



Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 31 January 2023
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

Contact Officer: Anna Perrett
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Please note that public seating is limited, therefore members of the public are encouraged to arrive in good time.

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

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

4. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 4)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2023.

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 26 January 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (via the online form here: ([Public Question Form](#)) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 10.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your question by the deadline for submission.

Statements and Petitions

Statements

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, 26 January 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.1.

Petitions

Petitions may be presented to the Committee if provided to Democratic and Member Services no later than 10 working days before the meeting, at the discretion of the Chair. The person presenting the petition will be allowed to address the meeting briefly (not exceeding three minute) to outline the aims of the petition. The Chair will refer the matter to another appropriate body of the Council within whose terms of reference it falls without discussion, unless a relevant item appears elsewhere on the Agenda. If a petition contains more than 5,000 signatures, it will be debated at a subsequent meeting of Council for up to 15 minutes, at the discretion of the Mayor.

Please telephone the Committee Services Officer if you have not received an acknowledgement of your statement/petition by the deadline for submission.

Member Questions

Questions by Members to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Orders 12.3 to 12.8.

SECTION A - KEY AND OTHER DECISIONS

6. HEALTH PROTECTION STRATEGY (Pages 5 - 60)

The appendices to this report may not be suitable to view for people with disabilities, users of assistive technology or mobile phone devices. Please contact helenstott@wirral.gov.uk if you would like this document in an accessible format.

SECTION B - BUDGET AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

7. BUDGET SETTING 2023-24 (Pages 61 - 104)

SECTION C - OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

8. WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD (Pages 105 - 124)

The appendices to this report may not be suitable to view for people with disabilities, users of assistive technology or mobile phone devices. Please contact alisonmarchini@wirral.gov.uk if you would like this document in an accessible format.

9. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 125 - 134)

10. EXEMPTION INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC (Pages 135 - 142)

The following items contain exempt information.

RECOMMENDATION: That, under section 100 (A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to that Act. The Public Interest test has been applied and favours exclusion.

Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee Terms of Reference

The terms of reference for this committee can be found at the end of this agenda.

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 11 January 2023

Present:

Councillor Y Nolan (Chair)

Councillors I Camphor M Jordan
A Davies S Mountney
C Davies C O'Hagan
T Elzeiny A Onwuemene
P Gilchrist

66 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed attendees and viewers to the meeting and reminded everyone that the meeting was webcast and retained on the Council's website for two years.

67 **APOLOGIES**

No apologies for absence were received.

68 **MEMBER DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests and any other relevant interest and to state the nature of the interest.

The following declarations were made:

Councillor Mary Jordan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS, and her involvement as a trustee for 'Incubabies'.
Councillor Angela Davies	Pecuniary interest in item 5 by virtue of her employment with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.
Councillor Tracy Elzeiny	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.
Councillor Yvonne Nolan	Personal interest by virtue of her role as a governor of Clatterbridge Cancer Centre and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership.

Councillor Clare O'Hagan	Personal interest by virtue of her employment in the NHS.
Jo Bird	Personal interest by virtue of a family member's employment in Social Care.
Cherry Povall	Personal interest by virtue of her role as a trustee for 'Incubabies'.

69 **MINUTES**

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 202 be approved and adopted as a correct record.

70 **PUBLIC AND MEMBER QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that there had been no public questions, statements or petitions submitted.

71 **UPDATED POSITION REGARDING SOCIAL CARE DELIVERY REVIEW**

The director of Care and Health presented a report which provided an updated position regarding Social Care delivery review.

On 24 October 2022 the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee received a report, regarding how Social Work functions were currently (since 2017) delivered through two key contractual arrangements. These were held with Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (WCHCFT) and Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP). These arrangements contract out the Council's statutory duties to assess the needs of people who may need social care and support services and functions including assessment, support planning, safeguarding, mental health assessment and professional case management.

On 24 October 2022, the Committee resolved, amongst other matters, to:

1. (a) extend the contract with WCHCFT for the provision of social care services on substantially the same terms and conditions for a period of 1 year, ending 30 September 2024 [with the option to extend];

1.(b) extend the contract with CWP for the delivery of All Age Disability and Mental Health Services on substantially the same terms and conditions for a period of 1 year, ending 30 September 2024 [with the option to extend]; and

3. [approve] that a further report be brought to this Committee setting out the considerations involved in moving towards returning the provision of social

care services and all age disability and mental health services to the Council's direct delivery.

The intention behind the proposed extension agreement was that it would enable both NHS Trusts to continue to provide Social Work services on behalf of the Council, within the current contract to 30 September 2024. This would enable more detailed work and consideration of the issues involved in moving towards return of provision to the Council whilst maintaining the best aspects of integrated provision.

This report presented Members an update of the current position with regard to contractual arrangements following receipt of correspondence from the contracted NHS organisation WCHCFT regarding the decision of the Committee.

The Director for Care and Health advised Members that WCHCFT had advised that they had concerns regarding the Committee's decision, advising that they would require a longer contract or it would be transferred back to the Council by 1 April 2023.

Approximately 230 staff would be effected by this and will be offered 121 talks to address any concerns. Transfer of Undertaking (protection of Employment) (TUPE) which would ensure that all posts and vacancies are transferred back to the Council with existing Terms and Conditions. It was noted that the date of 1 April 2023 would be difficult to achieve. Members were informed that there were no issues with the performance of the teams, nor the quality of the care provided. The adults social care outcomes framework was being delivered to a high standard.

Members queried if the date of 1st April 2023 was legally binding and were advised that either party could terminate the contract with 12 months' notice. It was noted that no reason had been provided as to why this contract was being returned. Further concerns were raised regarding the costs and TUPE. It was reiterated that the quality of care and safety of patients should remain the core priority and staff needed to be kept informed.

On a motion by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Davies it was –

Resolved (7:2) (2 abstentions) –

That in response to the Trust position regarding transfer of social care, the Committee would expect that we secure a safe, effective, and timely transfer that puts staff at the centre of the process. The proposed date of 1st April is likely to be challenging. Committee would therefore propose a formal project plan is negotiated and agreed between the Local Authority and the Trust setting out the timeline required to both meet these objectives and mitigate against risk to both organisations

and ensure seamless care for people who use the services and request the Director of Care and Health to provide an update report to the March 2023 Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

31 January 2023

REPORT TITLE:	HEALTH PROTECTION STRATEGY 2023-2027
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report updates the Committee on the partnership work undertaken to develop a Wirral Health Protection Strategy. The pandemic has heightened the profile of health protection, and whilst a challenging period it has provided us with significant learning, and important lessons that Wirral's Health Protection Board need to build on moving forward. As we recover and learn to live with COVID-19 now is the right time to refresh our local strategic and collaborative approach to health protection in Wirral.

An effective local approach to health protection is vital to improve health and wellbeing, protect the local economy, and reduce health inequalities. The Strategy sets out our collective approach to ensuring we have a resilient health protection system in Wirral.

The Health Protection Board's Health Protection Strategy will contribute to the Wirral Plan aims, in particular through promoting 'Active and Healthy Lives'. Supporting Wirral residents and communities to live safely with COVID-19 and protect the health of communities from infectious diseases and environmental hazards is aligned to the ambitions set out in Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

This report is a key decision because it affects all wards.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee to approve the Wirral Health Protection Strategy 2023-2027 and Delivery Plan and request the Director of Public Health to report back annually to monitor progress.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 This report provides an overview of the Health Protection Strategy and Delivery Plan for Wirral which places collective responsibility for local system partners to align policy, strategy, and resources wherever possible to protect and improve health of local residents.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Strategic planning helps local system partners work together to establish a clear vision, prioritise resources, determine a clear direction of travel, and to set goals and outcome targets. We could have not developed a local strategy; however, the absence of a post-pandemic plan could exacerbate the burden of ill health, impacting negatively on health outcomes, inequalities, system pressures and the local economy.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the fundamental importance of a robust and resilient approach to health protection. During a time of great uncertainty, Wirral Council and system partners demonstrated significant commitment and professionalism in delivering a dynamic, flexible, and comprehensive response that focused on protecting our population's health.

- 3.2 The Strategy provides a framework for Wirral that aims to protect residents from all hazards associated with key health protection threats, and not those solely associated with infectious diseases. It has been co-developed by assessing local health protection needs and the strategic aims and priorities have also importantly been aligned with those of system partners, Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Wirral Plan.

3.3 Strategic vision, aims and objectives

Our vision is to continue protecting people and communities in Wirral from the impact of infectious diseases and environmental hazards in order to improve health and wellbeing, protect the economy, and reduce health inequalities. With the aim Wirral has a high-performing health protection system that works effectively with local, regional, and national partners. The Strategy sets out how through taking a preventative and proactive local approach we will ensure we:

- Are prepared for future hazards
- Save lives and reduce harm through an effective local response
- Collaborate and build local knowledge, skills and capacity

3.4 Health protection priorities for Wirral

Following consultation with a wide range of local and regional partners and reviewing local intelligence, we have agreed priority areas we consider require collective action. These are:

- Ongoing COVID-19 response, including being prepared for new variants;
- Strengthen infection prevention and control;
- Reduce the impact of antimicrobial resistance (AMR);
- Reduce vaccine preventable diseases amongst adults and children;
- Strengthen preparedness, resilience and response to outbreaks, major incidents and emergencies;
- Reduce health harms from climate and environmental hazards;
- Reduce the harmful impact to health of Tuberculosis and blood-borne viruses, including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV.

3.5 The priorities identified within this strategy are not new and are recognised system challenges for all local partners. Given our strong history of local collaborative work we have been able at this stage to also develop more detailed Delivery Plans for each priority which set out the case for change, current performance, agreed system priorities, how we will measure success (agreed outcomes), and the accountable lead group for delivery. We have a strong existing local partnership approach to build on with established leads from across sector partners and a number of multi-agency steering groups already in existence to drive progress against our agreed priorities. These include, for example, an Air Quality Steering Group, a local Resilience Partnership Group, and a range of Immunisation Steering Groups. Case studies are included within the report to illustrate our collective approach to delivering this Strategy, and the preventative and proactive approach we will be taking locally.

3.5 Underpinning the delivery of our local Strategy are four strategic enablers:

- insight, intelligence, and evaluation.
- workforce development;
- communication and engagement; and
- clear governance and strong multi-agency partnership working.

The enablers are based upon the important lessons learnt from the COVID-19 pandemic we need to ensure we build on moving forward. Health protection priorities whether related to reducing infectious diseases or environmental hazards can be scientific and specialised. We will locally work together to ensure that we engage the right people in the right way, to translate key messages and ensure everyone understands the role they can play across the identified priorities. With a key focus on driving action and improvement in outcomes.

3.6 Progress against the Strategy and Delivery Plan will be monitored by the Health Protection Board. The Health Protection Board is chaired by the Wirral Director of Public Health and is a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, consisting of partners from UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Integrated Care Board (ICB), Environmental Health, NHS England (NHSE), Local NHS Trusts, Health and Social Care, Emergency Planning and Public Health. We recognise that how we work together will be crucial to delivering this Strategy. Wirral Health Protection Board partners have agreed guiding principles for collective action which are included within the Strategy.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Strategy places collective responsibility for local system partners to align policy, strategy, and resources wherever possible in protecting and improving health. Oversight and support for the delivery of the local strategy will be provided by existing resources and part funded by the public health grant. Where opportunities arise, we will work with Liverpool City Region, Cheshire and Merseyside and regional partners to provide greater economies to deliver the strategy.
- 4.2 The UKHSA is the responsible national agency for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, and environmental health threats. The UKHSA is currently finalising their three-year strategy and undertaking a review of UKHSA Northwest Health Protection Services. We will engage with this process and identify and jointly support the UKHSA in making a case for adequate Health Protection resources to be deployed across the Northwest and more locally within Wirral.
- 4.3 The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership five-year strategy includes health protection as a key priority and outlines a commitment that the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System will work closely with local partners to ensure robust health protection arrangements are in place in local areas. We will work with local NHS colleagues to identify appropriate local resource to support the delivery of this strategy.
- 4.4 The Wirral Health Protection Service (funded until March 2024 by the public health grant) will support the delivery of the Strategy. The service is not solely responsible for the delivery of the strategy, as outlined this relies on a collaborative approach across all system partners. Whilst the capacity of the service was reduced September 2022 by more than 50% due to short term COMF funding expiring, the streamlined service provides additional capacity alongside system partners to enable a more proactive approach to delivery of agreed local priorities. Future proposals related to public health funding towards the delivery of this Strategy post March 2024 will be included within a planned review of public health expenditure to be undertaken during 2023.
- 4.5 To support the delivery of the strategy an annual implementation plan will be developed and monitored by the Wirral Health Protection Board. This will include the identification of financial resources and financial risk to delivery. Actions outlined within the strategy are cost savings through the prevention of avoidable harm, for example immunisation to prevent cases, outbreaks and hospitalisations.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Director of Public Health has primary responsibility for the health of the local community. This includes being assured that the arrangements to protect the health of the communities that they serve are robust and are implemented.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Strategy places collective responsibility for local system partners to align policy, strategy, and resources wherever possible in protecting and improving health. There

are no additional resource requirements identified at this time in relation to this decision. Leads from across sector partners and a number of multi-agency steering groups already exists to drive progress against priorities. As outlined the Wirral Health Protection Service (funded until March 2024) will support the delivery of the strategy. Resource requirements and implications will be monitored on an ongoing basis by the Wirral Health Protection Board.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 By not identifying and taking action to address local health protection priorities there are a range of direct and indirect risks that impact on individuals, communities, health services and the economy. Local system partners will support honest and open discussions regarding system risk and risk mitigation. These include risk of:

- poor individual and population health outcomes such as ill health, premature mortality or negative impact on quality of life
- insufficient system resilience to support the prevention and management of outbreaks of infectious disease or incidents that affect health
- excessive pressure on emergency, health and social care services and related opportunity cost of ill health
- personal, societal and business economic impact of ill health
- lowered community resilience
- impact on system partners' business continuity measures

7.2 The Wirral Health Protection Service is funded until March 2024 currently, there is a risk that post this date we will not have sufficient local capacity to deliver a proactive and preventative approach. This risk will be managed by system partners and ensuring clear roles and responsibilities and a shared approach to strategy delivery. Future proposals related to public health funding towards the delivery of this Strategy post March 2024 will be included within a planned review of public health expenditure to be undertaken during 2023.

7.3 A risk register will be held, managed and reviewed on a quarterly basis by Wirral's Health Protection Board. Health Protection Board Partners will record relevant risks within their own established processes. Wirral Council's Public Health / Health Protection risks will be recorded within the Directorate Risk Register and where appropriate, within the Corporate Risk Register.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Protecting the health of the people of Wirral from infectious diseases and environmental hazards requires collaborative action therefore this Strategy has been developed following wide consultation and outlines how local partners will work effectively together to achieve our collectively agreed vision, aims and objectives.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact

Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. The Strategy and Delivery Plan seek to positively address equality implications, providing focus on those most vulnerable and at risk.

- 9.2 An Equality Impact Assessment for the Health Protection Strategy is available at: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Environmental hazards such as air pollution and climate change pose a significant current and future threat to the health of local people. The Strategy and Delivery Plan seek to address these challenges through collective action, with a focus on those most exposed and at risk in order to reduce inequalities in impact.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Health protection interventions not only help to reduce morbidity and premature mortality and improve quality of life, but are cost-saving, both to health services and the wider economy. Protecting people and communities in Wirral from the impact of infectious diseases and environmental hazards will not only improve health and wellbeing but also protect local business and the economy. Many infectious diseases and environmental hazards disproportionately affect our most vulnerable residents, children and older people, and those living in less affluent areas; therefore, a robust and effective local health protection response will be vital in order to reduce health inequalities.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Wirral Health Protection Strategy 2023-27 and Delivery Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-27
<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/strategies-and-plans/wirral-health-wellbeing-strategy-2022-27/>

Wirral Intelligence Service – Health Protection
<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/strategies-and-plans/health-protection/>

Wirral Plan 2021-26
<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/strategies-and-plans/wirral-plan-2021-2026/>

Living safely with respiratory infections including COVID-19

Wirral Health Protection Challenges: A call to action

<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50056549/Wirral%20Health%20Protection%20Challenges.pdf>

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee
Terms of Reference

c) all Public Health functions (in co-ordination with those functions reserved to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's statutory health functions).

e) undertaking the development and implementation of policy in relation to the Committee's functions, incorporating the assessment of outcomes, review of effectiveness and formulation of recommendations to the Council, partners and other bodies, which shall include any decision relating to:

(i) furthering public health objectives through the development of partnerships with other public bodies, community, voluntary and charitable groups and through the improvement and integration of health and social care services.

g) in respect of the Health and Social Care Act 2006, the functions to:

(iii) investigate major health issues identified by, or of concern to, the local population.

(v) scrutinise the impact of interventions on the health of local inhabitants, particularly socially excluded and other minority groups, with the aim of reducing health inequalities.

(vi) maintain an overview of health service delivery against national and local targets, particularly those that improve the public's health.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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Wirral Health Protection Strategy

2023-2027

Protecting people and communities in Wirral from the impact of infectious diseases and environmental hazards in order to improve health and wellbeing, protect the economy, and reduce health inequalities.

Foreword

Wirral Council has co-developed a Health Protection Strategy with members of Wirral's Health Protection Board. The Board is a subgroup of Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Board with members from a range of Council services, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB), local NHS Trusts, NHS England and the UK Health Security Agency.

Learning from the pandemic, the strategy aims to ensure that we are prepared and resilient to be able to identify future health protection hazards and provide an effective response to reduce the impact of ill health. The strategy also aims to protect residents from wider health protection threats as well as infectious diseases. As COVID-19 demonstrated health protection issues can have wide ranging impacts not just on the health and care sector, but across all sections of society.

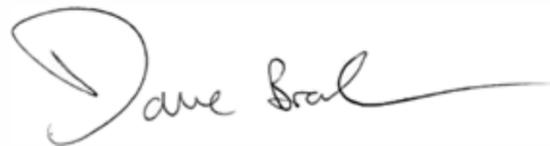
Page 14 An effective and collaborative approach to health protection is not only essential for improving health and wellbeing but will help to reduce disruption to our local economy, reduce health inequalities through protecting our most vulnerable residents, support our children and young people to achieve by keeping children in school, and reduce pressure within our already stretched health and social care services.

The strategy has been developed by assessing current performance, local health protection needs and consulting with partners. The priorities identified within this strategy are not new and are recognised system challenges for all local partners. We have a strong existing local partnership approach to build on with established leads from across sector partners and a number of multi-agency steering groups already in existence to drive progress against our agreed priorities. Case studies are also included which illustrate how we currently work in partnership.

Foreword

All system partners are currently under severe financial pressure with no sign of easing. These financial challenges highlight why it is more important than ever for us to align our priorities and work collectively to help improve health outcomes for our residents, making the best use of existing resources. To support the delivery of this strategy we will develop an implementation plan outlining priority activities, key milestones, issues and risks and mitigation measures (including resource and financial risks) for the forthcoming year which will be overseen by the Wirral Health Protection Board.

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Dave Bradburn
Director of Public Health for Wirral
Chair, Wirral Health Protection Board

Introduction

Health protection seeks to protect individuals and communities from the impact of infectious diseases and environmental hazards as well as ensuring we are prepared for, and able to respond to, emergencies. Protecting the health of the public has a long history; Dr Edward Jenner created the world's first successful vaccine against smallpox in 1796, while as far back as the early 19th century Medical Officers of Health were acting to improve environmental conditions, for example through providing clean drinking water and safe sewage disposal.

