

Wirral Policy on Bullying in Children and Young Peoples settings

1. Background

- 1.1 This policy sets out the procedures for tackling bullying in Wirral. It covers all forms of bullying in all children and young people's settings.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board endorse the policy.

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Wirral Policy on Bullying in Children and Young Peoples settings



**Children & Young Peoples Department
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Wirral Policy on Bullying in Children and Young Peoples Settings

‘In Wirral we (defined as Wirral Children’s Trust) are agreed that bullying in any form is unacceptable. We aim to empower all individuals, institutions and communities to challenge, remedy and prevent bullying and create a culture where the rights of the individual are valued and upheld.’

Definition: for the purposes of this document, children and young people are referred to as children. Child is defined as any young person up to the age of 18 years.

POLICY SCOPE

This policy covers all forms of bullying - children bullying each other, adults bullying children, children bullying adults and adults bullying adults.

In Wirral we believe that bullying happens in a variety of settings such as schools, other educational establishments, the workplace and the wider community. If it is to be tackled effectively, a consistent approach needs to be adopted.

The settings in which bullying occurs may include the following:

- Pre-School, school and further education
- Travelling to and from school
- School transport
- Youth Centres/projects
- Youth Justice settings
- Voluntary Organisations/Uniformed Organisations
- Leisure Centres
- The local community, e.g. on streets, in shopping malls, in parks
- Children’s Homes/Foster Homes
- Children’s own homes
- Internet + Social Networking sites
- Mobile communications
- Workplace

If the policy is to have an impact on bullying that takes place in this wide variety of settings, multi-agency working and community involvement is essential.

Definition

All partners in Wirral agree with the current national definition of bullying:
‘Behaviour by an individual or group, usually repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally’.

We also find helpful the following clarification by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which states that bullying falls into two categories:

- Emotionally harmful behaviour, such as taunting, spreading hurtful jokes and/or rumours and excluding people from groups; and

- Physically harmful behaviour, such as kicking, hitting, pushing, or other forms of physical abuse.

The following three conditions are used to define incidences of harmful interpersonal behaviour as bullying behaviour. Behaviour is bullying behaviour if:

- It is repetitive, wilful or persistent;
- It is intentionally harmful, carried out by an individual or group; and,
- There is an imbalance of power leaving the person who is bullied feeling vulnerable.

How **we** will tackle bullying:

Through the Staying Safe Strategy Group we will provide direction, leadership and guidance to schools other educational establishments, social care settings, the workplace and the wider community to ensure that all children, young people and adults remain safe from bullying behaviour and have the opportunity to thrive and prosper, emotionally and socially.

