

To: **Members of the Protecting The Most Vulnerable Communities Policy Committee**

Professor Steven Broomhead
Chief Executive

Councillors:

Cllr P Bretherton - Chair

Cllr J Carter - Deputy Chair

Cllrs A Dirir, J Guthrie, B Lines-Rowlands,

K Simcock, E Finnegan, J Walker, S Woodyatt

Town Hall
Sankey Street
Warrington
WA1 1UH

7th January 2014

Protecting The Most Vulnerable Policy Committee

Wednesday 15th January 2014 at 6.30pm

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Sankey Street, Warrington, WA1 1UH

Agenda prepared by Julian Joinson, Democratic Services Officer – Telephone: (01925) 442112 Fax: (01925) 656278 E-mail: jjoinson@warrington.gov.uk

A G E N D A

Part 1

Items during the consideration of which the meeting is expected to be open to members of the public (including the press) subject to any statutory right of exclusion.

- | Item | | Page Number |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | <u>Apologies for Absence</u>

To record any apologies received. | |
| 2 | <u>Code of Conduct - Declarations of Interest Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012</u>

Members are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest which they have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item is reached. | |

3 Minutes 3 - 8

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2013 as a correct record

4 Carers Strategy Refresh -

To consider matters arising from the notes of the Carers Strategy Workshop held in this Committee on 6th November 2013 (Agenda Item 3a above refers) and to receive an update as to progress on the refresh of the Carers Strategy.

5 Educational Attainment - Narrowing the Attainment Gap for Vulnerable Groups

To consider a presentation on educational attainment by Jacky Forster, Service Manager, 11-19 Attainment Division, Universal Services, and Melissa Young, Narrowing the Gap Adviser.

6 Work Programme 9 - 20

To consider a report on behalf of the Chair of the Committee.

Part 2

Items of a "confidential or other special nature" during which it is likely that the meeting will not be open to the public and press as there would be a disclosure of exempt information as defined in Section 100I of the Local Government Act 1972.

NIL

If you would like this information provided in another language or format, including large print, Braille, audio or British Sign Language, please call 01925 443322 or ask at the reception desk in Contact Warrington, Horsemarket Street, Warrington.

**PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE
POLICY COMMITTEE
6 November 2013**

Present: Councillor P Bretherton (Chair)
Councillors J Carter, A Dirir, J Guthrie, B Lines-Rowlands,
K Simcock, J Walker and S Woodyatt

Also Present

Cllr Pat Wright, Executive Member Health, Wellbeing & Adult Services
Steve Reddy, Operational Director, Adult Services (deputy DASS)
Rick Howell, Service Manager, Children's Procurement and Contract Management
Division & Support Services and Resources Division
Julie Smith, Head of Service Adult Assessment and Care Management Services
Brun Munslow, Disability Partnership
David Ellis, Public Governor at Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation
Trust
Adrienne Roberts, 5 Boroughs Partnership
Karen Christie, Carers Service Manager
Micha Whelligan, Young Carers Co-ordinator, WIRED

PTMV 7 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Finnegan.

PTMV 8 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

PTMV 9 Minutes

Decision,

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2013 be confirmed
and signed as a correct record by the Chair

PTMV 10 Carers Strategy & Action Plan

The Committee received a presentation from the Operational Director, Adult
Services (deputy DASS) on Warrington's Carers Strategy and the associated Action
Plan for 2012-15.

Warrington Carers Strategy 2012-2015 was launched at the 2012 Carers
Conference. The strategy was developed through consultation with the main
agencies and organisations in Warrington that provided support to carers. The
strategy identified four priority areas that agencies needed to work on together to
continue to improve outcomes for carers. These were:

- Identification and recognition
- A life outside of caring
- Realising and releasing potential

- Supporting carers to stay healthy

Following the presentation the Chair asked attendees for examples of experiences through their work, they would like to share with the Committee. Members also provided information relating to constituent's issues surrounding their caring duties.

Discussions then concentrated on the difficulties in providing a definition of what a Carer was that would be understood in the wider community and subsequently how these Carers could be identified. The approach should be 'every contact counts' but the difficulty was in how services could link up, become more accessible and share information about Carers.

Attendees then considered the importance of the social return on supporting Carers and how this could help realise the four priority areas listed in the Carers Strategy.

Finally a discussion was held around the Council's approach to supporting employees who were Carers, could Warrington Council be classed as an exemplar in the borough? In response to this Council officers present provided examples of how flexible working was helping members of staff who had these additional responsibilities.

Members were then asked to consider a number of key questions in relation to the Carers Strategy and Action Plan. The discussions took place in a workshop style layout and individual and group comments were gathered. The comments will be used to influence future strategy and identify items for the Committee work programme. The notes from the meeting have been consolidated and are attached as item **3a**.

PTMV 11 Work Programme

The committee received a report from the Chairman outlining the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year and the monitoring of recommendations and actions.

Decision,

That the committee accept the Work Programme.

The following notes are a reflection of the comments gathered during the discussions which took place at the workshop session of the Policy Committee held on 6th November 2013. The Committee received a short presentation at the meeting and background documents prior to the meeting that consisted of the Carers Strategy & Action Plan. Where possible these comments will be incorporated into the Work Programme of the Committee and used to inform the next Carers Strategy Refresh.

Questions Considered

1. What do you think of the carers strategy and action plan? Do you feel there are any gaps?
2. There are some good services for adult and young carers in Warrington - but what could be done to support them ?
3. What contribution can council partners, the wider community and businesses do to support carers?
4. An amendment to the Children and Families Bill states that when a child is identified as a young carer, the needs of everyone in the family will be considered, how can organisations work together to prevent children from taking on this responsibility in the first place?
5. Census data released in May 2013 indicated there are many more adults and children caring than we have on our records - what more do you think we and partners can do on ensuring people in caring roles are identified and then supported ?