An effective local health protection response is vital to improve health and wellbeing, protect the local economy, and reduce health inequalities.

In Wirral we have a strong history of working together on this agenda. In 2018 we developed a Health Protection Call-to-Action Report setting out how Wirral Partners would work together to ensure we have robust health protection arrangements in place to deliver against identified health protection priorities. Good collective progress was being made, however in 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic hit which became the sole focus for action. The pandemic has heightened the profile of health protection, and while a challenging period it provided us with significant learning and important lessons we need to build on moving forward. As we recover and learn to live with COVID-19 now is the right time to refresh our local strategic approach to health protection in Wirral.

This strategy sets out our collective approach to ensuring we have a resilient health protection system in Wirral.

This strategy outlines what we aim to achieve and where we will focus our efforts for the next three years. No single agency can address these issues in isolation, protecting the health of the people of Wirral from infectious diseases and environmental hazards requires collaborative action. Therefore, this strategy has been developed following wide consultation and outlines how local partners will work effectively together to achieve our collectively agreed vision, aims and objectives.

Why focus on Health Protection?

- Health protection issues are a cause of significant morbidity and mortality in Wirral; much of the harm caused is avoidable and preventable.
- Health protection contributes to health inequalities within our borough. Many infectious diseases and environmental hazards disproportionately affect our most vulnerable residents; children and older people, and those living in less affluent areas.
- Health protection interventions are cost-saving, both to health services and the wider economy.
- A robust health protection response plays a key role in protecting the NHS and its most vulnerable patients. For example, by reducing pressure on the system and cost through collaborative work on immunisation to reduce infectious diseases, or through effective infection control interventions that significantly improve quality of life and reduce hospital admissions for the elderly, frail and care home residents.
- Environmental hazards such as air pollution and climate change pose a significant current and future threat to the health of local people. These challenges require collective action, with a focus on those most exposed and at risk in order to reduce inequalities in impact.
- The local COVID-19 response has demonstrated what we achieve collectively. We need to build on the lessons provided by COVID-19 and maintain our collective approach, ensuring we are prepared for and able to respond to future emergencies.

How we have developed the strategy

Protecting the health of our local communities involves a wide range of individuals and organisations, this strategy has therefore been developed following wide consultation and discussion with local and regional partners. As part of the development of the strategy, we have worked to identify and understand relationships with and between key partners, and develop local clarity regarding roles and responsibilities. This has included a range of Local Authority services, local NHS partners, and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

The UKHSA is the responsible national agency for protecting every member of every community from the impact of infectious diseases, and environmental health threats. UKHSA is currently finalising their three-year strategy and we have discussed our local strategy and approach with regional UKHSA colleagues to ensure our local strategy aligns and enables local delivery of key regional and national objectives.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership 5 year strategy includes health protection as a key priority and outlines a commitment that the newly developed Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care system will work closely with local partners and commit resources to ensure there are robust health protection arrangements in place in local areas.

We also work closely with colleagues across the Liverpool City Region and Cheshire and Merseyside footprints, and we have shared our local approach and sought feedback to ensure where appropriate we progress joint work on wider footprints in order to benefit our local residents and partners.

Wirral is an active member of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health Protection Leads Forum. This forum is chaired by a Director of Public Health and includes representation from the nine local authority public health teams, UKHSA, and NHS England. We will work through this forum to explore economies of scale and resource and funding opportunities.

Strategic Vision, Aim and Objectives

Following consultation, we have agreed the following collective strategic vision, aim and objectives:

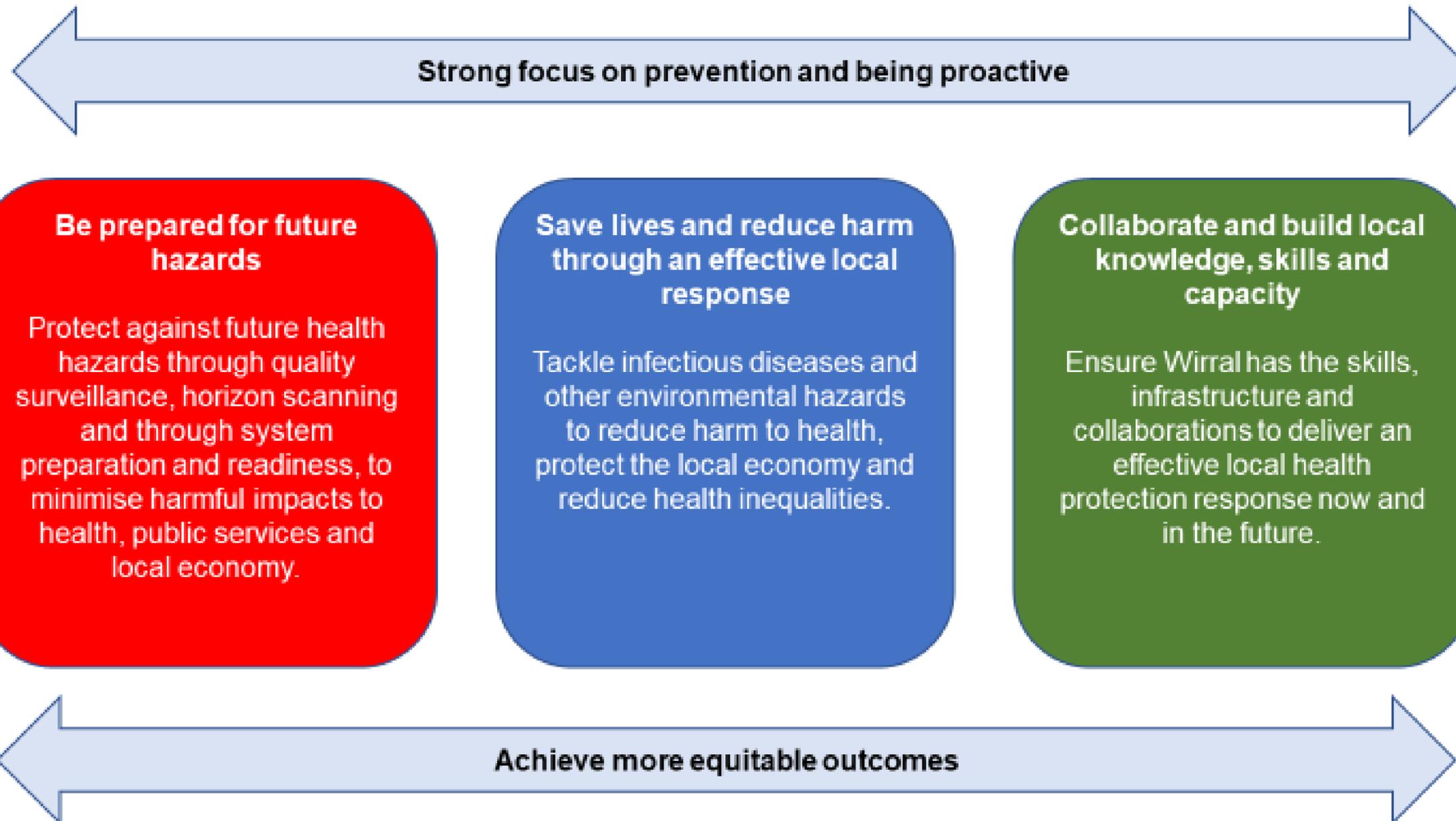
Vision

- All people in Wirral are protected from infectious diseases and environmental hazards and where such hazards do occur we minimise their impact.

Aim

- Wirral has a high-performing health protection system that works effectively with local, regional, and national partners.

Strategic Objectives



Health Protection Priorities for Wirral

Following consultation with a wide range of local and regional partners and reviewing local intelligence, we have agreed priority areas we consider require collective action. These are:

- Ongoing COVID-19 response, including being prepared for new variants
- Strengthen Infection Prevention and Control
- Reduce the impact of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
- Reduce vaccine preventable diseases amongst adults and children
- Strengthen preparedness, resilience and response to outbreaks, major incidents and emergencies
- Reduce health harms from climate and environmental hazards
- Reduce the harmful impact to health of Tuberculosis and blood-borne viruses, including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV

Delivery Plans for each priority are included below. For each priority the delivery plan sets out the case for change, current performance, agreed system priorities, how we will measure success (agreed outcomes), and the accountable lead group for delivery.

Local System Enablers

Underpinning the delivery of our local strategy are four strategic enablers, which will ensure we protect individuals and communities from the impact of infectious diseases and environmental hazards through ensuring we have a resilient health protection system in Wirral.

Insight, intelligence, and evaluation	Being innovative and proactive in our approach, we will gather evidence bases to ensure we have a clear and common understanding of health protection challenges in Wirral. This will include gathering secondary intelligence and primary insights from local residents, organisations and partners to make sure we are addressing the issues and responding in a way that is best suited to the needs of our communities. Our evidence bases will be published on our Joint <u>Strategic Needs Assessment website</u> . We will develop effective local surveillance systems. We will ensure we measure progress and outcomes against our agreed strategic priorities. We will ensure we learn and build on what works and celebrate and share successes.
Workforce development	We will work collectively to build support and retain a skilled and resilient workforce to enable the delivery of this strategy. We will develop and upskill knowledge across wider system partners to support the delivery of the key identified health protection priorities.
Communication and Engagement	The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the importance of effective communication and engagement. We will tailor local messages to ensure they reach our local communities. We will build upon the successful Community Champions' programme developed during the pandemic to disseminate messages and understand local issues and barriers to action
Clear governance and strong multi-agency partnership working	No single agency can deliver this strategy in isolation - protecting the health of the people of Wirral from infectious diseases and environmental hazards is everybody's business. We will ensure we have robust governance and accountability mechanisms in place.

How we will Deliver the Strategy

The Wirral Health Protection Board has responsibility to ensure that Wirral has a robust health protection system and will take the lead in delivering the strategy. The Wirral Health Protection Board is chaired by the Director of Public Health; core members of the local health protection system represented on the Wirral Health Protection Group include:

- Public Health
- Environmental Health
- Children's Services
- UK Health Security Agency
- Adult Social Care
- NHS England
- Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Corporate Resilience
- Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Communications
- Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (ICB)

To support the delivery of this strategy we will develop an implementation plan with priority activities, key milestones, and metrics for the forthcoming year. We are also developing an outcomes framework, which will add further detail to key performance metrics and the key milestones as defined in the implementation plan. These outputs will be completed once the strategy is finalised and will report into the Wirral Health Protection Board. The Wirral Health Protection Board feeds into the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board; updates on progress, issues and risks (including resource and financial risks) regarding strategy implementation, will be closely monitored by the Wirral Health Protection Board and escalated as appropriate for resolution.

How we will Deliver the Strategy

Good System Leadership: Guiding Principles for the Wirral Health Protection Board

We recognise that how we work together will be crucial to delivering this strategy. Wirral Health Protection Board partners have agreed the following guiding principles for collective action:

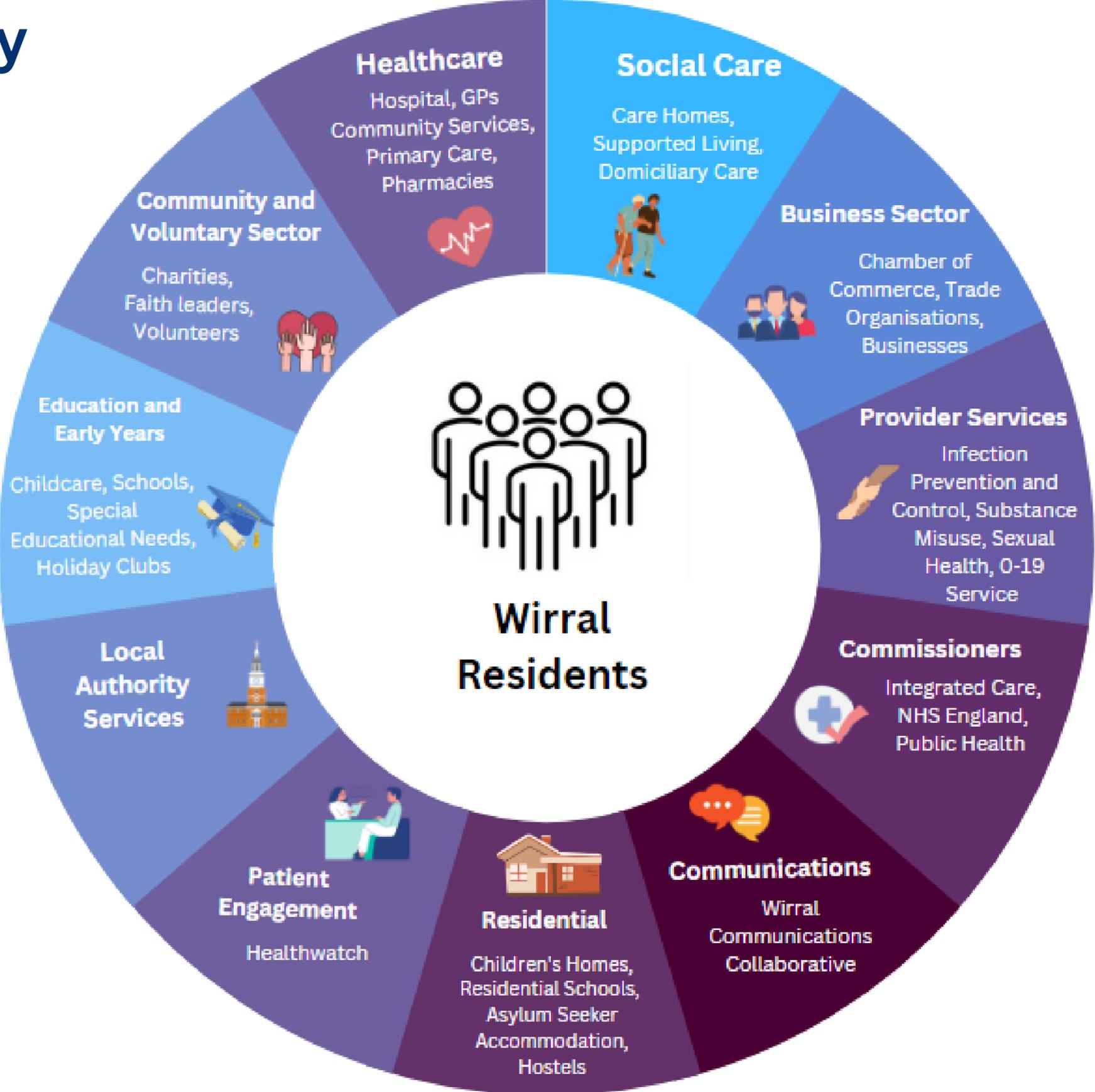
- Local system partners take collective responsibility for protecting the public's health, focusing on learning, and achieving together to provide high-quality health protection for local populations.
- Local system partners see themselves as part of wider population health systems, and seek to align policy, strategy, and resources wherever possible to best protect and improve health.
- Local system partners will work collectively to build support and retain a skilled and resilient workforce.
- Local system partners will support honest and open discussions regarding system risk and risk mitigation.

Under the Wirral Health Protection Board, a number of subgroups have been identified or established to drive progress against our agreed priorities. These subgroups will drive wider engagement across Wirral to deliver improvement in outcomes.

Health protection priorities whether related to reducing infectious diseases or environmental hazards can be scientific and specialised, with a focus on technical guidance but not always its implementation. We will locally work together to ensure that we engage the right people in the right way, to translate key messages and ensure everyone understands the role they can play across the identified priorities, with a key focus on driving action and improvement in outcomes.

How we will Deliver the Strategy

The wider partners who will be engaged in the delivery of this strategy are numerous and include:



How we will Measure Success

An effective local health protection response is vital to improve health and wellbeing, protect the local economy, and reduce health inequalities. COVID-19 has had a detrimental impact across all of our identified local priorities, with performance and health outcomes being worse than pre-pandemic levels. This is reflected across the whole of the country. As COVID-19 demonstrated health protection issues can have wide ranging impacts, not just on the health and care sector but across all sections of society. The successful delivery of this strategy will support the following high-level outcomes:

- Improvements in health and wellbeing outcomes.
- The protection of our most vulnerable residents from harm e.g., care home residents, those living in hostels, asylum seekers.
- Reduced demand on our local health and care system.
- Avoiding disruption to local businesses and supporting the local economy.
- An improvement in children's health and emotional wellbeing e.g., through enabling children to be able to access education settings.

The priorities identified within this strategy are not new and are recognised system challenges for all local partners. We have a strong existing local partnership approach to build on with established leads from across sector partners and a number of multi-agency steering groups already in existence to drive progress against our agreed priorities. Given our strong history of local collaborative work we have been able at this stage to also develop more detailed delivery plans outlining key indicators for how we will measure success for each priority, these are outlined in the delivery plans in the next section and currently reflect our high-level intentions for improvement against each of the identified priorities. As we develop our strategy implementation plan these measures will be further strengthened and refined into specific and measurable improvement targets for each priority with agreed timelines for delivery.

DELIVERY PLANS

We have worked with a wide range of partners to develop agreed delivery plans for each identified priority area. For each priority the delivery plan sets out the case for change, current performance, agreed system priorities, how we will measure success (agreed outcomes), and the accountable lead group for delivery.

ONGOING COVID-19 RESPONSE, INCLUDING BEING PREPARED FOR NEW VARIANTS

Case for change	<p>COVID-19 has been the biggest challenge faced in living memory. It is essential that lessons are learned from this experience and built upon to enhance service delivery and system resilience. There is now not only an imperative to restore service provision while remaining prepared for possible future waves of the virus and other respiratory infections, but to build on this learning to bring about positive change and renewal so that collectively, through strengthened relationships, we can support the greatest possible improvements for everyone, well beyond this crisis.</p>
Page 28 Current performance	<p>In Wirral aligned to the national picture the impacts of COVID-19 have not been felt equally – the pandemic has both exposed and exacerbated longstanding inequalities in our borough. People who have been worst affected by the virus are generally those who had worse health outcomes before the pandemic, including people from ethnic minority communities and those living in poorer areas.</p> <p>Throughout the pandemic we have seen that COVID-19 cases and the number of people admitted to hospital with COVID-19 are higher in our more deprived areas. Conversely our affluent wards in Wirral have had the lowest numbers.</p> <p>We have also seen this pattern reflected in the location of workplace settings affected by outbreaks – with those affected by outbreaks also being located within our more deprived wards on the east side of the borough.</p>

	<p>We know there is no single factor that means our more deprived communities are at higher risk of transmission, rather this is due to a combination of factors including financial, occupation, demographics and household composition, attitudes and behaviours and trust in local, regional and national response systems.</p> <p>Accessing vaccination and implementing basic infection prevention and control measures remain key to protecting against severe illness and reducing the risk of hospitalisation, which help to reduce pressure on local healthcare services.</p>
<p>Page 29</p> <p>What we will do</p>	<p>In order to strengthen system preparedness, resilience, and response, to be able to manage healthcare pressure we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to work with regional partners to develop and enhance our local surveillance. • Focus our local efforts on protecting people, communities, and settings at highest risk of adverse outcomes due to COVID-19 – prevention and outbreak management. • Develop a local respiratory infection ‘wave plan’ to help prepare for, and strengthen Wirral’s system resilience and sector specific response to increases in local prevalence (future waves), and emergence of new variants (link to resilience priority). • Work collectively to increase uptake of COVID-19 vaccination (link to vaccination priority). • Contribute to the national COVID-19 inquiry and implement lessons learned as they emerge.
<p>How we will measure success/ outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in COVID-19 cases and outbreaks in vulnerable groups and high-risk settings e.g., care homes • Reduction in COVID-19 hospital admissions • Reduction in COVID-19 deaths
<p>Accountable lead</p>	<p>Wirral Health Protection Board</p>

STRENGTHEN INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Case for change

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) measures to prevent against the spread of infectious diseases. Locally we have excellent specialist infection prevention and control teams within our local trusts and the community. However, IPC is everybody's business and organisations need to take ownership of challenges and solutions to keep patients, professionals, and communities safe. Public awareness of the importance of following the rules of good hygiene was also raised during the pandemic, these simple measures (e.g. hand washing), remain the key tools in helping to prevent the spread of infections.

