

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

18 MARCH 2013

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

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents to the Committee an evaluation of the 2012 Youth Parliament including the lessons learnt. The report also presents proposals for the delivery of Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament 2013. The Committee is asked to approve the proposals outlined in section 13.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

2.1 Wirral Youth Voice Conference (YVC) is an annual conference organised by Wirral Council's Children and Young People's Department. Both this event and the Youth Parliament, which takes place on the evening of the day of the YVC, have previously been planned to take place in Local democracy Week.

#### 2.2 Aims of the Youth Voice Conference

1. To provide young people with the opportunity to explore issues important to them.
2. To provide the young people with an opportunity to question senior officers, senior councillors from Wirral Council and senior officers from partner organisations on policy matters or to raise questions about service provision.

##### 2.2.1 The format of the Youth Voice Conference

2.2.2 The same format is applied to each YVC; there are five workshops which are delivered three times. The young people attend three of the workshops. Young people have an opportunity during the workshops to discuss issues that are important to them. In some cases the workshops have provided topics for the questions for the Hot Seating of senior officers and councillors in the afternoon.

##### 2.2.3 Workshop Topics:

There were five workshops each delivered three times. The workshop topics had been agreed by the young people on the conference planning group and were as follows:

- Mental Health and Young people.
- Children’s Plan Consultation.
- Budgets Consultation.
- Youth Engagement.
- Response.

### 2.3 Evaluation of Youth Voice Conference

2.3.1 An evaluation was completed at the end of the conference and the young people commented on the following areas:

- Welcome and Introduction.
- If the young people wanted to ask a question.
- If the young people were able to ask a question.
- Feedback on the hot seating.
- Lunch and refreshments.
- If they wished to volunteer to take part in decision making opportunities.

(There were 81 young people in attendance 58 returned questionnaires but not all questions were answered.)

Question	Good/Very Good	Alright	Not Good	Yes	No
Welcome and Introduction (Total response 56)	48	8			
Did you want to ask a question? (Total response 58)				50	8
Were you able to ask a question? (Total response 56)				48	8
Feedback on the hot seating (Total response 52)	47	4	1		
*Lunch and refreshments (Total response 57)	40	17			
Hands up to Make a Difference.(Total response 54)				26	32

\* One young person brought their own lunch as they had particular medical dietary requirements.

### **2.3.2 Other comments from young people**

2.3.3 This feedback gathered the views of young people regarding the refreshments, the environment, timing of the event and any other point they wished to make as follows:

- Turned out to be quite dull and bureaucratic.
- Very good and fun activities today.
- The day was thoroughly enjoyable.
- No other comments x 3.
- I enjoyed working in the Town Hall environment because it was welcoming and inspired you, like you we are part of council.
- Generally good environment and good groups.
- No time to ask a question x 5.
- A little more time would have been nice as some elements of the day were rushed.
- Good lunch and good break.
- Need more stalls for the lunch break.
- Would have liked a wider range of food to be available.
- Good day, interesting.
- Thank you.
- Question already asked x 2.
- Great day.

### **2.4. Outcomes from the Youth Voice Conference**

2.4.1 There were a number of positive outcomes from the Youth Voice Conference and these are as follows:

- 26 young people have volunteered to be part of the Wirral wide participation group.
- A young people and police liaison group is being set up following feedback from young people at the Hot Seating.
- Young people who took part have been sent letters clarifying the outcome of outstanding issues from the Youth Voice Conference.
- The young people who volunteered to be part of the participation opportunities have been contacted to arrange for them to take part in this activity.

### **2.5 The Youth Parliament**

2.5.1 The Parliament is a permanent item on the annual cycle of meetings and is called as full council meeting chaired by the Mayor. Schools and partner organisations are invited to nominate young people to take part in the Youth Parliament. It is an opportunity for young people to debate with councillor's, matters which are important to young people. This event is part of Wirral Council's Youth Engagement agenda and provides a key opportunity for elected members to engage with young people. Unfortunately, the Youth Parliament clashes with the political party's national conference season resulting in one of the political parties on Wirral not being able to have full attendance. This concern has been raised and has to be considered as part of the planning for future YPs.

