

## **WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD – 31 March 2015**

### **Early Years, Children's Centres and Early Help - Update**

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#### **1.0 Background**

This agenda item provides the board with a brief update on three key areas related to early years, children's centres and early help.

#### **2.0 Early Years and Children's Centre Review**

A review of the Early Years and Children's Centre offer was directed by the Cabinet member for children and Young People's Services in April 2014. This was to respond to both required finance efficiencies of £2M (agreed in December 2013) and changes to National Guidance (April 2013)

The Performance Action Plan updates members of the Children's Trust Board on the outcome of the Early Year's and children's centre review and to advise that public consultation to progress the recommendations which will advise a future delivery approach for the early years and children's centre service will be required.

#### **3.0 Ofsted Outcome March 2015**

The Performance Action Plan updates members of the Children's Trust on the current position following the outcome of the Ofsted inspections of Birkenhead Children's Centre Cluster Group in May 2014 and West Wirral Children's Centre cluster Group in February 2015

#### **4.0 Early Intervention Maturity matrix Self-Assessment: Wirral Council**

At the 'committing to Making a Difference' Early Help event held on 1 May 2014 partners subscribed to the North West Regional Early help Strategy as an interim position allowing time for the development of a local strategy.

Senior leaders committed to the formation of an Early help Strategic Board which would oversee the development and implementation of a local Early Help Strategy underpinned by the principles of

##### **Local Solutions, Local Decisions**

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

##### **Promoting Independence**

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

##### **Driving growth and aspiration**

5. Improve life chances and aspirations of children and families
6. 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.

Ascertaining our current maturity and priorities for early help has been achieved through the completion of this matrix. A Task and Finish Group, reporting to the Early Help Strategic Board are using its findings to formulate a partnership Early Help Strategy for Wirral.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

**The Board is asked to note the report and appendices.**

**Report Author:**

Deborah Gornik  
Head of Targeted Services  
Children & Young People's Services

**Contact:**

[deborahgornik@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:deborahgornik@wirral.gov.uk)

**Appendices:**

**Performance Action Plan Outcome of Review**  
**Performance Action Plan Ofsted Outcome March 2015**  
**Early Intervention Maturity Matrix Self-Assessment: Wirral**