



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date:	Monday, 11 November 2019
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

This meeting will be webcast at
<https://wirral.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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AGENDA

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

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

Members are reminded that they should also declare whether they are subject to a party whip in connection with any item(s) to be considered and, if so, to declare it and state the nature of the whipping arrangement.
- 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 8)**
- 4. FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT QUARTER 2 2019/20 (Pages 9 - 18)**
- 5. SUMMARY OF THE SELF EVALUATION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (Pages 19 - 46)**
- 6. DOMESTIC ABUSE (Pages 47 - 60)**

7. **REVIEW OF THE YOUTH OFFER (Pages 61 - 96)**
8. **OFSTED IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Pages 97 - 100)**
9. **2019/20 QUARTER 2 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE (Pages 101 - 114)**
10. **WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 115 - 122)**

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CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 25 September 2019

Present: Councillor W Clements (Chair)

Councillors K Cannon I Lewis
J Robinson C Povall
S Spoor A Wright
P Stuart C Carubia
KJ Williams C Cooke
G Wood Penn
J Johnson

In attendance Chris Penn, Diocese of Chester

Apologies Councillors Y Nolan

9 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Yvonne Nolan and Julie M Johnson, Deputy Director of Schools, Diocese of Shrewsbury.

10 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

The Chairman noted that for Item 6 (Minute 14 – Summary of Standards – Provisional Outcomes for Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2) most Councillors were school governors.

Councillor Wendy Clements declared a personal interest in Item 6 as she was employed as an Early Years Educator and Administrator for Moreton Baptist Preschool

Councillor Ian Lewis declared a personal interest as a trustee of the Leasowe Play Youth and Community Association.

Councillor Sarah Spoor declared a personal interest as a member of PCPW - Parent, Carer, Participation Wirral.

Councillor Jean Robinson declared a personal interest as she was connected with an Early Years Contract.

Councillor Chris Cooke declared a personal interest as a supply teacher in Wirral and Merseyside.

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

11 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 3 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12 **2019/20 QUARTER 1 WIRRAL PLAN PERFORMANCE INCLUDING UPDATE JOURNEY AND DOMESTIC ABUSE**

Wirral Plan Performance

The Corporate Director for Children Services presented the report which provided the 2019/20 Quarter 1 (April - June 2019) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members asked questions about specific parts of the report, including an update on the school attendance procedures where the services had undergone a restructure. Attendance would be dealt with as an issue for the child's family, with police, social workers and health professionals involved if necessary.

The Ofsted inspection in June had taken Children's Services out of the category of 'inadequate' and it was now rated as 'required improvement to be good' with 'good' leadership. The services were now more self-aware, and more children benefitted from intervention at an earlier age, which should help reduce assistance later in life, breaking the cycle of need. Improvements were still planned and worked toward. There would be additional visits by Ofsted, assistance from a supporting authority and themed inspections.

Members questioned the culture of the service and how it managed with restrictions in funding and workforce.

Domestic abuse

The Lead Commissioner Community Services & Resilience updated Members on the Council's plans to tackle domestic abuse. There had been a five-year pledge of zero tolerance which was considered to have increased reporting and confidence, and there was a commitment to have a new strategy beyond 2020, which would include a 'victim's voice' aspect. Police data was presented and discussed, including support for child witnesses and gender equality in publicity.

RESOLVED:

That the 2019/2020 quarter 1 Wirral Plan performance report be noted.

13 **FINANCIAL MONITORING REPORT OUTTURN 2018/19 AND ESTIMATE FOR QUARTER 1 2019/20**

The Principal Accountant introduced this report which set out the financial monitoring information for the Children Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report provided Members with detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity. The financial information covers the final position for 2018/19 and the financial information in quarter 1 2019/20.

The 2018/19 outturn was balanced with overspends balanced by savings in different areas. There were trends for increases in the care costs, but performed favourably compared with the other Northwest authorities. There was a forecast of a £2.7 million adverse in Q1, mostly from social care and looked after children, where there were increasingly complex needs and increasing market rate.

Members queried anti-social behaviour support.

RESOLVED:

That the financial monitoring report for the 2018/2019 outturn and 2019/2020 quarter 1 be noted.

14 **SUMMARY OF STANDARDS – PROVISIONAL OUTCOMES FOR EARLY YEARS, KEY STAGE 1 AND KEY STAGE 2 SEPTEMBER 2019**

The Assistant Director Education presented this report which provided a very detailed analysis of outcomes for all pupil groups at the end of each key stage in the primary phase of education. Comparisons had been made with the results nationally wherever possible. There would be a separate report for Special Educational Needs and Disability.

Generally, the gender gap in attainment had narrowed but only because girls' achievement had decreased. Phonics were now in line with national figures. There would be an aim of sharing good practice between schools, and Members noted that all schools engaged with the statistics irrespective of their management status.

RESOLVED:

That the Standards 2019 reports be noted and shared with headteachers and used as an essential tool to challenge underperformance as well as celebrate successes/improvements in Wirral schools.

15 **CAMHS (CHILD AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES) REPORT**

The Senior Commissioning Manager – Mental Health and the Director for Health and Wellbeing presented this report which had been requested by the Committee to provide an update in respect of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) waiting times, Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections undertaken in 2019.

The report provided a summary of CAMHS service delivery in Wirral, the steps being taken by the service provider to address the current performance and the plans for the future service model to ensure safe and effective care. It also outlined the key highlights from the 2019 Ofsted inspection and the next steps. A separate report relating to the CQC findings had been submitted to Committee Members and would be presented by Director of Quality, Wirral Health and Care Council.

Members questioned the detail behind the report, including money from central Government for mental health support in schools, emotional regulation workshops, waiting times and triage. Members noted the trends in reasons for referrals which included: online culture; bullying; peer pressure; exam pressure; and trauma from adverse childhood experiences.

RESOLVED:

The CAMHS update report be noted.

16 **WORKING PROTOCOL WITH WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP**

The Business Manager updated Members on the new Safeguarding Children Partnership. A workshop had been held in January 2019 with Members of the Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board. The workshop was to give Members an overview of the new safeguarding arrangements and make recommendations before the new Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership launched on 26 September 2019.

One of the recommendations had been to formulate a new working protocol. The Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been involved in scrutinising children's safeguarding in different ways and clear working arrangements and expectations were necessary. The draft protocol was included as an appendix to the report.

There was also an independent scrutiny function for the Board, and the Committee could be a part of that by receiving reports from the Board, starting with an interim report in March 2020 covering the first 6 months of activity.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) **the updated draft protocol be approved.**
- 2) **The Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee provide a scrutiny function to the Wirral Safeguarding Children's Board by receiving and commenting on regular reports of the Board's activity.**

17 **REALITY CHECK VISIT - FAMILY MATTERS**

This report set out the outcomes of a Reality Check Visit to Family Matters held on 22 July 2019. It had involved a visit to the Family Matters Teams based in Rock Ferry, so Members could look at the effects of co-location on the teams there.

The Chairman noted that Members had been encouraged by the positive impact of co-location. They had talked with the teams involved in keeping young people of various ages out of care and moving them in the right direction.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) **the contents of the report be noted and the following comments and recommendations be approved:**
- 2) **Several teams advised that they had requested mediation training to enhance their ability to help families. Members would like reassurance that this can be delivered.**
- 3) **Members were interested by the outstanding Ofsted inspection in Leeds and their use of family group conferencing and early help. Members would support the growth of early help schemes in Wirral to improve outcomes for Children and Families and will look forward to seeing this service helping to reduce the number of children in care.**

18 **WORKSHOP REPORT - YOUTH REVIEW**

This report set out the outcomes of a scrutiny workshop held on 24 July 2019 for Members to gain an overview of, feed into, the 3-month Youth Review. Members had made a series of recommendations following the workshop. The Review looked at gathering opinion on the current activities and support services available to young people in the Wirral. Officers wanted to understand from young people themselves what activities they used, and

what they would like to see available in the future as well as the support and advice they want going forward.

The next step in the Review was for an update report to cabinet in October, with a business case to Cabinet in February 2020.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) **the contents of the report be noted and the following comments and recommendations be agreed:**
- 2) **What is apparent is the lack of information out there and members agreed that pivotal to success will be the delivery of the project. It needs to all be one page.**
- 3) **Bus routes, passes, transport all cited as problems, including parents own perception of public transport. However, Members did suggest using the youth officer as an opportunity to lobby and suggested the possibility of bus companies and Merseyrail sponsoring youth services.**
- 4) **It was also agreed that both local and national companies could invest in young people and local projects as they are future employees.**
- 5) **Members were asked how measure the success and failure of the outcomes of the review? They agreed that the check for this is young people themselves. There should be robust analysis on the product to include social impact reports and KPI's. pivotal to this should be less silo working and more partnership working.**
- 6) **Members commented that once a new service is provided, the measure of success will be how much people get involved. Additionally, bad feedback should not be a measure of failure.**

19 **WORK PROGRAMME**

Committee Members considered the Work Programme for 2019-2020. The Committee, in co-operation with the other three Overview and Scrutiny Committees, were responsible for proposing and delivering an annual Scrutiny Work Programme. The Work Programme was to 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.

RESOLVED:

That the updated Children & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2019/20 be approved.

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Children Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monday, 11 November 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Financial Monitoring Report for Quarter 2 2019/20
REPORT OF:	Director of Finance & Investment (S151)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Children Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report provides Members with detail to scrutinise budget performance for this area of activity. The financial information covers the financial information as at quarter 2 2019/20.

Information has been drawn from the relevant sections of the most recent Cabinet revenue and capital monitoring reports and combined with additional relevant service information to produce a bespoke report for this Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The report includes the following:

- Performance against the revenue budget (including savings).
- Performance against the capital budget.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the report and register their views.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committees receive regular financial updates throughout the year. These allow Committees to understand the financial position of the Council and to scrutinise decisions and performance as required.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Not applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 REVENUE POSITION AT QUARTER 2

Table 1 - 2019/20 Revenue Budget

	Budget	Forecast	Variance
	£000	£000	£000
RA300 - Children	45,323	48,922	(3,599)
RA302 - Modernisation & Support	5,250	5,061	189
RA303 - Early help & Prevention	10,192	9,958	234
RA307 - One off Pressures	(310)	56	(365)
HA304 - Safer Wirral Hub	4,495	4,502	(7)
RA304 - Schools - core	20,789	20,552	237
RA305 - Schools - DSG	841	841	0
Directorate (Surplus) / Deficit	86,581	89,892	(3,311)

3.1.1 Children: Forecast - £3.311m Adverse Variance Position

The £3.311m forecast adverse position is a £0.737m increase from Q1. The adverse position is largely due to the Looked After Children Placement and additional service pressures described as below; some of these pressures are forecast to be mitigated by employee vacancy savings.

3.1.2 Children's Social Care - Full Year Forecast: £3.599m Adverse

- The average weekly rate for the residential placements continues to be high due to the market trend and complexity of needs of children. The average rate for this period is £3,178 per week, increased further compared with the average of the previous quarter (£3,091 per week).
- The current placement budget is based on the average weekly rate from July 2017 plus 2% inflation. The weekly rate of the residential placements has increased by 23% to date from July 2017.

- The forecast variance for Looked After Children Commissioning budget for this period is £3.893m adverse position. The residential/semi-independent placements' forecast has increased as the contingency calculation has been revised and one new secure placement with the cost of £0.204m for this financial year (Weekly Cost £6,997).
- The number of Independent Fostering Agency (IFA) placements has been reduced by 5 (from 105 placements at the end of period 5 to 100 placements this period – cost £0.099m), including 2 children granted as unaccompanied Asylum-seeking children and applicable for the grant (income £0.083m).
- The review of the existing placements is currently ongoing to shift more the residential and IFA placements towards the in-house provisions to reduce adverse position within this financial year.
- £0.201m pressure from the contact contract with Active8 (outsourced service for supervised contact visits) is included in this area's forecast. The increased pressure is due to the extension of this contract and the delay in operating the service in-house. This service delivery model is currently under review.

3.1.3 Modernisation & Support - Full Year Forecast: £0.189m favourable

- Favourable position of £0.189m relates to staffing – many staff are not at the top of the grade.

3.1.4 Early Help & Prevention - Full Year Forecast: £0.234m favourable

- Contextual Safeguarding shows an adverse position of £0.177m due the Complex Investigation Team; some pressure offset by favourable position in the Compass team due to vacancies.
- £0.133m adverse position in the Wirral Attendance Service due to loss of income from the cessation of non-statutory service following the restructure of the service.
- Adverse position of £0.211m in the Integrated Front Door due to the use of agency within the Integrated Front Door team plus the pressure on the Emergency Duty Team (£0.186m due to delay in moving to new operating model and use of agency).
- These pressures have been mitigated by part year vacancies and staff not at top of grade, as well as Pause programme (£0.450m) being on hold.
- Troubled Families income target remains challenging considering the reduction in guaranteed Government grant income on Attachment Fees by £0.480m. The target of £1.72m is forecasted to be achieved by generating £1.22m income (£0.35m of guaranteed income plus £0.87m from payment by result) with the remaining £0.5m being met by drawing down from the reserve.

3.1.5 One off Pressures - Full Year Forecast: £0.365m Adverse

- There is £0.365m of forecast adverse variance relating to items identified within savings targets. This will be mitigated through various saving plans that have been suggested to address the issue and the budget will be realigned after the plans are agreed.

3.1.6 Schools Core - Full Year Forecast: £0.237m favourable variance

- There is a £0.237m favourable variance in the Council funded elements of the schools' budget, mainly relating to vacant posts in Looked After Children Education Services (£0.030m), Special Education Needs Assessments (£0.062m) and Education Psychologists (£0.070m) which are partially offset by agency costs. There is also a £0.075m favourable variance projected on Teacher Retirement Costs due to a reduction in numbers.

3.1.7 Schools Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) - Full Year Forecast: balanced position

- Work has been ongoing with the service to establish a projected cost for 2019/20 and a £1.418m adverse variance is anticipated against the ringfenced Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) funded schools budget. The majority of this relates to the increasing number of SEND pupils and their increasingly complex needs. This has led to an increase in the number of Education Health & Care Plans (EHCPs), particularly in primary schools (2,600 funded units in summer 2019 compared to 2,000 in summer 2018). There are also additional places required in special schools from September 2019, both maintained and independent.
- Together with a budgeted contribution from DSG reserves of £2.343m, the forecast overspend would result in a call on DSG reserves of £3.761m if realised. However, at the end of 2018/19 there was only £2.209m remaining in the DSG reserves meaning the DSG deficit would be £1.552m at the end of 2019/20. An additional £700m was announced as part of the government's autumn spending round, although it is unlikely the deficit could be met without changes to service provision. Any changes to service provision are currently subject to the outcome of the independent SEN review expected from Premier Advisory Group during the autumn term.
- Since ringfenced reserves are not taken into account in assessing the Councils ability to set a lawful balanced budget, the projected £1.552m DSG deficit would not need to be covered for that purpose by an equivalent amount in general reserves.
- Individual school budgets are also under increasing pressure primarily due to increasing pay and pension costs. Although additional funding for schools was announced by central government, the impact of this is not yet clear. There was £8.890m remaining in the school balances reserve at the end of 2018/19, but a number of schools have not been able to set a balanced budget for 2019/20, with a likelihood that the reserve will reduce further by the end of 2019/20.

3.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF SAVINGS

3.2.1 A summary of the position of 2019/20 Children’s Services savings at Quarter 2, Month 6 (September 2019) is below.

Table 2 - Savings 2019/20 (£m’s)

	Approved Savings Total	Amount Delivered at Q2	Mitigation	To be Delivered
Children’s Services	3.9	2.2	0.0	1.7
Total	3.9	2.2	0.0	1.7

3.2.2 The £3.9m savings are detailed below.

- £0.2m – Remove Golden Hellos (budget reduction achieved).
- £0.5m – Children’s Management Restructure (budget reduction achieved).
- £1.0m – Reduced Agency. £0.7m achieved through restructuring activity, £0.3m requires further analysis for appropriate allocation.
- £0.4m – Looked After Children (budget reduction at risk). As mentioned in the revenue position 3.1.2, this area is experiencing pressures.
- £0.8m - Special Guardianship allowance (budget reduction achieved).
- £0.6m – Troubled Families Earned Autonomy Funding (budget reduction at risk). Changes in the funding assumptions have increased risk of future pressures.
- £0.4m – Business Support Saving - This was originally planned to be delivered through a back office review, and the restructure. The element required through the restructure has not materialised and the saving is now being re-analysed as part of back office review.

3.3 PERFORMANCE AGAINST CAPITAL BUDGETS QUARTER 2 (SEPTEMBER 2019)

3.3.1 The Programme for 2019-20 is dynamic and as a result is always subject to change. The table below shows the capital strategy agreed by the Council then the proposed programme as at September 2019 and the expenditure at that date.

Table 3 – Capital Monitoring at Quarter 2

	Capital Strategy (as agreed at Council) £m	Proposed Programme £m	Q2 Actual Spend £m
Children’s Services			

3.3.2 Current progress on significant schemes: -

- **Mosslands High School:** A building survey determined that the existing fire alarm and smoke detector system was obsolete and required upgrading. The installation is now under way and includes a new fire alarm, smoke detector

system and fire doors being upgraded and/or renewed. The installation will be completed by November 2019. The estimated cost is £0.14 million.

- **New Brighton Sports Barn:** This is a stand-alone sports barn development to provide the school and community with the facility to carry out sports curriculum and improve pupil lifestyle and well-being. The construction is now complete and the school are using the facility for pupils and looking to expand the use to the community and other groups. The facility cost under the original £0.4 million estimate.
- **Meadowside school:** during the summer a minor refurbishment of the school kitchen was undertaken after an environmental report highlighted a number of issues. The cost of the refurbishment was £0.060 million which has resulted in an excellent facility being fully used by the school.
- **Feasibility and development projects:** a number of which are in progress such as removing a number of existing mobile classrooms and replacing with traditional classrooms at Mersey Park primary; upgrading the school main entrance [safeguarding issue] and refurbish pupil toilets at Greenleas primary.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The financial implications of this report are discussed throughout the report. This is essentially a financial monitoring performance update report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no implications arising directly from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There are none directly relating to this report. The monitoring of financial performance is important to ensure robust financial control procedures are in place. The council faces financial challenges in this period as it seeks to increase income, reduce costs whilst transforming its approach to services. There is a risk in future years that the Council does not achieve a planned approach.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 No consultation has been carried out in relation to this report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 No because there is no relevance to equality.

