



Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

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| Date: | Thursday, 30 September 2010 |
| Time: | 5.30 pm |
| Venue: | Committee Room 2 - Wallasey Town Hall |

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AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 6)**
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16 February 2010.
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT (Pages 7 - 20)**
5. **RESPONSE STOP GAP PROJECT (Pages 21 - 24)**
6. **FORUM HOUSING ASSOCIATION**
7. **WALLASEY YOUTH HUB (Pages 25 - 30)**
8. **DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD (Pages 31 - 36)**
9. **PLAY WORK SUMMER ACTIVITIES 2010 (Pages 37 - 44)**
10. **STOCKTAKE (Pages 45 - 54)**
11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agenda Item 2

YAPCAC 16th February 2010

Present

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| Chair | Cllr T Harney |
| Councillors | Cllr W Smith |
| Council Officers | Lindsay Davidson (Acting Head of Youth & Play Service) Terry Hall (Deputy Head, Field Support) Debbie McCabe (Senior Youth Engagement Worker) Kathryn McGiveron (Press and PR Manager) |
| Executive Youth Board | Liam McDine Charlotte Knaggs Erin Lester Stephen Pollard |
| In Attendance | Chris Lennon (Young Person) Chloe Stanley (Young Person) Tim Edwards, Principal Youth Worker - Charing Cross Methodist Youth Club Roger Phillips (Radio Merseyside) |
| Apologies | Cllr C Meadon Cllr S Clark Cllr K Hayes Cllr S Quinn Peter Edmondson (Head of Participation and Inclusion Branch) Steve Chan (Deputy Head, Play) John Davies (Acting Deputy Head, Youth) Executive Youth Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ellis Palmer, Sea Rainey, Rebecca McCartney, Abby Howarth, Matthew Taylor, Craig Kenny, Jack Trueman, Jamie Mallon, Sonika Jalota, Tara Staunton |

Prior to the meeting there was a dance presentation by the children from Beechwood Playscheme. This was well received and the Committee thanked the children and staff.

Cllr Harney opened the meeting and formally handed the Chair to Liam McDine and Vice Chair to Charlotte Knaggs from the Executive Youth Board.

Minute 74 - Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone and took apologies for absence.

Minute 75 - Discussion on promoting positive perceptions of young people

Liam McDine thanked Rodger Phillips from Radio Merseyside and Kathryn McGiveron from the Press and PR Department for attending. Liam explained that the Committee was concerned about some of the negative images of young people in the media and was keen to have the debate about how young people could be promoted in a more positive light.

Erin Lester began the debate by asking what the media's view of young people was. Roger Philips explained that it was mainly older people who rang into his radio show. He felt that young peoples' views were underrepresented and that we all needed to be more pro-active to encourage and enable young people to come forward.

Kathryn was asked what she could do to promote young people in her role as Head of Press and PR. Kathryn said her job was to promote the Council and that many positive stories already come through from the Youth Service, such as the Wirral Youth Theatre. Kathryn stated that the media are more likely to be interested in stories which have a personal interest aspect.

The EYB asked if it would be possible to have a page in a local paper to promote good news stories about young people. Kathryn said that she would be happy to help the EYB to approach the local newspapers about a regular column but that it may be more feasible for them to have a blog or news column on the new TeenWirral website.

Roger suggested that there could be a possibility for young people to do weather reports on the Tony Snell (Radio Merseyside breakfast show) where Tony rings someone to ask what the weather is like where they are in Merseyside. Roger also explained the possibility of a young person doing the newspaper reviews on the morning breakfast show.

There was a debate about how positive stories can be fed through to the press office by officers and the EYB. Kathryn offered to meet regularly with the EYB to action this point and be a point of contact for advice on publicity opportunities.

The Chair thanked Roger and Kathryn for their positive input and support.

Resolved:

- (i) That Kathryn McGiveron and Roger Philips be thanked for attending the meeting.**
- (ii) That the EYB have a standard agenda item about positive images of young people.**
- (iii) That Council officers pass on details of positive stories from YAPSAC to the press office for consideration as press releases.**

Minute 76 - Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were checked and no corrections were needed.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 October 2009 be accepted as a true record.

Minute 77 - Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

Minute 78 - Head of Service Report

The Acting Head of Service, Lindsay Davidson, presented the report of the Service's recent activities and drew the Committee's attention to the following:

- a) Jenny Lloyd has retired after working with the Service for over 30 years;
- b) Charles Gilroy will be retiring at the end of March 2010
- c) The Play point initiative is continuing at Eastham Youth Club on a Tuesday evening;
- d) Cavendish Youth Club is proving to very popular with young people since its recent refurbishments;
- e) As part of diversionary activities for Mischief Night the outreach teams organised a football tournament at the soccer dome;
- f) Young people from Wallasey Young People's project put up Christmas decoration and sang carols at a residential home for older people;
- g) The Seven Kings group have been attending badminton sessions at Grange Road West sports centre;
- h) Greasby Youth Club has offered young people workshops on firework safety;
- i) Leasowe Youth Club has been supporting Arena Housing to design a logo for youth friendly organisations on the estate;
- j) Wirral Youth Theatre is supporting a group of young men who are looking at performance opportunities for break-dance;
- k) The Youth Theatre's 'Fame Factor' performance is occurring at Pacific Road this week;
- l) The Theatre's massive project will coincide with and assist in the launch of the Youth Hubs in April;
- m) Response's housing advice team is delivery information, advice and guidance sessions in youth clubs as part of the successful bid to the District Activity Fund;
- n) The Tier 3 substance misuse team have been engaging with a particularly hard to reach group of young men to access then to appropriate support services;
- o) 30 young people will shortly receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award from Prince Phillip at St James' Palace;
- p) The Belvidere Centre hosted a four course Christmas meal for 40 young people and members of the management committee;

- q) The Play Council has been successful in gaining an Aiming High grant for continuity of the special needs play scheme;
- r) The Community Play Rangers are holding indoor winter activity programmes and will return to outdoor sessions at Easter;
- s) The Lottery funded Play for All Coordinator is now in post;
- t) A management programme for frontline managers within Integrated Youth Support services is now underway;
- u) A Councillor shadowing programme will commence in May, in Wirral initially 12 young people will shadow elected members for 25 hours over a 1-6 week period;
- v) The 2010 UKYP elections are underway and sound bites from candidates' can be found on the internet;
- w) The reconfiguration of the Youth Service is underway with staff relocations commencing. The four Youth Hubs will launch in April.

There was some debate about the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and the reasons for an apparent greater number of young people proceeding to Gold.

Resolved

- i) That Dave Decorte be invited to the next meeting to discuss the Duke of Edinburgh's Award; and
- ii) That the Head of service be thanked for her report.

Minute 79 - React Project

The Acting Head of Service, Lindsay Davidson presented a report about the React project at Fender Youth Club. The project has been led by young people acting as peer educators to raise awareness of the dangers of knife crime. The young people involved have produced graffiti art posters and leaflets to further raise awareness of some of the issues.

Resolved:

- i) The officers be thanked for their report.

Minute 80 - Charing Cross Methodist Youth Club Presentation

Tim Edwards the Principal Youth Worker at Charing Cross Youth Club introduced the presentation and Chris Lennon and Chloe Stanley. Chris informed the Committee that he had taken part in an abseiling event to raise money for stroke victims. Chris had abseiled down the Cunard Building in Liverpool on Halloween dressed as Dracula and had raised £280 for the charity.

Resolved:

The Committee congratulated Chris and thanked Chris and Chloe for attending tonight's meeting.

Minute 81 - Development Plan

The Acting Head of Service, Lindsay Davidson tabled a report to update the Committee about the Service's progress in terms on the 2010-2011 development plan.

Resolved:

- i) The officers be thanked for their report.

Minute 82 - Any Other Business

There were no other business items.

Liam McDine handed the Chair back to Cllr Harney who thanked the Executive Youth Board for chairing the meeting.

Minute 83 - Date of Next Meeting

This will be set after May 2010.

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REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HEAD OF YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper reports on the activities of the Youth and Play Service since the last meeting on 16 February 2010. The major item has been the introduction and launching of four Youth Hubs, one in each district, and the associated re-configuration of the Youth Service.

1.0. STAFF MOVEMENTS

- 1.1 All the four Youth Hub Managers are now in place, appointed from within. Many staff have been re-deployed to the vacancies created and to re-designated posts. This process has been subject to the current vacancy control procedures and is almost complete.
- 1.2 Fred Derbyshire has been appointed as Lead Outreach Worker for South Birkenhead and Katrina Maxwell for East Wallasey. These are full-time professional grade posts which are temporary until 31 March 2011 and funded by the Youth Crime Action Plan.

AREA TEAM REPORTS**2.0. South Wirral and Birkenhead Districts**

- 2.1. The Birkenhead District hub held its official launch event on the evening of Thursday 17 June and was a huge success. The event was attended by the Mayor of Wirral, many local dignitaries, personalities and young people from across the district. It was a most enjoyable evening with many young people show casing their talents in musical performances and a display of Tae Kwon Do. The summer programme has included a number of residential outdoor pursuit experiences, including Oaklands. Other off-site events have involved groups of young people attending graffiti workshops in the Bluecoat and Tate galleries, theatre visit to see Blood brothers, and go carting. The urban garden is developing well and the care of the rabbits and fowl is proving a very useful learning experience for young people. Claremount School are attending the Hub regularly.
- 2.2. Callister has run an interesting programme over the summer months with regular outings to places of interest and activities. Working with Aiming High for Disabled Children, the club is publicising its programme and will be holding an Open Evening for young people and their parents in the autumn.
- 2.3. Dance, Pilates and fitness have been the focus of the summer events in Cavendish youth club. The staff have run a number of workshops and discussion groups on the subject of internet safety and alcohol awareness. The members committee are currently deciding on the autumn programme.
- 2.4. The highlight of the programme at Charing Cross was the successful culmination to their fund raising for a mini bus to enhance the work with the disabled members. This was a fantastic achievement and of great credit to all the members. The arrival of the new bus coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the Methodist Neighbourhood Centre which has been serving Birkenhead since 1960.
- 2.5. The summer months have been very busy at Viking Youth Club, where a large number of exciting events have taken place. Two groups of young people have enjoyed an experience of the British waterways on narrow boats. There have been two visits to Blackpool to the Pleasure beach and

Sandcastle. A course of creative cookery resulted in delicious two course meals and AQA Award in communication.

2.6 The South Wirral District Hub at Eastham was officially launched on Monday 28 June and was a huge success thanks to the hard work of many young people and staff who had organised and planned the events across Wirral. Over the summer months a number of building improvements have taken place, a computer suite funded by the Youth Opportunity fund has been equipped. Rooms have been dedicated to offer life skills and the sports facilities have been improved. New members from the wider district are beginning to sign up for the broader range of activities that are now available.

2.7 Environmental clean up and gardening projects are increasingly catching the imagination and interest of young people. A group from Bebington are regularly weeding and tidying the immediate area around the Club and hope to fund raise to get planters and garden furniture to improve the look of the exterior. A recent trip to Oaklands run by senior members for children from the Play group was very successful. A shoebox appeal for the troops in Afghanistan has been running with young people filling shoeboxes to be dispatched before Christmas.

