

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2005

HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report presents to the Committee an overview of work undertaken by the Youth Service during the period April – July. The Committee is asked to note the report.

2.0 YSAC Wirral Outreach Team.

2.1 There have been a number of staff changes in the Wirral Outreach Team. At South Wirral Young People's Project, a new Neighbourhood Youth Worker took up post at the beginning of August. Temporary Principal Youth Workers have been appointed to Fender Youth Action Project and Noctorum Young People's Project following the previous (Principal Youth Workers)PYWs relinquishing their posts. Following the retirement of the PYW at the Hoylake Outreach Project and the resignation of the PYW at Heswall Outreach Project, the work undertaken by those projects is now under the auspices of Deeside Young People's project, on a temporary basis.

2.2 Wirral Outreach Team continues to work with young people on the streets throughout the borough delivering a varied curriculum. Lately, there has been a change in the movement patterns of young people and how they spend their leisure time. Young people do not necessarily attend a neighbourhood school and now have school friends who live throughout the borough, meeting up with them at mutually convenient locations. Overall, young people have become less territorial and group formation is prompted by new factors. The growing interest in skateboarding and in mini motorbikes brings together fellow enthusiasts to pursue their hobby. Wide spread ownership of mobile phones enables young people to communicate with a wide network of friends whom they travel to meet. Computers and electronic games have brought about a noticeable increase in time spent at home or at friend's homes. An awareness of these trends will inform the development of the work of the team.

2.3 The Wirral Outreach Team contributes to community safety initiatives. During the summer holidays, in addition to evening sessions, outreach teams have delivered a programme of afternoon activities in Central, Birkenhead, Victoria and Lingham Parks. The Birkenhead Youth Action Project is working with Tranmere Together partners to address issues of youths causing annoyance and to involve the young people in having a voice in the developments in the area. In July, a successful consultation event was held in Victoria Park. Birkenhead Youth Action Project is also working in partnership with other agencies following 7th July and the fire bombing of the Birkenhead mosque.

2.4 It is recognised that the youth worker style of delivery, for certain areas of the curriculum, can be effective within the school setting. Members of the team work in partnership with the school nurses in Wallasey School and Rock Ferry High School in a lunch time school clinic. Personal development work has also been undertaken at Weatherhead and citizenship work at Pensby. In the autumn term, work will begin at the Hospital School.

2.5 Fender Youth Action Project was amongst the first group of units in the Health Promoting Youth Units programme and a group of young women took up water aerobics to increase their fitness. They have continued with this activity after the completion of the programme. Noctorum Young People's Project has facilitated the use of Grange Road West Sports Centre by local young people wishing to play football.

3.0 Birkenhead and Bebington - Area C. April – August 2005

3.1 Impressive building improvements that have taken place at Charing Cross Neighbourhood Youth Centre. Due to the fund raising efforts of the Church and the Principal worker, the building has been made more secure and attractive for the young people. An additional grant has provided a comprehensive selection of art and craft materials.

3.2 The worker at Pensby Youth Club, Graham Ashdown, will retire at the end of September, the event being marked by a twenty year Club birthday party on the 1st October. Mr Ashdown has given dedicated service to young people for over 45 years as a volunteer and paid member of staff. Christine Marchant, Principal Worker at Viking Youth Club has recently graduated from the JMU Youth and Community course.

3.3 The Travel Safe Project in partnership with Mersey Travel continues into its second year. A team of workers move around the Wirral engaging with groups of young people to examine the dangers of inappropriate use public transport.

3.4 The Alcohol Outreach Team have worked with DAAT to promote the 'bottle it' campaign that was launched at the beginning of the school holidays.

3.5 Coping with vacancies caused by long-term sickness, resignations and retirements offer ongoing management challenges to the Service.

