

Wirral Children and Young People's Plan 2008 - 2011

2008 - 09 Annual Report

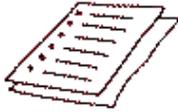
Part 1 Overview



Easy Read



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Vision for Children and Young People

Children and Young People are the future we need to support their ideas and what they want to do.



Our most important rules are that we will have a safe and active partnership.



This is of parents, carers and services working together.



We want the best for all our children and young people. This will then enable them to fulfil their **potential**.



Our vision is

“To give Wirral’s children, young people and families the chance to get services quickly. This is in order to be safe, healthy, have fun and achieve their full **potential**.”



Councillor Phil Davies
Lead Member for Children’s Services
and Lifelong Learning
Chair of Wirral Children’s Trust

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "P.L. Davies".

Howard Cooper
Director of Children’s Services
Children and Young People’s
Department



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard Cooper".

Introduction

The 3-year Children and Young People's Plan for Wirral 2008 – 2011 came out in April 2008. This is a big plan for all organisations giving services for children and young people in Wirral.

The plan covers all the services for children and young people in the Wirral. It brings together all of the plans. We have to improve their lives and enable them to get to where they want to get to.

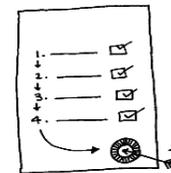
The plan covers all of Children and Young People's lives. This is from when they are born up to their 19th birthday. If the person has a disability or they have been in care they can be supported for longer.

We have been working hard to make progress in achieving the targets we set out in our plan. This is so we improve all the time. This is for our children, young people and families.

We are only 1 year into the plan and we know we still have much to do. But by keeping on working together we can rise to the challenges.

This Report is a review of our progress in the first year of our Children's and Young People's Plan 2008/2009. It is also to plan ahead for 2009/10 so we can meet all of the national and local changes.

This document is Part 1 of our Report, which is done every year. If you want more information about the progress made this year and what we will do in the next 2 years. This will all be in Part 2.



This is information about what is going on in the Wirral

There are **68,305** children in Wirral who are between 0 and 17 years old. This is what was found in 2006.

In 2008 2780 out of 3711 pupils got Level 4+ Including English and Maths at Key Stage 2 (2008) in schools kept by Wirral.

In 2008 2162 out of 4142 pupils got 5 or more General Certificate of Secondary Education at grade A*- C in Wirral's schools, this includes English and Maths.

In 2007/2008 36 pupils were **excluded** from schools out of a population of 68,305 0-17 year olds.

In January 2008 11,720 full time pupils could get free school meals out of 48,182 full time pupils.

More than 198 **Pregnancies** were under 18 year olds this is in 2007.

There are 3,985 Children in Need (2008/2009) in Wirral out of 68,305 0-17 year olds.

There are 383 Children with a Child Protection Plan (2008/2009) in Wirral out of 68,305 0-17 year olds.

There are 591 **Children in care** (2008/2009) living in Wirral out of 68,305 0-17 year olds.

Children's services

Wirral Children's Services are run by lots of organisations. They work together and share what they see and what they value.



We organise our work around children and young people. This includes what they say, where they are and what they need. We want every child to be treated **equally** and want to get good results for them all.



Children's Services is looked after by the following rules in the 2008 – 2011 Children and Young People's Plan:



- Every child matters
- Keeping our children safe
- Improving what children, young people and their families want to get out of this
- Organising around children and young people
- Working across the partnership so everything is together for Children's Services.
- Keep on building on excellent partnership working.
- Plan on how they are looked after together
- How they are run and all the processes are together
- **Equal** value and common standards

- To make sure that new technology is used, when it can improve the way we work with organisations. This includes a partnership that gets better all the time.
- Someone leading on making this happen.

How we are going to keep children safe

Protecting our children and young people from harm is very important. This is for the whole partnership and is led by the **Local Safeguarding Children Board**. The **Local Safeguarding Children's Board** has a clear vision that keeps children safe at the centre. This is from the Children's Trust's who wants to support children and the families it serves.