General Discussion Highlights

- Identification and 'hidden carers' is a massive issue and more information is required to clarify the Council's own approach to identifying employees who are Carers in order to demonstrate being an exemplar employer
- How does WBC identify the 22,000 people in the town who provide care for others?
- GP's response is critical
- Growing problem of older carers looking after very elderly relatives
- Issue of confidentiality raised by professionals needs challenging
- Recognising how help is offered is important and that some people struggle accepting help or are suspicious of its implications
- Noted young carers and schools - pilot project at Thomas Botler
- The importance of the 'making every contact count' principle including carers issues - needs to include community nurses and all primary care
- Improved sign posting of services is key
- Terminology can put up barriers - some people struggle being called a 'carer' , and there is some confusion in relation to paid carers who work for agencies. There is a need to understand why individuals don't want to be identified as Carers
- Need to explore the potential of 'social return on investment'
- Accept that WBC is a good employer and is flexible to support Carers - but could policy be developed with a view to encouraging all employers to support Carers, not as an add on but as normal business
- Celebrating Carers week and Carers Right should continue but should be wider, not just the Council & its partners and could include local businesses, shops and sports clubs – “Carers Are Everyones Business”.

- With the public sector facing reduced resources, prioritisation of resources is key to supporting Carers
- Financial advice is a priority area for all adult social care, but particularly for Carers
- Mainstreaming Carer identification and support – Neighbourhood Wardens, Fire Service, Taxi Drivers
- Large Organisations could be encouraged to introduce Carers Champion roles
- Recognise the challenge of Mental Health and the transitional Mental Health issues – young Carers seem particularly concerned about seeking help – with potential to lead to being taken into Care, so arrangements that recognise the transitional nature of Metal Health issues
- Supporting parents who care for children with disabilities is an area that is expanding
- Recognise how important respite services are for people to have any sort of quality of life
- Is consideration given to the range of “awareness raising weeks” and integrating approaches e.g. volunteering week join up with carers week
- How widely is the Carers Strategy distributed, is it in all the right places?
- More clarity required in relation to the Council's own approach to
- WBC could do more advertising in relation to Caring. There are a number of billboards in use around the town and these can be used to promote the help that's out there for Carers.
- The resource implications of contributions made by council partners, the wider community and businesses in supporting Carers was recognised, but linking people to lower level or universal services needn't cost the public purse
- Wired have 3 Carers Champions who are taking on a national role to advocate the needs of young carers. Wired are putting in an application for a funding bid for counselling services for young people and already provide independent advocacy services
- The Carers Strategy was considered a high level document and whilst useful as an executive summary, and it was suggested that a short guide to support members in their ward work might be more useful. e.g. a briefing that would help members to signpost constituents to the services they need.

Direct Requests from Members

- Carers Information Packs and regular copies of the Carers newsletter to be circulated via email
- Wired return to a future committee to report back on the pilot project at Sir Thomas Boteler
- Future meetings looking at the issues and concerns of Carers be arranged at a suitable time and location in order to attract as many Carers as possible
- Members be invited to the Carers Conference

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Report

Report to: DMT	Item: 5
Date: 9 th January 2014	
Title: Narrowing the gap	
For: DMT	
Author: Melissa Young	
Sponsor: Jacky Forster	

1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the context, work undertaken and work planned to be completed in raising the achievement of disadvantaged children in receipt of 'free school meals' or 'Narrowing the gap'.

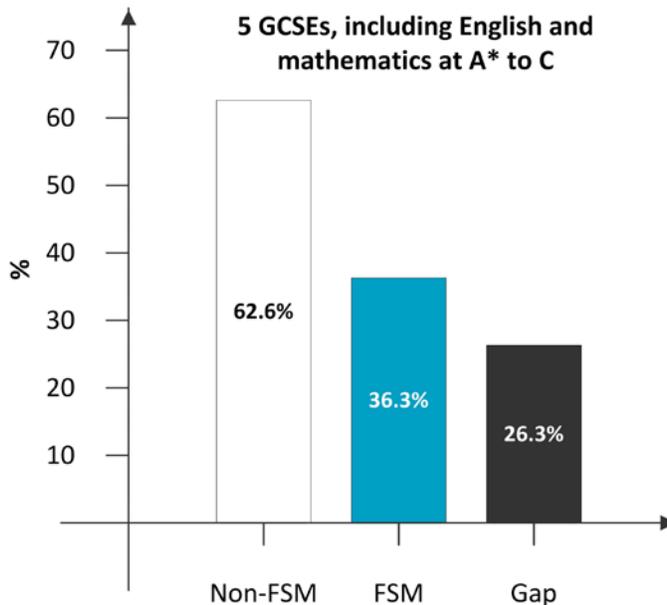
2. Context

2.1. National context

As noted within the DfE's Policy for 'Raising the achievement of disadvantaged children', recently updated on 13th December 2013, children from disadvantaged backgrounds are far less likely to get good GCSE results. In this respect, the DfE has stated that they:

- Believe it is unacceptable for children's success to be determined by their social circumstances;
- Intend to raise levels of achievement for all disadvantaged pupils and to close the gap between disadvantaged children and their peers.

This position has been recently validated by statements from both the Schools Minister and Chief Inspector of Ofsted. The latest attainment statistics published in January 2013 show that in 2012; 36.3% of pupils who qualified for free school meals got 5 GCSEs, including English and mathematics at A* to C, compared with 62.6% of pupils who do not qualify (As illustrated right).

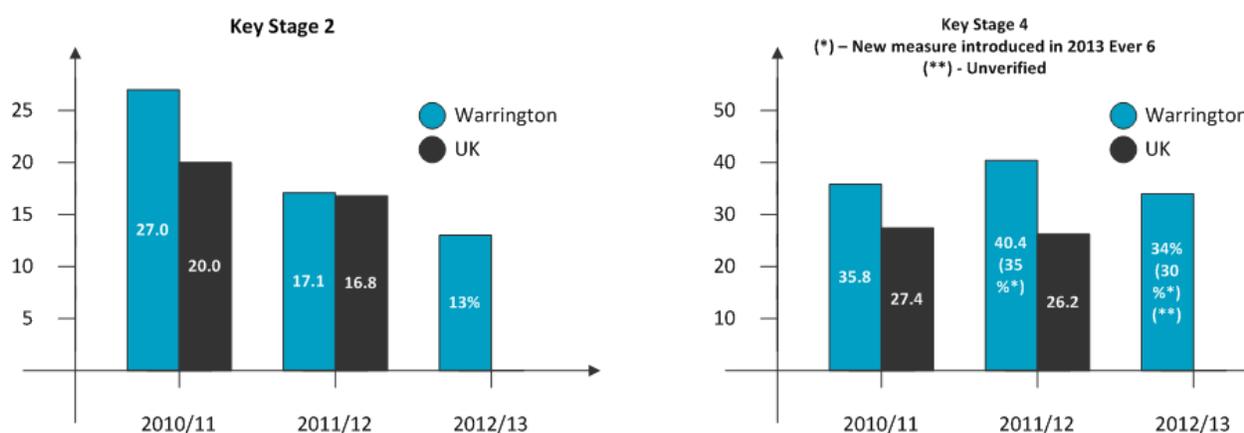


2.2. Warrington Borough Council context

A new measure was introduced to track and record data in January 2013. Therefore, the cohort included in the free school meals measure is now referred to as 'Ever 6'. As well as children currently eligible for free school meals, it also includes those eligible at any point over the last six years.

