



Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 27 October 2009
Time:	5.30 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 3 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. **APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 7 MAY 2009 (Pages 1 - 8)**
To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2009
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT (Pages 9 - 18)**
5. **RECONFIGURATION OF YOUTH SERVICE/DISTRICT YOUTH OFFER - PRESENTATION BY ACTING HEAD OF SERVICE**
6. **SUMMER PLAY SCHEMES REPORT (Pages 19 - 28)**
7. **'TEEN WIRRAL' - POSITIVE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WEBSITE. PRESENTATION BY SUE AUBUSSON**
8. **EXECUTIVE YOUTH BOARD UPDATE**
9. **BIG LOTTERY PLAY PROGRAMMES REPORT (Pages 29 - 38)**
10. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agenda Item 2

**Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee
Thursday 7th May 2009
Room 1, Town Hall, Wallasey**

Present

Chair	Cllr. T. Harney
Councillors	Cllr. K. Hayes Cllr. T. Anderson Cllr. S. Clarke, MBE. Cllr. C. Meaden
Council Officers	Peter Edmondson, (Head of Branch, Participation & Inclusion) Lindsay Davidson, (Acting Head of Youth & Play Service) Terry Hall (Deputy Head, Field Support) Steve Chan (Deputy Head, Play). John Davies (Acting Deputy Head, Youth)
Voluntary & Independent Sector	Peter Brandrick (Forum Housing)
Executive Youth Board	Stephen Pollard Juhi Gupta Ellis Palmer Sea Rainey Charlotte Flanders
Also present for the Virtual Babies Report and Presentation	Lisa Joy (Worker in Charge, Fender Youth Club) Sam Pitts (Senior Member, Fender Youth Club) Gemma Lewis (Member, Fender Youth Club) Jess Cain (Member, Fender Youth Club)

Apologies

Cllr. W. Smith
Cllr. S. Quinn
Maureen McDaid (Principal Manager, Commissioning)

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- Minute 61 - Date of Next Meeting
- Minute 62 - Return of Chair.

Minute 52 - Hand over of Chair

As previously agreed, Cllr Harney reminded the Committee that alternate meetings would be chaired by the members of the Executive Youth Board.

Cllr. Clarke proposed and Cllr. Meaden seconded the proposal that two members of the Executive Youth Board co-chair the meeting.

Resolved:

That Stephen Pollard and Juhi Gupta co-chair the meeting.

Minute 53 - Welcome and Apologies

The chair welcomed everyone and took apologies for absence.

Minute 54 - Minutes of the last Meeting held on 12th February 2009

The minutes were checked for accuracy, and no corrections were needed:

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12th February 2009, be accepted as a true record.

Minute 55 - Matters Arising

Re: Minute 48:

The meeting between the Party Spokespersons, the Executive Youth Board (EYB) and the Mayor Elect to examine the relationship between the Youth Parliament and the Council had not yet taken place. A date was still to be determined.

Re: Minute 49:

Cllr Anderson enquired about developments at Woodchurch. Steve Chan reported that the Play facility was open on Thursdays and there was funding for a Summer Activities programme.

Resolved:

That the Committee be kept informed.

Minute 56 - Head of Service's Report

Lindsay Davidson presented the report of the service's recent activities, and drew the Committee's attention to the following:

- a) Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) funding had been secured until the end of March 2010, allowing Ria Modena and Adam Mellor to

continue in post. The funding focuses on increasing opportunities and activities for young people on Friday and Saturday nights.

- b) Jeni Cockayne, Team Leader of Counselling Services, had retired after the best part of 30 years service. Her expertise will be missed, and a successor is expected to be appointed.
- c) Charing Cross Youth Club had been attracting up to 70 young people with special needs, and had been successful in several applications for additional funding.
- d) Eastham Youth Centre's Gardening Project had led to young people gaining Youth Achievement Awards.
- e) Birkenhead Youth Action Project had widened their activities through YCAP funding on Friday and Saturday nights, and in the Woodlands area, young people were involved in developing youth provision at Grange Baptist Church.
- f) Young People at Fender Youth Action Project had successfully achieved Appointed Persons First Aid Certificates.
- g) South Wirral Young People's Project had delivered an Easter Positive Activities Programme at Bebington High School.
- h) Leasowe Youth Club, with "Response" and Wirral Youth Theatre were creating a DVD on Homelessness, which will be used as part of a prevention programme across Wirral Schools.
- i) West Kirby Youth Centre's MC Forum had proved effective in introducing new members, many of whom had travelled in from as far as Rock Ferry and Seacombe.
- j) Wirral Youth Theatre, who were present to video record the evening's meeting, had been commissioned to perform their work "Swings and Roundabouts", which examines the risks and consequences of alcohol, at Halton Stadium. Their "My Ideal Teacher" DVD had now been launched and distributed to schools as a training pack for teachers. A successful application for £15,000 to the Youth Opportunity Fund (YOF) had enabled a break dance project to develop across the Borough.
- k) Wirral Youth Theatre had also been selected as one of England's five projects to run "Voltage", a "V" music volunteering programme for young people, aged 16-25.
- l) "Response's" Alcohol drop-in service has come on stream this year for young people, with or without their parents/carers, to informally discuss the risks, consequences and impact of alcohol misuse, and the Outreach Team is re-starting Saturday night street work. The Housing Support Team's "Stop Gap" project has been acclaimed by the Job Centre as "life changing".
- m) A group of Looked After Children successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh's (DofE) Bronze Award Expedition, thanks to a successful application to the YOF. Over 150 Awards were presented by the Deputy Mayor at the Town Hall, Wallasey.

- n) This year's International Exchange with Hong Kong is on schedule with the visitors being in Wirral from 12th-25th July 2009 and the Wirral young people visiting Hong Kong from 6th-21st September 2009.
- o) The Belvidere Centre has attained Bronze Standard for Health Promoting Youth Settings and is now open four evenings per week.
- p) The first NVQ2 Awards in Youth Work have been achieved from the partnership with Wirral Metropolitan College and the next intake has been inducted.
- q) The Service is working with Capita and the Department to create a new data collection and reporting system.
- r) The United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) elections were held in February, and two representatives elected. Jade Jones has decided to continue her involvement as Youth Minister of Health for the North West.

Resolved:

- i) That Jeni Cockayne be thanked for her service and accept the Committee's best wishes in her retirement;
- ii) That Wirral Youth Theatre be thanked for video recording the meeting's proceedings;
- iii) That the Head of Service be thanked for her report.

Minute 57 - Virtual Babies Report and Presentation

Lisa Joy of Fender Youth Club, with three young women reported on the Virtual Babies Programme in Woodchurch.

The aims of the programme were to simulate pregnancy and the care of a new-born baby using an "electronic baby". This virtual baby reproduced all the usual demands of babies, requiring to be fed, have its nappy changed, put to sleep, washed, dressed and attended to when crying.

The programme also covered risk-taking behaviours. This covered not just behaviours which led to becoming pregnant but also the impact of such behaviours during pregnancy on an unborn baby.

There had been two courses so far, leading to 16 Accredited Outcomes. Further courses are underway with a waiting list, and a course exclusively for young men is a distinct possibility.

There are now 10 virtual babies, 2 "bumps" to simulate pregnancy and special virtual babies which can display symptoms of Shaken Baby Syndrome" and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. The virtual babies cost

around £500 each and have been purchased with assistance from the YOF.

The young women gave a demonstration of what the virtual baby could do and answered questions from Committee Members.

Resolved:

That the report be noted and the Staff and Members of Fender Youth Club be congratulated on an exemplary piece of practice.

Minute 58 - Youth & Play Service Development Plan 2009-2010

The Youth & Play Service Development Plan was presented to the Committee. It was explained that because of the re-configuration of the Service due to take place later in the year, the plan was only for the current municipal year.

The issue of the Community Audit was raised which requires a map of facilities and menu of opportunities to be created. Young people had a role within this.

The plan inks into and contributes to the Children and Youth People's Department Plan. Elected Members requested that progress be reported on at future Committee Meetings, to inform and update Members so they could lend support to any issues arising.

Resolved:

- i) The Plan be accepted;
- ii) Progress be reported at future meetings.

