



## Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 24 June 2014</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>5.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Room 2 - Wallasey Town Hall</b>

**Contact Officer:** Angela Cosgrove  
**Tel:**  
**e-mail:** [CYPD-IYSSAdmin@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:CYPD-IYSSAdmin@wirral.gov.uk)  
**Website:** <http://www.wirral.gov.uk>

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### AGENDA

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

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 February 2014
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT (Pages 5 - 14)**
5. **MAKING A DIFFERENCE, YOUTH SUPPORT CASE STUDIES - PRESENTATION (Pages 15 - 26)**
6. **WIRRAL YOUNG PEOPLE'S ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK - DRAFT**
7. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
8. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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## YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 4 February 2014

Present:

Chair

Cllr T Smith  
Louise Dobbing (young person)

Councillors

Cllr C Meaden  
Cllr W Clements  
Cllr T Harney  
Cllr P Williams  
Cllr W Smith  
Cllr C Povall

Officers

Deborah Gornik  
*Head of Targeted Services*  
Lindsay Davidson  
*Senior Locality Manager - Youth Support*  
Steve Chan  
*Youth Support Team Manager (Play)*  
Mark Newman  
*Youth Support Team Manager (West and South Wirral)*  
David Decorte  
*Youth Support Team Manager (Wallasey)*  
Michelle Langan  
*Youth Support Acting Team Manager (Birkenhead)*  
Kersti Lawson  
*HSIS Acting Team Manager*  
Katrina Maxwell  
*Principal Youth Support Worker*  
Colin Hunt  
*Sports Development*  
Mike Buratti  
*Merseyside Fire & Rescue, Wirral Community Safety Team*

Louise Dobbing (young person)  
Chereele Skeeter (young person)  
Brad Barker (young person)  
Ellie Dodd (young person)

Apologies

Cllr Pat Williams

Index to minutes

Minute 33	-	Welcome and apologies
Minute 34	-	Minutes of previous meeting
Minute 35	-	Matters arising
Minute 36	-	Head of Service Report
Minute 37	-	Young Reporters - Presentation
Minute 38	-	Halloween Mischief Night and Bonfire Night - Presentation
Minute 39	-	Health Services in Schools - Presentation
Minute 40	-	Any other business
Minute 41	-	Date of next meeting

**Minute 33 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Cllr Tony Smith opened the meeting and handed the chair over to Louise Dobbing (young person).

**Minute 34 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Agreed as a true record.

**Minute 35 MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Meaden asked about the development of the Boy's Project since the success of the recent Girl's Project. Mark Newman reported an eight week Boy's Project was planned.

**Minute 36 HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT**

Lindsay Davidson presented the Head of Service Report covering work delivered by Youth Hubs and Clubs, Wirral Youth Theatre's Creative Development Team, Participation events and the Play Service

Caron Drucker gave a brief overview of the work at Kidstime.

Wirral Youth Zone Consultation Group are working with young people who have recently visited Oldham and Wigan Youth Zones.

Caron Drucker presented the work of New Elements 2, Visual Arts Projects.

Deborah Gornik asked about the re-branding and name change at the Wirral Youth Theatre. Caron Drucker explained the re-branding was to reflect the broader nature of youth work delivered by the Team. Young people had suggested the name Creative Youth Development (CYD) and would be fully involved in future developments.

**Minute 37 YOUNG REPORTERS - PRESENTATION**

Katrina Maxwell introduced the Young Reporters Project. Chereele Skeeter, Brad Barker and Ellie Dodd presented the work of the Young Reporters and highlighted the diversity of their work.

Cllr Harney commented on how guidance was needed from young people on how best to involve young people in the decision making process of the local authority.

Cllr Meaden asked how the project was funded. Katrina Maxwell replied the project was initially funded by the Youth Opportunities Fund, which enabled photographic equipment to be purchased.

Colin Hunt requested the Young reporters work with other projects and also gather views of young people. Ellie Dodd commented they would welcome the opportunity to report on new projects.

Deborah Gornik commented the district working approach would enable young reporters to work in localities and encourage young people's involvement. The Young Reporters have been invited to report on the 'Working with Teenagers' Conference in March.

Cllr Tony Smith requested any good news stories generated by Young Reporters to be forwarded to Liverpool Echo for their Wirral Edition.

**Minute 38 HALLOWEEN MISCHIEF NIGHT AND BONFIRE NIGHT - PRESENTATION**

The Halloween and Mischief Night Report was presented by Michael Buratti, Merseyside Fire and Rescue, Colin Hunt, Sports Development and Michelle Langan, Youth Support

Colin Hunt and Mike Holbrook have been delivering joint work at The Oval, Ilchester Square and Mersey Park. Overall incidents have reduced Wirral wide. There has been a 49% reduction in number of incidents recorded in the last 4 months. There were zero incidents recorded after all the project work was completed.

**Minute 39 HEALTH SERVICES IN SCHOOLS (HSIS) - PRESENTATION**

Kersti Lawson presented the work of HSIS and handed out supporting documents.

Cllr Harney commented on the importance of young people having the opportunity to speak to other adults from other agencies, as part of their individual development.