3.0 Wirral Youth Service Outreach Team

3.1 The reconfiguration of the Youth Service involved some District realignment of the geographically based outreach teams. The wards covered by each youth outreach project are listed below.

| District | Team | Wards |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Birkenhead Ria Modena | North Birkenhead Youth Outreach Project | Claughton, Oxtan, Prenton, Bidston & St James (west) |
| Birkenhead Fred Derbyshire | South Birkenhead Youth Outreach Project | Rock Ferry, Birkenhead & Tranmere, Bidston & St James (east) |
| Wallasey Mike Holbrook | North Wallasey Outreach Project | Moreton West & Saughall Massie, Leasowe & Moreton East, Wallasey. |
| Wallasey Katrina Maxwell | East Wallasey Youth Outreach Project | New Brighton, Liscard, Seacombe. |
| West Wirral Gary Atkinson | West Wirral Youth Outreach Project | Heswall, West Kirby & Thurstaston, Hoylake & Meols, Greasby, Frankby & Irby, Upton, Pensby & Thingwall. |
| South Wirral Liz Hawkins | South Wirral Youth Outreach Project | Eastham, Bromborough, Bebington, Clatterbridge. |

3.2 As part of the District strategy, the outreach youth workers not only provide a complementary Youth Offer to that of the Youth Hub and Youth Clubs but also support the development of these centres and signpost young people to their activities.

3.3 Although without a District Youth Worker until the beginning of September, South Birkenhead Youth Outreach Project has maintained its presence on the streets and in the parks of Tranmere and Rock Ferry. Football coaching sessions have been organised in Mersey Park and a BBQ was held in Victoria Park. The young people enjoyed bowling and a trip to Laser Quest. The Kontakta Bus funded by the Youth Opportunity Fund has proved to be popular and has provided a venue for workshops that have raised awareness of the dangers of smoking and alcohol consumption.

3.4 The newly appointed District Youth Worker with the North Birkenhead Youth Outreach Project is playing an active role in the network structure of north Birkenhead: links have been made with the

Friends of the Arno and NAG meetings have been attended. In addition to streetwork, the Monday evening football sessions have continued at Ridgeway High School and the project base has been the venue for cookery sessions and a holiday breakfast club. A programme of winter activities is being developed with the young people.

- 3.5 In South Wirral, You Decide funding was made available for a programme of activities, chosen by the young people and the South Wirral Youth Outreach Project has taken the lead in bringing this about. Young people who have not previously engaged with the Youth Service have had the opportunity to participate in horse riding, bowling, and trips to Manley Mere and to Alton Towers and this has been appreciated by parents. In partnership with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Trailblazers, a mountain biking, riding and maintenance project was launched in August. As a result of a successful Youth Forum funding bid, the young people have set up a weekly sewing and craft club at the Dig It Project. The Friday evening football session at the Oval continues to attract over a 100 young people a week.
- 3.6 West Wirral Youth Outreach Project has benefitted from having a District Youth Worker in post. Streetwork and the Kontakta Bus has enabled work with young people to be undertaken in Woodchurch, Arroe Park, Irby, Upton, Pensby and Heswall and contact has been made with new groups of young people. An active role has been played in the partnership work undertaken to address anti social behaviour in West Kirby on a Friday night and the successful weekly BarBQs, together with sports activities, provided the young people with the opportunity to engage in positive activities.
- 3.7 The West Wallasey Youth Outreach Project has undertaken streetwork and made use of the Kontakta Bus throughout the patch, developing work in the new areas of Moreton and in Leasowe. On a Friday night, the session in Harrison Park is well attended with some young people enjoying sports sessions organised by Sports Development coaches and others engaged in activities and workshops on the Kontakta Bus. A successful Youth Opportunity Fund bid has enabled the young people to plan a programme of positive activities that has included a weekend at Oaklands and a big event at the New Brighton Bowl at which a number of agency offering services to young people were present.
- 3.8 The East Wallasey Youth Outreach Project has been successful in engaging young people in a variety of activities, for example young women have been involved in a project to raise their self esteem and promote their well being. Young men completed a course of urban dance sessions. The well attended Friday session in Central Park, makes use of the Kontakta Bus whilst Sports Development coaches organise sports activities. Visits to Manley Mere and go karting are amongst the activities chosen by young people during the summer. The youth workers supported community fun days at Victoria Park, Poulton and at Belleview Park, Seacombe.

4.0. **Wallasey and West Wirral Districts**

- 4.1 Wallasey Youth Hub officially opened on the 15 June 2010. An evening of music and dance preformed by a wide range of young people from across Wirral launched the event. Acts included beat-boxers, break-dancers, bands and vocalists. The event was a celebration of talent co-ordinated by Wirral Youth Theatre. A youth worker and school nurse from Health Services in Schools attended three evenings during summer. They offered young people advice around all aspects of their health needs. They delivered informal sessions around sexual health, contraception and alcohol misuse, resulting in 13 young people gaining recorded outcomes. During the summer the Hub was used as a school for 42 Spanish young people from a Spanish Student Exchange Programme they came to learn English for four weeks. During the evening a lot of the Spanish young people attended the HUB, allowing Wirral young people to mix with young people from another country. During the semi-final of the World Cup a Spanish evening was held, where both Wirral young people and Spanish young people watched the match - and supported Spain. During July, mentors from Clarendon School brought a minibus of young people who lived in the Wallasey area. The young people, who have moderate learning difficulties and can often be socially isolated outside of school, came for three evenings. The aim of the initiative was to

encourage those young people to continue to come after the three days were over. The result of this was that five young people have continued to attend.

- 4.2 Leasowe Youth Project has been working with Unity in the Community which is a group of youth providers in Leasowe developing a youth offer for young people. Some of the activities that have taken place include bowling, Go Karting and a football competition. Young people have also been involved in the Coastal walk and a trip to the theatre to see Birkenhead Tale.
- 4.3 Moreton Youth Club hosted "It's a Knockout" Moreton Come Together Day on the 21 August which was a great success. Some of the activities that young people have taken part in include a Quiz Night, Big Ball Volley Night, Go Karting and a Circus trip.
- 4.4 Belvidere Youth Club have been advertising what happens in the club through young people producing flyers and a monthly magazines, activities young people have been involved in bowling trips, all night pool (12 hour) fundraiser and creating a new garden area to the side of the building.
- 4.5 St Marys Youth Club runs Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze Silver and Gold awards. Young people have been preparing and going on expeditions putting what they have learnt in to practice. The Tuesday club is for young people with additional needs, some of the activities that have been discos, sports and arts and craft. Wirral Youth Theatre worked with young people to introduce new dance routines. The young people performed at the Wallasey Youth Hub launch.
- 4.6 West Wirral Youth Hub launched on the 24 June. The evening showcased music and dance performed by a wide range of young people from across Wirral. 130+ attended the event. The Hub has built links with church youth groups in West Kirby which has led to an after-school drop-in operating from the Hub on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 3:30pm – 5:30pm. These have been going well and have formed a link for young people who access the church youth clubs to start accessing the Hub activities. Young people have been gaining accreditation and voluntary experience through running the coffee bar and organising projects. This is accredited by the 'V Award'. 15-20 young people attend the Tuesday Night Football in the Concourse sports hall. NHS Stop Smoking service came in to publicise their drop in clinic at the Concourse on a Monday night and have offered to come in and work with groups in the evening view a view to forming links into their day service.
- 4.7 Greasby Youth Club have been working closely with Sports Development and the West Wirral Outreach team to provide sporting opportunities from the Pavilion in Coronation Park. Young people have been involved in arts and crafts, healthy cooking projects. They have received the bronze award for Health Promoting Units and are on their way in gaining their Silver Award.
- 4.8 At Fender Youth Club Staffing issues have led to a reduced youth offer for young people in the neighbourhood. Young people have access to the core facilities in the youth club i.e., computer room, coffee bar and pool tables. When there is insufficient staff to open the Youth Club, staff are re-deployed as outreach, maintaining relationships with the young people in the locality.
- 5.0 **WIRRAL YOUTH THEATRE/YOUTH ARTS (WYT)**
- 5.1 Wirral Youth Theatre is expecting to relocate from the Pacific Road Arts Centre to Gilbrook School in Pilgrim Street, Birkenhead. After some initial essential refurbishment, the provisional date for the move is 27 September. Negotiations to maximise the use of the venue as a focal point for wider arts and youth activities are under way.

- 5.2 WYT will also be delivering a new Peer Education course accredited by the Open College which will enable young people 16+ to gain Youth Arts facilitation skills. This will be piloted from October.
- 5.3. 55 young people from WYT received their V awards for achieving 50 or 100 hours of volunteering. Young people were presented with their certificates at a celebration evening held at Pacific Rd arts Centre.
- 5.4. Youth Arts Worker Training - WYT workers hosted an experiential arts training evening for staff across the service with the aim of demystifying the arts in youth work offering a better understanding of using the arts within youth work. Over 40 staff attended opting for taster sessions in their chosen art form choosing from drama, dance, music, music production, photography, and singing workshops.
- 5.5. WYT's young people's outreach company – "First Class" will be touring its latest production "Somebody's Son", to Youth Hubs and to six secondary schools across Wirral during September. The production will premiere at Pacific Rd Arts Centre on 20 September. The piece explores the consequences of violent behaviour and peer pressure on all those concerned.
- 5.6. Young people from "First Class" have been involved in supporting and facilitating training at a number of conferences and training events including attending a conference to raise awareness about the Advocacy Service held at the Floral Pavilion in June, and facilitating at two separate training workshops for the Northwest Society of Doctors which explored blocks and barriers young people face regarding sexual health at a GPs.
- 5.7. Machismo 2 was a secondary dance event funded by the YOF panel was delivered over 4 days during March to develop dance with young men. The workshops explored a variety of issues with young men including masculinity. The event culminated in 101 young men performing together at the Machismo 2 event "The Beat Strikes Back" at Pacific Rd Arts Centre.
- 5.8. Girls Get Active offered a range of dance workshops over four weeks encouraging young women aged 14-16 to be healthier through physical activity.
- 5.9. The CITC Project worked specifically with NEET young people offering a range of dance development workshops. The work culminated in a performance evening at the Floral Pavilion
- 5.10. "Voltage" is part of "V" – the National Volunteering Programme. WYT has been selected as one of five projects across England to run the scheme and to represent the North West. 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 for three years 2008 - 2011. Nine "Voltage" Volunteers aged 16 – 21 yrs completed their training and volunteering in May 2010. They attended a celebration event in London in July, hosted by Youth Music. The new "Voltage" group for 2010–11 is being recruited for the final phase of the scheme. This year young people with an interest in the performing arts will attend an intensive accredited training course to equip them with peer mentoring skills. They will then create an issue based performance project which will be delivered in schools in December.
- 5.11. Young people attended a variety of music workshops at Pacific Road, Charing Cross, Eastham Youth Club and the Shaftesbury and performed at the four HUB launches in Eastham, Birkenhead, West Kirby and Wallasey. Vocal and music production workshops were also offered in the Hubs and were well attended. Young people made CDs of their original tracks.

