



Children, Young People & Education Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 7 March 2023
Time:	6.00 p.m.
Venue:	Committee Room 1 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**
- 2. APOLOGIES**
- 3. MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

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 - 6)

To approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2023.

5. PUBLIC AND MEMBERS QUESTIONS

5.1 Public Questions

Notice of question to be given in writing or by email by 12 Noon, Thursday 2 March 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.

For more information on how your personal information will be used, please see this link: [Document Data Protection Protocol](#)

5.2 Statements and Petitions

Notice of representations to be given in writing or by email by 12 noon, Thursday 2 March 2023 to the Council's Monitoring Officer (committeeservices@wirral.gov.uk) and to be dealt with in accordance with Standing Order 11.

Petitions may be presented to the Council 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.

5.3 Member's Questions

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

SECTION A - BUDGET REPORTS

- 6. 2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE (THE PERIOD TO 31 DEC 2022) (Pages 7 - 30)**
- 7. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT AND FINANCIAL MONITORING (Pages 31 - 42)**

SECTION B - PERFORMANCE REPORTS

- 8. SEND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE (Pages 43 - 66)**
- 9. CHILDRENS PARTNERSHIP ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT (Pages 67 - 76)**
- 10. REVIEW OF POST 16 PROVISION (Pages 77 - 84)**
- 11. PROGRESS ON CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2022-2025 (Pages 85 - 90)**
- 12. JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION INTO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP (Pages 91 - 104)**
- 13. THE PROVISION OF FOOD AND ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND - WORKING GROUP FINDINGS REPORT (Pages 105 - 112)**

SECTION C - WORK PROGRAMME / OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

- 14. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 113 - 122)**

Terms of Reference

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

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 24 January 2023

Present: Councillor K Hodson (Chair)

Councillors	H Collinson	S Powell-Wilde
	C Cooke	V Wilson
	C Carubia	A Wright
	C Povall	Jackson
	S Bennett	H Gorman (In place of E Gleaves)
	D Kenny	

50 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting as well as those watching the webcast.

51 MINUTES

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2022 be approved as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Paul Stuart in the attendance as a deputy for Councillor Sue Powell-Wilde.

52 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Emily Gleaves.

53 MEMBERS CODE OF CONDUCT - DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

Councillor Helen Collinson declared a personal interest as a trustee of Wirral Development Trust which was connected to Leasowe Adventure Playground.

54 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The Chair reported that two public questions had been submitted, and in the absence of their attendance the Chair would read out the question.

The first question was from Bobby Jones, outlining the importance of the Little Centre Beechwood and Gautby Road Play Centres to the local community and asking whether they would cutting their budget. The Chair outlined the reluctance to decrease the number of services provided to children but

explained the significant budgetary pressures the Council faced and the challenge to legally set a balanced budget. She advised that no decision had yet been made and that any decision would take account of the feedback from the public consultation Youth Services.

The Chair read out the second question from Nicky Ryan, which asked whether the community agreed how much of a good impact the play schemes had on Wirral children. The Chair outlined that the consultation response demonstrated the importance of play schemes to local communities, but further detailed the Council's budget position and that all savings would need to be considered to decide what could be delivered in the next financial year.

55 STATEMENTS AND PETITIONS

The Chair reported that four requests had been received to make a statement.

Paul Townley and Jess Thompson made a joint statement in relation to item 7 'Budget Workshop Outcomes', providing the history of the Leasowe Adventure Playground and detailing the activities that take place there. Jess spoke to the Committee as a young person who uses the play centre and outlined the events that she attended and how important it was to her, and urged the Committee to consider its importance to local young people.

Councillor Liz Grey made a statement in relation to item 7 'Budget Workshop Outcomes' and urged the Committee to speak out against cuts to Wirral play schemes, which offered support to families in the most deprived areas, helped the Council meet its Wirral Plan objectives, reduced anti-social behaviour, supported child development and education through play and would be a false economy if savings were made.

Councillor Brian Kenny made a statement in relation to item 7 'Budget Workshop Outcomes' and urged the Committee not consider savings in play schemes in Bidston and St James ward as one of the most deprived wards in the country, and detailed the benefits of play to children's cognitive, physical, social and emotional development. Councillor Kenny read out statements from local young people and urged the Committee to listen to the local young people.

Councillor Julie McManus made a statement in relation to item 7 'Budget Workshop Outcomes' and detailed the work that local play schemes undertook during school holidays, with over 100 hot meals provided each day during school holidays. Councillor McManus read out a statement on behalf of a local young person which detailed how they valued the local play scheme.

The Chair read out a statement on behalf of Councillor Ian Lewis, which questioned the reality of the potential savings of closing play schemes as corporate costs were apportioned across council services and the identified

saving amount took no account of the revenue raised through attendance or fund raising, and that the centres were in areas prone to anti-social behaviour which would be exacerbated by any closures.

56 **MEMBER'S QUESTIONS**

The Chair reported that no questions had been received from Members.

With the consent of the Committee, the Chair altered the order of business

57 **BUDGET WORKSHOP OUTCOMES**

The Director of Children, Families and Education introduced the report which enabled the Committee to consider feedback and outcomes from the Budget Workshops which had been held in recent months to facilitate discussion on the proposed budget options. The report also provided 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 position.

Members acknowledged the level of public support for play schemes and thanked those residents who had spoken at the beginning of the meeting. The Committee debated the Council's overall budgetary position and the level of funding required to operate the schemes. The Chair outlined concerns around discrepancies between users and the Council for the running costs of the schemes and their attendance levels.

On a motion by Councillor Kathy Hodson, seconded by Councillor Vida Wilson, it was –

Resolved (unanimously) – That

- (1) The Committee would oppose any attempts to close these play centres until adequate evidence on which to base a decision on the level of quality and provision has been provided.**
- (2) The Committee be invited to meet with the play schemes to learn more about their work, the issues they have faced, their relationship with the department and their communities.**
- (3) the Budget Workshop feedback and outcomes, as detailed appendices 2 and 3, be reported to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.**
- (4) the latest budget information provided to Policy and Resources Committee in January 2023 be noted.**

58 **The meeting was adjourned at 18:47pm and resumed at 18:55pm
ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY
CONTROLLED PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND THE CO-
ORDINATED ADMISSION SCHEMES FOR 2024-25**

The Head of School Admissions introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which set out the proposed Council's admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled primary and secondary schools and the co-ordinated schemes for 2024-2025. The report also provided for approval the Wirral Fair Access Protocol which had been amended to reflect feedback from Wirral schools and the 2021 Fair Access Guidance.

The Committee was advised that there had been no significant changes to the admission arrangements in the body of the schemes, and that the only changes were that Christ Church CE Primary School in Birkenhead had consulted on a reduction in its Published Admission Number (PAN) from 37 to 30 from 2024/2025, and St Peter and Paul Catholic Primary School in Wallasey had consulted on a reduction in PAN from 45 to 30 from 2024/2025. Further detail was given on the changes to the Fair Access Protocol including elective home education, reasonable travelling distance to school and termly sharing of the Fair Access Grid.

In response to a number of queries from members, it was outlined that the Fair Access Panel was made up of three headteachers with a minimum of two in attendance for quoracy with further representation from admissions, the inclusion team, 14-19 services, special educational needs and disability services and the attendance team, and that the outcomes were reported to the schools adjudicator with parents retaining the right to appeal for a school place.

Resolved – That

(1) The admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools and the Wirral co-ordinated scheme for 2024/2025 be approved.

(2) The revised Wirral Fair Access Protocol be approved.

59 **SUMMARY OF STANDARDS (UPDATED) – PROVISIONAL OUTCOMES
FOR KEY STAGE 4**

The Assistant Director for Education introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which provided an update on the provisional pupil outcomes for Key Stage 4 children and gave a first indication of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the education of young people in Wirral. It was reported that the locality figures were based on the location of the child,

not the school they attended, and that only children that were both resident and educated within Wirral were captured in the data.

The Committee was advised of the Attainment 8 and Progress 8 figures, with Wirral scoring 48.7 in Attainment 8 which was in line with the national average. The Progress 8 figures were broken down within localities and by selective and non-selective schools. The Committee discussed the figures in detailing noting reductions in Progress 8 in certain areas, and were advised that comparisons to 2019 had to be considered in the context of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Members requested further information regarding comparisons with statistical neighbours.

Resolved – That

(1) the report be noted.

(2) the Service’s planned refresh of the school improvement strategy based on the outcomes outlined be supported.

60 SOCIAL CARE WORKFORCE STRATEGY 2022-2025

The Assistant Director for Children and Families introduced the report of the Director of Children, Families and Education which presented an update on the Children’s Social Care Workforce Strategy 2022-25. The strategy set out the Council’s plans developing and supporting the social care workforce over the next three years. It outlined five priorities to attract, retain and support the development of a stable, talented, and committed workforce which has the skills, knowledge and motivation to improve children’s lives. These were:

- Priority 1: ‘Growing our own’ through recruitment and development
- Priority 2: Support Continuous Professional Development to deliver a motivated and skilled workforce, with an emphasis on supporting staff retention
- Priority 3: Develop high performing social work managers that support a performance management framework that reflects ‘high support high challenge’
- Priority 4: Develop new and revised ways of working building on existing strengths to support children, young people and their families
- Priority 5: Communication and change management

Further updates were provided to the Committee with recruitment agencies having supported the recruitment of 7 social workers under a payment by results commitment, with 3 social workers having successfully completed year 1 of the degree apprenticeship and a 2nd cohort launching in January 2023. It was further reported that £250,000 had been received from the Department for Education Innovation Programme to look at developing a not-for-profit

recruitment agency, with the Director of Children, Families and Education leading on that project for the North West.

Members sought further information on a range of issues detailed within the report including the development of a Community Interest Company for recruiting where it was reported that different models had been tried nationally and faced issues with competition from other agencies. The recruitment and retention of social workers was discussed at length and it was queried whether the priorities in the strategy had yet been embedded with the workforce and whether officers thought it would improve retention. In response, members were advised that it was hoped that the new and existing initiatives would improve retention, but highlighted the challenges Wirral faced including neighbouring authorities rated as inadequate and using financial solutions to attract care workers.

Resolved – That the progress made to date on implementing the Social Care Workforce Strategy 2022-2025 be endorsed.

61 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report of the Director of Law and Governance which provided the Committee with an opportunity to plan and review its work across the municipal year.

Resolved – That the work programme be noted.

62 **EXEMPT INFORMATION - EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Resolved - 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.

63 **BUDGET WORKSHOP APPENDICES**

Resolved – That the appendices be noted.



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 7 March 2023

REPORT TITLE:	2022/23 BUDGET MONITORING FOR QUARTER THREE (THE PERIOD TO 31 DEC 2022)
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the financial monitoring information for the Children, Families and Education Committee as at quarter 3 (31 December) of 2022/23. The report provides Members with an overview of budget performance, including progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme and a summary of reserves to enable the Committee to take ownership of the budgets and provide robust challenge and scrutiny to Officers on the performance of those budgets.

Managing a budget requires difficult decisions to ensure that a balanced position can be presented. Regular Member engagement, which this report forms part of, is considered essential in delivering effective governance and financial oversight.

At the end of quarter 3, there is a forecast adverse position of £3.116m on the Committees net revenue budget, of £79.234m. This position is based on activity to date, projected trends in income and expenditure and potential mitigation to offset areas of adverse/favourable variance.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is not a key decision.

The report contributes to the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 in supporting the organisation in meeting all Council priorities.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Families and Education committee is recommended to:

1. Note the forecast revenue position presented at Quarter 3.
2. Note the progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme at Quarter 3.
3. Note the forecast level of reserves at Quarter 3
4. Note the forecast capital position presented at Quarter 3.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 It is vitally important that the Council has robust processes in place to manage and monitor the in-year financial position, to ensure it delivers a balanced position at the end of the year
- 1.2 Regular monitoring and reporting of the revenue budgets and savings achievements enables decisions to be taken in a timely manner, which may produce revenue benefits and will improve financial control of Wirral Council.
- 1.3 This report presents timely information on the Quarter 3 financial position for 2022/23.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The Policy & Resources Committee has previously determined the budget monitoring process to follow and this report details the agreed course of action.
- 2.2 In striving to manage budgets, available options have been evaluated to maintain a balance between service delivery and a balanced budget.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 As at the end of December 2022 (Quarter 3), the forecast outturn position Children, Families and Education is an adverse variance of £3.116m against a budget of £79.234m.
- 3.2 There have been significant movements since the last report for quarter 2, largely due to the continued trend of increasing numbers of children in care, after a period of reducing numbers, particularly in young people placed in high-cost residential settings and more recently into independent fostering. Previously reported costs of £1.1m from the employers proposed pay award, over and above the original 3% built into the 2022-23 budget and SEND Assisted Travel contract, demand and inflation pressures remain. Some mitigations have been taken to reduce the full impact of these adverse variances. The proposed reduction in national insurance contributions from November 2022 has been factored in, along with additional grant and income for the Early Help Service and use of specific reserves. The outturn position reflects delivery of most of the 2022/23 saving proposals

TABLE 1: 2022/23 Children, Families & Education-Service Budget & Forecast Outturn

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
			(+ Fav / - Adv)		
	£000	£000	£000	%	
Children and Families	50,141	53,253	-3,112	-6%	Adverse
Early Help and Prevention	11,196	10,599	597	5%	Favourable
Modernisation and Support	4,675	4,275	400	9%	Favourable
Schools - Core	13,222	14,223	-1,001	-8%	Adverse
Directorate Surplus / (Deficit)	79,234	82,350	-3,116	-4%	Adverse

3.3 **Children and Families:** The service is forecasting an adverse variance of £3.112m. The proposed increased pay award has impacted here by moving the forecast £0.67m alongside a noticeable increase in children in care rate which is with a post-covid impact demand and price uplifts that have arisen after the budgets were agreed. There are increases in Residential and more recently independent fostering. The underlying pressures that relate to cost of living /inflation, have been included in the MTFP for 2023/24.

The expenditure for this service includes £27.952m on care costs. Overall, performance data indicates that the Children Looked After (CLA) rate having been stable in previous years and declined over the last year are now starting to edge up. An increase in care numbers was anticipated to occur in 2023/24 due to post covid impact, it now appears that this along with cost of living is impacting the service earlier resulting in the increase in CLA rate and pressures in costs. This service also includes expenditure to support unaccompanied asylum seekers with grant income covering the associated costs.

TABLE 2: Number of Children in Care

Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22
825	821	819	814	795	786	770	789	804

3.4 **Early Help & Prevention:** A favourable forecast variance of £0.597m is reported for 2022/23. The favourable variance is mainly due to staff vacancies and appointments at the lower range of the salary scale. In addition, the Family Matters service expects to achieve the budgeted grant income and claim the extra from the full activity grant. This is being invested and contribute to social care activities during the course of the year. Further grant income in Contextual Safeguarding and Youth Offending Service has also contributed to the overall service.

3.5 **Modernisation and Support:** A favourable variance of £0.400m is reported for 2022/23. The favourable variance is mainly due to staff vacancies and appointments at the lower range of the salary scale. Commissioned services are being reviewed to release further efficiencies where possible.

3.6 **Schools – core:** An adverse variance of £1.001m against a budget of £13.222m is reported for 2022/23. There is an adverse forecast variance mainly in relation to the Children’s Assisted Travel (£1.057m), which is due to the pressure from the contract renewal effective from September 2022 and the pressure from the demand increase. The contracts have not been uplifted for the past 4 years, and together with the current inflation rate and the fuel price increase, the new contracts are significantly higher than anticipated.

Budget Virements

3.7 There have been no budget virement in quarter 3

TABLE 3: 2022/23 Children, Families and Education–Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

	Budget	Forecast	Variance		Adverse/ Favourable
	£000	Outturn £000	(+ Fav / - Adv) £000	%	
DSG Expenditure:					
Schools Block	119,142	119,142	0	0%	
Schools Block De-delegated	1,820	1,802	18	1%	Favourable
Central School Services Block	2,120	2,072	48	0%	Favourable
High Needs	52,379	55,776	-3,397	-6%	Adverse
Early Years	20,184	20,264	-80	0%	Adverse
Total Gross Surplus / (Deficit)	195,645	199,056	-3,411	-1%	Adverse
DSG Income:	-195,355	-195,389	34	0%	Adverse
Movement in DSG Reserve	-290	-3,667	3,377	1164%	-
Total Net Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0	0	0%	

3.8 An adverse variance position is forecasted for 2022/23 as a result of the High Needs block which shows an adverse forecast position of £3.397m. The adverse forecast variance is mainly due to an increase in demand and complexity. Demand on this budget is expected to grow in line with the requests for Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) assessments. Requests increased by around 38% in the period to December 22 compared to last year. The total number of the EHCP issued in the period between April to December 22 is 607, compared with 414 issued in 2021-22.

3.9 **DSG income:** A favourable forecast variance of £0.034m is reported for 2022/23 due to the grant adjustments in High Needs and Early Years blocks.

3.10 The 2021-22 financial year closed with a DSG reserve cumulative deficit position of £1.690m. The 22-23 budget include an anticipated in-year deficit balance of £0.290m to be added to the reserve balance, however, the current forecast outturn position is overspend of £3.667m thus delivering a cumulative £5.357m deficit position at the end of 2022-23 This is mainly due to the pressure from High Needs block. It was

announced in December 2022 that the statutory override that separated DSG deficits from the authority's wider finances was extended further 3 years and due to expire at the end of 2025/26.

- 3.11 In 2023-24, the Council is participating in the Delivering Better Value (DBV) in SEND (Special Educational Need and Disabilities) programme which is the DfE's support package to help local authorities maintain effective SEND services while functioning sustainably. The aim of the DBV programme is to improve delivery of SEND services for children and young people and to ensure that this is done so within budget.

Progress on delivery of the 2022-23 savings programme.

- 3.12 In terms of savings, £3.150m of the £3.150m savings targets are either delivered or on track to be delivered. The table below summarises this progress by Directorate:

TABLE 4: SUMMARY OF PROGRESS ON DELIVERY OF 2022-23 SAVINGS

Committee	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Children Families & Education	£3.150m	£3.100m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m	£2.532m

- 3.13 For savings rated as Amber, an equal amount of temporary in-year mitigation has been identified to cover any shortfalls which may occur. For saving rated as red, a bid will need to be made from the £3m contingency fund set up for non-achieved savings at the end of the year.

Full details on the progress on specific savings can be found in **Appendix 1**.

Earmarked Reserves

- 3.14 Earmarked reserves represent money that has been set aside for a clearly defined purpose, and which is available to meet future expenditure in that area. The use of earmarked reserves is only permitted with the approval of the Section 151 officer.

TABLE 5: SUMMARY OF EARMARKED RESERVES

Committee	Opening Balance £000	Forecast Use of Reserve £000	Forecast Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Children, Families & Education	5,150	-2,095	0	3,055

- 3.15 **Appendix 2** provides the full list of all earmarked reserves.

Capital Monitoring

- 3.16 The capital programs remain on target except the School Condition allocation which £4.5m has been reprofiled into future years. More details are below.

TABLE 6: 2022/23 Children, Families and Education Committee – Capital Budget & Forecast Outturn

Capital Programme	2022/23			2023/24 Budget £000	2024/25 Budget £000	2025/26 Budget £000
	Q2 Forecast £000	Q3 Forecast £000	Variance £000			
Basic Needs	254	208	-46	527	0	0
Children's System Development	313	313	0	794	0	0
School Condition Allocation (SCA)	4,272	4,272	0	8,157	2,500	0
Family support	157	0	-157	157	0	0
High Needs Provision Capital	1,499	1,499	0	4,010	0	0
PFI	52	3	-49	49	0	0
School remodelling and additional classrooms (School Place Planning)	188	43	-145	0	0	0
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	200	200	0	599	0	0
Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks	864	864	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	7,799	7,402	-397	14,293	2,500	0

3.17 Scheme Updates:

School Condition Allocation (SCA) –Funding to support condition works, including:

- £1.485 million worth of roofing works have been identified, works have started on three schools with five schools having works costed and awaiting approval.
- £1.8 million to convert the former Kingsway Academy site for Clare Mount Specialist College.
- £0.850 million allocated for Equalities Act works.
- £0.351 million allocated for asbestos removal works.
- £0.102 million expected costs for School Condition Surveys: Programme currently being worked on.
- £0.350 million allocated for boiler installation works across 6 sites.
- Fire alarm enhancements, schemes totalling £0.205 million have been identified.
- Work currently being scoped include toilet refurbishment, sound proofing, reduction in capacity totalling £0.200 million.
- £0.500 million mobile classrooms and associated groundworks at Riverside, The Observatory and Mosslands Schools.
- £0.9m reprofiled back into 22/23, this is due to speed of works on Kingsway phase 1 and Castleway (despite the school still being open). Associated school capital projects are still on hold/subject to further delays with budget deferred into 2023/24 as the priority continues to be on completing the larger schemes which will enable other works to start.

A detailed update on the Schools Capital projects is attached at **Appendix 3**

Transforming Care - Therapeutic Short Breaks– This scheme involves the purchase of property. Awaiting probate on a property but are hoping the sale completes in this financial year.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities / High Needs Provision Capital– To deliver additional classroom provision for SEN pupils across several Special schools. The planned schemes have been reviewed at Q3 resulting in work being identified as now not starting until 2023/24 due a number of larger schemes taking priority which link into each other.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 This is the Quarter 3 budget monitoring report that provides information on the forecast outturn for the Council for 2022/23. The Council has robust methods for reporting and forecasting budgets in place and alongside formal Quarterly reporting to Policy & Resources and Service Committees, the financial position is routinely reported at Directorate Management Team meetings and corporately at the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT). In the event of any early warning highlighting pressures and potential overspends, the SLT take collective responsibility to identify solutions to resolve these to ensure a balanced budget can be reported at the end of the year.

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. 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.

5.2 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.