Minute 59 - Executive Youth Board Update

Staying Safe Group

Ellis Palmer reported on a meeting held with Police. The agenda covered Anti-Social Behaviour Orders (ASBO) and Section 30 Order for the dispersal of groups and removal of persons under 16.

About a quarter of the 48 ASBOs issued in Wirral are on under 18s.

There are two Section Order 30 active in Seacombe.

Another concern of the Group is the lack of adequate lighting in public parks.

Positive Contribution Group

Juhi Gupta and Sea Rainey reported on homeless young people and prevention work.

They reported on initiatives such as the Stop Gap which strived to address the basic physiological needs of shelter, warmth and food. Successful applications to the YOF had provided funds to assist the project.

They brought to the Committee's attention that young people who were homeless or had insecure tenancies were more likely to have difficulty in having their voice heard. The EYB were examining ways in which they could engage with such young people, and Charlotte Flanders had spoken to the Job Centre to create one such route.

Transport

Charlotte Flanders reported that transport for young people was a recurring issue, not just on Wirral but nationally. The matter had been raised at Youth Forums, the Youth Parliament and in other parts of the country.

The Grant Panel who decide on YOF applications were looking at commissioning transport opportunities for young people. They were seeking to consult on the precise needs of young people and were opening negotiations with transport providers.

Lighting in Parks

Stephen Pollard reported on the benefits of adequate lighting in public parks, such as a reduction in nuisance, increased feelings of safety and more use by families. Cllr. Meaden and Charlotte Flanders confirmed these findings which had emerged following the introduction of lighting in the parks in Tranmere and Rock Ferry.

A possible route for funding was the Area Forums where young people could present an application to the Area Community Funds. An initial application might look at play areas, and would need to look at costs, green/energy saving issues, stray light and general security. Support from the C&YP and the Technical Services Department would strengthen the case, and the Chair of the Area Forum be approached to have the item added to the agenda.

Resolved:

That the Members of the EYB be thanked for their report.

Minute 60 - Any Other Business

There were no other items of business.

Minute 61 - Date of Next Meeting

Members would be informed of the date of the next meeting after the new Council had determined the membership of Committees and meeting cycle towards the end of the month.

Minute 61 - Return of Chair

Stephen Pollard formally returned to Cllr. Harney, who thanked him and Juhi for doing an excellent job. He then declared the meeting closed at 6:40 p.m.

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REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HEAD OF YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks to brief the committee on the work of the Service since the last meeting in May.

1.0 Staff Movements

- 1.1 At the end of August, Valarie Wilson retired from her post as Principal Youth Worker for Bebington Youth Club. Val worked for the Youth Service for 28 years. Young people and colleagues wish her well for the future.
- 1.2 Michelle Langan has been appointed to the newly created Health Services in Schools co-ordinator post. Beverly Lloyd Madeley has been appointed as a youth worker within this project. Both these posts will support the health clinics and schools and provide additional support on substance misuse and holistic health issues in the districts. The posts have been funded through PCT and Extended Schools.
- 1.3 Sue Aubusson has been appointed to the post of Web Technical Officer. Sue's role will involve the design, population and development of the Wirral young people's website to publicise positive youth activities.

Area Team reports**2.0 Birkenhead and Bebington Area**

- 2.1. Bebington Youth Club acknowledged the retirement of its Principal Worker, Valerie Wilson with members of the Management Committee, past and current members and staff and colleagues gathering together to wish Val well and present her with a retirement gift. During the summer period many activities took place at Bebington Youth Club. General activities such as arts and crafts and sports were a regular feature of the programme and the Club featured a project focussing on knife crime.
- 2.2. Members of Eastham Youth Club hosted a MC musical evening for young people from Cavendish Youth Club interested in learning this skill. It is hoped that this evening will be repeated in the near future. Successful trips to Alton Towers and ten-pin bowling have taken place with members of the South Wirral Young People's Project. The Club's gardening group are hoping to rent a local allotment in the near future to enable them to significantly extend their project.
- 2.3. Healthy eating and exercise continue to feature on the regular programme at Cavendish Youth Club. The fitness suite and large coffee bar are ideal spaces in which to develop this work. Step Aerobics has recently been introduced and is proving popular. The Club joined with many others to take part in the Fun day in Birkenhead Park and also enjoyed an evening visit to Thurstaston for a picnic.
- 2.4. The Rock Ferry show was the focus for fun and involvement in the local community when members of Viking Youth club ran a stall doing graffiti art tee-shirts. The young people were able to display skills that they had gained in the ongoing arts and crafts workshops that run regularly in the youth club. The young people are planning to make a video about hate crime. This project is supported by Radio Merseyside who are offering support, resources and training. A residential trip to Oaklands is planned in the near future. During the summer Response held workshops on alcohol, drug misuse and sexual health for young people in the Club.

- 2.5. A four week summer sports camp at Shaftesbury Youth club proved a success again this year, this was run by senior members for the younger members of the club. In addition to the usual sporting activities there have been a number of taster sessions in cricket, Tae Kwon Do, soft tennis, and circuit training. Senior members have also renovated the "chill out" area. The allotments run by the club are being developed and a small husbandry project is being set up to care for a dozen chickens.
- 2.6. Charing Cross Youth Club had a busy summer programme, which included visits to Greenwood Forest Park, Waterworld in Stoke on Trent and Manleymer. The club has recently acquired further accommodation within the church complex and some of the senior members have set up a snooker room. This room being used regularly and proved to be an invaluable resource following the recent arson attack that has put the main clubrooms out of action until repairs are completed.
- 3.0. **Wirral Youth Service Outreach Team.**
 - 3.1. Members of Wirral Youth Service Outreach Team (WYSOT) have been preparing for the changes that will come about as a result of the reconfiguration of the Youth Service and are looking forward to playing a full and active role in Wirral's enhanced youth offer. Regarding the development of weekend work, three of the neighbourhood teams now operate on a Saturday night.
 - 3.2. WYSOT delivers a wide range of positive activities for the street groups with whom they work and in addition, organise Wirral wide events for all young people, one of which is the popular Sand Sculpture competition held annually at New Brighton. A number of projects delivered summer holiday activity programmes and also supported Wirral Youth Theatre's 'Swings and Roundabout' productions in parks throughout Wirral.
 - 3.3. As well as facilitating the Youth Forum meetings, support has been given to young people wishing to apply for Youth Forum funds.
 - 3.4. Neighbourhood Youth Workers attend Respect Panel meetings on behalf of the Service, and with their knowledge of the young people and their circumstances, play an important role in addressing pertinent issues.
 - 3.5. Birkenhead Youth Action Project continues to work with young people in established locations as well as investigating new locations. Good working relationships have been developed with a number of residents groups with a view to promoting positive images of young people. Support has been given to the large 'Indie' group who have experienced violence and aggression from other young people. The group are now attending Viking Youth Club on a Friday and Grange Baptist Youth Club on a Saturday night.
 - 3.6. A successful application for Area Youth Forum Award funding enabled ten young people from Deeside Young People's Project (DYPP) to undertake an advanced level accredited climbing course at Awesome Walls. In partnership with the police, who provided some funds and staffing support, DYPP delivered a holiday activity programme. The youth workers have facilitated a consultation with the young people to further develop facilities at Newton Park.
 - 3.7. Fender Youth Action Project has continued to undertake streetwork on Beechwood and Ballentyne Estates. The young people have also participated in groupwork sessions and been involved in planning activities.
 - 3.8. North End Young People's Project has undertaken developmental work with a number of discrete groups of young people who plan their own activity programmes. Recently these have included arts and craft sessions, visits to the Echo Arena, issue based work and healthy eating courses. During the summer, young people participated in a regular brunch club and took part in an outdoor adventure programme which included a visit to the white water rafting centre at Bala, North Wales.

