

EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION STRATEGY

2015 - 2017

Early
Help

LATE
PREVENTION

Cllr Tony Smith
Cabinet Member,
Wirral Council

John Martin
Chief Superintendent,
Merseyside Police

Anthony Hassall
Associate Director of Operations,
Women and Children's,
NHS

Bernard Walker
Independent Chair,
Wirral's Local Safeguarding
Children Board

Graham Burgess
Chief Executive,
Wirral Council

Aileen Alexander
Team Leader,
Barnardos

Christine Berry
Healthwatch Senior Advocate,
Healthwatch

Bev Morgan
CEO,
Home Start Wirral

Clare Fish
Strategic Director
Families & Wellbeing,
Wirral Council

Sue Higginson
Principal & Chief Executive,
Wirral Met

Norma Currie
Commissioning Manager,
Wirral CCG

Keith Molony
Chief Executive,
Family Housing Association

Mary Quigg
Managing Director,
Leasowe Community Homes

Chris Allen
CEO,
Forum Housing

Jayne Winders
Executive Director,
Magenta Living

Zoe Munby
Director,
Birkenhead Foundation Years Project

Steve Newsham
Regional Director West,
Regenda Housing

Stephen Dainty
Consultant Primary Headteacher,
Wirral Council

Simon Gilby
Chief Executive,
Wirral Community Trust

Iris Batman
Service Lead CAMHS Partnerships,
CFP

Phil Sheridan
Secondary Consultant Head Teacher,
Wirral Council

Paul Murphy
Group Manager,
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Lynn Loughran
Link Forum Co-ordinator,
Link Forum

Keith Billington
Senior Executive,
Connexions



THE PLEDGE

COMMITTING TO MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We, have signed this pledge to ensure that our people and our organisations work collaboratively to demonstrate our shared commitment to a Targeted Early Help approach and the key underpinning principles it represents.

We endorse the Regional Early Help Strategy to guide our work locally and will endeavour to ensure a preventative approach is embedded in all we do.

We will:

Local Solutions, Local Decisions

- Work with the whole family, ensuring they are central and key partners in processes that affect them
- Identify problems early and intervene quickly with effective solutions, at the right time, by the right organisation

Promoting Independence

- Promote early intervention and prevention, offering help to families with emerging problems to prevent them getting worse
 - Help change behaviours and build resilience at a family and community level

Driving Growth and Aspiration

- Improve life chances and aspirations of children and families
- Provide responsive and flexible support based on 'what works' to ensure better outcomes for all, sharing learning so that what we do is based on good evidence

Underpinning and important to driving these key principles is developing services through effective commissioning.

Debbie Hammersley
Designated Nurse for
Safeguarding Children,
Wirral CCG

Dr Hamilton Grantham
Community Paediatrician,
NHS

Fiona Johnstone
Head of Policy & Performance/
Director of Public Health,
Wirral Council

Jane Kennedy
Police & Crime Commissioner
Merseyside

Richard Longster
Chair of Wirral Schools Forum

Julia Hassall
Director CYPD,
Wirral Council

OUR EARLY HELP VISION

Early Help is everybody's responsibility:

together we will make sure that children, young people and their families are safe, happy and ready for school, work and life's challenges.

INTRODUCTION

What is Early Help?

There are two key strands to Early Help. The first is to provide help and support at the earliest stages of a child's life (pre-birth to 5 years). The second strand involves intervening as soon as a problem emerges. This type of Early Help may be required at any stage in a child or young person's life.

What is Late Prevention?

Late prevention describes a very broad range of activity which is targeted towards those who have endured problems over a continued length of time or who have recently been involved with specialist, statutory services. This includes children and young people whose families have experienced inter-generational issues and those who are repeatedly referred to Children's Services as they encounter multiple problems. Late prevention requires co-ordinated, multi-agency working focussed around clear family plans which lead towards sustained positive outcomes.