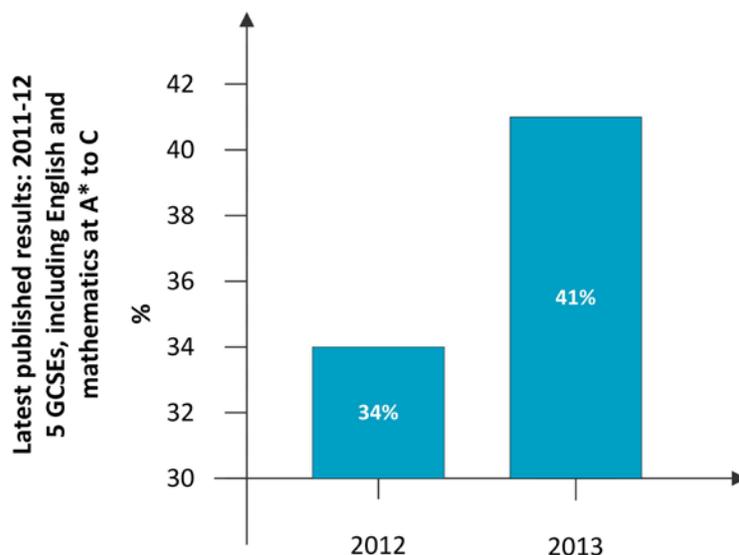
Currently (January 2014) we have 3124 Ever 6 pupils in Warrington's primary schools and 2218 Ever 6 pupils in Warrington's secondary schools.

Overall achievement in Warrington Borough Council is high. However, this success has contributed to Warrington Borough Council experiencing a higher gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged at both Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4 as illustrated below.



As illustrated above, the gap at a National level has exhibited a trend of reducing on an annual basis. Within the Borough, significant progress in closing the gap has been made at Key Stage 2 and progress is beginning to be made at Key Stage 4. This position has been demonstrated by the facts that:

- 3 secondary schools currently have a gap that is significantly below the National levels;
- 4 secondary schools have managed to deliver significant gap reductions (An average reduction of circa 59%); and
- The attainment of children at Key Stage 4 receiving free school meals has recently made a significant improvement as illustrated below.



However, some schools are still struggling to reduce the gap as six schools either have significant gaps or have experienced increases over the past year. These schools represent key areas of focus for the Authority.

The challenges.....

- Small numbers in many of our schools, particularly primary schools where most schools have between 1 – 3 pupils.
- As attainment of FSM pupils increases those Non FSM increase at a faster rate as they benefit from the strategies being deployed and are more likely to have the skills to engage with them.
- As the government moves forward with its plans to reform GCSE qualifications (including for example BTEC qualifications now only counting for one GCSE) schools GCSE results will be negatively impacted and potentially their free school meal gap will widen, due to statistically more free school meal children taking BTEC qualifications than non free school meal.
- Ofsted have an increased focus on both progress and attainment of Vulnerable groups in the latest framework. This is an important priority for schools and the local authority as schools can not be judged good or outstanding if vulnerable pupils do not make good progress.

3. Work undertaken

To raise the achievement of disadvantaged children throughout Warrington Borough Council, a series of actions have been instigated with the aim of narrowing the gap. These have included:

- **Ensuring the gap is a high priority** for all schools through discussion at the Directors Brief, and the school associations of head teachers.
- **Individual pupil target setting** for all FSM pupils to ensure appropriate stretching targets are set.
- **Appointing a Narrowing the Gap Adviser:** with a strategic remit for improving the educational outcomes of all children who are on free school meals in Warrington across all phases. Improving the educational outcomes of other

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groups of children (as need arises e.g. SEN, ethnic minorities, etc) so the achievement gap is reduced between these and all children in Warrington. This has been funded from the High Needs Block for the Dedicated Schools Grant through a budget which supports vulnerable pupils.

- **Instigating an analysis of all secondary school practice:** performed by an independent consultant to obtain a clearer picture of how Warrington Secondary Schools are addressing their Free School Meal gap and;
- **Appointing a Data Analyst:** to look in more detail at emerging trends and patterns in recent results.
- **Guidance on Pupil premium** and tools for evaluation of the impact of this funding has been shared with schools.

4. Work planned

At a headline level, the Authority plans to improve the gap position through a cyclical process of:

- **Analysis:** Ensuring that focus is applied to those children who are most at risk of under achievement through detailed performance data and best practice analysis;
- **Challenge, support & intervention:** Adopting a holistic approach to driving improvement throughout the Authority; and
- **Ongoing performance tracking:** To monitor the effectiveness of interventions and ensure that investment is appropriately directed.

This overall process will be lead by the Narrowing the Gap Adviser who will act as a champion to raise aspirations, challenge schools, provide advice and support and share best practice approaches. The activities to be undertaken through this process are described within the following sub-sections and are further detailed within the 3/6/9 month plan attached as Appendix A to this report.

A key priority of the newly appointed Narrowing the Gap Adviser will be to review and update the current Narrowing the Gap strategy. The current strategy is provided for information purposes within Appendix B.

4.1. Analysis

Detailed analysis of historical and current data at a local, regional and National level will be shared with relevant partners including schools. This will be broken down in terms of key stage, geographical location and by school. It will look at overall attainment and progress. Other contributing factors of vulnerability will also be considered. This will be facilitated by a Capita profiling tool.

Schools use of the Pupil Premium will also be analysed. This will show whether schools are using the money effectively to have maximum impact on the attainment and achievement of the eligible children.

4.2. Challenge, Support & Intervention

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As the Narrowing the Gap champion, advice and support will be given to schools and other professionals working with the children identified. However, challenging expectations will also be required to raise aspirations and expectations of progress and achievement.