5.3 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 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 At this time, there are no additional resource 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 will be resource implications, and these will be addressed within the relevant business cases presented to the Committee.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's ability to maintain a balanced budget for 2022/23 is dependent on a static financial position. This is an impossible scenario due to estimated figures being provided in the calculation for the 2022/23 budget, albeit the best estimates that were available at the time, plus any amount of internal and external factors that could impact on the budget position in year. 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 2022/23 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. Significant inflation and cost of living pressures have already impacted the quarter 1 forecast position. and the impact of these pressures will be reviewed and considered in the MTFP as part of routine financial management.

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 2022/23 budget monitoring process and the 2022/23 budget setting process. This report will also be shared and reviewed by the Independent Panel.
- 8.2 Since the budget was agreed at Full Council on 28 February, some proposals may have been the subject of further consultation with Members, Customer and Residents. The details of these are included within the individual business cases or are the subject of separate reports to the Committee

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 This report has no direct environmental implications, however due regard is given as appropriate in respect of procurement and expenditure decision-making processes that contribute to the outturn position.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 In year activity will have incorporated community wealth implications. Consideration would have taken 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 – Progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 Saving Programme

APPENDIX 2 – Earmarked Reserves

APPENDIX 3 - Education Capital Progress Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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Policy and Resources Committee 15 February 2023	15 February 2023
Policy and Resources Committee	18 January 2023
Policy and Resources Committee 09 November 2022	09 November 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	13 July 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	15 February 2022
Council	28 February 2022
Children's, Young People & Education Committee	6 December 2022
Children's, Young People & Education Committee	12 October 2022
Children's, Young People & Education Committee	21 June 2022
Children's, Young People & Education Committee	10 March 2022
Children's, Young People & Education Committee	13 September 2021
Children's, Young People & Education Committee	15 June 2021
Children's, Young People & Education Committee	11 Mar 2021
Children's, Young People & Education Committee	15 January 2021

Appendix 1 - Progress on the delivery of the 2022-23 saving programme

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Reduction of Historic Teacher's Pensions Costs	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. This historic commitment reduces year on year as the cohort ages, budget has been reduced accordingly.	£0.200m
Alternative Accommodation Provision for Children Looked After	£1.000m	£1.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Has some risks as is dependent on delivery of new accommodation and identifying / matching young people to places. A reserve was established at the end of 21/22 of £470k to mitigate any potential non-achievement and will be used in 22/23. Two projects are currently forecast to come on-stream towards the end of the financial year.	£0.700m
Utilisation of demand reserve for COVID pressures	£0.467m	£0.467m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Reserve has been drawdown and utilised.	£0.467m
Children's Services Redesign and posts deletion/closure	£0.294m	£0.294m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. Redesign has been completed and implemented.	£0.290m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Reduction in adoption orders	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m	Approved saving has been delayed but will be achieved 2023-24. The saving was to be found by a reduction in Wirral's Adoption in Merseyside (AIM) budget allocation due to falling numbers of adoption placements, as a historic backlog has been cleared. Whilst some of this has come through in 2022/23, the full impact is expected to occur in 23/24. An update from in-year monitoring is that an underspend is being forecast for the Service Level Agreement (unrelated to placements). This will mitigate / offset the impact of the budgetary saving not being implemented as originally planned. The savings are expected to be delivered by underspend in AIM during the year and Wirral's contribution to AIM budget being reduced in 23/24.	£0.040m
Reduction in Looked After Children (LAC) numbers	£0.564m	£0.564m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. The number of leaving care remain as expected and should deliver the savings	£0.460m
Review of Youth Offending Service (YOS)	£0.025m	£0.025m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Service has been redesigned and saving achieved.	£0.025m

Saving Proposal	Approved Saving	Green	Amber	Red	Mitigation	Comment	Actual Savings Delivered to Date
Special Educational Needs (SEND) Transport Review	£0.150m	£0.150m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved by meeting the needs of young people in a more flexible manner. Working with families and young people to reconfigure services.	£0.010m
Increase funding for placements from CCG and SEND	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	On target to be achieved. There are ongoing discussions for funding from Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and health partners. Wirral has been successful in bidding for capital funding for valuing care residential which is included in the accommodation strategy savings. We expect Health contribution towards the funding of the unit. A more detailed focus on individual placements is also increasing funding where appropriate. Funding is now actively explored on all new placements. With joint funding 50% contribution agreed for a recent high-cost placement.	£0.000m
Redesign of Youth Offer	£0.200m	£0.200m	£0.000m	£0.000m	£0.000m	Saving is fully achieved. Youth redesign is implemented and saving delivered.	£0.200m
Total Children Families & Education	£3.150m	£3.100m	£0.050m	£0.000m	£0.050m		£2.532m

Appendix 2 - Children, Families and Education Earmarked Reserves 2022-23

Reserve	Opening Balance £000	Use of Reserve £000	Contribution to Reserve £000	Closing Balance £000
Intensive Family Intervention Project	505	-160	0	345
School Improvement -	1,094	-380	0	714
Schools Causing Concern	500	0	0	500
SEND OFSTED Inspection Improvement Action Plan	1,051	-258	0	793
Children's Centre – Outdoor Play	92	0	0	92
Help for Young People	36	0	0	36
Looked After Children Education Services	211	-137	0	74
Local Safeguarding Children's Board	23	0	0	23
SEND - High Needs	248	-100	0	148
YOS - Remand & Mobile Youth Centre	157	-157	0	0
Early Help & Play Development	123	-123	0	0
DRIVE Safelives & Domestic Abuse Hub	50	-50	0	0
Children's Transformation	32	-32	0	0
Children IT data system	127	0	0	127
Mersey & Cheshire ICS Pilot	20	-20	0	0
Care Leaver Accommodation Development	358	-155	0	203
Wirral Apprentice Programme	53	-53	0	0
Looked after Children Placement Reserve	470	-470	0	0
Total	5,150	-2,095	0	3,055

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Appendix 3 - EDUCATION CAPITAL PROGRESS REPORT

1. GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Having a sound Capital strategy is essential for education services, ensuring facilities are sufficient, safe and offer the best teaching environment for pupils of all abilities. The Department for Education (DfE) allocates funding each year to help maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds. The key grants available to schools are:

- school condition allocations (SCA), with funds paid to eligible bodies responsible for maintaining school buildings;
- the condition improvement fund (CIF), a bidding round with funds paid directly to single academy trusts, small multi-academy trusts (MATs), small voluntary aided (VA) bodies and sixth-form colleges;
- devolved formula capital (DFC) is allocated for individual schools and other eligible institutions to spend on small-scale capital projects that meet their own priorities;
- High Needs Provision Capital Allocations (HNPCA), allocated to the Local Authority to improve the suitability and sufficiency of high needs provision in their area.

The following information gives a guide to the projects that have been included in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 Capital Programmes and delivered by the Local Authority. A further detailed report will be submitted following the confirmation of 2023/24 allocations and the proposed programme of projects for approval.

2. MANAGING SCHOOL CAPITAL

Condition surveys are the main source of information which helps the Local Authority prioritise larger projects for funding. Whilst the DfE surveys provide baseline information, these often do not reflect the issues with building fabric that schools have on a daily basis, the suitability of teaching and welfare arrangements or consideration of local pupil needs. A more detailed schedule of condition surveys has been recently commissioned and will provide more informed condition information which will be used in the prioritisation of Capital projects.

Asset Management has recently produced documents which will help headteachers and their Governing Bodies understand the process of raising building issues, apply for Capital funding and direct them to building guidance which is available. A retained technical group within the Council works with schools and partner architectural and technical companies to deliver a wide range of schemes planned for maintained schools.

3. DELIVERING THE CAPITAL PROGRAMME

Like many businesses we have experienced problems with delivering projects over the past couple of years, primarily due to the effects of the Covid pandemic which

resulted in a shortage of building materials, reduced workforce availability, increased construction costs and unforeseen demands to support the pandemic infrastructure such as setting up testing centres, installing ventilation, providing support to NHS and the armed forces. As a result our Capital Programme has slipped and we are trying to manage the back-log as efficiently as possible. We have engaged with local companies for support such as mechanical and electrical services and architectural and project management support, but these too are experiencing significant resource issues.

A new project management system is currently being implemented which will provide headteachers and Governing Bodies with more accurate dates for the commencement of their Capital projects. Priority will be given for those building elements which have health and safety implications and providing sufficient pupil places. Summary tables can be found below which indicate projects funded from allocations in 2021/22 and 2022/23, the Local Authority is yet to receive allocations for 2034/24 (with the exception of High Needs Capital).

4. KEY PROJECT OVERVIEW

FOXFIELD SATELITE

Increasing numbers of pupils at Foxfield required additional teaching space to be created for 40 pupils. The former City Learning Centre located on the Kingsway Academy site has been repurposed to provide five specialist classrooms for pupils, in addition to a new hygiene room and other ancillary rooms for staff and pupils. The space is fully accessible and fitted with hoisting and other facilities to meet the needs of pupils. Shared spaces with Clare Mount school are provided which provides essential integration and learning opportunities.

CLARE MOUNT RELOCATION

This very large Capital Project will fully relocate Clare Mount Special School on to the site of the former Kingsway Academy. Clare Mount School provides education and learning for pupils with Moderate Learning Disabilities (MLD) and Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC). The project has been approached as a series of construction events to allow a phased occupation for staff and pupils. The school initially took possession of 24 classrooms, offices, sensory rooms, intervention rooms, a 6th form common room, medical/first aid rooms and welfare facilities. The assembly hall/stage, staff room, library, kitchen, dining hall, gym, fitness suite and sports hall are also now in use for the benefit of both Clare Mount and Foxfield.

More recently a further 5 classrooms areas (art rooms, music rooms and horticulture room), along with associated stores and practice rooms have been completed.

Phase 2 works are currently out to tender and this will refurbish specialist rooms such as science and design technology; work will be completed prior to the end of the summer term, with full occupation of Clare Mount school achieved before the end of the academic year.

ELLERAY PARK SATELLITE - PENSBY PARK

The continued rise in pupils with special educational needs has required a number of satellite bases to be provided across the Borough. In the summer of 2021, the former Pensby Park Resource and Children's centre was reconfigured to offer specialist teaching accommodation for pupils of Elleray Park, phase 2 continued in the summer of 2022 and now provides accommodation for 11 classes to support and teach 94 pupils, a total of 40 staff are also located at the Pensby site.

CASTLEWAY

A large project is currently underway at Castleway following the integration of the nursery that was previously located on the Leasowe Early Years site. The project is due to complete in April 2023. The scheme included a substantial reconfiguration of the school, replacement of external glazing, curtain walling which is already proving beneficial due to the enhanced thermal properties of the building.

ROOF REPLACEMENTS

Roofing continues to be a major feature in the Capital Programme, not only will replacement help with deterioration in weather proofing but also helps significantly in saving money through better insulation properties. These schemes can be undertaken whilst the school is in operation, health and safety arrangements are absolutely key and good communication between the school site management, contractors and project officer are essential. Schemes include: Meadowside, Elleray Park, Bidston Avenue, Eastway, Hoylake Holy Trinity, Millfields, Orrets Meadow. There continues to be an extensive programme in 2023 for further schemes to be completed.

HEATING/MECHANICAL

Maintaining heat within school premises is arguably one of the most important elements of pupil and staff safety; many buildings have old systems that are inefficient, prone to breakdown with parts no longer available. It is essential therefore, that planned replacement of systems is managed. Liscard Primary School has benefited from a £500,000 scheme to replace the entire heating system in 2021. Engineers and designers are working to identify alternative heating methods which support the Council's net carbon zero targets.

REOCCURRING CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

As part of the general management of statutory building requirements, the School Condition Allocation is top sliced to cover inspections and resulting remedial works which qualify for Capital expenditure, these include: electrical, asbestos, accessibility. A significant project was undertaken to remove asbestos at Lingham Primary School over a 12 month period follow Health and Safety Executive (HSE) intervention, this has now been completed.

5. CAPITAL PROGRAMME

SCHOOL CONDITION ALLOCATION (SCA) 2021/22

SCHOOL	PROJECT	STATUS
Bidston Avenue	Renew Vertical Tiling	Completed
Black Horse Infants	Fire Alarm Upgrade	Completed
Brookdale Primary	Upgrade main fire panel	Completed
Castleway Primary	Reconfiguration; Externals	In progress
Eastway Primary	Replace corridor conservatory roof & Toilet refurbishments	Completed
Elleray Park	Final phase of flat roof installation	Completed
Greasby Infants	Lintols, brickwork, concrete repairs	Completed
Grove Street	Externals and playground	Completed
Grove Street Primary	Anti-climb fencing, gates, intercom, CCTV to gates	Completed
Heygarth Primary	Roof Pupil Toilets	Completed Summer '23
Higher Bebington Junior	Flat roof completion	Completed
Hoylake Holy Trinity	Roof works	2023
Leasowe Early Years	Flat roof installations	In progress
Lingham Primary	Asbestos Removal	Completed
Lingham Primary	Fire Proofing	Completed
Liscard Primary	Various areas of remedials after full heating installation replacement	Feb 2023
Millfields	Flat roof installation	Completed
Orrets Meadow	Flat roof installation	Completed
Prenton Primary	Installation high level windows	Completed
Somerville	Playground resurface	Completed
St Georges Primary, lower site	Reconfigure existing hall and other areas	Feb 2023
Thornton Hough Primary	Refurbish main activity/dining hall	Feb 2023

SCHOOL CONDITION ALLOCATION (SCA) 2022/23

SCHOOL	PROJECT	STATUS
Barnston Primary	Roof	2023
Bidston Avenue Primary	Roof replacement	In progress
Brookdale Primary	Roof and skylights	2023
Brookdale Primary	Pupil Toilets	2023

Castleway Primary	Refurbishment	In progress
Devonshire Park	Roof	2023
Devonshire Park Primary	Covered walkway & Shelter	Feb 2023
Ganneys Meadow	Redecoration & Carpets	Completed
Grove Street Primary School	Pupil Toilets	2023 phased
Hoylake Holy Trinity	Roof	2023
Irby Primary	New Perimeter Fence	Completed
Kingsway Academy	Relocation Clare Mount (phase 1)	In progress
Kingsway Primary	Kitchen Refurbishment	In progress
Kingsway Primary	Electric Light upgrade	2023
Kingsway Primary	Roof replacement	2023
Mendell Primary	Reroute heating pipes and associated works	Completed
Observatory School	Mobile provision	Part/ 2023
Overchurch Infants	Playground and fencing	Completed
Overchurch Infant	Asbestos cleaning and minor works	Completed
Overchurch Junior -	Pupil toilets; structural and roof details	Part
Pensby High School	Roof & kitchen	Summer '23
Pensby High School	Door Openings and associated External works	Spring '23
Pensby Stanley	Fire Alarm	2023
Riverside Primary	Mobile Classroom	Completed
St Bridgets Primary I	Feasibility – Hall Extension	In progress
Well Lane Primary	Acoustics	In progress
Woodlands Primary	External door installation	Completed
Woodlands Primary	Relocate Staff Room into Yr 4 Classroom	In progress

HIGH NEEDS PROVISION

SCHOOL	PROJECT	STATUS
Elleray Park/Pensby	Phase 1 SEN additional accommodation, refurbishment	Completed
Elleray Park School	(Phase 2) Internal modifications and car parking	Completed

Hayfield	Mobile classrooms x 2 for SEN provision	Completed
Ganneys Meadow	Base provision 22~23	Completed
Orrets Meadow School	Base provision 22~23	Completed
St. John Plessington Catholic College	Base provision mobile classroom 22~23	Not started
St. Mary's Catholic Aided College	Base provision 22~23	Not started
Egremont Primary	set up costs 22-23	In progress
Leasowe Early Years	Observatory move 22~23	In progress
Pilgrim Street Art Centre		Not started
Observatory	Satellite provision	In progress
Foxfield School (Kingsway CLC)	Base provision 22~23	Completed

BASIC NEEDS

SCHOOL	PROJECT	STATUS
Mount Primary	classroom extension, skylights & teaching/storage walls. New Fire Alarm system	Completed
Georges Primary 'Lower site'	Re configure existing hall into 2 new classrooms, mezzanine floor for grp	In design



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday 7th March 2023

REPORT TITLE:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the latest performance information for Children's Services. The design and content of the report was developed following discussions with the Chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee and party spokes at a Performance Monitoring workshop back in March 2021.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and supports the Wirral Plan priority of Brighter Futures for all. This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to note the content of the Performance Report attached in Appendix A and highlight any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children, Young People & Education Committee have the opportunity to monitor, review and challenge performance of the Council's Children's Services Directorate.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in conjunction with the Chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee and party spokes. Various options were considered before agreeing on a quarterly Performance Report, supported by automated Children's Services data reports.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Performance Report (Appendix A) has been structured around eight indicator groups. The data contained in the report relates to Quarter 3 2022/23 (period ending Dec-23). Where Quarter 3 data was not available, the most recent information has been provided.
- 3.2 Where available, national, regional and statistical neighbour benchmarking data has been included in the report so comparisons can be made.
- 3.3 The supporting narrative in the report has been strengthened with Assistant Directors and Heads of Service from Children's Services providing a narrative to explain trends or changes in performance.
- 3.4 In addition to the Performance Report, an interactive dashboard has been created in Power BI, the Council's business intelligence system. The dashboard is structured around the same indicator groups as detailed in the Performance Report. The Power BI reports can be accessed via the Councillors App.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The Council's Corporate and Directorate Risks Registers are currently under review to reflect the thematic priorities of the Council's new Corporate Plan including the

impact and recovery from Covid-19. Information on the key risks faced by the organisation and the associated mitigations and planned actions will be report to Committee once refreshed.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 A Performance monitoring session was held with the chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee, and party spokes on 4th March 2021 to review current performance monitoring arrangements and to define a new, improved approach.
- 8.2 A further Performance Management workshop was held on 12th July 2022 with the newly appointed Chair of the Children, Young People & Education Committee, and party spokes where they received a demonstration of Power BI and shown what data is available to them using the interactive reports. A further Power BI session is to be arranged for all members of the Children, Young People & Education Committee.

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 equality issues arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

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

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Children's Services generally impacts positively on community wealth through commissioning arrangements of local providers to support and improve the lives of some our most vulnerable residents.

Parents benefit from early years funding for their children from the age of two. Parents and schools can also benefit from additional funding for those pupils who are eligible for free school meals.

We monitor the number of young people in employment, education or training. Those young people in employment will receive a paid salary whilst some of those in training, such apprenticeships, will receive a reduced salary whilst they are studying.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Children's Service Performance Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Data and performance information held in Children's Services Management Information Systems and accessed via the Council's business intelligence system Power BI.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People & Education Committee in accordance with Section 3.2(f) of its Terms of Reference, providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q2 Performance Report	06/12/2022
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q1 Performance Report	12/10/2022
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q4 Performance Report	21/06/2022
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q3 Performance Report	10/03/2022
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q2 Performance Report	23/11/2021
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Q1 Performance Report	13/09/2021
Children, Young People & Education Committee Children's Services Performance Management	15/06/2021
Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2019/20 Q3 Wirral Plan Performance	17/03/2020
Children & Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2019/20 Q2 Wirral Plan Performance	11/11/2019



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

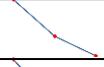
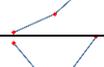
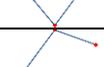
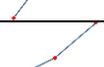
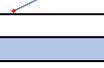
Tuesday 7th March 2023

REPORT TITLE:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES PERFORMANCE REPORT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

Children, Young People & Education Committee - indicator sets

Demand	Keeping children safe	Looking after children well	Schools
Education	SEND	Workforce	Budget (under development)

Demand

	Year-End			2022/23			National (21/22)	North West (21/22)	Stat Neighbours (21/22)	Trend
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Q1	Q2	Q3				
Social care contacts	15086	10149	10732	3231	3056	2963	-	-	-	
Early Help contacts	9973	12199	11128	2290	2104	2062	-	-	-	
Referrals to social care	3997	3030	3254	882	737	839	-	-	-	
% of domestic abuse referrals to children's social care	23.2%	23.5%	27.3%	26.2%	26.7%	27.7%	-	-	-	
Child In Need rate per 10,000 population	369.0	379.9	380.8	389.3	378.5	390.6	334.3	384.3	440.7	
Child Protection rate per 10,000 population	41.9	47.0	56.9	55.6	56.7	56.4	42.1	48.5	55.4	
Children Looked After rate per 10,000 population	120.0	122.0	120.0	114.2	116.3	120.0	70.0	97.0	104.7	

Supporting narrative
Contacts

During the first two months of Q3 contact numbers remained fairly stable until December where there was a marked reduction (19%) in the number of contacts received into social care. A third of all contacts received during this period were generated by Merseyside Police with just over a quarter of the contacts involving domestic abuse concerns.

Referrals

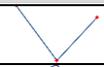
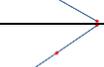
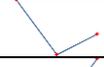
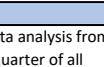
Despite a slight dip in the number of contacts this quarter a higher conversion rate from contact to referral (28%) has resulted in an increase in referral rates at the end of quarter 3. However, our rate of referrals per 10,000 (486) remains below our target range of 515 – 588 per 10,000. Further analysis through dip sample audits will support our understanding of the conversion rate for this period.

The rate of Children In Need (CIN) at the end of Q3 per 10,000 was 390.6 which places us in line with our target range.

Child Protection

Our rate of children subject of a Child Protection Plan per 10,000 0- 17 population remains slightly above our target range of 47.7 - 54.7 at 56.4. However, this is a slight reduction from our 21/22 year end figures.