Why are Early Help and Prevention Important?

Early Help means better outcomes for children and families. Effective Early Help will resolve problems before they become overwhelming and require high cost, reactive services. Early Help enables children to be ready for school and more likely to achieve their full potential.

Prevention is important because the future of Wirral's young people and communities are important. No child, young person or family should be considered beyond help. Prevention enables young people and families that have become overwhelmed by difficulties to make better choices, to learn new skills, to have aspirations and to turn their lives around.

Whose Responsibility is it?

Early Help is everybody's responsibility. To be successful it requires collaboration between families, communities, universal services and preventative services. Early Help relies upon families and universal services identifying needs at their earliest stage and together being confident to take the right action. The Local Authority has a key role in supporting these actions by ensuring a wide range of high quality Early Help and Prevention services are available, that they are co-ordinated and deliver the best possible outcomes for children and families. And supportive communities are where families can be nurtured to find the purpose and belonging they need to thrive.

This is reinforced in The Wirral Plan: A 2020 vision with the priority that "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. Ensuring the most vulnerable among us are safe, and feel safe, is perhaps our most important responsibility. We will work across Council and agency boundaries to promptly identify and tackle problems before they develop."

Both research and common sense tell us that some groups are more likely to require Early Help services than others. Children with disabilities or special educational needs, young carers or those whose parents have mental health difficulties or substance misuse problems may be more vulnerable. Our local partnership is committed to ensuring that these groups are able to easily access the right help at the right time from the right service.

Governance

The progress of this strategy and the children, young people and families it seeks to support will have strategic oversight from the multi-agency Early Help Strategic Board which is governed, through the Children's Trust Partnership Board.

The Children's Trust Partnership Board has devolved responsibility for Early Help to the Early Help Strategic Board, positioning it as the vehicle to ensure that children's outcomes are delivered.

The Early Help Strategic Board is accountable to the Children's Joint Commissioning group which will challenge and scrutinise its progress. The Children's Joint Commissioning Group will seek to drive economy of scale through greater collaboration, integration and a range of delivery options and geographical footprint arrangements.

Wirral Safeguarding Children Board is responsible for ensuring that children and young people are kept safe in the borough and do this through audit, quality assurance and holding to account the partners of the Children's Trust Board.

The engagement and involvement of children, young people and their families is vital to ensuring the strategy is relevant and provides the best possible outcomes for Wirral families.



Commissioning for Early Help will consider how the total resource available for children, young people and parents will be used effectively, efficiently, equitably and sustainably to improve outcomes

Delivering Early Help and Prevention

Whilst the Continuum (pictured below) has clearly defined levels of need, Early Help and Prevention are more fluid and can straddle the different thresholds. Our local understanding and approach sees Early Help span across levels 1, 2 and 3 of the continuum, whilst prevention spans levels 3 and 4. This fluidity demonstrates our awareness that the needs of children and their families cannot be neatly pigeon-holed. We recognise that every child's journey will be unique and together we will strive to ensure that our services respond to their needs rather than expecting them to fit into our services.

In the autumn of 2013, Wirral Council repositioned itself to provide a better approach to early intervention by establishing Targeted Services. Restorative Practice, Early Years and Children's Centres, Family Intervention, the Youth and Play Service and Lifelong Learning have been

amalgamated into this single service area. Services are delivered using a locality model aligned to the constituency areas of Birkenhead, Wallasey and South & West Wirral.

Locality-based teams work alongside universal services and partner agencies to deliver Early Help and Prevention which is co-ordinated by the Local Authority.

This strategy outlines our partnership commitment, priorities and ambitions in three main sections:

- **Section A: Help in the Earliest Stages of Life;**
- **Section B: Help in the Earliest Stages of a Problem; and**
- **Section C: Late Prevention.**

Within each section the pledges describe how we will realise our shared vision for Early Help to improve outcomes for Wirral's children, young people and families.



