

ANNEX A

Briefing Re Executive Youth Board and Youth Opportunity/Youth Capital Fund Grant Panel

Wirral's Executive Youth Board

Background

When it adopted the Charter of Participation, Wirral made a commitment to form an Executive Youth Board (EYB). This briefing paper seeks to provide more information about the EYB in relation to the roles and responsibilities and also how young people can become involved in the Board.

Role and Function of Executive Youth Board

The intention is for the EYB to act as Wirral's overarching young people's group for consulting and engaging young people in strategic decision making. As the Board develops young people will shadow elected members who make up Wirral's Cabinet and ultimately become a Shadow Cabinet. Young people who become members of the EYB will be responsible for ensuring that they brief and consult children and young people on any proposed initiatives and policy development that may affect children and young people.

Possible Work to be undertaken by the EYB:

- Shadow Cabinet Members and advise on matters affecting young people
- Shadow Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and advise on matters affecting young people
- Work with the Council Officers to develop the Youth Offer
- Advise on the ongoing development of youth participation activities
- Agree a work plan for activities to be undertaken

However, what is equally important is that young people will be able to advise the Council and partners on the issues affecting the children and young people of Wirral. It is important that the members of the EYB are aware of their full responsibilities and that they will be accountable to the children and young people of Wirral.

Membership

Initially, membership of the Board will be open to young people aged 13-19, however during 2008-09 work will be undertaken to identify mechanisms whereby children and young people can become involved. The Board is to be as representative as possible and therefore, members will come from different settings. Using school councils and youth forums, EYB members will be able to keep young people briefed on any developments. A key requirement will be to

ensure that priority groups of young people are able to influence the work of the Board; consequently, there will be direct representation for young people with Learning Difficulties and Learning Disabilities (LDD), young people who are Looked After and young people from the Black Minority Ethnic Community.

The proposed make up of the board is as follows:

- Four young people from each forum area. (The intention is that this will be representatives from the youth forum and school councils and during 2008/09 discussions will take place with schools to agree how this can be organised)
- Two young people who are Looked After
- Two young people with LDD
- Two young people BME
- Two young carers

Timescale for selection:

Originally the intention was to establish the EYB by January 2008. The original timetable has, for operational reasons, been revised. In addition, this revision will impact on the busy timetable of schools and their capacity to be able to fully engage in this process at this period of exams and other pressures. In recognition of these demands and to secure the support of as many schools as possible, it is now proposed that an interim EYB is established and this group advises on the structures for the selection of the next EYB. The revised timetable will enable the interim EYB to be established by August 2008.

At the United Kingdom Youth Parliament elections in February, young people were consulted on the selection process for the EYB. A number of options were proposed but a key message was that young people did not want this to be a popularity contest. This is an area that has to be explored further and the proposed interim EYB would allow this discussion to take place. As a way forward for this year only, it is proposed that the following process is used to recruit young people to the EYB. Young people who apply will be interviewed by young people who have been involved in participation activities including the YOF/YCF Grant Panel, Peer Education, Connect-uz, Youth Advisors and UKYP.

Youth Opportunity/Youth Capital Fund (YOF/YCF) Grant Panel

The YOF/YCF is a pot of money from Central Government, which has been given to Wirral young people aged 13-19 to bid into for places to go and things to do. This funding is now in it's third year and Wirral has spent over £740,000 since 2006, with in excess of £490,000 available in 2008/2009.

The Grant Panel is a group of young people aged 13 to 19 who look at the application forms and make decisions as to where this money is spent across

the borough. It is an exciting opportunity, but will mean that the panel member will attend training and meetings on a regular basis over the next twelve months.

As a decision maker, the young people will be required to attend their local Area Youth Forum meetings 3 times a year to report back to other young people about the work of the Grant Panel. These will be taking place in May/June 2008, September/October 2008 and January/February 2009.

Being a member of the Grant Panel, the young person will be committing to a lot of meetings and giving up much of their time. In return for this, we will be able to offer the young person accreditation for their work (e.g. Duke of Edinburgh's Award Service, Youth Achievement Award) and some fun along the way!

Recruitment and Selection Process for EYB and YOF/YCF Grant Panel
Beginning 15 April 08 Wirral Youth and Play Service will inform young people of the opportunity to take become a member of the EYB or YOF/YCF Grant panel through:

- Direct contact using database from UKYP elections and Youth Parliament
- Promotion at School Assemblies
- Promotion through partner organisations
- Website information
- Advertise through local press

What the young person has to do:

- Register their interest by submission of a letter (to include young persons experience of volunteering, why they want to be a member of the EYB or YOF/YCF Grant Panel, how they would contribute and what they would like to see as a result of their involvement).
- Deadline for submission 19 May 2008
- Attend for interview by panel of young people. Interview dates Saturday 7 June 2008

Successful applicants will be expected to attend training on 14 June and 5 July. Additional dates may be necessary. (Expenses for attendance at training will be paid).

Both EYB and the YOF/YCF Grant Panel are opportunities for young people to really make a difference and be involved in strategic local decision making. There is a high level of support for this work in the Council and I am keen that this opportunity is made available to as many young people as possible. I am asking that you promote this opportunity as widely as possible and the Youth and Play Service can offer briefings. In line with the drive to include young people from target groups, there will be places for direct access for young people from umbrella organisations working with young people from the priority groups.

To help young people find out more information about the EYB and YOF/YCF Grant panel Schools and Area Youth Forums will be offered a briefing from a member of staff from Wirral Youth & Play Service. These briefings are available during the day and at night and have to be booked through Sue McNally (contact details below). Dates for briefings are from 28 April 2008 to 9 May 2008.

Please note that in order to open this opportunity up to as many people as possible, young people will only be able to sit on one group either EYB or YOF/YCF Grant panel.

What we need from you!

Information to be displayed and young people informed of this opportunity. If a briefing session is required, please contact Sue McNally at Solar Campus and book the slot!

Advise Maureen McDaid or Debbie McCabe (contact details are below) if you have any queries or would like more information.

Thank you

Maureen McDaid

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