



## Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 10 January 2012</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>5.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Room 2 - Wallasey Town Hall</b>

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### AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)**  

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2011
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT (Pages 5 - 14)**
5. **HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS (PRESENTATION)**
6. **'ALCOHOL. ALRIGHT?' (PRESENTATION)**
7. **HEALTHY EATING - 'CAN COOK, WILL COOK' (DEMONSTRATION AND TASTERS)**  

Presented by young people from South Wirral and children from Charing Cross Play Scheme
8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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## **Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday 18 October 2011**

**Response, 19 Argyle Street, Birkenhead**

### **Present**

Chair	Cllr Tom Harney
Councillors	Cllr Wendy Clements Cllr Chris Meaden Cllr Cherry Povall Cllr Pat Williams Cllr Sheila Clarke
Council Officers	Lindsay Davidson (Head of Youth & Play Service) Steve Chan (Acting Deputy Head of Youth & Play Service) Caroline Laing (Deputy Head of Youth & Play Service) Julia Hassall (Head of Branch)
In Attendance	Gary Chwalko - Forum Housing, Nigel Hughes – Birkenhead YMCA Katie Lawrence – Member Youth Parliament Katie Everson – Member Youth Parliament

### **Apologies**

Cllr Walter Smith  
Cllr Tony Smith  
Peter Brandrick, Forum Housing Association  
Maureen McDaid, Principal Manager Commissioning and Participation  
Steve Pimblett, Head of Integrated Youth Support Service

### **Index to Minutes**

Minute 9	- Welcome and Apologies
Minute 10	- Minutes of Previous Meeting
Minute 11	- Head of Service's Report
Minute 12	- Wirral Play Council Summer Play Schemes Report
Minute 13	- Response Housing Support (presentation)
Minute 14	- Forum Housing Association (presentation)
Minute 15	- Birkenhead YMCA (presentation)
Minute 16	- Youth Service Outreach Update Report
Minute 17	- Any Other Business
Minute 18	- Date of Next Meeting

### **Minute 9 Welcome and Apologies**

Cllr Tom Harney introduced the meeting and handed the Chair over to Katie Lawrence.

### **Minute 10 Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 12 July 2011**

Agreed and no matters arising.

### **Minute 11 Head of Service's Report**

Lindsay presented the Head of Service Report.

#### **Resolved**

- i) The Head of Service be thanked for her report.

### **Minute 12 Wirral Play Council summer Play Schemes Report**

Presented by Steve Chan.

#### **Resolved**

- i) The Play Council be thanked for their report.

### **Minute 13 Response Housing Support (presentation)**

A Presentation by Pat Rice, Jo Day and Laura O'Brien was given about Response's Housing Support work with young people. A DVD was also shown displaying young people's experience of homelessness.

#### **Resolved:**

- i) Officers be thanked for their presentation.

### **Minute 14 Forum Housing Association (presentation)**

Gary Chwalko made a presentation regarding the work of Forum Housing Association.

Following the presentation there was some debate regarding the impact of domestic violence on young people's homelessness.

#### **Resolved:**

- i) Forum be thanked for their presentation.

**Minute 15 Birkenhead YMCA (presentation)**

Nigel Hughes, Chief Executive gave a presentation on the YMCA's work with young people.

Cllr Meaden remarked on the positive multi-agency provision on Wirral.

**Resolved:**

- i) YMCA be thanked for their presentation

**Minute 16 Youth Service Outreach Update Report**

Presented by Caroline Laing, the new model will be introduced November 2011.

Cllrs Meaden and Clarke thanked the Service for this report and for implementing recommendations from both the Alcohol and Outreach Scrutiny Reviews.

