

Metropolitan Borough Of Wirral

Youth Service Advisory Committee 14 December 2006

Report of Youth Parliament & Youth Voice Conference

Executive Summary

1.0 This report provides the Committee with the statistics relating to the Youth Voice Conference and the Youth Parliament. The themes covered at both events are listed and the Committee is asked to note the report.

Background

2.0 The Youth Voice Conference and the Youth Parliament took place at Wallasey Town hall on 9 October 2006. This was the fourth Youth Voice Conference and the first Youth Parliament. The purpose of both events was to gather the views of Wirral's young people on issues that were important to them.

Youth Voice Conference

2.1 The number of schools involved in this event has increased with 26 out of 27 secondary schools having an input and 24 out of 27 actually attending the day. The 3 secondary schools that did not attend were Kilgarth, Foxfield and Wirral Hospital School – in all cases staffing issues prevented the schools sending participants. 117 young people in total attended the Youth Voice Conference.

Youth Parliament

2.2 The Youth Parliament was planned around two sessions. The first session was a round table discussion over tea. Young people and Councillors were assigned a table and asked to agree on the three key issues most important to the young people. If possible the Members and young people were asked to identify possible solutions. The second session took place in the Council Chamber. This session was used to allow Councillors Phil Davies, Tom Harney and Sheila Clarke to respond to the points raised and to say how they would be progressed within the Council. 68 young people attended the Youth Parliament, 6 Youth Service Units were represented and 19 out of 27 secondary schools attended

Issues Raised

2.3 Numerous issues were raised by the young people and these have been listed under themes see Annex B. The issues raised during all the discussions linked into Health, Leisure, Community Safety, Careers, Enjoy & Achieve and Making a Positive Contribution.. Attached as Annex A are the issues raised at each table during the round table discussion.

Feedback

2.4 Comments from the young people were very positive, in addition we have had positive feedback from elected members and other staff present at both events.

Next Steps

2.5 All points raised have been gathered into one document and listed under themes. Not all issues raised are the responsibility of the local authority however it is essential that those organisations concerned are given the opportunity to respond. The thematic list will go to the external organisations and they will be asked to advise the Authority of how they intend to respond. Those issues that are the responsibility of Wirral Council will be referred to Cabinet with proposals regarding how they will be progressed. One of the proposals will be to involve young people in identifying solutions.

2.6 All young people who participated will receive a joint letter from the Lead Members. This letter explains the next steps and the young people are invited to comment on the contents of the thematic list. In addition the issues will be discussed at the Youth Forums in January. The young people have also been advised that Members will hold a formal feed back session with the young people at a meeting to be arranged at Wallasey Town Hall week beginning 9th July 2007.

2.7 There is an intention to hold another young persons participation event in Local Democracy week in October 2007. Members are keen that young people are involved in planning for this. The planning process for this will start at the next round of Youth Forums and young people will be asked to form a planning group. To ensure as wide a reach as possible, partner organisations will be asked to identify young people who might like to be part of the planning group.

Financial and Staffing Implications

3.0 This work has been supported by the Beacon Co-ordinator and the Senior Youth engagement Worker. Both posts are temporary until the end of March 2007. In addition, staff from Connexions, Childrens Fund & On Track, Fire & Rescue Service, Police, the Advisory Teachers , Forum Housing and the Youth Service were involved in the organisation of the Youth Parliament.

3.1 Funding for the event was met by the Youth Service, and the Member Training budget. A budget would need to be identified for the next event.

Equal Opportunities Implications

4.0 There are none arising from this report.

Human Right Implications

5.0 There are none arising from this report.

Community safety Implications

6.0 Young people raised issues that are linked to the Community Safety Strategy, those issues will be referred to the appropriate department for their consideration and appropriate action.

Planning Implications

7.0 There are none arising from this report.

Local Member Support Implications

8.0 This report affects all Wards.

Background papers

9.0 Charter Of participation

Recommendations

10.0 The Committee is asked to note this report.

Howard Cooper

Director of Children's Services