mathematics. More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in English (1.8%) but the gap widened by 0.9%.

More disadvantaged pupils achieved Grade 5+ in English in three localities: West Wirral increased by 12.5%, followed by Birkenhead 10.4% and Wallasey 2.4%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in West Wirral by 8.2%. The gap in Birkenhead narrowed by 2.3%. The gap widened in Wallasey by 2.4%. The largest disadvantaged gap of 28.1% is in South Wirral which is an increase of 7.7%.

Mathematics

Nationally the percentage of pupils achieving grade 5+ in mathematics decreased by 0.7%. In contrast attainment at grade 5+ increased by 1.1% for Wirral pupils and remains above the national average by 2.4% to 51.3%. Three localities improved outcomes this year: Wallasey by 3.3%; South Wirral by 2.2% and West Wirral by 0.6%. Birkenhead saw a decrease of 1.6%.

More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in mathematics (1.8%) so the gap narrowed by 0.7%.

More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 5+ in mathematics in all localities: Wallasey increased by 5.6%, followed by South Wirral by 2.1%; Birkenhead by 1.3% and West Wirral by 0.1%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in three localities: Birkenhead by 2.9%; Wallasey by 2.3% and South Wirral by 0.3%. The largest disadvantaged gap of 23.1% is in South Wirral.

English and Mathematics

Overall the percentage of Wirral pupils attaining a grade 5 or higher in English **and** mathematics is higher than the national average by 2.4%. This is an improvement of 2% from 2017. In comparison the national average improved by 0.8%. Ranking improved from 56 to 50/152 when compared to all local authorities.

All localities showed improvement:- Wallasey by 4.6%; West Wirral by 4.3%; Birkenhead by 0.8% and South Wirral by 0.4%.

The attainment of both Wirral boys and girls continues to be above the national average. Girls' attainment in Wirral increased, whereas boys' attainment decreased by 0.5%. Nationally the gender gap has increased by 0.7% to 6.7%. The Wirral gender gap has increased by 1.1% to 5.8% but still remains lower than the national gap.

Nationally all school groups improved outcomes. The biggest improvement was made by selective schools.

Four selective schools increased Grade 5+ in English and mathematics outcomes: St. Anselm's by 5.8%; Upton Hall by 3.5%; Calday Grammar by 2.8%; Wirral Girls by 1.9%.

Nine non selective schools improved outcomes from 2017. Prenton High School increased outcomes by 10.1%; Birkenhead High School Academy for Girls increased by 7.7%; Weatherhead High school increased by 7%; Pensby High School increased by 5.1%; Birkenhead Park increased by 4.9%; Mosslands increased by 4.3%; Ridgeway High School increased by 2.9%; South Wirral High School increased by 1.4%. One sponsored academy, St. Mary's Catholic College, improved outcomes by 7%.

More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in English **and** mathematics (3.3%) so the gap narrowed by 0.9%.

More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 5+ in English and mathematics in three localities: West Wirral increased by 6.9% to 40%, followed by Wallasey 5.8% to 19.8% and Birkenhead 4.2% to 24.6. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in Birkenhead by 3% to 13.6%. The gap in West Wirral narrowed by 1.6% to 19.6%. The gap in Wallasey narrowed by 1.2% to 7.1%. The largest disadvantaged gap (25.6%) is in South Wirral which is an increase of 0.9%.

Percentage of Pupils achieving Grades 7 - 9 in English, Mathematics & English and Mathematics

English

Outcomes for Wirral pupils achieving grade 7+ in English improved by 3.7%. West Wirral showed the most improvement (7.5%) followed by Birkenhead 3.4%; Wallasey 2.4% and

South Wirral 0.2%. Outcomes for Wirral disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in English improved by 1.1% but the gap widened by 2.6% to 14.7%.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in English increased by 1.1%. West Wirral showed the most improvement (4.7%) followed by Wallasey 3.3% and Birkenhead 0.6%. In South Wirral outcomes for disadvantaged pupils decreased by 3.4% to 9.6%.

Mathematics

Outcomes for Wirral pupils achieving grade 7+ in mathematics improved by 1.5%. All localities improved outcomes: West Wirral by 3.4%; Wallasey by 2.6% and South Wirral by 0.7%.

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in mathematics improved by 0.2%. The gap widened by 1.3% to 12.6%.

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in mathematics improved slightly by 0.2%. Two localities improved outcomes: Wallasey by 3.3% to 6.9%; West Wirral by 0.7% by 9.7%. Two localities' outcomes decreased: Birkenhead by 3.5% to 3.9%; South Wirral by 0.3% to 8.8%.

English & Mathematics

The percentage of Wirral pupils achieving grade 7+ in English **and** mathematics improved by 2.1%. West Wirral showed the most improvement (3.7%) followed by Wallasey 1.7%; South Wirral 1.6%; and Birkenhead 0.8%.

Fourteen schools increased the percentage of pupils attaining grade 7+ in English **and** mathematics. Three schools improved significantly: Calday Grammar by 14.2%; Wirral Boys Grammar by 11.3 and St. Anselm's by 8.9.

The non selective school with the most improvement was Weatherhead High School (4.8%).

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in English **and** mathematics improved by 0.4% to 4.3% and the gap widened by 1.7% to 9%.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in English **and** mathematics improved by 0.4%. Wallasey improved by 2.2% to 3.3%, followed by South Wirral (an increase of 1.7% to 5.6%). Two localities' outcomes decreased: Birkenhead by 1.4% to 3.1%; West Wirral by 0.9% to 6.3%.

Attainment 8

Attainment 8 for all Wirral pupils increased by 0.7 and remains above the national average. Three localities improved; Birkenhead and West Wirral by 1.1 and Wallasey by 0.5.

Attainment of both boys and girls nationally has increased. It is a similar picture for Wirral pupils. Nationally the gender gap has decreased by 0.3 to 5.5. The gender gap in Wirral has widened by 0.6 to 5.5 and is wider than the national.

Attainment of girls attending selective schools increased at a greater rate than girls attending non selective schools. Attainment of boys attending selective schools increased at a greater rate than boys attending non selective schools.

Four non selective schools achieved Attainment 8 scores higher than the national average for similar schools. Three schools improved their attainment 8 scores; Kingsway 1.5; Pensby High School 0.8 and South Wirral High School 0.6.

Attainment 8 for disadvantaged pupils increased three localities. The biggest increase was in West Wirral (2.3%), followed by Birkenhead (1.9%) and Wallasey (0.7%). Attainment 8 in South Wirral decreased by 3.6% to 39.2.

Progress 8

Overall the Progress 8 measure for Wirral increased slightly to 0.04 and is above the national average of -0.02 and the North West average of -0.16. Wirral ranks 2nd in the North West,

Progress 8 for boys in Wirral improved to -0.21 and is above the national average (-0.25)
Progress 8 for Wirral girls increased to 0.27 and is above the national average (0.22).

Progress in both English and mathematics increased. English is above the national average of -0.04 In contrast mathematics is below the national average of -0.02.

Progress 8 for girls increased for those attending selective and non selective schools. Improvement was greater for girls in selective schools. Progress 8 for boys attending selective schools increased whereas boys' progress in non selective schools remained static.

Progress 8 for all selective schools for girls is above the national average for similar schools. One selective school for boys is above the national average for similar schools.

Progress 8 for all non selective girls schools is above the national average for similar schools.

Progress 8 in four non selective schools are above the national average for similar schools. Only one school showed an improvement in Progress 8.

Progress 8 in English at 0.01 is above the national average and is ranked 5th in the North West. Progress 8 in mathematics at -0.11 is better than the North West average but below the national average and is ranked 10th in the North West.

Detailed Analysis

Grade 4+ in English, Mathematics & English and Mathematics

	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English		% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in Mathematics		% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
All Wirral	77.1	79.1	71.7	72.9	65.2	66.8
National Average	72.5		70.7	69	63.5	64.2
Birkenhead	74.6	80.6	66.9	71.4	61.7	66.9
South Wirral	83.3	82.2	77.7	76	73.3	71.5
Wallasey	61.4	63.9	54.8	59.2	47.5	49.9
West Wirral	84.3	86.1	81.1	80.5	76.3	76.9

The percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or above in English increased by 2% to 79.1%. Outcomes in English continue to be higher than in mathematics. This was the same for each locality. Three localities showed improvement on last year's outcomes with Birkenhead showing the biggest improvement (+6%). South Wirral locality was the only one where outcomes decline.

Nationally there was a decrease in the percentage of pupils achieving a grade 4 or higher in mathematics. In contrast in Wirral there was an increase of 1.2% (72.9%). There was a mixed picture for improvement in localities with two showing improvement; Birkenhead by 4.5% to 71.4% and Wallasey by 4.4% to 59.2%. Two localities showed a decrease; South Wirral by 1.7% to 76% and West Wirral by 0.6% to 80.5%.

The percentage of Wirral pupils attaining a Grade 4+ in English **and** Mathematics is well above the national average by 2.6% and shows a 1.6% improvement from last year. In comparison the improvement nationally was 0.7%. Three localities showed improvement: Birkenhead by 5.2% to 66.9%; Wallasey by 2.4% to 49.9% and West Wirral by 0.6% to 76.9%. South Wirral showed a decrease of 1.8% to 71.5%.

Grade 4+ in English and Mathematics (Gender)

	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics		
	2017	2018	Residual
All Wirral	65.7	66.8	+1.1
National Average (All)	63.5	64.2	+0.7
Wirral Boys	62.2	62.4	+0.2
National Average (Boys)	60.6	60.4	-0.2
Wirral Girls	69.3	70.9	+1.6
National Average (Girls)	67.9	68	+0.1

The attainment of both Wirral boys and girls continues to be above the national average. Girls' attainment has increased at a greater rate.

Nationally the gender gap has increased by 0.3% to 7.6%. The Wirral gender gap has increased by 1.4% to 8.5%.

Grade 4+ in English and Mathematics by Distinct School Group

Type of School	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics		
	2017	2018	Residual
National average for selective schools	96.2	98.6	+2.4
National average for non selective schools	55.2	56.5	+ 1.3
National average for sponsored academies	50.7	54	+3.3

Nationally all school groups improved outcomes. The biggest improvement was made by sponsored academies.

Calday and West Kirby grammar schools achieved above the national average for selective schools. Two of the boys' grammar schools and a girls' grammar school improved on the 2017 outcomes; Calday by 3% to 100%; Wirral Boys by 0.6% to 98.1%. West Kirby showed an improvement of 0.6%.

Nine non selective schools improved outcomes from 2017. Prenton High School increased outcomes by 10.1%; Birkenhead High School Academy for Girls increased by 7.7%; Weatherhead High school increased by 7%; Pensby High School increased by 5.1%; Birkenhead Park increased by 4.9%; Mosslands increased by 4.3%; Ridgeway High School increased by 2.9%; South Wirral High School increased by 1.4%. One sponsored academy, St. Mary's Catholic College, improved outcomes by 7.2%.

Disadvantaged Pupils

Grade 4+ in English, Mathematics & English and Mathematics

Grade 4+	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics 2018
All Wirral	77.1	79.1	71.7	72.9	66.4	67.6
National Average Disadvantaged						
Disadvantaged	60.3	63.4	52.3	55.1	45.1	47.2
GAP	16.8	15.7	19.4	17.8	21.3	20.4

In Wirral more disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in English (3.1%) so the gap narrowed by 1.1%. More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in mathematics (2.8%) so the gap narrowed by 1.6%. More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 4+ in English **and** mathematics (2.1%) so the gap narrowed by 0.9%.