Local Safeguarding
Children's Board



The Director of Children's Services and the Lead Member for Children's Services have clear roles and responsibilities. This is as champions for children, young people and their families. The Director also reports straight to the Council's Chief Executive.

Putting Services Together

Wirral's Children's Trust supports Lord Laming's view that:

“I am in no doubt that effective support for children and families cannot be achieved by a single agency acting alone. It depends on agencies working together. It is a multi-disciplinary task.”

We have organised services. This is so that we can meet the needs of children and young people on Wirral. These services are near to where people live.

This is with the development of area teams. Where services are put with different partners in areas designed to give lots of different services in 1 place. This has been successful in Well Lane Primary School.



Benefits of doing this include good results for people who use them. This includes professionals working together to run services. This is better and is able to meet people's needs.



In 2009/2010 6 more centres will be developed. This is supported with a successful grant of £927, 000.



A good start in life is essential if children are to fulfil their **potential**. This is given together with good quality early years services, which gives family support services, which is most important for Wirral.



19 Children's Centres have been started. These give lots of services and by 2010/2011 the centres will be closer to where people live. This will make sure the centre gives parents of children younger than 5 the services that they need.



There is going to be more services through schools. This is being developed at the moment.



Wirral has lots of activities available for children and young people. This is run through the work of services such as the Youth Service, the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.

Resources

This plan shows what is most important for improving the lives of children and young people in Wirral. It also gives a clear look at all who work in this area.



Good **value for money** and using resources is important for the Wirral.

We have to work together so we can better run our **priorities** and have better results for children and young people.



Equality and Diversity

Wirral Children's Trust wants to make sure that the equalities agenda does not have any barriers to services. If there is they are removed and **diversity** is supported.



A full **equality impact assessment** has been done with this plan review. This makes sure that children's services meet the needs under all of the 6 areas of the **equality** standard. These are race, disability, if you are a man or woman, sexuality, age and **religion**.



The 5 Every Child Matters planning groups took an assessment of their areas. This involved managers from all organisations and professionals who work with children and young people across Wirral.



Workshops looked at all the good and bad things with the 6 **equality** groups. This is for each of the most important results from the plan. There was also a consultation to get information from people who use services about the process.



A group of young people, representing the different **equality** areas took their own **equality impact assessment**.

The full **equality impact assessment** said how the Children and Young Peoples Plan would happen. It will also have a big impact on improving **equality** of opportunity for Children and Young People including:



- The targeting of groups which normally not included such as: Youth offenders, **children in care**, care leavers and Children and Young People with learning difficulties and disabilities. This also includes young people not in education, employment or training and teenage parents (particularly fathers).
- Services such as Children's Centres, play facilities and services in schools promote inclusion. Having the community pulling together and taking away anything that may stop them taking part.
- These plans try to stop crime and anti-social behaviour of young people. This will help to have less **Hate Crime**. So there is no **harassment** and **discrimination** against all the **equality** groups. So having a greater understanding of young people going through the law system.
- These plans will also have a better picture of young people, which will help. This is so old people are not scared of them.
- There are projects to support parents. These include children's centres and play opportunities. Also **extended schools**, which will improve job opportunities and careers for both men and women.
- When we do look at the plans on involving families. This is in areas of **poverty** and **deprivation** we need to look at giving services in these areas.



Some possible bad things were found this includes:

- Not all services being **culturally sensitive**.
- There are some physical barriers for some services. So disabled children, young people and parents are having problems using them.
- **Cultural** barriers can be there for some **equality** groups. This can stop them from getting services.



- Some people do not want some of the changes.

The finished list of possible bad problems has been developed into an **equality action plan**. Progress for making the action plan happen will be checked by Wirral Children's Trust Executive.



The Every Child Matters 5 planning groups will look at these activities.

5 Every Child Matters Areas



Being Healthy

In 2008/2009 all Wirral schools are involved in the National Healthy Schools Programme. This is with nearly all of the schools having got the National Healthy School Status. This is with all schools likely to get this by the end of July 2009.



