



Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

Date:	Tuesday, 8 October 2013
Time:	5.30 pm
Venue:	Committee Room 2 - Wallasey Town Hall

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

AGENDA

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 4)
3. MATTERS ARISING
4. HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT (Pages 5 - 14)
5. WIRRAL YOUTH THEATRE INCLUSION PROJECTS - PRESENTATION
6. SUMMER PLAY SCHEME REPORT (Pages 15 - 24)
7. GIRLS PROJECT - EVALUATION REPORT AND DVD
8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This page is intentionally left blank

Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee 29 May 2013

Present

Chair	Cllr Chris Meaden (acting) Lewis Collins (young person)
Councillors	Cllr Wendy Clements Cllr Pat Williams Cllr Philip Brightmore Cllr Tom Harney Cllr Tony Smith (in part)
Council Officers	Lindsay Davidson – Head of UYSS Caroline Laing - Deputy Head of UYSS Michelle Langan – Participation & Workforce Development Officer Shiralea Coldicott – Drama Development Worker (with members of Wirral Youth Theatre) Julia Hassall – Director of Children’s Services (in part)

Apologies

Simon Garner – Acting Head of Branch (Children’s Social Care)
Steve Chan - Deputy Head of UYSS
Steve Pimblett – Strategic Service Manager (Prevention)

Index to Minutes

Minute 16	-	Welcome and Apologies
Minute 17	-	Minutes of Previous Meeting
Minute 18	-	Matters Arising
Minute 19	-	Head of Service’s Report
Minute 20	-	Presentation: GIRLS Group
Minute 21	-	Extract: ‘If you Loved Me’ production and discussion
Minute 22	-	Any Other Business
Minute 23	-	Date of Next Meeting

Minute 16 Welcome and Apologies

Cllr Chris Meaden opened the meeting in Cllr Tony Smith’s absence at another Committee meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Lewis Collins (young person).

Minute 17 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 28 November 2012

Agreed as a true record.

Minute 18 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Minute 19 Head of Service's Report

Lindsay Davidson congratulated Caroline Laing (Deputy Head of Service) on her recent appointment as a Constituency Manager within the Council and thanked her for her significant contribution to the Service.

Lindsay Davidson reported that 28 staff were leaving the Service through voluntary severance/early voluntary retirement. Due to the number of staffing vacancies across the Service there had been no need to place staff on the Redeployment Register. Staff within units from which local authority support is being withdrawn (detailed in the Head's Report) are being relocated into other units temporarily; permanent relocations across the Service should be completed by the end of June 2013.

Lindsay Davidson presented the Head's Report.

Cllr Clements queried whether following the planned closure of Greasby Youth Club, the Pavilion in Coronation Park would continue to be used. Lindsay Davidson reported that whilst the West Wirral Youth Outreach Team will continue to have a presence in the area, their use of the Pavilion as a base one night a week will cease.

Cllr Williams queried how the Service would continue to target the right young people with limited resources. Lindsay Davidson reported that the four district Youth Outreach Teams were remaining in operation and their staffing levels had not changed. These teams will continue to undertake street based work, including use of the Kontaktabuses, five nights per week including Friday and Saturday nights. Lindsay noted that work was ongoing to ensure that activity was targeted at the right young people.

Minute 20 Presentation: GIRLS Group

Michelle Langan gave a presentation on the new GIRLS Group project (detailed within 1.2 and 1.3 of the Head's Report).

Cllr Meaden noted the limited drop out rate of young women, which was only 6 out of 62 participants.

Cllr Williams queried how referrals were made and the age range of the young women. Michelle Langan confirmed that referrals had been made by a variety of agencies and services across Wirral using a set criteria. The project is targeted at young women aged 13-19. Care has been given to structuring the seven groups of young women with similar age

ranges where practicable. Care has also been applied to ensure that age specific materials and resources are used.

A discussion also took place around work targeted at young men. Wirral Youth Theatre in particular is undertaking work with males, funded through the Early Intervention Grant, focused on gender-based issues. The importance of gender-specific work with young men and women being undertaken in tandem was agreed.

Minute 21 Extract: 'If you Loved Me' production and discussion

Young people from Wirral Youth Theatre acted a short extract from their production of 'If you Loved Me'. This explores what is healthy and unhealthy in relationships, looks at the spectrum of relationship abuse and aims to promote discussion. The production was delivered to a number of school and youth groups in April 2013 and the young people are hoping to tour Wirral in July/August 2013. Interest has been expressed by a number of schools and Wirral's National Citizen Service.

The extract was received very positively by the Committee and the young people shared how their participation had not only helped other young people but themselves too. The production is hard hitting because it is based on real life experiences of young people, which were researched as part of its development. Examples were provided of how the production had made young people rethink their relationships and their own behaviour.

Minute 22 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

Minute 23 Date of Next Meeting

8 October 2013

This page is intentionally left blank

WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 8 OCTOBER 2013

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SENIOR LOCALITY MANAGER - YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0. General Service Update/Staff Movements

Following the success of the GIRLS Project the Service have been successful in securing funding from Public Health for 3 new projects to be delivered over a 18 month period.