SECTION A: HELP IN THE EARLIEST STAGES OF LIFE

“The early years are a crucial time for a child’s development. It is a time of opportunity and the development of cognitive skills. The neurosciences tell us a baby’s brain is more plastic than it will be at any future point in his or her development. While it is never too late for children to benefit from an enriched learning environment, a key opportunity is lost if their development is not fully supported when they are very young.

The early years are also a time of first relationships. A warm and loving relationship with a sensitive and predictable care giver creates the context in which children develop positive expectations about themselves and others.

Unfortunately, the first five years can also represent a period of heightened risk for some families. Even in the happiest of circumstances, the arrival of a new baby increases the family’s level of stress. Where families are already coping with adversities such as economic hardship, parental mental health problems or domestic abuse it is likely the stress they experience is much higher.

The research literature tells us that if this stress is too high, or chronic, the child will be at greater risk of social, emotional and physical problems as he or she becomes older.”

Getting it Right for Families

Early Intervention Foundation (2014)

Children are Ready for School

“By four we would expect children to be ready to be separated from their parent or carer, to be able to demonstrate listening skills in being able to show interest and pay attention to a subject of stimulus. To have enough language to be able to express themselves if they need something and be able to communicate something about what makes them who they are, such as name, age and something about family or relevant factors in their life. To be able to interact with an adult and/or peer. To make observations, notice things and ask questions. To be able to hold a book, understand some aspects of narrative and respond to some boundary setting”

Primary School Head Teacher

Are You Ready?: Good Practice in School Readiness

Ofsted (2014)

Partnership Commitment

- We will agree a local definition of school readiness, embedding a common language and set of expectations, which encompass cultural diversity across the children’s workforce, and with parents and carers and communities.
- We will increase the take up of 2, 3 and 4 year old nursery places for vulnerable children by sharing responsibility for engagement as a partnership.
- We will put parents, carers and community groups at the centre of our plans, actively encouraging them to support each other.
- Together we will redefine our Early Years Offer to develop a wider, integrated pathway.
- All agencies commit to providing opportunities for children to have fun with their families.

Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential

We know from serious case reviews that the early years of life can be a high risk time for children, especially those who are already considered vulnerable because of parental stress factors such as mental health issues, drug and alcohol misuse, and relationship breakdown. Particular attention must be paid to the youngest children living in these circumstances.

Partnership Commitment

- An Early Help Assessment Tool will be introduced across the partnership, for use by both children's and adult services, to identify vulnerable children earlier.
- On an bi-annual basis strategic leads will work together, using locally-held intelligence, to identify targets groups of vulnerable children and plan a joint approach to meeting their needs.
- Our universal offer will ensure that families with a child under the age of 5 are actively encouraged to engage with community provision.

Reduce Child and Family Poverty

“For too many children, especially those living in the most deprived areas, educational failure starts early. Gaps in achievement between the poorest children and their better off counterparts are clearly established by the age of five. There are strong associations between a child's social background and their readiness for school as measured by their scores on entry to Year 1. Too many children, especially those that are poor, lack a firm grounding in the key skills of communication, language, literacy and mathematics..... This has serious implications. Too few who start school behind their peers catch up by the time they leave education.”

Are You Ready?: Good Practice in School Readiness

Ofsted (2014)

Partnership Commitment

- Our frontline practitioners will recognise the signs of poverty earlier and know how to access help for children and families.
- Services which provide parenting will promote practical skills within the home to help families save money and become more resourceful.
- Our Job Centre Plus staff will support the wider workforce to understand and prepare families for on-going changes to benefit entitlement.

Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse

“It has been long established that pregnant women are especially at risk of being subject to domestic abuse. Experiencing domestic abuse during pregnancy can have significant implications for the physical and psychological health of both mothers and their babies. Potential consequences include risks such as later entry to pre-natal care, low birth weight, premature labour, foetal trauma, and unhealthy maternal behaviours including tobacco, alcohol and drug use and their related health issues.”