A holistic approach is essential for success in this area. Linking with other professionals e.g. attendance team, health and the careers service, will ensure all key stakeholders are also championing narrowing the gap in Warrington. Ensuring that this intervention happens at the earliest opportunity will help break the cycle of under achievement.

Development of supporting resources and network will assist schools, as will the sharing of statistics. Delivery of relevant training and good practice will also ensure staff in schools are aware of what is available to support their pupils and what will have the greatest impact on their learning.

4.3. Ongoing Performance Tracking

Ongoing performance tracking is essential to ensure that progress continues, especially at key stage transition times. Timely transfer of information between the schools and the local authority will ensure that the data can be used to have maximum impact.

5. Success criteria

Through the implementation of the actions described within section 4, the Authority intends to further reduce the gap in attainment between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children. Success against this aim will be assessed in terms of both the actual attainment and the gap in performance at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 4, between:

- Free School Meal Children initially (with the aim of extending this work to include children with Special Educational Needs, those with English as an additional language and by gender – although this list may not be exhaustive) and Children who don't fall into any of the above categories.

Progression of these children in to education, employment or training after leaving secondary school will also be a measure of success for these groups.

Warrington Borough Council's performance will then be assessed:

- At a Council wide level, which will be compared against:
 - The previous year's performance;
 - The National position; and
 - Our statistical neighbours.
- On a School by School level, which will be compared against:
 - The previous year's performance;
 - The National position; and
 - Warrington Borough Council's position.

6. Summary

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In summary, although progress has been made over the past year, there is still a significant amount of work required to ensure that all schools improve and in turn perform in line with National expectations or better.

This will be facilitated through a structured programme of:

- Analysis;
- Challenge, support and intervention; and
- Ongoing performance tracking

Appendix A: 3/6/9 Month Action Plan

	Data Analysis & Tracking	Communication & Awareness	Engagement & Interventions
Short term (Month 1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreement of target NTG groups ▪ Baseline analysis ▪ Current WBC practice analysis ▪ Best practice analysis ▪ Pupil Premium effectiveness analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Role introduction ▪ Issue of school self evaluation forms (SEF) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introductions to professionals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schools ▪ Governors ▪ Senior Advisers ▪ Attendance
Medium term (Months 2 & 3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Findings of analysis ▪ Performance target definition ▪ Analysis of school SEF ▪ Identification of 'Quick wins' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Website design & development ▪ Sharing of analysis ▪ Sharing of best practice ▪ Appointment of NTG school leads ▪ Raising awareness & championing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Young people consultation ▪ Schools engagement ▪ Multi-professional engagement
Long term (Months 4 to 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Performance tracking ▪ Intervention meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Best practice sharing ▪ Sharing of statistics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Scheduled school engagements ▪ Targeted training

Appendix B: Current Narrowing the Gap Strategy

Strategy for Narrowing the Achievement Gap in Warrington (2012/13)

Introduction

There are a number of different groups of children and young people who potentially underachieve compared to their peers:

- In Warrington outcomes for boys are generally poorer than girls. However this is a national and international issue. The gap in Warrington is similar to that nationally and in some cases less. While work continues to take place to improve boys writing in particular, this is not a key area of focus.
- There are relatively small numbers of minority ethnic pupils in Warrington. On the whole the achievement of such pupils is similar to their peers, although very small numbers for most groups mean that percentage results vary significantly from year to year.

The three key groups that are the focus for this plan are:

- Children living in more deprived households, most commonly measured through their eligibility for free school meals. Additional data from the Index of Multiple Deprivation is used for planning purposes. Pupils receiving free school meals are more likely to live in our more deprived inner wards.
- Children in care.
- Children with learning difficulties and difficulties (many of whom have a Statement of Special Educational Need).

Overall achievement and attainment in Warrington is high. This however masks some variation in achievement between different groups. Children receiving free school meals in particular have been achieving at a significantly lower level than their peers, and the gap has continued to widen. Until we can say with confidence that all groups of children and young people are achieving to the best of their potential we cannot be satisfied with the attainment results in Warrington.

Outcomes for children in care are a specific area of focus for the Children & Young People's Services. Whilst children in care perform well at school and achieve (relative to national levels), there remains a significant difference between their levels of achievement and those of the general population in Warrington.

Children with learning difficulties and disabilities are statistically less likely (nationally) to achieve at the same level as their peers, although there are many individual children who attain very highly. The gap however in Warrington has been greater than that nationally. There is a particular issue for young people over the age of 16 as the range of options available to them in the area are limited.

Narrowing the gap is a priority and the service managers have the strategic leads as indicated below:

- Kim Grice: Children with learning difficulties and difficulties (many of whom have a Statement of Special Educational Need).
- Jacky Forster: Children in care and Children living in more deprived households measured through their eligibility for free school meals.

The service managers are supported by the following operational leads

- Judith Hackett: Children with learning difficulties and difficulties (many of whom have a Statement of Special Educational Need).
- Senior Advisers: Children living in more deprived households measured through their eligibility for free school meals.
- Mark Storey: Children in care.

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The action plan below has been updated following an improvement journey reflective session with a number of staff from cross the directorate. The outcomes based accountability methodology was used to support a reflective session which considered innovative and creative ideas which also acknowledge the changing relationship of the local authority with schools and subsequent ability to directly impact on outcomes.

The session identified that the action plan should focus on:

- Improving the educational attainment and progress of the key groups of young people.
- Improving the participation and attendance of the key groups of young people in a range of positive activities similar to their peers.
- Ensuring that services across the council and partners are supporting the wider needs of the key groups of young people and their families.

This action plan has been considered in relation to our plans to meet the needs of complex families (part of the national 'Troubled Families' agenda). Warrington Borough Council will be involved in a peer challenge of Halton Council in May 2012 with a focus on narrowing the gap at KS2. Lessons learned and good practice from this peer challenge will be incorporated into our action plan. In addition, Warrington will have a peer challenge in September which will challenge our strategies and approach to reducing the number of young people from vulnerable groups who are not in education, employment or training.