Area Team reports

2.0. Birkenhead Districts and South Wirral

Birkenhead District

- 2.1. Young people from Birkenhead Youth Hub have been involved in a variety of activities which have been delivered by the workers and other partner agencies, for e.g. Brook, Fire Service, Youth Federation, Involve North West and JM Sports. The Urban Garden project is going strong and all the young people involved gained an awareness of how things grow and how much hard work is required, which leaves them with real sense of achievement. Employment skills sessions, which are being delivered each week, are covering: CV writing, research skills and interview/presentation preparation that is essential for career opportunity. Drug awareness training has been delivered to the young people looking at legal highs. The session was well received by the young people and their contribution to the session was positive. Attendance remains high on regular sports activities.
- 2.2. Birkenhead Youth Outreach Team works in partnership with Sports Development, Police, Response and Brook to deliver regular Friday and Saturday diversionary activities. The Kontactabus enables group work to take place, delivering brief interventions and workshops, covering key areas such as alcohol and drug awareness, relationships, sexual health and rights and responsibilities promoting positive citizenship. Birkenhead District Youth Forum was held at the Birkenhead Youth Hub. Young people had the opportunity to express their views raising issues such as policing and the development of a new Police Youth Liaison Group. Young people were also updated on the development of the proposed Youth Zone. Over 100 young people attended the annual Sand Sculpture Competition on New Brighton Beach. The event was supported by the Deputy Mayor.
- 2.3. Charing Cross Youth Club offer various activities for the young people attending the unit, e.g. arts and crafts where they have the opportunity to participate in painting and decorating, air hockey, and BBQs. MENCAP have delivered a Life Skills project looking at managing money and relationships. Young people who take part will gain recognised accreditation. Other courses from MENCAP will be introduced in the coming months.

South Wirral District

- 2.4. South Wirral Youth Hub is open from Tuesday to Saturday, 7pm -10pm. On average 30 young people attend on a nightly basis. Young people have been involved in redesigning the layout inside the building. They have been focussing on what is on offer, do they feel welcomed and what information and advice is available. In preparation for the single Gateway staff are working with young people to promote this new service. The Hub is in the process of setting up a buddy system which will encourage new and existing members to feel welcomed. The Hub is also running a Virtual Babies accredited course and establishing a Members Committee where young people will have the opportunity to have a say in the running of their Hub and wider issues within their community.
- 2.5. South Wirral Youth Outreach Team have been engaging with hard to reach and vulnerable young people who have been reported as engaging in risk taking behaviour. Through youth work interventions young people accessed informal workshops around the issues that affect them. These included alcohol, smoking and drug quizzes. The team also use visual aids and discussions around their understanding of the law and the consequences of not following it. The team will promote and signpost young people towards positive activities in the locality.
- 2.6. Bebington Youth Club operate Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7pm to 10pm. Young people from the youth club have been involved in an environmental clean up of the clubs' outside spaces. This has involved picking up litter and cutting back bushes and weeding. Young people have participated in workshops on alcohol awareness, personal safety and healthy eating. The unit is in the process of changing the use of the snooker room to a multi functioning media suite, which will provide young people with the opportunity to explore new skills in music and production.

Wallasey and West Wirral Districts

Wallasey District

- 2.7. Wallasey Youth Hub played a significant part in the delivery of the successful G.I.R.L.S. project. Six young women from the Hub attended the programme and as a result are now regular attendees. A parallel, young men's project, which is working with a small group of vulnerable males has been a valuable spin off. The Youth Hub has also recently been host to a Community Fire Day and "Geared and Go" a council backed project aimed at delivering road safety education to young bikers.
- 2.8. Wallasey Youth Outreach Team are responsible for a plot at a local community allotment enabling young people to grow their own crops which in the future could be used to support healthy eating projects. The Young Reporters group report on a number of stories in the local community. 7 Waves Radio have offered training for young people to design, produce and present their stories on the radio station. In partnership with the Council Press Office, the young reporters are looking at having a regular feature in the Wirral News.
- 2.9. Moreton Youth Club opens on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evening and delivers a wide programme of activities for young people. Following a staffing reorganisation, the Principal Youth Worker and her staff are consulting young people on a menu of opportunities that will fit their needs. Currently a range of sporting

activities are being delivered by the Sports Development Unit and other opportunities are being developed in conjunction with the National Citizenship Scheme. The club is keen to develop its capacity to deliver activities whereby young people can gain accreditation and recognition.

West Wirral District

- 2.10. Young people from West Wirral Youth Hub have taken part in various projects, some of these include, photography project, table tennis league and creative media/marketing. 14 Young people have been awarded the ASDAN short course accreditation in Physical Recreation through participating in the Tuesday Night Football. The Youth Hub runs a Duke of Edinburgh's Award session. They have young people involved in Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. All of whom are on course to complete all sections and the expeditions involved. The Hub has 8 young people who are volunteering as part of their DofE through their school; their responsibilities are to run the refreshment bar and to plan future events.
- 2.11. West Wirral Youth Outreach Team operates 5 evenings a week, Monday to Saturday using the Kontaktabus. They target young people who are at risk of being involved in antisocial behaviour. They work closely with the partner agencies within West Wirral to provide a positive youth offer for young people to be involved in. The team support the Multi Sports night on a Friday evening at Pensby High School. This is in partnership with Sports Development, Police and the Hope Centre.
- 2.12. Young people from Fender Youth Club have been involved in sexual health workshops. These are gender specific promoting sexual health and safe condom use. There is an on going programme encouraging young people to think healthy, broadening their culinary skills and tastes. The programme looks at reducing the amount of fat and sugar young people consume. Young people have also taken part in alcohol awareness sessions to highlight dangers of excessive drinking and keeping safe.

