

Appendix 1

Wirral Plan Environment Theme 2018-19 Quarter 4 Reports



Leisure and cultural opportunities for all

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Leisure Strategy:

Wirral received the Best Performer Award for Parks, Open Spaces and Horticulture at the 2018 National APSE Awards this quarter which takes our total number of national quality awards up to 32, 3 more than the start of the year and 10 more than the start of the plan.

The Parks, Coasts and Countryside Team work to create 12, virtual 'measured mile routes' in 12 parks, coast and countryside sites across Wirral has now been completed. The interactive trails can be found on our website here: <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/leisure-parks-and-events/parks-and-open-spaces/walking-miles-wirral>

It's positive news that Birkenhead Park received £20,900 funding from Public Health to continue delivering its Forest School programme into 2019-20. A total of £1,700 was also raised through the Police Commissioning Group (PCG) for the Pathfinders Project at 3 schools during Q4.

The National Citizens Service Contract for Summer 2019 Delivery has also been signed and the team have already been into 10 schools plus held a 'keep warm' event in Weatherhead where 56 young people attended. 200 Young people have been assigned to the Wirral programme for Summer 2019 and the process has started to recruit 39 staff.

All practices involved in the physical activity pilot have been introduced to Community Action Wirral and the local leisure service offer. The pilot, as it currently stands, will not continue and a process evaluation will be provided by Public Health. There are opportunities with place based care to scale up personalised care across neighbourhoods with a focus on our population groups who are living with long term condition's. Linking health and care into our communities is integral to this work and leisure should be known to all neighbourhoods.

Culture Strategy:

The 2018 Imagine Wirral programme has now concluded, with over 250,000 participants in the events and exhibitions overall and an estimated economic impact of over £4million. Over 600 volunteers have participated in our events during 2018, and this quarter, we saw an increase in volunteer numbers year-on-year for our annual River of Light event.

Approximately £150k was secured from external funders for the 2018 Imagine Wirral programme. Plans are in place to secure funding again for Wirral's 2019 Borough of Culture Year. An Arts Council England bid was submitted at the end of Q3 and a commercial approach is also in development to generate income from the private sector.

We have now announced some key highlights from our 2019 programme which include specially commissioned outdoor spectacles, visual arts and heritage exhibitions, family festivals and waterfront celebrations, classical and new music events and community projects. The programme was previewed for stakeholders at Lady Lever Art Gallery in November and generated positive coverage from local and regional media. A media briefing with key print and broadcast media is scheduled for the start of Q4 to outline the programme to support coverage of our tenure as Borough of Culture.

The Culture and Visitor Economy Team worked throughout Q3 and throughout 2019 with a range of key stakeholders from across Wirral, including members of the Wirral Cultural Partnership, the Liverpool City Region and beyond to develop and put in place the building blocks for the delivery of the Borough of Culture programme in 2019.

Throughout Q3 we have continued to engage local businesses, including creatives, providing opportunities to be involved in our events which this quarter have included the Wilfred Owen Commemoration and River of Light. This is continuing through the planning for our Borough of Culture programme.

Four 'think tank' events were advertised at the end of Q3 to take place in January to ensure wider engagement and foster new partnerships among local creative individuals and organisations, communities and volunteering and heritage.

At a city region level, as part of the LCR Culture and Creativity Strategy and through our Borough of Culture status, we will host the first LCR Cultural Awards, celebrating fantastic arts and culture projects across the region and formally closing our Borough of Culture year. We are also participating in discussions with each of the boroughs for a new city region project, which follows the success of the Lost Castles project.

Work is continuing on the 'meanwhile use' creative hub and a new music venue in Birkenhead which would benefit local cultural and creative organisations. The review of leisure and culture assets also continues, with significant consideration being given to establish robust solutions for future delivery.

