

Early Help and Prevention Strategy Update

1.0 Background and Introduction

This report is presented to Wirral LSCB to give an update on the position of progressing our Early Help and Prevention Strategy.

The Early Help Strategic Board has met frequently since September 2014 and has completed an Early Help Maturity Matrix (previously presented to the Board) which identified 6 work streams including a strand to develop an Early Help Strategy. A multi-agency group has met on 3 occasions to develop our Early Help vision and outline the framework for the strategy. This report briefly describes how the strategy will be developed and anticipated timescales.

2.0 The Vision and Proposed Content of the Strategy

The agreed vision for our Early Help and Prevention Strategy is:

Early Help is everybody's responsibility: together we will make sure that children, young people and their families are safe, happy and ready for school, work and life's challenges.

The main body of the strategy will consist of 3 sections: Help in the Earliest Stages of Life; Help in the Earliest Stages of a Problem; and Late Prevention. Each section will be underpinned with theoretical learning as to its importance and contain 4 key aspirations aligned with *Wirral Council Plan: A 2020 Vision* as follows:

Section A – Help in the Earliest Stages of Life

- (i) Children are ready for school
- (ii) Vulnerable children reach their full potential
- (iii) Reduce child and family poverty
- (iv) Zero tolerance to domestic violence

Section B – Help in the Earliest Stages of a Problem

- (i) Young people are ready for work and adulthood
- (ii) Zero tolerance to domestic violence
- (iii) Reduce child and family poverty
- (iv) Services are joined up and accessible

Section C – Late Prevention

- (i) Vulnerable children reach their full potential
- (ii) Young people are ready for work and adulthood
- (iii) Zero tolerance to domestic violence
- (iv) Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe

Under each of the 4 pledges made in every section we are agreeing ambitions and plans as a partnership to fulfil them. This will then form the basis of an Early Help and Prevention

Development Plan which will be monitored by the Early Help Strategic Board. It is noted that some pledges appear in more than one section which reflects the relevance of that issue across the different stages.

3.0 Working Together to Develop the Strategy

On 4th August 2015 a series of workshops were held to focus on each section of the strategy. 45 partners attended contributing to our local approach. These workshops were facilitated by members of the Early Help Strategic Board.

A follow up multi-agency workshop will be held at the start of October. Partners will be forwarded an electronic draft strategy in advance. The purpose of this workshop is to finalise the pledges and confirm the content of the development plan. The final draft will be presented to the LSCB and Children's Trust in August/September 2015, with publication and an official launch planned for 19th October 2015.

Elected Members will be sent an open invitation to attend the multi-agency workshop.

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Appendices: N/A