

## WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2010

### Wirral CAF Activity April to November 2009

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#### Background

The Common Assessment Framework (CAF) Database was piloted for 3 months within the Re-modelling Social Work Delivery Project Team in the Birkenhead, Tranmere and Rockferry area of the Wirral between January – March 2009. Following a successful pilot the database was rolled out across the Wirral in April 2009.

The purpose of the database is to enable Area Teams to map out and monitor areas of need concentrating on the following elements:

- Geographical location
- By agency completing CAF
- Gender
- Age group
- Need category

Monthly reports have been produced since April examining the above elements in order to identify patterns of need across Wirral. For the purpose of this report I have drawn all the data gathered over the previous 8 months to highlight the patterns that are evident thus far.

#### Current Position

#### Total CAF's Completed between April – November 2009

Area Teams CAF Data	Numbers
Bidston & St James Claughton	67
Birkenhead & Tranmere Rockferry	58
Prenton/Oxton	50
Liscard/Seacombe	61
New Brighton & Wallasey	34
Leasowe/Moreton/ Saughall Massey	33
Brombrough/Eastham	10
Clatterbridge & Bebington	13
Hoylake/Meols/WK/Thurs	21
Greasby/Frankby/Irby/Upton	33
Pensby/Thingwall/Heswall	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>

Our overall CAF returns from April - November 2009 are **402**. The Birkenhead District reports the highest level of additional need with 43% of the overall returns. Followed by Wallasey with 31%, the West reports 21% and the South District returned 5%.

### **High Level of Returns**

Our highest returns by area are from Bidston/St James/Claughton with 16%, Liscard/Seacombe with 15% and Birkenhead/Tranmere/Rockferry with 14%.

### **Low Level of Returns**

Our lowest returns by area are from Brombrough/Eastham 2%, Clatterbridge/Bebington 3% and Hoylake/Meols/West Kirby/Thurstaston 5%.

### **CAF's by Gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Male</b>	<b>Female</b>
Bidston & St James Claughton	43	24
Birkenhead & Tranmere Rockferry	32	26
Prenton/Oxton	32	18
Liscard/Seacombe	22	39
New Brighton & Wallasey	25	9
Leasowe Moreton Saughall Massey	21	12
Brombrough/Eastham	4	5
Clatterbridge & Bebington	6	6
Hoylake/Meols/WK/Thurs	12	9
Greasby/Frankby/Irby	17	16
Pensby/Thingwall/Irby	14	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>172</b>

### **CAF's by Gender**

The percentage of CAF's completed on males over an 8 month period amounts to 56% whilst CAF's completed on females totals 42%.

#### **Males**

The highest proportion of CAF's completed on males are within the Birkenhead District with 26% of the overall returns.

#### **Females**

The highest proportion of CAF's completed on females are within the Liscard/Seacombe area with 9%, Birkenhead/Tranmere/Rockferry with 6% and Bidston/St James/Claughton with 5% of the overall CAF's completed on females.

## CAF's by Age Group

<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Unborn</b>	<b>0-4 yrs</b>	<b>5-10 yrs</b>	<b>11-15 yrs</b>	<b>16-18 yrs</b>
Bidston & St James Claughton	0	19	22	25	2
Birkenhead & Tranmere Rockferry	0	20	16	17	5
Prenton/Oxton	0	15	27	7	2
Liscard/Seacombe	0	27	7	11	2
New Brighton & Wallasey	0	16	10	4	1
Leasowe Moreton Saughall Massey	1	14	4	10	2
Brombrough/Eastham	1	1	0	5	0
Clatterbridge & Bebington	0	2	3	4	6
Hoyle/Meols/WK/Thurs	0	7	2	9	1
Greasby/Frankby/Irby	0	3	9	18	2
Pensby/Thingwall/Irby	0	14	2	5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>24</b>

(**N.B.** 27 dates of birth were not specified in the returns)

### Highest Need Group 0-4 Year Olds (35%)

The highest need group by age between April – November 2009 is the 0-4 age group. These CAF's are concentrated in the Wallasey District which reports 41%, followed by Birkenhead with 39%, West with 15% and the South reporting just 2%.