Wirral Metropolitan College remains committed to supporting Wirral's Culture Strategy and is establishing new cultural degree programmes and encouraging participation among student cohorts. WMC is engaging College Alumni as role models and champions for local talent to raise aspirations around careers in the arts, culture, heritage and tourism sectors.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of people who regularly use the boroughs parks and open spaces	Annual Higher is better	67% (Oct 2015)		66% (Dec 2017)						n/a	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they use the boroughs parks and green spaces at least once a month decreased slightly from 67% reported in the previous survey in 2016 but not enough to be deemed as statistically significant.
Increase the number of events in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces	Quarterly Higher is better	300 (2014-15)		363 (2017-18)	128 (Q1 2018-19)	297 (Q2 2018-19)	327 (Q3 2018-19)	378 (Q4 2018-19)	378 (Q4 2018-19)	Better	51 events were held in Wirral's Parks, Beaches and Open Spaces in Q4 2018-19, which is 5 more than during the same quarter last year. The cumulative total this year is 378, which is 15 more than the previous year.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of national quality awards for Wirral's parks, coastal sites and open spaces: Green Flags	Annual Higher is better	22 (2015-16)		29 (2017-18)					32 (2018-19)	Better	Wirral has now received 32 national quality awards, 3 more than the start of the year and 10 more than the start of the plan. These include 27 Green Flag Awards, Country Park Accreditation for Wirral Country Park, 2 Charters for the Bereaved – Silver Award for Burials, Gold Award for Cremations at Landican and the APSE (Association of Public Sector Excellence) Best Service Team for Cemeteries and Crematorium, and a Best Performer Award for Parks, Open Spaces and Horticulture at the 2018 National APSE Awards.
Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons	Annual Higher is better	20.7% (2013-14)	England: 17.9% (Mar 15-Feb 16) North West: 17.5% (Mar 15-Feb 16)	23.4% (Mar 15-Feb 16)						n/a	Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise / health reasons continues to improve on the baseline figure from the start of the plan and is also performing considerably better than North West and nationally despite decreasing since the previous period. It's worth noting that there is a time lag for this data which comes from the Public Health Outcomes Framework. The data released in quarter 1 was for March 2015 to February 2016. Also, the data comes from a relatively small sample size (less than 100) which may not give an accurate representation of overall activity in Wirral. This measure should therefore be viewed alongside other data for an overall picture of progress.
Increase the number of residents who say they regularly volunteer / support community groups in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	26% (Oct 2015)		24% (Dec 2017)						n/a	The percentage of Wirral Residents who say they volunteer at least once a month has decreased from 26% reported in the previous survey in 2016. The volunteering includes having given unpaid help either by taking part in or supporting any group, club or organisation (e.g. helping to run an activity/event, coaching, counselling, raising money, admin help).

Wirral residents live healthier lives

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

The latest figures for admission episodes for alcohol related conditions shows Wirral has improved to 859 episodes per 100,000 population in 2017-18 from 889 in 2016-17. The new specification for the upcoming Specialist Adult Drug and Alcohol Treatment service tender is being finalised with the process starting at the end of May. This will require the next service provider to put greater emphasis on engaging with hazardous and harmful alcohol users, as well as those who are dependent, establishing greater links with GP practices.

The Reduce the Strength (RTS) scheme has now signed up over 100 businesses across Wirral. An evaluation of the project showed that the majority of areas where alcohol related hospital admissions have increased are in West Wirral whereas in Birkenhead, where RTS retailers are concentrated, there is only one LSOA (out of 17) that has experienced a large percentage increase. The Hamilton Square LSOA (with several homeless hostels in the vicinity) has until recently had one of the highest high rates of hospital admissions in Wirral. It is now showing one of the largest percentage decreases. This was the first area in Wirral which RTS was introduced.

Wirral services continue to carry out a high number of interventions offering brief advice ensuring that the key messages about safer drinking/risks of alcohol harm are being consistently fed into the population's awareness. Wirral Ways to Recovery, Community Pharmacies, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Cheshire & Wirral Partnership and Wirral University Teaching Hospital have joined forces to increase the quantity and ensure the quality of the IBA interventions being delivered on Wirral and John Moores University are working with Public Health to support the efficiency of the collection and collation of this data.

Our commissioned services continue to perform well. 21 more people engaged in the process of stopping smoking by Q3 2018-19 when compared to same period last year, 45 more people have continued to stop smoking 4 weeks after deciding to quit and 226 more people were helped to lose weight by Q4 2018-19 when compared to last year. In contrast 6 less pregnant women were helped to stop smoking. This is an area of focus in the 2019-20 Healthier Lives action plan.

Work is continuing around Smoking in Pregnancy (SiP) both at a local and Cheshire & Merseyside level. Focus groups with both Wirral providers & women who opt out of smoking cessation support will take place over the next couple of months. At a Cheshire and Merseyside level, Public Health will continue to support the Local Maternity System by working with the Innovation Agency to develop key principles for the Cheshire & Merseyside SiP action plans. In March 2019 Public Health took an update on Smokefree Wirral (Tobacco Control Strategy) to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee which was well received and have been invited back to discuss the CLearR report. ABL, Wirral's Stop Smoking Service, hosted a e-cig event with guest speakers on 11th March 2019, this was open to all health and care practitioners.