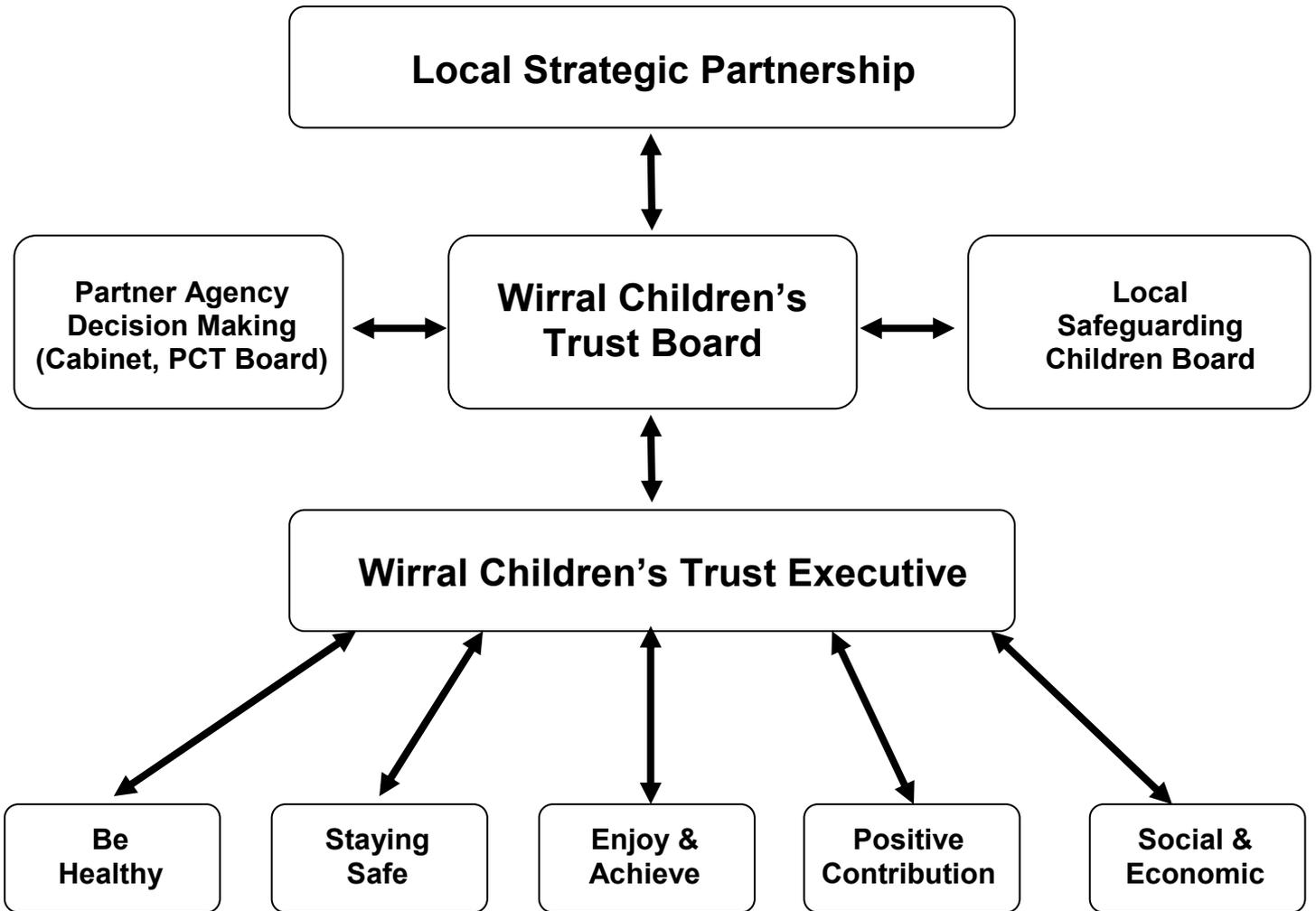
All children, young people and their families should feel confident that in all settings of the Wirral Children and Young People's Partnership there is a safe and healthy environment.

This environment will be achieved by developing cooperative behaviour and an appreciation of diversity and will involve everyone concerned in making decisions and supporting each other where conflicts may emerge.

When bullying is encountered we will ensure that the mechanisms are in place to allow:

- Reporting of the incident.
- Having it properly recorded.
- Having it properly monitored.
- Appropriate action to be taken and followed up.

This will ensure that people feel listened to and understand that their concerns have been taken seriously.