- 5.12. Young people performed with a big band at the Live 'n' Lounge event at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton in July. There were vocal performances supported with dance from the era.
- 5.13 The production named "The Fame Factor" was a new musical theatre piece which explored the pros and cons of reality talent programmes and included original music composed by the Voltage Music Volunteers. There were public performances of the show in February half term, with over 60 young people performing at Pacific Rd Arts Centre. Young people were involved at all levels of the production including front of house and as stage crew. Young people are developing a project to support fundraising for Claire House, this will culminate in a performance in October.
- 5.14. Commissioned by the District Activity Fund, WYT is running a range of Urban Arts workshops in youth clubs in each of the four districts. After a series of taster activities young people were offered the opportunity to develop further in the areas of music and dance. Activities included street dance, break-dancing, beat-boxing, lyric writing, urban choir and vocal work, swing choir, band development and rap digital film, photography and music, beat box, rap, dance and drama.
- 5.15. An ongoing programme of dance and drama sessions have been delivered for Looked After Children developing their skills and self esteem. The young people have performed their work at Pacific Rd and a different piece at the Tranmere Show.
- 5.16. WYT Linked with the Education Psychology team to develop the TaMHS project. The work used dance and drama performing arts as a way to get young people to express themselves and find ways to deal with stress and self respect. The project was piloted with Rock Ferry High School. The WYT staff are now developing a programme which will now be rolled out to more schools across Wirral.
- 5.17. WYT has also received funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund to run a project called 'Massive' which involved young people in each district in a series of workshops leading to a Big Urban Arts & Music Event. The work developed in each area helped form part of the launch night of each the four Youth Hubs in June. These nights celebrated the work and talent of young people who had been involved in Massive and the Urban Arts Activities funded by the District Activity Fund. As part of the build up to the launch WYT created a "flashmob" of dancers who performed at various locations across Wirral to advertise the launch of the new Hubs. These highly entertaining evenings consisted of a number of performances and all events were compared by young people.

6.0. **RESPONSE**

- 6.1 The service has been busy supporting the needs of vulnerable young people across the borough. Hundreds of young people have benefited from alcohol, drugs, housing, exploitation, family problems, self harm, suicide intentions interventions this period and as a result have prevented a further decline into what could be a very costly crisis. Response has many positive working relationships with a number of agencies and services to ensure that young people get the best deal possible from services.
- 6.2 The Housing Support Team had contact with 622 young people between January and June for support around housing issues. Many young people have come for support and have also presented with issues of domestic violence. A small sample of DV statistics have been collated and have been shared with other partners e.g. NHS, PCT, etc to look further into these issues in relation to next steps.
- 6.3. Response is delighted to report that "Stop Gap" has been funded until 31 March 2010. A report and presentation on the work of "Stop Gap" is presented under Agenda Item 4 of this meeting.
- 6.4. The arrival of the Health Service in Schools has been met with enthusiasm by many of the secondary school Head Teachers, parents and governing bodies across the borough and many

schools are now fully onboard with the service. The School Nurse led service works in full partnership with a team of Youth Workers who are managed by the Head of Response. The service is attracting a lot of young people to talk about all health related topics that affect them. The service works well as it is based in school during the same time and day each week and young people can talk to professionals about any health worry or concern.

- 6.5. The Response team is currently delivering information, advice and guidance sessions to the Hubs as part of the District Activity Fund bid. Information, Advice and Guidance has been delivered within the projects to 587 young people. The work has supported many young people to become more engaged with the service and improved referrals to other specialist provision for those with complex needs.
- 6.6. During this six month period 193 new referrals have been received by the counselling team. Referrals have come from many sources particularly schools. A total of 527 sessions have been delivered in this period. There are currently 45 young people on the waiting list at the moment. The team have recruited a number of volunteers to help with the ever increasing demands and complex issues presented by vulnerable young people.
- 6.7. In this six month period a high number of young people have admitted to feeling suicidal, some of these young people have planned and attempted suicide. Methods disclosed have included -: overdose of tablets, cutting/blades, stabbing with knife, planning or attempting to jump in front of a train or bus, drowning, jumping off a bridge, strangulation, hanging, not eating. The Head of Response attends both the NHS Suicide Prevention Group and the Staying Safe Group where the findings from Response and other counselling organisations will consider any further appropriate actions.
- 6.8. The Response Outreach Drug and Alcohol Team have engaged with 3,147 young people, giving information and advice to groups in a variety of settings. Relationships with young people through street work have developed well and as the summer approaches more young people have been contacted either through the team's outreach work or through partnership work with the Police on Operation Staysafe. Attempts to reduce risk taking behaviour amongst young people continues to be a challenge particularly around the issue of alcohol, however, the various teams in Response work well at picking up the vulnerable and at risk young people and provide a fully supportive service that meets those challenges.
- 6.9. Response works in partnership with the hospital A&E dept and one of the Response team is based in A&E during the evenings at weekends and can offer support and guidance following alcohol-related admissions. Working with children's A&E, all alcohol related admissions are followed up with an offer of support from a dedicated worker. Young people are offered non judgemental and confidential support, education and guidance to address their problems and to enable them to have control over their lives, increasing their self esteem and empowering them to become productive and confident members of society.

7.0. **DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD**

- 7.1. See Agenda Item 7.

8.0. **PLAY SERVICE**

- 8.1. Community Play Rangers provided by Wirral Play Council started outdoors programme at Easter and will continue to do so until October half-term. The project provided 30 play sessions in parks and play areas over the summer, and is attracting new children on a weekly basis. Activities that have taken place over the summer are junk modelling, play dough making, face painting, sports and games, arts and crafts. The children decide at each play session what games and activities they would like to take participate in. It is half way into the duration of the programme but it has almost achieved its three years target (see summary of outcomes 6.13). The project has a strong staff team, however, over the past 18

months there have been two resignations which is relatively low when comparing the norm with projects of this type.

- 8.2. PlayPoint continues its existing programme provide five indoor play sessions across Wirral. The venues are due to be reviewed in September. During the summer a World Cup Tournament, Design and Take Home a T-Shirt, Mini Olympics and Wet and Wild week were organised. All BIG projects have been working in partnership with other agencies and have worked together on the Foster Carers Fun Day and Friends of the Parks Fun Days.

The project continues to work with local community groups and to link with the regional Inspire Programme coordinator to discuss how the 2012 Olympics can be used to inspire children at the play sessions after being granted Inspire status.

Through the outcomes of 'Feel safe' survey, Playpoint is working in conjunction with local youth clubs to encourage older young people to become involved in the project.

- 8.3. Staff recruitment issues delayed the start of Play For All, and another set-back was the resignation of two members of staff in July 2010. Lottery has granted a six month's extension to the project with the underspend from Year 1. Work has now progressed from receiving more referrals than the reduced staffing levels could manage, and children previously unable to attend are now being supported and included in play projects.
- 8.4. A multi agency approach has proven successful. Not only is Play For All receiving requests from other agencies, but being in contact with them ensures the child gets the best from all agencies available to them, for example, ensuring that sessions do not conflict, so children can benefit from more activities.
- 8.5. Overall, the programme spend is on the projected path except for one project which has substantial underspend from Year 1, possibly Year 2 as well. This is related to delays in staff recruitment meaning the salary budget was not spent. The Year 1 underspend has been granted by Lottery to spend on an extension of the project, for possibly a further six months.
- 8.6. Capital Big Play Project Tenders for the two sites (Whitfield Common and Port Causeway) have been delayed due to the problems with the PlayBuilder programme and the site will now be progressing with reduced budgets. The success of the two sites completed in Year 1 continues to attract hundreds of children on a weekly basis. This leads to maintenance problems due to over use which is a good sign. Play space satisfaction survey was carried out during the summer. The results will reported at the next meeting.
- 8.7. Feel Safe Play Safe project has been developed in order to meet one of the BIG Lottery portfolio outcomes: "Enable 20% more children and young people to feel safe and reduce the fear of playing out beyond the confines of their home environment".
- 8.8. A survey was undertaken and 244 children were consulted in June 2009. The main findings and areas of concern were children's fear of being alone, groups or gangs of teenagers, traffic and bullying issues. These findings have been developed into the Play Safe Action plan. Following the collection of the baseline data, a further survey will be conducted in September to ascertain do children and young people feel safer. Influencing factors will be the increased presence of Community Play Rangers, the physical improvement of some play areas and the implementation of the Play Safe action plan.
- 8.9. The first year Playbuilder programme has been completed, 11 play areas have been built and improved. Due to the timescales involved and the grant conditions, year one sites were selected based on the Play Strategy audit and consultation, areas of identified need, geographical locations, maintenance cost, match funding opportunities and also sites where there were strong community groups and Friends of Parks involvement. These sites were approved at Cabinet on 23 April 2009 and subject to further consultation with the Play Partnership the proposed year 2 sites be considered as projects for year two (2010/2011).

| <u>No.</u> | <u>Year 1 sites Completed</u> |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Meols Rec. Play Area |
| 2. | Harrison Park, New Brighton |
| 3. | Ashton Park, West Kirby |
| 4. | New Ferry Park |
| 5. | Moreton Linear Park |
| 6. | Woodlands play area, Birkenhead |
| 7. | Irby Park |
| 8. | Newton Park, Newton |
| 9. | Tower Grounds, New Brighton |
| 10. | Victoria Park, Tranmere |
| 11. | Bromborough Recreation Ground |

- 8.10. Consultation was conducted by Play Rangers and Play Practitioners on all 11 play areas allocated for improvements. Children and young people have been involved in the decision-making process through local feeder schools, youth clubs, play centres, Play Day and the Wirral Youth Conference. This included identifying their play needs, any barriers to playing outdoors and what they liked to experience through playing. The children worked in small focus groups which generated ideas and drawings. These were interpreted and included in the final designs. This has led to the inclusion of more risky and challenging play equipment being incorporated into the plans.
- 8.11. The programme has been complimented by the support of local Friends of parks groups and community groups who have generated extra funding to support further improvements. A Focus group was held with parents of disabled children at Stanley School to discuss access issues from their perspective. A number of questions were raised to generate their views.
- 8.12. Following this discussion, an additional grant of £25k from Aiming Higher was secured to provide more inclusive play equipment. Specific consultation work with girls was also undertaken through a local secondary school, who preferred equipment which enabled more risky play experiences.
- 8.13. Meols Park has proved to be very popular; it has attracted hundreds of children each day since it was completed in July 2009. A survey of park attendance revealed out of 382 pupils from Great Meols Primary school, 342 pupils have using the Park since its opening. The Park is attracting children and parents from wide catchment area, from Hoylake, Moreton and Frankby.
- 8.14. The development of Wirral's, year 1 play sites have proved to be very successful and monitoring supports this. Children are playing out, engaging with the wider community and gaining independence and resilience which leads to the development of healthy adults. This early intervention strategy has enabled children to have access to safe outdoor play space which supports the fight against child obesity by improving and maintaining children's physical and mental health. The provision of local recreational play facilities also helps to tackle anti-social behaviour issues, whilst providing opportunities for developing social skills and learning.
- 8.15. The development of the year 2 Playbuilder has been put on hold. The Play Builder grant has been de-ring fenced, and a final decision as to how much grant Wirral will be allocated to complete the year 2 programme has yet to be announced.
- 8.16. Playwork staff attended training sessions on inclusion and equality, road safety and promoting positive behaviour. They also attended the Playing on the Range course facilitated the University of Gloucester, which is a recognised qualification.
- 8.17. Leasowe adventure playground has been well used over the past months and has extended its opening hours to enable children from the Observatory School to use the facility during the day between 1-3pm. The school use the sessions at the playground as a reward for good behaviour during the week. It has been really positive to see some of the children who visit with the school also attending the playground in their own time and weekends and during evening sessions.