### 11-15 Year Olds (28%)

The second highest need group by age are 11-15 year olds falls within the Birkenhead District with 70% of the returns followed by the West 27%, Wallasey with 21% and South with 7%.

### 5-10 Year Olds (25%)

The third highest need group by age are 5-10 year olds concentrated again in the Birkenhead District which reports 63%, followed by Wallasey with 20%, West with 12% and South reporting just 2%.

### 16 – 18 Year Olds (5%)

16-18 age range remains very low with just 5% of CAF's being completed on this age group since April 2009. Once again the most CAF's completed on this age group falls within the Birkenhead District with 37% followed for the first time by the South with 25%, Wallasey reporting 20% and the West reports 16%.

### Unborn (0.4%)

Only two CAF's have been reported on an unborn child since April 2009.

## Agencies Completing CAF

For eight consecutive months schools have been the lead agency for completing CAF's with 59% of the overall returns. Health professionals follow with 19%, Children's Centres report 6%, ESW's 8%, WASBT, Youth Offending Service and the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector have returned 1% each.

Agencies	Sch	ESW	Health	Youth	WASBT	YOS	Police	CH. C	Connex.	FIP	VCF	Hous.	CYPD	Not Spec.
Bidston & St Jam. Cloughton	38	1	8	0	4	1	0	9	1	0	1	0	0	1
Birkenhead & Tra Rockferry	39	3	9	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	1	3
Prenton/Oxt.	34	3	11	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	2
Liscard/Sea.	35	0	15	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	1	0		2
N. Brighton & Wa	18	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Leasowe/More/ Saughall Mass	13	1	10	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	1
Brom/East	6	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clatt & Beb	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	1	1
Hoy/Meols/WK/T	13	0	1	1	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1
Greas/Fran/Irby	27	0	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Pens/Thing/Hesw.	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>

(NB 11 CAF returns did not specify which agency they were originating from).

## Identified Needs and Outcomes

We have asked agencies to inform us of the identified needs when completing a CAF to enable us to measure whether the CAF/TAC process is having a positive impact and improving outcomes for children.

The needs fall into the Every Child Matters (ECM) outcomes:

1. Be Healthy
2. Stay Safe
3. Enjoy and Achieve
4. Make a Positive Contribution
5. Achieve Economic Wellbeing

The number of needs identified in the table if totalled will not match the overall figure of CAF returns as most agencies identified multiple needs for each child/young person they had completed an assessment on.

1. Be Healthy = 44%
2. Stay Safe = 56%
3. Enjoy and Achieve = 48%
4. Make a Positive Contribution = 40%
5. Achieve Economic Wellbeing = 29%

Area Teams ECM	Be Hea	Sta. Safe	Enj Ach &	Pos. Cont	Eco Well
Bidston & St James Claughton	35	36	36	31	24
Birkenhead & Tranmere Rockferry	34	54	31	25	15
Prenton/Oxton	26	31	25	13	8
Liscard/Seacombe	31	31	31	31	27
New Brighton & Wallasey	18	17	17	12	16
Leasowe Moreton Saughall Massey	16	19	19	15	14
Brombrough/Eastham	4	6	7	7	3
Clatterbridge & Bebington	4	8	4	7	1
Hoylake/Meols/WK/Thurs	1	10	9	12	7
Greasby/Frankby/Irby	8	13	13	10	5
Pensby/Thingwall/Irby	3	2	2	0	0
<b>Total</b>	180	227	194	163	120

### **Stay Safe (56%)**

As we can see from the table above Stay Safe has been identified as the highest level of need over the last eight months. This need has been concentrated in the Birkenhead District with 53% followed by Wallasey with 29%, West with 11% and the South with 6%. Birkenhead/Rockferry/Tranmere reporting the highest level of need by area with 23%.