142 community blood pressure tests were carried out during Q4. Community events included West Kirby Concourse, The Oval and Woodchurch Leisure Centre. A 2 year training programme, delivered by the British Heart Foundation, which aims to scale up blood pressure checks across the local system is starting in May. The target is to recruit 250 health and wellbeing champions/workplace champions and to date 80 people have signed up to the training for Year 1 over 6 training sessions.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Admission episodes for alcohol related conditions	Annual Lower is better	853.0 (2013-14)	England: 632.0 (2017-18) North West: 700.0 (2017-18)	889.0 (2016-17)					859.0 (2017-18)	Better	There is a 12 month time lag on validated data being released. This data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework relates to 2017-18. Performance has improved year on year since 2015-16 (901). Wirral's Alcohol Strategy sets out an action plan for continuing to reduce alcohol consumption to improve public health outcomes.
Smoking prevalence in adults (age 18 and over) in Wirral	Annual Lower is better	17.2% (2014)	England: 14.9% (2017) North West: 16.1% (2017)	15.7% (2016)					15.9% (2017)	Worse	After a period with a substantial reduction of people smoking across Wirral, smoking prevalence has increased slightly from 15.7% 2015 to 15.9% in the latest (2017) Public Health Outcomes Framework Annual Population Survey. Smoking prevalence across Wirral has improved significantly since the start of the plan however this is an average for the borough, we still have areas of the borough with smoking rates above 30%, it is these areas that activity will focus on. There is a time lag on this data and the latest data available is for 2017. The Smoke Free Wirral Strategy sets out an action plan for the borough to tackle smoking prevalence and the local provider for stop smoking services has been working with GPs and practice nurses to improve referral pathways for their services.
Excess weight in adults	Annual Lower is better	66.2% (2012-14)	England: 61.3% (2016-17) North West: 63.3% (2016-17)	59.6% (2015-16)					63.3% (2016-17)	Worse	Excess weight in Adults has worsened from 59.6% in 2015-16 to 63.3% in 2016-17. Wirral is in line with the rest of the North West and slightly above the National average.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Smoking status at time of delivery	Annual Lower is better	13.9% (2014-15)	England: 10.8% (2017-18) North of England: 13.4% (2017-18)	12.0% (2016-17)					13.5% (2017-18)	Worse	Smoking at time of delivery has worsened from 12% in 2016-17 to 13.5% in 2017-18 and is higher than the Northwest and National Average. Addressing smoking in pregnancy has been a priority recently in the Tobacco Strategy. ABL stationed an adviser at Wirral University Teaching Hospital to increase engagement with pregnant women and midwifery team and address the high attrition rate from the number of referrals to the number of women engaged with the stop smoking service. Public Health also led a Pregnancy workshop to bring together partners across Cheshire & Merseyside and as a result Wirral has an established Smoking in Pregnancy working group (which includes Clinical Commissioning Group, both maternity providers and ABL) that have developed a delivery action plan.
Number of smokers helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		3,063 (2017-18)	767 (Q1 2018-19)	1,471 (Q2 2018-19)	2,136 (Q3 2018-19)			n/a	Our commissioned service helped 21 more people engage in the process of stopping smoking by Q3 2018-19 when compared to same period last year. There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of smokers still quit at 4 weeks	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		1,502 (2017-18)	368 (Q1 2018-19)	718 (Q2 2018-19)	1,048 (Q3 2018-19)			n/a	45 more people have continued to stop smoking 4 weeks after deciding to quit by Q3 2018-19 when compared to the same period last year. There is a 6 week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of pregnant women helped to stop smoking	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		50 (2017-18)	18 (Q1 2018-19)	29 (Q2 2018-19)	34 (Q3 2018-19)			n/a	29 pregnant women were helped to stop smoking by Q3 2018-18. (89 pregnant women had set a quit date.) This is 1 less than the 30 helped in the same period last year. There is a week follow up period which delays the provision of this data therefore the data is reported a quarter behind.
Number of people helped to lose weight	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		1,971 (2017-18)	604 (Q1 2018-19)	988 (Q2 2018-19)	1,496 (Q3 2018-19)	2,044 (Q4 2018-19)	2,044 (2018-19)	Better	226 more people were helped to lose weight by Q4 2018-19 (2,044) compared to 1,818 helped in the same period last year. An increase in the number of people eating healthily in Wirral should reduce the prevalence of excess weight and obesity which is a key contributor to premature mortality and avoidable ill health.
Successful completion of drug treatment - opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 6.1% (Feb 18 - Jan 19)	7.5% (2017-18)	6.4% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)	6.1% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)	6.1% (Feb 18 - Jan 19)			n/a	6.1% of opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment from February 2018 to January 2019 compared with 6.1% from November 2017 to October 2018 and 7.2% during the same period last year. Wirral was the same as the National Average (6.1%).
Successful completion of drug treatment - non-opiate users	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 37.8% (Feb 18 - Jan 19)	54.4% (2017-18)	56.1% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)	59.0% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)	57.6% (Feb 18 - Jan 19)			n/a	57.6% of non-opiate users successfully completed their drug treatment from February 2018 to January 2019, a decrease from both 59% from November 2017 to October 2018 and 52.1% from the same period last year. Wirral is performing much better than both the National average (37.8%).
Successful completion of alcohol treatment	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)	England: 38.9% (Feb 18 - Jan 19)	43.2% (2017-18)	40.0% (Jul 17 - Jun 18)	38.3% (Nov 17 - Oct 18)	39.2% (Feb 18 - Jan 19)			n/a	39.2% of people successfully completed their alcohol treatment from February 2018 to January 2019. This is more than 38.3% from November 2017 to October 2018 but less than 43% from the same period last year. Wirral is performing slightly worse than the National average (38.9%).

