



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Wednesday, 3 July 2019
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS
3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 10)
4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR
5. 2018/19 QUARTER 4 AND YEAR END WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE (Pages 11 - 54)
6. IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY & DATA TRACKER
Presentation.
7. SCRUTINY REVIEW INTO STATUTORY CARE PLANS (Pages 55 - 86)
8. REALITY CHECK VISIT TO MERSEYSIDE POLICE - FEEDBACK REPORT (Pages 87 - 108)
9. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT (Pages 109 - 116)

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 27 February 2019

Present: Councillor T Usher (Chair)

Councillors EA Grey KJ Williams
D Burgess-Joyce G Wood
K Cannon C Carubia
W Clements M Jordan (In place
C Povall of P Hayes)
M McLaughlin I Lewis (In place of
Robinson P Hayes)
J Walsh AER Jones (In
place of J
McManus)

40 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Andrew Gardner, Paul Hayes and Julie McManus. An apology for absence was also received from Julie Jones, a Co-opted Member of the Committee.

41 MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Cherry Povall declared a personal interest in respect of agenda item 8 (Wirral Fostering Service) by virtue of membership of the Wirral Fostering Panel.

There were no declarations made in respect of the application of a party whipping arrangement.

42 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 24 January 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

43 TACKLING OBESITY

Further to the meeting of the Committee held on 24 January 2019 (Minute 36 refers), the Acting Director of Public Health introduced a report providing

further detail on the key challenges that Wirral faces in relation to overweight and obesity, the opportunities to help local people maintain a healthy weight and outlining a series of recommendations for action.

Obesity is one of the most serious and complex health challenges, with several different but often interlinked causes. There was no single effective solution in tackling obesity and action across agencies, sectors and with local people is needed to address it effectively. Almost two thirds of local people are either overweight or obese and the impact of this is far reaching and has multiple implications. Without effective action the health of individuals will continue to suffer, the health inequalities associated with obesity will remain, and the economic and social costs will increase to unsustainable levels.

It was noted that a number of actions required national policy and that Councils were well placed to lobby national government on behalf of local people and to deliver action locally. At the local level, there was opportunity to go beyond educating people about healthy eating and to also tackle key local environmental drivers of obesity and to support people who are already overweight. It was proposed that this Committee support a whole systems approach for the Council to work with stakeholders to develop an understanding of the reality of the challenge, consider how the system is operating, and where there are the greatest opportunities for change. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was considered to be well placed to lead this approach and several issues that could be explored via this approach that could lead to local action were considered within the submitted report.

The Committee was also invited to consider supporting a Local Government Declaration on Healthy Weight for Wirral Council that would present a vision for the promotion of healthy weight and the improvement of the health and wellbeing of the local population, recognising the Council's need to exercise its responsibility in developing and implementing policies that promote healthy weight. In response to a query, it was advised that Blackpool's Declaration, provided to the Committee as an exemplar, had had varied success and was being refreshed with these outcomes in mind.

The link between mental health and obesity was noted, and comment made that healthy eating contributed to being in the right frame of mind. While this had not been addressed directly in the submitted paper, the issue was being picked up in work with people with anxiety and depression.

It was queried whether the quality of school meals was monitored and whether nutrition legislation was being followed. While this could not be responded to at the meeting, the Acting Director advised of an approach received from Edsential and the offer they provided. The quality of the Edsential offer was stressed by a Member referencing his experience as a school governor. Noting that schools also used other providers to deliver school meals and had a big role to play in delivering healthy food, Members

asked to be advised of the monitoring arrangements. The Acting Director advised that work with schools was an area that Public Health wished to address and improve upon, looking to commission a Healthy Child Programme and to develop links with Edsential.

A Member noted that of the several issues put forward for exploration in the submitted report only the proposed Declaration had any indication of enforcement queried how healthy eating and measures to tackle obesity were to be 'enforced'. The Acting Director advised that the approach was about changing behaviours, and so it was important to create the right environment to help people make choices and be encouraged to eat healthily. The importance of tackling obesity was stressed by a rise in Type 2 diabetes.

In response to a query concerning work to address takeaways through the planning system which had been supported by Members, the Acting Director advised that this remained a work in progress, but maybe not as quickly as would have been liked from a public health perspective. In discussion, a Member noted that this approach had been a recommendation of the Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) a Committee working group be established to develop, through a series of workshops, an action plan to develop key areas of work to support local people to maintain a healthy weight;**
- (2) the opportunities to promote healthy weight as identified within the submitted report be noted;**
- (3) the proposed development of and commitment to a Local Government Declaration on Healthy Weight for Wirral be endorsed.**

44 2018/19 QUARTER 3 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE

The Committee received a report presenting the 2018/19 Quarter 3 (October - December 2018) performance report for the Wirral Plan Pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The performance report, which was included as an Appendix to the submitted report, provided a description of progress in Quarter 3 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

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

- Children are Ready for School;
- Young People are Ready for Work and Adulthood;
- Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential;
- People with Disabilities Live Independent Lives; and
- Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence.

The Director for Children presented the performance report and invited comment from Members on it's content.

The worsening trend in the percentage of women booked to access professional maternity services on or before 12+6 weeks gestation was raised. The Director noted that the figures gave the impression that women were not engaged, but whether this was true was queried. It may be that the wrong measure was being used and this issue required a deeper understanding.

Worsening trends in several measures relating to domestic violence were raised. The Director advised of discussions on these points and of the need to get a better understanding of the data. While the data suggested a greater prevalence, was it actually a case of increased detection? A Member commented that nothing seemed to have progressed in respect of domestic violence issues, and that a progress report was required to advise more fully on such matters. The Chair noted that while the Committee had recently received a report, questions still remained. A report submission or a workshop session could be added to the Committee work programme to seek to understand the issues, the data and the effectiveness of the Council's response.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) the approach towards the consideration of domestic violence issues within the Committee work programme be discussed further by the Chair and Party Spokespersons.**

45 IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY AND DATA TRACKER (OFSTED READINESS)

The Corporate Director for Children's Services made a presentation on the Children and Young People's Service improvement journey. He provided –

- an overview of re-inspection preparation, including
 - key workstreams to capture feedback and actions from monitoring visits and Ofsted inspections
 - validation of Annex A, self-assessment, dashboards, performance reporting and the functionality of Liquid Logic;
 - development of a solid infrastructure of support and guidance for the workforce, partners and elected Members,

all underpinned by a high level action plan and appropriate governance and management;

- a summary of current practice in respect of
 - the integrated front door and complex investigations;
 - assessment and intervention and Child Protection;
 - permanency and planning for children;
 - care leavers;
 - fostering and adoption;and further considering areas for development;
- key data headlines;
- workforce information, including agency staffing, sickness absence and wellbeing;
- ongoing service improvements, looking beyond the Ofsted inspection; and
- details of developments in partnership working.

In concluding the presentation, the Corporate Director thanked the Committee for their work and support over the previous 12 months, noting that the Reality Visits had been particularly helpful in developing good practice from scrutiny. A date for the Ofsted inspection had not yet been indicated, though it was suggested that it would be held before June 2019.

A Member noted that while sickness absence figures were moving in the right direction, they were still higher than the national and Council averages. The Corporate Director advised that a number of long term absences were being addressed that would further improve the Service's figures.

The Corporate Director referred to safeguarding matters and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangement (MASA), currently operating in shadow form prior to full implementation in September 2019. The Lead Member for Children retained a statutory role, but there was a need for determining a protocol for scrutiny input beyond consideration of the annual report.

RESOLVED:

That the presentation of the Corporate Director on the Children and Young People's Service improvement journey be noted.

46

FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 3 2018/19

The Senior Manager Corporate Finance presented a report that set out financial monitoring information for Children and Families as at the close of Quarter 3 of the 2018/19 financial year. The report provided Members with the detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity, the financial information provided including –

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

- performance against the Capital Budget.

In presenting the report, the Senior Manager Corporate Finance presented details on the 2018/19 revenue budget, reported on changes to the agreed Children and Families budget, advised on the 2018/19 forecast outturn and reported on the 2018/19 capital programme.

Further to queries concerning funding of Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, as shown at paragraph 3.2 to the submitted report, it was confirmed that funding was available to address the identified needs of pupils, and that the first phase of the Premier Advisory Group independent review of SEN provision was due to report shortly.

The Chair noted that an earlier budget exercise had set out to deliver high quality early help that would then drive down demand on statutory services. However, the figures as presented indicated an underspend on early help that appeared to be supporting an overspend on statutory services. The Corporate Director advised the underspend reflected a part year cost of a new service and was not a deliberate underspend. The Committee was advised that full year spend on the early help service would cause a further budget pressure in the following year.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

47 **WIRRAL FOSTERING SERVICE**

The Committee received a report providing an update in respect of Wirral's in-house Fostering Service that recruits and supports carers and provides placements for children from across the Borough. The report addressed in detail the following key areas of consideration that had been identified by Members –

- details of foster carer recruitment and retention;
- training and support offered before and during placements;
- levels of placement breakdowns and the reasons; and
- numbers of young people who remain in the 'Staying Put' scheme.

The submitted report set out current practice in the identified key areas and provided further contextual information for consideration, considering local, regional and national issues relating to fostering services. The Committee was advised that there was a significant challenge in the market for foster carers which was exacerbated in Wirral by the number of children fostered.

Members raised several queries and were advised of the following -

- it was confirmed that requirements to compile several extensive assessment reports for the same child were generally Court directed and did deflect from other aspects of work;
- the Staying Put scheme needed to be kept under review and considerations given as to how to improve the offer for those leaving care at the age of 18 years;
- with regard to foster carer resignations, these could arise, for example, for family reasons or changing circumstances, while recruitment by an agency might also be a factor. A request was made for resignation data to be included in any future report on fostering;
- with regard to detail in the submitted report such that a number of foster carers had been 'terminated', this generally arose though concerns about practice or levels of care;
- regarding foster carers who are family members, it was advised that the same Regulations, training and supervision applied to these carers as to other foster carers.

Referring to content within the submitted report that Wirral had a higher proportion of looked after children in some form of foster placement than most other north-west local authorities, it was noted that across the north west the figure was generally higher than in other regions. The Committee was advised that the local courts preferred an approach that they believed provided the extra rigour of a care order or interim care order. It was confirmed that this approach had been queried previously, but no change had been seen.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

48 EARLY HELP – COMMUNITY MATTERS

The Committee received a report presenting an overview of the new Community Matters initiative which has been established to provide early help for children, young people and families in Wirral.

'Early help' means taking action to support a child, young person or their family as soon as a problem emerges. It can be required at any stage in a child's life and applies to any problem or need that the family can't deal with alone. Early help can lead to better outcomes for children, prevent problems escalating or overwhelming families, create social mobility and support communities to thrive.

Community Matters sought to create the right conditions for community-based early help to thrive, including:

- the revitalising of the voluntary, community and faith sector by creating a vibrant and visible network of providers;

- the provision of support to children and families which is straight-forward and effective, easy to engage with and not constrained by overwhelming processes; and
- the engaging of all stakeholders in the process of developing a long-term approach to early help which is sustainable, responsive to need, proactive in delivery, and is owned by communities.

The development of the early help offer was outlined in the submitted report and contracts had been let for the provision of Community Matters services as follows -

- **Co-ordination of early help** - Revitalising the voluntary, community and faith sector by creating a vibrant and visible network of providers through publishing the early help offer; re-launching the Link Forum; hosting quarterly networking events; triaging requests for service and signposting children and families to support; allocating families to early help support providers for casework support; and maintaining information systems, recording all early help activity and casework;
- **Delivery of early help support** - Providing support to children and families which is straight-forward and effective, easy to engage with and not constrained by overwhelming processes. To work with 120 families annually, ensuring each family has a lead worker, an early help assessment, an early help plan and a recorded outcome and closure summary. A further contract would be award with effect from 1 April 2019 to provide a whole family mental health and wellbeing service.
- **Development of early help** - Engaging all stakeholders in the process of developing a long-term approach to early help which is sustainable, responsive to need, proactive in delivery, and owned by communities, involving Stakeholder engagement, capacity building, evaluation, collective impact modelling, and the launching a new model by 1 April 2021.

In noting the increase in activity by the community and voluntary sector, it was queried how it could be assured that a group of people with an important need were not missing out on necessary referrals. The Committee was advised that a manager post had been established for oversight, that the early help hub accessed the liquid logic system, and that all organisations were doing rigorous data collection. A communications strategy had been developed that would seek to ensure that all necessary agencies were aware of the new and developing arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) **the report be noted;**
- (2) **the Community Matters initiative be supported.**

49 **FUTURE MULTI-AGENCY SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS -
WORKSHOP REPORT**

The Committee received the report and recommendations arising from a Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Workshop held on 28 January 2019 that had reviewed proposed Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements.

The requirements of the Children and Social Work Act 2017 would see the cessation of the current Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCBs) later in the year and Members had convened the Workshop to receive more information regarding the proposed model for future Local Safeguarding arrangements.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;**
- (2) a draft protocol be produced between the Scrutiny Committee and Wirral Partnership Group and shared with attendees of the workshop for further suggestions and comments, this to be put in place once both bodies are satisfied with it and prior to the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership Group going live and the Wirral Safeguarding Children Board standing down;**
- (3) this Committee should receive bi-annual updates from the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership Group, one of which is to be an annual report;**
- (4) consideration of the formalising of arrangements whereby Scrutiny could become involved in the Wirral Safeguarding Partnership Group and informed of its activities be deferred for further consideration.**

50 **CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE -
WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT**

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

The Chair's report provided an update regarding progress made since the Committee meeting held on 24 January 2019, and the current work programme made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, workshops,

standing items and requested Officer reports was appended. Also appended was a report on a Pooled Funding Arrangements Scrutiny Workshop held jointly with the Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2019.

Further to the Workshop report and in response to a query concerning gaps in Special Educational Needs provision and the implications for those with Education, Health and Care Plans once they reach 18 years of age, the Committee was advised that transition was being looked at across Wirral as a whole as different services had differing approaches to transfer between children and adult services. It was also noted that criteria to access services could be different between children and adult services.

With regard to the proposed Obesity Working Group (Minute 43 refers), the Chair and Councillors Burgess-Joyce, Carubia, Clement, Grey, McLaughlin and Wood registered an interest in membership. It was noted that membership of this Group would be confirmed on appointment of the new Committee in May 2019.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the addition of the establishment of an Obesity Working Group to the work programme be noted, along with further work relating to domestic abuse in a form to be determined by the Chair and Spokespersons as agreed at Minute 44 above;**
- (2) the updated Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2018/19, as amended, be approved;**
- (3) the report and recommendations of the Pooled Funding Arrangements Scrutiny Workshop be noted and accepted.**



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 3 July 2019

REPORT TITLE:	2018/19 Quarter 4 and Year End Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Corporate Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2018/19 Quarter 4 (January - March 2019) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Relevant Wirral Plan 20/20 pledge(s) are:

- Children are Ready for School
- Children are Ready for Work and Adulthood
- Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential
- People with Disabilities live Independent Lives
- Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence

The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides an overview of the progress in Quarter 4 and available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

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

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivering the Wirral Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the approved performance management framework for the Wirral Plan. As such, no other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For pledges partnership groups have been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result of this, not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2018/19 year end column.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators, a trend is shown (better, same or worse). In most cases, this is determined by comparing the latest data with the previous reporting period i.e. 2017/18 year end. In some cases, i.e. where data accumulates during the year or is subject to seasonal fluctuations, the trend is shown against the same time the previous year. This is indicated in the key at the end of the report.
- 3.5 For some indicators, targets have been set. Where this is the case, a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high-level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on

all activities set out in the supporting strategy action plans. The link to this web page is set out below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

3.7 Each of the Wirral Plan Pledges has a Lead Commissioner responsible for overseeing effective delivery. The Lead Commissioners for the Pledges in the report at Appendix 1 are as follows:

- Children are Ready for School – Paul Boyce
- Children are Ready for Work and Adulthood – Paul Boyce
- Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential – Paul Boyce
- People with Disabilities live Independent Lives – Graham Hodgkinson
- Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence – Mark Camborne

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The priorities in the Wirral Plan pledges were informed by a range of consultations carried out in 2015 and 2016 including the Wirral resident survey.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 (a) Yes and impact review can be found at:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Children and Families 2018/19 Quarter 4 Pledge Report

Appendix 2: Wirral Plan Children and Families 2018/19 Year End Closedown Report

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8 September 2016
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 November 2016
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23 March 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 June 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	26 September 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	14 November 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	22 March 2018
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3 July 2018
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 September 2018
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	13 November 2018
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	27 February 2019

Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Children and Families Committee 2018-19 Quarter 4 Reports

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Children are ready for school

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

The quarter 4 performance reporting shows that 4 measures have improved and are doing better since quarter 3, which includes women booking into maternity services, infants receiving their 6-8-week development check, children receiving their one-year review and children receiving their 2-year review. A successful strategy for these improvements has been realised through strong partnership working between midwifery, 0-19 health visiting teams and children centres through co-location of services and in addition a delivery model of Saturday developmental check clinics, for those parents who could not necessarily engage in week day clinics.

The quarterly report also shows that three measures haven't improved since the last quarter specifically including 2-year old offer, hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children; this can be difficult as attendance is higher for those living close to Arrowe Park Hospital and finally Early Years childcare providers which are rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. In terms of take up of 2-year old offer the 9% (44 children) reduction from last reporting is as a result of the overall eligible cohort having significantly risen, which had pressured capacity for robust targeting. As a result internal processes have been reviewed and quality assured to ensure future maximisation of take up can be realised in this instance.

