

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**

Birkenhead Tranmere and Rock Ferry Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Monday 4th February 2008

Rock Ferry Community Centre

7.00pm – 9.00pm

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Birkenhead Tranmere and Rock Ferry Area Forum Agenda

Monday 4th Feb

Rock Ferry Community Centre

7pm – 9pm

- 1 Welcome / Introductions / Apologies
- 2 Area Co-ordinators Report
Including: Matters Arising from October 2007
- 3 Sustainable Communities Strategy
- 4 Wirral's contribution to capital of culture.
- 5 Public question time
- 6 Area Forum Partner updates
- 7 Future meetings/presentations

June 2008, Birkenhead Town Hall
- 8 Any Other Business

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Section One

Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising from the previous forum

Minutes - Area Forum (Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry) - 2 October 2007

Present	
Chair	Cllr Jean Stapleton
Ward Councillors	PL Davies , WJ Davies , Brian Kenny , Mrs CM Meaden
Community Representatives	Lenny McCormick , Mike Parkinson , Stephanie Reid (Tranmere Alliance) , Hazel Roberts (Together)
Lead Officer	David Ball (Head of Housing and Regeneration)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Andrew Brannan
Street Scene Manager	Gary Cummings
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Tina Long (Primary Care Trust)
Merseyside Police	Insp. Mick Blease
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Myles Platt (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service)
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Graham Hewitt
Other Partners	Myrtle Lacey (Age Concern Wirral)
Council Officers	Ian Lowrie (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Cllr Moira McLaughlin

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Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators Report, including: Matters Arising from June 2007

Minute 3 - Public question time

Minute 4 - Partner updates: Community Safety, Fire Service, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Older Peoples Parliament & Police

Minute 5 - Future meetings/presentations: Monday 4th February 2008 – Rock Ferry Community Centre (by Rock Ferry One Stop Shop)

Minute 6 - Any Other Business

Minute 1 - Welcome / Introductions / Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed forum members and 21 members of the public to the Area Forum meeting in Birkenhead Town Hall. She invited forum members to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from Councillor M McLaughlin.

Minute 2 - Area Co-ordinators Report, including: Matters Arising from June 2007

The Area Co-ordinator informed the forum that the minutes of the last meeting held on 5 June 2007 had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. The response to the query on the Ferries Credit Union has been included on page 9 of the report. The report also included local and partner updates, and an update on the Community Initiatives Funding was included on pages 37/49.

The Area Co-ordinator also informed the forum that copies of Tranmere Together's Children and Young Peoples Plan and the Area Forum newsletter were available at the meeting. He also requested that if anyone wished to receive future forum notifications via e-mail (to cut down on paper usage) could they please contact us at engage@wirral.gov.uk

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for his report.

Minute 3 - Public question time

The following written questions had been received from Philip Barton, and were responded to by David Ball:

1. What is the current situation with regard to major redevelopment projects in Birkenhead - specifically the proposed Claughton Road area supermarket and the Europa Boulevard casino and bowling alley?

A. The supermarket has now received planning permission and a start on site is expected in January 2008 following the Christmas period. The Council is in discussions with a developer for the Europa Boulevard sites but for commercial use. For confidential reasons more information cannot be given at this time.

2. Is money still available for the quality resurfacing of the Grange Road shopping area? If not, where has this money been spent?

A. I am not aware that money has ever been available for this. There have been discussions about improving this area to complement the new supermarket development and some design work has been looked at following the trip to Warrington Town Centre that was made some time ago. Until we knew the footprint of the food retail store there was no point looking at Grange Road improvements but may be it is now time to do so. However, there is no identified funding for this at present.

3. Is the pedestrianisation of Argyle Street from the Conway Street roundabout to Hamilton Square, as laid out in the draft Tourism Strategy, still planned to happen during the 2009/10 financial year?

A. This idea was part of the pedestrian spine concept linking Woodside to Birkenhead Town Centre. It was only a concept and would need detailed discussions with Engineer's and the Police etc. Before looking at this further we will need to be clearer on the shape of the Woodside proposals (Neptune and Peel are developing their thinking on this at present in the context of the master plan for the area) and the exact form of the Town Centre Redevelopment being proposed by Warners. This will take some time to do and 2009/10

may be too early to implement a pedestrianised scheme for this area of Birkenhead even if it is desirable to do so. There is currently no funding identified for this scheme.

David Ball agreed to update the forum on these as progress is made.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that David Ball to update the forum on progress re: Birkenhead redevelopment projects; resurfacing of Grange Road Shopping Centre; and the pedestrianisation of Argyle Street.

Minute 4 - Partner updates: Community Safety, Fire Service, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Older Peoples Parliament & Police

Merseyside Police

Inspector Blease informed the forum that he has been in the acting chief inspector role in Wallasey for the last two months, so has been absent from the forum area. He informed the forum that the area commander, Colin Matthews will be leaving for London. Graham Yipp will cover as acting area commander from October until the post is filled. He then gave the forum some information on recorded neighbourhood offences in the forum area (compared between April to September 2006 and April to September 2007). There were:

- 632 less victims of crime - a fall of 22% (this has been a continual fall over the last four years)
- 256 less violence crimes - a fall of 33%
- 14 less robberies - a fall of 35%
- 28 less dwelling burglaries - a fall of 24%
- 16 less thefts from motor vehicles - a fall of 12%
- 6 less thefts of motor vehicles - a fall of 10%
- 302 less criminal damage - a fall of 38%
- 478 less anti-social behaviour - a fall of 18%

The criminal damage category included reports made by council tenants for damage caused to their own windows, as they need an incident report number before the Council will replace the windows. To reach 1000 would be a great success.

The target rates for detection set by the Police Authority are 28% for all crime, this has increased from 30.7% to 36.2% over the above period.

People power successes have included the following:

- 100 people attended the first public meeting called to discuss anti-social behaviour in Mersey and Victoria parks, where we have tried to resolve problems - these meetings will continue.
- Zero tolerance signs have been adopted by Bootle
- Operation Marton - this has led to a reduction in alcohol sales
- Lighting has been installed in Mersey park and is to be installed in Victoria park
- Section 30 Orders - allowing groups of 3 or more young people to be taken home - out of the 11 that have been granted in Wirral only two, Borough Road and Mersey/Victoria parks, have shown an improvement
- Licensing authorities are becoming stronger and closing down offending off-licences. The Chief Constable of Cheshire gives confiscated alcohol to charities / groups to use as prizes at Christmas, and this is something that could be done here.
- Think 21 Scheme - the off-licences are on board with this scheme - many 15 year olds can look 18 so need to think that customers look 21 rather than 18.
- Anti-social neighbours - Jean Booth from the anti-social behaviour team attended these

meetings

- Payes Police - the Chief Constable donated £5000 to Wirral and some of this funding has been used to get goods for the cricket club
- Consultation process - forms have been delivered to all of the houses around the parks and to the youth forums and this has been successful.

Good news stories

Operation Safespace - took place in all Wirral's parks during Summer 2007. This led to 41 arrests; 5 fixed penalty notices; 179 alcohol confiscations; 263 stop searches / checks; and 6 acceptable behaviour contracts agreed with young people and their parents. Nearly 10,000 young people took part in diversionary events held in the parks.

Street drinkers - there has been fantastic support, particularly from off-licences who have shown street drinkers photos to staff, who have refused to serve them.

Robberies - during August 2007 handbag robberies, particularly from old ladies had increased. CCTV footage from near the Rock Ferry Library was retrieved with a partial outline of the offender. The route from the crime was searched and a cap was found. A PCSO identified a male from the CCTV and the name was checked against the DNA from the cap. One male was arrested and 14 offences have been detected to date.

Inspector Blease was given a round of applause and thanked for his update. The following points / questions were raised:

Q. Why do you think Morrisons asked a pensioner for proof of age?

A. If a retailer is caught selling to minors on three occasions then they can be banned from selling alcohol for 28 days, therefore some large organisations have a policy of always requesting proof of age when selling alcohol.

Q. Philip Barton - What can be done about home delivery of alcohol to minors?

A. We are looking at doing test home purchases to tackle this.

Q. What is being done about off-street drinkers?

A. Need to get the Police involved and arrange for anti-social behaviour orders to be issued.

Q. Philip Barton - people cause anti-social behaviour on private property as they know that the Police can't get to them .