Community services are joined up and accessible

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Wirral Together continues to progress with the development of the priority deals for health and wellbeing, environment, economy and children and families.

Environment: Environmental conference planned for February 28th 2019 focusing on celebrating and protecting our environment. Schedule of events relating to the environment deal to be developed for Spring 2019.

Economy: Work has been done with Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES) on engaging with local people and businesses around wealth creation. This CLES work will support the development of the economy priority deal.

Health and Wellbeing: Steering group established including representatives from the wider health and care system. Partnership developed with Hitch, local behaviour change company, to develop the deal in an innovative way. Dedicated engagement with ongoing teams across the system to gather insight into workforce development.

Families: A series of 'Moonshot' events over the Summer engaging with over 300 people at the Hive looking at how services are delivered. A Youth Voice Conference is planned in February 2019 as a platform for engaging with young people. Development of linkages across the other 3 priority deals, getting young people involved in shaping Wirral Together as a whole.

Workforce Development: Awarded £3000 funding by NHS North West Leadership Academy for Wirral Partners to develop Organisational Development work across the Partnership. This will involve Health Sector Organisational Development leads visiting places of interest to share best practice.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase the number of residents who say they regularly volunteer / support community groups in Wirral	Annual Higher is better	26% (Nov 2015)		24% (Dec 2017)						n/a	Latest data is from the 2017 Wirral Residents Survey.

Good quality housing that meets the needs of residents

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

Progress has been made regarding key priorities during quarter three of 2018/19 and the detailed actions which support them. An overview of these key priorities is provided below.

Building more homes in Wirral to meet our economic growth ambitions

Actions which remain green this quarter include:

- A cumulative total of 370 affordable homes, which includes 209 Help to Buy units were completed by the end of quarter 4. It is expected that activity will accelerate mid-programme, as a total of 439 affordable homes, excluding Help to Buy, commenced construction in 2018-19. In quarter 4 alone, 142 affordable units started on site. This is a lot higher than was anticipated due to greater investment confidence from Registered Providers.

- Homes England approved the Housing Infrastructure Fund award to support housing development at Wirral Waters in November 2018. The funding will enable some 1,000 new homes to be built on brownfield sites as a first phase of residential development. A grant funding agreement is being progressed with Homes England.

Exception / Risk

- The action for Cabinet Approval of the final Core Strategy Local Plan and submission to Secretary of State is off track and will not deliver on time. The Council remains under the threat of intervention by Government regarding progress in producing its Local Plan. The Council is fully committed to delivering a high quality Local Plan within the shortest possible timescale; the timeline submitted with the Action Plan commits the Council to submitting the Local Plan to the Secretary of State in November 2020. A Local Plan Programme Board meets weekly to monitor progress.

Improving the quality of Wirral's housing offer for our residents

Three actions under this priority have now completed, and the remaining two outstanding actions under this priority are identified as green and making good progress. Examples include:

- Energy Projects Plus (EPP) provided energy efficiency advice to 85 households in Q4 through the new contract with Wirral Council. Advice provided includes that on energy use behaviour, changing energy suppliers and onward referrals to other EPP projects for energy efficiency measures or fuel debt advice. Through other projects, EPP visited 383 households of which 28 households benefited from emergency fuel credit, nine households received water debt relief, five replacement boilers were installed, eleven households received white goods where needed and households received £14,379 of easy measures (e.g. LED bulbs).

- Electronic Care Planning with domiciliary care providers has been launched in line with the new domiciliary care commission. All primary and secondary providers will use the system and it is anticipated that peripheral providers will also adopt the system as service user numbers increase. In addition, over 1200 falls risk assessments using Safe Steps have been completed for over 700 residents in care homes. Recorded falls have fallen by 28%.