3.0. Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT) – Pilgrim Street Arts Centre

- 3.1. Wirral Youth Theatre's Creative Development Team continues to offer a wide range of arts based activities and specific provision for targeted groups of young people including young people with disabilities, young people who are looked after, young carers and young people who are affected by mental illness in their families. This work takes place at Pilgrim Street Centre and across Wirral in schools, community and youth settings. The majority of this work is commissioned by the Early Intervention Grant, Health, Sports Development and Schools.
- 3.2. At the end of last year, three WYT young people were involved in presentations for the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) 2013/14 commissioning process. The application was successful and WYT was awarded over £100.000 to undertake specific work with young people with disabilities from 8 – 18 years, as well as delivering 9, 12 week intensive programmes in Birkenhead/ Tranmere, Leasowe/Moreton East, Seacombe, Bidston/St James and Rock Ferry as part of the Universal Youth Challenge Programme. These programmes have now started with an extensive centrally based multi media programme based at Pilgrim Street and several outreach projects including, taster arts activity sessions in Beechwood and Gautby Road playschemes targeting the eleven plus age group. Visual arts activities are taking place with the

Woman's Enterprise Breakthrough (WEB) in Bidston, dance sessions in Beechwood Leisure centre and Bidston Tennis Centre, extra curricular dance sessions in Weatherhead, Mosslands and Foxfield Schools and dance and drama workshops for the Charlotte Brightside project in New Brighton.

- 3.3. During the summer WYT delivered dance and visual arts summer schools. 11 young people who are looked after attended the visual arts programme alongside the established visual arts group. The sessions included animation, portraiture and sculpture and all 17 young people achieved an Open Awards unit at Entry Level 3.
- 3.4. Every young person who is involved in EIG projects will undertake an Open College entry level unit and achieve accreditation for their participation in arts activities. 100 young people are registered to date. WYT will also be offering intensive personal development courses which introduce young people to the concept of peer education. In June, 10 young people who are looked after attended a 2 day training course entitled 'Introduction to Peer Ed' and successfully completed the accreditation.
- 3.5. The EIG funding received for Creative Activities for disabled children and young people currently funds three targeted weekly sessions which are the 'Wednesday Wonders' drama workshops for disabled children and their siblings which is supported by a team of young peer educators, 'LIKEWISE' dance workshops and 'LIKE U' peer education dance company. All projects build confidence and self esteem, develop peer education and volunteering skills and enable successful integration into the mainstream activities and promote inclusive practice within all WYT activities.
- 3.6. WYT continues to facilitate the 'Kidstime' project which is funded by the NHS and run in partnership with child and adult mental health services. 'Kidstime' provides monthly workshops for families affected by mental illness and now has 12 families attending regularly. Each session looks at a theme related to mental health and the adult mental health team facilitate a separate session with the parents. The session culminates in a sharing of the learning around the theme. Several of the young people are now attending the in-house activities at Pilgrim Street.
- 3.7. During the summer term the dance team worked with years 7 and 8 as part of their extra curricular activities. WYT also delivered dance and singing workshops in eight schools as part of the Summer Sissler Project which culminated in a performance at Weatherhead School. The team of staff and peer educators also worked with 260 pupils at the Schools Olympics Event in June.
- 3.8. Contembreak Young Men's Dance Group performed at the Floral Pavilion Theatre as part of the YOUTH HERO AWARDS. WYT also nominated a young woman who won the Community Hero for services to young people with disabilities.
- 3.9. The Like U Dance company which is an innovative peer education project for young people with disabilities performed in LIVERPOOL as part of the DADA festival at JMU. They created their own piece based on how they feel that society views disability and received extremely positive feedback.
- 3.10. Pacific Swing vocal ensemble continue to be in great demand and have regularly performed gigs over the summer at a variety of locations including Parr Street Studios. They have also made a film of their performances which will be used as a promotional tool.

- 3.11. Last Minute Theatre Company is currently busy devising new pieces of work to deliver to young people across Wirral. These include a piece for the Anti-Bullying Strategy Launch in October, which will explore the different types of bullying. They are also adapting extracts of 'If you Loved me you would', for the Youth Voice Conference in October and will help support facilitation of workshops around the themes of respect and relationship abuse.
- 3.12. Members of the company have also supported two training courses for GPs (commissioned by the North West Society of GPs) and trainee GPs (delivered at Royal Preston Hospital) .The company deliver a short theatre piece which explores the blocks and barriers young people face when accessing services and health professionals about sexual health. They then facilitate a workshop which explores these issues further. WYT have been invited to deliver 3 workshops at a conference for Health Professionals in the North West, in September, where over 75 health professionals will be attending.

