



Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 12 July 2011
Time:	3.30 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 2 - Wallasey Town Hall

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AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)**
Minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2011
3. **HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT (Pages 5 - 12)**
4. **RESPONSE COUNSELLING SERVICE (PRESENTATION)**
5. **THE ESCAPE PROGRAMME (PRESENTATION)**
6. **A YOUNG PERSON'S EXPERIENCE (PRESENTATION)**
7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee
Wednesday 13 April 2011
Room 2, Town Hall, Wallasey

Present

Chair	Cllr Tom Harney
Councillors	Cllr Walter Smith Cllr Wendy Clements Cllr Cherry Povall Cllr Pat Williams Cllr Sheila Clarke
Council Officers	Lindsay Davidson (Principal Manager Youth & Play Service) Terry Hall (Deputy Manager Youth & Play Service) Steve Chan (Acting Deputy Head Youth & Play Service) Caroline Laing (Head ASBT) Joanne Day – Outreach Co-ordinator, Response Alex Edward, Social Care
Apologies	Cllr Karen Hayes Cllr Tony Williams Cllr Chris Meaden Peter Edmondson Steve Pimblett Maureen McDaid

Index to Minutes

Minute 21	-	Welcome and Apologies
Minute 22	-	Minutes of Previous Meeting
Minute 23	-	Principal Manager's Report
Minute 24	-	Delay – Relationships & Sexual Health (presentation)
Minute 25	-	Draft Vision for Youth Service's Report
Minute 26	-	BIG Lottery Children's Play Programme 2011 Report
Minute 27	-	Any Other Business
Minute 28	-	Date of Next Meeting

Minute 21 - Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Harney welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologies were taken.

Resolved:

Minute 22 - Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 19 January 2011

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

Resolved:

- i) That the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 19 January 2011, be accepted as a true record. There were no matters arising.

Minute 23 - Principal Manager Report

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

Cllr Smith enquired about fees to young people participating in DoE, to ensure the scheme is affordable and inclusive to all young people. Lindsay Davidson outlined the structure of DoE and how all young people are able to participate in the programme.

Cllr Harney commented on the work of Forum Housing Association and the importance of tackling youth homelessness. Lindsay Davidson suggested themes to be developed for future meetings to highlight and discuss specific issues.

Resolved

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

Minute 24 - Delay – Relationships and Sexual Health (Presentation)

Joanne Day and Alex Edwards presented the work of the Programme.

Cllr Williams asked who developed this programme and Cllr Clarke asked was it delivered to schools. The trainers want to encourage schools nurses and learning mentors to use the programme and for it to be publicised in schools. 'R U ready' is part of the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy.

Resolved:

- i) Joanne Day and Alex Edwards be thanked for their report.

Minute 25 - Draft Vision for Youth Service's Report

Lindsay Davidson presented the report on behalf of Maureen McDaid. Further consultation needs to be carried out before it is finalised: ie Youth Executive, Youth Clubs, etc. Cllr Clarke suggested the document to be circulated to Aiming High and the Children in Care Council.

Resolved:

- i) The document continues with the consultation process.
- ii) Following the consultation the document returns to YAPSAC for finalisation.

Minute 26 - BIG Lottery Children's Play Programme 2011 Report

Steve Chan presented the Report and highlighted number of key items.

Cllr Harney asked who monitored clean-ups of the play areas and the need for a co-ordinated approach. Steve Chan suggested developing stewardship with Friend's Groups, liaising with Park staff and Play Rangers.

Cllr Povall made reference for the need for a play area in Spital, and stated that a petition from local residents had been presented to Council some nine months ago. Steve Chan will follow this up with Parks and Countryside.

Cllr Williams commented positively on the improvements for young people in Duck Pond Lane. Cllr Clarke expressed that play area at higher Bebington was being well used by children and young people.

Cllr Harney suggested promoting these schemes with Councillors and the Area Forums.

Resolved:

- i) Cllr Harney thanked all staff, children and parents involved in the delivery of this programme.

