

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

12TH NOVEMBER 2012

SUBJECT:	2012 POST 16 ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESSION
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report brings to overview and scrutiny an analysis of how well Wirral resident young people aged between 16 and 18 achieve post 16. The report details how well our young people performed post 16 across all education sectors including:-
- i. school / academy sixth form provision (2011/12 academic year data),
 - ii. Wirral further education provision (2010/11 academic year data) and
 - iii. Wirral young people accessing Apprenticeship opportunities (2010/11 academic year data)
- 1.2 Analysis in the report specifically focuses on those young people engaged in and achieving full level qualifications or programmes leading to a full level 3. Full level 3 programmes include, young people undertaking two or more A-Levels, three or more AS levels, a BTEC National Certificate or Diploma or an advanced/higher level Apprenticeship. The report reviews level 3 attainment because it is widely recognised that level 3 programmes of study are a key driver of business competitiveness and growth. If businesses are to meet the increasing forces of globalisation and retain a market share our young people need have level 3 qualifications and skills.
- 1.3 The report has a specific focus on the achievements and progress made by our more vulnerable young people, including children in care (CiC), teenage parents, learners with learning difficulties and disabilities (LLDD) and young offenders.
- 1.4 Outcomes and success rates for young people in the further education and Apprenticeship sectors are based on 2010/11 academic year data. Young people's data for such sectors is submitted to and analysed by the National Data Service not the LA.
- 1.5 Overall, satisfactory levels of attainment and progress are made by Wirral young people post 16 on level 3 programmes. It is also recognised that overall improvements in level 3 outcomes across all sectors is contributing to the Local Authority's (LA) improved performance in relation to National Indicator (NI) 80. NI 80 relates to the achievement of a level 3 outcome by age 19. Between 2009 and 2011 NI 80 has improved by 7 percentage points (ppts) to 53% achievement at age 19. However,

narrowing the attainment gap at level 3 (NI 82) still remains a challenge. Key findings in the report by education sector include:-

1. Post 16 outcomes for young people in Wirral schools and academies undertaking vocational and / or academic programmes have improved over the last three academic years.
2. Advanced apprenticeship success rates for Wirral young people (aged 16 to 18) have been improving year on year; however, success rate levels still lag behind both regional and national benchmarks.
3. Further Education (FE) full level 3 success rates for young people (aged 16 to 18) have improved year on year with 86 percent (2010/11) of learners achieving a full level 3 qualification.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

Young People's (those aged 16-18) Post-16 Attainment by Education Sector

Young People Undertaking A-Level (A2) Qualifications in Wirral Schools and Academies with a Sixth Form

- 2.1 Outcomes for young people in Wirral schools and academies with a sixth form undertaking vocational and / or academic programmes have improved over the last three academic years.
- 2.2 The average QCA points per pupil increased significantly between 2010 and 2012 from 764.4 to 781.4. This meant that they went from being 0.9 percentage points (ppts) behind the national average to 17.2 ppts above national consortium of exam results (NCER) average.
- 2.3 In terms of QCA points per entry the gap between the Wirral and national average closed between 2010 and 2012, i.e. from 3.4 ppts to 1.3 ppts. In 2012 average points per entry on Wirral was 210.4 compared to 208.6 in 2011 and 206.8 in 2010. Appendix 1 illustrates the academic qualification grades associated with the numbers of QCA points achieved.
- 2.4 A level pass rates in 2012 were as follows: 5.9 percent achieved A*; 48.3 percent achieved A*-B; 99.5 percent achieved A*-E and 0.5 percent failed. By comparison, in 2011 A level pass rates were as follows: 7.1 percent achieved A*; 46.8 percent achieved A*-B; 98.9 percent achieved A*-E and 1.1 percent failed.
- 2.5 The table below show the percentage of pupils on the Wirral achieving 3 or more A-Levels and 2 or more A-Levels between 2010 and 2012:-

Percentage of pupils achieving 3 or more A-Levels				
	A*	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
2012	1.1	9.1	25.3	82.6
2011	1.5	10.2	24.7	78.8
2010	1.6	9.3	24.9	77.5