**Minute 40 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Harney commented that each of the Constituency Forums should receive a presentation on Operation Banger. Constituency Forum funds should be targeted for projects who can deliver good outcomes in each of the localities, based on previous track records.

Agreed: Operation Banger to be presented to each Constituency Forum Meeting, Lindsay Davidson to take this forward on behalf of the committee

Cllr Tony Smith thanked everybody for their presentations and thanked Louise Dobbing for chairing the meeting.

Deborah Gornik suggested Onside representative to be invited to the next meeting

**Minute 41 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

June 2014 – Date to be confirmed. Meeting closed 6.45pm

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2014

#### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### SENIOR LOCALITY MANAGER - YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

##### 1.0 General service update/Staff movements

- 1.1 Youth workers are increasingly playing an active part in the Early Help Offer delivered through Targeted Support. Over the past few months they have authored and co-authored Family Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs), attended Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings, undertaken lead professional roles and delivered training to multi-agency partners.
- 1.2 Following on from the Committing to Making a Difference in Wirral Strategic Stakeholder Event held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at the Floral Pavilion, three Locality Events were held in June for key locality stakeholders. These events provided the opportunity for locality partner organisations to:
- Understand the principles for Early Help and what they mean for Wirral families
  - Find out more about how Early Help priorities link to the national agenda, the local approach and our organisations
  - Have a clearer understanding of why Early Help is important for all our organisations
  - Identify actions to support Early Help in the future

#### Area team reports

##### 2.0 Wallasey District

- 2.1 Wallasey Youth Hub – there are currently 20 plus young people registered with the v-Inspired programme and 12 of them have already gained their 10 hour accreditation for assisting in the Hub's coffee bar. The members' committee comprises of 10 young people who meet once a month and make decisions on activities that they and other young people would like to be introduced into the Hub. This quarter, the members' committee has planned, facilitated and evaluated work centred around Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Week. 19 young people enrolled on a 12 week Virtual Babies course which included sessions addressing sexual health, alcohol, internet safety and the realities of having a baby. All the young people will gain a "Reality Works" accreditation when they complete the course. The Creative Development Team provide dance sessions for members every Tuesday evening in the Hub's activity room. 5 young people recently attended a half day

training session centring around the responsibilities of being a senior member in Wallasey Youth Hub. 12 young people and 2 senior members have signed up to the current G.I.R.L.S. programme with encouraging results.

2.2 Wallasey Youth Outreach Team - The young reporters have now had an article featured in the Wirral News and are currently working towards subsequent articles. The young people have reported on and been involved in a range of activities over the past months and continue to improve their reporting skills through training and experience. Several young people are engaging in a street dance project which is being led by the Creative Youth Development team. They are currently designing performance pieces that convey the thoughts, feelings and attitudes of the young people and then interpreting this into dance. The outreach team is working closely with Sports Development and utilising the Kontaktabus to facilitate open access sessions for hard to reach young people. They are offering brief interventions and support around drug and alcohol use, healthy relationships and sexual health. The recently established lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) group has started meeting on Monday evenings at Wallasey Youth Hub. Young people have been working to identify group needs, promote positive activities, decide on a group name and design a mission statement and poster. Together with the Anti Social Behaviour Team, the Outreach Team have been supporting shops and local businesses which have recently been subjected to hate crime and anti social behaviour. Consequently, additional resources have been put into the Seacombe area in an attempt to engage with more young people and prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB).

2.3 Moreton Youth Club - Membership of the club continues to increase and the gender balance has improved as there are now a considerable amount of young women attending the centre. The club has had a small make over by the staff and young people. Consequently, there has been a noticeable difference in respect, not only to the staff, but to the building itself. The club has recently hosted workshops that have formed part of the G.I.R.L.S. project with the assistance of staff from West Wirral Hub. The centre also hosts the Success for Life project and several members have been referred to and have benefited from the programme. An active members' committee now plays an important part in planning future activities and assists with fund raising to help towards educational visits. Film nights are becoming a regular event and are proving to be popular with members.

### **3.0 Birkenhead District**

3.1 Birkenhead Youth Hub – the work delivered in the Hub during the last three months has consisted of Tae Kwon-Do sessions, dance sessions, table tennis coaching, regular Monday and Friday night football tournaments and football skill coaching sessions and creative art activities. Discussion workshops in this period have covered sexual health, symptoms of stress, alcohol and drugs. Young people have also had the opportunity to express their views at the District Youth Forum. Young people have participated in Sport Relief, enjoyed



a Valentine's Day party and created their own sweet and savoury pancakes. The Hub continues to deliver regular provision for disabled young people on a Saturday evening. Students from Wirral Metropolitan College, as part of their horticultural and small animal course, have been on placement, working on the urban garden, clearing up after winter and preparing the garden for Spring.

- 3.2 Birkenhead Outreach Team – continue to focus their work in four main locations, working in partnership with Friends of the Arno, North Birkenhead Community Trust, Lairdside Community Trust, Police and Fire Service. The Anti Social Behaviour Governance Group (ASBGG) provides guidance on areas to target including ongoing assessments and analysis from the youth outreach team. Youth work interventions are delivered from the Kontactabus in Ilchester Park North Birkenhead in partnership with the Sports Development Team. These include sessions on, harm reduction advice and guidance, challenging anti social behaviour, providing diversionary opportunities, addressing alcohol and drug misuse, relationships and personal sexual health and rights and responsibilities.