Reducing healthcare-associated infections (HCAI) remains a high priority locally as HCAI pose a serious risk to patients, increasing morbidity, mortality, and excess costs, all of which can be prevented through effective collaborative action. In the UK, the total annual cost of HCAI is estimated to be £774 million.

Additionally, further system issues have emerged as critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as discharging patients to high-risk settings, the segregation of patients suspected or known to have the infection, or systems for surveillance of healthcare-associated transmission.

Effective infection prevention and control (IPC) is essential to:

- Keep people safe and deliver high quality care
- Prevent avoidable infections and hospital admissions
- Reduce excess costs on health and care system

Current performance

The Wirral health and care system currently faces several issues suggesting infection prevention and control practices could be strengthened:

We experience high rates of healthcare-associated infections:

- Clostridioides difficile (C. diff) rates for Wirral are higher than England and the Northwest

We have experienced and locally managed and supported a number of outbreaks of COVID-19, influenza (flu), diarrhoea and vomiting across local health and care residential settings (hospital, care homes and supported living settings).

We have also experienced and locally managed and supported infectious disease outbreaks in wider community settings including education settings, primary care, domiciliary care, day centres, hostels and asylum seeker accommodation.

COVID-19 has not gone away, and we are currently experiencing cases and outbreaks of other infectious diseases at a greater scale than before the pandemic.

Infection prevention and control is one of the most cost-effective interventions against anti-microbial resistance. Not only do measures help to prevent infections, they help to reduce the overuse of antibiotics which drives resistance.

Coupled with immunisation programmes, infection prevention and control measures play a significant role in reducing the risk of outbreaks of disease, and are therefore a key enabler for health and social care services to operate effectively.

What we will do	<p>In order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases and reduce the incidence of healthcare associated infections (HCAI) we will ensure effective system wide infection prevention and control (IPC) measures are in place across Wirral health and care and wider economy. We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a system plan for reducing healthcare associated infections (HCAI) to ensure improvements and learnings are embedded and sustained. • Supported by NHS England, undertake an externally led system peer review with the aim of reducing Clostridioides difficile rates. • Develop a training and communications campaign across the health and social care system to promote infection prevention and control as a critical component of safety and quality of care under leadership of Directors of Nursing and Medical Directors. • Ensure effective infection prevention control is included as a key measure to keep people safe and maintain service quality within local system winter plans. • Develop a Winter Wellness communications campaign and utilise the Wirral Health Protection Service to promote the importance of infection prevention and control community wide, particularly to vulnerable settings and communities.
How we will measure success/ outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in Healthcare Associated Infections. • Reduction in transmission and outbreaks within health and care and community settings.
Accountable lead	Wirral Infection Prevention and Control Forum

REDUCE THE IMPACT OF ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE (AMR)

Case for change

Antimicrobial Resistance, (AMR), is a national and global priority, currently estimated to cause approximately 2,000 UK deaths a year and more than 700,000 deaths globally. Antimicrobial resistance is a current problem and will be a growing issue in the future unless we act now. In 2018, there were over 60,000 severe antibiotic-resistant infections in England, an increase of 9% on the previous year, this number is predicted to increase and therefore deaths due to AMR are predicted to rise.

The ability of bacteria to become resistant to the effect of antimicrobials is an inevitable evolutionary process. Misuse and over-use of antimicrobial agents exacerbates the development of antimicrobial resistance. Infections caused by resistant microorganisms often fail to respond to the standard treatment, resulting in prolonged illness, higher health care expenditure, and a greater risk of death. Limited development of new antimicrobials to treat infections caused by resistant organisms exacerbates the AMR problem.

Without effective antibiotics even minor surgery and routine operations could become high-risk procedures, leading to prolonged illnesses and higher numbers of deaths.

Prevention of infection is the starting point for Antimicrobial Stewardship. Collaborative working within the system-wide Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) agenda is integral to reducing the spread of antimicrobial resistant organisms and infections.

The UK approach to addressing the AMR problem is set out in a 20-year vision for improving antimicrobial resistance and the UK five-year action plan for antimicrobial resistance 2019 to 2024.

Current performance

We have recently reviewed intelligence related to antibiotic prescribing and have found that the local picture suggests reducing antibiotic prescribing is a local priority.

- Antibiotic prescribing in primary care in Wirral is high compared to the national average and matched peers (areas with similar populations).
- Wirral is the 4th highest prescriber of broad-spectrum antibiotic nationally and the highest prescriber within Cheshire and Merseyside.
- Wirral has the highest prescribing in England for antibiotics for urinary tract infections (UTIs) yet admissions for UTI are the 5th highest in England.
- Since the end of COVID restrictions a significant increase in antibiotic prescribing has been observed in primary care.
- Within secondary care prescribing targets for reduction of broad-spectrum antibiotics are being met. However, the rate of prescribing of intravenous antibiotics is higher than peer organisations.

Work has recently been undertaken with system partners to develop a Wirral AMR strategy 2022-25. The strategy outlines the system wide approach to Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) in Wirral to reduce inappropriate antibiotic use, reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and improve patient safety.

<p>What we will do</p>	<p>In order to reduce the impact of antimicrobial resistance we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the Wirral antimicrobial resistance strategy and work as a system to optimise antibiotic prescribing and reduce the risk of antibiotic resistance. • Develop education for healthcare staff, patients, and carers. Take a system wide approach to deliver education using shared resources, videos and accessible forms across all organisations and sectors to improve public awareness and reduce public demand for antibiotics for self-limiting infections. • Prevent and improve the management of urinary tract infections in adults aged 65 years and over (promoting hydration messages and local roll out of the quality improvement project “To Dip or Not to Dip”). • Support antibiotic reviews and intravenous (IV) to oral antibiotic switches in secondary care. • Address the high usage of broad spectrum antibiotics in primary care.
<p>How we will measure success/ outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in total antibiotic prescribing - Wirral to meet or fall below the national average. • Reduction in broad-spectrum antibiotic prescribing in primary care to allow GP practices to meet the national target of 10% or less. • Reduction in antibiotic prescribing for Urinary Tract Infection - Wirral to meet or fall below the national average. • Reduction in admissions to hospital for UTI by 10% or more based on the 2019 admission rate.
<p>Accountable lead</p>	<p>Wirral Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy Group</p>

REDUCE VACCINE PREVENTABLE DISEASES AMONGST ADULTS AND CHILDREN

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Case for change

Vaccines protect against serious disease and premature death, helping people of all ages live longer, healthier lives. NHS England is accountable and responsible for the routine commissioning of national immunisation programmes and local system partners work with commissioned providers to develop community-focused approaches that put vaccination at the heart of prevention, to help people stay well.

The UK's current routine immunisation schedule provides protection against 14 infections, including measles, rubella, meningococcal disease, tetanus, whooping cough and polio. Most vaccinations are given during childhood, some vaccines such as COVID-19 and seasonal flu are offered to people across a range of ages, their carers and health and social care staff, and the vaccine to protect against shingles is offered to adults only (i.e. those aged 70-79).

Despite recent reports of vaccine fatigue, COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccinations remain a high priority in preventing outbreaks, severe illness and hospitalisation. The co-circulation of COVID-19 and seasonal flu poses significant challenge and pressure on already stretched health and care services.

Childhood immunisation uptake rates have been slow to recover from pre-pandemic levels. Of significant concern is the downtrend in Wirral's measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccination uptake rate. Not being able to attain herd immunity levels ($\geq 95\%$) increases the potential for the resurgence of measles, which is highly contagious and can cause serious complications including blindness, pneumonia, meningitis, seizures and in some cases, death.

Immunisation programmes coupled with simple, effective infection prevention and control measures play a significant role in reducing the risk of outbreaks of disease, and are therefore a key enabler for effective health and social care and emergency service provision.

Current performance

Seasonal influenza vaccinations 2021/22:

- Wirral maintained an overall high uptake of the flu vaccine in those aged 65+ years (82.57%) in 2021/22, however there were inequalities in coverage, with some practices achieving less than 70% during the season.
- Influenza vaccine uptake in residents who are defined as ‘clinically at risk’ (because they have an underlying health condition) was higher in Wirral than in England however coverage within some GP practices was less than 1 in 3 of their eligible population.
- Several GP practices vaccinated less than 1 in 4 of their 2-3 year old population, with the lowest practice uptake rate for 2021/22 being just 1.2%.

COVID-19 vaccinations 2021/22:

- As at December 2021, nearly 10,000 people aged 50 and over in Wirral remain unvaccinated
- When cross-referencing the population against known COVID-19 risk factors:
 - nearly half of this cohort live within the most deprived quintile of Wirral;
 - around 1 in 5 were identified as being mildly to severely frail; and
 - more than 1 in 10 had three or more long term health conditions

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) 2021/22:

- Uptake for the MMR 1 vaccine was 98.09% in 2017/18, falling to 96.14% in 2021/22. This was a larger decrease (1.95%) than nearly two thirds of other local authorities.
- For MMR 2 (two doses by 5 years of age), uptake in 2017/18 was already below the 95% target (93.78%) and decreased by more than 3% to 90.46% by 2021/22. This is nearly 5% below the national herd immunity target of 95%. This decrease was greater than over 75% of other local authorities in England, placing Wirral in the worst quartile.
- As well as decreasing uptake, there are considerable inequalities within Wirral, with uptake in some practices as low as 66.67% for MMR2 in 2021/22.

What we will do	<p>In order to help reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable disease we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the Vaccination and Immunisations Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and develop an immunisations data surveillance dashboard. • Work collaboratively to develop an Immunisation Locality Plan for Wirral, identifying key actions and clarifying roles and responsibilities. Initial focus will be on improving seasonal influenza, COVID-19 and MMR immunisation uptake rates, and reducing variation in coverage. • Explore and implement new strategies to reduce vaccine inequalities. • Develop and implement a shared communications plan and work with community engagement groups to target messages at under-vaccinated groups, as appropriate. • Continue to develop community and outreach solutions for under-vaccinated groups and deprived communities to support ease of access.
How we will measure success/ outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase uptake of seasonal influenza immunisation. • Increase uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters \geq nationally set objectives. • increase uptake of two doses of MMR vaccine in the routine childhood vaccination programme.
Accountable lead	Wirral Strategic Immunisation Group

STRENGTHEN PREPAREDNESS, RESILIENCE AND RESPONSE TO OUTBREAKS, MAJOR INCIDENTS, AND EMERGENCIES

The COVID 19 pandemic has required an extended and unprecedented response on a global scale, lasting over two years. In this context emergency preparedness resilience and response (EPRR) functions as with other aspects of service delivery, have been operating in a business continuity environment for an extended period of time. Now we are living with COVID-19 a return to business-as-usual practices has resumed, and for EPRR this means a return to the standard planning cycle, with a renewed impetus and focus across the local partnership.

Local emergency preparedness helps to be able to predict and minimise the effects of an incident or crisis which can help to reduce ill health and injuries, protect the community, and maintain business continuity. During the pandemic we developed action-based learning which helped to ensure that as a system our response was flexible, dynamic and co-ordinated. We recognise the need to build on this and collectively plan our response for a wide range of incidents and emergencies that could affect health and patient care. These could be anything from extreme weather conditions to an outbreak of an infectious disease, or a major transport accident.

Under recent changes Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) have replaced local Clinical Commissioning Groups. They have been given additional EPRR responsibilities and are now Category 1 responders, alongside Local Authorities. It is therefore timely to review local EPRR arrangements and collaborative working arrangements.

Current performance

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires for organisations in the health system (emergency services, local authorities, NHS bodies) to prepare for adverse events and incidents. Merseyside Resilience Forum provides a mechanism for coordinating local emergency preparedness, response and recovery activity, and provides a key interface between national government and the local areas. Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board has responsibility for representing the NHS at Local Resilience Forum level and now chair Cheshire and Merseyside Health Resilience Partnership. Both forums operate primarily at regional level.

Recognising the opportunities and value in strengthening local preparedness, resilience and response at place level, Wirral's Health Protection Board has designated EPRR a new priority. Current performance is yet to be determined and to facilitate this, a new baseline from which to measure progress will be established through the newly formed Resilience Partnership.

What we will do	<p>In order to strengthen preparedness, resilience and response to outbreaks, major incidents and emergencies we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a Wirral Health Resilience Partnership forum to bring together local emergency planning leads. • Develop a Wirral community risk register and a common understanding of potential hazards and threats and assure ourselves effective mitigations are in place, or take action if not. • Undertake local training exercises and scenario planning to test our local preparedness. • Ensure robust extreme weather plans are in place, covering heat waves, cold weather preparedness linked to winter planning, and flooding. • Develop a system-wide emergency plan to effectively respond to outbreaks of infectious disease for example, measles or avian flu. • Educate, empower and support high-risk settings to effectively respond and self-manage outbreaks and incidents.
How we will measure success/ outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A shared understanding of local, national and global threats, and potential hazards by system partners. • Increased capability and competence of workforce to respond to emergencies and incidents through training and exercising in a risk-based approach.
Accountable lead	Wirral Health Resilience Partnership

REDUCE HEALTH HARMS FROM CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Environmental hazards such as water and air pollution, extreme weather, or chemical exposures can affect human health in a number of ways, from contributing to chronic diseases such as cancer to acute illnesses.

The Chief Medical Officer's Annual Report for 2022 focused on air pollution. The report notes that progress has been made in reducing outdoor air quality but that there is more progress to make, and highlights that improving indoor air quality also needs to be a focus for action.

The World Health Organisation describe air pollution as the greatest environmental threat to health and a leading cause of non-communicable disease, such as heart attack or stroke.

Climate change can affect the social and environmental determinants of health – clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure shelter. In addition, adverse effects of climate change (such as flooding) can affect mental health and wellbeing.

Climate change is causing long term changes to our weather patterns with increased incidence of hotter, drier summers and longer, wetter winters. These changes will lead to increased incidence of heatwaves and extreme cold which in recent years has seen excess deaths.

Climate change and air pollution are closely linked, and strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate change has co-benefits of reducing air pollution and improving public health.

These impacts will not fall equally locally, and we know our most vulnerable residents e.g., young and old or those on low income are least able to respond to the threat posed by such hazards and will be the most affected unless we can locally mitigate such impacts.

Current performance

Local Authorities in England have duties regarding local air quality management under the Environment Act 1995. The Local Authority must regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved. Wirral Council produces [an annual air quality status report](#) that is submitted to the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs.

In Wirral we have recently updated our [air quality joint strategic needs assessment](#). Locally we monitor for two individual pollutants: nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. Monitoring results have not indicated any breaches of the UK air quality objective levels for air pollution. Wirral Council has not declared any air quality management areas in the borough. National modelling shows that the average fraction of deaths attributable to particulate air pollution in Wirral is below the England average. The most up to date figures (2020) show that the England average is 5.6%, the Northwest, 5% and Wirral being 4.9%.

To limit the impacts of climate change in Wirral, and to contribute to global efforts, the longstanding Climate Change Partnership for Wirral 'Cool Wirral' has set a climate change target for Wirral to be 'net carbon neutral' by 2041, to be delivered through the [Cool2 Climate Strategy for Wirral](#).

In July 2019 Wirral Council declared an Environment and Climate Emergency and made the commitment to being net carbon neutral by 2030, by approving the Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Policy in March 2021.

The NHS became the world's first health service to commit to reaching carbon net zero, in response to the profound and growing threat to health posed by climate change. With around 4% of the country's carbon emissions, and over 7% of the economy, the NHS has an essential role to play in meeting the net zero targets.

Delivering a [Net Zero Health Service \(2020\) report](#) sets out a clear ambition and two evidence based targets:

- The NHS Carbon Footprint: for the directly controlled emissions, net zero by 2040.
- The NHS Carbon Footprint Plus: for emissions the NHS influences, net zero by 2045.

<p>What we will do</p>	<p>In order to reduce the health harms from climate and environmental hazards we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Wirral air quality strategy (DEFRA has stipulated all LAs must have an air quality strategy from 2023 onwards), this will be developed in collaboration with system partners. • Extend membership of the Wirral Air Quality Group to include health partners and other anchor organisations. • Embed actions to improve air quality and reduce CO₂ emissions into local regeneration programmes e.g., through the implementation of measures to promote active travel and reduce vehicle usage. • NHS partners use their Sustainable Development Management Plans to deliver on the air quality and climate goals in the NHS Long Term Plan and share how they are supporting patients and staff to reduce the health impacts of air pollution and climate change. • Build upon local initiatives to raise awareness of climate change and air quality and the behavioural changes that can positively impact on these issues.
<p>How we will measure success/ outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction in emissions of CO₂ and achieved trajectories to achieve the ambition of being net carbon neutral by 2041 • Reduction in exposure to nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter
<p>Accountable lead</p>	<p>Wirral Air Quality Steering Group Cool Wirral Partnership</p>

REDUCE THE HARMFUL IMPACT TO HEALTH OF TUBERCULOSIS AND BLOOD-BORNE VIRUSES, INCLUDING HEPATITIS B, HEPATITIS C AND HIV

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the detection, control and prevention of infectious diseases, including HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and Tuberculosis (TB). The most deprived and underserved population have been adversely affected, including prevention, testing, diagnosis and delay in treatment. In 2019, it was estimated that 6% of people living with HIV infection in England were undiagnosed. In the same year, 41% of all new diagnoses were made late, considering that late diagnosis is the most important predictor of morbidity and premature mortality among people with HIV infection.

In 2020, Hepatitis C virus (HCV) remains the most common infection among people who injected drugs (PWID) in the UK. The significant proportion of individuals not tested in 2020 indicates there is scope for improvement, particularly due to the risk of re-infection.

Nationally TB incidence has decreased dramatically since 2011. However, the rate of decline reversed in 2019, increasing by 2.4% and then, in 2020, recorded incidence fell. This may indicate undetected and unreported cases which need to be investigated.

Although new infections have reduced over the years and national strategy has had great impact in reducing blood-borne virus infection and TB in England, the elimination of these communicable diseases is still to be reached. As cases reduce and become harder to find, strategies need to evolve and adapt, and become more tailored to meet local need.

Current performance

In Wirral, the latest national data shows that overall, the incidence of Hepatitis B and C, HIV and TB is low, however:

- The number of new cases of acute Hepatitis B is higher than the North-West region and national rate.
- The Hepatitis C detection rate is lower than England and the percentage of eligible persons who have received a Hepatitis C test was 84.3%, below the national 95% target.
- The number of new cases of TB (three-year average) is lower than England and the North-West Region, which may indicate undiagnosed cases.
- The new HIV diagnosis rate is better than in England. However, the proportion of HIV late diagnosis in people first diagnosed with HIV in the Wirral is higher than North-West region and for England.