- 3.9. Noctorum Young People's Project has made good use of the open spaces in the area to organise games activities and hold healthy eating picnics. Issue based workshops are delivered on a regular basis, often in partnership with Response. The youth workers play an active role within the community as well as liaising with parents to support individual young people. The Monday evening football sessions at Ridgeway High School sports hall resumed in September.
- 3.10. Supported by Youth Crime Action Plan funding, Seacombe Young People's Project (SYPP) has been able to develop its profile in the area, not only with the young people but also with the other agencies and organisations. The youth workers participated in recent police-led Operation Stay Safe nights. In response to concerns about vandalism at St Joseph's Primary School, the youth workers have organised a weekly football session in the school playground which has had a positive outcome for the school and for the young people. The development of Friday and Saturday night work is progressing well. One Friday, nine teams with over 70 young people participated in a football competition. On a Saturday night, young people have been successfully signposted to DJ workshops held in the local scout hut.
- 3.11. South Wirral Young People's Project Friday evening football session at the Oval now has the services of four of their young people who have achieved their Community Sports Leader Awards. They assist with planning the session, organising the weekly mini leagues and organising the teams. Following their successful Youth Opportunity Fund bid for resources for a peer led new media project, young people impressed the panel at a Dragon's Den event. Rather than awarding a cash prize to renovate space at the community room at the Digit Project, Bromborough Fire Station, Wirral Partnership Homes, Lovells Builders and Stiebel Eltron Heating opted to provide the materials and work along side the young people to undertake the work. The new media project will be available to the young people who attend the Saturday night Sit Off session. Young people from the Dig It Project visited the Gardeners World Show at the NEC and took up an invitation from Joe Swift from the programme to meet with him there.
- 3.12. Wallasey Young People's Project (WYPP) works with numerous groups of young people throughout the area who participate in a full programme of targeted issue based workshops. Two groups from Mount Road have successfully completed accredited climbing courses. Work is taking place with a Liscard young women's group this has included health and well being sessions. At the weekend of the Wirral Show, youth workers from WYPP and SYPP were on duty at the Friday Fright Night, focusing on harm reduction, advice and guidance with the young people. The youth workers were also present with the Kontakta Bus on the Saturday of the show.
- 4.0. **Wallasey/Deeside**
- 4.1. Fender Youth Club held a 'Virtual Baby' open day to recruit for the next course. Eight young people signed up. Staff and young people have completed Training the Trainer for the Virtual Baby course, enabling them to deliver this to other young people. Young people have participated in a 'Think you know' internet safety course. For the Woodchurch in Bloom event, young people, alongside the community, designed and made up planters. The Re:act project runs every Tuesday looking at knife crime and dealing with managing aggression. The Police Community Support Officers from the area are involved in this project running sessions around weapons and the law.
- 4.2. Greasby Youth Club have been taking part in sports coaching activities funded by GOAL in Coronation Park. There have been trips to Lazer Quest and Bowling over the summer. Young people from the youth club regularly maintain and water the planters outside the community centre. There has been project work in the Pavilion in Coronation Park around skin care and sexual health.
- 4.3. Over the summer months attendance has been low West Kirby Youth Club; this has given the staff team the opportunity to do some outreach work in the surrounding area. There has been an attic sale held in the youth club which young people organised as a fundraising activity. Young people have also taken part in a consultation event, looking at the service reconfiguration. During

the summer there have been outings to the Spaceport and on the Mersey Ferry and a BBQ in Thurstaston.

- 4.4. Leasowe Youth Project held trips to Lazer Quest and bowling. Three teams entered into a five aside competition which was held in the Soccerdome. Young people are taking part in a DVD with Response and Wirral Youth Theatre looking at risk taking behaviour, this is due to be launched in the coming months.
- 4.5. Moreton Youth Club, as part of National Condom week, produced a poster and delivered workshops on safe sex and STI's. Young people also took part in workshops for skin care month, which focused on sun damage, use of sun beds, skin cancer and caring for skin in summer time. Three young people and a worker are participating in a virtual baby course being run at Fender Youth Club. Some young people from the club took part in awareness sessions around personal hygiene, where they had the opportunity to take part in games and win toiletry items for prizes. Senior members are delivering a creative cooking project to junior members.
- 4.6. St Mary's Youth Club has just started back in September for the autumn term; they are in the process of recruiting for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Prior to July it was expedition season with groups from Bronze Silver and Gold taking part in their expedition sections of DofE. 144 young people attended the club's leavers disco.

5.0. **Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (Wyt) - Highlights**

- 5.1. The WYT in-house and outreach programme is thriving. The programme includes a weekly open programme of participative arts, training and outreach provision. WYT is currently designing a programme of multi media urban arts tasters and projects to be delivered in each of the District Youth Hubs funded by the District Activity Fund.
- 5.2. 'Swings & Roundabouts' was originally commissioned by Wirral PCT as part of the reducing risk taking behaviour strategy. As a result of a successful series of performances in parks in 2008, Merseyside Police commissioned a further week of performances for all schools at Pacific Road as well as another tour of parks in the school holidays. Two new companies of ten young people aged 16 – 19yrs, were recruited and during the last week of term, over fifteen hundred pupils came to Pacific Road to see the piece which looks at the risks some young people may take on a night out in a park. WYT has also produced a pack of resources for schools and youth projects to use in their follow-up work. In partnership with outreach teams, an abridged version of the play was taken into six parks across Wirral in August. WYT is now working on several ideas for the next issue based outreach tour and will be consulting with schools, youth projects and a range of partner agencies on the focus and appropriate target groups.
- 5.3. In June, working in partnership with Schools Sports Development, WYT hosted a week of dance performances from schools across Wirral at Pacific Road Arts Centre. On the last day of this festival WYT worked with 50 young men from several schools, towards an integrated performance at an evening event entitled Machismo. Other performances from male dance groups have been established as part of the extended schools activity programme. School Sports Development is currently funding a male dance worker to target young men with the aim of encouraging their access to other progression routes and opportunities in dance outside of school. One of the outcomes of this work is there is an increased in numbers of young men now attending the WYT in-house dance provision.
- 5.4. WYT are supporting a group of young men from Birkenhead North and Wallasey who are working towards setting up safe training and performance opportunities for break-dance crews across Wirral. This group, who have name themselves 'Contembreak', applied to the YOF to help develop their ideas and received funding to take this project Wirral wide. The group have performed at the MACHISMO event and at the Lowry Theatre in Salford at a Youth Dance England event. 'Contembreak' are currently working on a piece to take on tour to the new Youth Hubs with the aim of continuing to recruit for the project.

- 5.5. In addition to the in-house dance, WYT is working with Youth Dance England to set up Centres for Accredited Training schemes (CAT schemes) which is part of the national 'Gifted and Talented' strategy. As part of this strategy, WYT is providing training on working with harder to reach young people and has nominated several young people who fit this category for the scheme, which will enable them to access additional training with nationally acclaimed dancers and facilitators.
- 5.6. Sound Steps Stage Two came to an end with another extremely successful 'Live n Loud' gig at the beginning of July. The final report has been submitted to the National Foundation for Youth Music who has funded the project for over four years. Sound Steps has created an extremely successful programme providing a wide range of music related opportunities for young people. The legacy of this is a thriving music project which is currently being sustained by two other externally funded projects, 'Voltage' and 'Reverberate'. 'Reverberate' which concentrates on band development and work with young women will come to an end in December which will leave a gap in the open access music provision at WYT.
- 5.7. 'Voltage' is part of V the National Volunteering Programme. WYT has been funded to work with volunteers aged 16 -25 known as Youth Music Ambassadors to train them to co-facilitate music activities and to promote volunteers opportunities for young people across Wirral. The first cohort completed their training programme at the end of April and were presented with their V50 and Arts Awards at an event facilitated by Wirral CVS and WYT at Pacific Road in May. The new group of nine Voltage Volunteers aged 16 – 21yrs have now started their training and will be facilitating the involvement of other young people in WYT's next large scale musical piece due to be staged in February 2011.
- 5.8. During the summer, over fifty young people took part in a range of drama, dance, music, new media and technical theatre workshops looking at the theme of image and they worked towards a sharing of their work at the end of this workshop period. This work has contributed to the final script and score for an original musical to be performed at Pacific Road early next year. In September over sixty young people attended group auditions for this production and weekly rehearsals have now started.
- 5.9. WYT ran weekly drama workshops with a Young Muslim Group which culminated in a performance for friends and families in May.
- 5.10. Yr 7 pupils from the Observatory School came into Pacific Road to take part in drama and dance workshops as part of a programme to improve their communication skills. WYT is currently working with a group of Yr 11 pupils towards producing a DVD.
- 5.11. WYT runs a weekly Friday night drama sessions for young people at Riverside Community Centre. The 16 -19 yr old Peer Educators co-facilitate these workshops which are attended by over thirty participants, this project will culminate in a performance night for the local community in December.
- 5.12. WYT continues to run weekly drama sessions for Meadowside and Foxfield pupils who come into Pacific Road each Friday to participate in a programme designed to improve their life skills. The students are also working towards their Bronze Arts Award and some have integrated into other WYT projects including the current large scale production.
- 5.13. Young people who attend the twice weekly technical theatre sessions have worked as the stage crew on several productions and projects including the 'Live 'n' Loud' music gigs, the Schools Dance Festival and are currently designing the next large scale production. A major development in this work is the partnership with West Cheshire College in the facilitation of a community based accredited training programme. Within this scheme, WYT will be able to accredit young people's achievements at GCSE and A level equivalents.