Outreach workers continue to monitor and work with young people in Larch Road, Borough Road, the Woodlands area (which incorporates Birkenhead Town Centre), Exmouth Estate, Birkenhead Park, the Arno and Townfield Road Shop areas. Recently a number of young people were asked to participate in the Youth Zone Consultation including a group visit to Wigan Youth Zone. Outreach staff recently participated in "Love Life" sexual health training delivered by the Brook to support and facilitate focused targeted work. This culminated in Project Valentine, targeting hot spot areas on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February to address potential risk taking behaviour and promote young people's resilience.

- 3.3 Charing Cross Youth Club** - Young people have engaged in group sessions focusing on internet safety, stranger danger, cyber bullying and mobile phone safety. This has provided young people with the opportunity to discuss issues around using social media and advice on how to keep themselves safe. Young people shared their personal experiences and were able to support each other and give each other reassurance. Important safety advice was also shared by staff on the dangers of communicating with strangers via the internet.

#### **4.0 South Wirral**

- 4.1 South Wirral Youth Hub continues to see improvements in attendance by young people. The Chill Out Room has been refurbished and decorated. Young people have been involved in football accredited courses, G.I.R.L.S group and the members' committees. Young people regularly take part in workshops around substance misuse and healthy relationships. The Hub works closely with South Wirral High School and the local PCSOs to identify young people who are engaging in risk taking behaviour and refer them into the Gateway.
- 4.2 South Wirral Outreach Team delivered a smoking cessation course to young people on the Kontactabus. Young people engaged in discussions and were

given information around the health risks for themselves and others. At the end of the project young people took part in quizzes to see how much they had learnt from the project. Friday Night football is a positive diversionary activity at the Oval where young people have the opportunity to improve their health, wellbeing and physical fitness.

- 4.3 Young people from Bebington Youth Club redesigned and painted the Music Room. Bebington Rotary Club funded this, providing music and DJ equipment. There has been a 12 week boxercise course, the aim of this project being to offer alternative sports that encourage young people to keep fit and have fun.

## **5.0 West Wirral**

- 5.1 West Wirral Youth Hub has been delivering workshops on smoking cessation, anti-racism, anti-bullying and internet safety. Nine young people are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Hub is working in partnership with Wirral Short Breaks to support young people with additional needs accessing youth activities.
- 5.2 West Wirral Youth Outreach Team has been involved in a problem solving group to address on-going ASB on the Woodchurch Estate. The team, alongside Sports Development and Response, provided an 8 week diversionary activity programme with the aim of reducing ASB on Friday nights. Youth workers used the Kontactabus and outreach to challenge ASB and to provide brief interventions around substance misuse. As a result of this intervention, ASB reduced by 14%.
- 5.3 At Fender Youth Club young people have taken part in workshops focussing on sexual health. However, due health and safety building issues, the club has been closed for the past few weeks. Therefore, youth workers have been using outreach to contact young people and to support Sports Development on a Monday and Friday night. This has given youth workers an opportunity to build relationships with a very challenging group of young men and to redevelop a youth offer for the local area.

## **6.0 Creative Youth Development**

- 6.1 Creative Youth Development (CYD) formerly known as Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts, 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 Arts Centre and across Wirral in schools, community and youth settings. The majority of this work is commissioned by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG), Public Health, Sports Development and Schools. In 2013/14, over 1,000 young people participated in creative arts activities through EIG and 40% completed an accreditation. The EIG grant has been rolled over into 2014/15 to develop work with young people from targeted localities and children and young people with disabilities.

- 6.2 'CONTEMBREAK' Dance Company for young men provides training opportunities to create issue based dance pieces that challenge negative male stereotypes. Contembreak also take on a mentoring role in a weekly session for other young men. Recently, they have played host to students from Hope University and have also worked in Mosslands School recruiting five new young men to dance sessions at Pilgrim Street. CYD is also devising a new performance piece on teenage fatherhood which will be toured across Wirral.
- 6.3 'LIKE U' is progression route for young people with disabilities which aims to challenge misconceptions of disability through creative dance training. For the second year running they will be performing at the DADAFEST in Liverpool which this year is to be staged at the new Everyman Theatre.
- 6.4 Funded by the NHS, CYD continues to run the KIDSTIME workshop programme in Wirral which is the only one of its kind in the North West. The KIDSTIME model was developed at The Anna Freud Centre in London and can best be described as a social and educational event for parents and children. The overall aims are to enable children and young people who have parents with mental illness to increase their confidence and coping skills and reduce feelings of isolation, by providing a safe environment for them to share experiences. CYD co-facilitates the monthly workshop with staff from CAHMS, AMHS and more recently Family Support workers. Families are referred into the project and to date KIDSTIME has received over fifty referrals from Targeted Youth Support, Barnardos, Catch 22 and CAHMS.
- 6.5 CYD provides a range of opportunities for young people to hone their skills and gain experience in facilitation leading to further training and employment. 'LAST MINUTE THEATRE COMPANY' (LMT) produces issue based drama for a range of organisations and targeted groups of young people. On the back of successful work for the North West Society of GP's, they have been commissioned by West Lancashire NHS to devise and deliver Theatre in Education (TIE) productions in nine schools. LMT young people created three pieces which explore alcohol misuse, smoking and road traffic safety.
- 6.6 WYT has delivered projects in a range of settings including work with the Charlotte Brightside Charity, Birkenhead Youth Club and St James Centre. A project with the Women's Enterprising Breakthrough (WEB) culminated in a celebration event in March and was an opportunity to exhibit and showcase some of the art work created by the young women. A series of taster workshops has been delivered at the Multi-Cultural Centre including drama, dance, drumming, photography and vocals.
- 6.7 Working with professional artists, young people from the visual arts project have exhibited at Birkenhead Park and the Williamson Art Gallery. The group had the honour of being invited to exhibit indefinitely at the Williamson Art Gallery, and their last exhibition was opened as part of the private view event for the Henry Moore Exhibition. The project supports a number of young people with disabilities with over half of the young people on the project have autism and learning difficulties. One young woman recruited from the WEB