<p>What we will do</p>	<p>In order to reduce the harmful impact to health of Tuberculosis and blood-borne viruses, including Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV we will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a Joint Health Needs Assessment during 2023/2024. • Continue to build on local collaborative work with multiple partners to increase case-finding and reduce late diagnosis for HIV, Hepatitis C and TB. • Ensure prevention and behaviour change strategies such as harm reduction has been prioritised by commissioners and providers to reduce onward transmission of and avoidable deaths from blood-borne viruses, particularly among underserved population.
<p>How we will measure success/ outcomes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Achieve the micro-elimination of Hepatitis C in Wirral • Achieve national treatment across and completion targets for TB, Hepatitis and HIV • Reduction in the number of people being diagnosed late with TB, Hepatitis and HIV
<p>Accountable lead</p>	<p>Wirral Health Protection Board</p>

CASE STUDIES

Case studies are included to illustrate our collective approach to delivering this strategy, and the preventative and proactive approach we will be taking locally

CASE STUDY

INCREASING COVID-19 VACCINATION UPTAKE



Background

The COVID-19 vaccination programme aims to protect those who are at highest risk from serious illness or death from COVID-19. Since the implementation of the vaccination programme there has been variation in uptake predominantly associated with economic inequalities and reflecting existing patterns of health inequalities within the borough. There is a linear relationship between vaccine uptake and income deprivation (IMD) with the lowest rates of vaccine uptake in the areas with highest deprivation.

Action

A COVID-19 Vaccination Health Inequalities subgroup was set up to bring together a range of system partners to support the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine programme, identifying and tackling inequalities in vaccine coverage. The group undertook a COVID-19 needs assessment to identify key cohorts associated with risk of poor health and outcomes. A local dashboard was also developed to show variation in uptake by cohorts, deprivation, and ethnicity.

The needs assessment and dashboard highlighted target at-risk groups with lower vaccine uptake. Local engagement was undertaken to gather insight of barriers facing those with different ethnic backgrounds and communities.

Response

Based on intelligence and insight, a range of interventions to increase confidence, improve convenience and tackle complacency have been developed to drive uptake of the vaccination in targeted population groups and localities. This has included:

- Community outreach clinics, pop-up clinic, and a vaccination bus within wards with lowest vaccination uptake. This offer was supported by significant community engagement in each area, to encourage residents to get their vaccination and to discuss concerns, utilising existing community networks such as community connectors, community champions, BAME link workers, social prescribing link workers, the Humanitarian network and partner organisations.
- Targeted work with local hostels including briefing sessions for hostel staff/key workers (Communications and Engagement activity), an outreach vaccination offer provided across hostel sites, incentives for vaccination take up.
- Targeted work with local social care providers to tackle vaccine hesitancy and barriers to take up the local vaccination offer.
- Proactive phone calls with high-risk unvaccinated cohorts by local social prescribing workforce and local public health team. The calls aimed to ensure there are opportunities to listen to and discuss hesitancy and feedback was utilised to provide accessible/alternative vaccination locations.

Outcome

Local initiatives have been evaluated and there is strong evidence that targeted work has an impact on vaccination uptake, and this has led to additional people being vaccinated. Key to the success of this approach was joint working between NHS, Local Authority, community voluntary and faith sector and local communities. This approach provides significant learning for us to embed across wider programmes and priorities in the future.

CASE STUDY

WIRRAL HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICE

CASE STUDY: HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICE

During the COVID-19 pandemic the Wirral public health team built local capacity to prevent, manage and respond to COVID-19 outbreaks. Since moving into the next phase of the pandemic and out of emergency response mode, we have taken the opportunity to reflect on lessons learnt during the pandemic and develop a local health protection service, to support the delivery of our wider health protection priorities.

The objectives of the Health Protection Service are to:

- Be ready to respond to outbreaks and focused on preserving life and safeguarding the vulnerable.
- Be at the forefront of prevention as well as control and management of communicable diseases – providing advice, support and guidance to communities and settings to Keep Wirral Well.
- Protect health and improve outcomes by supporting delivery of effective action across wider Wirral health protection priorities e.g., strengthening preparedness and emergency planning and protecting Wirral communities from environmental hazards

The Wirral Health Protection Service does not duplicate effort but works collaboratively with internal and external specialist services and partners including the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) services, Environmental Health, NHS partners, Adult Social Care, Children's and Health and Safety.

See examples of some of the proactive and preventative work being undertaken by the team in the following pages.

"The Wirral Health Protection Service provides additional local capacity and enables us to take a proactive and preventative approach to improve health and wellbeing, protect the economy, and reduce health inequalities."

Supporting Winter Preparedness

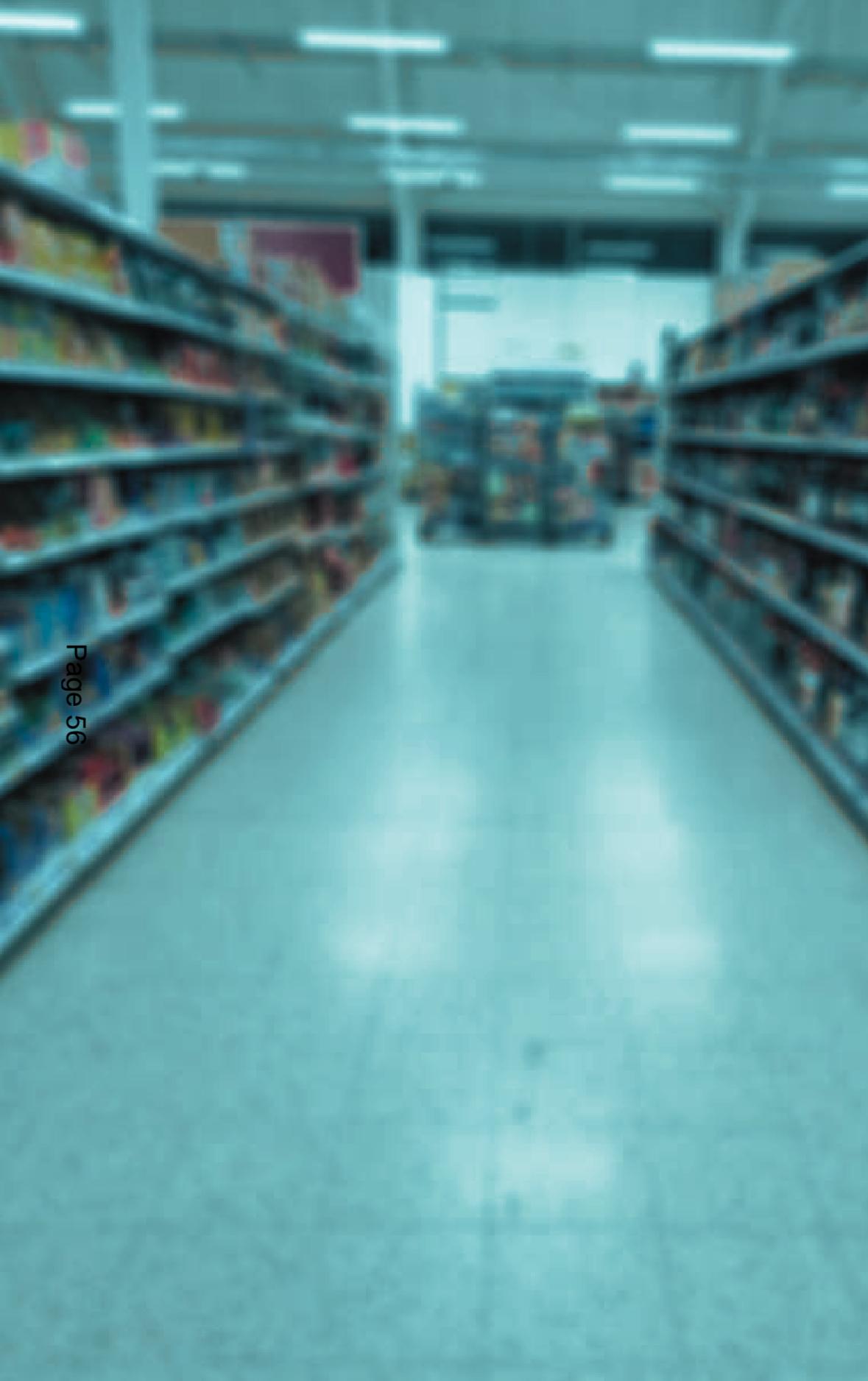
The Wirral Health Protection Service is working together with local partners to prevent and alleviate winter pressures, with a focus on protecting the most vulnerable and reducing excess winter deaths.

Key actions include:

- Creating resilience across local communities by promoting infection prevention and control measures within community settings, preventing and managing outbreaks, and promoting flu and COVID 19 vaccine uptake.
- Developing and sharing resources promoting key winter wellness messages. The team is out and about visiting community venues to increase knowledge and winter preparedness against infectious diseases, this also includes signposting people to support related to cost-of-living pressures.

Resources have been developed for:

- Care homes
- Domiciliary care
- Supported living managers
- Carers
- Local businesses
- Housing
- Hostels
- Asylum seeker hotels
- CVF sector venues e.g., warm hubs
- Alcohol and drug user services
- School/nurseries headteachers
- Council settings



Product recall linked to a Salmonella Outbreak

The Wirral Health Protection Service provided support to UKHSA, Food Standards Agency (FSA) and the Environmental Health team by undertaking spot checks of local food premises in respect of the salmonella outbreak associated with a children's chocolate product.

The FSA was concerned that products may still be available which should have been withdrawn as they were a risk to health. There were over 100 cases linked to this outbreak in the UK, the majority of the cases were in children under 5 years of age.

Salmonella infection can be severe, and many children affected in this outbreak have been very unwell and hospitalised. The FSA was therefore asking that checks were undertaken to ensure compliance with the product recall message. The team completed 299 visits to local retailers and found the recalled products still on sale within 64 of these premises.

Following the visit all 64 premises removed the products from sale, therefore reducing the risk to health of local children. The team also reinforced the communication route for product recalls and the importance of complying with future messages to protect health.

UKHSA Update regarding the outbreak:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-update-on-salmonella-cases-linked-to-confectionary-products>



Raising awareness of Tuberculosis within high-risk settings

Last year the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), working with NHS England (NHSE), launched a 5-year action plan to drive down tuberculosis (TB) cases in England. Tuberculosis is a serious infectious disease, which can be life-threatening without appropriate treatment. TB disproportionately impacts on under-served populations such as asylum seekers, those who have ever been homeless, spent time in prison or misused drugs and other substances making the detection of cases and ensuring treatment compliance challenging.

Working closely with the Wirral TB service the Wirral Health Protection service have run a local awareness and engagement campaign entitled 'Not every Cough is COVID!'

This project involves engaging with managers of local hostels, asylum seeker accommodation, Wirral Ways to Recovery and third sector organisations to raise awareness about TB and its symptoms and treatment.

Sixty-eight local high-risk premises were contacted and provided with information materials on TB and its symptoms and details regarding local referral pathways. The project has helped to strengthen the relationship between Wirral TB service and local third sector organisations including Wirral Multicultural Organisation.

CASE STUDY

REDUCING ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING FOR URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

Background

The Wirral Antibiotic Steering Group has reviewed prescribing data locally to identify areas for improvement. This data highlighted that Wirral has the highest prescribing for antibiotics for urinary tract infections (UTIs) in the country while also having high rates of older people admitted to hospital due to their urinary tract infections. Dehydration increases the risk of UTIs among older residents which can lead to multiple avoidable complications including confusion, falls, and hospital admission.

Action

Local stakeholders were brought together to review the intelligence and develop an improvement project. Following discussion, it was decided to take an upstream approach to reducing antibiotic prescribing for UTIs locally by focusing on the prevention of UTIs from occurring through improving hydration.

The project aimed to improve health and reduce the number of urinary tract infections in older people by:

- improving hydration of patients in nursing homes, care homes, and domiciliary care through education of staff, carers, and residents.
- improving hydration of older people attending day centres, by education of their carers, and staff members and implementation of evidence-based strategies such as protected drinks time and fluid intake monitoring.
- improving hydration in older people by engaging with wider community settings across the Wirral economy through provision of information, leaflets and posters.



Busting the myth

Tea and coffee are dehydrating - FALSE!
All non-alcoholic fluids count towards your fluid intake. However, decaffeinated versions are healthier choices.

Who can help?

Your GP or other healthcare professional can provide you with advice or information about preventing dehydration or can provide information on other services which might be able to help.

Other useful Contact:

- Health Protection Service
Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm.
Email: healthprotectionservice@wirral.gov.uk

For further information visit
nhs.uk/conditions/dehydration

This leaflet does not replace advice from medical or healthcare professionals.

If you have been advised to restrict fluid intake by a healthcare professional, this leaflet is not suitable for you.

If you're seriously concerned about someone, please call NHS 111 or 999 in an emergency.

Health Protection Service is part of Public Health Wirral Council. Review date: August 2022



Response

The Wirral Health Protection Service used data on the UTI incidence for residents in care homes in West Wirral to identify homes where residents have the highest rates of UTI to engage with them and understand the barriers to attending training and implementing the resources. The insight gathered has been used to design training for care homes delivered by the community Infection Prevention and Control team with good engagement to date.

The Wirral Health Protection Service has visited local day centres and domiciliary care providers to engage with managers and identify gaps and needs. This work was supported by the local bladder and bowel service who provided specialist advice.

To date the Wirral Health Protection Service has contacted and visited 152 settings across Wirral including community centres, libraries, leisure centres, local churches, pharmacies, and GPs to promote hydration messages. These visits have been targeted at the over-65 cohort for example engagement sessions have been run at local “knit and natter” groups. The information has been well received by members of the public and staff locally, with people showing interest in key messages from the material (i.e. being previously unaware that foods and other drinks than water help to hydrate).

Outcome

The project is currently ongoing however we have already locally seen a reduction in antibiotic prescribing for UTIs and a reduction in UTI related hospital admissions. The project has also developed relationships with wider community organisations which can be utilised for engagement around wider health protection priorities for example sessions are also being run with community groups on keeping well over winter, promoting COVID-19 and flu vaccination uptake and key infection control messages.



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

31 January 2023

REPORT TITLE:	BUDGET SETTING 2023/24
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CARE AND HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is for the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Workshops which have been held in recent months. The workshops enabled officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be obtained on further analysis required. The Budget Workshops also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

The Policy and Service Committees are responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their annual budget envelope. The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, has been charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget to recommend to the Council.

This report also provides an update on the 2023/24 budget setting process with details on the most recent budget options, which were developed in response to the previously outlined budget gap.

Appendix 2 and 3 of this report contains exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. It is in the public interest to exclude the press and public during consideration of these items under Paragraph 3 'Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding the information).'

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to:

1. Agree that the Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed in Appendices 2 & 3, be reported to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.
2. Note the latest budget information provided to Policy and Resources Committee in January.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to set an annual balanced budget, which establishes how financial resources are to be allocated and utilised. To successfully do so, engagement with members, staff and residents is undertaken; the recommendations in this report relate to this endeavour and act as a pre-cursor to budget proposals, scheduled to be considered by Full Council on 27 February 2023, following the schedule of activity shown in Appendix 4.
- 1.2 Failure to set a lawful budget in time may lead to a loss of revenue, significant additional administrative costs, as well as reputational damage. Failure to set a budget may lead to intervention from the Secretary of State under section 15 the Local Government Act 1999.
- 1.3 The scale of the financial challenge that the Council faces cannot be overstated. Setting a budget, especially in the context of largely uncontrollable, macro-economic pressures, emerging at an unprecedented pace, requires difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position can be presented. Regular Member engagement on the process, which this report forms part of, is considered essential for effective budget formulation.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A report does not have to be provided to the Committee to outline activity at this stage, however it is considered appropriate to do so in order to ensure that the Committee has up-to-date information in respect of the financial context that the Council is operating within and set out the budget setting stages that are expected to follow, in order that the Committee can comment accordingly.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Policy & Resources Committee is responsible for co-ordinating processes for the development of the Budget and Policy Framework, together with decision-making on cross-cutting policies not part of the Policy Framework. The Policy and Service Committees are responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their annual budget envelope. The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, has been charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget to recommend to the Council.
- 3.2 The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) has met regularly to discuss the budget setting process, budget proposals, the budget gap that the Council faces and the associated uncertainty on funding. Member engagement in the process has taken place through Budget Workshops along with the presentation on Committee reports.
- 3.3 The Budget workshops were convened to enable officer and member liaison on proposed budget options, in order to facilitate discussion and allow direction to be

obtained on further analysis required. The Budget Workshops also provided an opportunity for alternative proposals to be considered.

- 3.4 The outcomes of these workshops are to be reported to meetings of those committees and will in turn be communicated to the Policy & Resources Committee as part of the decision-making process that facilitates a budget proposal to Full Council.
- 3.5 Appendix 2 to this report details the feedback and outcomes from the Budget Workshops in the Summer of 2022 to consider tranche one options. Appendix 3 to the report details the feedback and outcomes from the Budget Workshops held throughout October and November 2022 to consider options the address the further tranche 2 savings noted as required as a result of the national macroeconomic pressures the Council is facing.
- 3.5 At the Policy and Resources Committee on 5 October 2022, a potential budget gap of £49m for 2023/24 was presented. Members will be aware that the budget gap is an ever-moving target due to a number of factors; these include:
- Ongoing Government announcements of funding, including specifically the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement for 2023/24.
 - A process of challenge and refinement within the Council to ensure that the proposals are evidence based.
 - Addition of new pressures that continue to materialise as further local and national evidence comes to light.
 - The continuing refinement of budget assumptions including inflation.
 - The development and refinement of budget options.
- 3.6 As a result of these factors, the budget forecast presented in October 2022 was updated and a more robust position is now available (the most recent budget update report presented to the Policy & Resources Committee can be found in Appendix 1). This position - which was an estimated budget gap in December of £38.4m - has been noted as £32.3m after application of the Provisional Finance Settlement information. This represents the Budget shortfall as of the date of the report and represents the target which needs to be offset with efficiencies, savings and cost reductions to deliver a balanced position.
- 3.7 The impact of all these changes will be considered, along with feedback from the consultation process and the budget proposals developed through the Service Committee and Policy & Resources Committee (P&R) Budget Workshop approach to present a robust position on financial matters to be considered in formulating a budget proposal to Full Council.
- 3.8 Policy & Resources Committee budget recommendations will be proposed in February 2023 in respect of the agreement of the annual Budget, setting of the council tax requirement and related matters to the Council, which will be debated by Full Council and voted upon by a simple majority.
- 3.9 Given the current size of the budget shortfall, the current level/breadth of services provided by the Council is not considered feasible and viable for continuance, hence

the requirement to consider a number of potential budget options to ensure this gap can be closed.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report provides the Committee with an update on recent budget setting activity and describes the context in which the budget for 2023/24 is being set, where a prudent approach is being undertaken to develop budget proposals amidst an uncertain financial landscape.
- 4.2 The programme to develop a robust budget position, of which this report is a part, will support the Council in demonstrating compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management (FM) Code, specifically in relation to Section 4 of the FM Code which refers to the Annual Budget.
- 4.3 The FM Code requires the Council to demonstrate that the processes used satisfy the principles of good financial management, based on the following six principles:
- Organisational Leadership – demonstrating a clear strategic direction based on a vision in which financial management is embedded into organisation culture.
 - Accountability – based on Medium-Term Financial Planning, which derives the annual budget process supported by effective risk management, quality supporting data and whole life costs.
 - Financial management - undertaken with transparency at its core using consistent, meaningful and understandable data, reported frequently with evidence of periodic officer actions and elected member decision making.
 - Professional standards - Adherence to professional standards is promoted by the leadership team and is evidenced.
 - Assurance - sources of assurance are recognised as an effective tool and are mainstreamed into financial management, including political scrutiny and the results of external audit, Internal Audit and inspection.
 - Sustainability: issues around sustainability of local services are at the heart of all financial management processes and is evidenced by prudent use of public Resources.
- 4.4 Delivering financial sustainability is vitally important for the Council and the budget options presented have been drawn up with this in mind; consideration is given to areas of discretionary expenditure that could be curtailed along with demonstrating savings that can be delivered from statutory components of the Council.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, has been charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and budget to recommend to the Council.
- 5.2 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a

statutory responsibility of the Council. Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.

