

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – JANUARY 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & CULTURAL SERVICES

WIRRAL YOUTH & COMMUNITY SERVICE – RESPONSES BY YOUNG PEOPLE CONTACTED BY YOUTH SERVICE WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL SURVEY: “SOMETHING TO DO; SOMEWHERE TO GO”, OCTOBER 2005

1.0 Executive Summary:

1.1 This report is to inform the Committee of the findings of the survey “Something to do; Somewhere to go” carried out in Wirral by Youth Service as part of a larger National Consultation being carried out by the DfES.

2.0 Background:

2.1 On 18th July 2005, the Government published the Youth Green Paper, “Youth Matters”. It addresses key issues relating to how teenagers should be supported and challenged. It seeks to consult young people, parents and professionals on the proposals.

2.2 The Green Paper proposes three major areas for development:

- i) more things to do and places to go in their local area;
- ii) better information, advice and guidance about issues that matter to young people, delivered in the way they want to receive it; and
- iii) better support for those who have more serious problems.

2.3 The questionnaires ““Something to do; Somewhere to go” were part of a wider process of consultation with young people, and asked for views on the three areas listed above.

3.0 The Survey:

3.1 Over 400 young people were contacted at short notice by 12 Centres and Projects. This sample is large enough to be statistically valid.

3.2 Because of the very short time available before returning all the original surveys forms to the DfES, it was only possible to collate the responses from the multiple choice questions and not from the 4 open questions. It was also not feasible to make copies of the 4-page survey for later analysis.

4.0 Findings:

4.1 A copy of the Wirral findings, given as raw scores and percentages, is attached.

4.2 No formal conclusions have yet been drawn. A comparison will be made when National survey findings are published. However, the following points are of interest:

- 4.3 Local Youth Clubs came out as the most popular place to meet friends, but this has to be balanced against the fact that all the young people contacted were associated with one youth project or another.
- 4.4 Almost 80% of the young people surveyed welcomed the “Youth Card”. This result requires further investigation as the question did suggest discounts and cash top-ups would be available all young people but failed to indicate from where they would be available.
- 4.5 A large percentage of young people wish to be involved in informing and shaping services for young people.
- 4.6 Parents and friends are the prime source of information and advice for young people, though they did value the notion of a single individual professional to help them.
- 4.7 More glamorous rewards were seen as necessary to raise the value of voluntary community work. However, a large number of young people already participate in some form of voluntary work, mostly for its own sake, but would welcome more recognition of their involvement.

5.0 Financial and Staffing Implications:

- 5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

6.0 Equal Opportunity Implications:

- 6.1 The survey included ethnic, gender, disability and age monitoring to ensure a representative sample of young people in the Borough.

7.0 Human Rights Implications:

- 7.1 There are none arising directly from this report

8.0 Community Safety Implications:

- 8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.

9.0 Planning Implications:

- 9.1 There are none arising directly from this report

10.0 Local Member Support Implications:

- 10.1 This report covers all wards.

11.0 Background Papers:

- 11.1 This report refers to the Government Green Paper, Cm 6629, “Youth Matters”. This paper and related documents including the questionnaire, are available at <http://www.dfes.gov.uk/publications/youth/>

12.0 Recommendation:

12.1 The Committee is asked note the survey. Further updates will be presented when the results of the national consultation are published in 2006.