4.0 Wallasey and Deeside - Area B

4.1 Allandale: this club has been without a worker in charge for a number of months. However, as part of a programme to develop the unit a number of key developments have happened. The Allandale unit offers all young people attending the opportunity to take part in Youth Achievement Awards, a national accreditation scheme. At present four young people have signed up for this scheme. As a result of this young people have been developing the programme. This year the Allandale unit offered a summer programme, which included: Sand Sculpture Competition, Pool competition at local pool hall, cinema visit, fishing, windsurfing and summer challenge. As well as the above the Allandale unit has also signed up for Youth Promoting Health Settings, which is being done as a joint piece of work with the junior club. The unit is currently undergoing redecoration.

4.2 Leasowe Youth Club: The Leasowe unit has had a full and varied programme over the past 6 months. Young people attending the Leasowe unit have had the opportunity to be involved in a healthy eating project, including buying and cooking food as well as incorporating exercise, a project looking at the outcomes of criminal behaviour which included a mock prison cell in the unit, The dance group have

created and performed a number of dances most notably for the Big Thank You. In July the young people hosted a 'Big Thank You' as part of VE day celebrations, which included researching, and cooking 1094's food, sing-a-long of war time songs and a dance display. At present the young people are fund-raising to refurbish the youth house and the management committee have agreed to match fund them. The outreach work has particularly targeted a group of young people causing annoyance and has included a climbing course which has enabled 6 young people to be trained to use Awesome Walls in Liverpool. Project work at the youth house has also taken place.

- 4.3 The number of members attending provision operating from YMCA in Manor Road is steadily increasing and over the summer the young people have been involved in Rock Climbing and the joint pool comp with the Allendale. The young people also visited Sahir House in Liverpool, respite care for people living with HIV and AIDS. During September the staff will also be engaged in outreach work in Seacombe concentrating on the St Paul's Road area as a piece of joint work with the play council and Surestart. The aim of this work is to engage young people in the development of the new Surestart centre and the designing of the garden area, which they will access throughout the year.

5.0 Participation work

- 5.1 Over the past 6 months the lead youth worker for participation on Wirral has been involved the following:

Activities supporting the United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) Representatives. This work has included enabling members of the Youth Parliament (MYP's) to attend a regional conference in Hawkshead and a national conference in Leicester. As part of these conferences MYP's have to sign up to one of 7 constitutional issues. The Wirral MYP's have signed up to the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and are in the process of applying for places on a teen pregnancy conference in Brussels. As well as this they are meeting with Brook Advisory to look at the educational material available for young people in Wirral. This information will then be shared at a regional meeting in October with a view to producing some material for the region. The MYP's are currently organising a Democracy Dinner as part of a national initiative to consult on issues around voting. The Dinner will be hosted on September 28th for a group of ten young people. The MYP's are currently involved in planning this years UKYP election.

- 5.2 The Area Youth Forums have recently been involved in consultation on the Charter of Participation, there results have been fed back to the planning group. The forums are beginning to look at more local issues. Birkenhead forum are concerned with safety for young people and lighting in sports cages. West Wirral are concerned with lack of facilities in a local park. South Wirral would like to look at facilities for young people particularly the Youth Engagement Scheme and Wallasey are concerned with skateboard parks. Young people from the youth forums have recently completed training to be Youth Evaluators, which will enable them to assist in monitoring the youth service. We have now joined British Youth Council and this will enable us to access national training and opportunities.

- 5.3 Other initiatives: As well as the above participation work has also included:

- The development of a pack to skill up young people to be involved in club forums, management committees etc.
- Raise awareness of the rights and responsibilities of young people
- Provide resources to increase participation
- Plan the youth conference
- Plan the UKYP elections
- Involvement in a range of initiatives including: hear by rights strategy, Beacon Status bid, Children's Plan consultation and regional and a national participation networks.

6.0 Wirral Youth Theatre/ Youth Arts

6.1 The general programme of dance, drama, music, new media, peer education and technical theatre workshops has continued to attract over 200 regular attenders. The outcomes of this work were 'show-cased' at a two-day event at Pacific Road the end of July called '**Summer Heat**'. Audiences totalling over 300 were treated to a range of dance, film, live music and drama performances of scripted and original pieces.