Early Intervention in Domestic Violence and Abuse
Early Intervention Foundation (2014)

Partnership Commitment

- Frontline practitioners working with expectant and new mothers will routinely screen for domestic abuse, be confident in having conversations about it and be able to produce interim safety plans.
- Frontline practitioners will understand domestic abuse and be able to match parents, and children, to appropriate support services.
- Joint working and information sharing across the Early Years workforce will be improved through a wider, integrated pathway.

Accountability for an effective Early Help offer and improved outcomes for children and families will be shared across the multi-agency partnership

The voice of the family, and most importantly of the child, must be sought at all stages of Early Help and Prevention

SECTION B: HELP IN THE EARLIEST STAGES OF A PROBLEM

“The case for preventative services is clear, both in the sense of offering help to children and families before any problems are apparent and in providing help when low level problems emerge. From the perspective of a child or young person, it is clearly best if they receive help before they have any, or have only minor, adverse experiences. Evaluative research provides the same message, showing that there are a number of helping methods that have a good record of reducing the later incidence of adverse outcomes for children and young people but that, in comparison, services offered once problems become severe have a much lower effectiveness rate.... The arguments for Early Help are three fold. First there is the moral argument for minimising adverse experiences for children and young people. This is endorsed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Children Act (1989). Secondly, there is the argument of ‘now or never’ arising from the evidence of how difficult it is to reverse damage to children and young people’s development. The third argument is that it is cost effective when current expenditure is compared with estimated expenditure if serious problems develop later.”

The Munro Review of Child Protection Final Report - A Child Centred System

Professor Eileen Munro (2013)

Young People are Ready for Work and Adulthood

“To be successful at negotiating a pathway to adulthood young people require self-esteem and individual resilience, which are necessary for identity development. To achieve this young people value ‘somewhere to go, something to do, and someone to talk to’.”

Building Resilience with Young People and Communities

Resilience Consortium (2013)

Partnership Commitment

- When delivering or commissioning programmes for young people we will ensure that key outcomes for each programme are to improve resilience and raise aspirations.
- All partners are committed to promoting personal development opportunities for young people, which will be evident in their support plans.
- We will increase engagement with local businesses to actively support Wirral’s young people in their preparation for adulthood, with particular consideration of work experience opportunities for vulnerable young people and those with additional needs.
- A joint approach to improving the emotional health and wellbeing of young people will be developed in partnership with young people.

Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse

“Witnessing abuse between parents, irrespective of whether it results in direct physical harm to the child can have similar long term consequences for a child to physical abuse which is targeted at the child. Children who have experienced domestic abuse in the home display increased fear, inhibition, and depression as well as high levels of aggression and anti-social behaviour, which can persist into adolescence and adulthood.”

Early Intervention in Domestic Violence and Abuse
Early Intervention Foundation (2014)

Partnership Commitment

- Key frontline practitioners will be trained to assess the direct impact of domestic abuse on children, using a standardised tool, and be able to respond appropriately.
- Where children are known to have witnessed domestic abuse they will be given the opportunity to talk about their feelings and/or experiences with a practitioner they know and feel comfortable with.
- Multi-agency partners will support schools and youth groups in delivering awareness raising sessions which educate children and young people about healthy relationships.

Reduce Child and Family Poverty

“Compared to other children, those from households with low income or lower socio-economic status are: more likely to suffer infant mortality; more likely to have pre-school conduct and behavioural problems; more likely to experience bullying and take part in risky behaviour as teenagers; less likely to do well in school; less likely to stay on at school after 16; and more likely to grow up to be poor themselves.”

