

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



Leasowe Moreton & Saughall Massie Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Tuesday 2nd July 2008

**Leasowe Millennium Centre
Twickenham Drive**

**Leasowe
CH46 1PQ**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

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2002-2003
Community Legal Services
2003-2004
Transforming Secondary Education
Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services

www.wirral.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Welcome introductions and apologies
2. Nominations of area forum chair
3. Area co-ordinators report
 - **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**
4. Area Forum Funding DVD Launch
5. Recycling Update
6. Public Question Time.
7. Partner Updates
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Section One

Minutes - Area Forum (Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie) - 13 February 2008

Present	
Chair	ED Prout
Ward Councillors	C Blakeley , IO Coates , SD Moseley , SR Mountney
Community Representatives	J Borlase (Faith Representative) , B Seddon
Lead Officer	Russ Glennon (Head of Corporate Policy)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Dr Abhi Mantgani (Medical Director) , Tricia Moroney
Street Scene Manager	Chris Jones (Area Streetscene Manager)
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Alistair Bardsley
Merseyside Police	Sgt Mark Smith
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Sarah Patterson
Council Officers	Jim Thompson (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Cllr Ron Abbey , Bruce Martin (Faith Representative)

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Minute 1 - Welcome introductions and apologies

The Chair, Councillor ED Prout, welcomed Forum members and 13 members of the public to the meeting of the Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie Area Forum in Moreton. He invited Forum members to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from Councillor R Abbey and Bruce Martin (faith

representative).

Minute 2 - Area co-ordinators report • Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Area Co-ordinators Report

Russ Glennon, the Lead Officer informed the forum that the minutes of the last meeting held on 15 October 2007 had been incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. The report included matters arising, listed on page 15, as detailed below:

- Cherry Tree Road, this area is unadopted by the highway authority and is the responsibility of Wirral Partnership Homes
- Recycling, Barbara Epstein stated that she had been asking for three years for high rise blocks to have recycling facilities. Wirral Council does not have a good record in terms of recycling but every day some 180 people living in the block of flats in this area put all their rubbish into the one communal chute. An officer has contacted Mrs Epstein and we are now in the process of establishing recycling at this location.

There are many written updates in the report, including information on:

- Acting up, involving young people from Wirral displaying their talents in a drama production to tackle anti social behaviour in a project in partnership with Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team (page 17).
- WIRED, Carers Counselling Service (page 19).
- Primary Schools Result, Wirral's Primary Schools raise achievement again (page 22).
- MoD contract boost for Cammell Laird (page 22).
- Wirral's Chief Executive honoured by Queen, congratulations to Steve Maddox on being awarded an OBE for Services to Local Government in the Queen's New Year's Honours List Page 22).
- Flooding information for Wirral (page 24).
- Streetscene (page 41).
- Funding information / opportunities (page 53).

Russ Glennon requested that any questions / issues be raised at the end of the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and there were no matters arising.

Minute 3 - Public question time

The following questions / issues were raised:

Q. Mr Bratt, on behalf of Peninsula Stars Junior Football Club, re: committee's concerns about the health and safety implications associated with using the football pitches at Links View on Leasowe Road. It is typical to find refuse, especially beer cans and bottles and dog dirt, littering the pitch area leaving it unsuitable for play without extensive effort to clear the area. In addition, the grass does not receive the level of management that would be hoped for, resulting in long grass, making it more difficult to find all broken glass etc. to make the pitch useable. Are there any plans to tackle these problems and improve the pitches?

A. Russ Glennon - this issue of the upkeep and cleanliness of the pitch has been forwarded to the Head of Cultural Services.

Councillor Blakeley informed the forum that a litter pick was organised, by Ian Lewis, last year to try and improve the area. Mark Seagar (Junior Football Club) added that this is a problem as often find broken beer bottles and torn cans embedded in the goal area / pitch, used by young people. Russ Glennon shared concerns over this and agreed that the Area Co-ordinator would pass details to the relevant department responsible for addressing this and report back at the next meeting. Jim Thompson agreed to try and arrange a clean up using offenders.

Q. Councillor Blakeley raised an ongoing concern, on behalf of a constituent (Mr Ian Clarke), re: speeding traffic at Garden Hey Road and Saughall Road. He added that there were 22 roads in Moreton showing problems caused by speeding traffic.

A. Sergeant Smith - there had been problems in Bayswater Road and had managed to get a speed gun for the area. Chris Jones agreed to put the roads forward for attention.

Bob Seddon, added that a survey of the Bermuda Road area was carried out, and that need to look at education / design of street / access issues, as well as speeding. This needs to be addressed Wirral wide, as the borough has a high accident rate.

Q. Member of the Public - Upton Road during peak hours is dangerous, with cars speeding and problems for cars turning right into Croft Drive and Paulsfield Drive. A permanent speed camera, a policeman with a speed gun, or traffic calming measures (as in Saughall Massie, with the two roads from Upton By-pass being taken down to a single lane) is required to stop this.

Councillor Blakeley added that 50% of the vehicles speed along Upton Road.

A. Russ Glennon - Community Patrol will continue to monitor situation, and will arrange for traffic survey data to be passed to Sergeant Smith. Sergeant Smith advised that police officers can't patrol the area every day. Jim Thompson added that Mike Walker from Community Patrol tasked officers to look at this. Chris Jones agreed to look into this.

Q. Councillor Moseley - is there a facility in Moreton to train up volunteer residents?

A. Sergeant Smith - yes we have the equipment and can arrange for training, but no one came forward for this.

Q. Member of the Public - this should be advertised in the local paper and followed up by a leaflet drop. Councillor Blakeley asked who was invited to get involved in this training?

A. Sergeant Smith - will raise this with public relations team and update website with information on this. Jim Thompson added that he would mention this issue to police officers and try to encourage people to volunteer.

Q. Member of the Public - what authority do the volunteers have, if they have no authority then motorists will take no notice of them?

A. Jim Thompson - none, this is part of the education element to tackling the issue. Volunteers will look like police officers to motorists travelling at 40mph and

they will slow down. It is about attitude and enforcement, motorists are often not aware of the speed they are doing in modern cars. Sergeant Smith added that volunteers can register vehicle numbers and the police can send out letters to the owners of the vehicles.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- (i) Russ Glennon to forward issues re: pitches at Links View / Leasowe Road to the Head of Cultural Services and report back on this at the next meeting.
- (ii) Jim Thompson to try and arrange a clean up of the pitch at Links View / Leasowe Road and raise issue of encouraging speed watch volunteers with police officers.
- (iii) Chris Jones to put forward list of roads in Moreton forward for attention re: speeding and to look into problem of speeding traffic along Upton Road.
- (iv) Russ Glennon to arrange for traffic survey data to be passed to Sergeant Smith.
- (v) Sergeant Smith to arrange for issue of advertising of volunteers re: speed gun training to be passed to public relations team and for information to be placed on website.

Minute 4 - Sustainable Communities Strategy

Russ Glennon informed the forum that it is a statutory requirement to have a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) which sets a strategic, long-term vision for the area. The Council, in consultation with its partners, sets a framework for an action plan, with the Local Area Agreement (LAA) as the delivery plan. The aim of this is to enhance quality of life of local communities through actions aimed at improving economic, social and environmental well-being.

