



Area Forum (Greasby/Frankby/Irby, Upton, Woodchurch)

Date:	Monday, 13 October 2008
Time:	7.00 pm
Venue:	Overton Community Centre, 160 Royden Road, Overchurch CH49 4RH

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AGENDA

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES
2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING
3. AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S UPDATE (Pages 1 - 36)
4. YOU DECIDE RESULTS
5. PARTNER UPDATES
6. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME
7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11 February, 2009 (venue to be confirmed).

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YOUR SAY 



**Greasby, Frankby, Irby,
Upton and Woodchurch
Area Forum**

Papers for the forum meeting

13th October 2008

**Overton Community Centre
160 Royden Road, Overchurch,
CH49 4RH**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

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- Equality and diversity. Week commencing 3rd November is a National Diversity week.
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Section One

Minutes and Matters Arising

Minutes from last meeting and any matters arising

Minutes – Area Forum
(Greasby/Frankby/Irby/Upton/Woodchurch) - 11 June 2008

Present	
Chair	Jean Quinn
Councillors	Gill Gardiner, Peter Reisdorf, Tom Anderson, Tony Smith, John George
Community Representatives	Bert Grunnill (Upton Churches Together), John Smith (Greasby Community Association), Jean Robinson [Overchurch Residents Association], Ron Green [GOAL],
Lead Officer	David Smith [Deputy Director of Finance]
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Street Scene Manager	Mark Traynor
Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust	Pat Higgins, Michael Monaghan
Wirral Primary Care Trust	John South
Merseyside Police	Inspector Brian Griffiths, Inspector Kate Cunningham
Merseyside Fire & Rescue	Sarah Patterson
Council Officers	Jenny Naylor Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Programme, Jim Thompson, Community Safety, Julie Barnes, Traffic Management Section
Apologies	Maureen Cain, Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Board

Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions & apologies

The Chair, Councillor Jean Quinn, opened the meeting and welcomed forum members and 30 members of the public to the Area Forum meeting in Greasby. A warm welcome to Councillor Tom Anderson who is the newly elected Member for the Upton Ward.

Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous October forum

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 4 February 2008 were incorporated into the Area Co-ordinator's report. There were no matters arising.

Minute decision: Resolved: That the minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 4 February 2008 be received.

Minute 3 - Area Co-ordinator's report

The Area Co-ordinator presented her report. Section 1 had been covered under agenda item 2. Section 2, contained Local Updates and relevant news under the Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy, Strong local economy, Sustainable appropriate housing, Life changes for children and young people, Safer communities, Health and well being, Living and working environment, Cross cutting, and Transport. Section Three provided information on funding available to help and support services that benefit the local communities.

The agenda and the area co-ordinator's report can be downloaded from the Internet at www.wirral.gov.uk. The next meeting of the Area Forum will be on 13 October. Any member of the public who intends to attend the next meeting and wishes to receive in advance a paper version of the agenda and report, should contact the Area Co-ordinator on 691 8480, or michellegray@wirral.gov.uk.

Minute decision: Resolved: To thank the Area Co-ordinator for her report.

Minute 4- Partner and Local Updates

Transport accessibility in Greasby: The Chair welcomed Julie Barnes, Wirral Council Traffic Management Section, and invited her to talk about transport accessibility in Greasby.

In concluding her presentation, Julie affirmed that the work would continue and she would report back to the Area Forum as appropriate. A copy of her presentation is available, on request, from the Area Co-ordinator.

In providing background information to the Greasby Local Transport Plan, the Chair explained that the initial thought had come when she and Councillor Gill Gardner had met a fairly young disabled person who was housebound and needed someone to take her to the centre of Greasby. The start of the transport plan began from there and the PCT became involved in the discussion group.

The Chair continued that the Council has delegated funding of £20,000 for each area forum to spend in its own area. The initiative is called 'You Decide' and involves members of the public deciding how they wish to spend the money. The Chair suggested that members of the public might wish to think how they wish to spend the money this area.

A member of the public suggested that the funding could be used to support a local bus service for Greasby. He enquired about the whereabouts of the electric buses that until recently had operated a free service between Birkenhead Town Centre and Woodside.

