

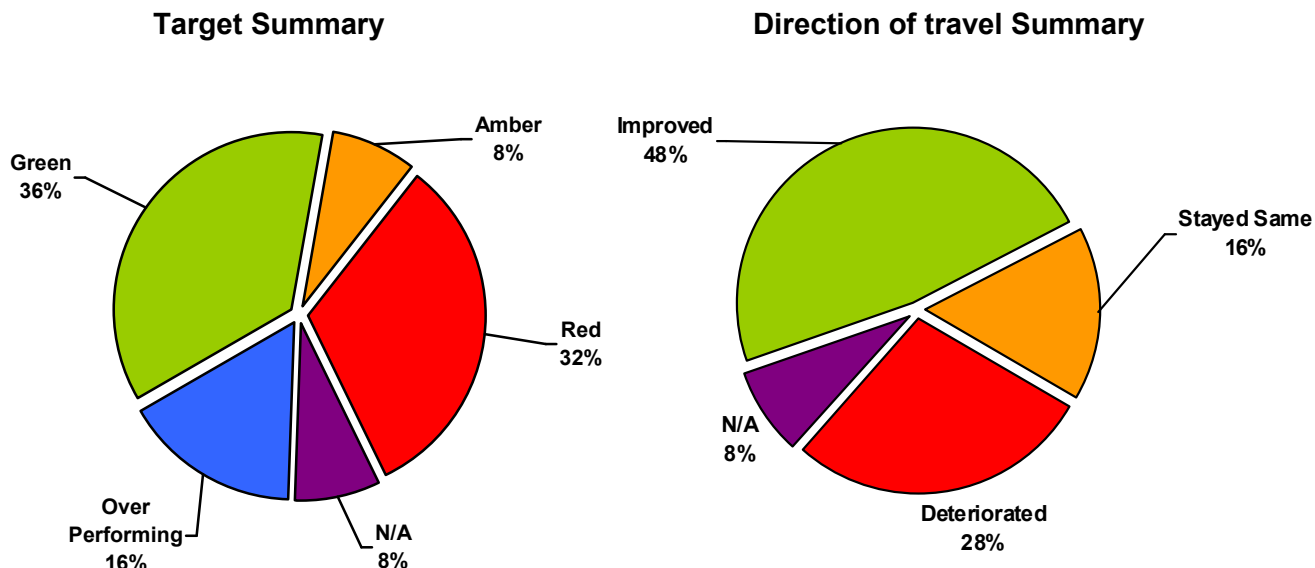
1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides an overview of progress made against Children's Services indicators for 2010/11 Quarter 3.

2.0 PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

2.1 The following charts provide a summary of performance at quarter three in relation to targets set and the direction of travel compared to prior year quarter three position.

2.2 There are 25 indicators that can be reported at the third quarter period.



2.3 Appendix 1 provides the status of all indicators that can be reported to the Board for quarter three.

3.0 PERFORMANC ANALYSIS

3.1 Performance headlines for children's services include:

- The percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment continues to perform well indicating appropriate referrals into social care and effective use of thresholds being applied.
- The percentage of children with Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more continues to be very low highlighting sustained good practice and exit strategies.
- Final Key Stage 2 data confirms good performance in children achieving L4+ in English and Maths as well as making good progress from Key Stage 1 to 2.

- Reports of antisocial behaviour and levels of vehicle nuisance continue to perform well against targets and are reducing year on year.
- Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds has achieved the quarter three targets and improved on the previous year quarter three result.

3.2 Performance Indicator Exceptions

The following indicators have not met the quarterly target by more than 10% and are therefore assessed as **red** or have missed the target by between 5% and 10% and are assessed as **amber**:

Data Key	
Actual	(A)
Estimate	(E)
Provisional	(P)

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 53	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth	35.1%	31.3% (A)	Red	Improved
<p>Context: •Breast Feeding Peer Support Programme service achieved annual target (support 500 women) by month 7 and surpassed the Wirral and England average of women still breastfeeding at 6-8 weeks with 48% in quarter 2 •NHS Wirral has achieved stage one of the UNICEF Breastfeeding Friendly Initiative.</p> <p>Corrective action: The following will be taking place over the next few months to continue to promote breastfeeding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Renew breastfeeding peer support programme contract for a further two years and extend it to support a greater number of women •To run a series of promotions on Juice and Heart FM to promote the breast milk it's amazing campaign •To deliver on-going breastfeeding training updates to professionals 						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral.	76%	66.6% (A)	Red	Improved
<p>Context: This indicator continues to perform considerably better when compared to the same period during 2009/10 and is inline with the 2009/10 national figure. It should also be noted that the definition of this indicator is changing from 7 working days from referral to 10 working days in 2011/12. The 2010/11 quarter 3 figure for initial assessments carried out within 10 working days of referral is 79.8%.</p> <p>Corrective action: With the induction of new managers, there has been a refreshed and improved focus on work plans and development of new reports to support staff to help ensure time scales are met.</p>						