project has also been supported in her successful application to Liverpool Community College to study photography.

- 6.8 Weekly workshops enable young people to develop musicianship and promotional skills. In addition to the band workshops, Pacific Swing run vocal workshops and are regularly invited to perform at external events.
- 6.9 Children, young people and their families will be involved in a major multi media production planned for October 2014 as part of the audience development programme for the Birkenhead Priory. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, CYD has been commissioned to stage a large scale celebratory procession and performance and to make a short accessible promotional film.

## **7.0 Response**

- 7.1 Housing Team - annual figures this year show that the Response housing service has worked with 259 individuals, with 111 young people needing intensive support from the Stop Gap service. The team has carried out 1,831 contacts with young people accessing the housing service this year, compared to 1,334 contacts last year. The service works with young people, who are often in crisis and have multiple issues. The housing team aim to explore all options for a young person to remain at home or with family, where it is safe to do so. The team will work with young people throughout their journey often into adulthood. Information showing the housing service intervention and outcomes in relation to preventing homelessness, outline outcomes for 259 young people at the end of March 2014. These outcomes include 79 individuals returning home or accommodated with family; 72 receiving advice, guidance and crisis intervention to remain living in their current accommodation; 40 in mainstream supported accommodation; 11 supported lodgings; 13 social care funded placements; 16 living independently; 24 staying with friends or partner; 2 in Response Stop Gap flats; 1 in hospital and 1 prison.
- 7.2 In March, Response and Creative Youth Development, delivered a joint pilot project in three primary schools. Funded by Public Health, the project provided drug and alcohol education workshops to a total of 130 year five pupils from three Wirral primary schools. Each school had two sessions a week for four weeks and a celebration event followed the final session. Parents attended the celebration event in all the three pilot schools. The project has been very successful, combining learning, drama and play. The feedback from teachers, pupils and parents has been extremely positive.
- 7.3. Referrals coming into service from Arrowe Park Accident and Emergency Department have risen in this quarter. The alcohol education workers have lengthened shifts to finish at midnight on a Friday and this, combined with the weather becoming warmer, has seen an increase in the amount of people being referred into service.
- 7.4 Over the summer the substance misuse team will link with South Wirral youth provision and ensure key messages are delivered to young people surrounding

the risks, dangers and consequences of drug and alcohol misuse. This work is aimed at preventing young people from requiring treatment at accident and emergency to substance abuse.

- 7.5 Counselling Team - The counselling service at Response offer a no appointment needed drop-in service three days a week. They also offer appointments should young people request a specific time to use the counselling service. The drop-in's are becoming more popular and increasingly other professionals such as CAMHS's, workers, G.Ps etc. are also signposting young people to the service. The issues young people bring to counselling continues to be varied and often they have multiple issues. The issues include loss / bereavement, issues from the past, abuse, sexuality issues, low self esteem, low confidence, bullying, difficulties at school, exam stress, fears for the future, fitting into fostering placements and possible breakdown of placement, going into alternative accommodation, aggressive behaviour, low mood, self harm, suicidal ideation, family / relationship breakdown, parent's mental health problems.

## **8.0 Participation and engagement**

- 8.1 The Youth Voice Group - One of the aims of the Youth Voice Conference in 2013 was to recruit for a new Youth Voice Group to act as an overarching mechanism for young people's engagement and participation. The group will be part of the new 'Framework for Youth Engagement and Participation' which was ratified by the Children's Trust Board and is due to be taken out for wider consultation. At present, a small group of young people who signed up to be involved in the Youth Voice Group at the conference are meeting regularly as a working group for the Youth Voice Group. The group have focussed on planning for the next Youth Voice Conference along with looking at ways of recruiting more young people. As part of the groundwork for developing the Youth Voice Group they have also spent time looking at meeting procedures and the need to be both inclusive and representative.

In April, the Youth Voice Group was invited by Onside to visit the Oldham Youth Zone to give their feedback on the provision and to make recommendations for the Wirral Youth Zone. From this experience they have made recommendations to Onside for the Wirral Youth Zone which included the need for multi purpose spaces offering different activities, a climbing wall, information screens throughout the building advertising activities including issue based workshops, training and work opportunities for young people and appropriately trained staff.