A. They are not beyond anti-social behaviour offences if they are inside a dwelling, it is just more difficult to set up the orders.

Inspector Blease agreed to discuss this in more detail at the end of the meeting.

Q. Mary Petris - Can the alcohol seized be covered by the policy used for disposing of lost property?

A. The sales of lost property take place in auction rooms in Liverpool and the proceeds go to the Police Authority. The auctions will not take perishable goods.

A member of the public thanked the Police for all their help and Inspector Blease said that he will feed this back to his staff.

Philip Barton - Home delivery - looking at doing test home purchases to tackle this

Community Safety

Ian Lowrie - community safety affects everyone in Wirral. There are eight talking cameras in Wirral, and some of these are in the town centre. All of the funding for these was

received from the Government. It has taken a long time to set these up but they are now all in operation and have been very effective.

Stealth software - an American company produced this, it goes onto computers and enables a stolen computer to be tracked back to wherever it is being used. Eleven schools have been targeted for this to be placed on computers that are loaned to pupils to help with their homework. This offers improved safety for the pupils and can save council tax money.

Parking wardens do keep a watch on vehicles with goods left on display. Details are passed to headquarters who carry out a check on the vehicle and send out a leaflet to the owners and advise them to be more vigilant. Most thefts from vehicles are opportunist and at Christmas shopping time people need to be aware of this.

From Monday this week the anti-social behaviour team (who will be visible in their distinctive red jackets) will be involved in initiatives to give young people more positive things to do, thanks to a partnership with the Police and other agencies.

Ian Lowrie was thanked for his update, and no questions were raised on this.

Fire and Rescue Service

Myles Platt gave the forum the following statistics relating to the local fire station at Birkenhead:

- 420 home fire safety checks carried out per month. If anyone knows of any vulnerable people that may need this service please urge them to contact us.
- accidental dwelling fires average at about 2 per month per 10,000 head of population. This is directly related to the home fire safety checks.
- vehicles fires are down to 0.6 per month per 10,000 head of population. This has been a major success over the last 2/3 years and has fallen from 1/2 a night to 1/2 a month.
- anti-social behaviour, we are now only called out to small fires about seven times per month. This is due to work carried out in partnership with the anti-social behaviour team.
- 300 electric blankets have been replaced and a further 300 tested on Merseyside thanks to a joint venture (the winter warm campaign for older people using electric blankets) with the Fire Support Network - a registered charity affiliated to the Fire Service.

Future Plans

Strategies are being put in place to tackle potential risks. Last years grass fire strategy was not needed due to the rain. We have put together a robust bonfire reduction strategy to reduce nuisance bonfires, in partnership with the Anti-social Behaviour Team and the Probation Service. The Fire Service will supply the vehicles and equipment and will go and clear any hazards over the bonfire period. If anyone spots any hazards please report these to the Birkenhead Fire Station (0151 650 0422).

Myles Platt was thanked for his update and the following points / questions were raised:

Mary Petris

1. Are you doing yourself out of a job with all these prevention strategies?
A. We are now more involved in working with partners to prevent things from happening rather than waiting for them to happen.
2. How do you approach young people about stopping them throwing things at vehicles?
A. We work with our partners (Road Safety Team, Police, Outreach workers) to try and get the message out to young people.

3. How is the garden coming along?

A. We have about 50 young people spending 2/3 nights per week at the market garden. It is very rewarding and gives young people a sense of responsibility / respect.

Wirral Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Tina Long informed the forum that this is her first time at this meeting and that she is fairly new to Wirral. There are three key things that the Trust are involved in:

Small Grants Programme

There will be grants of up to £5,000 available to community and voluntary groups to be made available through the area forums. This will be advertised in October and the forms will be available from the Community Engagement Team at Wallasey Town Hall (0151 691 8650 / engage@wirral.gov.uk). The closing date for applications will be 14 November 2007.

Involvement Strategy

This is now being developed and we are keen to have more active involvement with local people. Please let us have your views, comments and stories on your health services. Leaflets to complete and return with comments were available at the meeting or can be obtained by telephone (0800 085 1547) or e-mail (haveyoursay@wirralpct.nhs.uk).

Commissioning Strategy

We are looking from now to five years ahead. Most of the money for the PCTs is used to commission services from the Wirral Hospital Trust. We are looking at where demand is likely to be over the next five years. Wirral has an ageing population and this will increase significantly over the next ten years and we will need to look at what services may be required as a result of this. Another area we will be looking at is health inequalities - to address gaps in health and to try and prevent people becoming ill. If anyone has any views on this please send them in via leaflet mentioned above.

Tina Long was thanked for her update and the following points / questions were raised:

1. Why are a number of GPs and surgeries breaking away from the National Health Service?

A. The PCTs have responsibility to commission services, many of which are provided through GPs and hospitals. The public would like us, where possible, to provide services more locally than in the past. The scheme is about a group of GPs in Birkenhead providing a more local service.

2. There are concerns that this is the private sector coming in through the back door, that some GPs / surgeries are using cheaper drugs and are opting out of NHS and going private.

A. The PCT is doing this in an open and transparent way, and the scheme is about GPs coming together to look at how they can provide quicker and more local services. No decision has been made on who will provide these services. Tina agreed to provide a briefing on this for the forum.

3. Philip Barton - Social Services direct payments are receiving huge cuts. The PCT are refusing to pay its part of the costs to give financial support for people within their homes. The care package for a double leg amputee who is elderly and has no relatives has been cut from 22 to 6 hours per week, what plans do the PCT have to help? Philip gave another example of a situation where homecare was not provided. This is a general issue that the

PCT needs to address.

A. The PCT is committed to providing such support and have a duty to ensure that continuing health care is delivered. Tina agreed to discuss this further at the end of the meeting.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (WHT)

Graham Hewitt informed the forum that the WHT is pleased to have a regular slot on the forum and is keen to engage with Wirral people at the forums. Information on the WHT was made available at the meeting. The Trust are impressed with the enthusiasm of the governors that have been appointed.

Topical areas affecting the Trust:

Beating bugs - Clatterbridge has never had the blood-born MRSA infection. Overall infection rates are some of the lowest in the north west.

Access to services - no patients wait for more than 11 weeks for an outpatient appointment when referred by their GP. Most patients will wait no longer than 17 weeks for an operation, except for orthopaedics where the waiting time is 20 weeks. Cancer referrals are carried out within two weeks, well within the national guidance.

Improving our facilities - £3.1m has been invested in a digital x-ray machine which has been in place for one month, now there is no longer a need to move resources around Wirral and has speeded up reviewing and reporting times.

Ronald MacDonald initiative - more babies are travelling from across Cheshire to this baby unit. £750,000 has been invested to ensure accommodation is available for parents to look after their babies.

Your views - a discharge questionnaire to find out patients views on our service was introduced in December 2006. The results from these were made available at the meeting.

Graham Hewitt was thanked for his update and the following points / questions were raised:

1. There is no such place as Arrowe Park Hospital any more.

A. We have changed the name of the trust, but the hospital will always be known as Arrowe Park.

2. Councillor Bill Davies - what is your claim for success re: MRSA?

A. Many people may carry round blood-born infections which remain dormant, therefore MRSA is out in the community. We work very hard to ensure that this is not allowed to be transferred to a transmitting infection. This is more difficult in busy A&E units.

3. Mary Petris - nurses are often seen going home from hospitals in their uniforms, why aren't they cleaned at the hospitals as this may stop the spread of bugs?

A. There is no recorded case anywhere in the world of someone catching a bug from a uniform. The hospital used to have big changing rooms and a laundry, but now only those in intensive care / A&E change at the hospital.

Older Peoples Parliament (OPP)

Lenny McCormick - the OPP has been running for nine months, there were 40 members at the start and the membership has increased to 50. We meet four times a year at Wallasey Town Hall Chambers, and report back every quarter. We have six sub committees, and each of these work on projects such as disability. One issue we successfully resolved was securing an increase of eight additional disabled parking spaces at the hospital that are monitored every hour and illegal cars are issued with penalty notices.

We still need more members so if anyone would like to join us please contact Jamie

Anderson at Age Concern or Tracey Smith at Wallasey Town Hall.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- i. Inspector Blease, Ian Lowrie, Myles Platt, Tina Long, Graham Hewitt and Lenny McCormick be thanked for their updates
- ii Tina Long to provide a briefing on future of GPs / surgeries within the NHS

Minute 5 - Future meetings/presentations: Monday 4th February 2008 – Rock Ferry Community Centre (by Rock Ferry One Stop Shop)

The next meeting will be held at the Rock Ferry Community library, Old Chester Road on Monday 4th February 2008 at 7pm.

Councillor Bill Davies suggested that Tourism could give a presentation on the Capital of Culture and what impact this will have on Wirral.

Mike Parkinson suggested an update on Birkenhead Park, as there is some interesting information on what has happened at the park and its success rates.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that a presentation about the Capital of Culture and an update on Birkenhead Park be arranged for the next forum meeting.

Minute 6 - Any Other Business

As there was no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and closed it at 8.20pm.

Matters Arising from October 07:

Minute Decision :

Resolved that David Ball to update the forum on progress re: Birkenhead redevelopment projects; resurfacing of Grange Road Shopping Centre; and the pedestrianisation of Argyle Street.

A verbal update will be given on the evening of the forum.

Minute Decision :

Update on Birkenhead Park be arranged for the next forum meeting.

A verbal update will be given on the evening of the forum.

Minute Decision :

Tina Long to provide a briefing on future of GPs / surgeries within the NHS Issue:

The partnership between doctors and Assura Medical and the potential effect on the commissioning of services

1. Commissioning of Services

The commissioning of services is the exclusive responsibility of PCTs and their practice based commissioners (and/or Local Authority partners). Private companies have no role in the commissioning of services on Wirral and indeed whilst the PCT could in theory use the private sector in assisting in its commissioning responsibilities, it is legally not allowed to delegate its commissioning responsibilities completely.

There is a current widespread misunderstanding on this point which has led to some recent press coverage. Practice Based Commissioning (PBC) decisions will be made by PBC practices. If savings are made as a result of PBC plans, the savings will accrue to the PBC consortium (70%) and the PCT (30%). There will be no sharing of such savings with the private sector. The PBC groups will need to agree an investment plan for any savings with the PCT.

2. What is the Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) with Assura Medical?

Twenty five general practices have established a Limited Liability Partnership with Assura Medical. This will allow practices to work with the private sector to provide services in the community.

The twenty five practices in Wirral have agreed to form a consortium (Peninsula Health LLP). They have formed a partnership with Assura Medical who will provide them with management & financial support which will allow the partnership to purchase capital and deliver services. This is allowed under the PBC regulations where GPs can develop and seek Wirral PCT's permission to deliver services under any "willing provider status". Any contract given to such a group in the future would be based on meeting all quality standards and meeting PCT objectives. Bids would have to be approved by the PCT Approvals Committee which is made up of Non-Executive and Executive Directors.

3. Is there a conflict of interest between GPs who work as Medical Directors in the PCT and who are also involved in consortiums such as Peninsula Health LLP?

A Medical Director's role is firstly to manage general medical services and personal medical services contracts within their localities (Birkenhead, Bebington & West Wirral and Wallasey) and secondly to advise on commissioning. Assura has no interest in general medical services or personal medical services contracts so there is no potential conflict of interest on this count. If the LLP of GP practices, with support from Assura, decided to bid to run other services, the appropriate Medical Director would not be part of the PCT Approvals Committee which would decide on the bid. There is therefore no conflict of interest in this regard either.

Medical Directors, as with all PCT staff, have to declare any interests on the PCT's register of interests.

4. Will this adversely affect services at Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH) NHS Trust?

GPs are expected to refer patients to services based on their assessment of the patient's clinical need and, where available, the choice of the patient. A patient will be referred to hospital if they need the specialist care that only a hospital can provide. The PCT is keen, in line with national policy, to develop community-based alternatives to hospital care where this provides appropriate patient care.

The LLP practices have declared they have no intention to destabilise services at WUTH NHS Trust. The provision of services through the LLP gives the patients more choice in that it should offer an alternative option nearer to patients' homes. It should enable resources to be saved for Wirral that can be used to invest in additional services in the community for the Wirral population.

5. Would I receive a lower quality standard of care?

Wirral PCT needs to make sure that any practitioner treating patients has the appropriate level of skill to undertake the procedure concerned. But it is clear from developments around the country that there is huge scope with increasing technology and skill bases for primary care staff to continue to treat more people outside hospital, reserving hospitals for the treatment of those who need the specialist skills only hospital can provide.

6. Is it ethical to refer patients to a private company when the PCT has no contract with Assura?

It is unlikely that the PCT will ever have a contract with Assura Medical – because Assura Medical has given no indication that it intends to bid to provide services. We may have a contract with Peninsula Health LLP and, if any service is developed by Peninsula Health LLP and approved by the PCT, it will have met ethical and quality standards. The practices in this group have confirmed that they will declare their interest in such services and meet all ethical requirements. They have also given a commitment to use local resources in the first instance and only consider other options if local resources were not available.

7. Who gets the savings made by doctors by not sending patients to hospital but to Assura instead?

No patients will be referred to Assura but would be referred to Peninsula Health, if the LLP is given a contract by the PCT. If the LLP is able to provide services at a cost lower than the price agreed as part of the contract, the LLP practices and Assura would share any profit. This is no different from the way general practices are currently funded. The PCT agrees a contract price with them. The practice decides how much it needs to spend to provide services to patients at required quality standards. Any "profit" is available to the partners of the practice. However, all PBC practices are entitled to retain 70% of commissioning savings under PBC to reinvest in services agreed by the PCT. Any savings will benefit the Wirral population and will not be shared with Assura.

8. Is Assura, as a private sector organisation, running Wirral services?

The LLP is run by a Clinical Management Group organised by local GPs (5 GPs to 1 Assura representative) to improve the services to their patients and the people of Wirral. The services are not run by Assura. Any reports that GPs are paid to refer to Assura or LLP services are totally inaccurate.

9. Assura Property has bought Miriam Medical Centre – was this from the PCT or the doctor?

Miriam Medical Centre was not owned by the PCT. The premises at Miriam Medical Centre were formerly privately owned and leased to Dr Mantgani & Partners. The owners agreed to sell it 2 years ago to Medical Property Fund (now Assura Property) but the legal process took 2 years. The PCT has been informed of this arrangement. The practice are now the tenants of Assura at no additional cost to the PCT.

A number of Wirral practices are owned by medical property companies and leased to the practices concerned under the NHS rent reimbursement scheme, and more such schemes are planned.

10. Is there any chance for debate on this change of service provision?

GPs have been able to discuss the LLP issues freely and in great detail and in an open and transparent manner at GP Forums. These forums run in each of our three localities and are open to a representative from each practice in that locality so all practices are represented if they choose to attend. Practices will listen to the views of their patients. Patients will continue to have choice of provider.

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services. They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's local area agreement themes *of safer and stronger communities, healthier communities and older people, children and young people and economic development and enterprise.*

Safer & Stronger Communities

Acting up!



Young people from Wirral have displayed their talents in a drama production to tackle anti social behaviour in a project in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The production was the culmination of many months' work to tackle issues of anti social behaviour in the Wallasey area.

In March 2007, Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team drew together a number of agencies and people to respond to complaints of anti social behaviour in Wallasey, some of which coincided with the lunch-times of a number of local secondary schools.

The group included representatives from Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Wirral Youth Service, local secondary schools and also included the Chair of the local residents' group and a local ward councillor. During the meetings, young people representing the schools suggested producing a drama to take into the local primary schools about anti social behaviour.

A number of workshops have recently taken place involving young people from Weatherhead High School, Mosslands School and St Mary's Catholic College led by their drama teachers, where the issues around anti social behaviour were explored.

The workshops were visited by officers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team whose knowledge was put to the test during sessions with the young people where they were grilled about their areas of expertise. The production has been taken into a number of primary schools across Wallasey this week, including Egremont Primary, Somerville Primary, Greenleas Primary and St George's Primary.

Step on board for ASB advice

Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team are inviting residents to step on board Wirral's new Respect Bus where they will be able to seek advice and discuss a wide range of anti-social behaviour problems from noisy neighbours and abandoned cars to vandalism, graffiti and youth nuisance.

The bus is available to provide advice, support and information. Members of the public are welcome to visit the bus to discuss any issues they may have about tackling all forms of anti-social behaviour.

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team consists of specialist officers from many disciplines who work closely with residents to help build up a community culture of respect. A number of the team's specialists will be on board, including criminal damage reduction and youth

engagement officers. There will also be Enforcement Officers available for residents to discuss, in confidence, any specific problems they have.