Minute 27 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Resolved:

- i) Cllr Clarke asked that thanks and gratitude be recorded in recognition of the hard work and commitment of Terry Hall, Deputy Head of Youth & Play Service who will be leaving the Authority in June.

Minute 28 - DATES OF NEXT MEETING

12 July 2011
11 October 2011
10 January 2012
29 May 2012

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HEAD OF YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. **Staff Movements**

- 1.1. Four colleagues left the Youth Service Section at the end of June as part of the Council's early voluntary retirement exercise. Their friends and colleagues acknowledge the significant contribution they have all made over the years and wish them well for the future.
- 1.2. Caroline Laing has taken up post as Deputy Head of Service, her new colleagues are looking forward to working with her in this role.
- 1.3. Appointments have been made to two Professional Range C Youth Worker Posts. Ian McCabe will take up the post of Participation and Workforce Development and Joanne Day the post of Operations Manager at Response.
- 1.4. Maria Charlesworth will be moving from her current post as Operations Manger at Response to take up the post of Head of Team South Wirral and Birkenhead.

Area Team reports2.0. **South Wirral and Birkenhead Districts****Birkenhead District**

- 2.1. Birkenhead Youth Hub (Shaftesbury Youth Club) organised a multicultural awareness event culminating in a music and dance show, called 'Bollyhoodz'. The event mixed local young people and families from different ethnicities, preparing Indian food, artwork and dance routines. Other activities in the last month have included a trip to Rampworx, Community Sports Leader Award (CSLA) course, guitar lessons and an Area Youth Forum. The other major event was an annual visit from Irish friends from Bessborough, Newry and County Down who stayed at the club over the Easter period for five nights. Their party consisted of 24 young people who mixed with local young people and enjoyed visiting local sites.
- 2.2. Charing Cross Youth Club is working on two big projects that are now almost complete. The platinum Health Promoting Youth Units file has now been submitted. Brook is doing another six week programme on Wednesdays. The sensory room is up and running but the official opening has not been held as some equipment is still to be delivered.
- 2.3. Cavendish Youth Club has several members taking a food hygiene certificate course. Summer planning is completed and will include a session with park rangers orienteering in the park, cookery, healthy eating and alcohol awareness. Numbers are steady for this time of year with some outreach in the park scheduled for July.
- 2.4. Viking Youth Club has taken part in a Stay Safe Project exploring issues about gangs, violence, crime and prison. Young people organised a prize bingo for the local community which was a great success and good example of intergenerational work. Birkenhead outreach and Viking are working collaboratively to market Viking and increase the profile and membership, this included a barbeque consultation in Victoria Park. A group of seniors are volunteering in the club every Wednesday and Friday to help run a junior club which is well attended by approx 40 (8 - 12 year olds).

- 2.5. Callister Youth Club are about to start the summer programme which includes nights out including visits to the pictures, restaurants and barbeques. Activities in the club will include healthy eating and various workshops such as basic sign language and alcohol awareness. Some new members have arrived in the last few weeks, which has been good for existing members as they have been protective of the new members and showing them around etc. A group of old members are organising a club re-union next month.
- 2.6. North Birkenhead Outreach Team has worked with Response to provide weekly drop-in sessions for young people. The sessions are aimed at engaging individuals identified via outreach who are currently involved in risk taking behaviours. Weekly drop-in sessions have enabled staff to steadily build relationships with young people and deliver harm reduction/prevention sessions within a non-threatening and informal setting. The team has worked with Merseyside Police to provide various diversionary activities, as such go-karting, trips to Deeside, Rampworx and bowling. Activities aimed to improve young people's perceptions of the police and enhanced relationships between young people from different areas, thus helping to promote positive community cohesion. Together with Wirral Multi-Cultural Centre weekly girls health and well-being sessions have explored issues affecting young women such as; racism, culture, healthy eating, body image, media, stereotyping, relationships, alcohol and substance use.
- 2.7. The South Birkenhead Outreach Team is continuing to build and develop positive relationships with young people and the community throughout the District. Young people from the Peel Avenue area of Rock Ferry are enjoying a regular diversionary activity on Friday evening at the Union Road football cage; there are 28 regular attendees who have also enjoyed visits to Rampworx. Partnership working with the Viking Youth Club has been expanded which included a barbeque in Victoria Park during half term. Work is continuing with an Asian group of young people from the Woodlands, supporting them with their choices for leisure time activities.