Being active is an excellent way to keeping a healthy lifestyle. We have put time into the development of different play opportunities across the Wirral. We try to get schools to offer high quality Physical Education and sport. This is an area to develop more in 2009/2010.



A lot of different ideas have been developed to work with schools to **promote** children's well being.

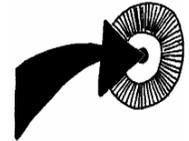


We are working with young people. This is to make sure they have access to the kind of sexual health and relationship advice they want.

We have introduced lots of ideas to fight unwanted or not planned teenage **conceptions**.



This is less than before but is high by national standards. This is a very important area, which will be looked at again by the setting of challenging targets to reduce teenage **pregnancy**. This is in the **Local Area Agreement**.



In 2009/2010 we will further develop lots of health services. They will be available for communities through our local Children's Centres.



Staying Safe

Wirral is a safe place in which to grow up.

In 2008/2009 lots of different things have led to less children being killed or badly hurt. This is in road traffic accidents.



There is not a lot of bullying and there is good support in place. This is for children and young people to help with bullying. There is a better way of organisations who work with families to keep children safe at home.



We can also better help to sort out issues such as **domestic violence**, drug and alcohol **abuse**.

This gives **children in care** the support to be safe. This will also include those getting good results in all the 5 areas.



The number of looked after children is high and we need to safely bring this number down now.

This is in the **Local Area Agreement** with activity that keeps on looking at this worry.

Activities will support more children and young people in the community. This includes children and young people who are near the edge of care.

In 2008 and 2009 work has been better in supporting children.

Plans are in place to change the way the Children's Social Care Branch is organised. This is in 2009/2010 with more targets in areas of more need. This will make our working much stronger to make sure all services keep meeting children's needs.



Enjoy and Achieve

Educational standards for students of all ages in Wirral are high. They are also better than numbers in other parts of the country.



There is also good quality education being given to Children and Young People in Wirral.

Improved education standards can change if other things change. These include behaviour and going to school.



Support for families is important to children and young people to enjoy and achieve.



We keep developing this through the different services given through children's centres and more services given through schools.



This is continuing with the primary review and secondary schools changes. This includes an option to close 3 schools and making 2 new **Academy** schools. This is in September 2010. If this happens this will reduce the number of secondary schools and will use what we have better.



Our special school children and their families tell us they would like more choice. This is mostly after 16 and plans are there to make sure we will work with local colleges. This is to change the special school arrangement making sure we look at courses for people who are older than 16.



We are also looking at more support. This is to make sure **vulnerable** groups of children can achieve as well. This includes those with special educational needs and **children in care**.



Positive Contribution

Wirral has done well before with involving children and young people. We got the **Beacon award** for good youth involvement in 2006-07.



The views of children and young people are put together into the planning and management of services. This includes activities in Wirral. They are encouraged to have a say on decisions that will affect their lives.



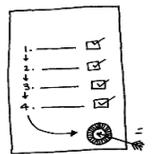
School Councils are helping to shape plans with schools and the area through the **Annual Youth Parliament**. 4 area youth **forums** make sure local needs for children and young people are found.



In 2009/2010 the views of children and young people will be important to the changes of **youth outreach**. This is to improve and give more services across Wirral.



In 2008/2009 work is still going and is led by **children in care**.



Service managers can show improvements in the results for children. This is from the targets set out in the Children and Young People's Plan.

The Council will say what they want to do about the main changes. This will make the **children in care** stronger.

The **Children in Care Council** will report to the Council's **Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee**. They have to get on well with the **Children's Trust Board** and the **Virtual School Governing Body**.



A report will be written every year about this. This is about how well the council are doing involving Children and Young People in any decisions about them.

A challenge is to make sure a lower number are coming into the **youth justice system**.

Consultation

There was a consultation for the 3-year Children and Young People's Plan. This involved children young people and families who helped write the 3-year **priorities**. For this review young people were asked for their views on our progress towards doing what we needed to do. It also included what new areas should be future **priorities**.



The consultation was with lots of groups in different areas of Wirral. This includes: youth clubs, the **Executive Youth Board, Young Advisers, Children in Care, Connect-uz** and **Duke of Edinburgh** participants. 220 young people were involved in the feedback.