	Percentage of pupils achieving 2 or more A-Levels			
	A*	A*-A	A*-B	A*-E
2012	3.2	18.2	41.7	96.5
2011	4.1	20	41.5	93.7
2010	2.9	16.3	40.4	94.8

(Source: EPAS / National Consortium for Exam Results, October 2012)

Full Level 3 Vocational Curriculum Standards in Schools / Academies with a Sixth Form

- 2.6 In terms of non A / AS Level full level curriculum, there were 18 entries for International Baccalaureate; 12 entries for OCR National Certificate; 29 entries for BTEC National Awards; 6 entries for BTEC national certificates and 803 entries for vocationally related qualifications (VRQ).
- 2.7 The table below shows the pass rates for each of the qualifications types found in Wirral schools / academies with sixth forms.

Qualification Name	2010/11 Academic Year				2011/12 Academic Year			
	Total Entries	A*	A*-B	A*-E	TOTAL ENTRIES	A*	A*-B	A*-E
International Baccalaureate	15	0	27.7	93.3	18	0	16.7	94.4
OCR National Certificate	22	0	77.3	100	12	0	66.7	100
BTEC National Award	260	0	63.1	100	29	0	48.3 (54.5)	100 (100)
BTEC National Certificate	77	0	58.4	100	6	0	0 (60.6)	100 (100)
VRQ Level 3 (Edexcel)	483	0	25.1	99.4	803	0	36.9 (30.3)	100 (99.8)

(Source: EPAS / National Consortium for Exam Results (NCER), October 2012)

- 2.8 With the exception of one young person who failed to achieve the International Baccalaureate qualification all young people undertaking vocational full level 3 programmes have achieved a pass grade. When compared to the National College Exam Results (NCER) benchmarks, with the exception of BTEC National Certificate outcomes, young people generally achieve the higher grades (A*-B) as expected.

Wirral Resident Young People aged 16 to 18 Participating in Advanced Apprenticeship Opportunities

- 2.9 Success rates for Wirral young people (aged 16 to 18) undertaking an advanced Apprenticeship (full level 3 programme) have been improving year on year; however, levels of attainment still lag behind both regional and national benchmarks.
- 2.10 During the 2010/11 academic year 1,296 young people aged 16 to 18 started an Apprenticeship opportunity of which 18 percent (235 young people) started an advanced Apprenticeship (Full Level 3). The popularity of Apprenticeships as desirable and worthwhile post 16 option has been increasing year on year for the last four years. Some 25 percent more young people started an Apprenticeship in 2010/11

compared to 2009/10 (258 young people). The Wirral Apprenticeship programme has made a significant contribution to the popularity of Apprenticeships and opportunities offered.

- 2.11 An Apprentice will complete a 'basket' of qualifications known as a framework. Frameworks generally include the following industry specific qualifications; a vocational qualification (NVQ), a technical certificate (an applied knowledge qualification) and functional skills (numeracy, literacy and ICT). Apprentices' have to complete and pass all elements of the framework to be successful.
- 2.12 Success rates for Wirral young people (aged 16 to 18) undertaking an advanced Apprenticeship (full level 3 programme) are currently 72.5 percent (2010/11). This was an improvement on the previous years outcome of 71.9 percent (2009/10); however, further work needs to be undertaken to bring Wirral success rates in line with both regional and national benchmarks. Both regionally and national the advanced Apprenticeship success rate is 79.9 percent and 79.0 (2010/11) respectively.

Wirral Resident Young People aged 16 to 18 Participating in Further Education Level 3 Opportunities

- 2.13 Full level 3 success rates have improved year on year with 86 percent (2010/11) of learners, across both colleges, achieving a full level 3 qualification. For Wirral young people this is an improvement of 6.4 pts between 2008/09 and 2010/11.
- 2.14 Success rates in general for young people participating at both WMC and BSFC have been improving year on year. Overall since the 2008/09 academic year overall qualification success rates for Wirral resident young people participating at both WMC and BSFC have improved by 7.6 pts and 4.1 pts respectively. Both colleges compare favourably against regional and national success rate benchmarks for young people.
- 2.15 The level 3 performance of the Wirral further education (FE) sector includes predominantly Wirral young people that attend either Wirral Metropolitan College or Birkenhead Sixth Form College. However, the level 3 curriculum offered by the two colleges is hugely different. The curriculum offered by Birkenhead Sixth Form College (BSFC), in the main includes, more traditional AS and A2 qualifications with the vast majority of learners are aspiring to progress on to higher education programmes.
- 2.16 Wirral Metropolitan College (WMC) does not offer AS or A2 qualification but focus's on the delivery of a wide range of high quality vocational programmes at level 3 including BTEC National's. WMC are also the largest provider of Apprenticeship provision the borough.
- 2.17 Within the Wirral FE sector during the 2010/11 academic year some 1,162 young people started a full level 3 programme of study. There will have been significantly more young people at the end of the academic year however on full level 3 programme. This is due to the way the BTEC qualification system works with young people adding units to increase the breadth of their programme in year.