South Wirral District

- 2.8. South Wirral Young People's Project outreach team have continued to target their work in those areas where there is seen to be most need, including New Ferry Park, Shorefields - New Ferry, Clifton Avenue - Eastham, Eastham Skate Park and Torr Park - Eastham. During half term staff using the Kontactabus were involved in the Hats Off to Crime and Love Thy Neighbourhood initiative in the Bebington Area organised by the Jireh Church. The event was held in three locations over three days and was attended by a number of agencies. The team has been delivering the Escape programme, an Integrated Youth Support (IYS) initiative in partnership with Merseyside Police. The programme informed the 12 young people who were invited to participate about consequences around substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and crime. It also offered them a recognised accredited certificate once they had completed. The Friday night football session continues to be popular with young people coming from across Wirral to take part. The Dig It project offers a variety of opportunities for young people to learn and develop skills which can include gardening, cooking, photography, creating their own music CD and also the opportunity to just chill out in the garden or by the pond. Other activities on offer during the half term holidays included horse riding, bowling and Awesome Walls.
- 2.9. South Wirral Youth Hub (SWYH) in partnership with Aiming High provided daytime activities for young people with disabilities during the Easter holidays, with support from Tranmere Rovers Football Club Community Sport Workers and a local Artist. From these activities several young people now attend the Hub on a regular basis. Six French students (who were staying with host families in Eastham) attended each Youth Hub sessions over a three week period. The Youth Hub took the opportunity to compare and contrast issues, hobbies and education between the two countries. During the Easter holidays South Wirral Youth Hub in partnership with South Wirral Outreach organised a women's day, "IT'S A GIRL THING", open to all young women in Wirral. The day consisted of issue based workshops in the morning and, after a healthy lunch, pampering workshops in the afternoon and was supported by Response, Health Services in Schools and the wider Youth Service. In partnership with Wirral Youth Theatre, drumming and beat-box sessions

were held at the Youth Hub, with many young people producing their own music, singing and rapping to produce a CD. Young people participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award volunteering section organised a trip to Chester Zoo during Easter, inviting members with disabilities, in which they used a buddy system for the event. This was a great success and now the buddy system is used for all new members into the Hub. Five young people achieved an NICAS level 1 and 2 award in rock climbing at Awesome Walls. Teen Wirral held a training session at the Hub for young reporters from each of the Hubs. As part of the Health Promoting Youth Unit Award on No Tobacco Day, members produced a world map poster with information and facts about tobacco from around the world using I.T. and media for research. There have been three courses of the Virtual Baby Project with 19 young women participating. The next course will offer young men the opportunity to participate. On Deaf Awareness Week sessions in sign language were held and members developed skills to greet and sign their own name. The DofE Award has developed since the Hub opened and now four young people have achieved the Bronze award for skill and two have achieved the silver award for skill, in all, 16 young people are participating in the Award.

2.10. Bebington Youth Club has a wide variety of activities that are popular to the young people, they are particularly keen on sport with work ongoing in partnership with Sports Development. The other big interest for the young people is their music venue, this has proven to be very popular with some members wanting to produce their own music CD's.

