



DRAFT

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
DEPARTMENT**

DEPARTMENTAL PLAN

2010-2011

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1. Departmental Overview

We value every child equally and strive for positive outcomes for all of them. This means that we pay attention to the quality of universal services and to those barriers that prevent some children from thriving.

The Department is a member of Wirral Children's Trust, a partnership of all agencies working with children and young people in the borough. Through the statutory Children and Young People's Plan the partnership focuses on improving the five Every Child Matters outcomes for every Wirral child in all its work. It does this directly with children and young people and also indirectly by supporting families and by supporting adults as learners in their own right. High quality provision is provided directly and indirectly via Children's Centres, schools, colleges and other providers. We recognise the key role of parents, carers and of extended families in nurturing children and young people. We work to support them in this task.

We organise our work around children and young people: what they say, where they are and what they need. Wherever possible, we link services to districts and areas, increase cohesion and reduce central management. We value all colleagues from the statutory and voluntary sectors equally as contributors to improved outcomes for children, regardless of their professional background. Children, young people and their families are supported by multi-disciplinary teams of colleagues, drawn from different partners but sharing a common base.

Local Safeguarding Children Board

Wirral Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was set up in April 2006. The Governance arrangements for the LSCB are through the Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member to the Chief Executive of the Authority.

There has been additional focus and scrutiny of safeguarding services following Baby Peter. The resulting Government Action Plan provides a major driver for service improvement in the local authority and across the partnership.

Organisation of the Department

Branch	Head of Branch
Planning and Resources	David Armstrong
Social Care	Julia Hassall
Participation and Inclusion	Peter Edmondson
Learning and Achievement	Mark Parkinson

Planning and Resources Branch

To ensure that resources required for delivery of services whether human, physical or financial are identified, allocated, managed and monitored, with appropriate planning processes in place to facilitate effective performance management.

Social Care Branch

To identify and respond to the needs of vulnerable children and families, including children who need protection, and children who need to be looked after by the Authority. To do this through integrated assessment and service delivery, in partnership with families and other agencies.

Participation and Inclusion Branch

To support all children and young people within the context of school, home and the wider community in accessing regular and appropriate educational opportunities.

Learning and Achievement Branch

To ensure that the children and young people of Wirral have the opportunity to fulfil their potential, raise their aspirations, and improve their life chances, through providing high quality support and challenge to Children's Centres, Early Years settings, schools, colleges and other providers.

To provide and commission first rate professional development for the Children's Services workforce and to deliver a range of opportunities for lifelong learning within the community.

2. Contribution to the Council's Corporate Plan

2.1 Strategic objectives and aims for 2010-13

Corporate strategic objective	Aims for 2010-2013
To help children and young people achieve their full potential	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement▪ Reduce numbers not in employment, education or training▪ Safely reduce the number of looked after children▪ Support children to achieve and maintain a healthy weight▪ Increase numbers going to university, especially from disadvantaged communities• Reduce teenage conceptions

In collaboration with partners the department will deliver a range of projects and outcomes in relation to these aims:

- Raise educational attainment across all phases and ensure that public money is spent to maximum effect through school re-organisation.
- Reducing the number of 16 to 18 olds who are not in education, employment and training (NEET) thereby improving the life chances of the children concerned.
- Safely reduce the number of children in care through timely progression of plans, more children to be adopted or achieve permanence where this will best meet their needs.

- Through partnership working in a range of initiatives support children to achieve and maintain a healthy weight.
- In partnership with local Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), deliver targeted activity for the named Aimhigher cohort in secondary schools and colleges as part of the Aimhigher progression framework.
- Reducing the under age conception rate and thereby improving the life chances of the young people at risk.

The detail can be found in Section 3.2.

2.2 Improvement priorities for 2010-11

The council has a number of improvement priorities for 2010-11, as agreed by Cabinet on the 24th September 2009. The department leads on the following:

- Safely reduce the number of looked after children
- Reduce numbers not in employment, education or training
- Reduce teenage conceptions

In 2010-11, in collaboration with partners the department will deliver a range of projects and outcomes in relation to these priorities:

- Safely reduce the number of children in care through timely progression of plans, more children to be adopted or achieve permanence where this will best meet their needs.
- Reducing the number of 16 to 18 olds who are not in education, employment and training (NEET) thereby improving the life chances of the children concerned.
- Reducing the under age conception rate and thereby improving the life chances of the young people at risk.

The detail can be found in Section 3.1.