Residents can also report anti-social behaviour to 'It's Your Call' on 606 2020 or visit any One Stop Shop

Healthier Communities & Older People

Wirral PCT launch Health for all, Have Your Say

People in Wirral will have a greater opportunity than ever before to have a say about their health services.

Wirral PCT is launching a wide-reaching listening exercise, 'Health for all, Have your say' which will give local people the opportunity to have their say on proposed plans for health and healthcare in Wirral over the next five years.

These plans will show how the PCT will work to reduce the gap between those who experience the best and the poorest of health, offer people greater choice about how and where they are treated and provide quality, personalised care.

The listening exercise will be launched on 7th January 2008 and people will be asked to forward their views by 14th April 2008. During January 2008, each person over the age of 16 who is registered with a GP will receive a personalised letter and the 'Health for all, Have your say' booklet, summarising the PCT's plans. There are a variety of ways in which people will be able to send us their views. Full details of this, together with a free post feedback form are included in the booklet. All members of the public who send in their comments will be entered into a draw with the chance to win a range of prizes including a LCD television, iPod Touch or shopping vouchers.

The 'Health for All, Have Your Say' campaign is being officially launched at a high profile event taking place on Monday 7th January at the Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead. There will also be a wide range of opportunities for people of all ages to get involved in having their say in the coming weeks, including Local Area Forums, Fun for All activity days, focus groups and other community based events.

Kathy Doran, Chief Executive of Wirral Primary Care Trust said: "We are committed to delivering the very best healthcare for everyone living in Wirral and believe that by working together we can make this happen. We were recently awarded the National Health Service Journal Award for Primary Care Organisation of the Year 2007, which was due in part to our commitment in involving patients and the public in what we do.

"We believe that this exercise will give local people the chance more than ever before to have their say about the future of local health services. We would like to encourage everybody to get involved in the coming weeks and months. We will ensure that all comments received will be taken into consideration in future plans."



Wired

Wirral Information Resource

for Equality and Disability

CARERS COUNSELLING SERVICE

Are you caring for someone at home who has a disability? Do you sometimes feel stressed or isolated?

Sometimes caring for a loved one, friend or neighbour can take up so much of your time and energy that it is easy to neglect your own needs. Do you sometimes feel that no one listens to you?

That is where the counselling service may help. Talking to someone who is outside the situation can relieve tensions. Our counselling service will offer you the opportunity to talk to a counsellor in confidence, in a one to one setting.

Our counsellors are experienced at listening and will provide attention and respect. It can sometimes be helpful to talk over any problems or issues and even though the problems may not change, it may help you to talk over how you are feeling and to know you are not alone.

Counselling can help people to reach their own solutions, become better informed, receive support and encouragement and gain insight into themselves.

Why not get in touch with Wired Carers Counselling Service and we would be happy to give you more information.

**WIRED
Carers Team
Cavendish Enterprise Centre
Brassey Street**

**Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 8BY**

Tel: Carers Helpline 0151 670 0777

Children & Young People

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

The Youth Service in Wirral works with many young people in a variety of different settings, these include:

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- “Kontaktabuses”
- “Wirral Youth Theatre” and Youth Arts
- “Response” – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- International exchanges
- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- Outdoor activities
- Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of sixteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex

needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and the Azores.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity.

Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorse Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus.

In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music,

technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills.

Birkenhead & Tranmere and Rock Ferry.

The Viking Youth Centre is open for main three sessions a week Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 7.00pm – 10.00pm. In addition the Trustees run additional weekly sessions for younger children, called the Bantams at teatimes on Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays. The Youth Club members enjoy a varied programme of sport and creative arts and play a full and active role in the activities of the Youth Federation. The dance group are busy working with a group of younger children coaching them in basic dance skills and techniques. Other activities in the Youth Club have included supporting the Tranmere Together Winter festival where the MC group performed for the public.

The Beaconsfield Youth Club is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays 6.30-9.30pm. Working in conjunction with the Viking Centre a DJ and MC course that runs in both centres on Wednesday and Thursdays is proving very popular.

The Birkenhead Youth Action Project is working with groups of young people in Victoria and Mersey Parks, Victoria Fields Estate, Peel Avenue Estate, Woodlands Estate, St Peters and Bedford Rd. BYAP works closely with voluntary organisations, residents groups, housing associations and the local police. The Youth Resource Shop is a well-used resource with one group of young volunteers undertaking a Certificate in Community Action. Working with Tranmere Alliance, funds have been obtained to provide lighting for the football cage on New Chester Rd.

Wirral's Primary Schools raise achievement again

Primary Schools in Wirral have proved yet again they are continuing to improve with the release of the Key Stage Two Achievement and Attainment Tables today (6/12/07) by the DCFS (Department for Children, Family and Schools)

Wirral's point score for pupils achieving the expected level or above has risen for the third year in a row to 249. That compares with the national average of 245 points putting Wirral above the national average again.

Councillor Phil Davies, Wirral's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, said: "This really is excellent news for Wirral schools, pupils and their parents. Wirral has some of the best teaching in the country and staff show passion and commitment to their jobs. This is reflected in a consistent rise in achievement by pupils leaving primary schools over the past few years.

"It should also be noted that our schools provide much more than these tables illustrate – they provide a quality environment for children to learn and flourish in all aspects of their life - not just academically.

“And the fact that Wirral has a higher than average number of pupils with Special Educational Needs statements just shows what a good job is being done with pupils of all abilities.”

Economic Development & Enterprise

MoD contract boost for Cammell Laird

Wirral Council today welcomed the news that Merseyside's shipbuilding industry has been boosted by a new defence contract.

Birkenhead-based North-western Shiprepairers and Shipbuilders (NSL) – soon to be renamed Cammell Laird – has won ship maintenance contracts for the Royal Fleet Auxiliary, which supplies the Royal Navy at sea, with food, fuel, ammunition and spares.

NSL was given "exclusive preferred contractor status" in a deal which could be worth more than £160m.

Wirral Council Leader, Cllr Steve Foulkes said: "This is fantastic news. It is just reward for the hard work of the managers and staff at Northwestern Shiprepairers and a further indication of the continued renaissance of ship repair in Wirral. It vindicates the council's continued support for this sort of industry and the hard work put in to maintain the site for such employment uses."

The company was awarded the status by the Ministry of Defence on four out of a possible five support contracts for the 17-strong fleet of specialist vessels, including tankers, stores ships and landing vessels. NSL managing director John Syvret will enter into final negotiations for the contracts early in the New Year and says they will help secure the firm's future for some years to come.

Council's fight against businesses' illegal waste

In order to protect our environment and to discourage and reduce the illegal tipping of rubbish, Wirral Council have been granted powers by the government to issue penalty notices to Wirral based businesses who do not have correct trade waste disposal procedures in place.

Without official trade waste disposal arrangements, businesses may have difficulty disposing of their waste and then resort to dumping the waste illegally. This is a serious offence, and Wirral Council works around the clock to catch and prosecute fly-tippers.

Businesses now have a legal duty to provide the Council with documentary evidence that they dispose of their waste legally. A 'Trade Waste Agreement' must be made available by businesses upon the request of Council Officers. Businesses who fail to produce evidence of an agreement will be issued with a £300 fixed penalty notice. Non-payment of the penalty can result in legal action.

Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Gill Gardiner said;

"There are a small number of Wirral businesses who do not care about our environment and to save themselves some money, they simply dump their rubbish, spoiling our park land and green spaces.

Our message to them is clear - sooner or later they will be caught and prosecuted for fly-tipping, or they will be fined for not having a correct Trade Waste Agreement. Either way, it is time for these businesses to start thinking of the environment and make some proper waste disposal arrangements."

Businesses who would like more information can [click here](#), or contact Streetscene on 0151 606 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Wirral's Chief Executive honoured by Queen

Wirral Council's Chief Executive Steve Maddox has been awarded an OBE for Services to Local Government in the Queen's New Year's Honours List.

Steve, who joined Wirral Council as a trainee solicitor in 1974 and became Chief Executive of the Authority in 1998, said: "I am obviously delighted and honoured, but I'm also proud that local government and Wirral in particular, has been recognised in this way."

Also honoured were Lou McGrath, from Oxton who received an OBE for his services to mine clearance as co-founder of the charity Mines Advisory Group (MAG) and Mrs Elizabeth Renshaw, Business Manager for Woodchurch High Specialist Engineering College who received an MBE for Services to Education.