5.14. A major outcome of the technical theatre department is that one young man has recently gained part-time employment in the field and another young woman has just gain full-time employment at the Floral Pavilion Theatre as a theatre technician.

6.0 Response

- 6.1. The Housing support team have been very busy supporting vulnerable homeless young people. In addition to the mainstream housing support offered is the Stop Gap project. The Stop Gap programme has been of great benefit to many homeless young people with a high number given extensive support during this period. The programme is currently working intensively with 15 young people with more complex needs to avoid rough sleeping, homelessness or entering bed and breakfast accommodation. Feedback for the programme has been positive from young people. The funding for Stop Gap from Supporting People has been extended until end of December. However, it is anticipated further funding will be available to continue the project until the end of this financial year. .
- 6.2. Over the six month period from April to September there were 122 new referrals into the counselling team. Referrals have come from a wide variety of agencies including schools, YOS, accommodation providers, local training agencies, colleges, GP's, Kooth, social workers, Connexions, and the Police. A total of 301 appointments have been taken up by young people.
- 6.3. Issues young people present with include, family breakdown or lack of communication with family, dealing with parents divorce, dealing with parents alcohol and substance addiction (this is on the increase), domestic violence, personal relationship breakdown, bullying, bereavement, anger, anxiety, stress, sexuality issues, low confidence, low self esteem, feelings of abandonment, living alone in accommodation, sexual abuse, and suicidal feelings.
- 6.4. The Response Outreach Team continue to deliver safe sex sessions to young people engaged with Counselling Team, also awareness of alcohol, substances, personal safety is included at young persons request. This approach is working really well and proving to be successful thus empowering young people with knowledge and choices. At assessment young people are now asked if they have ever had any suicidal thoughts or feelings, this helps to further explore the issues of young people and confidential information will be passed on to the Suicide Audit group.
- 6.5. Over the past six months, the Alcohol worker has engaged with 747 young people across the Wirral, giving them information and advice on the effects of alcohol. There have been 20 individuals provided with one-to-one support; 90 one-to-one sessions delivered. In addition, 13 evaluated alcohol awareness workshops were delivered during this period.
- 6.6. The Alcohol worker has built good relationships with Children's Accident and Emergency, which has meant referrals coming swiftly into Response and more young people taking up the offer of education and support.
- 6.7. The Young Person's Alcohol Intervention Programme received referrals from the Police for 165 young people arrested through alcohol related incidents and a further 327 individuals that had been stopped in public places. Over a six month period, 492 young people (aged 13-19) were referred to the Alcohol Intervention worker by the Police.
- 6.8. Response Outreach Team have engaged with 2,411 young people across the Wirral through work in schools; street work and large events giving advice and information on drugs, alcohol and personal safety to both individuals and groups. The team have delivered 30 evaluated substance misuse sessions to target groups of young people in a variety of settings. There have been 134 one-to-one sessions delivered and 31 young people reporting a reduction of substance misuse over the six month period. In addition, the team have provided 45 parents with support.
- 6.9. Key progress made over this period includes the development of the BiteSize event, which is delivered in schools across the Wirral. Following the success of last year, the team, working in

partnership with Wirral Brook Advisory, have delivered 13 events and developed a new interactive game to engage young people and deliver the important information on substance misuse.

The Outreach team have supported Wirral Youth Theatre's 'Swings & Roundabouts' play, with drug and alcohol information and education following each performance delivered both in the theatre and in local parks. This is the second year we have supported this educational play and this year it included a performance to Parents & Carers, highlighting the risks and consequences of substance misuse, alcohol and associated risk taking behaviours.

- 6.10. The team have also worked in partnership with the Police, Wirral Anti-social Behaviour Team and local youth workers at the Wirral Show. The multi-agency approach was effective and using the Kontakta Bus as a resource for young people as a safe place and staff was useful and allowed for staff to deliver personal safety messages. It was reported that there were no alcohol related arrests on the Friday evening.
- 6.11. New drug trends include amphetamine and ketamine use amongst young people. Alcohol is still the number one drug of choice, followed closely by cannabis. Although still used, cocaine and ecstasy have been less reported by young people. This appears to be due to lack of purity and value for money.

7.0 **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

- 7.1. The completion of a successful expedition season has resulted in a large number of young people now being well placed to complete their DofE awards within the next few months. The number of young people achieving Gold Awards is steadily increasing and a number of these will be receiving their certificates from Prince Philip this October.
- 7.2. The expedition in Snowdonia in August was subject to a further inspection by the Adventure Activity Licensing Service who recommended that our operating licence should continue for a further two years.
- 7.3. Delivery of DofE is now making significant changes in the way participants interface with leaders and DofE managers. eDofE is an interactive online system that helps young people manage their DofE programme and leaders monitor their progress. The system allows young people and leaders to engage with the DofE at times and places convenient to them. Young people can record their DofE activities in multiple formats – from photos and videos to blogs and pdfs. Their evidence can be uploaded directly from computers, cameras and mobile phones. eDofE makes it easier for young people to move between the sections of their DofE programme and to advance from one level to the next.

8.0 **International Work/ Special Needs**

- 8.1. This year's Hong Kong youth exchange has now been completed. The group of young people from Hong Kong visited Wirral in August and Wirral's group of young people visited Hong Kong and China during September. The theme of this year's project was youth participation with a varied programme being carried out both here and in Hong Kong. Although the official partner of this exchange is the Hong Kong Government's Home Affairs Bureau the actual programme provider was the Chinese YMCA. The highlight of the project was the two day visit to Qing Yuan on the mainland where the Service has sponsored the local school over the past five years.
- 8.2. The Belvidere Centre continues its' work with disabled young people and offers a full and challenging programme of activities, workshops and group work. Members have recently been awarded the bronze award for the Health Promoting Youth Club scheme and are currently working towards the silver award. The club ran a full summer programme of activities including workshops, visits and projects. The Centre is open four evenings a week.
- 8.3. The Callister Youth Club continues to meet on two evenings a week and has had a successful summer programme with a varied menu of activities including items such as eating out, healthy cooking and sports training.

8.4 It is proposed that a new Senior Member Training Course will start later in the Autumn.

9.0. **Training and Staff Development**

9.1. The partnership with Wirral Metropolitan College continues, and a presentation ceremony is to be held on 16 October where members of staff will be presented with their NVQ Level 2 Certificates. The success of the candidates is due in no small part to the dedication and skill of the assessors. The April 2009 intake is progressing and applications are arriving for the next proposed intake after April 2010. Costs have been reduced as candidates are eligible for Train2Gain funding.

9.2. Specialist training continues in fields such as alcohol and drug misuse, young men and gender issues, housing and law for young people, mental health, suicide risk management and core skills such as Appointed Person Training.

9.3. The imminent service reconfiguration is being used as an opportunity for both team development and re-visiting basic practice. The detail of the programmes will be driven by the five Every Child Matters outcomes and the key components of PSA Delivery Agreement 14 (reduce the N.E.E.T. rate; more participation in Positive Activities; reduce use of illicit drugs and the misuse of alcohol; reduce the under-18 conception rate and reduce the number of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system).

10.0. **Youth Participation**

10.1. A Participation Residential, was held at the end of June at Trafford Hall. As there are now a number of different groups of young people who are involved in decision the residential enabled these groups to work towards shared goals to improve services and opportunities for Wirral young people. Groups who attended were: Executive Youth Board, Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Fund Grant Panel, UKYP, Area Youth Forums and Young Advisors.

