



**Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy for
Children Looked After in Wirral**

2016-2020

Contents

Executive Summary	Page 3
1. Introduction	
1.1 Our Place	Page 4
1.2 Children in Wirral	Page 6
1.3 Inequality in Wirral	Page 6
2. Delivering Differently	Page 7
2.1 Vision and Principles	Page 8
3. The Sufficiency Duty	Page 10
4. Current Provision, Implications and Commissioning Intentions	
4.1 The Children Looked After Population	Page 11
4.2 Foster care	Page 13
4.3 Adoption	Page 14
4.4 Residential Provision	
4.4.1 Externally Commissioned Placements	Page 16
4.4.2 Independent Residential Placements	Page 16
4.4.3 Independent Fostering Placements	Page 17
4.5 Care Leavers	Page 19
5. Conclusion	Page 20
Appendix 1 – Performance Indicators	Page 21
Appendix 2 – Action Plan	Page 22
Appendix 3 - Profile of Wirral (Data Analysis)	Page 23

Executive Summary

It is our ambition that all children in Wirral have the best start to life; that they are ready for school and develop well through their childhood; that as young people they become ready for work and adulthood, and that vulnerable children reach their full potential. Some families may need extra support for a short period of time to prevent their problems becoming worse, to give them the skills and confidence to raise their children safely. The Council and its partners have adopted an Early Help and Prevention Strategy because the current high demand for costly specialist services across children's social care, health and the police is becoming unaffordable. Moreover, these interventions are often associated with poorer outcomes for children. Therefore, we are committed to delivering differently.

We will work with our partners to commission and deliver services that enable more children and young people to live safely at home with their families.

Where children and young people do need to come into our care we will consider plans for a permanent loving home right from the start. We will continue to work with families so that children and young people can return to a safe and stable home as soon as possible. We will take decisions around adoption with appropriate pace for both children and potential adopters so we maximise the chances of a successful match at the earliest possible opportunity.

In Wirral we are proud of our high percentage of internal foster carers, but we recognise that for a small number of older children and young people residential care best meets their needs. We want Wirral children to be placed in Wirral. We will work with our partners and the provider market to develop more locally-based places for children with complex needs. We will keep a sharp focus on these children through crisper outcome focused care planning, listening to children's voices and encouraging their ambition.

Young people approaching adulthood need love, care, positive boundaries and guidance to make that transition. We will ensure they are well-prepared to leave our care and have a good range of options for their accommodation.

1. Introduction

1.1 Our Place

Wirral is home to approximately 320,000 people and is the ninth largest metropolitan Council in England in terms of population. Wirral is the second largest local authority in Liverpool's City Region and bigger than many cities such as Newcastle, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham.

Wirral is an area of outstanding natural beauty, packed full of spectacular scenery, with a rich mixture of culture and heritage. Our economy today has a total value of around £3.9 billion per year, its highest ever value and comprising 15% of the Merseyside total. We are home to some international businesses, such as Unilever and the world-famous Cammel Laird shipbuilders.

The borough is also a place of sharp contrasts, with some unacceptable levels of inequality. Many of our residents enjoy a very good quality of life, with excellent housing, schools and a high quality environment. However in parts of the borough there are significant levels of deprivation. Within Wirral, localities range from one of the most deprived in the country (around St James Church in Birkenhead) to one of the most affluent, or least deprived, in South West Heswall less than six miles away. There are significant variations in life expectancy in Wirral's communities with a difference of up to 9.7 years for females and 14.6 years for males depending on where a person lives. The borough's economy also faces challenges, including the lowest indicator of economic per head in England and the second highest concentration of economic inactivity in England.

To redress this balance, and to meet the financial and demographic challenges the Council and its partners recognise that we have to deliver differently.

In June 2015 the Council and its partners agreed the Wirral Plan for 2020 which includes 20 pledges that will be delivered through a suite of strategies including the Children, Young People and Families Strategy. The Wirral Plan sets out the following overarching priorities:

- Wirral is a place where the vulnerable are safe and protected, every child gets a good start in life and older residents are respected and valued;
- Wirral is a place where employers want to invest and businesses thrive;
- Wirral has an attractive and sustainable environment, where good health and an excellent quality of life is enjoyed by everyone who lives here.

The Children Young People and Families Strategy will achieve the following pledges:

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

This Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy for Children looked after will directly contribute to achieving the pledge for vulnerable children to reach their full potential. The strategy draws together research and analysis on the needs of children and young people in care in Wirral, including those not currently being met within the borough. It also explores likely changes in the overall care population between now and 2020 taking into account our ambitions to improve access to locally-based preventative services and increase the numbers of children for whom legal permanency through adoption and other legal orders is secured.

From this analysis the strategy sets out the needs of children looked after for whom we will need to commission additional provision in or close to Wirral. This will in turn inform:

- Our recruitment strategy for foster carers, adopters and supporting living arrangements;
- A market engagement and development strategy with providers to help us meet more complex needs within or close to the borough;
- The further development of services to work with children on the edge of care and their families to prevent them becoming looked-after.

1.2 Children in Wirral

Wirral is home to about 74,500 children and young people aged 0-19 years. Universal services such as early years support, mainstream schools, health services and play activities meet the needs of all children and young people.

At any one time approximately 22% (16,400) of children will have additional needs which require targeted support provided by individual or multi-agency services. These services support groups of children and their families such as those with special educational needs and / or disability or those requiring parenting support.

A high proportion of these children will be living in the more disadvantaged areas. Of this group approximately 2,700 of children will have more complex needs which require a high level of specialist support. Without this support these children are at risk of poor outcomes. They include young people who have a child protection plan, those with serious health issues or those involved in risk taking behaviours and children in the care of the local authority.

1.3 Inequality in Wirral

There are the stark differences in outcomes for children and young people living in different Wirral districts.

The information below from the 2015 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), is a visual representation of the contrasts within the Borough. Figure 1 is the percentage of children that are eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) by ward. The ward with the highest percentage of eligibility is Bidston St James with 45.3% and the lowest is Heswall with 2.9%.

By contrast, figure 2 shows Heswall ward has one of the highest percentages of children who achieve 5 or more GCSE grades, including maths and English, with 81.3% of young people achieving this. The percentage of children in Bidston St James who achieve this is 43.7%.

These contrasts are seen across any outcome measures, and reducing these inequalities is a priority.