- 5.3 Section 30(6) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides that the Council has to set its budget before 11th March in the financial year preceding the one in respect of which the budget is set.
- 5.4 The provisions of section 25, Local Government Act 2003 require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves.
- 5.5 When considering options, Members must bear in mind their fiduciary duty to the council taxpayers of Wirral. Members must have adequate evidence on which to base their decisions on the level of quality at which services should be provided.
- 5.6 Where a service is provided pursuant to a statutory duty, it would be unlawful to fail to discharge it properly or abandon it, and where there is discretion as to how it is to be discharged, that discretion should be exercised reasonably.
- 5.7 The report sets out the relevant considerations for Members to consider during their deliberations and Members are reminded of the need to ignore irrelevant considerations. Members must not come to a decision which no reasonable authority could come to; balancing the nature, quality and level of services which they consider should be provided, against the costs of providing such services.
- 5.8 There is a particular requirement to take into consideration the Council's fiduciary duty and the public sector equality duty in coming to its decision.
- 5.9 The public sector equality duty is that a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to: (1) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010; (2) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (3) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 5.10 Any decision made in the exercise of any function is potentially open to challenge if the duty has been disregarded. The duty applies both to Full Council when setting the budget and to the Policy and Services Committees when considering decisions.
- 5.11 Once a budget is in place, Council has delegated responsibility to the Policy and Services Committees to implement it. The Committees may not act contrary to the Budget without consent of Council other than in accordance with the Procedure Rules set out at Part 4(3) of the Constitution.

- 5.12 It is essential, as a matter of prudence that the financial position continues to be closely monitored. In particular, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that agreed savings are delivered and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, any proposals put forward must identify the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce those savings.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The implications for staffing, ICT and Assets are complicit with individual savings proposals. Until decisions are taken in forming the final set of proposals to balance the 2023/24 Budget the overall impact is not able to be defined precisely.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget is dependent on a proactive approach due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the budget, albeit the best estimates available at the time, plus any amount of internal and external factors that could impact on the budget position. Examples of which are the significant emerging inflationary and cost of living pressures, new legislation, increased demand, loss of income, increased funding, decreased funding, inability to recruit to posts, ongoing impact of the pandemic etc
- 7.2 A robust monitoring and management process for the budget is in place. If at any time during the year an adverse position is forecast, remedial action must be agreed and implemented immediately to ensure the budget can be brought back to balanced position.
- 7.3 The risk of this not being able to be achieved could mean that the Council does not have enough funding to offset its expenditure commitments for the year and therefore not be able report a balanced budget at the end of the year. This could result in the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice.
- 7.4 A key risk to the Council's financial plans is that funding and demand assumptions in particular can change as more information becomes available. As such, the MTFP is regularly reviewed and updated as part of routine financial management.
- 7.5 A balanced MTFP is fundamental in demonstrating robust and secure financial management. Delivering a balanced position requires continual review and revision of plans to allow alternative financial proposals to be developed and embedded in plans as situations change. A delay in agreeing these may put the timetable for setting the 2023/24 budget at risk and may result in a balanced budget not being identified in time for the deadline of 11 March 2023.
- 7.7 Assumptions have been made in the current budget outlook for income and funding from business rates and council tax and social care grants as the main sources of funding. If there is an adverse change to these assumptions as a result of the CSR, additional savings proposals or reduced expenditure would need to be identified as

soon as possible to ensure a balanced five-year MTFP can be achieved. Committees will be kept updated with any announcements regarding the CSR through the year.

- 7.8 Sections 25 to 29 of the Local Government Act 2003 impose duties on the Council in relation to how it sets and monitors its budget. These provisions require the Council to make prudent allowance for the risk and uncertainties in its budget and regularly monitor its finances during the year. The legislation leaves discretion to the Council about the allowances to be made and action to be taken.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Consultation has been carried out with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in arriving at the governance process for the 2023/24 budget setting process. SLT have overseen the production of the budget scenarios laid out in this report.
- 8.2 Engagement with local residents and businesses has been undertaken as part of the budget setting process. Service specific consultation has been undertaken and reported to the relevant Policy and Services Committees for comment before being presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 15 February 2023.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 At this time, there are no further equality implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be equality implications associated with these, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 At this time, there are no additional environmental and climate implications as these have already been identified for the proposals agreed and submitted. However, where the budget is unbalanced and further proposals are required, then there may be environment and climate implications associated with these that will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 This report has no direct community wealth implications however the budget proposals under consideration should take account of related matters across headings such as the following:

- **Progressive Procurement and Social Value**
How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.
- **More local & community ownership of the economy**
Supporting more cooperatives and community businesses.
Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses.
Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during the pandemic to further develop this sector.
- **Decent and Fair Employment**
Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
- **Making wealth work for local places**

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1 - POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT JAN 23
APPENDIX 2 – TRANCHE 1 BUDGET WORKSHOP FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES
APPENDIX 3 – TRANCHE 2 BUDGET WORKSHOP FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CIPFA's Financial Management Code
The Annual Audit Letter for Wirral Council 2019-20

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	18 January 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	9 November 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	5 October 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	13 July 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	16 March 2022
Full Council	28 February 2022

APPENDIX 1 - POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT JAN 23

APPENDIX 2 – TRANCHE 1 BUDGET WORKSHOP FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES

APPENDIX 3 – TRANCHE 2 BUDGET WORKSHOP FEEDBACK AND OUTCOMES



POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 18 January 2023

REPORT TITLE:	2023/24 BUDGET UPDATE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (\$151 OFFICER)

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the 2023/24 budget position following the forecast position presented at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting on 5 October 2022 and at the subsequent Policy & Resources Committee Budget Workshop on 24 November 2022. Budget options are set out in this report, which have been developed in response to the previously outlined budget gap.

The Policy and Resources Committee, in consultation with the respective Policy and Service Committees, is charged by Council to formulate a draft Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and Budget to recommend to the Council. The Policy and Service Committees are responsible for those services being delivered under their operational headings within their annual budget envelope.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement was published on 19 December 2022 and the information provided in this report outlines the government’s announcements on that day and afterwards. The Provisional Finance Settlement becomes final at a date set by Government in late January or early February 2023.

The Settlement provided a level of additional resources to the Council and in addition the prospect of increasing Council Tax and the Adult Social care Precept by 4.99% for 2023/24; this is significantly below the headline rate of inflation in the UK economy at the present time (CPI c.10% at the date of this report). However, the additional resources which amount to £6.3m are insufficient to bridge the Council’s Budget shortfall which has been confirmed in the sum of £49m (gross) and £32.3m (net) following the completion of internal review and the impact of the Provisional Settlement but excluding the higher level of Council Tax increase that is now possible; that is 4.99% rather than 2.99% as envisaged in the MTFP approved by Council in February 2022.

Final budget proposals will be presented to Policy & Resources Committee on 15 February 2023 for recommendation to full Council. This report supports the delivery of the Wirral Plan as part of the process of delivering a balanced budget for all Council activity, and therefore all Wirral Plan aims and objectives, for 2023/24. This report is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Policy and Resources Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the outcome of the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement for 2023/24, in advance of the Final Settlement which is expected in late January/early February 2023.

2. Recognise the extent of the Council's financial challenge and the need to make significant financial savings in order to maintain the Council as a going concern, to avoid the issuance of a Section 114 notice and the potential ministerial intervention under Section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999 which would be likely to ensue.
3. Note the savings, efficiencies and income proposals that are available to address the 2023/24 budget gap.
4. Note the latest position on consultation and agree to consult on the Budget proposals for 2023/24, under section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
5. Note that the Section 151 Officer may need to make further adjustments to the forecast budget shortfall pending final decisions by Members in the period ahead.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council has a legal responsibility to set a balanced budget, which sets out how financial resources are to be allocated and utilised. To do this effectively requires engagement with staff, elected members and residents along with other stakeholders. Previous reports to the Committee have highlighted the external challenges that are impacting on the 2023/24 budget setting process and have highlighted the extent of the financial challenge faced. This report presents the culmination of the work undertaken to present options for budget formulation and to ensure the necessary preparations to facilitate a budget recommendation to Council on 27 February 2023.
- 1.2 The scale of the financial challenge that the Council faces cannot be overstated. Setting a budget, especially in the context of largely uncontrollable, macro-economic pressures, requires challenging decisions to ensure that a balanced position can be presented. Members have been engaged in the process through the work of the Policy and Service Committees and the Policy and Resource Budget and Development Group composed of Group Leaders.
- 1.3 Failure to set a balanced budget may lead to intervention from the Secretary of State under section 15 of the Local Government Act 1999. Failure to set a lawful budget by the required deadline will lead to a loss of revenue that is likely to be irrecoverable and incur significant additional costs and reputational damage. Providing this update following the announcement of the Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement, is a way of taking suitable steps to enable the Council to set a lawful budget and to protect the Council, Customers and Members from the consequences of failing to take the necessary decisions.
- 1.4 Council approved the then latest Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) at its meeting on 28 February 2022; this confirmed key principles the Council would consider in respect of its financial planning. The MTFS provides a robust, consistent, and sustainable approach to establishing and maintaining a stable and prudent financial basis on which the Council's services are to be delivered.
- 1.5 In order to fulfil the aims of the MTFS, it is imperative that proposals for budget options are evidence based and achievable. In order to ensure that this is the case, rigorous review has been undertaken through:
- Directorate Management Teams (DMT)
 - Senior Leadership Team (SLT)
 - Internal Challenge Panels
 - Council Committees.
- 1.6 This process of review and challenge is ongoing, to ensure that final proposals made to Policy & Resources Committee in February, for recommendation to Full Council, are fully scrutinised and fit and proper in terms of readiness for decision-making. Contained within this report are all current options for consideration prior to the need to make final decisions on how the budget for 2023/24 should be balanced.
- 1.7 The information contained in this report also provides the opportunity for the Policy and Services Committees at their meetings in January 2023 to provide feedback on the budget proposals for the Policy and Resources Committee to take into consideration in recommending a lawful budget to Full Council at its meeting of 27 February 2023.

1.8 As part of the budget setting process, the Policy and Resources Committee is able to take into consideration the outcome of the budget setting consultation process with residents, businesses, and all those with a stake in the future of Wirral.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 The setting of a legal budget is a statutory requirement and therefore no other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 At the Policy and Resources Committee on 5 October 2022, a potential budget gap of £49m for 2023/24 was presented. Members will be aware that the budget gap is an ever-moving target due to a number of factors; these include:

- Ongoing Government announcements of funding, including specifically the Chancellor's Autumn Statement and the Provisional Local Government Financial Settlement for 2023/24
- A process of challenge and refinement within the Council to ensure that the proposals are evidence based. Addition of new pressures that continue to materialise as further local and national evidence comes to light.
- The continuing refinement of budget assumptions including inflation.
- The development and refinement of budget options.

3.2 As a result of these factors, the budget forecast presented in October 2022 has been updated and a more robust position is now available. This position - which was estimated before Christmas at £38.4m - has been confirmed as £32.3m after application of the Provisional Finance Settlement. This represents the Budget shortfall as of the date of this report and represents the target which needs to be offset with efficiencies, savings and cost reductions in moving towards a balanced position.

2023/24 Budget Position

- The 2023/24 budget position is currently as follows:

	23-24 Budget Position Reported in 5 Oct 22 (£m)	23-24 Revised Budget Position (£m)
TOTAL FUNDING	-339.30	-363.19
BUDGET REQUIREMENT		
Baseline	330.58	330.58
Removal of one-off items from 21/22:	-2.81	-2.81
Baseline Restated	327.77	327.77
ADD KNOWN PRESSURES/ GROWTH	60.54	67.72
INITIAL BUDGET GAP	49.00	32.30
DEDUCT PROPOSED NET SAVINGS	0	-39.50
REVISED BUDGET GAP / (SURPLUS)	49.00	-7.20

A more detailed analysis of this table can be found in Appendix 1.

- 3.3 In November 2022, the Chancellor of the Exchequer make fiscal announcements in his Autumn Statement. The details of this and further information has been supplied in the Provisional Finance Settlement and the main points are summarised in Appendix 2.
- 3.4 At the Policy and Resources Committee on 5 October, it was noted that officers would work up a further package of savings proposals to meet the forecast budget shortfall at that time with Members engaged via the Group Leaders' Budget Development Working Group established by Policy and Resources Committee. Accordingly, a set of budget proposals for 2023/24 are included in Appendix 3.

Capital Programme

- 3.5 In view of the very large revenue savings needed to balance the 2023/24 revenue budget the Budget proposals do not envisage additional Capital Programming for financial year 2023/24 unless one of the following conditions are met:
- The item is to be funded from Government grants, Section 106 contributions or other contributions and funding external to the Council
 - The item is funded from capital receipts

3. The item forms part of a business case that demonstrates clearly that revenue savings will flow from the capital investment and that these savings will exceed the commitment to fund this from borrowing or revenue resources.

3.6 The underlying assumptions used to form the forecast budget shortfall have already taken into account the savings arising from ongoing slippage in the Capital Programme. In addition the review has also identified opportunities to reach for further savings from existing programming.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This report is part of a programme of activity to ensure that a fully balanced, legal budget can be recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee to Full Council at its meeting of 27 February 2023.

4.2 The programme to develop a robust budget position, of which this report is a part, will support the Council in demonstrating compliance with CIPFA's Financial Management Code, specifically in relation to Section 4 of the FM Code which refers to the Annual Budget.

4.3 The FM Code requires the Council to demonstrate that the processes used satisfy the principles of good financial management, based on the following six principles:

- Organisational Leadership – demonstrating a clear strategic direction based on a vision in which financial management is embedded into organisation culture.
- Accountability – based on Medium-Term Financial Planning, which derives the annual budget process supported by effective risk management, quality supporting data and whole life costs.
- Financial management - undertaken with transparency at its core using consistent, meaningful and understandable data, reported frequently with evidence of periodic officer actions and elected member decision making.
- Professional standards - Adherence to professional standards is promoted by the leadership team and is evidenced.
- Assurance - sources of assurance are recognised as an effective tool and are mainstreamed into financial management, including political scrutiny and the results of external audit, Internal Audit and inspection.
- Sustainability: issues around sustainability of local services are at the heart of all financial management processes and is evidenced by prudent use of public Resources.

4.4 Delivering financial sustainability is vitally important for the Council and the budget options presented have been drawn up with this in mind, consideration is given to areas of discretionary expenditure that could be curtailed along with demonstrating savings that can be delivered from statutory components of the Council.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Council must set the budget in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 and approval of a balanced budget each year is a statutory responsibility of the Council and, therefore, of this Committee in preparing that budget.

- 5.2 The provisions of section 25, Local Government Act 2003 require that, when the Council is making the calculation of its budget requirement in February, it must have regard to the report of the chief finance (s.151) officer as to the robustness of the estimates made for the purposes of the calculations and the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves. In doing so, Members must satisfy themselves that sufficient mechanisms are in place to ensure both that savings are delivered, and that new expenditure is contained within the available resources. Accordingly, proposals put forward as part of the budget process will have identified the realistic measures and mechanisms to produce the desired outcomes.
- 5.3 Once the Committee has agreed draft budget proposals, there is then a requirement under section 65 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to conduct specific consultation with persons or bodies appearing to it to be representative of non-domestic ratepayers about the authority's proposals for expenditure (including capital expenditure) in the forthcoming financial year. The information required to be shared as part of the consultation is set out in the Non Domestic Ratepayers (Consultation) Regulations 1992. This includes the authority's current estimates of the total of its revenue expenditure and the total of its expenditure for capital purposes for the forthcoming financial year (the draft budget proposals). It must be borne in mind that this is consultation on the budget proposals, not on the decision to take whatever decision is implied by the adoption of that budget.
- 5.4 The report sets out the relevant considerations for Members to consider during their deliberations and Members are reminded of the need to ignore irrelevant considerations. Members have a duty to seek to ensure that the Council acts lawfully and, where a service is provided pursuant to a statutory duty, it would not be lawful to fail to discharge it properly or abandon it, and where there is discretion as to how it is to be discharged, that discretion should be exercised reasonably. Members must not come to a decision which no reasonable authority could come to; balancing the nature, quality and level of services which they consider should be provided, against the costs of providing such services.
- 5.5 There is a particular requirement to take into consideration the Council's fiduciary duty and the public sector equality duty in coming to a decision.
- 5.6 Members are also individually reminded that Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to the Council meeting on the budget and therefore arguably to the formulation of the Budget. Members who are two months or more in arrears with their Council Tax must declare this to the meeting and must not vote on budget recommendations, as to do otherwise can be a criminal offence.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The implications for staffing, ICT and Assets are complicit with individual savings proposals. Until decisions are taken in forming the final set of proposals to balance the 2023/24 Budget the overall impact is not able to be defined precisely.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Budget process designed for 2023/24 mitigates the risks of a Budget not being set lawfully. This is underpinned by a robust monitoring and review process both in 2022/23 and for 2023/24.
- 7.2 Failure to achieve a balanced budget would lead to the Section 151 Officer issuing a Section 114 notice and potential ministerial invention under Section 15 of the Local Government Act

1999.

- 7.3 Funding and demand assumptions can change as more information becomes available. As such, the Medium-Term Finance Plan (MTFP) is regularly reviewed and updated as part of routine financial management.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Initial consultation has taken place in respect of the priorities and views of the public in formulating the draft budget, as set out in this report. An update on the approach, methodology and current findings as of this date (given the consultation remains live) can be found in Appendix 4.
- 8.2 Statutory budget consultation will commence subject to agreement by the Committee. This will take place in January 2023 and feedback will be taken into consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee when recommending a budget to Full Council at its meeting of 15 February 2023.
- 8.3 The Council has engaged regularly with trade unions about the Council's financial position. This will continue throughout the budget setting process.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.
- 9.2 The equality implications will be included within the individual savings proposals currently being developed and will be addressed when these are brought forward for approval.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The environment and climate implications will be considered within the individual savings proposals currently being developed and will be addressed when these are brought forward for approval.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The community wealth implications will be considered within the individual savings proposals currently being developed. The budget proposals under consideration will take account of related matters across headings such as:
- a. Progressive Procurement and Social Value - How we commission and procure goods and services. Encouraging contractors to deliver more benefits for the local area, such as good jobs, apprenticeship, training & skills opportunities, real living wage, minimising their environmental impact, and greater wellbeing.
 - b. More local & community ownership of the economy – Supporting cooperatives and community businesses. Enabling greater opportunities for local businesses. Building on the experience of partnership working with voluntary, community and faith groups during recent years to further develop this sector.
 - c. Decent and Fair Employment Paying all employees a fair and reasonable wage.
 - d. Making wealth work for local places

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Forecast Budget Position 2023/24.