Review of progress on National Indicators

NI	Indicator Description	2009 Perf	2010 Perf	2011 Perf	National Comparison (2011)	North West Comparison (2011)	Statistical Neighbours (2011)
NI 102i	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 2	28	18	27	20	21	25
NI 102ii	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stages 4	36.1	37.2	37.8	27.5	30.3	n/a

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NI	Indicator Description	2009 Perf	2010 Perf	2011 Perf	National Comparison (2011)	North West Comparison (2011)	Statistical Neighbours (2011)
NI 81	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals in year 11 and their peers achieving L3 by the age of 19	30pp	31pp	34pp	25pp	29pp	33
	Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals in year 11 and their peers achieving L2 by the age of 19	25pp	26pp	30pp	19pp	21pp	26
NI 99	Achievement gap between children in care and their peers reaching level 4 in English at Key Stage 2*	34	41	50.9	50	55	n/a
NI 100	Achievement gap between children in care and their peers reaching level 4 in Maths at Key Stage 2*	23	29.3	39	48	55	n/a
NI 101	Achievement gap between children in care and their peers achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (or equivalent) at Key Stage 4 (including English and Maths*	31.8	54.1	27.7	12.8	12.9	n/a

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NI	Indicator Description	2009 Perf	2010 Perf	2011 Perf	National Comparison (2011)	North West Comparison (2011)	Statistical Neighbourhoods (2011)
NI 104	The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/ non-SEN gap – achieving Key Stage 2 English and Maths threshold	54.2	51.6	56.8	52.9	52	n/a
NI 105	The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap – achieving 5 A*-C GCSE inc. English and Maths	43.6	45.8	52.4	47.6	49.9	n/a

* The cohort size for these indicators is very small so these indicators are not statistically sound.

The Action Plan

	Objective	Action	Lead	When	Outcome
1	Ensure an effective strategy and monitoring arrangements are in place	Strategy for narrowing the gap to be reviewed, updated and presented annually to DMT	Pinaki Ghoshal	Nov	Strategy agreed across CYPS with collective ownership. Clear strategic leads identified and profile of ntg in educational outcomes raised.
		Narrowing the gap (ntg) action plan and data to be reviewed termly by Universal Services SMT	Pinaki Ghoshal	April, Sept, Jan	Monitoring and evaluation of the plan
2	Establish a wider data collection and analyse to determine impact on educational attainment.	To collect information on measures such as engagement in youth service activities, CAFs completed, access to Music service, attendance gap, take up of bursary, involvement in troubled families.	Vikki Lovato / Sarah Brown. And Service Managers	Sept 2012	Establish access by of priority groups to wider services and positive activities

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	Objective	Action	Lead	When	Outcome
3	Provide schools with a support, advice and challenge.	Employ a Narrowing the Gap Adviser	Pinaki Ghoshal	Dec 13	Increased support, advice and challenge for schools. NTG champion in post.
4	Gain a greater understanding of practice in schools regarding support for children identified in the strategy	Employ an external consultant to undertake a detailed analysis of school practice	Pinaki Ghoshal	Dec 13	A greater understanding of school practice. Sharing of information to improve future plans and strategy
5	Develop an explicit link with complex families and other family support programmes	Prevention, Youth and Family Support Division to deliver sessions to schools through the 11- 19 Deputies meeting (Vulnerable pupils) and safeguarding networks	Tracy Ryan/Mark Storey	Nov 2012	Increase awareness of the various support programmes and increase the referral and utilisation these services.
		Focus on ensuring young children are school ready through the 2 year olds accessing high quality child care and children centre provision	Tracy Ryan	Sept 2012	Early intervention to narrow the gap at early years.
6	Launch a campaign to raise the profile of narrowing the gap in educational outcomes.	Narrowing the Gap session to be held at Directors Brief and Governors Briefing. Encourage schools to consider and reflect on the importance of parental engagement, employer engagement and the role of the voluntary sector schools	PG/ KG/ SM /JF Plus Sen Advisers plus ntg leads	Sept 2012	Win the hearts and minds of head teachers and ensure narrowing the gap is high on the agenda. Influence schools to consider the impact of participation in positive activities on attainment with considering how they measure FSM take up at clubs/on visits.
7	Launch a campaign to raise the profile of narrowing the gap in educational outcomes.	Directors briefing paper to include regular reference to ntg.	KG/SM/JF	Each paper for next 12 months	Raise the profile of ntg

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	Objective	Action	Lead	When	Outcome
		A paper on narrowing the gap to be included in the autumn term papers for governors highlighting the increased emphasise of Ofsted on ntg	KG/SM/JF	Sept 2012	Prompt and support governors to provide appropriate challenge to school
		CYPSMT and Staff Briefing to incorporate a session on ntg to ensure engagement and understanding of staff in the action plan, and to encourage further generation of innovative and creative ideas.	PG/KG/SM/JF Plus Sen Advisers and ntg leads	July 2012, Dec 2012	Raise the profile of ntg and understanding of where wider services across CYPSMT can contribute
		Produce a briefing paper on narrowing the gap for use with partners; staff other directorates to increase the understanding and importance of educational attainment on narrowing the gap.	Sen Advisers plus ntg leads	Sept 2012	Raise the understanding and profile of narrowing the gap and challenge others to consider how they can contribute
8	Provide support and challenge to schools and colleges to raise attainment of target groups	Senior Advisers will use their analysis of the school's data to identify any underperformance of key groups and to use this to challenge schools to explain how they will seek to narrow such gaps. A similar exercise to take place with the two colleges	Sen Advisers, Kate Guise/ Jacky Forster	Sept 2012	Underperforming pupils are identified by schools and colleges for intervention and their progress is tracked. School development plans incorporate ntg. All schools to set targets for underperforming groups based on data held within the school.
		Identify those schools where the fsm gap has been consistently wide for the last 3 years and arrange a specific session for the schools, working together to identify actions to address this and potential areas for support	Kim Grice/Jacky Forster	Nov 2012	Gap at these schools close during the subsequent set of end of key stage assessments
		Schools should demonstrate how they are using pupil premium funding to provide additional support for targeted groups of vulnerable pupils. Good practice to be shared between schools	Sen Advisers, Mark Storey	July 2012	Evaluation enables schools and colleges to identify where funding has had the greatest impact and to ensure effective targeting of funds.