Figure 1:
Free School Meal Eligibility

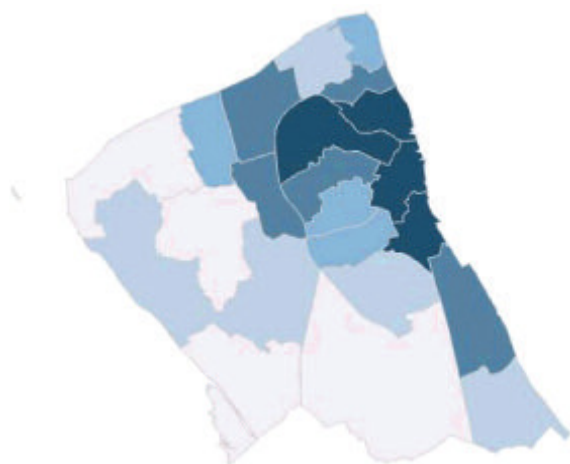
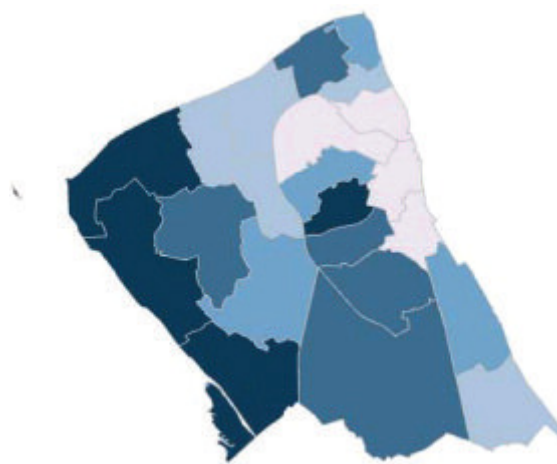


Figure 2:
% of Pupils achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C (Inc. EM)



Source: Wirral 2015 JSNA

2. Delivering Differently

Our pledges, set out in the Children, Young People and Families and Improving Life Chances Strategies, are that our children will be ready for school, young people will be ready for work and adulthood, vulnerable children achieve their full potential and that child and family poverty is reduced. A key thread running through each outcome is that children feel safe and are safe. We will achieve our ambitions for children and families through working together, building on our success to date and being committed to continuous improvement.

To achieve this we have identified three strands to drive our shared commitment to delivering differently:

Prevention, early intervention and help

We are consolidating the development of a strong integrated front door, so that children and families receive the right response, at the right time. Children and families who do not require a statutory intervention will receive a timely multiagency response, utilising universal and targeted, community based services.

Managing children's plans and placements

We are focusing on how we support more children to live safely with their families at home in their community, working with families and partners to identify how we manage risks together locally. We are strengthening our targeted use of services such as intensive family intervention and adolescent family support, to avoid the need for as many children to become looked after. Where children do need statutory intervention, for example children in need, children subject to a child protection plan or children who need to be looked after, we will make sure that their plans are child centred and outcome focused, and plans for permanence are made earlier. We want to make sure that our most vulnerable children live in Wirral, and that our refreshed sufficiency strategy supports us in securing more of the right high quality placements locally. Overall, we will see fewer children looked after as more children receive the right support, at the right time in their community

Developing a strong, qualified and experienced workforce

We are working to ensure there are enough appropriately qualified and skilled workers available to manage the demands of the services, where skills and capacity are matched to meet these demands.

Vision and principles

Our vision is that vulnerable children reach their full potential, with the support, care and love they need to grow into confident and successful adults.

We are committed to ensuring that children and young people are able to remain safely within their own families wherever possible. Through our Early Help and Prevention Strategy we and our partners we have pledged to work collaboratively to deliver targeted early help. We have developed a range of preventative services that help and support families to address issues that may otherwise lead to a breakdown in family relationships, and which enable children and young people to remain safely in the care of their parents or extended families.

We are also committed to improving the range of support available to children with disabilities and their families, to ensure that this group of children and young people are also able to remain within their families wherever possible.

Where children and young people do need to come into care, we will ensure that as many as possible are placed with foster carers within Wirral, and that those carers are supported to provide the level of care we expect and require for children we are responsible for, sharing our high aspirations for their futures.

The following principles will help us ensure we have sufficient placements for our children and young people in care:

- We will achieve a culture change within our own services so that the perceived benefits of 'care' relative to the perceived risks of children and young people remaining within their birth or extended families are accurately balanced and based on comprehensive and multi-disciplinary assessment
- We will invest in edge of care services so that families are supported to make the necessary changes that mean children can remain within their birth families;
- We will ensure that we only look after those children and young people for whom being in care is the only way to keep them safe and protected;
- For younger children who cannot safely remain with their birth family we will ensure that we secure permanency as soon as possible for them through adoption or special guardianship
- We will place children and young people with foster carers wherever possible, avoiding residential care unless this best meets their needs, as this can be associated with poorer and outcomes, and is higher cost;
- We will work with partner agencies in the Children's Trust to develop local services that wrap around placements to meet specific needs, for example behavioural needs, child and adolescent mental health or sexual health needs;
- We will identify gaps in local provision as part of an on-going dialogue with the provider market, with the aim of continually developing carefully targeted specialist provision in Wirral;

- We will continue to increase the level of personalised support available to children and young people with disabilities and their families, including increased availability of individual budgets, so that families have more choice and control over the support services they can access.

Our expectation is that the number of children and young people in care will be closely monitored and managed down over the lifetime of this strategy, and our aim is for our services to be in line with the best performing local areas.

This strategy should be read in conjunction with the Children, Young People and Families and Improving Life Chances Strategies and Joint Commissioning Framework for Children, Young People and Families in Wirral as well as The Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision.

3. The Sufficiency Duty

The duty to provide or procure placements for Children Looked After (CLA) by the local authority is explicit in the Children Act 1989. This has since been strengthened by the introduction of Sufficiency Statutory Guidance (2010) and the Care Planning, Placement and Case Review Regulations (implementation April 2011). There is a duty of 'sufficiency' that requires Local Authorities and Children's Trust partners to ensure that, through provision or commissioning, a range of placements sufficient to meet the needs of all CiC are available locally or that there is a plan in place to move towards that position. The regulations require a strategy that describes how Local Authorities intend to provide sufficient care placements for its children looked after.