Keeping children safe

	Year-End			2022/23			National (21/22)	North West (21/22)	Stat Neighbours (21/22)	Trend
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Q1	Q2	Q3				
% of Early Help cases closed with outcomes met	80.3%	91.6%	83.6%	85.3%	77.3%	83.6%	-	-	-	
% Repeat referrals within 12 months period	27.6%	23.5%	21.5%	24.9%	25.8%	22.9%	21.5%	22.0%	19.9%	
% Assessments completed within timescale	82.6%	78.8%	81.1%	83.0%	76.0%	71.0%	84.5%	81.2%	83.9%	
Children who were subject to a section 47 enquiry Rate per 10,000 YTD	182.2	179.7	201.2	51.6	105.0	159.1	180.1	189.0	245.1	
% of children who were subject to a section 47 enquiry that led to an Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC)	31.8%	35.7%	37.4%	31.9%	42.8%	21.6%	-	-	-	
% Initial Child Protection Conference (ICPC) taking place in the month and within timescales	76.4%	57.6%	75.6%	76.5%	50.8%	63.3%	79.2%	78.9%	79.9%	
Child Protection Plans ceased Rate per 10,000 YTD	75.8	51.3	61.7	15.7	31	47.5	52.2	57.5	68.7	
% of children on second or subsequent Child Protection Plan	19.4%	28.7%	23.0%	32.7%	27.9%	29.7%	23.3%	23.7%	22.5%	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Child in Need (CIN)	-	-	82.8%	77.0%	76.0%	79.7%	-	-	-	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Child Protection (CP)	-	-	81.4%	84.0%	82.2%	90.5%	-	-	-	
% of visits completed within statutory timescale - Children Looked After (CLA)	-	-	90.5%	90.6%	93.5%	92.0%	-	-	-	
Reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system	254	219	114	82	79	Not available	-	-	-	-
Reduce young people re-offending (%)	50	40	41.9	Not published	37.5%	Not available	-	-	-	-
Reduce the use of Custody (rate per 100,000)	0.30	0.07	0.16	0.10	0.16	Not available	-	-	-	-
Children currently open to MACE (Multi-Agency Child Exploitation)				49	53	53				
Children removed from MACE due to lowered risk				17	13	12				

Repeat referrals - Q3 stands at 22.9%. Despite a marked reduction in repeat referrals in December (13%) the YTD figure remains above target range of 19.1 – 21.5. Data analysis from performance in relation to repeat referrals identifies a high proportion have domestic abuse concerns as the referral reason. Domestic abuse also accounts for over a quarter of all repeat referrals for the same reason during this quarter. Whilst developments at the IFD that include the engagement of the domestic abuse hub will enable a more robust and proportionate response to victims of DA it is too early to measure the impact in reducing repeat incidents.

Assessments - The percentage of assessments completed within timescales during Q3 was 71% which highlights a 5% decline in performance from Q2. Completion rate was as high as 88.8% in March this year, but rates have gradually fallen since then. RAG rated red and low compared to stat neighbours (target range of 84.1% - 86.7%). There continues to be a number of vacancies across the social work teams which will impact upon capacity to work within defined timescales. This area of performance will continue to be monitored during regular service performance meetings.

S47 enquiries - Q3 saw a significant increase in the number of S47 investigations in comparison with Q1 and Q2. However, we remain below the national average and our statistical neighbours. Of these approximately 23.47% progressed to ICPC and 55% of S47 enquiries have an outcome of continue with assessment. Further work is needed to understand decision making during strategy meetings to ensure all appropriate risk management strategies are being considered.

Initial Child Protection conferences - The percentage of ICPCs completed in timescales has improved during Q3 to 63.3% but remains below national, northwest and statistical neighbours. There is a correlation with the staffing challenges in the operational teams resulting in late notifications to the safeguarding unit which ultimately impacts the timeliness of the initial conferences (ICPC). Performance will be reviewed at monthly PMQA meetings.

Child Protection (CP) Plans ceased, repeats and rate per 10,000 - During Q3 119 children had their CP plan ended. Of these 24 children ended their CP plan due to becoming looked after. The majority of CP plans ended during Q3 evidenced a reduction of risk that could be supported through the provision of a child in need plan. During this quarter 113 children have become subject to a child protection plan. The percentage of children subject to repeat plans has increased slightly from 27.9% in Q2 to 29.7% in Q3 (equating to 38 children). The number of repeat CP ever for December is 58.3%, 15 out of the 25 new CP were previously on a plan (7 within 2yrs of their plan ending and 8 children who had previously been on a plan over 2 years ago), which is the highest rate so far this year. A dip sample review will be undertaken by the safeguarding unit to understand the circumstances for these children.

Statutory Visits - There has been a significant improvement children being seen, with Q3 performance for CP being 90.50%. There are currently 371 children in need of which 83.26% have had their plan reviewed within timescales.

Youth Offending - There has been a reduction in the rate of Child First Time Entrants into the Justice System. Wirral saw the largest % reduction across Merseyside. The % of our Youth Justice cohort that went on to re-offend with 12 months has also reduced. The use of custody shows an increase on last quarters rolling 12 month rate per 1,000 head of 10-17 population has increased to 0.16, this equates to 5 young people. The number of exploited young people supported by partners at MACE Panel remains static, as does the amount removed last quarter, due to reduced levels of risk.

Looking after children well

	Year-End			2022/23			National (21/22)	North West (21/22)	Stat Neighbours (21/22)	Trend
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Q1	Q2	Q3				
% CLA visits completed within timescale	-	-	90.5%	90.6%	93.5%	92.0%	-	-	-	
% Completed health assessment reviews YTD	87.0%	87.0%	91.0%	50.6%	67.2%	78.2%	89.0%	92.0%	93.7%	
% Completed dental checks YTD	88.0%	31.0%	86.0%	17.8%	37.2%	58.2%	70.0%	74.0%	73.8%	
% Completed Strengths & Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ) YTD	97.0%	98.0%	96.0%	67.1%	82.5%	92.9%	77.0%	82.0%	84.0%	
% of CLA adopted in year	17.0%	15.0%	8.0%	17.7%	10.4%	13.2%	10.0%	10.0%	11.9%	
% of CLA placed with Foster carers	71.0%	71.0%	71.0%	70.3%	70.3%	67.5%	70.0%	66.0%	69.0%	
Timeliness of Adoption process A10 (426 days national target) Average days	486	363	809	496	519	575	not published	not published	not published	
% Care leavers in suitable accomodation (Age 19-21)	95.0%	92.0%	94.0%	98.0%	98.0%	97.0%	88.0%	90.0%	90.3%	
% Care leavers in Education , Employment or Training (EET) (Age 19-21)	48.0%	56.0%	54.0%	61.9%	60.7%	61.0%	55.0%	52.0%	52.6%	
Missing Episodes	1477	918	1385	341	360	293	-	-	-	
CAMHs referrals seen within 6 weeks	43.7%	67.6%	67.6%	15.7%	67.8%	73.3%	-	-	-	
CAMHs referrals seen within 18 weeks	64.9%	96.4%	96.4%	50.3%	85.1%	90.8%	-	-	-	

Supporting narrative

The numbers of children receiving statutory visits on time remains high, currently at 92%, although we would like to achieve above 95%. Staffing vacancies are contributing to less than optimum performance.

Health assessment reviews as well as initial health assessments are a work in progress. Positive progress has been made in the past couple of years on this, but recently particularly in relation to initial health assessments performance has dipped significantly. There is also a technical issue relating to SDQ information not being transferred to health colleagues via the computer database which is in the process of being resolved. However the number of review health assessment has increased and currently showing at 78%. Dental checks are moving in the right direction but again needs some improvement to reach national and statistical averages.

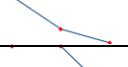
Numbers of children placed with foster carers has reduced potentially highlighting an increase in children looked after, with some of the increase in children being placed in residential care or with parents at home rather than in foster care, reflecting extremely low vacancy rates in independent fostering agencies, as well as extremely low capacity within our in-house fostering service to meet demand. Recruitment is it effectively matching people leaving the service.

The timeliness of adoption is too slow, and although there is an adoption tracking meeting, work transfers out much earlier stage to permanence now, court timetables and scheduling are contributing to increased delay for children, as well as some difficulties in matching children with appropriate carers due to reduction in the number of potential adopters available. The Adoption In Merseyside operational group is due to meet week commencing 13th February and these issues will be discussed aiming for effective solutions across Wirral and other local authorities.

Care Leavers and Employment, Education and Training. Statistically positive outcomes for care leavers have remained higher than local and national averages. Work has been undertaken to secure apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers from a range of partner organisations including construction and the new local childrens museum, Eureka! A further round of the Get Real employability intervention also concluded at the end of quarter 3 with a number of care leavers accessing employment and / or reintegrating back in to further education.

No CAMHs data was provided for December so the data reported is the end of November position.

Education

	Year-End				2022/23			Trend
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Q1	Q2	Q3	
% of under 5's who are engaged with the Early Years Service	68	76	45	51.11	40.25	42.53	43.34	
% of under 5's who have sustained engagement the Early Years Service (3 of more)	60	62	58	60.5	50.6	47.66	46.44	
% of 2 year olds benefitting from funded early education	78	78	76	83	87.05	87.05	85.4	
% of 3 year olds benefitting from funded early education	86	86	90	91	89.42	89.42	91.13	

	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Current National	Trend
% of schools rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted	84%	85%	83%	83%	81.60	88.0%	
% of children in good or better schools as rated by Ofsted	84%	86%	84%	84%	Available Q4	86%	
% of early years settings good or better	94%	96%	98%	98%	97%	97%	
% of young people aged 16 and 17 who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) or Not Known		4.90%	5.00%	5.10%	4.10%	4.70%	

	2017/18	2018/19	2021/22	Current National	Trend
Foundation Stage - % achieving a good level of development	70.5%	69.3%	62.9%	65.2%	
Foundation Stage - % of children who are looked after achieving a good level of development	52.2%	59.5%	48.10%	41%	
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers achieving good level of development in early years foundation stage profile	17.7	23.5	20.2	18.7	
% Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving a Good Level of Development in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	18%	23%	21.5%	20%	
% achieving expected standard in reading, writing and maths at Key Stage 2	60%	60%	52%	59%	
% Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the 'expected standard' in English, reading, English writing and mathematics at the end of key stage 2	23%	22%	24.1%	23%	
The gap in progress between disadvantaged pupils and their peers at Key Stage 4	0.73	0.84	0.92	0.7	
Progress 8 Score for Wirral	0.03	0.01	-0.03	-0.06	

Supporting narrative

Two year funding has dipped due to the reduced time parents have to choose and set up a placement prior to headcount as it is so early in this short term following the Christmas break. This dip was anticipated and continued assertive outreach and promotion work continues to ensure an increase for the summer term.

Three year funding continues to increase as the year progresses with ongoing promotion work.

Early years providers receiving good or above inspection judgements has dipped, recruitment and retention of staff is a big factor and the quality team are using a variety of methods to engage providers, particularly the seldom heard from.

Attainment across all age ranges has fallen at both a national and Wirral level compared to 2019 outcomes - for this reason outcomes between 2022 and 2019 should not be compared.

In relation to GLD, the gap to national has narrowed to 2.3% compared to the 2019 gap to national. Further work is being supported across schools where GLD outcomes have been identified as needing support.

In relation to KS2 outcomes, the gap to national in 2022 has widened to 7% compared to the 2019 gap. Focused work is taking place in relation to writing across schools where outcomes for this area is significantly below the national figure. In relation to Maths at both KS1 and KS2, outcomes are below the national figure. Working with the Maths Hub, in depth analysis at the question level is being undertaken to understand the key strands that need further support in relation to numeracy.

Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)

	Year-End			2022/23			Current National	Current North West	Current Stat neighbours	Trend
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Q1	Q2	Q3				
% Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 week timescale (Excluding Exceptions)	37	58	24	40	39	38	58	62.5	80.44	
% of requests that went to tribunal	7.63	9.47	8.23	-	-	6.11	-	-	-	-
% of Children Looked After with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	6.93	8.68	9.26	17.7	18.3	19.3	-	-	-	
% of Children In Need with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	14.12	17.59	16.45	21.7	22.1	20.8	-	-	-	
% of Child Protection with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	5.93	5.93	6.45	7.8	8.9	10.3	-	-	-	
% of Early Help Episodes with (SEND) Special Educational needs and disabilities	25.77	25.82	26.44	28.98	29.8	29.4	-	-	-	
% of Children Looked After with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	18.29	18.22	19.29	18.2	17.6	16.2	-	-	-	
% of Children In Need with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	11.66	15.83	16.2	14.3	13.7	15.6	-	-	-	
% of Child Protection with (SEN) Special Educational Need support	23.32	19.88	21.51	21.6	18.3	17.9	-	-	-	

	Year-End			Term		Current National	Current North West	Current Stat neighbours	Trend
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Summer	2022/23 Autumn				
(EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan- Overall School Attendance %	88.9	90.6	88.9	88	87	-	-	-	
(EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan Overall Persistent absence %	31.2	25.6	37.1	38.2	40.3	-	-	-	
Number of pupils with (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan who are electively home educated	10	18	12	12	8	-	-	-	
(SEN) Special Educational Need support - Overall School Attendance %	92.3	93.4	91	89.3	89	-	-	-	
(SEN) Special Educational Need support - Overall Persistent absence %	23.8	19.3	28.6	33.8	37	-	-	-	
Number of pupils with (SEN) Special Educational Need support who are electively home educated	2	39	54	54	54	-	-	-	

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2021/22	Current National	Current North West	Current Stat neighbours	Trend
Key Stage 2 (RWM) Reading, Writing, Maths EHCP - % at Expected Level	2.9	6	2.2	2.5	7.2	6.4	Available Q3	
Key Stage 4 Overall Progress 8 Score - (EHCP) Education and Health Care Plan	-1.08	-0.85	-1.12	-1.33	-1.33	-1.44	-1.52	
Key Stage 2 Reading, Writing, Maths (SEN) Special Educational Need support - % at Expected Level	18	21	23	20.7	21.1	20.3	Available Q3	
Key Stage 4 Overall Progress 8 Score - (SEN) Special Educational Need support	-0.36	-0.29	-0.42	-0.46	-0.47	-0.58	-0.57	

Supporting narrative

The Q3 cumulative 20 week compliance rate remains in line with that of Q2.

The SEND team have continued to focus on completing assessments for those cases that have surpassed the 20 week completion time. With a separate team identified to focus on this piece of work, the historic back log figure has reduced from 247 to 71. There has also been a concerted effort to resolve cases over 70 weeks with only four cases remaining above this number. Parents/carers and schools have given positive feedback about how these cases have been managed with particular praise for the coproduction approach of these plans being finalised.

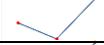
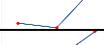
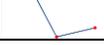
Monthly output in regard to the number of overall plans being finalised remains significantly higher than Q3 from the previous year. Finalised Education, Health and Care Plans figures for October, November and December 2022 were 50, 60, 43 respectively compared to 25, 31, 15 for 2021.

Case management and performance meetings, as well as one to one check ins continue to provide an opportunity to identify 'stuck cases' and the barriers that prevent these moving at the correct pace. The lack of educational psychology advice continues to present an issue and by introducing more coproduction meetings at an earlier stage in the process and gaining a quick turn around on advice from our EPs, it is hoped improvement will show.

Our data for tribunals continues to show steady improvement. The number of appeals that were settled by consent order has increased. This correlates directly with the team working in a more coproductive way with families trying to resolve disputes before tribunal deadlines.

A SEND Assessment Team Action Plan has been drafted which clearly identifies priorities for the next six to nine months. Focus areas are: the timeliness and quality of EHC Plans, Training, and Working to Understand the Daily Lived Experience of Families.

Schools

	Year-end			2022/23			Current National	Trend
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Q1	Q2	Q3		
% School capacity - places available vs pupil numbers (school)	89.8	89.6	90.1	-	-	-	-	
% Exclusions - suspensions	3.31	4.06	8.60	1.36	0.97	1.95	4.25	
% Exclusions - permanent	0.04	0.04	0.12	0.019	0.017	0.035	0.05	
Number of children known to be electively home educated	171	275	254	258	266	283	-	
Number of Pupils who are not in receipt of full-time education and subject of an agreed part time timetable (Indicator once named - Pupils who are missing more than 25hrs of education a week (CME25)	-	171	254	253	62	86	-	

	Year-end			Term		Current National	Trend	
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2021/22 Summer Term	2022/23 Autumn Term			
% of school age pupils eligible for (FSM) Free school meal	21.5	24	27.59	27.59	27.74	20.8		
Overall School Attendance %	94.3	94.9	93.3	91.4	91.6	92.2		
Overall Unauthorised Absence %	1.4	1.5	1.9	2.8	2.1	2.5		
Overall Persistent Absence %	15.9	14.0	20.1	26.2	28.5	-		
Overall School Attendance Open to Social Care %	-	-	-	-	82.6	-	-	

Supporting narrative

EHE monitoring teachers continue to complete annual reviews of the work being undertaken by EHE cohort to ensure that they are receiving suitable education. EHE Lead and the monitoring teachers continue to link in with EHCP Co-ordinators/Reviewing Officers, family support workers and social workers as and when appropriate. At the end of Q3 2022, there was a total of 283 children known to be in receipt of EHE arrangements: 96 primary aged children & 187 secondary aged children with one of the main contributing factors being mental health.

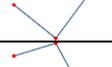
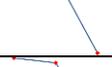
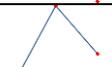
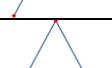
Wirral Attendance Service continues to create a culture where EHE is only a positive choice and benefits the needs of the child and not a solution for poor school attendance or behaviour. EHE advisory teachers have worked to strengthen relationships with difficult to reach parents, changing the mindset has led to positive communication.

There is a growing need for Part Time Timetables to be constantly reviewed and monitored to ensure CYP can access their right to a full time education. The current figure for Part Time Timetables at the end of Q3 is 86. We encourage schools to use these as a short term measure and for them to be reviewed a maximum of 6 weekly.

Overall Attendance. Autumn Term 2022/23. Wirral data is from Capita One. The information provided for the National data is from the new DfE Daily Collections. Whilst nationally there is a 78% sign up to this, locally we have 95% of schools signed up and we continue to encourage others to do so. In line with the new DfE guidance relating to school attendance, we are beginning the process of establishing working relationships with our independent schools. This will also include encouraging them to sign up to the new DfE Daily Data Collections. The new guidance also introduced a new category of severely absent young people. These are young people with attendance below 50% and schools are required to have a plan for these young people.

Illness was identified as the main reason for absence when the Attendance Service was formed in Autumn 2019. The three year trend shows, the schools are tackling this area through a combination of whole school approach, including support and challenge to parents and where appropriate, enforcement measures. The evidence for this can be seen in our 360 degree reviews. We will continue to work with and coach our schools to challenge absence. This approach ties in with the DfE guidance for school attendance. The DfE have recently published guidance for schools to support children who are absent due to mental health. Part of this guidance covers requesting medical evidence from GPs etc., we may need to do some work with health colleagues on this.

Workforce

	Year-End			2022/23			National	North West	Statistical Neighbours	Trend
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Q1	Q2	Q3				
Vacancy rate – number of posts currently vacant / total no of posts Social Workers	31%	31%	30%	20%	21%	26%	-	-	-	
Agency rate – positions filled by agency staff Social Workers	15%	11%	22%	15%	13%	17%	-	-	-	
New starters - Social Workers	19	29	20	5	13	8	-	-	-	
Retention of staff – number of leavers - Social Workers	8	16	33	6	15	10	-	-	-	
Average FTE days lost to sickness absence - Social Workers	16.75	10.88	16.46	3.56	3.47	3.62		-	-	
Average caseload for social worker	14.6	14.2	15.5	16	16.2	15	16.3	17.9	17	
Vacancy rate – number of posts currently vacant / total no of posts Children's Services Directorate	25%	17%	20%	16%	15%	14%	-	-	-	
Agency rate – positions filled by agency staff Children's Services Directorate	6.80%	5.30%	6.29%	6.00%	6.80%	6.30%	-	-	-	
New starters - Children's Services Directorate	112	88	98	20	27	20	-	-	-	
Retention of staff – number of leavers - Children's Services Directorate	95	57.5	102	22	26	15.5	-	-	-	
Average FTE days lost to sickness absence Children's Services Directorate	14.54	10.92	12.55	2.86	2.75	3.28	-	-	-	

Supporting narrative

In terms of retention of staff, we have had a lot of social worker leavers in Q3, 10 in total, however we have managed to balance that somewhat with the new starter figure of 8. The agency rate has gone up slightly which will compensate for this shortfall. The qualitative data around that figure is that staff are either leaving to go to LA's who pay a higher agency rate or are moving to agency in another LA, or have been attracted by other LA's offering golden hellos etc. Sickness seems to have gone up a little, but this is usually a trend of the winter and Christmas period.

Budget
Supporting narrative

Under development - further work required to align performance and financial reporting.



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

7TH MARCH 2023

REPORT TITLE:	SEND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	SIMONE WHITE, DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee with an update on progress of the SEND Transformation Programme.

In September 2021, the local area's services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) was inspected by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC). As a result of the inspection, the local area was required to submit a Written Statement of Action (WSoA) to address the ten areas of improvement which had been identified. This was approved by Ofsted on behalf of the CQC on 28th March 2022.

The SEND Transformation Board has overseen WSoA activity since April 2022, with monitoring provided by the Department for Education and NHS England. At the most recent Monitoring Meeting, held on 16th November 2022, progress was reviewed and agreement for a 'check-in' to be undertaken with stakeholders to ensure that activity is correctly prioritised for the coming 12 months. This report provides an update on SEND Transformation Programme activity, an overview of the *check-in* with stakeholders and details of the Priority Plan 2023 for the SEND Transformation Programme.

Delivering the Wirral Statement of Action and the SEND transformation programme is aligned to the Wirral Plan 2021-2026 priority "Brighter Futures" and the Children's Services Business priority to 'create a culture of inclusion and aspiration'.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

- a. Review and scrutinise the information contained within the report.

