

Wirral Children's Joint Commissioning Group

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

Wirral's Strategy for Children, Young People and Families aims to deliver three Wirral 2020 Vision pledges:

- Children are ready for school
- Young people are ready for work and adulthood
- Vulnerable children reach their full potential

The strategy commits all partners in Wirral to a shared set of outcomes for children and young people, to maximising the joint use of budgets, buildings, people and any other resources to achieve these common goals.

The strategy sets out an ambitious but realistic plan for the future based on insight, in particular what children, young people and families have said what matters to them. It is underpinned with sound evidence and a good understanding of where significant impact can be made through working better together to maximise the resources in Wirral, and where helpful, across the region.

Partnership vision and principles

Our ambition is to enable every child, young person and their family to lead good and fulfilling lives, where children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and fulfil their dreams.

To achieve the vision the partnership commits to the following principles:

- Work to a common purpose on behalf of the children young people and families of Wirral rather than individual organisational interest, building mutual trust, respect and openness;
- Take shared responsibility for decisions, giving each other permission to innovate and do things differently to achieve shared goals;
- Ensure all commissioning activity is focused on improving outcomes for children, young people and families;
- Design services based on what children, young people and families tell us works, informed by insight on local needs and evidence of best practice;
- Join up services in new, innovative ways across the local public sector to reduce waste and duplication, identify and close gaps and optimise the use of our collective resources to create greater impact;
- Work together to secure a stable, vibrant and diverse community voluntary and faith sector across the borough;
- Communicate well with each other and share information to enable and inform the right decisions;
- Recognise and use technology in the right way to benefit our children and families;

- Monitor the impact of our strategy through the voice of our children, young people and families so that more tell us – “I tell my story once”; “people do what they say they will do”; “I work with a key person who I trust”;
- Operate to ensure the statutory duties of partners are complied with and that any associated risks relating to these are understood and shared across partners;
- Seek to maximise impact and value for money through integrated commissioning, joint delivery, co-located working and other innovative approaches that draw on the collective resources across the partnership;
- Work flexibly and creatively, following through on agreed actions in a timely way, adapting plans and activities to changing circumstances and supporting each other through change;
- Ensure the CYPF Strategy and the resulting commissioning framework is strategically and operationally aligned with the Wirral 2020 pledge underpinning strategies such as the All Age Disability, Improving Life Chances and Early Help and Prevention Strategies, the Growth Strategy and the Health and Well-Being Strategy.

Role and purpose

The core purpose of the Children’s Joint Commissioning Group (CJCG) is to ensure the effective implementation of the commissioning activity required to deliver the ambition set out in the Children, Young People and Families Strategy (CYPF Strategy). The CJCG will oversee and monitor the commissioning framework and associated action plans required to translate the ambitions in the strategy into action, providing leadership and where necessary, challenge to partners across Wirral to secure sustained, measurable improvements in outcomes for children and young people.

The CJCG must ensure that all commissioning activity takes into account the need to safeguard children and young people, including actively contributing to Wirral’s strategies to tackle child sexual exploitation, Zero Tolerance of domestic abuse and drug and alcohol misuse.

The CJCG will be responsible for publishing a Joint Strategic Commissioning Framework that will set out how partners will co-operate to improve the well-being of children, young people and families in Wirral.

Membership

The members of the CJCG will be of a senior level within their respective organisations, and have the ability to make decisions and escalate issues as appropriate. Members will be responsible for ensuring compliance with their organisation’s governance arrangements. They will also be responsible for disseminating to and from their own organisations, departments or professional groups.

Chair: Director of Children’s Services

Deputy: Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group senior representative

Membership organisations:

- Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
- Merseyside Office of Crime Commissioner
- Schools' representation by invitation dependent on agenda items
- Wirral Council - Public Health
- Wirral Council – Children's Social Care,
- Wirral Council - Early Help and Prevention,
- Wirral Council - Schools' Commissioning
- Wirral Safeguarding Children Board Chair
- Chief Executive, Community Action Wirral

The CJCG shall be quorate if representatives from at least 3 partner organisations are present at the meeting.

Frequency of Meetings

The CJCG will meet bi-monthly. A forward plan of work will be maintained and discussed as an agenda item at each meeting, enabling members to add to the agenda as required.

Governance and Accountability

Partners across the borough have agreed that the Wirral Plan and the priorities set out within it form a single collective view for the borough. Strategies such as the Children, Young People and Families will be combined with robust commissioning frameworks, action plans and new ways of partnership working to enable the most efficient and effective use of resources to achieve shared goals.

Wirral's Health and Well-Being Board has made an unequivocal commitment to improving the health and well-being of children and young people in the borough which is closely aligned with the Wirral Plan and its underpinning strategies as follows:

| Health & Well Being Priority | Wirral Plan Pledges | Wirral Plan Strategy | Partnership |
|---|--|--|--|
| A positive Start to Life | Children are ready for school | Children, Young People and Families Strategy | Children's Joint Commissioning Group HWB Board lead: Julia Hassall, DCS |
| | Young people are ready for work and adulthood | | |
| | Vulnerable children reach their full potential | | |
| | Reduce child poverty | Improving Life Chances Strategy | Child Poverty Steering Group HWB Board lead: Fiona Johnstone, DPH |

The CJCG is the most appropriate partnership to lead on the CYPF Strategy. The Health and Well-Being Board can call the delivery of the CYPF strategy to account, reviewing performance against the CYPF commissioning framework. In support of this the Health and Well-Being Board can make things happen by unblocking barriers to partnership working as and when these arise. The CYPF Strategy will be reported to the Health and Well-Being Board by exception.

Monitoring and Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually to ensure the partnership's vision of integrated, joined up provision is being supported, underpinned and delivered through the joint working arrangements set out here.