The Foundation Years: Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults
Frank Field MP (2010)

Partnership Commitment

- The principles of and learning from the Raising Aspirations for Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY) project will be shared and incorporated into our approach to developing children’s, young people’s and family plans.
- On an annual basis strategic leads will work together, using intelligence from the Unlocking Potential Programme to identify target groups and jointly plan an approach to improving their outcomes.
- All practitioners are committed to ensuring that vulnerable children, young people and families receive the support, both in service provision and financially, that they are entitled to.
- The partnership is committed to a whole family approach and agrees to, wherever appropriate, encourage parents to improve their own employability and engage in lifelong learning.

Services are Joined Up and Accessible

From inquiries into the deaths of Victoria Climbié, Maria Colwell, and Baby Peter Connelly, as well as recent inquiries into child sexual exploitation, there are striking similarities. Common failures include lack of information sharing between agencies, failure to identify needs and access appropriate services, children falling through the cracks between different agencies, and children falling through the cracks of threshold models.

Partnership Commitment

- A centralised team will lead and increase participation in CAF and TAF activity, enabling more children and families to benefit from early intervention.
- Our commitment to a single front door to Children's Services will be realised with provision made available to allow children and families to make direct contact with Early Help and CAF Team.
- Our Early Help Offer will be published on a regular basis and extended to include informal support services provided by voluntary, community and faith groups.
- As a partnership we are committed to creating a culture of conversations in all areas of business. We will create opportunities for professionals to talk to each other rather than communicating through forms and processes only.

Early Help must be understood and delivered cohesively with statutory services - having a shared focus on the child's journey

Early Help and Prevention will be delivered through a whole family approach

SECTION C: LATE PREVENTION

“This programme is about doing something fundamentally different. We need to drive radical reform across all public services, not just local government.... It’s no secret that I went out during the spending round and fought to find more money to put together a new programme. That’s because I believe and colleagues in local government believe:

- we can prevent the need for many more children to be on child protection plans or be taken into care by changing the way the family functions and by doing so earlier
- we can tackle the problems families have better if we get children with problems aged 4 rather than excluded children in pupil referrals units at age 11
- we can change the way the police police so that if a family is the source of endless call outs, and the police know the family is on the way to becoming a serious burden on the criminal justice system, the response is more than the same reactive service each time 999 is dialled
- we can work with families to make sure they register with a GP; increasing child immunisations and reducing A&E admissions.

The expanded programme will be as much about system reform as it will be about reforming families. Because if we don’t get this right, we will keep having families causing misery to themselves, their children, their neighbours, over generations... maybe we can give the children in these families a fighting chance.”

Extract from a speech by Louise Casey CB, Troubled Families Director General, on the ***Troubled Families initiative, a current example of late prevention*** (July 2013)

Vulnerable Children Reach their Full Potential

“Overall, this country is still one where life chances are unequal. This damages not only those children born into disadvantage, but our society as a whole. We all stand to share the benefits of an economy and society with less educational failure, higher skills, less crime and better health. We all share a duty to do everything we can to ensure every child has the chance to fulfil their potential.”

Every Child Matters

Department for Education (2003)

Partnership Commitment

- We recognise that delivering effective multi-agency TAF interventions relies on people understanding their roles and responsibilities of partners. To support this we are committing to providing all practitioners with a multi-agency induction.
- All agencies commit staff to take on the role of Lead Professional, especially where this allows cases to step down seamlessly from Specialist Services. The centralised Early Help and CAF Team will support the development of Lead Professionals.
- Relationships between agencies will be strengthened by providing more opportunities to train together, plan together and work together.

Young People are Ready for Work and Adulthood

Being NEET (not in education, employment or training) has significant implications for later life, and it affects particular groups. The Longitudinal Study of Young People in England gives detailed information on the young people who are likely to become NEET and whose life chances are consequently affected:

- those who do not achieve five or more GCSEs grades A-C;
- those who are eligible for free school meals;
- those who have been excluded or suspended from school;
- those who become young parents; and
- those who have a disability are more likely to become NEET than those who do not.