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APPENDICES

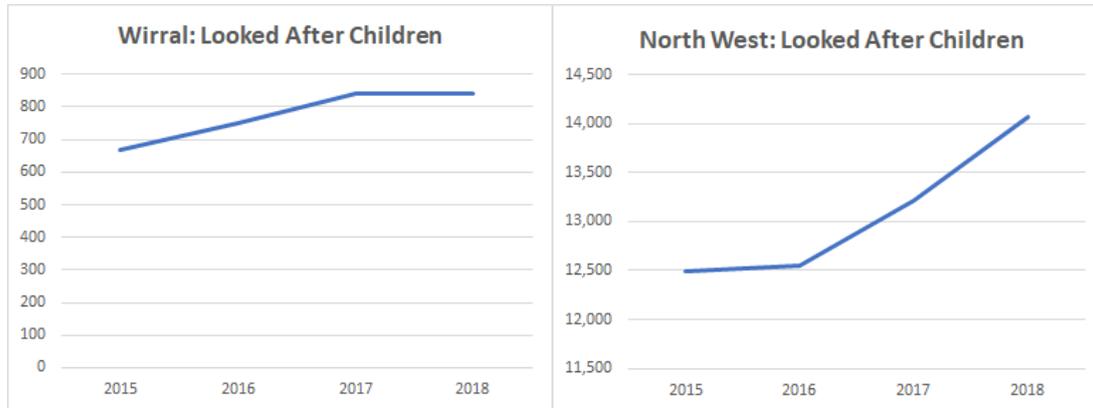
BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY

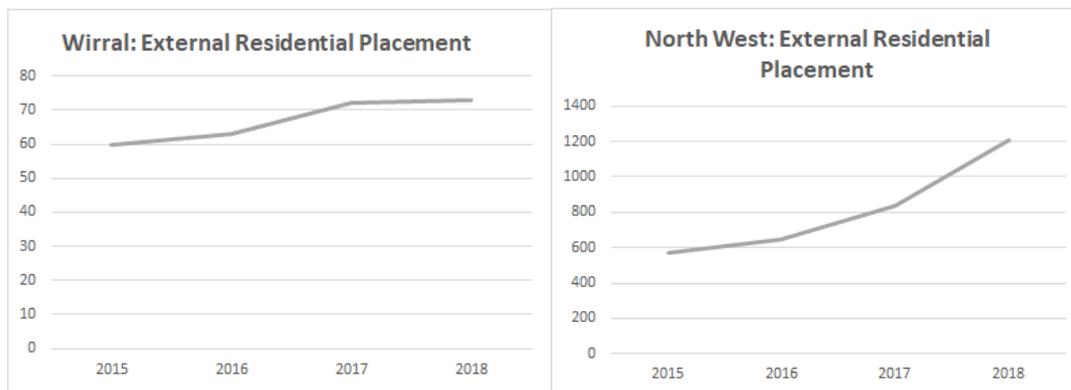
Council Meeting	Date
Budget Council	4th March 2019
Cabinet – Financial Monitoring Outturn 2018/19	22nd July 2019
Cabinet – Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring 2019/20	2nd September 2019

APPENDIX 1

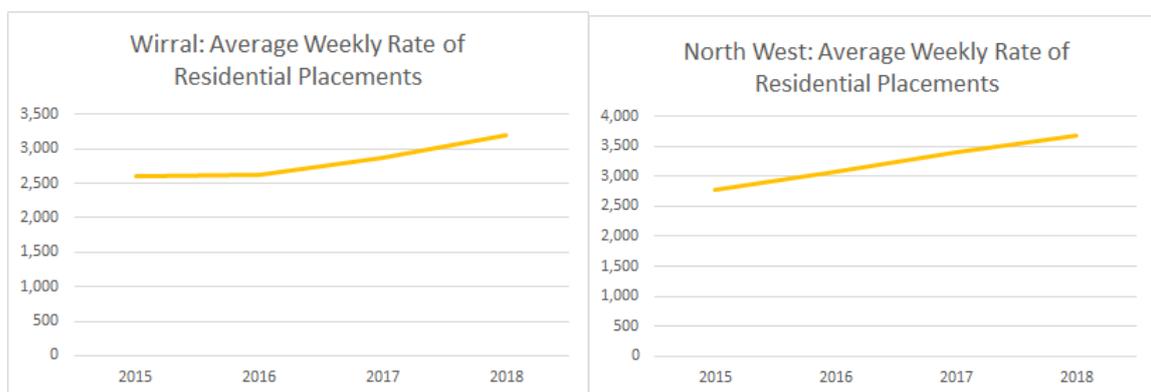
Trend Comparison: Looked After Children



Trend Comparison: External Residential Placement



Trend Comparison: Average Weekly Rate of Residential Placements



APPENDIX 2

2019/20 Revenue Savings

Title	Target (£m)	Achieved	Yet to be Achieved			
		Blue	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation
Remove Golden Hellos	0.20	0.20	-	-	-	-
Children's Management's Structure	0.50	0.50	-	-	-	-
Reduced Agency	1.00	0.70	0.30			
Special Guardianship Allowance	0.80	0.80				
Looked after Children Reduced Cost	0.40			0.40		
Troubled Families Earned Autonomy Funding	0.60			0.60		
Back Office Efficiencies	0.40				0.40	-
Total	3.90	2.20	0.30	1.00	0.40	-

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**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday, 11 November 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	Summary of the Self Evaluation of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The attached PowerPoint is a summary of the self-evaluation undertaken by all partners working with Special Educational Needs and Disabled (SEND) young people and their families.

The local area has experienced significant changes in leadership and staffing since the implementation of the 2014 SEND reforms. To date there have been three interim Head of SEND in the Children’s Service department. A permanent Head of SEND took up post in September 2019.

Leaders from the local area acknowledge that there is a SEND strategy in place. The strategy was widely consulted on and subsequent priorities agreed, aligning with the Wirral 2020 pledges “Children are ready for school” and “Young people are ready for work and adulthood.”

There are plans to review and refresh the Strategy over six months taking account the new Corporate key priorities from April 2020. The planned review begins in November 2019 and will engage with all partners including parents to ensure true coproduction.

1. Children are ready for school

Children in the early years benefit from joint working practices across the multi-agency workforce. Joint working supports the ‘tell it once’ approach as well as ensuring that the ‘right early years’ service is provided at the right time for the right child’. Parents report that the support they receive from early years partners is strong and positive.

A data system exists which allows health services to alert the LA about children with significant needs who will need specific education provision. This process has been further developed for it to provide meaningful contributions to the commissioning of services and school places.

The developing role of ‘specialist childminders’ is leading to a more confident and varied choice of skilled providers for families with pre-school children.

2. Young people are ready for work and adulthood

The supporting measures in this pledge are: -

1. SEND services have children and their parents at the centre of all decision-making processes.
2. To ensure that all services and provision for children and young people with SEND is good or outstanding and provides high quality inclusive opportunities.
3. To ensure that progress for children with special educational needs and disabilities is the same as for all children and young people.
4. Commission and deliver a range of high-quality provision for all children and young people with SEND.
5. To ensure that all young people have appropriate support that prepares them for adulthood.

The verbal report provides the Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee with a detailed analysis of the Local Area partner's self-evaluation of SEND provision.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to approve the key areas of development work which are appended to this report in a PowerPoint.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The self-evaluation contributed to by all partners in the Local Area has been produced to provide elected members with information about the progress the Local Area has made in implementing the SEND reforms 2014. Wherever possible the Local Area has evaluated the impact of work on two of the Wirral Plan pledges, Children are Ready for School and Young People are Ready for Work and Adulthood. The self-evaluation process has enabled a collective view in the Local Area to celebrate progress as well as identifying the work programme for the next twelve months.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Leaders in the local area have systems in place to check the quality and impact of their work. The evaluation of workstreams have been captured in one document the self-evaluation form (SEF). Changes to strategic governance arrangements have improved timeliness, engagement and awareness of strategic duties. The SEND Strategic Board now reports into the Health and Well Being Board. Areas for development and key priorities have been correctly identified and systems developed to drive improvement in the quality of services for children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Funded by a ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant so no impact on Council budget or financial risk.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 A local authority must conduct a statutory assessment of education, health and care needs when it considers that it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person (age range 0-25 years) in accordance with an Education Health and Care (EHC) plan.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The self-evaluation process is key to evaluating the impact of the current Local Area SEND strategy and SEND Policy. The increasing number of young people with an Education Health and Care plan whose parents request a place in a special school has resulted in schools having few if any spare places. This situation combined with the increasing number of SEND young people attending out of borough places has resulted in a considerable overspend of the High Needs budget.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

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

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The self-evaluation has been shared with all key partners the Local Area who have all had the opportunity to contribute.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Yes and impact review can be found via the following link:

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

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APPENDICES SEND SEF PowerPoint

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

SEND Update – Oct 2019

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

" We are setting out a plan to bring about real change - not just about what can be achieved, but in the manner in which we will deliver it."

Phil Davies
Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of W

Children achieve well in their early years, at school and in college, and lead happy and fulfilled lives.

Page 23

WIRRAL PLAN 2020

making Wirral great for children,
growing people and families



SEND Reforms 2014 - 2019

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

" We are setting out a plan to bring about real change - not just about what can be achieved, but in the manner in which we will deliver it."

Phil Davies
Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of W

- The local area has experienced significant changes in leadership and staffing since the implementation of the 2014 SEND reforms.
- There have been three interim Heads of SEND. A permanent Head of SEND took up post in September 2019.
- Changes in staffing due to posts being paid for from fixed term grants rather than core budget

Budget

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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Phil Davies

Clr Phil Davies, Leader of W

- There is a projected budget overspend (£2.7 million) for the financial year 2019/20, which will be offset by reserves from the High Needs Budget.
- There is a projected deficit of £7 million in 2022.
- Recently there was an announcements of £700 million being allocated across England to support SEND

SEND Population

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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- In 2018 Wirral had 3.2% of pupils with Education, Health and Care(EHC) plans, compared to the national average of 3.1%.
- In Wirral 17.8% of pupils have a have an EHC plan, or are receiving SEN support. This compares to an average of 15.2%% across all local authorities in United Kingdom.
- 16.5% of looked after children in Wirral have a statement an EHCP, which is less than the national average of 27.7%.

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Phil Davies
Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of W

- There are fewer Wirral children with EHCPs educated within mainstream schools than average for the North-West of England, particularly at the primary phase.
- Wirral has 14.5% SEN support, which is above the national average(12.0%).
- Wirral has a higher percentage of looked after children with SEN support (32.2%), compared to the national average of 28.5%.

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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Phil Davies
Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of W

- An emerging concern is the number of pupils in primary school who exhibit challenging behaviour associated with social, emotional and mental health issues.
- Consultation has started to determine how schools can best meet the needs of these pupils.

Page 28

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

" We are setting out a plan to bring about real change - not just about what can be achieved, but in the manner in which we will deliver it."

Phil Dwyer
Cllr Phil Dwyer, Leader of W

- Some children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities are having to attend costly independent provision because their needs cannot be met within the Borough.
- Consultation is planned to look at ways in which the places can either be provided in borough or commissioned in a more cost effective way.

Page 29

The effectiveness of the local area in:-

- **identifying** children and young people's special educational needs and/or disabilities
- **meeting the needs** of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities
- **improving outcomes** for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

Page 30

Identifying Needs

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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Phil Davies
Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of W

- Due to issues around staffing, leaders in the local area struggled in their duty to meet the statutory deadline for the conversion of statements of special educational needs to EHC plans.
- However the great majority of statements were converted by the April 2018 deadline. Additional budget has ensured that grant funded EHCP coordinator posts have become permanent.
- Additional posts in the form of review officers and plan writers are creating additional capacity which is much needed.

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Phil Davies
Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of W

- The timeliness of the local area in producing EHC plans has been problematic. Too many EHC plan assessments have not been completed within the statutory timescale. However this is improving
- Satisfaction questionnaires about the EHCP process indicate that the majority of parents and young people are pleased with their EHC plan.

Page 32

Strengths

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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Phil Davies
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- Children in the early years benefit from joint working practices across the multi-agency workforce.
- Joint working supports the 'tell it once' approach as well as ensuring that the 'right early years service is provided at the right time for the right child'.
- Parents report that the support they receive from early years partners is strong and positive.
- A data system exists enables health services to alert the LA about children with significant needs who will need specific education provision.
- The developing role of 'specialist childminders' is leading to a more confident and varied choice of skilled providers for families with pre-school children.

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Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of W

- A local area SEND Strategic Board has been in operation since 2017. The governance and membership have recently been reviewed and consulted on. Key strategic decision makers from education, health and care are members of the Board.
- The SEND Operational Group was set up on 2015. Membership includes representation from a broad range of services from the local area as well as representatives from Parent Carer Partnership Wirral(PCPW).
- Professionals are working more collaboratively to support children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities in the early identification of need.

Areas for Development

- Ensure statutory duties are met by:-
 - a. Reviewing the whole EHCP assessment process
 - b. Improving the overall quality of and timeliness of advices
 - c. All EHC plans produced with 20 weeks
 - d. Evidencing the voice/aspirations of the young person to ensure there is a reflection of the education, health and care needs
 - e. Ensuring plans are written in a way that can be understood by young people and parents/carers

Areas for Development

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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- Review the Pupil funding agreement process to ensure that there is a relentless focus on the impact on children and young people
- Ensure referral pathways are clear and easily understood
- Review the graduated approach – in particular revise and relaunch the Threshold Toolkit
- Improve communication between the EHCP coordinators and parents/carers

Page 36

Meeting Needs

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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- Information gathered by SEND officers in the Early Years signposts professionals and parents effectively to appropriate services, identifies future health, education and care provision and provides support to access additional funding.
- As a result, the needs of those children, especially those who have more complex needs and/or disabilities, are met more quickly and more appropriately.

Page 37

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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Cllr Phil Davies, Leader of W

- There is considerable expertise within the 10 special schools which needs to be shared further with mainstream schools through a training and development programme.

Page 38

- Some school leaders have established and driven innovative projects and provision in their schools which have increased their ability to meet the needs of children and young people who have SEN and/or disabilities.

Areas for Development

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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Phil Davies
Sir Phil Davies, Leader of W

- Work with special school and mainstream headteachers to develop a strategic approach to pupil place planning
- To further develop a management information system which enables partners to plan and deliver services more effectively
- To work with local area partners and parents to further develop preparation for adulthood
- Co-produce the new SEND strategy
- Ensuring learning from complaints is captured as part of the quality assurance process and the Partnership's "plan, do, review cycle"

Page 39

Improving Outcomes

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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- Children, young people and their parents are involved in working with leaders to develop and shape services through coproduction opportunities.
- At the end of Key Stage 1 & 2 more SEN pupils met the standard for RWM, so the gap narrowed.
- More SEN support pupils met the standard.
- In 2018 Attainment 8 for Wirral pupils with SEN support was above the national average and ranked 23/152
- Pupils with EHCPs ranked 32/152 was above the national average.

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English & Mathematics Grade 4 +

- In 2018 the percentage of Wirral SEN support pupils attaining grade 4+ in English and mathematics was above the national average.
- In 2018 Wirral pupils with EHCPs' outcomes were above the national average

Page 41

Improving Outcomes

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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- Innovative approaches to the delivery of provision in some schools and colleges, for example Wirral Metropolitan College & Birkenhead Sixth Form College, are supporting improved outcomes.
- Bespoke and personalised learning programmes offered ensure that young people access appropriate courses to meet their aspirations.
- The proportion of children and young people across the local area who are not in education, training or employment post-16 is below the national average.

Areas for Development

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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- Review the health, social care and aspiration outcomes in EHCPs through the annual review process
- Review the process for the authorisation of resources identified in the EHCP plan and ensure Health & Social Care colleagues sign off completed plans
- Develop new partnership SEND commissioning strategy to enable co-production of core services including speech and language therapy, child and adolescent mental health, advocacy and mediation

Areas for Development

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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- Ensure commissioning process sets clear standards to be met and holds schools and FE providers to account in providing robust and fit for purpose skills for young people
- Ensure partnership groups operate with a culture of positive challenge to enable all partners to be held to account for the quality and timeliness of their inputs to individual children's assessment and support
- Evaluate the broader EHCP outcomes through the annual review process

Risks

20 PLEDGES FOR 2020

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- Lack of capacity within the local area to invest in intervention and support for “preventative work” /early intervention
- The variability of EHC plans, including the variable contributions from health and social care, and the processes to check and review the quality of EHC plans
- The underdeveloped arrangements for joint commissioning/pooled budgets
- Lack of engagement in the strategic direction and planning by some local area senior leaders to implement the SEND reforms

Page 45

Key Areas of work

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- Ensuring statutory duties related to SEND are met
- Joint commissioning of services and provision
- Performance management & intelligence
- Graduated approach
- Preparation for Adulthood
- Engagement with parents and carers
- SEND Strategy review



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monday, 11 November 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Domestic Abuse
REPORT OF:	Corporate Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of provision to support children, adults and families affected by domestic abuse. The report sets out the national and local context, describes findings of an in-house review and outlines next steps to improve services and reduce the detrimental impact of domestic abuse on Wirral residents.

This matter affects all Wards within the borough.

This report does not relate to a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the findings of the in-house review, support the improvement of services and consider future reporting on progress in 3-months, 6-months and 9-months to ensure suitable progress is made.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the support provided to children, adults and families affected by domestic abuse. To ensure that effective arrangements are in place to reduce the prevalence and detrimental impact of domestic abuse on Wirral residents.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the departmental plan and findings of Ofsted Inspection. As such, no other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 National Impact

- 3.1.1 Each year nearly 2 million people in the UK suffer some form of domestic abuse - 1.3 million female victims (8.2% of the population) and 600,000 male victims (4%).
- 3.1.2 Each year more than 100,000 people in the UK are at high and imminent risk of being murdered or seriously injured as a result of domestic abuse.
- 3.1.3 Seven women a month are killed by a current or former partner in England and Wales.
- 3.1.4 On average victims at high risk of serious harm or murder live with domestic abuse for 2-3 years before getting help.
- 3.1.5 85% of victims sought help five times on average from professionals in the year before they got effective help to stop the abuse.

3.2 Children and Domestic Abuse

- 3.2.1 130,000 children live in households where there is high-risk domestic abuse.
- 3.2.2 64% of high and medium-risk victims have children, on average 2 each.
- 3.2.3 A quarter of children in high-risk domestic abuse households are under 3 years old.
- 3.2.4 On average, high-risk abuse has been going on for 2.6 years, meaning these children are living with abuse for most of their life.
- 3.2.5 62% of children living in domestic abuse households are directly harmed by the perpetrator of the abuse, in addition to the harm caused by witnessing the abuse of others.

3.3 Characteristics

- 3.3.1 Gender: Women are much more likely than men to be the victims of high-risk or severe domestic abuse: 95% of those going to a multi-agency risk assessment conference

(MARAC) or accessing an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service are women.