4.0. **Health Services in Schools (HSIS)**

- 4.1. The HSIS team have developed a Developmental group work resource pack on Drug/Alcohol including Smoking, Happiness/Emotional Well-Being and Sexual Health/Relationships which are being piloted in the Wirral Secondary schools the HSIS Youth Workers are currently working in. Each pack consists of, six session plans based on the subject, a young person friendly confidentiality statement and a distance travelled outcome framework measuring the young person's knowledge and personal journey before and after they have taken part.

5.0. **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

- 5.1. In November 22 young people from Wirral will travel to London to receive their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Awards at St. James's from H.R.H. The Earl of Wessex. For these young people, this achievement represents the culmination of several years of personal development, volunteering and endurance.
- 5.2. The Youth Support Service continues to hold the authority's DofE operating licence and offers support and guidance to 32 establishments across the borough. The Principal Youth Worker (DofE Support) is now engaged in developing the Award in the Youth Hubs. Initial reports indicate a healthy interest, with several young people from all four Hubs signing up to do their Bronze Award.

6.0. **Training and Staff Development**

- 6.1. Training available to the workforce has been around the changes within the Service and the Local Authority. The Gateway training for the Team Leaders has taken place to give them a clear understanding of how the process works and for them to cascade to their teams. 'Roles and Responsibilities' training has been delivered as it is important that all staff are clear of what their role is and how they fit within the new restructure. KIE training 'Refresh and Inspire' has been well received and attended. Outcome training has been delivered to all Team Leaders as one of the biggest challenges within Youth Work is recording in a robust and effective way the work which takes place.

7.0. Participation

- 7.1. Work is currently underway to set up a new 'Youth Voice Group' which will act as an overarching mechanism for young people's engagement and participation. The aim will be to bring together young people from the range of participation groups that exist in Wirral including representatives from Youth Hub 'members' groups, Children in Care. Council and District Youth Forums. Other young people will be recruited at the annual Youth Voice Conference, Youth Parliament and from WYT, Peer Educators and the Young Reporters. In addition, there are a number of other groups operating with school and the community, voluntary and faith sectors who may also be interested in participation.
- 7.2. The Youth Voice Group will offer young people the opportunity to develop skills in debating, citizenship, political education, peer education and conference planning. The group will be involved in major consultations including the Youth Zone development and the Children and Young People's plan. Other opportunities will include taking part in CYPD interview panels and becoming Youth Support Young Inspectors. The plan is also to enable young people to gain accreditation for their involvement.
- 7.3. In July, Team Leaders and a team of Peer Educators from the Wirral Youth Theatre (WYT) undertook a consultation process to inform the theme and focus of the next Youth Voice Conference in October and to raise awareness of the new Youth Voice Group. Over 80 young people gave their feedback and ideas for the issues to be covered at the event. This has helped to shape the style and content of the Youth Voice Conference in October which will have an overall theme of Respect. The workshops will be designed and co-facilitated by young people and the day will include issue based performances by WYT as a stimulus for discussion.

8.0. Play Service

Beechwood

- 8.1. Beechwood Playscheme has over 150 children registered and continues to attract an average of over 30 children each session.
- 8.2. During the summer, children participated in a wide range of diverse activities, supported by experienced Play workers. These included den building, learning to cook on an open fire, sports, as well as active outdoor games which increased children's participation in physical activity.
- 8.3. Children designed and built a Laser Quest area, using cardboard boxes and free scrounge material. They also enjoyed percussion workshops with a range of homemade instruments combined with real instruments loaned from Wirral Play Council. A themed week of outdoor water play was appreciated in the hot weather, children participated in water slides, water 'pirate' battles and cooled off in the paddling pool.
- 8.4. Fund raising efforts by the staff with support from the local community, police and housing association, ensured the planning and delivery of three off site trips.

- 8.5. A group of 20 children visited the BBC studios in Salford to participate in a children's television show called 'The Slammer'. It was a fantastic opportunity enabling the children to experience how a television programme is produced and they participate in the process from start to finish. The programme will be aired later in the year.
- 8.6. The younger children visited Greenacres Farm. They enjoyed feeding the animals at close quarters, riding on a tractor and learning more about farming.
- 8.7. The final trip of the summer was a large scale community day out in Flamingo Land theme park in Yorkshire. This was joint venture between the staff, local Police and the community. The aims of the day were to encourage families to spend time together, foster community/police relationships and provide a great day out at a reduced cost. Over 60 people attended including Play staff and four local police community support officers.
- 8.8. A playscheme reunion was held after the summer, this offered the chance for former playscheme members to get together and reminisce on the past 30 years of Play in the community. It provided the opportunity to celebrate past achievements, and establish support from parents and community members.