The SCS tells Wirral's 'story' (people and places); highlights the differences between areas, the big problems and solutions; determines vision and what do we need to do achieve the long-term vision for Wirral. Wirral's long-term vision: A more prosperous and equal Wirral, enabling all communities and people to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Wirral's 'story' / big problems:

- it is a borough of stark contrasts (25 areas are within the 3% most deprived but 7 areas are within 10% most affluent)
- it has the worst health inequality in the North West
- has an underperforming economy and an ageing population
- has a significant inequalities including educational attainment; crime and worklessness. Over 20,000 people are on incapacity benefit. 70% do work, the national target is 85% and the local target is 76%.

How do we solve the problems?

- focus on right people and places
- shared local action (work in partnership, involve all agencies including the third sector and direct resources to where most needed)
- shared principles (community cohesion, sustainability and equality & diversity)

The Strategy belongs to and allows everyone to connect to the 'big picture'. You can be involved by letting us know what people and places you think we need to focus on. A consultation document will be available, within the next few weeks, at www.wirral.gov.uk. If you would like more information on this or have this is a different format please telephone 0151 691 8030.

The following question was raised:

Q. Bob Seddon - how long will the consultation period be?

A. This will be a 12 week consultation.

Minute 5 - Partner Updates • Wirral Primary Care Trust

Primary Care Trust

Dr Mantgani informed the forum that the trust have gone through a difficult time over the last few years, but have never cut down on patient services. The trust is now in a more positive financial position and is looking at what it needs to do for the people of Wirral and plan this over a longer period. People now have more choices, and from April these will be extended to allow patients to receive health care anywhere in the country.

The trust has been developing a commissioning strategy for the next five years (2008 - 2013) and identifying priorities for additional services to invest in and develop, on top of core services. The priorities over the next five years are to:

- improve health inequalities
- provide minor services more locally
- improve access to mental health and specialist services
- develop services for older people
- reduce the scale of alcohol misuse and alcohol related conditions (the trust has the best drug service in the country but needs to improve its alcohol service)
- work with the Council to improve our services for children and young people
- modernise community based services

We want to work with people and community groups to see if you agree with our priorities. Leaflets have been posted to households, events are taking place and focus groups have been arranged to enable everyone to get involved, ask for more information and feed in your views.

The Chair thanked Dr Mantgani for his update and the following questions / issues were raised:

Councillor Blakeley

1. What is being done about investments and focussing on investments re: dentist responsibility? There is a two-tier system and there is a shortage in some areas, such as Greasby and Moreton. Will a two-tier system of care be set up?

A. Investment in dentistry has been significantly high in all areas of Wirral.

Private dentistry problems are a wider issue that was not created by the trust.

Will try and get an answer on this and report back at the next meeting. There is no intention to create a two-tier system, additional investment will be across the board but specific things within specific areas will be targeted.

2. Will the trust make outer borough PCTs give back the £1.7m owed for three years, or will this be written off under accountancy?

A. It's difficult to account for all services used outside of the area, but the trust are working on this.

Russ Glennon added that the PCT and the Council are working more closely together to improve the use of funding.

Q. Member of the Public - under the new dentist charging scheme patients have to finish a treatment within two months. If a patient has a dentist that works part-time they can end up being charged more, as often cannot get follow-up treatment within the set timescale.

A. This is part of the dental contract, but there is an emergency dental service for those who can't get an appointment, all practices have one so nobody should be without an appointment.

Q. Bob Seddon - if spend / focussed activity for the future is being pre-determined by demographics is the consultation effective and a good use of resources? Would it be better to focus on those using the services and not all the population as many would not use the services?

A. We do want people's views, professionals don't always know the best way to deal with a service. The trust is accountable to the public and wants to share information. We are trying to get to hard to reach people and find out why they are not using services, as just because a person does not use a service it does not mean that they don't need the service. In 2000 Wirral had 10,000 diabetic and this has risen to 16,000, this may have been lower if we were able to reach more people. We have been criticised for not consulting all residents of Wirral.

Tricia Moroney added that the PCT are following Government directions and running focus groups, visiting communities, and targeting men's and women's groups.

Councillor Moseley

1. It is good to have this investment, but what percentage of the investment is being spent in the most deprived areas?

A. Agreed to provide further information on this.

2. Why are some people unwilling to use services?

A. There can be social issues attached to this, we need to target certain areas and educate people and are trying to do this (mammogram bus in Leasowe area received a good response).

Councillor Blakeley added that the PCT closed wards 6 and 7 at Victoria Central Hospital, despite public opinion.

Dr Mantgani - need to move on from this as it has been discussed in detail.

Older People's Parliament (OPP)

John McCourt informed the forum that a full report was available on page 33 of the Area Co-ordinators report. The perceptions of the ageing population are often negative, but older people have lots of life experience, life skills and professional experience.

The OPP are working with the Council and Age Concern, have set up six sub-committees to reach into different areas of community / services. Please contact the OPP on 0151 666 2220 / at parliament@ageconcernwirral.org if you want to know more about our work.

The Chair thanked John McCourt for his update.

Community Safety

Jim Thompson informed the forum that questionnaires to find out what your

concerns are re: crime reduction on the Wirral were available at the meeting, and requested that these be completed and handed back at the end of the meeting. He informed the forum that a detailed update on Community Safety was included on page 30 of the Area Co-ordinators report.

The Chair thanked Jim for his update.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Alistair Bardsley informed the forum that a detailed update on the Trust was included on page 28 of the Area Co-ordinators report, and that we are keen to recruit more public members. 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 (copies were available at the meeting).

The Chair thanked Alistair Bardsley for his update.

Minute Decision :
Resolved that:

- (i) Dr Mantgani, John McCourt, Jim Thompson and Alistair Bardsley be thanked for their updates.
- (ii) Dr Mantgani to report back on dentistry issues and percentage of investment being spent in the most deprived areas at the next meeting.

Minute 6 - Dates of future meetings and presentations

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 2 July 2008 at venue (to be confirmed) in the Leasowe area.

Minute 7 - Any other business

Streetscene Report - Councillor Moseley informed the forum that the Waste Enforcement Policy mentioned on page 41 of the Area Co-ordinators report was not supported by all of the Cabinet Members, and would like to hear from anyone receiving a warning when they have not purposely contaminated their waste.

A member of the public added that there is not enough guidance on what goes in each bin, and this should be addressed before fines are issued.

The Chair agreed to request that a member of the recycling team be invited to the next meeting to provide more information on this issue.

Respect Bus - Councillor Blakeley informed the forum that the bus was placed at the Grange Recreation area in Moreton and it was a successful evening. He will request that the bus comes back to the area, probably in a different area of Moreton.

Health Park in Moreton - Councillor Blakeley informed the forum that planning permission had been requested and the plans were available at Cheshire Lines if anyone wished to inspect and comment on these.

No further business was raised and the Chair thanked Councillor , speakers,

partners, officers and members of the public for attending and closed the meeting at 8.20pm

Minute Decision :

Resolved that the Area Co-ordinator to arrange for a member of the recycling team to be invited to the next meeting to give a detailed update on recycling issues / waste enforcement policy.

Matters arising

Minute 3 - public question time.

Russ Glennon to forward issues re: pitches at Links View / Leasowe Road to the Head of Cultural Services and report back on this at the next meeting.