Local primary schools also use the playground as part of the school rewards system (golden time). An arrangement was made for one of the local primary schools, to bring the whole school to the playground. 140 children attended. This also encourages children to attend the playground after-school. There are also individual children, attending with their carers on a regular basis, as well as children who are cared for by social services. They have now started attending independently and travel to the playground on their bikes.

- 8.18. The highlight of the summer at Beechwood for a lot of the children was the home made interactive Laser-Quest. The children helped design and build the arena in the sports hall. It proved so popular, it ran for two weeks.
- 8.19. The Playscheme celebrated the summer with a big family day trip to Drayton Manor theme park, taking 75 children and parents on a double-decker bus, who had a fantastic family day out.
- 8.20. This summer at Charing Cross saw the usual mix of indoor and outdoor play activities, electronic games, table top sports together with arts and crafts kept the children busy indoors, while outside the most was made of the climbing frame, slide and tyre swing.
- 8.21. A family trip out to Light water valley theme park, Yorkshire was organised. All went well, everyone had a good time and even the weather was good that day.
- 8.22. During the summer Michael Jackson's Thriller was performed for the youth club party in August. The children practiced for weeks in advance and made their own costumes. This was done in conjunction with the Play For All project which operates an inclusive playscheme on Monday evenings at Charing Cross.
- 8.23. Gautby Road In August, 17 Children stayed at Oaklands for a residential visit for five days and four nights. The children had a great week of adventurous activities and some experienced being away from home for the first time.
- 8.24. There were also various trips to Greenacres Farm for 35 younger children and 52 children visited Drayton Manor theme park. The final trip for the summer was to Lego Land in Manchester and 30 children 6-13 years participated in interactive activities.
- 8.25. During the holidays the children participated in the annual summer superstar's competition and they were presented with a medal and certificate at the local Fun Day which was held on Friday 27 Aug.
- 8.26. Livingstone Street project continues to provide play activities despite staff recruitment issues. A full summer programme was offered, including a much welcomed end of scheme party, which involved the support of local parents from the community.

| No | Portfolio Outcome | Project Contribution to Outcome over 3 years | Project Target achieved to date |
|----|--|---|--|
| 1 | 4700 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 :3045 Play Practitioners Project : 829 Play for All : 62 |
| 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 | Year 1 Play out survey 244 children participated. Play Safe campaign is launched as a result of the findings of survey. |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | | Play for All Target – 60 | <p>During National Child Safety week, projects visited 3 schools, delivered 'Play Safe' talk to 126 Year 6 children.</p> <p>Year 6 Road Safety programme delivered by Road Safety team to include road safety awareness near playing areas.</p> |
| 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. | <p>Community Play Rangers Target –150</p> <p>Play Practitioners Project Target – 38</p> <p>Play for All Target – 12</p> | <p>Collectively over 1000 children have participated in the consultation of play areas and activities to be delivered by the projects.</p> <p>Projects visited 11 primary schools and consulted YP who come to the schemes.</p> |
| 4 | 10,000 children & YP will use new, more challenging and varied equipment by the end of three years. | <p>Community Play Rangers Target –3500</p> <p>Play Practitioners Project Target – 900</p> <p>Play for All Target – 300 4 Adventure and Nature Playgrounds</p> | <p>Community Play Rangers :3045 Play Practitioners Project : 829 Play for All : 62</p> <p>Two Playgrounds completed in Year1, Meols and Harrison Park.</p> <p>Two further parks to be completed this year. Whitfield Common and Post Causeway</p> |

9.0. TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- 9.1. A large thrust of the training over the last six months has been directed at the skills and knowledge required to deliver the re-configured service for young people. Staff of all grades and from all projects have attended sex and relationship training which focused on the Wirral policy as a professional framework; Youth Arts taster workshops (see above under WYT) and training on the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- 9.2. Nine Youth Support Workers have gained their Level 2 NVQ Award and another cohort of eleven were recruited to start in April. The partnership with Wirral Metropolitan College continues, though there are tighter constraints on the funding arrangement reflecting the national austerity measures. Revised qualifications will be offered next year when the new Qualifications and Credit Framework goes live on 1 January 2011.
- 9.3. A large scale Safeguarding programme is being planned following revised guidance laid out Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People 2010. This covers not just responding to Child Protection issues but introducing preventative measures, often involving electronic communication.
- 9.4. The National Programme for Front Line Managers delivered FPM from February to April 2010 proved very successful, with much positive feedback. Participants were from all sectors of the Integrated Youth Support Services, included many from the Voluntary Sector. One Youth Worker opted for the additional assessed assignment as passed with distinction. A second such course will begin at the end of September.
- 9.5. Staff have been taking up opportunities for Page 47 accredited learning offered by the Department, such as Managing ADHD, Autism and Drug Awareness.

10.0. YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- 10.1. On 23 April two young people attended the Department Development Day for the Children and Young People's Department, where engaging with young people was explored by staff. The young people delivered a workshop where they explained their levels of involvement in decision making and provided opportunities for staff to look at how this could be developed in their sections.
- 10.2. Due to national budget changes, Councillor Shadowing Programme (in partnership with The Youth of Today, led by BYC and UKYP) will not be operating nationally. The possibility of running a smaller, local programme in the future is being explored.
- 10.3. The Executive Youth Board (EYB) chaired the YAPSAC meeting on 16 February 2010. Following the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament in October, where the theme was perceptions of young people, Roger Phillips (Radio Merseyside) and Kathryn McGiveron (Press and PR department) attended and offered their guidance and views on how the EYB could promote positive stories of young people. Following this meeting, Kathryn and Sue Aubusson ran a workshop for the EYB and young people from other decision making groups, to look in more depth at how the positive promotion of young people can be developed. The workshop covered areas of:
- Working with the local media (newspapers, radio, TV)
 - Where the media get their stories from
 - Who to go to
 - Why work with the media
 - What makes a good story
 - How to write a press release
 - How to deal with journalists
 - Working with the Council
- 10.4. The group also looked at the new Teenwirral website and how this could be used to promote positive stories.
- 10.5. As part of the workshop, Kev MacCallum attended to speak to the young people about the comprehensive public consultation which would be taking place in September. The group gave ideas of a range of ways to consult with as many young people as possible.
- 10.6. From these initial discussions, the EYB have now agreed that the focus of this year's Youth Voice Conference will be the comprehensive public consultation. Preparation for the event is currently underway, with the EYB identifying how to make the content accessible to young people.
- 10.7. The EYB is still in contact with the Older People's Parliament and are looking at ways of working together on specific projects.
- 10.8. The EYB met with the Chief Executive, Steve Maddox, in August to talk about the Council's approach to equality and diversity, as the Chief Executive has been appointed the Champion for Age Discrimination.
- 10.9. The group also updated Steve on their work and discussed a range of issues, including jobs and apprenticeships, transport, volunteering and the role of the Council in prevention work/positive role modelling.
- 10.10. There were 13 young people who recorded soundbytes for this year's UKYP elections from five different schools. A total of 1430 votes were cast. The successful candidates were Stephanie Lockwood and Maria Kendall.
- 10.11. UKYP Regional residential 16-18 April, Page 18 of 21 Local Authorities from across the North West were represented at this event, with in excess of 100 young people attending. Wirral took

young people representatives from the UKYP, EYB and Young Ministers of Health groups. The young people took part in a series of workshops that included Equality & Diversity Training, how to be representative, group development games and issue based campaign planning.

- 10.12. YouthForia Regional Meetings originally designated as UKYP regional meetings, these have now evolved into a more inclusive form of a North West regional Youth Forum now known as YouthForia. The transition from being solely UKYP meetings to YouthForia has enabled more young people who want to make a difference the opportunity to become involved. The meetings take place every eight weeks and are hosted by a different Local Authority each time. The young people work on local, regional and national issues that have been identified as a priority by young people. The idea of the forum is to support young people in influencing decision makers and ultimately local, regional and national policies by working collaboratively with key decision makers and other young people who represent other Local Authorities. YouthForia tends to work on large campaign work. Recently there has been growth in Wirral's partnership work with the Greater Merseyside Youth Services to develop campaign strategies, where the issue and goals of the group are the same, i.e. Transport (as Merseytravel is the umbrella organisation for all the Merseyside Local Authorities). The involvement of this Youth Forum has enabled more young people to become involved at a regional and national level. Representatives of the Executive Youth Board, YOF/YCF Grant Panel and Young Verifiers have complemented the four Members and Deputy Members of United Kingdom Youth Parliament at their meetings.
- 10.13. The aim of Earful of Health - 28 May, held in Widnes was to enable young people to work collaboratively with health professionals to explore the use of youth participation and youth involvement techniques in Health Services and develop recommendations for improvements across the Cheshire and Merseyside and wider North West Region. The event itself was planned, designed and facilitated by young people from the Young Ministers of Health Project. As part of the conference health professionals and the young people who attended were asked to work together to identify the key factors for good youth involvement and develop ideas for projects which involve young people.
- 10.14. The Cheshire and Merseyside Child Health Development Programme (CHDP), has committed to developing each of the ideas and where possible identify funding so they can be delivered. Despite being relatively well established within Children's Services Youth Participation and Youth Involvement is an emerging field within the Health sector. Both CHDB and North West Regional Youth Work Unit (NWRWU) hope to share the learning from this event by distributing the conference report through their networks and NWRWU hopes to continue to encourage Health Services to link to youth services around this agenda, as well as a variety of others.
- 10.15. The National Sitting for UKYP was in Belfast from 23–26 July at the Jordanstown Campus of the University of Ulster. MYPs who attended, discussed and voted on National Campaigns – “Free For All” (free university tuition fees), “Get On Board” (transport provision for young people) and “Think Inside the Box” (political education in schools). A varied programme was on offer for the four days which allowed further development of work. A particular highlight was a visit to Stormont Castle on the Sunday. Stormont officials opened the historic building on a Sunday – an unheard of occurrence. Several Northern Irish MLAs attended: Anna Lo, Basil McCrea and the Deputy Speaker, Francie Molloy.
- 10.16. There were also a number of key speakers at the event, including: Charles Hendry, a Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Gill Hicks, founder of MAD 4 Peace and a survivor of the 7/7 London bombings, Tim Loughton, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Education (via video link) and John Bercow the Speaker of the House Of Commons.
- 10.17. The next round of District Youth Forums will take place on 30 September 2010.
- 10.18. The decision making process for the 2010/11 Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Funding has been partially completed. The YOF applications were available in November, with a deadline of 22 January 2010. The YCF commissioning applications were available from the end of January with a deadline of 10 March. The Grant Panel allocated approximately half of the funds by the end of

May 2010, prior to the announcements of the Government efficiency savings. Since then, allocation of the remaining amount has been frozen until final decisions are made.

- 10.19. Seven young people have now been trained as Young Verifiers for “You’re Welcome” achieving PCT Quality Standards. Since May, two organisations have applied for the ‘You’re Welcome’ standard, and the young people have undertaken a number of mystery shopping visits in order to assess the services. Feedback from the young people has been actioned by the organisations, including adaptations for disability access and changes in procedures to ensure that services are appropriate to the needs of young people. The group have found this to be a very interesting and exciting piece of work, which has very tangible outcomes for young people.
- 10.20. As an opportunity to try a different activity, on 4 June staff took members of each decision making group for a snowboarding lesson at the Chill Factore Snow Centre. This is the first time in two years that the young people have participated in a ‘fun’ activity, rather than completing tasks or attending meetings. All of the group had a thoroughly enjoyable day.
- 10.21. As part of the comprehensive public consultation “Wirral’s Future - be a part of it” Task force meetings, which will take place during September and October, three young people have been members of the Children and Young People’s Task Force Group. They have been an integral part of the process; attending meetings and participating fully in discussions. The group will meet again in November to finalise the options paper prior to this going to Cabinet.