3.0. **Wallasey and West Wirral Districts**

West Wirral District

- 3.1. West Wirral Youth Hub has been putting on hair and beauty workshops for young people. This looks at personal development and self esteem allowing the young people to explore their own feelings. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at the Hub is now up and running, nine young people will complete their Bronze/Silver award by December 2011. The members committee has now seven young people who all meet regularly to steer what the Hub offers. There is still a need for female representation and it is thought that some young women will join following the hair and beauty courses. Health Promoting Youth Units is developing, the Hub will gain its bronze award by August 2011.
- 3.2. West Wirral Outreach Team organised a number of activities in the May half term. The activities included, Rampworx, canoeing, bowling and Laser Quest. Over 50 young people took part in these events. The Kontactabus runs four nights a week. It provides a mobile provision that is accessible to all young people. Activities available from the bus are issue based workshops, sports resources and other fun activities for young people to participate in. Friday evening sports nights at Pensby High School occurs in partnership with Pioneer People, Police and Sports Development. Over 40 young people attend the sessions and use the Kontactabus between games. In partnership with the Sports Development Team, 17 young people are working towards their Community Sports Leaders Award.
- 3.3. Greasby Youth Club is open on a Tuesday and Wednesday and is based in Greasby Community Centre. Young people can participate in a range of activities including arts and crafts, issue based projects and sports. On a Monday there is an outreach session focussed in and around Coronation Park. The Pavilion, that is used for indoor group work, has not been in use since there was a fire. Therefore, at present sessions are focussed around providing sports activities in the multi games area.
- 3.4. Fender Youth Club operates on a Monday evening and has a consistent youth offer for young people to access services in a friendly safe environment. When the Principal Worker vacancy is filled the project can look at developing to a three night a week provision.

Wallasey District

- 3.5. Wallasey Youth Hub runs a Metal Night every Friday which is continuing to grow in numbers and relationships are starting to build between staff and young people. Guitar workshops have been popular with young people. Youth bands are able to practice in the sound proofed music room, this work focuses on advanced band practice, learning how to set up, get sound levels right and how to play and coordinate with the other members of the band. Dance workshops are ongoing, and the young people involved are working towards performing a show. The Virtual Baby project is currently running with two cohorts, with a total of 18 young people participating.
- 3.6. West Wallasey Outreach Team Outreach has engaged and sign posted young people to resources within the local area. They have been delivering harm reduction programmes offering advice and guidance within a group work context. This has involved challenging perceptions around substance misuse and attitudes to staying safe. There has been a consultation with young people in Leasowe regarding youth provision and the development of using an empty shop off Twickenham Drive. The team have been responding to hot spot reports in areas of the Wallasey District these have included; Harrison Park, Wallasey Village, Leasowe shops - Twickenham Drive. On Friday evenings at Harrison Park there has been partnership work with Sports Development and the Respect team, providing sports activities and harm reduction talks.
- 3.7. East Wallasey Outreach Team has been running healthy eating sessions. They have been using visual aids to raise awareness around healthy eating and hidden sugar, salt and fats inside snacks and fast food. Basket ball sessions in Wallasey YMCA on Wednesday evenings have been popular with local young men aged 15-19. On a Wednesday night the Kontactabus is at Central Park. The bus acts as a mobile youth club to facilitate sessions, enabling young people to socialise in a safe environment and to provide positive/diversionary activities. The Brook agency works on the Kontactabus/outreach delivering a number of small sessions around sexual health.
- 3.8. Belvidere Youth Club had its 40th Anniversary were members and staff from the past and present came to celebrate the Belvidere Youth Club. This also attracted new young people who have now joined and become members of the club. Young people have taken part in an accredited First Aid course delivered by the Red Cross. Young people have also taken part in a variety of other projects, including gardening and working towards the Gold Health Promoting Youth Units status.
- 3.9. Leasowe Youth Club is based at the Youth house; the District Youth Worker is overseeing the project until the Principal Worker vacancy has been filled. The project is a drop in for young people to access information and to participate in group discussions.
- 3.10. Moreton Youth Club has a full programme on offer. On Monday night they offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, media production work shops and a variety of sporting activities. On a Tuesday they offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and a healthy options cookery project. A focus group meets to look at developing the youth club and feed into the local Youth Forum. There is also career advice provided by Connexions offering support on CVs and job searches. On a Wednesday there are dance sessions, five a side football and a themed cook and taste session.
- 4.0. **Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)**
- 4.1. WYT marked the move into the newly named Pilgrim Street Arts Centre with a celebration of performances attended by the Mayor of Wirral at the end of June. Over 120 young people were involved in a wide range of performances.
- 4.2. Auditions for new young people to join the 'Last Minute Outreach Theatre Company' been co-facilitated by existing company members. This new company will work on the next run of 'Somebody's Son' and will also facilitate peer led performances and workshop packages exploring risk taking behaviour funded by the Early Intervention Grant. This will involve the young people in running consultation workshops with young people across Wirral to research current issues related to risk taking and from this process they will create a touring production