Cultural Services have looked at the condition of the pitches and at the time the wet ground conditions on the playing field prevented grass cutting but conditions did improve and the grass was cut. Unfortunately like most of our football pitches they are not constructed to a sports field standard with a drainage system installed so there are times when, due to wet ground conditions it is not possible to cut the grass.

(ii) Jim Thompson to try and arrange a clean up of the pitch at Links View / Leasowe Road and raise issue of encouraging speed watch volunteers with police officers.

(iii) Chris Jones to put forward list of roads in Moreton forward for attention re: speeding and to look into problem of speeding traffic along Upton Road.

(iv) Russ Glennon to arrange for traffic survey data to be passed to Sergeant Smith.

(v) Sergeant Smith to arrange for issue of advertising of volunteers re: speed gun training to be passed to public relations team and for information to be placed on website.

I have checked and there was already and still is a request for speedwatch volunteers on the Merseyside Police web site. It is located by clicking on wirral then selecting volunteers, I am told that it was highly publicised last year in the local press. If there is anyone who is interested they should contact their local neighbourhood either by phone/e mail or in person to find out more information.

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 Sustainable Communities Strategy themes *strong local economy, sustainable appropriate housing, life chances for children and young people, health and well being and living and working environment.*

Strong Local Economy

Prince Andrew has unveiled a £1.75 million state-of-the-art maritime training centre in Birkenhead.

The Duke of York, who served for 22 years with the Royal Navy, also revealed the new name for the Laird Foundation in Birkenhead, which merged with Mersey Maritime last year and is now known as Maritime and Engineering College North West.

Based at Maritime and Engineering College North West in Monks Ferry, the Quay Skills training programme uses virtual reality technology from the filming and gaming industries to create virtual ports, where port workers can learn to drive forklift trucks, cranes and other equipment.

The training focuses on port operations and international trade and logistics. After a tour of the college and demonstration of the virtual reality facility, the prince unveiled a plaque with the college's new name and said: "This part of the world has obviously got huge potential for growth in the maritime sector and it's really good to see that you've actually put your minds to it locally and you're driving this maritime heritage forward in a way that's going to give these young people a future."

The college represents more than 1,000 maritime businesses on Merseyside, providing more than 26,000 jobs in the city-region and contributing £2.5billion to the local economy each year.

In order to develop Quay Skills, Mersey Maritime, with the support of Wirral council received £656,000 from the Single Regeneration Budget, funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and £656,000 European funding from Merseyside's Objective One programme. A further £450,000 investment came from the private sector. [Article and picture by Wirral Globe]



Hand-in-Hand Theatre Productions

Joining communities in performance



A Not-For-Profit Arts Organisation
MAKING A SPLASH IN WALLASEY!

All Along The River© is the school/community production for July 2008, with Wallasey set to show that culture is happening here in Wirral too.

Children from several Wallasey schools will perform alongside other community groups in a grand pageant of music, poetry, movement and song.

Hand in Hand Theatre Productions, is working with **St Mary's College of Performing Arts, Wirral Youth Theatre**, and many local music, media and drama groups, to take creative writing and visual arts initiatives into schools in Wallasey.

The resulting production will be a celebration of the River Mersey - its history, its heritage and its many changing faces. Inspired by the seven Millennium Trail artworks embedded in the Promenade between Seacombe and New Brighton, and coinciding with Mersey Waterfront's **Pride in our Promenades** initiative and **The Tall Ships Festival**, the project is supported by the **National Lottery Awards for All, Mersey Waterfront** and **Wirral Council** as part of **Culture for All**.

Writer and composer Bev Clark, with the help of musical director Liam Corcoran, will co-ordinate the whole production, working with the schools and community groups towards performances at St Mary's College on the 10th, 11th and 12th July.

For further details, please contact Hand in Hand Theatre Productions on 0151 639 5482 Or handinhandtheatre@googlemail.com
www.handinhandtheatreproductions.co.uk

Sustainable Appropriate Housing

Affordable Renovated Houses For Sale - Wirral Council's new improved HOUSED scheme

As part of Wirral Council's Empty Property Strategy the Empty Property Team have established a scheme called HOUSED (Home Ownership Using Sustainable Empty Dwellings). The scheme enables those wishing to own their home, the opportunity to purchase a property that has been refurbished to extremely high standards at an affordable price.

There are currently five properties under refurbishment that will be ready for sale in May. All of the properties in the scheme are fully refurbished to Decent Homes standard with new kitchens and bathrooms. They also have a full Gas Central Heating system, new UPVC double glazed windows and doors, electrics and plumbing. The available properties are in the Birkenhead/Rock Ferry/Tranmere areas, prices range from £75,000-£85,000 although a 10% grant may be available reducing these costs to £67,500-£76,500.

We are also able to offer the free service of a Home Ownership Advisory Officer and a grant of up to £2,000 to help with reasonable costs such as Legal & IFA Fees and Removal Costs. If you are unsuccessful with this phase of properties, your details can be kept on file as there will be more properties available in the next phase.

For more information call Michelle Griffiths on the Empty Property Hotline, 0151 691 8005 or log onto www.wirral.gov.uk/he/housing/PSHR/housed. You can also email us at emptyproperties@wirral.gov.uk.

Life Chances for Children and Young People

Wirral given green light to offer new diplomas

Wirral has been given the go-ahead to offer Diplomas, a new qualification for 14-19 year olds.

Developed in partnership with universities and employers, the Diploma combines theoretical and practical study, providing a different style of learning that will offer young people an alternative route into higher education, apprenticeships or employment with training.

From September 2009, eight diplomas will initially be offered: Construction and the Built Environment, Creative and Media, Society, Health and Development, Engineering, Hospitality and Catering, Hair and Beauty, Business and Administration and Information Technology. By 2013 a total of 17 diplomas will be available for all Wirral's learners.

Students studying the diploma will continue to be based at their school or college but will have opportunities for hands-on experiences in a work related environment. This could be with a local employer, university or college or training provider.

The Diploma represents a huge opportunity for Wirral students of all abilities to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes to succeed in work and life in the twentieth first century. Information about these new qualifications will be available next term from schools and colleges in the consortium, Connexions and i-choosewirral.org.uk

For further information ring Barbara Mervyn, 14-19 Curriculum Manager, Wirral Council, 0151 346 6749.

Young people's achievements celebrated

The achievements of 13 young people have been celebrated at an event facilitated by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team.

The celebration evening took place for a determined group of young people from across the borough to commend their participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as part of their silver award.



Caroline Laing, Manager of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, who hosted the evening said: "We too often hear about the negative behaviour that a small minority

of young people engage in. This event was a chance to celebrate the achievement of a group of committed young people and the positive contribution they have made.”

The programme was co-ordinated by Jo-Anne Seddon, an Advocate from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service seconded to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and conducted in her own time as a volunteer. The 26-week programme saw the young people study first aid, undertake search and rescue exercises, use personal protective equipment used by fire crews and spend time with a number of services such as Response, Merseyside Police (Mounted Section), Forum Housing, HMP Walton and Marine Rescue.

Wirral Youth Service Update

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.

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 Gorsey 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.