The guidance also sets out the importance of high quality assessments, care planning and placement decisions as the essential building blocks of an effective commissioning strategy for placements for children and young people in care.

4. Current Provision

4.1 The Children looked after Population

Total Population

Wirral has a high number of children looked after, 675 children or 100 per 10,000 (31st March 2015) compared to Statistical Neighbours (82 per 10,000), the North West (82 per 10,000) and England (60 per 10,000). This high number has changed little over the past 5 years while in comparators there has been a notable increase.

Age, Gender and Ethnicity

While the overall numbers of children looked after are high the population itself in terms of gender and age profile reflects that of Statistical Neighbours. Wirral has a slightly higher percentage of 10 to 15 year olds in care (39%) than the North West (36%). However because of the higher rate per 10,000, there are higher numbers of children looked after in each age group compared to comparators. Wirral's population is predominately white and this is reflected in the ethnicity of children looked after by the authority where 94% were white and 4%, or 30 children, of mixed race. The number of unaccompanied asylum-seeking children is also low in the borough. (Appendix 1, Tables 1, 2, 3).

Placements

The use of Foster Placements is high in the Wirral (76%) compared to the North West (72%) and the use of Residential Placements is low (6%) in relation to comparators. Wirral does have higher numbers of children placed with parents (12%) than comparators, possibly due to its high use of Full Care Orders. The numbers placed for adoption are low (25 children, 3%) (Appendix 1 – Tables 5, 6).

The use of In-House Foster Care in Wirral is particularly high (73%) compared to comparators (Appendix 1 – Tables 7,8) and the use of private providers is low (13%).

Distance

The number of Wirral children placed 20 miles or less from their home address is high (93%) however of these 10% are placed outside of the Wirral boundary. 7% of Children looked after from Wirral are placed more than 20 miles from their home address. While this is low in relation to comparators (Appendix 1 – Table 9, 10), Wirral believes that children who are looked after by the Local Authority are best placed within the borough and will seek to further reduce the numbers placed outside the boundary.

Other Local Authority children

In the past year there has been a significant increase in the number of Children looked after placed within Wirral by other Authorities (Appendix 1 – Table 11). As at 31st March 2015 175 children were placed in the Wirral by other authorities an increase of 55 children on the previous year.

Population Projections

Population projections for Wirral indicate that between 2016 and 2019 the number of children and young people will increase by 658 (1%) (Appendix 1 – Table 17). While this increase in itself is not significant the changes within the make-up of the population will need to be accounted for in future placement planning. In looking at the changes within the population against age ranges over the same time period there is predicted to be a decrease in 1 to 4 year olds (638, 4.2%) and 16 to 17 years olds (432, 5.7%). At the same time there are expected to be increases in the population in all other age ranges, most significantly in the 5 to 9 age range (569, 2.9%) and the 10 to 15 age range (5.2%). When considered against the current children looked after population this equates to a possible 20 additional placements for 5 to 15 year olds, if the rate of children looked after remains the same.

Implications and commissioning intentions

- Wirral has ambitious plans to reduce the number of children looked after from the current level to around 550 or a rate of 82 per 10,000. We will achieve this through targeted work at the edge of care to divert children and young people

from the care system, and through effective early help and family intervention services

- We will develop more granular forecasting to better anticipate our projected needs and so achieve our overall ambition to reduce the numbers of children looked after.
- Wirral believes that wherever possible children should be placed in family settings, nearer their family home, friends and community. This will drive our foster carer recruitment and market development strategies.
- To secure increased local provision we will work with the local market to become the commissioner of choice.

4.2 Foster Care

Wirral places 76% of its children looked after with foster carers, 73% with local authority foster carers, one of our greatest assets. To secure this percentage we have recruited high numbers of foster carers. Over 2011-2015 there has been an increase of fostering placements overall from 485 to 511 (source: PNW KPI summary 2016).

Approved LA Foster Carers as at 31st March each year

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
White	456	496	528	538	525
Non-white	4	8	7	7	4
Refused to answer	0	0	1	0	6
Total	460	504	536	545	535

Source: LA Fostering Dataset

Whilst the number of foster carers in Wirral is high the ethnic mix does not reflect that of the local Children looked after population. 4% of Children looked after in Wirral are from a mixed race background while less than 1% of Foster Carers are non-white.

In order to maintain this high number the on-going recruitment and retention of foster carers is of vital importance. Figures on initial enquiries to become foster carers appear high (157), however of these less than half (78) progressed to formal applications. Of those enquires that did progress to application 27 were

withdrawn, either by the applicant or the service, 2 were rejected at panel and 19 were approved. 30 applications remained in progress. During the same period 25 fostering households were de-registered. There was therefore a reduction overall of 6 fostering households.

In 2015 42% of children placed with foster carers were aged 10-15, slightly above the percentage at this age in the whole children looked after population. These are often the most challenging children and young people to place with foster carers. If we are to enable more young people looked after to live closer to home, in family based settings, we will need to work with our partners to wrap support and services around these placements.

Implications and commissioning intentions

- The high number of local authority foster carers is one of Wirral's greatest assets. Recruitment strategies will sustain and build upon this number, targeting carers to develop more provision for:
 - Large sibling groups
 - Teenagers
 - Young people with more complex needs, including risk-taking behaviour and those at risk from CSE
- We will expand preventative services that can wrap around foster care, giving the most vulnerable children and young people more opportunities to live in family-based settings
- We will keep our offer to foster carers under review to ensure we are the employer of choice for local carers

4.3 Adoption

Wirral will seek permanency in all its forms for children looked after, including adoption. In order to achieve this we are active in recruiting adoptive carers. The number of initial enquiries received from potential adopters has decreased slightly, and although this may reflect a national shortage of potential adopters there has been a marked decrease in the number of assessed adopters approved. 31. Or

62% of potential adopters assessed were eventually approved in 2014/15 compared to 14 or 40% in 2015/16.

In 2014/15 relatively few children left care due to adoption in Wirral (9.8%, or 20 children), less than the region (19.3%) and nationally (17.1%). In part this may explain why the number of 1 to 4 year olds leaving care in Wirral is low (19%) compared to the region (30%) and nationally (27%). While there have been some years where adoption numbers have increased the overall trend has been that Wirral has fewer adoptions than the region and nationally (Appendix 1 – Table 12, 13).