Meeting the needs of our most vulnerable people to enable them to live independently

All but two of the outstanding actions under this priority are identified as green and are making good progress. One action completed in quarter 4. Examples include:

In progress

- Liverpool City Region (LCR) local authorities responded to a Central Government invitation to bid for funding to enhance accommodation-based supported housing provision for victims of domestic abuse. The LCR successful submission is to improve access to the private-rented sector to help 30 male and female victims of domestic abuse and to ensure that children of victims are able to access relevant therapeutic services. Housing First model for assisting rough sleeper clients is currently in implementation stage for test and learn to go live by May 2019. LCR officers group secured funding for enhanced homeless services. Housing First Service level agreement signed with Combined Authority and recruitment process has begun for enhanced triage, private rented sector programme and debt advice services. Domestic Abuse Service is now live and accepting referrals, with publicity material having been issued early-April 2019.

Completed

- Relevant stakeholders were initially contacted to make them aware of the new duty to refer, as set out in the Homeless Reduction Act. Meetings have taken place with agencies to discuss the referral mechanism and the relevant section of Wirral Council's website has been updated to reflect this duty. A number of follow up meetings and specific training sessions with relevant agencies are scheduled to ensure they are aware of their obligation to refer those at risk of homeless or who are homeless to the Housing Options Service.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
3,500 new homes will be built by 2020	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		1,752 (2015-18)					Amber Actual: 2,368 Target: 2,626 (Feb 2019)	Better	This is a provisional figure based on Building Control and Council Tax notifications to the end of February 2019. The final figure will be higher and will be reported at the same time as the Local Development Framework Annual Monitoring Report in Autumn 2019, following completion of site visits and further Building Control notification reports. At this stage, the estimated figure is less than the target however there is still one full month of completions to confirm.
Improve 2,250 private sector properties	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		1,535 (2016-18)					Over Achieving Actual: 2,220 Target: 1,810 (2016-19)	Better	This measure has been over performing and is likely to be exceeding targets with a significant number of the improvements made through the targeted work of the Selective Licencing scheme.
Bring 1,250 empty properties back into use	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		887 (Dec 2015-Mar 2018)	Green Actual: 955 Target: 932 (Dec 2015-Jun 2018)	Green Actual: 1,012 Target: 977 (Dec 2015-Sep 2018)	Green Actual: 1,090 Target: 1,022 (Dec 2015-Dec 2018)	Over Achieving Actual: 1,252 Target: 1,082 (Dec 2015-Mar 2019)	Over Achieving Actual: 1,252 Target: 1,082 (Dec 2015-Mar 2019)	Better	This measure is over performing and has exceeded targets, although the focus next year will be the problematic 2 year + empty properties that are considerably more difficult to bring back into use, so outputs are likely to be lower in the final year of the 2020 pledge.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Complete compliance inspections for all homes requiring a license	Annual Higher is better	(n/a)		678 (2017-18)					1,009 (2015-19)	Better	Good progress has been made towards this target with compliance inspections above target for year end.
An increase in the percentage of people over 50 living in appropriate housing, that meets their needs	Annual Higher is better	52.3% (Oct 2015)		52.3% (Dec 2017)						n/a	This is an annual indicator which will report at year-end.
Number of home adaptations completed	Quarterly Higher is better	2,257 (2014-15)		2,597 (2017-18)	642 (Apr-Jun 2018)	1,309 (Apr-Sep 2018)	2,042 (Apr-Dec 2018)	2,732 ()	2,732 (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)	n/a	Home adaptations is a demand led service based on clients needs. From April 2018 -March 2019 there were 2732 adaptations completed. This exceeds last years total by 135.
Reduce homelessness through prevention	Quarterly Higher is better	707 (2014-15)		998 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	270 ()	571 ()	839 ()	1,154 ()	1,154 (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)	n/a	Following the implementation of new legislation and software system in April 18, the 2018/19 reporting totals have been amended to reflect the correct totals following test data. It has been identified that a monitoring error has been made on system reporting leading to an under-reporting of outcomes. The revised information is now concurrent with experimental data reported quarterly to MHCLG. Due to the new Act, trend comparison against previous year's data has been removed

Wirral's neighbourhoods are safe

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

A reduction of 30% in Wirral residents reporting anti-social behaviour (ASB) demonstrates the measure of community confidence and security being experienced across Wirral. This endorses the 'Safer Wirral Hub' approach which serves to coordinate and focus those organisations that have an influence upon crime levels, along with the traditional statutory agencies and more importantly the communities themselves.