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	80%	66.6% (A)	Red	Improved
<p>Context: This indicator has improved following the circulation of good practice guidance notes to the teams with support from the data officers on electronic recording. However, there has been a large increase in the volume of work: 833 Core Assessments have taken place to date in 2010/11 compared</p>						

with 672 at quarter 3 in 2009/10. Despite this there has been an 8% improvement when compared with the same period in 2009/10.

Corrective action: Ongoing support to staff is being provided by the data officers recording information related to this indicator. Child Protection training took place during October – December 2010 which will help staff focus in this area.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 61	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	80%	66.7% (A)	Red	Deteriorated

Context: Small numbers affect this indicator. 10 out of 15 children have been adopted within 12 months of the decision being made that the child should be placed for adoption. Some children are harder to place; these include 2 siblings, 2 further siblings with medical complexities and one older child who has experienced placement disruption.

Corrective action: There is continuous monthly monitoring of this indicator.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	9.0% Lower=Better	9.7% (A)	Amber	Unchanged

Context: This indicator is in the Ofsted "Very Good" category. Quarter 3 performance is comparable to performance in 2009/10 during the same period. It is envisaged that this indicator will improve before year end.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	72%	61.7% (A)	Red	Deteriorated

Corrective action: There is continuous activity to ensure placement stability of looked after children where appropriate. Statutory reviews of children in care placements are carried out at prescribed intervals. Increased rigour in the conducting of disruption meetings and learning lessons from past experiences. This indicator is monitored on a monthly basis.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.	14% Lower=Better	17.5% (A)	Red	Unchanged

Context: There are over 160 more children who have a child protection plan compared to the same period in 2009/10 and therefore more children are becoming subject to a plan a second or subsequent time. However, performance in this indicator is comparable at quarter 3 when compared to the same period in 2009/10.

Corrective action: Repeat registrations are scrutinised and referred to strategic service managers on a monthly basis.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011	2010/2011	On	Direction
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			Q3 Target	Q3 Actual	target	of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.	100%	90.5% (A)	Amber	Deteriorated

Context: There has been an increase in both children subject to a child protection plan and looked after children. The Independent Reviewing Officers are responsible for reviewing both sets of children which has impacted on workload.

Corrective action: There has been continued improvement in administrative functions. The quality assurance framework has also been reviewed to ensure consistency and stability.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	6.9% Lower=Better	8.2% (P)	Red	Improved

Context: Quarter 3 performance is an improvement when compared with quarter 2 and the same period in 2009/10 which highlights the ongoing trend in the reduction of this indicator year on year. However there are many challenges ahead to achieving the target of 6.9% therefore a revised year end forecast of 8% has been set.

Corrective action: There are a number of innovative programmes being commissioned via the European Social Fund which focus specifically on the differing needs of the NEET cohort in order to provide an enhanced bespoke, targeted offer. The 14-19 Strategic Partnership is ensuring that the 'offer' in Wirral is flexible in its responses. Analysis of the NEET group informs targeted intervention across the partnership. There is an ongoing trend in the reduction of this indicator year on year.

Portfolio	PI no	Title	2010/2011 Q3 Target	2010/2011 Q3 Actual	On target	Direction of travel
Children's Services & Lifelong Learning	LOCAL 1400	Number of looked after children	565 Lower=Better	668 (A)	Red	Deteriorated

Context: The increase in children becoming looked after is a national trend, reported in the recent Association of Director of Children's Services survey.

Corrective action: A thorough profiling of the Looked After Children population is taking place to enable more targeted interventions. A number of strategies, underpinned by the new fieldwork structure, are available to ensure that children's plans do not drift, and that more children achieve permanence through Adoption, Special Guardianship or by returning home. Each District Team is tightly overseeing the plans for children to safely leave care; this is monitored by Senior Managers, and plans to overcome barriers to achieving this outcome are in place. The refreshed Looked After Children Review project in the strategic change program will also impact on this indicator.

