

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

11 SEPTEMBER 2012

SUBJECT:	YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2012
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
KEY DECISION?	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report has been produced at the request of the Committee and provides a progress report on planning arrangements for the next Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament. These annual events provide young people with the opportunity to present their views to councillors on matters that are important to them. This year they will take place at Wallasey Town Hall on 9th October.

1.2 This report has no exemptions.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of 26th January, the Committee were briefed on proposals for the planning arrangements for the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament. Included in the report was information on how schools had been engaged in the planning for previous Youth Voice Conferences and Youth Parliaments (YVC and YP). The report proposed that for 2012 schools would be approached earlier with the aim of identifying if additional support would be required from the Children and Young People's Department to assist with preparing the young people for the YVC and YP.

2.2 A number of tasks to be undertaken by the Principal Manager (Participation/Commissioning) were outlined in the previous report to Overview and Scrutiny. These included the following:

1. Timeline prepared
2. Schools to be contacted to identify their willingness to be involved in both events
3. Planning meetings with schools to take place in January/ February
4. Roles and responsibilities documents to be prepared for all parties, schools, young people, teachers and organisers
5. Training for elected members
6. Role of Executive Youth Board to be defined
7. Progress report to Overview and Scrutiny mid May

8. Induction training for newly elected councillors to support them in their engagement with young people.
- 2.3 Tasks 1-4 have been completed. In respect of points 5 and 8, the training for elected members and newly elected members will take place later in the year. It has had to be re-scheduled to accommodate training required as part of the new corporate governance arrangements. Training on engaging with young people is also planned and a briefing on youth engagement will take place as part of elected member briefings on 25th September at Birkenhead Town Hall.
- 2.4 In respect of task 6, a new Executive Youth Board has still to be recruited and this will not be completed before the YVC and YP. Plans are currently in hand to ensure that young people from different youth settings will have active roles at both the YVC and YP.
- 2.5 The progress report due in May had to be delayed due to staff illness and is replaced with this report.
- 2.6 For 2012, preparation started early with briefing meetings and early notification to schools. The response has been positive with sixteen schools confirming their participation before closing for the summer holidays. A target of engagement by 20 schools has been set as a performance measure and it would appear that this target will be met. In addition, other youth agencies such as training providers and youth workers are invited to nominate young people to attend.
- 2.7 To ensure as broad a reach as possible is achieved at the Youth Parliament; young people from District Youth Forums are invited to attend. As with last year young people are being asked to identify a number of areas to cover in the debate. This will result in a number of motions being presented prior to the Youth Parliament. This is an area that will require further work with the schools on their return in September.
- 2.8 In addition to the briefings for schools, the Youth forum meetings in June/ July were used to promote the opportunities for participation to young people. Councillors were invited to attend and a number of members took part in the meetings. Unfortunately some of the forum meetings clashed with corporate member training and this restricted the number of councillors who could take part.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 This year the early meetings have increased the level of take up by schools; this could still be affected by a school related incident that may result in a non attendance.

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Contact will be made with each school in early September to retain support for participation in both events and to ensure the debate speakers are clearly briefed regarding roles.

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation meetings were organised with schools in January/ February. There was a presentation to WASH and young people were consulted at the Area Youth Forums during June and July. Information from these meetings has been used to shape the proposals.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

6.1 There are no implications for Voluntary, Community and Faith groups.

7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are none arising from this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

An equality Impact Assessment was undertaken on 20/12/11 and is still relevant to this report and can be found via the link below.

<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>

10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are none arising from this report and planning permission is not required.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 The Committee note the report

13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The report is for information and does not require action by the Committee.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 List of schools registered for Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament

REFERENCE MATERIAL**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

Council Meeting	Date
Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny	26 January 2012