- b. Subject to comments, approve the progress made to date on the actions in the Wirral Statement of Action; and,
- c. Agree to receive a further monitoring report at a future date.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure that elected Members have oversight of the Wirral Statement of Action and SEND Transformation Programme, to be able to hold senior officers to be account and to be assured that progress is being made and outcomes improving.
- 1.2 To ensure there are clear lines of accountability, and that the reporting framework is adhered to, and governance and monitoring arrangements are robust.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Reporting to a single, separate accountable body: This report will sit alongside several update reports to Health and Wellbeing Board, Adults Social Care and Public Health Committee and other governance bodies across health. The option of reporting into one single governance body was discounted given the multiple responsibilities and cross-cutting themes relating to services for children and young people with SEND.
- 2.2 Do nothing: good governance and accountability will help to ensure strong oversight and monitoring of the Wirral Statement of Action. It is important, as part of any improvement programme, to effectively report on progress, highlight risks and provide assurance to elected Members and wider stakeholders.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

SEND Transformation Programme Update

- 3.1 In September 2022, the SEND Service implemented a refreshed Education Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment to Annual Review process, which included revised decision making processes, increased capacity within the team, a new model for working with parent carers and families, and more rigorous performance oversight. Throughout quarter 3 (September to December 2022) the SEND Service has focused on improving service compliance, communication, and quality.
- 3.2 At the end of Quarter 3, compliance of the 20-week completion timescale for Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) was 38%. Whilst this is an improvement on the previous year, which was 22%, it is significantly below the 58% target set in the WSoA. There are two critical factors impacting on the EHCP compliance rate: volume and provision of advice.
- 3.3 In 2021, there were 809 requests for a EHC Needs Assessment. This rose to 1,128 requests in 2022, an increase of almost 40%. The improvement in compliance from 2021 to 2022 within the context of increasing demand demonstrates improvement in process and capacity of the EHC Team. This is also apparent in the number of plans issued during the 12-month period, which increased from 317 in 2021, to 718 in 2022.

- 3.4 Whilst 38% of EHCPs are completed within the 20-week timeframe, 61% were completed within 30 weeks and 88% completed within 52 weeks. It should be noted that the 20-week compliance measure, while an important performance indicator, does not illustrate the volume of activity or output from the EHC Team. Every plan finalised outside of the 20-week timeframe negatively affects the percentage compliance rate, however, delivering a final plan to support the child or young person takes priority over performance data.
- 3.5 Issuing an EHCP involves completing five key stages:
1. Deciding to undertake an EHC Needs Assessment
 2. Gathering Advice from social care, health, education, educational psychologists, parent carers and/or young person
 3. Drafting the EHC Plan
 4. Consulting on the draft EHC Plan with parent carers and/or young person, and education settings
 5. Finalising the EHC Plan
- 3.6 Due to shortages in Educational Psychology provision, over 90% of EHC Plans exceed the 20-week deadline before completing stage 2. In the majority of cases where stage 2 is completed within timeframe the EHC Plan is successfully delivered within the 20-week period. Shortage of Educational Psychologists is a national issue. In Wirral, the core team of Educational Psychologists has been supplemented by spot purchasing agency workers, facilitating schools to commission private reports, and entering into a contract with an employment agency to provide a small team. These strategies have enabled over 300 Educational Psychologist advices to be provided, but is not meeting current demand at the desired rate.
- 3.7 Further strategies, including utilising co-production meetings to gain Educational Psychologist Advice and introducing Assistant Educational Psychologists to the core team, will be implemented as part of the Priority Plan 2023.
- 3.8 The SEND Service reset in September 2022 included introducing 6.0 FTE Annual Review Officers. Annual Reviews were identified as an area of weakness in the Local Area SEND Inspection, and the additional capacity of dedicated officers has had a positive impact in quarter 3. The immediate priority for the Annual Review Officers has been undertaking reviews for those children in Year 6 with an EHCP, to ensure an appropriate transition to secondary education. Local Authority Annual Review Officers attended 96% of reviews for year 6 pupils. Working alongside EHC Co-ordinators, EHC Plans have been updated to ensure that secondary school consultations have been conducted effectively. The additional capacity provided through the Annual Review Officers has meant that the Local Authority is providing a more timely response to requests for Interim Reviews.
- 3.9 Tribunal data provides a useful indication of service improvement. In 2022, 68 appeals were lodged, which is a decrease of 15% from the 80 made in 2021. Of those 68 appeals, 21 (approximately 30%) related to year 7 transition outcomes, with parental dissatisfaction in the provision offered. Of the 68 appeals lodged, 25 (approximately 37%) were either withdrawn or resolved through a Consent Order,

which demonstrates positive working between the EHC Team and parent carers, with the support of mediation services.

- 3.10 The Written Statement of Action set a target of 100% of Year 6 EHCPs to be reviewed and finalised, with a named school for Year 7, by 15th February 2023. There are 274 children currently in Year 6 with an EHCP, for whom this applies. The target of 100% completion by 15th February was achieved, with 269 children having a named school and 5 children having the type of school named in their plan. For the 269 with a named school, 231 (86%) were allocated in a place which was parental preference.
- 3.11 In January 2023, the SEND Transformation Board approved the revised SEND Co-production Charter, following a series of engagement workshops with stakeholders. The charter has been published on the Local Offer website and will underpin how, as a partnership, we work together with children, young people, and parent carers. Working with the Children with Disabilities Council (CDC), a local co-production training package has been developed and delivered as a pilot to 67 practitioners (against a target of 60). This training will be delivered to 400 staff during 2023. The success of the co-production training package was recognised by CDC, who invited representatives from Wirral SEND Service to present at the National Online Event, *Putting Voice at the Heart of Strategic Commissioning*.

Monitoring Progress Against the Written Statement of Action

- 3.11 Since reporting to the Children, Young People and Education Committee in October 2022, the SEND Transformation Board has met twice, on 31st October 2022 and 9th January 2023. During the same period there has been one Monitoring Meeting with Department for Education and NHS England, on 16th November 2022. Workstreams have continued to meet on a regular basis.
- 3.12 The WSoA, which commenced in April 2022, contains 106 actions. At the Monitoring Meeting in November 2022, 45 of the actions were complete, 30 in progress and 31 had missed their deadlines. In order to understand the slippage and address issues preventing progress, it was agreed with Department for Education and NHS England to take the opportunity, as a partnership, to engage with stakeholders through a *check-in* process and develop a Priority Plan for 2023 to supplement the existing WSoA.
- 3.13 It was agreed that the *check in* should provide a shared understanding of the *big ticket items* which would make the biggest difference to children, young people and their families. With these identified, a Priority Plan for 2023 would be produced to make explicit where efforts would be focused, by whom and for what purpose.
- 3.14 The *check-in* was completed between 25th November-16th December 2022. This involved 114 parent carers, 56 young people with SEND, and 142 staff/practitioners taking part in focus groups and surveys, to identify the areas which stakeholders would like the SEND Transformation Board to prioritise over the next 12 months. These are:

- (i) **Timeliness**- reducing waiting times for EHC Needs Assessment, access to Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT), Child and Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Educational Psychology Advice/Assessment
- (ii) **Communication**- improving direct communication with parent carers across all public services including Children’s Services, education settings, health and care services
- (iii) **Multi-agency working**- creating more opportunities to bring practitioners together, with parents carers and young people where appropriate, to jointly assess and plan support
- (iv) **Confident practice**- increasing consistency and provision of training for professionals to identify need and then to provide support, including specialist training for those in specialist roles
- (v) **Access to information**- improving information on the Local Offer and education setting websites, which are easier to navigate
- (vi) **Earlier intervention**- increasing consistency in application of the Graduated Response, with clear pathways to early support
- (vii) **Provision**- providing education places, therapeutic intervention, and support based on known need and demand, with a clear strategy and provision map
- (viii) **Transitions**- improving the experience and outcomes for children and young people at key transition points (F1 to F2, Year 6 to 7, and post-16)
- (iv) **Understanding**- improving relationships by listening to parents, valuing their expertise, and considering the daily-lived experience of children and families.

- 3.15 Having understood the immediate priorities for stakeholders, a Priority Plan for 2023 has been agreed (Appendix 1) by the SEND Transformation Board which seeks to distil a complex and broad programme of work into a simple and direct plan. The format of the Priority Plan 2023 is deliberately short, with only 12 pages of text in comparison to the existing WSoA which is 28 pages in length. Two pages are dedicated to each of the Workstreams, capturing what the purpose of each Workstream is, the activity to be completed, and making explicit the improvements to be achieved. Bringing the metrics and evidence together into a one-page record will enable greater clarity on progress and assist stakeholders to see where improvements are being made.
- 3.16 A monthly updated Priority Plan 2023 will provide a succinct report on progress for parent carers and wider stakeholders. Internally, a delivery plan is in place for each activity detailing named leads, responsible groups, timescales and deadlines. The delivery plan, and therefore Priority Plan 2023, will be monitored through a new WSoA Performance Group, which will be led by the Vice Chair of the SEND Transformation Board. It is intended that the Priority Plan 2023 and discreet performance group will lead to improved progress with the WSoA, with increased transparency for stakeholders.
- 3.17 At the midpoint of each month, an updated Priority Plan 2023 will be published on the Local Offer website. On a quarterly basis, the WSoA will be updated for the Monitoring Meetings with Department for Education and NHS England.

- 3.18 Undertaking the *check in* and developing the Priority Plan 2023 has led to a review of the existing delivery structures. Important changes to the workstreams have been made to ensure that as a partnership we are appropriately organised to deliver the plan. Where workstreams have had a broad remit they have been reviewed to address more specific issues. For example, Workstream 1 will establish a Joint Commissioning Forum and the WSoA Performance Group, and Workstream 2, which led on the EHCP and Annual Review process, will be replaced with a SEND Quality Assurance Group and SEND Training Group.
- 3.19 In reviewing the groups which facilitate the WSoA, a broader range of stakeholders are now involved in the SEND Transformation Programme than during 2022. With increased engagement from Headteachers, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs), Children's Services staff, community organisations, health services, and parent carers, it is anticipated that broader reach at a faster pace will be achieved.
- 3.20 The *check in* process has provided an opportunity to stop and reflect on the progress made in 2022 and to reconvene with renewed energy and focus.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A reserve fund of £1.051m from 2021/22 underspend, was allocated to the SEND Transformation Programme and has been allocated to support improvement activity and increase capacity. The Department of Education and CQC advisors have encouraged investment of this nature to support the improvement plan and change programme.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 sets out the statutory requirements and responsibilities for the local authority and partners in providing support and services for children, young people and families with SEND. This legislation is underpinned by statutory guidance: the SEND Code of Practice. The Council has a legal duty to fulfil the requirements and expectations as set out.
- 5.2 Delivering on the Wirral Statement of Action will ensure that the local authority and health and education partners will meet their legal duties.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Delivering the WSoA requires resources from staff, ICT and Assets. Since the local area inspection, senior managers, officers and operational staff have been required to take on additional responsibilities to support the transformation programme. Additional staff have been required at both strategic and operational levels and this may be needed further to ensure the transformation programme can be delivered.
- 6.2 There may be a requirement to develop new ICT infrastructure, for example, to capture and share data better across health, education and local authority partners. There have been requirements for Assets to assist in the establishment of inclusion

bases or infrastructure projects which relate to securing improved provision across the local area.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 The pace required to accelerate change is significant. Progress will be monitored regularly by the Department for Education and escalated if swift action is not taken, and tangible outcomes identified. Ofsted will return for a re-inspection within 12 months' time, meaning that timescales are challenging for the scale and pace required. Partners across the local area are working quickly to prioritise, resource and drive change to provide both assurance of progress and be able to evidence improvement within the timescale.
- 7.2 Failure to invest in the improvement programme carries a risk that the relevant improvements will not be made. The £1 million improvement funding (as referenced in section 4 of the report) is assisting in supporting the change programme and mitigating the risk.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 There is parent carer and young person's representation for the SEND Transformation Board and its workstreams. Regular engagement with the parent carer forum's Steering Group and the SEND Youth Voice Group is taking place.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and is available [here](#).

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The content and recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of Greenhouse Gases.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no community wealth implications arising from the report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Priority Plan 2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS

SEND Joint local area inspection report <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50173702>

SEND Code of Practice <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Wirral Co-production Charter <https://localofferwirral.org>

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with section a of its Terms of Reference:

(a) exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People and Education Committee	12 th October 2022
Children, Young People and Education Committee	21 st June 2022
Children, Young People and Education Committee	31st January 2022
Children, Young People and Education Committee	4th June 2021
Children, Young People and Education Committee	28th January 2021
Children, Young People and Education Committee	1st December 2020
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28th January 2020

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CONCEPTUAL DOCKET CALENDAR DAILY GOALS PRIORITIES
 REMINDER ORGANIZE SERVICES WEEKEND SCHEDULE
 DELEGATE SUCCESS FINISH REMINDER CHECK BOX WORK
 MEETINGS TO BE DONE CALENDAR CROSS OFF EMAILS
 AGENDA DAILY GOALS MEETINGS DAILY SUCCESS PHONE CALLS PROJECTS
 SCHEDULE WORK PROJECTS CHECK BOX REMINDER DELEGATE REMINDER SERVICES PRIORITIES
 PROJECTS
PRIORITIES REMINDER WORK CHECK BOX
 WORK PRIORITIES
 DOCKET
 COMPLETE To Do List CALENDAR DAILY GOALS
 PRACTICE PRIORITIES HELP
 BUSINESS TASKS
 WORK CAREER REMINDER
 PLANNER DAILY GOALS
 MANAGE LEADERSHIP MULTITASK PERSONAL
 DOCKET EXPERTISE PRIORITIES FINISHED



Written Statement of Action
Priority Plan 2023

Workstream1: Data Analysis and Joint Commissioning

Workstream 1 has been tasked to address the “lack of accurate, up-to-date, and useful information which informs the area’s plans and evaluates the impact of their actions” and “the lack of joint commissioning in the area”. In 2022, we published the first iteration of the SEND Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), produced a SEND Performance Dashboard capturing information across health, education and social care, and appointed a Joint Strategic Commissioner for Children and Young People.

In 2023, our priority for workstream 1 will be to ensure that our improved understanding of need informs joint commissioning of services that children and young people can access in a timely manner, leading to better outcomes.

Page 54

Area of focus	To achieve
JSNA informs commissioning and provision	Right level of provision to meet needs of children with SEND
Effective performance management	Children having their needs met
Provision map with clear pathways	Better experience , easier access, reduced frustration
Improving timeliness	Right support at the right time

“To Do” List	✓
Publish the second iteration of the JSNA	
Host a roadshow of JSNA workshops for stakeholders	
Agree joint commissioning priorities	
Publish a joint commissioning strategy	
Clarify the joint commissioning governance structure	
Publish an Outcomes Framework for children and young people with SEND	
Hold regular Joint Commissioning Forum meetings	
Design new joint commissioned model for SaLT	
Establish SaLT Steering Group	
Publish SaLT Recovery Plan	
Deliver SaLT Recovery Plan	
Review joint commissioning arrangements for OT	
Complete the discovery phase of Mental Health and Wellbeing Project	
Devise and deliver phase 2 of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Project	
Publish the SEND Performance Management and Accountability Framework	
Establish a Written Statement of Action Performance Group	
Hold monthly Written Statement of Action Performance Group Meetings	

By May 2023 we will have improved performance management arrangements in place, with a stronger grip on plans for improvement. Our approach to commissioning will be clear with priorities, strategy and intentions published.

By August 2023 we will have published the second iteration of the JSNA, shared its findings with stakeholders, and used it to inform commissioning. A new model for SaLT will be providing more children and young people with access to SaLT interventions and support. Clear pathways will be published and enabling smoother access to services.

By November 2023 we will have evidence through the Performance Management Framework and stakeholder engagement of improvement in timeliness and experience of services. We will have made significant progress towards a single point of access for mental health and wellbeing services, incorporating a graduated approach for earlier intervention and support.

We will understand our impact by measuring:

- Waiting times for CAMHS (Child and Mental Health Services)
- Waiting times for SaLT (Speech and Language Therapy)
- Timeliness of SaLT assessment
- Timeliness of SaLT provision
- Timeliness of OT (Occupational Therapy) assessment
- Timeliness of OT provision
- Timeliness of CAMHS assessment
- Timeliness of CAMHS provision

Workstream 1: Evidence of Impact

Ref	Measure	Target	Sep 21	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
1.2g	Waiting times for CAMHS (Child and Mental Health Services)	-													
1.2g	Waiting times for SaLT (Speech and Language Therapy)	-													
1.2c	Timeliness of SaLT assessment	-													
1.2c	Timeliness of SaLT provision	-													
1.2c	Timeliness of OT (Occupational Therapy) assessment-weeks	-	12.5												
1.2c	Timeliness of OT provision (% within statutory timescale)	-	8												
1.2g	Timeliness of CAMHS assessment -6 weeks	-	55.6%												
1.2g	Timeliness of CAMHS provision-18 weeks	-	97%												

Page 6

Products

SEND Performance Dashboard ✓
 SEND Performance Management and Accountability Framework
 SEND Joint Strategic Needs Analysis Iteration 1 ✓
 SEND Joint Strategic Needs Analysis Iteration 2
 Joint Commissioning Strategy
 Joint Commissioning Priorities
 Outcomes Frameworks for children and young people with SEND
 Joint Commissioning Governance Structure

Other evidence

Audit report on systems used across education, health and social care ✓
 Joint Commissioning Forum records
 SEND WSoA Performance Group records
 SaLT Steering Group Records

Workstream 2: Education, Health and Care Plans and Annual Reviews

Workstream 2 has been tasked to address “weaknesses in the quality and timeliness of EHC assessments and Annual Reviews”. In 2022, we reviewed the EHC Needs Assessment to Annual Review process, published a practice handbook and flowchart, increased the size of the SEND Team and commissioned increased Educational Psychologist capacity. Compliance against the 20-week timescale has improved from 23% to 39%, and more children than in previous years are having an Annual Review, yet there remains a lot to be done before the typical experience for children with SEND is good. In 2023, our priority for workstream 2 will be to achieve a better experience of the EHC Needs Assessment to Annual Review process for children and young people with SEND, their families, and those supporting them.

Page 56

Area of focus	To achieve
Workforce development	Confidence in EHC Co-ordinators, Plan Writers, and Annual Review Officers
Quality assurance activity	EHC Plans that support children and young people to make good progress
Improving timescales	Right support at the right time
Multi-agency working	Better experience, co-ordination and communication

“To Do” List	✓
Publish a SEND Team professional development plan	
Deliver annual mandatory SEND update training to SEND Team	
Train SEND Team in Co-Production	
Train SEND Team in Working with Parents	
Train SEND Team in SEND Law, to an appropriate level	
Establish a multi-agency quality assurance group	
Publish a SEND quality assurance framework	
Deliver 4 x quarterly cycles of quality assurance activity	
Hold monthly performance meetings for the SEND Team	
Launch a multi-agency policy for co-production of EHCPs	
Introduce multi-agency co-production meetings for all new EHCPs	
Develop a EHC Co-ordinator in Schools pilot	
Deliver refresher training for Advice Givers	
Establish a pool of SEND trainers	
Investigate opportunities for a parent carer portal to engage with and track progress of EHC Needs Assessment	
Host termly information exchanges for the SEND Team and SENCOs	
Link EHC Co-ordinators and Annual Review Officers to schools and settings	
Extend the commissioned Educational Psychologist provision	
Introduce Assistant Educational Psychologists to increase core team capacity	

By May 2023 we will have a policy in place outlining expectations for multi-agency working throughout the EHC Needs Assessment to Annual Review process, with co-production meetings being typical practice for new EHCPs. We will have completed our first cycle of quality assurance and understand where practice needs to improve.

By August 2023 we will have completed our training plan for the SEND Team and Advice Givers and expect greater confidence in practitioners from parent carers and stakeholders. We will have cleansed all data/records and be ready to move to a new case management system with improved compliance and performance capability.

By November 2023 we will have improved the means for parent carers to track the progress of their assessment. EHC Co-ordinators will spend more time school-based and have stronger relationships with SENCOs and parent carers.