It will also make a contribution to the following priorities for improvement:

- Reducing worklessness
- Reduce the number of people killed or seriously injured in road accidents.
- Ensure effective prioritisation of spending decisions during difficult financial circumstances brought about by government spending restraint.

2.3 Summary of contribution to LAA improvement priorities

The council has signed up to deliver Wirral's Local Area Agreement as a member of the Local Strategic Partnership.

In 2010-11, the department will lead on the delivery of the following LAA improvement priorities:

- NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year
- NI 68 Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment
- NI 111 First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17
- NI 112 Under age conception rate
- NI 117 16 to 18 olds who are not in education, employment and training (NEET)
- Safely reduce the number of children in care

- Increasing young people's participation in activities
- Reducing the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour
- Educational attainment statutory indicators

In 2010-11, the department will deliver the following activities and key outcomes in relation to these improvement priorities:

- Reducing obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year through early intervention strategies and the work of the Healthy Schools programme.
- Managing referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment so that children receive the correct level of support
- Reducing first time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17 thereby improving the life chances of the young people concerned.
- Reducing the under age conception rate and thereby improving the life chances of the young people at risk.
- Reducing the number of 16 to 18 olds who are not in education, employment and training (NEET) thereby improving the life chances of the children concerned.
- Safely reduce the number of children in care through timely progression of plans, more children to be adopted or achieve permanence where this will best meet their needs.
- The Department will be actively engaged in increasing participation of children and young people through the work of amongst others the Young People's Parliament and Young People's Executive.

The Department will also contribute to reducing worklessness and reducing the number of people killed or seriously injured in road traffic accidents.

Local Area Agreement Targets

No	Indicator	Baseline	Target 2010/11
National Indicators (reward)			
55	Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year	9.1% (2006/07)	9.5%
68	Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	40.5% (2006/07)	75%
111	First time entrants to the Youth Justice System aged 10-17	1600 (2007/08)	1500
112	Under age conception rate	-7 (2006)	-50%
117	16 to 18 olds who are not in education, employment and training (NEET)	9.5% (2007/08)	6.9%
Local Indicators (non-reward)			
1400	Safely reduce the number of children in care	607 2007/08)	565
1700a	Increasing young people's participation in activities	20% (2007/08)	22%
1701	Reducing the number of incidents of anti-social behaviour	18414 (2007/08)	17207
Statutory Education Indicators (non-reward)			
72	Achievement of at least 78 points across the Early Years Foundation Stage with at least 6 in each of the scales in Personal Social and Emotional Development and Communication, Language and Literacy	46.1% (2007/08)	57.0%
73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	72% (2007/08)	78%
75	Achievement of 5 or more A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths	48.4% (2007/08)	57%
87	Secondary school persistent absence rate	7.1% (2007/08)	5.5%
92	Narrowing the gap between the lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and the rest	34.3% (2007/08)	28.9%
93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	83.8% (2007/08)	87.0%
94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	74.8% (2007/08)	82.0%
99	Children in care reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2	41.3% (2007/08)	53.1%
100	Children in care reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2	51.7% (2007/08)	56.3%
101	Children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths)	7.9% (2007/08)	6.3%

3. What are we going to deliver?

3.1 Priorities for Improvement 2010-11

Priority for Improvement 2010-11	We will measure our success by: Performance Indicators	We will deliver: Projects / Activity	Funding / Resources	Lead Portfolio	Lead Service Area	Will this activity contribute to narrowing the gap in Wirral? If so, how will this be measured?	Who else is required?
Safely reduce the number of looked after children	<p>NI 59 Initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral</p> <p>NI 60 Core assessments for children's social care carried out within 35 working days of their commencement</p> <p>NI 61 Stability of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption</p> <p>NI 63 Stability of placements for looked after children: length of placements</p>	<p>Implement the Integrated Preventative Services Development Plan</p> <p>Implement the Contact, Referral, Assessment, and Safeguarding Development Plan</p> <p>Implement the Corporate Parenting Development Plan</p>	<p>Council Budget; Co-location capital grant; CWDC funding; ContactPoint</p>	C&YP	CYPD	Reduction in the number of children in care in Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry	Wirral Children's Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexions, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue)