### **Enjoy & Achieve (48%)**

The second highest level of identified need is Enjoy & Achieve. This need is again concentrated in the Birkenhead District with 47%, followed by Wallasey with 34%, West 12% and the South with 5%. Bidston/St James/Claughton reporting the highest level of need by area with 18%.

### **Be Healthy (44%)**

Be Healthy is the third highest need group. This need is again concentrated in the Birkenhead District with 52% followed by Wallasey with 36%, the West District with 6% and South with just 4%. Bidston/St James/Claughton reporting the highest levels of need by area with 19%.

### **Make a Positive Contribution (40%)**

Making a Positive Contribution is the next recognised need group. This need is again concentrated in the Birkenhead District with 42% reported, followed by Wallasey with 35%, West 13% and the South with 8%. Bidston/St James/Claughton and Liscard/Seacombe report the highest levels of need by area with 19% each.

## **Achieve Economic Well Being (29%)**

Achieving Economic Well Being is the lowest need group identified with just 29% of the overall returns during this period. This need is concentrated within the Wallasey District with 47% followed by Birkenhead with 39%, West with 10% and the South with 3%. Liscard/Seacombe reports the highest levels of need by area with 22%.

## **Progress**

We first began recording the amount of CAF's completed in 2006. When we carried out a census across all agencies in May 2008 we found that this database was missing over 400 CAF's, which had not been reported. Since our current database was rolled out in April 2009 we have seen a 78% increase in the amount of CAF's reported.

This CAF information has enabled us to build a picture of those children/young people who have identified additional needs that cannot be met without a co-ordinated multi agency response. After eight months of recording CAF information we are now able to analyse this data and build a Wirral wide picture of need. We are also able to compare our preventative figures with our statutory figures and begin to draw conclusions as to whether we are identifying concerns early enough to prevent children/young peoples needs escalating to the extent where they would meet the thresholds for statutory intervention from a Social Worker. A smaller percentage of children/young people will inevitably always meet this threshold; however our intention is to reduce this number further through early intervention.

## **Conclusion**

To conclude, from the CAF data outlined within the body of this report we are able to evidence that the Birkenhead District has the highest levels of CAF activity. The lowest levels of CAF activity are within the South and West Districts. Males between the ages of 0-4 and 11-15 years of age are the highest reported need group. The needs that cannot be met without a co-ordinated multi agency response is for children to Stay Safe and it is the schools that are the main agency for recognising this need to date.

For the CAF and Team Around the Child (TAC) process to be consistently applied across Wirral, all Area Teams must ensure that they have positive and active working relationships with agencies within their respective areas and have fully embedded the CAF/TAC procedures. Training audits should be carried out amongst agencies within these areas to ensure both staff and volunteers are fully confident in this process and know where to access advice, guidance, consultation and support. Area Team Leaders need to work alongside Social Care staff to analyse data and identify where they could have prevented cases escalating to level 4 (children requiring a specialist service) through early intervention, therefore improving outcomes for children/young people.

The CAF Quality Assurance Manager has been in post since September 2008. This is a temporary post funded through the LSCB. Funding is due to cease on 31 March 2010, however, there is a strong commitment to retain this post by the Board, and this is being taken into account as partners are determining their contribution to the LSCB budget for 2010 / 11. Should the post cease to exist, following the current post holders' move to a new permanent post in March 2010, then the Area Team Leaders would continue to

maintain the monitoring of CAF activity. However, the central co-ordination would not be maintained. If the post does continue it is recommended that the following work is undertaken.

- Six monthly reviews to measure impact
- Training Audit of Agencies
- Area Team Leaders & CADT Manager/Assessment Team Managers to analyse data & highlight cases that should have been considered for CAF
- Build in and record regular consultation surgeries with schools across the Wirral
- Review CAF/TAC plans to ensure they are SMART
- Continue to quality assure CAF's through the CAF Quality Assurance Group and publish CAF QA Monthly Reports

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Board note the report.

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