

## METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

### YOUTH SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 14<sup>th</sup> December 2006

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#### BEACON OPEN DAY

##### Executive Summary

- 1.0 This report is to update the Committee on the organisation and outcomes of the Beacon Open Day on 24 October 2006. The Committee is asked to note the report.

##### Background

- 2.0 With the Beacon status comes the responsibility for organising an 'Open Day' and other learning opportunities for colleagues and partners both within Wirral and in other local authorities. The day aims to be a two-way sharing of good practice.
- 2.1 In preparation for the day every Lead Member for Children's Services in England received an individual invitation to attend in person or send an officer in their place.
- 2.2 All eight Positive Youth Engagement Beacon Councils have to put on an Open Day, so attracting delegates can be a challenge; the majority tend to be from the immediate area. Wirral's Open Day welcomed a very pleasing total of 128 delegates registered on the day. These delegates represented the Authority's departments, partner organisations, elected members and organisations from across the country. In addition to delegates from Wirral, other areas represented were:
- Cumbria CC
  - Northwest Regional Youth Work Unit
  - South Tyneside
  - Oldham
  - York
  - East Riding of Yorkshire
  - Salford
  - Warwickshire
  - Sefton
  - Warrington
- 2.3 The day comprised a series of workshops and displays, with entertainment provided by pupils of Ridgeway High School and young people from Forum Housing. The workshops were:
- Charter of Participation (attended by all delegates)
- The following six themes, from which delegates chose two:
- My Ideal Social Worker/My Ideal Foster Carer

- Delivering the Citizenship Curriculum
- Preventing Homelessness among the Young
- Don't Give Up! – Maintaining contact with Young People
- Merseyside Fire and Rescue – Early Interventions
- Health Promoting Schools

## **Outcomes**

3.0 Feedback from the delegates, both during the day and afterwards - has been almost entirely positive. A sample few from the many delegates from outside Wirral are:

- 'Varied programme of workshops, entertainment and inputs. Good involvement by young people. Evidence of energy and commitment from all of those involved in planning and delivering the day. Excellent welcome and staff and young people were available throughout the day to help. Well done – an excellent day!'
- 'As a new lead Member for Children's Services, I learnt a lot and picked up some good ideas.'
- 'I already have some new ideas to take back to my services, to get them to think differently!'
- 'It's been a great day and I enjoyed it immensely. It was good to see people working together to ensure that participation happens.'
- 'One of the best conferences I have ever attended.'
- 'A very informative day in all aspects. I hope to have the opportunity of attending again in the future. Can we have more events like this?'
- East Riding of Yorkshire: 'Excellent day! Thank you!'

3.1 Overall, the day received excellent satisfaction scores. Of those delegates who gave evaluations (5 = excellent, 1 = poor), the day scored:  
Twelve - 5s; One- 4-5; Twelve - 4s; Two - 3s

3.2 Follow up to the day is a commitment to peer mentoring and learning sessions, either with groups or one-to-one. All out-of-area delegates have already been contacted asking them if they would like any follow-up support. These sessions have been planned to take place early in the New Year when there will be greater capacity within the service to meet the potential increase in workload. The range and scope of these learning activities will depend on the degree of uptake from delegates and others.

## **Financial & Staffing Implications**

4.0 This work is supported by the Beacon Co-ordinator Post which is temporary until the end of March 2007.

#### **Equal Opportunities Implication**

5.0 All the work around the participation agenda aims to increase the involvement by vulnerable and hard to reach young people.

#### **Human Rights Implication**

6.0 There are none arising from this report

#### **Community Safety Implication**

7.0 There are none arising from this report.

#### **Planning Implication**

8.0 There are none arising from this report.

#### **Local Member Support Implication**

9.0 This report affects all wards.

#### **Background Papers**

10.0 Charter of Participation

#### **Recommendation**

11.0 The Committee notes the report.

**Howard Cooper**  
**Director of Children's Services**