Area

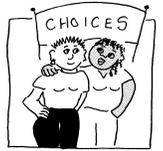
Being Healthy



What we need to do now for Young People

We need to give access to support and information so people can make choices.

Weight issues were a worry and access to healthy food and activities are needed.



What Wirral Young People Want

“I would like free activities for young people such as swimming and the gym”

“Better sex and relationship education looking more at relationships. Young people are told about **sexually transmitted diseases** but not how to have healthy relationships”



“Healthy food in schools, which is cheap”

Area

Staying Safe



What we need to do now for Young People

We want more children to be able to grow up in families.

We want to have less risk taking behaviour and bullying.



What Wirral Young People Want

“There should be more help for children so the is less risk behaviour”



“There should be more sessions in school with presentations on risk which tell young people the truth”

“Better relationships between young people and the police, they should be easier to see”

Area

Enjoy and Achieve

What we need to do now for Young People

We need to make sure that **poverty** does not affect achievement.

What Wirral’s Young People Want

“There should be extra help for pupils who aren’t doing well. This could be done with just 1 pupil and 1 teacher. It does not have to be the school that is failing. You need to find out why a pupil is not doing well”

“More opportunities to get onto different courses, especially for those who do not want to stay in school”

“There should be the same opportunities in all schools as well as those who go to **grammar schools**”

Area

Positive Contribution

What we need to do now for Young People

Young people wanted lots of different activities.



They want to be involved in making decisions, which worry them.

What Wirral Young People Want

“Be able to use public transport better. This is so they can go to activities all over Wirral”

“I would like more activities to do at my youth club”

“More opportunities for young people to show they are not a threat to people”

Area

Social and **Economic** Well Being

What we need to do now for Young People

We need to make sure that everyone gets fair access to education and training.

We need to give access to good advice about further education and jobs.

What Wirral Young People Want

“Programmes to help young people to find jobs”

“I would like fair access to **Education Maintenance Allowance**. More people may stay on in school or college if everyone gets the same”



“There should be more chances to meet people who do certain jobs who can tell you how things are with jobs now”.



Social and Economic Well Being

We have made good progress in developing the 14-19 agenda. This is with the new **Diploma** qualifications delivery to start in September 2009. Aimhigher Superstars, together with University of Liverpool, targeting care leavers has been done. At the moment there are 4 Wirral Care Leavers in Higher Education.



In 2010 the Council will take over responsibility from the Learning and Skills Council. This is for making sure the right services for 16-19 year olds are available.

Schools, colleges, employers and work-based learning givers are working well together. This is to make sure the needs of young learners are looked at. It will also make sure that a new **Apprenticeships** programme is being done in 2009.



Most of our 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training are higher than some other councils. The Local Service **Provider** has found this will need to be done now in the **Local Area Agreement**.



What we need to look at

We need to do is to look at the activities we have done in year 1 of the plan. This includes the national and local changes.



Be Healthy

Reduce the number of harmful things and risk taking behaviour.

Reduce the number of overweight children and the **obesity** in children.

Make the Child Health Plan happen

Inequalities in the health of children and young people are reduced.

Staying Safe

More children grow up in safe families where they belong. This is either through getting support in their communities, or through families that may look after them instead.

Less bad behaviour experienced by children and young people.

More children are safe at home, at school and in the community. This includes reducing road traffic accidents and bullying.

Children in care are safe and supported.

Make the **government** action plan happen. This is with Lord Laming review of the protection of children in England.

Enjoy and Achieve

Where public money is spent to make sure it has a big effect in all our schools.

Young children and families are well supported, especially the most **vulnerable**, through the network of Children's Centres.

Children's and families are supported with their social and **emotional** development.



More services, given through schools and people we work with. Working in groups will affect results for children and families.



We must keep on improving the quality of leadership and management, curriculum, assessment and learning. This will be done by making sure no one falls into an **Office for Standards in Education category**.

Try to stop **poverty** and disadvantage affecting achievement.

