



PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

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| REPORT TITLE: | CITIZENS ADVICE WIRRAL - UPDATE |
| REPORT OF: | DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE |

REPORT SUMMARY

Following a discussion held at a workshop in December 2020, the Chair and Spokes of the Partnerships Committee requested an update and presentation from Citizens Advice Wirral.

Citizens Advice Wirral is a local charity providing advice, information, advocacy and representation across Wirral. They have provided free, impartial and confidential advice to Wirral residents since 1939 and were formerly known as Wirral Citizens Advice Bureau. They are members of the national Citizens Advice charity but are independent from them.

Their services include general advice, specialist debt advice and specialist primary care mental health advice and advocacy. Pension wise, a specialist pension advice service, and a Financial Capability advice service are also delivered at Citizens Advice Wirral by other local Citizens Advice organisations.

Citizens Advice Wirral actively works for change in the policies and practices of organisations that impact on the lives of our clients.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Partnerships Committee are requested to:

1. Note and comment on the presentation by Citizens Advice Wirral.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 This report is to support the presentation supplied by Citizens Advice Wirral and will inform the Partnerships Committee on work being undertaken by Citizens Advice Wirral and highlight any key issues within the borough, Therefore, Members may wish to comment on or make suggestions to add to the work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Members of the Committee requested that Citizens Advice Wirral present an update to the Committee on their work and key issues found within the borough. Therefore, no other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 This report was requested as part of work programming by the Partnerships Committee and is a result of a request for more collaboration with partner organisations and the 3rd Sector.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report is for information purposes only and there are no financial implications.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes only and there are no legal implications.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 This report is for information purposes only and there are no legal implications.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Members of the Partnerships committee are keen to collaborate with partner agencies in Wirral, as well as 3rd sector organisations. This is to ensure that Members are able to gain an oversight of the issues faced by residents across the borough. Failure to do this would increase the risks caused by lack of oversight or scrutiny.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The Partnership Committee are committed to engagement and consultation with Wirral Council Partners to ensure that it's scrutiny obligations can be discharged effectively.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

This report is for information purposes only and the content will be supplied by a partner agency. The partnerships committee are committed to ensure that the work it does has equality at its heart and does not discriminate against anyone. Any associated actions may need an EIA

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no direct environment or climate implications as result of this report. However, Wirral Council and its Committees will consider the Climate Emergency Declaration within all the work it does and will continue to incorporate this into their work programme and hold all partnerships to account.

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APPENDICES

None – a presentation will be presented at committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council – Partnerships Committee terms of reference.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

| Council Meeting | Date |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Partnerships Committee | 9 November 2020 |