Both Kenneth Harrison and Mrs Barbara Norris received their MBEs for Services to the Community in Wirral.

Be Aware

The following areas maybe at risk of flooding during the bad weather.

Flood Warning Area	Short Description	Long Description
Leasowe	the River Birket in the Leasowe Area.	the River Birket in the Leasowe Area. Riverbank overtopping is expected. Areas at risk include Reeds Lane; Birket Ave; Twickenham Drive; Wakefield Drive; Hudson Rd; Cameron Rd; Grant Rd; Castleway North & South. Commercial units adjacent to Ditton Nature Area.
Meols	the River Birket in the Meols Area.	the River Birket at Meols. Areas at risk include Park Road and Park Lane, Bennets Lane, Ashley Avenue, Lyndhurst Road, Flowermead close, Cleverley Road and Derwent Road.
Upton	the Arrowe Brook in the Upton Area.	the Arrowe Brook in the Upton Area. The area at risk is Brook Way.
Irish sea at Meols	the Irish Sea at Meols. Sea defence overtopping is expected.	the Irish Sea at Meols. Sea defence overtopping is expected. Areas at risk include Meols Parade and Bennets Lane.
Coastline at the head of the Wirral	the Coastline at the Head of the Wirral.	the Coastline at the Head of the Wirral Area. Sea defences have breached. Areas at risk include Meols and Leasowe
Woodside	the Mersey Estuary in the Woodside area.	the Mersey Estuary in the Woodside. Tidal defence overtopping is expected. Areas at risk include Woodside Business Park; Highfield South; Woodside Ferry Approach; and Pacific Road.

For further help and Advice on emergency planning in Wirral during office hours, Call 0151 606 2071 or Email emergencyplanning@wirral.gov.uk To report council-related emergencies outside office hours ring 0151 647 7810.

Section Three

Partner Organisations

Area forums also provide an opportunity to meet partners and organisations who are working to deliver a better, safer and cleaner Wirral.

Merseyside Police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Wirral Community Safety Team and Mersey Fire and Rescue Service to name just a few, are active members of the forum. This section is to share partner information with forum members and the community.

Community Safety

Summary for Area Forums: ASB
October 2007 – January 2008

- 'Respect Wirral' from 1-5 October 2007.
A week-long event aimed at promoting respect and raising awareness about preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour. The event, organised by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and involving many agencies, commenced with an 'Info Day' at Birkenhead Park for the public. Throughout the week, activities took place in a number of areas across the Borough, which included conducting environmental audits and clean-ups of areas. The event concluded with a Respect Conference for community representatives, ward councillor and MPs.
- 'Respect Bus' launched October 2007.
The vehicle (a converted bus), managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, is designed to "take respect into the heart of communities". It has been used at least once a week since launch, visiting many areas across the Borough, and has been utilised for engagement with communities, including adults and young people. The vehicle is also equipped with sophisticated lighting allowing exterior areas to be lit.
- Wirral's Family Intervention Project launched October 2007.
The Project is run by NCH (formerly National Children's Homes) on behalf of Wirral Council. The Project targets the most problematic families (primarily those subject to enforcement action due to anti-social behaviour) and addresses the underlying causes of that behaviour. An approach of support coupled with sanction for non-compliance is adopted. The Project is currently funded by the government's Youth Task Force (formerly the Home Office Respect Task Force).
- Wirral's Parenting Support Project launched October 2007.
The Project provides parenting support to families engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, lower level anti-social behaviour. The Project is managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Parenting Co-ordinator and is delivered through the Council's Children & Young People's Department, Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Trust and Wirral NHS Primary Care Trust. The Project is funded by the former Department for Education and Skills.
- Housing Benefit Sanctions launched November 2007
Wirral is one of only eight areas in the country piloting new Sanctions for Housing Benefit. The new legislation allows for households that have been evicted for anti-social behaviour and fail to accept support to address the underlying causes of their behaviour, to have their Housing Benefit reduced or stopped. The Sanctions are designed to be preventative, encouraging households to accept the help they need.

Pantha vehicles -

These are 'trap' vehicles which record on CCTV person(s) breaking into the vehicle and spray the perpetrator with Smartwater. Police officers have been issued with special UV

torches to detect someone having been in contact with Smartwater and make an arrest. There have been a number of arrests which has been a major factor in reducing car crime levels on Wirral.

Tranmere Winter Festival

The Community Safety Team attended the festival on a chilly day in December but comfortably housed in a wigwam! We had our volunteers with us who manage the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme met a lot of people very interested in Neighbourhood Watch and the Vehicle Watch project. Vehicle Watch consists of two aspects, 'Over 25 years of age drivers only' and vehicles not used between midnight and 6am. Any breach will result in police officers stopping the vehicle and checking the occupants. A number of people enlisted in the Vehicle Watch scheme. The Parenting Co-ordinator and Volume Crime Manager were present to give advice and guidance. In addition, the team provided crime reduction gadgets and aide memoir key rings to remind people to keep items out of sight - "On show It'll go". A very successful show where the team met with a lot of residents and visitors to the area.

3G CCTV

This unique CCTV system has been rolled out to various hotspot locations and has the effect of reducing crime and anti-social behaviour. There have been many favourable comments by residents who have seen the camera system of giving them a chance to breathe as the system adds to their quality of life..

Remote Alarms

These are being issued to burglary victims to protect sheds where tools are taken which have led to a Burglary Dwelling. In other cases when cycles or other items are stolen from outbuildings or garages. The alarm alerts the householder who is made aware by the alarm activation. They have been distributed to Neighbourhood Police Inspectors and issued by CSO's in hotspot areas.

DVLA Project

We developed a relationship with the Home Office Car Crime Unit and DVLA who sent letters to the registered keepers of vehicles that had items on display which our Parking Wardens identified. There have been in the region of 50 vehicles per week so identified but with the funding stream having finished, we have now worked closely with our partners to restart the scheme.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being.

We have recently published our Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/09 which sets out the measures which are intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside. This I.R.M.P can be viewed online at www.merseyfire.gov.uk/media or copies are available at local libraries and One Stop Shops.

A specific action point for Wirral is the implementation of the **Hazardous Materials Incident Response Pump** at Bromborough Fire Station. This will be a highly skilled team which will use the latest technology and equipment to facilitate the resolution of any incident involving the presence of hazardous materials. It is envisaged that Bromborough Community Fire Station will become the Centre of Excellence for training of all Fire Service personnel in the knowledge and skills required to deal with incidents involving hazardous materials, including the threats posed by terrorist attacks. This resource although Wirral based will provide cover throughout Merseyside and is due to be implemented early this year.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activity, in particular the delivery of the **Home Fire Safety Checks** and the provision of free smoke detectors were necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by utilising intelligence led targeting of **HFSCs**. We are currently developing household specific dwelling fire prediction software to assist in the process.

The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets. During the last quarter the Fire Service visited nearly 6,000 homes on Wirral and completed Home Fire Safety Checks.

Following our work to lessen the impact over the bonfire period, through our collaborative **Bonfire Strategy**, we are pleased to advise that Wirral saw a significant decrease of bonfires requiring Fire Service attendance. Working in partnership with the Police and Trading Standards we were also able to secure a reduction in the illegal sale and storage of fireworks across the district.

Fire Support Network is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can register online at www.firesupportnet.org.uk or contact via telephone on 0151 296 4600.

Partnerships.

The fire service on Wirral has many partnership arrangements which contribute to the development of healthier lifestyles across communities. Work with the PCT (smoking cessation, lifestyle and weight management etc) and Wirral Community Safety Team (Anti-social behaviour; arson reduction; youth engagement/distraction) are all having a positive effect upon the quality of life for Wirral residents as well as helping partners achieve their targeted objectives.

Community Fire Stations

- **Birkenhead:** Exmouth Street. Birkenhead. CH41 4AX. 0151 296 5325
- **Bromborough:** Dock Road South. Bebington. CH62 4SQ. 0151 296 5925
- **Heswall:** Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 OAF. 0151 296 5805
- **Upton:** Arroe Park Road. Upton. CH49 OUF. 0151 296 5895
- **West Kirby:** The Concourse. West Kirby. CH48 4HX. 0151 296 5955
- **Wallasey:** Mill Lane. Wallasey. CH44 5UE. 0151 296 6180

For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on

FREEphone 0800 731 5958

Merseyside Police

Birkenhead, Rock Ferry & Tranmere neighbourhood.