Wirral's adopter recruitment strategy is centred on the analysis of children coming through with a plan of adoption. This ensures we recruit the right adopters to meet the needs of Wirral children. However, we need to be more aspirational in our approach, basing our strategy on national best practice and the profile of our younger children looked after. To improve performance we will make swifter permanency decisions for children looked after, leading to higher numbers of children being identified for adoption where this is appropriate.

Wirral is a part of the developing Liverpool Regional Adoption Agency. From April 2017 the recruitment, preparation and approval of potential adopters will be undertaken by this agency, building on previous joint arrangements between Wirral and Sefton Council. The Regional Adoption Agency will also provide post adoption and Special Guardianship support. This presents opportunities to pool budgets and drive efficiencies when recruiting potential adopters, and provide support to adopters and guardians.

Implications and commissioning intentions

- A more diverse pool of adopters offers greater placement choice, reducing delays in the adoption process.
- The adoption service has identified a number of areas that require specific focus. These include:-
 - Adopters for children aged 3 years and over

- Adopters who are able and willing to adopt sibling groups of children
- Adopters who are able and willing to meet the needs of children with additional and or developmental needs
- Adopters that reflect the diverse background of the children with a plan for adoption.

4.4 Residential provision

The majority of residential provision is commissioned from external providers. The council does maintain a 9 place children with disabilities short break unit. The ongoing use of this provision is subject to Council Budget consultations and so does not currently form a part of this Sufficiency Strategy.

4.4.1 Externally Commissioned Placements

Wirral commissions a comparatively low number of externally commissioned placements at 13% compared to the North West (29%) and England (34%). This includes residential care and independent foster carers (tables 7, 8). As a member of the Placements NorthWest consortium we have access to rich quantitative data against which to benchmark performance. There is a higher fostering to residential ratio in Wirral (11.1) compared to the North West (7.7), so for every residential placement there are 11.1 fostering placements. This positive ratio means that the average cost of placements is lower than the regional average (source: PNW census 2015).

4.4.2 Independent Residential Placements

Wirral uses fewer Independent Residential placements (7%) compared to the North West (9%). There are 14 private registered Children's Homes in the borough providing up to 35 places. In addition there is one voluntary registered Residential Special school that provides up to 9 places. This means that the majority of children and young people who require residential care could be accommodated in the borough

In looking at the age ranges of children in residential care year on year these tend to be older children and young people (11-15 years of age or 16 plus), Fewer places are required for younger children although mother and baby placements will include the very young children placed in this provision.

Age on admission to residential care

Age band	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
0-1	0	0	1	3	3
2-4	0	0	0	0	0
5-10	0	1	0	0	4
11-15	13	23	14	27	22
16-17	5	9	11	3	6
Total	18	33	26	33	35

Wirral has a lower average cost for Independent Residential placements (£2,682 per week) compared to the North West (£2,781 per week). The estimated weekly spend has reduced from £99,000 per week (2012) to £78,000 per week (2015). There are a similar proportion of placements costing over £3,200 per week in Wirral (21%) when compared to the North West (23%).

4.4.3 Independent Fostering Placements

Wirral's use of Independent Fostering Placements is low (5 rate per 10,000) compared to the North West (17 rate per 10,000). Independent Fostering placements are provided to children and young people between the ages of 5-10 (6) or 11-15 (19) years of age. A small number of placements are used for Mother and Baby placements, accounting for the number of very young children placed, as may be seen in the table below.

Age on admission

Age band	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
0-1	1	0	1	4	2
2-4	2	1	0	2	0
5-10	9	1	3	1	6
11-15	5	9	5	8	19
16-17	1	0	1	3	4
Total	18	11	10	18	31

There has been a marked increase in the use of this type of provision with total numbers rising from 18 admissions in 2013/14 to 31 admissions in 2014/15, largely due to the lack of availability of in-house foster carers able to meet the needs of children with more complex needs.

Although Wirral uses lower numbers of Independent Fostering Placements than the North West average the cost of these placements is above average. The majority (85%) of new Independent Fostering Placements are made under the Placements North West Fostering Framework Contract but a significant number are made off contract as bespoke packages of care. This suggests independent foster care is used for children and young people with higher, more complex needs.

Financial Information

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	North West
Average cost of active IFA (per week)	£891	£816	£896	£925	£913	£778
Average cost of active IFA (per week)- on contract	£749	£860	£858	£884	£870	£773
Average cost of active IFA (per week)- off contract	£676	£919	£1,061	£1,039	£1,006	£790

Source: PNW Census

Implications and commissioning intentions

- Wirral believes that its children looked after are best cared for in Wirral. In seeking to place more children and young people closer to home we are aware of increased competition for all types of placements from other authorities.
- We are committed to reducing the use of residential placements including independent foster carers, except where there is a clear match to children's needs that cannot be met by our own foster carers.
- We will work with the provider market to develop more local, specialist provision for children and young people with complex needs.

- We will work in collaboration with our partner local authorities and Placements NorthWest to use our greater spending power to deliver high quality and increased efficiencies from the provider market.

4.5 Care Leavers

A high proportion of children and young people ceased to be looked after when they were 16 years of age or above (38%, 80 young people). Of those young people 17% ceased to be looked after and started living independently either with or without support from the local authority, almost double the region (8.9%) and significantly more than national rates (12%). We need to understand what these data tell us and provide assurance that young people are being supported and cared for into independent living as young adults.

Wirral had 215 Care Leavers aged 19 to 21 years of age as at the 31st March 2015. 165 (77%) were judged to be in suitable accommodation slightly lower than the region (80%) and nationally (79%) (Appendix 1 – Table 14).

Most care leavers are accommodated in Independent Living arrangements (35%, or 75 young people) or in Semi Independent Living arrangements (9%, or 20 young people). The use of Semi Independent living is higher than the region which is 5%. The overall numbers of Care Leavers in both these arrangements reflect both the regional and national picture.

A proportion of Care Leavers live with their parents or relatives in Wirral (16%, or 35 young people), which is in line with the regional average (16%).

Very low numbers of Wirral Care Leavers (2%, 5 young people) are classed as being in unsuitable accommodation compared to the region (8%) and nationally (7%). We want to develop Wirral standards for accommodation for care leavers where they progress into supported independent or semi-independent living. A Young Inspectors scheme has seen young people in care and care leavers directly involved in monitoring and assuring placement quality, leading to rapid improvements where quality has not been high enough. Wirral will sustain and

build on this scheme, ensuring that the voices of children and young people are at the heart of our quality and contract monitoring arrangements.