## 2.5.2 Aims of the Youth Parliament

1. To provide opportunities for young people to develop debating skills.
2. To provide young people with the opportunity to debate with councillors and peers about issues important to them.
3. To enable young people to understand evidence based opinions and their contribution to debates.
4. To help young people understand the democratic process.

## 2.5.3 Youth Parliament Format

2.5.4 This year the young people decided on the topics which they wanted to debate at the Youth Parliament and the wording of the motions. Dinner was provided before the Parliament opened and this enabled young people and councillors to meet informally and discuss the motions being put forward for debate. This year the topics were as follows:

- Cyber cafes in parks.
- Poor lifestyle is down to choice not poverty.
- Councillors, Members of Parliament and council officers should take a pay cut to save services.
- To address the need for more places to be available for young people to do apprenticeships, Wirral Council should build into trade and contract agreements, a requirement for apprenticeships to be provided for young people from Wirral.
- Should police officers be armed?

All debates were put forward for discussion but only the debate regarding apprenticeships was passed by the Youth Parliament.

## 2.5.5 Performance Targets

Both events had a number of areas against which performance targets had been established:

Area	Target	Actual
Number of schools involved	20 YVC	20
	20 Youth Parliament	13
Number of young people taking part	80 YVC	81 YVC
	60 Youth parliament	40 Youth Parliament
Number of partner organisations involved in market stalls	N/A	27

## 2.6 Learning points from both events:

2.6.1 Feedback for both events has been very positive, young people felt listened to and the content of workshops received positive feedback. However the numbers taking part need to increase. This will be a priority area for improvement at the next Youth Parliament.

- 2.6.2 The number of schools at the Youth Voice Conference was on target however the number involved in the Youth parliament was lower than anticipated. There are a number of reasons for this, the main one being the long day for the young people who remain behind after the YVC.
- 2.6.3 There is also the timing of the Youth Parliament which takes place during the political parties' conference season. This clash of events results in one of the local political parties being unable to have full representation at the Youth Parliament. It is proposed that in 2013 the YVC will take place as usual on 15th October. It is proposed that the Youth Parliament will take place on 12th November. This will involve staff organising two events but this can be managed as one process. The schools will as usual be invited to send representatives but in addition, work would be undertaken with the Youth Hubs and other organisations to send representatives. As with the arrangements for last year's Youth Parliament, the young people will be invited to identify the topics for debate. Holding the event at this time will also provide an opportunity for the Council to consult with young people on budget proposals and council priorities.
- 2.6.4 In holding the Parliament in November, the young people will have more time to prepare motions. An October Youth Parliament restricted the amount of preparation time available to the young people as the event takes place during the first half term of the academic year. In addition, this approach will reduce the cost of the Youth Parliament as there will not be the need for a hot meal as has previously been the case and a buffet will instead be provided.

### 3.0 Next Steps

- 3.1 Planning for both the YVC and YP require a lot of preparation including booking venues, informing schools and briefing delivery partners who are key to both events. It is also essential to ensure young people are included in the planning. Below is a list of key initial tasks and this will be followed by a more detailed project plan.

Activity	By when	Completed
Set date and book venue for Youth Voice Conference	November 2012	Yes
Set date and book venue for Youth Parliament	November 2012	Yes
Send early notification to schools and youth projects	By 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013	
Consult with young people on the themes for the youth voice Conference	February/ April	
Prepare project plan for both events.	By 31 <sup>st</sup> march 2013	
Brief partners on	Middle March	

proposals for Youth parliament		
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#### **4.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

4.1 The Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament are annual events in the Council's Participation agenda. By not making these adjustments to the provision of the Youth Parliament, there is a risk of reduced take up by young people thereby restricting the youth engagement opportunities for elected members.

#### **5.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 This option is a change to previous methods of delivery and has been considered with colleagues from partner organisations in the Positive Contribution Strategy Group.

#### **6.0 CONSULTATION**

6.1 Consultation has been undertaken with colleagues in the Positive Contribution Strategy Group, colleagues in the Universal Youth Support Service who provide much of the infrastructure support for both events.

