



Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

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| Date: | Wednesday, 13 April 2011 |
| Time: | 5.30 pm |
| Venue: | Committee Room 2 - Wallasey Town Hall |

Contact Officer: Sue McNally
Tel:
e-mail: wirralys@wirral.gov.uk
Website: <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 6)**

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2011.
3. **PRINCIPAL MANAGER'S REPORT (Pages 7 - 16)**
4. **DELAY - RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUAL HEALTH (PRESENTATION)**
5. **DRAFT VISION FOR YOUTH SERVICES REPORT (Pages 17 - 22)**
6. **BIG LOTTERY CHILDREN'S PLAY PROGRAMME 2011 REPORT (Pages 23 - 30)**
7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee
Wednesday 19 January 2011
Room 2, Town Hall, Wallasey

Present

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| Chair | Cllr. Tom Harney |
| Councillors | Cllr. Wendy Clements Cllr. Cherry Povall Cllr. Walter Smith Cllr. Pat Williams |
| Council Officers | Peter Edmondson (Head of Participation and Inclusion Branch, C&YPD) Maureen McDaid (Commissioning Manager, C&YPD) Lindsay Davidson, (Principal Manager, Youth & Play Service) Terry Hall (Deputy Head, Field Support) Steve Chan (Deputy Head, Play). David Decorte (Duke of Edinburgh's Award Officer) Ian McCabe (Youth Worker – Engagement) |
| Executive Youth Board | Ellis Palmer Michael Edwards |
| Beechwood Play Scheme | Paddy Mulligan Ian Sword Sue Sword Tara Georgia |
| West Wirral Youth Outreach Team | Gary Atkinson Jess Cain |
| St Mary's College Youth Club | Lucy Archer Matthew Quinn Colin Archer |
| Apologies | Cllr Sheila Clarke Cllr Karen Hayes Cllr Chris Meaden |

Index to Minutes

- Minute 12 - Welcome and Apologies
- Minute 13 - Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 30 September 2011
- Minute 14 - Principal Manager's Report
- Minute 15 - Beechwood Playscheme (presentation)
- Minute 16 - West Wirral Youth Outreach Team (presentation)
- Minute 17 - St Mary's College Youth Club (presentation)
- Minute 18 - Youth Engagement Annual Report 2010
- Minute 19 - Any Other Business
- Minute 20 - Date of Next Meeting

Minute 12 - Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Harney welcomed everyone and suggested that for this meeting, a member of the Executive Youth Board, Michael Edwards took the Chair.

Resolved:

- i) That Michael Edwards take the Chair for the meeting.

All those attending introduced themselves and apologies were taken.

Minute 13 - Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 30th September 2010

The minutes were checked for accuracy and no corrections were needed.

Resolved:

- i) That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 30th September 2010, be accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Minute 14 - Principal Manager Report

A report was presented by the Principal Manager of the Service, Lindsay Davidson, on work of the Youth & Play Service since the previous meeting. The Principal Manager highlighted a number of items.

Resolved:

- i) That the Principal Manager be thanked for her comprehensive report.

Minute 15 - BEECHWOOD PLAYScheme (Presentation)

Children, their families and staff from the playscheme gave a presentation which highlighted the contribution play makes to children, families and the community.

Resolved:

- i) That Beechwood Playscheme be thanked for their presentation.

Minute 16 - WEST WIRRAL YOUTH OUTREACH TEAM (Presentation)

The West Wirral District Youth Worker and a young person gave a presentation which highlighted the contribution youth outreach work

makes to enhancing community safety and reducing risk taking behaviour.

Resolved:

- i) That West Wirral Youth Outreach Team be thanked for their presentation.

Minute 17 - ST MARY'S COLLEGE YOUTH CLUB (Presentation)

The St Mary's College Youth Worker and two young people gave a presentation which highlighted the contribution the youth club makes to volunteering and enhancing future employment opportunities.

Resolved:

- i) That St Mary's College Youth Club be thanked for their presentation.

Minute 18 - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2010

Maureen McDaid, Principal Manager for Commissioning and Participation presented an annual report on youth engagement, highlighting a number of items:

1. A new area of work, the NHS Programme, 'You're Welcome' has a number of peer assessors.
2. The Executive Youth Board (EYB) wished to reintroduce 'Hot Seating' with Councillors at the next Youth Conference.
3. Teen Wirral has been launched as a promotional & engagement tool.
4. The Executive Youth Board were involved in the 'Your Future' consultation.
5. Debbie McCabe, Senior Engagement Worker, has left under the voluntary severance scheme. Debbie is to be thanked for all her work and commitment to youth participation and her colleagues wish her well for the future.
6. Cllr Green has agreed to meet with young people at the end of February 2011. A meeting date is to be confirmed.

There was some discussion around ensuring that there are opportunities for feedback to young people. It was noted that the EYB should be consulted on how this can be achieved.

Resolved:

- i) Meeting be set up with the EYB and Cllr Green.

- ii) Letters be sent to those schools who participated in the Youth Voice Conference.
- iii) Maureen McDaid be thanked for her report.

Minute 19 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None – there was no other business.

Resolved: Cllr Harney thanked Michael Edwards for chairing the meeting and thanked all the young people and staff who were involved in this evening's presentations.

Minute 20 - DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Future meeting dates to be confirmed for April, July, October and January.

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REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

PRINCIPAL MANAGER REPORT YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises the Committee of the work undertaken by the Youth and Play Service since the last meeting in January 2011. The Committee is asked to note the report.

1.0 Staff Movements

- 1.1 Cliff Wilson is finishing his secondment with the Service at Response to return to his substantive post in Parks and Gardens. His colleagues wish him well for the future.
- 1.2 Several colleagues will be leaving the Youth Service section before the end of June as part of the Council's voluntary severance/early voluntary retirement exercise. The majority of leavers occupy administrative roles within the Service. Their friends and colleagues in the Service acknowledge the significant contribution they have made over the years and wish them well for the future.