Grade 4+	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics 2018
All Birkenhead	74.6	80.6	66.9	71.4	61.7	66.9
Disadv B'Head	65	68.2	46.8	57.4	42.4	51.8
GAP	9.6	12.4	20.1	14	19.3	15.1

All South Wirral	83.3	82.2	77.7	76	73.3	71.5
Disadv S Wirral	67.3	61.9	60.2	54.1	52.6	44.4
GAP	16	20.3	17.5	21.9	20.7	27.1

Grade 4+	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 4+ in English & Mathematics 2018
All Wallasey	61.4	63.9	54.8	59.2	47.5	49.9
Disadv Wallasey	51	54.1	43.3	49.6	35.9	39.9
GAP	10.4	9.8	11.5	9.6	11.6	10

West Wirral	84.3	86.1	81.1	80.5	76.3	76.9
Disadv W Wirral	68.2	77.2	61.6	64	53.2	58.9
GAP	16.1	8.9	19.5	16.5	23.1	18

More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 4+ in English in three localities: West Wirral increased by 9%, followed by Birkenhead 3.2% and Wallasey 3.1%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in West Wirral by 7.2% to 8.9%. the gap in Wallasey narrowed by 0.6% to 9.8%. The largest disadvantaged gap of 20.3% is in South Wirral which is an increase of 4.3%.

More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 4+ in mathematics in three localities: Birkenhead increased by 10.6%, followed by Wallasey 6.3% and West Wirral 2.4%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in Birkenhead by 6.1% to 14%. The gap in Wallasey narrowed by 1.9% to 9.6%. The largest disadvantaged gap of 21.9% is in South Wirral which is an increase of 4.4%.

More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 4+ in English and mathematics in three localities: Birkenhead increased by 9.4%, followed by West Wirral 5.7% and Wallasey 4%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in West Wirral by 5.1% to 18%. The gap in Birkenhead narrowed by 4.2% to 15.1%. The gap in Wallasey narrowed by 1.6% to 10%. The largest disadvantaged gap (27.1%) is in South Wirral which is an increase of 6.4%.

Grade 5+ in English, Mathematics & English and Mathematics

	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English & Mathematics 2018
All Wirral	61.8	64.5	50.2	51.3	43.6	45.6
National Average	55.4		49.7	49	42.4	43.2
Birkenhead	57.5	65.6	43.4	41.8	37.4	38.2
South Wirral	72.2	67.5	54.9	56.7	51.3	51.7
Wallasey	40.4	45.2	29.7	33	22.3	26.9
West Wirral	70.3	74.6	63.9	64.5	55.3	59.6

The percentage of pupils attaining a grade 5 or higher in English increased by 2.7% to 64.5%. Three localities improved outcomes this year: Birkenhead by 8.1%; Wallasey by 4.8% and West Wirral by 4.3%. South Wirral saw a decrease of 4.7%.

Nationally the percentage of pupils achieving grade 5+ in mathematics decreased by 0.7%. In contrast attainment at grade 5+ increased by 1.1% for Wirral pupils and remains above the national average by 2.4% at 51.3 %. Three localities improved outcomes this year:

Wallasey by 3.3%; South Wirral by 1.8% and West Wirral by 0.6%. Birkenhead saw a decrease of 1.6%.

Overall the percentage of Wirral pupils attaining a grade 5 or higher in English **and** mathematics is higher than the national average by 2.4%. This is an improvement of 2% from 2017. In comparison the national average improved by 0.8%.

All localities showed improvement:- Wallasey by 4.6%; West Wirral by 4.3%; Birkenhead by 0.8% and South Wirral by 0.4%.

Grade 5+ in English and Mathematics by Gender

	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English & Mathematics	
	2017	2018
All Wirral	44	45.6
National Average (All)	42.9	43.2
Wirral Boys	41.7	41.2
National Average (Boys)	39.9	39.9
Wirral Girls	46.4	47
National Average (Girls)	45.9	46.6

The attainment of both Wirral boys and girls continues to be above the national average. Girls' attainment in Wirral increased, whereas boys' attainment decreased by 0.5%. Nationally the gender gap has increased by 0.7% to 6.7%. The Wirral gender gap has increased by 1.1% to 5.8% but still remains lower than the national gap.

Grade 5+ in English and Mathematics by Distinct School Group

Type of school	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English & Mathematics		
	2017	2018	Residual
National average for selective schools	90.4	92.8	+2.4
National average for non selective schools	31	31.5	+0.5
National average for sponsored academies	30.3	32.6	+2.3

Nationally all school groups improved outcomes. The biggest improvement was made by selective schools. Four grammar schools increased Grade 5+ in English and mathematics outcomes: St. Anselm's by 5.8%; Upton Hall by 3.5%; Calday Grammar by 2.8%; Wirral Girls by 1.9%.

Nine non selective schools showed improvement in the number of pupils gaining grade 5+ in English and mathematics. Birkenhead High School Academy had the greatest improvement 10.3% followed by: Weatherhead High School 10%; Kingsway 8.3%; Bebington High 5.2%; Pensby High 5.1%; St. Mary's 4.3%; Woodchurch High 4.2%; Mosslands 1.7% and Birkenhead Park 0.4%;

Grade 5+ in English, Mathematics & English and Mathematics

Grade 5+	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English & Mathematics 2018
All Wirral	61.8	64.5	50.2	51.3	43.7	46.3
National Average Disadvantage						
Disadvantage	42.3	44.1	29.3	31.1	22.8	26.1
GAP	19.5	20.4	20.9	20.2	20.9	20.2

Significantly more disadvantaged pupils attained a grade 5+ in English than in mathematics – a difference of 13%.

More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 5+ in English (an increase of 1.8% to 44.1%) but the gap widened by 0.9%. More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 5+ in mathematics (1.8% to 31.1%) so the gap narrowed by 0.7%. More disadvantaged pupils attained grade 5+ in English **and** mathematics (3.3%) so the gap narrowed by 0.7%.

Grade 5+	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 5+ in English & Mathematics 2018
All Birkenhead	57.5	65.6	43.4	41.8	37.4	38.2
Disadv B'Head	38.4	48.8	26.8	28.1	20.8	24.6
GAP	19.1	16.8	16.6	13.7	16.6	13.6

All South Wirral	72.2	67.5	54.9	56.7	51.3	51.7
Disadv S Wirral	51.8	39.2	31.5	33.6	26.6	26.1
GAP	20.4	28.1	23.4	23.1	24.7	25.6

All Wallasey	40.4	45.2	29.7	33	22.3	26.9
Disadv Wallasey	31.2	33.6	19.9	25.5	14	19.8
GAP	9.2	11.6	9.8	7.5	8.3	7.1

All West Wirral	70.3	74.6	63.9	64.5	55.3	59.6
Disadv W Wirral	52.1	64.6	42.2	42.3	33.1	40
GAP	18.2	10	21.7	22.2	22.2	19.6

More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 5+ in English in three localities: West Wirral increased by 12.5%, followed by Birkenhead 10.4% and Wallasey 2.4%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in West Wirral by 8.2% to 10%. The gap in Birkenhead narrowed by 2.3% to 16.8%. The gap widened in Wallasey by 2.4% to 11.6%. The largest disadvantaged gap of 28.1% is in South Wirral which is an increase of 7.7%.

More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 5+ in mathematics in all localities: Wallasey increased by 5.6% to 25.5%, followed by South Wirral by 2.1% to 33.6%; Birkenhead by 1.3% to 28.1% and West Wirral 0.1% to 42.5%. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in three

localities: Birkenhead by 2.9% to 13.7%; Wallasey by 2.3% to 7.5% and South Wirral by 0.3% to 23.1%. The largest disadvantaged gap of 23.1% is in South Wirral.

More disadvantaged pupils achieved grade 5+ in English and mathematics in three localities: West Wirral increased by 6.9% to 40%, followed by Wallasey 5.8% to 19.8% and Birkenhead 4.2% to 24.6. The disadvantaged gap narrowed in Birkenhead by 3% to 13.6%. The gap in West Wirral narrowed by 1.6% to 19.6%. The gap in Wallasey narrowed by 1.2% to 7.1%. The largest disadvantaged gap (25.6%) is in South Wirral which is an increase of 0.9%.

Attainment 8

	2016	2017	2018	
All Wirral	51.8	47.9	48.6	↑
National Average	48.5	44.2	46.5	↑
Birkenhead	48.7	45.3	46.4	↑
South Wirral	56.8	52.6	52.4	↓
Wallasey	44.6	39.9	40.4	↑
West Wirral	55.4	53.5	54.6	↑

Attainment 8 for all Wirral pupils increased by 0.7 and remains above the national average. Three localities improved; Birkenhead and West Wirral by 1.1 and Wallasey by 0.5.

Attainment 8 by Gender

Attainment 8 GENDER	2016	2017	2018	
Wirral Boys	49.6	45.3	45.6	↑
National Boys	47.7	41.4	43.8	↑
GAP	+1.9	+3.9	+1.8	↓
Wirral Girls	53.8	50.5	51.4	↑
National Girls	52.3	47.2	49.3	↑
GAP	+1.5	+3.3	+2.1	↓
National Average (All pupils)	48.5	44.2	46.5	↑

Attainment of both boys and girls nationally has increased. It is a similar picture for Wirral pupils. Nationally the gender gap has decreased by 0.3 to 5.5. The gender gap in Wirral has widened by 0.6 to 5.8 and is wider than the national.

National Attainment 8	2016	2017	2018
GIRLS			
Selective schools	70.0	70.7	72.2
Non Selective schools in a selective area	48.9	44.1	44.6
All	52.8	49.2	49.3
BOYS			
Selective schools	68.3	67.6	69.6
Non Selective schools in a selective area	44.8	39.5	39.7
All	48.8	44.5	43.8
ALL			
Selective schools	69.1	69.1	70.9
Non Selective schools in a selective area	46.9	41.8	42.1
All	50.8	46.5	47.2

Nationally attainment of girls attending selective schools increased at a greater rate than girls attending non selective schools. Attainment of boys attending selective schools increased at a greater rate than girls attending non selective schools.

Selective Schools

All grammar schools increased Attainment 8 scores. The boys' grammar schools improved the most. Calday had the most improvement (5.4), followed by St. Anselm's 4.3; Wirral Boys 2.4.

Non Selective Schools

Seven schools achieved Attainment 8 scores which were above the national average for similar schools. Six non selective schools improved their Attainment 8 scores. Prenton High School improved the most (4.0), followed by Weatherhead 2.3; Kingsway 0.8; Birkenhead High School 1.0; Pensby High 0.5 and South Wirral High 0.5.

Non Selective Single Sex Schools

Attainment at all three non selective girls schools was higher than the national average for similar schools. Prenton High school showed the most improvement (4.3)

Non Selective Mixed Schools

Four non selective schools achieved Attainment 8 scores higher than the national average for similar schools. Three schools improved their attainment 8 scores; Kingsway 1.5; Pensby High School 0.8 and South Wirral High School 0.6.

Attainment 8 for Disadvantaged Pupils

	2016	2017	2018	
All Wirral	51.8	48.7	48.6	↓
National Average for Disadvantage	41.1	37.1		
Wirral Disadvantage Pupils	41.3	38	38.6	↑
Birkenhead	39.9	36.5	38.4	↑
South Wirral	45.5	42.8	39.2	↓
Wallasey	39.1	35.2	35.9	↑
West Wirral	42.9	42.9	45.2	↑

Attainment 8 for disadvantaged pupils increased three localities. The biggest increase was in West Wirral (2.3%), followed by Birkenhead (1.9%) and Wallasey (0.7%). Attainment 8 in South Wirral decreased by 3.6% to 39.2.

Progress 8

Overall the Progress 8 measure for Wirral increased slightly and is above the national average.

	2016	2017	2018	
All Wirral	-0.4	0	0.04	↑
National Average	0	0	-0.03	↓

Gender

Nationally, Progress 8 for girls increased for those attending selective and non selective schools. Improvement was greater for girls in selective schools. Progress 8 for boys attending selective schools increased, whereas boys' progress in non selective schools remained static.

National Progress 8	2016	2017	2018
GIRLS			
Selective schools	0.4	0.62	0.71
Non Selective schools in a selective area	0.08	0.04	0.08
All	0.13	0.2	0.22
BOYS			
Selective schools	0.26	0.29	0.42
Non Selective schools in a selective area	-0.19	-0.34	-0.34
All	-0.12	-0.2	-0.25
ALL			
Selective schools	0.33	0.46	0.57
Non Selective schools in a selective area	-0.05	-0.14	-0.13
All	0	0	-0.03

Overall the Progress 8 measure for Wirral increased slightly and is above the national average. Progress 8 for boys in Wirral improved and is above the national average. Progress 8 for Wirral girls increased slightly and is above the national average.