In June, the group will be attending each of the Area Youth Forums to help promote the Youth Voice Group and to consult with young people on the theme and style of the Youth Voice Conference. The aim will be to build on the success of the last conference by continuing to involve young people in the design and delivery of the event. This year, the date for the Youth Voice Conference is October 14. The Youth Parliament will again be held separately on November 11<sup>th</sup>. In preparation for the Youth Parliament, the Youth Voice Group and Peer Educators will also be facilitating

the training for Elected Members on 20<sup>th</sup> October which will be looking at tools for youth engagement.

- 8.2 Wirral Youth Zone Consultation - Following on from the visits to Wigan and Oldham Youth Zones, a group of young people from across Wirral was established to work with Onside on the development of the branding of the Wirral Youth Zone. This group included young people contacted through the South Wirral Outreach team, young people from the NCS and young people from across Wirral involved with Creative Youth Development at Pilgrim Street. The group have worked with a marketing company to produce branding ideas for the Wirral Youth Zone and these ideas were distributed for wider consultation into schools and youth groups including young people with disabilities and young people who are looked after. From four potential names and logo designs the 'HIVE' came out as the young people's choice for Wirral. Representatives from the group presented the new branding to the Wirral Youth Zone Executive and the HIVE and logo was accepted as the branding. The next stage for the engagement of young people in the design of the Zone will focus on the facilities and exterior and interior design.

## **9.0 Health Services in Schools (HSIS)**

- 9.1 Health Services in School (HSIS) have delivered a newly developed programme for use within Wirral secondary schools. The programme focuses on education, prevention and reducing risk as well as sexual health, drug and alcohol happiness and well-being. Schools recognise the value of the resource and the young people complete a pre and post evaluation which records their knowledge gained from the intervention. From January to March, 1,685 'new' young people have accessed HSIS and 1,546 'repeat' young people have continued to remain engaged. There have been 5,478 interventions covering, relationships, emotional health and well-being, healthy lifestyles, weight management, smoking, drug and alcohol and sexual health; which forms part of the HSIS services' 'Core Offer'. Since the Gateway Referral process commenced, the HSIS team have received a total of 25 referrals from the four locality teams, as well as direct referrals from the Gateway.

## **10.0 Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)**

- 10.1 There are currently 1,200 young people active in the Award under Wirral Council's DofE operating licence. These young people participate and are supported in a range of establishments including secondary schools, special schools, youth hubs, youth clubs, voluntary organisations and independent groups. In the year 2013/14 the number of Awards achieved in Wirral was 266 Bronze, 64 Silver, and 28 Gold. Partner organisations throughout the borough continue to approach the authority for support with regard to running the Award in their own establishments. Currently 24 young people who are doing their Award in the youth hubs have nearly completed either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award and only need to successfully complete an expedition to achieve their full Award. Staff are working closely with colleagues from the Oaklands

Outdoor Education Centre in order to deliver an expedition programme for this year's participants.

## **11.0 Play Service**

- 11.1 Beechwood – A young person aged 9, who regularly attends the playscheme, was inspired by story she read on social media, about a charity, the 'Little Princess Trust', who provide wigs for children suffering from cancer. The young person pledged a commitment to raise a minimum donation of £350.00 as well as having at least 7 inches of her own hair cut off. With the help of her family and play staff, she then organised a fund raising event held at Beechwood Community Centre, with over 100 local residents attending and witnessing her having her hair cut. Children from the play scheme decorated the centre with artwork of butterflies, specially created as a tribute to the Little Princess Trust. The event was a great success and in total she raised £1,200.00 and was presented with certificates in recognition of all her hard work and determination.
- 11.2 Leasowe Adventure Playground – Kilgarth School regularly attend the playground every Wednesday and Friday afternoon, as part of the school's curriculum. Pupils support the wider community, as part of the citizenship agenda, and engage in play activities. Castleway Primary also use the site, as part of the school day, utilising the playground as part of a reward hour. A Saturday Breakfast Club has been introduced with children preparing and cooking their own healthy food alternatives for breakfast, as well as a more traditional menu.
- 11.3 Gautby Road – As part of the Chinese New Year celebrations children designed and painted a wall mural depicting the year of the horse. Children learnt about the relevance of their birth year and how it relates to specific animals and personality characteristics. They also cooked a variety of traditional Chinese dishes and tasted food associated with celebrations, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Australia day was also celebrated by designing and producing hats, flags and boomerangs, as part of learning about the cultural diversity of Australia.

Lindsay Davidson  
Senior Locality Manager

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

24 June 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Framework for Young People's Engagement and Participation
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	All
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<i>Director of Children's Services</i>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	NO

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 In the policy paper Positive for Youth, the Government has outlined a statutory duty for local authorities to take into account young people's views.

This report outlines the current situation to enable children and young people's engagement and participation and introduces a draft framework for the future facilitation of the engagement and participation agenda.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Wirral has a strong record of involving children and young people in developing service delivery and in local democratic and community processes. This has resulted in the Council gaining Beacon Status for Positive Youth Engagement in 2006/2007 and OFSTED consistently awarding the Children and Young People's Department (CYPD) outstanding for Positive Contribution.
- 2.2 Through a variety of young people's forums, such as the Children in Care Council and the Annual Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament, Wirral strives to ensure that it listens and remains responsive to the needs of children and young people.
- 2.3 Historically the Executive Youth Board was formed to act as an overarching group bringing together representatives from other youth engagement groups and to act as a young people's shadow cabinet. However, this group has ceased to operate, with any remaining members being involved in a number of other participation activities.
- 2.4 The Positive Contribution outcome group was charged with reporting on youth engagement activities. This group has ceased to operate and CYPD have ensured that the function of the Engagement and Participation Champion' has been recognised as a key responsibility of the locality manager with responsibility for youth and play. Accountability will ensure that the voice of children and young people is part of the decision making process and will develop a framework to support this and ensure it routinely happens at every level.
- 2.5 Wirral Charter of Participation for Children and Young People (2006) has underpinned all previous youth engagement and participation activities. This Charter was updated in 2012, but has not yet been ratified.

- 2.6 A new draft Wirral Young People's Engagement and Participation Framework has been developed (see Appendix 1).
- 2.7 The Framework proposes that the following structures be established:
- **Youth Voice Group** – an overarching young people's group which will replace the Executive Youth Board.
  - **Youth Engagement Reference Group** – The group will be a multi-agency forum for those people who have young people's participation in their job description. The group will also be open to those people who wish to take a more active part in this agenda. The group will act as a reference group to co-ordinate children and young people's participation and engagement activities. The group will initially be tasked with revising the Charter of Participation to enable it to influence policy and underpin all future engagement/ participation work.
  - **Youth Engagement Strategic Champions** - A virtual team selected from key elected members, chief officers across the private and public sectors and the voluntary, community and faith sector, e.g. Chief Executive Wirral Council, Lead Member for Families and Wellbeing, Chief Officer Merseyside Police.
- 2.9 The proposed Youth Voice Group, Participation Reference Group and Youth Engagement Strategic Champions will report to Wirral Children's Trust through the Engagement/ Participation Champion.
- 2.10 The Children's Trust Board endorsed the framework at their meeting on 18 March 2014.
- 2.11 The Framework will be launched at a Strategic Champion event in the autumn term.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 Full risk assessments will be carried out where applicable for all initiatives introduced.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not applicable for this report.

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 The framework is concerned with ensuring the active engagement and participation of children and young people.

### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 6.1 The voluntary, community and faith organisations will be fully involved in the consultation process and implementation of the Framework.

### **7.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 7.1 It is envisaged that these proposals will be able to be developed as continuous improvement from within existing resources.

## 8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Not applicable for this report.

## 9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Assessment not required as this report is for information.

## 10.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Not applicable for this report.

## 11.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Not applicable for this report.

## 12.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

12.1 That members of Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee note the draft Young People's Engagement and Participation Framework and proposals for wider consultation.

## 13.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 To inform the committee of the draft framework.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** *Lindsay Davidson*  
*Senior Locality Manager*  
telephone: (0151 637 6300)  
email: [lindsaydavidson@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:lindsaydavidson@wirral.gov.uk)

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Wirral Young People's Engagement and Participation Framework 2014

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Wirral Children's Trust	18 March 2014

# Wirral Young People's Engagement and Participation Framework

2014



## **Introduction**

In the policy paper Positive for Youth: a new approach to cross-government policy for young people aged 13 to 19, the Government outlines the following statutory duties for local authorities:

*The Government has confirmed that local authorities should continue to have a duty to secure sufficient leisure-time educational and recreational leisure-time activities for the improvement of the wellbeing of 13 to 19 year olds, so far as is reasonably practicable. This duty also requires local authorities to ascertain and take into account young people's views and to publicise information about the local offer. (Cabinet Office and Department for Education, 2010).*

Wirral has a strong record of involving children and young people in developing service delivery and in local democratic and community processes. Through a variety of forums, such as the Children in Care Council and the Annual Youth Voice Conference, Wirral strives to ensure that it listens and remains responsive to the needs of children and young people.

In order to continue to ensure that young people are able to engage and fully participate in decision making and that services and organisations routinely involve them, a Young People's Engagement and Participation Framework has been developed.

## **Principles**

This Framework provides a strategic approach to drive future engagement and participation activities. The Framework is underpinned by the following principles:

- The recognition that young people have a right to positively contribute as decision makers and that services and organisations have a responsibility to ensure they are given the opportunity
- The aspiration to make a positive difference to the lives and experiences of Wirral's young people through enabling them to be true partners in democratic processes
- To build young people's capacity for involvement in the future and ensure they are recognised (and recognise themselves) as valued members of the wider community
- Young people have a range of enjoyable, accessible and relevant opportunities for their positive engagement in service design and delivery and Wirral's community and democratic processes
- Positively promote young people and their achievements to counteract negative societal stereotypes and misconceptions regarding young people

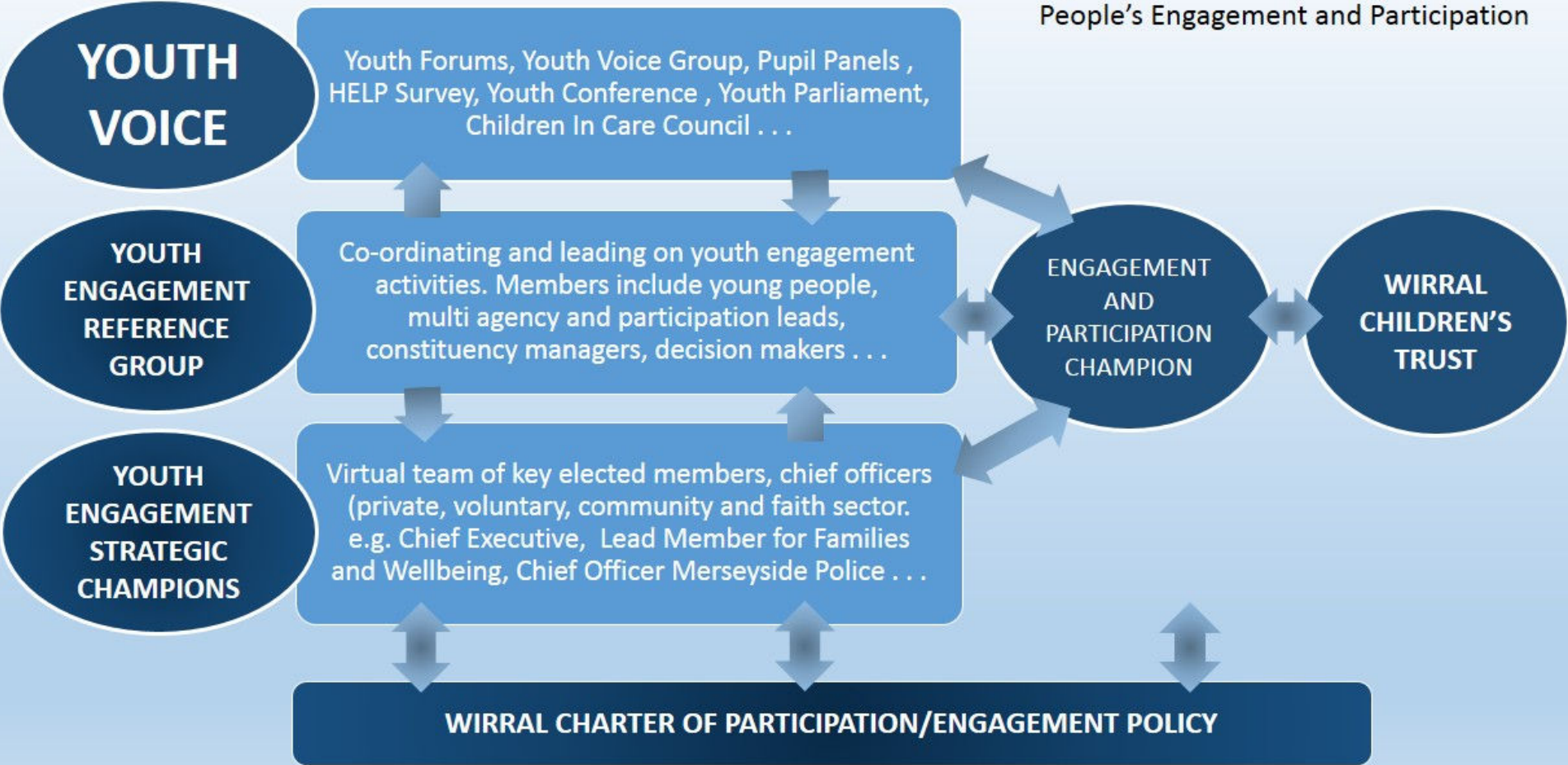
## **Aims**

This Framework will enable Wirral to:

- Develop strong, strategic, multi-agency leadership and vision to put children and young people at the heart of services
- Enable harder to reach young people to have a voice in service provision and their local community and democratic processes
- Take a strategic approach to co-ordinating positive youth engagement through developing consistent standards across agencies
- Collaborate with key partners to ensure that young people are offered a wide range of meaningful opportunities for their positive engagement
- Promote the benefits of positive youth engagement

In order for the principles and aims to be taken forward, the framework introduces a future model for the development of engagement and participation, see Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Framework for Young People's Engagement and Participation



The Framework for Young People's Engagement and Participation will be underpinned by the Wirral Charter of Participation and Participation / Engagement Policy and comprises of three main elements, namely:

- **Youth Voice Group** – an overarching young people's group.
- **Youth Engagement Reference Group** – The group will be tasked with revising the Charter of Participation for Children and Young People so it underpins all engagement/participation work and influences relevant policy. Members of the group will be recruited from across wider service areas to support the work. A person specification/role will be developed and members will be trained in youth voice work. It is envisaged that they will be supported through time out from their role (approximately 2 days across a year or volunteer) and be a representative for their respective organisation and a champion of young people.
- **Youth Engagement Strategic Champions** - A virtual team of key elected members, chief officers across the private and public sectors and the voluntary, community and faith sector, e.g. Chief Executive Wirral Council, Lead Member for Families and Wellbeing, Chief Officer Merseyside Police.

The Framework will support a commitment to young people's engagement and participation across Wirral organisations. It will make the voice of the child everybody's responsibility and ensure young people are supported to become responsible and resilient adults.