2.0 South Wirral District

- 2.1 South Wirral Youth Hub celebrated Chinese New Year with cultural awareness, food, art, traditions and celebrations. A Creative Cooking course was completed and parents were invited for the final evaluation and presentation of certificates. For Comic Relief, young people produced a display board in the Hub and, through a sewing project, made eye covers to enable them to experience lack of sight. Young people attending the Hub's garden project are currently learning to grow vegetables from seeds. Four young women have started the Virtual Baby training course. In partnership with Aiming High for Disabled Children, the Hub has been holding open days and big events for young people with disabilities. In addition, the Hub has been successful in receiving capital grants from Aiming High for inclusive equipment and alterations to the garden area. This has led to a number of young people with disabilities accessing the provision, particularly at the weekends. A number of these young people are now actively participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and have gained a NHS Creative Cooking Award.
- 2.2 South Wirral Outreach Team has continued to build and develop positive relationships with young people in the area. Young people attending the Trailblazer's project have enjoyed their first visit to Delamere Forest. They came back exhilarated and are now planning more trips. The project enables young people's physical and emotional health and wellbeing. The community room at the 'Dig It' project base continues to be used for various issue based work and projects. This month the base has been used to deliver drug and alcohol sessions to young people who are at risk of offending. This project is being run in partnership with Merseyside Police and the Anti-Social Behaviour Team and offers young people an opportunity to gain an NFCE award in drug and alcohol awareness.
- 2.3 Bebington Youth Club is enjoying increased numbers attending on a regular basis; this has led to more focused work. Recently a group of young people have been involved in a sexual health and relationship awareness project. The Club is also running successful sports evenings in partnership with Sports Development.

3.0. **Birkenhead District**

- 3.1 Birkenhead Youth Hub (Shaftsbury YC). The Hub organised a month long Sports Fitness programme for young people to participate in after the Christmas break. The Hub's dance troupe organised a Dance Show for family and friends and raised £900, with half the money raised being donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Young people produced art work to celebrate Chinese New Year and display material was produced to highlight Holocaust Awareness Day.
- 3.2 South Birkenhead Outreach Team. A regular Tuesday evening football session takes place in Mersey Park. The session uses the Kontaktabus as a group work venue for those who are not playing football. Ten young people went on an Oaklands weekend where they were able to experience the world of outdoor education. Merseyside Police supported this weekend through providing an officer who acted as a driver for the group. This partnership work with the Police is growing and having positive outcomes for the teams' work with young people. A group of Asian young people have been contacted and they are now starting the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.
- 3.3 North Birkenhead Outreach Team. A group of young people were successful with a Youth Opportunity Fund bid earlier in the year. The last of the positive activities have been taking place over the past few months and they have included:
- A celebration of the Chinese New Year including dragon dancing; Oaklands weekend; relationship and sex education workshops; mountain biking in Delamere Forest; theatre trips; bowling.
- The team was involved with a joint project with Charing Cross Youth Club which culminated in a visit to Deeside Go-Karting circuit.
- 3.4 Charing Cross Youth Club young people are busy converting a store room into a sensory room, thanks to a successful application from the Aiming High for children with disabilities fund. Young people helped do the application for the fund, helped with decorating and have chosen the equipment to go into the room. The sensory room should be up and running in the near future.
- 3.5 Grange Baptist Youth Club, funded through the District Activity Fund, has regular attendances on a Saturday evening of over 80 young people. These numbers have been consistent over a two year period with over a hundred young people attending at times. As well as the usual table tennis and games, the young people have been working with Wirral Youth Theatre developing a dance routine which they will perform at the launch of the Pilgrim Street Arts Centre.
- 3.6 Callister Youth Club – young people have been involved in projects about different cultures and lifestyles, including Scottish - Burns Night, Irish - St. Patrick's Day and Chinese - Chinese New Year. Members have looked at the different lifestyles compared to their own, cooked and sampled different foods and compared other differences such as dress and culture.
- 3.7 Viking Youth Club has recently been to Oaklands to experience natural highs and team building. Young people have gained an AQA accreditation in planning and budgeting through various life skills such as cooking a two course meal. A group of senior members planned and arranged a V Zone night for other young people from across the Wirral. This event gave the opportunity for young people to perform in bands on three occasions during the year.

4.0. **West Wirral District**

- 4.1. West Wirral Youth Hub has been holding 'Youth Fest' Parties throughout the winter. They have been successful with up to forty young people attending. A members committee of six young senior members have been meeting to discuss future

projects and opportunities. All of the young people have an input into the running of the Hub and now feed directly into the Friends of West Wirral Youth Hub meetings. Health Promoting Youth Units work has started and the Hub aims to achieve their bronze accreditation by April 2011. On Saturday evenings a Show Choir has been formed. The Choir are working towards putting on a show in June 2011 to showcase the group and the Hub. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has started with a group of five Silver and six Bronze participants. On a Tuesday and Saturday evening there are sports sessions in the Concourse where young people can achieve an ASDAN accreditation. A young women's confidence and beauty project is starting in April 2011. The project will offer young women pamper nights, confidence and personal development workshops and will culminate in a fashion show at the end of the summer. Five young people from the Hub participated in a community day at Grange Park (West Kirby) planting trees and working alongside the local community and local residents.

- 4.2. West Wirral Outreach Team delivers multi sports activities on a Friday evening at Pensby High School in partnership with the Sports Development Team. Numbers have increased with over 30 young people attending the sessions which also use the Kontaktabus. The outreach team has now registered as a Duke of Edinburgh's Award unit and will use this to accredit young people's involvement in the Friday evening sport activities.
- 4.3. Fender Youth Club - Due to vacancies the Club is having some difficulties with low staff numbers. Therefore, the West Wirral Hub Manager and District Youth Worker have been working with the remaining club staff to deliver provision in the club on a Monday evening. Since January this evening has been attracting 25-45 young people. Young people attending have been made aware of other agencies and projects in the district, attempting to break the barriers of engagement from other projects outside the Woodchurch estate. The computer room has been open and the young people are looking in to what needs updating within the unit.
- 4.4. Greasby Youth Club has taken part in a series of workshops around relationships and sex education, healthy eating, drug and alcohol misuse and bullying. They have just completed the Silver Award on Health Promoting Youth Units. The Pavilion is currently being made ready for use after a fire earlier in the year. The Pavilion is used for structured group work and for young people who do not want to access the youth club. With the lighter nights coming workers can utilise provision within the park, such as the football and basketball courts.