- and workshop package to be taken into youth provision. The Inclusion Dance Company (ID) will also undertake a similar process using physical theatre and dance to create another bespoke package targeting outreach projects including harder to reach groups of young men.
- 4.3. Young people trained as Peer Educators continue to work alongside workers in schools and youth projects across Wirral including specific projects with Foxfield Special School, Egremont Primary School and Mosslands Secondary School. The dance peer educators are currently working on a performance piece exploring cultural cohesion for Weatherhead School.
 - 4.4. The current members of the Voltage music volunteering training course have now completed their Open College North West accreditation in Peer Education. As well as co-facilitating music projects, the group have also delivered an issue based piece and workshop about values and attitudes.
 - 4.5. In September WYT will be delivering a newly accredited course on peer mentoring which will provide at least 12 young people with the skills and understanding to become peer mentors on WYT projects funded through the Early Intervention Grant.
 - 4.6. The current dance programme includes specific sessions for young men, young people with disabilities, looked after young people and training for peer educators. Work in the Wallasey Youth Hub continues with the 'Unleashed' break-dance crew in addition to the Grange Youth Club on Saturdays. The dance team is also running dance workshops at West Kirby Concourse commissioned by the Families Active officer.
 - 4.7. Eight Schools have signed up for 'Machismo Three' in July which will involve over 150 young men in a week long dance event of workshops and performances.
 - 4.8. The band workshops continue to run and provide young musicians with the opportunity to build their skills and work towards regular gigs. The Swing Choir are going from strength to strength and performed at the Mayor Making Ceremony in May receiving a standing ovation and an encore.
 - 4.9. Current funding from the National Foundation for Youth Music has now come to an end. However, WYT has been highlighted by them as a project of excellence and encouraged to submit a new funding application to develop this work further.
 - 4.10. The in-house drama session sees at least 40 members at each session and, in addition to this, a new improvisation session has been set up and young people are working towards two performances in July. The groups are also working towards a production of 'Find Me' by Olwen Wymark in the autumn.
 - 4.11. The Friday morning drama sessions for Foxfield and Meadowside Schools group and the Aiming High 'Friday Night Fun' session for children and young people with disabilities are growing in membership. These sessions are co-facilitated by Peer Educators and focus on building confidence and communication skills through drama and dance.
 - 4.12. WYT continues to run an ongoing programme of Saturday dance and drama sessions for young people in care to help develop their skills and self esteem.
 - 4.13. WYT has been commissioned by the Education Psychology team 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 as part of strategy called 'Flourishing'. WYT has taken this model into several schools including Rock Ferry High School, St Paul's Primary, Gilbrook School and Kilgarth School.