Gautby Road

- 8.9. Following consultation with the children, a number of off site activities were organised during the summer, subsidised through fund raising and small grants.
In August, over 90 children and parents participated in trips to Knowsley Safari Park and Blackpool. The children learnt about different species of animals and also enjoyed the sea lion show at the Safari Park. Blackpool was a great family day out for the community, and it was rewarding watching children conquer their fears by participating in new activities.
- 8.10. At the end of August, 15 children participated in a residential weekend to Boreatton Park, Shropshire. For some children, it was their first experience of adventurous outdoor activities. During the weekend, children joined in the Giant Swing and Challenge Course and worked together and helped encourage each other to overcome their fears.
- 8.11. The zip wire was challenging for some of children, not only because of the height, but also as they had to go over a lake. Eventually, with support and encouragement from their peers, they all conquered the zip-wire. There were also opportunities to canoe in a stream, abseiling and tackle the high ropes course. During weekend, each overcame their own individual challenges and it was an invaluable learning experience for all of them, helping to increase their confidence and self-esteem. The children, with support from the Play workers, are producing a DVD of the weekend to be shown to the parents at a celebration evening.

Livingstone Street

- 8.12. Children participated in making pitta bread pizzas and fruit smoothies as part of a healthy eating awareness session. They prepared and designed their own pizzas and smoothies incorporating three different types of vegetables. They also discussed the importance of a healthy well balanced diet and benefits of eating fruit and vegetables.

- 8.13. During the summer, the children participated in a variety of activities, which were chosen and planned by themselves. Playground and traditional street games were organised and the children played with minimal equipment, emphasising group cooperation and imagination. This culminated in a two hour game of hopscotch which the children updated to involve more children, using only a single piece of chalk. They actively encouraged the children to work together in teams and support each other.
- 8.14. A donation of arts and crafts kits from a local retail company enabled the children to make pirate ships, photo frames, ballerinas and jewellery boxes. The children also organised their own talent show which was held at the celebration event on the last day of the summer.

Charing Cross

- 8.15. A Civic Award presentation evening is planned to celebrate the achievements of the children and young people who have attained their awards. Currently, 33 children are registered on the Fender Award and 24 children have completed the award. The children have participated in a number of activities linked to the Civic Award, including, visits to the fire station, baking, healthy eating sessions, candle making and a road safety project.
- 8.16. The summer programme was based around the elements, earth, wind, fire and water. Children participated in activities which provided experience of these elements, including, kite making, den building, water slides, planting and cooking.
- 8.17. The personal safety project continues to have an impact, organised as a joint venture with the youth club. Children learn how to protect themselves from potential risk and harm. Support is given to the older play scheme children who are moving up to the youth club. Their increased independence means they need to be aware how to keep themselves safe in the local community. Children and young people are encouraged to travel in pairs or small groups and keep their valuables hidden from view.

Leasowe Adventure Playground

- 8.18. Leasowe Adventure Playground organised a successful trip to Chester Zoo for 32 children aged 5 – 12 years. External funding from the Leasowe Estate Tenants Association enabled all the children to go on a boat ride and the monorail at the zoo.
- 8.19. During the summer the scheme increased its numbers and attracted other children from outside the Leasowe catchment area. Local community fund raising provided a celebration event at the end of each week for up to 80 children. Parents valued the free play opportunities provided for their children, especially in these times of financial constraint.
- 8.20. The outdoor play area improvements were completed. A new inclusive see saw and surface area for the space net has replenished with new play sand. Two large mobile trolleys of inclusive soft play equipment have been purchased through a grant from Aiming High for Disabled children.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson
Senior Locality Manager – Youth Support

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 6

WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

8 October 2013

SUBJECT:	WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES 2013
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	JULIA HASSALL
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr TONY SMITH
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the summer play opportunities provided through Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Play Scheme Programme and the Youth Support Service's play schemes in 2013 (formerly known as the Youth & Play Service). The Committee is asked to note this report.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 Committee is asked to note the report.

3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 The report is for information.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Wirral Play Council has been providing free open access play for children in Wirral since 1974 and receives a grant from Wirral Children and Young People's Department to provide summer play schemes in the school summer holidays throughout Wirral. Children and young people aged 6 to 14 are welcome to attend the play schemes. Wirral Play Council fundraises to provide additional support for the summer play schemes in order to supplement funds.

4.2 The Wirral Play Council Executive Committee manages the summer playschemes with the day to day running organised by the Play Development Officer, supported by administration staff.

4.3 Recruitment for the summer playworkers started early in the year with posts advertised in February and March. This allowed adequate time to put workers through the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Scheme) process and complete other checks, such as references. The interviews occurred during the Easter break and took the form of individual interviews for each candidate. Every year a number of play workers return. This year, there were 30 returning play workers making up 43% of the overall total of play workers recruited. The returning play workers

previous experience is invaluable, as they can offer support and guidance to new play workers.