5.0. **Wallasey District**

- 5.1. Wallasey Youth Hub has been delivering a Virtual Baby project which started in December. 19 young people have been split into two groups. The sessions are about problems and pressures, ambitions for the future, alcohol, risk taking behaviour and relationships and sex education. Oldershaw School use the Hub as an offsite facility during the day so mentors and teachers can work more intently with young people with learning and social needs. As a result of this work, six young people from the school have started coming to the Hub in the evening to take part in the Virtual Baby course. Four senior members from the Hub are doing their 'V awards, one young person has just gained 100 hours and two others have completed fifty hours volunteering. The Hub has been working with young people around differences and similarities in Cultures. Nine young people visited China Town in Liverpool to celebrate Chinese New Year. In partnership with the outreach team, 35 young people had a meal in a Greek restaurant. Here the young people learnt about Greek culture, tasting traditional food, learning key phrases in Greek and taking part in dancing and smashing plates. The Hub is about to start a joint project with the Fire Service, the Wirral Fire Cadets programme. The Fire Cadets programme will run every Thursday evening and will offer young people the chance to gain new skills whilst working towards a BTEC Level 2.

- 5.2. North/West Wallasey Outreach Team worked with a group of young people who placed a bid for positive activities in the West Wallasey area. These activities have been focused around delivering diversionary work and signposting within the parks and open spaces around the district, including Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie. The team has been working in close partnership with Sports Development, Response, Parks and Open Spaces, Youth Respect Team and the Police on Friday nights in Harrison Park. Here the Kontactabus has been used to provide a venue to deliver harm reduction advice and guidance workshops. In addition, games, hot chocolate and toast have been used to help engage 40 -70 young people. During half term, two Oaklands residentials were organised for 19 young people from Leasowe and Moreton Youth Clubs. The week long residential was supported by a local Police Community Support Officer. This involvement enabled the development of relationships with the young people and the Police and explored attitudes to crime and personal moral choices.
- 5.2. South/East Wallasey Outreach Team celebrated Chinese New Year by taking a group of young people to Liverpool City Centre to gain an insight in to the Chinese culture and celebrate Chinese New Year. Young people viewed the celebrations and participated in a quiz which encouraged them to learn more about Chinese culture, after which they enjoyed a Chinese style buffet where they learnt to use chop sticks. In partnership with Oldershaw School, the team are involved in a Positive Opportunities for Progression (POP) project. This project is a 12 week programme which aims to engage young people at risk of exclusion and raise aspirations. The team has also engaged young people in various activities including football, fishing, team building and the opportunity to gain an Asdan Qualification.
- 5.3. Belvidere Youth Club provides a range of youth club facilities for young people with additional needs. Activities in the club include table tennis, pool, snooker and video games. Recently discussion groups and workshops have taken place which has provided advice and guidance around issues such as bullying, drugs and alcohol and health and relationships. Over the past few months young people have been busy producing a newsletter. The unit has just received their Silver Award in Health Promoting Youth Units.
- 5.4. Moreton Youth Club offers a range of activities which include sports such as football, netball, basketball, pool, table tennis and snooker. Recently young people have been taking part in workshops on digital photography, cookery, painting, arts and crafts, MCing and music editing. The Club is also running film nights for young people.
- 5.5.. Leasowe Youth Club. Due to vacancies the Club is having some difficulties with low staff numbers. As a result the team has been working closely with the local outreach team. In February there was a trip to Oaklands which was supported by the outreach team and local police.
- 6.0. **Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)**
- 6.1 Improvements to WYT's new home, which was the old Gilbrook School, are now well underway and are due to be completed by the end of April. The school has been renamed Pilgrim Street Arts Centre and will be officially launched by the Mayor in June.
- 6.2 Since their successful tour of Somebody's Son, the Last Minute Peer Education Theatre Company have performed two short plays and facilitated workshops at conferences in Oldham and Chorley Hospitals commissioned by the North West Society of Doctors. These are now regular commissions and provide health professionals with an opportunity to improve their awareness around the specific health needs of young people.
- 6.3 The current members of the Voltage music volunteering training course have now started their Open College Northwest accreditation in Peer Education and will complete their first

module by the end of April. Another 30 young people have also achieved their 50 hours V Award.

- 6.4 In addition to the four nights of dance provision currently provided by the dance team, WYT have also facilitated a number of projects and workshops in schools including health days at St Anselms College and South Wirral High School. Funded by the District Activity Fund, the dance team is also working in Wallasey Youth Hub and in Grange Baptist Youth Club on Saturday evenings. These groups will be performing at the launch of Pilgrim Street Arts Centre in June.
- 6.5 Young men from the Contembreak dance crew successfully delivered a workshop day at Thorncross Category D Prison. The request came via the prison Dance Development Worker as a result of WYT's reputation for work undertaken using dance as a motivational tool with harder to reach young men. The WYT group worked with ten young men from the prison with the aim of developing the effectiveness of the dance work already undertaken and to promote dance as a potential further education and career option.
- 6.6 'Voltage' is part of V - the National Volunteering Programme and WYT has been selected as one of five projects across England to run the scheme and represent the North West. The current and last cohort of Voltage trainees have attended a residential at Trafford Hall and worked towards designing a workshop to promote volunteering to be taken into schools and youth units. In addition to this, the Volunteers are now putting their learning into practice by working within a range of music projects currently facilitated by WYT. The Voltage group also attended a meeting at Merseyside Youth Association to represent young musicians on the Wirral as part of a national consultation process facilitated by Youth Music on 'why music should be part of the national curriculum'.
- 6.7 Supported by the District Activity Fund and Youth Music WYT are currently running two music projects focussing on beat box, digital composition and band development on Thursday evenings and a Swing vocal class on Wednesday evenings at Pilgrim Street. The Thursday groups will perform at the launch of Pilgrim Street Arts Centre and the vocal group will also be performing at the Mayor Making Ceremony in May.
- 6.8 Young people from all the music projects attended a trip to the Picket in Liverpool to see young people perform at the City Sounds Gig, which has now inspired them to organise their own gig in the near future. As the funding from the National Foundation for Youth Music is now coming to an end, WYT will be submitting a new funding application to Youth Music to enable this highly successful work to continue to develop and to encompass a range of partner organisations.
- 6.9 The in - house drama session at Pilgrim Street now sees at least 40 members at each session and they are currently working towards the launch of the venue in June. In addition to this session WYT are also providing opportunities for young people to develop their skills in script and stand up work. The group are now working on a funding bid to the Heritage Lottery to put on a large scale performance at Eastham Country Park in the Summer of 2012.
- 6.10 WYT continues to run an ongoing programme of Saturday dance and drama sessions for young people who are 'looked after' to help develop their skills and self esteem. This group performed at Wallasey Town Hall in January at their presentation ceremony. WYT are also working in partnership with SCS Kinder to run a 'Glee Choir' for young people who are 'looked after' or leaving care. This will begin with a ten week project in May based at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre.
- 6.11 WYT is working with the Education Psychology Service to deliver participative dance and drama activities as a way to enable pupils to express themselves and find ways to deal with stress and gain self and mutual respect. The project was piloted with Rock Ferry

High School and has worked successfully in St Pauls Primary supported by WYT peer educators. The programme has now rolled out to Gilbrook, Kilgarth and Rockferry schools.