11.0. **TeenWirral Website**

- 11.1 The TeenWirral website www.teenwirral.com went live from 15 September 2010

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson
Principal Manager Youth & Play Service

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

"STOP GAP" - END OF PILOT REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stop Gap offers intensive support and accommodation for 16-18 year olds facing homelessness. The project was funded by the Department of Communities and Local Government via the Supporting People programme. This report reviews the project at the end of the pilot period.

1. Background

The purpose of the report is to feedback on the progress of the Stop Gap, a homelessness prevention project, at the end of the Supported People funded pilot period. A comprehensive exercise, which examined temporary housing options for vulnerable young people (16-18th birthday), highlighted that young people with high levels of vulnerability and sometimes complex needs were often placed in unsuitable accommodation.

Wirral Supporting People Team confirmed the need to provide intensive wrap-around support for these young people who were homeless or at risk of being homeless. Supporting People then commissioned a 12 month Housing Support Project Pilot in April 2008. This pilot was later extended until March 2009.

1.1. Project Specification and Aims

The pilot specification was for 12 clients at any one time, in order to ensure that the service could offer a level of support appropriate to the needs of each young person, especially during times of crisis.

The aim of the service is to improve the health, wellbeing and resilience of young people by providing an intensive housing support service to vulnerable 16-18 year olds facing complex issues leading to their homelessness. The service provided support to stabilise the lifestyles of these young people and facilitate their social inclusion by:

- Securing a placement in a supported living environment;
- Preventing homelessness and the events leading to homelessness;
- Supporting young person to establish contact with family and return to/ remain with family where possible;
- Rebuilding lives after crisis;
- Preventing use of Bed and Breakfast placements;
- Establishing and stabilising education, training and employment opportunities;
- Supporting young people to access relevant support and treatment services;
- Providing ongoing assessment to address level and frequency of young people's alcohol, substance misuse and other risk taking behaviours including teenage conceptions;
- Acquiring daily living and coping skills;
- Enabling opportunities for moving on to independent living;
- Improving economic wellbeing and life chances.

1.2. Support Services and Partners

The project has made use of a variety of beds in different settings e.g. two Housing Association flats, assessment bed in Merseyside Accommodation Project (MAP), three different emergency lodgings beds, a private rented house and two private rented flats.

One of the strengths of the project has been the goodwill and strongly established relationships with our partners e.g. MAP, Forum, Our House, Powerhouse and other supported housing

projects. These organisations have been prepared to take young people with additional needs into their provision whilst being supported by Stop Gap staff. Young people have also benefited from being able to access these organisations as part of their planned move on from Stop Gap.

The level of support for young people engaging in the programme has been intensive and often on a daily basis. The range of support includes : accessing education, a range of strategies to actually, 'get' the young person to college, applying for and maintaining benefits, accessing Zero Centre, counselling, access to services such as, CAMHS, GP, Dentist, Solicitor, encouraging return home, mediation, Social Care, lifestyle including hygiene, eating, budgeting, neighbour respect and home safety.

1.3. Outcomes and Achievements

It was originally intended to support the young person over an average period of 3-6 months with follow on tapered support for a further 3-6 months. As is common in pilot projects a degree of flexibility has been required due to the entrenched issues, vulnerabilities and emerging needs of the young people. A number of young people have required a much longer support programme to avoid failure and destitution

During the pilot period 62 young people were referred and 51 young people engaged with the project. Referrals to the project came from a variety of sources and all young people had a variety of needs. The young people who chose not to opt in either, returned home, lost contact with the project, declined the support programme, or accessed other services at Response and other agencies. Young people, for whom the project was unable to match a bed to, were still offered the Stop Gap support programme, whilst suitable accommodation was being sought.

2. Risk Assessment

None.

3. Financial Implications

None.

4. Staffing Implications

None.

5. Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

None.

6. Community Safety Implications

None.

7. Local Agenda 21 Implications

None.

8. Planning Implications

None.

9. Anti-poverty Implications

None.

10. Social Inclusion Implications

Reduction and prevention of homelessness amongst young people.

11. Local Member Support Implications

None.

12. Background Papers
None

RECOMMENDATIONS

That

(1) The Committee notes this report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

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REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

WALLASEY YOUTH HUB

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report details progress of the Wallasey Youth Hub since its opening in June 2010.

1. Background

Wallasey Youth Hub is one of four Hubs to operate in each district of Wirral. All four Hubs will operate over five evenings including Fridays and Saturdays.

Wallasey Youth Hub is unique in that it is based in Wallasey Fire Station as result of a partnership with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. The cost of £452,000 for the alterations to the building was funded by the Youth Capital Fund Plus. Operating terms have been determined via a Fair Use Agreement over a period of 15 years.

Wallasey Youth Hub officially opened on the 15 June 2010. An evening of music and dance performed by a wide range of young people from across Wirral launched the event. Acts included beat-boxers, break-dancers, bands and vocalists. The event was a celebration of talent co-ordinated by Wirral Youth Theatre.

Youth and Play Service Development Plan requires there is consultation with young people about what should be offered by Youth Service via its hubs and centres.

1.1 Wallasey Youth Hub's Youth Offer

The Wallasey Youth Hub's current offer includes:

- Opportunities to meet with friends, be safe, have fun and engage with staff
- Core activities such as internet, computers, TV, light refreshments
- Youth Arts via the Youth Theatre. The Hub's current Youth Arts Project is break-dancing workshops with a large group of young males.
- Response delivers a drop-in service once a week within the Hub. This provides young people with advice or sign-posting. Young people can be referred to other agencies who can give appropriate advice around housing, substance misuse, sexual health, counselling etc.
- Duke of Edinburgh: An Open Award Centre is based within the Hub, providing young people with the chance to gain Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. This Centre operates two evenings per week.
- Opportunities for young people to have their say about things that are important to them including how the Hub operates. This will be facilitated through a number of ways including:
 - Wallasey Youth Hub Members Committee
 - Youth Forums
 - Sitting on management committees/ friends of groups
 - Youth Parliament
 - Local decision making groups

All this information contributes to the unit's annual Youth Offer.

1.2 Membership and Attendance

Wallasey Youth Hub has attracted young people from across the Wallasey area. So far, membership has reached 201 young people. On average there are between 20 and 30 attendances per evening. The range of young people attending include:

- Young people from all the schools in our district
- NEET young people
- Young people living in areas of high deprivation
- Young people with learning and behavioural difficulties.
- Young people with substance misuse issues
- Young people in or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system
- Looked after young people

During the initial months of operation, emphasis has been placed on getting to know the young people and building relationships with them. Young people have been consulted on what they would like on offer within their Hub, in order to ensure the youth offer addresses the needs and interests of the local young people.

A number of activities requested or needed by young people have already taken place or are ongoing including, arts and crafts, electric guitar workshops, cooking, internet safety workshop, MC-ing and a trip go-carting.

1.3 Partners

In addition to the Fire & Rescue Service, the Hub is working with a number of other partner agencies and is looking at developing further partnerships in the near future. Partners worked with so far include:

- Brook Advisory Service – Two brook workers have worked alongside youth workers to engage a group of young men, who will be taking part in their “Men Maters” project which is due to start soon.
- Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) – The Hub has developed relationships with the local PCSOs who regularly call into the Hub.
- Connexions Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) – Jackie Gray, the PAYP key worker for Wallasey, has been in close contact with the Hub and has referred young people needing extra support.
- Health Services in Schools – A youth worker and school nurse from Health Services in Schools attended three evenings during summer. They offered young people advice around all aspects of their health needs. They delivered informal sessions around sexual health, contraception and alcohol misuse, resulting in 13 young people gaining recorded outcomes.

Following on from this, a number of the young people had one to one consultations with the nurse within the Hub (this could have been for anything from condom distribution to STI testing). The young people found it helpful to be able to have Health Services in Schools within their Hub and said that they would never access this type of service had it not been here.

- Oldershaw School – Oldershaw School will be using the Hub during term time for their off-site facility.
- Spanish Student Exchange Programme - During the summer the Hub was used as a school for 42 Spanish young people who were here to learn English for four weeks. During the evening a lot of the Spanish young people attended the HUB, allowing our young people to mix with young people from another country. During the semi-final of the World Cup we had a

Spanish evening and both our young people and the Spanish young people watched the match and supported Spain

- Claremount School – During July mentors from Claremount School brought a minibus of young people who lived in the Wallasey area. The young people, who have moderate learning difficulties and can often be socially isolated outside of school, came for three evenings. The aim of the initiative was to encourage those young people to continue to come after the three days were over. The result of this was that five young people have continued to attend.

1.4 Future Developments

Wallasey District Provider Group - meets bi monthly. They are in the process of developing a coordinated youth offer for young people in Wallasey. The group includes statutory and voluntary youth projects.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service - The Hub are in talks with the Youth Engagement Officer from the fire service about how we can work together. They have said they can offer us courses around fire safety for the young people. There is a meeting with Dave Gary (Fire Youth Activity Advocate) later this month to talk about possible funding and joint projects for the future.

2. Financial Implications

There are no direct or immediate financial implications from this report. The Hub has been commissioned until 2013.

3. Staffing Implications

There are none.

4. Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

There are no direct equality issues other than the Hub's services are available to all young people, particularly in the Wallasey District. The Hub provides access to health services for teenagers.

5. Community Safety Implications

The Hub works collaboratively with Police Community Support Officers to ensure the safety of young people.

6. Local Agenda 21 Implications

There are none.

7. Planning Implications

There are none.

8. Anti-poverty Implications

There are none.

9. Social Inclusion Implications

The Hub strives to increase participation of young people in the design, delivery and evaluation of the Borough's Youth Offer.

10. Local Member Support Implications

Elected Members, particularly from Wards in the Wallasey District, will be interested in this unique development for young people

11. Background Papers

- a) Press Release/Case Study of the opening of the Wallasey Youth Hub (Appendix 1)
<http://www.myplacesupport.co.uk/Case-Studies/wallasey-and-the-fire-station-of-the-future.html>
- b) Youth Hub Commissioning Report, Report off the Director Of Children's Services to Cabinet, 24th September 2009. Item 125.
<http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=121&MId=729&Ver=4>

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

- (1) That the report be noted

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

WALLASEY YOUTH HUB - WIRRAL

Locating a youth hub in a fire station



When the young people of Wirral heard they were going to get a new and exciting youth hub they could hardly have guessed just how innovative it would be. Wirral certainly has a contender for most unusual place to build a youth hub - it was launched in a fire station!

Councillor Sheila Clarke, Wirral's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning said: "This really is a breakthrough for all residents in the area. No more bored teenagers hanging around corners with nothing to do. The hubs have been designed with a high degree of input from young people themselves who have worked with enthusiasm and passion to help establish these new facilities."

Fire officers use the upstairs of the building whilst the youth facility is downstairs. Councillor Lesley Rennie, ward councillor for Wallasey and one of the Council's representatives on the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority, said: "To have such a fantastic facility within the fire station is great news for everyone."