Other highlights between April and July have included:

6.2 **The 'Perceptions' Community Theatre Tour in April** - involving ten performances of an original play about youth culture through the decades – aiming to bring generations together to share positive experiences. The play reached a total audience of 1500. This project was steered by a multi – agency group that included - Greater Merseyside Police, Age Concern, BBC Radio Merseyside and Liverpool Life Museums.

6.3 **Sound Steps' Music Programme** – WYT successfully secured £40,000 from the National Youth Music Foundation towards providing quality music activities for up to 200 young people. A coordinator has been appointed and new projects have been set up with young people who are 'looked after', leaving care and in schools including Kilgarth. As part of this work five young people aged 16-19 have been recruited to be trainee music workshop leaders. These young people along with ten others will undertake a **BTEC in Peer Education** run by WYT from September 05 – April 06.

6.4 **WYT Peer Education Project**, for young people aged 16-19, has undertaken several commissions including issue based performances at conferences and training events for professionals in health and education services.

Response

7.0 During April to July Response was busy in all areas. The HIV Outreach Team saw 528 young people, 228 attended Response, the Alcohol Team worked with 444 and the Substance Misuse Team worked with 43 young people.

8.0 Outdoor Education/Duke of Edinburgh's Award

8.1 As in previous years Youth and Community staff provided a 5 week programme of outdoor and adventurous activities covering the majority of the school summer holiday period. Activity sessions were offered to youth clubs, outreach projects play schemes and extended school projects and support was given to Borough wide

events such as Royden Park Play Day. A diverse range of activities and venues were delivered, including rock climbing, sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, rafting, campcraft and adventure courses. Uptake of the programme was very good with 95% of the programme being booked by Wirral young people. Several sessions were cancelled due to inclement weather however these were re arranged as soon as possible.

- 8.2 The summer period is traditionally the busiest time for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the Borough. This year total of 11 expeditions at all three levels were organised by youth units alone with in excess of 200 young people taking part. Venues this season included Snowdonia, the Clwydians, Derbyshire, The Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales. Involvement in the Award continues to increase significantly with several youth clubs voluntary organisations signing up as Award Operating Units and Access organisations. Our Open Award Centre is currently relocating to new premises in the Manor Trust, Wallasey where it is anticipated new links with the community will be made.

9.0 Other Developments

- 9.1 May through July there was a comprehensive of training for Youth Service staff. The programme covered needs assessment, Curriculum delivery and quality standards. Four units were unable to attend this training which will be offered in October.

9.2 Quality Standards

Wirral Youth Service, in partnership with the other five Merseyside Youth Services pooled some of the transforming Youth Work Development Fund to publish a standards document for Merseyside Youth Services.

- 9.3 The document covers strategic, operation and face to face delivery. The unit training has been used to introduce the standards. Monitoring visits take account of the standards and their application at local level. Unit Managers will undergo further training to ensure that the standards are being appropriately applied and are contributing to improving standards of delivery. There will be a full report on the impact of the standards presented to YSAC next March.

9.4 Youth and Community Service Review

Actions required in response to the Review recommendations have been limited due to the discussions taking place concerning Children's Services and the future of Culture. Some action has been taken in respect of the Administration recommendation. I hope to have a full update by the next week.

10.0 Financial and Staffing Implications

- 10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 11.1 The Youth Service promotes equal opportunities in it's delivery.

12.0 **Human Rights Implications**

12.1 The work on participation and engagement supports Human Rights for implementation.

13.0 **Community Safety Implications**

13.1 The Youth Service seeks to engage young people in positive activities and away from risk taking behaviour.

14.0 **Planning Implications**

14.1 There are none.

15.0 **Local Members Support Implications**

15.1 This report affects all wards.

16.0 **Background Papers**

16.1 There are none.

17.0 **Recommendation**

17.1 The Committee notes the report.

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