	2016	2017	2018	
All Wirral	-0.4	0	0.04	↑
National Average	0	0	-0.02	↓
Boys	-0.21	-0.24	-0.21	↑
National Boys	-0.12	-0.2	-0.25	↓
Girls	0.10	0.26	0.27	↑
National Girls	0.13	0.2	0.22	↑

In Wirral progress in both English and mathematics improved. English is above the national average. In contrast mathematics is below the national average. Progress 8 for the English Baccalaureate is lower than the national average, whereas Progress 8 in the open basket is significantly higher than the national average.

Progress 8	2016	2017	2018	
English	0.01	-0.05	0.01	↑
Eng National	-0.04	-0.03	-0.03	
Maths	-0.19	-0.18	-0.11	↑
Maths National	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	
Eng Bacc	-0.08	0.03	-0.07	↓
Eng Bacc National	-0.02	-0.03	-0.03	
Open	0.06	0.13	0.24	↑
Open National	-0.04	-0.04	-0.04	

Selective Schools – Progress 8

Progress 8 for all selective schools for girls is above the national average for similar schools. One selective school for boys is above the national average for similar schools.

Non Selective Single Sex Schools

Progress 8 for all non-selective girls' schools is above the national average for similar schools.

Non Selective Mixed Schools

Progress 8 in four non selective schools are above the national average for similar schools. Only one school showed an improvement in Progress 8, Pensby High School.

Percentage of Pupils achieving Grades 7 - 9 in English, Mathematics & English and Mathematics

	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English & Mathematics 2018
All Wirral	22.1	25.8	18.3	19.8	11.2	13.3
National Average	18.6		19.9		18.6	
Birkenhead	18.2	21.6	13.6	11.5	7.3	8.1
South Wirral	28.1	28.3	23.4	24.1	13.9	15.5
Wallasey	10.6	13	6.7	9.3	3.1	4.8
West Wirral	27.4	34.9	24.5	27.9	16.5	20.2

Outcomes for Wirral pupils achieving grade 7+ in English improved by 3.7%. West Wirral showed the most improvement (7.5%) followed by Birkenhead 3.4%; Wallasey 2.4% and South Wirral 0.2%.

Outcomes for Wirral pupils achieving grade 7+ in mathematics improved by 1.5%. All localities improved outcomes: West Wirral by 3.4%; Wallasey by 2.6% and South Wirral by 0.7%.

The percentage of Wirral pupils achieving grade 7+ in English **and** mathematics improved by 2.1%. West Wirral showed the most improvement (3.7%) followed by Wallasey 1.7%; South Wirral 1.6%; and Birkenhead 0.8%.

Fourteen schools increased the percentage of pupils attaining grade 7+ in English **and** mathematics. Three schools improved significantly: Calday Grammar by 14.2%; Wirral Boys Grammar by 11.3 and St. Anselm's by 8.9.

The non selective school with the most improvement was Weatherhead High School (4.8%).

Percentage of Disadvantaged Pupils achieving Grades 7 - 9 in English, Mathematics & English and Mathematics

Grade 7-9	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English & Mathematics 2018
All Wirral	22.1	25.8	18.3	19.8	11.2	13.3
National Average	19.9		19.9		18.6	
Disadvantaged Pupils	10	11.1	7	7.2	3.9	4.3
GAP	12.1	14.7	11.3	12.6	7.3	9

Outcomes for Wirral disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in English improved by 1.1% but the gap widened by 2.6% to 14.7%.

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in mathematics improved by 0.2%. The gap widened by 1.3% to 12.6%.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in English **and** mathematics improved by 0.4% to 4.3% and the gap widened by 1.7% to 9%.

Grades 7-9	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in Mathematics 2018	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English & Mathematics 2017	% of pupils attaining Grade 7 - 9 in English & Mathematics 2018
All B'Head	18.2	21.6	13.6	11.5	7.3	8.1
Disadv Birkenhead	10.7	11.3	7.4	3.9	4.5	3.1
GAP	7.5	10.3	6.2	7.6	2.8	5

All South Wirral	28.1	28.3	23.4	24.1	13.9	15.5
Disadv S Wirral	13	9.6	9.1	8.8	3.9	5.6
GAP	15.1	18.7	14.3	15.3	10	9.9

All Wallasey	10.6	13	6.7	9.3	3.1	4.8
Disadv Wallasey	4.8	8.1	3.6	6.9	1.1	3.3
GAP	5.8	4.9	3.1	2.4	2	1.5

All West Wirral	27.4	34.9	24.5	27.9	16.5	20.2
Disadv W Wirral	13.6	18.3	9	9.7	7.2	6.3
GAP	13.8	16.6	15.5	18.2	9.3	13.9

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in English increased by 1.1%. West Wirral showed the most improvement (4.7%) followed by Wallasey 3.3% and Birkenhead 0.6%. In South Wirral outcomes for disadvantaged pupils decreased by 3.4% to 9.6%.

Outcomes for disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in mathematics improved slightly by 0.2%. Two localities improved outcomes: Wallasey by 3.3% to 6.9%; West Wirral by 0.7% by 9.7%. Two localities' outcomes decreased: Birkenhead by 3.5% to 3.9%; South Wirral by 0.3% to 8.8%.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving grade 7+ in English **and** mathematics improved by 0.4%. Wallasey improved by 2.2% to 3.3%, followed by South Wirral (an increase of 1.7% to 5.6%). Two localities' outcomes decreased: Birkenhead by 1.4% to 3.1%; West Wirral by 0.9% to 6.3%.

The disadvantage gap for pupils attaining the higher level in English and Mathematics is widest in West Wirral 13.9% and has widened by 4.3%. The gap in South Wirral is 9.9%.

Key Stage 5 Executive Summary

Summary of Changes to GCE A Level

In summer 2017, Year 13s took the new A Level exams in: art and design; biology; business; chemistry; computer science; economics; English language; English language and literature; English literature; history; physics; psychology and sociology

This summer, 2018, new A-level exams were taken in: ancient languages (classical Greek, Latin); dance; drama and theatre; geography; modern foreign languages (French, German, Spanish); music; physical education and religious studies.

Next summer, 2019, there will be a final tranche of reformed A level subjects.

GCE 2017 Outcomes

When compared to statistical neighbours Wirral ranked fourth on the following measure:-

Average points per A level entry

When compared to statistical neighbours Wirral ranked fifth on the following measure:-

Average points per academic entry

When compared to statistical neighbours Wirral ranked third for the grade and points achieved by students in their best 3 A levels.

With regard to the percentage of students achieving AAB or higher in at least two facilitating subject Wirral ranked third.

When compared to outcomes for local authorities in Liverpool City Region, Wirral is ranked first in all the area.

Wirral A Level Results for the Last Three Years (2018 Provisional Data)

	Ave Points per A level Entry	Ave Points per Academic Entry	Ave Points per Applied General Entry	Ave Points per Tech Level Entry	Grade and Points student's best 3 A levels	% Achieving AAB or higher in at least 2 facilitating subjects
2016						
Wirral	31.41	31.55	37.06	29.69	B- 35.46	15.1
2017						
Wirral	33.81	33.74	40.02	31.73	B- 35.03	14.87
2018						
Wirral	34.72	34.76	30.14	28.24	B- 35.46	20.41

There is no comparative data with statistical neighbours for the provisional 2018 results until March 2019. Provisional results for Wirral show that the average points per A level entry has increased. The average points per academic entry has increased, whereas the average points for applied general entry and technical level entry have decreased. The average point score for a student's best 3 A levels has increased though the average grade remains at B-. The percentage of Wirral pupils achieving AAB has increased.

2018 Provisional	Average Point Score per entry (APS)	Best 3 A levels as a grade	% achieving 2 A levels	3 A*-A	AAB
All Wirral	34.72	B-	77.4%	10%	17.7%
National	33.05	C+	75.4%	10.4%	17.7%
Wirral Girls	33.86	C+	81%	10.1%	18.9%
National Girls	32.39	C+	78.1%	9.4%	17.1%
Wirral Boys	30.17	C	72.7%	9.7%	16%
National Boys	30.93	C	72.1%	11.7%	18.5%

Nationally the average point score (APS) per entry expressed as a grade for A level remained at C+. Wirral's grade stayed at a B-. The APS for Wirral was higher than the national average. Wirral girls' APS girls improved at a greater rate than all girls nationally. For boys the APS increased nationally. For Wirral boys there was an increase but it continues to be below the national average.

The Wirral average A level grade for the best 3 A level outcomes at B- is higher than the national average (C+). Interestingly both the boys' (C) and girls'(C+) grade continues to be in line with the national average.

Nationally there was a decrease of the percentage of all pupils achieving two A levels. In contrast more Wirral pupils achieved two A levels. The percentage of girls achieving 2 A levels increased nationally whereas there was a slight decrease for Wirral girls, though achievement remained above the national average. The percentage of boys achieving 2 A levels increased nationally and for Wirral boys. Attainment for Wirral boys remains above the national average.

Nationally there was a decrease in the number of students achieving 3 A*-A. This was mirrored by Wirral students where the percentage dipped below the national average. The percentage of Wirral girls achieving three A*-A decreased but remained higher than the national average. The percentage of Wirral boys decreased and remained lower than the national average.

National there was a 1% decrease in the number of students achieving AAB. The percentage of Wirral students achieving AAB decreased at a greater rate and is now in line with the national average. The percentage of girls achieving AAB decreased but remains above the national average. Nationally boys' attainment decreased. This mirrored the picture in Wirral with the percentage for Wirral boys remaining significantly lower.

GCE School Level Data 2017 &2018 (Provisional)**Average Point Score 2017**

The national average APS was 31.14. In 2017 there were eight schools whose average point score was above the national average:- Birkenhead High School Academy; Calday Grammar School; St. Anselm's College; Upton Hall; Weatherhead High School; West Kirby Grammar School; Wirral Grammar School for Boys and Wirral Grammar School for Girls. Provisional average points scores for 2018 indicate that 9 schools/colleges have improved outcomes.

Progress Score 2017

These figures tell you how much progress students who studied A levels at a school or college made between the end of Key Stage 4 and the end of their A level studies, compared to similar students across England.

A score above zero means students made more progress, on average, than students across England who got similar results at the end of Key Stage 4. A score below zero means students made less progress, on average, than students across England who got similar results at the end of key stage 4.

In 2017 five Wirral schools/colleges had a progress score above 0:- Bebington High Sports college; Birkenhead Sixth Form College; St. Anselm's College; St. John Plessington and Wirral Grammar School for Girls.

Average Grade

The grades students achieved per A level entry are used to calculate a national average. A points value is given to all qualifications so a comparison can be made with qualifications of a different size and grading system. The Department of Education base the number of points on the challenge and size of a qualification. A maximum of 60 points are available for a grade A* at A level.

In 2017 eleven schools/colleges had an average grade either above or in line with the national average (C):- Birkenhead High School academy; Birkenhead Sixth Form College; Calday Grammar School; St. Anselm's College; St. John Plessington; St. Mary's Catholic College; Upton Hall; Weatherhead High School; West Kirby Grammar School for Girls; Wirral Grammar School for Boys and Wirral Grammar School for Girls.



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 24 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Participation and destination analysis of Wirral young people aged 16 to 19
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

- 1.1 Wirral has a complex post 16 education and learning landscape. Wirral young people making the transition at age 16 into further education and training have a number of options and pathways including school sixth form, further education (including study programme provision) and Apprenticeships. Post 16 opportunities are accessible locally however, young people may choose to travel for specialist learning to a neighbouring local authority or beyond.
- 1.2 This report identifies the numbers of young people transitioning into post 16 learning and training opportunities whilst also assessing how successful they are by pathway. An analysis of learner attainment on entry to post 16 learning (all learning routes) has been completed in addition to valued added performance for some sectors. The report analyses the current destination data for Wirral young people upon leaving key stage 4 at age 16 and key stage 5 sixth form provision at age 18. In doing so the report supports pledge 3 from the Wirral 20:20 Vision: Young people are ready for adulthood and employment.
- 1.3 Young people's post 16 participation rates in the borough are currently at or above sub-regional and regional averages. Challenges currently exist with recognised apprenticeship participation though which is at an all-time low. To support this, schools and academies must meet their statutory duty to provide robust, impartial careers education, information, advice and guidance. The Council must also ensure there is sufficient and suitable education and training provision to meet young people's needs.
- 1.5 The national perspective on what is required of the education system in relation to young people beyond the age of 16 has changed significantly over recent years, and is continuing to evolve. There has been a fundamental national reappraisal of the purpose of post-16 education and training, driven by three key factors, namely,
 - a. The Governments Post 16 Skills Plan aims to revitalise technical education policy with vocational 'T Levels' at the same level as A levels. Our Further Education sector will need to ensure readiness to meet the opportunities presented by T Levels prior to 2020. The ability to offer quality work placements will underpin a shift-change in employer involvement.