- 3.3.2 Low income: women in households with an income of less than £10,000 were 3.5 times more at risk than those in households with an income of over £20,000.
- 3.3.3 Age: Younger people are more likely to be subject to interpersonal violence. The majority of high-risk victims are in their 20s or 30s. Those under 25 are the most likely to suffer interpersonal violence.
- 3.3.4 Pregnancy: Nearly one in three women who suffer from domestic abuse during their lifetime report that the first incidence of violence happened while they were pregnant.
- 3.3.5 Separation: Domestic violence is higher amongst those who have separated, followed by those who are divorced or single.
- 3.3.6 Previous criminality of the perpetrator: domestic abuse is more likely where the perpetrator has a previous conviction (whether or not it is related to domestic abuse).
- 3.3.7 Drug and alcohol abuse: Victims of abuse have a higher rate of drug and/or alcohol misuse (whether it starts before or after the abuse): at least 20% of high-risk victims of abuse report using drugs and/or alcohol.
- 3.3.8 Mental health issues: 40% of high-risk victims of abuse report mental health difficulties.

3.4 **Wirral**

3.4.1 In General:

- Domestic abuse is 13% of crime by recorded volume. (A crime is only recorded in about 80% of incidents).
- 95% of Police incidents are Silver/Bronze, 5% are Gold.
- 85% of Police incidents are repeats.
- 40% of these incidents involve families with children.
- Children witness 20% of the incidents directly.

Children's Services: September 2018 – October 2019

3.4.2 Children's Services:

- 24% of contacts to the Integrated Front Door (IFD) are recorded as relating primarily to domestic abuse. The overall percentage of cases where domestic abuse is a factor may be higher as only the primary factor is recorded at contact.
- 23% of the referrals sent from the IFD for a social care assessment have domestic abuse as the primary selected factor.
- 33% of re-referrals to the IFD show domestic abuse as the primary factor.
- 22% of the cases where domestic abuse is the primary factor are progressed to early help services.
- 28% are felt appropriate to be managed by universal services and are offered advice and information accordingly.

- 61% of Child Protection cases have domestic abuse recorded as a factor. A number of factors can be recorded at this stage.
- Nearly two thirds of serious case reviews (SCRs) feature domestic abuse as a significant factor.

3.5 Higher End Risk:

- 3.5.1 The Family Support Unit (FSU) in Wirral receives around 1,000 referrals each year.
- 3.5.2 Of the cases progressing to Wirral MARAC, around 1,250 children and young people experience domestic abuse per year. With the repeat rate for MARAC re-referral, this may equate to around 860 children and young people per year.
- 3.5.3 The Wirral MARAC receives 68 referrals per 10,000 population. This is less than the Merseyside average (78), but higher than the SafeLives recommended rate (40). Similar regions have a re-referral rate of 58 per 10,000 population.
- 3.5.4 In terms of repeat referrals to MARAC, Wirral has a repeat rate of 31%. This in line with the Merseyside average and within the band recommended by SafeLives (28%-40%).

3.4 Current Access and Provision

- 3.4.1 Currently, access to domestic abuse services is disorganised. This is reflected in the mapping which was undertaken by the Wirral Intelligence Service. Access to services relies on local knowledge for those victims who do not want to report an incident (to the Police or other professional). For those who do report, it is likely that this will result in a referral to a statutory agency in order to access relevant advice and support.
- 3.4.2 Information and advice can be found on the Council Website and includes information for Tomorrow's Women, Involve Northwest, WEB Merseyside and Wirral Women and Children's Aid (including the refuge).
- 3.4.3 There is limited access to a perpetrator programme unless convicted by the Courts. Individuals seeking support to change would need to self-fund a programme and the referral route for an evidenced-based programme is unclear.
- 3.4.4 Contacts to Children's Social Care are made via the Integrated Front Door (IFD). These contacts are screened by Social Workers to determine the threshold, to signpost for advice, refer to early help services or for assessment by Children's Social Care when threshold at level 4 is met. There is no Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor (IDVA) available in the IFD and decision making is often single agency. Decisions made in the IFD should be made within one working day in line with Working Together 2018 guidelines.
- 3.4.5 Referrals for MARAC are made via the Family Safety Unit (FSU). Decision making as to whether the threshold is met for multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC) is a single agency decision and based on limited information. Multi-agency discussion and risk management does not take place until the MARAC meeting which can be two weeks later. Furthermore, referrals to MARAC is unwieldy with significant numbers making the risk management of each and all cases inequitable.

- 3.4.6 Both the contacts to the IFD and to FSU can be rationalised to ensure better multi-agency information sharing and risk management.
- 3.4.7 Referrals to Children's Social Care with domestic abuse is the primary factor make up 23% of the overall workload. Re-referrals with domestic abuse as the primary factor contributes for 33%. There can be an over-reliance on self-reporting that relationships have ended as an unrealistic understanding that domestic abuse will stop, and the risk decreased. This reflects a lack of understanding of the research associated with domestic abuse.
- 3.4.8 Whilst training is available for staff across the partnership, it is focused on awareness raising. A tiered approach is required to ensure that professionals responding to families (where domestic abuse is a factor) have the appropriate knowledge and skills to work effectively to reduce the impact and prevalence of domestic abuse.
- 3.4.9 Interventions are available via early help services. Some staff are trained to deliver *Gateway*, a cognitive behavioural programme which enables participants to develop an understanding of attitudes, beliefs and myths which can support abuse within intimate relationships.
- 3.4.10 The Early Intervention Hub (Safer Wirral Services) offers a drop-in centre for legal advice, a Men's Hub (weekly sessions relating to emotional wellbeing), *Gateway*, *Brave the Rage* (which provides families, professionals and carers of children and young people experiencing anger with simple, practical techniques for control).
- 3.4.11 Wirral currently commissions services in relation to domestic abuse. This includes:
- Leapfrog - The Leapfrog programme, provided by Involve Northwest, supports small groups of 4 to 6 families. Provides help for young people with behavioral problems including situations of child-on-parent violence and parents who have been victims of domestic abuse. The service supports the delivery of the HELP programme a healthy relationship programme for men with identified relationship difficulties.
 - Listening Ear (confidential telephone support) for children who witness DA in their homes.

3.5 In-house Review of Our Response to Domestic Abuse

- 3.5.1 In Q1 of 2019/20, Children's Services undertook a review of the approach to domestic abuse. This review was completed in May 2019 and was supported by a mapping of the domestic abuse pathway by Wirral Intelligence Service.
- 3.5.2 The review made several proposals including the introduction of clear operational leadership within the directorate, alignment of services offered for children and families impacted by domestic abuse, consideration of a domestic abuse risk assessment, forum for domestic abuse referrals, and the development of non-statutory perpetrator interventions.

3.5.3 A wider population approach to domestic abuse has been set out and considers:

- *Global prevention*: Reducing vulnerability for those who live, work and visit Wirral.
- *Focused Prevention & Access*: Reducing the risk of domestic abuse within higher risk cohorts.
- *Targeted Early Support*: Reducing the threat from domestic abuse.
- *Reactive Intervention*: Reducing the impact and preventing escalation.

(This approach can be found in Appendix 1)

3.5.4 The internal review set out the next steps for Children's Services to develop a more effective approach to tackling domestic abuse. (Next steps can be found in Appendix 2).

3.5.5 The Ofsted Inspection, June 2019, recognised the work that had been done to improve the approach to domestic abuse. The recommendations made by the review correlate with the feedback from Ofsted Inspectors and remain the primary focus for development:

When children live in homes where domestic abuse is present, the risks to them are recognised and responded to. This recognition and the speed of response has improved since the time of the last inspection. However, despite there being a generally good range of services available, there are currently no perpetrator programmes available, information and intelligence sharing is limited, and services are not well coordinated. The local authority has plans in place to address this, but services are not currently making the difference they could. (Ofsted, June 2019)

3.6 **Steps to Improve Our Response to Domestic Abuse**

3.6.1 The internal review set out the next steps for Children's Services to develop a more effective approach to tackling domestic abuse and notably an alignment of services via a co-produced domestic abuse strategy.

3.6.2 **November 2019– January 2020**

1. Engage with local user groups to initiate the process required to produce a co-produced approach to tackling the causes and impact of domestic abuse
2. Introduction of a daily domestic abuse meeting to ensure a multi-agency and timely response to high-risk and high-impact domestic abuse referrals made to the FSU and/or the IFD. This may also impact on the number of referrals to MARAC by ensuring that those tabled are appropriate.
3. Integration of the Family Safety Unit and the Early Intervention Hub (Safer Wirral Services), to form a domestic abuse hub from which interventions are delivered, commissioned or signposted.
4. Service Specification to be agreed for the domestic abuse hub
5. Establish a multi-agency task and finish group for the co-production and implementation for a domestic abuse strategy.
6. Establish effective governance arrangements.

3.6.3 January – March 2020

7. Review of MARAC process to ensure effective risk management and oversight of MARAC plans.
8. Review the current training offer.
9. Review and commission services in relation to programmes which respond to domestic abuse.
10. Review the perpetrator pathway and establish the commissioning approach for an evidenced-based perpetrator programme.
11. Establish a relevant data set to measure impact

3.6.4 April – June 2020

Brand and launch the domestic abuse hub and the co-produced multi-agency strategy, with key outcomes to include:

1. To co-ordinate services which include universal access, early support and prevention to adults, children and young people.
2. To improve the offer of evidenced-based support to children and young people who are affected by domestic abuse.
3. To improve the safety of victims, supporting them to make choices which result in a positive difference to their lives.
4. To review and implement the pathway of access to interventions for perpetrators.
5. To recognise the choices which adults can make to remain in relationships. In doing so, work with them to develop strategies which may contribute to them keeping safe and in the knowledge that there is an open door to non-judgemental services should this be required.
6. To engage with communities to raise awareness and build confidence to seek advice and support.
7. To work in partnership to jointly commission services and training.
8. To work inclusively to co-produce and continuously improve the service offered to families affected by domestic abuse.

3.7 Measuring Impact

3.7.1 Key indicators of impact would be:

3.7.2 Long Term: Reduce prevalence and impact

- Reduce incidents/repeat incidents. Contacts, referrals, assessments, plans and incidents/crime. Across all thresholds.
- Reduction in overall incidents/crimes and seriousness. Benchmarked with statistically similar areas.

3.7.3 Short - Medium Term: Priority areas from inspection and internal review

- Domestic abuse hub established. Increase in % of cases where specialist triage and co-ordination of referrals into specialist domestic abuse support services.
- Clustering of offers/support across public and 3rd sector for families impacted by domestic abuse. Link to the toxic trio pilot project.

- Increase in perpetrator interventions. Statutory and non-statutory. Including use of multi-agency disruption and civil orders.
- Increased insight into domestic abuse prevalence within safeguarding caseloads.
- Development of reporting tools for children's services using new analytical software.
- Development of a clear children's pathway and embedding impact/risk tools.
- Domestic abuse referrals subject to daily multi agency risk triage. Reduction in time taken for local multi-agency risk assessment.
- Increase numbers of staff trained to deliver specialist domestic abuse support direct to families.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 There are no relevant risks arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 This report has taken into consideration the findings of the consultation work completed by Revealing Reality on the experiences of domestic abuse for those who are gay, lesbian or from an ethnic minority background.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11.0 APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1- Domestic Abuse Pathway
Appendix 2- Next Steps

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0151 666 3242

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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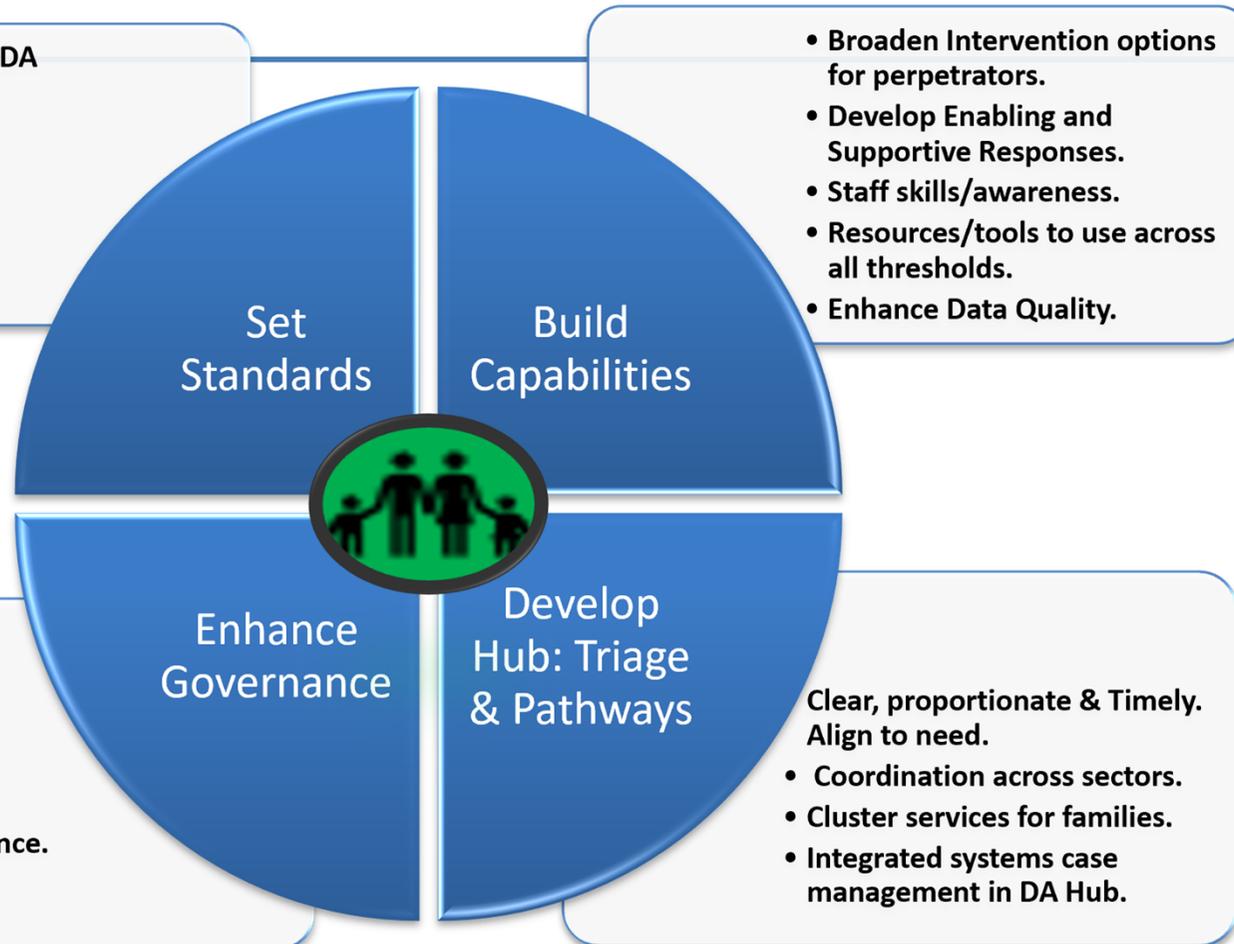
Appendix 1- Domestic Abuse Pathway

Wirral Family Pathway 	All People	Some People	Specific People	
	Safeguarding Partnership		Domestic Abuse Hub – Daily Triage and Operational Oversight	
	Global Prevention	Focused Prevention	Targeted Early Support	Reactive Intervention
What are we aiming to do?	Reduce the Vulnerability	Reduce the Risk of DA	Reduce the Threat from DA	Reduce the impact of DA. Prevent Escalation.
Who?	Everyone. Lives, works, visits Wirral.	Victim/perp/family/geographical demographics drawn from evidence and analysis.	Incidents. Non-Crime or Pre -crime events. IFD Contacts. No higher than Level 2 Threshold.	Level 3 and above. <u>DA Crime</u> , Incidents with significant impact on C&YP. Assessed levels of risk as per <u>MeRIT</u> and DASH.
How will we know about them?	N/A – Wirral wide.	MA Analysis and insight. Active listening in assessment/dealings.	Police SWH /Early Help Occurrences/referrals (PCSO)	Police referral and IFD contacts/referrals.
What will we do?	Seek feedback from families. Set clear strategy and governance for prevention across all communities/sectors. Tactics and plans based on Insight and evidence base. DA Action Plan in support of 2030 strategy.	Awareness and education of early signs and impact. Increase resilience in this focused demographic. Use insight and analysis to identify high risk cohorts and proactively engage through universal services co-ordination.	Early Help via Community Matters. VS potential for Gateway and TWW/WEB referrals/signposting. Proactive Potential Perp work with PCSOs – Demand Reduction. Refer into 3 rd Sector organisations for support/Perp education intervention.	Assess the levels of risk and respond accordingly, coordinating with any ongoing criminal investigation. Ensure the MA approach considers the Perp in terms of interventions proportionate with the levels of risk. HDG will be picked up by the SWH team and proactive use of DVPO time will be included as part of the family wide intervention. High Risk DA will be managed by the FSU, cases considered through MARAC and Child Safeguarding will be undertaken in accordance with the thresholds.
Who will do this?	L.A. The Wirral Partnership. MASA.	Universal services through Community Matters.	SWH & Community Matters supported by 3 rd Sector.	DA Investigators. Family Matters service and Social Care. Health and Education Practitioners. Community Matters.
How? - Method/Models	Use of evidence-based prevention models. E.g. ‘Duluth Co-ordinated Community Response’. Develop plans from analysis of National/Local drivers. Analytical support.	As with ‘global’ but specifically targeted and enhanced in key areas/demographics and linked case work – Toxic Trio link etc.	Gateway Butterflies (Lower end, Non trauma). Mediation. Support and safety planning for families that want to stay together – see the Leeds/North Yorkshire strategy.	Gateway, TWW, WEB. CJC Perp programmes. Gap in non-stat/non conviction Perp options (Considering <u>Non CJ</u> - RJ options). Leapfrog – Higher level of intervention and support for VS and Children. Higher end Trauma work. Health Interventions and case by case basis. CAMHS. Toxic Trio work. WWTR.
How will we see impact?	Potential increased reporting/awareness of DA. Longer term reduction in DA.	Less cases escalating into thresholds of need. Some increase in disclosures at lower levels of risk/abuse may be expected.	Reduction of contacts into CSC/IFD at Level 3 and Level 4 Threshold of Need. Reduction in escalation of DA into serious violence.	Reduced re-referrals and re-contacts/Significant Incidents rate. Reduction in incidents. Reduction in assessments with DA as factor. Reduction of DA in CP factors. Longer term: Less escalation into Mental Health demand.
Who monitors effectiveness?	<u>Wirral DA Strategy 2020-24</u> <u>Elizabeth Hartley</u> <u>DA Action Plan 20/21</u> LSCP	As per Global: In addition. Community Matters, Early Help and Prevention Services.	Community Matters Governance and DA Board oversight. Directorate leadership via EH&P AD. LSCP Leadership.	Directorate Governance via DA Lead Wendy Monnelly, CSC DD & EH&P AD. LSCP.
Wirral Safeguarding Partnership DA Strategy 2020-2024				



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Next Steps?