There was a 10% rise in crimes recorded by the Police, but this does not necessarily reflect what occurs on the street. Wirral has maintained the 4th lowest crime rate throughout the year, when compared to the 15 similar areas defined by the Home Office. Wirral shares the lowest crime rate in Merseyside with Sefton at 79 crimes per thousand population over the last year. The youth re-offending rate has decreased by 3.3% as a consequence of the education, support and enforcement action delivered through the Youth Justice service providing 669 interventions to 351 children and 29 parents.

Like Wirral, most areas in England and Wales have experienced an increase in recorded crime, but this is not reflected in the Crime Survey for England and Wales, which is seen as a more consistent measure. This can be explained by both changes in recording practices and increases in reporting hitherto under-reported crime types, such as domestic or historic abuse.

Wirral has been an integral part of the collaborative Merseyside-wide serious violent crime prevention initiative, with Police and partners working to address the causes of violent crime, particularly knife crime. Working with schools, hospitals, youth services, housing and others, prevention and education have been prioritised to protect the most vulnerable from being drawn into gangs or criminality or from becoming a victim, particularly through carrying a knife or weapon.

A large degree of credit should go to Wirral communities, who have rolled up their sleeves and volunteered help on various initiatives:

The number of Wirral residents signing up to the Good Neighbour scheme has now reached 6,228 thanks to the 'Connect Us', group having called on 30,665 householders. Amongst many other activities, the Wirral Together campaign has run 19 Arson Reduction campaigns including 1,637 interventions, and the 'Fit & Fed' initiative combined sports and two healthy meals for 500 young people. 23 tonnes of waste were cleared from Birkenhead and Tranmere Ward alone during a series of 'clean up days' involving communities in clearing 'grot spot' areas enlisting voluntary and community groups, Council, Police, Fire service, as well as former offenders through the 'Community Payback' scheme.

Targeting the most likely causes of crime, Wirral Ways to Recovery work to reduce re-offending by increasing the support offered to offenders leaving custody with drug and alcohol issues, and the Reduce the Strength initiative has encouraged 107 off-licences in volunteering to support children and street drinkers who suffer alcohol problems, by ending the sale of the cheap high-alcohol drinks and referring people for support.

Wirral continues to adapt to the new challenges such as modern slavery, cyber-crime, and counter terrorism, where training and awareness-raising across all sectors of the community help to identify the potential for criminality through education, prevention and support for the vulnerable.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) to Merseyside Police	Quarterly Lower is better	11,837 (2014-15)		8,617 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	1,920 (Apr-Jun 2018)	3,628 (Apr-Sep 2018)	4,936 (Apr-Dec 2018)	6,029 (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)	6,029 (2018-19)	Better	This is a reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour of 30% compared to 8,617 reported incidents last year.
Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (daytime)	Annual Higher is better	88% (Oct 2015)		90% (Dec 2017)						n/a	Latest data is from the 2017 Wirral Residents Survey and is unchanged.
Proportion of residents who state they feel safe when outside in their local area (After Dark)	Annual Higher is better	55% (Oct 2015)		51% (Dec 2017)						n/a	Latest data is from the 2017 Wirral Residents Survey and is unchanged.
Number of crimes recorded by the police	Quarterly Lower is better	19,061 (2014-15)	Ranking within 15 Most Similar Community Safety Partnership Groups: 4 (Mar 2018-Feb 2019)	23,096 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	6,709 (Apr-Jun 2018)	13,318 (Apr-Sep 2017)	19,451 (Apr-Dec 2018)	25,510 (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)	25,510 (2018-19)	Worse	There has been a 10.5% rise in the number of crimes recorded between 17/18 and 18/19. However, Wirral maintains the 4th lowest crime rate compared to the Home Office 'family' of 15 demographically comparable Community Safety Partnerships. The rise in certain crime types being reported by the Home Office is not reflected in statistics from the Office for National Statistics. This is because the recording standards the Police use for recorded crime data have been changed to reflect legislation and need, whilst the Crime Survey for England and Wales, (previously British Crime Survey) remains consistent.