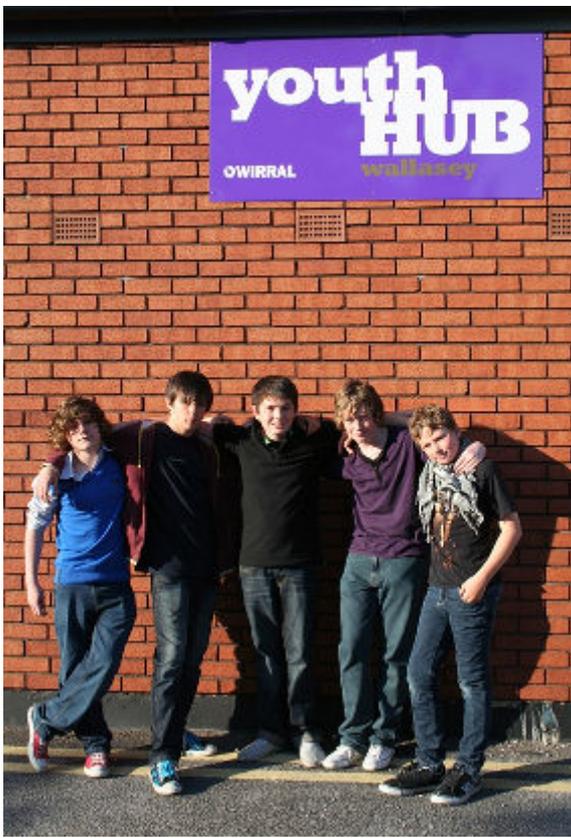
The Wallasey youth hub is one of four centres operating five nights a week, including weekends. The four youth hubs are: Wallasey Fire Station, Birkenhead's Shaftesbury Youth Club, West Wirral's West Kirby Youth Hub, and South Wirral's Eastham Youth Hub.

Outreach work in Wirral has been divided into four district teams in line with the 'super clubs'. Councillor Sheila Clarke said: "Young people deserve the best in leisure facilities open at times they want and doing things they enjoy. I am very pleased that the hubs are now opening, offering fun and interesting activities to help keep young people engaged, safe and happy in Wallasey and across the whole of Wirral."

The new hubs were built after national and local consultation with young people showed a want for improved youth club provision, and greater availability. The young people asked, also said as long as the facilities were there they had no problems with arranging their own travel. Wirral residents had their wish for more modern facilities accessible at more convenient times granted when the locations and times of the hubs were expanded.

Councillor Clarke said: "Through the activities, including MCing, music, drama, dance, sports, and a range of support services, the project also aims to provide new chances and opportunities for local young people and help to tackle some of their problems including training, education, and health needs."

Although locating a youth hub in a fire station is a unique and rather quirky idea, the Council insist it isn't just a gimmick, but a positive move for young people in the area. Councillor Rennie said: "The Fire Service has a duty to teach young people about fire safety. It helps keep them safe and stops them making risky decisions." She added: "This sort of link-up is an excellent way to help with that and the Wallasey youngsters will also benefit from these modern facilities open at the times they want."



The plans for the area extend beyond just providing the youth hubs, they also include promoting and facilitating the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme so that young people from the whole borough have access to it.

The official launch of the Mill Lane hub lived up to the buzz that's been surrounding it's opening for months - attendees from the community were treated to break-dancers, beat-boxers and swing singers at the fire station, and even took part by performing music and dance acts of their own. The occasion was marked by speeches from Wirral's own Mayor, Councillor Alan Jennings, the deputy Chief Fire Officer Mike Hagen, and Head of Branch (Participation and Inclusion) Peter Edmondson. Mike Hagen said: "Wallasey is the blue print for what a modern fire station should be. It provides excellent facilities for fire fighters and is in the heart of the community, providing opportunities for everyone, young and old, to socialise, exercise and simply have a good time."

The funding which enabled the building of the youth hubs was from the Youth Capital Plus fund. Councillor Clarke said: "They will provide a safe space for young people to spend time in and socialise as well as take advantage of the advice and other services available."

The Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service have agreed a lease for the hub for 15 years.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD - WIRRAL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report describes the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) as it offered in Wirral and will bring Members up to date with the current delivery.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is the world's leading achievement award for young people. It was launched in 1956 and is dedicated to the personal development of young people from all backgrounds. With the widest reach of any UK youth charity, 275,000 young people (30,000 are from disadvantaged backgrounds) across the UK undertake DofE programmes to achieve their Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards every year.
- 1.2. Wirral Council holds a Regional Licence to operate the DofE, and the scheme is offered in over 30 establishments in Wirral.
- 1.3. Wirral DofE, as is legally required, is approved by the Adventure Activity Licensing Service (AALS) to carry out Expeditions in so-called "Wild Country". During the last inspection, AALS was sufficiently confident in the Youth Service practices to grant a two year operating licence
- 1.4. Wirral is consistently placed within the top three DofE operating authorities when the DofE National Office evaluates the number of Awards gained.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND VALUES

- 2.1. As the holder of the regional operating licence for the delivery of the DofE in the borough of Wirral, Youth and Play Service has responsibility for granting Unit Operating Licences to local organisations and establishments.
- 2.2. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award requires that the Youth and Play Service must:
 - Be able to safeguard young people;
 - Maintain the DofE's aims and standards;
 - Have relevant policies and procedures in place;
 - Have an administrative framework to function correctly and ensure continuity.
- 2.3. In addition the service is responsible for:
 - Ensuring staff and volunteers receive relevant training;
 - Validating and authorising participants Awards;
 - Advising young people on appropriate programmes;
 - Offering training in expedition and exploration skills.
- 2.4. Currently the DofE is being offered from a diverse range of agencies including, secondary schools, special schools, an open Award Centre, local authority youth clubs, foundation learning companies, parent groups, voluntary youth groups, Further Education colleges and the Youth Offending Service.
- 2.5. In each of these agencies the guiding principles for the delivery of the DofE is the same.
 - Non-competitive
 - Achievable by all

- Voluntary
- Personal development focused
- Personalised
- Balanced
- Progressive
- Achievement focused
- Demanding commitment
- Enjoyable

3. **PARTNERSHIPS**

3.1. As a DofE operating authority we are always keen to explore new ways of delivering the Award to young people. This often involves working in partnership with other organisations that have similar aims to the Youth Service or are able to offer opportunities that fit in with the service's curriculum.

3.2. Strong working relationships have recently been built with:

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service
 Merseyside Police
 Wirral Metropolitan College
 Entry to employment schemes (e2e)
 The Bank (St. Mary's Church Upton)

4. **STAFFING**

4.1. DofE staff, a mixture of salaried staff and volunteers, usually fall into one or more of the following categories:

DofE Co-ordinators: who set up and manage the DofE in a youth centre, school or voluntary organisation.

DofE Leaders: who are responsible for a DofE group. These Leaders guide, inspire and encourage young people; they agree their programme choices and sign off Record Books.

DofE Assessors: who check on a young person's progress and agree the completion of a section of their programme. Assessors need knowledge of the activity they're doing and will be asked to sign off their Record Book to confirm completion.

Expedition Assessors: Expeditions must be assessed by a competent adult who is approved by the Operating Authority and accredited by the DofE through the Expedition Assessor Accreditation Scheme.

DofE Supervisors: are people with a good understanding of a participant's chosen activity. They help them set their goals and regularly meet with the young person to check on their progress, address any potential issues and adjust goals. A Supervisor is essential for the Expedition section as they are responsible for supervising and supporting a team of participants to ensure their safety and well-being whilst on their expedition.

4.2. The majority of assessors operating under Wirral's DofE Licence have now attended an Assessor Accreditation Course. Unit leaders, hub managers, other key Youth Service staff have attended an Introduction to the Award Course and a Supervisor's course is scheduled for the autumn.

5. **eDofE**

- 5.1. The delivery of DofE is now entering a new phase with the recent introduction of eDofE, an innovative online system that allows young people to design their own DofE programme and collect evidence online. The eDofE system is also ideal in allowing managers, coordinators and DofE staff to monitor participant's progress and issue appropriate accreditations. Wirral DofE staff are currently embarking on a series of familiarisation and training staff to enable them to use eDofE efficiently.

6. **LOCAL DELIVERY**

- 6.1. Following the successful launch of the four district youth hubs there will now be further opportunities for young people to engage in DofE activities. Each hub has identified at least one evening per week as a DofE Award session. The Youth Hubs have all been designated as Open Award Centres and as such are accessible to any young person in the borough. Each hub has assigned members of staff to be responsible for the delivery of DofE and enhance its development within the unit.
- 6.2. Wallasey Open Award Centre has had another successful expedition season. Ten expeditions have been run this year, enabling approximately 200 young people to complete either their practice or qualifying ventures.
- 6.3. Due to the fact that some of these expeditions take place in "Wild Country", it is a legal requirement that Wirral DofE is approved by the Adventure Activity Licensing Service (AALS). During the last inspection AALS was sufficiently confident in the Youth Service practices to grant a two year operating licence.
- 6.4. The number of units delivering the DofE and the number of young people engaging in the Award is steadily increasing. The number of young people achieving Awards has also risen. The period 2009/2010 produced particularly good results with several hundred young people receiving Bronze and Silver Awards, and 58 young people in the borough achieved Gold Awards. Consequently, these recipients were invited to visit St. James' Palace to collect their certificates from HRH Prince Philip. These results reflect well when Wirral is compared to other authorities in the North West. Wirral is consistently placed within the top three DofE operating authorities when the DofE National Office evaluates the number of Awards gained.

7. **BENEFITS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

- 7.1 The benefits of a young person participating in DofE are very significant. There are four sections to every level of Award: Volunteering, Skills, Physical and Expeditions. The completion of each section provides each young person with a number of valuable experiences and skills as well as a nationally recognized accredited outcome.
- 7.2 Research has shown, the completion of a full Award, at any level will result in a young person gaining:
- Self-confidence
 - A sense of identity
 - Independence of thought and action
 - Respect and understanding of people from different backgrounds, cultures
 - A sense of responsibility
 - New talents and abilities
 - An understanding of strengths and weaknesses
 - The ability to plan and use time effectively
 - The ability to learn from and give to others in the community
 - The ability to lead and work as part of a team.
- 7.3 Further recent research carried out by the **Page 33** Foundation confirms that both young people and employers rate highly the DofE Award for the above reasons.

8. OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPERIENCE AND LEARNING

- 8.1 Wirral young people participating in DofE programmes have, over the last twelve months, participated in a wide range of activities. The following list represents a small selection of their endeavours.

Volunteering

- Charity shop assistant
- Helping at an animal sanctuary
- Helping young people with special needs achieve their DofE
- Assisting Wirral Rangers
- Shopping for the elderly

Skills

- Designing a low maintenance garden
- Cookery
- Big band
- D.J.ing
- Skills for employment

Physical

- Climbing
- Judo
- Rowing
- Dancing

- 8.2 A young person's achievement in a DofE programme is now recognised at every stage. Participants will set their own goals and aims with their youth worker or teacher and work towards those goals over an extended period. Once each objective has been met the operating authority will reward the young person with a sectional certificate. Once all the required sections have been completed, then the young person is entitled to a full DofE certificate and badge. This stage is often recognised by organising local or borough wide presentation ceremonies.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

10. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

None

11. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

11. COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None

13. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

None

14. PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

None

15. ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

None

16. SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

None

17. LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

None

18. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**
None

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

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REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines to the committee the summer play opportunities provided through Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Playscheme Programme and Youth & Play Service's playschemes 2010. The Committee is asked to note this report

1.0. BACKGROUND

1.1. Wirral Play Council receives a grant from Wirral's Children's and Young Peoples Department to provide Open Access summer playschemes through 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 to day running is organised by the Play Development Officer, supported by administration staff.