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Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monday, 11 November 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Review of the Youth Offer
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress of the Youth Offer Review and findings of the recent consultation undertaken with young people. The report, *Care More About Us*, captures the voice of young people on what they like to do and what they want a future Youth Offer to include. The findings of the consultation and survey are considered in this report alongside data on usage of current youth provision. The report provides detail on steps towards collaboratively developing a business case for a new Youth Offer.

This matter affects all Wards within the borough.

This report does not relate to a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Committee are asked to:

1. consider the findings of the Youth Offer Consultation;
2. note the progress made to date;
3. endorse the next steps; and,
4. continue to support the collaboration between the young people of Wirral and public services.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to hear the voice of Wirral's young people and gain a thorough understanding of what they consider would improve the Youth Offer and their daily lives in Wirral. With support of Members, the collaboration between young people, Wirral Council and its partners will continue, developing a full business case for future consideration.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report is aligned with Corporate and Departmental service transformation work. It contributes to the Wirral Partnership vision to *make Wirral great for children, young people and families*, and therefore other options have not been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In April 2017, the Hive Youth Zone opened in central Birkenhead, supported by investment from Wirral Council. Annual funding of £400 000 from Wirral Council to The Hive was agreed for a 3-year period. A review of youth services would be undertaken to establish, with the Youth Zone embedded, what provision would be required to meet the needs of young people in Wirral.

- 3.2 Early in 2019, the Wirral Partnership set its vision to *make Wirral great for children, young people and families*. This prompted multi-agency discussion as to whether a review of youth services was sufficient, or if there should be a multi-agency review which considered the lives of young people in a more holistic way. With services becoming more focused on improving the daily lived experience of children and young people, it was agreed that the Review of the Youth Offer would widen to consider the following aspects:

- Young people and their health & wellbeing;
- Young people and education, employment & learning;
- Young people and their hobbies, activities & free time;
- Young people's voice & democracy;
- Young people in their communities; and
- Young people and advice, information & access.

- 3.3 In agreement with a group of young consultants, the aim of the review was set: to work together to produce a Youth Offer that would make Wirral an amazing place for young people, a place that supports them to be all they can be. The aim is as brave and ambitious as the young people who helped define it.

- 3.4 An amazing offer for young people would mean:

- When they need help, they get it, quickly and easily;
- When they need someone to talk to, they know who that person is and how to contact them;

- They can access the types of hobbies, sports, pastimes, and leisure activities that interest them;
- They are inspired through education and learning to attend and achieve their goals;
- They can enjoy all that Wirral has to offer as a place;
- They are encouraged to have aspirations and there are services that support them to achieve their ambitions;
- Information, advice and guidance for the present and the future is readily available;
- They have belonging in their communities, feel accepted and can live without fear for their safety;
- They can participate in their communities and make a positive contribution.

3.5 The purpose of the review is to work collaboratively with young people, public services, communities, voluntary and faith groups, residents, schools and other organisations to design and implement a Youth Offer which will deliver the outcomes described above and enable young people to have the best possible experience in their daily lives.

3.6 The Review of the Youth Offer is underpinned by a set of key principles:

- The voice and views of young people will direct the review;
- Professionals, agencies, services, and commissioners will set aside their own agendas to work collaboratively in the interest of meeting the needs of our young people;
- The review seeks to make the best possible use of all resources available, including people, buildings, funding, services, facilities and natural resources;
- All agencies and individuals in the partnership recognise that there may be a need to change or re-purpose what we currently do and deliver to meet the needs of our young people;
- The review aims to allow all partners to *play to their strengths*, recognising that there is a part for each to play, regardless of size or status; and
- All partners will seek to avoid any reductions in funding or investment in young people. Any potential savings identified through the review should be re-invested in the new Youth Offer.

3.7 The first stage of the review was to undertake a consultation with young people in Wirral. A survey was designed in partnership with young people from the Youth Voice Group and Children In Care Council. A 2-month consultation was completed between June-September in which almost 3 000 young people took part. Surveys were received from 2 736 young people and several groups took part in the consultation events, forums, and workshops. Events for young people and the public were facilitated by the Youth Voice Group. The results of the survey are detailed in Appendix 3 - *Young People Questionnaire Summary Report*.

3.8 As part of the survey and workshops, young people were asked for their views on what would make Wirral an amazing place. 1 904 responses were given via free text submissions, providing a wealth of insight into what really matters to the young people of Wirral. The findings and analysis of their views are captured alongside the survey results in Appendix 1- *Care More About Us* report.

3.9 Analysis of the consultation with young people has been distilled into a **Top 10 Recommendations** which should be read and considered as the key findings at this stage of the review.

- 3.10 In addition to the consultation with young people, a multi-disciplinary group has commenced analysis on usage of current provision. This is a broad area with young people using facilities and services provided by a wide range of agencies and departments of the Council-from leisure centres to libraries, Public Health funded provision to voluntary groups, and more. Work will be undertaken over the coming weeks to understand and consider usage across those areas.
- 3.11 As a priority, analysis has been undertaken on usage of Council funded youth services. This includes The Hive, Wirral Council Youth Clubs, Hubs and Play Service. As the systems to capture usage are different across these services it has not been possible to capture data consistently, however, the data analysis does provide a helpful starting point for understanding the current youth offer. The data is outlined in detail in Appendix 2- *Usage of Local Authority Funded Youth Provision*.
- 3.12 At this stage of the review, the findings of the consultation with young people are the priority. Further work to interrogate, understand and analyse data on usage will be undertaken in the next stage. This will be completed in line with the key principles described at 3.6, in that the review will *play to the strengths* of each organisation/service and strive to make best use of all facilities and resources.
- 3.13 There is correlation between the findings of the local consultation and the UK Youth Parliament *Make Your Mark* survey via the following link:

<http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/makeyourmark/>

The largest UK Youth consultation of its kind, this year's results showed participation trebled on the previous year with over 9 000 Wirral youths taking part. The results, published in October, give a very similar message to the local survey with the following issues as priorities for young people in Wirral:

- *Protect the environment*
- *Tackle hate crime*
- *Mental health*
- *Curriculum to prepare us for life*
- *Transport and roads*
- *Improve future prospects*

- 3.14 Earlier this year, Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (now Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership) undertook a contextual safeguarding survey with young people. Again, there are direct correlations in the findings of both surveys with street lighting, personal safety, parks, and town centre spaces being highlighted as causing concern for our young people. Full details of the Contextual Safeguarding Survey can be found at <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/news/contextual-safeguarding-survey/> and the Business Manager for Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership is a member of the Youth Offer Project Group to ensure that work is aligned.

Next Steps

- 3.15 Our commitments to young people in progressing the Review of the Youth Offer are outlined in Appendix 1- *Care More About Us*.
- 3.16 A multi-agency Project Group has been meeting since spring 2019 to co-ordinate the review. The Project Group made a significant contribution to the design and delivery of

the consultation. The Project Group will continue to meet on a regular basis and oversee a number of workstreams to develop the business case for a new Youth Offer, providing the detail of how it will be delivered and implemented.

3.17 A Management Group has been established with multi-agency membership at senior leadership level. The Management Group have the capability to take decisions regarding resource, funding, service delivery and system change. The proposals made by the Project Group will be reviewed by the Management Group, with a view to presenting a full business case to Wirral Council Cabinet in February 2020. The Management Group will be responsible for ensuring that the proposals developed through the Project Group can be delivered.

3.18 The Young People's Advisory Group will continue to provide guidance, challenge and endorsement through each stage of the process.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Actions going forward may incur some financial decisions which will be fully considered in the Business Case.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 Actions going forward may incur some resource implications which will be fully considered in the Business Case.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Actions going forward may incur risks which will be identified in the Business Case.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation has been undertaken with approximately 3,000 young people as detailed in the above report and following appendices.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed alongside the Business Case.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no CO2 emission impacts arising from this report. However, all environmental implications will be considered in the Business Case.

11.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1- *Care More About Us* Findings from the Youth Consultation

Appendix 2- Usage of Local Authority Funded Youth Provision

Appendix 3- Young People Questionnaire Summary Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Responses from the survey and young people's workshops have informed the appendices to this report.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Workshop Report-Youth Review)	25 September 2019

Q: How can we make Wirral an amazing place for young people?

A: Care more about us.

Reviewing the Youth Offer in Wirral

October 2019

What is the Review of the Youth Offer?

The Review of the Youth Offer aims to understand what young people in Wirral need and want to support their development and help them to achieve the best possible outcomes. With this insight, we will review current provision and work collaboratively to design a Youth Offer which will be accessible and beneficial to all young people in the borough.

The review is focused on listening to what young people are telling us rather than making assumptions about what we think they want- they are the experts. The review isn't just about youth clubs or leisure activities, it considers all aspects of young people's lives, including: health & wellbeing; education, employment & learning; hobbies, activities & free time; youth voice & democracy; young people in their communities; and, advice, information and access.

Why are we doing it?

We want Wirral to be an amazing place for young people that supports them to be all they can be.

Wirral Council and its partners offer a range of services and activities for young people and we want to make sure that they are fit-for-purpose and meeting the needs of our younger residents.

As a partnership, we want to work collaboratively with young people, their families, communities, voluntary and faith organisations, and schools to develop and deliver a Youth Offer which makes the best of the opportunities we have in Wirral.

How are we doing it?

We are doing it in collaboration with young people.

We are listening to the young people of Wirral.

From 19th June to 20th September 2019, we supported young people to develop and complete a survey with their peers. This included an online survey, group sessions, workshops, surveys in public spaces such as shopping centres and cafes, and promotion through schools and other organisations.

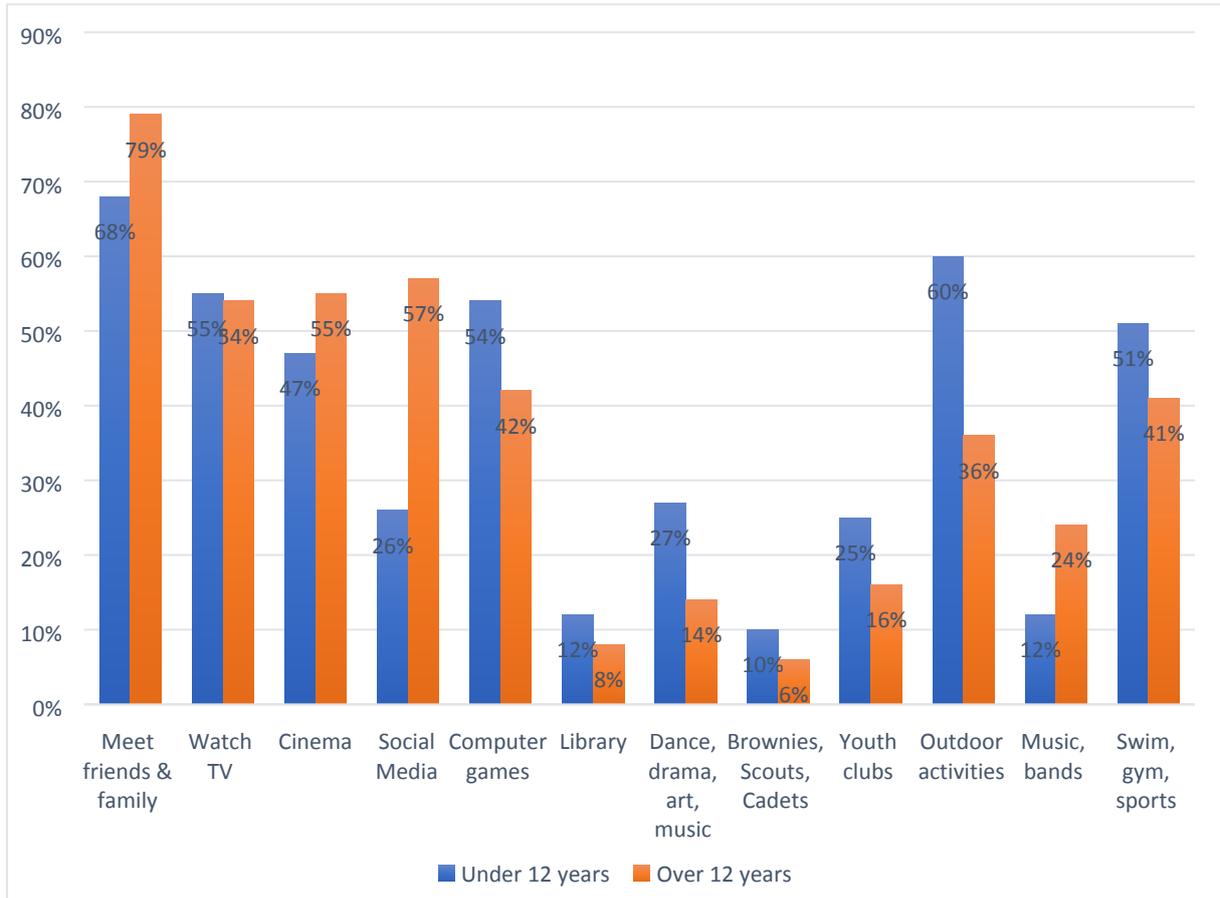
The young people leading the consultation worked hard to make sure the survey reached as many different groups and individuals as possible.

Who took part in the Youth Offer Consultation?

Number of surveys submitted **2 736**

Age		
Participants under 12 years	750	27%
Participants over 12 years	1 986	73%
Gender		
Female	1 484	54%
Male	1 172	43%
Self-defined	29	1%
Prefer not to say	54	2%
Status		
In school	1 781	65%
In college	537	20%
In employment	245	9%
Other	168	6%

What young people told us they like to do

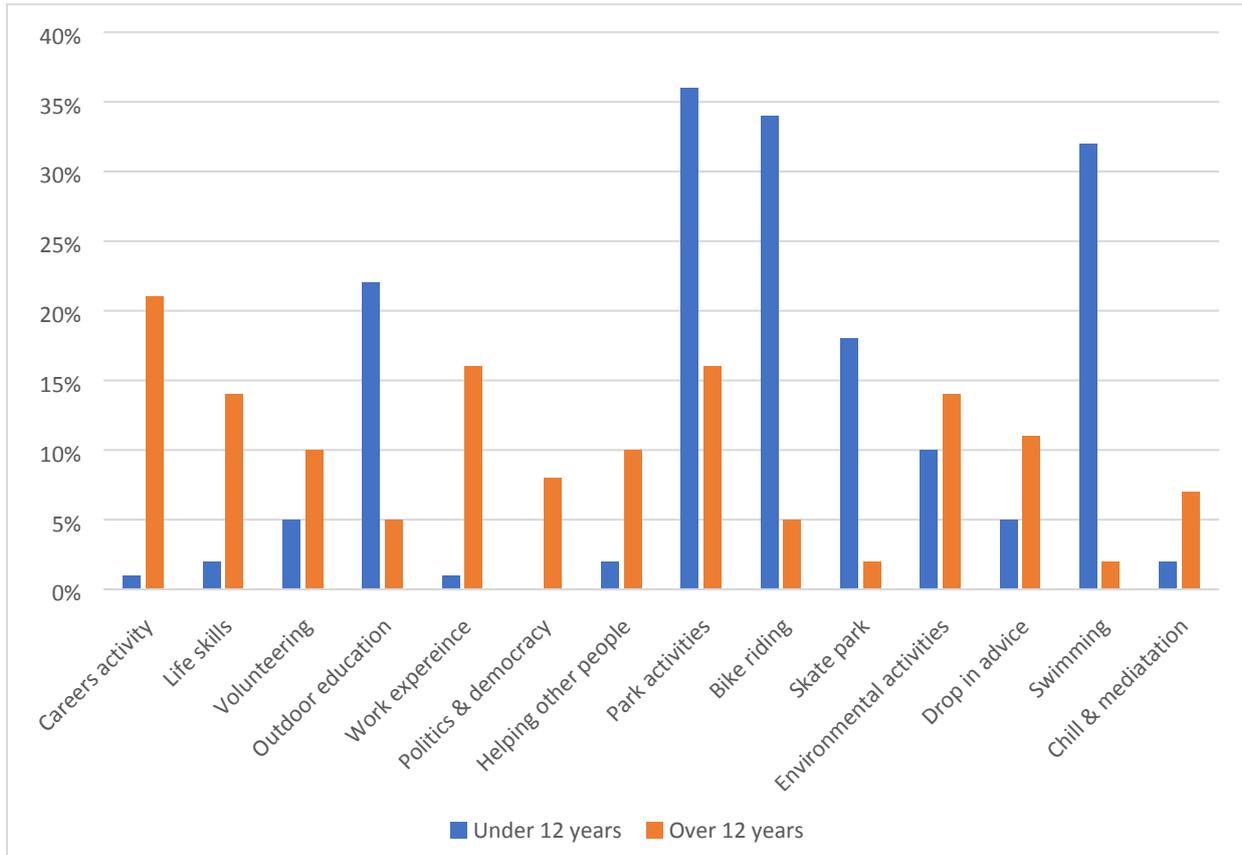


All young people, regardless of age, enjoy meeting friends and family, watching television, and playing computer games. These are activities they do at home and like to do in an organised way either through youth provision or in an online community.

The results suggest that younger children like organised pastimes and clubs which are led by an adult such as outdoor activities and sports. Older young people have more of a preference for activities based around socialising, such as using social media and attending events or festivals.

It is positive that so many young people in Wirral like to do physical activity, a good basis for a healthy lifestyle.