#### **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

7.1 There are none.

#### **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

8.1 Much of the support for the delivery of both events comes from the Universal youth Support Service. Time would be required from Hub Managers to ensure the necessary preparation was undertaken in the Youth Hubs.

#### **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are none.

#### **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 This new approach will open up opportunities for young people from the wider community to take part. This approach will enhance equality of opportunity.

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

#### **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 As two separate events will take place on different days additional transport will be required. This will have an impact on carbon reduction plans

#### **12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are none.

### 13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The Committee approves the proposal to hold the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament on separate days with the aim of increasing participation by councillors and young people at the Youth Parliament

### 14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 Youth engagement opportunities are maximised to ensure maximum take by young people and elected members

**REPORT AUTHOR:** *Maureen McDaid*  
**Principal Manager (Commissioning/Participation)**  
telephone: (0151)-666-4508  
email: [maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk)

### APPENDICES

None

### REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

### SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Overview and Scrutiny	11 September 2012

## Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit (from May 2012)

### Section 1: Your details

**EIA lead Officer:** Maureen McDaid

**Email address:** [maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk)

**Head of Section:** Andrew Roberts

**Chief Officer:** Julia Hassall

**Department:** CYPD

**Date:** 21/02/2013

### Section 2: What Council proposal is being assessed?

**The planning and delivery of the Youth Parliament**

**Section 2b:** Will this EIA be submitted to a Cabinet or Overview & Scrutiny Committee?

Yes

Overview and Scrutiny 18 March 2013

Please add hyperlink to where your EIA is/will be published on the Council's website  
<http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/children-young-people>



**Section 3:** Does the proposal have the potential to affect..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Services**
- The workforce**
- Communities**
- Other** (please state eg: Partners, Private Sector, Voluntary & Community Sector)

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 4.

- None** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 4:** Does the proposal have the potential to maintain or enhance the way the Council ..... (please tick relevant boxes)

- Eliminates unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advances equality of opportunity
- Fosters good relations between groups of people

If you have ticked one or more of above, please go to section 5.

- No** (please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 5:**

**Could the proposal have a positive or negative impact on any of the protected groups (race, gender, disability, gender reassignment, age, pregnancy and maternity, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership)?**

**You may also want to consider socio-economic status of individuals.**

**Please list in the table below and include actions required to mitigate any potential negative impact.**

<b>Which group(s) of people could be affected</b>	<b>Potential positive or negative impact</b>	<b>Action required to mitigate any potential negative impact</b>	<b>Lead person</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Resource implications</b>
Race – young people aged 13-19	Positive Impact: The proposal to be considered by Overview & Scrutiny seeks to increase participation in the Youth Parliament by young people.				
Disability – young people aged 13-19	Positive Impact: The proposal seeks to increase participation in the Youth parliament by young people with disabilities aged 13-19				
Young people aged 13-19 from areas with high levels of poverty and social disadvantage	Positive Impact The proposal for the Youth Parliament ensures that more young people will access this opportunity through Youth Hubs. Workers will have as a priority the participation by young people from areas of social disadvantage.				

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**Section 5a: Where and how will the above actions be monitored?**

Through the planning returns to the event organiser and registration at the Youth Parliament

**Section 5b: If you think there is no negative impact, what is your reasoning behind this?**

The proposal aims to increase the level of participation by young people from the Protected groups. This will be achieved by targeted work with the identified groups.

**Section 6: What research / data / information have you used in support of this process?**

Registration returns from previous Youth parliaments

**Section 7: Are you intending to carry out any consultation with regard to this Council proposal?**

Yes

(please stop here and email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for publishing)

**Section 8: How will consultation take place and by when?**

Consultation has been undertaken with colleagues from the Universal Youth support service and colleagues from the Positive Contribution Strategy Group. Consultation will also be undertaken with young people and schools.

Before you complete your consultation, please email your preliminary EIA to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) via your Chief Officer in order for the Council to ensure it is meeting

it's legal requirements. The EIA will be published with a note saying we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation exercise.

Once you have completed your consultation, please review your actions in section 5. Then email this form to your Chief Officer who needs to email it to [equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk) for re-publishing.