

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 14th APRIL 2011

REPORT OF THE ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR COMMISSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides background information regarding the report of the Anti-Social Behaviour Commission.

1. Background

1.1 The Anti-Social Behaviour Commission was established by Cabinet on 24th June 2010. The initial Terms of Reference of the Commission were:

- To review how much money, from different streams of expenditure, the Council puts towards combating anti social behaviour, to examine how this money is spent and to advise the Leader on how this budget might be better spent.
- The Commission will report frequently, as directed by the Leader of the Council. As its first piece of work the Commission will undertake a study on the size and objectives of the under-fives budget to report back to the Leader and Cabinet by 1 September 2010 at the latest.

Therefore, the Commission had the task of reviewing the operation of those teams directly combating the consequences of anti-social behaviour. In addition, the Commission was to consider the longer-term ambition of reducing the tendency towards anti-social behaviour by challenging poor behaviour at a much earlier stage in a young person's development.

1.2 Contributors to this Commission report have included staff from the Children and Young People's Department at Wirral Borough Council as well as from Wirral NHS, in addition to Councillors Sheila Clarke, Chris Blakeley and Dave Mitchell.

2. Focus for the Commission's work

2.1 Two key messages from Wirral Council's consultation programme 'Wirral's Future: Be a part of it' were residents' support for tackling anti-social behaviour as well as provision of early intervention services to support vulnerable children.

- 2.2 The new Corporate Plan for 2011-2014, agreed by Wirral Council Cabinet on 17th March 2010 and due to be referred for adoption by full Council, included the following priority:
- “People should feel safe in their own neighbourhoods and we are committed to dealing with issues that could prevent this. Working with Merseyside Police and other partners, we will continue our focus on preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour and reducing the fear of crime to create a safer borough. The ‘Wirral’s future - be a part of it’ consultation identified anti-social behaviour as a key concern to Wirral residents and it is vital that we provide the most effective action possible. This year we will conduct a full review of the Council’s and partner organisations’ approach, including the implementation of our commitment to community justice in this vital area”.

A full review of the Council’s approach to anti-social behaviour is, therefore, envisaged during 2011. As a consequence, the Commission has particularly reflected upon the steps that can be taken to challenge poor behaviour among some young people at an earlier stage.

- 2.3 A key conclusion of this Commission is the support for moving further service provision towards early intervention in Wirral, delivered in a timely manner following early identification of the problem. Particular emphasis should be placed on those programmes for which proven evidence exists.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet:

- (1) Welcomes the report of the Anti-Social Behaviour Commission and thanks all those who have contributed to it;
- (2) Accepts, in principle, the seventeen recommendations contained in the report and the emphasis placed on early intervention strategies;
- (3) Requests the Interim Director of Children’s Services to, in the first instance, prioritise on the following recommendations contained in the Report:

No. 2	Monitoring of the Children’s Centre Plan
No. 3	Sure Start Children’s Centre Provision in Wirral
No. 4	Enhanced Induction Process
No. 5	Family Information website
No. 6	Private Sector Nurseries
No. 8	Orrets Meadow Services
No. 11	The Principle of Early Intervention in Wirral
No. 12	The Commissioning process
No. 13	Management of the Commissioning process
No. 14	Use of proven Early Intervention Programmes
No. 15	On-going Evaluation of Early Intervention Programmes
- (4) Agrees that the Anti-Social Behaviour Commission report should be further considered in conjunction with the proposed full review of the Council’s approach to preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour.