

HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT

Executive Summary

- 1.0 This report gives the Committee an overview of the work of the Service between November 2006 and February 2007. The Committee is asked to note the report.

Staff Movements

- 2.0 There have been some staff changes since November. At the Fender Youth Action Project, Ria Benson is now on maternity leave and Gary Atkinson is providing cover. Mark Newman has finished his secondment to Fender Youth Club and has made a welcome return to the team. He will be working 50% of his time managing the Corridor Project, a new initiative to work with young people who congregate in the vicinity of Borough Rd, and 50% as Head of Team for Deeside. The Alcohol Outreach Team has moved from the Birkenhead & Bebington Area Team into the Youth Service Outreach Team. This is a logical move and should make for closer working relationships with the neighbourhood teams. Alf Mullin has been seconded to the Community Safety Team.

Wirral Outreach Team

- 3.0 As a number of Wirral agencies now have outreach workers, the name 'Youth Service Outreach Team' (YSOT) has been adopted to identify the work undertaken as being part of Wirral Youth Service.
- 3.1 Community Safety now funds a Senior Youth Work post and although the Head of Community Safety will manage the post, it is also a member of the YSOT. This will enable close working relationships to ensure a strategic approach and the best use of resources.
- 3.2 The following examples illustrate the diverse range of opportunities that have been available to young people through their contact with outreach youth workers:
- young people from Seacombe are participating in a project aimed at developing young people's involvement in libraries
 - Deeside Young People's Project organised a trip to Awesome Walls for a group from Prenton
 - young women from Eastham are rehearsing a dance to perform in a show at the Wirral Youth Theatre

- Birkenhead Young People's Project has engaged young people from the Peel Avenue Estate in a peer education project and another group from Central Station has done a first aid course
 - following the great success of the October half term football competition, another competition was held during February half term. Over 160 young people, drawn from youth centres and street work projects, participated in this event organised by the Outreach Team at the Soccer Dome
- 3.3 The Youth Service Outreach Team continues to develop work with other agencies and is actively involved in a number of community safety problem solving groups.
- 3.4 The Youth Service Outreach Team has also worked with young people to bridge the gap with other generations. An example of this is the work Wallasey Young People's Project has undertaken with the Friends of the Tower Grounds and has been successful in obtaining a place for a young person on their committee.
- 3.5 Work is also taking place to foster a better understanding between agencies and young people. A Police, Fire Service and Young People's Forum has been held at Mosslands School. In March, police and young people's forums are to be held in Tranmere and in Bebington. At Christmas, young people, from locations throughout South Wirral, went bowling with the police.

Deeside Area Team

- 4.0 Other than the regular activities that take place in the youth clubs in Deeside, significant work that has been undertaken which includes
- Education, employment and training
 - Citizenship
 - Keeping healthy and looking after yourself
 - Independent living
 - The environment and green issues
- 4.1 Prior to being damaged by fire and storms, the Pavilion in Coronation Park, was used by Greasby Youth Club for two nights a week for specific group work. The youth club also operated out of Greasby Community Centre on two other nights. A range of topics has been covered including workshops on Sexual Health and Staying Safe. Some club members have been involved in the planting of new trees in Greasby Village, building reassurance between young people and local residents and showing concern for the environment. There have also been trips out Bowling. The Pavilion is now nearly ready for use following repairs.
- 4.2 Pensby Youth Club has been in a period of transition after work to move on an older group of young people who have dominated the club for a number of years, making it hard for other young people to get

involved. Working alongside Community Safety Team, the staff took part in a recruitment drive to find new membership. Following the membership drive, a programme was set out with the input of this new group. Already they have taken part in drug and alcohol workshops and a Go Carting trip. The main emphasis has been to build relationships between YP and Staff. They are currently organising a trip to Oaklands in the Summer.

- 4.3 West Kirby Youth Club have been involved in healthy eating project and have recently signed up to Health Promoting Youth Settings. They are developing a Youth Management Committee to feed in to the Youth Forums. Club members have taken part in the football tournament that was held in the Soccer Dome. Future planned events include a Prom Dress Fashion Show.
- 4.4 Fender Youth Club has been involved in a number of developments, including, Monday Night Football funded by the Neighbourhood Management Team. The Unemployment Group, started because there was a large number of older young men, aged 18 plus who were trying to get into the youth club. Following negotiation with the young people and other agencies, the young people took part in different skill based activities. All participants gained skills in DIY, cooking and all received the CSCS Card for building site work. Other projects have included young people designing the artwork for the Hoole Road Shops Shutter Project. Twelve young people from Fender Youth Club, are to take part in the Raleigh International Scheme. This project will involve other agencies and The Bank will coordinate the planning for this event. Finally, in memory of the number of young people from Fender who have died in the past two years, Staff and young people from Fender Youth Club with representatives from other organisations are looking into the possibility of erecting a memorial somewhere on the Woodchurch estate.

Wallasey Area Team

- 5.0 As part of the work in Wallasey and working towards a **cohesive** offer, the units are all at various stages of the health promoting youth settings scheme. A range of activities and opportunities are offered which has enabled units to enhance their existing programmes through membership of the Youth Federation.

Moreton Youth Centre: Moreton Youth Centre has an established team and offers a wide range of opportunities for members.

- Health Promoting Youth Settings. The members are now on their silver section of HPYS and are waiting for funding to create a chill out room. They tackled mental health as part of this section, which included de-stressing sessions for those taking exams.

- A senior members group working towards their Youth Achievement Awards and V award are running a junior disco on Friday nights with the support of the staff.
- The unit has a theme and a country a month, which is chosen jointly with staff and members. It includes, cookery, issue based work, health and art and craft session.

Allandale Youth Centre: A new acting worker is in charge at the Allandale Youth Club. At present the new worker is getting to know the area and the unit. One of the workers main roles this quarter will be publicity for new members. The unit is fund raising at the charity shop in Wallasey and was successful in its bid to Youth Opportunity Fund. New windows, carpets and furniture are being purchased for the unit. The new worker is in the process of developing a menu of opportunities for youth club members, including using Health Promoting Youth settings

Leasowe Youth club: The new Neighbourhood worker has now been in post for 3 months. The membership of the youth club has risen to 30-40 young people attending on a regular basis.

- The members were successful in their bid for Youth Capital funding to refurbish the youth house for the outreach and project work. The funding will not cover all of the work and the young people are hoping to continue fund raising for paints etc.
- The young women are entering a dance competition, which they have been working towards for a number of months. This project has been organised and developed by the young people.
- The members of the club have taken part in a range of Wirral wide activities and are currently planning 4 outward-bound trips to Oakland's. These trips were part of a successful bid for Youth Opportunity Funding.

Birkenhead /Bebington Area Team

6.0 This period has seen a noticeable increase in the number of young people attending Youth Clubs in the area, these young people will be heavily involved in dictating the future programme of their clubs

Viking Youth Club co-ordinated a football competition for local clubs linked to World Aids Day. The units involved played for the Red Ribbon Trophy. Members involved in a dance project, working in partnership with Wirral Youth Theatre, have entered into dance competition with the Youth Federation. Workshops on physical wellbeing, alcohol, smoking and illegal drug use are ongoing within the club. Young people attended a performance in Liverpool of 'Starlight Express'. Members of the club have been involved in a national debate with 'UK Youth' about young people and alcohol use.

Eastham Youth Club has been busy preparing for Health Promoting Youth Units status with project work around healthy cooking/life style and sexual health. Eastham has been involved with the Youth

Achievement Awards and are looking forward to a number of their people achieving accredited outcomes in the not too distant future. The unit is also involved in the postal quiz, table tennis tournament, nail art project and ever-popular karaoke.

Bebington Youth Club has carried out a leaflet drop in the local area with members of staff and young people involved. The leaflets let the community know what activities are available in the club. A fund raising event was held in the local British Legion with parents and staff invited, this raised £100 towards club funds

Cavendish Youth Club is undergoing massive change by moving all activities down onto the ground floor which in effect gives the young people a new youth club. This will include a new kitchen, coffee bar area, chill out lounge, aerobic area and fitness suite. A partnership with Wirral Youth Theatre through their Sound Steps Project now takes place on a Thursday evening.

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

- 7.0 Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT/Youth Arts) continues to offer an open programme of performing arts to over three hundred young people across Wirral, as well as targeted partnership project work with Voluntary and Statutory Youth Organisations. The on-going programme involves nightly cross media workshops, residential work, training programmes, and small and large-scale performance opportunities. There have been particular developments within WYT/Youth Art's dance Peer Education Project. The group are involved in Youth Dance England's Conference in April in which workers and young people will be presenting examples of good practice, facilitating focus groups and performing.
- 7.1 Work with schools continues with Dance work in junior and secondary schools involving peer educators (16-19year olds) in co facilitating workshops as part of their development training. WYT/Youth Arts has also facilitated the establishment of a cross agency Wirral Youth Dance Forum in partnership with School Sport Officers to help raise the standard and profile of youth dance activity across Wirral. Regular drama based workshops have been taking place with older pupils from Meadowside and Foxfield Schools - focussing on building confidence and assertiveness towards integration into a major Young Roots lottery funded production in 2008 as part of Liverpool Capital of Culture Celebrations.
- 7.2 Young people have been involved in decision-making in a number of ways. A new WYT/Youth Arts Steering Group of young people has been established to concentrate on a range of fundraising for projects. They have also been involved in consultation for the Learning Skills Council on their new information website for young people. Nationally, young people are involved in setting up a National Association of Youth Theatres Council supported by the Arts Council. This development

aims to ensure that young people are fully involved in the decision making process. WYT/Youth Arts now has a Wirral youth representative on both the Regional and National Councils. WYT/Youth Arts has also been selected by the Arts Council to submit an application to 'Arts For All' funding for the establishment of an Outreach Theatre Company. This will be a progression route for young people aged 16 – 19 who are undertaking or have completed the BTEC in Peer Education. Young people have established a Steering Group for this company, which they have named – First Class Theatre Company – and have successfully secured £4000 from the Youth Opportunity Fund to undertake a period of research with young people across Wirral on what issues and media they would like explored through theatre tours.

- 7.3 Fifteen young people from a broad range of life circumstances are currently enrolled and doing well on the second BTEC in Peer Education facilitated by WYT. The qualification is equivalent to four GCSEs and twelve UCAS points and provides an excellent progression route for older WYT/Youth Arts young people who are particularly interested in pursuing careers in Youth Work and Participatory Arts. WYT/Youth Arts is now a registered centre for the Arts Councils Bronze, Silver and Gold Arts Awards and 20 young people from Meadowside and Foxfield schools have now enrolled on the Arts Councils Bronze Award Scheme, which accredits young people's achievements in the arts. Ten young people involved in WYT/ Youth Arts PAYP activities have also completed their portfolios ready for submission.
- 7.4 WYT/ Youth Arts secured funding to provide Positive Activities for Young people (PAYP) during the half term and summer holidays. All three programmes have now been delivered and involved an equivalent of ten full –time placements of young people in a range of multi media activities. The overall aim of ARTZONE was to enable young people to grow in confidence and self esteem and therefore help them to access appropriate progression routes. The final week involved young people in putting a play on in a week. They chose the Welsh legend of Beddgelert and used a range of media to put their own interpretation on the legend and performed the play to an audience at the end of the week. A unique aspect of this project was that some young people from first two PAYP holiday schemes had progressed onto the BTEC in Peer Education and supported other Peer Educators in facilitating and supporting workshops for the February half-term.
- 7.5 WYT/Youth Arts also successfully bid to Connexions for funding for Activity Agreements and the provision of music based activities for NEET (not in education or employment) as part of a National pilot scheme. WYT has been able to provide young people with the opportunity to access tailored one to one music tuition and support in other aspects of their lives. To date WYT/Youth Arts has delivered first access and more advanced levels of music tuition to

twelve young people. We are currently planning to offer a series of master classes in March, which will focus on supporting participants to explore career progression within a range of performing arts.

- 7.6 Other future projects include commissions to produce two DVD's for Safeguarding Children Services on 'Coming Out' and Self Harm. Young people from WYT are involved in rehearsals for "Street of Crocodiles" due to be staged at Pacific Road Arts Centre in July.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

- 8.0 The Award in Wirral continues to diversify in its delivery as well as increasing in the number of young people who are being accredited. In line with our policy of making the Award available to all young people, the Award Officer is identifying and removing the barriers that prevent Wirral young people from participating in the Award. Using "Pump Priming" funds we have been able to encourage several groups of clientele to participate in the Award.
- 8.1 Award staff, in liaison with the Social Inclusion Officer, have been working with a small group of looked after children. All have been enrolled into the Bronze level of the Award, 10 young people will take part in several Award activities and will hopefully train for and complete their expedition at Oaklands in the summer. Contact has been made with Wirral African & Caribbean Community Voice. It is hoped that some their members will enrol on the Award Scheme.
- 8.2 Wirral Alternative Schools Programme is now registered as an Award operating unit. 24 young people are using the Award to enhance their extra curricular activities and social education.
- 8.3 Many young people cannot find support for the Award either in their school or in their area. Following our success of helping 45 of these young people achieve the Bronze last year, many have now returned to attempt their Silver Award.

International Work/ Special Needs

- 9.0 There are three main international projects this year. In May, 8 workers, including representatives from police and Education Social Welfare are attending a conference in Bremen with agenda being 'Streetwork with Young People.' This is via an invitation from the Praventionszentrum Bremen Nord and continues the close co-operation that was first established over 10 years ago. There will also be a group from Sweden attending the conference.
- 9.1 The longstanding youth exchange with Hong Kong and China will take place with the Chinese group of young people spending two weeks in Wirral in late July and our group visiting Hong Kong and China in the

last two weeks in September. The Youth Service has over the years sponsored the Feng Xia Middle School in Qing Yuen in Southern China and has provided the money to build a number of dormitories and classrooms.

- 9.2 There has also been an invitation for a group of young people to spend 10 days in the Azores as part of a multinational exchange group. There will also be young people from Poland, Czech Republic, Portugal, Malta and Spain. The Theme will be Participation.
- 9.3 Work is currently underway organising a series of Awareness Drama Workshops utilising a group of young people from a project in Salford "So Many Words Theatre Company". This will involve specific work with Disabled young people who will be involved in developing the youth work curriculum.
- 9.4 This years Senior Member Training Course is at the half way stage. The participants attended a residential weekend at Trafford Hall by Chester the first weekend in March.

Young People's Participation

Area Youth Forums

- 10.0 Youth Forums took place in late January / early February. Over 100 young people were in attendance at these four meetings. Young people from each Youth Forum allocated £2,500 to youth projects in their area, these funds have been made available through a policy option.

UKYP Elections 2007

- 10.1 This year, 50 young people stood for election (8 male and 42 female). Each candidate prepared a 90 second election speech which they recorded as sound bites at the Learning Lighthouse. These sound bites were then uploaded onto the Wirral Learning Grid website, where young people could listen to them and then cast their votes.
Ten secondary schools were represented, with both New Solar School and Joseph Paxton School participating for the first time.
The election announcements event was held at the Williamson Art Gallery on Wednesday 28th February, with the following young people being elected:

Members of Youth Parliament:

Sarah Fleming	Prenton High School
Samandeep Kaur	Prenton High School

Deputies:

Peter Kearns	New Solar School
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Yasmina Jones
Leah Cope

West Kirby Grammar School for Girls
Wirral Grammar School for Girls

The total number of votes cast was 4902.