Priorities - ASB, Street Drinkers, Violence

Operation Shop Safe took place in the town centre with the aim of reducing crime and providing an increased reassurance to both visitors and staff in the area. Working with town centre security, the plan involved a high visible police presence in conjunction with plain-clothes officers and extra resources being utilised from outside the A6 area. The Round Table assisted in handing out crime prevention leaflets and free bells were handed out to attach to personal belongings to act as a crime deterrent– both proving very popular with the visitors to the area. Activities and resources were aimed at anticipating and confronting the increased offending in the Town Centre during this period for offences of: Theft (Shoplifting), Robbery / Theft person, Anti-social Behaviour, Violence, Theft from motor vehicle and Theft of motor vehicle. The operation proved a great success with all of the above showing a reduction in the number of reported offences compared to the same period 2006. Most noticeably there was a 53% reduction in violence, 47% reduction in theft from person and 70% reduction in shoplifting offences.

Operation After Dark also took place in the town centre in the early evening to compliment Operation FOCUS. Initiated to address a broad spectrum of actions across the three strategic priorities identified by the Wirral Harm Reduction Strategy 2007 – 2010 and to reduce incidents of violence within the town centre area. Police Community Support Officers carried out on street surveys aimed at the 18-30 age group within the nighttime economy area of Birkenhead, to raise issues around alcohol harm and encourage good (RESPECT agenda) behaviour. Over 300 people took part in the survey and provided information, which the DAAT will now analyse to support future work.

In response to community concerns about street drinkers we have continued with a zero tolerance approach. A/Sgt Ian Hayward now has 13 business premises that have signed up to the Off Licence Watch. This has proved an effective tool in ensuring that the street drinkers are given less opportunity to purchase alcohol within the town centre area, which has directly impacted on the numbers of street drinkers being found in the area.

Our work around the 'Hot Streets' has continued with Bedford Road, Rock Ferry. The Woodlands, Tranmere and Leighton Road, Tranmere our priority streets. Bedford Road in particular has seen a great improvement overall. Since the initial two days of action whereby partner agencies completed an environmental catwalk – talking to the community and identifying what the issues were, there have been fewer calls relating to ASB. Youth outreach workers have remained in the area and the Respect bus has been present on two occasions. The Problem Solving Group instigated to look at the issues of Bedford Road is still up and running and continues to monitor the area. As a result of this group, four main offenders have been invited in to comply with Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's). A camera was placed in Bedford Road to monitor activity and has proved a positive deterrent and welcome reassurance for the local community.

To provide more access points to the community we have introduced more Police surgeries on the following days –

Monday 7th January 11.30 to 13.30. Then the first Monday of every month @ The Lauries.

Saturday 19th January 11.00 to 13.00 Then every third Saturday thereafter @ Rock Ferry Library.

Friday 25th January 10.00 to 13.00 Then the third Friday thereafter @ The Pyramids.

The year to date figures evidence a very successful year for the Neighbourhood with all crime 10% under target. Other specific indicators showed, Violent crime 23% under target, Criminal Damage 24% under target and Burglary 25% under target. These excellent figures have been achieved by the continuous initiatives and pro-active policing by Neighbourhood officers working with partner agencies and the community throughout the year. It is our intention to continue this trend into 2008.

NHS Trust

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the Public Governor for the host constituency.

- Infection Control
 - Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
 - Our Women’s Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
 - Elsewhere in the Trust the number of MRSA bloodstream infections recorded between April to December 2007 reduced by 40% compared to the same period in 2006
- Waiting for Treatment
 - Currently, no patient waits longer than 5 weeks for an outpatient appointment when referred by a GP for a specialist opinion
 - Patients referred for most orthopaedic and gynaecology outpatient appointments will wait only 2 weeks
 - Patients referred for ENT outpatient appointments will wait only 3 weeks
 - Currently, most patients will wait no longer than 11 weeks for their operation once they have been ‘listed’ by a consultant. The exception is Orthopaedics where the waiting time is 14 weeks.
 - Currently, patients with suspected or confirmed cancers are referred, diagnosed and treated well within national targets
- Improving Our Standards
 - In the 2006/07 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored ‘good’ for our use of resources and ‘good’ for the quality of our services
 - An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2007 -

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	Good	4 (Good)	5 (Excellent)
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	Good	4 (Good)	4 (Good)

- Improving Our Facilities
 - **In this financial year, 2007/08, £16million will be spent on capital schemes to improve our facilities and update the services we provide – schemes include:**
 - Implementing a ‘state of art’ digital X-Ray system = £3.1m
 - Replacing Cardiac Catheter Laboratory equipment = £1.7m
 - Expanding the Endoscopy suite at Arrowe Park = £1.3m
 - Improving the Maternity Ward and Delivery Suite = £200K
 - Altering and refurbishing wards to increase the number of single rooms, improve toilet and storage facilities = £650k

- New & replacement medical and surgical equipment = £2.5m

In addition, we are working with an independent provider to improve Renal Dialysis facilities at Clatterbridge

- **Providing New Services.....**

- The Trust has recently been designated as a centre for providing drug therapy for age-related Macular Degeneration. This is a new, local service for the benefit of Wirral residents.
- The Trust has recently been designated as a Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery
- Come and Join Us!
- As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have 5,500 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving regular newsletters to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. If you would like to become a public member please complete and return the membership application form that is available from the area forum area co-ordinator.

Older People's Parliament

Our organisation has been in existence for almost a year, following the initial set up it has achieved some quite remarkable results. Firstly from setting up a small body with people from many diverse backgrounds. All combined with the very valuable assistance and encouragement from Wirral Borough Council, working in conjunction with Age Concern.

Recognition

This has evolved into the recognition of the constructive contribution being made by elderly people in assisting and resolving issues, things that specifically have effect on those in the community, aged from 50 years plus. Our respective Sub Committee chairperson's, Committee Members, etc. Have established direct links with The National Health Service both at Major Hospital level and Wirral Primary Care Trust, Elected Members of the National Parliament and local Authority Administrators.

Disabilities

Mr Alan Stanbury, one of the founder members of the Parliament successfully negotiated a number of additional disabled parking places in close proximity to the main building at Arrowe Park University Teaching Hospital Trust, plus additional signage and close monitoring by security staff. To ensure the system is being used correctly. Unfortunately Alan has since passed away but has left a legacy of what can be achieved by indentifying a problem and solving the issue by skilful negotiation with the necessary authority involved.

Health Provision

Sandra Wall, and her committee members, are actively involved in important discussion over a wide range of health care issues, items relating to Health Care Services provided by Hospitals, Clinics, and Specialist Providers, together with assessment and standards in Nursing Homes and Care Establishments throughout the Wirral. The Health & Social Care subcommittee, have such a wide list of elements to deal with, ranging from care and services within hospitals and outpatient, or clinical service facilities normally provided in your Own Home and Care Home locations. Involving Chiropody/Podiatry, Surgical Replacements, Hearing Aids, Dementia, and Optical improvement procedures.

Population

Statistically the elderly population in Wirral is an ever growing number in comparison to the whole population count. And of course people are living longer, making the present and future provision of improved medical and social needs, a very high priority to all concerned. Wirral Older Peoples Parliament, is playing an important function with major constructive contribution, to the overall decision making process, carried out by The Council Officers, Hospital Trusts, Care Homes, and Clinics, etc.

Education

Margaret Testo, and her committee members are deeply involved with a number of noted Educational Providers and various other departments. Like Wirral 3 L's and the Wirral Met College or the Learning & Skills Council. Who are all involved in the provision, encouragement, and availability of facilities, equipment, and assistance in the extension of learning systems for older people? The use of computer technology is quite important in today's society, and whilst some older persons may feel intimidated by such developments, the provisions of simple learning techniques are proving to be invaluable.

Parliament Committee Members, belonging to various other organisations are using gathered information to ensure that elderly or vulnerable citizens in the community have a collective voice in the standards and compatibility of sheltered housing and community living facilities.

Law and Order

Ken McDermott, has been in progressive consultation with the Police Authorities and Wirral Council Officers, expressing the related fears and concerns felt by many elderly residents, about the safety or wellbeing of communities, this is also an ongoing part of education and understanding being carried out in the schools educational system. The authorities place a high importance on that senior citizens and vulnerable members of our communities, have a right to live their lives in comparative safety and comfort.