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
First-time entrants to the youth justice system (10-17 year olds, as a rate per 100,000 of the local general population)	Quarterly Lower is better	380 (Apr 2014 - Mar 2015)	Merseyside YOT (Police Crime Commissioner area): 324 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	157 (Oct 2016-Sep 2017)	150 (Jan-Dec 2017)	152 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	173 (Jul 2017-Jun 2018)			n/a	This data will become available on 22/05/19
Violence that causes an injury to an individual victim (not including homicide) recorded by the Police	Quarterly Lower is better	1,982 (2014-15)	Ranking within 15 Most Similar Community Safety Partnership Groups: 4 (Nov 2017-Oct 2018)	2,569 (Apr 2017-Mar 2018)	746 (Apr-Jun 2018)	1,506 (Apr-Sep 2018)	2,157 (Apr-Dec 2018)	2,825 (Apr 2018 - Mar 2019)	2,825 (2018-19)	Worse	There was an increase of 10% in crimes of 'violence with injury' compared to last year, (in which there were 2,569). However this increase is consistent with all other 15 Community Safety Partnerships with which Wirral is benchmarked in the Home Office 'Most Similar' Group. Wirral is ranked 4th lowest amongst 15 for violence with injury an improvement on 5th lowest last year.
Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Percentage of Youth Re-Offending (age 10-17 years)	Quarterly Lower is better	51.4% (Jul 2012-Jun 2013)	England: 41.6% (Oct 2015- Sep 2016) Merseyside YOT (Police Crime Commissioner area): 46.2% (Oct 2015-Sep 2016)	42.3% (Apr 2015-Mar 2016)	39.7% (Jul 2015-Jun 2016)	39.6% (Oct 2015-Sep 2016)	41.2% (Jan-Dec 2016)			n/a	This data will become available on 22/05/19

Attractive local environment for Wirral residents

Overview from Lead Cabinet Member

The Attractive Local Environment Pledge has remained high profile during 2018/19 with residents re-affirming how important their local environment is to them. It has been an eventful year culminating with the Council's decision to terminate the contract with Kingdom by mutual consent and the ceasing of environmental enforcement operations in March 2019. We are moving into the final stages of the Wirral Plan and therefore keen to determine if the key long term actions we have been pursuing are having the desired effect in terms of behaviour change. I believe that we are seeing positive changes in terms of driving behaviour change to address environmental blight as well as outcomes such as more and more people getting involved and active in their local community through the Love Where You Live campaign. However we remain concerned about our waste recycling performance which has again reduced from the previous year, this has been despite actions we put in to address the position, which included a targeted communications programme.

Highlights of the year include:

- We have continued to maintain high standards of street cleansing across the vast majority of the borough and are focusing on locations that require additional resource to maintain.
- We successfully delivered the third grot spot action plan, taking action to address over 20 blighted locations in private or unknown ownership and previously adversely affected the quality of people's lives.
- The Love Where You Live campaign has become fully established and well supported with a range of volunteer groups and individuals engaged and working with us.
- The dog foul bag dispensing (Tikspac) boards have worked well with support from our partners and popular with dog walkers.

Wirral Plan Indicator	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Maintain local environmental quality (LEQ) via the street cleansing of litter, detritus, graffiti. (Main Gateways and Retail Areas)	Quarterly Higher is better	97.5% (2014-15)		98.1% (2017-18)	Over-Achieving Actual: 96.7% Target: 93.3% (Q1 2018-19)	Over-Achieving Actual: 98.7% Target: 93.3% (Q2 2018-19)	Over-Achieving Actual: 98.9% Target: 93.3% (Q3 2018-19)	Over-Achieving Actual: 99.4% Target: 93.3% (Q4 2018-19)	Over-Achieving Actual: 98.4% Target: 93.3% (2018-19)	Better	Local environmental quality scores for the borough's gateways and district centres have remained high and above target throughout the year and this continued through quarter 4 despite weather related service disruptions that occurred in January and February. Despite this we have commenced a review of cleansing resource deployment across district centres to ensure consistency as well as a review of litter bin provision to improve location and access.
Achieve 50% kerbside recycling of domestic waste by 2020.	Quarterly Higher is better	36.30% (2014-15)		33.20% (2017-18)	Red Actual: 34.10% Target: 38.50% (Q1 2018-19)	Red Actual: 33.50% Target: 38.50% (Q2 2018-19)	Red Actual: 31.20% Target: 36.50% (Q3 2018-19)			Worse	Wirral's recycling rate was slightly lower, compared with the same quarter last year. 59% of councils in England also experienced this reduction in the overall recycling rate, including all Liverpool City Region Councils apart from Knowsley. This is likely to be due to the low quantity of garden waste collected this quarter, as the percentage of dry recycling (grey bins) actually increased this quarter. Projects to help increase capture of Wirral's available recycling are continuing (updates further down in this report). Qtr 4 and end of year for recycling is not produced until the end of Qtr 1 2019/20.
Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Number of FPN's issued for environmental offences (Littering)	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		7,797 (2017-18)	Red Actual: 1,672 Target: 2,000 (Apr-Jun 2018)		Red Actual: 4,205 Target: 5,750 (Apr-Dec 2018)	Red Actual: 4,929 Target: 7,500 (Apr-Mar 2018-19)	Red Actual: 4,929 Target: 7,500 (2018-19)	Worse	The Council terminated its contract with Kingdom back mutual consent in March 2019. As a result of the contract termination, litter enforcement ceased on 6th March 2019 with no further fixed penalty notices issued with Kingdom's workforce disbanded. Therefore the target for issued littering fixed penalty notices has not been met. Due to a number of factors Kingdom were finding it increasingly difficult to issue littering FPNs even with employing optimal staffing numbers since December 2018. The Council will now take time to determine the way forward for driving behaviour change and tackling environmental crime including littering..
Number of FPN's issued for environmental offences (dog fouling)	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		192 (2017-18)	Red Actual: 35 Target: 45 (Apr-Jun 2018)		Red Actual: 61 Target: 130 (Apr-Dec 2018)	Red Actual: 69 Target: 170 (Apr-Mar 2018-19)	Red Actual: 69 Target: 170 (2018-19)	Worse	The Council terminated its contract with Kingdom back mutual consent in March 2019. As a result of the contract termination, dog fouling enforcement ceased on 6th March 2019 with no further fixed penalty notices issued with Kingdom's workforce disbanded. Therefore the target for issued dog fouling fixed penalty notices has not been met. Due to a number of factors Kingdom were finding it increasingly difficult to issue dog fouling FPNs even with employing optimal staffing numbers since December 2018. The Council will now take time to determine the way forward for driving behaviour change and tackling environmental crime including dog fouling..
Reduce the overall collected general waste (non-recycling) per household	Quarterly Lower is better	502.15 kg/hh (2014-15)		545.98 kg/hh (2017-18)	142.98 kg/hh (Apr-Jun 2018)	274.58 kg/hh (Apr-Sep 2018)	410.52 kg/hh (Apr-Dec 2018)			Better	