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	Objective	Action	Lead	When	Outcome
		School support meeting session on school categorisation to consider the ntg data for each school. Comments to be included in all letters confirming the schools categorisation on the importance of ntg, even where the gap is small, with support offered for schools with the widest gaps.	Sen Advisers plus ntg leads	Sept 2012	All schools to set attainment targets for underperforming groups based on data held within the school
		Support schools with high levels of persistent absence in order to improve school attendance at these schools (typically they serve more deprived communities)	Debbie Parlane	Ongoing	Significant reduction in young people in target groups who are persistently absent.
		The Virtual School to track the progress of all children in care and provide additional support to this cohort where appropriate, supporting and challenging schools where necessary on practice to support children in care. Ensuring that quality Personal Education Plans (PEPs) are completed for every child in care	Mark Storey	Ongoing	Children in care achieve their predicted grades and are supported with aspirations through interventions. All children in care have a PEP that has been quality assured and identify how their learning can be improved.
		Offer training to head teachers, deputies and governors on ntg	KG/SM Sen Advisers	Autumn 2012	Sharing of good practice
9	Ensure best value is achieved from resources available	Schools and colleges to evaluate impact of the Bursary for post 16.	Jacky Forster	July 2012	Evaluation enables schools and colleges to identify where funding has had the greatest impact and to review how they allocate the following year.
		Redesign the careers service to have a focus on young people vulnerable to the poorest outcomes	Jacky Forster	July 2012	The new service to provide targeted support with a focus on progression within education and training
10	Encourage involvement of service users in developing plans	Engage with children in care council to seek the views of young people and involve them in the design of services to support them.	Mark Storey	July 2012	Participation of young people in developing plans

Agenda Item 5

	Objective	Action	Lead	When	Outcome
		Develop case studies of people who have been successful from deprived wards and share with schools they attended	Harriet Wilkins	Dec 2012	Raise aspirations through achievements of local people
		Engage with 'Oi listen' and special schools to seek the views of young people and involve them in considering future support arrangements	Judith Hackett	Dec 2012	Participation of young people in developing plans
11	Ensure that appropriate provision is available for young people with a statement of educational need	Implement the outcomes of the SEN review	KG/SM	Sept 2012	Ensure appropriate places to meet the forecast needs of young people
		Monitoring of provision at designated provisions	Kim Grice	Dec 2012	Ensure provision meets the needs of young people
		Improve post 16 outcomes for young people with LDD by improving the transition arrangements and influencing the local provision within the college and provider sectors to meet individual needs.	Jacky Forster	Sept 2012	Improved outcomes for this group as evidenced by improved achievement over the next 3 years and reduction in the LDD NEET.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT TEAM – 21 January 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES

WELFARE REFORM - UPDATE

1.0 BACKGROUND/PURPOSE

- 1.1 As part of the significant changes to welfare we agreed to keep a close watch on the impacts as they affect Warrington residents and services provided by the Council.
- 1.2 The changes to welfare remain interrelated and as the reforms (with the exception of Universal Credit) are now embedded, it still remains important to monitor and identify any evolving issues.
- 1.3 A number of key services provide regular information to feed into this report. Other services continue to monitor impacts and areas of concern, the effects of which have yet to be fully evaluated, but on which we keep a watching brief.

2.0 IMMEDIATE IMPACTS/HEADLINES

2.1 Benefits & Revenues Service:

- **Local Welfare Support (formerly Social Fund):** At the end of December 1415 customers had received payments of £232k from the fund. Payments declined in the months leading up to Christmas. This was a surprise and contradicted expectations when a spike in demand over the Christmas period had been anticipated. Contact Warrington also reported a similar decline in enquiries during the period. No backlogs in dealing with applications.
- **Housing Benefit:** Volumes of correspondence remain high but backlogs reduced during autumn to the current level of 2 weeks.
- **Universal Credit:** Has been live in Warrington for six months. At 1st October 380 Warrington residents were receiving UC but there continues to be minimal impact for the Council. Contact Warrington continues to report little UC related activity whilst the benefit team are handling administration issues on a daily basis. GGHT are encountering delays in receiving direct payments for 17 tenants with rent arrears. The Council is now working with Remploy to provide budgeting support and debt advice.
- **Council Tax Support:** Payments are remaining steady at £12.75m (annual cost).
- **Council tax:** Comparative yearly collection was marginally down at the end of Q3 (from 81.78% to 81.25%). This is a corporate performance measure and is kept under very close review. Whilst the percentage is marginally down an additional £2.09m has been collected compared to last year. Benchmarking is taking place across AGMA and Warrington's performance remains similar to neighbouring sites.
- **Business Rates:** remains an ongoing concern – Q3 collection is down by 1.6% (from 85.38% to 83.72%) when compared to last year. Cash collected is however showing a comparative increase of £1.2m. Warrington's collection performance remains in line with neighbouring AGMA sites.
- **Discretionary Housing Payments:** 906 successful applications since 1 April - some £270k allocated (92% of permitted spend). Since the last update Warrington has made a successful bid for an additional £40k DHP. This will be used to ensure new and existing recipients continue to receive support for the remainder of the year.

- **Benefit Cap:** exercise completed and now seen as business as usual. Very low numbers currently affected as many original “capped” households have moved or seen changes in their circumstance.
- **Golden Gates:** continue to report that they are achieving their income collection targets – rent arrears are between £20k and £50k lower each month than last year.

2.2 Contact Warrington:

Call volumes have declined slightly during the quarter. Although calls regarding council tax and benefits remain at 48% of total calls these are no longer in relation to welfare reform and are business as usual. Average wait times are 4 minutes compared to 10 minutes at the start of the quarter.

3.0 Other Services

3.1 Other Service Areas have previously flagged possible risks. Some key areas include:

- **Housing:** issues remain from previous briefings – GGHT are struggling to let 3 bedroom houses and 1 bed flats in some areas. Also evidence of increasing numbers of street homeless – again related to limited affordable accommodation and presenting substantial challenges on the Housing Options service. Evidence of this is illustrated by the B&B over-spends in 2012-13 of £41,000.
- **Financial Assessment** – Many Warrington residents have now started to claim a PIP (Personal Independence Payment). Previously they would have received Disability Living Allowance. Numbers entitled to claim a PIP’s are expected to be significantly lower and this will have a direct impact on residents’ ability to fund their care package. Future briefings will include analysis of the implementation of the PIP scheme.

4.0 Conclusion

4.1 Implementation of the first phase of welfare reforms is complete for the Council. The various services are dealing with ongoing impacts as “business as usual”. What remains clear is there are impacts of welfare reform on Warrington residents, but as yet no significant difficulties are being experienced by our services. It is important these areas remain under close scrutiny.