Response

- 11.0 Response has been successful in securing funding from the Youth Opportunities fund and Supporting People. The funding will be used in the following ways:
- £35,000 from Supporting People to provide a Housing Support Worker for 12 months. This worker will deliver services to the 20–25yrs and develop links with other services/departments for this vulnerable group of homeless young people. This project has not yet started.
 - £2600 to help young people in crisis around homelessness. The money will be used to help secure accommodation, emergency items such as clothes, food and toiletries. The fund is only to be used when all other routes have been exhausted and as part of an ongoing piece of support work. We are in the process of utilising the award to the benefit of Wirral's young homeless people.
 - £6000 to develop an outreach counselling service. Young people will receive counselling at their point of need; the roving counsellor will go into schools to meet with young people to help deal with some of the issues that are affecting them. 7 schools have so far referred young people to the project.
- 11.1 Links with the new Arrowe Park Children's Accident & Emergency department are bearing fruit and the referral pathway is in its final stages of completion. Response will provide a weekly drop in at the Hospital along with access through referrals to wider services within Response. A service information pack will also be provided to all young people who present with alcohol or substance misuse related issues.
- 11.2 Working links have been made with the Adolescent Crisis Team and co-working developments are currently being explored. A service agreement will be put in place in due course.
- 11.3 Overall it has been a busy quarter. A total of 774 attendances into Response were recorded this quarter, in addition, the service has also delivered 85 drug/health and personal safety workshops to over 1000 young people in schools.
- 11.4 Funding for delivering Preventing Homeless workshops ended in December and resources have been moved to try to continue to offer this highly effective work to schools. 45 workshops have been delivered with 692 young people attending. Apart from schools

workshops have been delivered to Groundwork Wirral, Wirral Met College sites, Moreton Family Centre, Kontakt Bus and the Youth Service Outreach Team.

- 11.5 The Bitesize initiative with Brook has grown from strength to strength and the project is in the process of undergoing external evaluation from ICARUS. Further details will be available sometime in June.
- 11.6 For World Aids Day, in December Response ran a Campaign to raise the awareness of HIV and AIDS. The Campaign went well and provided information and red ribbons to over 1,500 people.
- 11.7 During this period there have been 101 new referrals into the counselling service the majority being aged 13-19. Issues that are presented for counselling remain varied and at times are complex. These include, relationship breakdown, abandonment, coping alone in accommodation, having to cope alone emotionally when a parent has a new partner, sexuality, abuse, family breakdown, and bereavement. The counselling team continue to offer a mediation service to young people and their families, and bio-physical solutions therapy [black box] therapy to young people with addictions to substances, or are stressed, anxious and not sleeping properly.

Training

- 12.0. A range of training opportunities for all youth work staff has recently taken place covering the Common Assessment Framework (CAF), Child Protection, the Child Concern Model (CCM), Protective Behaviours, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Drug Awareness and Young People and Alcohol.
- 12.1 Recent Career Professional Development (CPD) for individual youth workers includes Smoking Cessation for Young People, Advanced Counselling, Drug Education, Understanding Self Harm and Supervision.
- 12.2 Youth Service is entering its third year of partnership with the Social Services City & Guilds NVQ Assessment Centre, and the way forward from 2008 is being examined. Now that Transforming Youth Work funding has ceased, there is a need to identify additional funding to support the programme.
- 12.3 The Consultation Period for the review of National Occupational Standards for Youth Work ends on 16th March. The next generation of awards are likely to come on stream in late 2008 and will cover not only vocational qualifications but academic and professional qualifications

too. Details of the consultation are at:
http://www.lluk.org/currentactivity/yw_consultation.html.

12.4 Demand for youth work placements from universities around the North West and North Wales continues. Priority has been given to students from Liverpool JM University in return for reciprocal arrangements such as discounted CPD, notwithstanding Wirral has long and positive relationship with them.

Financial & Staffing Implications

13.0 These are none arising from this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications

14.0 The service actively promotes equality and diversity in its delivery

Human Rights Implications

15.0 The work on participation and youth engagement supports human rights.

Community Safety Implication

16.0 The service seeks to engage young people in positive activities and away from risk taking behaviour.

Planning Implication

17.0 These are none arising from this report.

Local Member Support Implication

18.0 This report affects all wards.

Recommendation

19.0 The Committee notes the Report.

Howard Cooper
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