10.2. The weekend comprised of a variety of workshops, discussions and fun activities that enabled the young people to create shared goals and understanding.

10.3. Key decisions made by young people at the residential included relaunching the Area Youth Forums following Youth Service reconfiguration and establishment of the Hubs and representation from each of the groups at events and meetings which will enable all of the decision making groups to work more effectively together.

10.4. New members for the Executive Youth Board were recruited during the school summer break. Approximately half of the previous EYB decided to continue their involvement for a further 12 months. Training for the Board took place on 12 September. At this meeting, the EYB decided on the theme for this year's Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament, 'Perceptions of Young People'. The EYB have been working hard planning this event.

10.5. The EYB decided that they would take the majority of their action points directly from the issues raised at the District Youth Forums and will be represented at each meeting. They also discussed how the EYB fits in with overall council structures (i.e. Trust and Cabinet) and how the EYB links in with other groups.

10.6. The EYB met with a representative of the Older People's Parliament in September to discuss links between the two groups and potential areas for co-working. The EYB are now chairing their meetings and producing the minutes. Ellis Palmer spent a week with the Children and Young People's Department for his work experience with school. During his placement Ellis spent time with key council officers and the Chief Executive.

10.7. All of the MYP's and deputies were invited to attend the Mayor's Inauguration on Monday 11 May. This was a high profile event which young people had not attended before.

- 10.8. Paul Aitchison represented Wirral and the North West Region at a meeting with Beverly Hughes on 18 May, to discuss citizenship in schools. This was a very productive meeting, as a well established government minister within the DCSF is now aware of the campaign.
- 10.9. Monica Boughdady, Leah Cope & Paul Aitchison met with Ben Chapman in May to highlight the issue of citizenship in schools. The meeting was very productive with Ben Chapman showing support for the campaign. It is hoped that they will meet again in November/December.
- 10.10. In July, Leah Cope shadowed Ben Chapman in the House of Commons for a week as part of her work experience through school. Leah also spent a week on placement with Youth and Play Service.
- 10.11. Jade Jones put forward a suggested campaign about the international monetary fund and the management of debt in developing countries. Unfortunately, the campaign was not taken on nationally, but at a regional level, it has been recognised as an excellent example of an innovative campaign which was very well prepared and thought out. This is now being used as a model of good practice for regional MYP's and deputies when preparing campaign action plans.
- 10.12. Leah Cope attended a meeting at Government Office North West (GONW) on 30 June. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss positive ways forward on how to develop local links with representatives of GONW. GONW has allocated a specific named worker who will build positive relationships with Local Authorities and the young people who are involved in developing services and decision making groups. The priority for staff and young people is to develop a strong professional relationship directly with GONW.
- 10.13. MYP's and deputies have regularly attended regional meetings to work on regional and national campaigns (i.e. transport, young people in the media).
- 10.14. The Young Minister of Health also attended and is involved in planning and executing large scale Health Services Consultation with the outcomes being used to develop services. Over 1,000 questionnaires have now distributed and the results will be collated for Youth and Play Service, NHS/PCT and the North West Regional Youth Work Unit.
- 10.15. National Sitting was held at Kent University, Canterbury this year. MYP's attended discussing and voting on National Campaigns. A varied young person and worker programme was on offer for the four days which allowed further development of work.
- 10.16. Recent consultation with workers from across the region has resulted in the regional meetings being opened up to involve more young people from across the various participation groups. This is in recognition that the issues relevant to young people need to become focused and managed in a more coordinated way. As a result, Wirral will be able to involve young people from the Executive Youth Board, Youth Forums, Grant Panel or any other young people that have a particular interest in any of the issues being raised at these meetings.
- 10.17. The next round of Area Youth Forums will take place week beginning 28 September. The focus of the meetings will be allocation of Area Youth Forum Awards, consultation on Health Services and the future developments for District Youth Forums. Following the residential, the Youth Forums will be relaunched in February 2010 as District Youth Forums. Representatives from each of the decision making groups will attend, initially to explain the role of their particular group and inform young people of how the decision making group structures will be working together for the benefit of Wirral young people. District Youth Forums will then take place every other month. This is following feedback from young people and workers who identified that the frequency of the meetings was impacting on action.
- 10.18. New members of the Grant Panel were recruited during the summer. Approximately half of the group decided to continue their involvement for another year. Training will take place in October and applications for the 2010/2011 YOF/YCF funding will be available in November.

10.19. The commissioning sub group have been working extremely hard over the summer on allocating the money for young people's access to leisure facilities. Initial decisions on this funding will be made by December. The group are currently exploring options for the funding available for young people's access to transport. Meetings with Merseytravel and Council officers are currently taking place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson
Acting Head of Youth & Play Service

WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYScheme REPORT 2009

Executive Summary

This report sets out the summer play opportunities provided through Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Playscheme Programme and Youth & Play Service's playschemes 2009. The report notes the increase in those that registered for schemes and an increase in play provision. The Committee is asked to note this report

1.0. Background

- 1.1. Wirral Play Council receives a grant for £58,000 from Wirral's Children's and Young Peoples Department to provide Open Access summer playschemes in the school summer holidays throughout Wirral. Children and young people aged 6 to 14 are welcome to attend the playschemes. Wirral Play Council fundraises within the organisation and is successfully awarded financial grants from other organisations to support the summer playschemes. Wirral Play Council has been providing free open access play for children in Wirral since 1974. The Executive Committee manages the summer playschemes and the day today running is organised by the Play Development Officer, supported by administration staff.
- 1.2. Recruitment for the playworkers starts early in the year and the posts are advertised in February/March. This enables adequate time to put workers through the Criminal Record Bureau process and complete other checks such as references. Every year there are a certain number of playworker's who return to work for us. This year there were 43 returning playworkers making 53% of the overall total of 81 playworkers recruited. The returning playworkers previous experience is valuable, they are able to support and guide new playworkers as they find their feet at the beginning of the summer.
- 1.3. All new playworkers complete a programme of pre summer training that takes place at Wirral Metropolitan College, Twelve Quays and at Wirral Play Council. During their time at the college they undertake a nationally recognised playwork qualification, Take Five for Play. In order for them to complete the course they must complete 12 hours practical work and a reflective diary supporting what they do. All playworkers who took the course completed it successfully. Wirral Sure Start Support Team provides funding for this playwork course. In house training provided at Wirral Play Council equips the playworkers with working knowledge of legislation, policies and procedures plus practical play skills such as arts and craft, sports and games. Paediatric First Aid is also offered and 25 playworkers gained this qualification.

The playschemes were publicised in early July to all primary school aged children in Wirral, through schools via the Let's Go magazine.

2.0. **Ofsted**

2.1. Earlier in 2009 OFSTED made some changes that had implications on the registration process for temporary summer playschemes. The changes regarding qualifications meant Wirral Play Council could not meet the Standards and were removed from the Voluntary Childcare Register. The playschemes are exempt from being on the register as they operate an open access policy and do not care for any children in the Early Years age category. In order to comply with this the age of the children attending the playschemes was increased to six. The register is voluntary but Wirral Play Council value the status and quality assurance being registered with OFSTED has and will endeavour to meet the standards in 2010 and register the playschemes.

3.0. **Budget**

3.1. 80% of the budget is spent on playworkers wages and this figure is increasing each year to keep in line with the minimum wage set by the government. Each playscheme has a Lead Playworker who takes on more responsibility for paperwork etc and is paid a slightly higher hourly rate. The remaining money is spent on play equipment, transport, administration and Play Day.

3.2. Details of each playschemes can be found attached, Appendix 1.

4.0. **Play Day**

4.1. This year's Playday campaign theme, ***Make Time!*** aimed to raise the profile of play and ask everyone to make time for play. The event in Wirral took place on Wednesday 5 August in Birkenhead Park. The day requires a great deal of preparation and planning. Radio Merseyside came in the morning and promoted the day and the benefits of play. All the full time and summer playschemes are on site by 11.00am and the Play Champion, Cllr Chris Meaden, judging the banner competition opened the event. During the rest of the event the children could access the activities freely and have fun playing. The activities included Wheels for All, climbing wall, The Big Art Attack, dance tent, drum circle, the ever popular straw bales, circus skills, talent show tent, mask making, den-building, and many more activities. The day was a great success with almost 1,000 children and their families getting involved.