Implications and commissioning intentions

- Wirral wants its care leavers to have the best possible start to adult life. To improve the range and choice of provision, we will work with providers to develop a range of supported living arrangements to better meet the needs of 16 and 17 year olds.
- We will provide an additional 9 placements by working in collaboration with social housing providers and commissioning support for these placements. This provision will focus upon 'move on' arrangements in order to develop independent living skills.
- We will work with partners and providers to develop provision for young adults, through the local housing strategy, securing more flexible accommodation tailored to meet young people's needs.
- We will sustain and expand the Young Inspectors scheme to ensure the voice of children and young people is central to our quality assurance of placements.

5. Conclusion

The commissioning intentions in this strategy will be reflected in a SMART action plan that will include a suite of performance indicators. Progress will be monitored quarterly and the strategy itself formally reviewed on an annual basis over 2016-2020. This will ensure that annual changes in the profile of our children looked after population, the local provider market and our modelling of future demand are captured and inform specific actions each year.

The right placement at the right time and stability for children and young people drive performance against the sufficiency duty. All of our actions will seek to achieve the highest quality outcomes and be effective in keeping children and young people safeguarded.

We will put the voice of children and young people at the heart of our approach, enabling children and young people to have a say in the services they receive and help influence the development of good quality, stable placements that are value for money.

Appendix 1 - Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy Performance Indicators

Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy Performance Indicators

Benchmark data as at 31 March 2015

Key Indicator	%	No.	NW	England	Quartile
The percentage and numbers of children looked after with 3 or more placements during the year ended March 31st	6	40	9	10	A
Numbers of children looked after continuously for at least 2.5 years who were living in the same placement for at least 2 years, or are placed for adoption and their adoption and their adoptive placement together with their previous placement last for at least 2 years	73.3	300	4660	22930	N/A
The percentage and numbers of looked after children at 31st March placed outside the LA boundary and more than 20 miles from where they used to live	7	46	8	13	A
The percentage and numbers of care leavers aged 19 - 21 who were looked after aged 16 who were in suitable accommodation	75	160	83	81	D

Appendix 2 - Sufficiency and Commissioning Strategy Action Plan

Priority: Develop and deepen the needs analysis			
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a deeper dive into the journey of young people aged 16+ to make recommendations for improvement Further develop demand forecasting models to inform commissioning and financial planning 	Responsibility DPH	Timescale September 2016	Link CYPF JSNA
	DPH	December 2016	
Priority: Prevent children and young people becoming looked after			
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With partners, improve access to and availability of edge of care services 	Responsibility Head of Early Help and Targeted Services		Early Help and Prevention Strategy Edge of care service development
Priority: where children and young people do need to become looked after, ensure that as many as possible are placed in Wirral			
Actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design and develop an offer that can wrap around foster care placements to enable more children and young people to be placed with internal carers Develop and implement an approach to make Wirral the commissioner of choice for in-borough IFAs, closely aligned with the fostering team development plan to target specific needs Develop and implement a market engagement strategy with providers to increase the number of local residential placements for children with complex needs e.g. at risk of CSE, self-harm, mental health issues, ASC Continue to work in collaboration with partner local authorities and PNW to realise the financial and quality benefits of collaborative commissioning 	Responsibility Head of Early Help and Targeted Services	Timescale September 2016	Link Edge of care service development Fostering strategy
	Contracts and Commissioning Manager	September 2016	
	Contracts and Commissioning Manager	October 2016	
	Contracts and Commissioning Manager	Ongoing	

Priority: Increase the range of good quality living options for 16+ and care leavers			
<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the housing strategy to secure more flexible accommodation for older young people • Work with social housing providers to increase the number of 'move on' opportunities 	<p>Responsibility</p> <p>Senior Manager Supported Housing and Homelessness</p> <p>Contracts and Commissioning Manager</p>	<p>Timescale</p> <p>September 2016</p>	<p>Link</p> <p>Wirral Housing Strategy 2016</p>
Priority: Develop and implement a robust approach to provider and placement quality assurance			
<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a refreshed Wirral QA and provider monitoring scheme • Expand the Young Inspector Scheme to bring a wider range of young people into the quality assurance of placements 	<p>Responsibility</p> <p>Contracts and Commissioning Manager</p> <p>Contracts and Commissioning Manager</p>	<p>Timescale</p> <p>August 2016</p> <p>September 2016</p>	<p>Link</p>

Appendix 3 – Profile of Wirral (Data Analysis)

Wirral has a high overall number of children looked after. As at 31st March 2015 the total population was 675 (100 rate per 10,000).

**Table 1: Children looked after (Numbers and Rates per 10,000)
Years ending 31 March 2011 to 2016**

	Numbers					Rates				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Statistical Neighbours										
Lancashire	1,290	1,325	1,470	1,585	1,610	53	54	61	65	66
Redcar and Cleveland	150	170	175	175	185	53	62	63	63	67
North Tyneside	280	295	295	305	305	69	74	73	75	75
Wigan	460	480	510	495	505	68	71	75	73	75
Halton	125	125	145	210	230	45	44	52	75	81
Hartlepool	165	175	185	200	165	80	85	92	100	82
Sefton	380	395	420	400	450	70	73	78	75	85
Darlington	185	205	210	190	200	82	90	91	83	88
Stockton-On-Tees	290	335	360	380	375	69	80	86	90	88
Wirral	680	670	665	665	675	100	99	98	99	100
St Helens	345	335	440	430	410	94	92	121	119	113
Statistical Neighbours										
North West	11,340	11,380	11,810	12,240	12,490	68	73	79	82	82
England	65,510	67,070	68,060	68,800	69,540	76	76	78	81	82
						58	59	60	60	60

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Wirral's looked after population has a similar gender profile to the North West and the England averages (55% male to 44% Female as at 31st March 2015).

Wirral has a lower percentage of young children (0-4 years of age) in care than the North West average however it does have a higher percentage of 10-15 year olds in care compared to both the England Average and North West average. Having said this, due to the large looked after population Wirral has more children looked after in each age group than regionally.