Supporting Measure	Indicator	Wirral Plan Start	Benchmark Data	Year End 2017-18	2018-19 Q1	2018-19 Q2	2018-19 Q3	2018-19 Q4	Year End 2018-19	Trend (See Key)	Comment
Increase level of school recycling	Annual Higher is better	35.00% (2014-15)		48.00% (2017-18)					49.00% (2018-19)	Better	107 of Wirral schools are on the Council's waste and recycling collection and one other school is just receiving a recycling collection. 81% of these schools are recycling at least 50% of their rubbish (increased from 79% last year) and 16% are recycling over 60%. There are still 8 schools recycling less than 30%.
Increase the number of garden waste subscribers	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		39,565 (2017-18)	36,772 (Apr-Jun 2018)	39,010 (Apr-Sep 2018)	39,331 (Apr-Dec)	39,966 (Apr-Mar 2018-19)	39,966 (2018-19)	Better	Achieved 39,966 subscribers in 2018/19, which is 401 more than last year. The offer that was introduced in December 2018 for a reduced price subscription (£18) for the half year was very successful, leading to a 196% increase in people subscribing Dec-Mar compared with 2016/17 when no reduction was available.
Using targeted communications, increase kerbside (green and grey bin) recycling rate for the ten lowest performing rounds to at least 25%	Quarterly Higher is better	(n/a)		21.20% (2017-18)	20.23% (Apr-Jun 2018)	21.90% (Apr-Sep 2018)	21.61% (Apr-Dec 2018)	21.36% (Apr-Mar 2018-19)	21.36% (2018-19)	Better	The recycling rate from the targeted rounds has improved and the levels of contamination in the grey recycling bins has reduced. The targeted communication campaign was only introduced in quarter 4 and will now be rolled out to other areas.

Report Key

Trend - Performance is shown as Better, Same or Worse compared with the last reporting period *except for:*

Increase the number of events in Wirral's parks, beaches and open spaces, Number of smokers helped to stop smoking,

Number of smokers still quit at 4 weeks, Number of pregnant women helped to stop smoking, Number of people helped to lose weight,

Bring 1,250 empty properties brought back into use, Reduce homelessness through prevention, Reports of ASB to Merseyside Police, Number of crimes recorded by the police,

Violence that causes an injury to an individual victim (not including homicide) recorded by the Police,

Kerbside Recycling,

Littering FPN, Dog Fouling FPN,

Household Waste and Garden Waste and recycling lowest performing rounds

which are compared with same period the previous year.

Target - Where targets apply, these are shown as either Blue, Green, Amber, Red based on the agreed tolerance range for individual measures.

Action - These are shown as either:

• Green (on track to deliver on time)

• Amber (off track but action being taken to deliver on time)

• Red (off track and won't deliver on time)