- 4.4 All new play workers completed a programme of pre summer training that takes place at Wirral Play Council. During their time at the Play Council they undertake a nationally recognised play work qualification, Take 5 for Play, which is delivered in-house, reducing the cost of training. In order, for them to complete the course they must complete practical work and a reflective diary, to support their play work practice. Further in-house training provided at Wirral Play Council equips the play workers with working knowledge of legislation, policies and procedures plus practical play skills such as arts and craft, sports and games. Paediatric First Aid was also offered and 21 play workers gained this qualification, as it is a requirement that each play scheme has at least one qualified First Aider.
- 4.5 This year unfortunately Sure Start were unable to support the wages of the lead playworkers, with this in mind during the training, Playworkers were encouraged to share tasks and support each other.
- 4.6 This year 21 play schemes were run by Wirral Play Council, throughout Wirral, and a number of new venues were utilised, details of all summer play schemes can be found in Appendix 1. The schemes were promoted through local libraries, schools, the Wirral Play Council website and leaflets distributed to each Councillor.
- 4.7 The highlight of the summer was Play Day, where over three thousand children, young people and parents enjoyed free play activities in Birkenhead Park on Wednesday 7th August, (see Appendix 1). Play Day activities this year included straw bales, water slide, climbing wall, talent show, inflatables, body zorb balls, the 'Big Art Attack' and a games zone including soft play construction.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 This report is for information, therefore no risks are outlined.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 As this report is for information, this is not applicable.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The majority of play activities involve children and young people as active participants in the consultation processes.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 Young people from voluntary, community and faith organisations are directly involved in a number of play initiatives.

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

- 9.1 This year 21 play schemes were funded primarily by a grant of £58,000 from Wirral Borough Council. These included provision for children with disabilities.
- 9.2. A large percentage of the budget is allocated to playworkers staffing costs and this figure is increasing each year to keep in line with the minimum wage set by the

government. The remaining grant is spent on play equipment, transport, administration and providing the Play Day.

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are none.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The summer holiday programme reflects inclusiveness and promotes equal opportunities and access. Play schemes endeavour to ensure children have equal access to play and are able to participate in local play opportunities. Play schemes are open access and often work with those children and young people who are marginalised. Play schemes are provided free of charge for all children, with a high density of play provision in areas of identified need.

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: Steve Chan

Deputy Head of Youth & Play Service

Telephone: (0151 637 6300)

Email: stevechan@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Play schemes by District and Play Day 2013

Appendix 2 - Attendance and Registration Statistics 2013

Playschemes by District and Play Day 2013

Wallasey District – Four Play schemes

Seacombe Children's Centre – 85 Registrations

Seacombe Children's Centre were allocated 4 playworkers, due to the layout of the building. The play staff ensured the smooth running of the play scheme and the children enjoyed active play sessions including a talent show, jewellery making, friendship bands, and salt dough with the local sports cage being utilised for sports and games. The building is a focus within the community and the play scheme provides much needed provision in the area. Parents expressed how thankful they were that a summer play scheme was provided in Seacombe.

Moreton Youth Club - 111 Registrations

The centre is a good venue for a play scheme with a sports hall for sports and games including a good-sized room alongside the hall for quieter activities and crafts. There is a lack of outdoor space but the play workers utilised Lingham Park on occasions throughout the summer. Play scheme attendances continued to show the need for this facility in the Moreton area. The children enjoyed dodge ball, bingo, cake making and an extensive range of arts 'n' crafts and sports activities.

Belvidere Youth Centre – 86 Registrations

This play scheme is closed access and provides activities for children with a wide variety of abilities and additional needs. The play scheme is integrated and siblings are encouraged to attend. The facility is ideal for play scheme activities and has a large outdoor space. There is a high level of involvement from both parents and volunteers, which proves invaluable. Overall the children enjoyed themselves and the opportunity to socially interact with their peers. The total number of registered children increased again this year. In 2012 parents expressed an interest in the scheme running for more days during the summer, as a result the play scheme ran for 4 days a week over 3 weeks. The playworkers, children and parents went on a trip to Apple Jacks Farm in Warrington during the third week of summer and participated in a fun tractor ride and feeding the animals.

Wallasey Village, St Nicholas Church Hall - 72 Registrations

The Scout Hut was not available this year, but the Play Council were pleased with the offer of a superb venue, provided free of charge. This venue had 2 long halls and a small outdoor area that the children could use. The Play workers worked well with the children and forged relationships with them and their parents. The children participated in arts and crafts, including bracelet making, collage, games and sports, along with dance and drama. This was a very successful venture, supported and encouraged by the committee and the children and parents expressed the wish for scheme to return next year.

Birkenhead – Six Play schemes

Wirral Play Council Special Needs - 69 Registrations

A successful play scheme ran from Wirral Play Development Centre catering for a large number of children with a wide range of complex disabilities. This was a closed access play scheme running weekdays from 10.00am until 3.00pm. The play workers are fully trained and deal with every aspect of welfare for the individual children. The children enjoyed a wide variety of play experiences including arts and crafts activities, talent shows and group games. Trips were organised to the Vue Cinema, Ten Pin Bowling in New Brighton, swimming at Guinea Gap baths and Play Day. This free play scheme runs throughout the year and continues to provide a much needed provision for Wirral.