- b. Government Apprenticeship reforms have resulted in all apprenticeships being real paid jobs; having a minimum duration of 12 months and involve sustained training and clear skills gain with at least 20% off-the-job training. The Government also introduced the Apprenticeship levy for large private and public sector employers from April 2017.
- c. There is an economic need to increase the number of young people receiving technical and vocational education to meet the demands of the future workforce. This demand is driven by a significant future need for new employees to replace those leaving an ageing workforce, and also the need for additional employees to meet the demands of economic growth. There is a political consensus that there should be an expansion in the number of young people taking apprenticeships and following work related education that is valued by Higher Education and/or Employers. This is necessary not only to meet labour market demands, but also to improve the employability of young people and thus further reduce the current levels of unemployment amongst young people.

1.6 In addition to the national policy changes impacting on the roll and positioning of post 16 education there are also a number of substantial national developments which are influencing and shaping current and future services / delivery. The national influences having the greatest impact include:-

- Qualifications are changing to become more demanding in the areas of both academic and vocational education. This is particularly so at GCSE level where the new english and maths curricular is extremely challenging.
- The apprenticeship reform agenda, including standards development, the removal of some level 2 opportunities and end point assessments are making this routeway into employment inaccessible for some young people.
- The number of local post 16 training providers delivering on Wirral has reduced year on year as a result of real terms funding cuts, increasing study programme curriculum demands and inflexibilities and the challenges of meeting the needs of vulnerable young people.

1.7 Locally, post 16 participation rates are good with some 93.5% (as at August 2018) of the 16 and 17 year old cohort (7,134 young people) participating in some form of employment, education and training (EET). The proportions of Wirral young people not in employment, education and / or training (NEET) have been maintained at a low level for the last 4 years. The local authority NEET national indicator (mean NEET for December, January and February 2018), published March 2018, detailed the average NEET to be 3.2 percent and Not Known 1.7 percent. Against the same indicator the Northwest NEET average was 3.4 percent and 3.1 percent Not Known.

- 1.8 Analysis of Client Caseload Information Suite (CCIS) data (August 2018) illustrates the proportions of young people that access the key types of local post 16 education and training provision. This analysis is detailed below in table 1.

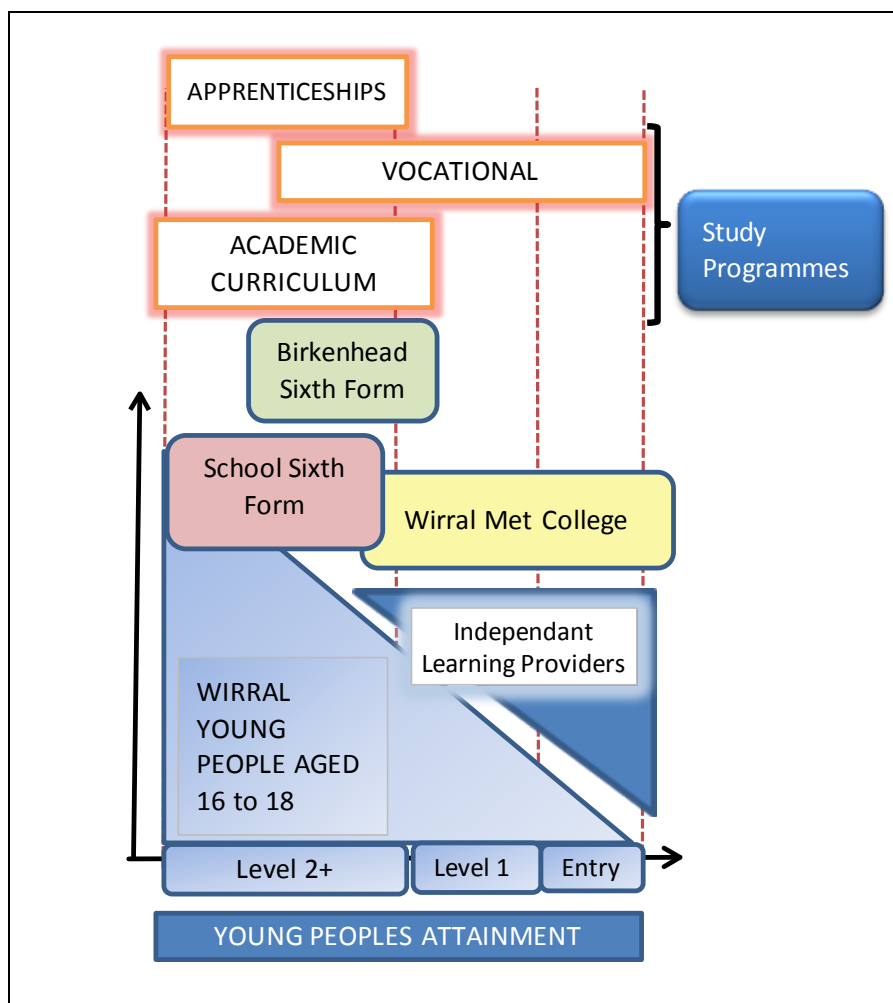
Table 1. Wirral Resident Participation - Young People aged 16 and 17 as at, August 2018.

	Yr 12	Yr 13	Total Cohort	% (adjustment applied)
Cohort total				
EET Total	3363	3307	6670	93.5%
i. of which in education, post Year 11 (includes FE and SSF)	3057	2728	5785	81.1%
ii. of which in Employment	254	544	798	11.2%
a. of which in Apprenticeships	185	325	510	7.1%
iii. Training	52	35	87	1.2%
b. of which EFA funded Work Based Learning	37	28	65	0.9%
NEET Group	118	148	266	3.7%
Current situation not known	63	131	194	2.7%
RPA Participating in EET	93.4%	87.0%		
Meeting RPA the Duty	93.5%	86.9%		

(Source: DfE, NCCIS, September 2018)

- 1.9 Diagram 1. below illustrates, in general terms, how the current mainstream Education Funding Agency and Skills Funding Agency post 16 provision meets the needs of young people locally. The diagram illustrates that the highest attaining young people at age 16 generally progress into schools sixth form provision at a grammar school. Moving down the attainment continuum provision is offered at the sixth form college and other secondary schools.
- 1.10 The majority of young people choosing vocational options do so at Wirral Met College where the specialist facilities and resources exist. Some schools through their sixth form offer are also offering increasing volumes of vocationally related qualifications. Those more vulnerable young people with a lower level of academic achievement will access first steps provision at an independent learning provider as a stepping stone to further education and / or training. GCSE maths and english are key components of all study programmes, particularly for those young people that have not achieved a grade 4 or above.

- 1.11 Diagram 1. An illustration of how Government funded post 16 education and training provision meets the needs of young people locally.



1.12 This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

1.13 I can confirm this report does not require a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.14 Children's Services (14-19 Team) and the Strategic Commissioning team are to continue to develop and pursue new innovative approaches to leaver social value from council contractors and service providers. Social value in this context is with offering 'ring fenced' employment opportunities for vulnerable young people currently not in employment, education and / or training (NEET). A model has been established, tested and trialled with BIFFA and Continental Landscaping.
- 1.15 Ensure that Wirral Growth Company and Wirral Waters developments prioritise opportunities for Wirral young people. Children's Services (14-19 Team) will be represented at planning meetings with MUSE Developments alongside Wirral Met College. The Council's 14-19 Team will identify the

NEET young people and make referrals as appropriate. Detailed planning dialogue regarding opportunities for young people is to commence in January 2019.

- 1.16 The Council is to produce and publish a local skills strategy, led by the Place and Investment team that clearly identifies local growth, replacement employment sectors and the skills and attributes key to a prosperous local economy. The education sector (particularly schools) need to understand local employer plans regarding workforce succession planning and future industry skills needs. Greater intelligence in this area would help educators support meeting the demand for skills from local employers.
- 1.17 Providing quality careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) to compulsory school age children is key to raising aspirations and supporting robust careers decision making. Delivery of careers education is the statutory responsibility of schools and academies. The Council's 14-19 Service should continue to resource, support and challenge schools to shape and inform their CEIAG programme offer but also to scrutinise existing practice.
- 1.18 Continue to prioritise the 'Ways to Work' supported employment grants (European Social Fund monies) for young people aged 16 to 21 currently not in employment, education and / or training. The grant can provide a real opportunity for our most vulnerable young people for whom local employers might not ordinarily take a chance on. The programme has proved that with the right support, employment can be sustained beyond the grant phase and young people can have a happy and prosperous future. Of the 168 participants between June 2016 and July 2018, 64 percent were sustained in employment beyond grant funding. The grant will be in place until March 2020.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The recommendations support (a) a continued focus and scrutiny on schools providing robust and impartial careers educations ensuring that young people have high aspirations and make informed careers decisions, (b) bring clarity and understanding to what are the local skills needs and opportunities of local employers, and (c) ensuring that any potential opportunities to 'ring fence' or initiate employment opportunities for vulnerable young people are maximised.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This is not applicable to this report.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 This section of the report provides a detailed breakdown and analysis of the effectiveness and quality of the post 16 provision accessed by Wirral young people. It identifies how well young people progress, develop skills and transition from key stage 4 and 5 in to new destinations.

- 3.2 **Sixth Form Provision in Wirral Schools and Academies** Analysis of the key headline data illustrates the following key features of how well Wirral young people achieve:-

- 2018 performance at Key Stage 4 is in the main good with just some geographical hotspots where attainment and progress scores dip below national averages. Within the Liverpool City Region Wirral has some of best performing institutions at key stage 4.
- At key stage 5 (post 16) there are currently 17 schools (a mix of maintained, academy and independent) with a post 16 offer. In 2017 performance at key stage 5 in school sixth forms across academic and vocational programmes is variable. Wirral has some of the best key stage 5 academic provision nationally. Analysis of DfE performance data (2017) shows that 12 schools (71 percent) had A level average points scores per entry at or above national averages.
- Nine (53% percent) of Wirral schools / academies had a sixth form provision in 2017 with less than 200 young people on roll. There is a strong correlation between post 16 institutions with pupil numbers in excess of 200 and good outcomes for young people. It is thought that school sixth form with rolls less than 200 can have a limited breadth of course offer and suffer from very small class sizes negatively impacting on learner experience.
- Analysis of DfE Level 3 progress measures (value added) illustrates that 53 percent (9 schools) of Wirral secondary schools ensure their pupils make at least expected levels of progress at level 3 in academic qualifications (A levels).

- In terms of vocational level 3 qualifications only two schools (12 percent) have statistically significant negative scores whereas three schools (18 percent) have statistically significant positive progress measure scores.
- Analysis of the 2017 local authority ALPS A-level value added report brings a further level of intelligence. Key messages include:
 - Between 2012 and 2014 average A-level value added for the borough is at the 40th percentile nationally. The average GCSE grade held by Wirral young people entering A-level provision is grade 'B' (6.31 QCDA points).
 - Between 2016 and 2017 the average A-level value added quality indicator score has remained consistent at, 'very good'. Very good refers to a national performance rating between the 60th and 74th percentile.
 - A-level value added (measured as UCAS points per exam entry) for learners with high average GCSE grades at the end of key stage 4 (A*-A) is low. Wirral position is 10th to 39th percentile nationally.