Partnership Commitment

- We all recognise the importance of children and young people attending and participating in school life. Where a child is excluded, at risk of exclusion, truanting, or having a managed move we will offer support through a CAF and TAF intervention as standard practice.
- We will explore opportunities to develop the capacity and reach of Peer Educators and Youth Advocates.
- Young parents will be supported to continue their lifelong learning through an integrated approach delivered through Family Nurse Partnership, Children's Centres & Early Years and Job Centre Plus.
- All young people identified through the Troubled Families Programme who are NEET or at risk of NEET will be supported by a dedicated Engagement Officer from CareerConnect.
- We will undertake a review of provision available for those children and young people with special education needs to ensure it is sufficient and fit for purpose.

Zero Tolerance to Domestic Abuse

“Domestic abuse is a significant cause of long-term problems for children, families and communities. It has intergenerational consequences in terms of the repetition of abuse and violent behaviours”

Early Intervention in Domestic Violence and Abuse
Early Intervention Foundation (2014)

Partnership Commitment

- We will raise practitioners' awareness of family violence, using specially trained workers to educate staff in identifying and supporting families where children are violent and abusive towards their parents.
- Where young people are involved in violent relationships they will be offered intensive support from an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor or Family Intervention Worker.
- Groups known to be more vulnerable to domestic violence, such as young female offenders and those thought to be at risk of child sexual exploitation, will be routinely screened in relation to domestic abuse by trained staff.

Wirral's Neighbourhoods are Safe

"I don't want to be in jail, I don't want to be out there hurting people, I don't want to go out there and have to take things. I want to be able to get a job and earn respect from people and not go out there and demand it because I can throw a punch. I want to be able to earn their respect for the way I live my life, how I in the future will raise my kids, how I treat my wife."

Young Offender

Partnership Commitment

- We will work closely with Merseyside Police to support victims and break cycles of offending through co-ordinated family intervention.
- We will examine the extent of criminal exploitation of children, young people and women in Wirral, identifying key areas for intervention.
- We will incorporate and promote the priorities of Wirral's Community Safety Partnership within our organisations.
- Targeted services will work with community-based projects to deter young people from crime and anti-social behaviour by engaging them in positive activities.

Utilising community assets and approaches will be vital to building capacity across all sectors to strengthen our local Early Help offer

Building resilience is two-fold in our Early Help and Prevention Strategy: firstly, building the resilience of agencies, their frontline practitioners and teams; and secondly, by promoting the resilience of young people and their families through the interventions they engage in

WHAT GOOD EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION WILL LOOK LIKE

Children and young people will attend an educational setting where they are able to learn, develop and have experiences which enrich their lives. They will be supported in their learning by parents, carers and staff. They will be encouraged to have aspirations and ambitions for the future.

Outside of school, children and young people will have opportunities to engage in positive activities, to feel belonging in their communities and develop social networks. They will choose not to engage in crime or anti-social behaviour because they have better options.

In all aspects of their lives children will be safe and protected, as far as possible, from adverse experiences. When problems arise they will be resolved quickly and appropriately, teaching them resilience and skills for independence.

Their parents and carers will nurture their development, and have the skills, capacity and confidence for positive parenting. Parents will find support to manage their finances, keep their homes safe, and provide for their children's needs. The aspirations of parents will be encouraged and they will be able to access programmes and groups which enhance their ability to be positive role models for their children, achieving greater stability within their daily lives and belonging within their communities.

For services, effective Early Help will mean greater engagement in early intervention and CAF/TAF activity, less reliance on high cost services and fewer families engaged in Specialist Services. There will be less repeat referrals to Children's Services, fewer children looked after and less demand for acute services across the partnership. Over time the fiscal benefits of Early Help should be evident and demonstrate impact both in financial terms and improved outcomes for children and families.

HOW WE WILL MEASURE OUR PERFORMANCE

We will measure the effectiveness of Early Help using the following six key areas. Within each area are a number of essential indicators which can be benchmarked to confidently ascertain how effective our Early Help approach is, both in our partnership approach and in making a difference to the lives of our children and families.