In reply, it was stated that buses are owned by Mersey Travel and are still in use, but they can carry a very limited number of passengers, they do not comply with current disability legislation for carrying wheelchairs, and they have a very slow driving speed.

A member of the public commented on the difficulties that taxi drivers experience in finding a place to stop to allow passengers to alight near the shops in Greasby. Elderly people with mobility problems need to be taken as close as possible to the shops.

Julie Barnes stated that she had noted the comments and would convey them back to Traffic Management colleagues.

John Smith described his involvement in the Carlink Volunteer Car Scheme. People with mobility problems can contact the organisers if they have a hospital appointment or need to visit the Health Centre in Greasby etc

A volunteer driver picks the person up at home, stays with the person at the appointment, and then takes the person home. The volunteer drivers use their own cars and they are reimbursed 40p a mile.

More volunteers are needed. If anyone is willing to become a volunteer driver they should contact the telephone number available at the meeting.

Minute decision: Resolved: To thank Julie Barnes for the presentation on the Greasby Accessibility study.

Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Board: Jenny Naylor explained that the primary aim of the Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Board is to improve local services with involvement by local residents and service providers. She reported on the changes made to the working structures to place more emphasis on unemployment and family support.

Further to the nominations invited at the last meeting, Mark Stevenson has been confirmed as a representative from this Area Forum on the Woodchurch Neighbourhood Management Board. Ray Pullin has retired from the Board and an event had been held to celebrate his long involvement with the Woodchurch community.

Jenny gave information on recent and future community activities planned in Woodchurch.

Merseyside Police: The priorities for this area as determined at Ward meetings are youth disorder, anti-social disorder related to alcohol, speeding and parking near schools.

There have been some good successes in dealing with alcohol related youth disorder. Operation Mark, which involves surveillance on Off Licences, has been successful to the extent that some licensees are advising the

Police when they have sold alcohol to an adult and the adult has been seen giving the alcohol to children. In one instance, the licensee had identified a person using CCTV. The person had been visited at home and issued with an £80 fixed penalty.

Intelligence had been received that an individual was supplying alcohol to young people from his home address in Woodchurch. A court case is proceeding. Another individual has been charged with three separate incidents of buying alcohol for young children.

The Police are working with the Anti Social Behaviour Team, Housing Officers and Neighbourhood management to divert youths away from anti social behaviour. A number of young people are subject to Acceptable Behaviour Contracts [ABCs], and of the 22 ABCs, only one young person has failed to modify his behaviour. The next step is to apply for an Anti Social Behaviour Order [ASBO]. The so-called 'crack

house' legislation has been implemented at a number of addresses on the Woodchurch Estate.

The tenant, or owner-occupier, can be evicted from any address where class A drugs are being used or supplied and anti social behaviour arises as a result of that activity. The anti social behaviour team apply to court for a possession order and once the family is evicted they cannot return to the address under any circumstances. A recent eviction has sent a strong message to other individuals involved in drug use and has resulted in about 12 people self-referring for treatment.

Recorded crime: All crime is down, particularly theft from vehicles. Whilst the number of calls related to anti social behaviour is static, the nature of incidents reported are less serious.

Police Officers have been visiting schools to talk to pupils about the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.

Area boundaries have been reviewed and from a date to be notified, Frankby and Greasby will be covered by Upton Police Station, instead of by Heswall.

Update on Greasby, Frankby and Irby: For the second year in succession, there has been a significant decrease in all crime, and a significant [30%] reduction in anti social behaviour and criminal damage.

Coronation Park: Many of the problems have been resolved as a result of the involvement of the Youth Service, CSOs and GOAL in providing diversionary activities for both boys and girls. The Police try to respond to calls as quickly as possible to avoid situations escalating again.

There had been concern earlier in the year around smashed windows etc., in Irby Village Hall. Regular patrols have taken place and the problems appear to have been resolved quite quickly.

John Durrant pointed out that people with prams have to go into the road to pass parked vehicles, mainly in Heswall.

Inspector Cunningham stated that she would look into the matter.

Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service: Sarah Patterson drew attention to the information on pages 18/19 of the Area Co-ordinator's Report. She highlighted the community engagement strategy, in particular the delivery of home fire safety checks and the provision of free smoke detectors in private homes.

The Service is working on a grass fire strategy to help reduce the risk of fires in the summer months, and fire officers are visiting schools to warn pupils of the danger of fire on open land. A Spark Campaign will be launched on 1 August. Members of the public who would like a free home fire safety check should contact Fire Service Direct on FREEPHONE 0800 731 5958.

NHS Foundation Trust: Michael Monaghan drew attention to the literature issued on the NHS Foundation Trust.

Richard Agar explained that the Trust has around 5,700 Public Members and the aim is to increase Public Membership to 7,000 by 31 March 2009. Public Members have the right to vote and to elect Governors to represent their community across Wirral. Information packs and application cards for Public Members were available at the area forum.

Greasby Community: John Smith, Chair of Greasby Community Association, introduced the first edition of Greasby Community News. Copies of the newsletter have been delivered to all households in Greasby. The intention is to encourage all partners and agencies in Greasby to contribute to future editions. Meetings of the area forum will be publicised in future. The centre fold contained information on a Music and Fun Day in Coronation Park on 21 June.

Ron Green explained that the Fun Day on 21 June is being organised by GOAL, the Greasby Outdoor Activity and Leisure Group. He explained how the GOAL Group has been working to improve facilities for the promotion of outdoor activities for all age groups in Greasby for the past four years. One of the main sources of raising funds is a weekly Bonus Ball competition run in Greasby Post Office.

Minute 5 – Public open forum/public question time

Q Can anything be done to improve the car park entrance to Arrowe Park. The entrance has speed bumps and pot holes. These are dangerous to cars, the people in the cars and to pedestrians.

A *The Streetscene manager offered to take up the matter.*

Q John Durant. I have constantly brought attention to the sharp and dangerous bends on Hillbark Road [see p.9 of previous minutes]. It was supposed to be passed to Engineering Services. What was the outcome?

A *Chair: There have been lots of concerns expressed about speeding and inappropriate driving on Hillbark Road. The concerns have been taken on board and are being dealt with by Technical Services. A site visit was made last Friday in relation to the row of houses on Hillbark Road, and agreement has been reached to carry out a traffic count with a view to putting safety measures in place. A plan had already been drawn up to make the junction of Montgomery Hill and Hillbark Road safer.*

Q Barbara Moores. I noticed recently that a pile of bicycles have been taken to the tip. Is there a facility in Wirral to refurbish and re-cycle bicycles, instead of taking them to landfill?

A *Jim Thompson. I am not aware of any scheme to refurbish pedal cycles in Wirral, but there are schemes in other areas. Possibly Lairdside might be interested as a way of diverting attention of young people from anti-social activities.*

Q Evelyn Smith. Is the Merseyside Fire Service equipped to deal with flooding?

A *Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service: Yes*

Q Evelyn Smith When will Wirral Council be able to recycle all plastic, as neighbouring Authorities do, and when will the Council pick up left over food from hotels and restaurants and produce biogas?

A *Councillor Gardiner. Wirral tried a pilot scheme for waste food collections, but unfortunately it failed as it did not meet the required standards. Collections of waste food for all Merseyside Authorities are made through the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, and the Waste Disposal Authority is working on the issue. Sefton had a voluntary scheme and that is something that Wirral needs to look at. – waste food collection is an area that Wirral wants to move towards. Wirral has found a market to take plastic bottles and would like to extend it to include other types of plastic as well.*

Q The collection of the green and the grey bins was missed one week in Orrets Meadow Road, Woodchurch. A wagon came back the next week and emptied both bins for the whole street into the same wagon.

A *Streetscene Manager. I will make a note of it. It should not happen. The collection should take place the next day if a collection is missed, not the next week.*

Q I live in Caldwell Drive, Woodchurch, which is a cul-de-sac. Bin collections are missed regularly, and the brown bins are not emptied at all.

A *Chair: There is a particular problem about brown bin collection because the lorries are wider and can't get down narrow roads. It should be logged for a visit by a smaller van the next day.*

Q There are issues about speed on the car park at Sainsbury's.