Priority for Improvement 2010-11	We will measure our success by: Performance Indicators	We will deliver: Projects / Activity	Funding / Resources	Lead Portfolio	Lead Service Area	Will this activity contribute to narrowing the gap in Wirral? If so, how will this be measured?	Who else is required?
	NI 68 Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment						
Reduce numbers not in employment, education or training	<p>NI 90 Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas</p> <p>NI 117 Reduce the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education employment or training (NEET)</p> <p>NI 91 Participation of 17 year olds in education or training</p> <p>NI 101 Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)</p> <p>NI 117 and increase Participation rates for Teenage Parents,</p>	<p>Implement the 14-19 Education Plan and the Machinery of Government changes</p> <p>Implement the borough Education, Employment and Training Strategy</p> <p>Implement the Integrated Youth Support Strategy</p> <p>Target activity for Children in Care</p>	Council Budget; Connexions and Positive Activities for Young People Area Based Grant; Working Neighbourhood Fund	C&YP	Connexions	Increased support in areas of deprivation through the use of geographical data to target activity in NEET "hotspots". Reduction of NEET in deprived areas.	Wirral Children's Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexions, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue)

Priority for Improvement 2010-11	We will measure our success by: Performance Indicators	We will deliver: Projects / Activity	Funding / Resources	Lead Portfolio	Lead Service Area	Will this activity contribute to narrowing the gap in Wirral? If so, how will this be measured?	Who else is required?
	young offenders, Looked After Children and those with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities						
Reduce teenage conceptions	NI 112 Under 18 conception rate VSB08 Teenage Pregnancy NI 113 Chlamydia prevalence (screening) VSB13 Chlamydia prevalence (screening)	Implement the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan Support the delivery of health services in schools and other youth settings	NHS Wirral; Council Budget; Teenage Pregnancy Area Based Grant	C&YP	NHS Wirral	Increased support in areas of deprivation through the use of geographical data to target activity. Resulting in a decrease in teenage pregnancy in deprived areas	Wirral Children's Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexions, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue)

3.2 Aims for 2010-13

Aims 2009-2013	We will measure our success by: Related Performance Indicators	We will deliver: Projects and/or Activities	Funding / Resources	Lead Portfolio	Lead Service Area	Will this activity contribute to narrowing the gap in Wirral? If so, how will this be measured?	Who else is required?
Strategic Objective 4 To help children and young people achieve their full potential							
Close the attainment gap where poverty and disadvantage affect achievement.	<p>Successful school re-organisation in Primary and Secondary phases</p> <p>Improving Special School Provision by co-locating and by providing enhanced welfare therapy and teaching facilities</p> <p>Full Core Offer is met by all Extended Schools to support the Every Child Matters agenda</p> <p>Improved outreach of all Children's Centres to vulnerable families</p>	<p>Removal of surplus places to ensure public money is spent to maximum effect in all our schools</p> <p>Implement the Extended Services Action Plan especially so that all clusters have robust plans clearly targeted using allocated resources effectively</p> <p>Young children and families are well supported, especially the most vulnerable, through the network of</p>	Dedicated Schools Grant; Council Budget; Standards Fund Grants; Surestart; Aiming High for Disabled Children	C&YP	CYPD	<p>NI 76 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 65% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in both English and maths at KS2</p> <p>NI 78 Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and maths</p> <p>NI 81 Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 3 qualification by the age of 19</p>	Wirral Children's Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexions, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue)

Aims 2009-2013	We will measure our success by: Related Performance Indicators	We will deliver: Projects and/or Activities	Funding / Resources	Lead Portfolio	Lead Service Area	Will this activity contribute to narrowing the gap in Wirral? If so, how will this be measured?	Who else is required?
	A range of attainment NI for Early Years, Primary and Secondary (see * in Appendix 1 National Indicators)	<p>Children's Centres</p> <p>All phases - to narrow the gap through improving the performance of the most vulnerable children and those at risk of under-achievement</p> <p>Primary and Secondary. Ensuring that an increasing number of pupils make 2 levels of progress in each key stage, especially those pupils from deprived areas</p> <p>All phases: raise standards in schools and settings by continuing to improve the quality of leadership and management, curriculum,</p>				<p>NI 82 Inequality gap in the achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19</p> <p>NI 99 Looked after children reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2</p> <p>NI 100 Looked after children reaching level 4 in maths at Key Stage 2</p> <p>NI 101 Looked after children achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and maths)</p> <p>NI 102 Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2 and 4</p>	