Overall outcomes at the end of Early Years Foundation stage profile (EYFSP) have improved and moreover the gap closed for those identified as most disadvantaged, by 4%. This is celebrated through the continued commitments by partners with shared aspirations for the children and families in Wirral. In addition continued community awareness of school readiness and building of skills capacity across the early years sector, inclusive of voluntary organisations has resulted in a better co-ordination of early responses to barriers for children who need interventions for school readiness. Finally, the recent Early Years Peer Review (Feb:2019) led by the Local Government Association (LGA) reported positively on the quality of services being strong, staff are committed and highly skilled, leaders are ambitious and give clear direction which is as a demonstration of the GLD being improved.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Foundation Stage - % achieving a good level of development	Annual Higher is better	62.8% (2013-14 Acad Year)	England: 71.5% (2017-18 Acad Year) North West: 68.9% (2017-18 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: 69.9% (2017-18 Acad Year)	69.4% (2016-17 Acad Year)					70.5% (2017-18 Acad Year)	Better	<p>The next provisional figures will become available in September 2019 for the 2018-19 academic year.</p> <p>This is the finalised figure, reported in Q3 and represents very good progress. The % of Foundation stage children now achieving a good level of development has surpassed a milestone (70%) that has been worked towards for the last 3 years, and the progress in this area received favourable comment during the recent Ofsted visit.</p> <p>In addition to showing an increase upon the 2016-17 Academic year figure of 69.4%, Wirral is also ahead of that of the North West (68.9%). Whilst our figure is 1% below that of England as a whole (71.5%), work is on going to meet and surpass this in the future.</p>
The percentage of women booked to access professional maternity services on or before 12+6 weeks gestation	Quarterly Higher is better	80.8% (Q3 2014-15)		76.0% (2017-18)	Amber Actual: 89.5% Target: 90.0% (Q1 2018-19)	Amber Actual: 78.0% Target: 90.0% (Q2 2018-19)	Amber Actual: 75.0% Target: 90.0% (Q3 2018-19)	Amber Actual: 88.0% Target: 90.0% (Q4 2018-19)	Amber Actual: 88.0% Target: 90.0% (Jan - Mar 2019)	Better	<p>January – March 2019: January = 85% February = 91% March = 87%</p> <p>Scanning capacity has improved and the compliance against target has improved significantly.</p>
Take up of 2 year old offer by eligible families as identified by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)	Quarterly Higher is better	70.0% (Q1 2015-16)	England: 72.0% (Jan 2018) North West: 83.0% (Jan 2018) Statistical Neighbours: 91.3% (Jan 2018)	91.3% (Jan-Mar 2018)		91.0% (Apr-Jul 2018)	93.1% (Sept-Dec 18)	84.0% (Jan - Mar 2019)		Worse	<p>Based on headcount figure from January 2019 over the DFE eligibility figure for Spring Term.</p> <p>The early years team receives 7 lists per year of eligible families for two year funding. The lists have always gone up and down as families fall in and out of eligibility. Due to this the early years team have always used the lowest number of eligible families from the lists. However more recently the number of families on the list has increased quite substantially to over 100, and there has been a slight decrease in take up (around 50 families). Anecdotally, families are refusing as they feel their child is too young.</p> <p>The team will be reviewing the process to promote funding to families and further analysing how the take up is spread across the eligibility criteria, to understand the dip and ensure we can plan for improvement in take up.</p>

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	Annual Lower is better	20.0% (2013-14 Acad Year)	England: 17.0% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 18.0% (2016-17 Acad Year)	22.0% (2016-17 Acad Year)					18.0% (2017-18 Acad Year)	Better	The next provisional figures will become available in September 2019 for the 2018-19 academic year. This figure was initially reported in Q3. This is a 4% reduction on the previously reported academic year and represents very good progress in this area. Work has continued on the progress tracker to ensure that as many providers as possible are using it to identify those children who need additional support to improve their school readiness. % of children achieving good level of development in Foundation Stage - Eligible for FSM = 56.00. % of children achieving good level of development in Foundation Stage - Non FSM = 74.00
Percentage of children aged 4-5 classified as overweight or obese	Annual Lower is better	22.40% (2014-15)	England: 22.60% (2016-17) North West: 23.90% (2016-17)	25.60% (2016-17 Acad Year)					25.10% (2017-18 Acad Year)	Better	2018-19 figures will become available in October 2019. This Figure was first reported in Q3 2018-19.
Percentage of infants who received a 6-8 week Development Check by the time they were 8 weeks	Quarterly Higher is better	84.6% (Q1 2015-16)	England: 84.9% (Q4 2017/18) North West: 87.0% (Q4 2017/18)		Amber Actual: 84.0% Target: 90.0% (Q1 2018-19)	Amber Actual: 81.0% Target: 90.0% (Q2 2018-19)	Amber Actual: 82.0% Target: 90.0% (Q3 2018-19)			Better	Provisional Quarter 3 figures for 2018/19. Not yet published but submitted to PHE February 2019. Performance has improved from Q2 to Q3 by 1%
Percentage of children who received a 12 month Health Visitor review by the time they turned 12 months	Quarterly Higher is better	66.4% (Q1 2015-16)	England: 77.6% (Q4 2017/18) North West: 82.8% (Q4 2017/18)		Amber Actual: 80.0% Target: 85.0% (Q1 2018-19)	Amber Actual: 77.0% Target: 85.0% (Q2 2018-19)	Green Actual: 88.0% Target: 85.0% (Q3 2018-19)			Better	Provisional Quarter 3 figures for 2018/19. Not yet published but submitted to PHE February 2019. Performance has improved from Q2 to Q3 by 11%. The service is continuing to offer developmental reviews on Saturdays which has been very successful in engaging families where the main care giver works during the week, or the family requires support to attend the appointments.
Percentage of children who received a 2-2½ year Health Visitor review	Quarterly Higher is better	73.0% (Q1 2015-16)	England: 76.4% (Q4 2017/18) North West: 79.9% (Q4 2017/18)		Green Actual: 82.0% Target: 85.0% (Q1 2018-19)	Amber Actual: 79.0% Target: 85.0% (Q2 2018-19)	Green Actual: 85.0% Target: 85.0% (Q3 2018-19)			Better	"Provisional Quarter 3 figures for 2018/19. Not yet published but submitted to PHE February 2019. performance has improved from Q2 to Q3 by 6%. The service is continuing to offer developmental reviews on Saturdays which has been very successful in engaging families where the main care giver works during the week, or the family requires support to attend the appointments."
Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0-4 years), rate per 10,000	Annual Lower is better	133.5 (2014-15)	England: 126.3 (2016-17) North West: 184.4 (2016-17)	143.7 (2016-17)					160.6 (2017-18)	Worse	Wirral's rate has been statistically worse than the England's for the past 3 reported years now. The latest reported period shows Wirral's performance decreasing in 2017/18. Wirral remains lower (better) than the North West rate.
Percentage of early years childcare providers rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	78.0% (Aug 2015)	England: 94.0% (Mar 2018) North West: 94.0% (Mar 2018)	91.0% (Dec 2017)	93.0% (Mar 2018)	N/A	97.7% (Dec 2019)	97.6% (Mar 2019)	97.6% (2018-19)	Same	Zero providers in Wirral have been assessed as inadequate, and only 7 providers are below the 'good' or 'better' threshold. The Early Years Quality Input Team are supporting settings that receive a judgement below good and now offering face to face support to increase the universal offer to all providers. The Team have also extended their target group to include providers that are currently assessed as good, offering pre-inspection support. This is designed to help maintain their standards in between inspections, which is having an impact on the continuing increase in providers rated good or outstanding compared to the Wirral Plan Start figure of 78% in 2015-16.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	Annual Higher is better	20.0% (2013-14 Acad Year)		47.8% (2016-17 Acad Year)					61.5% (2017-18 Acad Year)	Better	The next figures will provisionally become available in September 2019 for the 2018-19 academic year. This figure was first reported at Q3 2018-19. Please note 'Year end' figures refer to the end of the 2017-18 Academic year. This is an improvement on the provisional figure of 60.0% supplied in Q2. This reflects a very small cohort of children (>15) and therefore can be a volatile figure.

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

In quarter 4, there were 466 substance misuse and 446 alcohol interventions to young people. These interventions took place in a variety of settings including drop in clinic, one to one and targeted group work sessions. During this period substance misuse awareness sessions were also delivered to 2 whole year groups in one specific school where there have been previous issues. Eight secondary schools received bespoke support and guidance when addressing, reviewing or revising the school drug policy. Four schools were supported around a specific drug related incident. There has been a good uptake of staff attending training around substance misuse with 169 professionals attending training events.

Sessions have been delivered to over a hundred parents as part of 'Working Together' The feedback from the parents and carers who attended these events was fantastic and really shows the impact of these events.

A follow up session to the 'Children, young people, families and substance misuse' event held in November to discuss more effective ways of working during the current year, while consultation with young people and key stakeholders is completed.

The Internship programme is being delivered in collaboration with Wirral Met College as the regulated provider of the Wirral ESFA funded internship programme. Currently the college has 26 supported interns registered and is finalising 11 students into paid employment. This figure will increase as further employment opportunities are secured and confirmed over the coming weeks. The programme has delivered 6 additional places against a target of 10 and council officers are speaking to college staff to understand and overcome barriers to delivery.

A multi-agency task and finish group has started work on developing a Wirral wide multi-agency parenting strategy and pathway.. Regular consultation with parents/ carers has ensured that co-production is included in the pathway work.

Work on the neurodevelopmental pathway is continuing, and the early help offer for this pathway is closely linked to the overall parenting strategy. Implementation timescales are currently being worked out as well as capacity and gaps for the new pathway.

Significant work has been undertaken to improve the quality of the PEPs. This includes bespoke visits to schools to train staff. There has been a relentless focus on ensuring looked after children's education targets are aspirational but realistic. Most recent school Ofsted inspections have commented very favourably on the PEPs. The Virtual Headteacher is consulting with headteachers regarding the most effective use of Pupil Premium Plus funding in improving outcomes for looked after children.

At the age of 11 more SEN pupils met the standard for reading and writing and mathematics combined (RWM). However the gap between SEN and non-SEN pupils widened because more non-SEN pupils met the expected standard.

In Reading more SEN pupils met the expected standard, an increase of 5.5% with the gap between all SEN pupils and non-SEN pupils narrowing. The improvement of SEN pupils was greater than non-SEN pupils but the attainment gap remains wide. More SEN pupils with and without EHCP met the expected standard in reading. SEN groups such as those pupils with moderate learning difficulty, physical disability, visual impairment and specific learning difficulty had more pupils achieving the standard.

In writing the gap between all SEN and non-SEN pupils has narrowed. The gap between all pupils and pupils with SEN or an EHCP narrowed. Most SEN groups showed an improvement in writing from 2017 outcomes. There were significant increase for pupils with a hearing impairment and those with a physical disability.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Percentage of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	84.0% (Aug 2015)	England: 86.0% (Mar 2018) North West: 88.0% (Mar 2018)	89.0% (Dec 2017)	Red Actual: 86.0% Target: 100.0% (Mar 2018)	Red Actual: 84.0% Target: 100.0% (Aug 2018)	Red Actual: 83.0% Target: 100.0% (Dec 2018)			Worse	The latest data available as at 31st December 2018, and shows a continued decrease since Q1. As of Dec 2018 Wirral is 2% below the England figure, and 3% below that of the North West.
The % of young people aged 16 and 17 who are not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or categorised as 'not known' - Post Sept 2016	Monthly Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 6.0% (2016-17) North West: 6.7% (2016-17)	5.3% (2017-18)	5.5% (May 2018)	6.4% (Aug 2018)	5.3% (Nov 2018)	5.7% (Mar 2019)	0.0% ()	Better	3.5% NEET plus 2.2% Not Known = Overall 5.7% Compared to March 2018 we are reporting a 0.1% improvement in the combined NEET and Not Known figure. The Wirral Ways to Work programme, supporting the most vulnerable to access employment, is continuing to have a positive impact alongside the mainstream education and training offer.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
Progress 8 Score for Wirral	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)	North West: -0.17 (2017-18 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: -0.30 (2017-18 Acad Year)	0.01 (2016-17 Acad Year)					0.03 (2017-18 Acad Year)	Better	This is the actual figure, provisionally reported on in Q3 as 0.04.
The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the 'expected standard' in English, reading, English writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2.	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 22.0% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 22.0% (2016-17 Acad Year)	22.0% (2016-17 Acad Year)					23.0% (2017-18 Acad Year)	Worse	Please note 'Year end' figures refer to the end of the 2017-18 Academic year. A slight increase upon the previous academic year, however this figure is in line with England and the North West.
Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
The percentage of children in good or better schools as rated by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	81.0% (Aug 2015)	England: 85.0% (Mar 2018) North West: 84.0% (Mar 2018)	88.0% (Dec 2017)	84.0% (Mar 2018)	84.0% (Aug 2018)	84.0% (Dec 2018)			Same	30% Outstanding, 54% Good (as at 31 Dec 2018)
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 0.66 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 0.43 (2016-17 Acad Year)	0.60 (2016-17 Acad Year)					0.73 (2017-18 Acad Year)	Worse	This is the confirmed figure for the 2017-18 Acad Year, provisionally reported in Q3 as 0.74
The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 1.11 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: -1.05 (2016-17 Acad Year)	1.21 (2016-17 Acad Year)					0.97 (2017-18 Acad Year)	Better	This is the Confirmed 2017-18 Academic Year figure, which is the same as that which was provisionally reported in Q3.
The percentage of persistent absence in Wirral Schools (post 2016)	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 10.8% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 11.1% (2016-17 Acad Year)						13.3% (2017-18 Acad Year)	n/a	These figures represent the absences for the previous academic year. Since then a whole service review has taken place and a restructure of the service is underway. 2017-18 full year figures Wirral Primary PA 11.52% (national 8.7%) Wirral Secondary PA 14.72% (national 13.9%) Wirral Special PA 29.1% (national 29.6%) Primary Schools PA figures for 2017-18 show an increase of 0.62% (compared to national increase of 0.4%) and a decrease in LA ranking from 145 to 147/152. Secondary Schools PA figures for 2017-18 show a decrease of 0.48% (compared to national increase of 0.4%) and an increase in LA ranking from 120 to 94/152. Special Schools PA figures for 2017-18 show an increase of 1.42% (compared to national increase of 1.1%) and a decrease in LA ranking from 52 to 77/152.
The percentage of Children Looked After who attained a grade 4 or above in English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 4	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 17.5% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 16.8% (2016-17 Acad Year)	16.7% (2016-17 Acad Year)					14.3% (2017-18 Acad Year)	Worse	

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
Progress 8 Score for Children Looked After in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)	England: -1.18 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: -1.37 (2016-17 Acad Year)	-1.17 (2016-17 Acad Year)					-1.58 (2017-18 Acad Year)	Worse	This is the confirmed figure for the 2017-18 academic year, that was provisionally reported as -1.35 in Q3
Reduce the percentage of permanent exclusions in Wirral - primary schools	Annual Lower is better	(2012-13)	England: 0.03% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 0.03% (2016-17 Acad Year)	0.00% (2015-16 Acad Year)					- (2016-17 Acad Year)	-	The next available data will be available in August 2019, for 2017-18. Latest Published data is for 2016-17 and became available in August 2018. In accordance with the Department for Education policy on confidentiality, percentages based on 5 pupils or fewer have been suppressed to reduce the risk of disclosing the identities of individuals. This is shown as a dash (-).
Reduce the percentage of permanent exclusions in Wirral - secondary schools	Annual Lower is better	0.11% (2012-13)	England: 0.20% (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: 0.31% (2016-17 Acad Year)	0.25% (2015-16 Acad Year)					0.28% (2016-17 Acad Year)	Worse	The next available data will be available in August 2019, for 2017-18 Academic Year. Latest published data of 0.28% is for 2016-17 and became available in August 2018. This is an increase of 0.03% from previously reported figures. Permanent Exclusions 2012/13 to Present. More recent but unpublished figures however reflect an improvement this academic year 2012-13 2013-14 2014-15 2015-16 2016-17 2017-18 2018-19 to date 24 30 26 52 64 40 21 Based on these, Permanent exclusions reduced by 37% last academic year. This was due to a number of strategies implemented effectively such as:- a) Working with secondary school head teachers to determine alternatives to permanently excluding pupils b) Holding head teachers to account for the permanent exclusions c) Reintegrating permanently excluded Key Stage 3 pupils into mainstream secondary schools.
Rate of hospital admissions due to substance misuse in young people (15-24 years) - per 100,000	Annual Lower is better	166.5 (2011/12 - 2013/14)	England: 89.8 (2014/15-16/17) North West: 131.0 (2014/15-16/17)	179.2 (2014/15 - 2016/17)					179.2 (2014/15 - 2016/17)	Same	Directly standardised rate per 100,000 population. The latest figures show that Wirral is significantly higher than England's average. This is in part due to the accuracy of recording locally by comparison to other areas. There is considerable work currently underway to better understand and address local issues underlying these admissions.
Under 18 conceptions - rate per 1,000	Annual Lower is better	33.7 (2013)	England: 18.8 (2016) North West: 22.3 (2016)	25.9 (Sep 2016)					20.5 (Sept 2017)	Better	The most recent figure for the rate of under 18 conceptions was 20.5. For England as a whole, comparing Quarter 3 2017 with Quarter 3 2016, there has been a decline from a rate of 17.7 per 1,000 15-17 year old females (4,012 conceptions) in 2016 to 16.5 (3,684 conceptions) in 2017. In Wirral there has been a decline from 26.9 per 1,000 in 2016 to 14.7 in 2017.