A *Police: There's a problem with boy racers in that area. If a vehicle is used in an anti social manner we can warn people, and if they persist, the vehicle can be seized. So far, 15 first warnings have been issued and when the first seizure is made it will be well publicised as a warning to others. A number of fixed penalties have been issued for throwing cartons out of car windows. Sainsbury's and McDonald's are co-operating fully with the Police in addressing these issues.*

Q Ron Green. I share Barbara Moores' views about engaging both boys and girls in activities in Coronation Park and the focus is on putting a cocktail of different activities together. If anyone has any ideas on what we need to introduce by way of diversionary activities, for boys and for girls, I would be interested in listening.

Q I have noticed a sign on Bargain Booze in Upton signifying an alcohol free zone. Is it permissible to erect similar signs say at the entrance/exit to Coronation Park?

The question prompted a lengthy dialogue on the subject of alcohol and young people.

Q The turning circle by the school. Boy racers and other vehicles frequent the area late at night, when they appear to stop for a short while and then start off again. The spot, which is dark and not overlooked, has been used in the past for drug taking.

A *Inspector Cunningham: I will take a look.*

Q There's a circular area in Woodchurch where young people drink. We asked for alcohol free signs. The Police should make sure that people don't drink in alcohol free zones.

A *Police. Police Officers use their discretion. If a person is walking along with a can of beer, minding his own business, the Police would not be looking to enforce the order. It is a different matter if young people are drinking and it results in anti-social behaviour.*

Q Unlike many other areas, Woodchurch has not got a community centre.

A *Jenny Naylor. The Management Board has raised the issue of a community centre, and progress is being made.*

Q There are problems associated with the MUGA. It is unlit so the facility cannot be used when it needs to be, and there are suggestions it is a drinking den. Fitting lighting with timer switches that could be controlled from the Leisure Centre could solve the problems, but the problem is cost.

A *Councillor Gardner: Page 31 of the Area Co-ordinator's report contains details of a free, on-line funding information service. The availability of Community Initiatives funding has recently been advertised, and any surplus funding will be advertised again in September. The Council employs a Lottery Officer, Peter Riley, whose role is to advise and help community groups complete applications for Lottery funding.*

Minute 6 - Area Forum funding DVD launch

Students from six Wirral Secondary Schools have been involved with the Learning Lighthouse to produce a DVD publicising ways in which community groups have used Area Forum funding for the benefit of local communities.

Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, it will not be possible to show the DVD this evening, but copies are available, on request, from the Area Co-ordinator.

Minute 7 – Dates of future meetings. 13 October 2008: 11 February 2009.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

Matters arising

(1). A member of the public commented on the difficulties that taxi drivers experience in finding a place to stop to allow passengers to alight near the shops in Greasby. Elderly people with mobility problems need to be taken as close as possible to the shops.

Julie Barnes stated that she had noted the comments and would convey them back to Traffic Management colleagues.

TAXIS USING SHOPS AT GREASBY ROAD, GREASBY

I refer to your enquiry of 16 June concerning the use of taxis by the elderly and disabled at the above location.

Whilst I appreciate that there are limited areas for taxis and private hire vehicles to wait outside the shops in Greasby Road, regulations do allow these vehicles and indeed any vehicles to set down and pick up passengers from double yellow lines.

Due to the infrequency of Hackney carriage vehicles using the outer areas of the borough it is likely that private hire vehicles will be the most popular service used by elderly and disabled shoppers using Greasby Road. As private hire vehicles require pre-booking this does give passengers the opportunity to indicate the exact location that they wish to be collected from which may be on yellow lines as previously stated, any available parking spaces including the on street disabled parking bay or in the car park to the side of the shops.

You will appreciate that there is little opportunity at this location to make changes to the pedestrian crossing facilities, bus stops or existing parking spaces which are important for the viability of these local shops. The provision of a taxi rank is unlikely to be used by the Hackney trade and there is no legal mechanism to allow private hire vehicles to rank up on the street.

I am sorry I cannot be more positive in my response at this time. However, should you wish to discuss the matter further please do not hesitate to contact me or Paul Barton from my Traffic Management Division.