Positive Contribution

Fewer children and young people are involved in crime and bad behaviour.



Children and young people have access to the right activities and can develop opportunities. These are what meet their needs.



Children and Young People are involved in the community and the decision making process.

Economic Well Being

Increase the number of young people who are taking part and getting to their **potential**.

Reduce numbers of 16-18 young people that get hurt and treated badly. This includes those that are Not in Education Employment or Training. This is part of the **Local Area Agreement** targets and the **Public Service Agreement** in 2010.



Have less child in **poverty** and lower the number of children and young people living in poor housing.

What do the words in blue and bold mean?

Local Safeguarding Children's Board is a group of people who make decisions about how to keep children safe.

Public Service Agreement is an agreement between the local council and government.

Poverty means when someone has not got enough money to live on.

A multidisciplinary task is a task or job that is done by people who have different types of jobs working together.

An Equality Action Plan is a plan that makes sure people are treated fairly no matter where they come from.

Value for money means something that is worth the money that is spent on it.

A positive contribution is when you do something good for yourself and or the community.

A Local Area Agreement is something agreed to be done in an area.

Potential means something that could be done.

Emotional is how someone feels.

Vulnerable means someone who can be hurt easily.

Inequalities are not treating people fairly and also not given the same opportunities.

The diploma is a course that people can do in school in year 10 and 11.

A strategy is a plan.

The team around the child model is a team that work together with the child and their family or carer in the best interests of the child.

Cultural is when people come from different areas and places in the world share what they do.

The government are the people in charge of the country.

The Office for Standards in Education category is when a school is not as good as needed. This is when it has an inspection.

Economic means how the countries are doing for money and jobs.

Domestic Violence is when someone is hurt or shouted at in their home.

Abuse means when someone does something to a person that they do not like.

A grammar school is a school that is for people who pass the 11 plus exam.

Education Maintenance Allowance is money that you get when you go to college if you are between 16 and 19 years old. This is to help you to pay for your learning.

The Executive Youth Board is a group of people who come together to talk about things that affect children and young people.

Young Advisers are people who give advice to and for children and young people.

Children in Care are when children and young people are looked after by someone else.

Children in Care Council are a council that helps children and young people in care.

Connect-uz is a group of young people who work with Connexions. Connexions helps children and young people find jobs or training after they leave school.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is a programme where people do lots of activities. They get a certificate at the end of this.

Obesity is when someone is very overweight.

Sexually transmitted diseases are health problems that you get when you have sex.

Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Committee looks at the services given to Children and Young People.

Children's Trust Board is a board about organisations working together for children'.

The Youth Justice System looks at the children and young people who break the law.

The Youth Parliament is a group of children and young people who meet up. This is to have a say on services and anything that affects them.

Annual means every year.

The Beacon Award is an award, which is given to council's and public services for work in a particular area.

A forum is a meeting

An Academy school is a school that is owned by both the council and private people.

Diversity means different people.

Equality means treating people fairly.

Pregnancy is when a woman is going to have a baby.

Census means people's information.

Priorities are things that need to be done now.

An agency is an organisation.

Religion means what you believe in.

Hate Crime is when someone does bad things to you or says bad things to you. This could be because of your disability, what you believe in or whether you are man or woman.

Discrimination means someone is treated differently for some reason.

Harassment means someone doing something that someone does not want them to do. This could make the person scared upset or shy.

Culturally Sensitive means making sure that we look at people from other cultures.

Promote means make people aware of something

Conceptions means when you have sex and become pregnant.

A provider is a person or a company that gives something.

Extended Schools gives lots of different of services and activities. This is often after the school day. This is to help with the needs of children, their families and the rest of the community.

Permanent school exclusions are when children or young people are not allowed to go to the school that this happened in.

Deprivation means when something is stopped because of something.

An Equality Impact Assessment is something that is done to make sure the changes being made are fair for everyone.

Who did this and where the pictures came from?

The Easy Read and Information Team did this for the Disability Consultancy Service.



We used the pictures from the Valuing People Clipart Collection.



We also used pictures from the Change People Picture Bank.