Each of these three elements is discussed in greater detail in the following pages.



## **Youth Voice Group**

### **Aims:**

- Act as an overarching mechanism for young people's engagement/participation.
- To bring together interested young people from other participation groups (such as Children in Care Council or District Youth forums).

### **Who will be involved:**

- Previous members of the Executive Youth Board and Youth Opportunity Fund Grant Panel
- Children in Care Council
- Representatives from District Youth Forums

Any young person who wishes to be involved, recruited through:

- Annual Youth Voice Conference
- Annual Youth Parliament
- Young Reporters
- Youth Theatre Peer Educators
- Youth Hub 'members' groups

In addition, there are a number of other groups operating within schools (e.g. pupil panels) and the community, voluntary and faith sectors who may be interested in participating.

### **What the Youth Voice Group will offer to young people**

1. Chance to develop skills in:
  - Debating
  - Citizenship
  - Political education
  - Peer Education Training
  - Conference planning
2. Opportunity to be involved in major consultations to shape new and existing services, e.g.:
  - Wirral Youth Zone
  - Children and Young People's Plan
3. Accreditation;
  - Awards and certificates in relevant work, i.e. peer education etc
4. Other opportunities, for example to:
  - Take part in CYPD interview panels
  - Become involved with inspections of Youth Support provision
  - Elected Member Training

### **Recruitment**

Recruitment for the new group commenced in July 2013 with a 'Youth Voice Tour' of all Youth Service units. The tour was facilitated by Peer Educators from the Youth Support Creative Development Team and supported by young people from each locality. Recruitment continued at the Youth Voice Conference in October. The initial meetings of the new group will take place in February 2014.

### **Meetings**

The frequency of the meeting will need to be determined by the group themselves. However it is envisaged that, in the first instance, they will meet monthly at a central location.



## **Youth Engagement Reference Group**

### **Aims**

- The group will be a multi-agency forum for those people who have young people's participation in their job description.
- The group will be open to those people who wish to take a more active part in the participation agenda.
- The group will act as a reference group to co-ordinate children and young people's participation and engagement activities.

### **Objectives**

The multi-agency group will:

- Co-ordinate children and young people's participation and engagement activities.
- Provide a formal structure for the three CYPD Strategy Group leads to engage with young people representatives and the overarching Youth Voice Group.
- Disseminate information and good practice.
- Act as a single focal point for consultation requests etc..
- Contribute to the planning of major consultations and events, i.e. Youth Voice Conference, Youth Parliament, Children and Young People's Plan.
- Identify future funding streams to develop participation and engagement activities.

### **Governance**

The group will report to Children's Trust Board via the Children's Executive Board, the WSCB. The minutes of the Group's meetings will go to the CYPD Strategy Groups and Youth Voice Group.

### **Frequency of meetings**

The group will meet three times per year. These meetings will be established to support annual events/consultation, i.e. Children and Young People's Plan consultations, Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament. Therefore, initially the meetings will take place in February, June and October. The meetings will be scheduled during half term holidays to enable attendance by the young people's representatives.

### **Membership**

Members of the group will be recruited from across wider service areas to support the work. A person specification/role will be developed and members will be trained in youth voice work. It is envisaged that they will be supported through time out from their role (approximately 2 days across a year or volunteer) and be a representative for their respective organisation and a champion of young people. Membership of the group will therefore include representatives from the following:

- Youth Voice Group, Children in Care Council and other relevant groups
- Schools
- Link Forum
- Merseyside Police
- Merseyside Fire Service
- Representatives from key Council services, including Constituency Managers

The following CYPD staff would also be members:

- Participation Champion; Inclusion Manager; CYPD Strategy Group leads; Team Manager – Youth Support (Creative Development, Inclusion & Accreditation)

### **Subgroups**

No formal subgroups will be established. However, on occasion members may be required to attend a time limited task and finish group.

**Initial Responsibilities**

- Finalise the re-draft of the 2006 Charter of Participation
- Revise the Participation Policy
- Consider mechanisms for engaging younger children, families and communities
- Develop an Engagement/Participation Action Plan

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## **Youth Engagement Strategic Champions**

To ensure the Borough's leaders fully support and champion positive youth engagement to enable young people to have a valued role in Wirral, a forum of Youth Engagement Strategic Champions will be created.

This virtual team will be nominated and include; elected members, chief officers from across the private and public sectors and the voluntary, community and faith sector. It is envisaged that this will include, for example, the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, representative Chief Executives from across the public, private and voluntary sector – such as the Chief Executive Wirral Council and the Police Chief Constable.

The Youth Engagement Strategic Champions will:

- Ensure strong strategic multi-agency leadership and vision to put children and young people at the heart of service design and delivery
- Enable a strategic approach to co-ordinate youth engagement across their respective organisations in relation to listening to and involving young people in decision making about local services.
- Offer challenge and scrutiny in respect of the design and delivery of strategies and policies which may affect young people.
- Ensure clear leadership with regard to addressing the needs of and advocating on behalf of young people
- Enable young people to have a voice at relevant and appropriate forums within their host organisations.
- Contribute to the recruitment of key positions in the representative organisations.

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