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Ensuring vulnerable children reach their potential has two strong elements to the pledge. The first element is around ensuring that children and young people are safe, and this is the main focus of the plan's performance indicators. This needs to be achieved before children can make best use of services to reach their potential. Since the creation of the pledge plan external scrutiny identified that services required to keep children safe were ineffective. Therefore, the original targets within the plan were not achievable as they were not based on a sound knowledge of the needs of children in Wirral. Progress within the plan is therefore being considered since the true position was established. That numbers are stable and beginning to reduce. Three indicators demonstrating the level of demand for children's social care services number of children looked after, numbers of children in need and numbers of children subject to a child protection plan or all showing that numbers are stable and beginning to reduce. Significant work has been undertaken in the last 12 months to establish a new range of services which are focused on preventing the need for children to require a social care intervention. These new service offers will be live between April and May 2019 and it is hoped that they will then have a significant impact on not only the three key indicators but some of the other indicators that support reducing the number of vulnerable children in Wirral.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000	Monthly Lower is better	99.3 (2014-15)	England: 64.0 (2017-18) North West: 91.0 (2017-18) Statistical Neighbours: 97.0 (2017-18)	125.6 (2017-18)	123.5 (Jun 2018)	124.5 (Sep 2018)	124.1 (Dec 2018)	123.2 (Mar 2019)	123.2 (2018-19)	Better	Children looked after numbers although stable remain high. A more comprehensive report in this area is provided in addition to the performance report at this month's improvement board, looking at the plans to ensure that children are appropriately discharged. Care leavers data remains consistently positive. Completion rates for SDQ and health checks show improved performance on last year.
Children in Need rate per 10,000 population	Monthly Lower is better	426.3 (2014-15)	England: 341.0 (2017-18) North West: 379.0 (2017-18) Statistical Neighbours: 423.0 (2017-18)	397.9 (2017-18)	393.6 (Jun 2018)	404.8 (Sep 2018)	398.8 (Dec 2018)	387.1 (Mar 2019)	387.1 (Mar 2019)	Better	The Children in Need (CiN) rate has improved compared to Q3, having reduced by 2.9%. This is a decrease of 9.1% compared to plan start and 2.7% from 2017-18 year end. Wirral's CiN rate remains above that of England and the North West, but is better than that of our Statistical Neighbours.
Rate of children who became the subject of a child protection plan per 10,000 children 0-17 population	Monthly Lower is better	34.5 (2014-15)	England: 45.3 (2017-18) North West: 53.7 (2017-18) Statistical Neighbours: 50.0 (2017-18)	39.3 (2017-18)	52.0 (Jun 2018)	65.6 (Sep 2018)	68.8 (Dec 2018)	63.8 (Mar 2019)	63.8 (2018-19)	Better	The number of children subject to child protection plans peaked in February and as predicted will begin to fall over the next six months with the reduction beginning in March's figures. This reduction has continued in April, as at 10/4/19, the figure is down to 428. The rise earlier in the year was due to proactive action taken to review the threshold of child in need cases and to ensure those who would benefit from a child protection plan were subject to one. There is now greater confidence that the threshold is right and consistent. The overall percentage of children subject to a plan for the second time at the end of the year remains high. Overall, a high percentage of children in Wirral prior to the last inspection in 2016 did not receive the quality of safe service they required. It is therefore not surprising that these children have again come to Wirral's attention and have required a further period child protection plan. What is pleasing to note is a significant change in the pattern of data in the last quarter. The percentage of the overall children becoming subject to a plan for a second time ever each month is lower than the pattern in previous quarters. Most significantly in the last quarter, no children who have been subject to a plan in the last two years have again become subject to a plan. Thus, suggesting that the improvements in practice in the last two years are now beginning to have a major impact on the safety and well-being of children in Wirral.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
Take up of 2 year old offer by eligible families as identified by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)	Quarterly Higher is better	70.0% (Q1 2015-16)	England: 72.0% (Jan 2018) North West: 83.0% (Jan 2018) Statistical Neighbours: 91.3% (Jan 2018)	91.3% (Jan-Mar 2018)		91.0% (Apr-Jul 2018)	93.1% (Sept-Dec 18)	84.0% (Jan - Mar 2019)		Worse	Based on headcount figure from January 2019 over the DFE eligibility figure for Spring Term. The early years team receives 7 lists per year of eligible families for two year funding. The lists have always gone up and down as families fall in and out of eligibility. Due to this the early years team have always used the lowest number of eligible families from the lists. However more recently the number of families on the list has increased quite substantially to over 100, and there has been a slight decrease in take up (around 50 families). Anecdotally, families are refusing as they feel their child is too young. The team will be reviewing the process to promote funding to families and further analysing how the take up is spread across the eligibility criteria, to understand the dip and ensure we can plan for improvement in take up.
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	Annual Higher is better	20.0% (2013-14 Acad Year)		47.8% (2016-17 Acad Year)					61.5% (2017-18 Acad Year)	Better	The next figures will provisionally become available in September 2019 for the 2018-19 academic year. This figure was first reported at Q3 2018-19. Please note 'Year end' figures refer to the end of the 2017-18 Academic year. This is an improvement on the provisional figure of 60.0% supplied in Q2. This reflects a very small cohort of children (>15) and therefore can be a volatile figure.
The percentage of referrals to Children's Social Care that are within 12 months of one or more previous referrals	Monthly Lower is better	22.80% (2014-15)	England: 21.90% (2017-18) North West: 22.30% (2017-18) Statistical Neighbours: 18.00% (2017-18)	18.70% (2017-18)	24.20% (Jun 2018)	24.30% (Sep 2018)	24.30% (Dec 2018)	24.70% (Mar 2019)	24.70% (YE 2018-19)	Worse	% Re-referrals (annualised). Analysis of current practice has told us that we need to do more to sustain children and families in the community and prevent them escalating in a repeating pattern to children social care. To enable this, there has been a large restructuring exercise taking place across our early help in preventative services. The consultation of this exercise closed in December. The plan is to create a much larger preventative service at tier 3, which will be able to support families who require more than the general early help offer, but have not quite yet reached the threshold for children's social care. Being able to provide services at this level will help us 'catch families' before they deteriorate to the point at which children social care and child protection response is the only possibility.
Children's Centre's sustained contact with priority groups in early years	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		65.18% (2017-18)	66.20% (Jul 2017 - Jun 2018)	62.53% (Oct 2017 - Sep 2018)	65.01% (Jan 2018 - Dec 2018)	60.81% (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)	60.81% (YE 2018-19)	Worse	
Percentage of individuals subject to Team Around Family episodes closed with needs met	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)			73.0% (Q1 2018-19)	48.2% (Q2 2018-19)	55.0% (Q3 2018-19)	67.7% (Q4 2018-19)		Better	This excludes any individuals who closed to TAF due to withdrawn consent, disengaged or moved area. Therefore 32.3% of interventions resulted in a referral to children's social care. Early Help tracking was hindered by the disbanding of the Early Help Team administration, resulting in a dip in TAF closure returns. However, Community Matters Early Help team are now supporting tracking of closures but are reliant upon partners ensuring family plans and closure notifications are completed and returned regularly to CM Early Help team.

People with disabilities live independent lives

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

The Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled measure from the Office for National Statistics increased to its highest level since the Wirral Plan began (49%) in January to December 2018. It's up 4.9 percentage points since the start of the year and 11.5 percentage points since the start of the plan.

28 new employers signed up to be Disability Confident in Q4. 25 at Level 1 and 3 at Level 2. The total number of Wirral employers signed up to Scheme is now 101 which is a huge improvement on the 37 from the start of the year. 9 less adults but 2 more young people were reported to be in receipt of personal budgets since last quarter. 794 people were reported to be in receipt of personal budgets at the end of 2018-19, 159 more people than when we started in 2016-17 (635).

Ensuring people with disabilities have stable and appropriate accommodation improves their safety, increases their independence and reduces their risk of social exclusion. Whilst the percentage of adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation has decreased slightly in Q4 to 84.1% (down from 85% last quarter) it's increased by 1.4 [percentage points since the start of the year. There has been an increase in Extra Care schemes throughout the borough, which aims to increase the number of adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation.

A total of 440 extra care units should be fully completed (subject to planning) by the end of 2021/22 which, whilst delivering more units than our target is behind schedule due to the impact of the significant delay on the Government decision regarding funding for Extra Care schemes as part of its review of funding for supported housing schemes.

The percentage of annual health checks undertaken has increased to 58%. There is now a specific delivery plan in place with regular communication with GP practices.

The original Travel Training service plan with HCT has unfortunately been cancelled as costs were prohibitive. Working alongside key organisations (mainly Third Sector) a business case for a consortium approach will now be developed.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Page 24 Health related quality of life for people with long term conditions	Annual	0.698 (Jul 2014 - Mar 2015)	England: 0.737 (Jan-Mar 2017)	0.700 (Jan-Mar 2017)						n/a	Health-related quality of life for people with long-term conditions improved to 0.700 in Jan-Mar 2017 compared to 0.695 the previous period but falls short of the average for the rest of England (0.737).
	Higher is better										This data is captured by NHS England through the GP Patient Survey and reported as part of the NHS Outcomes Framework.
Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled	Quarterly	37.5% (Jul 2014 - Jun 2015)	England: 54.1% (Oct 2017 - Sep 2018) North West: 50.4% (Oct 2017 - Sep 2018)	44.1% (Jan - Dec 2017)	47.5% (Apr 2017 - Mar 2018)	48.8% (Jul 2017 - Jun 2018)	45.8% (Oct 2017 - Sep 2018)	49.0% (Jan - Dec 2018)	49.0% (Jan - Dec 2018)	Better	The Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled measure from the Office for National Statistics increased to its highest level since the Wirral Plan began (49%) in January to December 2018. It's up 4.9 percentage points since the start of the year and 11.5 percentage points since the start of the plan.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual	(n/a)	England: 1.11 (2016-17 Acad Year) North West: -1.05 (2016-17 Acad Year)	1.21 (2016-17 Acad Year)					0.97 (2017-18 Acad Year)	Better	This is the Confirmed 2017-18 Academic Year figure, which is the same as that which was provisionally reported in Q3.
Proportion of people with long term conditions who feel supported to manage their condition	Annual	66.7% (Jul 2014 - Mar 2015)	England: 59.6% (Jan-Mar 2018)	67.2% (Jan-Mar 2017)					60.1% (Jan- Mar 2018)	Worse	The proportion of people who are feeling supported to manage their condition is 60.1% for the period January 2018 - March 2018. This has reduced from 67.2% the previous year. Whilst this reduction is disappointing it reflects the sentiment across the rest of the country. The national average is 59.6%, down from 64% last year.
The number of disabled people in receipt of personal budgets (including Direct Payments and Personal Health Budgets)	Quarterly	(n/a)		808 (2017-18)	831 (Q1 2018-19)	831 (Q2 2018-19)	801 (Q3 2018-19)	794 (Q4 2018-19)		Worse	7 less people are in receipt of personal budgets this quarter. 601 adults were reported by the Department of Adult Social Services to be in receipt of personal budgets (down from 610 last quarter). 193 young people were in receipt of personal budgets, up from 191 last quarter.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	North West: 87.8% (Q2 2018-19)	82.7% (2017-18)	82.8% (Q1 2018-19)	83.5% (Q2 2018-19)	85.0% (Q3 2018-19)			n/a	

Zero tolerance to domestic violence

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Wirral has developed a range of strategies to combat the pernicious effects of domestic abuse including rehabilitating offenders, supporting victims, and helping children to understand and come to terms with the effects of domestic abuse. The Integrated Offender Management Team intensively manages those offenders most likely to re-offend with a range of enforcement, support and rehabilitative services working with an average of 80 domestic abuse perpetrators each month. The charity 'Tomorrows Women Wirral' provides a safe environment for women to address their issues to help lead happier, healthier more fulfilled lives. Of the 24,440 visits and 1,910 referrals, 786 women disclosed domestic abuse and 926 women disclosed mental health issues. They received 9,067 volunteer hours, including one of the world's most famous women's advocates, Megan Windsor.

"When you feel desperate and there's no one you can turn to they get you through and are there for you."

The above is the quote from a domestic abuse victim being supported by the Wirral Family Support Unit. Combining a wide range of support and enforcement agencies, the Unit now operates a 7 day a week service in order to contact all referred victims within 24 hours, including offering 1,145 children support to overcome the effects of domestic abuse, including the 'Brave the Rage' anger management programme.

The Early Help service for domestic abuse supports victims whose situation may not be a priority for social care or domestic abuse services, but through combined issues are on the cusp of crisis. Early Help support victims to understand the repercussions of legislation e.g. Domestic Abuse Protection Order and support male victims in league with agencies such as the Paul Lavelle Foundation, a Wirral charity for male domestic abuse to offer support specific to the needs of male victims of domestic abuse.

A newly developed initiative called #GotTheTeeShirt is based on victims gaining support from domestic abuse survivors who have 'been there and come out the other side'. The focus is about the client rediscovering who they were prior to the relationship and helping them move safely forward; back into the community, further education, work self-esteem, parenting support or additional volunteering roles.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Number of Domestic abuse Wirral MARAC cases per 10,000 adult females (annualised)	Quarterly	54.0 (2014-15)	Most Similar Force Group: 54.0 (Jan 2017-Dec 2018) National: 38.0 (Jan 2017-Dec 2018)	52.3 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	52.5 (Jul 2017-Jun 2018)	59.3 (Oct 2017-Sep 2018)	63.7 (Jan-Dec 2018)	52.4 (Q4 2018-19)	52.4 (2018-19)	n/a	This figure is for Q4 equates to 295 referrals in total. Of these 166 were heard at MARAC; 164 were female, 2 were male. 111 did not meet MARAC threshold and 17 were deleted as errors.
Children and young people experiencing domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	Quarterly	1,289 (2014-15)		1,302 (2017-18)	334 (Apr-Jun 2018)	394 (Jul-Sep 2018)	264 (Oct-Dec 2018)	200 (Q4 2018-19)	1,192 (2018-19)	n/a	This includes children of victims and perpetrators eg Perpetrators children who live with another parent but have contact.
Percentage of incidents of repeat domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	Quarterly Lower is better	16.0% (2014-2015)	Most Similar Force Group: 34.0% (Jan 2017-Dec 2018) National: 28.0% (Jan 2017-Dec 2018)	28.3% (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	26.1% (Jul 2017-Jun 2018)	32.0% (Oct 2017-Sep 2018)	32.9% (Jan-Dec 2018)	27.1% (Q4 2018-19)	27.1% (2018-19)	Better	Total number of repeats 45 out of 166 cases where repeats at MARAC in Q4.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend	Comment
Number of Domestic Abuse cases referred to the Family Safety Unit (FSU)	Quarterly	949 (2014-15)		928 (2017-18)	276 (Apr-Jun 2018)	258 (Jul-Sep 2018)	282 (Oct-Dec 2018)	295 (Q4 2018-19)	1,111 (2018-19)	n/a	295 Total referrals. 17 were deleted as errors/duplicates 111 did not meet MARAC threshold, assessed as medium risk and signposted/stepped down.
% of children and Young People single assessments completed with Domestic Violence (DV) related factors	Quarterly Lower is better	(n/a)		33.3% (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	35.2% (Apr-Jun 2018)	32.4% (Apr-Sep 2018)	28.2% (Apr-Dec 2018)	27.0% (Q4 2018-19)	27.0% (2018-19)	Better	
Rate of referrals to social care presenting Domestic Violence issues (adults aged 18+ years) per 100,000	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		21.30 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	3.42 (Apr-Jun 2018)	6.52 (Apr-Sep 2018)	9.33 (Apr-Dec 2018)	12.12 (Jan - Mar 2019)	12.12 (2018-19)	Better	As of March Merseyside Police have centralised the VPRF's and are taking account of the threshold of need. Previously the Integrated Front Door would get all Domestic Abuse VPRF's and the vast majority would close at Level 1. With the police applying the threshold then, they will only send over what is required for Early Help or MASH. This enhanced scrutiny of VPRF's prior to their being referred may lead to a decrease in referrals.

Report Key

Trend - Performance is shown as Better, Same or Worse compared with the last reporting period except for:

The % of young people aged 16 and 17 who are not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or categorised as 'not known' - Post Sept 2016,
% of children and Young People single assessments authorised with Domestic Violence (DV) related factors,

Rate of referrals to social care presenting Domestic Violence issues (adults aged 18+ years) per 100,000 which are compared with same period the previous year.

Target - Where targets apply, these are shown as either Blue, Green, Amber, Red based on the agreed tolerance range for individual measures.

Action - These are shown as either:

- Green (on track to deliver on time)
- Amber (off track but action being taken to deliver on time)
- Red (off track and won't deliver on time)

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Wirral Plan – Children & Families

2018-19 Year End Report

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

CHILDREN & FAMILIES SUMMARY

CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

- The most recent figure of 70.5% (2017-18) of Foundation Stage (EYFS) children now achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD) and represents very good progress and has surpassed a milestone (70%) that has been worked towards for the last 3 years. The Wirral plan start figure was 62.8% (2013-14). The progress in this area received favourable comment during the recent Ofsted visit.
- The percentage of women booked to access professional maternity services on or before 12+6 weeks gestation at 88% is making good progress toward the target of 90% and has improved since Wirral plan Start (80.8%). Improved scanning capacity has facilitated this.
- The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving a GLD in the EYFS Profile has narrowed by 2% since plan start from 20% to 18%. Work has continued on the progress tracker to ensure that as many providers as possible are using it to identify those children who need additional support to improve their school readiness.
- There has been an improvement in the percentage of children in Wirral receiving their 12months health visitor reviews, and those receiving their 2-2 ½ year reviews, from 66.4% to 88% and 73% to 85% respectively against plan start. The service is continuing to offer developmental reviews on Saturdays which has been very successful in engaging families where the main care giver works during the week, or the family requires support to attend the appointments.
- The rate of hospital admissions caused by injuries to children aged 0-4 remains high at 160.6/10,000, up from 133.5 at plan start. Wirral's rate has been statistically worse than the England's for the past 3 reported years now. The latest reported period shows Wirral's performance decreasing in 2017/18. Wirral does remain lower (better) than the North West rate.

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY FOR WORK & ADULTHOOD

- The achievement gap between those children eligible for free school meals and their peers has narrowed by 4%, to 23% since the start of the Wirral Plan.
- The rate of under 18 conceptions has reduced to 20.5/1,000, down from 33.7 at plan start.
- The percentage of Children Looked After (CLA) achieving grade 4+ in English & maths at KS4 has reduced from 16.7% at plan start to 14.3%.
- The Percentage of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted has dropped to 83% compared to 84% at plan start and the 100% target is looks unlikely to be reached.
- The percentage of persistent absence in Wirral Schools (post 2016) has increased from 13.% to 13.3%. The new Attendance Service recommended by external review implemented on 1 May and recruitment currently taking place to fill vacant posts.

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

- Care leavers data remains consistently positive. Completion rates for SDQ and health checks show improved performance on last year.
- A multi-agency audit focusing on the use of the pre-birth assessment tool was completed in May 2019 as part of a quarterly cycle of audits. Findings of the audit have been shared with all relevant partners. There are 9 identified actions which will be completed by July 2019.
- A Sufficiency Strategy to ensure that there is a good supply of high quality accommodation and excellent aspirational care in the borough for CLA is now in place and has been approved at Cabinet in March 2019.
- The take up of the 2yr offer by eligible families has increased to 84% compared to 70% at Wirral Plan start.
- The rate of Children in Need (CiN) in Wirral has reduced since the start of the Wirral plan, from 426.3/10,000 to 387.1
- Children looked after (CLA) numbers although stable remain high and have increased since the start of the Wirral plan, from 99.3/10,000 to 123.2. A more comprehensive report in this area is provided in addition to the performance report at this month's improvement board, looking at the plans to ensure that children are appropriately discharged.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LEAD FULL & INDEPENDENT LIVES

- The Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled measure from the Office for National Statistics increased to its highest level since the Wirral Plan began (49%) in January to December 2018. It's up 4.9 percentage points since the start of the year and 11.5 percentage points since the start of the plan.
- The total number of Wirral employers signed up to Disability Confident Scheme is now 101 which is a huge improvement on the 37 from the start of the year.
- 794 people were reported to be in receipt of personal budgets at the end of 2018-19, 159 more people than when we started in 2016-17 (635).
- The percentage of annual health checks undertaken has increased to 58%. There is now a specific delivery plan in place with regular communication with GP practices.
- The proportion of people who feel supported in their long-term condition has dropped by 6.6% to 60.1%, a reduction compared to 66.7% at the start of the Plan.
- The original Travel Training service plan with HCT has unfortunately been cancelled as costs were prohibitive. Working alongside key organisations (mainly Third Sector) a business case for a consortium approach will now be developed.