Table 2: Children looked after by age and gender (Numbers and Percentage)
Year ending 31 March 2015

	All children	Numbers							Percentages						
		Gender		Age at 31 March 2015 (years)					Gender		Age at 31 March 2015 (years)				
		M	F	<1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16+	M	F	<1	1 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 15	16+
Statistical Neighbours															
Lancashire	1,610	860	745	95	320	365	585	245	54	46	6	20	23	36	15
Redcar and Cleveland	185	95	90	10	30	40	80	25	52	48	4	16	21	44	15
North Tyneside	305	185	120	15	35	65	120	65	61	39	6	12	22	39	22
Wigan	505	290	215	30	105	140	155	70	57	43	6	21	28	31	14
Halton	230	120	110	10	45	55	80	35	52	48	5	21	23	36	15
Hartlepool	165	85	80	5	20	25	75	30	52	48	4	13	17	47	19
Sefton	450	235	215	25	75	100	175	75	52	48	6	17	22	38	17
Darlington	200	110	90	10	35	40	75	35	54	46	6	19	19	38	19
Stockton-On-Tees	375	210	165	15	55	110	130	60	56	44	5	15	30	35	16
Wirral	675	375	300	25	115	165	265	110	55	45	4	17	24	39	16
St Helens	410	220	190	25	90	110	145	45	54	46	6	22	27	35	11
Statistical Neighbours									54	46	5	18	23	38	16
North West									55	45	5	18	24	36	16
England									55	45	5	15	21	38	22

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Wirral's general population is identified as predominantly White. This is reflected within the ethnicity of the children looked after by the authority with 94% being White and only 4% being mixed race. In all ethnic groups the numbers are so low in Wirral that the Department for Education does not record these. These figures are lower than both the North West and England.

**Table 3: Children looked after by ethnic origin (Number and Percentage)
Year ending 31 March 2015**

	All children looked after	Numbers						Percentages					
		White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other ethnic groups	Not Known	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Other ethnic groups	Not Known
Statistical Neighbours													
Lancashire	1,610	1,400	85	70	10	20	30	87	5	4	1	1	2
Redcar and Cleveland	185	180	x	x	0	x	0	98	x	x	0	x	0
North Tyneside	305	290	x	0	x	x	x	95	x	0	x	x	x
Wigan	505	465	20	x	x	15	0	92	4	x	x	3	0
Halton	230	220	x	x	0	x	0	97	x	x	0	x	0
Hartlepool	165	160	x	0	x	0	x	98	x	0	x	0	x
Sefton	450	430	x	x	0	10	0	95	x	x	0	2	0
Darlington	200	185	x	x	0	x	10	92	x	x	0	x	4
Stockton-On-Tees	375	335	15	x	10	x	0	90	3	x	3	x	0
Wirral	675	635	30	x	x	x	x	94	4	x	x	x	x
St Helens	410	390	15	x	x	x	0	95	4	x	x	x	0
North West	12,490	10,700	820	360	340	150	130	86	7	3	3	1	1
England	69,540	53,600	6,170	2,660	4,920	1,700	500	77	9	4	7	2	1

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

The number of unaccompanied asylum seekers in Wirral is low.

Table 4: Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children looked after (Numbers)
Years ending 31 March 2011 to 2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Statistical Neighbours					
Lancashire	x	x	x	x	x
Redcar and Cleveland	0	x	x	x	0
North Tyneside	0	0	0	0	0
Wigan	x	0	0	0	0
Halton	x	x	x	x	x
Hartlepool	0	0	0	0	0
Sefton	0	0	0	0	x
Darlington	x	x	0	0	0
Stockton-On-Tees	x	x	x	x	x
Wirral	x	x	x	0	0
St Helens	0	0	0	x	x
North West	140	90	60	50	50
England	2,740	2,230	1,940	2,030	2,630

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Wirral uses Foster Care for the majority of the children in its care (515, 76%) which is higher than both the North West region (72%).

**Table 5: Children looked after by placement (Percentage)
Year ending 31 March 2015**

	Placements							
	Foster placements	Placed for adoption	Placement with parents	Other placement in the community	Secure units, children's homes and hostels	Other residential settings	Residential schools	Other placement
Statistical Neighbours								
Lancashire	69	5	14	2	8	2	x	0
Redcar and Cleveland	78	x	7	x	10	0	0	0
North Tyneside	87	x	3	x	6	x	x	0
Wigan	74	6	9	0	9	x	x	x
Halton	63	5	10	4	13	x	0	x
Hartlepool	84	6	x	x	4	x	x	0
Sefton	69	x	17	2	10	x	0	x
Darlington	79	7	x	x	13	x	x	0
Stockton-On-Tees	72	3	8	x	13	0	x	0
Wirral	76	3	12	2	6	x	x	0
St. Helens	76	6	10	x	6	0	x	0
North West	72	5	11	2	8	2	1	x
England	75	5	5	3	9	2	1	x

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 6: Children looked after by placement (Number)
Year ending 31 March 2015

	All children looked after	Placements							
		Foster placements	Placed for adoption	Placement with parents	Other placement in the community	Secure units, children's homes and hostels	Other residential settings	Residential schools	Other placement
Statistical Neighbours									
Lancashire	1,610	1,110	80	220	30	130	35	x	0
Redcar and Cleveland	185	145	x	10	x	20	0	0	0
North Tyneside	305	265	x	10	x	20	x	x	0
Wigan	505	375	30	50	0	45	x	x	x
Halton	230	145	10	20	10	30	x	0	x
Hartlepool	165	135	10	x	x	5	x	x	0
Sefton	450	310	x	80	10	45	x	0	x
Darlington	200	155	15	x	x	25	x	x	0
Stockton-On-Tees	375	270	15	30	x	45	0	x	0
Wirral	675	515	25	80	15	40	x	x	0
St. Helens	410	315	25	40	x	25	0	x	0
North West	12,490	8,960	600	1,420	230	950	230	90	20
England	69,540	52,050	3,320	3,510	2,280	6,570	1,080	670	70

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Wirral provides the majority of care via local authority foster care (73%) considerably more than other authorities. The use of private provision in both Foster Care and Residential care is low 13% compared to others. Value for money comparisons indicate that the cost of in-house Foster Care in Wirral is low compared to others.