5.0. **Summary**

5.1. Summer 2009 was another successful year for open access playschemes in Wirral with the total registration number increasing from 2008. The standard of people applying for temporary jobs remained high and there was a significant increase in the numbers of applicants. There were also more volunteers working at the playschemes this year. The playworkers worked hard to provide stimulating and exciting play activities to engage children. A highlight of the summer was Play Day, the sun was shining and hundreds of children enjoyed free play activities in

Birkenhead Park, challenging themselves on the climbing wall, building dens with the straw bales and encouraging each other in the Talent Show. The most successful schemes are those that foster local parental and voluntary involvement. Their support is paramount and some playschemes could not operate without it. Many thanks to the local communities, play organisers, staff, volunteers and parents for their hard work, commitment and support in collectively providing summer play opportunities for the children of Wirral.

6.0. **Financial and Staffing Implications**

6.1 This year 19 Playschemes and were funded primarily by a grant of £58,000 from Wirral Council. These included full-time summer schemes and schemes for children with disabilities.

7.0. **Equal Opportunities Implications**

7.1. The summer holiday programme reflects inclusiveness and promotes equal opportunities and access.

8.0. **Human Rights Implications**

8.1. There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

9.0. **Community Safety Implications**

9.1 There are no specific community safety implications none arising from this report.

10.0 **Local Agenda 21 Implications**

10.1. There are no specific Local Agenda 21 Implications arising from this report.

11.0. **Planning Implications**

11.1 There are none arising from this report.

12.0. **Anti - poverty Implications**

12.1 Playschemes are provided free of charge for all children with a high density of play provision in areas of identified need.

13.0. **Social inclusion Implications**

13.1. Playschemes endeavour to ensure children have equal access to play and are able to participate in local play opportunities.
Playschemes are open access and often work with those children and young people who are marginalised.

14.0. Local Member Support Implications

14.1 Holiday play provision is distributed borough-wide through all wards of Wirral.

15.0. Background papers

15.1 Summer Holiday Registration Figures (Appendix 2)
Full-time Playscheme Registration Figures (Appendix 3)

16.0. Recommendations

16.1 The Committee is asked to note this report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 2

<u>Scheme</u>	<u>Days</u>	<u>No Of Children Registered</u>	<u>Under 8's Registered</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u>Daily Average</u>
Eastham	20	88	34	695	35
Greasby	20	71	16	728	36
Heswall	20	200	42	1345	67
Higher Bebington	20	231	119	1953	98
Irby	20	129	34	954	48
Moreton	20	99	15	689	34
New Ferry	20	195	56	1520	76
Noctorum	20	92	28	390	20
Overton	20	115	40	1464	73
Pensby	20	108	8	856	43
Prenton	20	71	11	580	29
Seacombe	20	66	26	785	39
Seacombe Children's Centre	20	159	35	1364	68
Tam O Shanter	20	236	N/A	652	33
Tranmere	20	152	41	1061	53
Vale Park	20	99	20	999	50
West Kirby	20	185	70	1265	63
Woodchurch	25	170	42	1049	42
Special Needs					
Belvidere Centre	12	37	n/a	n/a	n/a
Wirral Play Council SN	16	136	7	544	34
Total		2771	682	19617	N/A

Appendix 3

Open Access Full-time
Playschemes

Centre	No Of Children Registered	Under 8's Registered	Total Attendance
Beechwood	142	32	5540
Charing Cross	163	84	6022
Gautby Road	164	83	7116
Leasowe Adventure Playground	211	84	13531
Livingstone Street	144	48	5381
Woodchurch (summer reg. only)	170	42	1049
Total	824	331	38639

APPENDIX 1

Playschemes

Wallasey District – Five Playschemes

Seacombe Children’s Centre – 159 Registrations

This is a popular playscheme and is consistently busy. The room within the centre is small and just about adequate to meet the needs of the playscheme. There are four playworkers and they take children round to the outdoor caged area whenever possible to give the children more space to play. The children really enjoyed being able to run and play about outside. The team of playworkers were lead by an experienced worker who provided support and advice as some of the children can be quite challenging. The children particularly enjoyed baking, playing football, dancing, face painting and crafts. The playscheme did some joint working with another one of Wirral Play Councils playschemes based at Seacombe Community Centre. They organised a football competition and went on a day trip together. This was really positive in getting the children for different areas of Seacombe to mix together and proved to be very successful.

Seacombe Community Centre – 66 Registrations

A successful playscheme attended by very local children who enjoyed a variety of crafts activities and outdoor play.

Moreton Youth Club - 99 Registrations

The centre is a great venue for a playscheme with a hall for sports and games and a good-sized room alongside the hall for quieter activities and crafts. There is a lack of outdoor space but the playworkers utilised Lingham Park on occasions throughout the summer. After some initial issues with older children disrupting the sessions it was decided to split the age groups and have under 8’s attend the morning session and over 8’s attend in the afternoon. This worked much better and allowed the team of playworkers to focus on the specific needs of each age group. The children enjoyed group games as everyone could join in and craft activities where they learnt a new skills such as bracelet making. Arts and crafts in general were popular activities especially if the children got to take something they had made home with them. The playworkers planned weekly themes, which proved to be popular, accumulating in an end of playscheme Hawaiian party.

Vale Park – 99 Registrations

The playscheme uses Vale House and the room is small but playworkers utilise the park as much as possible.

Belvidere - 37 Registrations

This playscheme is closed access and provides activities for children with a wide variety of abilities and additional needs. The playscheme is integrated and siblings are encouraged to attend. The children liked playing on the big bikes and scooters, 10 pin bowling, having a water fight, dancing at the disco and going on a trip to the Safari park. There is a high level of involvement from both parents and volunteers, which proves invaluable.

Birkenhead District – Three Playschemes

Wirral Play Council Special Needs – 136 Registrations

A successful playscheme ran from Wirral Play Development Centre catering for a large number of children with a wide range of complex disabilities. This is a closed access playscheme running weekdays from 10.00am until 3.00pm. The playworkers are fully trained and deal with every aspect of welfare for the individual children. The children enjoyed a wide variety of play experiences particularly playing with water, arts and crafts activities and group games. They also went on several day trips including Wirral Play Day, Tam O Shanter and Liverpool Museums.

Noctorum Community Centre – 92 Registrations

This was one of the lowest attended playschemes and the playworkers had to do extra publicity to increase the number of registered children. The venue at Ridgeway High school is set back from the road so people passing by may not see the playscheme is open. However over the four weeks children did benefit from a team of committed playworkers who provided a range of activities and day trips out.

Tam O Shanter Urban Farm – 236 Registrations

This playscheme is popular with children visiting the Urban Farm who register and stay for one session. This is why the registration number is so high but the daily average is quite low compared to other playschemes with similar registration figures. The playscheme only takes children over 8 however the majority of children are accompanied by parents so range from a much younger age group.

West Wirral District – Seven Playschemes

Heswall United Reformed Church – 200 Registrations

The playscheme relocated this year to a central position in Heswall town centre at the United Reformed Church. It has always been a busy playscheme and this year proved no different. The playscheme accessed the park across the road as the centre has little outdoor space. The team of playworkers were enthusiastic, hard working and caring. They were supported by great volunteers who were active members of the team. The children liked craft activities and baking, anything that

was tactile and interactive. They would rather engage in free play using their imaginations than play large group games.

Pensby Hope Centre – 108 Registrations

The playworkers showed a good understanding of play and were very flexible and adaptable in situations that were sometimes challenging. The team has a strong leader offering good support and advice. The refurbished venue was not really suited to playscheme activities and other options will need to be looked at for future playschemes.

Irby Methodist Church Hall – 129 Registrations

A successful playscheme and the numbers increased noticeably from 2008, which is really positive. The playworkers organised a football competition with the Pensby playscheme and made full use of Irby Park, which is across the road. The good work carried out by the team of playworkers was also recognised locally by the Methodist Church as they sent a letter of thanks at the end of the summer.

