

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WIRRAL

YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 8TH October 2007.

WALLASEY YOUNG PEOPLE'S PROJECT AND THE SEACOMBE LIBRARY PEER RESEARCH PROJECT.

Executive Summary.

1.0 This report gives details of the Seacombe Library Peer Research Project as the Wirral's contribution to the Fulfilling Their Potential Project. This is a national initiative in which libraries connect with a range of local partners to enable them to engage with young people who are then encouraged to influence changes and developments in their Library Service.

Background.

2.0 Previously, in the North End, youth workers had successfully worked with library staff to increase young people's participation in their local library and in Seacombe, it was decided to develop this model of practice and ask young people to consult with their peers about the Library Service. Following discussions with library staff, Wallasey Young People's Project used the Kontakta Bus to raise young people's awareness of the potential of Seacombe Library for them. As many of the young people attended Oldershaw School, the BEST team joined the partnership group and the young people were able to work on the project during the school day.

2.1 Support was given to the researchers and the peers they consulted. Building on the positive participation agenda, the project focused on the process of consultation, which also involved the critical analyse of the information gathered using the Participative Appraisal (PA) research tool/technique. Using P.A., the young people examined what ideas, suggestions and requests were practical, achievable and what their impact would be.

The Seacombe Library Peer research Project.

3.0 In January 2007, the young people had their first meeting. They learnt what the project was about, what the aims and benefits were and they set ground rules. The group visited Seacombe Library and went to the Powerhouse Library in Moss Side Manchester on a fact-finding exercise.

3.1 The young people learned how use the Participative Appraisal technique and in addition, developed a more traditional type of questionnaire. After carrying out the research to find out what ideas young people had to improve the library, the young people collated the findings so that they could be analysed and then presented.

3.2 Young people were involved in drawing up ground rules for young people using the library. To develop Seacombe Library as a place where young people were welcome, the Wallasey Area Youth Forum was held there.

3.3 Members of the Library Peer Research Group produced a display to present their findings at the North West Area Celebration Event at Preston Town Hall. The young people were proud to represent Seacombe and Wirral in a national context.

3.4 The peer researchers recorded their work, their learning and their personal achievements for which they gained their Bronze Youth Achievement Award.

3.5 As a result of this project, there has been an increase in the use of the library by young people. The profile of the library as a major resource has been raised. On an intergenerational basis, a better understanding between the young people and the library staff has developed.

3.6 As well as the positive outcomes for the young people and for the library, Seacombe Library Peer Research Project has served to increase interagency collaboration and cooperation in enabling young people to make a positive contribution to their community.

Financial and staffing Implications.

4.0 There are none arising directly from this report.

Equal Opportunity Implications.

5.0 There are none arising directly from this report.

Human Rights Implications.

6.0 There are none arising directly from this report.

Community Safety Implications.

7.0 There are none arising directly from this report.

Planning Implications.

8.0 There are none arising directly from this report.

Local Member Support.

9.0 This report covers Seacombe ward.

Recommendations.

10.0 Members are asked to note the report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services