Yours sincerely



On behalf of
**DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR
TECHNICAL SERVICES**

vital.gov.uk



2002-2003
Community Legal Service
2003-2004
Third Party Secondary Market
CMTS, Affordable Midst Month Service
2004-2007
Council Team Engagement
June University of Worcester Project
PLBC25J03.doc

(2). Q Can anything be done to improve the car park entrance to Arrowe Park. The entrance has speed bumps and pot holes. These are dangerous to cars, the people in the cars and to pedestrians.

A *The Streetscene manager offered to take up the matter.*

Following the issue being raised at the last area forum, the entrance to Arrow Park has now been resurfaced.

(3). Q John Durant. I have constantly brought attention to the sharp and dangerous bends on Hillbark Road [see p.9 of previous minutes]. It was supposed to be passed to Engineering Services. What was the outcome?

A *Chair: There have been lots of concerns expressed about speeding and inappropriate driving on Hillbark Road. The concerns have been taken on board and are being dealt with by Technical Services. A site visit was made last Friday in relation to the row of houses on Hillbark Road, and agreement has been reached to carry out a traffic count with a view to putting safety measures in place. A plan had already been drawn up to make the junction of Montgomery Hill and Hillbark Road safer.*

An extensive public consultation exercise was undertaken in January 2008 following proposals put forward to introduce a Local Safety Scheme on Thingwall Road, Irby as part of the Councils 2007/8 Transport Capital Programme. This scheme included the construction of physical speed reducing features such as kerbed build-outs and speed cushions.

Significant public opposition to the proposals was received promoting a radical scheme 're-think' and physical speed reducing features were subsequently dropped in favour of a new scheme utilising inovative signing technology incorporating 'live' data capture and 'remote monitoring' together with substantial additional and enhanced road markings.

These new proposals have been designed to have a direct and immediate impact on individual driver behaviour and will greatly assist in the direction of Police resources for effective enforcement action. Similar schemes introduced in other parts of the Country have proved popular and appear to have a high degree of speed limit conformity with motorists.

A public meeting was held on Thursday 11th September at Irby Methodist Church outlining the new proposals to engage local residents and seek further feedback. Feelings expressed throughout the day were overwhelmingly positive and supportive to the proposals on display and the evening meeting attended by 3 local ward Councillors, 3 Officers from Wirral Council Technical Services and 14 members of the public was equally well received.

Orders have subsequently been placed for the equipment and the proposed measures are expected to be in place within the next 10-12 weeks.

(4). Q The collection of the green and the grey bins was missed one week in Orrets Meadow Road, Woodchurch. A wagon came back the next week and emptied both bins for the whole street into the same wagon.

A *Streetscene Manager. I will make a note of it. It should not happen. The collection should take place the next day if a collection is missed, not the next week.*

Occasionally Biffa can instruct their crews to collect contaminated grey bins, however they have confirmed that they have never instructed their crews to do so for Orrets Meadow Road. The crews who have responsibility for Orrets Meadow Road have advised that they have no issues with collecting the bins in the usual manner.

(5). Q I live in Caldwell Drive, Woodchurch, which is a cul-de-sac. Bin collections are missed regularly, and the brown bins are not emptied at all.

A *Chair: There is a particular problem about brown bin collection because the lorries are wider and can't get down narrow roads. It should be logged for a visit by a smaller van the next day.*

Biffa have confirmed that there can be access problems to Caldwell Drive. They have advised that they will monitor the situation and if the problem continues Caldwell Drive will be added to the collection round for the 'Narrow Access Crew'

(6). Q The turning circle by the school. Boy racers and other vehicles frequent the area late at night, when they appear to stop for a short while and then start off again. The spot, which is dark and not overlooked, has been used in the past for drug taking.

A *Inspector Cunningham: I will take a look.*

A verbal update will be given on the evening of the forum.

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services.

They involve local ward councillors, police, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council. Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy themes *strong local economy, sustainable appropriate housing, life chances for children and young people, health and well being and living and working environment.*

Strong Local Economy

Council Leader to deliver key speech at International Conference in Suzhou, China

The Leader of Wirral Council, Cllr. Steve Foulkes has been invited to deliver a key speech to a prestigious international conference in Suzhou next month. While in Suzhou, a private meeting will also take place between Wirral Council's Leader, Cllr Steve Foulkes and Mr Yan Li, the city's Mayor.