**Minute 17 Any Other Business**

There was no other business. Katie Lawrence handed the chair back to Cllr Harney and the meeting closed at 7.25pm

**Minute 18 Date of Next Meeting**

10 January 2012, 5.30 pm at Wallasey Town Hall.

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## YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HEAD OF UNIVERSAL YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 **General Service Update/Staff Movements**

- 1.1 The Youth & Play Service was key in preventing and reducing anti-social behaviour throughout the Mischief, Halloween and Bonfire Nights period and supporting police-led activity ('Operation Banger'). A wide range of diversionary activity was provided together with the delivery of key messages throughout the period.
- 1.2. The Youth & Play Service was selected by the National Youth Agency (NYA) to be a national case study as part of National Youth Work Week. 'Bringing Communities Together' was the theme of the week (beginning on October 31). Following disturbances earlier this year, the NYA felt there was a need to focus on the impact of front line youth workers in working with young people and communities to foster positive relationships and a sense of belonging. The work of the Service during and in the aftermath of the civil disturbances was highlighted. In addition, throughout National Youth Work Week young people engaging with the Service's Youth Hubs, Centres, Outreach Teams, Response agency, Youth Theatre and school-based youth workers were asked to share their thoughts about the services and how the youth workers have helped them. Nearly 600 hundred young people commented by filling in postcards and recording sound bytes on film. The comments ranged from the impact that the work had on their personal development, health and wellbeing through to how the services available had diverted them from engaging in anti-social behaviour. Hundreds of young people commented how if they weren't engaging with the Service they would be at home playing computer games or using social networking sites or hanging about in parks and on street corners.
- 1.3. The Service played a key role during National Alcohol Awareness Week in November, with an increase in hard-hitting activities targeting young people about the perils of drinking too much. This included sessions at Youth Hubs, Youth Centres, Youth Theatre, schools and outreach settings, with youth workers underlining the link between alcohol and risk taking behaviour, including anti-social and criminal behaviour, sexual and other health related issues. The work included taking the Kontaktabuses into parks and discussing with young people the ingredients in cheap alcohol and the effect that this can have on their bodies, as well as the risks encountered with binge drinking and mixing drinks. 'Beer goggles' were a key tool used with young people across the venues which simulate the effect of alcohol on vision and balance, challenging young people to undertake the most simple of tasks. A range of diversionary activities were also made available.
- 1.4. The Youth & Play Service and Merseyside Police received an award for the 'Escape Programme'; an innovative programme designed to divert vulnerable young people from crime and anti-social behaviour. The Merseyside Police Authority Award was granted to Bromborough Police Neighbourhood and the South Wirral Youth Outreach Team. The 12-week Programme, which has been featured at a previous Youth & Play Service Advisory Committee meeting, works with identified young people for two-hours per week during the evenings, focusing heavily upon drug and alcohol misuse, gun and knife crime and anti-social behaviour. The young people are identified through Wirral's Challenge and Support Project which is operated through the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team. This provides a twin track approach of enforcement to challenge the behaviour of young people involved in anti-social behaviour and intervention to tackle the underlying causes. Alongside the curricular activities in the programme there are opportunities for the young people to get involved in community projects and undertake trips that support their personal development on condition of good behaviour and to help them develop skills such as

team building. Successful completion of the course sees young people receive a nationally recognised level one NCFE drugs and alcohol awareness certificate. The MPA Award was for improving efficiency/effectiveness of Merseyside Police; in this case reducing anti-social and criminal behaviour.