5.0 Response

- 5.1 The team continues to offer a housing support service to Wirral teenagers, with a focus on assessment of their need and supporting them to achieve the best outcome for their holistic wellbeing.
- 5.2. Referrals from CADT and the Homelessness section form a large percentage of referrals to the team. However, there are busy drop in sessions where young people present from a variety of sources, including, Connexions, schools, Youth Offending Service (YOS), colleges, families, friends and self referrals. Wherever possible staff try to encourage relationship improvement with the family and also offer the use of the Mediation Service, funded by the Department of Regeneration. Underlying issues remain:- family breakdown, parental alcohol /substance misuse, domestic violence, bereavement within the family, eviction from supported housing, behavioural/mental health issues, young person's substance and alcohol misuse.
- 5.3. Staff are regularly taking part in Team around the Child meetings (TAC) and often take the lead professional role. Professional relationships are strong with the Area Team Leaders, working together whenever a multi professional response is required. The professional relationships between Social Care and Homelessness teams are stronger than ever, to the benefit of Wirral young people.
- 5.4. The new multi agency preventing homelessness workshop programme, "The Wake Up Call", is going live from September 2011. Co-ordinated by Response, the purpose of the project is to enable pooling of limited resources across organisations to prevent and reduce unnecessary youth homelessness in the Borough.
- 5.5. Earlier this year the Council granted permanent funding for the Stop Gap project. In the first quarter of the year the programme is meeting its target to deliver intensive support to 50 vulnerable 16/17 year olds per annum to avoid homelessness and or rough sleeping. Targets for the last 12 months were also met.
- 5.6. Over the three month period from April to June there were 60 new referrals into the Counselling Team, a large number of these referrals were from Schools, Response staff, YOS, CAMHS, Social Care, parents and local hostels. There are currently 36 young people on the waiting list which, at present is 8 to 10 weeks. The Counselling drop-in on a Tuesday is popular, with varying attendances. Young people presenting with suicidal ideation/attempts remains to be a concern for the service. The main issues young people present with are depression, stress, anxiety, family breakdown or lack of communication within the family, loss/bereavement, issues from the past, no housing, bullying, problems at school, anger, low confidence and self esteem and substance related issues.
- 5.7. The Outreach Team have continued to work with vulnerable, hard-to-reach at risk groups of young people, who congregate on the streets and particularly parks, delivering interventions to reduce alcohol, substance misuse and associated risk taking behaviours. This quarter has seen the development of a safeguarding issue that concerned a number of known young people. Response have engaged and built trust with the vulnerable at risk group of females and working in partnership with Wirral Brook and the wider Youth Service are delivering a developmental group work project encompassing 'Keep Safe' messages. Alongside this work, Merseyside Police and Social Care are raising concerns with individual parents/guardians and are completing an assessment on each young person potentially involved. This piece of work highlights the importance of multi-agency working and information sharing in keeping young people safe.
- 5.8. Through street work, Response are engaging with a harder-to-reach group of males who are involved in substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. Working alongside partners at Problem Solving meetings, there is a plan of action developing, which will include a multi-agency approach to working with this group to reduce risk taking behaviour, prevention of entering the criminal justice system and respite for the community. Partners include Merseyside

Police, Sports Development, DAAT, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Fire and Rescue and Wirral Partnership Homes.

5.9. Response continues to work in partnership with Children's Accident and Emergency Department on a Friday or Saturday evening. Although additional funding has ceased at present, the Response Alcohol Worker continues to engage with young people, parents and hospital staff in Accident and Emergency to encourage referrals into service.

6.0 **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

6.1. This summer has seen the Duke of Edinburgh's Award activity enter one of its busiest times of the year. Hundreds of young people from Wirral have spent the Spring and Summer periods, training for and carrying out their expeditions and explorations. Venues include North and Mid Wales, The Yorkshire Dales, The Lake District and a group that will visit the Atlas Mountains in Morocco to not only complete an arduous exploration but also to use the opportunity to do some voluntary work in a local orphanage.

6.2. The previous 12 months has seen a marked increase in the number of young people from the Borough achieving Gold Awards. 65 participants from youth units, schools and voluntary organisations have successfully completed the highest level, a fact that was recently reported in the Wirral Globe.

6.3. The Award is currently being offered to a group of apprentices working for a locally based contracting company. The company is keen to develop the apprentice's organisational and personal skills and sees the DofE as an ideal tool for achieving this. Meetings are also taking place with staff from the Wirral Autistic Society to explore ways in which they can use the DofE to benefit their clientele.