Appendix 2: Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24.

Appendix 3: Budget Setting Options 2023/24.

Appendix 4: Budget Consultation Update 2023/24.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

CIPFA's Financial Management Code

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy and Resources Committee	09 November 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	05 October 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	13 July 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	16 March 2022
Full Council	28 February 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2022

Appendix 1 - Forecast Budget Position 2023/24.

	23-24 Budget Position Reported in 5 Oct 22 (£m)	23-24 Revised Budget Position (£m)	Change (£m)	Note
FUNDING				
Council Tax	-168.43	-168.63	-0.20	
Business Rates	-138.07	-152.96	-14.89	
Other	-32.80	-41.59	-8.80	
TOTAL FUNDING	-339.30	-363.19	-23.89	a
BUDGET REQUIREMENT				
Baseline	330.58	330.58	0.00	
Removal of one-off items from 21/22:	-2.81	-2.81	0.00	
Baseline Restated	327.77	327.77	0.00	
ADD KNOWN PRESSURES/ GROWTH	60.54	67.72	7.18	
BUDGET GAP	49.00	32.30	-16.70	
DEDUCT PROPOSED SAVINGS				
Increasing Business Efficiencies	0	-17.91	-17.91	
Increasing Income	0	-5.36	-5.36	
Changing how we fund or provide services	0	-8.97	-8.97	
Reducing or stopping services	0	-7.26	-7.26	
Total Savings Income and efficiencies:	0	-39.50	-39.50	b
REVISED BUDGET GAP / (SURPLUS)	49.00	-7.20	-56.20	

Notes

a: Funding Changes

	£m	£m
Estimated funding assumptions 1 Oct 22		-339.30
Revised estimated funding assumptions Nov 22	-8.97	
Impact of Council Tax base increase	-0.20	
Additional funding - Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement	-14.72	
		-23.89
Revised estimated funding assumptions Dec 22		-363.19

Impact of Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement

Adjustment to funding	-14.72	
Related new pressures	8.44	
Net Impact of provisional Local Government Finance Settlement		-6.28

b: Proposed Savings

Proposed savings by Tranche	23-24 Budget Position Reported in 5 Oct 22 (£m)	23-24 Revised Budget Position (£m)
Tranche 1	0	-12.02
Tranche 2	0	-13.49
Tranche 3	0	-14.00
Total Savings Income and efficiencies:	0	-39.50

Proposed saving by Committee	23-24 Budget Position Reported in 5 Oct 22 (£m)	23-24 Revised Budget Position (£m)
Adult Social Care and Public Health	0	-5.94
Children, Young People & Education	0	-5.47
Economy Regeneration & Housing	0	-2.66
Environment, Climate Emergency & Transport	0	-1.69
Policy & Resources	0	-17.37
Tourism, Communities, Culture and Leisure	0	-6.38
Total Savings Income and efficiencies:	0	-39.50

Appendix 2

Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This briefing note outlines the government's announcement and subsequent publications on 19th December 2022 concerning the Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24 and gives an analysis on the impact on Wirral Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP), although as noted below all data is provisional at this stage.
- 1.2 The Local Government Finance Settlement gives a net betterment position of £6.28m compared to previous assumptions in the Medium-Term Financial Position (MTFP).
- 1.3 The £6.28m includes £12.30m more than previously assumed in Adult Social Care related ringfenced grants. However, this will bring additional cost pressures of £8.44m.
- 1.4 Despite additional funding in the settlement, additional savings will still be required in order to achieve a balanced budget position for 2023/24.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 17th November 2022 the government announced The Autumn Statement, alongside the Office for Budget Responsibility's (OBR's) new set of Economic and Fiscal Outlook forecasts. The Autumn Statement responded to the OBR forecasts and set out the medium-term path for public finances and the Government's spending plans for each government department for the next two financial years, including local government.

Following this, on 19th December 2022 the Local Government Finance Settlement 2023/24 was announced, with impacts on Core Spending Power for 2023/24, Social Care Grant allocations as well as other grant details. The settlement was for a single year only based on Spending Review 2021 funding levels updated for the Autumn Statement 2022 announcements.

At the same time, a consultation related to the settlement proposals was launched, which runs for 4 weeks and concludes on 16th January 2023.

3.0 LOCAL GOVERNMENT HEADLINES

3.1 Core Spending Power

Core Spending Power is a measure of the resources available to local authorities to fund service delivery. It sets out the money that has been made available to local authorities (assuming the maximum permitted Council Tax increase is implemented) through the Local Government Finance Settlement.

The headline announcement was that an additional £5 billion of funding would be "made available" to councils, representing a 9.2% cash terms increase, with a minimum increase being guaranteed at 3%.

Despite a 9.2% cash terms increase, the increase in funding does not meet inflation pressures faced by Councils, and therefore represents a real term drop in core spending power.

The main sources of the funding are summarised in the following table:

ENGLAND Funding Source	2022-23*	Provisional 2023-24	Change 23-24	Change 23-24
	<i>£ million</i>	£ million	<i>£ million</i>	%
Settlement Funding Assessment	14,882.2	15,671.1	788.9	5.3%
Compensation for the business rates multiplier	1,275.1	2,204.6	929.5	72.9%
Council Tax Requirement	31,922.5	33,838.4	1,915.9	6.0%
Improved Better Care Fund	2,139.8	2,139.8	0	0
New Homes Bonus	556.0	290.6	-265.4	-47.7%
Rural Services Delivery Grant	85.0	85.0	0	0
Social Care Grant	2,346.4	3,852.0	1,505.6	64.2%
Services Grant	822.0	464.2	-357.8	-45.5%
Market sustainability and FCC (and improvement)	162.0	562.0	400	246.9%
ASC Discharge Funding	0	300.0	300	100%
Lower Tier Services Grant	111.0	0	-111	-100%
Rolled in grants	238.6	0	-238.6	-100%
Minimum Funding Guarantee	0	136.0	136	100%
Core Spending Power	54,540.5	59,543.8	5,003.2	9.2%

3.2 Council Tax

The Council Tax proposals set out in the Autumn Statement in November were confirmed as part of the settlement. The proposal for core Council Tax in 2023/24 is a referendum cap of up to 3% (previously 2%).

There is also the flexibility to add up to a further 2% adult social care precept for authorities providing adult social care services.

3.3 Improved Better Care Fund

Improved Better Care fund is unchanged in cash terms for all upper tier councils, with distribution also unchanged.

3.4 Social Care Grant

Social Care Grant will increase by £2,044.6m in 2023/24, with the additional amounts allocated as follows:

- £1,505.6m of additional grant funding.
- However, £161m of that is the rolling in of the Independent Living Fund.
- £400m for additional Improvement funding added to Market Sustainability grant.
- £300m for ringfenced Adult Social Care Discharge funding.

Allocations are related to the Adult Social Care needs formula with recognition of Social Care Council Tax precept and to previous market sustainability funding allocations. More detail will follow on additional reporting requirements, and the better care fund and discharge funding must be pooled with local health boards.

- 3.5 **Lower Tier Services Grant**
Introduced in 2021/22, the Lower Tier Services Grant will cease and therefore not be distributed to Local Authorities in 2023/24. The funding for this grant will instead be used to support the guaranteed 3% increase in Core Spending Power.
- 3.6 **New Homes Bonus**
The government has decided to maintain the current approach to the NHB payments in 2022/23. There will be no legacy (i.e., second) payment of New Homes Bonus, with the value previously representing legacy payments instead being used to support the 3% CSP increase referred to in paragraph 3.1.

This results in a £265m (48%) reduction in the overall grant for 2023/24.
- 3.7 **Services Grant**
The overall value of this grant, first introduced in 2022/23, has reduced from £822m to £464m partly due to the removal of the National Insurance Levy which this grant previously included support for. The reduced amount will instead be used to enhance the Supporting Families Grant and to partially fund a contingency provision.
- 3.8 **Public Health Grant**
Information on the Public Health grant is not yet available and is expected in the new year.
- 3.9 **Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund**
This new grant totalling £562m includes £162m from the former Market Sustainability and Fair Cost of Care Fund, with the additional £400m intended to support Local Authorities in making tangible improvements to adult social care and in particular to address discharge delays, social care waiting times, low fee rates, workforce pressures, and to promote technological innovation in the sector.
- 3.10 **ASC Discharge Fund**
This is a new £300m grant for 2023/24 and is intended to form part of Better Care Fund plans. It is aimed at reducing delayed transfers of care and has been allocated based on the improved Better Care Fund shares in used in 2023/24.
- 3.11 **Minimum Funding Guarantee**
A new funding stream will be distributed in 2023/24 to replace Lower Tier Services grant and is intended to provide a funding floor for all local authorities, so that no local authority would see an increase in Core Spending Power that is lower than 3% before Council Tax decisions. The total funding for this grant is £136m.
- 3.12 **Funding Reform**
Government has confirmed that reforms to local government funding through the Relative Review of Needs and Resources, as well as the reset of accumulated business rates growth have both been paused for the remainder of this Spending Review period, but they are “committed to improving the local government finance landscape in the next Parliament”.

4.0 WIRRAL COUNCIL IMPACT

4.1 Council Tax

Previous assumptions have been that a 2% Core increase and a 1% Social Care Precept would be applied. The confirmation of the 3% core referendum principal means a potential increase in Council Tax income of approximately £1.65m.

Similarly, an additional 1% Council Tax precept for Adult Social Care would generate an additional £1.65m. Both these figures are subject to confirmation of the Council Tax Base figure for 2023/24, which is due to be reported to Policy and Resources in January 2023.

Should these increases not be fully implemented, alternative savings of £3.3m will need to be found.

4.2 Social Care Grant

Provisional allocations of the ringfenced Social Care Grant indicate that Wirral will receive £32.14m in 2023/24, which is an increase of £5.38m (including the Independent Living Fund) compared with previous 2023/24 assumptions included in the £38.4m budget gap.

However, as the Independent Living Fund has been rolled into the Social Care Grant there is a corresponding £1.52m pressure due to the removal of the grant from the revenue budget.

The net impact is therefore a £3.86m improvement on the MTFP.

4.3 Lower Tier Services Grant

With confirmation being received that this grant will cease after 2022/23, this constitutes a £0.52m reduction in funding for Wirral from 2022/23 budget and previous 2023/24 assumptions.

4.4 New Homes Bonus

It had previously been unsure if New Homes Bonus would continue after 2022/23, or if it would be distributed with the same methodology, and a reduction from the 2022/23 budget had therefore been assumed.

However, confirmation that the current New Homes Bonus approach would continue, and provisional allocations indicate Wirral will received £0.44m in 2023/24, an increase of £0.14m against previous assumptions.

4.5 Services Grant

Previous forecasts had assumed a reduction of Services grant due to the removal of the National Insurance Levy. However, provisional allocations indicate Wirral will receive £3.16m for this grant, which is £0.75m less than anticipated.

4.6 Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund

Provisional allocations allocate £4.22m of this fund to Wirral for 2023/24, which wasn't included in previous assumptions. However, although detailed conditions for this grant are not expected until early in 2023, at this stage it is assumed that this grant will be ringfenced and met with subsequent cost pressures and is therefore not an improvement to the overall budget position.

4.7 **ASC Discharge Grant**

This new grant will form part of Better Care Fund plans and Wirral has been allocated £2.7m for 2023/24. This will be met by corresponding cost pressures and therefore does not impact the budget position.

4.8 **Business Rates 100% Retention Pilot**

The settlement confirmed that the 100% Business Rates Retention pilot that Wirral participates in alongside Liverpool City Region authorities will continue in 2023/24 and will therefore continue to benefit from the resulting increased level of Business Rates receipts for another year. This was already budgeted for in the MTFP. This is positive news as Wirral benefits by approximately £7m per year as a result of participating in the pilot.

Government will review the role of such arrangements as a source of income for areas and its impact on local economic growth, and as part of deeper devolution commitments as set out in the Levelling Up White Paper.

4.9 **Business Rates Top-up**

The latest assumptions were that the Business Rates Top-up would increase by 5% to £55.69m. Settlement confirms Wirral's 2023/24 allocation as £59.24m which is a 9.1% increase from 2022/23. This is an improvement of £3.55m and constitutes the following:

- 10.1% increase based on September 2022 CPI.
- An adjustment for the impact on Business Rates of the Revaluation 2023.

4.10 MTFP Assumptions Comparison

In total, the provisional impact of the Local Government Finance Settlement on Wirral's MTFP is an improvement of £6.28m, not including the potential further Council Tax increases referenced in paragraph 4.1. The following table summarises the impact of the provisional Local Government Finance Settlement on Wirral Council's MTFP:

	2022/23 Budget £m	2023/24		
		MTFP assumption (£38.4m gap) £m	Provisional settlement £m	MTFP Impact £m
Business Rates Top-Up	(54.29)	(55.69)	(59.24)	(3.55)
New Homes Bonus	(0.44)	(0.30)	(0.44)	(0.14)
Social Care Grant	(19.77)	(26.77)	(32.15)	(5.38)*
Lower Tier Funding	(0.52)	(0.52)	0.00	0.52
2022/23 Services Grant	(5.62)	(3.91)	(3.16)	0.75
Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund	0.00	0.00	(4.22)	(4.22)*
ASC Discharge Fund	0.00	0.00	(2.70)	(2.70)*
Funding impact of LGFS measures				(14.72)
Corresponding pressures:				
Independent Living Fund removal			1.52	
Market Sustainability & Improvement Fund			4.22	
Discharge Fund			2.70	
Additional cost pressures				8.44
Total provisional 2023/24 MTFP impact				(6.28)
* Additional Adult Social Care related ringfenced grants				(12.30)

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 While the settlement brings an improvement to Wirral's MTFP position, the data outlined in this briefing note should be treated with caution as it is subject to change.
- 5.2 Firstly the settlement is provisional at this stage and is open to consultation until the 16th January 2023. Following the closure of the consultation period the settlement is subject to Parliament approval, and as such the data outlined above is subject to change.
- 5.3 The impact of the Business Rates Revaluation 2023 on Business Rates income is at this stage unclear. The estimated income generated from Business Rates for 2023/24, as well as the related Section 31 Grants for qualifying reliefs, will be analysed in detail in conjunction with the guidance when available. Such estimates have a deadline for completion and submission to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) of 31st January 2023, and as such the impact of Business Rates income on the MTFP is not yet clear.

- 5.4 Similarly, the estimate of the Collection Fund position will impact the 2022/23 budget. This is a statutory process and is based on the latest data available on 15th January 2022 and therefore this will not be confirmed until late January.
- 5.6 It is important to remember that the government have only impacted a single -year settlement and the additional resources for 2023/24 only provide limited and short-term certainty while creating uncertainty for longer term financial planning.

Appendix 3 - List of Savings

Budget Saving Proposals can be placed into the following categories:

- Increasing Business Efficiencies
 - This approach will identify efficiency measures that will result in more effective ways in which services are currently provided and may include cost reduction.
- Increasing Income
 - The Council will look to identify areas where it can raise income through fees and charges.
- Changing how we fund or provide services
 - We aim to ensure that the right service reaches the right resident when and where they need it, for the best cost. This may mean changing how we fund or provide services so that we are able to reduce costs and maintain services by becoming more efficient and by doing things differently.
- Reducing or stopping services
 - Although all efforts will be made to keep service reduction to a minimum, the scale of the financial challenge means that not all reduction proposals can be avoided.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE EMERGENCY & TRANSPORT			
THEME	OPTION	DESCRIPTION	SAVING
Increasing Income	Introduction of Electric Vehicle charging scheme	Following a pilot, the Council is planning to introduce an electric vehicle charging policy and strategy that will introduce new charging points for electric vehicles generating a small income to the authority for re-investment.	£10,000
	Increase costs for Dropped Kerb service	The proposal would seek to increase the fees the Council applies to provide dropped kerbs outside people's houses to enable residents to access their drives. This will ensure full cost recovery to support the service.	£15,000
	Introduction of large format digital screen advertising opportunities	The Council plans to introduce large format, digital advertising screens in key gateway locations and small format free standing units in shopping areas to be used for commercial advertising to generate an income to the Council.	£20,000
	Review of Cemeteries and Crematoria service income	A review of income within Cemeteries and Crematoriums will look to increase income targets sustainable for future years.	£100,000
	Review of Pest Control service income	This option will increase the income target within the pest control team of Environmental Services in line with the recent demand for the service.	£10,000
	Review of bulky waste (ERIC) collections	The Bulky Waste collection service (ERIC service) currently collects up to 6 items for £32 per slot, with 120 slots available per week. The proposal is to reduce the number of items to 4 for £32 and increase the number of bookable slots by 5 per day - 145 per week.	£10,000

Increasing Income	Sale of Parks vehicles	A capital bid has been accepted for the procurement of new, efficient 'green' machinery. This saving would be achieved through the sale of the existing fleet, of which there are a number of vehicles that are high value.	£100,000
	Introduction of catering facilities at football playing fields	This option would see income generated through placement of outdoor catering pods at Arrowe Park Playing Fields and Levers Playing Fields to serve high footfall football traffic. A capital investment would be required.	£20,000
	Expansion of the camping offer at Wirral Country Park	This option would look to generate income through expanding the councils camping offer at Wirral Country Park.	£10,000
	Introduction of Pet Memorial Garden	This option would see an income generated through the development of a pet memorial garden for Wirral residents to commemorate their domestic pets.	£10,000
	Reintroduction of Christmas Markets at Birkenhead Park	This option would seek to restart Christmas Markets at Birkenhead Park. This model would see units / pitches being offered to traders who would pay a fee.	£10,000
	Introduction of an environmental enforcement scheme	This option proposes a move back to enforcement action against increasing levels of environmental crime including littering, dog fouling and fly tipping. The enforcement action will be undertaken by a 3rd party through an enforcement contract and would generate an income.	£150,000
Increasing Business Efficiencies	Capitalise Staff costs on infrastructure projects	A number of staff can be charged against the Council's capital programme budget leading to corresponding savings in the Council's revenue budget.	£60,000
	Review of Tree Management service	A redesign of the tree management service that will generate efficiency through the reduction of a vacant post and the generation of new income.	£50,000
	Restructure of the transport fleet	This option will deliver efficiencies through transport fleet and equipment remodelling and the introduction of replacement, alternative fuelled vehicles, and equipment.	£30,000
Changing how we fund or provide services	Environmental Health Service Review	A redesign of the Environmental Health Service to reduce the level of non-statutory provision and a reduction in staff by 1.5 FTE fixed term roles and 1 FTE permanent role.	£40,000
	Reduction in recycling promotional budget	This reflects a permanent, partial reduction of the Waste Team's recycling promotional budget from 2023/24.	£20,000
	Reduction in Waste & Environment Services budget	This option will make saving through partial reductions to elements of the Waste and Environmental Services budget.	£24,000