- 6.12 WYT are facilitating a new project funded by Aiming High for Disabled Children on Friday evenings at Pilgrim Street. These sessions follow the same model as the Meadowside/ Foxfield school sessions that are run on Friday mornings and will include one hour of drama and one hour of dance. These sessions are assisted by the peer educators and will run through to July.

7.0 Response

- 7.1 Over the three month period from January to March there were 102 new referrals into the Counselling Team, the source of these referrals are from schools, Response staff, Youth Offending Service, CAMHS, Social Care, Parents, local hostels etc. A total of 70 individuals have used the service and 329 sessions have been delivered. There are currently 54 young people on the waiting list which, at present, is twelve weeks long. The Counselling Team have provided information workshops about the services offered at Response and have arranged rapid support at a number of schools. One was a school with a number of pupils who were distressed due to the death of one of their peers. Issues young people present with, are family breakdown or lack of communication within the family, loss/bereavement, issues from the past, bullying, problems at school, anger, low confidence and self esteem, substance related issues, self harm etc. Young people presenting with suicidal ideation/attempts remains to be a concern for the service.
- 7.2 Health Services in Schools continues to develop and the new additional services that have recently been commissioned by the PCT will strengthen the provision. These new services include smoking cessation, contraception and mental health and well being. The service is attracting many young people into the clinics to talk about health matters and concerns or worries that affect them.
- 7.3 District Activity Fund - Response are still continuing to provide sessions up to the end of March. The Youth Hubs remain to be the source of provision for support on information advice and guidance. Contacts have amounted to 926 this quarter. Awareness raising on a number of issues has also taken place, including National No Smoking Day.
- 7.4 The outreach drug and alcohol team have delivered brief interventions to young people who engage in alcohol misuse and associated risk taking behaviours in the parks on a Friday and Saturday evening. Through this work, the team have identified a number of concerns around the safety of young people
- 7.5 Response continues to work in partnership with Wirral Brook in educating young people across the Wirral in the form of Bitesize events, street work and developmental group work with target groups. Street work and developmental group work has seen outreach teams including Response, wider Youth Service and Brook working closely to reduce young people's risk taking behaviour and empower personal safety. Response continues to work in partnership with the hospital Accident and Emergency Department with parents and their young people who are admitted due to alcohol misuse. The team, who are working Friday and Saturday evenings, have also built relationships with Accident and Emergency staff to promote the referral pathway.
- 7.6 The YPAIP project has encouraged young people who would not normally access service to attend Response for an alcohol education/intervention session via the Youth Offending Service Triage. Young people who are referred through Triage do so as part of their bail conditions. The outcomes for the young person include not being criminalised or fined and they are supported into further appropriate services if required, e.g. counselling. At the end of this quarter the current YPAIP worker will be leaving this position, this will have an impact on service until the vacancy is filled.

7.7 Since January the General Housing team has continued to support young people from all parts of the Borough, in tackling their housing/homelessness issues. Some of the underlying issues have been family breakdown, parental alcohol/substance misuse, domestic violence, bereavement within the family and behavioural/mental health issues. Staff are working with partners inside and outside Response to tackle the above issues in a co-ordinated approach. Every young person who is 16/17 is now assessed using the Common Assessment Framework whenever a multi professional response is required.

7.8 The Housing Team is in the process of co-ordinating a multi agency initiative with a wide range of partner organisations across the Borough to facilitate preventing homelessness workshops in schools. The focus of the project is to review, update and promote a homeless prevention workshop to be delivered in secondary schools across Wirral by a multi agency team. The purpose of the proposal is to deliver a consistent workshop message to young people and school staff to prevent and reduce youth homelessness in the Borough. A multi-agency approach is being proposed to enable pooling of limited financial and staffing resources across organisations to produce a significant outcome in terms of overall youth homelessness prevention.

7.9 The Stop Gap project has just received Council commitment to extend the funding of the project on a longer term basis, this will enable this valuable service to homeless and vulnerable young people to continue. The project offers intensive support to 50 vulnerable 16/17 year olds per annum to avoid homelessness and or rough sleeping. Targets for the last 12 months have been met and service users have recently met with a monitoring officer to tell of their experiences of being supported by Stop Gap.

8.0 **Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)**

8.1 Over the past few months, delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in Wirral has been widened in its approach. Several local organisations who are involved in the development and training of young people have recognised the advantages of the scheme and have applied to run the DofE under the Authority's operating licence. This will hopefully result in engagement with young people from faith groups, apprenticeship schemes, Fire and Rescue Service Cadets and a local junior rugby team.

8.2 The development of DofE delivery from the Youth Hubs is encouraging. Each Hub now has at least one dedicated Award evening and a number of staff who are capable of providing an exciting DofE programme. Many young people are now well advanced in their particular level and are looking forward to completing their expeditions this summer.

8.3 In the first quarter of this year 21 young people from Wirral have achieved their Gold Awards and will subsequently be invited to St James's Palace to receive their certificates from HRH Prince Phillip.

9.0 **Training and Staff Development**

9.1 Three members of the team delivering the NVQ programme were accepted for Voluntary Severance/Early Voluntary Retirement. Therefore, negotiations have taken place with Wirral Metropolitan College who are now facilitating the current programme to ensure the existing candidates gain their awards. Officers are continuing to explore how youth worker qualifications can be delivered once the partnership with Wirral Metropolitan College has finished.

10.0 **Youth Participation**

10.1 In recent months young people have been involved in a number of consultation events, including:

- 10 young people who took part in the Park and Open Spaces consultation.