Leasowe Youth Club which now operates from the Addy (The Adventure Playground) has been going well however, there have been a few occasions where Young Peoples behaviour has had to be challenged. The staff team are currently looking at how they can introduce new ground rules and how they can work alongside the Play staff to manage the transition stage, giving the 14+ young people ownership. Circuit training- this has proven to be very popular and has attracted more young people to the activity. Young people at Leasowe have been using the Giant Jenga, a resource covering topics such as sexual health, drugs and alcohol and personal safety.

Moreton Youth Club. On “No smoking Day”, young people took part in surveys, activities and questionnaires around smoking. Young people made a display that was put up in the Youth Club. Information was made available about the type of support available to help young people give up smoking. As part of an intergenerational project, six young people, three staff and three pensioners took part in a Health and Hygiene programme. At the end of the course three young people, three staff and one pensioner took the exam. At a presentation Night in the club, Wirral PCT presented members and staff with certificates for food & safety. Food Month was used to promote healthy cooking with celebration events for Pancake Tuesday and Apple Week.

Safer Communities

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team (January 2008 – May 2008)

In addition to ongoing enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, specific activity has included:

Celebration evening for young people (March 2008)

A celebration evening took place for a determined group of thirteen young people from across the borough to commend their participation in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme as part of their silver award. The programme was co-ordinated by Jo-Anne Seddon, an Advocate from Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service seconded to Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team and conducted in her own time as a volunteer. The young people were respectively from Woodchurch High School, Oldershaw School, St Mary's RC College, Weatherhead High School, Ridgeway High School, Wirral Alternative Schools Provision and the Fire Support Network. Their achievements were acknowledged by the Mayor and Mayoress of Wirral, High Sheriff of Merseyside and senior Council and Fire Service officers, including Wirral Council's Chief Executive.

Ice Cream Engagement Project (launched April 2008)

This innovative project is funded initially by Wirral Drug & Alcohol Action Team. It involves the use of a decommissioned ice cream van staffed with workers from Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Youth Respect Team, including a specialist alcohol misuse worker. The purpose of the project is to provide alcohol misuse awareness to young people and the project is touring Wirral twice a week, targeting both hot-spot locations of anti-social behaviour and areas where young people congregate. The project is being sponsored this financial year by Beechwood & Ballantyne Community Housing Association.

Anti-Social Behaviour Advice Surgeries (launched May 2008)

A six-month programme of advice surgeries for residents in the private sector suffering with anti-social behaviour has been launched by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team. This will see the Team's Respect Bus taken into communities and staffed with Enforcement Officers who can take complaints directly from the public and provide comprehensive advice. The full timetable can be found at:

http://www.wirral.gov.uk/News/Archive/200804/news_0000601.html

Moreton and West Wallasey Neighbourhood

I am pleased to share with you the excellent end of year performance figures achieved by Moreton and West Wallasey Neighbourhood over the last twelve months. This accomplishment is a result of a lot of hard work between the Police, our partner agencies, local Councillors, resident groups and you the members of our community. By working with you and listening to your concerns we are able to focus our resources in the right place at the right times.

Moreton and West Wallasey Performance for the year ending March 2008

A2	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Diff This Yr v. Last Year	%Diff
All Crime	3242	2970	2310	-660	-22%
Violence	795	609	480	-129	-21%
Robbery	18	26	17	-9	-35%
B.Dwell	165	161	106	-55	-34%
TfMV	262	186	143	-43	-23%
UTMV	138	107	108	1	1%
Crim Dam	840	935	692	-243	-26%
ASB		3219	2602	-617	-19%

The above figures represent the total figures for the three wards:

West Wallasey
Moreton East and Leasowe
Moreton West and Saughall

The Neighbourhood saw a reduction in 7 out of the 8 risk areas. The exception being UTMV (Unauthorised taking of a motor vehicle) an increase of only 1 offence. Overall there were 660 fewer victims of crime than the previous year.

Youth disorder and underage drinking is an ongoing issue. We are working with our Licensing section to target outlets that may be selling alcohol to under age youths. A number of premises have been identified and prosecuted. However I must remind you that in many cases youths are obtaining alcohol from the home with the consent of their parents. Each weekend alcohol is seized from youths and letters are forwarded to parents explaining the consequences. In addition, individual youths that you have identified as causing problems have been targeted with the help of our partner agencies. This has resulted in more than ten ABC contracts and three ASBO's being issued.

In an attempt to break down barriers with the youths and engage with them my dedicated Officers have secured funding and organised a number of diversionary activities around the school holidays. This has included boxing at Moreton Boxing club, Bowling in New Brighton, skateboarding in Liverpool.

We have just secured £10,500 in funding for Positive Action For Young Persons. This will enable us to take a number of young persons between the ages of 13yrs – 17yrs throughout the school holidays on a variety of outdoor activities i.e. abseiling, gorge scrambling, rafting, canoeing and rock climbing etc.

Please be assured that my Officers and I will continue working to reduce and detect crime and anti-social behaviour to improve the quality of life for resident living in the area. The Wirral is a safe place to live and work and I would urge anyone with any concerns or information to call the Police.

In an emergency call 999

Non emergency or enquiries call 0151 709 6010

If you would like to pass information anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Peter Kolokotroni
Moreton and West Wallasey Neighbourhood Inspector

Bring Accidents Down 2 Zero



'Bring accidents down 2 zero' is a new scheme that aims to reduce the speed of traffic in your area, without the need for traffic calming measures such as speed bumps and chicanes.

Driving at 20 miles per hour through residential areas makes you 80% less likely to have an accident than if you drive at 40mph, and 40% less than if you drive at 30mph.

Through the use of 20 mph signs, erected on lamp posts at the roadside, drivers will be aware of the advisory 20 mph speed limit and will be encouraged to reduce their speed, though no legal enforcement will be in place.

Which areas are involved?

There are seven areas across Wirral in which we are trialling the scheme. These areas include Oxton, West Kirby, Liscard/New Brighton, Greasby, Meols, New Ferry and Bromborough

Will the Police be issuing fines for people driving at over 20 mph?

No, the Police will not be issuing speeding fines, as these 20 mph signs are advisory, not a legal requirement. However, Community Speedwatch members will be on duty across Wirral using radar guns to gauge traffic speeds. Anyone driving at unacceptable speeds will have their registration noted down and forwarded to Merseyside Police who may take action.

What can I do to help promote the scheme?

If you wish to raise awareness of the scheme in your area, then feel free to download a copy of the poster and leaflet to display in your window, or local shop window etc. The more local people that are aware of the scheme the better, as everyone will watch their speed in your area.

How do I get a 'Bring accidents down 2 zero' scheme in my area?

You could apply via your local councillor, or you could contact us via the contact details below.

How do I give Wirral Council some feedback about the scheme?

You can send an email to streetscene@wirral.gov.uk , call us on 0151 606 2004 or write to Road Safety Team, Cheshire Lines Building, Canning Street, Birkenhead CH44 8ED.

Wirral Council signs up to Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

Wirral Council has thrown its support behind a borough-wide strategy to reduce the harm caused by alcohol.

It aims to tackle misuse of alcohol by young people, to improve the treatment for people experiencing problems with alcohol and to address the related social problems of antisocial behaviour, crime and domestic violence.

John Webb, Wirral Council's Director of Adult Social Services said: "We recognise that alcohol plays an important part in the local economy and for the majority of people who drink sensibly, it is an enjoyable part of their social lives.