We will understand our impact by measuring:

- Compliance with the 20-week EHCP timescale (target 58%)
- Health advice within 6 weeks (target 90%)
- Social Care advice within 6 weeks (target 90%)
- Educational Psychologist advice within 6 weeks (target 70%)
- Views of children and parent carers are captured in Section A (target 75%)
- Section E relates to Sections A, B, C and D of the EHCP (target 80%)
- Section B is graded as ‘good’ (target 70%)
- New EHCPs graded as ‘good’ (target 70%)
- Satisfaction levels for EHCP (target 80%)
- Satisfaction levels for Annual Review (target 80%)
- Minimum monthly contact during the EHCP process (target 90%)
- EHC Co-ordinators attend co-production meetings (target 90%)
- Feedback reflects confidence in EHC Co-ordinators (target 80%)
- EHCP cases have a named lead worker (target 100%)
- The Compliance Checklist is used on new EHCPs (target 100%)
- Annual Reviews are completed within 12 weeks of the AR meeting (target 60%)
- EHC Co-ordinators and AR Officers complete mandated SEND update training (all)
- Annual Reviews show improved outcomes for children (target 80%)
- Year 6 Annual Reviews are completed by 15.02.2023 (target 100%)
- Year 11 Annual Reviews are completed by 31.03.2023 (target 90%)
- No overdue Annual Reviews by September 2023 (target 0)
- Reduction in complaints due to timescales
- Reduction in tribunals due to timescales

Workstream 2: Evidence of Impact

Ref	Measure	Target	Sep 21	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
2.1f	Compliance with the 20-week EHCP timescale	58%	24%												
2.1f	Health advice within 6 weeks	90%	73%												
2.1f	Social Care advice within 6 weeks	90%	98%												
2.1f	Educational Psychologist advice within 6 weeks	70%	14%												
2.1g	Views of children and parent carers are captured in Section A	75%	-												
2.1n	Section E relates to Sections A, B, C and D of the EHCP	80%	-												
2.1l	Section B is graded as 'good'	70%	-												
2.1m	New EHCPs graded as 'good'	70%	-												
2.3c	Satisfaction levels for EHCP	80%	-												
2.3c	Satisfaction levels for Annual Review	80%	-												
2.1o	Minimum monthly contact during the EHCP process	90%	-												
2.1i	EHC Co-ordinators attend co-production meetings	90%	-												
3.2g	Feedback reflects confidence in EHC Co-ordinators	80%	-												
2.1p	EHCP cases have a named lead worker	100%	-												
2.1q	The Compliance Checklist is used on new EHCPs	100%	-												
2.3a	Annual Reviews are completed within 12 weeks of the AR meeting	60%													
2.1h	EHC Co-ordinators and AR Officers complete mandated update training	100%	-												
2.2f	Annual Reviews show improved outcomes for children	80%	-												
2.3e	Year 6 Annual Reviews are completed by 15.02.2023	100%													
2.3e	Year 11 Annual Reviews are completed by 31.03.2023	90%													
2.3b	No overdue Annual Reviews by September 2023	0													
2.1b	Reduction in complaints due to timescales	-													
2.1b	Reduction in tribunals due to timescales	-													

Page 57

Products

- EHC Needs Assessment to Annual Review Practice Handbook ✓
- EHC Needs Assessment to Annual Review Flowchart ✓
- EHCP Quality Assurance Framework
- SEND Team Professional Development Plan
- Multi-agency Policy on Co-production in EHCPs

Other evidence

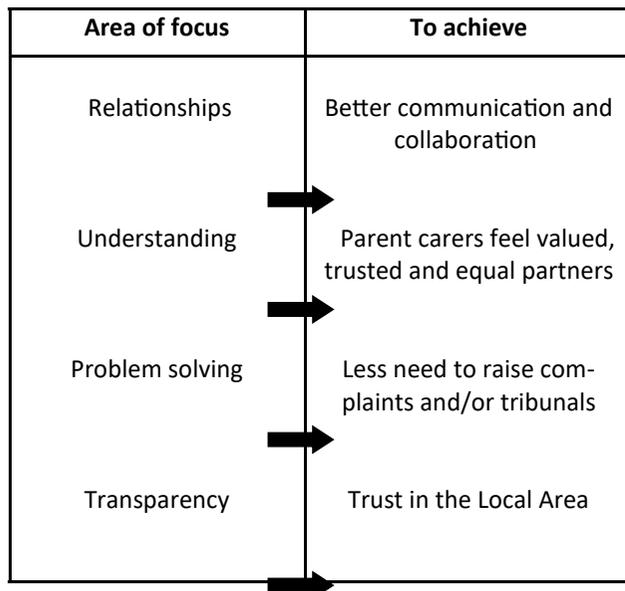
- Report of Factors Impacting on EHCP ✓
- Decision Making Group Records ✓
- Job Role Descriptors for EHC Co-ordinator, EHC Plan Writer and Annual Review Officer ✓
- Staff survey

Workstream 3: Co-production, Relationships and Communication

Workstream 3 has been tasked to address “the lack of meaningful co-production with parents and carers”, the “fractured relationship between the area and the parent carer forum and the impact of this on the area’s progress in implementing the reforms” and “poor communication with parents and carers across the area”. In 2022, we agreed a local definition of co-production and worked together to develop and trial a training package, reviewed communication from the perspective of a parent carer, and the parent carer forum and local area representatives spent considerable time working as partners.

In 2023, our priority for workstream 3 will be to create conditions for collaboration between parent carers, young people and partners to happen, every day.

Page 58



“To Do” List	✓
Increase capacity in SENDIASS (SEND Independent Advice and Support Service)	
Host monthly meetings of LA representatives and SENDIASS	
Launch the Co-Production Charter	
Host a Co-Production Event	
Deliver Co-Production training across the partnership	
Deliver Working with Parents training across the partnership	
Launch the Children’s Services Communications Policy	
LA representation at parent carer forum Steering Group to continue	
Report on lessons learned from past tribunal action	
Deliver recommendations from report on tribunal actions	
Deliver monthly Open Sessions for parent carers	
Host a termly online Open Session	
Contribute to the monthly SEND Local Offer blog	
Publish and update the SEND Roadmap	

By May 2023 we will have launched the Co-production Charter, hosted a Co-production event and rolled out the training. The report on learning from Tribunals will have been presented to the SEND Transformation Board and any recommendations actioned. Training on Working with Parents will have been delivered over 6 sessions, and a group of professionals will be engaged in developing training on Working with Professionals and Services.

By August 2023 we will have focused energies on helping improve understanding on being a parent carer of a child or young person with SEND, trying to navigate your way through a complex system. Increased capacity in SENDIASS services and the introduction of sessional parent workers will help to increase peer support.

By November 2023 we will have shared responsibility for Open Sessions and events with the parent carer forum. Evaluations from the training programme will help improve services and the Working with Professionals training package will be ready to roll out, complementing the Working with Parents package.

We will understand our impact by measuring:

- New employees complete Co-Production training (target 100%)
- Reduction in complaints relating to communication (target 80% reduction)
- Overall reduction in complaints (April 22 to March 23 against April 21 to March 22- target 60%)
- Reduction in timescale to resolve complaints (target 50-60%)
- Feedback survey for parent carers shows improved confidence in SEND services (target 80%)
- Feedback survey for parent carers shows improved joined up multi-agency approach (target 80%)
- Requests for face-to-face meetings with EHC Co-ordinators are met (target 80%)
- Reduction in Stage 1 complaints
- Reduction in Stage 2 complaints

Workstream 3: Evidence of Impact

Ref	Measure	Target	Sep 21	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
3.1c	New employees complete Co-Production training	100%	-												
3.2b	Reduction in complaints relating to communication	80%													
3.2c	Overall reduction in complaints (April 22 to March 23 against April 21 to March 22)	60%	43												
3.2e	Reduction in timescale to resolve complaints	50-60%	86%												
3.2g	Feedback survey for parent carers shows improved confidence in SEND services	80%	28%												
3.3a	Feedback survey for parent carers shows improved joined up multi-agency approach	80%	-												
3.3e	Requests for face-to-face meetings with EHC Co-ordinators are met	80%	-												
3.3f	Reduction in Stage 1 complaints														
3.3f	Reduction in Stage 2 complaints														

Products

Co-Production Definition ✓
 Co-Production Charter ✓
 Co-Production Training Package ✓
 Communications Policy for Children's Services

Other evidence

Co-Production Event for Stakeholders
 Co-production training records
 SENDIASS and SEND Service Meeting Records
 Local Authority and PCPW (Parent Carer Participation Wirral) Engagement Record ✓
 Report on Lessons Learned from tribunals
 Report of parental experience of communication ✓
 Engagement programme record (Open Sessions) ✓

69069

Workstream 4: Inclusive Practices

Workstream 4 has been tasked to address “the graduated response not being consistently applied across all schools and settings”. In 2022, we re-established the SENCO network, undertook a survey of SENCO training needs, audited school website SEND information, and initiated work on the Graduated Response.

In 2023, our priority for workstream 4 will be to work more collaboratively with schools and their SENCOs to achieve a consistent approach to SEND across Wirral which is inclusive, promotes early intervention, and utilises the broad range of support and services available to improve both the daily lived experience of children and young people with SEND and their educational outcomes.

Page 60

Area of focus	To achieve
Workforce development	Confidence in SENCOs, schools and settings
Collaborative working	Better experience, co-ordination and communication
Consistent application of the graduated response	Children’s needs being met at the earliest opportunity
Learning from ‘good’ inclusive practice	Better outcomes for children and young people with SEND

“To Do” List	✓
Circulate the weekly SEND Service newsletter	
Publish a quarterly Inclusive Practice newsletter	
Publish the Graduated Response framework and resource pack	
Deliver a roadshow of Graduated Response events	
Support schools and settings to provide ‘good’ website information on SEND	
Deliver the Transition Project	
Design an Emotional Based School Avoidance Project with the parent carer forum	
Pilot an confidence-building project for children transitioning back to education settings	
Hold regular meetings of the Attendance Service and parent carer forum	
Deliver the Attachment, Trauma, and Mental Health (ATMH) Project	
Set up resource provision for KS2 to KS3 transitions	
Train education staff in Working with Parents	
Train education staff on Co-Production	
Deliver annual update SEND/EHCP training	
Host half-termly SEND Headteacher Reference Group meetings	
Local Authority representation at Headteacher forums	
Develop a digital communication platform for schools, settings and LA representatives	
Review the Outreach Offer from special schools to mainstream schools	
Deliver the IPFA pilot project	
Extend the IPFA project	
Establish Service Level Agreements between the Local Authority, resource and specialist provision	

By May 2023 we will have launched the Graduated Response and be providing roadshows and training to support it across schools and settings. Collaborative working with schools will be improving with regular forums and communications being well-established.

By August 2023 we will have delivered the Confidence Project and have used learning to inform the design of an EBSA project for the next academic year. Resource provision will be available to support KS2 to KS3 transitions, aligned with the Transition Project. Information for parents about school support offers for the new academic term will be clear and helpful.

By November 2023 we will have reviewed our Outreach Offer and be promoting good practice examples of inclusion. Education staff will be supported by the local authority through training and networks. The Graduated Response will be embedded with feedback demonstrating that a broad range of support is in place so that the typical experience of children and young people with SEND is positive and they have their needs met at the earliest opportunity.

We will understand our impact by measuring:

- Read rate of weekly newsletter from SEND service to schools (target 70%)
- Reach rate of Good Practice newsletter to schools and settings (target 90%)
- Reduction in exclusion rates
- Reduction in children out-of-education
- Reduction of children on part-time timetables
- Reduction in complaints regarding provision
- Surveys show schools are meeting children’s needs
- Schools find the Graduated Response resource pack useful (target 100%)
- Parent carers report feeling supported/listened to by schools in quarterly surveys (target 100%)
- Schools receive Graduated Response training (target 100%)
- Schools receive annual update SEND training (target 100%)
- Educational Psychologist training is rolled out to schools (target 100%)
- Graduated Response framework is distributed to schools and settings (target 100%)

Workstream 4: Evidence of Impact

Ref	Measure	Target	Sep 21	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
4.1a	Read rate of weekly newsletter from SEND service to schools	70%	-												
4.1b	Reach rate of Good Practice newsletter to schools and settings	90%	-												
4.1c	Reduction in exclusion rates	-	439												
4.1c	Reduction in children out-of-education	-													
4.1c	Reduction of children on part-time timetables	-	-												
4.1c	Reduction in complaints regarding provision	-	1												
4.1d	Surveys show schools are meeting children's needs	-	-												
4.1d	Schools find the Graduated Response resource pack useful	100%													
4.1e	Parent carers report feeling supported/listened to by schools in quarterly surveys	100%	-												
4.1g	Schools receive Graduated Response training	100%	-												
4.1h	Schools receive annual update SEND training	100%	-												
4.1h	Educational Psychologist training is rolled out to schools	100%	-												
4.1g	Graduated Response framework is distributed to schools and settings	100%	-												

Products

Graduated Response Framework
 Graduated Response Resource Pack
 Weekly SEND Service Newsletter
 Good Practice Newsletter
 Training Programme for Schools and Settings

Other evidence

Audit of SENCO training
 Satisfaction surveys for parent carers
 SEND Attendance Group records ✓
 SENCO Practitioner Network Records ✓
 ATMH Development Programme ✓
 ATMH Audit and Development Plan records ✓
 SEND Headteacher Reference Group records ✓
 Attendance Group records
 Training records

Workstream 5: Local Provision and Strategic Oversight

Workstream 5 has been tasked to address “high level of parental dissatisfaction with the area’s provision” and “lack of effective strategic oversight to ensure effectiveness of plans and provision and hold leaders, managers and partners to account.” In 2022, we commissioned additional resource provision, increased special school places, mapped mental health provision, and engaged with parent carers on the neurodevelopmental pathway.

In 2023, our priority for workstream 5 will be to learn from children, young people, parent carers, and staff to ensure that services are delivering high quality support that meets needs and that provision and pathways can be clearly understood and accessed.

Page 62

Area of focus	To achieve
Provision map with clear pathways	Better experience , easier access, reduced frustration
Quality assurance activity	EHC Plans that support children and young people to make good progress
Engagement	Learning from experience to improve services
Strategic Oversight	Good quality, value for money services

“To Do” List	✓
Host 6-monthly parent carer forum for Occupational Therapy Services	
Host 6-monthly parent carer forum for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services	
Host 6-monthly parent carer forum for Speech and Language Therapy Services	
Conduct a staff survey for therapy services	
Conduct the annual Wirral SEND Survey	
Publish the audit framework for therapy services	
Deliver therapy services audit activity	
Deliver quality assurance programme for out-of-borough and high cost placements	
Publish the updated neurodevelopmental pathway	
Publish the neurodevelopmental journey profile	
Establish a SEND Sufficiency Group	
Publish the local area education provision map	
Publish the local area SEND Sufficiency Plan	
Hold regular meetings of the SEND Health Board	
Train health Advice Givers	
Act on the recommendations from the complaints audit	

By May 2023 we will have held a round of parent forums and staff survey, to give a better understanding of stakeholder experience. Established the SEND Sufficiency Group, mapped out the local provision and identified clear pathways. Recommendations from previous audits will have been completed and will be improving experiences and outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

By August 2023 we will have published our local area SEND Sufficiency Strategy. The SEND Health Group will be driving improvement in the quality and performance of health advice and provision, supported by having delivered training to practitioners on Working with Parents, Co-Production, and Advice Giving.

By November 2023 we will have completed a second round of parent carer forums and staff survey to demonstrate improvement in experience and outcomes. The Wirral SEND Survey will be informing future service design and improvement. Quality assurance activity will demonstrate the effectiveness of out-of-borough and high cost provision, informing the development of in-borough provision.

We will understand our impact by measuring:

- Parental satisfaction with CAMHS service (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Parental satisfaction with SaLT (Speech and Language Service)
- Parental satisfaction with OT (Occupational Therapy)
- Audits show that health advice is rated ‘good’ (target 80%)

Workstream 5: Evidence of Impact

Ref	Measure	Target	Sep 21	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
5.1c	Parental satisfaction with CAMHS service (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)	80%	-												
5.1c	Parental satisfaction with SaLT (Speech and Language Service)	80%	-												
5.1c	Parental satisfaction with OT (Occupational Therapy)	80%	-												
5.2c	Audits show that health advice is rated 'good'	80%	-												

Products

Products

Audit framework for therapy services
 Neurodevelopmental Pathway
 Profile of Neurodevelopmental Journey
 Quality Assurance Framework for out-of-borough and high-cost placements ✓
 Provision Map for the local area
 SEND Sufficiency Plan

Other evidence

6-monthly SaLT parent forum
 6-monthly OT parent forum
 6-monthly CAMHS parent forum
 Staff survey
 SEND Sufficiency Group records
 SEND Health Board records
 Wirral SEND Survey
 Quality Assurance audit reports
 Training records for Advice Givers

Workstream 6: The Local Offer

Workstream 6 has been tasked to address “the published local offer not being well publicised and not providing parents and carers with the information they need”. In 2022, we introduced new EHCP and SEND Services pages on the Local Offer, removed hundreds of pages of out-of-date content, and produced a refreshed service specification.

In 2023, our priority for workstream 6 will be to enable a better experience of finding information, advice and help through a Local Offer website which is accessible, well used and has a communications campaign to bring the Local Offer to life.

Page 04

Area of focus	To achieve
Content	A one-stop facility for information and advice on SEND, SEND services, and community
Comms	The Local Offer website is well known and widely used
Networks	Stakeholders benefit from peer networks and support enabled by the Local Offer
Reliability	Confidence in the Local Offer

“To Do” List	✓
Produce a 3-month content refresh plan	
Deliver the 3-month content refresh plan	
Launch the refreshed Local Offer website	
Scope out requirements for network forums within the website	
Implement the appropriate network forums within the website	
Host a Local Offer Live event	
Publish a Local Offer communications plan	
Establish a Local Offer Steering Group	
Appoint Local Offer Champions across the partnership and community	
Undertake 6-monthly cleanse of Local Offer information	
Publish a monthly Local Offer blog	
Audit of stakeholders promoting the Local Offer through their organisations	
Undertake a Local Offer survey	

By May 2023 we will have refreshed all content on the Local Offer website, providing a useful and informative resource for parent carers, young people and wider stakeholders. We will have published and commenced a comms campaign to promote the Local Offer extensively, with features across the partnership and local community. Our Local Offer Steering Group will be recruiting and training Champions.

By August 2023 we will have hosted a Local Offer Live event, bringing together a wide range of people and providers from across public, private and community sectors to engage with young people, parent carers and families. The breadth of our Local Offer Champions will have increased and the website will be providing networking and communication opportunities. Our Local Offer Blog will share feedback regarding the refreshed site and the impact it has on helping people find the information and support they’re looking for.

By November 2023 we will have undertaken a Local Offer Survey to demonstrate improvement and inform future developments. The Local Offer Steering Group will ensure that partner agencies are supporting the brand, promoting the website and that good housekeeping is in place to keep the site up-to-date and relevant. The achievements of Local Offer Champions will be celebrated and social media platforms will have large followings.

We will understand our impact by measuring:

- Number of ‘hits’ on the Local Offer website
- Satisfaction rates for users of the Local Offer website

Workstream 6: Evidence of Impact

Ref	Measure	Target	Sep 21	Jan 23	Feb 23	Mar 23	Apr 23	May 23	Jun 23	Jul 23	Aug 23	Sep 23	Oct 23	Nov 23	Dec 23
6.1d	Number of 'hits' on the Local Offer website (monthly)	1000	212												
6.1d	Satisfaction rates for users of the Local Offer website	80%	-												

Products

- Local Offer website
- Local Offer Communications Plan
- SEND Engagement Plan

Other evidence

- Local Offer Live Event
- SEND Youth Voice Conference ✓
- Audit of school website information on SEND ✓
- Local Offer Survey
- Local Offer Steering Group records
- Audit of partner agencies promoting the Local Offer website
- Local Offer Champions records

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

7 March 2023

REPORT TITLE:	CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME UPDATE REPORT
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

The Children, Young People and Education Committee held on the 10th March 2022 requested an update on progress in relation to the Partnership Accommodation Programme as part of the work plan. The report below offers this update.

The report impacts all wards but is not a key decision.

The report supports the Wirral Plan priority 'Brighter Futures' and the 'Positive Lived Experiences' priority of the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

1. note the report; and,
2. request that the Director of Children, Families and Education bring an update report to the Committee on the progress of the Programme in 12 months.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The Children, Young People and Education Committee held on the 10th March 2022 requested an update on progress in relation to the Children's Partnership Accommodation Programme as part of the forward plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 A range of options were considered in relation to the Children's Partnership Accommodation Programme in the report considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee on the 10th of March 2022. There is no reason to consider other options within this report as it is an update on progress in relation to the options agreed in October 2021.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In August 2020, a Partnership Accommodation programme was established with the vision to: *"improve the local offer and availability of options of high-quality provision that meets the need of children looked after"*.
- 3.2 Currently, four projects sit within the programme, with the Director of Children, Families and Education as Senior Responsible Officer. These projects aim to encourage resilience in the supply of placements locally. Officers across the Council from social care, commissioning, legal, procurement, finance, housing, assets, regeneration have made significant progress over the past 12 –18 months leading to a mixed model of enhancing provision locally.
- 3.3 The case for change leading to the establishment of the programme remains compelling and clear: -
1. The Council needs to ensure there are sufficient local, high-quality placements for local children. Currently 74 residential placements for children looked after are commissioned and only 40% of those placements are in-borough.
 2. The increase in costs for children's residential care nationally shows no sign of slowing and the projects below aim to help address some of the financial pressures on the Council
 3. We need to support the provision of high-quality provision for the borough's most vulnerable children
 4. We need to increase sufficiency of local placements in line with our statutory sufficiency duty
 5. By investing in different models of delivery we reduce the risk and begin to bring balance to a market dominated by private providers who use growth acquisition models to increase market share, funded by private equity, resulting in increasing risk and volatility in the care system. Children who have all experienced trauma and neglect need and deserve stability.

3.4 PROJECT UPDATES

3.5 In-House Provision including Willowtree provision for children with disabilities:

Willowtree was previously a short-break provision for children with disabilities and following an extensive programme of building extension and renovation it is now also an in-house registered children's home for 6 children. Following the refurbishment at Willowtree the service has fully opened during the year. There were some delays with filling residential beds due to several emergency admissions to the home of young people who did not fully meet the criteria for the service; however, the 6 residential beds are now occupied following matching for suitability taking place. The extended short break provision is also fully occupied.

3.6 A new Registered Manager is now in post and Ofsted have visited to undertake the variation, so the home is compliant with the Children's Home Regulations. Recruitment to other posts has been ongoing throughout the year. Nationally there are problems with recruiting suitable candidates to the sector and the home has struggled to cover several posts as a result. It is anticipated that following a recent recruitment advertisement all posts will be filled by April 2023.

3.7 Transforming Care Project

Following a successful capital grant process with NHS England the Council was awarded £866,000 (reported to Children, Young People and Education Committee on the 11th March 2021 and Policy and Resource Committee on the 17th March 2021). Wirral is purchasing and opening a 3-bedded community provision to prevent admissions to Tier 4 mental health hospital beds and to prevent out of borough placements for children and young people with learning disabilities and autism.

3.8 A property was identified, and all relevant structural reports and specialist reports having been successfully obtained and completed. The planning application for change of use has been granted.

3.9 However, the project has been delayed as the vendor of the property unexpectedly passed away in July 2022, two weeks before the sale of the property was due to complete. We were assured at the time that probate was straightforward and have since been awaiting its completion to progress the sale. Probate is still in process and such the Council's legal team have been liaising with the executor's legal team to expedite the process. All paperwork and proforma's have now been submitted and whilst the standard timeline is a further 16 weeks it is expected to be resolved in six weeks. NHS England have been fully briefed and updated and are confident that the bid will progress with a sale completion in Quarter 1 of 2023/24.

3.10 As part of contingency planning, an ongoing open market property search has been reinstated and health and housing partners have been approached to establish the possibility of alternative viable properties.