Greasby Community Centre – 71 Registrations

The centre is conveniently split into two areas and offers a suitable space for both crafts and games. Unfortunately outside play is restricted due to the lack of space and the busy car park. The playworkers did take the children to Coronation Park when the weather permitted. Large group games worked well as everyone could get involved. There were some initial problems with older young people being disruptive, that put some younger children off attending regularly. The only way to solve this was to lower the age at this playscheme to 12, to allow younger children to benefit from the provision. This strategy worked well and the regular attendance of younger children increased.

West Kirby, Westbourne Community Centre – 185 Registrations

West Kirby is a popular, well-used, busy scheme. The hall is adjacent to Ashton Park so the playworkers utilised this whenever possible. The team were patient and calm with the children and enjoyed getting involved with the activities. Treasure hunts and football were popular and the children enjoyed a day trip ice-skating in the final week.

Woodchurch Community Centre– 170 Registrations

The playscheme took place for five weeks and gradually became popular and well used. The venue is ideal with a good-sized indoor area and a purpose built play area outside. The children enjoyed sharing their ideas and doing activities they wanted to. They particularly enjoyed pool competitions and craft activities.

Overton Community Centre – 115 Registrations

A popular playscheme that is well attended. The regular children enjoyed getting involved with a game they could all play together and dodgeball was a favourite.

Alongside the sports hall is a good space for arts and crafts activities, which were also popular. At the end of the summer the playworkers took the children on a trip to the Camelot Theme Park.

South Wirral District – Five Playschemes

Eastham Youth Club – 88 Registrations

The Youth Club was a new venue for the Eastham playscheme and proved to be a successful move however it was a bit quieter than previous years. The site is large so needs supervision but the extra space was invaluable when it came to providing sports and large groups games. Activities that could be done in groups such as football were popular as were painting and crafts.

Tranmere Albany Hall– 152 Registrations

This is a popular playscheme situated in the corner of Victoria Park. Initially there were some issues over the use of the hall for the playscheme but once these were resolved the team of playworkers successfully provided a variety of play activities.

New Ferry Village Hall – 195 Registrations

The Hall is a good large space that can be manipulated and used for a variety of both active and quieter activities. The venue is situated across the road from a park that they access. The older boys particularly enjoyed the positive input from the male playworker. Active games and sports were very popular and the children especially enjoyed regular competitions!

Prenton Dell Play Area - 71 Registrations

An outdoor playscheme that is success is very much dependant upon the weather. The team worked alongside the local residents group and library staff to provide activities for the local children, using their venues when the weather was bad.

Higher Bebington Christ Church Hall - 231 Registrations

This was this year's most popular playscheme and ran successfully. The outdoor area behind the church is an ideal play setting and the children spent many sessions outside enjoying the open space, trees and bushes. The children enjoyed playing with the equipment provided but the best equipment was found naturally amongst the trees and foliage, which they used to construct dens and hiding places. One of the older boys registered at the playscheme said "if it hadn't been for your playscheme I'd have been bored for weeks, but I've had a great time".

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 27 OCTOBER 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

BIG LOTTERY CHILDREN'S PLAY PROGRAMME REPORT 2009

Executive Summary

This report is to update the Committee about the developments of the Big Lottery Play Programme. The Committee is asked to note the report.

1.0. Background

1.1. The BIG Lottery Fund awarded Youth & Play Service £881,208 for the children programme over three years, 2009 to 2012. The grant funds a portfolio of seven projects; three revenue and four capital.

1.2. The three revenue projects are:

- Community Play Rangers – Facilitating and promoting accessible outdoor play for children 5 -13 years
- Play Practitioners Project - open access play sessions
- Play For All – inclusive play project

1.3 Capital projects are for improved Adventure and Nature play areas in:

- Meols Park
- Harrison Park, New Brighton
- Port Causeway, Port Sunlight
- Whitfield Common, Heswall

1.4 The revenue projects created three new senior play workers and 12 new part time posts. All staffs are in post except the Play Inclusion Co-ordinator which is in the process of recruitment. The Community Play Rangers and Play Practitioners Projects started delivering in March 2009 and the 'Play For All' Inclusive project have been supporting the children in full time playschemes since July 2009. There are a number of portfolio outcomes expected to be achieved by the end of the grant period these can be found attached, see Appendix 1.

2.0. **Community Play Rangers**

- 2.1. The Community Play Rangers Project started in February 2009. One full-time Senior Community Play Ranger was appointed and seven part-time Community Play Rangers. The playworkers completed one month training before being split into three teams to be able to designated communities, in order to provide play sessions for children. Areas were identified by consulting with children, other projects run by the Wirral Play Council, Schools, Friends of the Parks groups, the extended services co-ordinators, local community groups and various Wirral Council departments to find out what play provision there was available for children aged 5 – 13 across Wirral. A programme was developed based on the areas which had been identified as having gaps in free play provision and now 30 play sessions operate in parks and play areas each week.
- 2.2. Children at each play session choose for themselves what type of activity they would like to take part in. The Play Rangers provide different types of equipment and ideas that can be used in many ways. The children are encouraged to make games up, suggest new activities that could take place and make things that can then be taken home. All activities are free of charge and are a mixture of sports, arts and crafts, natural play, in particular the Gibbon slack lines, which support more risky play, have proved popular. Funding for new equipment is being looked into to be able to offer children various new types of activities and provide different types of play opportunities.
- 2.3. Delivery Areas include:
Irby Playing Fields, Ridgewood Park - Pensby, Grange & Newton Park - West Kirby, Ryecroft Park, Demesne Street , Luke St. play area - Seacombe, Central Park- Liscard, Harrison Park, Wallacre play area , Tower Grounds, Vale Park- New Brighton & Wallasey, Prenton Dell Estate, Town Lane & Mayer Park -Bebington, Port Causeway - New Ferry, Mersey Park – Tranmere, Bedford Road – Rock Ferry, Yee Tree play area and Lingham Park – Moreton, Kellsall play area, Eastham skate park – Eastham, Brookhurst park and Bromborough recreation ground, Meadow Crescent, Woodchurch – Coronation park – Greasby, Meols Park, Grove Road – Hoylake, Whitfield Common and the Puddydale, Heswall.
- 2.4. During the Community Play Ranger play sessions the Play Rangers are often approached by parents, adults, children and young people telling them that they think the Play Rangers are doing a fantastic job and are “well needed” in their area. One adult approached a worker to tell them they had some trouble with children by their houses and were glad the Play Rangers had moved them away into the park.

- 2.5. During one play session children took the Play Rangers into their confidence and showed them a den, which they had built in a local woodland area. This could not be seen from the park but the children were extremely proud of their den and had thought of everything, they had a rope to help people get in as it was on a steep slope, they had carpet to sit on and was totally camouflaged by trees and dead branches. They had worked very hard on this and the Play Rangers had to promise they would not have it removed. At the same play session Play Rangers have watched as older youths have slowly started joining in with play sessions, which the Play Rangers encourage as then children see that they can play together with older youths and not fear all of them. These children continued to play with the youths after the play session ends,
- 2.6. There are two play sessions attended that have an older youths at each who are known for causing trouble on their estate. The Play Rangers have been able to build up a good relationship with these youths and they have both taken part in play sessions and one of them even participated in using the dressing up equipment during the session. This was extremely funny for all the children and the Play Rangers. By allowing the youths to join in helps to avoid any problems they may cause otherwise.
- 2.7. Meols park play session has been a huge success. Friends of the Park have helped the Play Rangers promote their play session and have an active approach and this may be our pilot session were volunteers can take over to provide their own play session with our help providing training.
- 2.8. The Play Rangers watch children grow at every session, one child was very shy at first and his parents informed the Play Ranger that he has started doing better at school and takes part in more activities since coming to the play sessions with his friends. One child has written to the Chief Executive of Wirral Council to tell them how much they enjoy the play session in Hoylake and how she has persuaded many of her friends to come to the play session. Many children and young people return to the play sessions week after week, some even follow the Play Rangers from one session to another.
- 3.0. **Play Practitioners Project**
- 3.1. The project is staffed by a full-time Senior Play Practitioner and two part time playworkers. It delivers free open access play for all children aged between 6 – 13 yr olds in targeted locations on the Wirral, including Overchurch, Noctorum, Woodchurch, Eastham and New Ferry. The play staff have built up a good rapport with the children and parents who attend the sessions. Playworkers have an idea book for each location, the

children can then draw or just write what they would like to do the next week and where possible we bring the activity is planned and prepared.