What young people told us they would like to do more of

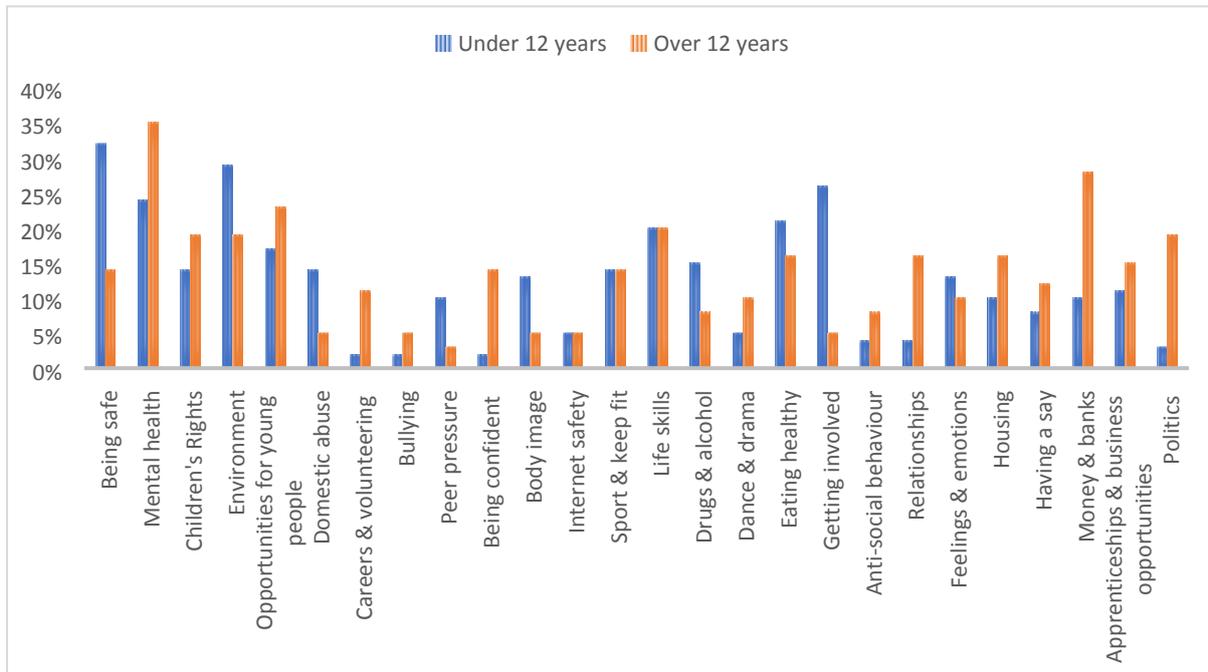


Our young people under 12 want to do more outdoors- park activities, bike riding, skate parks, and outdoor education. Living in a borough with as much to offer as Wirral, with its coastline, green spaces, parks, and natural features should make this possible. If they have to come indoors, under 12s want more access to swimming.

Older young people are more focused on their future and preparation for adulthood. They would like more activities based around careers, life skills, volunteering, and work experience. A significant number are keen to be active citizens by helping others and being involved in politics and democracy.

All young people would like to do more to protect and improve the environment- they present themselves as an environmentally aware generation.

What young people told us they would like to know more about



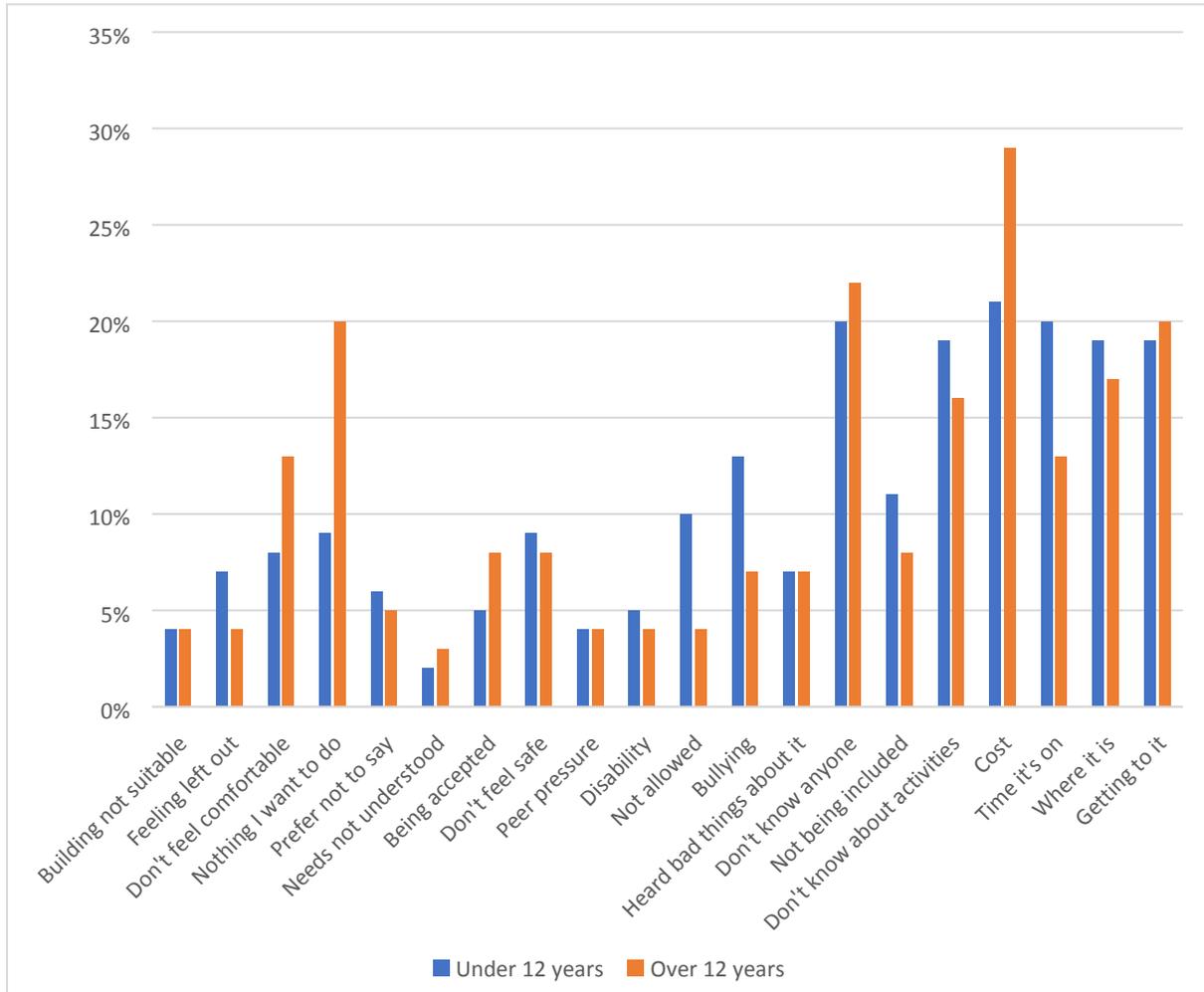
The response to this question clearly shows that young people in Wirral are keen to know more about a whole range of subjects and issues. Schools, residents, parents, professionals and politicians need to respond to their eagerness by working together to provide the right opportunities.

Our under 12s want to know more about being safe, the environment and getting involved in their communities.

Over 12s are once again focused on preparation for adulthood, wanting to know more about careers and volunteering, money and banks, and politics. Interestingly, the younger age group are equally interested in life skills as the older teens.

The results show that a significant proportion of the over 12s want to know more about mental health, being confident and relationships. Pastoral care and access to services need to address this through the revised Youth Offer.

What young people told us stops them from taking part



There are a number of practicalities stopping young people from taking part in activities, including: cost; timing; location; transport; and not knowing what's on. For older teens cost is far more significant, which may be related to the types of activities they want to do, or that the cost of these activities and the travel expense to get there increases as they get older.

The results suggest that the current offer for young people in Wirral is not attracting older teens with 20% stating there isn't anything on offer that they want to do.

For all young people in Wirral, there are fears to engaging: fear of bullying, feeling left out; not feeling comfortable or safe; or not being accepted. Inclusion must be a priority for the future Youth Offer.

**What would make Wirral an amazing place for young people?
Focus on health and wellbeing**

When we asked young people what would make Wirral an amazing place **91** responses were given relating to their health and wellbeing.

Category	No. of responses
Mental health - anxiety, depression, awareness	54
Substances - alcohol, drugs, smoking, prevention	16
Confidence - body image, self-esteem,	9
Healthy lifestyles - healthy eating, fitness	6
Period poverty - cost of sanitary products	3
Pressure in education - exam stress, decisions, careers	2
Sexual health - awareness	1

Understanding their own mental health and how to stay well is a priority for the young people of Wirral. A revised Youth Offer needs to respond to that.

In their own words:

“I think we should make the Wirral more safe for people who have mental illness.”

“Mental health workshops. Mental health summer camps. Suicidal help groups. Little groups and camps with churches or schools. Not too costly but donations required....Support groups for parents to understand teens and their problems.”

“Places for kids to open up- look beyond the smiles.”

“Designated smoking areas for children's safety.”

“There needs to be more support around mental health, body issues and LGBT as it is often hard to talk to trusted adults about these things for fear of disappointing them.”

“Free sanitary products in toilets where people can't afford them.”

**What would make Wirral an amazing place for young people?
Focus on education, employment and learning**

When we asked young people what would make Wirral an amazing place **180** responses were given relating to their education, employment and learning.

Category	No. of responses
Curriculum for life - learning about jobs, money, life skills	79
More employment opportunities - jobs, apprenticeships	41
More flexible education - options, individual approach	17
Improving provision - school facilities, quality, access	16
More post-16 support - advice, guidance, information	8
More arts opportunities - art, drama, film, writing, dance	8
More after school clubs - open access, more choices	7
School lunches - cost	4

Having a curriculum that prepares them for adulthood is a priority for the young people of Wirral. A revised Youth Offer needs to respond to that.

In their own words:

“Help young people in schools to know how to progress as an adult, e.g. learning about insurance, money and politics.”

“Very talented and experienced teachers to teach how to chase your dreams.”

“Better advice in school. More school meet ups and outside meetings or events supporting needs of teenagers such as housing, finances and mental health and job opportunities.”

“Provide real job opportunities for young people.”

“Improve school treatment towards children.”

“We need to know how we can get to what we want to be. How do we get the job we want? How can we afford our first home? I also want time to be a young person and enjoy it without the stress of everything (exams, money, fitting in etc.). Affordable housing is VITAL. But also jobs and nice cafes - I go to Liverpool because there is more to do so my friends like to go. But why can't I stay on Wirral to do that?”

**What would make Wirral an amazing place for young people?
Focus on hobbies, activities and free time**

When we asked young people what would make Wirral an amazing place **779** responses were given relating to hobbies, activities and free time.

Category	No. of responses
Variety - older teens, different formats, more choices	388
Facilities - quality, access, choices	100
Cost - discounts, memberships, travel	94
Location - local options, barriers to travel, inequalities	54
Existing facilities - condition	45
Spaces to socialise - engagement with peers, permissions	40
Inclusion - being accepted, activities that cater for all	30
Events - festivals, outdoor events, competitions	28

Having access to a range of activities, delivered in a variety of ways is a priority for the young people of Wirral. A revised Youth Offer needs to respond to that.

In their own words:

“Run longer, open more often, more workers....Places made just for teens”

“Advertise spare courts on facebook - cheap rates for young people to use. I see so many empty ones.”

“Get rid of no ball games signs.”

“Just having more things locally as it is hard to get to activities because they are normally straight after school and most people’s parents are in work”

“Lots more events like bike race and festivals.”

“More access to cheap/free activities such as athletics, gymnastics, dance, swimming. The private clubs are so expensive. It’s hard to be involved in these if you don’t have a high income. I really miss the free swimming in the school holidays when we could go nearly every day, this summer I have only been once because it is too expensive for my family to take me and my siblings.”

“Leave football goals up in the summer.”

**What would make Wirral an amazing place for young people?
Focus on youth voice and democracy**

When we asked young people what would make Wirral an amazing place **102** responses were given relating to youth voice and democracy.

Category	No. of responses
Being heard - being asked, being heard, action taken	33
Engagement - how we engage and when, approaches	24
Acceptance - being valued as a young person	16
Inclusion - involve everyone, access, understanding	16
Creating communities - local approach, togetherness	6
Aspirations - believe in and want more for young people	4
Politics - understanding politics	3

Having their voice heard is a priority for the young people of Wirral. A revised Youth Offer needs to respond to that.

In their own words:

“Approach kids in a more sensible way, consider lesser fortunate kids, take kids with serious disabilities more seriously.”

“Ask us what we want.”

“Be fair listen to everyone.”

“Bring the community together and doing things to make sure Wirral is a great place to live.”

“By sticking together and sharing opinions, we can do this maybe monthly meeting.”

“Connect with young people more.”

“Everybody to show kindness and respect.”

“Give young people more of a choice on large decisions being made now that will greatly affect us in the future.”

**What would make Wirral an amazing place for young people?
Focus on young people in their communities**

When we asked young people what would make Wirral an amazing place **547** responses were given relating to young people in their communities.

Category	No. of responses
Improve the environment - litter, improve rundown areas	160
Feeling safe - street lighting, traffic management, CCTV	140
Cheaper transport - discounted travel	60
Being environmentally responsible - plastics, recycling	51
Shaping the future - being involved, reducing inequalities	45
Transport links - frequency, routes, later services	27
Social spaces for young people - indoor, outdoor, safe	26
Community approach - togetherness, inter-generational	22
Kindness - showing kindness to each other	16

Making the physical environment more pleasant to live in is a priority for the young people of Wirral. A revised Youth Offer needs to respond to that.

In their own words:

“I want to feel accepted here. Always feel like an outsider.”

“Only the wealthy get a chance to do what they want and enjoy life, while us who are poor only get to survive.”

“We can be inspired to help and volunteer in the community.”

“The Wirral gives us low expectations in life from the poor quality housing, buildings and poor areas. No one can afford anything to make things look better so we know we will live somewhere gross and unsafe.”

“Free public toilets everywhere.”

“Open old buidings, give them to small/new businesses to use. Would make the town centre look better....More creative arty decorations on buildings.”

“Make the parks a safer place for us to be.”

“If someone is lonely get them a friend.”

**What would make Wirral an amazing place for young people?
Focus on advice, information and access**

When we asked young people what would make Wirral an amazing place **205** responses were given relating to advice, information and access.

Category	No. of responses
Modernise - the offer, communications, advertising	73
Inclusion - make services/advice/provision accessible to all	70
Flexible access - online services, opening times, locations	28
People first - Youth Workers, communities, relationships	27
Social spaces - social groups, support networks	7

Updating the ways that we advertise, communicate and engage is a priority for the young people of Wirral. A revised Youth Offer needs to respond to that.

In their own words:

“Mostly make us aware of what activities there are for us to do and take part in instead of getting bored and then as we get older causing trouble etc.”

“We're all more aware than people think, just more support and feeling like we belong.”

“Face to face advice, not just over the phone.”

“Get People involved more. More workers to talk to.”

“Have more LGBT friendly communities.”

“I would really like a support group so I can feel included and talk about my feelings as I sometimes feel alone.”

“Make more student deals.”

“More friendly places, more places to go, understanding family with anyone with additional needs.”

“By being more friendly and open to people.”

What would make Wirral an amazing place for young people? Top 10 Recommendations

In total **1904** responses were made about what would make Wirral an amazing place for young people. Using all that information, these are the top 10 recommendations:

1. “...make the place feel like there’s stuff to do...”

Young people are asking us to co-ordinate and publicise what already goes on, to add new activities and opportunities, and wherever possible to make it local to them.

2. “...make parts of the Wirral look less run down...”

Young people are bothered by litter, derelict buildings, empty shops, dog fouling and neglected neighbourhoods. They’re asking for more trees, more flowers, more appealing buildings and housing, inviting green spaces and more bins.

3. “...make it a place where I feel safe all the time, as I don’t at the moment...”

Young people are asking us to make the places they go and travel through feel safer by improving outdoor lighting, managing traffic and having an increased presence of trusted adults, particularly on public transport and on the streets.

4. “...let everybody be included...”

Young people are asking us to make our services, facilities and activities more inclusive. Additionally, they are challenging adults to be accepting of all people regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, race, or religion.

5. “...support young people to stay on the Wirral more...”

Young people report that they go out of borough to enjoy cafes, music venues, shopping, for further education and to find work. They would like to be able to do more of those things in Wirral by having improved facilities and opportunities.

6. “...have activities for us to do that our parents can afford...”

Young people want to participate in activities, they want to do more but are often unable to because of financial pressures, particularly where they experience transport costs or are part of a sibling group.

7. “...stop increasing my ticket prices and improve trains and transport...”

Young people are asking for better transport links, increased frequency of buses, later services (particularly on Sundays) and subsidised travel. They want to enjoy all that Wirral has to offer but struggle to access it.

8. “...help young people in schools to know how to progress as an adult...”

Young people are asking us to provide a curriculum for life, one that teaches them about mortgages, insurance, benefits, politics, sex, substances, DIY, health, careers, jobs, domestic abuse and relationships. They want this to be delivered in their schools by subject experts.

9. “...get out on social media...”

Young people are asking us to modernise how we communicate, advertise and deliver services to them. Online booking, apps, live chat, web-based services and reward schemes that can be accessed via mobile phones are more suited to their lifestyles and habits.

10. “...give us space to talk and relax with friends...”

Young people want to be accepted, to be treated fairly, and not to be pre-judged because they are young. They want to have places where they are allowed to meet with friends, not for activities, but just to socialise and be young.

Acting on what the young people of Wirral have told us Next Steps

With almost 3,000 young people taking part in this consultation (survey and focus groups) we need to make sure their voice is heard and acted on.

What we will do next:

1. We will take share this report as widely as possible to make sure that the voice of Wirral's young people is heard.
2. We will bring professionals, agencies and communities together to learn from the findings.
3. We will collaborate as a partnership, with young people, to look at how we can make the resource we currently have (in people, services, funding, buildings, facilities, and natural resources) go as far as possible to provide the young people of Wirral with a Youth Offer which meets their needs.
4. We will negotiate, on behalf of the young people in Wirral, with external agencies who can contribute to and/or improve the Youth Offer.
5. We will act now, wherever possible, to make improvements to current services.
6. We will keep an open communication with young people via the internet, media and youth groups on the progress of the review, ensuring that they know what we are doing on their behalf and can hold us to account.
7. We will work collaboratively to develop a business case for a Youth Offer which makes Wirral an amazing place for young people and supports them to be all they can be.

Acknowledgements

To the young people who designed and tested the survey- thank you.

To the young people who facilitated the focus groups and went out into Wirral to complete surveys face-to-face with their peers- thank you.

To the young people who are members of the Young People's Advisory Group and have provided oversight and guidance to the process- thank you.

To all the young people who took part in focus groups, drew pictures, left comments and shared ideas- thank you.

To every young person who took time to complete the survey, submitted open, honest and helpful comments- thank you.

The contribution of more than 3,000 young people in Wirral, either as a participant or a facilitator, has given us a fantastic opportunity to understand what it is young people need and want from their Youth Offer. Not only was the volume of response positive, but the quality of the response was amazing.

We will do all we can to make sure an amazing Youth Offer in Wirral becomes a reality. In their own words:

“Let's hope it gets done.”

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Youth Offer Review- Usage of Local Authority Funded Youth Provision

Summary Report

October 2019

This report seeks to outline the current usage of youth facilities funded by Wirral Council. This includes youth clubs, youth hubs, the Hive, detached youth work and the play service.

It must be noted that due to a range of systems being in place the data is not available in a consistent format. A description of data collection is provided for each provision to outline the capabilities and reliabilities.