1. Children and Young People in Education

- a. Number of children receiving a fixed-term or permanent exclusion
- b. Number of children who are persistently absent from education
- c. Number of NEET young people
- d. Percentage of children achieving a Good Level of Development (GLD)

2. Children and Young People in the Community

- a. Number of young people engaged with preventative youth inclusion services
- b. Number of young people engaged with Youth Justice Programmes
- c. Number of young people subject to an anti-social behaviour intervention
- d. Number of young people accessing Youth Services

3. Children, Young People and their Health

- a. Number of teenage conceptions
- b. Number of alcohol related hospital admissions for under 18s
- c. Number of self-harm related hospital admissions for young people 10-24
- d. Percentage of children classified as obese
- e. Number of hospital admissions for mental health conditions
- f. Number of substance misuse related hospital admissions for young people 15-24

4. Children, Young People and their Families

- a. Number of referrals to Specialist Services relating to neglect
- b. Number of parents reporting improved parenting capacity
- c. Percentage of families reporting improvement through TAF distance travelled tool
- d. Number of families evidencing sustained contact with a Children's Centre

5. Multi-agency Engagement in Early Help

- a. Number of referrals for a co-ordinated level 3 service
- b. Number of partners attending Locality Allocation Meetings
- c. Number of organisations acting as Lead Professional
- d. Number of partnership CAF Champions

6. Meeting Needs through Early Help

- a. Number of children subject to an Early Help Assessment
- b. Number of children engaged in a TAF episode
- c. Number of days from referral to intervention
- d. Percentage of TAF episodes closing with needs met

FURTHER READING AROUND THE SUBJECT OF EARLY HELP AND PREVENTION

Local Documents

A wide range of current procedures, guidance and strategies can be accessed via Wirral.gov.uk including:

- Neglect Strategy
- Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy
- Parenting Strategy
- Guide to Integrated Working
- Wirral Safeguarding Children Annual Report
- Wirral Children and Young People's Plan
- Wirral Plan: A 2020 Vision

National Documents

- *The Munro Review of Child Protection-Final Report*, Professor Eileen Munro (2013)
- *Getting It Right First Time*, Ofsted (2013)
- *Fair Society, Healthy Lives - The Marmot Review* (2010)
- *The Foundation Years: Preventing Poor Children Becoming Poor Adults*, Frank Field MP (2010)
- *Early Intervention: The Next Steps*, Graham Allen MP (2011)
- *The Early Years: Foundations for Life, Health and Learning*, The Tickell Review (2011)
- *Keeping Children Safe in Education*, Department for Education (2014)
- *The Children Act*, DCSF (1989)
- *Working Together to Safeguard Children*,
- *Getting it Right For Families*, Early Intervention Foundation (2014)
- *Early Intervention in Domestic Violence and Abuse*, Early Intervention Foundation (2014)
- *The Best Start at Home*, Early Intervention Foundation (2015)
- *Understanding Adolescence*, Research in Practice (2014)
- *Child Poverty: The Role of Children's Services*, Research in Practice (2014)
- *Commissioning Early Help*, Research in Practice (2013)
- *The Impact of Parental Substance Misuse on Child Development*, Research in Practice (2013)
- *Early Help: Whose Responsibility*, Ofsted (2015)
- *What You Need to Know About Early Help*, Local Government Association (2012)
- *Listening to Troubled Families*, Louise Casey CB (2012)
- *My Story: Young People Talk About the Trauma and Violence in their Lives*, Centre for Crime and Justice Studies (2011)
- *Children's Needs - Parenting Capacity*, Cleaver et al (2011)
- *Early Intervention and Prevention with Children and Families: Getting the most from Team around the Family Systems*, Institute of Public Care (2012)
- *Building Resilience in Young People and Communities*, Resilience Consortium (2013)

