

WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 8th OCTOBER 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Youth Parliament Update

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides that committee with a briefing on the Youth Parliament Update which was held on 9th July. The Committee are asked to note the report

1. Background

- 1.1 The Youth parliament update was held in July at Wallasey Town Hall. The purpose of the event was to allow young people to report back to other young people on the progress made in relation to the issues raised at the Youth parliament last October.
- 1.2 A number of young people had been involved in a number of "scrutiny" meetings with Officers and in some cases, Elected Members, from both the Council and partner organisations. At these meetings young people presented the issues and with Officers and members identified what had been done, what could be done and what could not be done. In some instances some of the issues needed clarification an example of this being in respect of frequency of the bin collection. In the meeting with Merseytravel, young people raised the age at which full fare is paid. The elected member clarified that this was an issue for Parliament to address as it was linked to legislation. An offer was made to help young people pursue this matter with parliament.
- 1.3 Following the meetings, the feedback was drafted as a report which would be presented verbally by the young people at the Update on 9th July. Following the reporting back, the young people present were asked to assess the progress made so far. Using red, amber or green post its, the young people judged the progress to date. Annex A shows the assessment by young people. The colours indicated the following:
 - Green : I like what you are doing, this is what I want
 - Amber : This is Ok but I would like
 - Red : This is not what I want
- 1.4 The participants at the Update were asked to identify those areas where they were not happy. Although written as statements these issues will be incorporated as action points for the next Youth Parliament to look into. Annex B attached contains list of issues.
- 1.5 The Youth parliament is one strand of the participation activities offered to young people on Wirral. In some instances we will be working with small groups of young people as in scrutiny groups to allow for the young people to fully participate. What is important is the link back to wider forums so that young people can be briefed on progress. Young people have a right to have an expectation of outcomes from their involvement but equally they are learning that things do not happen overnight. Overall the feedback from young people who have been involved in these activities have been positive.

2. Financial implications

- 2.1 Additional funding of £10,000 was identified in the last round of budget setting to support this work.

3. Staffing implications

- 3.1 This work is overseen by the Head of Youth and Play Service, Senior Youth Engagement Worker, Beacon Co-ordinator (P/T).

4. Equal opportunities implications

- 4.1 This work seeks to enhance equal opportunities through the involvement of priority groups.

5. Community safety implications

- 5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6. Local Agenda 21 implications

- 6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7. Planning implications

- 7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8. Anti-poverty implications

- 8.1 Some of the issues raised by the young people and youth homelessness attempt to tackle poverty

9. Social inclusion implications

- 9.1 The participation agenda for Wirral positively promotes social inclusion.

10. Local Member Support implications

- 10.1 This report affects all wards.

11. Background paper

- 11.1 YSAC Report march 2007 – Youth Parliament

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 The Committee notes the report

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services