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

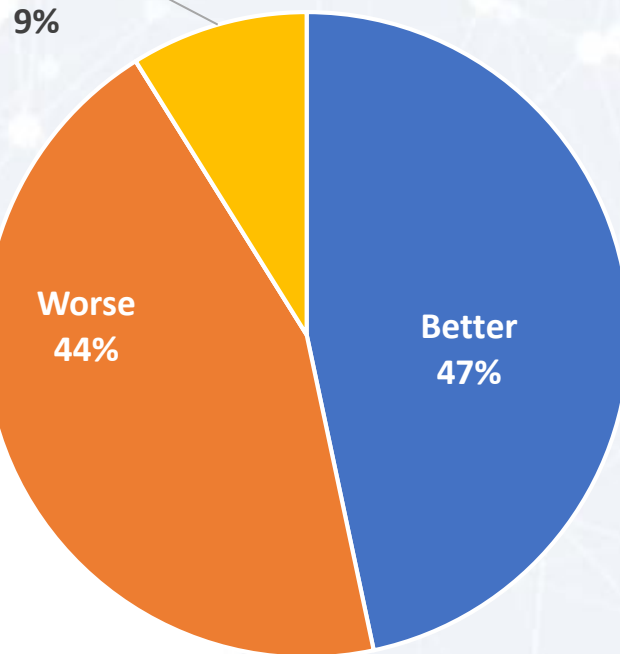
ZERO TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- The charity 'Tomorrows Women Wirral' continues to provide a safe environment for women to make progress towards leading happier, healthier more fulfilled lives. Of the 24,440 visits and 1,910 referrals, 786 women disclosed domestic abuse and 926 women disclosed mental health issues. They received 9,067 volunteer hours, including one of the world's most famous women's advocates, Megan Windsor.
- The Wirral Family Support Unit supports domestic abuse victims by combining a wide range of support and enforcement agencies. The Unit now operates a 7 day a week service in order to contact all referred victims within 24 hours. 1,145 Children have been supported to overcome the effects of domestic abuse, including the 'Brave the Rage' anger management programme. The percentage of Young People assessments completed with DV factors has reduced to 27.0% since the plan start, where the figure stood at 36.7%
- A newly developed initiative called #GotTheTeeShirt is based on victims gaining support from domestic abuse survivors who have 'been there and come out the other side'. The focus is about the client rediscovering who they were prior to the relationship and helping them move safely forward; back into the community, further education, work self-esteem, parenting support or additional volunteering roles.
- The rate of referrals to social care presenting DV issues in adults has dropped to 2.80/100,000 compared to 12.62 at Plan start.

TREND COMPARED TO WIRRAL PLAN START

TREND COMPARED TO START OF WIRRAL PLAN

Not available or
Not measured



Children & Families Trend Compared to Wirral Plan Start		
Trend	Number	%
Better	21	47%
Worse	20	44%
Same	0	0%
Not available	4	9%
Total	45	100

47% of the Measures and Indicators monitored under the Children & Families theme have improved compared to the start of the Wirral Plan (or the earliest measurable date) and 44% have become worse. 4 Measures (9%) are either not measured against a trend or are suppressed due to low volumes involved.

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
Children are ready for school	OI02001	Foundation Stage - % achieving a good level of development	62.8%		70.5%	✓	Better
Children are ready for school	SM02501	The percentage of women booked to access professional maternity services on or before 12+6 weeks gestation	80.8%	88.0%	88.0%	✓	Better
Children are ready for school	SM02502	Take up of 2 year old offer by eligible families as identified by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)	70.0%	84.0%	n/a	✓	Better
Children are ready for school	SM02503	The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	20.0%		18.0%	✓	Better
Children are ready for school	SM02504	Percentage of children aged 4-5 classified as overweight or obese	22.4%		25.1%	✗	Worse

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
Children are ready for school	SM02505	Percentage of infants who received a 6-8 week Development Check by the time they were 8 weeks	84.6%	82.0%	n/a	✘	Worse
Children are ready for school	SM02506	Percentage of children who received a 12 month Health Visitor review by the time they turned 12 months	66.4%	88.0%	n/a	✔	Better
Children are ready for school	SM02507	Percentage of children who received a 2-2½ year Health Visitor review	73.0%	85.0%	n/a	✔	Better
Children are ready for school	SM02508	Hospital admissions caused by unintentional and deliberate injuries in children (aged 0-4 years), rate per 10,000	133.5		160.6	✘	Worse
Children are ready for school	SM02510	Percentage of early years childcare providers rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	78.0%	97.6%	97.6%	✔	Better
Children are ready for school	SM02511	Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	20.0%		61.5%	✔	Better

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YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY FOR WORK & ADULTHOOD

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	OI03003	Percentage of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	84.0%	83.0%	n/a	✘	Worse
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	OI03004	The % of young people aged 16 and 17 who are not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or categorised as 'not known' - Post Sept 2016	5.3%	5.7%	n/a	✘	Worse
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03501	Progress 8 Score for Wirral	0.04		0.03	✘	Worse
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03502	The achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the 'expected standard' in English, reading, English writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2.	27.0%		23.0%	✔	Better
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03503	The percentage of children in good or better schools as rated by Ofsted	81.0%	84.0%	n/a	✔	Better

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY FOR WORK & ADULTHOOD

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03506	The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4	0.75		0.73	✓	Better
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03507	The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at Key Stage 4	0.86		0.97	✗	Worse
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03508	The percentage of persistent absence in Wirral Schools (post 2016)	12.5%		13.3%	✗	Worse
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03509	The percentage of Children Looked After who attained a grade 4 or above in English and Maths at the end of Key Stage 4	16.7%		14.3%	✗	Worse
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03510	Progress 8 Score for Children Looked After in Wirral	-1.52		-1.58	✗	Worse
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03511	Reduce the percentage of permanent exclusions in Wirral - primary schools	-		-		Suppressed due to low volumes involved
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03512	Reduce the percentage of permanent exclusions in Wirral - secondary schools	0.11%		0.28%	✗	Worse

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY FOR WORK & ADULTHOOD

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03513	Rate of hospital admissions due to substance misuse in young people (15-24 years) - per 100,000	166.5		179.2	✘	Worse
Young people are ready for work and adulthood	SM03514	Under 18 conceptions - rate per 1,000	33.7		20.5	✔	Better

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

VULNERABLE CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	OI04001	Rate of Looked After Children per 10,000	99.3	123.2	123.2	✗	Worse
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	OI04002	Children in Need rate per 10,000 0-17 population	426.3	387.1	387.1	✓	Better
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	OI04003	Rate of children who became the subject of a child protection plan per 10,000 children 0-17 population	34.5	63.8	63.8	✗	Worse
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	SM02502	Take up of 2 year old offer by eligible families as identified by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)	70%	84%	84%	✓	Better
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	SM02511	Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	20.0%		61.5%	✓	Better
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	SM04502	The percentage of referrals to Children's Social Care that are within 12 months of one or more previous referrals.	22.8%	24.7%	24.7%	✗	Worse

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

VULNERABLE CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	SM04507	Children's Centre's sustained contact with priority groups in early years	54.91%	60.81%	60.81%	✓	Better
Vulnerable children reach their full potential	SM04508	Percentage of individuals subject to Team Around Family episodes closed with needs met	73%		67.7%	✗	Worse

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENT LIVES

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
People with disabilities live independent lives	OI06001	Health related quality of life for people with long term conditions	0.698		0.7	!	Same
People with disabilities live independent lives	OI06003	Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled	37.5%		49.0%	✓	Better
People with disabilities live independent lives	SM03507	The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at Key Stage 4	0.86		0.97	✗	Worse
People with disabilities live independent lives	SM06501	Proportion of people with long term conditions who feel supported to manage their condition	66.7%		60.1%	✗	Worse
People with disabilities live independent lives	SM06506	The number of disabled people in receipt of personal budgets (including Direct Payments and Personal Health Budgets)	653		797	✓	Better
People with disabilities live independent lives	SM06507	Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation	84%		85%	✓	Better

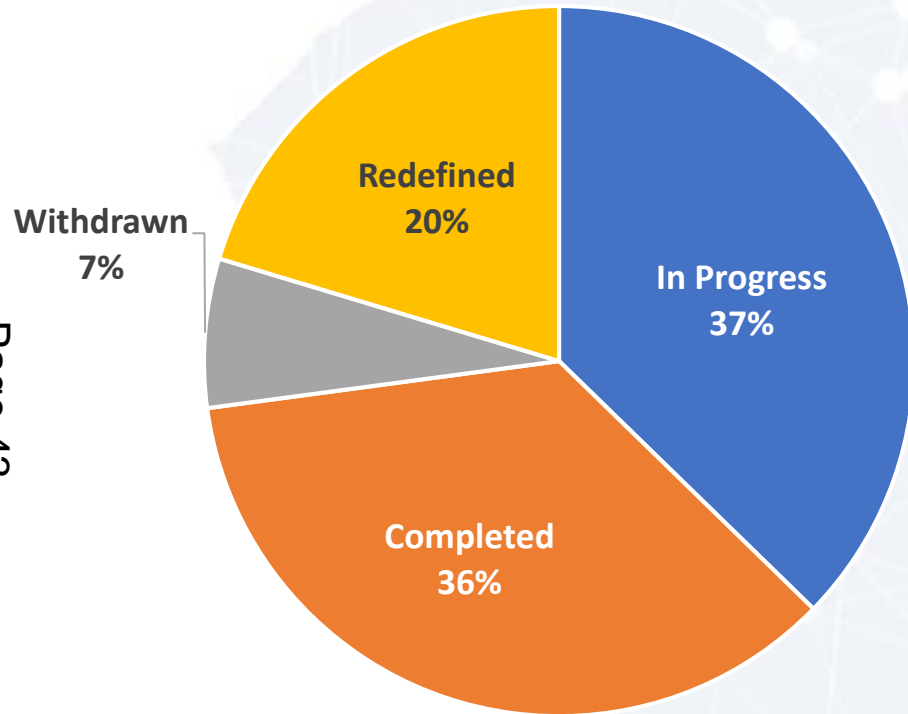
Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

ZERO TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Pledge Name	PI Code	Description	WP Start or earliest available	Q4 2018/19	YE 2018/19	Trend	Trend Vs Plan Start or earliest available.
Zero tolerance to domestic violence	OI07001	Wirral MARAC cases per 10,000 adult females (annualised)	54	52.4	52.4	na	Not Available
Zero tolerance to domestic violence	OI07002	Children and young people experience domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	1,287	200	1192	n/a	Not Available
Zero tolerance to domestic violence	OI07003	Percentage of incidents of repeat domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	16.0%	27.1%	27.1%	✘	Worse
Zero tolerance to domestic violence	SM07501	Number of Domestic Abuse cases referred to the Family Safety Unit (FSU)	949	295	1111	n/a	Not Available
Zero tolerance to domestic violence	SM07502	% of children and Young People single assessments completed with Domestic Violence (DV) related factors	36.7%	27.0%	27.0%	✔	Better
Zero tolerance to domestic violence	SM07503	Rate of referrals to social care presenting Domestic Violence issues (adults aged 18+ years) per 100,000	12.62	12.12	12.12	✘	Worse

STATUS OF ACTIONS YEAR END

YEAR END ACTION STATUS



Children & Families Year End Action Status		
Trend	Number	%
In Progress	22	37%
Completed	21	36%
Withdrawn	4	7%
Redefined	12	20%
Total	59	100

36% of actions across the Children & Families theme have been completed during 2018-19, whilst 37% continue into 2019-20. 20% of actions have been redefined, either to alter the timescales or reframe wording and 7% have been withdrawn.

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

CHILDREN & FAMILIES – STATUS OF 2018-19 ACTIONS

PLEDGE 2: CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Priority 01: To improve multi-agency arrangements to safeguard and protect our youngest children			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Develop a partnership, single worker Edge Of Care Offer for under 5s	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
Increase in the number of unborn children and/or children under 2 years whose parents are supported through co-ordinated multi-agency plan	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 02: Children in Wirral will start life well			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Deliver against initiatives that contribute to the Healthy Child Programme in Wirral	Apr 2015 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
Increase the uptake of maternity services delivered by integrated teams in locality-based settings.	Jun 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 03: Children receive sensitive and responsive care from their main caregivers in the first years of life			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Additional support is provided to the main caregivers of children belonging to a target group, to ensure the best possible attachments are formed	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
Develop a Wirral wide parenting pathway of evidence-based parenting programmes, peer-led and community based activities to address all areas of needs; through joint work with LA and health commissioners	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	Redefined	The wording of this action has been made more specific to ensure clarity of delivery

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

Increase the early years workforce skills and knowledge in relation to attachment needs of babies and infants, and building resilience	Jun 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
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Priority 04: Increase the % of children achieving a good level of development at the end of the early years foundation stage			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Continue to embed data tracking for early years to improve children's outcomes	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	Withdrawn	This action is now included as an Impact Measure within new action "Narrow the Gender Gap in attainment, particularly in speaking & listening"
Develop an effective moderation and assessment process across early years settings	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	Withdrawn	This action is now included as an Impact Measure within new action "Narrow the Gender Gap in attainment, particularly in speaking & listening"
Provide parents with support to improve the home learning environment from birth to the start of school	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
Provide targeted support and intervention for schools who have been identified from analysis of Early Years Foundation Stage Profile data	Sep 2017 - Jun 2018	Withdrawn	This action is now included as an Impact Measure within new action "Narrow the Gender Gap in attainment, particularly in speaking & listening"

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

PLEDGE 3: YOUNG PEOPLE ARE READY FOR WORK AND ADULTHOOD

Priority 01: Young people have access to high quality learning experiences which support them into employment			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Progress for children with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people - that they will achieve well in their early years, at school and in college, and lead happy and fulfilled lives	Feb 2016 - Sep 2020	In Progress	
Reduce the amount of permanent exclusions	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
To diminish the difference in attainment between those in vulnerable groups and their peers	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
To reduce persistent absence and strive to improve attendance for all pupils with a specific focus on the most vulnerable	Sep 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 02: Children and young people enjoy good health and well-being into adulthood			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
To reduce risk taking behaviour for young people, in particular the most vulnerable young people	Apr 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
To support agencies and parents/carers to promote resilience, early intervention and prevention for young people	Apr 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
Work with schools and other stakeholders to roll out the 'Future in Mind Strategy' designed to provide support so that schools and colleges are more equipped to work with young people with lower levels of mental health	Apr 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Wirral Plan Year End Report 2018-19 – Children & Families

Priority 03: Children and young people effectively participate in their communities and contribute to the local economy			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Support delivery of the 2020 Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Strategy	Apr 2016 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
To continue to develop and co-ordinate Careers Education and Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) through a Wirral Hub on behalf of schools	Oct 2017 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
To raise aspirations, engage local employers and improve vocational awareness develop opportunities for young people	Apr 2016 - Sep 2020	In Progress	

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PLEDGE 4: VULNERABLE CHILDREN REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL

Priority 01: Support children to live at home in their own community and preventing them entering statutory social care			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Ensure that multi-agency pathways for early help and interventions to support families on the edge of care prevent the escalation of need	Apr 2017 - Oct 2018	Completed	
Ensure that the Integrated Front Door (IFD) provides vulnerable children with the right service at the right time	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	Completed	
To ensure that key agencies take up child poverty awareness training and key messages are distributed across the children and young people/wider Wirral workforce around signposting to appropriate support available	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

Priority 02: Children who need protecting have good, consistent plans to support them to be safe			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Develop a partnership approach for professionals working with children and young people who display harmful sexual behaviour	Apr 2018 - Sep 2018	Completed	
Identify models to support multi-agency work with vulnerable children and young people who are hard to engage and/or have mental health issues	Apr 2018 - Nov 2018	Redefined	The timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19
Monitor the use of the Graded Care Profile (GCP) to ensure that it is being used consistently to inform assessment and planning at an early stage	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Withdrawn	
Monitor the use of the pre-birth assessment tool specifically for those expectant parents known to present a higher risk, ensure that it is being used consistently and assessments are timely and robust	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

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To provide additional training to social workers that have not completed the Supporting Families Enhancing Futures Model training	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
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Priority 03: Children who cannot live at home with their family or extended family live in homes where they feel safe, secure and supported to reach their full potential			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Deliver a Sufficiency Strategy to ensure that there is a good supply of high quality accommodation and excellent aspirational care in the borough for children and young people who are looked after	Apr 2017 - Sep 2018	Completed	

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PLEDGE 6: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENT LIVES

Priority 01: All People with disabilities are well and live healthy lives			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Deliver 300 additional Extra Care Homes in Wirral by 2020.	Apr 2017 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
Explore ways to use disability prevalence data with new and existing information to inform service provision in response to need.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
Increase the uptake of Health Passports and ensure all Annual Health Checks are carried out.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	Redefined	The wording of this action has been made more specific to ensure clarity of delivery
Produce a guide on issues facing people moving to supported or extra care housing.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Redefined	The timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19
Support the implementation and evaluate the effectiveness of the All Age Integrated Disability Service in Wirral	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	Completed	

Priority 02: Young People and Adults with disabilities have access to employment and are financially resilient			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Produce a strategy and plan to increase the number of people with a disability having to access work opportunities.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	In Progress	
Promote the take up of Disability Confident accreditation (level 3) with all partners and the take up of level 1 accreditation through the commissioning and contracting of service providers and suppliers.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	In Progress	

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Priority 03: All people with disabilities have choice and control over their lives			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Develop a website which will be the definitive place that provides easy access to information from a variety of agencies and services to people with a disability.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Redefined	The timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19
Produce an inclusive approach to hearing the voices of people with a disability to enable them to have choice and control over their lives.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Redefined	The timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19
We will increase opportunities for the introduction and uptake of Assistive Technology.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
We will work to develop an all age travel training service and more people will be supported to travel independently to school, college, work or to their chosen activities.	Apr 2018 - Sep 2019	Redefined	The wording of this action has been made more specific to ensure clarity of delivery

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PLEDGE 7: ZERO TOLERANCE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Priority 01: Prevention and Early Intervention			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Commission insight work with BAME and LGBT communities on Wirral to identify scale of issue and ensure referral pathways are effective	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
Deliver a coordinated public awareness raising campaign which keeps domestic abuse in the public arena and gives clear messages that Wirral will not tolerate domestic abuse in any form. We will ensure key literature and support materials are accessible by hard to reach groups	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
Develop a Wirral Domestic Abuse Alliance website to support and advise on Domestic Abuse services and pathways	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
Evaluate the most effective model for Domestic Abuse risk identification and ensure all relevant staff are trained in how to use this model to recognise domestic abuse and harmful practices.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	

Priority 02: Provision - Children and Young People at the Heart of our Domestic Abuse Response			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Commission a Young Persons Domestic Abuse Support Service which offers 24/7 support to young people effected by Domestic Abuse and Harmful Practices	Apr 2018 - Jun 2018	Completed	
Establish clear Domestic Abuse Pathways and response / offer for Wirral's children and young people.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	

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Review Domestic Abuse support materials currently available to Wirral schools to ensure they are fit for purpose	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
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Priority 03: Partnership - A Strong Community Co-ordinated Response			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Encourage businesses and community groups of all sizes across the borough to commit to the Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse Pledge, to increase awareness of Domestic Abuse support available	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
Ensure Wirral's Independent Domestic Violence Advocacy (IDVA) service is fit for purpose – targeted and available for periods of high demand and a service that also supports the children and young people of Wirral	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
Increase 3rd Sector Domestic Abuse Peer mentors outreach programme to ensure adequate provision across all high priority areas.	Apr 2018 - Mar 2020	Redefined	The wording of this action has been made more specific to ensure clarity of delivery The timescales have been refreshed in line with business priorities and action progress during 2018-19

Priority 04: Perpetrators - Make Victims Safer and Reduce Re-offending			
Action	Timescale	Status	Rationale
Commission an independent review of the Integrated Offender Management (IOM) Domestic Abuse Perpetrators Cohort to evaluate its effectiveness on managing Domestic Abuse perpetrators.	Apr 2018 - Dec 2018	Completed	
Develop a Young Persons MARAC process to manage the increasing numbers of young Domestic Abuse perpetrators.	Apr 2018 - Dec 2018	Completed	

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Improve working practice between MARAC and MAPPA to manage risk, disrupt offending behaviour and ensure Domestic Abuse offenders (including serial perpetrators) are appropriately supported to change their behaviour or face the consequences of their actions	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	
We will work with Liverpool City Region Metro Mayor, Merseyside Police Crime Commissioner, Merseyside Police and other statutory partners to ensure that they fully utilise all statutory tools and powers in combatting Domestic Abuse	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Completed	



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 3 July 2019

REPORT TITLE:	STATUTORY CARE PLANS
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE (SCRUTINY TEAM MANAGER) BUSINESS SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

This report (included as Appendix 1) provides the findings and recommendations emanating from the Statutory Care Plans Scrutiny Review

Members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee are requested to consider the contents of this report and support the recommendations arising from this review.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. Members of the Committee are requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Scrutiny Report, 'Statutory Care Plans';
2. The report be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet meeting for consideration of the recommendations made.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The Scrutiny Review report is subject to review by Members of the Committee and is required to be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 As part of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee's Work Programme, a Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on Care Plans was agreed. The Review Panel consisted of Cllrs. Tom Usher, Chris Carubia, Chris Meaden, Jean Stapleton and Cherry Povall

3.2 It was agreed that Cllr Tom Usher would be the Chair of the Panel. The review was conducted over several meetings held with relevant Council officers, the Children in Care Council, publications from other local authorities and public bodies.

