

## **ANNEXE A**

### **Youth Parliament 2007 – Discussion Group Key Points**

#### **PARTICIPATION**

(This is not just about young people taking part, but what they are putting back in).

- Recycling in school
- Walking to activities
- Attend young people committee meetings
- Put posters up in school to encourage recycling
- School Councils pay for damage out of their budget
- Advertising what is going on in the local area
- Advertising Youth Forum & publishing what is discussed
- Councillor suggested having youth reps involved with meetings, etc.
- Kontaktabus allows further participation & enables young people to meet others
- Cafes/cyber cafes & Juice bars are missing in the area
- Councillors are hoping to stimulate young people into wanting to be involved asking questions
- 2 of group prepared to go to Hoylake Police Station
- Youth clubs
- Youth Forums
- Questionnaires within schools – student councils
- Part of group saw the need to work towards what they want
- Youth workers needed to help support young people outside Local residents
- Adults underestimate young people
- Value young people's opinions
- Fun needs to be incorporated more
- Should/would young people get the vote at 16
- Idea about 'youth deal' 'quid pro quo'
- Need for young people to be involved in Youth Parliaments, decision making
- That what we say counts
- Help in progression to voting as adults
- Young people to shadow a councillor and understand their role (offer to be made)
- Understand resourcing/funding etc
- Better understanding about decision making
- What age are you an adult 16 or 18? discrepancies on changing the law
- Cinema, clubs and schools
- Mixed and difference of opinion about how safe people feel out at night
- Young people need a good place to be, which is safe and they are treated as individuals
- Youth Voice and Parliament – hot seating, get answers back from actual people

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- Encourage other young people to attend Youth Voice Conference and Parliament next year
- Councillor come to schools in smaller informal groups
- Feedback from young people to local councillors about how they are getting on, maybe by emails
- More activities
- Curfew on fields
- Police Youth Forum
- CH44 Youth Challenge nights
- Discriminated against because we are young
- 6<sup>th</sup> Form College raising numbers of volunteers
- Need cross section of young people at Youth Voice Conference and Parliament
- Peer mentoring
- Buddy system
- EMA very good for 16+
- Youth Clubs – can sometimes be intimidating
- After school/lunch opportunities need to be broader – attract different people
- Resources for 16 – 18 short
- Long term projects – personal development courses
- Youth image is poor
- It is important to get all young people's views
- Promote stuff as “come along if you have ideas”
- A Wirral wide youth club that moves around to meet other young people would be good

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### ACCESS

(what opportunities/activities/services are currently available, what else young people would like)

- Sports, Health
- Recycling bins needed in all classrooms
- More activities needed
- Wirral Council website needs to be more user friendly, more accessible and simpler and the design of it to be done by young people using pictures
- School planners can be used for information
- Low income families and all young people should get evening and weekend bus passes - older people get them
- 15 & 18 years is the hardest age to be. Part time jobs hard to get when you are 15 years
- School trips needing to be paid for – can be expensive especially if there are a few in the family
- Age is a problem when you reach 15-16 as prices for stuff goes up yet you are still at school - ie cinema, transport
- Some schools are promoting participation
- Youth Forums and learning about what the council does
- Young people being part of the Governors panel at school (pupil-governor)
- Youth Service letting young people know what is available in the area
- Kontaktabus is a good idea & allow young people to access youth workers/professionals
- To have meetings (Forums) in different venues throughout areas (Wards)
- No place to go to socialise at night warm and safe
- Girls activities
- Transport – more bus services and more routes
- Swimming time
- Parks, not on street corners, where young people could be taken off the streets and feel safe not far from home. Some parks are not felt to be safe eg Central park.
- Some youth clubs have too many young people - need to be bigger with more activities.
- More out of school hours access to building and resources
- Inter school co-operation
- Age / gender should not be a barrier
- Classed as adults in worrying ways (e.g. transport)
- Healthy food in schools/choice - some young people can access healthy and tasty foods, others cannot
- Gyms - being able to exercise in school
- Counselling support
- More things to do and places to go for young people
- Transport at night to get to activities
- More interesting activities in youth clubs and out of school clubs
- Activities are too expensive

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- Public transport to be cheaper
- School Council
- Youth Parliament
- Age issues, not believing age
- Bus drivers do not like people using passes
- Buses go past you during busy times
- Train fares have gone up per stop
- Bikes too much hassle and can be stolen
- Pass (Bus/Train) too much to pay a one off fee
- Families cannot afford passes if large families
- Help out (volunteer) rugby club, D of E
- Not enough youth clubs for young people
- Youth clubs do work – need more equipment and young people need to be listened to about what they want
- Facilities
- Not safe on buses/train stations - need more staff to monitor buses/trains
- Too expensive for Cinema/Bowling
- No youth clubs aimed at 16+
- Gym with youth worker
- No group for carers group – lack of funding
- Break for young carers from their home pressure
- No access for leisure facilities and recording studios for 16+
- Not enough provision
- Young people have opportunity to attend conference
- Have more meetings in accessible places for young people
- Some areas are not safe for young people
- Cost of transport particularly post 16 is prohibitive for accessing activities
- Extended schools are an opportunity for access but could be improved
- PFI schools restrict use out of school hours
- Drama, Arts etc could be accessed more using school
- A sheltered area for young people

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### **INFORMATION**

(how young people are currently informed about opportunities, activities, services available to them and how would they like to be informed - when, where and how)