"However, we are also aware of the significant harm that alcohol misuse causes to the health of people and the well-being of communities in the borough, and we are concerned that, for an increasing number of people, the effects of alcohol misuse are presenting serious and in many instances, life-threatening dangers."

Marie Armitage, Wirral's Joint Director of Public Health added: "I would like to formally welcome Wirral Council's decision to offer their support to this important strategy. I firmly believe that, by effectively tackling alcohol misuse, we will support local people to lead safer, healthier and more fulfilled lives."

Wirral's Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy sets out a number of targets including;

- Improving access to alcohol interventions and specialist alcohol programmes
- Reducing the number of people who abuse alcohol being denied immediate access to appropriate specialist treatment
- Increasing the number of people who abuse alcohol successfully completing their treatment programme
- Reducing admission and re-admission rates amongst those presenting at Wirral Hospital Trust, with alcohol specific and related conditions
- Reducing the length of stay within Wirral Hospital Trust for patients admitted with alcohol specific and related conditions
- Increasing the number of people who abuse alcohol taking advantage of support services and entering into education, training and employment
- Increasing the number of people reporting a reduction in their drinking levels
- Increasing the numbers of people receiving aftercare following treatment for alcohol misuse

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 an **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.

Merseyside has become the first fire and rescue service in the country to receive a **Beacon award** for its role in improving public health – and in doing so has become the first fire service to win three Beacon awards. The Fire Service was one of only six authorities across the UK to receive Beacon Status for Reducing Health Inequalities. It has previously been awarded Beacon Status for its Services for Older People and Children At Risk – Early Intervention. Furthermore, young people from the Wirral are currently undertaking a 12 week **Beacon Course**. The use of the fire service as a vehicle to reduce and prevent fire and anti social behaviour and to engage with young people in our local communities has been recognised as a valuable contributor both locally and nationally and is one of a number of multi partnership initiatives that Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service is facilitating as part of its contribution to community safety.

The Fire and Rescue Service also received further recognition for making a significant contribution outside its core role and consistently showing excellence and innovation.

The health award means fire services and other agencies from all over the world, concerned with the health agenda will come to Merseyside to learn more about MFRS' successful health programme, which include

Fire Fit Kids - Firefighters deliver fun, high energy physical activity programmes to school pupils, with a particular emphasis on encouraging the participation of those pupils who traditionally shy away from competitive sports. This will hopefully be introduced into schools on Wirral later this year.

Heartbeat Gyms: Outreach gyms in Community Fire Stations across Wirral help promote rehabilitation and health promotion needs of people with cardiac problems.
Start Right: Aims to reduce childhood obesity and encourage healthy lifestyle in children aged 5-8 and their parents, using firefighters as positive role models.

Market garden: Use of land at Bromborough Community Fire Station for local youngsters to grow fruit and vegetables and then use them in healthy recipes.

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.

With the onset of the finer weather and the large areas of green belt land on the Wirral we are in the process of implementing a collaborative **grass fire strategy** which will help reduce the risk of fires and also assist in how better to deal with these incidents.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service is extremely proud to be hosting the 10th **World Firefighters Games** as its contribution towards the city's European Capital of Culture celebrations. The Games take place between August 24 and September 2, 2008, with the new waterfront Echo Arena being transformed into the 'Official Games Village' for the duration of the 10 days.

Find out more about the World Firefighters Games 2008 by visiting www.wfg08.com

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.

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:** Arrowe 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

FREE phone 0800 731 5958

Health and Well Being

Wirral University Teaching Hospital 
NHS Foundation 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 elected Public Governor for the host constituency.

Controlling Infection

- 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
- The annual incidence of MRSA bloodstream infections across the Trust has reduced from 35 in 2006/07 to 26 in 2007/08 – a 26% reduction.
- Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and staff are implementing a comprehensive action plan to achieve this.
- In partnership with local GPs, our staff are working towards a more prudent use of broad spectrum antibiotics that, if over-used, can make C.difficile infection more likely to develop.

Waiting for Treatment

- Currently, no patient waits longer than 5 weeks for an outpatient appointment when referred by a GP for a specialist opinion and many waits are much shorter than this
- Many patients referred for most orthopaedic and gynaecology outpatient appointments will wait only 2 weeks
- Currently, most patients will wait no longer than 10 weeks for their operation once they have been ‘listed’ by a consultant.
- Patients with suspected or confirmed cancers are referred, diagnosed and treated well within national targets
- Waiting times for new referrals to the Audiology service have reached an all time low of 6 weeks thanks to the hard work of the staff in that department.

Improving Our Standards

- Our Women’s Services achieved a ‘hat-trick of excellence’ when they were recently awarded CNST Level 3 accreditation. Of the 156 Maternity Units in the country, only 17 others have achieved Level 3 and our Unit is the only one to have achieved 100% in every standard at every level.
Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) Level 3 is evidence that our maternity services are extremely safe, well-managed and overall ‘first-class’. This follows the Unit’s score of ‘best performing’ in the Healthcare Commission’s Maternity Services Review and being named ‘best in the region’ in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be at the end of 2007
- For the second year running we have been named as one of the country’s Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.
- 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>	<i>Good</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>	<i>5 (Excellent)</i>
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>	<i>4 (Good)</i>

Improving Our Facilities

In this financial year, 2008/09, around £10million will be spent on capital schemes to improve our facilities and update the services we provide – schemes will include:

- £3.1m to upgrade our IT systems

- £900k to provide parents' accommodation at Arrowe Park Hospital
- £500k to replace medical equipment
- £1.3m to upgrade surgical wards
- £290k to improve car park Infrastructure
- £400k to improve & standardise ward storage facilities
- £100k to improve disability access
- £780k for environmental/energy usage improvements
- £250k to improve privacy & dignity at ward level

Providing New Services

- The Trust is now 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 is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery
- We are the only NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions
- We will soon be bringing our Rheumatology services closer to where people live and work with the appointment of an additional Consultant Rheumatologist – clinics will soon be up and running at St Catherine's Community Hospital and Victoria Central Hospital as well as Arrowe Park & Clatterbridge Hospitals.

Easy to Use Website

- Our new-look, easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services go to www.whnt.nhs.uk
- The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems
- The new, easy click, 'email a patient' facility has been very well received by patients and their relatives

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 more than 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 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join, simply complete and return the attached Membership Application Form or join on-line @ www.whnt.nhs.uk
- During June and July the Trust is holding elections for Public Governors to represent the Public Members of the following Wirral areas - Bidston, Bromborough & Eastham, Cloughton, Liscard, Tranmere, New Brighton & Wallasey and West Wirral. The results will be announced after 10th July.

LINK **WIRRAL LOCAL INVOLVEMENT** **NETWORK**



WHAT WILL WIRRAL LINK DO?

- Give everyone a chance to say what they think about **their local health and social care services** – what is working well and what is not so good.
- Give people the chance to check how care services are planned and run
- Feedback what people have said about services so that things can change for the better.
- Operate independently but in partnership with statutory organisations such as the National Health Service and Local Authority.

WHAT POWERS WILL THE WIRRAL LINK HAVE?

- Make reports and recommendations and request information, and get a reply within a set amount of time.
- Where appropriate, enter, view and monitor certain services to see what they do.
- Tell elected politicians on the Wirral Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) what they have found and get a response.

WHO CAN BE A PART OF LINK?