3.11 An Officer Decision Notice was taken and agreed (20th July 2022) to accept an increase in capital grant monies up to £900,000 and to appoint a named service provider who will facilitate to the operation of the home. The additional funds were to reflect the increase in the property market and construction industry post pandemic.

3.12 Regular internal reporting on this project is via the capital programme. Lead Members, spokespersons and ward Members will be regularly updated and when purchase is finalised service provider engagement with neighbours will be undertaken.

3.13 Care Leaver Accommodation

The award of a three-year contract, following a full tendering process was completed with a start date of January 1st, 2022, to a local registered provider to provide eleven units of high-quality accommodation for Care Experienced Young People 16-18. The level of support is tailored to meet the needs of the young people. The service comprises of two homes offering group living accommodation to four young people in each setting and a separate building with three self-contained flats.

3.14 Occupancy across the scheme is at 90% at the end of the last quarter. The scheme prioritises young people, who are currently placed in residential care, and as part of their care plan, are ready to make the transition from residential care into supported accommodation. The Commissioning team have an identified cohort of young people who meet the criteria for the scheme and consultation takes place with the social worker, personal advisor and independent reviewing officer with final matching decisions endorsed by Childrens Services 16-18 Panel. Further discussions are planned around young people who turn 18 whilst living in this accommodation and have nowhere to move to. There are 2 young people who are currently 18 in this situation.

3.15 Despite the challenges around occupancy, the expected financial savings associated with this project are expected to be realised. Robust financial oversight and monitoring has ensured forecasting is accurate.

3.16 Residential Transformation project

Following approval by elected Members (Policy and Resources Committee and Children, Young People and Education Committee) in October 2021, a loan agreement was finalised with Capacity on 31st January 2022.

3.17 The 'We Are Juno' Community Interest Company was established for the purposes of setting up the children's homes. Since the loan investment, We Are Juno has also been successful in obtaining a substantial amount of funding from other sources, including £800,00 loan from Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (confirmed 14th October 2022). Regenda social landlord has committed £630,00 to open market purchases and refurbish homes which will then be leased to We Are Juno.

3.18 Home 1 was purchased in January 2022 and an extensive period of building works to refurbish and renovate the property was successfully completed in November 2022. There has been successful recruitment of a full management team for the home and the majority of the care team have also been recruited and are undergoing training in preparation for opening. Ofsted registration paperwork has been completed and submitted and so the home is now pending successful sign off and registration from Ofsted and then can fully open. Subject to registration being granted it is anticipated that the first placements will be in April 2023.

3.19 Home 2 has been identified and will be purchased in conjunction with Regenda. Conveyancing is in process and all required reports and inspections are underway. There were some neighbour objections to the planning application for the change of

use of the property. The application was heard at Planning Committee on 12th January 2023 and was approved. The property sale process will now continue and following completion the property will be subject to a refurbishment programme and Ofsted registration. Subject to conveyancing, refurbishment and registration, the current projection is for the home to open in October 2023.

3.20 There is continuous engagement by We Are Juno with social investors and housing associations to scope sites for future homes. As sites are identified for further homes, lead members, spokespersons and ward members will be briefed at each stage with the company undertaking immediate neighbourhood engagement as each home is progressed. The Juno Board has been strengthened with the appointment of a new chair and director. The Juno Young Leaders Group is continually developing and is being facilitated by Open Door Charity. The University of Central Lancashire have also commenced their independent evaluation work.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As the above projects link to the Council's medium to long term financial savings plan, a finance sub-committee of the Partnership Programme Board outlined above has been established to provide scrutiny and challenge to the projects. Clear savings targets totalling £964,000 have been attached to the programme, as part of the 2022/23 budget and are attributed to each scheme and are being monitored closely to ensure they are achieved. The social value aspects of each project add value to the Council's local offer for children looked after and quality outcomes will be reported on against each scheme.

5.2 Savings target allocation and forecast:

Project Name	Savings Target 22/23	Forecasted Saving 22/23
Willowtree	£289,000	£365,000
Transforming Care	£125,000	£0
Care Leavers Accommodation	£500,000	£605,000
Residential Transformation	£50,000	£0
Total Programme	£964,000	£970,000

5.3 Delays in the Transforming Care and Residential Transformation projects unfortunately means that in year savings targets cannot be achieved on the individual projects. However, the forecasted savings across the programme mean that the savings targets could still be fully realised.

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The following Legislation is relevant to the provision of care homes for children: -

- The Care Act 2014 and supporting guidance.
- The Children's Homes (England) Regulations 2015; and
- The Care Standards Act 2000

6.2 Local Authorities await the publication of Government national standards for supported accommodation providers who will be required to be registered with OFSTED by April 2023. The full registration schedule is expected to be announced soon with inspections beginning in 2024. We have already started to engage the

local market in the preparatory process for this change. We would expect all good quality local providers to already meet the standards however a check against national standards and a culture of continuous improvement will enhance the local offer.

- 6.3 Commissioning of any placements in any residential care facility will need to comply with the requirements of all relevant procurement obligations including the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and Part 4 Section 6 of the Council's Constitution – Contract Procedure Rules.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 7.1 There are no significant Information Technology issues arising out of the report.
- 7.2 There are no significant staffing issues arising out of the report. However, officers from across several departments across the Council have been involved in the collaboration with and work with We are Juno and will continue to be involved through overseeing the loan arrangement of the project from a Council perspective or through representation within the formal governance arrangements of the social enterprise backbone organisation.
- 7.3 Work will need to continue with the Council's Asset teams to explore the feasibility of acquiring property or land to support the development.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 8.1 In relation to the development of four CIC (Community Interest Company) Children's Homes the risks to the Council include:
- a) Failure to provide financial savings to the Council: This risk must be weighed up against the improved offer of homes for vulnerable children and young people and the potential quality of support to improve outcomes for young people. The escalating placement costs which are continuing to rise means that alternative options need to be explored even if they do not achieve the full financial return expected. The expected savings from this programme, once fully operational, are estimated to be £166,400 per year.
 - b) Failing to deliver the programme outlined and the children's homes on Wirral: The loan agreement includes conditions for repayment of the loan if the project is not completed. The impact of this risk is mitigated by the market equivalent rate of interest to be charged on any loan made and the provision for non-repayment of debt.
 - c) Reputational damage should the homes fail to obtain registration or do not deliver on the quality of provision promised: This risk will be mitigated by the Council having oversight of the progress of the project throughout its establishment and will be able to guide and support the backbone social enterprise organisation. The Council will have influence over the strategic direction of the backbone organisation and be regularly sighted on performance monitoring and quality assurance activity/analysis.
- 8.2 The risk with the in-house Willowtree Residential Children's Home is the home not maintaining 100% occupancy. This risk is mitigated by matching discussions and future planning with all key stakeholders, parents, carers, social care teams, independent reviewing officers to ensure occupancy levels are high and children

suitably matched. There is a highly experienced Responsible Individual overseeing this process. A further risk with this project is the delay of identifying move on placements for residents once they become 18 and require an adult placement. This delay then impacts on any new young person being able to move into the home as the bed is occupied by a post 18 resident. This creates an impact on savings and the possibility of an alternative out of borough placement being sought for a young person due to the non-availability of the in-house provision. This is mitigated by early communication and transparency with the Adults Service to ensure that sufficient time and care is taken to obtain a suitable placement for the adult following their 18th birthday.

- 8.3 The risk to the Transforming Care project is the delay in the completion of the sale due to the property being in probate. This delay needs to be carefully managed to ensure timescales and multi-faceted project milestones hit their target completion dates to meet the NHSE capital grant requirements. The project team is mitigating this risk by updating the NHSE Regional Lead weekly and keeping a tight rein on all strands of delivery targets.
- 8.4 Sustaining high occupancy levels remains the main risk for the Care Leavers project. The impact of COVID meant the full scheme was slow to start with each tier of the provision opening in a staggered fashion. Matching considerations are key to the overall outcomes for the young people, and this has at times impacted on the occupancy levels. During the pandemic we have matched young people coming out of disrupted foster placements, where the financial risk begins to impact. The business modelling for this project is based on young people stepping across from residential care. This risk is mitigated by rigorous oversight of referrals to the project by the Care Leavers Team, Commissioning, the 16-18 Panel and the Provider, ensuring there are no delays in our own systems and processes which might prevent young people entering the provisions. The outcomes we are seeing for the young people who have accessed the project over the past year are outstanding, high levels of engagement with employment, education and/or training and high levels of engagement with relevant support services such as mental health services.
- 8.5 The total recurrent savings for 2022/23 totalling £1m must be fully achieved in year. If any of the risks above materialise, this may put the full achievement of these savings at risk. As part of the 2022/23 budget monitoring, a new Council wide Star Chamber type process will be proposed to ensure savings are on target to be achieved. This is vital to the medium- and long-term financial sustainability of the Council. If at any time, risks materialise that may mean the savings may not be achieved, immediate mitigation will be implemented to offset this.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 9.1 Fundamental to the development of new residential models has been understanding what young people want and need. Their views and aspirations have been integral to shaping and designing the models outlined. They have said:

“Good quality homes and accommodation for us are what we want you to make your priority”

“We want to be supported by people who care”

“We want to be near our family, school, and friends”

- 9.2 Care experienced children continue to have the loudest voice throughout the implementation and delivery of the above projects.

- 9.3 The Chair and Spokespersons of the Children, Young People and Education Committee have been briefed on the projects and regular progress updates have been presented to Corporate Parenting Board. Further regular detailed briefings will be provided to the Chair and Spokespersons and relevant ward Members going forward.
- 9.4 Children and young people have played an integral part in designing and influencing the development of the projects. Their voice will be maintained throughout.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The projects reported on above will bring more choice locally for children, young people looked after, with a vastly increased likelihood of being able to offer them provisions to meet their needs on the Wirral.
- 10.2 Consistency of education, peers and contact with family and the team of local professionals around Children Looked After is likely to lead to much greater emotional and placement stability.
- 10.3 Looking to provide excellent accommodation standards in good areas, near good schools raises aspirations for Children Looked After.
- 10.4 Environmental considerations will consider the sensory needs and triggers for children with adverse childhood experiences and who have suffered trauma and neglect including noise, physical structure, colours and patterns, labelling, lighting, window coverings, smells and temperature.
- 10.5 An Equality Impact Assessment will be required for each project with a view to assessing and mitigating any equality impacts.

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There is the opportunity during any purchase, lease, or refurbishment of property to ensure that a low carbon footprint design is undertaken.
- 11.2 The recommendations contained in this report are expected to have a neutral effect on emissions and greenhouse gases.

12.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 The projects outlined within this report have the potential to bring significant additional investment to the borough of Wirral. In summary, this includes:
- We are Juno have confirmed £250,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund for a 2-year development grant to support youth participation, social pedagogy learning and evaluation.
 - Segelman Trust: investment of £150,000 of development grant to support core costs for We Are Juno
 - We Are Juno have secured £600,000 from Green Pastures for the purchase and refurbishment of one of the homes.
 - LCR (Liverpool City Region) Combined Authority loan investment of £800,000.

12.2 As the investment catalyst, Wirral Council’s investment has enabled We Are Juno CIC to secure this additional funding which will create employment opportunities in multiple sectors including construction, care and training and development bringing new opportunities and funding to the borough. As a social enterprise, the organisation is committing to providing opportunities within the borough that will help generate growth across many areas.

REPORT AUTHOR: Natalie Jarmay
Project Officer
Partnership Accommodation Programme

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[literaturereview.pdf \(scie.org.uk\)](#)

[Social pedagogy - Lighthouse Children's Homes \(lighthousechildrenshomes.org.uk\)](#)

[Wirral Borough Council's Accommodation Programme](#)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with paragraphs A and E of its Terms of Reference:

- (a) exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council;
- (e) any other functions comprised in partnership arrangements with other bodies connected with the delivery of services for children, young people and families;

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People & Education Committee	15th June 2021 4th October 2021 10th March 2022
Policy and Resources Committee	17th March 2021 7th October 2021

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 7th MARCH 2023

REPORT TITLE:	REVIEW OF POST 16 EDUCATION
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

Wirral has a complex post 16 education and learning landscape. Wirral young people making the transition at age 16 into further education and training have several options and pathways including school sixth form, further education (including study programme provision) and Apprenticeships. Post 16 opportunities are accessible in borough however, young people may choose to travel to learn in a neighbouring local authority or beyond.

Young people’s post 16 participation rates in the Borough are currently at or above sub-regional and regional averages. Challenges currently exist with recognised apprenticeship participation where the position is one of building back following the national pandemic and structural national changes to the apprenticeship model of delivery.

The quality of locally delivered post 16 education delivered by Wirral based further education college’s, school sixth forms and independent providers is in the main rated good or outstanding by Ofsted. Wirral has one school sixth form provision inspected as requires improvement.

Levels of attainment for Wirral young people at the age of 19 are comparable to national rates at both level 2 (equivalent to 5x GCSEs at grades 4 or above) and level 3 (equivalent to A-levels or BTEC national diploma). Attainment of both levels 2 and 3 for young people from Wirral’s most deprived communities has also improved in the last 3 years with the inequality attainment gap at or below national averages.

Wirral’s post 16 participation rates continue to be good with some 95.8% (as of June 22) of the 16 to18 year old cohort (7,452 young people) participating in some form of employment, education and training (EET).

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

1. note the report; and
2. support the services' plans to review the sufficiency of post 16 education options based on continued demographic growth for the next 4 to 5 years.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Young people's participation in post-16 education, employment and training (EET) has been consistently high across the last 5 years in line with statistical neighbours. The types of post-16 employment, education and / or training (EET) opportunities young people have engaged in has varied slightly from year to year.
- 1.2 Pre-pandemic patterns of participation were very different to those during the pandemic and up to present day, for example, a greater proportion of young people stayed in school sixth form provisions during the pandemic. Patterns of young people's participation have also been impacted by national policy change, for example, the introduction of apprenticeship standards, removal of specific frameworks / levels and the introduction of the levy have all contributed to changed behaviours, opportunities, and choices for young people.
- 1.3 New T-Level curriculum, the closure of European Social Funded engagement provisions for NEET and those at risk of becoming NEET, and the proposed cessation to Traineeships will also change the mix and balance of provisions, with the potential to impact on positive participation.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report is based on the latest available published data. The Department for Education has continued to restrict the availability of post-16 performance indicators performance, specifically at institution level, as education settings return to normality from the national pandemic.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 National policy change in respect of curriculum is slowly impacting, specifically in respect of T-Levels with first teaching in Wirral colleges from 2021. T-Levels are sector led level 3 two-year courses with prescribed routes to employment and / or higher education. Both national and local introduction of this curricula has been cautious with limited opportunities and small numbers of young people recruited. A limited number of schools with sixth form provisions are considering T-Level delivery from September 2023.
- 3.2 The committee needs to be aware the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is overseeing the implementation of a Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) for the sub-region. The is being developed by an employer representative body (ERB) which is both St Helens Chamber of Commerce (lead Chamber of Commerce) and Wirral Chamber of Commerce (local lead ERB). Wirral Chamber of Commerce is currently drawing on the views of Wirral employers, and other evidence bases, to summarise the skills, capabilities or expertise that are, or may in the future be, required in Wirral. Identifying actions that relevant providers can take regarding any English-funded post-16 technical education or training that they provide to address the requirements.

3.3 It is anticipated that the finding from the field work undertaken by the Chambers of Commerce from across the Liverpool City Region will report into the Department for Education in April 2023 and local findings shared. It is anticipated that further education colleges will need to respond to identified skills needs through local accountability agreements. Local accountability agreements will be integrated into the current Education Improvement Framework FE and Skills Handbook for 2023/24 academic year inspections.

3.4 Table 1. Below provides a snapshot of participation as of June 2022. This illustrates that 95.8 percent of young people aged between 16 and 18 were recorded as being in a positive EET destination.

Table 1 A Snapshot of Post-16 Participation for Young People Aged 16 to 18

	Yr 12	Yr 13	Total Cohort	% (adjustment applied)
Cohort total	3733	3719	7452	
EET Total	3624	3512	7136	95.8%
i. of which in education, post Year 11	3357	3075	6432	86.3%
a. of which in School Sixth Form	1634	1581	3215	43.1%
b. of which in Sixth Form College	657	535	1192	16.0%
c. of which in Further Education	1028	919	1947	26.1%
ii. of which in Employment	214	387	601	8.1%
a. of which in Apprenticeships	135	188	323	4.3%
iii. Training	51	49	100	1.3%
NEET Group	91	172	263	3.5%
Current situation not known	18	34	52	0.7%

(Source NCCIS, June 2022)

3.5 Post-16 EET applications and offers received by young people leaving compulsory education at the end of year 11 and those progressing from year 12 to 13 – reported as part of the September Guarantee performance measure - have also changed slightly year on year. The overall proportion of the cohort receiving an appropriate offer of EET has remained high at XXXX in 2021/22. In 2022/23 the proportion of offers reduced by XXXX reflecting that XX young people chose to access direct employment opportunities without training.

3.6 Young people's post-16 levels of attainment have improved year on year and remain above both regional and national averages. Table 2. below illustrates Wirral resident attainment at level 2 and 3 across the last 5 years at the age of 19. Please note level 2 is generally the equivalent of 5 or more GCSEs at grades 4 or above and level 3 is the equivalent of 3 A-level passes or the achievement of BTEC national diploma. National research has shown that young people attaining a level 3 have much

improved life chances and average earning over their lifetime compared to level 2 or below.

3.7 Table 2. Wirral resident attainment at level 2 and level 3 by age 19

Achievement of a Level 2 Qualification by age of 19				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Wirral	83.80	83.30	82.40	82.30
North West	82.00	81.30	80.80	80.70
England	82.20	81.80	81.40	81.60
Achievement of a L3 qualification by the age of 19				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Wirral	58.50	56.00	57.70	58.60
North West	56.90	56.30	56.20	57.90
England	57.40	57.10	57.70	59.80

(Source: Local Authority Interactive Tool (LAIT), December 2022)

- 3.8 In 2021 82.30 percent of Wirral resident young people at age 19 had attained an education level equivalent to that of level 2. This illustrates that a greater proportion of Wirral resident young people had a level 2 attainment level compared to the North West (80.70%) and England which had average achievement rates of 80.70 percent and 81.60 percent respectively.
- 3.9 At the higher achievement level (level 3) there has been a year-on-year increase in the proportions of young people achieving this higher level. A greater proportion of Wirral resident young people have attained a level 3 compared to the North West average (+0.7%) but still lag behind national performance (-1.2%).
- 3.10 Across the last 3 academic years, 2019/20 to 2021/22, outcomes for Wirral young people that have followed further education and / or training options are inconsistent. The period during the national pandemic, including academic years 2019/20 and 2020/21 impaired results due to centre assessed and teacher assessed outcomes.
- 3.11 In academic year 2021/22 1,911 young people enrolled on A-level programmes of study at secondary schools with a sixth form or at Birkenhead Sixth Form College, a recorded increase of 9 percent compared to 2019/20. Learners studying A-levels made up 71.1 percent of the post-16 learners at the end of the 2021/22 academic year. The average A-level grade achieved was B- and the proportion of the cohort that achieved the equivalent of a level 3 (2 or more A-level passes) was 84.4%.
- 3.12 The average A-level grade is in line with North West averages; however, the percentage of the cohort attaining 2 or more A-level passes is below the North West average by 2.6 percent. This reflects the blended curriculum delivered by several Wirral schools sixth forms where young people will enrol on an applied vocational qualification alongside an A-level. This is evidenced by 96.9 percent of this cohort achieving 2 or more substantial level 3 results compared to 95.9 percent across the North West.

- 3.13 In the same academic year (2021/22) 779 young people also enrolled on applied vocational programmes at level 3 (including Level 3 BTEC qualifications). Enrolments for these qualifications will come from school sixth forms, further education colleges and independent private providers. The average applied general qualification outcome was a Distinction. This very high level of outcome remains constant across the last 3 previous academic years.
- 3.14 Wirral young people accessing apprenticeships is building back after the national pandemic with increasing participation and numbers of new starters. Table 3. below illustrates the numbers of young people aged 16 to 18 starting an apprenticeship over the last 3 academic years by level of apprenticeship.
- 3.15 Table 3. Key statistics for Wirral resident 16–18-year-olds participating in Apprenticeships between 2019/20 and 2021/22

		Academic Year		
		2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Total	Achievements	280	240	160
	Participation	720	660	750
	Starts	400	380	490
Advanced Apprenticeship	Achievements	110	110	100
	Participation	330	320	380
	Starts	190	190	240
Higher Apprenticeship	Achievements	10	10	10
	Participation	30	20	30
	Starts	30	20	30
Intermediate Apprenticeship	Achievements	160	120	60
	Participation	370	340	340
	Starts	180	180	220

(Source: Department for Education Performance Statistics, December 2022)

- 3.16 The increase in the number of new apprenticeship starters is very positive at 28.8% (an additional 110 young people) between 2020/21 and 2021/22. Due to the lag between an apprentice starting (with a minimum duration of 12 months) I expect to see the numbers of achievers grow in 2022/23 reflecting the increased participation level.
- 3.17 Destination measure data published as part of the Department for Education outcome driven performance measures illustrates that in 2020/21 (latest available data) 80.3 percent of Wirral learners exiting state funded school sixth form or FE college provisions progressed to sustained destination (either education, employment or an apprenticeship). This count included data from 3,152 Wirral resident young people aged 16 to 18. Those young people classed as in a sustained destination will have been in their destination for greater than 6 months.
- 3.18 Compared to the North West averages Wirral residents are more likely to enter a sustained post-16 education destination (55.9% up by +1.5% against NW), access a UK Higher Education Institution (42.2 percent up by +6.8% against NW averages),

however, Wirral young people are slightly less likely to sustain an employment outcome at 18.3 percent compared to 19.2 percent for Northwest.