2.18 VULNERABLE YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTAINMENT AND PROGRESSION

This section of the report will describe how well Wirral vulnerable young people aged 16 to 24 are supported, achieve and progress. The report identifies four key vulnerable groups, these include; young parents, learners with learning difficulties and / or disabilities (LLDD), looked after children / care leavers and those known to the youth offending service.

Young Parents

Headline Performance Data for Teenage Parents

16-19 Teenage Mothers Performance	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
2011/12 16-19 TM 16-24 in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) % (Previous Year)	19.5%	20.3%	21.9%	20.6%
2012/13 16-19 TM 16-24 in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) %	22.1%	22.0%	22.1%	21.7%
16-19 TM Cohort	262	259	262	267
16-19 TM EET	58	57	58	58

(Source: GMCP, September 2012)

- 2.19 Data sourced from Greater Merseyside Connexions Partnership (GMCP) illustrates that for August 2012 there is a slight reduction in the numbers of 16 to 19 year old teenage mums in education, employment or training (EET) at 11.2 percent compared with 12.5 percent in August 2011. The numbers of teenage parents not in education, employment and training has increased from 50.9 percent in August 2011 to 57.3 percent in August 2012.
- 2.20 In Wirral, less than 5 percent of young people leaving education at 16 move into the 'Not in Education, Employment or Training' (NEET) group. However, in some parts of Birkenhead, the NEET Group accounts for over 17 percent of the population. Tranmere Community Project (TCP) is a recognised centre in Wirral for delivering programmes to young parents to be and young parents. TCP staff are working in schools and youth settings to deliver the STAR programme which helps young people consider the practical, emotional and financial pressures on young parents. TCP is also delivers a preparation for training programme to help 16 to 19 year olds be successful in their choice of training and employment.
- 2.21 The table below illustrates the retention and achievement rates of young mums attending TCP in each of the last 6 cohorts – at 62 percent and 85 percent respectively. In total across the 6 cohorts there have been 55 learners commencing the programme and 34 who completed.

Cohort	Enrolment	Retention	Achievement (Edexcel young parents to be qualification)	Comments
Oct 10	10	6	5 full award 1 unit credits	5 learners achieved Entry Level Several learners achieved 8+ credits (6 required) All learners on EMA
Jan 11	12		4 full award	Some level 1 option units

		4		achieved No EMA
Apr 11	8	5	4 full award 1 unit credits	Some level 1 option units achieved No EMA
Sept 11	7	5	5 full award	Level 1 Award
Jan 12	11	10	8 full award	Level 1 Award 1 continuing
Apr 12	7	4	3 full award	Level 1 Award
Totals	55	62%	85%	2 partial completion

(Source: TCP, June 2012)

- 2.22 September guarantee reporting by GMCP for 2012 has illustrated that WMC have also been actively worked with the NHS and other agencies to attract a significant number of young mums (circa 30+ aged 16 to 18) on to mainstream programmes in the College. It is hoped that this strategy will help to increase the numbers of teenage parents participating in education and training.

Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities (LLDD)

Headline Performance Data for young people LLDD

16-24 LDD Performance	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
2011/12 16-24 in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) % (Previous Year)	57.0%	55.1%	60.4%	60.1%
2012/13 16-24 LDD in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) %	60.6%	67.7%	67.1%	67.3%
16-24 LDD Cohort	1271	1109	1101	1096
16-24 LDD EET	770	751	739	738

(Source: GMCP, September 2012)

- 2.23 Overall the percentage of LLDD progressing in to employment, education and / or training (EET) is improving year on year. In July 2012 7.2 percent more LLDD cohort of young people were recorded as being in EET compared to the same counting period in 2011. Further work needs to be undertaken to develop provision for those young people with behavioural, social and emotional needs.
- 2.24 The LA and both FE Colleges (WMC and BSFC) have worked tirelessly to develop programmes and improve specialist facilities and support for LLDD young people post 16.
- 2.25 The LA has demonstrated significant leadership in bringing together a stronger multi agency approach to better align resources, expertise and opportunities for LLDD young people. Key partners include schools, the colleges, health colleagues and the NHS.
- 2.26 Improvements in the quality of local FE provision for learners with LDD has been key in terms of impacting on those learners and their parents that may have considered costly independent specialist provision (ISP) outside of the borough. Consequently, this has resulted in a continued reduction of out of area (ISP) numbers from 6 in

2010/11 to 4 in 2011/12. For 2012/13 the LA has received 5 applications of which 2 could potentially be educated locally.

Developed Education Provision to Support LLDD Young People

- 2.27 Wirral Metropolitan College offers courses for young adults and school leavers with learning difficulties. The supported entry level courses have a high level of support to enable learners to develop their independence, take responsibility for their choices and actions as well as develop the skills needed to work in an adult environment. All learners have additional tutorial support to help them keep on track and achieve their goals. Birkenhead Sixth Form College also organise integrated support at levels 1, 2 and 3 in vocational, GCSE, AS and A2 subjects.
- 2.28 There are a variety of training providers offering education and training opportunities under foundation learning in: Personal and Social Skills, Functional Skills, Maths, English & ICT, Construction – Bricklaying, joinery, plastering, Business Administration, Retail, Customer Service, Army Preparation, Sports and Leisure, Hair & Beauty, Motor Vehicle. The qualifications available are: BTEC, ASDAN and CG. There are also work placements and access to apprenticeship opportunities. Providers such as Shaw Trust aim to empower young people back into work or training and help them to live independently within the local community.

Your Future Your Choice Event

- 2.29 Now in its fourth year the Council has run the ‘**Your Future Your Choice**’ conference for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities. The event brings together the young people, their families and their teachers with a range of providers, both voluntary and statutory; in order that the young people could be fully informed of the options available to them post 16 and, therefore, make informed choices for their future. The event also targets LLDD NEET although numbers were slightly down against previous years. The working group who manage this event have agreed to work with partners and target NEET for this year’s event. The event took place on the 16th October 2012.
- 2.30 Overall numbers again increased against previous years and the event has proved extremely successful in providing information for parents and young people for transition to Post 16 education.

Children in Care (CiC)

Headline Performance Data for CiC

16-19 Care Leavers (CL) Performance	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
2011/12 16-19 CL in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) % (Previous Year)	49.7%	46.4%	48.4%	48.1%
2012/13 16-19 CL in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) %	58.8%	61.4%	60.9%	59.3%
16-19 CL Cohort	211	207	202	199
16-19 CL EET	124	127	123	118

(Source: GMCP, September 2012)

- 2.31 The Looked After Children Education Service in 2011/12 tracked and monitored 119 CiC young people in equivalent of academic years 12 to 14. In 2011/12 69 percent of the post 16 CiC engaged in some form of education or training during that academic year. More recent data from GMCP illustrates that a greater percentage of CiC are entering EET compared to the same period in the previous year.
- 2.32 Post 16 the key National Indicator and target in the current Children and Young People's Plan is 148. NI 148 is concerned with the percentage of Care leavers in education, employment or training at age 19. In this years counting period, 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013, there are currently 69 care leavers that the 14-19 Team are tracking and supporting. The 2012/13 target is to get 65 percent of this cohort in to EET. In 2011/12 52 percent of care leavers progressed to EET at age 19.
- 2.33 The August 2012 GMCP data illustrated that the percentage of Care Leavers who are engaged in employment, education and / or training (EET) has increased from August 2011 by 5.3 ppts to 33.2 percent. The percentage of care leavers who are NEET has decreased from 33.0 percent in August 2011 to 27.9 percent in August.
- 2.34 Significant investment has been put in by the Council to establish the CiC Employability Team. The team exists to offer mentoring type support and interventions to CiC and Care Leavers to ensure they make a successful transition in to post 16 education. Further detail regarding some of the specific interventions and progression model developed by this team can be made available.
- 2.35 Further work is needed in relation to the 2012 school leavers due early intelligence regarding the take up of post 16 opportunities.