Reporting Pathways – September 2010

<u>Legislation</u>	<u>National Policy and Guidance</u>	<u>Local Policy/Strategy</u>
<p>Education Act 2002 - duty to safeguard and promote welfare</p>	<p>Every Child Matters 2004 - 5 Outcomes for children and young people</p>	<p>Children and Young People’s Plan - covers all ECM Outcomes - multi-agency plan - c & yp should be consulted - annual review</p> <p>Anti-Bullying Strategy - should link into Children and Young People’s Plan</p>
<p>Children Act 2004 (covers statutory services Section 11)</p> <p>- 5 Outcomes for children and young people - duty “safeguard and promote welfare” - duty to “cooperate to improve wellbeing”</p> <p>Responsibilities of LA: - promote interagency cooperation re ECM Outcomes - establish Children’s Trust - set up LSCB - appoint Director of Children’s Services - develop Children and Young People’s Plan : must consult including c & yp</p> <p>Education and Inspections Act 2006 - duty to promote well-being of persons aged 13-19</p> <p>Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - covers anti-social behaviour - gives local authorities specific responsibilities</p>	<p>DCSF Safe to Learn (2007) - gather information on number and nature of bullying incidents and analyse the data to identify trends - develop appropriate anti-bullying strategies - support and challenge schools on the duty to “safeguard and promote welfare”</p> <p>DCSF Children’s Plan: Building brighter futures (2007) - Byron Review on e-safety - strengthen complaints procedure for parents - publish Staying Safe Action Plan</p> <p>DCSF Staying Safe: Guidance and Action Plan (2008) -covers wide range of safety and safeguarding issues - covers all agencies working with c & yp The suite of guidance is as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe from Bullying in further education colleges • Safe from Bullying in play and leisure provision • Safe from Bullying in youth activities • Safe from Bullying in Children’s Homes • Safe from Bullying in extended services in and around schools • Safe from Bullying on journeys • Safe from Bullying : Guidance for local authorities and other strategic leaders on reducing bullying in the community 	<p>Local Safeguarding Children Board - responsible for safeguarding: bullying is a safeguarding issue - multi-agency - responsible for policy, procedures and guidance inc. training</p> <p>Community Safety Partnership - role to “develop and implement strategies to tackle crime and disorder including anti-social behaviour”</p> <p>Youth Justice Board and Youth Offending Team - statutory powers to prevent offending by c & yp</p> <p>Children in care - legal responsibilities established by Children Act 1989 and 2004: and Care Standards Act 2000</p> <p>- strategy required in response to Care Matters Implementation Plan 2008</p> <p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Strategy (CAMHS)</p>

<u>Legislation</u>	<u>National Policy and Guidance</u>	<u>Local Policy/Strategy</u>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe from Bullying : Training resources • Guidance for Local Authorities and other strategic leaders on reducing bullying in the community. • Guidance for schools on preventing and responding to sexist, sexual and transphobic bullying. <p>3 key areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - helping all c & yp to stay safe - protecting c & yp - responding when c & yp have been harmed <p>Specific reference to bullying:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - listening services: funding to NSPCC / ChildLine - bullying related to vulnerable groups - bullying in the community guidance - peer support: funding to ChildLine, Beat Bullying and Mentoring and Befriender Foundation - parental complaints: consultation and new guidance and / or legislation - cyber bullying: new guidance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - covers all those agencies / services that contribute to mental health care and specialist services - 4 Tiers of provision: tier one provided by non-mental health specialists with advice: tier two usually outreach provision: tier 3 specialised provision usually outreach: tier 4 highly specialised may be residential
<p>Local authorities need to be mindful of legislation relating to:</p> <p>Safeguarding/Child Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children Act 1989: threshold of “significant harm” - Children Act 2004: set up Local Safeguarding Children Board and Common Assessment Framework <p>Equalities and Discrimination (Human Rights Act 1998; Race Relations Acts 1976 & 2000); Disability Discrimination Act 2005; Equality Act 2006)</p> <p>Criminality (Offences against the person (Assaults) Act; Harassment Act; Crime and Disorder Act)</p>	<p>DCSF Aiming High for Young People: Ten Year Strategy 2007 and Implementation Plan 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase young people’s participation in leisure-time activities - participation develops social and emotional skills <p>Youth Crime Action Plan 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - consistent approach to assessment, early identification and targeted support - encourages Safer Schools Partnerships: police in schools <p>Youth Taskforce Action Plan 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - deeper response to anti-social behaviour - positive activities: safer communities <p>DCSF Learning together to be safe 2009 guidance for schools on tackling violent extremism</p>	