

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 8 DECEMBER 2004

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members are asked to agree the terms of reference and membership of the Youth Service Advisory Committee (YSAC)

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of Cabinet (selection Committee) 22 June 2004 the 8 council members were agreed and referred to the Education and Cultural Services Select Committee of 8 July who agreed:

“That the appointment, by the Cabinet of elected members to serve on the Youth Service Advisory Committee be noted and those members be requested to meet, in the first instance, to review YSACs terms of reference and to report back with recommendations”.

- 2.2 The Youth Service Advisory Committee has not met for some time but its terms of reference are:

“Subject to any regulations made by the Authority, to consider Youth Service matters affecting both the Authority and the voluntary youth organisations and to make recommendations thereon for consideration by the Education Committee”.

- 2.3 The membership was:

Eight Members of the Education Committee

Six representatives nominated by the Wirral Council for Voluntary Youth Services.

Two representatives – one full-time leader and one part-time leader nominated by the full-time and part-time leaders respectively of local education authority maintained youth clubs

The remaining places to be allocated initially to 5 young people over the age of 18 years, 1 from each area of the Youth Service, to be replaced at a later stage by members appointed by the Wirral Youth Forum and its agencies.

2 representatives of the trade union are from NALGO and one from CYWU, the Youth Workers Union.

- 2.4 The rationale for YSAC was to enable the Youth Service to promote the work of the Service. In addition Members were informed of the impact of local and national initiatives. A key outcome of YSAC was that members were fully briefed of the work of

the Service and young people as full members of the Committee were able to take part in the debate.

- 2.5 Nationally the Youth Service has a much higher profile. Government Policy for Youth Services has resulted in a number of performance indicators. The driver behind this policy development is to position Youth Services so that they can engage with the broad agenda for services for young people.
- 2.6 With the local participation agenda and the requirement for local authorities to respond to the forthcoming Youth Green Paper there is a need for a process to formally engage Members, representatives of the Voluntary and Community Sector and young people. The re-introduction of the Youth Service Advisory Committee will provide a vehicle to support this necessary dialogue.

3.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The statement of intent has a number of targets relating to young people.

3.2.7 – Ensuring that activities for young people are accessible and reflect their needs and aspirations.

4.1.2 – Increasing the number and quality of play areas.

5.2.2 – Actively working through the Youth Service and other agencies to engage young people, to listen to them and to provide positive forms of recreation and activity.

5.2.3 – Developing and implementing a strategy for disaffected young people in a partnership which includes various council departments.

5.2.5 – Supporting and encouraging play schemes, holiday activities and outreach programmes for young people.

9.3.4 – Improving services for young people.

- 3.2 Members may wish to consider how the existing terms of reference should be amended to take account of the Council identified priorities.

- 3.3 The membership of the committee should reflect the range of stakeholders involved in the provision of services to young people and could include the following:-

8 members of the Education and Cultural Services Select Committee (3:3:2)

4 young people (1 from each youth forum)

2 representatives nominated by Youth Exchange

1 representative nominated by Wirral Play Council.

Other members to be co-opted as required (e.g. Police, Connexions, Community Safety).

4.0 FINANCIAL, STAFFING, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, LA21, HUMAN RIGHTS PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are none arising from this report.

5.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 There are none.

6.0 LOCAL MEMBER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 All wards.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members are asked to agree the terms of reference and membership of the Youth Service Advisory Committee.

Howard Cooper
Director of Education and Cultural Services