1. Local Authority Youth Clubs, Hubs and Play Services

Attendance and membership data for Local Authority Youth Clubs, Hubs and Play Services is recorded manually on spreadsheets. The system is reliant on young people providing details at every session, a member of staff accurately recording the data and the manual transfer of information into a spreadsheet. Development of a new system (in Liquid Logic the Children's Services system) will improve the quality, reliability and functionality for data collection.

(a) Youth and Play Services 2017-18

	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Totals	
	Footfall	Members	Footfall	Members	Footfall	Members	Footfall	Members	Footfall	Members
Bebington YC	244	23	370	30	394	27	467	28	1 475	108
Charing Cross YC	492	33	799	33	1 422	36	1 907	39	4 620	141
Moreton YC	656	122	910	148	1 153	159	1 415	160	4 134	589
Fender YC	285	188	705	213	1 199	137	1 508	141	3 697	679
West Wirral Hub	499	86	477	88	625	51	748	55	2 349	280
South Wirral Hub	250	62	458	266	1 097	80	1 340	146	3 235	554
Birkenhead Hub	1 426	525	2 745	13	4 283	185	5 344	15	13 798	738
Wallasey Hub	158	56	606	122	963	111	1 543	118	3 270	141
Beechwood Play Scheme	Closed for major refurbishment				497	61	921	0	861	61
Gautby Play Scheme	2 624	38	2 215	58	2 454	24	1 885	8	1 475	128
Leasowe Adventure Playground	4 196	121	4 762	98	4 589	25	2 499	14	16 016	258
Total	10 830	1 254	14 137	1 568	18 676	1 058	19 547	1 071	54 930	3 677

(b) Youth and Play Services 2018-19

	Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Totals	
	Footfall	Members	Footfall	Members	Footfall	Members	Footfall	Members	Footfall	Members
Bebington YC	25	15	156	24	353	23	539	25	1 073	87
Charing Cross YC	379	42	797	42	1 144	43	1 579	43	3 899	170
Moreton YC	630	122	906	146	1 205	159	1 440	161	4 181	588
Fender YC	398	65	836	97	1 186	107	1 410	110	3 830	379
West Wirral Hub	149	21	196	33	307	45	396	52	1 048	151
South Wirral Hub	457	74	824	94	1 276	102	1 619	120	4 176	390
Birkenhead Hub	2 526	456	2 277	51	3 104	26	3 739	114	11 649	647
Wallasey Hub	276	90	827	142	1 550	177	2 298	207	4 951	616
Beechwood Play Scheme	1 342	62	1 195	43	1 582	18	1 499	9	5 618	132
Gautby Play Scheme	1 897	106	1 783	30	1 542	11	1 460	41	6 682	188
Leasowe Adventure Playground	3 278	95	3 177	70	3 497	10	2 866	16	12 818	191
Total	11 357	1 148	12 974	772	16 749	721	18 845	898	59 925	3 539

(c) Detached Youth Work Engagement Quarter 1 2019-20

	8-12 year olds	13-19 year olds	20-25 year olds	Total
South & West Wirral	0	1 844	10	1 854
Wallasey	7	1 007	13	1 027
Birkenhead	6	423	7	436
Total	13	3 274	30	3 317

(d) Detached Youth Work Top 5 Themed Interventions Quarter 1 2019-20

Personal safety	1 590
Anti-social behaviour awareness	1 420
Substance misuse awareness	888
Rights and responsibilities	349
Employment, education and training	346

2. The Hive Youth Zone

The Hive benefits from a sophisticated IT system which allows accurate and detailed membership and attendance data to be collected. The following datasets provide a detailed overview of usage since the provision opened in 2017.

(a) Members and Attendances

	No. members	No. members under 12	% members under 12	No. members over 12	% members over 12	Potential membership income	No. of attendances	Ave. monthly attendances	Potential attendance income
2017-18	5 864	1 363	23%	4 501	77%	£29 320	70 220	5 852	£35 110
2018-19	4 563	1 947	43%	2 616	57%	£22 815	69 645	5 804	£34 823
2019 to date	3 060	1 744	57%	1 316	43%	£15 300	36 496	6 078	£18 248

(b) Members by Neighbourhood

	2017-18	2018-19	2019 to date
Birkenhead A	1 578 (26.95%)	1 247 (27.3%)	821 (26.8%)
Birkenhead B	1 382 (23.6%)	999 (21.9%)	643 (21.0%)
South Wirral A	472 (8.0%)	350 (7.7%)	233 (7.6%)
South Wirral B	268 (4.6%)	136 (3.0%)	104 (3.4%)
Wallasey A	361 (6.2%)	335 (7.3%)	214 (7.0%)
Wallasey B	391 (6.7%)	293 (6.4%)	264 (8.6%)
Wallasey C	566 (9.7%)	491 (10.8%)	351 (11.5%)
West Wirral A	219 (3.7%)	187 (4.1%)	73 (2.4%)
West Wirral B	465 (7.9%)	332 (7.3%)	220 (7.2%)
Non-Wirral	162 (2.7%)	193 (4.2%)	138 (4.5%)

(c) Attendance Patterns

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2017-18	7 155	7 396	6 409	6 148	6 734	5 236	5 554	5 143	4 499	5 575	5 237	5 134
2018-19	6 827	5 843	5 445	5 988	8 919	4 888	5 679	4 670	4 560	5 520	5 620	5 686
2019 to date	6 596	6 000	5 481	6 317	7 740	4 335	-	-	-	-	-	-

(d) Frequency of Usage

	No. members attending up to 1 occasion per month	No. members attending up to 1 occasion per week	No. members attending more than 1 occasion per week
2017-18	4 655 (79.4%)	892 (15.2%)	317 (5.4%)
2018-19	3 457 (75.8%)	750 (16.4%)	356 (7.8%)
2019 to date	1 932 (63.1%)	743 (24.3%)	385 (12.6%)

(e) Detail on Frequency of Usage

2017-18	Age group with most attendances	Age	No. attendances	% of total attendance
Up to 1 attendance per month	12-16 years	12	458	9.8%
		13	552	11.9%
		14	509	10.9%
		15	562	12.1%
		16	506	10.9%
Up to 1 attendance per week	10-16 years	10	123	13.8%
		11	83	9.3%
		12	89	10.0%
		13	85	9.5%
		14	66	7.4%
		15	93	10.4%
		16	134	15.0%
More than 1 attendance per week	15-18 years	15	43	13.6%
		16	68	21.5%
		17	50	15.8%
		18	32	10.1%

2018-19	Age groups with most attendances	Age	No. attendances	% of total attendance
Up to 1 attendance per month	9-13 years	9	398	11.5%
		10	489	14.2%
		11	541	15.7%
		12	436	12.6%
		13	336	9.7%
Up to 1 attendance per week	9-12 years	9	106	14.1%
		10	131	17.5%
		11	112	14.9%
		12	75	10.0%
More than 1 attendance per week	14-17 years	14	31	8.7%
		15	40	11.2%
		16	61	17.2%
		17	37	10.4%

2019 to date	Age groups with most attendances	Age	No. attendances	% of total attendance
Up to 1 attendance per month	8-12 years	8	234	16.1%
		9	298	15.6%
		10	302	15.4%
		11	310	12.1%
		12	178	9.2%

(f) Neighbourhoods Most Frequent Attenders Come From

	2017-18 (1209 regular attenders)	2018-19 (1106 regular attenders)	2019 to date (1128 regular attenders)
Birkenhead A	428 (35.4%)	398 (36.0%)	360 (31.9%)
Birkenhead B	299 (24.7%)	246 (22.2%)	248 (22.0%)
South Wirral A	86 (7.1%)	78 (7.1%)	73 (6.5%)
South Wirral B	39 (3.2%)	32 (2.8%)	36 (3.2%)
Wallasey A	61 (5.1%)	78 (7.1%)	71 (6.3%)
Wallasey B	70 (5.8%)	67 (6.1%)	93 (8.2%)
Wallasey C	93 (7.7%)	96 (8.7%)	143 (12.7%)
West Wirral A	37 (3.1%)	29 (2.6%)	24 (2.1%)
West Wirral B	79 (6.5%)	68 (6.1%)	68 (6.0%)
Non-Wirral	17 (1.4%)	14 (1.3%)	12 (1.1%)

(g) Detail on Least Frequent Usage- 1 or 2 Occasions per Year

	No. using 1-2 occasions per year	Under 12 years	Over 12 years
2017-18	1 872 (32% of members)	342 (18.3% of cohort)	1 530 (81.7% of cohort)
2018-19	1 609 (35.3% of members)	598 (37.2% of cohort)	1 011 (62.8% of cohort)
2019 to date	1 076 ((35.2% of members)	582 (54.1% of cohort)	494 (45.9% of cohort)

(h) Neighbourhoods Least Frequent Attenders Come From

	2017-18 (1872 irregular attenders)	2018-19 (1609 irregular attenders)	2019 to date (1076 irregular attenders)
Birkenhead A	399 (21.3%)	377 (23.4%)	263 (24.4%)
Birkenhead B	358 (19.4%)	351 (21.8%)	226 (21.0%)
South Wirral A	154 (8.2%)	131 (8.2%)	82 (7.6%)
South Wirral B	118 (6.3%)	41 (2.5%)	37 (3.4%)
Wallasey A	141 (7.5%)	114 (7.1%)	79 (7.3%)
Wallasey B	142 (7.5%)	108 (6.7%)	87 (8.1%)
Wallasey C	190 (10.1%)	174 (10.8%)	104 (9.7%)
West Wirral A	100 (5.3%)	83 (5.2%)	33 (3.1%)
West Wirral B	169 (9.0%)	139 (8.6%)	79 (7.4%)
Non-Wirral	101 (5.4%)	91 (5.7%)	86 (8.0%)

Youth Offer Review- Young People Questionnaire

Summary Report

October 2019

Q1. To be entered in a prize draw please tell us:

- [Your name]
- [Your email address]

Q2. What is the first part of your postcode? (E.g.CH44)

[Free text box supplied]

Q3. How old are you? (Answered: 2 736, Skipped: 54)

Answer Choices	Responses	
8-11	24.41%	750
12-15	32.97%	902
16-18	26.94%	737
19-25	12.68%	347
Total respondents		2 736

Q4. What is your gender? (Answered: 2 739, Skipped: 51)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Male	42.79%	1 172
Female	54.18%	1 484
Self-defined	1.06%	29
Prefer not to say	1.97%	54
Total respondents		2 739

Q5. Are you in: (Answered: 2 731, Skipped: 59)

Answer Choices	Responses	
School	65.21%	1 781
College	19.66%	537
Employment	8.97%	245
Not in school, college or employment	6.15%	168
Total respondents		2 731

Q6. What do you like to do in your free time? Please tick all that apply (Answered: 2 742, Skipped: 48)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Meet up with friends/family	74.33%	2 038
Go to the cinema	52.59%	1 442
See live bands/music	20.86%	572
Go to Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Cadets	7.40%	203
Watch TV	54.49%	1 494
Play computer games	45.30%	1 242
Take part in a sport, swimming, gym, etc	43.87%	1 203
Attend a youth club, youth project or play project	18.31%	502
Attend a dance, drama, art or music group	17.94%	492
Visit a library	8.90%	244
Outdoor activities	42.82%	1 174
Social media	48.72%	1 336
Other (please specify)	12.80%	351
Total respondents		2 742

Q7. Which of these do you go to in your free time? (Answered: 2 734, Skipped: 56)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Scouts/Guides/Brownies/Cadets	12.69%	347
Library	16.06%	439
Leisure Centre-Europa Pools	25.82%	706
Leisure Centre-Oval Leisure Centre	12.07%	330
Leisure Centre-West Kirby Concourse	9.88%	270
Leisure Centre-Leasowe Leisure Centre	7.50%	205
Leisure Centre-Guinea Gap Leisure Centre	7.90%	216
Leisure Centre-Woodchurch Leisure Centre	5.52%	151
Wirral Tennis and Sports Centre	5.27%	144
Beechwood Recreation Centre	1.06%	29
Wirral Sailing Centre	1.90%	52
The Gym	24.80%	678
Parks	46.96%	1 284
Youth Clubs and Hubs	12.11%	331
The Hive	16.31%	446
Football	24.87%	680
Rugby	6.58%	180
Tennis	7.35%	201
Cricket	4.28%	117
Sailing Centre	1.43%	39
Dance Group	13.75%	376
Drama Group	8.01%	219
Pilgrim Street Arts Centre	3.15%	86
After School Clubs	16.86%	461
Youth Voice Group	2.27%	62
Kontaktabus	1.21%	33
Open Door Centre	1.35%	37
Activities in school	19.90%	544
Response Counselling Service	0.99%	27
Drugs and Alcohol Services	1.39%	38
Chill with friends at home	41.00%	1 121
Chill with friends at the park	32.93%	901
Go to town	46.56%	1 273
Shopping	50.66%	1 385
Church groups	5.23%	143
Do nothing	11.23%	307
Other (please specify)	10.28%	281
Total respondents		2 734

Q8. How often do you attend these? (Answered: 2 637, Skipped: 153)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Daily	26.09%	688
Weekly	64.01%	1 688
Monthly	6.26%	165
Every few moths	3.64%	96
Total respondents		2 637

Q9. What is stopping you going to activities? (please tick all that apply) (Answered: 2 478, Skipped: 312)

Answer Choices	Responses	
The building does not meet my needs	4.25%	105
Not being included	10.01%	248
Being left out because my needs are not understood	5.73%	142
Bullying	9.36%	232
Cost	29.50%	731
Where it takes place	19.41%	481
Getting to the activity	21.51%	533
The time the activity is	16.67%	413
Don't know about the activities	17.72%	439
Being accepted when there	7.95%	197
Not knowing anyone going	23.81%	590
Heard bad things about it	7.38%	183
Don't feel comfortable when there	12.43%	308
I'm not allowed	6.21%	154
My disability	5.13%	127
Not feeling safe	8.96%	222
Peer pressure	4.68%	116
Nothing on that I want to go to	18.72%	464
Being left out because my needs are not understood	2.99%	74
Prefer not to say	6.17%	153
Other (please specify)	18.32%	454
Total respondents		2 478

Q10. What is important to you? (Please pick the 5 most important) (Answered: 2 718, Skipped: 72)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Being included	30.02%	816
Being safe	50.88%	1 383
Exams and schoolwork	25.39%	690
Money	32.63%	887
Friendships/relationships	68.69%	1 867
Family	68.29%	1 856
Having somewhere to go to meet friends	15.53%	422
Getting involved with the community	3.46%	94
Advice, support and information	3.13%	85
Future career/job	25.35%	689
Going somewhere safe	6.70%	182
Health and wellbeing	16.67%	453
Peer pressure/bullying	2.35%	64
Body image	10.38%	282
Growing up	7.80%	212
Being safe and feeling safe	0.00%	0
Having something to do outside school	8.83%	240
Having someone to talk to	9.20%	250
Environment	10.78%	293
Green spaces and parks	5.56%	151
Politics/democracy	2.98%	81
My community	3.53%	96
Having a say about things that matter to you	5.85%	159
Pressure to buy and wear brands and new things	1.36%	37
Recycling	5.52%	150
Pollution and global warming	7.87%	214
Religion	2.32%	63
Having someone to talk to	7.32%	199
Trusted adults I can speak to	6.59%	179
Other (please specify)	14.39%	391
Total respondents		2 718

Q11. What would you like to know more about? (Please choose no more than 5 options)

(Answered: 2 656, Skipped: 134)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Mental health	33.06%	878
Politics and government	17.09%	454
Opportunities in Wirral for young people	21.80%	579
Our rights as children and young people	18.22%	484
Environment	22.85%	607
Apprentice/business opportunities	11.97%	318
Handling money, banks, budgeting	24.55%	652
Having a say about things that matter to me	11.94%	317
Housing	14.01%	372
Relationships	15.74%	418
Managing feelings and emotions	10.39%	276
Anti-social behaviour/crime	7.12%	189
Being safe	19.73%	524
Getting involved in my local community	4.41%	117
Eating healthy	19.50%	518
Drugs/alcohol and smoking	7.34%	195
Dance/drama/art/music	13.59%	361
Internet safety	7.34%	195
Life skills (cooking, money)	19.62%	521
Sport/exercise/keep fit	16.34%	434
Body changes	5.53%	147
Bullying	6.36%	169
Being more confident	14.04%	373
Peer pressure	2.48%	66
Careers and volunteering	8.92%	237
Domestic abuse and violence	4.10%	109
Other (please specify)	12.84%	341
Total respondents		2 656

Q12. What activities would you like to see more of?

[Free text box supplied]

Analysis in *Care More About Us* report.

Q13. What help and advice services would you like to see more of? (Please tick all that apply)

(Answered: 2 338, Skipped: 452)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Counselling	27.29%	638
Benefit advice	11.33%	265
Family advice	22.84%	534
LGBTQ	20.10%	470
Disability	18.01%	421
Depression	32.16%	752
Mental health	48.46%	1 133
Growing up	28.96%	677
Social media	26.35%	616
Body image	25.36%	593
Sexual health	20.32%	475
Careers	30.41%	711
Relationships	24.42%	571
Bullying	25.58%	598
Exploitation	12.06%	282
Smoking/drugs/alcohol	22.46%	525
Peer support groups	11.04%	258
Domestic violence	17.07%	399
Other (please specify)	8.60%	201
Total respondents		2 338

Q14. How would you like to see activities and advice for young people advertised? (Answered: 2

493, Skipped: 287)

Answer Choices	Responses	
Mobile app	41.12%	1 025
Website online	36.22%	903
Instagram	47.81%	1 192
Twitter	22.74%	567
Snapchat	41.56%	1 036
Facebook	36.06%	899
Leaflets	29.08%	725
Advertised through schools/ youth services/ hubs and clubs/ local shops/ bus stops/ transport	42.52%	1 060
Youtube	41.64%	1 038
Other (please specify)	5.05%	126
Total respondents		2 493

Q15. We want to make Wirral an amazing place for young people, that supports them to be all they can be. Please let us know your thoughts on how we can do this:

[Free text box supplied]

Analysis in *Care More About Us* report.

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Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monday, 11 November 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Ofsted Improvement Plan
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the progress made following the Ofsted inspection of Children's Services.

The report will be supported by a presentation which will be provided to members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11th November.

The findings of the inspection report published in July rated the impact of leadership on social work practice as 'good' and the experience and progress of children in need of help and protection and children in care as 'requires improvement'.

The report outlined 5 key areas for improvement. These recommendations form the basis of Wirral's Ofsted Improvement Plan with specific, measurable and realistic actions which will provide the direction and focus for the next year.

Good progress has been made to address the 5 key areas and a summary of this is provided within the main body of the report. In addition, this report outlines the governance framework which will ensure that progress can be monitored, and relevant officers held to account for the delivery of the Plan.