Reducing or stopping services	Reduction of non-statutory parks and countryside maintenance	The Parks and Countryside budget is approximately £4m. £3m of this is for statutory provision. Options have been brought forward to reduce the non-statutory element of the service by 50%.	£500,000
	Reduction in street cleansing	This option proposes the reduction in regular service street cleansing provision across the borough in residential areas, with a move to a reactive cleansing model. Cleansing would be undertaken in response to service requests and known hot spot/high demand locations. The service could still respond to fly tipping instances and service litter bins.	£500,000

TOURISM COMMUNITIES CULTURE & LEISURE			
THEME	OPTION	DESCRIPTION	SAVING
Increasing Income	Development of the events programme at Williamson Art Gallery	This option would look to generate income by developing the events programme at Williamson Art Gallery (weddings, formal dinners, birthday etc.). The option also includes savings from potential community asset transfer of the Transport Museum.	£70,000
	Review of current Neighbourhood Directorate assets/ buildings	This option would generate savings through a review of Neighbourhood Directorate assets, to identify properties/ buildings that could be considered for community asset transfer. There are currently no capital resources available from the Council in order to process CAT transfers.	£50,000
Increasing Business Efficiencies	Review of Neighbourhoods Staffing Structure	A re-structure in the Neighbourhoods Directorate that reflects a longer-term transformation plan to ensure the most efficient and cost-effective model of delivery.	£425,000
	Consolidation of under committed budgets across Neighbourhoods	This option will generate savings through a one-off collation of underspent budget lines across the service.	£60,000
	Leisure Centre service review	This saving option focuses on transformation of the service over 5-year period. The headline saving of £500k is for the first year's savings. This will focus on several key themes: energy efficiency measures, service restructures, contracts and commissioning arrangements and sales & marketing.	£500,000
Changing how we fund or provide services	Leisure Centre service review and closure of a council leisure centre	This saving option incorporates the transformation of the service saving of £500k along with the closure of one of the Council's leisure centres.	£1,000,000
	Reduce library service to 5 key sites	Wirral currently has 15 library sites. Footfall at all libraries has reduced and has not recovered from pre-pandemic levels. This option proposes a reduction in the service down to 5 sites.	£759,000

Changing how we fund or provide services	Relocation of Birkenhead & Wallasey Central libraries	This option proposes the relocation of Wirral's 2 Central libraries in Birkenhead and Wallasey from the two, current, high-cost sites into Birkenhead Town Hall and the Floral Pavilion respectively to reduce overall library service building running costs.	£280,000
	Reduce library service to 5 key sites & relocate central libraries	Wirral currently has 15 library sites. Footfall at all libraries has reduced and has not recovered from pre-pandemic levels. This option proposes a reduction in the service down to 5 sites as well as relocating Birkenhead and Wallasey sites into Birkenhead Town Hall and the Floral Pavilion.	£874,000
Reducing or stopping services	Temporary standing down of two council swimming pools	This proposal would involve standing down two of the Council's swimming pools to achieve savings in heating and running costs.	£850,000
	Closure of all non-statutory leisure services and activities	This option would involve stopping all Council leisure provision on the basis that it is a non-statutory, discretionary service that requires significant financial support from core Council budget which is forecast to increase further in 2023/24.	£4,900,000

CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION			
THEME	OPTION	DESCRIPTION	SAVING
Increasing Business Efficiencies	Reduction in Wirral's Looked After Children numbers	This saving reflects a reduction in Wirral's Looked After Children numbers as historic high levels align more with other authorities following practice improvements since 2019.	£410,000
	Reduction in Teacher's pension liabilities to the council	This saving reflects a reduction in Teacher's pension liabilities for the Council.	£190,000
	Review of Supporting Families funding and Early Help budgets	The proposal will involve investing the supporting families funding and Early help budgets effectively to reduce CIN and CP demand. The outlook is of increasing demand on frontline services as things return to normal post covid.	£1,121,000
	Review of contracts within Children's Services	A review will be undertaken to look at all contracts that are in place across Children's Services to explore where there are any efficiencies which can be achieved.	£250,000
	Review of council's contribution towards European Funded Send Inclusion Programme	This saving reflects the end of the Council's contribution towards a European Funded programme that will end at the end of 2022/23.	£220,000
	Reduction in financial support to Kingsway High School	Kingsway High School is being re-purposed for other educational uses and as such the occupier will pay the proportionate liability associated with the PFI deal, which will reduce costs and generate a financial saving.	£134,000
Changing how we	Reduction in contributions to the Regional Adoption	This saving reflects a reduction in contributions to the Regional Adoption Agency in line with the	£100,000

	Agency in line with the average number of referrals	average number of referrals reducing in recent years.	
	Increase the number of <i>children looked after</i> placed in family settings as opposed to higher cost residential settings	This proposal involves increasing the proportion of children placed in family settings and less in other settings such as residential and semi-independent settings. As family-based settings are lower cost than residential settings there is a cost reduction for the Council.	£1,100,000
	Remodelling of social care and early help	The proposal will involve the redesign and restructure of the Assessment and Intervention Service in Children and Families and the Family Matters service to provide one single service.	£655,000
Reducing or stopping services	Removal of budget supporting Play Services schemes	Wirral currently has 3 of out of hours and weekend play schemes. This service, which employs 9 staff, supports child development and education through play and is non-statutory. Play services currently operate at: Leasowe Adventure Playground, Gautby Play Scheme, Beechwood Play scheme as they are targeted in areas of greatest need. The option would remove this service altogether.	£284,000
	Reduction of Youth services offer to minimum statutory service	This service, which employs 68 staff, includes a youth club provision in each of the 9 neighbourhoods, detached youth workers covering the borough, and an annual contribution to the Hive Youth Zone. A number of options have been brought forward to reduce the service. This option would see the service being reduced to a statutory minimum provision.	£666,000
	Removal of budget supporting Creative Youth offer	Creative Youth Development employs 10 staff and delivers targeted packages of support to young people in crisis or with special educational needs and disabilities using a range of creative arts as therapeutic tools. The service is non-statutory, and options have been brought forward to reduce the service. This option would involve the service stopping altogether.	£343,000

THEME	OPTION	DESCRIPTION	SAVING
Changing how we fund or provide services	Review of all-age disability transition planning	This programme will focus on transition planning to better prepare young people with care and health needs for adulthood through tailored and more creative approaches to meeting care and support needs. A review of practice and approaches to transition planning will see needs identified earlier, with planned care and support leading to the delivery of the efficiency target.	£1,000,000
	Review of services to support Independent Living	A range of Demand Management initiatives will deliver the required efficiency savings. These are related to technology enabled care provision, increasing take up of Direct Payments as a cost-effective way to meet people's needs, utilising an increased range of extra care and supported housing options, and continuing to embed The Three Conversations approach to requests for care and support.	£4,935,000

ECONOMY REGENERATION AND HOUSING			
THEME	OPTION	DESCRIPTION	SAVING
Increasing Income	One off rental income for partial leasing of Cheshire Lines office space	The NHS CCG will be occupying some of the space in Cheshire Lines Building and paying a contribution towards the lease and running of costs. As the lease on Cheshire Lines is due to end in April 2024, this is a one year only income for 23-24.	£146,000
	Lease income from rental of floors 4 & 5 at Marris House	The Council had leased the 4th and 5th Floors of Marris House, with the break clause having been implemented and the lease terminated in July 22. Any make good work on the return of the lease have been met from the 22/23-part year saving on the lease costs. Full savings will be achievable for 23-24.	£136,000
	Increase eligible rechargeable costs for Building Control services	This option would generate income through increasing the eligible rechargeable costs in the areas of building control and housing services and is based on the assumptions on what can be recharged to fee income in the areas of building control, street names and numbering and land charges.	£80,000
Increasing Business Efficiencies	Review of Merseytravel levy budget	The Merseytravel levy is set by the Combined Authority, which includes any changes identified in the City Region population levels and demographics. This option will realise a saving through the financial difference between the budget set for the levy and the actual levy cost.	£122,000
	Capitalisation of salaries (Re-direction of qualifying salaries away from the council's central budget	This proposal will include a change to re-direct qualifying salaries away from the council's central budget. This will apply to staff within Assets division work on the school's capital programme, which enhances and creates schools' assets and is funded via grant.	£85,000
Increasing Business Efficiency	Stand down and disposal of a number of council owned buildings	This option is a continuation of a project that was commissioned in 2019 to review the accommodation strategy of the Council. Savings will be made on the	£672,000

		assumption that the buildings will all be empty, and functions “stood down” completed by 31 st March 2021 and disposed of no later than 31 st March 2023.	
	Decommissioning of the Solar Campus site and relocation of teams currently working from the facility.	This option will see a partial in-year saving through decommissioning of the Solar Campus and relocation of teams currently working from the facility. Full stand down savings will be realised in 24/25.	£5,000
	Standing down of Wallasey Town Hall for a 12-month period	In 2023/24, the North and South Annexes are being demolished and this will effectively put the Town Hall between two demolition sites for most of the year. This will have practical implications on the use of, and access to the building. Savings will therefore be realised through the standing down of Wallasey Town Hall for 2023/24.	£400,000
	redesign and review of contract commissioning for Economic Growth	This option will see savings made through the redesign of the specification for services completed prior to commissioning and the subsequent competitive price achieved through tendering.	£65,000
	Recharging of staff costs where eligible grant funding is in place for Economic Growth projects	This option will see a one-off saving of staff cost recovery from grant funding. This relates to eligible work across several regeneration programmes where a proportion of permanent staffing costs can be recharged for staffing time including European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and Town Deal.	£71,500
	Recharging of staff costs where eligible grant funding is in place for Homes for Ukraine Resettlement Programme	This option will see a one-off saving of staff cost recovery from grant funding. This relates to eligible work undertaken for the Resettlement Programme associated with responding to the Homes for Ukraine.	£593,110
	Recharging of costs where eligible grant and fee income is rechargeable within Supported Housing services	This option would realise savings where grant and fee income are rechargeable. This includes eligible costs associated with Private Rented Sector Housing Licensing, the Healthy Homes service and works linked to the Disabled Facilities Grant.	£59,600
Changing how we fund or provide services	Re-provision of homeless accommodation and review of community alarm grant	This option is a follow on from savings implemented in 22/23 that can again be realised in 23/24 – this being re-provision of homeless accommodation and review of grant to current eligible customers for the community alarm/response services charges.	£137,000
	Review of Housing Support service and Fuel Poverty contract	This proposal will realise efficiencies by moving to a single low level floating housing support service, as well as a review of the Fuel Poverty contract.	£87,500

POLICY AND RESOURCES

THEME	OPTION	DESCRIPTION	SAVING
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Increasing Business Efficiencies	Review of digital systems within the Revenue and Benefits service	This option will generate efficiencies through increased use of automation within Revenues & Benefits reducing the need for double keying and manual intervention from staff.	£100,000
	Review of council funded trade union representatives	The Council currently funds salaries for four full time trade union reps for UNISON. Funding was in place initially for three reps, but this was increased to a fourth, on a temporary basis, during the pandemic and been absorbed into the core budget. This option will realise a saving by returning to financially supporting just three full reps.	£35,000
	Review of current payroll functions	This option will realise saving through a review of the council's current payroll functions in order to reduce duplication and increase efficiencies.	£60,000
	Review of enabling (back office) services across the council	This option will bring forward a review of all enabling (back office) services across the whole organisation to identify economies of scale and opportunities for greater centralisation of these services.	£2,300,000
	Review of senior management structure	This option brings forward a package of senior management savings across the whole organisation to be achieved primarily through vacancy management.	£800,000
Reducing or stopping services	Corporate Office Restructure	This option will generate efficiencies and reduction in budget through a re-structure of the PA hub, which takes account of the changes in duties arising within this cohort since the move to remote and hybrid working. The review is inextricably linked with the review of the Chief Officer structure.	£70,000
Increasing Business Efficiencies	Use of NNDR reserve - one off	Use of the residual sum of £3m to balance budget shortfall.	£3,000,000
	Insurance reserve - one off	Following a review of Insurance Reserves, a figure of £1m can be release on one off basis.	£1,000,000
	Reprice pay budgets at mid-point	To this point council pay budgets have been costed at highest spinal point. This adjustment re-costs pay budget at mid-point which is normal for the sector and appropriate of pay commitments of this council.	£2,800,000
	Apply vacancy factor to pay budgets	A vacancy factor has been calculated in detail for each directorate of the council.	£2,300,000
	Council wide budget adjustment	Adjust operational budgets applying a factor of tenth of 1%	£440,000

Increasing Income	DSG contribution to statutory functions	This was a correction of the previous base estimate.	£1,200,000
	Increase Council Tax / ASC Levy by 2% to a total of 4.99%	Council Tax increase beyond base assumption	£3,260,000

1.0 Wirral ‘Have Your Say’ Consultation

1.1 The approach to the initial consultation was twofold; firstly, in terms of service impact consultation (where a budget option has a direct impact on reducing the level of provision of a specific service) and secondly, to gauge the opinions and priorities of our residents as to what council services matter most to them, and where they believe the council should be focusing its efforts to help develop the budget plan – this was presented via an online budget simulator.

1.2 Both were delivered through the council’s ‘Have Your Say’ platform in the form of a ‘Hub’. This approach provided users with one single location through which to engage in the service consultations and participate in the budget simulator exercise. <https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/hub-page/budget-2023-24>

Projects within the Hub include:

1. Street Cleansing Budget Option
2. Library Services Budget Option
3. Leisure Services Budget Option
4. Parks & Countryside Budget Option
5. Youth Services Budget Option
6. Budget Simulator

1.3 To ensure the consultations were as accessible as possible, a social and digital sub campaign was also carried out, which included regular messaging, targeted demographical and geographical communications, resident e-newsletters, and regular theme specific stories, linking with the narrative, and urging residents and stakeholders to take part in the consultation. communication channels included (but not limited to):

1. Social media messaging across a variety of platforms
2. Dedicated email address (for comments, ideas, request for paper copies etc)
3. Paper copies in libraries and leisure centres
4. WirralView news channel – article and links
5. Links and details in weekly Resident E-Newsletter
6. Digital and social links to the ‘Have Your Say’ Hub
7. Online redirection through local news platforms
8. Council website notices
9. Internal / Staff communications
10. Local media briefing/ media management
11. Member briefing
12. Sharing of links and paper copy locations with CVF sector

***The following data and findings are true as of 5.1.22. Consultation remains live at this date.**

1.4 Parks and Countryside <https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/budget-2023-24-parks>

At present, the online consultation has engaged 484 respondents*. Users were asked their opinion on:

1. A 50% reduction in the maintenance budget (effecting non-statutory works at a selection of parks across the parks and countryside services estate).

Current sentiment:

- a. 80% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 6% neutral
- c. 14% Strongly agree/agree

2. A 25% reduction in the maintenance budget (effecting non-statutory works at a smaller selection of parks across the parks and countryside services estate).

Current sentiment:

- a. 64% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 7% neutral
- c. 29% Strongly agree/agree

An open question is also included for respondents to register qualitative feedback.

1.5 **Leisure Services** <https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/budget-2023-24-leisure-services>

At present, the online consultation has engaged 453 respondents*. Users were asked their opinion on:

1. A Discontinuation to provide Leisure Services across the borough.

Current sentiment:

- a. 86% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 3% neutral
- c. 11% Strongly agree/agree

2. The Possible closure of two swimming pools

Current sentiment:

- a. 56% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 7% neutral
- c. 37% Strongly agree/agree

3. A reduction in the number of leisure centre sites the council owns and manages.

Current sentiment:

- a. 53% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 9% neutral
- c. 38% Strongly agree/agree

An open question is also included for respondents to register qualitative feedback.

1.6 **Library Services** <https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/budget-2023-24-leisure-services>

At present, the online consultation has engaged 459 respondents*. Users were asked their opinion on:

1. A relocation of the council's two biggest and most expensive library sites to operate, Birkenhead Central and Wallasey Central libraries.

Current sentiment:

- a. 46% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 7% neutral
- c. 47% Strongly agree/agree

2. Reducing the size of the library service to provide a small number of key, geographically located sites, supported by a wide-ranging online, digital and mobile library offer.

Current sentiment:

- a. 58% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 7% neutral
- c. 35% Strongly agree/agree

3. The moving of some library sites into other council buildings, reducing the overall number of library sites it currently provides. (Retaining an online and digital service and deploying a mobile library service).

Current sentiment:

- a. 40% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 8% neutral
- c. 52% Strongly agree/agree

An open question is also included for respondents to register qualitative feedback.

1.7 **Street Cleansing** https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/budget-2023-24-street-cleansing/survey_tools/budget-2023-24-street-cleansing

At present, the online consultation has engaged 322 respondents*. Users were asked their opinion on:

1. Moving to a reactive model of street cleaning (cleansing undertaken in response to service requests and in known hot spot/ high demand locations).

Current sentiment:

- a. 54% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 10% neutral
- c. 36% Strongly agree/agree

2. A reduction in cleansing schedules would see a move from 4-weekly to 12-weekly cleansing schedules across the whole borough (retaining 4-weekly alleyway cleanse service.)

Current sentiment:

- a. 56% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 9% neutral
- c. 35% Strongly agree/agree

An open question is also included for respondents to register qualitative feedback.

1.8 **Youth Services Street Cleansing** https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/budget-2023-24-youth-services/survey_tools/budget-2023-24-youth-services

In order to increase and ensure engagement for Wirral's under 18 residents, a Microsoft Forms version of the consultation was produced. Preliminary findings below will therefore reflect both versions.

At present, the online consultation has engaged 151 respondents through the 'Have Your Say'(HYS) hub, and 740 through the MS Forms (MSF) channel.* Users were asked their opinion on:

1. The closure of Pilgrim Street Arts Centre and re-provision of services to either an 'outreach' or 'pop-up' offer.

Current sentiment: (HYS)

- a. 67% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 10% neutral
- c. 23% Strongly agree/agree

Current sentiment: (MSF)

- a. 69% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 10% neutral
- c. 21% Strongly agree/agree

2. The removal of the Play Services budget.

Current sentiment: (HYS)

- a. 62% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 7% neutral
- c. 31% Strongly agree/agree

Current sentiment: (MSF)

- a. 78% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 4% neutral
- c. 18% Strongly agree/agree

3. The reduction of the council's Youth Services offer.

Current sentiment: (HYS)

- a. 72% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 6% neutral
- c. 22% Strongly agree/agree

Current sentiment: (MSF)

- a. 80% Strongly disagree/disagree
- b. 5% neutral
- c. 15% Strongly agree/agree

An open question is also included for respondents to register qualitative feedback.

1.9 **Budget Simulator** <https://haveyoursay.wirral.gov.uk/budget-2023-24-simulator>

The budget simulator is easy to use and allows residents to reduce spending across council services and see the consequences of their choices. There is also opportunity to provide comments, which will help us understand what is important when we come to set a legal budget.

At present, the online simulator has engaged 640 respondents*

The below chart indicates the average expenditure change for each slider reflecting resident priorities:

Adult Social Care & Health	
Adult Social Care commissioned services	-20.70%
Children, Families & Education	
Early Help & Prevention	-13.63%
Education & Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support	-12.11%
Children's Social Care & Safeguarding	-9.45%
Neighbourhood Services	
Community Safety	-18.09%
Highways and Infrastructure	-18.91%
Leisure, Libraries & Customer Engagement	-24.06%
Parks & Environment	-23.24%
Resources	
Revenues & Benefits	-25.35%
Regeneration	
Regeneration	-26.05%
Housing	-20.78%
Planning	-29.26%
Support Services	
Support Services	-28.40%



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2023

Report Title:	WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD UPDATE REPORT
Report of:	DIRECTOR OF CARE AND HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks to further update the Committee on the work of the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board (WSAPB) and advise on reporting schedules for WSAPB Annual Reports.