3.3 The Review Panel's objectives in doing this work were to understand the implications of the 2016 Ofsted Report and subsequent Improvement Journey and to present a series of recommendations designed to help improve care planning in Wirral

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

Not Applicable.

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: Care Plan Scrutiny Review

Background Papers

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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Statutory Care Plans Scrutiny Review

A report produced by the
Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

July 2019 Final Report



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1. Introduction

The Ofsted report of 2016 raised specific areas of concern relating to care planning in Wirral. As such, Members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested a comprehensive review of Care Planning in Wirral. This task and finish took over 10 months and panel members spoke to over 30 officers, foster carers and service users across Wirral. The review kept in mind the Ofsted inspection framework of 2018, and the following Key Issues.

Key issues in care plans highlighted by Ofsted in 2016

- There are widespread and serious failures in the services provided to children who need help and protection in Wirral. Services for care leavers are inadequate, because the local authority does not know where many of its care leavers are living or what they are doing, and some of the most vulnerable have not received a service that adequately recognizes risk. Services for children looked after and children in need of adoption require improvement. This demonstrates a significant deterioration in the quality of all services that children and young people receive since Wirral was last inspected in 2011 and 2012.
- Despite significant investment in training for frontline and middle managers and Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs), managers do not clearly communicate good practice standards to social workers through managerial oversight of case records and workers' supervision files. IRO challenge, while increasingly present, is ineffective and does not lead to positive change for children. As a result, a culture of over-optimism often goes unchallenged.
- Case recording is sometimes so poor that it is not possible to tell how decisions have been reached or even what has happened as a result of intervention in children's lives. Assessments and plans are often insufficiently focused on what will make the most difference for children and young people within a timescale that is right for them.
- While most social workers' caseloads are not excessive, they are often complex. The local authority has high levels of staff changes for a variety of reasons, including sickness absence and staff turnover. As a result, children and young people experience too many changes of worker, making it difficult for them to form enduring, positive relationships with staff.
- The Children in Care Council is active and influential and is well supported by an effective inclusion team. The contribution that children and young people make to strategic planning is a strength.

2. Membership

Members of the Task and Finish Review Panel

Cllr Tom Usher (Chair)



Chair's Personal Statement

"After the 2016 Ofsted inspection, in which "widespread and serious failures" were found in children's services, scrutiny of these areas became ever more important in order to track progress on the improvement journey. One of the key issues of the 2016 report was that care plans needed to be specific, realistic, and achieve change, as well as being informed by the views of children and young people.

In the spirit of this comment, our approach as a scrutiny committee since then has been to engage with those children and young people, to speak with frontline staff, and to ensure we are making specific and realistic recommendations to decision-makers. This new approach was designed to ensure that we knew the services within our remit better than before, and that we could speak to officers about the strengths and challenges they face.

With this in mind, it was paramount to ensure that the central document would inform professionals about a child's life and that the decisions taken around that child were improving at pace. The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee set about a major piece of work in reviewing Statutory Care Plans.

This review has run alongside the improvement journey in Children's Services and has been informed by conversations with the Care Leaver's Council, as well as engaging with professionals responsible for creating, challenging and using care plans to inform their decision.

Ultimately this review has now been completed. What has been demonstrated by the professionals and young people we engaged with, as well as the panel members themselves is this: Much work has been done to get things right, but our responsibility to do better by the children in our care is never done."

Other members of the panel include:

Cllr Jean Stapleton, Cllr Cherry Povall, Cllr Chris Carubia, Cllr Chris Meaden



3. Scope

At a meeting on 1st August 2019, the scope and meeting schedule was agreed by the panel and can be found in the appendix of this report.

4. Methodology

The scrutiny review was informed through:

- An overview of care planning – Held in September 2018
- Reviewing of 5 individual care plans – Held in December 2018
- A meeting with the Children in Care Council – Held in January 2019
- Meeting with key frontline staff: Service Managers, IROs, Education Group, Social Workers, Team Managers and Foster Carers - Held in March 2018
- Reality Check Visits to Health Providers – Held in December 2018
- A meeting with Housing providers and Legal Services – Held in April 2019
- The Ofsted inspection of 2016, and subsequent monitoring visits.
- The review was also informed by the Centre for Public Scrutiny Guidelines on reviewing children's services

5. Overview of Care Planning

The making of a care plan is central to the requirements set out in the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations 2010. The care plan should contain information about how the child's current developmental needs will be met as well as the arrangements for the current and longer-term care for the child. It ensures that there is a long-term plan for the child's upbringing (referred to as 'the permanence plan') to which everyone is working, including the team around the child, the child and, where appropriate, the family. There should be clarity in the care plan, particularly about the desired outcomes for the child and those expected from services and other actions identified. This clarity will support effective reviews of the child's case to monitor the progress made towards meeting the short- and long-term goals for the child and their family and carers.

Key Points

1. To ensure that children and their families and the child's carers are treated with openness and honesty and understand the decisions that are made.
2. To provide clarity about the allocation of responsibilities and tasks, in the context of shared parenting between parents, the child's carers and the corporate parents and ensure that actions lead to improved outcomes.

3. To demonstrate accountability in the way in which the functions of local authorities under the 1989 Act are exercised.

When looking at care plans members were asked to consider the following;

Child Focused - is the child at the centre of the plan? Are they in care because they need to be? Has the child been consulted about their wishes and feelings? Are parents consulted about their children? Are key agencies involved, e.g. schools or CAMHS?

Members were also asked to consider whether care planning was **SMART focused**.



Part of the Ofsted recommendations for Wirral focused on the lack of Personal Education Plans (PEPs) and Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaires (SDQs) in order to assess the educational and health needs of each CLA as part of care planning. SDQs are a screening tool used to measure vulnerability to emotional and mental ill health. Progress regarding SDQs has been made since Ofsted and now 88% of SDQs are complete for Wirral's CLA. The next challenge is to ensure the quality of education and health assessments and to measure how these assessments inform care plans and make a positive difference.

Ofsted also identified a lack of effective planning for permanence. Wirral should be better at planning for going home or planning other permanent arrangements for children and young people in our care. Care plans for CLA should be focused on outcomes e.g. adoption plans for younger children and for older children exploring all solutions including parental support.

Independent Reviewing Officers (IROs) play a key role in the review of care plans and in ensuring that there is a focus on permanence. Wirral has recently changed the way that IROs look at care plans to give a greater emphasis to permanence. The Panel was informed that questions such as "So what?" and "What difference has this made?" would challenge officers to demonstrate that care plans have a positive impact on children's lived experience.

6. Care Plans

In December 2018 Member viewed 5 Care Plans. Consent forms were issued to the carers of all children involved; it was agreed that anonymity would be maintained, and the report would not contain identifying details.

The first area of focus was whether children are in care for the right reasons. Ofsted rated Wirral as good in this area in 2016. There should always be a clear purpose for children becoming looked after. It should be stated clearly why we have taken these decisions and include an assessment of all relevant risks. The 5 care plans looked at had clear and evidenced reasons for care proceedings, and members were satisfied as to the reasons for the child being placed into care.

The new policy in Wirral is for all children looked after to have annual care plan re-assessments to update their care plan. This should take place annually, or more often if there are significant changes to a child's circumstances. This represents a change in culture and practice for front-line staff. Additionally, it is important that assessments are child focused, with an emphasis on identifying the child's needs rather than identifying what services are needed. An example was given that a poor plan would state that a child 'needs therapy'. A child focused plan would explain why the child needs therapy, such as 'recognising that the child needed support with attachment issues.

It was noted that, whilst initial assessments of children's needs when they came into care were made, Wirral had not historically reviewed these assessments or periodically repeated assessments for children in care over a long period of time. It was therefore possible for a child who enters the system at four years old to still be in the system ten years later without a reassessment taking place. In cases where the child had social worker continuity this was less of an issue as the social worker will be familiar with the child's changing needs and circumstances and will continually review needs and make piecemeal changes to care plans. However, the lack of systematic, periodic and documented reassessments of children's needs to inform care plans had been identified as weakness. Members were advised that work around auditing had picked up since 2016, and this was emphasized again by the service leads during the stakeholder session. The auditors assisting members had a wealth of experiences and were able to pick up issues in the care plans.

When several children are from the same family are looked after measures should be taken to ensure information held in each child's file is clear. Members recognised that certain information recorded on sibling plans needs to be identical, whilst some needs to be individualized. It was noted that the child's individual needs can get lost in care notes and the audit trail is not always clear enough. Concerns were raised by the auditors regarding one case involving a large sibling group that procedure had not been followed as well as it might, and the individual care plans were fragmented.

Officers highlighted problems with care plan recording and the importance of accurately updated care plans. They highlighted concerns that whilst chronologies are held on system, a glitch in the liquid logic meant that they can be wiped accidentally when not saved correctly. It would appear that cases are updated and submitted, but due to a system quirk information would sometimes get lost.

It was agreed that higher caseloads cause problems and members queried how often relationships between social Workers and Children Looked After break down. It was confirmed that previous high numbers of agency staff and interim managers had caused problems, and that is was now better having static management teams.

Members queried the 20 million cash injection into Children's Services and asked whether this has led to an increase in Social Workers. There are still around 40 vacancies, but these are filled by agency staff. This is a reduction from 101 vacancies in October 2017. Officers advised that social workers in the

permeance team should have no more than 23 cases. Further information received from Children's services confirmed that Wirral has an average of 17.3 cases per worker compared to a North West average of 19.4. Within the average figure there is variation as newly qualified workers hold a much lower caseload than more experienced workers. Occasionally they will have significantly more cases once a Social Worker has been on the duty team for the week. This is the case in the assessment and intervention team not the permeance teams. The officers questioned felt that the case injection had made a difference, but the effects were still coming through.

Difficulties arise when different agencies have separate priorities and targets. For example, Police priorities are obviously to reduce criminal and anti-social behaviour, whereas Children's Services may view this behaviour more as a safeguarding concern. Agencies must ensure the right help comes at the right time. Officers expressed concerns especially around the disenfranchisement of young men within the care system, and the effect this has on their long-term prospects once they left care. Young care leavers are often open to criminal exploitation, such as County Lines. In order to look at this issue more closely, Members attended a 'reality check visit' to Merseyside Police, Child Criminal Exploitation Teams and Early Help at the Solar Campus. A report for this has been produced separately.

Members looked at one care plan involving an unaccompanied asylum seeker. It was noted by members and officers that plan was missing significant details. Members questioned how they got here, and whether they were trafficked.

Members requested more details regarding this case and were provided with it outside of the committee. It was agreed that the Modern Slavery Scrutiny Review undertaken by Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee be shared with Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations

- The gaps in the chronology and care plan for the unaccompanied asylum seekers raised concerns regarding modern slavery, trafficking and exploitation. The draft Modern Slavery Strategy that is due to go to Cabinet should be cascaded down to Children's Services once agreed and steps should be taken to ensure there is correct training and process in place to deal with this.
- Concerns have been raised by officers that there are glitches within Liquid Logic which can mean that information is entered incorrectly or accidentally deleted. Members requested that the system is reviewed to ensure it is being used to its full capacity and that it is fit for purpose.

7. CIC Council

In January 2019 Members visited the Children in Care Council at Pilgrim Street in Birkenhead. The Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Council are groups of young people who have all been in care, who have had different experiences and would like things to change for the better. Members met with 5 young

people to discuss their care plans and experienced. As promised, all identifying details have been removed. Members asked 5 questions, which they felt covered all relevant aspects.

Discussion

1. How much do you know about your care plan, and how much input did you have into it?

Opinions differed among the young people questioned. Some felt they had a good understanding of their plan and were given the opportunity to provide input should they want to. However, some respondents advised that they knew bits about their care plan and was offered some input but only felt like they knew the basics.

One child questioned advised that they themselves didn't ask too many questions or know any details regarding their care plan; they advised that they had trust issues involving social workers and did not like to open or ask questions. When questioned, Members were advised that this was because they had a rotation of social workers, and no warning over changes. However, Members were reassured that the Young People were aware of the reasons they had been taken into care.

2. What was your relationship like with your social worker?

There was no clear consensus when it came to relationships with social workers, perhaps due to variations in situation and personality. One child advised that their first social worker was excellent, but that changed when a temporary social worker was introduced.

The young people interviewed advised that most social workers were good, consistent, and good listeners but this was hindered by high caseloads. Members commented that there had been an increase in permanent full-time staff in recent years but acknowledged that case work was still high. They understood that changes had been made, but understandably still found it difficult to repeat their personal history to a rotation of social workers, only for them to be changed with no warning.

They also found it difficult when social workers went off sick or on holiday and advised they were not informed of longer absences and didn't always know details of anyone else they could contact in times of need. Some situations were described where social workers had helped them introduce or maintain family relationships. One example given was being reunited with a parent and meeting new siblings. This had been a very positive experience for the young person and had been encouraged and facilitated by the social worker.

3. How well do you think your foster care/residential placement arrangements work?

Two main issues were raised regarding placements which were of concern to members.

- One young spoke of problems with certain housing services. Members were advised that they were supposed to visit accommodation with their Personal Assistant (P.A) to view rooms. however, they are offered accommodation and feel compelled to accept it immediately in case

they lose it. This does not make them feel like they have any choice when choosing accommodation.

Members were also advised that once a young person is over 18 and working then they pay a high weekly charge to the housing provider. They felt that they were being penalised for working and needing supported accommodation. One young person advised that if they had paid then they would have been -£44 a week down (Assistance was provided and Children's services offered to contribute £11 per week towards this, but this did not cover the full cost). One CLA advised they were back living with a parent in overcrowded accommodation due to this.

Further to this, problems were cited navigating Property Pool Plus. Members were advised that some CLA sat on band E until they could supply enough documentation, after which they were placed on band B. This issue was raised at a later session with housing providers and an explanation of explanation of the current situation provided in section 8 of the review.

- Members questioned the Staying Put scheme. One young person advised she wanted to stay but now has her own flat as her foster carer "wanted more money". The young people interviewed questioned the motivation of some foster carers and that once CLA turn 18, Foster Carers can change rent. One Foster Carer was quoted as saying;

"He works full time, why am I funding him?"

Members endeavoured to raise this issue at the stakeholder meeting.

4. How were your educational/medical needs met?

The Young People questioned were aware of their Personal Education Plan (PEP) but did not indicate that they had much input into it or discussed it with their co-ordinator. Members were advised that CLA had bi-annual meetings with the School nurse, and they were registered to their GP. They spoke positively about their health passport and confirmed it was very helpful to have their medical history in one place.

The care leavers questioned confirmed they had access to an employability coach via the 14-19 service and confirmed that they had found this useful. They also mentioned previous problems with employers (which have been omitted due to confidentiality) and advisers where they felt they could be given more support navigating employment and that they were conscious of being spoken to differently as Children Looked After

5. What more could the council do to help Children looked after?

The young adults questioned were enthusiastic about the session and advised they would like more contact with the Councillors. They appreciated the opportunity to be heard and were pleased to hear that local politicians were taking an interest in them

Recommendations

- Members suggested that a meeting could be held regularly between scrutiny members and the children in care council to discuss issues. This suggestion was welcomed, and the CIC were enthusiastic about Members attending other events.
- Corporate parenting training for all Councillors, regardless of Committee Membership should be kept up to date.
- Communications – There was a notable lack of understanding of their individual care plans and their agency over it. Changes to care plans, staff and policy are not communicated to CLA as well as they could be.
- Committee to explore the resources given to children leaving care on employment readiness

8. Stakeholder Sessions

Overview

In March 2019 Members met the following stakeholders to discuss care planning with a wide range of staff and service users.

- Heads of Service: Members met with the heads of Commissioning, Ian Godfrey and Permanence, Eifion Burke for an overview of their services
- IRO's: Responsible for providing Health Challenge and accountability to social workers over their Care Plans, and the subsequent decisions made.
- Social Workers: The Most regular point of contact for a child and chiefly responsible for the writing and co-ordination of care planning.
- Team Managers: experienced Social Workers who carry out the day to day management of teams, supervising the work and ensuring decisions are made in a timely and appropriate manner
- Education Group: consisting of the Virtual Head Teacher and the improving educational outcomes team. Their remit is to raise the attainment of Children Looked After, Reduce absence and tackle exclusions.
- Foster Carers: are responsible for the care of children in their homes, who have been placed there by the Local Authority. This can be either respite or short-term care, or a longer arrangement.

Heads of Service

Ian and Eifion noted that the culture of the organisation has changed significantly over the last few years, and the aim to promote a positive culture and ensure permanency across the service. Processes are now in place and the workforce is more stable. It is certainly much better than before. Legacy had a sense of drift; care planning processes have improved dramatically.

Members were reassured that there is now more training in place, as well as a significant increase in permanent staff and senior management. There is now a permanent senior leadership team supported by a team manager group with currently one vacancy. This is assisting in providing more stability to social workers. There was an agreement that there is still significant work to be done to improve the quality of care plans, but the momentum in recent years is bearing fruit.