3.3 **Wirral Further Education and Independent Learning Provider (ILP) Performance.**

Analysis of the key headline Wirral based further education college data illustrates the following key features of how well Wirral young people achieve:-

- Number of young people aged 16 to 18 attend Wirral Met College have increased over the last three years to 1,957 in 2017/18. Outcomes (overall achievement rates) for young people attending the College are in line with national averages at 84.7 percent (level 3 2017) against a national average of 85.5 percent. Between 2017 and 2018 level overall achievement rates improved by 8.2 percent. Early indications are that this has been improved again in 2018.
- The numbers of young people accessing post 16 education at the Birkenhead Sixth Form College are the highest ever in 2017 at 1,278. Overall achievement rates for young people on level 2 programmes has improved year on year and has constantly been above national averages. In 2017 the college level 2 overall achievement rate was 89.9 percent compared to the national average, 86 percent. Level 3 long programme success rates have also improved year on year but remain 1 percent below the national average (2017, -1.1% at 86.6%).
- Birkenhead Sixth Form College has notable positive value added performance detailed in the Department for Education 2018 performance tables. With a progress score of 0.25 the college is performing in the top 15% of all schools / colleges nationally for adding value to learners outcomes between the of key stage 4 and finishing at the college.
- Wirral young people attending independent learning providers (ILPs) for study programme curriculum are generally those working at entry level / level 1 and are aspiring to level 2. Wirral only has two locally based ILPs, in addition to Wirral Met College, with Wirral based centres. In 2014 Wirral had five locally based study programme ILPs; however, national policy

and mismanagement have reduced the diversity of provider to a core of two.

- ILP success rate performance is variable with little consistency. Success rate performance at Morthyng Vocational College has improved dramatically but remains slightly below the national average.

3.4 Table 2 (below) contains information relating to Wirral young people participating in Apprenticeship provision. The key headlines of the analysis include:-

- The numbers of Wirral young people aged 16 to 18 participating in Apprenticeship provision has been declining year on year from a very high baseline. The net effect between 2014 and 2017 is a reduction of -170 apprentices.
- Early indications are that 2018 will detail much greater reductions (>= -15%) in 16-18 apprenticeship participation as the reforms have been rolled out.
- As an indicator of the quality and achievement rates of young people; success rates at level 2 have improved over the last 4 years (+6 percentage) and are in line with the national average. Level 3 intermediate Apprenticeship success rates have however declined between 2014 and 2016 but have improved in 2017 and are 5.2% percent above the national average.

Table 2 Wirral 16-18 Apprenticeship Participation and Overall Achievement Rates

Metric	Apprenticeship Level	Academic Year				Change 2014 - 2017
		2014	2015	2016	2017	
Wirral Learner Volume (No.)	2	550	530	430	420	-130
	3	250	290	240	210	-40
	4+				*	
Wirral Achievement Rates (%)	2	61.8%	71.8%	66.5%	67.8%	+6%
	3	80.3%	76.5%	68.8%	74.5%	-5.8
	4+				85.7%	
National Average (%)	2	69.5%	71%	67.8%	67.1%	-2.4%
	3	75%	77.3%	72.9%	69.3%	-5.7%
	4+				61.9%	

(Source: Skills Funding Agency, Apprenticeship Success Rate Reports, 2018)

3.5 Ofsted and Post 16 Education and Training Quality

3.5.1 **Sixth Form Provision.** As at December 2018 there are only two secondary schools with a sixth form provision graded, 'requires improvement'. In summary, Ofsted highlighted the following key themes in terms of the schools with underperforming sixth forms requiring improvement:-

- Pupil attainment consistently below average.

- ii. Pupils not making good progress from their starting points.
- iii. Courses not well matched to pupils prior attainment levels.
- iv. Not all students have embarked upon courses that are well suited to their interests and aptitudes.

3.5.2 **Further Education College Provision.** As at December 2018 Wirral Met College and Birkenhead Sixth Form Colleges are currently graded as overall good and outstanding respectively. Ofsted inspections at Birkenhead Sixth Form College and Wirral Met College were carried out in December 2016 and October 2017 respectively.

3.5.3 **Private independent learning providers (ILP).** Table 3 below illustrates the current overall inspection grades for Wirral’s core ILPs. Post 16 ILP provision is therefore in the main ‘good’ with only Rocket Training requiring improvement.

Table 3 Independent Learning Provider Ofsted Inspection Grades

Wirral Based Independent Private Provider	Latest Inspection Date	Overall Grade
Morthyng Vocational College	October 2017	Good - 2
Rocket Training Ltd	August 2016	Good - 2

(Source: Ofsted Website, July 2015)

3.6 Learner Destinations

3.6.1 Annually the Department for Education tracks and publishes data relating to the relevant proportions of young people that successfully transition in to post 16 destinations at an institution and local authority level. This measure forms one of the key performance indicators used by Ofsted in determining the quality careers guidance provided by schools / academies plus a measure of performance in respect of education and training provision at key stage 4 and 5.

3.7 2014 to 2016 key stage 4 and 5 learner destination measure performance compares well against the national averages – see table 4 below:-

Table 4 2014 to 2016 Key Stage 4 and 5 Learner Destination Measure Performance

Key Stage	Area	Year	% of YP in Employment, Education, Training (EET)	% of YP in Education (Excludes apprenticeships)	% that do not sustain their destination
Key Stage 4	Wirral	2016	95%	88%	5%
		2015	94%	92%	5%
		2014	93%	91%	5%
	England	2016	94%	86%	5%
		2015	94%	91%	5%
		2014	91%	89%	6%

Key Stage 5	Wirral	2016	92%	70%	6%
		2015	92%	78%	6%
		2014	81%	73%	3%
	England	2016	90%	67%	6%
		2015	90%	72%	7%
		2014	71%	64%	2%

(Source: DfE, January 2018 (comparison with state funded schools))

3.8 Key points to note regarding learner destinations post end of key stage 4 and 5 include:

Key Stage 4 (at age 16)

- i. Overall positive destinations, at 95%, are 1 percent better than national average.
- ii. Significantly higher proportion of young people stay on in sixth form provision (53% Wirral vs 39% national) compared to national.
- iii. Sixth Form College and Apprenticeships destinations – similar to national at 15 percent and 4 percent respectively.
- iv. Proportion of young people transitioning to the FE College is much less than national average (19% vs 34%).
- v. Wirral has 5 percent of its young people for whom their destination is not sustained which is equal to the national data.

Key Stage 5 (at age 18)

- i. Positive transition to employment, education and / or training (EET) is higher than national average at 92 percent compared to 90 percent.
- ii. A higher proportion of learners post key stage 5 go in to the higher education – 63 percent versus 59 percent nationally.
- iii. 28 percent of young people get into the top third of HEI's (higher than national and NW).
- iv. Wirral has 6 percent of its young people for whom their destination is not sustained which is equal to the national data.

3.9 Travel to Learn Patterns

3.9.1 Annually a significant volume of young people travel outside of the borough for further education provision. In 2015/16 17.8 percent (or 733 young people) of Wirral resident young people accessing further education did so at providers and colleges outside of the borough. In 2017/18 the proportion of Wirral residents accessing further education outside of the borough has reduced significantly by 184 young people. Some 15.2% of Wirral resident study programme learners studied outside of Wirral in 2017/18.

3.9.2 Significant variation exists in terms of the qualification success of young people that travel and access learning outside of the borough. Table 6 below illustrates the qualification overall achievement rates across the different learning sectors for young people staying and learning in the borough and those that learn outside of the borough. The data illustrates how when you factor in the overall achievement rates for young people accessing learning outside of the borough there is a drop in overall Wirral young people's global overall achievements rates (1.1 percent).

Table 6 Comparison of 16 to 18 In and Out of Borough Learning Success Rates (2016/17)

Learning Sector	Overall achievement rates for 16-18s learning in borough	Overall achievement rates for resident 16-18s learning in borough and outside of the borough
ALL sectors	82.0%	80.9%
Sixth Form College	86.9%	86.6%
Further Education College	80.7%	80.1%
Independent Learning Provider	64.9%	63.9%

(Source: National Achievement Rate Tables, 2016/17)

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no specific local financial implications associated with the implementation of the recommendations in this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct implications for ICT, staffing and assets arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There is a risk that Council contractors may look to recruit people from outside of the borough when opportunities arise. This situation will be mitigated by working closely with the council Strategic Commissioning and Transformation teams ensuring service providers and contractors are committed to supporting Wirral young people as required.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 All relevant information and documentation will be shared with the Association of Wirral Secondary Head teachers (WASH) and Wirral Further Education College Principals.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

(a) Yes and impact review is attached –
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2017-1>

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APPENDICES

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Report for the Children's Sub Committee	16 th December 2015



Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 24 January 2019

REPORT TITLE	Local Action to Tackle Obesity
REPORT OF	Rebecca Mellor, Public Health Manager Jane Harvey, Consultant in Public Health

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide a response to a request by members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee for an update on each of the following action to tackle increasing rates of obesity within Wirral:

1. Local obesity statistics (with the inclusion of data on diabetes prevalence)
2. 'Eat Well Wirral' programme
3. Takeaway licensing

This work is a key strand of the Wirral 2020 Plan pledge "Wirral Residents Live Healthier Lives" and sits within a much broader set of actions designed to tackle obesity. It must be acknowledged that action to reduce levels of obesity needs to take a system-wide approach incorporating the following: planning, transport, housing, environment, behaviour-change and social and health care systems, further work is required to develop a system wide response.

Action on reducing childhood obesity will provide the focus of a report to the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2019.

This report affects all wards with in the borough, it does not contain any key decisions

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note actions taken to tackle growing trends in obesity as outlined in this report

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are asked to support the recommendation to note the actions taken to tackle growing trends in obesity. The Marmot Review Fair Society, Healthy Lives¹ states that action in communities is important for good physical and mental health and well-being and that local policies and interventions that reduce health inequalities should be prioritised. The report recommends full integration of planning, transport, housing, environment and health systems to tackle health inequalities. This report outlines local work that is addressing social determinants of health in Wirral.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

This report has been developed in response to the request by members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to provide an update on; local obesity statistics (with the inclusion of data on the prevalence of diabetes); 'Eat Well Wirral' programme; Takeaway licensing; as such, no other options were considered.

A report on action to tackle childhood obesity will be presented to the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee in February 2019.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Local obesity and diabetes statistics

Adults

Definitive obesity data on adults is lacking, we rely on national surveys e.g. 'Active People Survey' and the 'Health Survey for England' to help us calculate local statistics. It is well known that adults tend to underestimate their weight therefore self-reported data is likely to produce lower estimates of obesity levels than prevalence calculated from independently measured data. Based on current estimates:

- Approximately 63% of adults (aged over 16 years) in Wirral are likely to be overweight or obese. This is similar to the national average and equates to approximately 164,000 people.
- Just over 70,000 adults in Wirral are estimated to be obese i.e. having a Body Mass Index, or 'BMI', of 30 or more. Between 6,000 and 8,000 adults locally will be morbidly obese (having a BMI of 40 or more). More women in Wirral are obese than men, but more men are overweight.
- Obesity and overweight are both more prevalent in our more deprived communities. There is no reliable data for this locally, but estimates taken from the Health Survey for England² suggest that 38% of women in the most challenged areas will be obese, compared with 20% of women in the least deprived areas.

¹ Marmot M. (2010). Fair Society, Healthy Lives. The Marmot Review.

² Health Survey for England (2015) and Office for National Statistics (2016)

- More than half (53.9%) of females giving birth (at time of delivery) in Wirral are classed as either overweight or obese, compared to just over one in three nationally.
- Estimates suggest that obesity-related conditions account for between 10-16% of the total healthcare budget³.
- The trend in adult obesity is expected to continue to rise, but at a slower rate than in previous years.
- Obesity is believed to account for 80-85% of the risk of developing type 2 diabetes (more than 90% of people with type 2 diabetes are overweight or obese). In 2017/18 there were 19,658 adults (aged 17 years or older) in Wirral who had been diagnosed with diabetes⁴. Whilst this equates to 7.2% of the local GP-registered population, the true proportion, including those undiagnosed is likely to be closer to 9%.