- Internet – Google
- Local paper/press
- Word of mouth
- Did not know Wirral site existed
- Information not getting into the Independent schools
- Information could be accessed through eg. Facebook, My Space
- Review sites that can be accessed ie Google images
- Talk to 'FRANK'
- A newsletter contributed to by young people
- Through young people doing school assemblies
- Advertising what is happening in the area
- Advertising when area forums are on - through schools.
- Information provided about when young people can 'tap into' area forum
- How young people can get involved in the Youth Parliament
- Youth service provides information on what is available
- Area forums are advertised in local press
- Websites to allow young people to e-mail councillors
- Look at sending information to schools for notice boards & to Head of Citizenship
- Dedicated space on the Councils website for young people that is user friendly
- Schools internet
- Monthly local teams magazine for information
- Leaflets in public & school libraries
- Lack of communication is a mayor issue
- Worldwideweb access not total
- Schools, information sign-post
- What has happened from last year?
- Information is not always disseminated or publicised enough
- More people allowed to come to an event like today, or be involved in process
- Publicity about facilities young people can access (promote in schools)
- Section 30: moves people on from place to place
- How system information is communicated
- Not listened to by education, social services, this led to lack of trust/disappointment
- People are not listening because people are not talking
- Youth Parliament
- School Council
- Naughty young people are not listened to in school
- Getting information – Brook, Connexions, through internet, schools, leaflets, Wirral council website, email councillors

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- Youth shelters
- Football cages
- Skate Park
- Notice Board
- Ice Rink
- Dance/Drama group
- No information on external services – website, letters, leaflets, bus shelters
- Schemes on awards, not known to any young people
- Gaining relevant information – generally a problem
- Text messaging
- Pamphlets
- MSN
- Paper – bright advertising
- To the young person letters
- Special school notice boards – should concentrate on extra curricula activities
- Young advisors role is to give information but young people themselves find it difficult
- Not all areas have young advisors – some young people do not go to library
- Youth Forum meetings give opportunities for information
- Young people want to take control of what is discussed in PHSE lessons
- Needs to be a different approach – make lessons more interesting not just drugs, alcohol, sex education, healthy eating
- Young advisors bring a different approach
- Will do survey
- Should be more money available for groups
- Young people have worked closely together
- Not enough positive recognition for young people, young people being ignored for the work that they do
- Brings links between generations when young people do up gardens etc
- Young people get a lot of information from youth clubs
- Posters to advertise Youth Forums should be designed by young people
- Problems with feedback from council - lip service
- Young people's opinions need to be heard – need to be followed up and delivered on
- Good practice needs to be spread around young advisors for example, schemes to bring people together
- Use current young people to add events to their My Space as a link
- Connexions in year 11, is good for looking at quality you have
- Following up with letters and information is good
- This is not consistent for all Connexions offices
- Advice from school and Connexions is mainly around careers
- Healthy schools has increased health information

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- PSHE also covers health issues
- College have nurses and counsellors on site for set lunch times

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### RESPECT

(how young people are perceived/viewed by others, how they would like to be perceived / viewed, how we can ensure that these perceptions/views are accurate)

- Most adults ignore young people or look down on them
- Young people are judged/stereotyped
- Own section for focus and good news stories weekly in local press sponsored by local Councillors
- Viewed as positive young people
- Labels are attached to 'Youths'
- Assumptions are made as to what young people want and how they will treat centres/new premises
- Should be spoken to politely eg by police
- Generation gap - need intergenerational projects, mixed social activities
- Police are judgemental and rude when telling young people about Section 30's
- Mutual respect needs to be promoted throughout
- Police need to respond
- Displacement issues
- Intergenerational work
- Young people are not viewed as adults at the age of 16, as with previous generations
- Young people stay on in education until 19 (activities/transport etc should not be charged as adults until 19)
- Attitude of Police to young people, double standards, police do not give respect to young people. Other young people have more positive experiences
- Is respect dependant upon areas?
- Young people hang out in parks because there is nothing else to do/nowhere to go, not everything is about drinking and drugs. Some young people just want to be with their mates
- The Respect Bus
- Young people should be supervised but still have their freedom (eg using outreach youth workers/mentors)
- Do not stereotype young people
- Heavy handed tactics by police can be intimidating
- Need for 2 way discussions/workshops with police and young people to improve relations and create better understanding between both sides
- Discussion about adults or young people's perceptions of adults and their attitudes
- Divisions in youth culture and friction between different groups (eg chavs, moshers, etc)
- Adults want to keep us safe, but can stereotype/stigmatise
- Without respect neither other three can be had/others agreed
- What is meant by respect?
- Listen to peoples views



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- Take on people's views
- Do something for someone and not get anything back
- Thank people
- Parents influence behaviour
- Young people stereotyped because some have behaved badly
- Educate older people about young people, help change their views
- Some people feel intimidated by other young people because they are in large groups drinking alcohol
- Some young people steal from other young people and others are punished for this
- Adults/Young people should respect each other
- Young people are criminalised
- Police rude to young people
- Adults and young people to merge together
- Teachers do not communicate, they just teach
- Young people are treated better in 6<sup>th</sup> form
- Adults do not know how to communicate with young people
- Young people in fear of other young people, they feel its getting worse in Wirral, young people do not feel safe
- Community work brings people of all generations together - painting fences etc
- If talking to someone about issues prefer to talk to an adult I know, who is appropriate
- Teachers would be key person to talk to
- It would be an issue for those excluded from society
- Adults like school nurse are good but title is a block – need to be more casual
- Youth Forums are a good idea