1.2. Recruitment and Staffing

Recruitment for the playworkers starts early in the year and the post is advertised in February/March. This enables us adequate time to put workers through the Criminal Record Bureau process and complete other checks such as references. We received a very positive response to the advert in 2010 and were able to shortlist easily for interview. The interviews take place just after the Easter break and take the form of a group interview. This enables us to assess the workers within groups, watch how they interact and communicate with each other. This is a more insightful process than a face-to-face interview where we can see individuals' playworker potential. Every year there are a certain number of playworkers who return to work for us. This year we had 42 returning playworkers making 53% of the overall total of playworkers recruited. The returning playworkers previous experience is very valuable, they are able to support and guide new playworkers as they find their feet at the beginning of the summer.

1.3. Pre-summer Training

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 the playworkers who took the course completed it successfully. Wirral Sure Start Support Team provides 80% funding for this playwork course. This year we were able to put on an additional course to cater for several volunteers working at various playschemes across Wirral and for some volunteers who are involved with Play Pods. 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 28 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. BUDGET

2.1. A very high percentage 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. This year we were fortunate to get additional funding from Sure Start Support Team to meet the additional cost of wages for Lead Playworkers. The remaining money is spent on play equipment, transport, administration and Play Day.

3.0 **PLAYSCHEMES**

3.1. **Wallasey District**

3.2. **Seacombe Community Centre – 70 Registrations**

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

3.3. **Moreton Youth Club - 119 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. The playscheme was quieter this year than previous summers however the playworkers created lots of opportunities for games and craft activities. In the final week they went on a trip to Camelot theme park, which was enjoyed by all.

3.4. **Vale Park – 84 Registrations**

The playscheme uses Vale House, which has been having problems with dry rot in the floor so this year the scheme moved upstairs. The room is still small but the children and playworkers coped well and tried to utilise the outdoor space in the park as much as possible.

3.5. **Belvidere - 38 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 facility is very suitable and has a good outdoor space. There is a high level of involvement from both parents and volunteers, which proves invaluable. Overall the children enjoyed themselves very much and had fun.

3.6. **Birkenhead – Three Playschemes**

3.7. **Wirral Play Council Special Needs – 89 Registrations**

A successful playscheme ran from Wirral Play Development Centre catering for a large number of children with a wide range of 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, wheelchair dancing, talent shows and group games.

3.8. **Hillside Primary School Noctorum – 70 Registrations**

There has been a playscheme on the Noctorum for many years however the numbers have been decreasing significantly so this year we looked for a new venue. Mr Hollywood the Acting Head Teacher from Hillside Primary School was very keen to open up his gates and let us use the playing fields and the facilities of the out of school club. This playscheme is an out door playscheme but they are lucky to have the use of a toilet and a room to store their equipment in, a large field and a section with park benches to do activities on. They went on a trip to Camelot, which they made shields and swords out of cardboard. They have had an average of 12 children attending daily; they have used a gazebo to keep the session going when the weather was bad, which worked well. The party on the last day was funded by profits from their tuck shop; there were lots of prizes available that had been donated by parents. Even though there was bad weather on this day they continued to have party games such as pass the parcel, musical chairs and cold cookery using ginger bread men.

- 3.9. **Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm – 155 Registrations**
A popular playscheme situated at Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm. Visitors to the farm join in with the daily arts and crafts activities and group games.
- 3.10. **West Wirral – Seven Playschemes**
- 3.11. **Heswall British Legion – 135 Registrations**
The playscheme relocated again this year to a central position in Heswall town centre at the Heswall British Legion. The scheme uses the main function room, which is large and has a stage but is not suitable for ball games. There is a large car park that was used for ball games and coned off so it was a safe area to play in. The playscheme was very popular and lively. The children occupied their time by playing imaginary games and creating talent shows. They enjoyed the interaction with playworkers who created play opportunities through organising group games and craft activities.
- 3.12. **Irby Methodist Church Hall – 106 Registrations**
This is a popular playscheme that benefits from the support of the Methodist Church. Children attended regularly and enjoyed playing in the newly refurbished Irby Park play area. During the final week the Playscheme had a great day out at Manley Mere Adventure Trail.
- 3.13. **Greasby Community Centre – 56 Registrations**
This year the playscheme had lower numbers of registrations. Due to other user groups in the building, the playworkers could only access the community centre for 2.5 days each week. On the other days the scheme moved to Coronation Park. Unfortunately the bad weather over the summer meant numbers were low at the park sessions but the playworkers made the most of these days and played in the play area and used the field for football and group activities.
- 3.14. **West Kirby, Westbourne Community Centre – 142 Registrations**
West Kirby is a popular, well-used, busy scheme. The scheme had regular attendees who enjoyed playing badminton, tick chase, arts and crafts activities.
- 3.15. **West Kirby Children's Centre – 77 Registrations**
This playscheme was funded by Extended Schools and utilised Black Horse Hill Infants School during two of the four weeks. The other weeks were spent on Hilbre High School field and again the weather influenced the numbers of children who attended the sessions.
- 3.16. **Woodchurch Community Centre– 110 Registrations**
The playscheme began very quietly with only a few children registering however during the four weeks it became very popular and well used by the local community. The children enjoyed playing pool in the outside play area and sewing.
- 3.17. **Overton Community Centre – 97 Registrations**
The community really support this playscheme and it has been very popular this year. We could not run one afternoon due to another user group in the building, the playworkers organised trips for two of the days and sign-posted parents and children to other playschemes on the other days.
- 3.18. **South Wirral – Four Playschemes**
- 3.19. **Eastham Youth Hub – 106 Registrations**
The registration numbers at Eastham playscheme increased from 2009. The venue is very suitable for sports and games, quiet activities and has a great outside provision. The team of playworkers worked well together to deliver a comprehensive range of activities. The children were keen to get involved with all the activities on offer and enjoyed playing as a group with the parachute. The playworkers worked hard to include two children with autism and a child with cerebral palsy by ensuring they were included in all the activities and offered support when needed. The parents of the two autistic boys were very pleased they could attend the playscheme and both had gained a lot from the experience.

3.20. **New Ferry Village Hall – 212 Registrations**

This is one of our most popular and well-used playschemes. It runs from the Village Hall, which is a large space that can be used for games of football and other team games as well as arts and crafts activities. The playworkers and children took advantage of the newly refurbished play area situated opposite the Village Hall.

3.21. **Prenton - 47 Registrations**

The playscheme was initially planned to be taking place at Prenton Primary School however after discussion with the residents association we relocated to the play area in Prenton and the residents association gave us access to the community shop. This proved to be a more popular location with children and families. The playworkers built good relationships with the children as many returned on a regular basis. They have enjoyed themed weeks and making crafts in the run up to a Hollywood theme party they made clay hand prints each with their names underneath, like in the Grauman's Chinese Theatre, where celebrities have had their handprints and footprints displayed, and a red carpet, with cold stars painted on. The children have enjoyed the range of activities organised and creating some themselves such as dance routines.

3.22. **Higher Bebington Christ Church Hall - 210 Registrations**

The playscheme was very popular again this year and on average had 45 children attending each session. There was some major building work going on at the church site, however a safe entrance was secured for the playscheme to use and good communication between the playworkers and contractors meant the playscheme ran very well. The outdoor space continued to be the main attraction at this site and many of the children spent hours den building and playing amongst the trees and bushes.

3.23. In 2010 we were unable to run playschemes in three wards due to a variety of reasons. The very popular and much needed scheme at Seacombe Children's Centre was unable to go ahead this year due to building work being carried out on site. After building good relationships with the centre over recent years and high registration numbers proving the need for the provision in the area, I am confident a summer playscheme will return in 2011. Unfortunately we could not find a suitable venue in the Pensby area. The playscheme has run from Fishers Lane Community Centre in previous years. In 2009 the playscheme continued to run from this venue after it had changed to the Hope Centre. However after extensive refurbishment limiting the types of activities we could organise and the high rental cost it was decided the venue was no longer suitable for an open access summer playscheme. We will continue to look for a suitable venue in the area for summer 2011. The final scheme Wirral Play Council did not run is the Tranmere playscheme based at Albany Hall in Victoria Park. The playscheme has been run from the centre for several years supported by the organisation Involve North West, however they received funding to run a playscheme themselves in 2010 and did not want to work in partnership with Wirral Play Council.

4.0. **PLAY DAY – Wednesday 4 August, Birkenhead Park**

4.1. This year's Playday campaign theme, *Our Place*. The campaign puts children at the heart of our communities and asks everyone, young and old, to help create better places for all of us to live and play. The event in Wirral took place on Wednesday 4 August in Birkenhead Park. The day requires a lot of preparation, planning and early starts but it is worth it to see the hundreds of children attend enjoying the activities. All the full time and summer playschemes are on site by 11.00am and the Deputy Mayor and Deputy Mayoress of Wirral Councillor Moira McLaughlin and Ms Anna McLaughlin opened the event with the traditional banner competition. It was difficult to make a decision with so many excellent banners being produced by the playschemes but it was decided Overton's was the winner followed closely by West Kirby. During the rest of the day children could access the activities freely and have fun playing! The activities included a climbing wall, The Big Art Attack, inflatable slide, drum circle, the ever-popular straw bales, Laughology workshops, talent show tent, milk bottle art and craft, and the new addition this year of an inflatable human football game! The day was a great success despite a rainy start to the event with over 500 children and their families getting involved.

5.0. WIRRAL PLAY STRATEGY

The key strands of the Play Strategy are:

- Support the continued development of supervised open access play provision.
- Deliver a comprehensive summer holiday playscheme programme and all year round open access play provision.

These objectives have been met through the planning and delivery of 16 open access summer playschemes and two closed access playschemes for children with special needs.

- Promote the value of free play within the community.
- Celebrate annual Play Day in line with National Play Day.

A successful Play Day event at Birkenhead Park was organised and offered children and families a variety of play experiences they could get involved with for free. All of the summer playschemes are free of charge to every child who attends; this is promoted to parents and professionals in the run up to summer.

- Ensure Play training and qualifications are available for those involved in the delivery of play provision.
- Work with appropriate training agencies to develop opportunities for further education.

Wirral Play Council worked alongside Wirral Metropolitan College and Wirral Sure Start Support Team to provide a programme of training for the summer playworkers, 37 playworkers and six volunteers gained a Level 2 qualification "Take Five For Play" and 28 completed a paediatric First Aid course.

6.0. SUMMARY

- 6.1. Summer 2010 was another successful year for open access playschemes in Wirral, however the total number of registration did decrease from 2009. This is due to several reasons; three of our previously most popular playschemes could not run in Pensby, Tranmere and Seacombe, the weather restricted several playschemes who had to use outdoor spaces and there was a lot of other activities available this year promoted through the Let's Go magazine. The standard of people applying for temporary jobs remained high and there was a significant increase in the numbers of applicants, which is very encouraging. We also had more volunteers working at the playschemes this year that worked hard and got involved with the children and activities. The playworkers worked hard to provide stimulating and exciting play activities to engage children. This showed as I visited the various sites and observed children den building, performing talent shows, dressing up, creating role plays, running about, playing sports and being involved with messy and creative play. A highlight of the summer was Play Day, the attendance numbers suffered a little compared to previous years due to the wet weather, however hundreds of children enjoyed free play activities in Birkenhead Park, challenging themselves on the climbing wall and large inflatable slide, challenging each other on the inflatable football and tug o war and getting messy in the art attack. Thank you to all the people involved with summer playschemes 2010 and ensuring children have access to free play in Wirral.