Table 7: Children looked after by placement provider (Percentage)

Year ending 31 March 2015

		Placement Provider						Placement Provider not Reported
		Own provision (by the Local Authority)	Other Local Authority provision	Private provision	Parents or other person with parental responsibility	Voluntary/third sector provision	Other public provision (e.g. by PCT etc.)	
Statistical Neighbours								
Lancashire	1,610	46	3	36	14	2	x	0
Redcar and Cleveland	185	46	x	35	5	11	0	0
North Tyneside	305	84	x	8	3	3	0	0
Wigan	505	68	4	17	10	1	x	x
Halton	230	59	x	24	9	x	0	2
Hartlepool	165	73	5	30	x	5	0	0
Sefton	450	50	x	23	18	8	0	x
Darlington	200	63	x	30	x	8	0	0
Stockton-On-Tees	375	51	3	39	8	x	x	0
Wirral	675	73	1	13	12	x	x	0
St. Helens	410	57	2	28	10	2	0	0
North West	12,490	55	2	29	11	3	0	0
England	69,540	56	2	34	5	3	1	0

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 8: Children looked after at 31 March by placement provider (Numbers)
Year ending 31 March 2015

	All children looked after	Placement Provider						Placement Provider not Reported
		Own provision (by the Local Authority)	Other Local Authority provision	Private provision	Parents or other person with parental responsibility	Voluntary/third sector provision	Other public provision (e.g. by PCT etc.)	
Statistical Neighbours								
Lancashire	1,610	735	45	575	220	25	x	0
Redcar and Cleveland	185	85	x	65	10	20	0	0
North Tyneside	305	255	x	25	10	10	0	0
Wigan	505	345	20	85	50	5	x	x
Halton	230	135	x	55	20	x	0	5
Hartlepool	165	120	5	30	x	5	0	0
Sefton	450	225	x	105	80	35	0	x
Darlington	200	125	x	60	x	15	0	0
Stockton-On-Tees	375	190	10	145	30	x	x	0
Wirral	675	495	5	90	80	x	x	0
St. Helens	410	235	10	115	40	10	0	0
North West	12,490	6,820	280	3,570	1,420	340	40	20
England	69,540	38,630	1,340	23,480	3,510	2,140	370	70

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Wirral places 17% (115) of its Children looked after outside the authority, of this number 10% (65) are placed less than 20 miles from their home address with 7% (50) placed more than 20 miles from their home address. While this is lower than the North West average totaling some 35% of children placed outside the authority boundary good performance in this area may be expressed as 'lower is better'.

**Table 9: Local Authority Children looked after by distance between home and placement (Number)
Year ending 31 March 2015**

		Numbers					
		Children who are the responsibility of the local authority					
	All children looked after	20 miles or less		Over 20 miles		Distance not known or not recorded	
		Inside LA boundary	Outside LA boundary	Inside LA boundary	Outside LA boundary	Inside LA boundary	Outside LA boundary
Statistical Neighbours							
Lancashire	1,610	1,130	190	135	140	x	x
Redcar and Cleveland	185	85	65	0	25	x	x
North Tyneside	305	205	75	0	20	0	x
Wigan	505	365	110	x	30	0	0
Halton	230	150	50	x	20	x	5
Hartlepool	165	110	30	x	20	x	x
Sefton	450	290	130	0	25	x	x
Darlington	200	110	60	x	15	10	x
Stockton-On-Tees	375	240	95	0	25	x	x
Wirral	675	560	65	x	50	0	x
St Helens	410	230	135	0	40	0	x
North West	12,490	7,540	3,180	360	1,220	60	130
England	69,540	37,440	16,060	2,770	9,660	1,810	1,800

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

**Table 10: Local Authority Children looked after by distance between home and placement (Percentage)
Year ending 31 March 2015**

		Percentage					
		Children who are the responsibility of the local authority					
	All children looked after	20 miles or less		Over 20 miles		Distance not known or not recorded	
		Inside LA boundary	Outside LA boundary	Inside LA boundary	Outside LA boundary	Inside LA boundary	Outside LA boundary
Statistical Neighbours							
Lancashire	1,610	70	12	8	9	x	x
Redcar and Cleveland	185	48	35	0	13	x	x
North Tyneside	305	67	25	0	7	0	x
Wigan	505	72	22	x	6	0	0
Halton	230	66	21	x	10	x	3
Hartlepool	165	67	19	x	12	x	x
Sefton	450	64	29	0	6	x	x
Darlington	200	56	29	x	7	6	x
Stockton-On-Tees	375	64	26	0	7	x	x
Wirral	675	83	10	x	7	0	x
St Helens	410	56	33	0	10	0	x
North West	12,490	60	25	3	10	1	1
England	69,540	54	23	4	14	3	3

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

There are increasing numbers of children looked after being placed in Wirral by other local authorities.

**Table 11: All Children looked after by distance between home and placement (Number and Percentage)
Year ending 31 March 2015**

	Numbers			Net gain of children by responsible LA	Percentage		
	Local authority of placement for children				Local authority of placement for children		
	All children placed within LA boundary	Children placed internally within LA boundary	External children placed within LA boundary		All children placed within LA boundary	Children placed internally within LA boundary	External children placed within LA boundary
Statistical Neighbours							
Lancashire	2,000	1,270	730	395	100	64	36
Redcar and Cleveland	140	90	50	-40	100	63	37
North Tyneside	345	205	140	40	100	60	40
Wigan	575	365	210	70	100	63	37
Halton	285	155	130	55	100	54	46
Hartlepool	165	110	55	x	100	66	34
Sefton	535	295	240	80	100	55	45
Darlington	215	115	100	25	100	54	46
Stockton-On-Tees	380	245	140	10	100	64	36
Wirral	735	560	175	55	100	76	24
St Helens	370	230	135	-45	100	63	37
North West	12,330	7,950	4,380	-160	100	65	35
England	68,540	41,950	26,590		100	61	39

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Of those that ceased to be looked after a low percentage in Wirral (9.8%) ceased as a result of Adoption compared to the region (19.3%) and nationally (17.1%). The use of Special Guardianship in Wirral is high (17.1%) compared to the region (14.6%) and nationally (11.3%).

17.1% entered some form of Independent Living arrangement, significantly higher than the North West region (8.9%) and higher than England (12%).