## **Area Team reports**

### **2.0. South Wirral and Birkenhead Districts**

#### **Birkenhead District**

- 2.1. Callister Youth Club supported young people to create posters and held an Open evening in partnership with Aiming High to encourage young people with special needs to access the Club. They had a busy Christmas programme including a Santa movie night with pizzas, a trip to the Red Hot Buffet in Liverpool and an evening bowling at New Brighton. Staff and young people are currently organising a club trip to see the Dick Whittington Pantomime at the Theatre.
- 2.2. Cavendish Youth Club has been closed for essential health and safety repairs since October. Staff have continued throughout to make contact with young people from the Club and the neighbourhood by taking part in sustained outreach activity in the vicinity of the club on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The staff team are currently planning a winter trip for young people to the climbing facilities at Knowsley Safari Park.
- 2.3. Charing Cross Youth Club entered the Mayor's "Design a Christmas Card" competition. Young people designed several cards using a variety of craft techniques. During National Alcohol Awareness Week in November young people took part in discussions and quizzes and a raffle to win Alcohol Awareness t-shirts. On Bonfire Night young people enjoyed a BBQ before visiting the firework display in Birkenhead Park. Eight young people have signed up for the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme to run Thursday evenings.
- 2.4. Grange Baptist Youth Club's Saturday Club took part in the 'Red Ribbon Challenge' at Wallasey Youth Hub in support of World Aids Day. A group from the Club were successful in a bid submitted to the Youth Opportunity Fund to enable creation of a small cyber café, a garden project and trips out. Attendances have remained high during this period. Workshops have included alcohol awareness, bullying, substance misuse, education employment and training, equality and oppression. Alternative arrangements are being made to temporarily relocate the Club following a problem identified with the heating in the church.
- 2.5. Young people at Shaftesbury Youth Club (home to Birkenhead Youth Hub) participated in the showcase finale celebrating 125 years of Shaftesbury Youth Club. The successful event was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Wirral. Young people participated in anti-smoking and alcohol awareness sessions as well as involvement in planning 'Big Events' projects with other agencies. Staff, trustees, current Hub members, and past members attended the annual Remembrance Service held at the centre in November.
- 2.6. Birkenhead Youth Outreach Team focussed on key areas, including St James and Bidston area, Birkenhead Park, Exmouth estate, Birkenhead Library, Peel Avenue, the Arno and Prenton Dell shopping areas. Work in Victoria and Mersey Park respectively was undertaken with the support of the Borough-wide Outreach Team to address anti-social behaviour and alcohol misuse. The Kontactabus was used for sessions delivering harm reduction advice and guidance focussing on relationships and sexual health. Workshops promoting World Aids Day were well received by the young people. The team supported a successful group application to the Youth Opportunity Fund for positive activities for groups in Birkenhead. The team has signposted young people to Youth Clubs and supported young people to attend these when needed.

## **South Wirral**

- 2.7. Activity over the Operation Banger period (Mischief/Halloween/Bonfire Nights) was successful at Bebington Youth Club with ten young people taking part in a day trip to Blackpool in October and club members enjoying a fancy dress Halloween party. The young people also raised £70 for Children in Need, from a pyjama party, charging 50p entry that night and making and selling refreshments. In December club members and staff held a Christmas community bingo, tombola and book sale selling mince pies and beverages. The event raised over £400 for the Youth Club. Young people have decided to use the funds for an outward bounds trip to Oaklands.
- 2.8. Two workers from South Wirral Youth Outreach Team and two young people undertook MIAS training which enables them to take groups of young people out on cycling trail rides at a minimal cost. Staff and young people also took part in accredited Food & Hygiene training and the team delivered alcohol and drugs training. On Bonfire Night the team took young people bowling to offer alternatives to potential nuisance behaviour. Friday night football took place at the Oval throughout the period. Over the festive period trips are planned to ice skating, bowling, Chill Factor and to see Cinderella at the Playhouse.
- 2.9. South Wirral Youth Hub has delivered a range of activity including Neighbourhood Plan consultations, workshops on Black History Month and awareness of racism. Music workshops in partnership with Wirral Youth Theatre led to young men from the Youth Hub performing on stage at the Pilgrim Street Showcase evening in November. Young people also enjoyed taking part in a comedy writing workshop. Hub members sewed and made wash bags for the Shoe Box Appeal in a sewing partnership with Tesco; young people made the wash bags and Tesco filled them. Workshops around male and female breast cancer raised awareness for young men and young women during Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Young people also took part in workshops and practical tasks for World Blindness Day, raising awareness of blindness and disability issues.
- 2.10. Senior members (young people) at Viking Youth Club planned fundraising events and a V Zone musical event. V Zone was a platform for young people in bands or singers to perform to an audience of other young people. In addition, a group of young women took part in a narrow boat residential trip from Chester to Crewe. They operated the locks and helped steer the boat, working on personal development tasks towards gaining their Youth Achievement Awards. The Club has a designated sports worker who is offering alternative types of sport including dodge ball and indoor cricket and sports coaching. These sessions are proving popular with Club members.