There was discussion around utilizing the individual skill sets of social workers and foster carers and that care planning around the needs of the child needs embedding. Queries were raised around care leavers further to a meeting with CIC council. It was agreed that more work needed to be done regarding housing for care leavers. The issues raised at the care leavers session were put to the heads of service and addresses a later session with housing providers (see part 8)

Members also raised questions about Children who have had the worst experience, trauma or complex needs, and how officers deal with those who won't engage. Officers responded by acknowledging there were problems when care leavers don't meet the criteria for adult social care. From the feedback received about ownership of the care/pathway plans, they would be more likely to respond if they had more understanding of the plans in the first place.

Members questioned how children are paired up with the correct social workers and foster carers. There have been negative stories with bad matches. Officers responded that this is the most challenging environment in 30 years. Some foster carers have an approval range and age range. But often they do not have the luxury of choice, due to the number of children in the care system and the availability of Foster carers.

Members queries whether considerations given to matching children with foster carers with the same ethnic background? The majority of CIC are white British or white European. There is a small cohort of unaccompanied asylum seekers. In these cases, it can be difficult to meet needs, but Children's services aim to do this as much as possible. Semi-Independent living can be useful if appropriate. It can be difficult as Wirral as a community is not that ethnically diverse.

Members mentioned the Staying Put scheme, which enables Care Leavers aged 18 and above to stay on with their former foster carers. Officers responded by confirming that there are currently 40 children in Staying Put arrangements, but Wirral must be careful not to force it on them. It was noted that due to the massive number of CLA officers would rather not utilize the Staying Put scheme as they would rather have the 40+ foster carers. However, if it's the right thing for the child then obviously that would be the priority.

It was noted that a lot of children in care have been in care for a long time. When opening these care plans up, it is worth noting that there is a lot of historic negative information – new care plans are better quality but there are some legacy issues. Historically care planning has not been of a high quality but are now being audited more frequently and rectified.

Members questioned how care plans were audited and were advised that there has been an increase in audits, which has offered a better understanding of where issues lie. The themes that have emerged are now being tackled, with more rigorous processes put in place. However, processes are now in place and there is a more stable workforce.

There was also cause for celebration. Officers noted that care planning to achieve positive outcomes was improving, with 10 children going into higher education this year. This is the highest number of Children Looked After and Care Leavers achieving this milestone to date.

IROs

Independent reviewing officers (IROs) are an independent safeguarding unit and their role is to scrutinize and ensure care plans are consistent. Their role is one of accountability and they offer social workers friendly challenge on the effectiveness and appropriateness of care plans. IRO's undertake Child Protection Conferences where they have oversight of the care plan. They make sure the plans work for the child and that risk is reduced. Once the plans have reached LAC stage, they can escalate concerns and take the case back to court. IROs must ratify the care plans and challenge. They also must ensure that contingency planning is also on the agenda.

There are now 15 full time staff alongside 3 agency staff. This is a significant change from 2016 when care leavers were supported by a much smaller number of staff. The number of children looked after is not coming down quickly, However, it was agreed that the co-location of staff has meant that challenge is easier. Care Planning processes and policy are embedded now, which means it should be harder to get it wrong.

Members were reassured to hear the IROs felt that accountability, praise, leadership and process had improved since 2016, which has had a cumulative effect on service. They were also pleased to hear that the IROs felt they could effectively challenge and escalate issues. The focus is now on quality, and the IROs felt that care planning is now more aspirational. Concern was raised by members over the IROs workload and whether this impacted on the amount of time they could spend getting to know the children – they advised that they can have up to 80-90 cases each. This raises capacity concerns, but officers advised that some children require less contact dependent on their circumstances.

The IRO's Identified that Drift and delay are still issues, and some CLA have been in care for too long, however this was acknowledged as mostly a legacy issue and because of the 'risk averse' nature of the Local Authority.

Social Workers

A number of social workers participated in the stakeholder's session, with various levels of experience. There were also permanent and voluntary staff. The Social Worker's volunteered how much the new agile working kits are assisting them with care planning as they help them to connect and that CLA are now more involved and engaged. Children are happy to work alongside Social Workers using the agile working kit.

Members asked whether the Social worker felt that the care plans were more child focused. It was agreed that they were more holistic and that there has been a massive change in the collective mindset. Casework is still high, but not as high as it used to be. Members queried time scales regarding workloads and were advised this is very issue dependent. For example, there are time scale differences between making and chasing up a CAHMS Referral and filling out a passport form.

Training around care planning has improved with an emphasis of SMART planning (see item 1.3). Social Workers now need to question whether reports can be easily read by Children and Carers. It was agreed

by Officers and Members that it is important not to be too process driven: Social Workers don't feel they are micromanaged. Individuality is there but it now underpinned. Officers add praise and acknowledgement of achievement.

There are legacy issues, but processes are in place and there is less 'firefighting'. New frameworks have been reviewed and the STEF model is in place, so less time can be spent sorting issues and more consideration given to the quality of individual care plans. Staff are less transient and there is now more support. Members were advised that there is reflective supervision in place, regular team meetings and a significant change is communication. There has been historical communication issues, especially around multi-agency working. This is not perfect, but it is improving. There is often a difference of priority, for example the Police often focus on crime figures and prosecutions, whereas social workers are focused on the needs and safeguarding on the child. However, this has been noted as a concern and is being driven forward. It was also mentioned that officers often struggle to get a direct line through to the Police and must use the main 111 Phone-line which often causes delays.

Officers confirmed that there have been communication problems between agencies, but now everyone is required to give input. Again, Officers highlighted problems with other agencies using Liquid Logic. It is either not used, or not updated properly. However, members were reassured that the I.T support systems for Liquid Logic are good.

Members asked how much emphasis is there for contingency in the care plans. For example, when a Foster Carer gets rushed into hospital. However, it should be noted that 'contingency plans' are not appropriate terminology and can increase anxiety. It needs to be normalised, similar to what you'd tell any child to do in an emergency.

Team Managers

Members queried the Team Managers' perspectives on care plans and whilst it was agreed that caseloads are still high, co-working is assisting with this. It was agreed that they are focusing on getting the language right. Team Managers expressed the opinion that caseloads were better. When asked about cases that suffered from legacy issues (e.g. a poorly written care plan) they explained that the process was to give this case to a permanent social worker and to review all aspects of the care plan to ensure the legacy issues were dealt with. Complex cases of 2 or 3 within a caseload of 20 is not unusual.

Queries were made about ensuring the voice of the child was captured, and Team Managers expressed that it was an integral part of their role to ensure this was done. It was not unusual now for Team Managers to send care plans back to their respective social workers multiple times before being satisfied that the voice of the child had been sufficiently captured.

Care planning can be creative, but plans are now more robust. It is now easier to challenge the courts, often with excellent outcomes.

Several points were raised relating to partners. One Team Manager noted that the timeliness of partner contributions had improved due to stronger partnership working. A specific example of this was that Health professionals being located at the solar campus (unsure which team at the solar campus they were referring to specifically) had ensured their attendance at meetings.

“We are acknowledging where we are, and where we want to be”.

Children’s services take on everything from safeguarding to education, and for they must provide a quality service. There are new processes in place for everything. Team managers are flagging problems swiftly and can set targets for improvement. Skills analysis identifies training, and officers try and use resources already available. There have been changes in departments, processes and procedures. Members were reassured to hear the officers receive regular feedback through the Children in Care Council, and young people were able to contact senior managers directly to highlight concerns. It was pointed out that a pack given to members of the CICC included information on how to raise concerns if needed.

Education group

Members enquired how well the education group can contribute to the Personal Education Plan (PEPs).

The new PEP forms focus on several different things:

- The first part of the form is filled out with vital information.
- The second contains the care plan and holistic info.
- There is also a section on how to reassure the child when they are exhibiting challenging behaviour
- A further section to be completed by the social worker regarding their care plans
- The final part contains Pastoral targets such as support outcomes and methods.

Regarding the educational outcomes of CLA, members were advised that once in a secure environment progression is good. However, it is attainment that is the problem; the benchmark is lower, so whilst progression is good attainment is still lower. However, the this is not treated as an excuse. Extra work is undertaken to accelerate and track progress.

It was noted that the work Fiona O’Shaughnessy did was so important, to view the child as a whole person and help them learn to live normal lives. Regarding partnership working, overall it was agreed that agencies have been very receptive to changes and are on board with this philosophy.

The importance of joint training was emphasized, to ensure a coordinated approach It was also noted that the new early help scheme Community Matters will assist greatly to help the young person and support families. Community Matters will see new ways of helping families and children get help they need, when they need it, through partnership working and maximising existing resources. The Fender Primary School and other Community Hub Schools are working with the Big Brother Big Sisters group to provide mentoring to vulnerable children. This scheme aims to help children reach their potential by offering one- to -one mentoring services. Officers work with the pastoral leads in schools so they are more attuned to the needs of CLA.

Regarding mental health/CAHMS provision for CLA, every school in Wirral now has access to a Primary Mental Health Worker. The advice line has reduced hospital admissions overall by 50%. There are also early help provisions available to children whilst waiting for a CAHMS referral, such as mindfulness

training. However, it was noted that there is still a delay between referrals and appointments and Members raised this as a concern.

Foster Carers

The Foster Carer panel initially expressed concerns regarding the allocation of new social workers. They felt the support they had received up to this point had been amazing, however they were concerned about the changes.

This had caused some upset, as a few of the foster carers had worked with their social workers for years and felt they had an incredibly close bond. The Foster Carers understood the restructuring that had occurred within Children's Services, and they understood the need to put the right people in the right places, but they did not feel this had been communicated in the best way. It was apparent that trust and experience are essential to the Foster Carers so issues can be flagged quickly. Regarding the communication of changes within the service, some felt that they only heard undercurrents, and felt they were the last to find out.

There was discussion around the allocation of support and training for Foster Carers, with some advising it was excellent whilst other felt they had to seek it out or relied on peer-to-peer networks. One of the Foster Carers has two young boys with complex needs. They felt they lacked support regarding additional and noted that some professionals don't understand the need for this, which can cause placement breakdowns.

Foster Carers felt they should be able to make recommendations more effectively, and it was noted that when they felt listened to and appreciated, they worked better. Others stated that they did not feel like they were treated as professionals. Foster Carers are often thought of as volunteers and there is a little professionalism attached to the role. It was agreed that Foster Carers come from all walks of life, but some cases it's a full-time role and financial side needs to be considered.

Members asked if the foster carers felt listened to. They responded by saying they need to be able to make recommendations. It was agreed that best practice should be that children are placed with the most appropriate foster carer, for example people with expertise in therapeutic care - there must be Foster Carers with talents that are not utilized. There were concerns about needs that are not being addressed: some children need therapies but there is also demand for peer mentors (for children and carers).

Members were reassured that the Foster Carers felt they had total visibility of the care Plans. There was a mixed response when asked if they involved the children, they foster in the care plans. One foster carer stated she thought that her children were sufficiently involved and aware of the content of their care plans. However, another foster carer stated that she did not involve the children in her care involved in care plans, as she deemed it inappropriate. Another issue picked up was that for some of the foster carers' children, circumstances and needs had changed, and this was not reflected in their care plans or in the support they received. It was unclear how to feed this new information into social services so that these new needs were captured, and support forthcoming.

Generally, foster carers have a positive view of the role of IROs. IROs won't put therapies in place until a child has permanency. However, IROs will fight for the children. They will be assertive with both the foster carers and social workers if they see a problem is not being addressed.

Recommendations

- Members request that achievements of CLA are celebrated in Committee (mindful of confidentiality) and praise fed back to young people.
- Thresholds in Wirral are low, and the authority is naturally risk averse. As such, edge of care services should be embedded.
- Steps should be taken to ensure foster carers are treated professionally. Members would also support the introduction of an anonymous feedback form for foster carers.
- The panel would welcome a Foster Carers' session, so that members can gain an understanding of the challenges Foster Carers face.
- Committee to take a closer look at CAMHS referrals and waiting times.

9. Partner agencies

Health

Members and officers expressed concerns during the care plan session that information was not shared between health partners and social workers as easily as it could have been, which is especially concerning as younger infants and children are the most vulnerable and at risk.

In 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.

It was noted by members that the high number of children looked after 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.

There were several scenarios which 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.

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.

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 children looked after's medical history and healthcare needs. This aims to help children looked after's take ownership of their medical needs and help them transition into adulthood.

Like the 'Red Book' handed out to new mothers, 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 carers and clinicians. However, the main aim of the passport is that it is a document 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.

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.

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.

Housing

Further to concerns raised at the Children in Care Council, Members were keen to meet with officers from Operational Housing Services and a team manager from Leaving Care Services to discuss housing provision.

Officers advised that the range of accommodation varies depending on the age of the care leaver. The conduit for referrals is via Leaving Care team. There are challenges faced by the benefit system as it currently stands, such as the single room rate for under 35's with no dependents. Supported accommodation is available, there are a number of commissioned services by the housing department which are available however these are not all for the sole purpose of care leavers albeit there is some provision specifically for care leavers. However, once care leavers are in employment they fall into a classic 'benefit trap' situation if they remain in the supported accommodation, whereby it is often more financially advantageous to stay out of work as they cannot afford the rent levels and intensive housing management costs that previously would have been covered by their full benefits.

As mentioned above, most of the supported accommodation commissioned by housing services for young people is not designed solely for care leavers, it is designed for initial access or move on for homeless young people. There is high demand for single accommodation from homeless young people

generally. Care Leavers often do not like hostel accommodation offered and due to the demand on move on accommodation there are issues with longer-term offers of accommodation. Members queried whether there is anywhere care leavers can live independently. It was explained that there is a move-on accommodation offer in Tranmere and Wallasey. This offers self-contained flats and 24 hours on site support and peripatetic support is available.

It was noted by officers that at the time of the meeting there are currently no care leavers presenting as street homeless in Wirral. If a care leaver does present as street homeless, then emergency accommodation can be found, however it may not always be what is considered suitable by care leavers or social workers, but it is an emergency response to respond to the presentation of homelessness.

Currently the offer for care leavers is Forum Housing, housing associations or the private sector. One issue is that a young person cannot hold a tenancy agreement in their own right until they are 18. The Local Authority can enter into a tenancy agreement with young people – but the corporate parent would be trustee.

Finding suitable accommodation is one of the biggest challenges the Local Authority has, and there are significant challenges attached to move on accommodation. Additionally, accommodation available to young people up to the age of 24 is now silting up due to single room housing benefits and also demands and legal obligations to young homeless people generally.

It was agreed that there needs to be strategic future planning, for the 13-15 year-old Children Looked After. Overall there are currently 8.5 thousand people registered on Property Pool Plus, and approximately 10-15% get housed per year. For care leavers registered this statistic is higher, with 34% of care leavers registered being rehoused and securing tenancies. Members were assured that Care Leavers are put on a higher banding which is also backdated to their 16 Birthday to give them a greater chance of being housed. A Property Pool Plus officer is also part of the Leaving Care Monthly Panel Meeting.

Officers stated that they needed to get smarter at advising care leavers – more joined up thinking is required. Different levels of support should be available, and what the housing offers should be on one page. It was agreed that introducing a workbook would be a good idea – This would manage expectations, provide young people with a guide to tenancies and signpost support.

Members queried private renting and noted that the same offer of support should extend to landlords. Estate agents are reassured by the PAs, but it was agreed they may need to put more in place. Previously, the Local Authority has paid the price when properties have been left in a state of disrepair.

Whilst the Staying Put scheme in Wirral is successful, there are still approximately 50-60 care leavers per year. There is a pilot project being undertaken with Regenda Housing, where there is a house with 24-hour support provided for care leavers who need substantial level of support when leaving care. There are currently 3 bed spaces in this unit and between Children's and Housing they are looking to commission a further scheme to link up to a further 8 bed spaces across potentially a further 2 properties. This will be able to provide further semi-independent living for people to move on from the main 24-hour support. The Local Authority and Regenda have now identified 2 suitably sized properties which they are looking to take forward

There was a discussion around how to provide care leavers with life skills. Some are not that clear about the housing options available to them and they often have not been provided with guidance or budgeting skills. Clearly, this is advice the PAs give; however, it does depend on how challenging the case is. Members were concerned that caseloads meant that there was limited scope for regular contact with the child. Some care leavers do need multiple visits a week, and there is a statutory minimum for visits which is once every 46 days. This has a compliance rate of 89-99%, and a grant received to recruit more staff. Officers are keen to improve the quality and innovation of the pathway plans.

Recommendations

- Housing for care leavers is put on the work programme and partnership working explored.
- Scrutiny to put support behind the supported living pilot and to receive updates.
- Members would endorse the introduction of a guidebook to help care leavers navigate housing.
- Committee would put its support behind the use of Discretionary Housing Payments to help care leavers cover the first 6 months of their tenancy.

10. Overview from Legal services

Wirral has 4 solicitors and 2 temporary solicitors who work with Children's Services. The only family court in Cheshire and Merseyside is based in Liverpool. It is a notably difficult area of law, and this can be compounded by factors such as witnesses being overseas. As part of the final session in April 2019, Members requested an overview of care planning from Legal Services at Wirral Borough Council

Care plans have an 18-point check list and there are several factors which should be well defined:

- Time scales should be in place
- The arrangements should be clear, and decisions should be evidenced
- Information regarding the IRO should be included
- Details of PEP and Medical should be clear
- There should be a robust contingency plan

The Solicitor explained that court orders cannot be made until the care plan has been scrutinized by the court. The court plan may not need as much detail as the corporate plan, but the decisions must be robust and evidenced in all plans, especially in cases of adoption.

There is a time scale of 26 weeks from application, however there is provision to extend proceedings. There are several hearings: a case management hearing, issue resolution hearing at week 20, and a final

hearing. The court must consider all options at the end of the final hearing. The outcomes can go from no care orders being implemented to an adoption order. The court will look closely at the parent's capacity to discharge care.

Sloppy case work is not acceptable, as the court requires a detailed analysis of each option to evidence everything has been considered.

Members expressed concern about adoptions falling through, and whether this was to do with poor case work. The care plans should emphasize the benefits and risks and, in some cases, children do come back into the care system when adoptions breakdown

In one case a child was not placed for adoption because the child was found to have siblings cared for by other family members - the Local Authority Care Plan was for adoption, but the court concluded that the sibling relationship was more important.

Questions were asked about historic issues around care planning. It was noted that at times the court and the guardian does not always agree, and it must be argued out in court.

There are significant issues in keeping to the times scales, and legal often need to request extensions. There can often be a failure to keep to time, or the evidence is not robust enough – it has ticked the boxes, but it is not a thorough analysis. It was also noted that some officers are uneasy about going to court.

