

**Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Tuesday, 14 November 2017**

REPORT TITLE:	2017/18 Quarter 2 Wirral Plan Performance
REPORT OF:	Director: Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the 2017/18 Quarter 2 (July - September 2017) performance report for the Wirral Plan pledges under the remit of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The report, which is included as Appendix 1, provides a description of the progress in Quarter 2 as well as providing available data in relation to a range of outcome indicators and supporting measures.

Quarter Two Wirral Plan Performance Summary

- At Early Years Foundation Stage the % of children achieving a good level of development has shown a slight drop in performance from the previous year, now at 69.4% compared to previous year 69.6%. In addition the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving a Good Level of Development is 21.4% which is an increase in the gap of 3.4% from the previous year (18%). A wide range of targeted support and intervention is in place for schools to support children, particularly vulnerable groups.
- Both health visitor reviews at 12 months and 2-2½ years have improved since the previous quarter illustrating that the engagement with parents to inform service developments has increased uptake.
- The % of infants who received a 6-8 week Development Check by the time they were 8 weeks shows a slight drop in performance from Quarter 4 2016-17. The reviews are completed by GPs and practices vary in their approach to completing these within the timeframe. An initial meeting has taken place with GP colleagues to look at how the improvements made in Health Visiting reviews completed can be replicated.
- At Key Stage 1 more children met the expected standard this year for attainment in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM) combined. The improvement of 4% in RWM mirrors broadly the national picture but attainment remains below the national average, although the gap has slightly narrowed.
- At Key Stage 2 more children met the expected standard in reading and writing and mathematics (RWM) than last year. The increase of 8% (49% to 57%) broadly mirrors the national picture of improvement. However attainment remains below the national average by 4%.

- At Key Stage 2 the achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the 'expected standard' in English, reading, English writing and mathematics has reduced by 3.7% from the previous year which is a positive result.
- Latest published data for the % of permanent exclusions in Wirral secondary schools have increased compared to previous year data. Discussions have taken place with the Regional Schools commissioner regarding the increasing number of permanent exclusions in academies. All exclusions are being closely monitored by the Local Authority (LA) and schools challenged appropriately.
- Wirral continues to support a large population of children looked after; the rate has increased and is over 100 higher than at the start of the previous year. A workgroup of senior officers is working to ensure key strategies are put in place to a) provide support aimed at preventing admissions to care and b) ensure that children only remain in care for as long as necessary, and that timely reunification to birth families or extended family members is achieved.
- There has been an overall decline in the Child Protection Plan rate over the last 12 months and work is underway to ensure effective review of these cases.
- The % of repeat referrals to children's social care has shown continuing decrease and is similar to the most recently available statistical neighbour value.
- Reporting at quarter two continues to illustrate the complex picture of Domestic Abuse in Wirral. The launch of the Safer Wirral Hub is enabling an improved multi-agency approach to embed our zero tolerance approach across Wirral.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the content of the report and highlights any areas requiring further clarification or action.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to scrutinise the performance of the Council and partners in relation to delivering the Wirral Plan.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report has been developed in line with the approved performance management framework for the Wirral Plan. As such, no other options were considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Wirral Plan is an outcome-focussed, partnership plan which has 18 supporting strategies that set out how each of the 20 pledges will be delivered. For each pledge, a partnership group has been established to drive forward delivery of the action plans set out in each of the supporting strategies.
- 3.2 A Wirral Plan Performance Management Framework has been developed to ensure robust monitoring arrangements are in place. The Wirral Partnership has a robust approach to performance management to ensure all activity is regularly monitored and reviewed.
- 3.3 Data for the identified indicators is released at different times during the year. As a result of this, not all Pledges will have results each quarterly reporting period. Some indicators can be reported quarterly and some only on an annual basis. Annual figures are reported in the quarter they become available against the 2017/18 year end column.
- 3.4 For each of the indicators, a trend is shown (better, same or worse). In most cases, this is determined by comparing the latest data with the previous reporting period i.e. 2016/17 year end. In some cases, i.e. where data accumulates during the year or is subject to seasonal fluctuations, the trend is shown against the same time the previous year. This is indicated in the key at the end of the report.
- 3.5 For some indicators, targets have been set. Where this is the case, a RAGB (red, amber, green, blue) rating is provided against the target and tolerance levels set at the start of the reporting period, with blue indicating performance targets being exceeded.
- 3.6 All Wirral Plan performance reports are published on the performance page of the Council's website. This includes the high level Wirral Plan overview report and the detailed pledge reports which include updates on progress on all activities set out in the supporting strategy action plans. The link to this web page is set out below:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/about-council/council-performance>

3.7 Each of the Wirral Plan Pledges has a Lead Commissioner responsible for overseeing effective delivery. The Lead Commissioners for the Pledges in the report at Appendix 1 are as follows:

- Children are Ready for School – Deborah Gornik
- Children are Ready for Work and Adulthood – Deborah Gornik
- Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential – Deborah Gornik
- Reducing Child and Family Poverty (Improving Life Chances) – Fiona Johnstone
- People with Disabilities live Independent Lives – Graham Hodgkinson
- Zero Tolerance to Domestic Violence – Mark Smith

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The performance management framework is aligned to the Council's risk management strategy and both are regularly reviewed as part of corporate management processes

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The priorities in the Wirral Plan pledges were informed by a range of consultations carried out in 2015 and 2016 including the Wirral resident survey.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Wirral Plan equality impact assessment can be found at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2014-15/chief>

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Plan – 2017/18 Quarter 2 Pledge Reports

REFERENCE MATERIAL

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	8 September 2016
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	28 November 2016
People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	23 March 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	20 June 2017
Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee	26 September 2017