- Anyone can be a part of a Wirral LINK but there will be different levels of activity, involvement and membership.
- The LINK will be representative of everyone in the community, this means all of the different groups, and types of people that make up the local population.
- The LINK should also be able to give people who do not usually have a say to give their views.
- LINKs Members will include:
 - Individuals
 - Service User Led Groups
 - Local Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

BUT...you do not have to be a member of a LINK to get involved and have your say.

There is lot of work to do however, we have an enthusiastic and dedicated team working within our Community Engagement Team

Please contact Karen Prior and Lynda Denman,

LINK Support Workers 0151 6458 4038 wirralink@vcawirral.org.uk

Carers!



**Does someone depend on you?
Do you sometimes feel stressed or
anxious due to this?
Would you like to learn how to identify the
triggers of stress?**

If yes, then please come to one of our Carers

“Distress to De-stress” Workshops

being delivered across 9 areas of the Wirral.

You will have the opportunity to learn some self-management strategies that have the potential for maintaining positive mental, physical and emotional well-being. This will be an informal workshop with refreshments and lunch available.

The courses for 2008 are to be 9.30am until 3.30pm held on:

- Friday 13th June at Serpentine Road Family Community Hall, Wallasey
- Wednesday 16th July at Heswall Hall, Heswall
- Friday 19th September Bebington Civic Hall, Bebington
- Friday 24th October St James Centre, Birkenhead
- Friday 14th November Westbourne Hall, West Kirby
- Friday 12th December Leasowe Millennium Centre, Leasowe

To book a place in any of the course please call the **Carers Helpline on 670 0777**

Living and Working Environment

Wirral top of recycling table!



Wirral Council has emerged as top of the recycling table in Merseyside. Figures recently released by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority show that Wirral recycled 31.68% of its household waste between April 2007 and December 2007, putting the borough ahead of the region's four other authorities.

Wirral's success comes after the implementation of grey recycling bins and an alternate weekly collection, as part of a new waste contract with Biffa. The new figure of 31.68% compares to the previous year's figure of 13.5% of household waste being recycled.

Wirral receives tourism boost

Three of Wirral's visitor attractions have received a ringing endorsement from coach operators from around the UK. Representatives from over fifty UK tour operators visited a number of attractions in Merseyside including The Lady Lever Art Gallery, Sunlight Vision Museum in Port Sunlight and Ness Gardens.

The tour was organised by the Mersey Partnership and Northumberland-based Steve Reed Tourism in Partnership with Wirral Council's Tourism Team. The idea behind the tour was to attract more business to Wirral and exploit the massive tourism potential in the Borough.

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Equality Standard for Local Government (ESLG)

Jacqui Cross started working for the council six months ago as the Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator. Jacqui's job is to co-ordinate numerous activities across the whole council in order for us to reach level three of the equality standard for local government.

Each and every one of us (council employees and residents) has a role to play in ensuring services are appropriate for people who need to use them, and for all residents to feel they are able to access job opportunities here at the council.

Why is this so important? Wirral is a great place to live and work for most people. However, because some people are different from that majority for example they may be older than you, have a different sexual orientation than yours, they may follow a different religion than you, or be disabled, have a different ethnic background, or wish to become a different gender than they were assigned at birth, we want to play our part in making Wirral a great place to be for everyone.

No one wants to face or fear discrimination, so it is crucial that we promote equal chances for all and take pride in making the positive changes that will need to happen.

Over the coming year everyone will be encouraged to take part in one or more of the following activities (to name but a few):

- Participating in one of the council's equality consultation events
- Taking part in completing equality impact assessments
- Completing questionnaires in order for us to develop an equality profile of those who use our services
- Visiting the equality and diversity section of the council's website
- Reading a copy of our 6-monthly newsletter Equality Watch (first issue late summer 2008)
- Helping us to assess the accessibility of our buildings

Finally a big thank you to everyone who has helped us in the last six months to speed up the momentum of activities. For more information please contact Jacqui on 0151 691 8064 or jacquicross@wirral.gov.uk

Equality profiles

Sexual Orientation issues – profile of Wirral LGBT forum

What is the LGB&T Forum? The Wirral LGB&T Forum was set up with the help of the Wirral Voluntary & Community Sector Network (The Network) for members of the LGB&T community who live and work on the Wirral. Its purpose is to give these members a voice in the decision making process that affects Wirral, to sign post members to services that can help with particular issues and to provide social networking opportunities. The Forum has been established to help any one of any Age, Culture, Faith or Disability.

Website: <http://www.everyoneweb.com/wirralgbtforum>
email wirralgbt_forum@yahoo.co.uk

Disability issues – profile of Wirral Carers / WIRED

Do you look after someone? Does someone depend on you? Is your caring role too much at times? If you answered yes to any of these questions then you are one of Wirral's 37,500 carers.

A carer is someone who looks after a family member, partner or friend in need of help because they are ill, frail or have a disability. This can be a mother, father, brother, husband, child or even a friend or neighbour.

At Wired we may be able to support you with your caring responsibilities by offering advice, help and even someone to talk to when things are getting too much for you. In a recent national survey nearly 90% of the people said that caring had an impact on their health. Many carers were affected by stress, anxiety, depression or loss of sleep.

We now have over 470 carers registered with us who receive quarterly news letters which include information about changes to services, invitations to carers' events and activities such as the carers' art classes, pamper days and even samba drumming.

We have a carers counselling service which gives you the opportunity to talk to someone about any issues you have without feeling guilty or judged. Our counsellors are experienced at listening,



are unpaid and offer their services voluntarily.

If you would like to join the carers register or talk to someone about anything relating to your caring responsibilities then please call the Carers Team on the **Carers Helpline** on **0151 670 0777** between the hours of 9am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday or you could log onto www.wirralcarers.co.uk and email us. On the website you will find lots of helpful information and links to other organisations who may be able to help you.

Sexual Health - Terrence Higgins Trust on the Wirral On 22 February 2008, Terrence Higgins Trust officially opened its new centre in Birkenhead. Attended by Claire Sweeney, the Mayor of Wirral, Cllr Phil Gilchrist and Chairman of Wirral PCT, Frances Street, as well as over 50 representatives of other agencies on the Wirral, the opening was a great success.

Terrence Higgins Trust was established in 1982 in response to the death of Terry Higgins. Terry was one of the first people in the UK to die of HIV related illness. Terry's friends wanted to do something that would highlight the situation both politically and socially with a view to stopping other people going through what Terry went through.

25 years later, and Terrence Higgins Trust is now the largest HIV and sexual health charity in Europe with over 30 offices across England, Wales and Scotland. Whilst we still provide many of our services primarily for people infected or affected by HIV, we increasingly provide other sexual health services such as, in some areas, screening for sexually transmitted infections.

Across the board, one of the biggest barriers that exists to the maintenance of good sexual health in the UK is the stigma and discrimination associated with sexual ill health. This is particularly pronounced for people living with HIV.

On the Wirral, we will be providing services with a strong emphasis on sexual health promotion as well as harm reduction. We will continue to provide services for communities that are under-represented in many ways, such as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community.

However, our services are for anyone, and thus individuals or professionals with queries or concerns about sexual health can contact us for support and information. Our services will include:

Outreach, Face to face, Targeted group work, Capacity building with communities, Safer sex information and advice, Safer sex campaign and other resource distribution, Training and education, Counselling

Some of these services are currently in place whilst others will be developed and rolled out throughout 2008/9.