- 3.19 Further detailed institution focus performance analysis is limited due the lack of detailed DfE published performance data. It is anticipated that further performance data will become available in 2023/24 reflecting young people's achievements as education post-16 performance reverts to more familiar and full reporting.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implication to be noted relating to this report. Commission and funding of post-16 education is the responsibility of the Department for Education and / or Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. The only Council funded post-16 is with the Council's maintained secondary schools that have a sixth form.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

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

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Having sufficient and appropriate local provision for young people over compulsory school age but under 19 or aged 19 to 25 and for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained is imperative to the Council. This is one of the legal duty's imposed on councils under the Education Act 1996 and forms part of the Raising of the Participation Age legislation.
- 7.2 To reduce this risk the Council 14-19 Service tracks and monitors the participation of all young people post-16 in scope of this legislation. Monitoring is weekly and is supported by the Council's commissioned participation and engagements services delivered by Career Connect.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Proposed National Policy in respect of traineeships will as proposed impact on local post-16 participation. Traineeships provide an entry point for young people seeking apprenticeships or employment but are lacking key employability skills.
- 8.2 Current policy is proposing that Traineeships cease to be funded as a standalone provision and be subsumed and funded as study programme provisions. This proposed approach could negatively impact on those learning providers that do not currently have a contract to deliver study programmes, for example, The Engineering College, Birkenhead.

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.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Consideration of the climate emergency is a key consideration in the delivery of post-16 education from delivery locations and facilities to the inclusion of environment and climate in the curriculum taught across post 16.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Sufficient and appropriate local post-16 education and training opportunities for all Wirral resident young people is fundamental. Young people must be able to develop the skills, knowledge and behaviours required to enable them to have successful, prosperous careers and support local economic growth.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Skills and Post-16 Education Act 2022
FE and Skills Handbook, Ofsted
Local Skills Improvement Plans, .GOV.UK

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with Section B of its Terms of Reference:

(b) the functions and powers conferred on or exercisable by the Council as Local Authority in relation to the provision of education.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

7th March 2023

Report Title:	PROGRESS ON CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER AND CARE LEAVERS STRATEGY 2022-2025
Report of:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

The report provides members of the Children, Young People and Education Committee with an overview of progress made to deliver the priorities as set out in the Children Looked After and Care Leavers Strategy, as agreed on 10th March 2022.

The Strategy sets out a vision to “ensure children looked after and care leavers are valued listened to and supported to be aspirational and achieve their full potential” and four key priorities to children looked after and care leavers. These priorities are:

1. **Emotional and physical health and wellbeing** – making sure you are happy and healthy all the way through your childhood and into adulthood.
2. **Independence and transition to adulthood** – Focussing on helping you learn ‘life skills’ from an early age and getting everything in place so you can be supported if you need it after you turn 18
3. **Positive Lived Experiences** – Making sure there are enough of the right people to look after you in suitable homes whether this is a short or long stay/time.
4. **Education and Employment** – Ensuring that you do well and have the right support in school and have the right opportunities to access employment.

Underpinning each priority will be the fundamental principle to listen to the ‘voice of the child and young people’.

The report highlights progress which has been made since the report was approved in March 2022 and the role of the Corporate Parenting Board in oversight and monitoring of the priorities.

The report is not a key decision.

The report supports the Wirral Plan priority ‘Brighter Futures’.

RECOMMENDATION

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to endorse the progress made to date.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To provide assurance to elected members that actions are taken to progress the Strategy and priorities for children looked after and care leavers (CLA).
- 1.2 To highlight challenges and issues which have been identified over the past 12 months and the action being taken to address them.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 As corporate parents elected members have a vital role in championing the needs of children looked after. This Strategy provides that vehicle to drive improvements in the services and support provided to children looked after. It is important that elected members are assured actions are being delivered and are aware of the local challenges that the council and partners are experiencing.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In March 2022, the Children, Young People and Education Committee approved the Children Looked After and Care Leaver's Strategy. The Corporate Parenting Board has been responsible for reviewing progress and has themed its meeting around the priorities in the Strategy. To date, two themed meetings have taken place.
- 3.2 For the priorities within the Strategy, the following progress has been made:

Priority 1: Emotional Health and Wellbeing

- The learning and impact of the work delivered by OOMOO has been continually reviewed and evidence of outcomes reported to the Corporate Parenting Board. As the contract is due to end, a review has started to consider the future model and commissioning arrangements. Further feedback is being ascertained from children about what has worked well and what could be added.
- Work is ongoing via the Future in Mind Programme about a Single point of Access (SPA) and an Alliance of mental health support commissioning to meet the needs of all children with emotional and mental health needs in Wirral. How this will affect the current commissioning decisions for CLA in Wirral via Open Door and Polaris is subject to current debate as to date the SPA and the Alliance have not focused on this cohort of children, although they are some of the most vulnerable and with associated mental and emotional health needs in Wirral.
- Joint working with neighbouring local authorities and NHS colleagues including Cheshire Wirral Partnership has been undertaken to resolve key issues for children who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Key issues to resolve include the gatekeeping process (for admission) potentially becoming independent, a joint working protocol and how Section 2 and Section 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983 are implemented for children. Nationally admissions to Tier 4 for Under 18-year-olds have reduced by 39% in the past 24 months.
- A bid has been submitted and successful for joint training planned with NHS colleagues around services and support for children and young people across the locality with a focus on the social care workforce.

- The Mental health crisis team continue to operate and there has been a renewed push for staff to sign up to the rota.
- The development of a Tier 4 crisis/respice bed programme for young people with learning disabilities and autism has been delayed as the home identified for purchase is in probate.

Priority 2: Independence and transition to adulthood

- Further work has been developed to outline the requirements of a Care Leaver Covenant “Whole Council Strategy” and the actions needed to implement the approach. The Director for Children, Families and Education has made proposals for taking forward the recommendations. The Care Leaver Covenant self-assessment toolkit is to be completed and awareness of the Care Leaver Covenant to be raised with elected members across the council. Meetings with People and Places team have been arranged and discussions with colleagues in Procurement are to begin shortly.
- The development of care leaver accommodation under the Partnership Accommodation Programme has been a success with young people reporting positive transition and independence to adulthood. Increased occupancy in the homes has meant that more young people are benefited, and the financial savings realised.

Priority 3: Positive Lived Experiences

- Changes have been implemented to the fostering process which has increased the administration and improved efficiency of approval of foster carers. A dedicated recruitment officer has been appointed to actively promote and identify potential foster carers.
- A foster carer financial review has been completed and presented to SLT on 27/01/2023. The consensus view was that the proposals are positive and rooted in supporting foster carer recruitment and retention, as well as providing creative ways to provide additional homes for complex and specialist placements with associated support. The plans encompass preventing some children entering residential care and providing foster homes and preventing institutionalisation of young people whilst simultaneously reducing financial costs to the Council.
- The current Sufficiency Strategy is under review with the purpose of considering and understanding the profile and needs of homes for children looked after. A bid to the Department for Education for an edge of care home was unsuccessful although it is recognised that short-term therapeutic homes are required. Contextual safeguarding accommodation has also become a priority to be considered and planned for in the sufficiency strategy.

Priority 4: Education and Employment

- The Virtual School has increased its capacity and reduced caseloads of Virtual school teachers to improve educational oversight of children looked after and care leavers, as well as children with a social worker (following new Department for Education Guidance: *Revised guidance for Virtual School Heads and designated teachers*).

- The Virtual School continues to ensure that children have a Personal Education Plan (PEP) and that these are completed in a timely way. During 2021-22 academic year, 94% of children had a personal education plan. 3% (29) young people have not had a PEP as they were not applicable, either by age or length of time CLA. The 3% (34) who have not had a PEP became looked after during May to August 2022 and may now have a PEP.
- A report was taken to Children's Senior Leadership Team highlighting challenges in securing education placements for children looked after. At present, there are 39 children who are not in full-time education. The Virtual School has ensured that there is education provision in place, but further work is required to ensure a more collaborative approach with schools. A task and finish group will be set up to review the pathways for children looked after accessing education, including education, health and care plan assessments.
- Wirral continues to perform better than national for young people remaining in employment and education and training post 16. 73% in Wirral compared to 64% nationally. 23 young people are in Higher Education, 77 in Further Education and 60 young people in employment or training. Work has been undertaken to secure apprenticeship opportunities for care leavers from a range of partner organisations including construction companies and the local science museum, Eureka! A range of programmes have also been commissioned to focus on re-integrating young people back into education or employment. There is also work being undertaken internally with the council's organisational development team to explore internal recruitment and work experience opportunities through the council Employment Strategy which is in the process of being developed.

Underpinning priority: the voice of the child

- Essential to the delivery of the Strategy is understanding the voice of the child and using this to inform changes. The Participation and Engagement Team have been proactive in seeking the views of young people aligned to the priorities in the Strategy.
- Four surveys have been developed and circulated across a range of participation and engagement networks to gather the views of children looked after and care leavers. The findings of these will inform the Strategy direction and the actions which need to be taken under each priority. They will also provide an understanding of what has worked well.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no significant implications from the report. Delivering the Strategy may result in financial implications such as the foster carer financial review. This development is an invest to save model with the purpose of reducing the number of

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from the report. The local authority has statutory duties as outlined in the Children and Families Act and subsequent statutory guidance in relation to our role as corporate parents of children looked after. Senior leaders across council and partner organisations are also responsible for championing the needs of children looked after and care leavers by identifying

and agreeing priorities and making decisions which support their needs and wellbeing.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no significant resource implications arising from the report. The Corporate Parenting Board will be responsible for the oversight and monitoring of the Strategy priorities and deliverables. The Corporate Parenting Operational Group consisting of officers from the council and partners will be the vehicle for delivery. The performance indicators identified will form part of a POWER BI dashboard, development by the Children's Data and Insight Team.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The current financial challenge across the region is resulting in difficult decisions being made and government funding changes. There are risks associated with funding programmes for care experienced young people which supports them into education, employment, and training. The impact of these funding cuts could result in a rise in young people who are NEET. This has consequences for the council.

7.2 Sufficiency challenges remain a risk and have been highlighted on the directorate risk register. The Partnership Accommodation programme has outlined plans to help grow and ethical market of children's home but there is a significant need to increase the number of foster carers. The financial review of foster carer payments will seek to help attract a new cohort of foster carers.

7.3 The Corporate Parenting Operational Group is intended to be the vehicle for delivery of the Strategy. Work is progressing under each priority but a detailed action plan is required. Failure to create effective governance and monitoring may result in delayed progress in some areas. A graduate in the Performance and Improvement Team will assist with facilitation of this work.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The Corporate Parenting Board is fully engaged in the activity being undertaken and receives thematic reports against the priorities in the plan. Engagement and participation of children and young people is imperative, with care experienced representatives' active members of the Corporate Parenting Board.

8.2 There are a range of ways in which young people can also share their voice around their experiences of being in care. These include focus groups, sessions at My Space, online surveys and interactive surveys.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equality implications arising out of the report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 As corporate parents we must treat children looked after as if they were our own. Like any parent, it is important that we play a role in teaching our young people about the climate emergency and how to proactively support the environment. One

of our objectives will be to consider how we can promote positive approaches to the environment through education and life skills for care leavers.

10.2 Many Wirral schools attended by our children looked after are proactive in positive education about protecting the environment and through our education priority we would hope that improved learning and education outcomes will relate to this.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Priority 4 of the Strategy focuses on employment and education. There have already been positive developments around supporting Wirral care leavers into local employment. A successful apprenticeship programme has resulted in many care leavers finding local, long-term employment including in the Council itself.

11.2 It is hoped that moving forward, this priority will help shape further opportunities, particularly through the Care Leaver covenant, to ensure that our care leavers continue to access employment locally, live in local homes and support the local economy.

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APPENDICES

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Corporate Parenting Strategy

Corporate Parenting Annual Report

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with section D of its Terms of Reference:

(d) leading for the Council and its partners in the discharge the Council's functions as Corporate Parent for its children in care and care leavers.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People and Education Committee	10th March 2022



CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

REPORT TITLE:	JOINT TARGETED AREA INSPECTION INTO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WHO NEED HELP
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

The report summarises the findings of the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help. The inspection took place from 12 to 16 December 2022. It was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

The findings letter, published on 16 February 2023 is attached at appendix A.

The report supports the Wirral Plan priority 'Brighter Futures' and the Children's Services Business Plan priority 'continuous improvement'.

The report is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is requested to note the contents of the report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 To share the findings of the most recent JTAI carried out in Wirral.
- 1.2 To ensure elected members are aware of the strengths and areas for improvement.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 It is important that the council is actively considering the findings of inspection reports and the feedback and learning.
- 2.2 Wirral was the first local authority to receive an inspection under this framework, so it is important that elected members can consider the approach and work undertaken.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In October 2022, Ofsted, CQC and HMICFRS have published guidance for the thematic focus on early help for families, as part of their programme of joint targeted area inspections (JTAs).
- 3.2 In Monday 28 November 2022, Wirral Council, Wirral Place and Merseyside Police were informed that Wirral would be one of the first local areas in the country to receive an inspection of this nature.
- 3.3 Prior to the onsite inspection, documentation and evidence was required to be provided in advance. This included:
 - lists of children and young people in receipt of early help services
 - multi-agency audits of 6 tracked cases.
 - other relevant strategies or documents which evidence the early help offer and model.
- 3.4 A total of 9 inspectors visited Wirral for the onsite inspection. Their activity included:
 - speaking with parents, schools, health, social workers, and early help workers who had worked with the children and/or young people identified for the 6 tracked cases.
 - Visiting the Domestic Abuse Hub and speaking with the schools involved in the Cradle to Carer programme
 - Meeting with practitioners from Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Emergency Department
 - Visiting the Integrated Front Door (IFD) and meeting with practitioners from social care, health and the police working at the IFD.
 - Meeting with members of the Safeguarding Partnership as well as senior leaders involved in early help, education, health and care.

The inspection involved co-ordination across the health, the Police, the local authority, and education.

Summary of the findings

- 3.5 The verbal feedback provided on the final day of inspection evidenced a sophisticated and well-developed early help offer in Wirral. It referenced the significant work undertaken at all levels to support families early and avoid increased demand on statutory services. The varied and diverse offer available was recognised as contributing to providing the right support at the right time to help prevent problems worsening. There was recognition of the strength of leadership and the positive collaboration and relationships from different agencies across the partnership.
- 3.6 The final inspection report highlighted the following strengths:
- Senior leaders in partner agencies have a shared and well-developed vision for early help in the Wirral. Staff across statutory and voluntary agencies have understood and engaged with this.
 - There is a broad range of locality-based early help and family support services available to children and their families that are making a positive difference. For most children who receive services, risk is reduced and their day-to-day lives improve.
 - A strong commitment to co-production and to engaging children and their families means that both the overall range of services and individual children's packages of support are increasingly well matched to the needs of children and families.
 - The integrated 'front door' that receives referrals about children who may be in need, or require early help, does well in ensuring that children receive timely help and support that is well matched to their individual needs.
- 3.7 The following areas for improvement were highlighted:
- the further development of the early help offer to ensure greater consistency of access for children across the local authority area.
 - The proportion of children receiving early help who benefit from a coordinated multi-agency plan to coordinate that support and to help ensure that it is as effective as possible.
 - Meeting early help needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
 - The coordination of early help between education providers and the wider partnership.
- 3.8 To address the areas for improvement, the local authority as the lead agency is required to prepare a written statement of proposed action to respond to the areas identified. This will be submitted to the Children, Young People and Education Committee and approved by the Safeguarding Partnership prior to 19th May 2023.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The investment in early help services from 2019 has been pivotal in creating resource for an effective early help offer. Any current and future savings proposals may impact on the viability of delivery of early help and therefore may impact on the help and support offered to families.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Local Government Act 1999 sets out the legal powers of the Government to inspect local authorities.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no significant resource implications arising out of the report. The written statement of action will require input from senior leaders and officers from health, the Police and the local authority.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 It is important to recognise the achievement and positive feedback provided to Wirral because of the inspection. Failure to acknowledge and highlight this may result in actions or decisions to the detriment of the local authority and partners and the children and families of Wirral.
- 7.2 Failure to respond to the requirements set out in the inspection report can result in further intervention from regulators.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The local area has an opportunity to review a draft inspection report and comment on the factual accuracy. For this inspection, Wirral identified 16 suggested changes to the report, of which approximately 50% were acknowledged and the report amended accordingly.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality implications arising out of the report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no environment and climate implications arising out of the report.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The services in place to deliver Wirral's early help offer are either delivered by NHS, council or police services or externally delivered through community and voluntary organisations. All of these organisations are committed to employing and skilling local people close to their home and communities.

REPORT AUTHOR: Hannah Myers
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APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Findings of Wirral's Joint targeted area inspection into family help

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Guidance: Joint targeted area inspection of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with Section 3.2 (a) of its Terms of Reference, exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

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16 February 2023

Simone White, Director for Children, Families and Education, Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Simon Banks, Place Director (Wirral), NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership
Emily Spurrell, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner
Serena Kennedy, Chief Constable, Merseyside Police

Dear Wirral Local Safeguarding Partnership

Joint targeted area inspection of Wirral

This letter summarises the findings of the joint targeted area inspection (JTAI) of the multi-agency response to children and families who need help in the Wirral.

This inspection took place from 12 to 16 December 2022. It was carried out by inspectors from Ofsted, the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).

Headline findings

Children and families in the Wirral are benefiting from a broad and generally well-coordinated range of family support and early help services that make a positive difference to their lives. Strategic leaders from the police, health agencies and the local authority have a clear understanding of practice across the partnership and know themselves well, actively inviting internal and external challenge. Cohesive leadership and healthy challenge have enabled the partnership to develop a strong and effective early help offer to children and their families. The partnership has a strong, shared, and often innovative, vision for early help that has been communicated well to their own staff and in which they have also engaged community and voluntary groups, in particular through the Early Help Alliance. This work is underpinned by a commitment to 'doing with' rather than 'doing to' children and families and by a good understanding of local need. Consequently, agencies' strategic and financial investment in early help is helping to ensure that services are increasingly effective at identifying and tackling need at an early point before risk escalates for children and they need more intensive and costly intervention.

Leaders across partner agencies recognise that some of their early help services are relatively new and that there is more to do to ensure that they become embedded. Despite committed and effective work by some schools and education providers, and a strong desire on the part of the wider partnership to engage with them in the development and delivery of early help services, the join-up between schools and

education providers and the wider partnership of agencies remains weak. Not all children who receive early help services, and could benefit from a coordinated plan and an identified lead professional, benefit from having these in place. For some children, this limits the effectiveness of the support they are receiving.

What needs to improve?

- How effectively the early help offer is further developed to ensure greater consistency of access for children across the local authority area.
- The proportion of children receiving early help who benefit from a coordinated multi-agency plan to coordinate that support and to help ensure that it is as effective as possible.
- How well the early help needs of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities are met.
- The coordination of early help between education providers and the wider partnership.

Strengths

- Senior leaders in partner agencies have a shared and well-developed vision for early help in the Wirral. Staff across statutory and voluntary agencies have understood and engaged with this.
- There is a broad range of locality-based early help and family support services available to children and their families that are making a positive difference. For most children who receive services, risk is reduced and their day-to-day lives improve.
- A strong commitment to co-production and to engaging children and their families means that both the overall range of services and individual children's packages of support are increasingly well matched to the needs of children and families.
- The integrated 'front door' that receives referrals about children who may be in need, or require early help, does well in ensuring that children receive timely help and support that is well matched to their individual needs.

Main findings

The integrated front door that receives referrals about children who may be in need, or require early help, is effective. It is robustly managed and well organised. Safeguarding partners have a good understanding of thresholds and know what information to share and when. The need to gain, and in limited circumstances to override, parental consent is routinely considered and understood well by all partners. Most referrals are made at the right time for children and are screened effectively by professionals in safeguarding partner agencies, who contribute detailed information about children and their families. As a result, most children in Wirral

receive help that makes a positive difference for them. However, when the police-scheduled incident response team deals with domestic abuse, there are some delays in sharing information about children who have been affected. Subsequent support to children and families experiencing domestic abuse is comprehensive and effective; this includes perpetrator and victim programmes, as well as a community hub for victims and survivors that offers direct support and a wraparound service for all levels of risk.

Children and families benefit from a good range of services that form a continuum of early help support, including 'earliest help' from a range of community-based organisations. Early help is an ongoing offer that continues for children and their families as their needs change over time. This range covers services for children of all ages, and there is generally a good understanding across the partnership of the variety of services available. Locality and community-based provision enables families to access support as they need it. Many services are accessible without the need for a formal referral or an assessment, removing some of the barriers that prevent children and families from asking for help when they need it. This is enabling an increasing number of children and families to receive help, preventing their needs escalating to a level that needs a statutory intervention.

Some of the most vulnerable children in Wirral, such as those born to families where mental ill-health, domestic abuse or substance misuse are a factor, or those who do not access education for a variety of reasons, are now benefiting from a range of timely, and typically well-attended, multi-agency meetings to discuss their needs. There are regular single and multi-agency meetings to manage escalating and unmet needs in and across mental health services. Daily multi-agency risk assessment conferences, to consider the risk to children from domestic abuse, and daily multi-agency meetings to consider information about possible exploitation, work well to reduce risk for these vulnerable groups of children by providing them with effective and timely early support. This is further strengthened by a 'dynamic support database' that provides information that supports the triaging of children and young people's needs and decision-making in meetings that are a gateway to more targeted services. Children and families and professionals alike are particularly positive about the 'cradle to career' service that allows easy access to support across a wide range of multi-disciplinary services. Taken together, these measures are having a positive impact on ensuring that children's needs are addressed better and sooner.

Leaders have redesigned some services to more effectively support children and their families while they wait for a more formal or targeted intervention. For example, the care navigator role is linked to the core child and adolescent mental health services and supports children and their families while they wait for a service. Inspectors saw positive examples of the wider support needs of families being identified and met, for

example through referrals for housing support and fuel and food vouchers, while they were waiting for more specialist mental health support.