Children

Local data on overweight and obesity levels amongst Wirral children has been collected annually since 2006 via the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Data collected during 2016/2017 shows that:

- 1 in 4 Reception age children in Wirral are currently overweight or obese. This is slightly higher than the national average, but has decreased slightly in the most recent year of data.
- 1 in 10 Reception age children are classified as 'Very Overweight' (or obese), which means that they are more overweight than 95% of their peers.
- By Year 6, over a third (35%) of Wirral's primary school children are overweight or obese. For those falling into the 'Very Overweight' category, this doubles between Reception and Year 6.
- 70% of primary schools in the Birkenhead School Locality Group are higher than the national average for the proportion of Reception-age children classified as 'Very Overweight'. Some schools in Birkenhead have 1 in 4 pupils that are 'Very Overweight', compared to 1 in 10 nationally.
- For primary schools in the West Wirral School Locality Group, 11% are above the national average for Reception-age children classified as 'Very Overweight' (Wallasey locality has 62%, South Wirral has 29%).¹
- 80% of obese children in Wirral will become obese adults⁵
- Based on national estimates, approximately 15,000 children in Wirral (aged between 2 and 15 years) are overweight or obese

³ Wang, Y. MacPherson, K. Marsh, T. Gortmake, S. Brown, M. (2011) Health and economic burden of the projected obesity trends in the USA and the UK, *The Lancet*

<http://www.thelancet.com/action/showFullTextImages?pii=S0140-6736%2811%2960814-3>

⁴ Public Health England (2018). Diabetes. Accessed via <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/cardiovascular-disease-diabetes-kidney-disease/profile/diabetes-ft/data#page/13/gid/1938133138/pat/46/par/E39000026/ati/153/are/E38000056>

⁵ Magarey A, Daniels L, Boulton T, Cockington R. Predicting obesity in early adulthood from childhood and parental obesity. *International Journal of Obesity* 2003; 27:505.

Eat Well Wirral - update

The Eat Well Wirral (EWW) scheme has engaged and supported fast food takeaways to improve the overall 'healthiness' of their offer, recognising achievement through awarding an official, graded EWW status to the business. 145 businesses have signed up, making changes such as using different cooking oils, using fewer additives and increasing the fruit and vegetable content of their offer.

From the 1st January 2019, existing businesses that are signed up to EWW will be re-validated by the Environmental Health team at no charge, subject to meeting eligibility criteria. For new applications, the Council will charge £60 to cover the Environmental Health Officer's time and costs of assessing the business and providing support to meet the criteria.

Takeaway licensing – update

Influencing the food environment so that healthier options are accessible, available and affordable can only be accomplished through effective partnerships and co-ordinated action at national and local level. National data from Public Health England suggests that more than a quarter of adults and one fifth of children eat food from outlets such as cafes, takeaways or restaurants at least once a week. These meals can be high in calories, fat, sugar and salt.⁶

Analysis of hot food takeaway locations in Wirral shows high numbers of these outlets in areas of deprivation. The link between obesity and deprivation is well documented¹ and childhood obesity is higher in deprived areas of Wirral.

Around a quarter of Wirral's hot food takeaways (24%) are located within 400 metres (approximately a five minute walk) of secondary schools and further education institutes.

In 2016, the 'Cumulative Impact on Public Health Scrutiny Review' recommended that Wirral Council should develop a statutory Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) in order to enable conditions to be linked to planning approval on new 'takeaways' e.g. to only approve applications 'within identified centres', or 'beyond a 400m exclusion zone around any primary or secondary school and sixth form college'.

The existing Supplementary Planning Document SPD3 (Hot Food Takeaways, Restaurants, Cafes and Drinking Establishments), developed in 2006, does not include any aspect of health impact. However, Public Health, Environmental Health and Planning teams have been working on evidence to support a modification to Policy CS27 in the Council's emerging Local Plan with a view to a replacement SPD.

The persistent challenge to the Council's Planning Officers is to prove that the introduction of a specific hot food outlet would be detrimental to the public's health and wellbeing to the extent that refusing planning permission can be justified.

⁶ Public Health England. (2017). Health Matters: Obesity and the Food Environment. Accessed via <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2017/03/31/health-matters-obesity-and-the-food-environment/>

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no additional legal implications arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no resource implication arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

If the action outlined in this report does not progress it is highly likely that the trends, we are observing in increasing levels of people who are overweight and obese will continue.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Engagement has taken place with local people via the Healthy High Street insight work and work to develop a local food plan.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATION

An equality impact assessment has not been completed due to the nature of this report

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APPENDICES

REFERENCE MATERIAL

<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/media/1090/takeaway-for-a-change-submitted-report-5-5-15.pdf>
<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50043671/Appendix%201%20Cumulative%20Impact%20Scrutiny%20Review%20-%2010.08.16%20Final%20Report.pdf>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 24 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Reality check visit to St Catherine's Hospital 3rd December 2018 - Feedback Report
REPORT OF:	Report of the Chair - Councillor Tom Usher

REPORT SUMMARY

Committee members have previously agreed the principle of undertaking a series of Reality Check visits by small groups of members to enable those members to engage directly with frontline staff.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1) Notes the report.
- 2) Considers any points to be learned prior to the next Reality Check visit.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The reality visit and subsequent recommendations will enable Committee members to complete part of the Committee's work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION#

3.1 Principles of Reality Check visits

Key to the success of scrutiny is the ability of members to check evidence from a variety of sources. While members routinely receive reports from senior management and have access to performance monitoring reports, it is suggested that greater access to frontline staff and service users would enable scrutiny members to triangulate evidence with other sources and would give members greater confidence in the outcomes of their scrutiny work. It was, therefore, agreed at the meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee held in June to establish a programme of Reality Check Visits through which scrutiny members could engage independently and directly with frontline staff.

Key operating principles for the visits include:

- A programme of visits will be scheduled and will form part of the Committee's work programme. A visit will normally take place approximately every eight weeks. Visits will be set or amended taking into account the programme of externally set scrutiny by Ofsted and the Department of Education.
- There will be no direct relationship between each visit. Therefore, Members may volunteer to participate in any particular visit.
- Prior to each visit, a short briefing note will be prepared to inform members of the function of the service area, background information and any issues directly relevant to the Ofsted report.
- Each visit will comprise a maximum of six members supported by a scrutiny officer. A visit will usually take a maximum of 2 hours.
- The visits will give Members the opportunity to talk directly to staff so they can understand their perspective of the service. Members will be able to ask questions directly, for example, on caseloads, support offered to staff, auditing of cases and the outcomes for children and families.
- The findings from each visit will be reported to the next meeting of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES: None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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Reality Check Visit to St. Catherine's Hospital

3rd December 2018



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Visit to St. Catherine's Hospital

On 3rd December 2018 Members visited St. Catherine's Hospital, Birkenhead as part of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Programme of 'Reality Check' visits.

Previous visits have been to departments which make up Children's services, ran by the local authority in Wirral. Further to the 2016 Ofsted report, it was agreed by members that, following an Ofsted Monitoring letter focused on partnership working, the next Reality Check visit should visit a local authority partner. A major focus moving forward will be looking at the authorities' future safeguarding arrangements. Members wanted to explore the involvement of each partner organisation in safeguarding, as well as their responsibilities for children and young people more broadly. There is also a focus to ensure that partnership working between the organisations that hold these responsibilities are robust.

It was agreed prior to the visit that members wanted to look at the following;

- Gain an Understanding of the role and responsibilities of health services relating to Children Looked After
- Meet Key Members of the Team who Deliver Services for Children Looked After (CLA)
- Understand the Challenges Faced
- Be assured that progress that is being made and how services are working together for CLA

Members were greeted by Lorna Quigley (Director of quality and safety, Wirral Health and Care Commissioning) and clinicians responsible for CLA within the facility at St. Catherine's Hospital. A short presentation was given during which members were able to ask questions. This was followed by a tour of the clinics and a question and answer session with the health visiting team and clinicians. Finally, members and clinicians met for a short debriefing session to discuss the visit and next steps.

Presentation

Members received a short presentation on the role of the NHS for CLA.

Members were advised that the NHS plays a major role in ensuring timely and effective delivery of health services to CLA. This is delivered in 4 different ways:

- By the commissioning of effective services
- Delivering through provider organisations
- Individual practitioners providing co-ordinated care
- Promote an integrated approach to meeting the health needs of CLA

The presentation also gave an overview of the NHS operating structure, and the roles of different organisations. In 2003 there were 211 CCG's in England; Wirral CCG being one of them, this number has now reduced due to further restructures of CCG's. It was explained the significant role that CLA team have in ensuring timely and effective health services. Within Wirral there are 74,000 children and young people of which over 800 are currently in care. Members queried the 0-19 service and the provision for transitional services for Children leaving care and were reassured by the information that transitional care extends to up the age of 25.

Challenges

It was noted by members that the high number of CLA had an impact on service pressures, which was complicated by notifications, systems and processes which are not as streamlined as they could be. It was explained to members that when a child comes into care, clinicians should be advised within 48 hours. However this does not always happen if the notifications aren't right. Members also questioned if this worked the other way, namely midwives referring if they had concerns? It was explained that in these circumstances, medical professionals should refer to MASH.

Main Challenges – Key Points

- **High Numbers of CLA**
- **Notifications; issues with systems and processes**
- **Timely requests for health assessments**
- **Timely Access to some services**
- **Frequent changes to allocated social worker**
- **Communication between agencies**
- **Data anomalies**

Members queried what a successful outcome referral looks like;

- **Notified within 48 hours of child being in care**
- **Request made within timeframe for assessment of health needs**
- **Action plan drawn up**
- **Identifying who's responsible and notifying appropriate clinicians within 28 days**
- **Tracking and monitoring referrals**

Fundamentally, the main priority of the health team is the same as the local authority; that Children Looked after have the same life chances as any other child. It was noted that most children have the same outlooks, hope and aspirations, regardless of their circumstances. In order to ensure that this remains the focus, teams should ensure that young people with complex needs are identified early, and guarantee there are stringent prevention and safeguarding measures are in place. Members commented that one question the Local Authority and Health Practitioners should ask is,

“is it good enough for my child?”

Opportunities

It was explained that there were plans for Nursing and Administrative staff to be co-located with Local Authority Staff at the new facility in Cheshire Lines; however this was in the early stages and had not yet been imbedded. It is hoped that this would increase integration and ensure information sharing was as streamlined as possible.

However, there are concerns over existing information sharing practices. There were a number of scenarios that could mean that there would be late, incorrect or inconsistent info provided. Data anomalies were of concern to members, such as the NHS systems not being compatible with Local Authority systems. For example, a difference in requested dates can mean that thresholds do not appear to have been met.

Members were shown a copy of a Health Passport which was created in partnership with Children in Care. This is an easy reference booklet, a similar size and format to regular passports which contains CLA's medical history and healthcare needs. This aims to help CLA's take ownership of their medical needs and help them transition into adulthood.

Similar to the 'Red Book' handed out to new mothers postnatally; this is a national initiative and can be filled out by doctors, nurses and medical practitioners. This is a useful and easy-to-read reference for carer's and clinicians; however the main aim of the passport is that it is a bespoke document and created with the child's input. Members queried if this took the place of medical records, but it was explained that it was more of a reference tool, for example to check family health or birth history etc. Health history is important, but CLA do not always have parents to ask.

Practitioners, such as the school nurse, have noticed that there is a reduced turnover of social work staff, and that CLA are more often retaining the same social worker. Recruitment is bearing fruit.

In previous years, as Children's services have been in a state of flux, it has been difficult to foster long standing relationships. As the LA endeavours to promote a more stable operating structure within Children's services, it has been agreed that senior officers will shadow each other in the New Year to increase understanding and build relationships.

Tour of facility

Members were then given the opportunity to tour the facility and speak to staff from the health visiting team. This question and answer session was conducted with no senior officers present.

Members were especially interested in how medical professionals liaised with CLA outside the borough. There are currently 120 CLA outside of the borough, and are monitored by one part time health professional. Members raised concerns as to whether this was enough to provide adequate care. It was also noted that some local authorities do not have the same care facilities as Wirral. Occasionally this means commissioning services to suit the child's needs, especially around Mental Health Provision.