Transport

Joanna McIlhatton, and committee members have been assessing the available transport facilities provisions. And urging the need for better improved use of public transport. Enabling older maybe less mobile members of the community to travel in comfort. There are many examples where public transport fall short of providing adequate services, if people are to be aware of the environmental impact that private cars have on society as a whole.

Jack Cuffe (Chairman Wirral OPP)

Jack Cuffe, has dedicated a huge commitment to establishing the parliament, raising awareness and obtaining funding for the parliament to function. He himself has attended numerous meetings together with various Executive Committee Members, establishing a presence on (The North West Older Peoples Advisory Group) an active part of the (Better Government for Older People) with direct contact to the British Government Parliament in London.

Wirral Older Peoples Parliament has had meetings and presentations with many leading figures in authorities both here in the Wirral and Merseyside plus the North West Region. The Chief Constable of Merseyside, Wirral Borough Council Chief Executive, plus senior directors of Wirral Social Services, Chief Executive of Wirral PCT and many of the senior managers of the PCT, also representatives from Wirral Voluntary Services, Wirral Libraries, Ambulance & Fire Service, plus many more representative bodies.

Local Forums

The very successful local area forums have been a vital communication link with numerous other voluntary service groups in all of the Council Wards at the recent WBC Area Forum Annual Conference in July there were 16 representative members of the Wirral OPP present.

Later Life Convention (Staged by AGE Concern Sep 08) in Hulme Hall

A stall manned by Wirral OPP gave out thousands of leaflets and information packs, to the general public and answered many queries about the vast range "AGE Concern" information booklets available, and documents relating to those in The 50 + age group. Booklets with advice on Welfare Benefits, Housing, Insurance, Investment, Transport, Keeping Warm, and Healthy Eating, etc are available from any AGE Concern office.
Executive Body Members

The executive members of Wirral Older People Parliament have met at frequent intervals carrying out a multitude of organisational and promotional duties, arranging informative talks and presentations, gathering information and data, supporting committees, etc with extensive use of AGE Concern assistance and facilities, Cutesy of Jamie Anderson, who has been of exceptional help.

The support assistance and general encouragement from Council CEO Stephen Maddox OBE, Kevin Miller, John Webb, and Wirral Borough Council, staff members Andrea Grant, Tracey Smith, plus others has made a significant contribution to setting up the Wirral OPP in its first year of office.

For more information Ring 0151 666 2220 (Parliament)
E-Mail: parliament@ageconcernwirral.org

Better still have some input at the next Parliament Meeting in Wallasey Town Hall.

Section Four

Area Forum Plan Progress

The area forum plan is a useful tool for everyone who has an interest in improving the local area as it will not only provide area forum members with a work programme of actions to be addressed, but will also ensure that local people have a means of monitoring the impact and progress of the area forum and the difference it is making to quality of life in the area.

Area forum plans form part of a much wider agenda for improving local services across the whole of Wirral and will influence the work of the local strategic partnership and the ongoing development of Wirral's local area agreement.

This section provides an update on some of the issues that have been resolved for this area forum.

Update:

Currently all Local Area Forum Plans are being refreshed and updated. This is an annual process to ensure that the plans are continually addressing the needs of individual areas.

There will be a more detailed update of the Area Forum Plans at the June 08 forums which will include:

- The Integrated Transport Block
- Community Initiative Fund Update
- School Travel Plans
- Ensuring better transport links.

If you would like more information on the Area Forum Plan covering the area in which you live or how you can help towards any of the above issues please contact Andy Brannan on 691 8391 or email andrewbrannan@wirral.gov.uk

Section Five

Streetscene

Wirral Council's Streetscene department is the main point of contact for people wishing to report issues affecting their area such as recycling, condition of roads, street lighting etc.

This section provides a report on the recent activities carried by the Streetscene department.

WASTE ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Wirral Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee recently passed an enforcement policy regarding Household Waste. This policy, subject to Cabinet approval, determines that anyone found to be deliberately and repeatedly contaminating their grey recycling bin can now be fined, after a warnings and offers of help from Council Offers.

It is important that residents note that the contamination we refer to is serious deliberate contamination, e.g completely filling the grey recycling bin with food waste, nappies, mixed rubbish in bin bags etc, week after week. It is not the intention to fine people who on the whole make a good attempt to recycle but put one or two wrong items in accidentally.

The policy also allows fines to be issued, after warnings, for leaving bins out after collection day. Leaving bins out on the pavement poses health and safety risks to disabled, visually impaired, and elderly people, and children. Also bins left out at are risk from contamination by passers by / neighbours etc.

The fines will be £100, £60 if paid within 7 days.

This enforcement policy has been brought in as Wirral Council are now successfully recycling more than 220% more rubbish than this time last year - yet certain problem households are contaminating the recycling and we have to take wagon loads of recycling to landfill as a result. This is bad for the environment but also costs us and therefore the tax payer.

SCHOOL'S RECYCLING

A pilot scheme is to be trialled in ten Wirral schools throughout February, in which 'Grey bin recycling' will be installed in class rooms, allowing children to recycle in school the same as at home.

If successful, the scheme will in time be rolled out to all Wirral schools.

RESIDENTS PARKING

All residents parking requests will now be coming through Area Forums. Initially, concerned residents should still call Streetscene on 606 2004 for background information on what is required for a residents parking scheme to be considered.

Streetscene will provide residents with a criteria list, and when the criteria is met, residents are to revisit an area forum with the proposal, where like minded residents may want to contribute or discuss.

The criteria basically is that at least 80% of at least 300 homes must be in favour of the scheme. All houses must be in favour of contributing a one off amount of approximately 75 for set up fees.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Along with Merseyside Police, we are recruiting volunteers for our Community Speedwatch Scheme, where residents and community groups can use our radar guns and hi-viz jackets to perform speed checks on problem roads. All data captured can be passed back to the police and action may be taken. For more info, or to volunteer, contact Sgt Kate Roberts on 606 5448

ROAD SAFETY

The Road Safety Team still have a few copies of the Highway Code to give away, after a pre-Christmas give away. If you would like your free copy, as there have been quite a few updates in the revised 2007 version, please call Streetscene on 6060 2004 or email streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

PLANNING WEBCASTS

We would like to remind residents that a trip to The Town Hall is no longer necessary to view a planning committee meeting. All meetings are available to watch online via www.wirral.gov.uk , click 'planning webcasts' in the right hand menu.

If you are unable to watch it live, you can watch it at any time convenient to you after it has been archived and uploaded the next day.

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEMES

The following Traffic Management schemes completed since the last area forums in Sept/Oct.

Eastham Rake, Eastham

Puffin Crossing

Tollemache Road, Bidson

Pedestrian Refuge

Bidston Moss (Roundabout)

Signage Scheme

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE

The following Highway maintenance schemes have been completed since the last area forums in Sept / Oct.

Footway Reconstruction Completed
Dalmorton Road, New Brighton

Carriageway Resurfacing Completed
Laburnum Road, New Brighton
Sandheys Road, New Brighton

Carriageway Resurfacing Planned

Wetherby Avenue, Wallasey started w/c 7/01/08

Brynmosse Avenue, Wallasey started w/c 7/01/08

Hawarden Avenue. Liscard

Dock Road (part) Seacombe

Carriageway Surface Treatment Works Planned

Seabank Road (part) Liscard

Footway Surface Treatment Completed

Reeds Lane (part) Leasowe

St Marys Street, Liscard

St Marys Avenue, Liscard

Westminster Road, Liscard

Wilton Street, Liscard

Section Six

Equality & Diversity

The Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG) provides a framework for local authorities to deliver continuous improvement in relation to fair employment and equal access to services.

The standard has six strands or pillars:

Race

Disability

Gender

Age

Sexual Orientation

Religion or belief

New Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator appointed!

Jacqui Cross joined Corporate Policy team on 5th November (and yes fireworks did fly!).

She is responsible for co-ordinating efforts across the whole authority to ensure high quality services are available to all citizens on the basis of need and to ensure the Council provides a fair and supportive environment for all staff, members and partners.