Concerns were raised about the Family Courts going with what the guardians want, rather than the plan the LA has set out. It was noted that the Courts do not always have confidence with the plans and will put a care order into place instead of a supervision order. However, members were reassured that the plans are getting better, evidence is more robust, and that officers now understand analytics. The use of risk/benefit management has also improved.

The quality of work is still variable but is largely due to individuals rather than processes. The quality of social work has improved dramatically in recent years.

Legal services raised concern that there is not sufficient training provided by universities in term of court writing skills, and a training session was run for existing social workers to improve quality – written evidence should be of the highest quality, as this will help the officer when they are in the witness box.

As an example, if the plan only contains negative information regarding the parent's then barristers will use this in cross examinations to undermine the credibility of the witness. Officers should be wary of using the word 'concerns', as this is not specific enough – there needs to be evidence, facts, analysis and conclusions. There should be no use of vague jargon and phrases such as 'parents won't engage'.

Members enquired as to whether these issues were solely a problem in Wirral. It was explained that some local authorities are quicker at meeting the deadlines for court, however outcomes suggest the court may not always approve the initial care plans presented.

All local authorities are challenged at some point. Judges have spent years working in legal environments and may not have worked in organisations as large as local authorities. As such they may not always sympathise with the processes required in making a decision within the Local Authority,

Member queried why a decision can't just be made. It was explained that there can be differences of opinion within children's services.

It was noted that there are high levels of children subject to care orders placed at home in Wirral. Analytics have failed to pinpoint exactly why this is happening. There is no evidence to suggest there is a difference between authorities, and the judges are independent and make their own decisions.

The key is good evidence, excellent written work and the ability to present in court. There have been 'mock court' training sessions held in WTH.

Recommendations

- Continue to invest in training and support for court readiness.
- This should include help writing plans for court and 'mock court' to ensure social workers have experience of being in the witness box.
- Student Social workers should be encouraged to attend family court during training.

11. [Closing summary & full list of recommendations.](#)

In order to complete this scrutiny review, Members visited and spoke with many officers, service users and stakeholders over the course of 2018 and early into 2019. It was apparent throughout the sessions that turnover in the organization is directly linked to children's ability to form long lasting and positive relationships with their social workers, and it effects the quality of care plans and the extent to which both professionals and children know their care plans.

Practice has improved, and so too has the quality of care plans and the care planning process, however quality still varies. It is also encouraging to note that some of the findings in this review are already out of date and issues have been addressed.

Ultimately, care plans are one part, albeit a significant part of an improvement in the health of an organization's practice and culture, which is a constantly shifting paradigm. Even if all the issues outlined in the review are addressed, there will still be much work to be done to ensure that as an organization, we are doing everything we can to deliver first rate care and support to our young people. Care planning is an important aspect of this and will need to be monitored vigilantly by scrutineers and decisions makers alike to ensure we are constantly driving forward the quality of children's social care on Wirral.

Recommendations

- The gaps in the chronology and care plan for the unaccompanied asylum seekers raised concerns regarding Modern Slavery, trafficking and exploitation. The draft Modern Slavery Strategy that is due to go to Cabinet should be cascaded down to Children's Services once agreed and steps should be taken to ensure there is correct training and process in place to deal with this.
- Concerns have been raised by officers that there are glitches within Liquid Logic which can mean that information is entered incorrectly or accidentally deleted. Members requested that the system is reviewed to ensure it is being used to its full capacity and that it is fit for purpose.
- Members suggested that a meeting could be held regularly between scrutiny members and the children in care council to discuss issues. This suggestion was welcomed, and the CIC were enthusiastic about Members attending other events.
- Corporate parenting training for all Councillors, regardless of Committee Membership should be kept up to date.
- Communications – There was a notable lack of understanding of their individual care plans and their agency over it. Changes to care plans, staff and policy are not communicated to CLA as well as they could be.
- Committee explores the resources given to children leaving care on employment readiness.
- Members request that achievements of CLA are celebrated in Committee (mindful of confidentiality) and praise fed back to young people.
- Thresholds in Wirral are low, and the authority is naturally risk averse. As such, edge of care services should be embedded.
- Steps should be taken to ensure foster carers are treated professionally.
- Members would support the introduction of an anonymous feedback form for foster carers.
- The panel would welcome a Foster Carers session, so that members can gain an understanding of the challenges Foster Carers face.
- Committee to take a closer look at CAMHS referrals and waiting times.
- Housing for care leavers is put on the work programme and partnership working explored.
- Scrutiny to put support behind the supported living pilot and to receive updates.
- Members would endorse the introduction of a guidebook to help care leavers navigate housing.
- Committee would put its support behind the use of Discretionary Housing Payments to help care leavers cover the first 6 months of their tenancy.
- Continue to invest in training and support for court readiness.
- This should include help writing plans for court and 'mock court' to ensure social workers have experience of being in the witness box.
- Student Social workers should be encouraged to attend family court during training.

A special message of thanks goes to the Children in Care Council whose openness to questions contributed significantly to the direction of the review. Members appreciate the time taken to discuss issues with that may have been upsetting and difficult to disclose, or that they had repeated many times before.

Attendees:

Panel:

Cllr Tom Usher (Chair of Children & Families OSC 2018/19 and chair of this review)

Cllr Cherry Povall

Cllr Chris Carubia

Cllr Jean Stapleton

Cllr Chris Meaden

Anna Perrett (Scrutiny Officers)

Care Plan session:

Auditors

Sian Hudson

Charmaine Morrison

Children In Care Council:

Kerry Mehta (Head of Children's safeguarding unit)

Julie Smith (Inclusion Support Worker)

7 Members of Children in Care Council (names removed to ensure confidentiality)

Stakeholder Session

Ian Godfrey (Head of commissioning)

Eifion Burke (Head of permeance)

IROs

Anne King

Cheryl Taylor- Crossley

Eva Wollaston

Karen Gray

Education Group

Trish Lewis (Head of Education)

Diane Hollis (Strategic Manager – Improving Educational Outcomes for Vulnerable Children)

Catherine Kerr (Senior Manager – Schools Improvement

Social Workers

Bridgita Riziva

Hannah Myles

Chris Hardisty

Nicola Hingham

Team Managers

Kenny, Julie

Lesley Coulson

Samantha Greenhalgh

Gaynor McCoubrey

Foster Carers:

Four Foster Carers – names removed for confidentiality.

Housing Session:

Lisa Newman (Head of Operational Housing Services)

Chris Pentecost (Team Manger – Leaving Care)

Legal Services:

Vicki Shaw – (Group Solicitor -Litigation and Safeguarding)

Special Thanks for their help facilitating sessions:

Anna Jones (Performance and Improvement Manager)

Fiona O'Shaughnessy (Involvement Manger)

Appendix

Scope Document

Review Title: Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review

Responsible Committee: Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 1st August 2018

1. Contact Information:	
<p>Panel Members:</p> <p>Cllr Tom Usher (Chair)</p> <p>Cllr Chris Carubia</p> <p>Chris Meaden</p> <p>Jean Stapleton</p> <p>Cherry Povall</p>	<p>Key Officers:</p> <p>Lead departmental officers:</p> <p>Simone White (Deputy Director for Children)</p> <p>Ian Godfrey (Senior Manager, Children in Care)</p> <p>Anna Perrett (Scrutiny Officer)</p>
2. Review Aims:	
<p>Wirral Plan Pledge/s:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vulnerable children reach their full potential <p>Review Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To review the quality and effectiveness of Statutory Care Plans for looked after children.• To involve and consult with children and young people in order to ensure that services reflect their needs and that they are helped to reach their potential. <p>To measure the extent to which Statutory Care Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Are individualised▪ Have stretching targets▪ Are outcome and goal focused▪ Are regularly reviewed and up to date▪ Evidence children's participation in developing their plans▪ Are shared with young people and reflect their wishes and feelings	

Scrutiny Outcomes:

- Members will receive assurance about the quality and effectiveness of the Statutory Care Plan.
- Identify areas for service improvement and make recommendations to this effect.
- Ensure service user feedback is incorporated within the outcomes of the review.

3. Review Plan**Review Approach: Workshop, Evidence Days**

The Task & Finish Group will undertake the following activities:

- Meetings with relevant Council Officers (see below)
- Meetings with external stakeholders (see below)
- Attend the Children in Care Council and Care Leavers Council
- The Panel Will look at individual care plans and meet with the service users.

Review Duration:

- It is planned to complete the review before the end of the 2018/19 municipal year.

Scheduled Committee Report Date:

- Children and Families O&S Committee, 3rd July 2019

Scheduled Cabinet Report Date:

- Cabinet, to be arranged

4. Sources of Evidence:**Key Witnesses:**

Wirral Council Staff:

- Social Workers (ranging in experience)
- Team Managers
- Independent Reviewing Officers
- Virtual Head Teacher

External Stakeholders:

- Head Teachers representative
- Safeguarding lead with the Clinical Commissioning Group

Service Users

- Foster Parents
- Children in Care
- Special Guardians

Supporting Papers / Documentation:**Documents will include:**

- Relevant policies, procedures and practice standards
- Young Persons Guide to Care Planning
- Staff training documents – including “What Makes A Good Social Worker” document being developed by Wirral Children in Care Council
- Sample of care plans

Involvement of service users / public:

- The views of service users, in this case a sample of looked after children will be captured through the Children In Care Council
- Views of foster carers.

5. Key Communications:**Cabinet Member:**

- The scope document will be shared with the relevant portfolio holder at the start of the review (Portfolio folder for Children’s Services, Cllr Bernie Mooney).
- The draft report will also be discussed in advance of being finalised by the task & finish group, before being presented to the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee for approval.

Press Office:

- The scope document will be sent to the press office on approval.
- The final report will be referred to the press office for information.



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday, 3 July 2019

REPORT TITLE:	REALITY CHECK VISIT TO MERSEYSIDE POLICE – FEEDBACK REPORT
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE (SCRUTINY TEAM MANAGER) BUSINESS SERVICES

Report Summary

Committee members have previously agreed the principle of undertaking a series of Reality Check visits by small groups of members to enable those members to engage directly with frontline staff. This report provides feedback from a visit to Merseyside Police on Thursday 25th April 2018

Recommendation/s

It is recommended that Committee:

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

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 Reasons for Recommendations

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

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 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:

1. Reality Check Visit to Merseyside Police - Feedback Report

Background Papers

Subject History (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	

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Reality Check Visit Merseyside Police

A report produced by the
Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee
July 2019 Final Report



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1. Introduction

Further to the programme of Reality Check visits introduced by the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny in 2017, members decided to extend the visits from Local Authority departments to the partner agencies involved with the safeguarding of Children and Young People. A previous visit to the health partners at St. Catherine's Hospital in December 2018 gave Members an opportunity to look at the concerns raised and make recommendations aimed at improving communications between departments. The success of this and positive feedback received from Officers and front-line staff prompted Members to request a visit to Merseyside Police to gain an understanding of their place within Multi Agency Safeguarding and the concerns highlighted within the Ofsted Monitoring visit on 27th September 2018.

Police and children's social care staff do not share information well enough or plan together to ensure that children's needs can be met in a timely way because criminal investigations sometimes take priority over the safeguarding plan for the child. This has resulted in delays in children's needs being assessed fully and met – Ofsted 2018

Further concerns had also been raised at Committee regarding the domestic abuse figures highlighted in Performance Reports.

With these concerns in mind, a visit to the various Merseyside Police teams involved with Safeguarding, Domestic Abuse and Early Help was organized.

2. Merseyside Police – Birkenhead Police Station

2.1 Overview

Members visited the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit (PVPU) domestic abuse team at Birkenhead Police Station and met with the Detective Inspector on duty. This team consists of 4 Police Staff Inspectors, 15 Detective Constables, 3 Detective Sergeants and a Detective Inspector who are responsible for investigating Domestic Abuse throughout Wirral.

The PVPU unit safeguard victims through a multi-agency approach which includes independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVA), Social Services and the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The team targets and manages Domestic Abuse suspects through work with the Tactical Team and Integrated Offender Management Team, as well as the probation service.

Definition of Domestic Abuse:

Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

- a) Psychological
- b) Physical
- c) Sexual
- d) Financial
- e) Emotional

The department also investigates harmful practices such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), Forced Marriage and honour based abuse. The department also covers stalking, whether the parties are related or not.

Domestic Abuse is allocated to the department based on its Investigation Allocation Model (IAM) scoring and Merit Scoring (Bronze, Silver and Gold).

2.2 Member and Officer Discussion

- Members queried how sympathetic Merseyside Police were to offer support and collaborating with Children's services and other Council Services. Officers advised that they both see and work with children who are potential victims of abuse, exploitation and are looking at the barriers involved with identifying this. There is now real importance on listening to the voice of the child within Domestic Violence incidents, whereas previously less emphasis has been placed on the impact of abuse.
- Safeguarding children online is now a priority, and monitored by both Merseyside police and other agencies, however this is difficult to monitor because of the speed apps and websites are uploaded. In one instance, a 9-year-old had managed to upload an app

officers were not aware existed. Members expressed concern about this but appreciated how difficult it is to monitor the internet.

- Members asked about cases – often CID will work on domestic abuse cases, and there are 500+ cases at Level 2 investigations. There are currently 5 constables carrying 20 prosecutions. It was noted that a lot of police work is reactive, sometimes officers need to contact Social Services for information, it was agreed that it can be frustrating to be out the loop and it is sometimes difficult to make quick contact out of hours. However, it is now getting better and there is more collaboration between Merseyside Police and Children’s services. In cases where there needs to be counter investigations, EDT will be contacted and there is constant contact with Children’s services.
- Questions were asked about situations where vulnerable children required emergency removal – Members asked if there were ever instances where Police Officers were literally left holding the baby? There are times when cases are stacking up with both Merseyside Police and with the Emergency Duty Team. In some cases, a P.C will need to sit with children until Children’s Services can assist. If there is clearly a significant risk, Children will be taken to a Police Station. Officers are advised to use discretion and do what is needed to remove the child from risk or harm. It was noted that there are never any guaranteed outcomes. Every case is different & children’s services will give information when asked. However, it is sometimes difficult to get information when a crime is in action as the situation can move quickly.
- Officers deal with family members in location, and if anything needs cross checking then Police Officers will speak with Social Workers. It was noted that whilst MASH do have procedures, officers often deal with situations in an AD-HOC manner during out of hours situations.
- Members asked about standardized procedures and it was noted that MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) had been useful for making links. Officers responded by advising that standardized procedures and a coordinated approach are good for building relationships.
- Members expressed concerns regarding the last monitoring visit, Officers pointed out that capacity issues did cause problems. There may be meetings scheduled with families and Children’s services, but the Domestic Violence Officer may not be available due to other priorities.

- However, evidence is collated via the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors at the Solar Campus. Merseyside Police do ask for feedback – other forces do use dip samples to look at specific crimes. Officers advised that there has been a shift in relationships between IDVA and information sharing with MASH. There had been little representation from Children’s Services at MARAC, but this was needed.

3. Child Exploitation Team – Solar Campus

3.1 Overview

This team is known as ‘Compass’ and consists of officers from Children’s Services, Merseyside Police and Catch 22. The team investigates all allegations of Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation in Wirral. Members met the team at the Solar Campus in Wallasey, where they are based. They work closely with Children’s Social Care, holding daily meetings to review new intelligence and work collectively to safeguard victims. The nature of this work is complex and often problematic due to some victim’s reluctance to engage with services, however the location of the team within Children’s services allows for effective information sharing.

Members received an overview of the service from officers and the presentation is attached as appendix 1. of this report.

Officers advised members that they are trying to achieve the 4 P’s:

- **Prepare** – Understand the issues and risks that face Children across Wirral and those Children Looked After who live out of Borough.
- **Prevent** – Children being targeted and groomed by perpetrators of exploitation.
- **Protect** – Those that have been exploited and support them to speak out.
- **Pursue** – perpetrators of this abuse to reduce the risk of harm to Wirral Children.

The team’s ambitions are to support victims and vulnerable people, tackle serious and organized crime, improve public confidence to reassure communities and support victims through the judicial system. They also aim to change the way the public and professional think about some of our most vulnerable and disengaged young people. Compass is to be a team young people are proud to be associated with and is synonymous with feeling safe in Wirral.

- To achieve this, they aim to do the following:
- Support professional who have trusted relationships with young people to educate them in understanding the signs and indicators and giving them the tools to move away from exploitative situations.
- Provide information to the relevant agencies who can disrupt criminal activity

- Undertake direct work with young people who have no identified trusted relationship
- Build up an evidence-based pack of resources to share with professionals working with Children
- Build up intelligence received from professional to identify themes and trends
- Investigate reported crime and target offenders
- Improve information sharing across Police and Council Boundaries.

Definition of Child Exploitation (CE)

Child Exploitation is the act of using a minor child for Profit, Labour, Sexual Gratification or some other personal or financial advantage.

3.2 Member and Officer Discussion

- There is a 72-hour target to find missing Children. Officers are that repeat ‘runners’ are vulnerable to exploitation and Members were reassured that action is being taken across Merseyside to deal with this.
- Officers look at monthly briefings, Integrated Front Door (IFD) referrals, missing children, child exploitation incidents. Catch 22 then triangulate this information to refer to Central Police.
- The officers in attendance were conscious that we can’t do things individually, and when conducting visits, it is often best to do this with multi-agencies. However, it is often the younger workers who can connect better with children and young people.
- Concerns were raised by members regarding ‘County Lines’ – this a form of child criminal exploitation whereby gangs and organized crime networks exploit children to sell drugs.

The name 'County Lines' comes from the movement of children through Counties to move and sell drugs. Gangs then use a network of mobile phone lines to conduct business. The Children's Commissioner estimates that 46,000 children in England who are involved in gang activity.

- Officers advised that whilst info is now being shared, there have been problems identifying children at risk to gangs and criminal organisations. 'County Lines' and Modern Slavery are new concepts to the CPS (Crown Prosecution Service).
- One of the main barriers to protecting children is the huge anti 'grass' culture in Merseyside, which is embedded and hard to break down.
- It was noted that culturally, people do not see drug dealers as child abusers. Members asked whether agencies were on board and saw the children as victims. Officers responded by noting that there was now a lot of discussion around Child Criminal Exploitation and protecting victims. Previously, only Social Services have seen the Children as victims. It was agreed that collectively, emphasis should be placed on deconstructing the myths. People see kids dealing drugs or engaging in violent crime, but they don't always see the adults behind the scenes.
- Members asked if people see criminally exploited children as 'lesser' victims (compared to CSE). It was agreed that this is often the case, but the mindset needs to change.
- It was confirmed by officers that Merseyside is one of the biggest exporters of Children outside the London Boroughs with children being sent all over the country. Geographically Merseyside is an excellent location for drug trafficking; it has docks, airports, is close to the M6 and easy access to Ireland, ROI and other major UK cities. Criminals in Merseyside have cultivated an excellent business model and 'County Lines' as a symptom of this.
- Officers advised that the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) used to see children as a mechanism to prosecution. This mindset is changing but thought needs to be given to enabling court proceedings without using Children - victimless prosecutions. Additionally, there was support from both Members and officers that the CPS should be including modern slavery charges alongside drugs charges.
- Officers discussed the aftermath of Operation Corzola (the official name for the grooming gang in Wirral who targeted and groomed schoolgirls between 2010 and 2016). these victims of this are now in their early 20's. Members asked how do we

support children in the aftermath of exploitation? It was agreed that there is sometimes a drive to reinvent the wheel, however building up trust with professionals is often the most effective method.

