

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD - 15 July 2014

Committing to Making a Difference in Wirral A targeted approach to service delivery :

1.0 Background

Overview – Strategic stakeholder event

Over 70 delegates from key partner organisations attended the strategic 'Committing to making a difference in Wirral' stakeholder event on 1st May. During the event partners were invited to pledge and commit to the 6 agreed principles to deliver Early Help, endorse the Regional Integrated Early Help Strategy, developed through the association of directors of children's services and to nominate representatives for a steering group to act on behalf of the represented organisations.

2.0 Themes and key points

The event was opened by Wirral Council Chief Executive, Graham Burgess. Presentations were delivered by, Clare Fish, Strategic Director Families and Wellbeing, Julia Hassall, Director of Children and Young People, Fiona Johnstone, Director of Public Health, Deborah Gornik, Head of Targeted Services and David Hollomby from School improvement team. All presentations were well received.

Delegates had the opportunity to discuss 6 key principles of Early Help for Wirral. Overall partners agreed that the principles were correct and covered the main areas of Early Help.

Delegates raised the importance of developing services round the needs of children and their families – rather than getting existing services to fit the needs and the importance of the role of a single key worker (lead professional) to act as one point of contact.

Delegates provided examples of what Early Help would look like if it was evident and working well in their organisations and across Wirral. Three main examples told us that there should be;

- **Less focus on assessment and more on support, intervention and outcomes.**

We should listen to families when they ask for help and the default should be to work with them to achieve what they think they should achieve and not give them services we think they need. Echo the need to focus on strengths and assets.

- **A strong focus on families.**

To do this we need better strategic and operational engagement with adult services. Adults can benefit from early help – intervention should be at the early stages of emergence of an issue.

- **We would use all opportunities to identify need hence aiding early identification and support.**

Two specific examples emerged linked to The Children and Families Act 2014. One example was the replacement of statements of special educational needs with education, health and care plans for 0 -25 yr old, which will give an opportunity to identify additional needs and be proactive in supporting families. The second was Young Carers, when a child is identified as a young carer, the needs of everyone in the family should be considered. This should trigger both children's and adults support services into action – assessing why a child is caring, what needs to change and what would help the family to prevent children from taking on this

responsibility in the first place. It is the responsibility of all agencies to identify young carers and talk to them about accessing services; previously it has been up to a family to request an assessment. This provides a further opportunity to offer early help, and an opportunity to engage with partners in adult services.

The session was eventful with energetic debate and encouraging engagement across the agenda.

3.0 Overview – Locality events

The event was followed by 3 locality events covering the four constituency areas during June. Combined attendance at the events saw over 150 participants from across the range of partners and stakeholders attend. The events were led by local partners and the Senior Locality Managers.

The approach provided delegates with the opportunity for partner organisations to understand the principles for Early Help and what they mean for Wirral families. The events started to identify suggested actions which will be fed back to the steering group for consideration in the action plan and confirmed the governance and quality assurance to link to the children's trust and local safeguarding children's board.

4.0 Next steps

- **Steering group** - A multi-agency steering group to act on behalf of the represented organisations will now be formed with the first meeting set for September (when our school colleagues are back)
- **Local action plan** - The development of a local plan and approach aligned to the Regional Integrated Early Help Strategy
- **Communication** - The development of a communication strategy

5.0 Recommendation:

The Board is asked to note the report.

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Appendices: Targeted Services Report
Stakeholder Event signed pledge

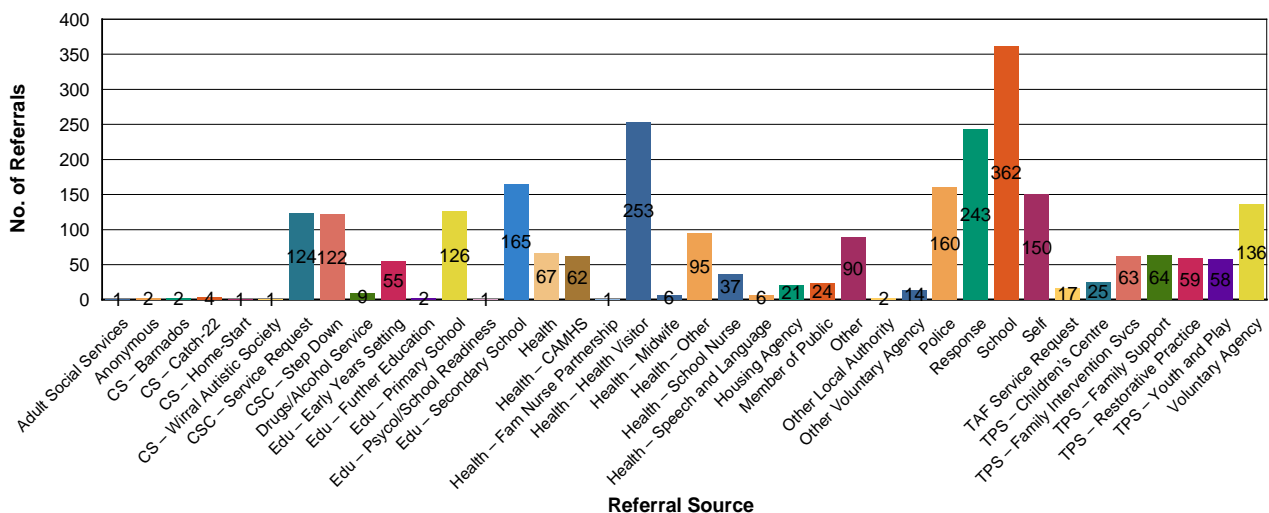
July 2014

Targeted Services Report.