5.0 Recommendations

5.1 It is recommended that SMT:

- a) Note the first phase of the Government’s welfare reforms are now complete;
- b) Note recent comments from the Chancellor regarding further welfare benefit savings of £12 billion over the next few years
- c) Continue to monitor the effects of welfare reform and seek quarterly updates during 2014.

Agenda Item 6 (Paragraph 4.2)

Warrington Homelessness Commission

The Warrington Homelessness Commission engagement activity has now drawn to a close the aim of this activity was to help determine underlying views and perspectives amongst our key stakeholder groups. The period of engagement provided services, providers (commissioned and non), the voluntary sector, businesses in the town centre, the health sector and those in receipt of homeless services an opportunity to express their views and concerns directly to the Warrington Homelessness Commission.

To support the engagement activity, work was conducted to gather additional intelligence and information about housing advice and homelessness services, current and future needs, and ideas to improve service provision, additionally a benchmarking exercise was undertaken which comprised the following:

- Analysis of statistical data from the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) national housing prevention and relief activities and rough sleeper count 2012
- Visits to Housing Managers at Cheshire East Council, Cheshire West and Chester Council and Halton Borough Council
- Views on good practice were obtained via meetings with a DCLG National Homeless Practitioner; and the Regional Manager for the Charity Homeless Link.
- A number of different and innovative ideas for service delivery were reviewed.

Running parallel to the abovementioned engagement, and benchmarking activity, a process mapping exercise was undertaken with the Housing Options Team throughout November 2013. The purpose of this exercise was to understand the customer's journey and associated pathways.

The Commission last assembled on Friday 6 December 2013 at the Town Hall, during which commission members had the opportunity to hear evidence from, and put questions to, a number of expert witnesses on a range of areas relating to homelessness services. The Warrington Homelessness Commission will next convene on 28 January 2014 to discuss this evidence gathered and formulate conclusions and recommendations.

The final report of the Warrington Homelessness Commission, including recommendations, will be published towards the end of February 2014.

Media coverage has been positive to date with no negative press being reported.

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

PROTECTING THE MOST VULNERABLE POLICY COMMITTEE

15th January 2014

Report of the: Chairman, Cllr P Bretherton,
Protecting The Most Vulnerable Policy Committee
Report Author: Julian Joinson, Principal Democratic Services Officer
Contact Details: **Email Address:** jjoinson@warrington.gov.uk **Telephone:** 01925 442112
Ward Members: All Wards

TITLE OF REPORT: Work Programme & Monitoring of Actions & Recommendations for Protecting The Most Vulnerable Policy Committee 2013/2014

1. PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of the report is for the Committee to consider the work programme for the remainder of the municipal year and monitor the actions and recommendations arising from the Committee and its Working Groups.

2. CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT

2.1 Not applicable

3. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3.1 The work programme was originally generated by the Committee at its meeting on 16th January 2013. Since January further work has been undertaken to develop existing topics and identify new ideas for the work programme.

3.2 This report contains details of the further work that has been undertaken and the methodology that was adopted. An updated work programme is proposed as attached at **Appendix A**.

3.3 In addition this report also contains a progress update on the monitoring of actions and recommendations for this committee.

4. WORKING GROUPS

4.1 Welfare Reforms

Information will be provided at the meeting to update members on the work that has been carried out by the Working Group since November 2013.

4.2 Homeless Commission

Information will be provided at the meeting to update members on the work that has been carried out by the Commission since November 2013.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 When carrying out activity Members are reminded of the general financial climate and the Council's commitment within the 'One Team' framework, "*to be well run and efficient.*"

6. RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 The following potential risks have been identified: recommendations not accepted by Executive Board, or not acted upon; partners unwilling to engage; insufficient capacity within Directorates to support activity following service redesign; selection of inappropriate topics, which have minimal impact or are undeliverable; capacity within the work programme to deal with matters arising.

6.2 Risks are regularly monitored and managed by the Policy Committee Chairs Forum, with the advice and support of relevant officers. Links with Partnerships and Performance are well established and the delivery of the Work Programme is routinely monitored.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Democratic and Member Services has an up to date Equality Impact Assessment for its policies and services.

7.2 Equalities issues relating to policies, services and other topics under scrutiny are the responsibility of the individual Directorates concerned. However, the committee will monitor the compliance by Directorates on equality and diversity issues when carrying out its functions.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation with Protecting The Most Vulnerable Committee members and officers from relevant directorates is undertaken on a regular basis.

9. RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 To approve the Work Programme for the remainder of the Municipal Year (**Appendix A**)
- 9.2 To note and comment on the Monitoring of Actions, Recommendations and Referrals (**Appendix B**)

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**Agenda Item 6
(Work Programme - Appendix A)**

Work Programme 2013-2014		
Topic	Rationale	Anticipated Timescale
Financial Inclusion / Welfare Reforms	<p><u>Purpose:</u> This item will look at how households can save money i.e. energy efficiency, money management, safe credit etc. This will assist households who are suffering hardship as a result of changes to benefits and low incomes.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Cross Policy Working Group with Building Stronger Communities.</p> <p><u>Anticipated Outcome:</u> To assist in the development of campaign/action plan/strategy</p> <p><u>Lead Officer:</u> Lynton Green</p>	On going
Homelessness & Rough Sleepers	<p><u>Purpose:</u> A Commission has been set up comprising of Executive Board Members, Partners and officers to address the growing problem of homelessness and rough sleepers. The Chair of Protecting The Most Vulnerable Policy Committee is a member of the Commission.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Working Group</p> <p><u>Anticipated Outcome:</u> Input into development of the Commissions report and recommendations</p> <p><u>Lead Officer:</u> R Robertson, S Kenton, K Griffiths</p>	On going
Complex Families	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To provide the committee with regular and timely updates on the work being carried out by the Partnership Steering Group with a review at the end of their 3 year cycle.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> regular email updates to be circulated to the Committee outside of the meeting, working towards a review at Committee at the end of the Steering Group cycle.</p> <p><u>Anticipated Outcome:</u> Raise awareness and influence future strategy</p> <p><u>Lead Officer:</u> Tracy Ryan (Fiona Waddington AD)</p> <p><i>(Additional item suggested by Committee at workshop on C&YPS Annual Report)</i></p>	On going (Review late 2014/early 2015)
Warrington Strategy for Wellbeing	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To understand the context of the strategy and the services that will be delivered.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Workshop style event with Building Stronger Communities Policy Committee</p> <p><u>Anticipated Outcome:</u> To challenge the priorities outlined in the strategy and offer suggestions for future development.</p> <p><u>Lead Officer:</u> Rita Robertson</p>	January / February (workshop)
Integrated Services	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To consider services relating to the therapeutic intervention programme around health and the single plan for disability</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> to be agreed</p> <p><u>Anticipated Outcome:</u> to be agreed</p> <p><u>Lead Officer:</u> Sarah Callaghan</p> <p><i>(Additional item suggested by Committee at workshop on C&YPS Annual Report and Adult Services Local Accounts)</i></p>	January
Narrowing Attainment Gap for Vulnerable Groups	<p><u>Purpose:</u> To understand what challenges exist to narrowing the gap for the least and most deprived areas of the town in relation to health, achievement and aspiration.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> Workshop event to be arranged regarding educational attainment. Additional topics may follow.</p> <p><u>Anticipated Outcome:</u> To inform the various policies being developed and delivered to narrow the gap</p> <p><u>Lead Officer:</u> Sarah Callaghan</p>	January