### **3.0. Wallasey and West Wirral Districts**

#### **West Wirral District**

- 3.1. West Wirral Youth Hub has been encouraging and developing new groups of young people to take part in Hub activity. Attendances have increased since the 'Operation Banger' weekends and there are now over 40 young people in attendance most nights of the week and up to 60-70 in attendance on some evenings. A group of young people were supported to apply for funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund and were successful in securing £9,500. This will develop an allotment project. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme has continued with 20 young people working towards either their Bronze or Silver Award. The Christmas party event delivered in partnership with Involve Northwest (using Early Intervention Grant funding) was successfully received with nearly seventy young people in attendance.
- 3.2. Fender Youth Club has been temporarily closed due to staffing vacancies, however it will be reopening in the New Year as the Service is currently recruiting internally to the Principal Youth Worker post.
- 3.3. Greasby Youth Club is currently based in Greasby Community Centre but in the new year will be using the Pavilion in Coronation Park as a 'drop in' for indoor group work. Young people have taken part in trips to Alton Towers and attended Halloween and Christmas parties within the Club.

- 3.4. West Wirral Youth Outreach Team is continuing to support the successful Youth Sports Nights in the Woodchurch and Pensby areas on Friday evenings. During 'Operation Banger' over one hundred young people engaged in positive activities including trips to Rampworx; Scareshow at Church Farm, Thurstaston; ice skating and the "Bike It" project in Woodchurch. Young people also participated in the Wirral Youth Voice Conference and West Wirral Youth Forum.

### **Wallasey District**

- 3.5. Heavy metal nights at the Wallasey Youth Hub have proved successful and the Hub's band 'Solitary Confinement' is gaining recognition, with requests to perform at several reputable venues. A new band called 'Immortal Conspiracy' has recently formed at the Hub and is becoming quite accomplished. The Halloween party was attended by over 65 young people (almost 20 being new contacts) arriving in full fancy dress outfits. Young people also enjoyed a scary film with pizza and a disco. In conjunction with Wallasey Youth Outreach Team, the Hub hosted 'the Red Ribbon Challenge' fundraiser for World Aids Day. Approximately 30 young people took part in workshops, condom demonstrations, decorating t-shirts and face painting, all raising awareness of World Aids Day and raised just under £100. The Christmas party was organised in partnership with 'Involve North West' and was well attended. Partnership work has continued with Brook and other providers to ensure that young people in the area access the services they need.
- 3.6. Leasowe Youth Club runs twice a week offering young people a safe space to engage with youth workers. The Youth House is used as a 'drop in' session and a group work base. Links have been made with St Chad's Church and Leasowe Community Homes to provide a wider youth offer for young people living in and around the Leasowe area.
- 3.7. At Belvidere Youth Club, in addition to the usual activities, young people considered different disabilities and the day-to-day realities of each disability type. A group of young people attended a Youth Forum and two of them later attended the Youth Voice Conference at Wallasey Town Hall. A group also visited the New Liverpool Museum at half-term. Connexions delivered a workshop offering advice and guidance and promoted attendance at the 'Your Future, Your Choice' Conference at the Floral Pavilion. During Alcohol Awareness Week in November young people considered alcohol related issues and participated in workshop delivered by Response.
- 3.8. Moreton Youth Club took part in a consultation about the proposed Rampworx site in Bidston, with 50 young people in attendance. Young people were supported in a successful application to the Youth Opportunity Fund for resources in the Club such as furniture, internet access and computers. Young people from the club were offered free places on a trip to Rampworx. During 'Operation Banger', young people attended The Scare Show at Church Farm, Thurstaston, as a diversionary activity. Two teams from Moreton Youth Club entered a 5-a-side football tournament held in Leasowe. Club members considered their Film Night a great success. In November members also participated in "Exploring the Meaning of Bullying" as part of National Anti-Bullying Week and 19 young men took part in a group work session titled "Alcohol and You". In December young people enjoyed drumming taster sessions in partnership with Wirral Youth Theatre.
- 3.9. Wallasey Youth Outreach Team has been involved in an inter-generational project involving young people from Wallasey and Leasowe engaging with the community by making cards and cakes for the elderly. These were delivered to a local nursing home where young people sang carols to the residents. Young people also successfully bid for money through the Youth Opportunity Fund, which will enable additional positive activities in the coming months. In partnership with the Wallasey Youth Hub, the team facilitated a World Aids Day event which raised just under £100 whilst raising awareness of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections. The team has run teenage pregnancy programmes and a number of young women in the area have completed the 10 week Virtual Baby course. 10 young people have also taken part in a three week course at the Chill Factor, leading to a winter sports qualification accredited by the Snow Sports Association.