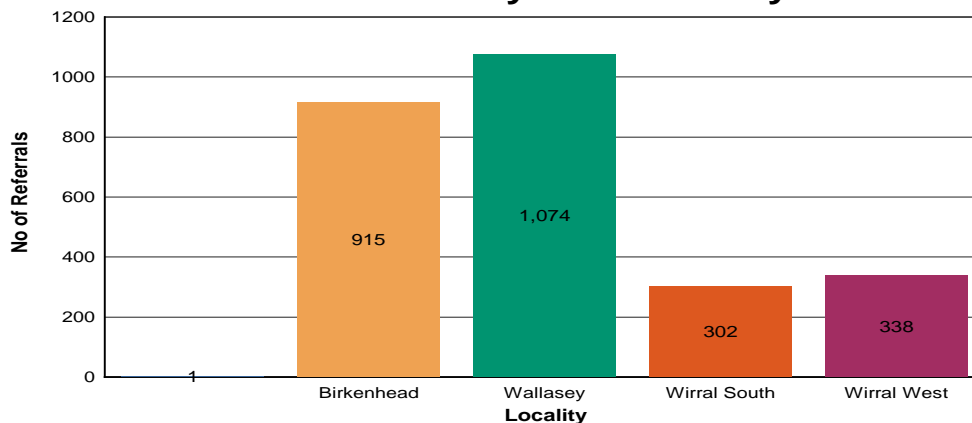
This brief report is a summary of activity of Targeted Services from the launch on 2nd September 2013 until 30th June 2014.

- There were 2,630 referrals into the Gateway during this period.
- Schools referred the greatest number of families (25%)
- 170 Multi Agency Family CAFs were completed representing 320 children aged 0 - 18 years
- There are a further 120 families children receiving support from team around the family as they no longer require statutory support from Children's specialist services.
- This, in addition to families already open to team around the child prior to the launch to targeted Services, brings the total no of families to 344 receiving support from Team Around the Family. This equates to 642 children.
- As part of the early help offer a further 2175 families are or have received a service from a single agency following referral to Gateway.
- This would include services from targeted family support service, which has completed 317 family CAFs accounting for 955 children.

Gateway Referrals by Referral Source



Referrals by Constituency



Cllr Tony Smith
Cabinet Member,
Wirral Council

John Martin
Chief Superintendent,
Merseyside Police

Anthony Hassall
Associate Director of Operations
Women and Children's,
NHS

Bernard Walker
Independent Chair,
Wirral's Local Safeguarding
Children Board

Graham Burgess
Chief Executive,
Wirral Council

Aileen Alexander
Team Leader,
Barnardos

Christine Berry
Healthwatch Senior Advocate,
Healthwatch

Bev Morgan
CEO,
Home Start Wirral

Clare Fish
Strategic Director
Families & Wellbeing,
Wirral Council

Sue Higginson
Principal & Chief Executive,
Wirral Met

Norma Currie
Commissioning Manager,
CCG

Keith Molony
Chief Executive,
Family Housing Association

Mary Quigg
Managing Director,
Leasowe Community Homes

Chris Allen
CEO

Jayne Winders
Executive Director,
Magenta Living

Zoe Munby
Director,
Birkenhead Foundation Tears Project

Steve Newsham
Regional Director West,
Regenda Housing

Stephen Dainty
Consultant Primary Headteacher,
Wirral Council

Simon Gilby
Chief Executive,
Wirral Community Trust

Iris Batman
Service Lead CAMHS Partnerships,
CWP

Phil Sheridan
Secondary Consultant Head Teacher,
Wirral Council

Paul Murphy
Group Manager,
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Lynn Loughran
Link Forum Co-ordinator,
Link Forum

Keith Billington
Senior Executive,
Connexions



THE PLEDGE

COMMITTING TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We, have signed this pledge to ensure that our people and our organisations work collaboratively to demonstrate our shared commitment to a Targeted Early Help approach and the key underpinning principles it represents.

We endorse the Regional Early Help Strategy to guide our work locally and will endeavour to ensure a preventative approach is embedded in all we do.

We will:

Local Solutions, Local Decisions

- Work with the whole family, ensuring they are central and key partners in processes that affect them
- Identify problems early and intervene quickly with effective solutions, at the right time, by the right organisation

Promoting Independence

- Promote early intervention and prevention, offering help to families with emerging problems to prevent them getting worse
- Help change behaviours and build resilience at a family and community level

Driving Growth and Aspiration

- Improve life chances and aspirations of children and families
- Provide responsive and flexible support based on 'what works' to ensure better outcomes for all, sharing learning so that what we do is based on good evidence

Underpinning and important to driving these key principles is developing services through effective commissioning.

Debbie Hammersley
Designated Nurse for
Safeguarding Children,
Wirral CCG

Dr Hamilton Grantham
Community Paediatrician,
NHS

Fiona Johnstone
Head of Policy & Performance/
Director of Public Health,
Wirral Council

Jane Kennedy
Police & Crime Commissioner
Merseyside

Richard Longster
Chair of Wirral Schools Forum

Julia Hassall
Director CYPD,
Wirral Council