- 13 young people who attended a consultation event about recycling in Wirral, alongside the Older People's Parliament,
- 10.2 In addition to involvement in consultations, 12 young people from across the Service have been acting as a Reference Group for the Early Intervention Grant Commissioning Process.
- 10.3 The four District Youth Forums are being revitalised to link more to other district consultative mechanisms and be more relevant to young people and their needs.
- 10.0 Play Service**
- 10.1 Community Play Rangers provided by Wirral Play Council finished the winter indoors programme in March 2011. The summer programme begins in April 2011 and increases to 30 sessions each week across the borough. New sessions have been introduced into the programme including Spital, Ilchester Square - Birkenhead, Birkenhead Park, Torr Park - Eastham, Duck Pond Lane - Oxtton, Whiteheath Park - Leasowe, Flynn's Piece - Wallasey Village.
- 10.2 Play Practitioner's Project, 'Play Point' sessions now operate from Bebington Youth Club, Eastham Youth Hub, Overton Community Centre, Woodchurch Community Centre and Birkenhead Youth Hub.
- 10.3 Play workers have attended regional meetings in Knowsley and Manchester with other playworkers from the North-West to share skills. Wirral Play Council have also provided a training day for playworkers, early years workers and after-school clubs.
- 10.4 The Play For All project has supported several children, enabling them to attend regular play sessions. After a consultation with children, 'Play for All' purchased some equipment based on competitive sports, e.g. table tennis, archery, netball, and gym equipment. Children were excited to compete against each other in both the team games and the one to one competitive activities. This helped to engage with a percentage of children referred to 'Play for All' who were uninterested in engaging with using the existing equipment.
- 10.5 The Year 2 Revised PlayBuilder Programme - An announcement in July 2010 meant the year 2 programme was put on hold until further notice with the directive that any new contractual liabilities were not to be incurred. The programme had to be suspended until the revised Play capital grant was confirmed and re-allocated. The programme was restarted at the end of October 2010. The Department for Education announced Wirral's revised allocation of £373,990.63 to cover expenditure already incurred, contractual commitments and as affordable, to support some other valued projects already identified in Wirral's year 2 programme.
- 10.6 Consultation work was finalised between children, young people and residents. A number of year 2 play areas have been completed including Birkenhead Park, Whiteheath Park, Leasowe, Torr Park, Eastham, Whitfield Common, Heswall, Port Causeway, Bromborough, Warwick Park, Upton and Higher Bebington Park. Further play areas will be completed in the next few months. The majority are split sites catering for each age group which was highlighted in the play audit and subsequent consultation exercises.
- 10.7 Beechwood play scheme has been developing an art project inspired by photographer 'Rankin'. Children had their portrait taken, these were then blown up to A3 size in black and white and given back to the child to creatively alter them. Twenty children participated and used any media available to alter their portrait. They used a variety of materials including pens, paints, chalk, photocopier and computer graphics. The finished portraits showed an insight into each child's individual personality and are now on display in the playscheme. After consultation with the children the art room was used as a 'sit off'

space over the winter months. This enabled children to have a safe space to just come and hang out with minimal adult intervention during the darker winter months and join in activities. As a direct result the numbers of children attending increased, averaging 50 per night.

- 10.9 Charing Cross playscheme continues to provide an inclusive play session on Monday evenings promoted in conjunction with the Play For All lottery project. This provides additional support for local children to attend and participate in play activities.
- 10.10 Gautby Road has been fund raising for their annual residential to Oaklands in the Summer. They hope to take 30 children and young people to participate in outdoor and adventurous activities.

11.0. Other Developments

- 11.1 A report has been presented to Cabinet regarding the principle of developing a 'super centre' for young people at Birkenhead Fire Station. Elected members have identified some capital within this year's budget to support this initiative. A representative steering group has been formed to look at taking this initiative forward.
- 11.2. Rampworx are continuing to identify funding streams to build an indoor skate park provision on land in Bidston which Cabinet has agreed be reserved for this development. Rampworx are working in close partnership with the local authority and are also key partners in the Birkenhead project.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson
Principal Manager, Youth & Play Service

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

13 APRIL 2011

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| SUBJECT: | DRAFT VISION STATEMENT FOR YOUTH SERVICES IN WIRRAL |
| WARD/S AFFECTED: | ALL |
| REPORT OF: | DAVID ARMSTRONG |
| RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER: | CLLR SHEILA CLARK |
| KEY DECISION | NO |

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs the Committee about a draft Vision Statement for Youth Services in Wirral.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

- 2.1 Committee is asked to comment on and approve the draft Vision Statement for Youth Services in Wirral, prior to further consultation with other groups across Wirral.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 3.1 In order to develop new ways of working, youth services need to identify a vision, values and ethos that underpins Wirral's approach to developing youth facilities.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 On 8th July 2010, key stakeholders in Wirral took part in a scenario planning workshop facilitated by the MyPlace Support Team. The workshop was attended by a cross section of 25 people with an interest in youth services, including elected members and representatives from the statutory, voluntary, community and faith sectors.
- 4.2 The session had the following objectives:
- Understand the current position of youth facilities in Wirral
 - Describe the issues (and opportunities) facing the delivery of youth facilities
 - Describe the different scenarios for the future and identify how those will effect delivery
 - Prioritise the actions for the future delivery of youth facilities.

- 4.3 During the course of the session the participants worked in three groups and covered the following areas:
- Current position – an outline of the progress the strategy had made to date;
 - Issues and opportunities – the groups considered what the current issues and opportunities are facing places for young people to go. These were grouped into certainties, uncertainties and things they were unsure on;
 - Planning scenarios – each group was allocated a scenario to develop;
 - Developing actions – each group then developed actions to deliver the strategy, given their scenario
 - Group prioritisation – all participants then agreed what actions were priorities going forward.
- 4.4 The main outcome of the workshop was a series of prioritised actions agreed by each group. One of the high level priorities identified was:
- New ways of working – Develop a vision, values and ethos that underpins the way you approach and develop youth facilities.
- 4.5 In order to begin the process of developing this vision a small group of representatives from the Children and Young People’s Department met with the link Forum and drafted the Vision Statement (see attached Appendix 1).
- 4.6 Following the Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee the draft Vision Statement will also be taken to the following groups for further consultation:
- Link Forum
 - Chairs of Youth Club Management Committees
 - Integrated Youth Support Strategy Group
 - Groups of representative young people, e.g. Executive Youth Board

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 This report is part of a wider consultation, therefore no risks are outlined.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 As this report is part of a wider consultation, this is not applicable.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The draft Vision Statement will be taken to a number of representative groups the following groups for further consultation.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 Voluntary, community and faith youth organisations will be directly involved in consultations regarding the draft Vision Statement.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 There are none.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Active consultation processes regarding the draft Vision Statement for Youth Services will ensure the inclusion of a variety of groups. This will include representation from a number of organisations that work with harder to reach groups such as black and minority ethnic young people, Children in Care, young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.