Members also spoke to a School Nurse from the West Wirral Team and were informed that some schools have a large cohort of LAC, with one local high school having a cohort of 22. As most children are in care because of abuse and neglect, it was noted that there are concerns around mental health provision and adequate referrals for this. It was agreed by the medical teams and members that good mental health provision includes effective early help and intervention.

The medical professionals interviewed also advised that both the NHS and LA officers were looking at hot desking in both Cheshire Lines and St. Catherine's. It is hoped that this will help gain insight into the respective areas. Members commented that during a previous reality check to Cheshire Lines, officers had noted that the co-location of staff and hot desking facilities had led to greater rapport and communication between existing social services teams. It was hoped that by moving NHS staff into Cheshire Lines will further relationship building and positive outcomes.

NHS staff also noted that there had been a change, and they now saw more stability with social workers and team managers. It was agreed that it takes a long time to build trusting relationships, but were hopeful that this would be achievable in the future. Members and

NHS officers than met for a 10 minute debrief session to go over the visit and discuss key points. The outcomes from this conversation are highlight in the findings below.

Summary of findings from the Members' visit to St. Catherine's

Positives

- **Pro-active teams** – Members noted the enthusiasm and dedication of the clinicians during the visit. There is a noticeable drive to work collaboratively to ensure smooth service delivery. There are plans for officers from the NHS and LA to shadow each other, to help promote partner delivery.
- **Acknowledgement and understanding of problems** – Officers were open about the problems they faced, and seemed to be able to identify service failings. A monitoring group has been set up to ensure a shared understanding between agencies of where there are blockages, and who has the ownership for addressing problems.
- **New initiatives - Teen Team** - Aimed at most vulnerable children to provide targeted supports (e.g. health diagnoses housing, employment, education etc.) and feedback from the children is very positive, making an "immense" difference and helping with feelings of loneliness. The team is made up of 16-19 and CLA nurses and supports children in need, Homeless, NEET and in collage settings. This team were nominated and finalists in the Nursing Times Awards.
- **Health Passport** – introduced for care leavers as a place to record all relevant health information, including family history and birth records. This prevents care leavers having to repeat themselves to new health professionals and ensures information is readily available. This has been very well received by the children. Officers are looking to roll this out to CLA from year 9 (13-14yrs).
- **Co-Location** - Currently senior team members are enthusiastic and on board with embedding a CLA nurse in Children's Services, but thought needs to be given to a service level agreement or memorandum of understanding to ensure each agency is held to account.
- **Stabilisation of services** – this has been noted as a major factor in the improvement of services. Attendees highlighted a noticeable shift in Wirral since the Ofsted report of 2016 where the child/voice of the child is the focus.

- **Achievements** - It was noted that this has been the best year for Children in Care going to University. Whilst this information is not directly linked to Health Services, it indicates that officers across the board are aware of the collective responsibility as corporate parents to ensure that CLA are given the best start in life; be this socially, medically or academically.

Concerns

- **System problems** – Notifications, systems and processes blockages are a challenge, particularly in regards to the impact on ‘timely’ aspects of statutory obligations. There is a particular issue with the notification *from* the local authority *to* the NHS, via the Safeguarding Unit, when a new child becomes looked after. This means that the 28 days’ timescale for new CLA to have a health assessment can be missed. Once notification is through to Safeguarding Unit, NHS teams are notified immediately, there are no issues there.
- **Training issues** - It would appear that there are some issues with the system were insufficient training is also a factor. An example was given of where the social worker needs to press both ‘button A’ and ‘button B’ for the notification to go through to the Safeguarding Unit, and that only button A is being reliably clicked. The social worker thinks they have sent the notification through but it has not in fact been triggered.
- **Gaps in social care & children not brought to appointments** - Due to LA staff turnover/sickness there have been instances where CLA have not been brought to Medical Appointments. Members suggested that that high staff turnover should not be a problem, and that reporting mechanisms should be effective regardless of staff turnover.
- **Staffing levels** - Out of Borough Support Nurse – there are 120 CLA out of the Borough and 1 nurse who spends two days a week visiting them. CLA should be visited every 2 months. If CLA statutory care needs cannot be met out of Borough, that care would be commissioned for them in the new area by Wirral NHS. Members queried if this provision was enough.

Summary and proposed recommendations

The visiting members appreciated the chance to visit the team at St. Catherine's hospital and were reassured by a number of the opportunities and programmes in place.

Overall members were satisfied to see problems being discussed and acknowledged. They appreciated the commitment, hard work and dedication of all the teams involved.

The following points were raised during the summing up session;

- Members noted that issues are usually a system problem rather than a practitioner problem. It was suggested that steps could be taken to improve systems and provide embedded staff with access to the same I.T systems
- It was also suggested that refresher training could be undertaken to make sure complete processes are carried out. Also need to routinely check that there are no notifications 'sitting' in the systems not sent through, to mitigate delays and avoid crisis scenarios.
- Whilst members acknowledged the positives of the co-location and multi-agency work, there were concerns as to whether this will be maintained once the 'honeymoon period' is over. Members suggested the implementation of a robust service agreement could assist with consistency of delivery and easier navigation of services.

Appendix 1 - Attendance

Members

Cllr Chris Carubia
Cllr David Burgess-Joyce
Cllr Chris Meaden
Cllr Jean Stapleton
Cllr Gillian Wood

Officers

Anna Perrett
Nicole Hewitt
Lorna Quigley
Helen Heeley
Elizabeth Breen
Joanne Raghavan
Jillian Murray
Jayne Williams



**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 24 January 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	2019/2020 Budget Scrutiny Workshop Report
REPORT OF:	Report of the Chair, Councillor Tom Usher

REPORT SUMMARY

This report presents the work of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee in relation to scrutinising the 2019/20 budget proposals. This follows a workshop held on Wednesday 5th December 2018 for Members to explore in more detail the budget proposals being put forward that fall within the remit of this committee. A report is included as an appendix to this report. The Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to acknowledge this report as its response to the 2019/20 budget proposals to be referred to Cabinet as part of its considerations in developing any budget recommendation to Council.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- Committee acknowledges this report as its response to the 2019/20 budget Proposals.
- Committee refers this report to Cabinet as part of its considerations in developing any budget recommendation to Council.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The recommendations will enable the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee's comments in relation to the 2019/20 budget proposals to be referred for future consideration by Cabinet.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

A consistent approach for the scrutiny of the 2019/20 budget proposals was agreed by the Chairs of each of the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees. It was proposed to follow a similar approach to that adopted for the 2019/20 budget process with a separate workshop for each of the Overview & Scrutiny committees.

The list of budget proposals was reviewed by the Chair and Spokespersons of the committee and those proposals falling within the committee's remit were prioritised for further scrutiny at the workshop. Relevant officers were invited to the workshop to provide an overview and to answer questions. The final report is attached as **Appendix 1** to this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES

2019/20 Budget Workshop Scrutiny Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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2019/20 Budget Proposals

Report of the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

24th January 2019



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1. Introduction

A dedicated 2019/20 budget proposals workshop for Members of the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held on Wednesday 5th December 2018.

The workshop provided the committee with the opportunity to examine in greater detail a number of budget proposals affecting services that fall under the remit of the committee. The budget proposals selected for further examination were identified by the Chair and Party Spokespersons as those deemed to be of greatest significance in terms of value and the public interest. This report summarises the proposals scrutinised and the comments and suggestions of Members attending the workshop.

At the commencement of the workshop, a statement was read out by Conservative Party members and it was requested that this be recorded as part of the scrutiny process into the budget proposals. The statement is detailed below:

“Chair, I would like it recorded that the Conservative members do not believe that a workshop is the appropriate way for the cabinet’s budget proposals to be considered by this committee. We believe that the discussions should be held in public, at a formal meeting of this committee that is minuted and recorded”.

The Chair of Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny committee responded that at present, the workshop would be discussing the proposals only with any recommendations from the members going to committee.

2. Budget Proposals

2.1 Special Guardianship Allowance

Summary of Proposal

A saving of £800k has been earmarked for Special Guardianship Orders (SGO’s). A saving of £400k has already been delivered in the current year. The forecast spend for 2018/19 of £3.4m is currently £400k below the budget of £3.8m. It is anticipated because of this the reduced spend will continue into 19/20, although this will be challenging. Through the ongoing implementation of a modernised and appropriate policy for SGO Carers the £800k saving will be achieved through a reduction in current costs and the recovery of back payments.

- The allowance is now being appropriately applied in line with national policy to ensure that Special Guardians are receiving the correct allowance payments. The £800k savings represents around 2/3 of what the overpayments currently are.
- The overpayments identified do include a very small number of fraudulent cases.

- 40 of the 120 identified cases have been assessed so far.
- Any withdrawal or adjustment in payment is done on the basis of applying the correct practice, and protection of the public purse in accordance with the national guidelines.
- Over- and under-payments can happen for numerous reasons. For example a number of children had moved placement and payments had continued. Other examples include instances where grandparents receive the payment yet they live with the Child and their parents.

Summary of member and officer Comments

- Members queried Children' services apparent keenness to get children out of foster care and into SGO's, and highlighted that some families were reluctant because of the financial implications. DCS advised that there was the potential for increased or decreased payments.
- Members requested clarification over the number of reviews taken place, and also the number of complaints. Officers advised that so far there have been 3 or 4 complaints, and pointed out that these were not at the higher end of the scale (for allowances).
- Members asked how long the review would take. They were advised that it should be completed within the next financial year.
- There were concerns raised about the potential for breakdown, and that families who foster did not want to lose support if they agree to SGO's. It was acknowledged that this could potentially happen, but there were procedures in place to assist with this. It was also noted that it wasn't just about money, and there were more proactive support measures in place for placements. There have also been no reported family breakdowns due to the changes.
- Members raised concerns about scenarios in which payments were reduced. Officers stated that this was simply to move Wirral in line with other authorities and national guidelines. The point was made that payments had to be fairly applied, so as not to discriminate one Special Guardian over another.

2.2 Reduced agency to core staff

Summary of Proposal

This has been a success story recently with reduced expenditure from £7.9m in 2017/18 to a forecast of £5.6m in the current financial year. This proposal is about the release of various budgets that have previously been used to fund agency spend. As unbudgeted

agency expenditure reduces, the areas that have been used to support this expenditure in the past will be offered up as a budget reduction as they will no longer be needed.

To implement the level of agency staff we will continue to pursue the strategy of replacing interims with permanent social workers, through recruitment. The outlook remains challenging and it will be achieved through a major recruitment campaign in social care, and restructures in other parts of the service. This will require significant time and resource from HR. A plan of all HR related activity is already in place.

- Regionally, the number of agency staff stands at 30%. Wirral are looking to achieve 10% as a healthy target rate. 20% plus is generally seen by Ofsted as concerning.
- The numbers of changes for Children Looked after have reduced by 50% since August. This will be reported on at the next monitoring meeting.

Summary of member and officer Comments

- Members concerns were based around the commitment of agency staff, and reports of some children having a high turnover of social workers. It was confirmed that they are employed on a 12 week temporary contract which is renewed. Some agency staff have now been with the authority for 3 years.
- Questions were raised as to where we stood nationally. Members were advised that London has a high percentage of agency staff whilst Knowsley has none. Wirral have now reduced numbers by half.
- It was also noted that Wirral do not have a specific agency budget – workers were recruited based on available posts which needed to be filled. Members were informed that Wirral quality assures all agency staff and we only accept the highest standard.

2.3 Troubled Families Funding

Summary of Proposal

There has been an increase in “payment by result” income during the current year (£121k has been received to date). However, it will be challenging to meet this target next year due to the reduction in guaranteed Government grant income on Attachment Fees by £480k. Work is in progress to collect this income more speedily and catch up on the backlog of monies owing which will contribute to achieve the target.

- A fee is received for Identifying Troubled Family and then payment by results for reaching pre-set milestones. £1.2m is allocated by The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for Wirral Council; however we are currently only claiming approximately £60k of this.
- The strategy is therefore to step-up activity and become more pro-active. MHCLG have already written to Wirral to say they will pay £300k due to work already undertaken to evidence and improve the approach. Children’s services look to increase this to £600k. However, it was noted there is a risk that the Troubled Families programme will not run beyond 20/21 (awaiting Government announcement).
- A Troubled Families Board is now in place to help support and link up interventions and assist submissions. Payments are only made once the troubled family is identified and ‘turned around’. The partnership approach supports engagement applications and using different metrics helps to measure and evidence the impact. The rationale for the initiative is that the intervention lessens the potential future impact on other services.