## **Borough-wide Outreach Team**

- 3.10. The Borough Wide Youth Outreach Team, a new multi disciplinary team comprising sports, play and youth workers which targets hotspots, and diverts young people toward more positive activities has been in operation since November, operating Wednesday to Saturday evenings. The primary target area for the team has been Seacombe, following increased reports of anti-social behaviour. Sports sessions took place on Friday and Saturday evenings in the sports cage on Brighton Street from 6pm – 9pm where the team engaged with more than 30 targeted young people. Diversionary activity also included delivering harm reduction advice and guidance around alcohol, drug misuse, relationships and sexual health. Citizenship work focussed on the rights and responsibilities of the young person. The team delivered sessions in Mersey Park and utilised the Kontaktabus in partnership with Birkenhead Youth Outreach Team, Response and Police Community Support Officers, delivering diversionary, educational sessions addressing alcohol and drug misuse. The team also signposted and supported groups to engage with local Youth Clubs and the Youth Hub.
- 4.0. **Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)**
- 4.1. In November, WYT held a week long youth arts festival at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre to mark the half way point of projects funded by the Early Intervention Grant. This event entitled 'Youth Arts Expo' featured four themed performance nights and a workshop day targeting schools and youth projects. Over the week, an audience of over 600 people were treated to an array of talent in the newly renovated theatre space at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre.
- 4.2. On the first evening over 75 young people from a range of current dance projects were featured including performances and personal testimonies from the groups such as:
- The 13-19 dance group, which is a mixed group of young dancers who meet weekly to explore a range of issues through dance. The group works with creative and therapeutic dance processes to ensure integration and ownership of their work.
  - The 13-19 male dance group which is open to young men who meet every Thursday to explore issues through urban and contemporary dance styles.
  - 'Unleashed' which is a group of young people from Wallasey Youth Hub who work with WYT to build their skills, confidence and understanding of issues through dance.
  - Inclusion Dance Company (ID) which is a group of Peer Educators who are trained to work alongside workers to facilitate issue based dance projects in a wide range of settings.
  - The 'Saturday All Stars' which provides drama and dance activities for children and young people aged 8-12yrs who are looked after and is supported by the older young people in care from the 'ARTSMART' 13+ Peer Educator Project.
  - The Contembreak Dance Company of young male dancers who are trained as Peer Educators to work with other young men using street, break and contemporary dance.
  - The 'Saturday Break-dance' sessions for young dancers who explore, learn and develop their break – dancing skills in a safe and guided environment.
  - The Grange Youth Club who take part in weekly dance workshops with WYT - building their skills, confidence and understanding of issues through dance.
  - The Likewise Dance for young people who may lack confidence, need additional support or have a disability. Many of the young people have now progressed into other WYT dance projects.
- 4.3. On the following evening over 40 young people currently involved in a range of drama based projects were featured including:
- The Friday Fun Night funded by 'Aiming High for Disabled People' which is open to young people between the ages of 8 -14 and their siblings offering dance and drama activities.
  - 13-19 Drama Group which are held on Monday nights and are open to young people of all abilities and experience. The sessions explore different theatre styles through improvisation, mask work, issue based material and script