For more information contact: Terrence Higgins Trust, 5 Bridge Street, Birkenhead, CH41 1AS, Tel: 0151 666 9890, Email: info.wirral@tht.org.uk, Web: www.tht.org.uk

Age Issues – profile of Age Concern Age Concern Wirral exists to promote the well being of older people in the whole of the borough of Wirral helping to make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. We believe that each person has a right to a life, which maintains their personal independence, safeguards their privacy, offers genuine and informed choices, and provides opportunity for them to enjoy and contribute to the community as fully as possible, and meet their social, spiritual, cultural and individual needs.

Head Office, 42-44 Market Street, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 5BT 0151 666 2220
Active Age Centre, Whetstone Lane, Birkenhead, CH41 2QS, 0151 647 3537
The Lauries Centre, Unit 2, 142 Claughton Road, Birkenhead, Wirral CH41 6EY, 0151 649 1760
Devonshire Resource Centre, 141 Park Road North, Birkenhead, Wirral, CH41 0DD, 0151 653 4404

Please visit the following website to find out more about Age Concern
www.ageconcernwirral.org

Gender Issues – profile of TransWirral is an education, advocacy, campaigning and support organisation for all transsexual/intersex people (including teens) who reside in the north west of England.

Transsexualism is a gender identity disorder in which there is strong and on-going cross-gender identification, i.e. a desire to live and be accepted as a member of the opposite sex. There is a persistent discomfort with his or her anatomical sex and a sense of inappropriateness in the gender role of that sex. There is a wish to have hormonal treatment and surgery to make one's body as congruent as possible with one's psychological sex.

TransWirral provides a supportive environment for transsexual/intersex individuals, helping them overcome their sense of isolation and providing educational and social opportunities.

Meetings are usually held on the first Saturday of each month between 1 – 3pm. Trans people are encouraged to bring along family members and friends who themselves may need help and advice.

email robyn@transwirral.zzn.com or penny@transwirral.zzn.com or visit www.transwirral.btik.com Helplines: 07833 385126 or 07961 828471

Race Issues – profile of Wirral Change Wirral Change provides support for members of the Black Racial Minority community who have multiple barriers to employment which are further compounded by issues relating to language, culture, unrecognised qualifications and a lack of recent or local work experience. Specialist guidance workers engage and support customers to access employment opportunities and support participants to overcome multiple barriers to employment.

For further information contact Clint Agard, Wirral Change on 0151 650 5428 or email clint.wirralchange@yahoo.co.uk

Wrexham Bidston Electrification

Residents will recall that an update was provided at the previous area forum meeting with regard to the progress of proposals to electrify the Wrexham to Bidston rail line and link it to the existing Mersey electrics network.

Network Rail were expected to have issued partners with the results of the GRIP3 (Guide to Rail Investment Projects) study, which was jointly funded by Merseytravel and the Welsh Assembly Government, at the end of March 2008. The GRIP3 study will provide a clear indication of the project costs.

The preparation of this report was delayed due to staffing resources at Network Rail, however these have now been resolved and a meeting is to be held late May/early June, with representatives from Merseyrail and Welsh Assembly Government, with Network Rail to finalise aspects of the study.

In parallel with the GRIP3 study, an update of the original Faber Maunsell demand study is being undertaken. Residential and employment patterns alongside the line have changed since the study was completed, which may result in additional passenger forecasts, and therefore it was felt this was the appropriate time to update the study. Future updates will be provided to the Forum as the project progresses.

Streetscene Call centre: 0151 606 2004

Wirral Council website: www.wirral.gov.uk

Merseyside Police:

www.merseyside.police.uk

Merseytravel:

www.merseytravel.gov.uk

Local Area Forum:
691-8026

www.engage@wirral.gov.uk or 0151-

Department for Transport:

www.dft.gov.uk

Press Release

Rail bosses vow £75k to look at linespeed-up Merseytravel bosses pledge a further £600k to investigate electrification of rail line on Wrexham-Wirral-Liverpool route
MERSEYTRAVEL bosses pledged to fully fund a further £75,000 investigation into the electrification of the Bidston to Wrexham rail line, a Welsh Assembly Minister revealed yesterday .

The second stage study would consider the infrastructure needed to upgrade the route to a fast borderlands rail link, halving journey times between the North Wales town, Wirral and Liverpool.

An initial feasibility study by Network Rail, which was jointly funded with the Welsh Assembly Government, is expected to report in the next few days.

Merseytravel chief executive Neil Scales yesterday met Welsh Assembly transport minister Ieuan Wyn Jones for talks over the progress on the project.

Wrexham AM Lesley Griffiths, who was at the meeting, said it was the first opportunity for the minister to meet Mr Scales and hear directly how committed Merseytravel are to this scheme going ahead.

She said last night: "The much-anticipated feasibility study by Network Rail is due to be handed over to the Welsh Assembly Government and Merseytravel in the next few days – and I along with everyone interested in this scheme look forward to its publication.

"This line has great potential for the region as a whole. The benefits would aid economic development and could provide a rail link from NE Wales to Liverpool's John Lennon Airport."

Electrifying the line could halve the journey times.

It currently takes a diesel train an hour to travel from North Wales to the Birkenhead station, at which point passengers have to change to a Merseyrail electric service heading into Liverpool. The operator has included the step in their 2011 transport plan.

If the project goes ahead, it would be funded jointly by the Welsh Assembly Government, the Department for Transport and Regional and Local Transport Authorities, including Merseytravel.

A Welsh Assembly Government spokesperson said: "The Assembly Government is waiting for a feasibility study of the project by Network Rail before it can undertake detailed consideration."

Richard Down, Reporter, Daily Post, richarddown@dailypost.co.uk

Section Three

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.

It's up to you!

Wirral has been named as a government pilot area for Participatory Budgeting.

Participatory budgeting (PB) engages with local people to take decisions on the spending priorities for a part of the local authority budget in their local area for activities such as local environmental issues, community facilities, road safety measures or local crime initiatives.

PB must be conducted on an inclusive basis and can help bring about a change in the relationship between communities, elected councillors and local authorities.

In order to move this work forward we took the advice of the Participatory Budget Unit in order for trials to take place.

After discussions with the unit we have earmarked 3 area forums:

- **Bidston and Claughton**
- **Oxton and Prenton**
- **West Wirral**

The pilot will provide us with a new and innovative way of allocating community initiatives fund in these three areas.

The most significant change will be in the replacement of panel decisions with all projects voting on who should be allocated funds.

Applications for funding will remain the same; however the consideration of bids will be determined by PB sessions. Applicants will be requested to attend the session in their area, and in a 2-3 minutes statement why they should be funded. Attendance is compulsory.

Each presentation will be scored out of ten by the other applicants and when scores are added together the top ranking projects will receive funding. Further details and information about the sessions will be sent out to the applicants who submit eligible bids.

