

WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 7 January 2007

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

YOUTH PARLIAMENT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report provides the Committee with a briefing on the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament held on the 16th October 2007. The Committee is to recommend that the action plan addressing the issues raised at the Youth parliament and Youth parliament Feedback(July 2007) is presented to the next YAPSAC.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Youth Voice Conference and Youth parliament took place on Tuesday 16th October 2007. This was the fifth Youth Voice Conference and the second Youth Parliament. The purpose of both events was to gather the views of Wirral's young people on issues that were important to them.
- 1.2 A total of 25 secondary schools took part in the Youth Conference (the two not represented were Foxfield School due to the severity of the young people's disabilities and Wirral Hospital School due to staff sickness). 123 young people attended the conference, with an increased number of teachers/school support staff attending for the whole day. The day consisted of two main sessions: workshops and hotseating. Feedback from the young people via evaluation forms was very positive.
- 1.3 Seventy five young people attended the Youth Parliament from schools, Youth Service Units and external organisations. The evening began with informal round table discussions over tea for young people and elected members. Attendees were then split into 12 groups to discuss the Youth Offer. This then led to an open debate in Council Chamber, where the four areas underpinning the Youth Offer were put in order of priority and young people had the opportunity to raise general issues (see Annexe A for issues raised).
- 1.4 Evaluation comments from young people were very positive, with the most frequently voiced being that the young people felt they had been truly listened to by adults. Elected members and other staff present have also given positive feedback.
- 1.5 There are a number of actions to be undertaken in response to the discussions and the debate held in the Council Chamber these are:
 - Organising the Youth Offer around the four priorities accepted at the Youth Parliament and working with them in order of agreed priority: Respect, Information, Participation and Access
 - Exploring the possibility of young people being co-opted onto each area forum is explored and identifying the necessary support structures to support this.
 - Organising a joint meeting between the Youth Parliament and Older People's Parliament
 - A meeting between young people and area Police Inspectors.
 - To include in the action plan the issues raised last year but judged by the young people as not being addressed satisfactorily.
 - Establish and executive Youth Board to provide a strategic mechanism for young people's participation in the decision making process on Wirral. This is in line with the actions identified as part of our Peer Support project which has been funded by Cabinet Office and was reported to a previous YAPSAC.

2. Financial implications

- 2.1 Additional funding of £10,000 was identified in the last round of budget setting to support this work.
- 2.2 Money made available from Department of Children Schools and Families for consulting young people on the Youth Offer was used as part funding.

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).
- 3.2 Additional staff from Extended Schools, Connexions, Children's Fund and On Track and Youth Service were involved in organising and staffing these events.

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 Young people raised issues relating to Community Safety which will be forwarded to the appropriate section.

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 There are none arising from this report.

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 papers

- 11.1 Youth Parliament Update Report YAPSAC October 2007
- 11.2 Peer Support Bid (March 2007)

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 The Action Plan addressing the issues raised at the Youth Parliament and the Youth parliament Feedback (July 2007) is presented to the next YAPSAC.
- 12.2. The Committee is asked to note the report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services