Ridgeway Community Centre Noctorum – 83 Registrations

The Play Council were pleased to be invited back to this venue as in 2012, it proved to be successful. The building has a large hall, recreation room and fully equipped kitchen area. Due to the refurbishment, ball games could not be played in the large hall, but the children enjoyed table tennis, badminton, pool and a range of games including parachute games and arts and craft activities. The children and staff could also use the large school sports hall every Friday. This proved popular as they could play a variety of team sports and ball games, as the scheme progressed they were allowed to utilise this facility more frequently, which was popular the children.

Tam O Shanter Urban Farm – 183 Registrations

A popular play scheme situated at Tam O Shanter Urban Farm. This year, opening times were reviewed and afternoon sessions ran from 1.30 – 3.30 and this proved popular. Unfortunately, the scheme was unable to use the usual building, but were made welcome in a gazebo situated just outside the café, which worked well, particularly with the excellent weather. Visitors to the farm joined in with the daily arts and crafts activities and group games. This year, saw an increase in the registration and attendance figures which is encouraging as the Tam O' Shanter staff, expressed the need to continue to running the scheme next year.

Prenton Rugby Club – 47 Registrations

Prenton Rugby Club was a new and welcomed addition last year, as Prenton has always been a difficult place to find a suitable venue to operate a play scheme. The children made friendship bracelets and played co-operative group games and sports. The golf club let the children practice their tee shots on the golf range when it was quiet.

Woodchurch Methodist Church - 123 Registrations

This was a new venue this year, in an ideal location, right in the heart of the Woodchurch Estate, which was reflected in the increased number of individual children attending the play sessions. They participated in new games including parachute, dodge ball, prisoner along with sports, arts and crafts, drama, dressing up, face painting and talent shows. The play staff fully utilised the use of two large rooms and the children enjoyed the split activities available to them. The parents expressed their thanks and support for the high standard of work and they strongly expressed the need for a summer play scheme next year.

Birkenhead Park St Mary's Cricket Club- 45 Registrations

The venue is situated in Birkenhead Park and was regularly attended by local children including some with additional needs. The staff facilitated a range of activities including the friendship bracelets, art and crafts, Games, parachute games, skipping and sports. They made full use of the open green spaces around the venue. The staff were very welcoming and worked well together, to facilitate fun and inspiring play opportunities for the children to enjoy.

West Wirral – Five Play schemes

Heswall Hall – 48 Registrations

This is the second consecutive year the Play Council have been able to use this venue in Heswall. Heswall Hall is great building with lots of space in the main hall, occasionally they had to move to smaller rooms, but this was well managed and caused no disruptions to the scheme. The availability of an outside area was utilised by the users. Children enjoyed the talent show, fun group games, arts and crafts, face painting, drama and dance, football plus various other sports. Although registrations were low the overall attendance was high, showing the children returned throughout the summer.

Irby Methodist Church Hall – 48 Registrations

This play scheme continued to be a popular venue with a large hall for sports and games plus a smaller room for arts and crafts. This play scheme benefits greatly from the support of the Methodist Church. The children also have access to the play area built with funds from the Play Builder programme, which is situated across the road. The play workers facilitated activities including: paper dress making, salt dough, junk modelling, friendship bracelets, face painting, dance, drama, sports and games.

Coronation Park, Greasby 48 – Registrations

This year the play scheme operated from the Greasby Pavilion, which being situated in the park provided immediate access to a large outdoor area. A core group of children regularly used the scheme and enjoyed the activities, such as den building, creative arts and crafts, bracelet making and outdoor sports and games

West Kirby – 40 Registrations

This year the scheme was unable to use Westbourne Hall, consequently the play scheme was based at West Kirby Youth Hub, in the Concourse. This was a well resourced facility with lots of indoor space which was utilised for dance, drama, active sports, creative arts and crafts, parachute games and talent shows, a popular scheme with over half of the children registered returning daily.

Overton Community Shop – 26 Registrations

Due to the needs of the full time nursery based at the Overton Community Centre, the scheme was transferred to the Community Shop. Although, it had been refurbished the restrictive space resulted in lower registration figures. The staff did use the indoor space to the best of their ability but problems of damp in the back room inhibited the space available to them. However, the children participated in art and crafts including friendship bands, collage, paper mache models, face painting, dressing up and Zumba. The Playworkers did utilise the outdoor area to play football, rounders, cricket and den building.

South Wirral – Five Play schemes

Eastham Youth Hub – 148 Registrations

Registration numbers at the Eastham play scheme have increased from 115 in 2012 to 148 in 2013. The venue is ideal for sports and games, quiet activities and has a great outdoor area where the children can engage in free play. The team of play workers worked well together to deliver a comprehensive range of activities. The children were keen to get involved with all the activities on offer and enjoyed creative arts and craft, football, cricket, rounders, friendship bracelets and playing group parachute games. The play scheme catered for a number of children with additional needs and the play workers ensured all activities were inclusive and encouraged all children to participate in the play sessions.

Bebington Youth Club, New Ferry – 71 Registrations

This is the third year at the Bebington Youth Club and registrations have increased from last year. This venue has a great hall with a soft foam floor ideal for all sorts of sports and large games. It also has a pool games area and a section for arts and craft along with a separate room to relax and play on computer games. The children enjoyed parachute games, dodge ball, arts and craft including making their own dream catchers and friendship bracelets. The staff worked well together and the young volunteers were very helpful and enthusiastic. All the schemes located in Youth Service venues were well managed and attended.