- Historically public services are good at reacting however there now needs to be more emphasis placed on prevention. Services needs to get ahead of the curve and look at picking up patterns. As an example, officers are looking to work with McDonalds to disrupt congregated kids. This is not just an initiative to remove anti-social behavior; young people meet there as it offers free Wi-Fi, so it is easy for criminal gangs to target vulnerable young people.
- Members wanted reassurance that the issue of CE was being looked at more tactically. For example, if a local park is seen as an issue can officers visit and try to find out what is going on? Officers replied that Child Exploitation is now more transient. They work closely with neighbourhood teams, Multi Agency Child Exploitation (MACE) and Multi Agency Threat Harm Risk (MATHR) teams
- It was agreed that Social Media is a huge issue. There are currently no procedures in place to respond to social media and child exploitation with the 7 Local Authorities within the Merseyside City Region.

4. Early help – Solar Campus

4.1 Overview

The members met a team of Police Community Support Officers and Local Authority staff who identify and support vulnerable people who have either been victims of crime or high demand generators in terms of needing agency support. The team develop plans to reduce individuals' vulnerabilities often referring them to third sector organizations or working alongside them coaching them to overcome their challenges. Members were presented with a Poem by Herbert Nehrlich 'The Ambulance down in the valley' which is attached as appendix 1 to this report, as well as several case studies which highlight the importance and effects of early help.

The team consists of:

6 PCSO's – The initiate contact and obtain consent due to the information being owner by the police

2 Local Authority Family Support Workers – they deliver interventions alongside the PSCO's

1 Family Wellbeing Co-Ordinator – provided by the Local Authority. They are currently developing the Adults Anger Management Course and a Men’s Mental Health Support Group with 2 of the PSCO’s

1 Local Authority Health Coordinator – writes recommendations, allocates work, provides reflective case supervision, attends daily CE and DA meetings and leads on team development

The approach is to reduce the impact of Domestic Abuse on Children and reduce further incidence from occurring. This is done by working with both parents and the completion of the DASH form (Domestic Abuse, Stalking, Harassment and Honour Based Violence).

Officers then immediately start work on ensuring the safety of the victim thorough Target Hardening (this aims to enable victims to stay in their homes by improving security, adding alarms and putting in measures to reduce the risk of arson), Adult and Child Safety Plans and Non-Molestation Orders.

Parents are then referred to the Gateway Programme delivered by the Local Authority. Weekly drop in sessions at Tomorrow’s Women Wirral are also facilitated by a PSCO and FSW.

Due to centers aim of Tomorrow’s Women Wirral being a safe place for Women (some of whom are perpetrators), children, men and transgender officers are not able to attend, so male or transgender officers must signpost victims there. As such, officers will now be providing a weekly drop in an appointment service from the Family Support Unit and Solar Campus. This will enable officers to support families and engage across the service. The Local Authority are also funding a further 2 family Support Workers, who will be able to provide one to one Gateway Services for people unable to attend the Courses.

Children Age 0-5 parents are encouraged to attend the early years’ service and attend groups including the gateway programme, which has creche facilities.

Children age 5 – 11 are referred onto the Leapfrog Programme

Young People 11 – 18 are referred to counselling through Response and Butterflies, however there is on average a 6-month waiting list for all the above services.

Safer Wirral Hub have recognized a need in the 11 – 18-year old’s who have experienced Domestic Violence and have Anger issues. Officers have facilitated an anger management course with Barnardo’s which is held during the school holidays (The course is open to all young people with not solely for young people who have experienced Domestic Violence). Officers are currently developing this project to include a bespoke, whole family, holistic approach offering support for parents and siblings as well as the young person receiving treatment.

This includes one to one counselling for the Young Person, parenting skills, art therapy and Gateway/family support for contributing issues such as housing and debt. Signposting and referrals to services such as WEB and The Hive will also be made during this process.

If a longer-term approach is required, consent is gained to reassign to Community Matters for an EHAT to be completed with the family the supported by TAF. Also provided is a four-week DVPO support package in place, which can also support children on a Child Protection Plan.

Officers have recognized that there is a gap in provision to undertake work with the perpetrator, which they feel is having an impact of their ability to stop repeat incidents. This is due to resources and training constraints; however, officers would be keen to deliver a preventative Programme/Course if funding can be sourced.

The Families and young people officers work with all receive bespoke support however this is dependent on consent and willingness to work with support staff. Regardless of whether consent is given, officers will receive correspondence signposting to services and SWH is always open to them in the future if they change their minds.

Both PSCO's and FSW's work with the FSU to step up or down cases and receive the correct level of support. Cases can be open to both services at the same time, receiving seamless interventions.

4.2 SWH developments since April 2019

Domestic violence

Officers have identified a need for the Domestic Violence Drop in service to be expanded from Tomorrow's Women Wirral. There are several factors to this. Children are unable to access the building, so this creates issues for women without childcare. Men are also unable to attend, which means male victims of Domestic Violence have no support. TWW is the only location servicing the whole of the Wirral. The premises itself has become so big; officers feel it is harder to engage with service users in a confidential manner. Concerns have also been raised to staff about the TWW application form – feedback from service users indicates it is very long, intrusive and does not include DASH assessments.

As such, officers are facilitating a weekly drop in at the solar campus on Wednesdays. This will support the FSU on MARAC days as it means there is still the capacity to ensure phones are answered. The drop-in service will also be open to Male visitors attending to access support.

Officers are also leasing with NEO Community. This is a nonprofit based in Rock Ferry aiming to establish a drop in for male and female victims of Domestic violence. Neo's 75 volunteers have completed mentoring courses through Involve North West. Once drop-ins are up and running officers will invite Legal Advisors to attend.

Men's Mental Health Support Group

Currently in development, officers have been liaising with Liverpool FC, Everton FC and Tranmere Rovers FC to deliver support. The officers involved with this group all have extensive experience in delivering counselling, anger management and behavioral change programmes.

Officers are looking into the possibility of co-locating the group with NEO in Rock Ferry. This would significantly reduce set-up costs, whilst allowing NEO (as a registered charity) to access grants the Local Authority can't.

The aim is to enhance the limited offer in Wirral as well as supporting engagement to Men's web, Wirral Mind and Tranmere in the community. Officers hope that through partnership work they can provide preventative services to Wirral at no cost to the public purse.

4.5 Member and Officer Discussion

- Officers explained that the whole early help model aims to help people before they "fall off the cliff". They aim to help the victims of domestic violence, but also to stop further incidents. Officers aim to do this holistically, NMO's are implemented and assessments made, and then victims are referred to the Gateway Programme and Tomorrow's Women Wirral.
- Officers discussed the anger management courses offered by Bernardo's and confirmed that there is an added anger management course for adults, which helps pick apart childhood trauma.
- Members queried the use of CAMHS, and it was confirmed that they do use them. Young People can utilize and be open with both CAMHS and early help schemes.
- It was confirmed during discussion that most of the referrals are received through police call outs and then streamed through the Integrated Front Door.
- One of the key benefits of working with Merseyside Police PCSO's is that they can attend premises without consent and subsequently gain the consent needed to give support. PCSO's can also use the visit to check for other matters pertaining to Merseyside Police. Previously to gain access, officers had to send a letter to arrange a visit so the ability to send a PCSO's has opened doors in the literal sense.
- Members commented that this was beneficial to partnership working, but queried how this worked within a culture of not talking to the police? Officers confirmed that the

presence of a PCSO, people are more compliant – they are asked to engage or risk re-referral.

- Officers highlighted their concerns regarding the lack of perpetrator courses in Merseyside. They noted that the reduction in Children’s Centre’s has affected this – as previously there were perpetrator schemes in place. There are issues with the lack of support in this area, especially as the reasons/ causes for domestic abuse are so varied. Some perpetrators are ex-services and have PTDS whilst others have in-built attitudes.
- Members were concerned to hear that perpetrators rarely have just the one victim; it is not uncommon to find the victims of perpetrators scattered throughout the borough. Officers confirmed again that they were keen to implement an anger management course but would need funding securing.
- Members queried if there were any issues with partnership working. Officers thought it was getting better – previously “you don’t realise what you don’t know’; you only see a situation in time”. Officers confirmed that despite the high demand demonstrators, they enjoyed coming to work. They now have links with multiple departments and partnership working is being embedded. It was agreed by officers that they needed more input from health and adult Mental Health Services and access to their systems where possible.

5. Summary and suggested recommendations.

5.1 Merseyside Police

- Due to time constraints, members did not feel they explored this area sufficiently, and did not get the opportunity to meet the whole team. It is agreed there is still significant work to be done by committee around Domestic Abuse and police participation within Safeguarding Children in Wirral.
- Officers offered a further visit to the team at Birkenhead Police Station, and the members in attendance were especially interested to meet more front-line staff involved with Domestic Violence.
- It has been agreed that a workshop or an in-depth report be presented to committee as to give more insight into Domestic Violence in Wirral

5.2 Child Exploitation Team

- It was agreed that the exploitation of children is a huge issue, and that there are multiple factors involved. Members have expressed concerns that previously approaches to this seems and awareness of County Lines is patchy.
- Members agreed that the issues surrounding CCE should be made a regional priority, and a message should be sent out from the top that 'Wirral is not open for Businesses''.
- If agreed by Committee Child Criminal Exploitation, 'County Lines' and Social Media could be added to the Work-Programme in the next municipal year.

5.3 Early Help

- Members understand the importance of preventative work when working with families and children, and commended the work put in so far. They were reassured to hear that officers felt that partnership working was bearing fruit.
- Regarding 'community matters' Members agreed that the 3rd sector are very good at identifying need and spending their budget effectively. However, this is positive if are they suitably trained to identify and manage risks effectively. Members felt that 3rd sector organisations should be visited as part of the reality check programme in the next municipal year.

- Overview and Scrutiny are unable to make any recommendations that puts financial pressure on council reserves, however Members recognize the benefits of, and would support the funding of a perpetrator course should it become available.

5.5 Overall

- This visit highlighted strongly the complex nature of cross- agency and partnership working. Officers were engaged and enthusiastic about their own areas and their dedication was visible to members.
- Members appreciated the work the Child Exploitation and Early Teams were undertaking and were pleased that the co-location of staff at the Solar Campus was helping with partnership work.
- Members still have some concerns regarding the participation and differing priorities of Merseyside Police; however, they understood the very real pressures the services were under. It was agreed that this would be monitored by Committee and members may request further targeted visits to gain more knowledge.

6. Attendees

Councillors:

Cllr Tom Usher (Chair)

Cllr David Burgess-Joyce

Cllr Chris Carubia

Cllr Jean Robinson

Anna Perrett (Scrutiny Officer)

Officers:

Merseyside Police:

Det Ins Phil Atkinson

CSE Team:

DC Kerri Ward

Vicki Powell (Team Manger – Compass)

Early Help Team:

Gillian Jones (Early Help Co-Ordinator)

Brain O'Hare (PSCTO)

Appendix 1:

The Ambulance Down in the Valley Joseph Malins (1895)

'Twas a dangerous cliff, as they freely confessed,
Though to walk near its crest was so pleasant;
But over its terrible edge there had slipped
A duke and full many a peasant.
So the people said something would have to be done,
But their projects did not at all tally;
Some said, "Put a fence 'round the edge of the cliff,"
Some, "An ambulance down in the valley."

But the cry for the ambulance carried the day,
For it spread through the neighbouring city;
A fence may be useful or not, it is true,
But each heart became full of pity
For those who slipped over the dangerous cliff;
And the dwellers in highway and alley
Gave pounds and gave pence, not to put up a fence,
But an ambulance down in the valley.

"For the cliff is all right, if you're careful," they said,
"And, if folks even slip and are dropping,
It isn't the slipping that hurts them so much
As the shock down below when they're stopping."
So day after day, as these mishaps occurred,
Quick forth would those rescuers sally
To pick up the victims who fell off the cliff,
With their ambulance down in the valley.

Then an old sage remarked: "It's a marvel to me
That people give far more attention
To repairing results than to stopping the cause,
When they'd much better aim at prevention.
Let us stop at its source all this mischief," cried he,
"Come, neighbours and friends, let us rally;
If the cliff we will fence, we might almost dispense
With the ambulance down in the valley."

"Oh he's a fanatic," the others re-joined,
"Dispense with the ambulance? Never!
He'd dispense with all charities, too, if he could;
No! No! We'll support them forever.
Aren't we picking up folks just as fast as they fall?
And shall this man dictate to us? Shall he?
Why should people of sense stop to put up a fence,
While the ambulance works in the valley?"

But the sensible few, who are practical too,
Will not bear with such nonsense much longer;
They believe that prevention is better than cure,
And their party will soon be the stronger.
Encourage them then, with your purse, voice, and pen,
And while other philanthropists dally,
They will scorn all pretence, and put up a stout fence
On the cliff that hangs over the valley.

Better guide well the young than reclaim them when old,
For the voice of true wisdom is calling.
"To rescue the fallen is good, but 'tis best
To prevent other people from falling."
Better close up the source of temptation and crime
Than deliver from dungeon or galley;
Better put a strong fence 'round the top of the cliff
Than an ambulance down in the valley.



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Wednesday 3rd July 2019

REPORT TITLE:	CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE (SCRUTINY TEAM MANAGER) BUSINESS SERVICES

REPORT SUMMARY

The Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee, in cooperation with the other three Overview & Scrutiny Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual scrutiny work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the Wirral Plan pledges which are within the remit of the Committee.

The report provides an update regarding progress made since the last Committee meeting held on 27th February 2019. The current work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, workshops, standing items and requested officer reports. This update report provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The current work programme for the Committee is attached as an appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members are requested to:

1. Approve the updated Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee work programme for 2019/20, making any required amendments.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

To ensure members of the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 UPDATE ON CURRENT SCRUTINY ACTIVITY

Since the Committee meeting held on 27th February 2019, activity has taken place relating to the following:

Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review

This Task & Finish was initiated to review the quality and effectiveness of Statutory Care Plans. The last session was held in Spring 2019, and the report and recommendations attached as a separate agenda item.

Reality Check visit to Merseyside Police

In March 2019 a small panel of Committee members attended a reality check visit to Merseyside Police. They visited Birkenhead Police Station regarding domestic abuse and visited the Solar Campus to meet the child exploitation and early help teams. The report and recommendations are included as a separate agenda item,

3.2 FORTHCOMING ACTIVITIES

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.

Obesity Working Group

Two reports on obesity in the borough were brought to Committee in January and February 2019 to look at the Obesity statistics in the borough. It was agreed at the February Committee to put together a working group to further understand the issues and make recommendations. It was also agreed that panel members would be confirmed at Committee in July 2019.

4.0 Further Development of the Scrutiny Work Programme

At the time of writing, Children's services are receiving their inspection by Ofsted. It is likely that the outcome of this will influence the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2019/20. In line with the remit of the Committee and the principles for prioritisation, as described above, Members are also 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 September. 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.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Not Applicable

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

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

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

Not Applicable

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not Applicable

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

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

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APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Work programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (As at 06/06/2019)
WORK PROGRAMME

Proposed Agenda Items for July 3rd Committee

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes from Children & Families OSC	Minutes	
Performance Monitoring Q4	Report	Nancy Clarkson
Improvement Journey & Data Tracker	Presentation	Paul Boyce
Statutory Care Plan Scrutiny Review	Report	Report of the Chair
Reality Check Visit	Report	Anna Perrett
Work Programme Update	Report	Anna Perrett
Deadline for reports to be with Call-Over Board: Tuesday 11th June 2019		

Proposed Agenda Items for September 25th Committee

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes from Children & Families OSC	Minutes	
Performance Monitoring Q1	Report	Nancy Clarkson
Improvement Journey & Data Tracker	Presentation	Paul Boyce
Financial Monitoring Q1	Report/Presentation	Pete Molyneux
Summary of standards – Provisional Outcomes for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	Report	Sue Talbot
Domestic Violence	Report	Mark Cambourne/Tony Kirk
New Safeguarding Arrangements – OSC Relationship/Progress	Workshop Report	Anna Perrett
Reality Check Visit – The Hive	Report	Anna Perrett
CAMHS Report	Report	Jo Watts
Work Programme Update	Report	Anna Perrett

Deadline for reports to be with Call Over Board: 3rd September 2019		
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ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Summary of standards – Provisional Outcomes for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	Report	September 2019	Sue Talbot
CAMHS/Mental Health	Report	To Be Agreed	Jo Watts
New Safeguarding Arrangements – OSC Relationship/Progress	Report/Workshop	September 2019	David Robbins
Youth provision – follow up from hive visit	Report	November 2019	
Safeguarding Children Annual report 2019/20	Report/Workshop	Nov 2019	David Robbins
Summary of standards – Provisional Outcomes for Key Stage 5 and Key Stage 5	Report	Jan 2019	Sue Talbot
Service Review – Corporate transformation	Report	To be Agreed	
Review of Youth Offer (short breaks)	Report	To Be Agreed	
Sufficiency strategy	Report	To be Agreed	
Disability service	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	
Funding in Children’s services	Report	To be Agreed	
Missing From Care	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	
SEND	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	
Care Leavers (Centre for Social Justice report)	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	

Domestic Violence	Report/workshop	September 2019	Mark Cambourne/Tony Kirk
Youth Offending/ Children In Custody (possible reality check visit)	Possible Report	To Be agreed	Mark Cambourne/Merseyside Police
Advocacy Service	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	
SEND - Outcomes from Special Needs Education consultation	Report	To be agreed	

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

25th Sept	Q1 2019/20
11 th Nov	Q2 2019/20
28 th Jan	No reports
17 th March	Q3 2019/20

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress / Comments
Working Groups				
Tackling Obesity Working Group	Meetings	To be agreed	Rebecca Mellor	TBC
Task and Finish work				
Scrutiny Review into Scrutiny (as agreed by Council 14/05/2019)	Report	To be agreed	To be agreed	TBC
Reality Check visits				
The Hive	Member Visits	To be agreed	To be confirmed	TBC
Spotlight sessions / workshops				
Future Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements – Follow up Workshop	Workshop	To be agreed – June/July	Paul Boyce/David Robbins	TBC

Improving Life Chances Workshop	Workshop	To be agreed	Peter Loosemore	TBC
Corporate scrutiny / Other				
Transformation Programme – business cases	Workshop	Whenever required	Mike Callon	TBS

DRAFT