- Meadowside and Foxfield Schools which is a combined drama and dance session held on Friday mornings at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre. This project is open to all special needs schools in Wirral. Some of the older members of the group are working towards their Bronze Arts Award, which they will complete June 2012.
  - The Improv Group for more experienced young actors which meets on a weekly basis to develop their improvisation skills.
  - The Imperfections Project which is a film project focussing on peer pressure and body image produced by young people who are also developing an accompanying workshop to take into Youth Clubs and Youth Hubs.
  - Last Minute Theatre Co who develop issue based theatre by young people for young people
- 4.4. On the midweek workshop day, pupils from the Hospital School took part in drumming and drama workshops and as a result WYT will be facilitating a longer term project with the school in early 2012.
- 4.5. On the penultimate night of Youth Arts Expo, another 40 young people from all the music projects currently facilitated by WYT performed including:
- South Wirral Youth Hub featuring three young men who have written their own songs as part of a project based at their Youth Hub.
  - Wirral Youth Theatre Swing and Urban Choirs who have been working with professional vocal coaches from MultiVOX to develop a repertoire of songs for regular performance work.
  - Special Guests - Guardians have a long association with Wirral Youth & Play Service from their days as Hippys On the Hill when they played regularly at Pacific Road Theatre's Wirral Youth Theatre 'Live And Loud' events. Since then they have gone on to play major venues in Liverpool and beyond, and have appeared in Classic Rock and Kerrang magazines as 'ones to watch.'
  - Thursday night music sessions featuring several solo performances and debuts from three new bands that have come together as a result of this project.
- 4.6. Finally, on the last evening, over 130 young people came together to perform a multi media programme of music, dance and drama performances and made personal testimonies about their positive journey with WYT. Young people currently on WYT'S Open College North West accredited course - 'Introduction to Peer Education Training' - helped to facilitate the Expo event as part of the practical element of their learning plans and were fundamental in ensuring the Youth Arts Expo was inclusive and celebratory of all levels of ability.
- 4.7. At the end of December, WYT celebrated its first full year in its new base with an evening of music and dance featuring the Swing Choir and ID dance group to a packed audience attended by the Mayor of Wirral at an event entitled 'Swing Into Christmas'.
- 4.8. All these projects, which are funded by the Early Intervention Grant, will continue from January until June and will culminate in another public performance event. In addition to this, young people from ID and Last Minute Theatre Company are now developing performances and workshop packages that help other young people to explore issues relating to risk taking behaviour to be rolled out to schools, youth clubs, youth hubs and youth projects across Wirral from April to June next year.

## 5.0 **Response**

- 5.1 Over this three month period from October to December there were 70 new referrals into the Counselling Team. 317 counselling sessions were delivered by the team during this period. There are currently 45 young people on the waiting list and at present the waiting list is six to eight weeks depending on their availability. Young people presenting with suicidal ideation/attempts remains to be a concern for the service. Issues young people present with include depression, stress, family breakdown, loss/bereavement and anger.
- 5.2. Recently following the tragic death of a **Page 10** person, Response implemented crisis counselling at a College. Feedback from the students and staff was positive as they felt supported that

someone cared and they knew how to access further support if they needed counselling in the future.

- 5.3. The Response alcohol team is delivering brief interventions at Arrowe Park Adult Accident & Emergency Department which is a development of the work undertaken at Children's Accident and Emergency Department. The work involves delivering interventions on a Friday or Saturday evening. The work has proved to be interesting as many parents have been picking up advice to share with their children/ teenagers.
- 5.4. The Housing team continues to offer housing support and advice and has extended its drop in sessions to accommodate the needs of young people. This drop in is now run every day. Young people are still presenting from a variety of referral sources. Wherever possible staff encourage relationship improvement with the family and also offer the use of the Mediation Service. Underlying issues remain the same including, family breakdown, parental alcohol/substance misuse, domestic violence, eviction from supported housing, behavioural/mental health issues and young person's substance and alcohol misuse.
- 5.5. The multi agency preventing homelessness workshop programme, "The Wake Up Call", has delivered training events to approximately 35 professionals both within the Youth Service and other agencies. The purpose of the training is to allow a multi-agency approach to delivering workshops in schools so all schools receive the same messages regarding homelessness. The workshops have currently been delivered in several schools, with further schools delivering the workshops during their citizen weeks (at the end of the winter term). There is an ongoing timetable with schools to deliver in January and February.
- 5.6. The Outreach Team continue to work with vulnerable, young people, delivering interventions to reduce alcohol, substance misuse and associated risk taking behaviours. This work involves working alongside partners including Merseyside Police to reduce risk taking behaviour.