**Table 12: Children who ceased to be looked after by reason (Percentage and Number)
Year ending 31 March 2015**

Reason	Wirral (Number)	Wirral (%)	North West (%)	England (%)
Total No.	205			
Adopted – application unopposed	10	4.9	10.2	9.1
Adopted – consent dispensed with	10	4.9	9.1	8
Adopted - Total	20	9.8	19.3	17.1
Died	0	0	0.2	0.1
Care taken by another LA	5	2.4	0.9	0.5
Returned to live with parents or relatives	60	29.3	30.5	34.2
Residence Order Granted	0	0	2.9	3.3
Special Guardianship order – former foster carer	25	12.2	7	5.2
Special Guardianship order – NOT former foster carers	10	4.9	7.4	6.1
Special Guardianship order – Total	35	17.1	14.6	11.3
Independent Living (with supportive accommodation)	20	9.8	6.1	9.1
Independent Living (without supportive accommodation)	15	7.3	2.8	2.9
Independent Living – Total	35	17.1	8.9	12
Transferred to residential care	x	x	1.3	1.9
Sentenced to custody	x	x	2	1.8
Other reasons	40	19.5	19.4	17.8

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Table 13: Children adopted (Number and Percentage)

Years ending 31 March 2011 to 2016

	Number of looked after children adopted during the year					Percentage of looked after children adopted during the year				
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Statistical Neighbours										
Lancashire	50	70	75	85	120	11	15	16	15	20
Redcar and Cleveland	15	10	15	20	20	14	15	20	28	27
North Tyneside	20	20	25	25	20	14	15	20	20	14
Wigan	20	25	35	35	50	12	18	26	23	35
Halton	10	10	10	5	20	15	15	19	10	18
Hartlepool	15	15	10	15	15	19	20	13	18	16
Sefton	10	10	15	45	20	9	10	13	25	13
Darlington	x	15	10	20	25	x	15	9	20	26
Stockton-On-Tees	15	15	20	30	30	11	11	11	16	21
Wirral	25	25	15	40	20	15	11	9	19	11
St Helens	15	10	20	20	30	14	11	22	12	22
North West	520	590	650	770	890	13	15	16	17	19
England	3,100	3,470	4,010	5,050	5,330	11	13	14	17	17

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Wirral had 165 (77%) Care Leavers, 19 to 21 year of age, judged to be in suitable accommodation slightly lower than the region (80%) and nationally (79%). In part this is due to the high numbers of Care Leavers that are no longer in contact (21%, 45 young people) compared to the region (12%) and nationally (14%). Very low numbers of Wirral Care Leavers (2%, 5 young people) are classed as being in unsuitable accommodation compared to the region (8%) and nationally (7%).

Table 14: The number and percentage of care leavers aged 19, 20 and 21 by accommodation type, 31st March 2015

	Wirral		North West	England
	Number	%	%	%
Suitable accommodation	165	77	80	79
Unsuitable accommodation	5	2	8	7
No information	45	21	12	14

Accommodation Type

With parents or relatives	35	16	16	11
Semi-independent transitional accommodation	20	9	5	9
Independent living	75	35	41	39
Community home	x	x	5	4
Supported lodgings	x	x	5	6
Ordinary lodgings	x	x	2	2
Foyers	x	x	1	2
Emergency accommodation	x	x	0.3	0.4
Bed and breakfast	0	0	x	0.4
In custody	x	x	4	4
With former Foster Carer	x	x	6	5
Other accommodation	x	x	3	4

Source: DfE Children looked after in England including adoption

Note: Low numbers have been suppressed and are represented by an x.

Local figures rounded to the nearest 5, regional and national figures rounded to the nearest 10.

Population Projections

The tables below set out population projections for Wirral as provided by NOMIS.

This indicates that the 0-17 population in Wirral is likely to rise slightly (658 children or a 0.9%) between 2016 and 2019.

Table 15: Population projections - Wirral based by single year of age

Age	2016	2017	2018	2019
Age 0	3,551	3,576	3,574	3,590
Age 1	3,571	3,595	3,621	3,619
Age 2	3,744	3,628	3,653	3,679
Age 3	3,816	3,781	3,665	3,690
Age 4	4,198	3,854	3,818	3,703
Age 5	3,875	4,215	3,874	3,837
Age 6	3,841	3,900	4,238	3,899
Age 7	3,808	3,860	3,920	4,256
Age 8	3,876	3,823	3,875	3,935
Age 9	3,846	3,889	3,837	3,888
Age 10	3,791	3,859	3,903	3,850
Age 11	3,627	3,808	3,876	3,921
Age 12	3,656	3,644	3,824	3,893
Age 13	3,545	3,669	3,657	3,837
Age 14	3,545	3,559	3,682	3,671
Age 15	3,573	3,547	3,562	3,685
Age 16	3,755	3,583	3,556	3,571
Age 17	3,808	3,760	3,588	3,560
Total	67,426	67,550	67,723	68,084

ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis]

Within age groups the population projections show a greater change in population between 2016 and 2019, although there are fluctuations between individual years.

Between 2016 and 2019 the number of 1 to 4 year olds is likely to decrease by 638 children or 4.16%, the number of young people 16 plus is also expected to reduce by 432 or 5.71%.

The number of under 1 year olds is likely to increase slightly by 39 children or 1.1% as are the number of 5 to 9 year olds, increasing by 569 children or 2.96%.

The largest increase is likely in the 10 to 15 population with an increase of 1,120 children or 5.15%.

Table 16: Population projections - Wirral age groups change over time

Age	2016	2017	Number (+ / -)	% (+ / -)	2018	Number (+ / -)	% (+ / -)	2019	Number (+ / -)	% (+ / -)	2016-2019 Change (Number)	2016-2019 Change (%)
<1	3,551	3,576	25	0.70	3,574	-2	-0.06	3,590	16	0.45	39	1.10
1 - 4	15,329	14,858	-471	-3.07	14,757	-101	-0.68	14,691	-66	-0.45	-638	-4.16
5 - 9	19,246	19,687	441	2.29	19,744	57	0.29	19,815	71	0.36	569	2.96
10 - 15	21,737	22,086	349	1.61	22,504	418	1.89	22,857	353	1.57	1,120	5.15
16+	7,563	7,343	-220	-2.91	7,144	-199	-2.71	7,131	-13	-0.18	-432	-5.71
Total	67,426	67,550	124	0.18	67,723	173	0.26	68,084	361	0.53	658	0.98

ONS Crown Copyright Reserved [from Nomis]