In addition to the Ofsted Improvement Plan, a wider Social Care Improvement Plan is under development which will capture the wider areas for development within the Inspection report. The presentation provided will provide an overview of progress made within these areas.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- Support the progress made in continuing with improvement following the Ofsted inspection in June; and,
- Endorse the actions outlined within the Ofsted Improvement Plan against the 5 specific recommendations highlighted within the inspection report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 To support the ongoing improvement activity within Wirral Children's Services.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Findings from Inspection

The findings of the inspection report published in July rated the impact of leadership on social work practice as 'good' and the experience and progress of children in need of help and protection and children in care as 'requires improvement'.

3.1.1 The report outlined 5 key areas for improvement which were to improve:

1. The quality of analysis within social work assessments to fully take account of the impact of lived experiences of children and lead to good-quality planning for children, including effective planning for permanence.
2. The timeliness and quality of transition arrangements for young people who will require support from adult services.
3. The availability of good-quality services to meet the emotional health and wellbeing needs of all children and young people at the time when they need it, without delay.
4. The provision of education for children in care, including improving their attendance and the timeliness and quality of their personal education plans.
5. The provision of direct work and life-story work for all children at the right time for them to make sure they understand their life experience.

In line with Ofsted requirements, these recommendations are to form the basis of an Ofsted Improvement Plan with specific, measurable and realistic actions.

3.2 Progress since inspection

3.2.1 Since the inspection in June, an Ofsted Improvement Plan has been developed to outline a series of strategic actions which will ensure that improvement is co-ordinated and timely. The Plan will be a working document, able to adjust and amend in line with emerging ideas and innovations as they develop across Children's Social Care. The Plan will be fully reviewed after 1 year to evaluate impact and to redesign and reshape priorities to address the recommendations moving forward.

3.2.2 Progress has been made to initiate actions within the Plan against all 5 improvement areas, including:

1. Assessment and planning:
 - Stockport Council has been engaged in undertaking full review of SFEF, supported by DfE guidance
 - Practice Observations policy and procedure has been implemented as part of launch of new Practice Improvement Team
 - Review of SFEF training initiated
2. Transitions:
 - Review of current assessment procedures and pathways has been initiated with adult services to ensure that assessments are robust
3. Emotional health and wellbeing:
 - Good progress of re-commissioning of contract to support emotional health and wellbeing of CLA
 - Project to explore 'our space' hub for care leavers supported and initiated
4. Education:
 - Launch of attendance campaign at beginning of November
 - Improved 'live' data of CLA in education
5. Life story work:
 - Project exploring digital life story work initiated
 - Life story practice champions appointed

In addition, an initial meeting with the Department for Education as part of their 'supervision and support' role, has taken place where feedback was positive towards progress and performance.

3.3 Delivering the Plan

3.3.1 To ensure that there will be a robust framework in place to ensure that sufficiency progress is being made, monthly operational meetings will be set up with lead officers to discuss and report on progress. Local authority officers will also be engaged in joint working with health colleagues to ensure that both improvement actions for Ofsted and CQC are aligned.

3.3.2 In addition, the Corporate Director for Children will have monthly accountability meetings where update on progress will be made. A formal accountability meeting with the Department for Education will also be held on a quarterly basis where reports on progress against these recommendations as well as wider progress in children's will be provided.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising out of the report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no implications arising out of this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Developing the Ofsted Improvement Plan will ensure that strategic focus on areas for development is maintained and that action is delivered to ensure change and transformation. Failure to implement will mean that there is not a co-ordinated and jointed up approach and progress is not sufficiently maintained.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Ofsted Improvement Plan has been developed through consultation with strategic leads and operational managers across Children's Services including:

- Social Care Heads of Service
- Specific officers with responsibility for activity within the recommendations
- Extended DMT

8.2 Recommendations within the Care Quality Commission Action Plan which has been developed following the inspection of health services has also been included in the Ofsted Improvement Plan where they relate and align, and further work will ensure that there is continual cross over.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 No because there is no relevance to equality.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of CO2.

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APPENDICES

Powerpoint.

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monday, 11 November 2019

REPORT TITLE:	2019/20 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2019/20 Quarter 2 (July- September 2019) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Relevant Wirral Plan 2020 pledges 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 2 and available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to 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 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result of this, not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2019/20 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. 2018/19 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>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental and climate implications generated by the recommendations in this report.

The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to:

- Have no impact on emissions of CO2

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan Children and Families 2019/20 Quarter 2 Pledge Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

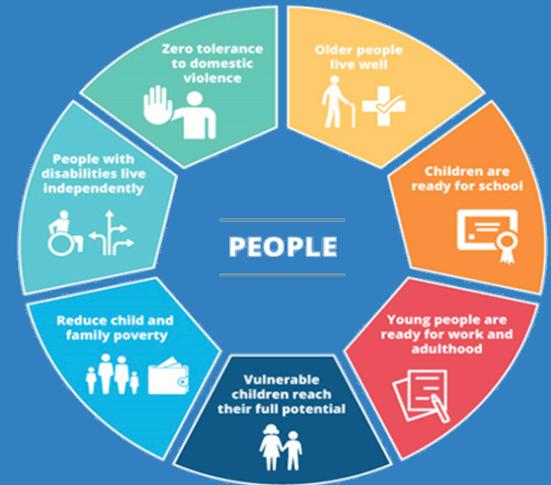
SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	3 July 2019
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	25 September 2019

Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Children and Families Committee 2019-20 Quarter 2 Reports

Page 105



Children are ready for school

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

The quarter 2 performance reporting shows adverse outcomes in some areas, with appropriate exceptions. Particularly for midwifery, as reported, the cessation of commissioned One to One Midwives service placed pressures on Wirral's University Teaching Hospital (WUTH) through unexpected rise in client number. The CCG are reviewing and discussing this in their respective forums. However, what is promising is the continued success of midwifery Continuity or Care planning (CCP) and the work underway to identify a further CCP site across Wirral.

There are some improvements across Health Visiting service reporting of attendance of development clinics, specifically where based alongside other services in community venues. Although with that said there does remain to be an acknowledged concern on the low % of women reported as attending 6-8 week development checks at GP practices. Anecdotally these checks are generally picked up outside reporting timelines by Health Visitors, ensuring the child is seen, which can skew the picture of this activity. It has already been raised with CCG, as to whether Wirral's GP consortium could take these concerns as a consideration for discussion.

Another adverse outcome in this quarter has been the Good Level of Development (GLD) %, at end of Reception. Wirral has seen around a 1% decrease, which remains below National average, from the previous academic year. The CRFS Pledge partnership appreciates the number of initiatives across the early years system that should boost this outcome, however, recognises there is still some way to go in fully understanding the baselines of key cohort groups such as CLA, SEND, FSM's to ensure their progress is measured across the journey to GLD. The continued development of LA's EY's Cohort Tracker across PVI/Childminder agencies will support this, alongside the development of Moderation Hubs for practitioners to be secure in their judgements of School Readiness.

Again whilst there are % fluctuations across this quarter in some key areas, overall since the life of the CRFS Pledge Partnership there remains to be an overall increase in most areas which is positive.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	Q3	Q4	YE 2019/20	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)	70.5% (2017-18 Acad Year)	-	69.5% (P) (2018-19 Acad Year)				Worse	This is the provisional figure for the 2018-19 Academic Year. This is a slight decrease of 1% since the previously reported period 70.5% (2017-18 acad year).

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	Q3	Q4	YE 2019/20	Trend	Comment
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)	-	88.0% (Jan - Mar 2019)	Amber 86.0% Target: 90.0% (Q1 2019-20)	Amber 79.0% Target: 90.0% (Q2 2019-20)				Worse	A significant decrease in performance is noted. This is primarily caused by the cessation of the One to One midwife Service that led to an unprecedented increase in demand for bookings (and late bookings) in August due to the transfer of women from that service. The bookings took place at various stages of the pregnancy contributing to non compliance of early bookings. Performance in July and Sept 85% and 90% respectively however performance in August was only 63% which has impacted the overall Q2 figure.
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: 68.0% (Jan 2019) North West: 74.0% (Jan 2019) Statistical Neighbours: 76.3% (Jan 2019)	84.0% (Jan - Mar 2019)	Red 79.6% (P) Target: 96.0% (Mar - May 2019)	Red 80.4% Target: 96.0% (Mar - May 2019)				Worse	These are the finalised figures, reported provisionally in Q1. No further headcounts have been completed since last reported figure. The slight increase reported is due to the finalised headcount figure.
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)	18.0% (2017-18 Acad Year)	-	23.7% (P) (2018-19 Acad Year)				Worse	Provisional figures show a worsening of the achievement gap of 5.7% since the last academic year. This means Wirral's gap is now wider than that at the start of the Wirral Plan (20.0%) and worse than that of England (17.0%) and the North West (18.0%)
Percentage of children aged 4-5 classified as overweight or obese	Annual Lower is better	22.40% (2014-15)	England: 22.40% (2017-18) North West: 23.90% (2017-18)	25.10% (2017-18 Acad Year)	-	-				n/a	2018-19 figures will become available later in the year. The most recent figure was first reported in Q3 2018-19.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	Q3	Q4	YE 2019/20	Trend	Comment
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: 85.5% (Q3 2018-19) North West: 88.7% (Q3 2018-19)	78.0% (2018-19)	Red 78.0% Target: 90.0% (Q4 2018-19)	Red 81.0% (P) Target: 90.0% (Q1 2018-19)				Better	This data is provisional Q1 data, and reported a quarter in arrears. The number of reviews carried out has improved by 2% since the previously reported Quarter (Q4 2018-19) This measure is still under-performing and is lower than at Wirral plan start and than the England & North West benchmarks. Mapping has been undertaken to understand the locations where performance is suffering and the matter will be discussed at the CCG chief officer's group. <i>(There has been a data submission error in that performance for this reported quarter (Q1) has incorrectly been submitted to the national recording body as 56%. The provider is unable to rectify the figure submitted to the National Unit until the end of this year. The true figure is 81% as reported here).</i>
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: 77.9% (Q3 2018-19) North West: 84.3% (Q3 2018-19)	89.0% (2018-19)	Green 89.0% Target: 85.0% (Q4 2018-19)	Green 83.0% (P) Target: 85.0% (Q1 2018-19)				Worse	This is a provisional figure and reported quarterly in arrears, so relates to Q1 2019/20. Whilst numbers of children receiving this review remain above the England average there has been a reduction in uptake from 89% in the previous quarter (Q4 2018-19) to 83% this (Q1). Records of attendance to be reviewed and a number of 'open' sessions (rather than appointments) are planned, targeted for children who did not attend during this quarter. The sessions will be advertised via Facebook and Children's Centres.
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)	84.0% (Q4 2018-19)	Green 84.0% Target: 85.0% (Q4 2018-19)	Green 84.0% Target: 85.0% (Apr-Jun 2019)				Same	This is a provisional figure and reported quarterly in arrears, so relates to Q1 2019/20. Uptake of this review remains consistent with the previous quarters above the England average.
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: 121.2 (2017-18) North West: 172.8 (2017-18)	160.6 (2017-18)	-	-				n/a	Latest figure available is 160.6 (2017-18) The 2018-19 figure will become available in November 2019.
Percentage of early years childcare providers rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	78.0% (Aug 2015)	England: 87.0% (Mar 2019) North West: 98.0% (Mar 2019) Statistical Neighbours: 93.6% (Mar 2019)	97.6% (2018-19)	Blue 97.6% Target: 95.0% (Jul 2019)	Blue 97.2% Target: 95.0% (Oct 2019)				Worse	This measure continues to over-perform despite a slight decrease of .4%. This is due a number of Good and Outstanding rated settings closing; no providers ratings have deteriorated. The Quality Improvement continue to support settings that are less than good.
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	Annual Higher is better	20.0% (2013-14 Acad Year)		61.5% (2017-18 Acad Year)	-	57.7% (P) (2018-19 Acad Year)				n/a	This figure reflects a very small cohort of children (>15) and therefore can be a volatile figure. This is the provisional 2018-19 academic year figure. This is a reduction compared to the 2017-18 Academic year figure of 61.5%, and the Plan start figure of 20.0%. This figure is based on CLA for 12 months or more at the end of Reception year. Work is ongoing to establish how many of these children have SEND, whether they have had their 2 year developmental check and whether they had been meeting milestones.

Young people are ready for work and adulthood

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

86% of Wirral schools are currently judged good or better by Ofsted. One primary school was upgraded from good to outstanding. A new Ofsted framework came into place in September 2019. There is a major focus on the intent, implementation and impact of the curriculum on learners. Any school will an Ofsted judgement of requires improvement must implement the curriculum without delay whereas good schools have a year to implement the new curriculum and must evidence an implementation plan. Since September 2019 four schools and a nursery school have been inspected.

At the age of 7 attainment in reading decreased in three localities. South Wirral was the only locality where the proportion of pupils achieving the expected standard showed an increase The proportion of boys and girls reaching the expected standard declined. SEN pupils attainment increased whilst Non-SEN pupils' attainment decreased so narrowing the gap. The proportion of SEN Pupils with an EHCP attaining the expected level in reading increased and the proportion of SEN pupils without an EHCP attainment also increased.

At the age of 11 the proportion of children attaining the expected standard in reading declined and is below the national average. All localities saw a decrease, the largest was in Birkenhead followed by South Wirral. Wallasey continues to have the smallest proportion of pupils achieving expected standard in reading and has a three year decline.

In mathematics there is a much more positive picture. The proportion of children attaining the expected standard in mathematics increased. All four localities, Birkenhead, Wallasey, West and South Wirral increased the proportion of pupils attaining the expected standard in mathematics, with Wallasey having the greatest increase improvement and Birkenhead having the least.

The attainment of both the boys and girls has increased with the boys outperforming the girls. The proportion of both boys and girls who achieved the expected standard in mathematics increased significantly in Wallasey and West Wirral.

At the age of 16 the provisional results indicate that Wirral is above the national average. The attainment 8 score of 48.2 is above the national average. Wirral's Progress 8 score of 0.01 is higher than the national average. More Wirral students achieved a strong pass in English and Mathematics(Grade 5+) than the national average.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Percentage of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	Quarterly Higher is better	84.0% (Aug 2015)	England: 85.0% (Dec 2018) North West: 86.0% (Dec 218)	83.0% (YE 2018-19)	Red Actual: 83.0% Target: 100.0% (Q4 2018-19)	Red Actual: 83.0% Target: 100.0% (Q1 2019-20)				Same	The latest data available is Q1 2019-20 and is 83%, which is the same as the previous reporting period (Q4 2018-19), when this figure reached its lowest point since it was introduced (91% 2016-17). This is 2% below the England bench mark 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 categories as 'not known' - Post Sep 2016	Monthly Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 6.0% (2017-18) North West: 6.5% (2017-18) Statistical Neighbours: 5.4% (2017-18)	5.3% (YE 2018-19)	Red Actual: 6.4% Target: 4.8% (June 2019)	-				n/a	Q2 figures will become available in early November 2019

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
Progress 8 Score for Wirral	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)	North West: -0.17 (2017-18 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: -0.28 (2017-18 Acad Year)	0.03 (2017-18 Acad Year)						n/a	This is an annually reported measure and the latest available figures are for the 2017-18 Academic Year. This figure was reported on in Q4 2018-19. Provisional figures for the 2018-19 Acad year will be available late 2019.
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% (2017-18 Acad Year) North West: 23.0% (2017-18 Acad Year) Similar Peer Group: 22.8% (2017-18 Acad Year)	22.5% (P) (2018-19 Acad Year)						n/a	This is the new provisional annual figure for 2018-19 Academic year. The gap has closed slightly by 0.5% compared to the previous academic year 2017-18 and is in line with benchmarks, being just below that of the north west and Statistical neighbours and 0.5% higher than that of England.
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)	83.0% (YE 2018-19)	83.0% (Q4 2018-19)					Same	This is the latest figure available as at 31st March 2019 and is a 1% decrease from the previous reporting period (Q3 2018-19). Although higher than at Wirral plan Start (83% 2015-16) this represents a continuing decrease from the 90% this measure achieved at YE 2016-17. We are below both the England (85%) and North West (84%) benchmarks.
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 0.57 (2017-18 Acad Year) North West: 0.63 (2017-18 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: 0.70 (2017-18 Acad Year)	0.73 (2017-18 Acad Year)						n/a	This is an annually reported measure and the latest available figures are for the 2017-18 Academic Year. This figure was reported on in Q4 2018-19. Provisional figures for the 2018-19 Acad year will be available late 2019.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 1.17 (2017-18 Acad Year) North West: 1.12 (2017-18 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: 1.04 (2017-18 Acad Year)	0.97 (2017-18 Acad Year)						n/a	This is an annually reported measure and the latest available figures are for the 2017-18 Academic Year. This figure was reported on in Q4 2018-19. Provisional figures for the 2018-19 Acad year will be available late 2019.
The percentage of persistent absence in Wirral Schools (post 2016)	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 10.8% (2018-19 Acad Year) North West: 10.7% (2018-19 Acad Year)	13.3% (2017-18 Acad Year)						n/a	Confirmed Summer 2019 Census is not available until October 2019. However data provisionally reported from National Consortium of Examination results (NCER) suggests a persistent absence rate of 12.3% for the 2018-19 Acad Year. This would represent a slight reduction in persistent absence, although our New Attendance Service is just starting.
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)	14.3% (2017-18 Acad Year)						n/a	This is an annually reported measure and the latest available figures are for the 2017-18 Academic Year. This figure was reported on in Q4 2018-19. Provisional figures for the 2018-19 Acad year will be available in December 2019.
Progress 8 Score for Children Looked After in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)	England: -1.20 (2017-18 Acad Year) North West: -1.26 (2017-18 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: -1.31 (2017-18 Acad Year)	-1.58 (2017-18 Acad Year)						n/a	This is an annually reported measure and the latest available figures are for the 2017-18 Academic Year. This figure was reported on in Q4 2018-19. Provisional figures for the 2018-19 Acad year will be available in December 2019.
Reduce the percentage of permanent exclusions in Wirral - primary schools	Annual Lower is better	(2012-13)	England: 0.03% (2017-18 Acad Year) North West: 0.03% (2017-18 Acad Year)	-						n/a	This is the latest data published on 25/07/2019 and relates to the 2017-18 academic Year. 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% (2017-18 Acad Year) North West: 0.29% (2017-18 Acad Year)	0.19% (2017-18 Acad Year)						n/a	This is an annually reported measure last reported on in Q1 2019-20 when the figures relating to the 2017-18 acad year were published. This represents a 0.09% decrease from the previous academic year, 2016-17 (0.28%). This figure is better than the North West benchmark by 0.10% and better than the England benchmark by 0.01%.
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: 87.9 (2015/16 - 2017-18) North West: 120.1 (2015/16 - 2017/18)	183.8 (2015/16 - 2017/18)						n/a	This is an annually reported figure, last reported on in Q1 2019-20, where it was noted that there has been a slow increase across the country for this indicator. At the start of this pledge, the rate in Wirral was higher than other regions and this gap has been maintained, neither decreasing nor improving. Work is currently underway to better understand the age group where there is a particular issue to enable more targeted work to be undertaken.
Under 18 conceptions - rate per 1,000	Annual Lower is better	33.7 (2013)	England: 18.8 (2016) North West: 22.3 (2016)	20.5 (2017)						n/a	This is an annually reported figure the latest figures available are from September 2017 and were reported on in Q4 2018-19. The next published performance is for 2018 and is expected to be available in March 2020.