Summary of member and officer Comments

- Members commented that there is a risk the council may chase families to meet criteria in order to receive funding rather than focusing on actual need. If this were the case, some troubled families would run the risk of falling outside of provision. Officers agreed that services should be shaped by need. Officers also pointed out that the new leadership model in Children’s services has improved partnership working and each partner’s awareness of the others’ work. This means that the impact of services can now be more effectively demonstrated and coordinated. Members asked if there could be a Liquid Logic bolt on to help with collating information. For example; CYP didn’t capture information from Safer Wirral Hub as they didn’t know about it. This was acknowledged as a possibility.
- Members questioned moving away from the ‘payment by result approach’ and looking to achieve earned autonomy which could mean upfront payments are made available to assist with improving working practices. Officers advised that Wirral did apply for autonomy, however the data capture systems were not deemed suitable enough to enable appropriate measurement of interventions. Further work is now being done to enhance and join-up data systems to get to a point where Wirral has the autonomy to set its own criteria.
- Moving forward, officers advised that the focus is on family need and achieving autonomy around assessment criteria.

2.4 Looked after Children Reduced Cost

Summary of Proposal

The planned reduction in the number of looked after children will be through a collaborative approach across a range of public services, including Council care and housing arrangements. One aspect is improved fostering services which will lead to maximum use of foster carers,

thereby reducing care costs, and improving stability for children and young people. This will be challenging to achieve in 2019/20 as the costs for 2018/19 have been rising. A reduction in the numbers does not always equate to an equal reduction in costs. However the objective of this financial proposal holds. A large part of this proposal will be centred around more effectively challenging care placements based on their ability to progress the child in their journey.

- There is no direct correlation between numbers and cost, a multi-layered strategy is being implemented to achieve a modest saving of £400k.
- Every placement must be justifiable. Provider costs will be scrutinised and work will take place to ensure there is appropriate supply at a local level. Typical costs per child are range from £70 - £3,200 but it can be much higher. Specialist placements for example can range from £7,000 and nationally, one placement is known to be costing a local authority £24,000 a week due to complex needs.
- There is no national framework or controls around child placement prices. This is compounded by places being filled by children outside of the North West (Such as London Borough areas) due to price differentials. The North West now looks after 40% of Children in residential care.

Summary of member and officer Comments

- Members questioned why there were no Local Authority care homes any more. It was suggested that it may be valuable to look at the private market in more detail through the Scrutiny work programme, to try to gain a better understanding of why the charges are so high. Paul Boyce commented that an LCR Collaborative approach would be required to help control cost and that there would need to be a justifiable reason to bring this policy back.
- Members voiced concerns that savings can't be the main reason for moving child placements, and that the main considerations should be what is best for the child. Officers noted that in a number of cases, getting a child in a placement was the priority and that Social Workers main aim was the safeguarding of the child, then think about costs after. It was also acknowledged that traditionally there have often been a drift in care plans, which meant the costs and placements were not reviewed.
- It was queried whether a more robust system is being implemented. Perhaps Wirral has been seen as an easy target for inflated process? Officers confirmed that this is the highest risk saving but it is captured and monitored through the Risk Register

2.5 Children's management Restructure & Business Support Restructure

Summary of Proposal

Work is well advanced on delivering the new structure but delivering a saving of in these areas will be very challenging as we are also replacing agency staff to save a further £1m.

- A combination of efficiencies achieved through co-location of staff with standardised approaches to working implemented across the directorate. Examples include reductions in staff travel expense claims, telephony costs and the release of non-essential vacancies. Return of investment is also achieved through programmes in areas such as training and efficient I.T systems, enabling greater economies of scale to be achieved.

Summary of member and officer Comments

- Members agreed that the savings made sense as they are a combination of efficiencies. It was noted that both members and officers feel that £3.9m is realistic and achievable. There were no major objections with restructures provided this does not lead to any mandatory redundancies.

- In regards to last year's £20m spend, members who are new to the committee sought clarification of where it went, and what did it achieve? Officers advised that it drove the improvement work and capacity, and enabled stabilisation with 80 new posts created. The aim is to gradually bring spend down and the £3.9m is the beginning of the process. There is a need to ensure progress is made and costs are controlled.

2.6 Remove Golden Hello Payments

Summary of Proposal

This was previously introduced in order to attract key staff, essentially social workers who are of course critical to the successful delivery of Children's services. Following a review of compensation, this has now been discontinued and the saving has been delivered.

- Budget not required and thus proposed to be removed; this policy had also been seen as decisive for existing staff.
- Wirral is currently ranked 2nd in Liverpool City Region behind Liverpool for Social Care salaries and 3rd if Cheshire West is included. Therefore Wirral is highly competitive

Summary of member and officer Comments

- This did not meet with any opposition at the time of the workshop. Members had previously explored the condition upon which an attractive environment could be built to ensure social workers wanted to come and work in Wirral. They took this as an opportunity to explore these again and a conversation with officers highlighted that support around their role as well as a reputation for development and best practice.
- It was noted that a “Golden Hello” did not necessarily guarantee that good people would stay in the service, even if it were effective in attracting them in the first place, which there is no evidence for.
- Members questioned if the ‘golden hello’ had previously been used as a sticking plaster, and officers agreed that there had previously been a perception that Wirral did not pay well. It was also pointed out that some authorities used tactics to make advertised paygrades look higher.
- It was noted that ‘the well is pretty dry’ when it came to experienced social workers, and that Wirral preferred to recruited experienced social workers rather than newly qualified social workers (NQSW). Whilst NQSW have been recruited there was now a halt on this to ensure this had been effective. As a point of interest, Members were advised that Wirral seems to be creating a lot of interest from the London Boroughs, and it was assumed that this was because of the cost of living in the South East.
- Members were reassured to hear that social workers were attracted to better offers than just pay. Ongoing training, work life balance and agile working were all cited as being as attractive as a high pay band.

3. Conclusions

Members agreed all the proposed budget saving options outlined above were measured and achievable and agreed that the £20 Million invested last year had stabilised services and the focus was now on investing in the long term and reducing this figure.

Members agreed that they wanted to look closer at the cost of placements for looked after children, and it was suggested that this could be added to the work programme.

Members thanked officers for their reporting and responses to questions and agreed that they were reassured by the proposals made.

Appendix 1 – Workshop Attendance

Members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee:

Cllr Tom Usher
Cllr Chris Carubia
Cllr Liz Grey
Cllr Cherry Povall
Cllr Wendy Clements

Councillors also in attendance:

Cllr Tony Norbury

Officers:

Paul Boyce (Corporate Director of Children's services)
Carly Brown (AD – Modernisation & Support)
Shaer Halewood (Director of Finance & Investment)
Carl Gurnell (Team Leader, Scrutiny & Performance)
Anna Perrett (Children & Families Scrutiny officer)

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Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Thursday, 24 January 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme Update
REPORT OF:	Chair of the Committee – Councillor Tom Usher

REPORT SUMMARY

The Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in co-operation 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.

The work programme is 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. A work programme are attached as an appendix to this report, based on issues which were of interest to members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee in the municipal year 2018/19

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

- Approve the proposed Children 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 & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

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 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

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 session took place in October and December 2017, and it had been agreed that this would be continued in this Municipal Year.

A meeting concluded in August 2018 reconfirmed the scope and plans. A plan to look at individual care plans was approved and the first session took place in December 2018. Further sessions with stakeholders and the Children in Care Council are planned for early 2019.

Budget Scrutiny

A workshop for Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee was held in early December to scrutinise the savings options and a detailed report of the outcomes has been published as a separate agenda item.

Reality Check Visit to St. Catherine's Hospital

Due to concerns raised regarding external stakeholder participation in multi-agency safeguarding, a visit to St. Catherine's Hospital in Birkenhead was organised. Members were given the opportunity to visit the facility and speak to officers and clinicians responsible for Children Looked After (CLA). A detailed version of this report has been published as a separate agenda item.

Urgent Care Special Meeting – Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny

A special meeting of Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee was held to discuss Wirral CCG's urgent care consultation and proposed options. Members of Children & Families OSC were invited to attend to ask questions. This Special Meeting was held on 12th November. The full minutes for this meeting can be found at wirral.gov.uk

Call In – Pooled Funds Arrangements Adult Care and Health Overview & Scrutiny

A call in meeting for the pooled funds arrangements was held by Adult Care & Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. To consider the decision taken by the Joint Strategic Commissioning Board (Cabinet Committee) on 16 October 2018 relating to 'Wirral Health and Care Commissioning Pooled Fund Arrangements'. Again, members of Children & Families OSC were invited to attend to ask questions. The full minutes for this meeting can be found at wirral.gov.uk

3.5 Forthcoming Activities

Pooled fund Arrangements

A joint workshop between Adult Care and Health and Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committees is scheduled for January 2019 to discuss the future arrangements and Section 75 agreement for the Wirral Health and Care Commissioning Pooled Fund.

Reality Check Visits

Further reality check visits will take place in the upcoming municipal year, to give members to opportunity to visit service areas and speak to frontline staff. If members have any suggestions for visits please refer them to the Chair, Vice Chair and party spokespersons.

Multi Agency Safeguarding Arrangements

Further to the Future Multi-Agency safeguarding arrangements agenda item presented to Committee in November 2018, members requested a spotlight session be held to discuss the future arrangements. A workshop has been scheduled for January 2019, and a full report will be presented to committee in February 2019.

3.6 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

In line with the remit of the Committee and the principles for prioritisation, as described above, Members are requested to suggest possible topics for inclusion in the work programme. Committee Members should also consider how best to further develop the work programme in advance of the next scheduled Committee meeting in November. This could be achieved by Committee providing delegated authority to the Chair, Vice Chair and Spokespersons to provide further detailed input to the work programme development.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

The delivery of the scrutiny work programme will be met from within existing resources.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications.

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APPENDICES:

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

REFERENCE MATERIAL - SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME**

(As at 28/11/2018)

Agenda Items for 24th January 2019 Committee

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes from Children & Families OSC	Minutes	
Improvement Journey & Data Tracker	Presentation	Paul Boyce
Summary of Standards – Provisional outcomes for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5	Report	Sue Talbot
Destination of school leavers at 18	Report	Paul Smith
Improving Life Chances Strategy – Annual report	Report	Fiona Johnstone/Peter Loosemore
Obesity Statistics in the Borough	Report	Julie Webster/Public Health
St Catherine’s Hospital Reality Check Report.	Report	Anna Perrett
Budget Scrutiny Workshop Report	Report	Anna Perrett
Work Programme Update	Report	Anna Perrett
Deadline for reports to be with Committee Services: Monday 7th January		

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Foster Care	Report	February 2018	Ian Godfrey
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)
Child Obesity Statistics	Report	February 2018	Julie Webster
Edge of Care and ASH (follow-up to OSC meeting – 25/01/18)	Report	February 2018	Elizabeth Hartley
Early Help	Report/presentation	February 2018	Elizabeth Hartley
The HIVE – progress report	Possible report	To be agreed	
Care leavers – employment prospects	Possible report	To be agreed	
Report on Children In Custody	Report	To Be agreed	
Outcomes from Special Needs Education consultation	Report	To be agreed	
Strategy Action Plan – Update Reports	Report	To be agreed	

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 February	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 / Anna Jones	Ongoing
Reality Check visits				
Reality Check - Merseyside Police	Member visit	Feb 2019	Ian Hassall	TBC
Spotlight sessions / workshops				
Multi-Agency Safeguarding arrangements	Workshop	Jan/Feb 2019	Paul Boyce/David Robbins	TBC
Specialist Transport	Workshop	To be agreed	Julie Barnes	Potential joint workshop with members of AH&C OSC. Deferred from 2017/18
Corporate scrutiny / Other				
Transformation Programme – business cases	Workshop	Whenever required	Mike Callon	