**Agenda Item 6
(Work Programme - Appendix A)**

Items for future Consideration						
Work Programme Topic	Purpose of the item	Type of Policy Development Work	Methodology	Role of Members and Anticipated Outcome	Lead Officer	Priority & type of agenda item
Theme - Adults						
Theme – Children & Young People						
Transition for Young People	Internal Audit is currently scoping a piece of work to review transitions. Further clarification is required on the purpose of this item	Reviewing Look at what we currently do & make recommendations for improvements	Officer Report	To be clarified	A McCormack	To be clarified
New Children and Families Bill	Further work is required to clarify the purpose of these items, the role of the PC and type of work required					
New Legislation on adoption						
Corporate Parenting	Raise awareness of the role of the Councils responsibility as a Corporate Parent. <i>(Suggested by Committee at workshop on C&YPS Annual Report)</i>	To be clarified	To be clarified	To be clarified	J Turnross	To be clarified
Speech and Language therapy	To consider the implications of two recent joint decisions by the Local Government Ombudsman and Health Service Ombudsman in relation to special educational needs provision	Reviewing To consider a joint action plan being developed by WBC, CCG and Bridgewater Trust in respect of future provision	Officer report	To be clarified	S Callaghan	11/03/14

Theme – Adults & Children & Young People						
Safeguarding Board	To consider how Safeguarding is developing in relation to adults, children and young people generally. More specifically in relation to Adult Services and the relationship and responsibility of both the Council and it's partners. <i>(Suggested by Committee at workshop on C&YPS Annual Report and Adult Services Local Account)</i>	Review & Looking Ahead	Presentation (invite Chair of Safeguarding Board)	To acknowledge and challenge existing policy, to consider the forthcoming statutory responsibilities & make recommendations	S Reddy	To be clarified
Domestic Abuse	TBA by committee <i>(Suggested by Committee at workshop on C&YPS Annual Report and Adult Services Local Account)</i>	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Hate Crime	TBA by committee <i>(Suggested by Committee at workshop on C&YPS Annual Report and Adult Services Local Account)</i>	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Mental Health (CAMHS & Parents)	TBA by committee <i>(Suggested by Committee at workshop on C&YPS Annual Report and Adult Services Local Account)</i>	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

**Agenda Item 6
(Work Programme - Appendix A)**

Social Care Visits	To consider the role of the Council and Councillors in visiting health and social care establishments, and how similar visits might be carried out for home care services. <i>(Suggested by Committee at workshop on C&YPS Annual Report and Adult Services Local Account)</i>	Looking Ahead	TBC <i>(Link in with Care Quality Commission; Quality Assessment Team and Home Care Services)</i>	To explore the possibility of Councillors carrying out visits and make recommendations /proposals on how this might be achieved	S Reddy	TBC
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Committee Recommendations & Actions

2013

Minute No & Date	Recommendation/Action	Referred to & Date	Response/Comments	Progress
	There are no recommendations/actions currently outstanding			

Referrals to Committee

2013

Referred from & Date	Minute Details	Response/Comments	Progress
<p>Council 24th June 2013</p>	<p>C 26 <u>Motions Received from Members of the Council</u></p> <p><u>Motion 1</u></p> <p><i>Proposed by Cllr Keith Gleave Seconded by Cllr Tony McCarthy</i></p> <p>Gambling Policy</p> <p><i>This Council:</i></p> <p><i>(1) Notes the agreed gambling policy of Warrington Borough Council. This contains the regulations and controls by which the Council manages gambling establishments within the borough.</i></p> <p><i>(2) Recognises that media gambling (tv, internet, phone and advertisements), which many residents of this borough have access to, is not controlled under policy.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Agrees to send a letter to government, to be signed by the Chair of the Licensing Committee and the leaders of the three parties, requesting that they bring forward regulations to control media gambling, in line with those of local policies, to protect the vulnerable in our society.</i></p> <p><i>(4) Requests our two local MPs to lobby on the Council's behalf to bring in such policy.</i></p>	<p>For Information: A letter from the 3 Leaders of the Political Parties and the Chair of the Licensing Committee was sent to the Gambling Commission</p> <p>The Chair of the Committee is seeking clarity and advice on this item.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">◎</p>

<p><u>Alteration to Motion 1</u></p> <p><i>Upon a suggestion from Councillor Fitzsimmons and with the consent of the meeting, Councillor Gleave altered the Motion as follows:-</i></p> <p>addition to existing Motion</p> <p>(5) Refers the matter of control of media gambling to the Protecting the Most Vulnerable Policy Committee for further consideration of its wider implications, including the balance between creating employment opportunities, allowing access to a legitimate leisure activity and protecting the most vulnerable.</p> <p><i>The altered Motion, being the substantive Motion, was put to the vote and was carried.</i></p>	
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Working Group Final Report Recommendations

2013

Title of Working Group

Recommendation	Referred to & Date	Response/Comments	Progress	Review Date
No final reports with recommendations submitted to date				

Schedule of Future Meeting Dates

Meeting Dates		Where possible, draft documentation to be provided no later than	Final documentation to be provided no later than
2014	11 th March	Friday 21 st February	Friday 28 th February