Vulnerable children reach their full potential

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	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)	123.2 (2018-19)	123.3 (Jun 2019)	123.9 (Sep 2019)				Worse	Numbers of children in care (CiC) remain high compared to our statistical neighbours and this is a long standing issue. However numbers have remained relatively stable for a significant period of time whilst many of our statistical neighbours are seeing their numbers of CiC go up during the time period referenced. This relatively stable picture highlights work across the service to address the numbers of CiC, and there has been a strong drive to ensure that relevant cases are discharged or moved to Special Guardianship Orders. There have been delays in the Court arena as well as the OFSTED inspection which had an impact on numbers going through, but there are significant numbers already in the Court arena and it is anticipated that discharges from care will increase in the coming months, which will be reflected in future reporting.
Children in Need rate per 10,000 0-17 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)	387.1 (2018-19)	387.9 (Jun 2019)	347.6 (Sep 2019)				Better	The Children in Need (CiN) rate in Wirral is currently below the target range (409.5 - 420.9) and that of the North West benchmark. This is the lowest this rate has been since April 2018, and is considerably lower than at plan start. The reasons behind this include: 1)An increased focus throughout 2)A robust application of threshold at the front door 3)Increase recourse and capacity in family matters and community matters.
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)	63.8 (2018-19)	59.2 (Jun 2019)	55.9 (Sep 2019)				Better	The number of children on a child protection plan by month: Jun 51 Jul 45 Aug 42 The number of plans that ceased during last months of the quarter was low, just 8 plans ended during August, compared to 71 in July. A similar trend can be seen in past years and the reason behind this is that removing a child from a plan is a multi-agency decision. Schools are closed over the summer, so where possible decisions are scheduled for July which explains that spike.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	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: 68.0% (Jan 2019) North West: 74.0% (Jan 2019) Statistical Neighbours: 76.3% (Jan 2019)		Amber Actual: 79.6% (P) Target: 96.0% (Mar - May 2019)	Amber Actual: 80.4% Target: 96.0% (May 2019)				Better	These are the finalised figures, reported provisionally in Q1. No further headcounts have been completed since last reported figure. The slight increase reported is due to the finalised headcount figure
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	Annual Higher is better	20.0% (2013-14 Acad Year)		57.7% (P) (2018-19 Acad Year)						n/a	This figure reflects a very small cohort of children (>15) and therefore can be a volatile figure. This is the provisional 2018-19 academic year figure. This is a reduction compared to the 2017-18 Academic year figure of 61.5%, and the Plan start figure of 20.0%. This figure is based on CLA for 12 months or more at the end of Reception year. Work is ongoing to establish how many of these children have SEND, whether they have had their 2 year developmental check and whether they had been meeting milestones.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
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)	24.70% (YE 2018-19)	26.20% (Jun 2019)	25.60% (P) (Sept 2019)				Better	Referral rates saw an increase during the months prior to the summer namely June and July. This follows a similar pattern during 2018 which coincides with the closures of schools for the summer break. From analysing the data in more detail there are a number of factors which result in repeat referrals: 1) Case were escalated from early services 2) Case closures from the assessment service without an identified lead professional 3) Responses to initial referrals has not fully taken into account the broader issues which have then resulted in a repeat referral. Action underway 1) All re-referrals are now screened in the Integrated Front Door (IFD) via a multi agency daily morning meeting 2) Where a case has previously had early help intervention and is then referred back into the IFD this will not automatically result in a referral to level 4. 3) A reminder has been sent to partner agencies around the need to be clear about the reason for the referral and the impact upon the child. 4) The A&I service have nominated officers from early help to ensure a robust step down procedure is followed. 5) A programme of learning from audits alongside training on assessment analysis to ensure that practitioners complete holistic assessments.
Children's Centre's sustained contact with priority groups in early years	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		60.81% (YE 2018-19)	Red Actual: 60.31% Target: 75.00% (Jul 2018 - Jun 2019)					n/a	Figure will become available November 2019
Percentage of individuals subject to Team Around Family episodes closed with needs	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		67.7% (YE 2018-19)	88.0% (Q1 2019-20)					n/a	Figure will become available November 2019

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 again to 51.8%, its highest level since the Wirral Plan began. It's up 0.8 percentage point since the previous quarter and 12.5 percentage points since the start of the plan. The employment rate is now higher than the rest of the North West for the first time since the plan began and is improving at a faster rate than the rest of the country.

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) is working with Wirral Council to progress the Council to Disability Confident Level 3. Wirral Council are also keen to look at how this can best filter down through all departments so it's fully imbedded in the organisation which is really encouraging.

The number of people in receipt of personal budgets this quarter reduced by 1. 8 more adults received personal budgets this quarter (up to 599) whilst the number of young people in receipt of personal budgets reduced by 9 (down to 169). Despite the slight drop this quarter 133 more people are in receipt of personal budgets than at the start of the plan.

Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation has improved again this quarter, now up to 88.2% compared to 84% when the measure was introduced at the start of 2016-17. Ensuring people with disabilities have stable and appropriate accommodation improves their safety, increases their independence and reduces their risk of social exclusion.

There will have been an increase of 102 units of extra care by the end of 2019/20. A further 180 will be delivered by the end of 2020-21 and another 257 units by the end of 2021-22. We're on track to deliver more than the original target of 300 units however timescales will not be met owing 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.

A Wirral specific guide about moving into independent living is being produced. Examples of good practice from different organisations and geographical regions are being collected and examined. The format of the guide is being discussed and the possibility of producing a video guide is under discussion.

A service review is underway aimed at improving the efficiency and effectiveness of Assisted Travel Service.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Health-related quality of life for people with long term conditions	Annual Higher is better	0.698 (Jul 2014 - Mar 2015)	England: 0.737 (Jan-Mar 2017)	0.700 (2018-19)						n/a	We're awaiting the 2019-20 data. 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). 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 Higher is better	37.5% (Jul 2014 - Jun 2015)	England: 55.4% (Oct 2017 - Sep 2018) North West: 51.4% (Oct 2017 - Sep 2018)	49.0% (Jan - Dec 2018)	51.0% (Apr 18 - Mar 19)	51.8% (Jul 18 - Jun 19)				Better	The Employment rate aged 16-64 - Equality Act core or Work Limiting Disabled measure from the Office for National Statistics increased again to 51.8%, its highest level since the Wirral Plan began. It's up 0.8 percentage point since the previous quarter and 12.5 percentage points since the start of the plan.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
The gap in progress between pupils with a SEN statement/EHCP and their peers at Key Stage 4	Annual Lower is better	(n/a)	England: 1.17 (2017-18 Acad Year) North West: 1.12 (2017-18 Acad Year) Statistical Neighbours: 1.04 (2017-18 Acad Year)	0.97 (2017-18 Acad Year)						n/a	This is an annually reported measure and the latest available figures are for the 2017-18 Academic Year. This figure was reported on in Q4 2018-19. Provisional figures for the 2018-19 Acad year will be available late 2019.
Proportion of people with long term conditions who feel supported to manage their condition	Annual Higher is better	66.7% (Jul 2014 - Mar 2015)	England: 59.6% (Jan-Mar 2018)	60.1% (Jan- Mar 2018)						n/a	We're awaiting the 2019-20 data. 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 Higher is better	(n/a)		794 (2018-19)	769 (Q1 2019-20)	768 (Q1 2019-20)				n/a	The number of people in receipt of personal budgets this quarter reduced by 1. 599 adults were reported by the Department of Adult Social Services to be in receipt of personal budgets (up from 591 last quarter). 169 young people were in receipt of personal budgets (down from 178 last quarter). 133 more people are in receipt of personal budgets than at the start of the plan.
Adults with a learning disability who live in stable and appropriate accommodation	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	North West: 85.2% (Q1 2019-20)	84.1% (2018-19)	85.5% (Q1 2019-20)	88.2% (Q2 2019-20)				n/a	The Q2 figure of 88.2% has improved from last quarter (85.5%) and has improved by 4.2 percentage points from when the measure was included at the start of 2016-17 (84%). We're also now performing better than the latest North West benchmark (85.2%).

Zero tolerance to domestic violence

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Through a strong coordinated partnership approach, Wirral has developed a range of strategies to tackle the complex issue of Domestic Abuse including, helping children who suffer the effects of domestic abuse, supporting victims and rehabilitating offenders. Putting children and young people at the heart of our response to Domestic Abuse we have commissioned the Leapfrog Programme, through Involve North West (INW). The programme provides support to children and their mothers affected by Domestic Abuse. Operation Encompass directly connects the police with schools to secure better outcomes for children who are subject to or experience police-attended incidents of domestic abuse. Critical to making victims and children safer is to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. Youth Offending Service officers have been trained to support young people who have shown violence and aggression towards their parents/guardians and prevent these young people becoming perpetrators in adulthood. Families have been identified for support and an action plan is set for the year ahead. In addition it was pleasing to attend a civic event at which the Mayor presented 8 organisations with their certificates on signing up to a Domestic Abuse quality mark in their respective organisations. This Quality Mark award recognises organisations who have received training on Domestic Abuse and who have a robust and supportive policy for supporting their staff and clients who may be presenting as victims of domestic abuse.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	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: 58.0 (Jul 2018 - Jun 2019) National: 39.0 (Jul 2018 - Jun 2019)	52.4 (2018-19)	44.2 (Jul 2018 - Jun 2019)	47.0 (Oct 2018 - Sep 2019)				n/a	The number of Wirral MARAC cases heard were 47.04 females (over 16) per 10,000 population (this includes repeat victims within the 12 month period). This compares to 52.4 year end 2018-19. 1202 referrals were received between Oct 2018 and Sept 2019 (annualised). This compares to 988 in the period Oct 2017 to Sept 2018 demonstrating an increase of 214 referrals, an increase of 21.6% It is unclear why there has been an increase however some known factors include, an increase in public awareness due to campaigns, changes in centralised police reporting systems and additional awareness within agencies for example the presence of An IDVA at Arrows Park Hospital.
Children and young people experiencing domestic abuse (Wirral MARAC cases)	Quarterly	1,289 (2014-15)		1,192 (2018-19)	226 (Apr - Jun 2019)	458 (Jul-Sep 2019)				n/a	This includes children of victims and perpetrators, for example 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: 35.0% (Jul 2018 - Jun 2019) National: 30.0% (Jul 2018 - Jun 2019)	27.1% (2018-19)	22.3% (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)					Better	October to September to be announced in Q3
Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2018-19	2019-20 Q1	2019-20 Q2	2019-20 Q3	2019-20 Q4	Year End 2019-20	Trend	Comment
Number of Domestic Abuse cases referred to the Family Safety Unit (FSU)	Quarterly	949 (2014-15)		1,111 (2018-19)	224 (Apr - Jun 2019)	393 (Jul - Sep 2019)				n/a	This figure is for Q2 equates to 393 referrals in total. Of these 240 were heard at MARAC, 380 were female, 13 were male (3.3% compared with national average of 4.2%), 109 did not meet MARAC threshold and 44 deleted as errors
% of children and Young People single assessments completed with Domestic Violence (DV) related factors	Quarterly Lower is better	(n/a)		27.0% (2018-19)	21.1% (Apr - Jun 2019)	19.3% (Apr - Sep 2019)				Better	This compares to Q2 2018 32.4% and Q2 2017 33.8% This compares to Q2 2018 32.4% and Q2 2017 33.8%
Rate of referrals to social care presenting Domestic Violence issues (adults aged 18+ years) per 100,000	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		12.12 (2018-19)	1.24 (Apr - Jun 2019)	2.17 (Apr - Sep 2019)				Worse	This compares to Q2 2018 6.52 and Q2 2017 7.49

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 which is compared with the same period the previous year.

% 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:

- Blue (Over-Achieving has met and surpassed target set)
- 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)



**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday 11th November 2019**

REPORT TITLE:	Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme Update Report
REPORT OF:	Nancy Clarkson, Head of Intelligence Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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 25th September. The current work programme is made up of a combination of scrutiny reviews, workshops, standing items and requested officer reports. This update report provides the committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The current work programme for the Committee is attached as an appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

Members of the committee are requested to:

1. Note the Work Programme Update Report
2. 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 3rd July 2019, activity has taken place relating to the following:

Healthy Lives 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. A scoping session was held on the 5th September, and further sessions are scheduled for November and December 2019.

Domestic Abuse

An information session was provided for members on the 7th November 2019, prior to report presented to members at committee.

In addition to this, Merseyside Police have provided additional amendments regarding the reality check report brought to committee in July 2019, which are attached as an appendix to this report.

Pooled Funds

A Scrutiny Workshop was held on the 30th October 2019 to discuss the Pooled Fund Section 75 agreement for the next year.

The purpose of the session is to illustrate integration arrangements for 2020/21, enable scrutiny of the proposed pooled fund and ensure that Member questions and concerns are comprehensively responded to. In addition, the workshop will aim to contribute to more transparent working arrangements with the commissioners of local health and related services and to support improved and early dissemination of information to elected members, with expected input from various witnesses who experience integrated services first-hand. A workshop report will be presented to Adult Care & Health OSC in November and will be shared with Members of Children & Families OSC once published.

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. Members have expressed an interest in visiting the HIVE and arrangements for this will follow in due course.

Workshops

Members have been invited to several cross-cutting workshops over the coming months. This will include a workshop into the proposed roll-out of 5G in Wirral. The dates for this will be confirmed in due course.

4.0 FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

In line with the remit of the Committee and the principles for prioritisation, as described above, Members are 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

There may be financial implications relating to a number of the agenda items

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal Implications

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

There are no direct resource implications

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There may be risk implications relating to a number of the agenda items

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

Not applicable

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality implications

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct environment or climate implications

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APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Work programme
Appendix 2: Merseyside Police update report.

Background Papers

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (As at 30/09/2019)
WORK PROGRAMME

November Agenda

Item	Format	Officer
Minutes		
Financial Monitoring	Report	Finance
Performance Monitoring	Report	Nancy Clarkson
Ofsted Improvement Plan	Report	Paul Boyce
SEND	Report	Sue Talbot
Domestic Abuse	Report	Elizabeth Hartley
Youth review	Report	Elizabeth Hartley
Work Programme Update	Report	Anna Perrett

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Format	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Summary of standards – Provisional Outcomes for Key Stage 5 and Key Stage5	Report	January 2020	Sue Talbot
SEND - Outcomes from Special Needs Education consultation	Workshop/Report	January 2020	Sue Talbot
Early Help Strategy	Report	January/March 2020	Elizabeth Hartley
Care Plan update	Report	March 2020	Simone White
Youth Offending/ Children In Custody (possible reality check visit)	Possible Report	March 2020	Mark Cambourne/Merseyside Police
Service Review – Corporate transformation	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	
Care Leavers (Centre for Social Justice report)	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	
Unaccompanied Asylum Seekers	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	
Advocacy Service	Possible Report	To Be Agreed	

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress / Comments
Working Groups				
Healthy Weight Working Group	Meetings	To be agreed	Rebecca Mellor	Ongoing
Task and Finish work				
Scrutiny Review into Scrutiny (as agreed by Council 14/05/2019)	Report	Completed	Completed	TBC
Reality Check visits				
To Be agreed	Member Visits	To be agreed	To be confirmed	TBC
Spotlight sessions / workshops				
Improving Life Chances Workshop	Workshop	To be agreed	Peter Loosemore	TBC
Corporate scrutiny / Other				
Transformation Programme – business cases	Workshop	Whenever required	Mike Callon	TBS

Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Reality Check Visit to Merseyside Police Update Report

11th November 2019

Further to the Reality Check Visit held in April 2019, Merseyside Police have requested the following updates and amendments to be noted by Committee.

1. Members were originally advised on a briefing note that the Vulnerable People Unit (PVPU) team consisted of *4 Police Staff Inspectors, 15 Detective Constables 3 Detective Sergeants and a Detective Inspector*. This was later corrected and Members are advised that the team consists of *a detective inspector, three detective Sergeants and 14 Detective Constables*.
2. 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. Merseyside Police would like to reassure members that; *In some cases, an officer will need to sit with children until Children’s Services can assist. If there is clearly a significant risk Police will use their powers under a Police Protection Order. This allows the removal of the child to a place of safety. This may sometimes include a Police Station if there are no other immediate alternatives*.
3. The team known as ‘Compass’ consists of officers from Children’s Services, Merseyside Police, Youth Offending Service and Catch 22. The team investigates all incidents of Child Sexual and Criminal Exploitation, including missing episodes in Wirral.
4. Merseyside Police have provided further information on the Definition of Child Criminal Exploitation, which they would like noting:

“Child criminal exploitation occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity:

- *in exchange for something the victim needs or wants.*
- *for the financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator.*
- *through violence or the threat of violence.*

The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology.”

5. Regarding the 72 Hour Target to find Missing children; Merseyside Police have issued the following amendment; *All children who have returned from a missing episode are offered a return home interview by Catch 22. They are seen within 72 hours. From research it is known that children who go missing regularly are more vulnerable to being exploited. This issue is recognised within the pan Merseyside missing protocol with a view to reducing the number of missing incidents and supporting young people.*
6. Regarding County Lines, please could members also note the below Home Office Guidance; *County lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of “deal line”. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.*
7. *Officers discussed learning from the successful investigation and conviction of two brothers for grooming and sexual offences. Members asked how we support Victims once they have made a disclosure of exploitation. The victims (now adults) have provided invaluable feedback into how they were dealt with and treated.*
8. Historically public services are good at reacting however there now needs to be more emphasis placed on prevention. Services need to *identify vulnerabilities within young people that may lead to exploitation so that they can be offered the appropriate support. As an example, officers are working with outlets where young people congregate to identify risks and put preventative measures in place.*
9. 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. *A multi-agency approach is taken to identify hotspots and provide disruption whilst attempting to engage with the young people, as an example Operation Beachsafe / Operation parksafe.*
10. *It has been identified nationally that social media is a concern. Perpetrators use this platform as a way of engaging with young people in order to groom and exploit, often hiding behind fake profiles, making their identity difficult to locate.*