

Key Messages

The Board welcomed the members of the public who had attended and the interest they showed in its work. There were three questions, which were discussed, and these centred on Wirral Council's overall vision for the future; Freedom of Information and transparency in the authority and accountability. The Board agreed that Wirral Council would commission an independent review of information sharing within the authority and with the public to ensure best practice.

The Board considered the new Elected Member Development Programme, which is being developed and commended the work of the working group behind it. The Programme is ambitious and will provide an accredited training and development programme to cover the needs of all Members in Wirral to ensure they have the current skills and knowledge needed to oversee an effective local authority. The Board will look at this again in more detail in September together with the parallel programme for officer training and development.

There was a detailed discussion of the progress being made in Adults Services following a presentation by its Director. This reported on the recent external Peer Challenge of Safeguarding which the Department had commissioned and which had found significant progress made although there is much more still to do. An Action Plan is being developed to address the issues raised and the Department is also preparing for a further Peer Review of all its services next week. The outcomes of the Peer Review and Peer Challenge will be reported openly once the Action Plan is complete and the Board will receive a further report in September.

The Board considered the draft Improvement Plan that the authority's Management Team had developed and commended the work done thus far. The key priority identified was to engage with all Members and to take on board their comments and views. There will be a session for all Members on 11th July to discuss the Improvement Plan and the role of the Improvement Board in supporting it.