Young Offenders

Headline Performance Data for Young People Known to the Youth Offending Service

10. 16-18 YOS Supervised Performance	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
2011/12 16-18 YOS in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) % (Previous Year)	43.8%	40.1%	38.3%	36.9%
2012/13 16-18 YOS in Employment Education and / or Training (EET) %	45.9%	43.6%	45.0%	42.7%
16-18 YOS Cohort	109	117	120	117
16-18 YOS EET	50	51	54	50

(Source: GMCP, September 2012)

- 2.36 GMCP data for August 2012 showed that the percentage of young offenders who were in education employment or training was 35.1 percent; this has increased by 8 ppts from 27.1 percent in 2011. The number of young offenders who are NEET has decreased dramatically from 35.7 percent in August 2011 to 19.1 percent in August 2012.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 The current spending freeze and ongoing budgetary concerns will impact on the following:-
- i. Numbers of Wirral young people NEET will start to increase if intervention activity ceases. Wirral NEET for the last twelve months has been consistently

holding its own against the backdrop of high youth unemployment (8.77% against the 2011 performance of 11.46%).

- ii. Ceasing to deliver interventions for NEET young people will impact on the LA's ability to deliver its new statutory duties in relation to Raising of the Participation Age 2013 and 2015.
- iii. The LA will not meet, what are already challenging, National Indicator targets for care leavers in EET at age 19.
- iv. The more vulnerable young people, for whom the LA has a statutory obligation to report on in term of participation, will be disadvantaged.

3.2 The 14-19 Team have completed and submitted expenditure authorisation forms in accordance with LA policy to continue NEET project activity.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 Not applicable.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Not necessary.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There will be funding implications for the voluntary, community and faith sector if the 14-19 'Get Involve' partnership delivered work experience programme for NEET young people aged 16 and 17 ceases to be supported.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 None.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Not applicable.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

(c) No because of another reason which is

This report is for information purposes only.

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 None.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 Report for information purposes only and members to note report content.

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 Not applicable.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date

APPENDIX 1.

The following table lists a few of the common level 3 qualifications and their point scores based on the QCA point score system as well as their size compared to an A level. Other approved qualifications at level 3 and their point scores can be found on the QCA website, www.ndaq.org.uk

Grade	Size ¹	Points	Grade	Size ¹	Points	Grade	Size ¹	Points
general/applied A level			general/applied AS			general/applied Double Award		
A	1	270	A	0.5	135	AA	2	540
B	1	240	B	0.5	120	AB	2	510
C	1	210	C	0.5	105	BB	2	480
D	1	180	D	0.5	90	BC	2	450
E	1	150	E	0.5	75	CC	2	420
						CD	2	390
						DD	2	360
						DE	2	330
						EE	2	300
BTEC National Award			BTEC National Certificate			BTEC National Diploma		
D	1	270	DD	2	540	DDD	3	810
M	1	225	DM	2	480	DDM	3	757.5
P	1	165	MM	2	420	DMM	3	705
			MP	2	360	MMM	3	652.5
			PP	2	300	MMP	3	600
						MPP	3	547.5
						PPP	3	495
Advanced Free Standing Maths			Level 3 Key Skill					
A	0.1667	45	P	0.3	63			
B	0.1667	40						
C	0.1667	35						
D	0.1667	30						
E	0.1667	25						
International Baccalaureate Diploma Passes (please note that no points are assigned to Post-16 students achieving IB certificates)								
	45			5				1380
	44			5				1350
	43			5				1320
	42			5				1290
	41			5				1260
	40			5				1230
	39			5				1200

38	5	1170
37	5	1140
36	5	1110
35	5	1080
34	5	1050
33	5	1020
32	5	990
31	5	960
30	5	930
29	5	900
28	5	870
27	5	840
26	5	810
25	5	780
24	5	750