11.2 No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for this report.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 There are none.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

13.1 There are none.

REPORT AUTHORS: Maureen McDaid

Principal Manager, Commissioning/Participation

telephone: (0151 666 4508)

email: maureenmcdaid@wirral.gov.uk

Lindsay Davidson

Principal Manager, Youth & Play Service

telephone: (0151 637 6370)

email: lindsaydavidson@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Draft Vision Statement for Youth Services in Wirral

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Draft Vision Statement for Youth Services in Wirral

The young people of Wirral are society's future leaders. We need to ensure there are a broad range of services for all young people. These services should support and develop young people to reach their full potential with regard to health, well-being and achievement.

Young people need to be able to access a range of positive activities that raise their aspirations and include opportunities for fun and personal and social development.

We have ambitious aspirations for our young people and we expect services for young people to share our vision. This means ensuring that provision is appropriate to needs and delivered in the context of rapidly changing social and economic circumstances.

We are committed to ensuring that:

- Young people are at the heart of, and driving service planning
- Services for young people should be high quality, safe and inclusive
- Strong partnerships are the bedrock of effective service provision
- Young people identify and accept their responsibilities as individuals, group members and citizens
- The young people's workforce (paid and unpaid) are engaged in on-going professional development opportunities
- In recognition of the diverse needs of young people, there should be a multi-agency approach to service planning, delivery and monitoring – including opportunities to share practice

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WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

13 APRIL 2011

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| SUBJECT: | BIG LOTTERY CHILDREN'S PLAY PROGRAMME REPORT 2011 |
| WARD/S AFFECTED: | ALL |
| REPORT OF: | DAVID ARMSTRONG |
| RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER: | CLLR SHEILA CLARK |
| KEY DECISION | NO |

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current 'Wirral – Play in the Peninsular' Children's Play BIG Lottery Programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS/S

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report.

3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 The report is for information.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

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

- Community Play Rangers – Facilitating and promoting accessible outdoor play for children 5 -13 years (Commissioned to Wirral Play Council)
- Play Practitioners Project - open access play sessions in targeted areas (Commissioned to Wirral Play Council)
- Play For All – inclusive play project (Delivered by the Youth & Play Service)

The four capital projects are for adventure and nature play and the improvement of play areas. These projects, delivered in conjunction with the Parks & Countryside Service, are listed below:

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

4.2 There are a number of portfolio outcomes expected to be achieved by the end of the grant period. Appendix 1 and 2 describes each outcome in detail.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 This is the last year of the programme, the finish date being February 2012.
- 5.2 The production of an exit strategy which outlines potential future funding opportunities will assist with mitigating the risk of non-continuation of these projects.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6.1 None.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The projects have all been subject to consultation with relevant agencies and children and young people.

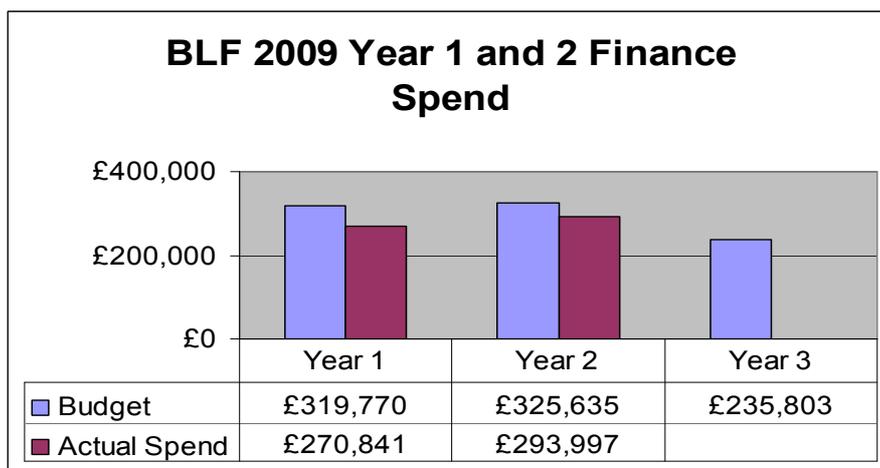
8.0 IMPLCATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

8.1 Wirral Play Council have been commissioned to deliver a majority of these play projects. In addition, a wide range of voluntary, community and faith groups have been involved with this programme.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL: IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 The Children’s play BIG Lottery fund financial expenditure for year 1 and 2 are detailed below:

| | Budget | Actual Spend to Date | Final Year Budget |
|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Year 1 | £ 319,770 | £ 270,841 | £ 48,929 |
| Year 2 | £ 325,635 | £ 293,997 | £ 31,638 |
| Year 3 | £ 235,803 | | £ 235,803 |
| Total | £ 881,208 | £ 564,838 | £ 316,370 |



10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 None

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Wirral's Children's play programme reflects inclusiveness and promotes equal opportunities and access.

11.2 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed for the Play Strategy.

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

12.1 None.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLCATIONS

13.1 None.

REPORT AUTHORS:

Steve Chan

Acting Deputy Head, Youth and Play Service

Telephone: (0151) 637 6370

Email: stevechan@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICIES

Appendix 1 – Children's Play Programme – Outcomes and Performance

Children's Play Programme - Outcomes

Portfolio outcome: 1

Outcome: *4,700 children and young people able to participate in a range of more inclusive and accessible play experiences in areas of identified need by the end of the three years.*

After two years of delivering the portfolio, the projects are progressing and achieving in excess of the expected outcome. This highlights the projects are high in demand and quality of services are attracting good number of attendance (see Appendix 2). Overall, 4,718 children (unique individuals) have been registered on all projects.

Play projects and capital play area projects consulted widely with children and young people in their ideas for play sessions and their local parks. Where possible, within budget and health & safety parameters, suggestions were met to enrich children's play experiences. This included access to play equipment with an element of risk, invention and cultural diversity. Play Point successfully gained a grant from Aiming Higher for £2,689 to supply each venue with its own Dark Den, equipped with lights and projectors. This enabled children to have chill out areas and create effects with light and explore the darkness.

The Community Play Rangers and PlayPoint projects work closely with the Play For All inclusive play project who provides additional playworker support for children who otherwise would be excluded. This encourages them to socialise with other local children and join in play activities. A number of children have increased in self-confidence and can attend the sessions without additional support. Playworkers build good working relationships with children and their parents/carers which enables them to feel confident about their children attending open access play provision. One child who has been attending an outdoor play session with his wheelchair and has been recently attending winter indoors sessions without his wheelchair. He has the freedom to play in the safe knowledge play staff are on hand whenever he needs them. The Play For All Inclusion project continues to attract referrals from other children agencies and special schools.