7.0. Financial and Staffing Implications

This year 17 Playschemes and were funded primarily by a grant of £58,000 from Wirral Borough Council. These included full-time summer schemes, schemes for children with disabilities.

8.0. Equal Opportunities Implications

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

9.0. Human Rights Implications

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

10.0. Community Safety Implications

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

11.0. Local Agenda 21 Implications

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

12.0. Planning Implications

There are none arising from this report.

13.0. Anti - poverty Implications

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

14.0. Social inclusion Implications

Playschemes endeavour to ensure children have equal access to play and be able to participate in local play opportunities.

Playschemes are open access and very often work with those children and young people who are marginalised.

15.0. Local Member Support Implications

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

16.0. Background papers

Summer Holiday Registration Figures (Appendix A)

Full-time Playscheme Registration Figures (Appendix B)

17.0. Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note this report.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYScheme 2010

Appendix A

Registration Figures- Summer 2010

| Scheme | Days | No Of Children Registered | Under 8's Registered | Total Attendance | Daily Average |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Eastham | 20 | 106 | 29 | 883 | 44 |
| Greasby | 20 | 56 | 25 | 466 | 23 |
| Heswall | 20 | 135 | 55 | 967 | 48 |
| Higher Bebington | 20 | 210 | 118 | 1,814 | 90 |
| Irby | 20 | 106 | 24 | 801 | 40 |
| Moreton | 20 | 119 | 15 | 538 | 26 |
| New Ferry | 20 | 212 | 44 | 1,742 | 87 |
| Noctorum | 20 | 70 | 32 | 431 | 21 |
| Overton | 20 | 97 | 20 | 909 | 45 |
| Prenton | 20 | 47 | 9 | 385 | 19 |
| Seacombe | 20 | 70 | 35 | 955 | 48 |
| Tam O'Shanter | 20 | 155 | N/A | 459 | 22 |
| Vale Park | 20 | 84 | 23 | 954 | 48 |
| West Kirby Westbourne Hall | 20 | 142 | 40 | 1,015 | 50 |
| West Kirby Children's Centre | 20 | 77 | N/A | N/A | 30 |
| Woodchurch | 25 | 110 | 31 | 620 | 31 |
| Belvidere Centre SN | 12 | 38 | N/A | 180 | 15 |
| Wirral Play Council SN | 20 | 89 | 15 | 602 | 30 |
| Total | | 1,923 | 515 | 13,721 | 717 |

WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYScheme 2010

Appendix B

Registration Figures – Summer 2010

Open Access Full-time Playschemes

| Centre | No Of Children Registered | Under 8's Registered | Total Attendance |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Beechwood | 142 | N/A | 1,657 |
| Charing Cross | 163 | 62 | 1,368 |
| Gautby Road | 102 | 58 | 1,554 |
| Leasowe Adventure Playground | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Livingstone Street | 145 | 45 | 841 |
| Woodchurch (summer reg. only) | 110 | 31 | 360 |
| Total | 662 | 196 | 5,780 |

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

ACTION PLAN FOLLOWING STOCKTAKE EVENT JULY 2010

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the Committee with an action plan that has been developed to address action points that were identified at the Stocktake Event in July this year. A number of priorities were identified for action as part of the programme of improving the Youth Offer on Wirral. The Committee is asked to approve the Action plan.

1. Background

- 1.1 The idea of holding a review of youth services was developed following the implementation of a number of policy initiatives introduced to improve the quality of the Youth Offer on Wirral. In 2009, as part of the programme of modernising the Youth Service, Cabinet agreed to a number of actions to support the necessary changes. Four Youth Hubs were commissioned (one in each district) and the Positive Activity Fund was used to commission activities to enhance the Youth Offer in each of the districts. In addition to this, an analysis of elements of the work of the Youth Service indicated that the time was right to take stock before deciding on next steps.
- 1.2 Support to run the Stock take Event was provided by the Myplace Support Team. Officers in the Children and Young People's Department (CYPD) worked with a consultant from Myplace to develop a programme that would meet the objectives of the day and identify areas for development.
- 1.3 Approximately 35 people from different organisations attended the event. There was a mix of statutory, private and voluntary sector organisations. The inputs included a number of presentations followed by group discussions. Please see programme (appendix A). The session concluded with the areas for action being agreed and prioritised.
- 1.4 In addition to the Stocktake event, officers from CYPD have been involved in the development of two other initiatives:
 - a) The possible development of a youth facility at Birkenhead Fire Station;
 - b) The development of a skateboard facility by the Rampworx organisation, in Bidston.
- 1.5 Both of these initiatives are at a very early stage of development and both will require external funding if they are to become a reality. If both schemes are developed they will significantly enhance the youth Offer available on Wirral. It is because of the potential positive contribution of these projects to the youth agenda that officers have been providing support to the organisations involved in developing the proposals. If the schemes are successful in securing funding it is reasonable to expect this support to continue to support what would ultimately be public/private/voluntary sector provision. As these developments are linked to the priorities identified at the Stocktake Event they have been included in the Action Plan (Appendix B).
- 1.6 The Action Plan includes a comprehensive programme of activities which seeks to make progress in those areas identified as requiring attention. In addition to the projects listed above, work will be undertaken to create greater involvement by the Voluntary and Community Sector in the design and delivery of youth activities. Other areas for development include a Vision for Youth Provision to underpin the development of youth facilities; the development of a curriculum to ensure services are age appropriate; and the development of a marketing strategy to further develop existing facilities. In addition to the work at Birkenhead fire station and Rampworx, work has started with regard to Actions 1,2,6,7 and 10.

2. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
There are no financial implications in the action plan.
3. **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**
There are no staffing implications other than the time to attend meetings. Any significant impact on staff time would be addressed during staff supervisions.
4. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS/HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT**
The action plan contains actions that seek to address inequality of opportunity and also to improve the health of young people.
5. **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**
There are none arising from this report.
6. **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**
There are none arising from this report.
7. **PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**
There are none arising directly from the Action Plan.
8. **ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS**
The aims of the Action Plan are to improve outcomes for young people and address poverty linked issues.
9. **SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS**
The Action Plan seeks to improve current opportunities for young people and promote social inclusion.
10. **LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**
This report affects all wards.
11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**
Cabinet Report September 2009 – Commissioning of Youth Hubs

RECOMMENDATIONS

That

- (1) The Committee approves the actions contained in the Action Plan
- (2) Further reports on the progress of the Action are presented to this Committee.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services

Appendix B

ACTION PLAN – STOCKTAKE EVENT

| ACTION | PRIORITY | WHAT | WHO | WHEN |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| <p>1. Create a steering group – create a group to drive forward youth facilities. Consider how it will fit with existing structures and have accountability. Also consider the need for delivery groups. <i>Maureen McDaid to lead.</i></p> | <p>High Implementation (Easy)</p> | <p>i. MM identify relevant people to be part of steering group. ii. Draft Terms of Reference. iii. Reporting structures.</p> | <p>M.McDaid</p> | |
| <p>2. Improve the quality of youth facilities in line with the aspirations of My Place</p> | <p>High Implementation Hard</p> | <p>i. Arrange for visit to Bolton Lads and Girls Club. ii. Secure agreement on the next steps to develop youth facilities. iii. Establish a steering group to oversee the development of new youth facility. iv. Take report to Cabinet seeking approval to develop new facility</p> | <p>PE/MMcDaid</p> | <p>October 2010 December 2010</p> |
| <p>3. A greater role for the community and voluntary sector - this could involve an audit of skills. A job description/role description for each of the partners would also be beneficial.</p> | <p>High Implementation (Hard)</p> | <p>i. Identify the links for community and voluntary sector. ii. Consider any developments in relation to corporate consultation. iii. Paper to YAPSAC.</p> | <p>PE/MM</p> | <p>December 2010</p> |
| <p>4. Work with transport providers – some work with transport providers is taking place. This needs to be</p> | <p>Medium Implementation (Medium)</p> | <p>i. Arrange to meet with Participation Worker / YOF grant panel to :</p> | | |

Page 47

| continued and included in any discussions for new locations. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clarify achievements and outstanding issues. b. Identify contract people. <p>Follow up with :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Contact transport companies to meet and look at options for their involvement in providing transport to youth facilities. | | December 2010 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| ACTION | PRIORITY | WHAT | WHO | WHEN |
| <p>5. Monitor and prepare to change – revisit the current monitoring and reporting arrangements. Co-ordinate the monitoring requirements so they can help direct services and activity.</p> | Medium Implementation (Medium) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Review current monitoring and reporting procedures. ii. Identify what is gathered and what needs to be gathered. iii. Prepare for YAPSAC. New proposals, future arrangements. | * Help available from AS My Place | <p>December 2010</p> <p>January 2011</p> |
| <p>6. Young Volunteers – Develop opportunities for young people to work as volunteers.</p> | Medium / High Implementation (Hard) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. With Head of YP Service and CVS, map current youth voluntary opportunities. ii. Identify possible areas to develop work. iii. Develop Councillor shadowing scheme. iv. Identify shared arrangements to oversee and monitor work. | | <p>January 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>June 2011</p> |

| <p>7. Marketing Strategy – develop a marketing strategy for existing facilities</p> | <p>Medium / High Implementation (Hard)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Monitor impact of Teen Wirral. ii. Identify areas of Wirral where take-up is poor. iii. With partners / young people agree areas for development. iv. Apply agreed actions and make necessary changes to website (this links to work on NI 110 – participation rates). | | <p>April 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>June 2011</p> |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| ACTION | PRIORITY | WHAT | WHO | WHEN |
| <p>Page 49</p> <p>New ways of working – Develop a vision, values and ethos to underpin the way you approach and develop youth facilities.</p> | <p>Medium / High Implementation (Hard)</p> | <p>Building on work of Wirral Project and results of corporate consultation :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Prepare agreed vision for services for young people on Wirral. ii. Principles for implementing the vision should be embedded in plan for Wirral Project. | <p>* Help available from AS MyPlace.</p> | <p>January 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>March 2011</p> |
| <p>9. Age appropriate services – focus on delivering appropriate and focused services.</p> | <p>Medium / High Implementation (Hard)</p> | <p>In line with Development of Wirral Project and vision for youth services :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Establish a working group to design curriculum to underpin age appropriate services. ii. Pilot curriculum in projects. | | <p>April 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓</p> <p>July 2011</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---------|--------------------------|
| | | iii. Review curriculum in light of pilot and embed in implementation of Wirral Project. | | |
| 10. Support other providers to enhance the current Youth Offer on Wirral | Easy Implementation Medium | i. Support Rampworx in the preparation of application to external funding bodies. ii. Secure broad support for the development of the skateboard facility on Wirral. | MMcDaid | July 2010- March 2011 |

Appendix B

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| continued and included in any discussions for new locations. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Clarify achievements and outstanding issues. b. Identify contract people. <p>Follow up with :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Contact transport companies to meet and look at options for their involvement in providing transport to youth facilities. | | December 2010 |
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