## 6.0 **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

- 6.1. As this year's Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme expedition season drew to a close, in excess of 400 young people successfully completed either a practice or qualifying expedition. These ventures have taken place in a variety of settings across Wales and the north of England. Since the last report a further 18 young people have achieved their Gold Awards.
- 6.2. St Mary's College Youth Club, run in partnership with the Youth and Play Service, saw its most successful achievement of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh's Award since 1975; with a record 59 young people collecting their Silver Award. This was for a catalogue of achievement including volunteering, skill and physical modules, including two 3-day expeditions to the Yorkshire Dales. Most notably the young people had been working in their local communities giving their time for free on a regular basis. This volunteering included helping elderly neighbours and people living within residential homes; supporting the running of a variety of youth organisations such as Scouts and Guides, sports clubs and youth clubs; and giving their time to help in charity shops and Animal Welfare Centres.
- 6.3. Several schools in the borough are interested in enhancing and increasing their delivery of the Award. Three schools have received additional funding from Scottish Power and one school is receiving support from Unilever to aid this activity.
- 6.4. Following a restructure of the interactive online system connected to the Programme, it is now even easier for participants to collect evidence such as photographs, sound bytes and video clips and submit for approval.
- 6.5. Following a successful application, the Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre has now been granted Approved Activity Provider status. This will enable the centre to advertise and run its own expeditions and residential courses.

## 7.0. Play Service

7.1. The BIG Lottery play projects are continuing to deliver as projected in the final year. Lottery has agreed and approved the extension of the projects into Year 4, which has now achieved 90% of the budget expenditure. The projects have been extended as follows:

- Play for All project to 15 Aug 2012.
- Community Play Rangers to 30 June 2012.
- PlayPoint – Play Practitioners to 30 June 2012.
- Management and evaluation of programme to 30 September 2012.

Overall, the projects have already met 85% of the projected target for Year 3 in the third quarter.

Projects Outcome1: Number of children and young people participate in a range of more inclusive and accessible play experiences in areas of identified need			
	Year 3 Targets	3 Qtrs achieved	%
Play Rangers	1167	901	77%
Playpoint	300	391	130%
Play for All	100	52	52%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1567</b>	<b>1344</b>	

- 7.2. Play For All Inclusion Project, have formed a children's forum at Charing Cross Play Scheme Monday sessions. The forum is chaired on a monthly basis by the young volunteers. Children feed their ideas into a suggestion box which are then discussed at the forum. Older playscheme members also hold a weekly quiz. Each week has a different theme and they create the questions themselves. This level of responsibility has proved to be positive with the children. The project is hoping to replicate this through all play settings. A group of 20 children have made cupcake boxes and cupcakes from scratch. They decorated the boxes and the cakes using professional equipment. The children were happy with what they had achieved for themselves, and took photographs of their cakes, in order to document their achievement. Each child also made an extra cake as a gift for someone else.
- 7.3. The Play Practitioners have been consulting children about the Play Out and Feel Safe Survey. This involves children answering some key questions and then giving a score on a scale of 1-10 how safe they feel, with 1 equalling feeling unsafe and 10, feeling completely safe. This project has been on going for three years. The final results will hopefully show that Play Projects have helped the children feel safer when playing out and have given them strategies to help them stay safe.
- 7.4. Recent Play Point themed weeks have included 'The Cube'. This is a series of activity challenges which children try to complete without losing their nine lives. Challenges can be simplified, depending on the child's age, stage of development and level of difficulty. This has proved popular and involves decision making, control, hand eye co-ordination and encourages team work.
- 7.7. During sessions at the Birkenhead Youth Hub and Woodchurch, children have developed an interest in dance, devising their own routines and steps. They have also designed their own t-shirts which gives them a sense of ownership, helps them to develop their own style and encourages teamwork. It is planned that Peer Educators from the Youth Theatre will support their interest in dance through outreach dance sessions.
- 7.8. The Play Rangers Winter programme has commenced and will finish at the end of March 2012. They will offer 20 play sessions a week covering four district areas as follows:

Wallasey – Tower Grounds-New Brighton, St. George’s Rd. – Wallasey, Moreton Youth Club, Central Park, and Seacombe

West Wirral – Meols Park, Greasby Methodist Church, Ridgewood Park,- Pensby, Pye Road - Heswall, Grove Road Park – Hoylake, Lang Lane – West Kirby

South Wirral - Port Causeway – Bromborough, Holy Trinity – Spital, Torr Park – Eastham, Forwood Road – Bromborough, Victoria Hall – Higher Bebington