- 3.2. This summer the project was promoted in the Let's Go Magazine and through contacting and leafleting local schools. The senior worker attends local residents meetings and is involved in local fund raising events including 'The Big Lunch' at the Woodchurch Community Centre. Play Day at Birkenhead Park on the 6 August was also a great opportunity to promote Playpoint to over 1000 children and their parents.
- 3.3 All staff have completed their First Aid Training and training needs are identified through team meetings and staff appraisals. The project plans to continue to promote PlayPoint through area discussions with children/young people, parents/carers and other outside agencies so the meet the needs of local children and the community. Parental involvement is encouraged as is the recruitment and training of volunteers.
- 3.4. Two little girls who are very shy, asked if they could perform a Penguin song. When they finished playworkers suggested they might like to perform for the whole group next week. They agreed, and playworkers obtained some penguin outfits for them. They performed their show in front of all the children and some parents. This was a great success, and their parents couldn't believe how good they were. Playworkers have watched how their confidence has grown and look forward to their next performance.
- 3.5. One young boy came to his first play session with his father, but he was so upset he wouldn't let go of his dad and cried to go home. Shortly after he came back with his mum and she asked if she could stay till he settled, within 20 minutes he was playing with his new friends and his mum went home. When she returned he didn't want to leave. He had drawn a picture for his dad which said "ha ha I went back". He now comes every week and brings his cousin.
- 3.6. One of the most recent purchases is a Gibbon Slackline. It is attached between two trees like a tight rope, at a low level. This provides children with an opportunity for risky play. It is also timed to see how long they can balance or tightrope walk along the line. The current record is 57 seconds, this adds a slight competitive edge to the activity.
- 3.7. The Play Rangers project and Play Practitioners project contribute to a number of objectives within the Play Strategy Objectives, these are attached, see Appendix 1.

4.0. **Play For All**

- 4.1. An inclusive play project 'Play For All' focuses on engaging with and providing free play opportunities for vulnerable children and young people aged 5 - 13 years. The project reduces barriers to play for children and young people with specific needs and provide access to local play opportunities in an inclusive play environment.
- 4.2. Playworkers provide age appropriate play opportunities in consultation with the children and young people aimed at supporting their play needs, promoting optimal social and emotional development, maximum participation and fun. Playworkers will utilise their observational and reflective play work skills to determine levels of appropriate support and intervention. Some children with specific needs are excluded from ordinary social group activities, due to accessibility, locality, transport and resources issues. The deployment of playworkers with required skills help to address this, and provide a structure in which children with specific needs can engage in free play on a regular basis.
- 4.3. Children go to their local play setting to access indoor and outdoor play encouraging children to access local play provision, so that they can engage with their peers in an inclusive play environment. Open access play provision is inherently flexible and the inclusive nature of the schemes means issues emanating from social exclusion can be addressed. This would also mean working with parents, foster carers, support groups, schools, Children's Services to ensure a co-ordinated approach when delivering the service.
- 4.4. Children with specific needs cited the 'need for supervision', before their parents would allow them to play out or use local play facilities. These children would be escorted to activities in centralised locations, outside of their local area, meaning the potential of making and engaging with their friends locally was very limited. This would only serve to increase their isolation and the opportunity to engage with their peers other than school. Therefore the projects fits with the key finding to increased accessibility to free localised inclusive play provision for vulnerable children and young people who have specific needs supported by supervised trained playworkers.
- 4.5. Three Inclusive Playworkers have been appointed engaged in direct face to face play work. There has been some difficulties in recruiting Senior Play worker to coordinate the project, however, this will hopefully be addressed in the next round of interviews. Playworkers will receive relevant training which will help to meet the children's needs and support their attendance. Models of good practice will be developed in the

delivery of inclusive play which will be accessible, offer equality of opportunity, enable children to participate and be child-centred.

5.0. Birkenhead Park Launch Day

5.1. The Programme was launched on 19th August at the Birkenhead Park Pavilion. The day was a success with in excess of 200 children and parents/grandparents/carers attending the event. The programme was officially opened by the Mayor and Mayoress. Cllr Chris Meaden and the Acting Deputy Head Youth & Play Service promoted the Play programme on Radio Merseyside raising the profile of Play.

5.2. The day started with introduction of the programme by Cllr Meaden. This was followed by a presentation of the programme progress and the Play co-ordinators gave a summary and insights of their projects. The Mayor appreciated the importance of play to children development and congratulated the successful bid of the Big Lottery funding. Both play projects ran their sessions, activities including badge making, paper dresses, kite making, alternative sports (Gibbon Slackline) and den building.

6.0. Financial and Staffing Implications

6.1 The Children's play programme is funded by the BIG Lottery Fund and due to finish February 2012. There is an additional 16 play staff employed who will provide additional play provision across Wirral.

7.0. Equal Opportunities Implications

7.1 The programme reflects inclusiveness and promotes equal opportunities and access.

8.0. Human Rights Implications

8.1. There are no specific human rights implications arising from this report.

9.0. Community Safety Implications

9.1. There are no specific community safety implications none arising from this report.

10.0. Local Agenda 21 Implications

10.1 There are no specific Local Agenda 21 Implications arising from this report.

11.0. Planning Implications

11.1. There are none arising from this report.

12.0. Anti - poverty Implications

12.1. The play provision provided is free of charge for all children with a high density of play activity in areas of identified need.

13.0. Social inclusion Implications

13.1 The programme endeavours to ensure children have equal access to play and are able to participate in local play opportunities.
The play projects are open access and often work with those children and young people who are marginalised.

14.0. Local Member Support Implications

14.1. Play provision is distributed borough-wide through all wards of Wirral.

15.0. Background papers

15.1. There are none arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to note this report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

Appendix 1

Portfolio Outcomes

Number	Portfolio Outcome	Project Contribution to Outcome over 3 years	Project Target achieved Qtr 1 & 2 of First Year
1	4,700 children & YP able to participate in a range of more inclusive and accessible play experiences in areas of identified need by the end of three years.	Community Play Rangers Target –3500 Play Practitioners Project Target – 900 Play for All Target – 300	Community Play Rangers :1357 Play Practitioners Project : 498 Play for All : TBA
2	Enable 20% more children & YP to feel safe and reduce the fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment by the end of three years.	Community Play Rangers Target –700 Play Practitioners Project Target – 180 Play for All Target – 60	Feel Safe Survey conducted at the beginning of projects, same children will be surveyed again at the end of year 1.
3	200 more children & YP will be involved in the design, planning and delivery of play provision which will increase satisfaction and meet their play needs by the end of three years.	Community Play Rangers Target –150 Play Practitioners Project Target – 38 Play for All Target – 12	Collectively over 1000 children have participated in the consultation of play areas and activities to be delivered by the projects.

Play Strategy Objectives

1.10 Support the continued development of supervised open access play provision

1.10.3 Development and delivery of outreach play provision in areas with inadequate provision

All Community Play Ranger play sessions are supervised and open access. They have been chosen after consultation with relevant agencies and are in areas identified as having inadequate play provision.

1.15 Enable children and young people to feel safe when playing beyond the confines of their home environment i.e. parks and open spaces

1.15.1 Provide children and young people with opportunities for informal supervised play activities with the support of qualified play rangers

Children and young people are supervised at all times during play sessions and they are free to choose their own activities. They have completed the Feel Safe questionnaires as baseline data to find out how safe they feel whilst playing out and this will be monitored and completed again in six months to see if the Play Rangers are making a difference.

Play practitioners contributed in collecting the base line data for the Feel Safe Questionnaires. Children and young people were consulted in focus groups at play sessions.

4.3.2 Provide play development support within the current district and area structure via Play Practitioners.

5 free indoor play locations across Wirral operating 3.30pm – 6.00pm every week day.

5.1 Provide opportunities for children and young people to be involved and consulted in the development and delivery of play provision

5.1.3 Support children and young people's involvement in design and delivery of improved play areas

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