Early help workers' support to children and their families is highly effective. They are skilled, insightful and knowledgeable. They know and understand the needs of children and families well. Workers offer a wide range of suitable interventions and activities to support children. The focus is on work with the whole family to ensure the greatest impact. The quality of the relationships and direct work is strong. It is child-led and delivered in their own time and space. Interventions are tailored for each family and delivered flexibly according to their individual needs.

While the majority of children are making progress, not all children benefit from a coordinated multi-agency early help plan with a clear lead professional. For many children, plans are well matched to need and are used well to monitor progress. However, this is not the case for all children. Early help work is sometimes delivered without being fully coordinated with partner agencies. This increases the risk of duplication or gaps in support and sometimes limits how effectively agencies work together to identify children's changing needs. For a small number of children, there is a lack of professional curiosity and an over focus on parents' needs. This limits a full understanding of these children's experiences and needs and increases the likelihood of risks being minimised.

Children with special educational needs do not always have their needs identified or met. The early help response can sometimes concentrate on the presenting behaviour, rather than the underlying need. Children's education, health and care assessments and plans are not always aligned with early help and child in need plans. This leads to gaps in clear understanding of who does what in children's plans. It can be confusing for children and parents and can risk limiting their effectiveness.

For many children and their families, their voices are sought, heard and responded to by agencies. Their daily lived experience is known and understood. Practitioners are child-led and creative in their approach to direct work with children. Children and their parents or carers benefit from trusted and consistent relationships with individual practitioners. Some children's fathers are not well considered in assessments, plans and subsequent interventions. This limits the understanding of the child's circumstances and needs and reduces the effectiveness and planning for some children.

The majority of children receiving early help are making positive progress and their day-to-day experiences are improving. Many parents spoke positively to inspectors about the support they received from the children's centres, the adolescent response team, and the family matters service. Parents described practitioners as 'a magic key' to achieving improvements in their children's lived experiences. They feel that practitioners are invested in them and show genuine warmth and care. This helps to

build trusting and empowering relationships that effect genuine improvements in their confidence as parents.

Families can continue to access support when their needs reduce. For example, the 'cradle to career' service allows easy access to support across a wide range of multidisciplinary services. When children's needs escalate to the point that they need a statutory social work intervention, early help workers continue working with them to help ensure continuity in the support that children and their families receive. This is a model that starts with a good understanding of the community's needs and how best to engage them. The wide range of effective services are leading to improved outcomes for many children and families.

The majority of children are able to access a wide range of services across the continuum of support from universal services through to child protection planning. For most children, this supports effective step-up and step-down when concerns escalate or reduce, as the early help worker provides consistency and ongoing involvement. There have been some repeated interventions with some older children, meaning they step up and down through services too frequently. As a result, for some children support can be disjointed and consequently less effective. The partnership has identified this as an area for improvement and is working to tackle this.

Schools and other education providers are committed to supporting local children and have developed a range of early help and support services, typically based within individual schools and settings. However, these services are not consistently joined up with the wider multi-agency early help offer. Conversely, partner agencies are not sufficiently involved in decision-making to inform the identification of appropriate educational provision for individual children. Plans are in place to develop an education sub-group through the safeguarding partnership to improve this; however, this is not yet in place.

Staff across the partnership are well trained and well supported. This has included helpful and challenging supervision or management direction that has a positive impact on the work undertaken with children.

Strategically, partners have a good understanding of local needs and a robust system of monitoring and quality assuring practice. There are positive and strong professional relationships across the partnership. Leaders are outward-facing and actively invite challenge and scrutiny. There is an ambitious set of shared practice principles about self-led, self-owned support and self-empowerment for families. This has helped partners to develop a shared ownership of the early help offer that is well matched to local need. Consequently, even though some elements of this are new and are not fully embedded, they are having an increasingly positive impact for children and their families.

There is a shared and strong commitment to engage with children and families, to gather their views and to co-produce services with them. Services have been directly designed after listening to feedback from children and families. This has resulted in the recent development of the Early Help Alliance. This commissioning of a formal alliance of key community services to provide the earliest help for children is an innovative project. With a strong presence in, and engagement with, the local community and a 'no-referral' approach, this model helps to empower families to ask for the help they need. It is supported through long-term secure investment. The alliance brings a wealth of local knowledge and experience direct from, and into, the local community and is progressively helping to ensure the broadest and most accessible support for children and families.

Practice study: highly effective practice

Fifteen-year-old Sarah has been known to services since she was born. The relationship with, and support provided by, statutory services, has not been seen by the family as helpful in making a positive difference. Sarah and her family were reluctant to work further with statutory agencies. The most recent involvement followed an allegation by Sarah of physical chastisement. The family agreed to receive advice and support provided by the 'cradle to career' service. Cradle to career is a multidisciplinary, community-based open access service. Sarah and her family quickly developed a strong and trusting relationship with their early help worker. This relationship was developed at their pace and in locations that were comfortable for them.

Although concerns for Sarah did escalate, and it was necessary for her to be 'stepped up' to statutory support for a period of time, the early help worker has remained involved as the trusted, consistent person with Sarah and her family. This relationship has been key in bringing about significant change and improvements for Sarah and in ensuring that she needed a statutory level of service for a shorter period of time than may otherwise have been necessary. The family trust the early help worker and feel well supported and listened to by her. The social worker oversaw and coordinated the plans for Sarah effectively, while the multidisciplinary team wrapped around the early help worker to ensure that she had the skills, expertise and knowledge she needed to best respond to the family's needs. Concerns for Sarah have significantly reduced. She is now attending school and taking part in a number of community activities. She and her family regularly drop into the cradle to career centre and take part in community events.

Practice study: area for improvement

Thomas is 17 years old and had a social worker supporting him and his family for about 18 months before he was 'stepped down' to early help services. The decision to step down to early help was made at a time of crisis for Thomas and without meaningful consultation with his family; his parents did not agree that step down was appropriate and felt that they needed further support as a family. Wider agencies involved in supporting the family were unaware that the local authority had ended statutory social work support to Thomas and his family. The identified lead professional, whose role was to coordinate the early help support services, did not attend the final child in need meeting at the end of the local authority's statutory involvement and was unaware of their role as lead professional until they received the minutes from the meeting.

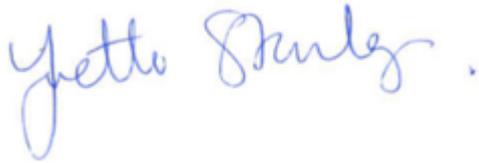
The lack of communication between agencies has meant that there is not a coordinated plan of support in place. In addition to this, the lead professional has never met Thomas or his family. The absence of an effective handover to the lead professional, of an ongoing coordinated package of support and of a consistent relationship with the family, has meant that pieces of work to support Thomas in understanding healthy relationships have not been completed, and that wider progress for Thomas has been held back by the family's trust in professionals, and consequent willingness to work with them, having been reduced.

Next steps

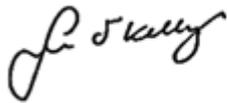
We have determined that Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council is the principal authority and should prepare a written statement of proposed action responding to the findings outlined in this letter. This should be a multi-agency response involving the individuals and agencies that this report is addressed to. The response should set out the actions for the partnership and, when appropriate, individual agencies. The local safeguarding partners should oversee implementation of the action plan through their local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council should send the written statement of action to ProtectionOfChildren@ofsted.gov.uk by 19 May 2023. This statement will inform the lines of enquiry at any future joint or single-agency activity by the inspectorates.

Yours sincerely



Yvette Stanley
National Director Regulation and Social Care, Ofsted



Dr Sean O'Kelly BSc MB ChB MSc DCH FRCA
**Chief Inspector of Hospitals and Interim Chief Inspector of Primary
Medical Services**



Wendy Williams, CBE
His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday 7 March 2023

REPORT TITLE:	WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT : THE PROVISION OF FOOD & ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS DURING THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

A report was presented to the Children, Young People and Education Committee during the COVID 19 pandemic it was agreed that a working group be established as recommended by the Policy and Resources Committee. The report explained that the Policy and Resources Committee agreed a proposal for a project co-ordinated on behalf of the Council by local charity Neo Community, working in partnership with schools and local community-based feeding groups and organisations, to provide food and activities to children eligible for Free School Meals over the school holidays. This built upon learning from the operation of the Edsential Holiday Activity Fund over the summer, providing for adaptation of a successful model of delivery.

A recommendation arising from the December 2020 report, was that the Children, Young People and Education Committee establish a Working Group with key partners to explore options in relation to supporting children with free school meals in the medium to longer term. The purpose of this report is to provide the final recommendations of the Working Group.

This matter affects all Wards within the Borough and is not a key decision.

The report contributes to the Wirral Plan 2021 – 2026 in supporting the priority of ‘Brighter Futures’

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

1. acknowledge and support the work as reported to the Holiday Activity Fund working group undertaken by Edsential and Wirral Council;
2. note and support the work undertaken to include children who are not entitled to free school meals and the long term planning to continue with this; and
3. agree that the ongoing work of the HAF programme be reported to members on a regular basis.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The Covid 19 crisis highlighted the need for children to be able to access food and support activities during school holidays. Ongoing work with Edsential has ensured that the Holiday Activity Fund has continued.
- 1.2 Ongoing work within the Council in relation to the cost of living crisis, and the ‘breaking the cycle’ project has meant that children and families who traditionally receive free school meals continue to be supported.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The option to continue with the working group was considered, however, as the group was established as a direct response to the COVID -19 pandemic at a time whereby the country was in lockdown, it was felt that the situation had progressed, and work is being captured by other projects and organisations.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In 2020, The Policy and Resources Committee agreed a proposal for a project co-ordinated by local charity Neo Community (on behalf of Wirral Council) working in partnership with schools and local community-based feeding groups and organisations, to provide food and activities to children eligible for Free School Meals over the Christmas 2020, February half term 2021 and Easter Holidays 2021. This built upon learning from the operation of the Edsential Holiday Activity Fund over the summer, providing for adaptation of a successful model of delivery.
- 3.2 On 27 October 2021, the government announced a 3-year funding settlement of over £200 million each year for the HAF programme. The first year of this funding settlement was 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024 is the second year of the funding settlement. Overall, local authorities are expected to offer the equivalent of 6 weeks’ holiday provision to eligible children.
- 3.3 Since 2020, Edsential have coordinated the HAF programme and built upon work that has been undertaken by Neo community organisation. The working group met to consider the work undertaken and the impact on the community.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Funding for the HAF programme is secured from Government Grants to cover the provision of free holiday places and coordination of the programme locally.
- 4.2 The spend proposed is consistent with the terms of each grant.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The spend proposed is consistent with the terms of each grant.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 Oversight of the project is with Edsential.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Risks associated with the project include gaps in provision in delivery of the project. This has been identified and ongoing work is being undertaken to address this.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The design of the project reflects learning from previous delivery (including feedback from groups and organisations engaged) and engagement with those partners engaged in the Humanitarian Cell Food Sub- Group.

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 has no impact on equalities.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Food has been sourced locally where it has been practical and cost effective to do so.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Investing in children's futures supports the community through quality efficient education provision, enhancing life chances for children, families and the wider community.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Working Group Final Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Guidance: Holiday activities and food programme 2023

The Provision of Food & Activities for Children in School Holidays During the Covid-19 Pandemic, Policy and Resources Committee, 11 November 2020.

Covid Winter Grant Scheme – Draft Guidance for County Councils and Unitary Authorities, Department for Work & Pensions.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with e) any other functions comprised in partnership arrangements with other bodies connected with the delivery of services for children, young people and families.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

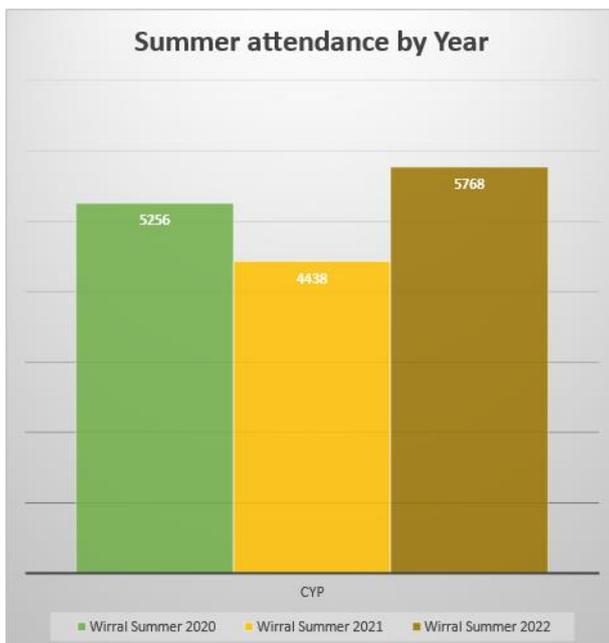
Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People and Education Committee	January 2021
Children, Young People and Education Committee	1 December 2020
Policy & Resources Committee	11 November 2020

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY FUND WORKING GROUP SUMMARY REPORT

1. A report, presented to the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 1 December 2020, provided an update following the proposal agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee in respect to the provision of free school meals (FSM) in school holidays during the COVID 19 pandemic. The report explained that the Policy and Resources Committee agreed a proposal for a project co-ordinated on behalf of the Council by local charity Neo Community, working in partnership with schools and local community-based feeding groups and organisations, to provide food and activities to children eligible for Free School Meals over the Christmas 2020, February half-term 2021 and Easter 2021 holidays, using funding from Household Support Fund. This built upon learning from the operation of the Edsential Holiday Activity and Food programme over summer holidays 2020 (funded by Department for Education HAF fund), providing for adaptation of a successful model of delivery.
2. A recommendation arising from the report presented to P & R in December 2020, was to establish a Working Group with key partners to explore options in relation to supporting children with free school meals in the medium to longer term.
3. The HAF working group was established comprising of a member from each political party represented on the Children, Young People and Education Committee and initially met on a term time basis to review the progress of the project as co-ordinated by local charity Neo Community (on behalf of Wirral Council), working in partnership with schools and local community based feeding groups and organisations to provide food and activities to children eligible for free school meals.
4. The HAF working group met regularly in 2020 and an update report was produced and presented to the Children, Young People and Education Committee to inform of progress, budget allocation and uptake.
5. During 2021 the group met with partners including Edsential. Neo and Officers from Wirral involved in the project alongside an officer from the early years team.
6. From -2020, Edsential was commissioned by the Local Authority to co-ordinate in the provision of the HAF fund and on 27 October 2021, the government announced a 3 year funding settlement of over £200 million each year for the HAF programme. The first year of this funding settlement was 2022 to 2023 and 2023 to 2024 is the second year of the funding settlement. Overall, local authorities are now expected to offer the equivalent of 6 weeks' holiday provision to eligible children.

- 3.3 Since 2020, Edsential have coordinated the HAF programme.. The working group met to consider the work undertaken and the impact on the community. The working group considered uptake of provision and the impact on the community. Latest figures were presented to the group and are included in appendix 2 of the committee report.
- 3.4 During the final meeting of the HAF working group on 8 February 2023, it was felt that there was no longer a need for the group to meet on a regular basis as the project was now well established and HAF funding made available until 2025. They also noted that the group was established in a direct response to the Covid 19 Pandemic and therefore the remit of the group has now moved on.
- 3.5 Overall data was presented to Members within the final meeting as follows in relation to attendance :

	Clubs	CYP
Wirral Summer 2020	37	5256
Wirral Easter 2021*	20	3744
Wirral Summer 2021	70	4438
Wirral Winter 2021	44	4489
Wirral Easter 2022	64	3276
Wirral Summer 2022	76	5768
Wirral Winter 2022	42	2998
Wirral total 2021	134	12671
Wirral total 2022	182	12042



3.6 Final recommendations made by the group that would be put to the Children, Young People and Education Committee on 7 March were as follows:

- (1) the Children, Young People and Education committee acknowledge and support the work as reported to the Holiday Activity Fund working group undertaken by Edsential and Wirral Council;**

- (2) The Children, Young People and Education Committee particularly note and support the work undertaken to include children who are not entitled to free school meals and the long term planning to continue with this; and**

- (3) the working group concludes and the ongoing work of the HAF programme be reported to members on a regular basis.**

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CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

TUESDAY 7 MARCH 2023

REPORT TITLE:	CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION WORK PROGRAMME
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE

REPORT SUMMARY

The Children, Young People and Education 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 Children, Young People and Education Committee is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

Following the adoption of a revised Constitution by Council on 25 May 2022, the Terms of Reference for Committees were updated so that the agenda of any Committee or Sub-Committee shall only include those items of business that require a decision, relate to budget or performance monitoring or which are necessary to discharge their overview and scrutiny function. The Committee is therefore asked to consider whether any items for future consideration on its work programme need to be reviewed to comply with the revised Constitution. It is proposed that issues on the existing work programme that are for information purposes only can be considered via other means, such as briefing notes or workshops.

RECOMMENDATION

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

- (1) note and comment on the proposed Children, Young People and Education Committee work programme for the remainder of the 2022/23 municipal year.
- (2) review its items for future consideration on the work programme in light of the revised Constitution.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children, Young People and Education 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 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 Children, Young People and Education Committee is responsible for services which help keep children and young people safe and fulfil their potential. It incorporates schools and attainment, and social care for children and families. It has a particular focus on those children who are in care, and for whom the Council has corporate parenting responsibility. The Committee is charged by full Council to undertake responsibility for: -

- (a) exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council;
- (b) the functions and powers conferred on or exercisable by the Council as Local Authority in relation to the provision of education;
- (c) working with all schools (including academies) in relation to raising standards of attainment and developing opportunities;
- (d) leading for the Council and its partners in the discharge the Council's functions as Corporate Parent for its children in care and care leavers;
- (e) any other functions comprised in partnership arrangements with other bodies connected with the delivery of services for children, young people and families;

- (f) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions;
- (g) 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:
- child protection;
 - children's centres;
 - education, schools and settings;
 - looked after children;
 - mental health services;
 - safeguarding;
 - special educational needs and disability (SEND);
 - youth offending services;
 - youth services; and
 - social and education transport

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.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Children, Young People and Education Committee Work Plan

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council Constitution
Forward Plan
The Council's transformation programme

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People and Education Committee	20 October 2020
	1 December 2020
	28 January 2021
	11 March 2021
	15 June 2021
	4 October 2021
	27 October 2021
	23 November 2021
	31 January 2022
	10 March 2022
	21 June 2022
	19 July 2022

	19 September 2022 12 October 2022 6 Decemeber 2022 24 January 2023
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**CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE
WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23**

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS – WAITING TO BE SCHEDULED

Item	Approximate timescale	Lead Departmental Officer
Schools Capital Programme – Update Report	June 23	James Backhouse/ Janette Royle
CLA and Care leavers strategy progress update	June 2023	Hannah Myers
Inspection update	June 2023	Simone White
Child and adolescent mental health	June 2023	Carol Roche/ Darren Birks
Early Years quality assurance and sufficiency	Junw 2023	James Backhouse
Annual Overview of Ofsted inspections	June 23	James Backhouse
Breaking the Cycle update reports x 2	TBC	Elizabeth Hartley
Update on Government White Paper ‘opportunities for all’	TBC	James Backhouse

STANDING ITEMS AND MONITORING REPORTS

Item	Reporting Frequency	Lead Departmental Officer
Performance and Financial Monitoring Report	Quarterly June September December March	Tricia Thomas
Budget Update	Quarterly June September November February/March	Nicholas Ajaegbu
Annual Review of Ofsted inspections in Wirral	Every June	James Backhouse

Schools		
Reappointment of School Appeals Panel Members	Every June	
Children's Committee Work Programme Update	Each Meeting	Committee Team
Summary of Standards	September 22	James Backhouse
Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report	Every Jan	David Robbins
Safeguarding Fostering and Adoption	Annually (first meeting of the municipal year)	
Lifelong Learning Annual Performance report	Every Sept	Paul Smith
Admission Arrangements	Every Jan	Sally Gibbs

WORK PROGRAMME ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE COMMITTEE

Item	Format	Timescale	Lead Officer	Progress
Working Groups/ Sub Committees				
Corporate Parenting Panel	committee	Ongoing	Hannah Myers	
Working Group: Food and Activities during school holidays	Working group	Report back in December	Mark Camborne	
Workshop – Statutory Duties (School Budget)	Workshop	TBC	Simone White	
Child Poverty Strategy	Workshop	October 22	Simone White	
Youth Justice Review Outcomes	Workshop	November 21	Elizabeth Hartley	
Integrated front door/ Police visits etc	Visit	TBC	Simone White	
School Budget Update – inc traded services & Designated School's Grant	Workshop	TBC	Simone White	
PFI Options (Kingsway) – Chair and Spokes	Presentation	TBC	Hannah Myers	
Budget Monitoring Panel	Monthly meeting	TBC	Nicholas Ajaegby	
LADO	Workshop/ presentation	TBC	Kerry Mehta	
Capital Programme – to be integrated within budget				

workshop				
Task and Finish Reviews				
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Spotlight Sessions and Workshops				
County Lines Action Update	Workshop	2021/22	Simone White/Tony Kirk	

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Children, Young People and Education Committee – Terms of Reference

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is responsible for services which help keep children and young people safe and fulfil their potential. It incorporates schools and attainment, and social care for children and families. It has a particular focus on those children who are in care, and for whom the Council has corporate parenting responsibility.

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

- (a) exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council;
- (b) the functions and powers conferred on or exercisable by the Council as Local Authority in relation to the provision of education;
- (c) working with all schools (including academies) in relation to raising standards of attainment and developing opportunities;
- (d) leading for the Council and its partners in the discharge the Council's functions as Corporate Parent for its children in care and care leavers;
- (e) any other functions comprised in partnership arrangements with other bodies connected with the delivery of services for children, young people and families;
- (f) providing a view of performance, budget monitoring and risk management in relation to the Committee's functions;
- (g) 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:
 - child protection;
 - children's centres;
 - education, schools and settings;
 - looked after children;
 - mental health services;
 - safeguarding;
 - special educational needs and disability (SEND);
 - youth offending services;
 - youth services; and
 - social and education transport

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