All three play projects strategically review their locations identifying where their service is most needed and meet with community requests.

The Play Rangers delivered the outdoors and indoors sessions. From April to October the Play Rangers are based in 30 different parks and play areas geographically covering the most of the Wirral. During the winter months this reduced to 20 play sessions. Playworkers work outside for the first session and then move to an indoors venue due to weather, darkness and safety considerations. The sessions are promoted at school assemblies which encourages children to attend straight after school. The venues are determined by child population, last year's attendance records, availability of local play provision, community requests and findings of health reports. Delivery areas over the last year included:

- Irby Playing Fields, Ridgewood Park - Pensby; Grange and Newton Park - West Kirby; Ryecroft Park; Demesne Street ; Luke Street play area – Seacombe; Central Park-Liscard; Harrison Park; Wallacre play area; Tower Grounds; Vale Park - New Brighton; Prenton Dell Estate; Town Lane and Mayer Park – Bebington; Port Causeway - Brombrough; Victoria Park – Tranmere; Yew Tree play area and Lingham Park – Moreton; Kelsall play area and Torr Park – Eastham; Brookhurst Park and Bromborough recreation ground; Coronation Park – Greasby; Meols Park; Grove Road – Hoylake; Whitfield Common and the Puddydale – Heswall; Noctorum Estate; Wallasey Youth Hub; Moreton Youth Club.

This year the project will be also targeting Spital Field, Duck Pond Lane - Prenton, Wheatland Lane - Seacombe, Grove Road - Wallasey, Birkenhead Park and Ilchester Square.

Playpoint reviews their locations every six months. Currently, play sessions are provided at the following venues, Bebington Youth Club, South Wirral Youth Hub, Eastham, Shaftesbury Youth Hub, Woodchurch Community centre and Overton Community centre. PlayPoint has been liaising with youth hubs and clubs, looking at ways to work together to encourage progression from a play setting to youth provision.

Portfolio outcome: 2

Outcome: *Enable 20 per cent more children and young people to feel safe and reduce the fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment by the end of the three years.*

The ‘Play Out, Feel Safe’ project was launched in November 2009 to address the main concerns raised by surveyed children when playing out. These include, traffic, bullying, interaction with older youths and strangers. The first survey was carried out in June 2009, with the findings used as a benchmark for the ‘Play Safe Action Plan’.

A similar survey was carried out again in November 2010 with 152 different individuals. The findings were similar to the previous year’s, i.e. fear of being alone, groups of teenagers and gangs, strangers, being in the dark, traffic, busy roads and bullies. Similar Play Safe surveys will be repeated this year and the action plan will be adjusted according to analysed findings.

All concerns raised were addressed in the Play Strategy Implementation plan and positive actions are being taken through working with Wirral Play Partnership members. The project was delivered to nine primary schools to raise awareness of keeping themselves safe, 1,536 children were engaged in focus groups. Children who participated were given safety awareness materials and reflective neon stickers.

Concerns around perceptions of older youths were addressed through combining youth clubs with play sessions to share activities and using young volunteers to support play activities. This has also been achieved through engaging younger children in annual youth events, i.e. Youth Voice Conference and sand sculpture competition. The Youth Service has also attended the annual national Play Day event held in Birkenhead Park. Further projects to provide a bridge for the transitional stage between play and youth provision are also being investigated.

Portfolio outcome: 3

Outcome: *200 more children and young people 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.*

Last year in the summer months, 128 children and young people were consulted about satisfaction of their local play areas. The age range of surveyed children and young people was 6 to 17 years old. Overall 15 play areas were monitored. The findings included:

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <i>What they like to do in the places they play:</i> | Hang out and be adventurous scored the highest. |
| <i>Reasons of dislike about their</i> | Much equipment for older young people and equipment |

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>play areas:</i> | is boring and uninspiring. It does not provide enough risk and adventure for older young people. |
| <i>Ideas for improvement:</i> | The highest score was skate parks, areas for multi-sports, zip wires, big swings and climbing walls. |

These findings reflect children and young people's sense of adventure and need to have opportunities to socialise with their peers. The findings have been taken into consideration in designing the next two new sites at Port Causeway and Whitfield Common.

Portfolio Outcome: 4

Outcome: *10,000 children and young people will use new, more challenging and varied equipment by the end of three years.*

Each of the four completed BIG Lottery play areas continues to attract children and young people to experience the new, more challenging play equipment.

Most of the neighbouring schools have been consulted and informed of the improvement to play areas. There were large of number of children using the new play areas during each project visit. From the play area satisfaction survey results, both Lottery fund sites have scored highly in the overall impression of the sites and the amount of have choice available.

Impact

The portfolio is well received in most areas of the borough. The projects have built good relationships with voluntary, community and faith groups and have raised the profile of play in local communities.

The projects have managed to introduce children's play sessions in some communities where previously play provision has not been present. The Play strategy implementation plan targeted the development of local community facilities for play. These included, schools, community centres, church venues, youth hubs and youth clubs. The projects are continuing to identify gaps in provision in areas of most need.

The projects have also successfully engaged with a local primary school to utilise the school grounds for play sessions. This is a first step to explore further potential, to use school grounds as a local play spaces for children.

