

## **WIRRAL COUNCIL**

### **CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT**

#### **YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 23 JULY 2008**

#### **REPORT OF HOWARD COOPER DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

#### **Wirral Executive Youth Board**

#### **Executive Summary**

This report informs the Committee of progress made in recruiting and training Wirral Executive Youth Board. The Committee is asked to consider nominees to act as a reference group between the Executive Youth Board and the wider group of Councillors.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1. In line with the actions agreed as part of Wirral's contribution to the Peer Support Project, the Executive Youth Board (EYB) was established following interviews held in June. There are 21 young people on the EYB.
- 1.2 In February this year the Head of the Youth & Play Service was requested by the Members Training Group to co-ordinate training that would support member engagement with young people. The agreed training programme proposed joint sessions with elected members and the EYB. The aim of the proposal was to provide elected members with the opportunity to have more in-depth discussion with young people and also at the same time enable the members to discuss with young people issues relating to representation and decision making.
213. The programme which was delivered over two Saturdays provided an opportunity for the EYB and elected members to explore conflicts and challenges to be addressed when representing the views of others. The training also clarified next steps in terms of meeting frequency, venue, support from the Youth and Play Service and the Elected Members.
- 1.4. It was agreed that initially meetings would be held on a monthly basis with the first one taking place on 5 August at Wallasey Town Hall, with a suggestion that the venues are rotated. The Youth & Play Service will provide the appropriate papers and staff to support the meetings. The position of Chair would be rotated to enable more young people to have this opportunity. There are 21 EYB members and at some stage they, will in sub groups, have the lead responsibility for following up issues raised at the Youth Parliament.

1.5. The support of Elected Members is key to the success of the EYB and a proposal was made that a group of three members, one from each political group, could act as a reference group between the EYB and wider group of Councillors. In addition a meeting between the EYB and the Cabinet was suggested by one of the councillors present, and if possible, this could be arranged in early autumn.

1.6. There is still much to be done in regard to establishing a programme of work for the EYB and clarifying how the EYB will interface with the decision making process. The next few meetings will focus on agreeing work plans for the EYB and also the topic for the debate for the next Youth Parliament in October 2008.

2.0. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

2.1. There are none arising from this report.

3.0. **Equal Opportunities Implications**

3.1. The EYB has representation from young people from the four district areas and also direct representation from young people from identified vulnerable groups.

4.0. **Human Rights Implications**

4.1. There are none arising from this report.

5.0. **Community safety Implications**

5.1. There are none arising from this report.

7.0. **Planning Implications**

6.1. There are none arising from this report.

7.0. **Local Member Support Implications**

7.1. There are none arising from this report.

8.0. **Recommendations**

8.1. The Committee is asked to consider nominees to act as a reference group between the Executive Youth Board and the wider group of Councillors.

Howard Cooper  
Director of Children's Services