The Care Act 2014 requires Local Authorities to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board in its area. Up until June 2021, the Merseyside Safeguarding Adults Board fulfilled this requirement for Wirral Local Authority; however, following the cessation of the Merseyside Board in June 2021 it became a necessity to establish a new Board for Wirral. This took place in September 2021.

This underpins the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 vision of Safe and Pleasant Communities and Active and Healthy Lives - working to provide happy, active and healthy lives for all

This is not a key decision and affects all wards.

RECOMMENDATION

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to note the update report in relation to the work of the Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board and the reporting schedule for future Annual reports.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure the Committee is updated on the work of the WSAPB and is sighted on the annual reporting schedule for the Boards Annual Report.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No update could be presented to Committee, but this could impact on the Committee's ability to fulfil their duty in protecting adults at risk.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board held its inaugural meeting in September 2021 and meets quarterly with the addition of two development days per year. The Board is chaired by an Independent Person, Sue Redmond, and is supported by a Board Manager and an Administrator.
- 3.2 The following diagram shows the current structure which was reviewed and updated in June 2022. The Structure will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure it remains fit for purpose.



- 3.3 The Boards Strategic plan for 2022 – 2024 was signed off on 19 September; and is attached with an update of progress to date (Appendix 1). Also attached is a visual minutes document (Appendix 2) from a Development Day held with Board members and colleagues from Nursing and Residential Care Homes held on 25 November 2022.

- 3.4 Safeguarding Adults Boards are required to produce an Annual Report detailing their work in the previous financial year to include safeguarding data and information on any SARs (Safeguarding Adult Reviews) undertaken. As the WSAPB was only established part way through 2021 it was agreed by Board that the first Annual report for the WSAPB would cover September 2021 to March 2023. It is proposed that this report will be finalised and brought to Committee in January 2024. The reason for the delay is due to the publication of the National Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC) data which is published at the end of November for the previous financial year. To use local data in the report prior to the publication of the National data runs the risk of differing information being reported.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 S.43(1) Care Act 2014 states that each Local Authority must establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for its area. Without having arrangements to have a SAB, Wirral will not fulfil its statutory duties. This will also affect S.44 Care Act and the role for the Safeguarding Adults Board to ensure that Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) are managed within the local area.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 The Board is supported by 1 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) Board Manager, 1 FTE Administrator and up to 24 days per year of support from the Independent Chair.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 If a Board were not in place, Wirral Council would be at risk of not fulfilling its statutory functions under S.43/S.44 Care Act 2014. This could place members of the community at risk of harm or abuse and/or neglect. These risks are mitigated by having a Safeguarding Adults Partnership Board.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A wide range of stakeholders were consulted in the lead up to the implementation of the new Board and engaged within a stakeholder workshop which was felt to be a positive and productive event. Moving forward a key priority of the Board is to hear the views of citizens including those experiencing services, families, carers and those working within organisations and systems. Co-production is also a key priority, and we are linking with other key strategic partnerships around this i.e. Health and Wellbeing Board, Children's Partnership, Safer Wirral Partnership, Domestic Abuse Change Board. All partners have been involved in the development of the new Strategic Plan through participation in development sessions and Board Meetings. Engagement with the Care Sector has increased through the

Development Day held on 25 November and is the basis for more engagement work with the sector moving forward.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. There are no direct equality implications from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no direct environment and climate implications. Current arrangements require less travel by the majority of Board members, contributing to a reduction in carbon emissions.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Board has a role to play in supporting the development of resilient local communities and community support organisations in relation to adult abuse and neglect both from a preventative perspective as well as identification and response.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - WSAPB Strategic Plan (December 2022 update)

Appendix 2 - WSAPB Development Day Visual Minutes (November 2022)

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Care Act 2014

WSAPB Terms of Reference

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in accordance with Section 2.2(a) adult social care matters (e.g., people aged 18 or over with eligible social care needs and their carers).

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	18 January 2021
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	3 March 2022
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	26 September 2022

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WIRRAL SAFEGUARDING ADULTS PARTNERSHIP BOARD

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022- 2024

Raising awareness of adult abuse and neglect by improving the quality of adult safeguarding services for the residents of Wirral and those working with them.

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BE ASSURED...

1. Quality of Services
2. Neglect (Whole family approach)
3. Self-Assessment & Multi Agency Audits
4. VPRF Referrals - police

BE HEARD...

1. Advocacy
2. Connectivity (Frontline, Public and other boards)

BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SKILLED...

1. Multi-Agency Training
2. Learning from SARs and other reviews
3. PiPoT (Persons in Position of Trust)
4. LPS – Liberty Protection Safeguards

WSAPB Business Plan 2022- 2024

Improving the quality of Adult Safeguarding Services for the residents of Wirral and those working with them.

BE ASSURED – QUALITY OF SERVICES

OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG
Ensure there are appropriate Multi-agency Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures in place and where necessary co-ordinate their revision	Operational Safeguarding subgroup	December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MA Safeguarding Adults Policy, S42 Guidance and WSAPB Escalation Policy & Procedure signed off at December 2022 board - Inaugural Operational Safeguarding Group meeting took place on 07/12/22 - Forward plan for all 	

Key

Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

			Policies & procedures agreed at the above meeting	
Ensure there is a consistent, measurable approach to the grading of quality of care in local care homes	Care Home Quality Task & Finish Group	January 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Care Home Development Day took place on 25/11/22 - PAMs system implemented 	
Gain assurance that the information is used to improve quality	Quality & Performance Subgroup	March 2023	-	
Provide quarterly reports on the progress of Quality Improvement projects	Key partners	Quarterly from January 2023 onwards		
BE ASSURED – NEGLECT (a whole family approach-joint approach with WSCP)				
OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG

Key	
Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

Develop a Wirral wide neglect strategy	Combined Neglect Group	January 2023	- Several 'Neglect' meetings attended by Business Manager. Strategy on track for completion	
Awareness raising re Neglect and the support available locally	Combined Neglect group	March 2023		
BE ASSURED – SELF ASSESSMENT AND AUDITS				
OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG
Develop a Self - Assessment tool for use by all organisations delivering services	Quality & Performance subgroup	December 2022	- Discussed at Q&P group in November and T & F group agreed at December 2022 meeting	
All organisations delivering services to undertake an adult safeguarding self-assessment	Quality & Performance subgroup	Annually June 2023 & June 2024	- Discussed at December 2022 meeting	
Develop a programme of	Quality & Performance	Developed by March	- Discussed at Q & P	

Key	
Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

multi-agency deep dive audits derived from the findings from the WSAPB's performance dashboard	subgroup	2023 and undertaken periodically thereafter	group in November	
Develop a schedule of reporting to the board detailing the outcomes of safeguarding audits undertaken by individual agencies	Key partners & WSAPB Business Manager	Twice yearly – dates to be agreed	- Discussed at Q & P group in November	
BE ASSURED – VPRF Referrals				
OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG
Participate in the collaborative Learning Review (MSARG 22) detailing concerns re VPRF referrals and work with Police colleagues to improve the system	WSAPB Business Manager	January 2023	- Further meetings have taken place and information is ready to be discussed with Police Colleagues	

Key	
Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

Report the outcomes to the WSAPB to support the identification of trends and areas for improvement	WSAPB Business Manager and Police Colleagues	February 2023		
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BE HEARD – ADVOCACY

OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG
Develop a stream of work to better understand the provision and uptake of Advocacy services on the Wirral	Operational Safeguarding subgroup	Initiate September 2022 and complete by March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spotlight Session held in September 2022 to start discussion - NCompass colleagues attend the board subgroup to lead this piece of work - T & F group set up to undertake a scoping and assurance exercise and come back to board with proposals of next steps / actions req'd 	

Key

Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

BE HEARD – CONNECTIVITY (Frontline and Public)

OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG
Develop appropriate and effective mechanisms to hear the voices of our citizens to inform the work of the board. Each Board meeting to start with a story of someone with lived experience	Communication & Engagement subgroup	December 2022 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hoarders work & experience planned for December board meeting - Forward plan discussed at December 2022 Comm's & Engagement subgroup - 2 strands of consultation work underway. One with the VCSFE sector and one with practitioners 	
Develop appropriate and effective mechanisms to engage with	Communication & Engagement subgroup	Ongoing with quarterly feedback to the WSAPB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed at December 2022 Comm's & Engagement sub- 	

Key

Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

<p>practitioners and use their experiences to improve safeguarding adult services on the Wirral</p>			<p>group with focus group sessions planned and agreed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 strands of consultation work underway. One with the VCSFE sector and one with practitioners 	
<p>Work with other boards in Wirral to ensure the work of the WSAPB is aligned with Wirral priorities and opportunities for joint work are maximised</p>	<p>Independent Chair and WSAPB Business Manager</p>	<p>Initiated September 2021. Work ongoing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Several meetings have taken place, but further work is needed. New date has been arranged for January. 	

Key	
Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SKILLED – MULTI-AGENCY TRAINING

OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG
Develop a multi-agency workforce development strategy with particular focus on the training needs of our 3 rd sector partners	WFD Task & Finish group	March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting held with Wirral Council organisational Development team and support agreed - Proposal agreed at December 2022 board - WFD Task & Finish group meeting arranged for 19th December 2022 	
Roll out a comprehensive programme of Multi-agency Safeguarding Adults training for Wirral	WFD Task & Finish group	June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WFD Task & Finish group meeting arranged for 19/12/22 to take forward this work subject to approval at Board 	

Key	
Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

			-	
BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SKILLED – LEARNING FROM SAR’S (Safeguarding Adult Reviews)				
OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG
Explore the Bexley Learning hub and other approaches to the sharing of learning from SARs and other processes	WFD Task & Finish group	September 2023	- to be undertaken by WFD task & Finish group once the training programme has been implemented	
Ensure a timely approach to the sharing of learning from national and local SARs	WFD Task & Finish group	March 2023	- On agenda for December 2022 Task & finish group meeting	
BE KNOWLEDGEABLE AND SKILLED – Specific safeguarding responsibilities				
OBJECTIVE	LEAD	TIMESCALE	PROGRESS	RAG
Re-launch the NW PIPOT policy and deliver	Operational Safeguarding subgroup	June 2023	- Awaiting revised version of the Policy from NWADASS	

Key	
Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
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Blue	exceed or complete

refresher briefings to support organisations in the undertaking of their responsibilities			group	
Ensure the partnership are aware of requirements under new LPS legislation (Liberty Protection Safeguards)	Operational Safeguarding subgroup	Dependent on publication of new legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spotlight session to be delivered by Lorna Quigley and Isabel Watson. Date to be confirmed - A core group is to be set up by Isabel Watson (PSW) to keep an oversight of developments in relation to LPS and provide periodic updates to Board as appropriate 	

Key	
Red	Off Track/not started
Amber	At risk or started
Green	on track
Blue	exceed or complete

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WIRRAL *Care homes*
SAFEGUARDING ADULTS
 PARTNERSHIP BOARD
 DEVELOPMENT DAY

THE WORKFORCE IS EXPLOITED
 PAID LESS THAN PEOPLE STACKING SHELVES, DOG WALKERS...
VALUE THEM!

I think CARE HOME REGISTERED MANAGER is the hardest job on the job market



Help build relationships

Take what we hear and feed it into Campaign work

CHARITY HELPLINE

Family part of the care team

QUALITY
 CONSISTENCY
 FUNDING
 CULTURAL VALUES

A VERY DIFFERENT LOT COMING IN...
 THE CLASH
 VERA LYNN
 CONSUMERS WHERE'S MY EN SUITE?



SUPERWOMAN
 THE SYSTEM HAS TO BE KIND TO THE WORKFORCE
 CONSTANT CRITICISM ISN'T HELPING...
 SOCIAL CARE NEEDS TO BE ELEVATED HIGHER IN THE CONSCIOUSNESS

END ISOLATION CARE



Develop COMMUNITY sense ~ schools & colleges going into care homes

SAFEGUARDING IS THE **RIGHT THING TO DO**

LOOK AT **WHOLE SYSTEM** AS WE GO FORWARDS

WE NEED TO AGREE WHAT DOES **GOOD** LOOK LIKE?

Named professionals

Recompense needed for COST OF LIVING RISE

There's no **STAFF** in the system

ONE CONTACT POINT

CONSISTENT QUALITY TRAINING

A day like this for service providers

We lost lots of **STAFF** and **RESIDENTS** to Covid

STOP CHANGING THE GUIDANCE

Targeted COMMUNICATION

Lighter touch information gathering



LISTEN TO CARE HOME PROVIDERS & DEVELOP STRATEGY JOINTLY

MORE THAN CQC SAY...

DIGITAL INTEGRATION

Person centred Software can do well if implemented well

More coordinated approach

ASK CARE PROVIDERS WHAT THEY WANT AS **SUPPORT**

GIVE US FEEDBACK

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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2023

REPORT TITLE:	ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee, in co-operation with the other Policy and Service Committees, is responsible for proposing and delivering an annual committee work programme. This work programme should align with the corporate priorities of the Council, in particular the delivery of the key decisions which are within the remit of the Committee.

It is envisaged that the work programme will be formed from a combination of key decisions, standing items and requested officer reports. This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year. The work programme for the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to note and comment on the proposed Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee have the opportunity to contribute to the delivery of the annual work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A number of workplan formats were explored, with the current framework open to amendment to match the requirements of the Committee.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

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

Terms of Reference

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is responsible for the Council's adult social care and preventative and community based services. This includes the commissioning and quality standards of adult social care services, incorporating responsibility for all of the services, from protection to residential care, that help people live fulfilling lives and stay as independent as possible as well as overseeing the protection of vulnerable adults. The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is also responsible for the promotion of the health and wellbeing of the people in the Borough. This includes, in respect of the Health and Social Care Act 2006, the functions to investigate major health issues identified by, or of concern to, the local population.

The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for:-

- a) adult social care matters (e.g., people aged 18 or over with eligible social care needs and their carers);
- b) promoting choice and independence in the provision of all adult social care
- c) all Public Health functions (in co-ordination with those functions reserved to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's statutory health functions);

- d) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions; and
- e) undertaking the development and implementation of policy in relation to the Committee's functions, incorporating the assessment of outcomes, review of effectiveness and formulation of recommendations to the Council, partners and other bodies, which shall include any decision relating to:
 - (i) furthering public health objectives through the development of partnerships with other public bodies, community, voluntary and charitable groups and through the improvement and integration of health and social care services;
 - (ii) functions under or in connection with partnership arrangements made between the Council and health bodies pursuant to Section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006 ("the section 75 Agreements")
 - (iii) adult social care support for carers;
 - (iv) protection for vulnerable adults;
 - (v) supporting people;
 - (vi) drug and alcohol commissioning;
 - (vii) mental health services; and
 - (viii) preventative and response services, including those concerning domestic violence.
- f) a shared responsibility with the Children, Young People and Education Committee for ensuring the well-being and support of vulnerable young people and those at risk of harm as they make the transition into adulthood
- g) in respect of the Health and Social Care Act 2006, the functions to:
 - (i) investigate major health issues identified by, or of concern to, the local population.
 - (ii) consult, be consulted on and respond to substantial changes to local health service provision, including assessing the impact on the local community and health service users.
 - (iii) scrutinise the impact of interventions on the health of local inhabitants, particularly socially excluded and other minority groups, with the aim of reducing health inequalities.
 - (iv) maintain an overview of health service delivery against national and local targets, particularly those that improve the public's health.
 - (v) receive and consider referrals from local Healthwatch on health matters which are to include the establishment and functioning of joint arrangements as set out at paragraph 14 of this Section.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report is for information and planning purposes only, therefore there are no direct financial implication arising. However, there may be financial implications arising as a result of work programme items.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. However, there may be legal implications arising as a result of work programme items.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no direct implications to Staffing, ICT or Assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The Committee's ability to undertake its responsibility to provide strategic direction to the operation of the Council, make decisions on policies, co-ordinate spend, and maintain a strategic overview of outcomes, performance, risk management and budgets may be compromised if it does not have the opportunity to plan and regularly review its work across the municipal year.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Not applicable.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

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

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct environment and climate implications.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct community wealth implications.

REPORT AUTHOR: Anna Perrett
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee Work Programme

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Constitution

Forward Plan

The Council's transformation programme

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2022/2023
KEY DECISIONS

Item	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer	Key Decision
Reablement Service – design and cost update	March 23	Jean Stephens	No
All Age Learning Disability Review and Autism Review update	March 23	Jean Stephens	No
Sexual and Reproductive Health Services Commission	March 23	Dave Bradburn/Rob Green	Yes
Outcome of annual rates and fees engagement exercise	March 23	Jayne Marshall	Yes
Carers Services and Carers Strategy	March 23	Jayne Marshall	Yes
National Substance Misuse Grant Funding Update	March 23	Dave Bradburn/Rob Green	Yes
Adult Social Care Complaints Annual Report	March 23	Jen Milward	No
Financial Monitoring Report	March 23	Sara Morris	No
Performance Monitoring Quarterly Report	Q3 March 23	Nancy Clarkson	No
Wirral Care Home Quality and Suspension Policy	March 23	Amanda Parry Matteo	Yes
Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust Social Care Services Transfer: Progress Report	March 23	Jason Oxley	Yes

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Social Work Delivery	June 23	Bridget Hollingsworth
Risk and Resilience Support Offer (title subject to change -	TBC/June 2023?	Public Health

Children's Services)		
Care Home Quality Improvement (title subject to change)	June 23	Amanda Parry-Matteo/Jean Stephens
Information and Advice	June 23	Dave Bradburn/Nikki Jones
Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities two and five update report	TBC	Dave Bradburn
Direct Payments Support Services	TBC	Bridget Hollingsworth
Reablement Service – design and cost	June (TBC)	Jean Stephens
All Age Learning Disability Review and Autism Review	June (TBC)	Jean Stephens

STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Financial Monitoring Report	Each scheduled Committee Finance have set out the below for finance reports June September November February/March	Sara Morris
Performance Monitoring Report	Quarterly Reports Q3 March, Q4 June, Q1 September, Q2 November	Nancy Clarkson
Adult Social Care and Health Committee Work Programme Update	Each scheduled Committee	Anna Perrett
Social Care Complaints Report	Annual Report – Jan	
Public Health Annual Report	Annually (September)	Dave Bradburn
Adults Safeguarding Board	Annually – January	Sue Redmond/ Alison Marchini
Appointment of statutory committee and member champion for domestic abuse and joint health scrutiny	Annually - June	Dan Sharples

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
Working Groups/ Sub Committees				

Performance Monitoring Group	Workshops	Monthly from June 2021	Jason Oxley	
Task and Finish work				
CWP Mental Health Transformation Programme	Task & Finish			
Spotlight sessions / workshops				
Corporate scrutiny / Other				
Performance Reporting Review	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Written briefings				
Thorn Heyes (written briefing after partnerships in Feb)	TBC	Simon Garner		
Position statement – Refugees (written briefing)	TBC	Lisa Newman		

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