- 7.9. Play Rangers, as part of anti-bullying week and whilst doing X factor competitions, has provided the opportunity to discuss bullying with children. This has arisen from issues on the show, children have asked questions and been involved in discussions about how would they feel if it happened to them. It also has made them more aware of other people’s feelings and the effects of bullying.
- 7.10. During Road Safety Week Play Rangers facilitated activities around various safety topics, especially about arriving or leaving the play session in the dark. The Feel Safe survey is reaching its final phase. This provides information about how safe children feel at play sessions and does the presence of Play Rangers make them feel safer. Children have been completing the survey and any issues arising have led to discussions and tips for staying safe.
- 7.11. Leasowe Adventure Playground hosted a public firework display. A mild Bonfire night meant over 1,500 residents attended from across the Wallasey district. The Adventure Playground provided refreshments and activities for younger children within the centre. A Halloween party was provided for over 100 local children with fancy dress and dance competitions. As part of anti-bullying week, children did friendship hand painting which helped create awareness of the issues and the need to be cooperative and support each other. The ‘Leasowe Addy’ choir has been formed with over 40 local children, who will perform at the Millennium Centre as part of the celebrations for Christmas.
- 7.12. Charing Cross has re introduced the Saturday morning Breakfast Club. This is used as an opportunity to discuss healthy eating and cooking options and for the children’s-led Council to plan Christmas activities with the Play staff. Children entered the Mayor’s design a Christmas card competition making several different cards using a variety of craft techniques, which they could take home to give to family and friends.
- 7.13. The Beechwood Halloween ‘Zombie House’ installation was designed and built by children, young people and supported by the local community. A grant for £500 helped paid for materials and was funded by Beechwood and Ballantyne Community Housing Association. Over 250 children and families participated on the night, from the local community turning up in fancy dress and joining in the activities.
- 7.14. Gautby Road organised a trip to the Sheffield Arena to watch a performance of Disney on Ice. Overall, 28 children participated in the day trip. It was an enjoyable experience for the children and for many of them, it was the first time they had seen a large-scale production. The Halloween Project and Disco attracted over 70 children and parents attended the event, some of the older children helped prepare and construct the haunted house.

## 8.0. **Training and Staff Development**

- 8.1. Workforce Development - Many part-time workers, play workers and managers have now completed training opportunities provided by Aiming High which included topics such as managing challenging behaviour, ADHD and First Aid. Feedback from those who attended has been extremely positive and plans are in hand to continue to offer the short courses to more of the workforce.

- 8.2. Many other in-house courses are being attended by the Youth & Play workers including attendance management, recruitment and selection, alcohol brief interventions and restorative justice.
- 8.3. Work is continuing with the North West Regional Workforce Development Group to address the void that has been left by dissolution of the NVQ part-time qualification in Youth Work.
- 8.4. Youth & Play is currently integrating with the Youth Offending Service and Anti-Social Behaviour Team; this will enable each service to assess the potential of further in-house training through skills sharing exercises.
- 9.0. **Participation**
- 9.1. UKYP – two young people represented Wirral at the House of Commons event on 4 November. This is a historic event for young people to represent their constituencies. Five debates took place, with the young people making the most of their opportunity to speak from the green benches. The outcome of the day was that young people voted transport as the main campaign that they will work on for the following year. The young people are looking for better quality services and cheaper fares. Transport has been a long standing issue amongst young people and the United Kingdom Youth Parliament want to continue their challenge to public transport providers.
- 9.2. Youth Opportunity Fund – the young people’s grant panel have now allocated most of this year’s fund. All applications that met the essential criteria and attended a presentation were given money. A broad variety of providers have been funded from both the Local Authority and Voluntary sector; all of which will enhance the Youth Offer to young people across Wirral.
- 9.3. YouthForia – The North West Regional Residential has just taken place at Trafford Hall. Wirral young people came together with neighbours and partners of other Northwest Local Authorities to meet, discuss and debate issues with key decision makers. During the weekend the young people also worked on a project called “The Big Spend”, where young people decided how to allocate Government budgets based on the policy recommendations made up by other young people. At the end of the residential the young people agreed to produce an alternative young people’s spending plan, and will be writing to MPs about this.
- 9.4. Executive Youth Board – Following the successful Youth Voice Conference & Parliament, many young people registered their interest in getting involved in the many groups across Wirral. Recruitment will take place in early 2012.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson  
Head of Universal Youth Support Service