4.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 4.1 The implementation of Council budget savings, management of the early voluntary retirement and severance schemes and changes in human resources procedures will have the potential to impact on the levels of service delivery across the Departments' responsibilities. This will require careful management to minimise volatile service delivery, reduced Service Level Agreement take up and income from schools, reputational issues and to ensure continued focus on critical issues.
- 4.2 The need to review and re-state the relevant Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contractual documentation in respect of the Birkenhead University Academy occupying the current Park High School is a risk in respect of the turnaround required. This problematic situation also applies to other PFI schools moving to Academy status.
- 4.3 Every effort is being taken to ensure negotiations regarding the Merseyside Connexions contract do not result in disruptions to continuity in service provision.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Wirral Children's Trust Board note the report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Performance Indicator Summary

Appendix 1: Performance Indicator Summary (Report Date 25/01/2011)

Direction of Travel Summary

% PIs	No. of PIs	
48.00%	12	Improved by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance
28.00%	7	Deteriorated by more than 2.5% on previous year's performance
16.00%	4	Stayed within +/-2.5% of previous year's performance
8.00%	2	Awaiting Data
100.00%	25	(Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places)

Target Summary

% PIs	No. of PIs	
36.00%	9	Green (within +10/-5% of the target)
8.00%	2	Amber (missed target by between 5% and 10%)
32.00%	8	Red (missed target by more than 10%)
16.00%	4	Over-performing (more than 10% of the target)
8.00%	2	Awaiting Data
100.00%	25	(Note: percentages rounded to 2 decimal places)

PI No.	Title	Quarter 3 Target	Quarter 3 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 43	Young people within the YJS receiving a conviction in court who are sentenced to custody	5%	Data released by the Youth Justice Board not yet available.		
NI 45	Young offender's engagement in suitable education, training and employment.	90%	Data released by the Youth Justice Board not yet available.		
NI 51	Effectiveness of child and adolescent mental health (CAMHS) services	16	16	Green	↔
NI 53	Prevalence of breast-feeding at 6-8 wks from birth	35.1%	31.3% (A)	Red	↑
NI 59	Percentage of initial assessments for children's social care carried out within 7 working days of referral.	76%	66.6% (A)	Red	↑
NI 60	Percentage of core assessments for children's social care that were carried out within 35 working days of their commencement	80%	66.6% (A)	Red	↑
NI 61	Timeliness of placements of looked after children for adoption following an agency decision that the child should be placed for adoption	80%	66.7% (A)	Red	↓
NI 62	Stability of placements of looked after children: number of placements	9.0% (Lower is Better)	9.7% (A)	Amber	↔

PI No.	Title	Quarter 3 Target	Quarter 3 Actual	On Target	Direction of Travel
NI 63	Stability of placements of looked after children: length of placement	72%	61.7% (A)	Red	↓
NI 64	Child Protection Plans lasting 2 years or more	4.0% (Lower is Better)	2.3% (A)	Over Performing	↓
NI 65	Percentage of children becoming the subject of Child Protection Plan for a second or subsequent time.	14% (Lower is Better)	17.5% (A)	Red	↔
NI 66	Looked after children cases which were reviewed within required timescales.	100%	90.5% (A)	Amber	↓
NI 67	Percentage of child protection cases which were reviewed within required timescales	100%	98.8% (A)	Green	↑
NI 68	Percentage of referrals to children's social care going on to initial assessment	75%	94.1% (P)	Over Performing	↑
NI 71	Children who have run away from home or care	15	15 (A)	Green	↑
NI 73	Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2	78%	75% (A)	Green	↔
NI 93	Progression by 2 levels in English between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	87%	86% (A)	Green	↑
NI 94	Progression by 2 levels in Maths between Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2	82%	85% (A)	Green	↑
NI 103a	Percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Excluding exceptions).	95%	97.3% (A)	Green	↓
NI 103b	Percentage of final SEN statements issued within 26 weeks (Including exceptions)	94%	95.8% (A)	Green	↓
NI 113	Prevalence of Chlamydia in under 25 year olds	24.7% (Lower is Better)	18.0% (E)	Over Performing	↑
NI 117	16 to 18 year olds who are not in education, employment or training (NEET)	6.9% (Lower is Better)	8.2% (P)	Red	↑
LOCAL 1400	Number of looked after children	565 (Lower is Better)	668 (A)	Red	↓
LOCAL 1701	Number of reported incidents of anti-social behaviour	10461.75 (Lower is Better)	10063 (A)	Green	↑
LOCAL 1702	Reduce the level of vehicle nuisance	964 (Lower is Better)	830.00 (A)	Over Performing	↑