Jacqui can be contacted on 0151 691 8064 or email jacquicross@wirral.gov.uk

Other members of the Corporate Equality and Diversity Programme Team are:

Steve Foden, Access Officer, 0151 691 8212 or email stevefoden@wirral.gov.uk,

Ged Smyth NRAC Auditor, 0151 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Maxine Joynson Support Officer, 0151 691 6266 or email maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Comprehensive Engagement Strategy A community engagement strategy for Wirral is currently being developed under the remit of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). This strategy will provide the mechanisms for delivering a strategic approach to community engagement, involving a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

As this strategy emerges, a consultation framework with residents, customers, local groups and communities will be designed for use across the whole Council.

Who we are working with A single equality group for Wirral known as Wirral Equalities Forum (WEF) has recently been established and includes partners from the LSP such as Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Police and PCT.

We are also working closely with the Merseyside Equality Forum and regional equality networks in order to promote the work being done across Wirral and to share information and best practice.

Initiatives We have recently established initiatives within the Council including:

- Three diversity forums for Council staff
- Launch of 'Equality Watch' – a newsletter for Council staff
- Further Equality and Diversity training for Council staff
- Continued access audits of buildings

Equality Impact Assessments (EIA's) An EIA is a self-assessment tool to help our council departments and services look at the likely positive and negative impact of their work on staff, members, service users / customers, partnerships, individuals and communities with regards to equality of opportunity in employment and service delivery.

The council is committed to ensuring that it delivers all of its services in a fair and equal way. It also pledges to develop an inclusive recruitment and selection procedure aimed at creating a strong and diverse workforce. This two-pronged approach ensures that we work towards removing barriers to our services and actively promote and support diversity.

The Equality Standard for Local Government helps us to measure progress towards promoting equality and diversity. The standard has five levels and Wirral council is currently at level two. In order to meet the requirements of the standard we need to ensure we carry out Equality Impact Assessments on all council functions, services, projects, strategies and policies.

Every service, function, policy and strategy that Wirral Council has, needs to have an EIA to highlight both positive and negative impact on various population groups.

Some useful information under the equality strands:

Age

Age Concern Wirral – please contact head office on 666 2220 or email www.ageconcernwirral.org

Youth forums for more information please contact Debbie McCabe on 637 6362 or email debbiemccabe@wirral.gov.uk

Older People's Parliament - for more information please contact Jack Cuffe on 652 0039

Gender

Women's Diversity Forum (Council) – met 26th November due to meet again on 15th January. For more info please contact Christina Bebbington on 691 8063 or email christinabebbington@wirral.gov.uk

Press for Change - is a political lobbying and educational organisation, which campaigns to achieve equal civil rights and liberties for all trans people in the United Kingdom, through legislation and social change. www.pfc.org.uk

Race

Race Diversity Forum (Council) – held their inaugural meeting on 26th November. For more information please contact Katrina Roberts on 691 8382 or email katrinaroberts@wirral.gov.uk

Promoting the talents of Muslim Women 21 January 2008, 1.45 – 6.45pm, Alberts Hall, Bolton. For more information please visit www.nwra.gov.uk/promotingmuslimwomen

Disability

Disability Diversity Forum (Council) – last on Monday 7th January 2008. For more information please contact Ged Smyth on 691 8217 or email gedsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Wirral Disability Action Forum – 25 January 2008 at Highcroft Centre, Bebbington. For more information contact Diane Jones at Wired on 670 1500.

Sexual Orientation

LGBT Rainbow Partnership - For more information please contact Darren Knight via email at the Rainbow Partnership on rainbow@lgf.org.uk

LGBT Forum (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender) forum due to meet in February 2008. For more information please contact Peter Barnett via email on Wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

Religion and belief

Churches together in Wirral - Churches Together in Wirral (CTiW) has provided representatives on a variety of strategic bodies including Local Community Forums, the Standing Advisory Body for Religious Education, and the Local Strategic Partnership. The Local Authority regard our work as being crucial to the partnerships they seek, and appreciate the integrity that CTiW give in their communications with a variety of bodies including National Government. www.churcheswirral.co.uk

Section Seven

Area Forum Funding Progress

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

Area Forum Funding Progress Report - Birkenhead and Tranmere / Rock Ferry

(previously awarded monies - to 2006/2007)

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Birkenhead in Bloom	To contribute towards project, including insurance, planters, containers, plants, maintenance.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £450.00, specifically towards plants etc., from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	The Birkenhead in Bloom project was carried out during 2006. The Birkenhead Town Centre management co-ordinated the project, working closely with Birkenhead businesses, Action for Employment, the Laird Foundation and others to produce floral displays in the town centre, namely Grange Road and Market Street.

Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry

previously awarded monies - 2007/08 onwards

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Rock Ferry Primary School and Childrens Centre	To contribute towards the refurbishment of the playground.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £800.00, specifically towards the cost of playground furniture, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	All of the resources have been delivered and we are now planning where to put all of the signs to maximise learning capability and enhance the learning journey.

FREE FUNDING INFORMATION 4 YOU

Wirral Council supported by Wirral Local Strategic Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund are pleased to provide a FREE funding information service available online.

There are hundreds of grants available to support Wirral's voluntary and community groups from local opportunities to Government, National Lottery and Trust Funding sources.

To find out which grants you may be eligible to apply for visit our free search facility:

Step One

Go to www.wirral.gov.uk

Click on the *Funding Initiatives* icon under the 'Popular Pages' list.

Step Two

Then click on one of these links to browse and search for funding information.

www.open4community.info/wirral
www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral

You no longer have to be left in the dark about what funding your group or organisation could apply for, find this out for yourself.

In addition you can also visit the following web site for a wide range of associated information including signing up for regular early funding alerts via email.

www.mfip.org.uk



COULD YOUR COMMUNITY BENEFIT FROM UP TO £10,000?

Awards for All is a small grants programme supported by the Arts Council England, The Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England. If you have an idea that will make your community a better place, Awards for All could make it a reality with a Lottery grant of between £300 and £10,000.

We want to fund organisations that deliver projects for people to take part in art, sport, heritage and community activities, as well as projects that promote education, the environment and health in the local community.

Regional Overview

Between 1 April 2007 and 31 December 2007 we received over 1,700 applications in the North West region. 931 applications have been funded amounting to around £6.4m. 48% of applications requested grants of between £7,500 and £10,000. The average award in the North West during this period stands at just over £6,800, with a success rate of 53%. The awards break down between the sub-regions as follows:

<i>Sub Region</i>	Amounts Awarded	Number of Awards
Cheshire	£681,213	108
Cumbria	£716,085	108
Greater Manchester	£2,254,219	325
Lancashire	£1,315,036	196
Merseyside	£1,336,415	184
North West wide	£77,844	10

Common reject reasons

One of the main reasons that applications fail is because organisations do not send in all of the information required. As well as the completed application form, an organisation must also provide its governing document (or constitution), a formal set of accounts, a bank details form and three months worth of original bank statements.

Another reason that applications fail is that the organisation does not have sufficient financial controls. You must ensure that you have appropriate financial procedures in place to adequately manage the funds you are requesting.

Further information can be found in the guidance at

http://www.awardsforall.org.uk/docs/awardsforall_england_guide.pdf

You can also contact your local Council for Voluntary Service, Local Authority External Funding Officer or helper agency for further advice on completing the application form.

Regional Outcomes

In the North West we have prioritised four strategic outcomes. Although your project does not have to meet the regional outcomes, your application will have a better chance of success if it does meet one of them. The regional outcomes for the North West are:

- Increased involvement from people who face barriers to participation
- Greater use of community buildings
- Improved skills for running small community groups
- Different communities working closer together

How to apply

If Awards for All might be for you, applying is relatively easy. You can apply at any time, the application form is straightforward and you will receive a decision within eight weeks of sending in your completed application. You can apply if you are a not for profit group, a parish or town council, school or health body. Groups can apply for £300 to £10,000 in any two-year period and the grant must be spent within 12 months.

The kind of things we can fund include:

Publicity materials, venue hire, computers, research costs, transport costs, volunteers' expenses, updating equipment for health and safety reasons, refurbishments, training, sessional staff, fees to hire equipment, educational toys and games.

For more information and to download an application pack visit our website – www.awardsforall.org.uk or call 0845 600 20 40 or textphone 0845 755 6656 to request an application pack in hard copy.

If you would like any help in completing an application form please contact Suzanne Fennah Lottery Officer for Wirral Council on 691 8196 or e-mail her on Suzannefennah@wirral.gov.uk