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

Area Forum Funding Progress Report - Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie

(previously awarded monies - to 2006/2007)

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Saughall Massie Village Conservation Area Society	To contribute towards providing an interpretation panel with a plaque for the Saughall Massie Bridge.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £2,801.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund and £49.00 from the Local Agenda 21 Fund.	<p>The funding was used towards the purchase of an interpretation panel concerning Thomas Brassey, a bronze wall plaque for the bridge and a digital projector to enable us to engage a wider audience. The villagers took part in a clean up around the bridge area and the Arrowebrook, and we installed the interpretation panel / plaque.</p> <p>We held a grand unveiling ceremony on Saturday 28th April 2007. Over 300 people came to the opening, a number of articles appeared in the press hitting 100,000 people and there are now no less than 12 web pages devoted to the bridge and its connection with Thomas Brassey.</p>

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Breathe Easy	To cover the cost of insurance, hire of hall and replacement / update of exercise aids for project to promote the awareness of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and to run an exercise class for people affected by this.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £800.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. £636.20 will be released immediately but the remainder of the funding (£163.80) will be held until applicant supplies copy of insurance quotation or certificate.	<p>The funding was used to purchase a PA system, cover insurance, room hire and trainer costs to raise awareness and run exercise classes for people affected by Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.</p> <p>The attendance at the exercise classes ranges between 17-21 people and our membership has increased by about 17%.</p>
Leasowe Adventure Playground	To contribute towards refurbishment project.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 towards this.	The refurbished playground is now open and is being well used.
Moreton Community Centre	To purchase new crockery, cookery utensils and storage cupboards.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £615.00 (towards crockery / cookery utensils) from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The new crockery and utensils were bought in December 2007. This has much enhanced and improved the serving of 100 pensioner's lunches three days a week.
Mens Health Group	To replace equipment, increase membership and to cover the costs of running healthy eating sessions.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £600.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding was used to hire a chef and purchase ingredients for a 10 week healthy eating course.

Received From	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Eastway Tenants and Residents	To contribute towards refurbishment of the kitchen, to enable the centre to be re-opened and to run a luncheon club.	Panel agreed to consider this application despite it being received after the closing date, and agreed to award £1,200.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The funding was used towards cost of new kitchen floor and cupboards. The work is due to be completed by August, when we will be able to offer much needed services to the local community.
Fender Heights Tenants and Residents	To refurbish flat provided by the Council in which we organise activities.	Panel agreed to consider this application despite it being received after the closing date, and agreed to contribute £514.98 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The seating and tables have been replaced and we have a new computer which has enabled us to print and circulate notices etc., to tenants in the properties that we serve, faster as we no longer need to rely on outside agencies to print these for us.
Moreton Community Lights Association	To purchase, install, maintain and store Christmas lights for the Leasowe and Moreton shopping area.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £3,000.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund, on the understanding that the association do not apply to next years funding for the same project.	The Christmas 2006 lights covered all lampposts around the Moreton Cross roundabout and lamp post just off at each start of the four roads going off, more lighting went up Hoylake Road through the shopping area. The majority of residents gave a favourable response when asked what they thought of the Christmas lights.

Area Forum Funding Progress Report

Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie

previously awarded monies - 2007/08 onwards

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Learning and Well-Being Centre	To contribute towards running two 10 week courses that are particularly aimed at local women aged 50+ years.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £800.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund, on condition that the centre raise the additional funding required. If the additional funding is not raised then the funding will need to be returned.	<p>We were successful in attracting over 20 women aged 50+ onto the courses, which were attended regularly. There was a good mix of abilities and skills in the classroom, and one class in particular was an excellent example of special needs learners integrating and progressing as well as other learners.</p> <p>Individuals from the community were supported and provided with an opportunity to extend their personal and social skills. Several of the older women have become regular attendees at the centre on the strength of the new friendships forged by working together on the course.</p>
Yew Tree Tenants and Residents	To purchase kitchen equipment for the centre.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £650.00 towards this, specifically for equipment, from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The kitchen equipment has been purchased and the appliances are now in use by the community and users of the centre. People using the centre can now make food, snacks and hot drinks when needed, and the children of the after school club can now bake.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
West Wirral Boys Club	To redecorate and refurbish the club gymnasium.	Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to contribute £1,000.00 towards this from the Community Initiatives Fund.	The club has been refurbished and works included, installation of new shower cubicle and low level toilets, new drain and some new radiators. The walls of the club have been replastered and the walls and floors repainted. The refurbishment of the club was desperately needed and it is now brighter and cleaner, providing our members with better facilities.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Women and Children's Aid	To contribute towards the cost of running a youth club for our resident and ex-resident children aged 10-16, who have all witnessed / experienced domestic violence, to offer them respite from home and on going support.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="801 212 1532 312">1. New Brighton / Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 360 1532 576">2. Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch - Panel considered this to be a good project but did not support this, due to the number of excellent bids received in this round exceeding the funding available, and have agreed to support the smaller groups in the area. <li data-bbox="801 624 1532 799">3. East Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project due to the service and support offered to all women and their children across Wirral. Agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund. <li data-bbox="801 847 1532 1023">4. Bebington / Clatterbridge - Panel appreciates the work that the organisation does for Wirral, but did not fund this as wished to support the smaller groups within the area that have not previously received funding. <li data-bbox="801 1070 1532 1174">5. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £1,000.00 from the Community Safety Fund. <li data-bbox="801 1222 1532 1394">6. Bromborough / Eastham - Panel considered this to be a good project, but feel that this does not fit the criteria for funding (e.g. Christmas parties) and could not see how children from the forum area would benefit directly from this. 	The youth club continues to expand, and we provide ongoing weekly support and activities for our children who have all witnessed / experienced domestic abuse. The club gives the children time to be "children" and to realise that there are others in the same situation. The club provides respite for both mums and children. We try to take the children out at least once a month to experience some of the things that so many take for granted.

Organisation

Project Details

Decision

Progress Report

7. Leasowe, Moreton & Saughall Massie - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £300.00 from the Community Safety Fund.

Organisation	Project Details	Decision	Progress Report
Wirral Community Pipe Band	To purchase two bass drums and cases.	<p>1. New Brighton / Wallasey - Panel considered this to be a good project, and agreed to award £105.12 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>2. Greasby, Frankby, Irby, Upton & Woodchurch - Panel wished to congratulate the band on their application, particularly the even breakdown of numbers benefiting / amount requested from each forum. Panel considered that the purchasing of this musical equipment will benefit all who attend the group and agreed to award £175.20 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>3. Bebington / Clatterbridge - Panel considered this to be a good project that would benefit other areas of Wirral as well as the forum area, and agreed to award £35.04 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>4. Birkenhead & Tranmere / Rock Ferry - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £70.08 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>5. West Wirral - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £100.00 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>6. Oxton / Prenton - Panel considered this to be a worthwhile project and agreed to award £70.08 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p> <p>7. Leasowe, Moreton & Saughall Massie - Panel considered this to be a good project and agreed to award £350.40 from the Community Initiatives Fund.</p>	<p>The equipment has been purchased and has provided the band with the opportunity and tools to flourish and attract new members. Highlights of the year include one of the members playing at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo and then the Kremlin Zoria Tattoo in Russia. The whole band were worthy ambassadors for Wirral when they were asked to take part in the Liverpool 800th Birthday Parade.</p> <p>The band continues to perform for local charities and worthy causes. Local Wirral adults and children are being taught to play pipes and drums free of charge. Discipline, community friendship and fun are achieved by its members who go on to give pleasure to others with their new found skills.</p>