7.0. **Play Service**

7.1. The 'Play out, Feel safe' campaign continues to be delivered to primary schools via school assemblies and focus groups. This is to encourage children to play beyond the confines of their home and raise awareness of playing out safely. Children were asked what factors stop them from playing out and ways to make them feel safer. A list of safety tips were discussed that addressed some of their concerns. Play Rangers also attended the school assemblies to talk about playing out safely, as well as promoting and informing children of their local play sessions. The children said they felt happier about playing out after the discussion as they knew what they should do if certain situations came up. The Play Rangers scheme can address some of the issues such as being alone, strangers, bullying and busy roads, as well as informing children how to keep themselves safe. Project leaflets and wrist bands were distributed to the participating schools. The campaign will run from the half-term holiday until mid-July. To date three primary schools have participated, totalling 549 children.

7.2. The Community Play Rangers will be providing 20 outreach play sessions during the summer holidays. Sessions will run in areas including Spital, Port Causeway – Bromborough, Kelsall Avenue – Eastham, Ilchester Square - Birkenhead, Birkenhead Park, Torr Park - Eastham, Duck Pond Lane - Oxtan, Whiteheath Park - Leasowe, Flynn's Piece - Wallasey Village, Grange Park - West Kirby, Tower Grounds – New Brighton, Grove Road – Hoylake, Mersey Park – Tranmere. Circus skills equipment has been purchased to encourage children to experience new activities. This has proved to be popular with the children at the play sessions as they try to accomplish spinning a plate or juggling and trying out the diabolo.

7.3. 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. Play Practitioners have consulted with children regarding sun awareness. They have completed word searches, colouring competitions, as well as discussions and scenarios. The sessions involved over 150 children who are now more aware and informed on how to enjoy the sun and keep themselves protected.

- 7.4 With the Olympics on the horizon children have asked to engage in a variety of sports activities. This culminated in a Mini-Olympics including relay races, javelin, discus, hammer throwing, hurdles, races, and volley ball. The Slackline Challenge was also introduced, which is a tight rope that is attached to two trees and the children try to stay on it as long as they can, some even attempt to walk along it. Activities build team spirit as well as individual achievement and children feel fitter and healthier.
- 7.5. The Play For All project have recruited two Play Inclusion workers who will support children to attend open access play schemes and participate in play activities on a regular basis.
- 7.6. Leasowe Adventure Playground attended the Sand Sculpture event in New Brighton and won a special award from the Mayor for their design. New lawn golf and cricket sets have been purchased which encourages the children to become actively involved in sports activities. Over 60 children have been involved in 'Big Art' and cookery projects, children worked co-operatively to achieve the final results.
- 7.7. Livingstone Street also attended the Sand Sculpture event in New Brighton. Their design was based on the film, 'The Labrynth', ten children participated in the activity which enabled them to experience a different environment with other children and young people.
- 7.8. The new sensory room funded through Aiming Higher at Charing Cross Play Scheme has been completed and an official opening is to be organised in the near future. Charing Cross play scheme also held a royal wedding party organised by Regenda Housing. 40 children attended the party and a children's entertainer held their attention for over an hour and a half.
- 8.0. **Training and Staff Development**
- 8.1. Over the past few months the main focus of staff development has been centred on safeguarding training. Particularly, ensuring that all staff have the opportunity to attend up-to-date basic signs and symptoms training.
- 9.0. **Youth Participation**
- 9.1 In recent months two young people, Paul Aitchison and Monica Boughdady, have completed their two year term of office representing the young people of Wirral for United Kingdom Youth Parliament. Paul has now moved on to become an elected member in the constituency where he is at college.
- 9.2 Monitoring for the 2010-2011 Youth Opportunity Fund is now complete with all recipient organisations submitting the end year accounts and evaluations. Evidence suggests that the funding provided a vast amount of positive opportunities for young people to enjoy.
- 9.3 Recruitment and selection for the Executive Youth Board and Young People's Grant Panel 2011-2012 is now under way. Recruitment will ensure representation from vulnerable and harder to reach groups in each of the four Wirral districts. The groups will form part of a working group to oversee the planning and implementation of the Youth Voice Conference and Parliament and the distribution of the Youth Opportunity Fund.
- 9.4 Representatives of United Kingdom Youth Parliament have been involved in planning the agenda for the forthcoming National Sitting which will be held at the University of Leeds on 22 - 24 July.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.