Courtney Park, New Ferry – 64 Registrations

Courtney Park Playscheme was organised by a group of volunteers and the number of children registered and attending the play scheme increased this year illustrating the need for provision in the area. This venue has a small indoor space where play workers facilitated arts and craft along with board games and imaginative play and a celebratory party at the end of summer. The outside play area which is a large enclosed safe space was used for sports and large games. The volunteers from Courtney Park remarked on the number of positive comments from local parents, who in appreciation, hand delivered a thank you card to the Wirral Play Council.

Bromborough Rake Park – 47 Registrations

Due to safety reasons Bromborough Social Centre could not be used. However, in consultation with children and parents the Play Council were able to run sessions at Bromborough Rake recreation ground, utilising a gazebo shelter. The children enjoyed a wide variety of activities including arts and crafts, football, rounders, cricket, tennis and parachute games. The parents expressed their thanks for listening and responding appropriately to their needs and it is hoped to have a suitable indoor venue next year.

Higher Bebington Sports College 145 Registration

Unfortunately, due to new management Christ Church Hall was not available for a summer play Scheme, so Bebington High Sports College was secured as the new venue. The scheme was located in the large canteen hall and had access to the outside area. The children enjoyed a full and varied program of activities including arts and crafts, interactive games, board games, hamma beads, football, cricket, baseball, basketball, relay races, and parachute games. Although the registration numbers were lower than the previous venue, the number of children attending daily was high. Parents wrote positive comments

in their evaluation of the scheme and the staff were complemented on their enthusiasm and skills. The sports college will be available as a play scheme venue in 2014.

Play Day – Wednesday 7th August, Birkenhead Park

This year, Play Day took place in Birkenhead Park on Wednesday 7th August. The day requires months of preparation and planning prior to the event and an early start with a late finish for the staff who always show their dedication and enjoyment of this fantastic event. The Mayor of Wirral Councillor Dave Mitchell and Mayoress Mrs Sue Mitchell, were shown around the event by Eileen Stacey, Vice Chair person of the Wirral Play Council. The Mayor officially opened Play Day by judging this years canvas pictures, based on the theme, "Places we Play". The pictures were produced by children from each playscheme and were displayed for the public, in the Pavilion gallery for the whole week.

This year, saw a few organisational changes. Due to financial constraints, it was decided not to supply transport to the event. All the children and parents were given notice in advance that the play schemes would be closed on the Wednesday 7th August and they were invited to bring along their children and enjoy the Play Day together. This enabled more staff to run extra activities and cope with the thousands of people who attended the event. Extra toilets and refuge bins were supplied to cope with the additional demand.

During the day, children could access all the free activities on offer. Play Day activities included slack lining, the big art attack, inflatable castles, drum circle, the straw bales experience, talent show tent, art and crafts, face painting, water slide, climbing wall, body zorbs and new to this year, was the large soft play construction in the game zone. Large queues formed throughout the day and were managed well by the staff. The day was a great success and the weather was fantastic, with 3,000 Children and their families in attendance. Other agencies who provided activities and supported Play Day included Youth Service, Park Rangers, Police, Fire Brigade, Sports Development Staff, Anti Social Behaviour Team, Public Health, Surestart and St. John's Ambulance.

A small sample of comments from families on the day:

"Congratulations to Wirral Play Council and Wirral Borough Council on a fantastic day, we enjoyed it immensely and can't wait for next year".

"We look forward to this every year and plan our holidays around the date".

"Well done! Why can't we have more days like this? It's fantastic"

Attendance and Registration Statistics 2013

Summer Holiday Play Schemes

Scheme	Days	No Of Children Registered	Under 8's Registered	Total Attendance	Daily Average
Bromborough	14	47	8	240	17
Eastham	19	148	38	1557	82
Greasby	19	48	18	453	24
Heswall	19	48	8	530	28
Higher Bebington	19	145	25	1202	63
Irby	19	48	10	435	23
Moreton	19	111	18	821	43
New Ferry	19	71	9	523	28
Noctorum	19	83	29	700	37
Overchurch	19	26	9	307	16
Prenton	19	47	7	454	24
Seacombe Children's Centre	19	85	16	541	28
Courtney Park	19	64	33	537	28
Tam O Shanter	19	183	N/A	300	16
Birkenhead Park	19	63	14	449	24
West Kirby	19	40	10	418	22
Woodchurch	19	123	24	901	45
Wallasey Village	19	72	33	646	32
Belvidere Centre	12	86	17	806	33
Wirral Play Council Special Needs	16	69	N/A	436	27
Guinea Gap Leisure Centre	5	2	2	6	1
Total	370	1609	328	11925	631

Open Access Full-time Play schemes

Centre	No Of Children Registered	Under 8's Registered	Total Attendance
Beechwood	156	29	2999
Charing Cross	99	42	1285
Gautby Road	119	45	3824
Leasowe Adventure Playground	203	70	6781
Livingstone Street	58	33	666
Youth Outreach Team	94		
Total	729	219	15555