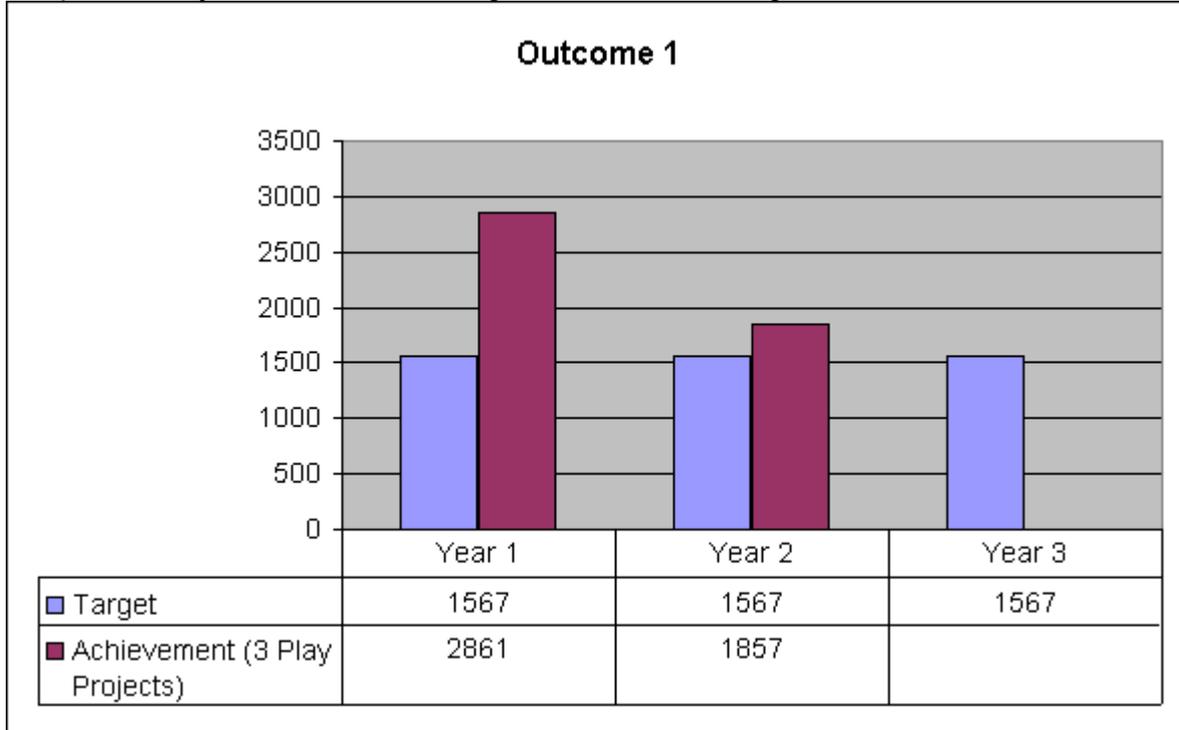
All play and capital projects have achieved more than the expected targets within the set timeframe this year. The projects are continuing to improve their services to enable more children and young people to have an enriched play experience. The programme continues to provide opportunities to explore challenging activities within acceptable levels of risk and consults widely on the delivery of projects and play areas.

Performance

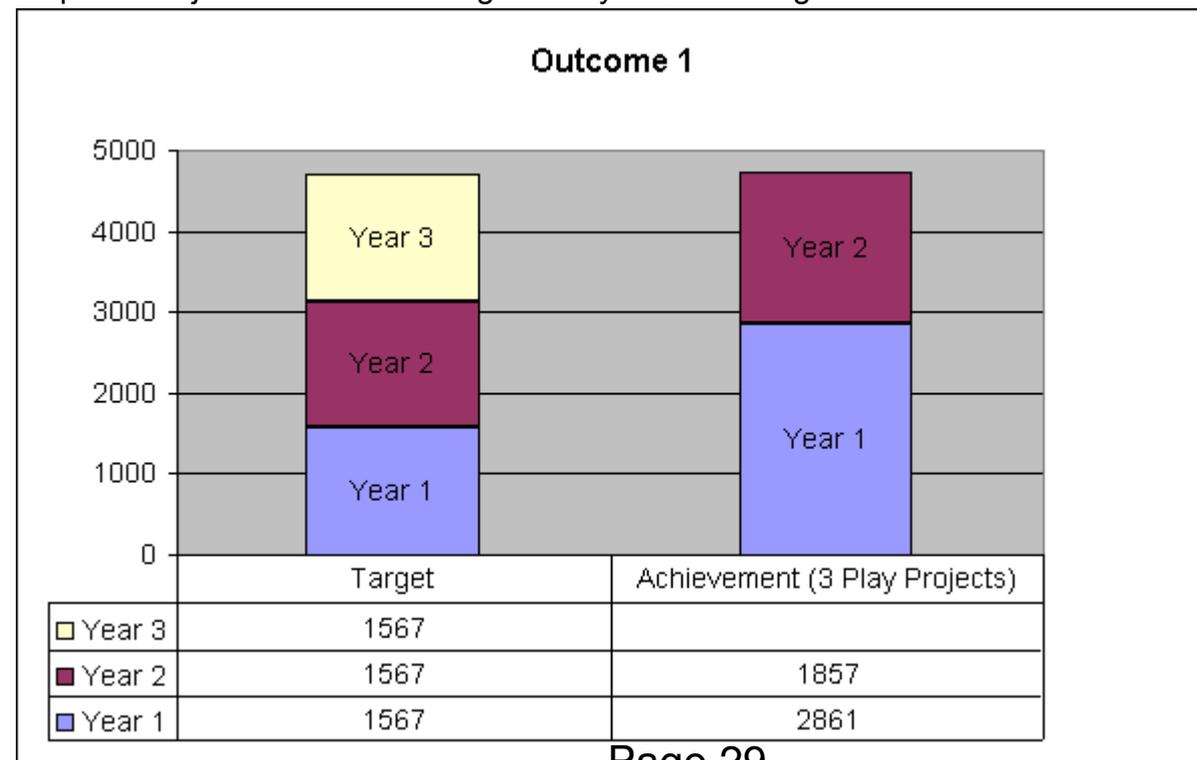
Outcome 1

To reach 4700 children & YP to participate in a range of more inclusive and accessible play experiences in areas of identified need by the end of three years

Graph 1 - Projects achievement against annual average



Graph 2- Projects achievement against 3 years total target



Outcome 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

| | Target | Survey | Play Out, Feel Safe Campaign delivered |
|--------|--------|--------|----------------------------------------|
| Year 1 | 313 | 244 | |
| Year 2 | 313 | 152 | 1536 |
| Year 3 | 313 | | |
| Total | 940 | 396 | 1536 |

Outcome 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.

Consultation conducted:

Play area satisfaction survey carried out in Summer 2010. 128 children & Yps participated.

Youth Voice Conference – Annual event held by the Council's Youth service. Attended by over 130 young people to voice their opinions.

11 local school visits – held workshop/ assembly asking their views on the design of their local play areas.

Outcome 4

10,000 children & YP will use new, more challenging and varied equipment by the end of three years.

Number assessed by observed average attendance:

| | | | | |
|------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--------|
| Average attendance per week at each park | | | | 20 |
| Average attendance per year | | | | 1,040 |
| Average attendance over 3 years | | | | 3,120 |
| 4 revamped parks by the end of 3 years | | | | 12,480 |