Aims 2009-2013	We will measure our success by: Related Performance Indicators	We will deliver: Projects and/or Activities	Funding / Resources	Lead Portfolio	Lead Service Area	Will this activity contribute to narrowing the gap in Wirral? If so, how will this be measured?	Who else is required?
		assessment and learning, thereby ensuring none fall into an OFSTED category				<p>NI 104 The Special Educational Needs SEN/non-SEN gap - achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold</p> <p>NI 105 The Special Educational Needs SEN/non-SEN gap - achieving 5 A*- C GCSE inc. English and Maths</p>	
Reduce numbers not in employment, education or training	<p>NI 79 Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19</p> <p>NI 80 Achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19</p> <p>NI 90 – Take up of 14-19 learning diplomas</p> <p>NI 91 – Participation of 17 year olds in education or training</p>	<p>Implement the 14-19 Education Plan and Machinery of Government Changes</p> <p>Implement the borough Education, Employment and Training Strategy</p> <p>Implement the integrated Youth Support Strategy</p>	Council Budget; Connexions and Positive Activities for Young People Area Based Grant; Working Neighbourhood Fund	C&YP	Connexions	Increased support in areas of deprivation through the use of geographical data to target activity in NEET “hotspots”. Reduction of NEET in deprived areas.	Wirral Children’s Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexions, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue)

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	<p>NI 117 – Reduce the percentage of 16-18 year olds not in education employment or training (NEET)</p> <p>NI 148 Care leavers in education, employment and training</p>	<p>Target activity for children in care</p>					
<p>Safely reduce the number of looked after children</p>	<p>NI 59 Initial assessments for children’s social care carried out within 7 working days of referral</p> <p>NI 60 Core assessments for children’s social care carried out within 35 working days of their commencement</p> <p>NI 61 Stability of looked after children adopted following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption</p> <p>NI 63 Stability of</p>	<p>Implement the Contact, Referral, Assessment, and Safeguarding Development Plan</p> <p>Implement the Adoption and Permanence Development Plan</p> <p>Implement the Corporate Parenting Development Plan</p>	<p>Council budget; Co-location capital grant; CWDC funding; ContactPoint</p>	<p>C&YP</p>	<p>CYPD</p>	<p>Reduction in the number of children in care in Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rock Ferry.</p>	<p>Wirral Children’s Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexions, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue)</p>

Aims 2009-2013	We will measure our success by: Related Performance Indicators	We will deliver: Projects and/or Activities	Funding / Resources	Lead Portfolio	Lead Service Area	Will this activity contribute to narrowing the gap in Wirral? If so, how will this be measured?	Who else is required?
	<p>placements for looked after children: length of placements</p> <p>NI 68 Referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment</p>						
Support children to achieve and maintain a healthy weight	<p>NI 55 Obesity among primary school age children in Reception Year</p> <p>NI 52 Take up of school lunches</p> <p>NI 53 Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6 – 8 weeks from birth</p> <p>NI 56 Obesity among primary school age children in Year 6</p> <p>NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport</p> <p>NI 198 Children</p>	Implement the Child Obesity Programme which includes action on physical activity, healthy eating, breast-feeding, health promoting early years and Healthy Schools, pre-schools and Children's Centres	NHS Wirral; Council Budget; Healthy Schools Area Based Grant	C&YP	NHS Wirral	Increased support in areas of deprivation through the use of geographical data to target activity. Resulting in a decrease in overweight and obese children living in deprived areas.	Wirral Children's Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexions, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue). WUTH and external Commissioned services including Weight management providers and Homestart

Aims 2009-2013	We will measure our success by: Related Performance Indicators	We will deliver: Projects and/or Activities	Funding / Resources	Lead Portfolio	Lead Service Area	Will this activity contribute to narrowing the gap in Wirral? If so, how will this be measured?	Who else is required?
	travelling to school – mode of travel usually used						
Increase numbers going to university, especially from disadvantaged communities	NI 79 – Achievement of a level 2 qualification by the age of 19 NI 80 – Achievement of a level 3 qualification by the age of 19	In partnership with local Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), deliver targeted activity for the named Aimhigher cohort in secondary schools and colleges as part of the Aimhigher progression framework	Council Budget; HEIs; Aimhigher funding; Learning and Skills Council	C&YP	CYDP	An increase in the numbers from disadvantaged communities going to university.	Wirral Children's Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexion, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue)
Reduce teenage conceptions	NI 112 Under 18 conception rate VSB08 Teenage Pregnancy NI 113 Chlamydia prevalence (screening) VSB13 Chlamydia prevalence (screening)	Implement the Teenage Pregnancy Strategic Action Plan Support the delivery of health services in schools and other youth settings	NHS Wirral; Council Budget; Teenage Pregnancy Area Based Grant.	C&YP	NHS Wirral	Increased support in areas of deprivation through the use of geographical data to target activity. Resulting in a decrease in teenage pregnancy in deprived areas.	Wirral Children's Trust (including NHS Wirral, Police, Connexion, LSC, VCF Sector, Mersey Fire and Rescue)