Currently, Suzhou has a number of sister city relationships throughout the world, but no significant relationships with cities in the United Kingdom. Renowned for its culture, history and tourism, Suzhou believe that a beneficial relationship can be developed with Wirral.

Cllr Foulkes says that the visit has been planned down to the finest detail:

"We recognise that establishing a productive working relationship with Suzhou will be mutually beneficial for both regions.

"During our visit, we'll be examining the possibility of working very closely on four key areas; education, trade, culture and tourism and port-related activity.

"If you take education as just one example, our schools have already recognised the significance of China. They are involved in significant initiatives to enable students to capitalise on the opportunities that China is likely to generate in the future. For example, Calday Grange Grammar School has been awarded a prestigious role in the development of Mandarin teaching through the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and has been chosen to be the "Confucius Classroom" for the North West of England.

Cllr Foulkes added: "And schools are just one example of how we in Wirral are positively engaging with China. In addition we are keen to progress discussions with Peel Holdings to deliver a significant link between businesses in Suzhou and the Wirral Waters project. The Government of Suzhou has expressed a strong desire to establish formal links with Wirral and I am confident this visit will be the start of a relationship that will deliver significant benefits to the children and businesses of Wirral."

Lindsey Ashworth, Development Director at Peel Holdings who is leading the delivery of the Wirral Waters project said:

"The significance of this potential relationship cannot be under estimated. I have been impressed already by the commitment shown by both Wirral Council and the Government of Suzhou. Our ambition for Wirral Waters is to deliver a truly world class waterfront and the significant interest already shown by China must be capitalised upon to help us achieve that."

Life Chances for Children and Young People

£880,000 Lottery boost for play projects

Wirral Council and Wirral Play Partnership - with the support of hundreds of Wirral children and young people - have successfully secured a massive £881,208 for children's play from the BIG Lottery Fund.

The money will fund seven play projects across Wirral over the next three years, and will help deliver Wirral's Play Strategy and provide more and improved play opportunities across Wirral.

Projects include:

-An extensive Community Play Ranger scheme to provide outreach play sessions in parts of Wirral where no formal opportunities currently exist. The rangers will facilitate play in local parks, open spaces and informal play spaces, and encourage participation in active play.

-The development of four exciting Adventure and Nature play areas incorporating natural landscapes and new fixed play equipment.

-A Play Practitioners project to provide supervised open access play sessions in five identified locations across Wirral

-An inclusive 'Play For All' project which will encourage children to access local free play opportunities and engage other children through play

It is estimated that nearly 15,000 children and young people aged five-16 years will benefit from the new play projects and facilities across Wirral.

As part of the projects' development, the Council consulted with over 1,000 children and young people through surveys and focus groups. This involved nearly 60 schools, as well as representatives from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies who attended Play Strategy seminars to develop a Play Policy and Strategy for Wirral.

Children highlighted a number of issues including safer routes to play, the need to feel safe in their play space with the support of qualified staff, more challenge and risk in equipped play areas, and better access to natural play environments. They suggested more localised play places designated for play within short walking distances so they could 'see and be seen'. They also wanted increased access to free play through inclusive play provision for vulnerable children and young people and more opportunities to access local play facilities, including use of local schools for play and playschemes which are open all year round.

Welcoming the big Lottery boost, Cllr Chris Meaden, Wirral Council's Play Champion said: "This money means that more children and young people will be able to access free play and socialise with friends on their doorstep. Children need space to play in the community and play is nature's training for life which is essential for a healthy and happy childhood. We want Wirral children to be afforded the best possible play opportunities and facilities and the award will enable a number of play projects to come to fruition"

New Children's Centres for Wirral

Wherever you live in Wirral, if you have children under five there will soon be a new centre – designed with you in mind.

Wirral's Children's Centres are continuing to grow with another phase of nine centres now opening across the borough.

There are already ten centres serving local communities as a one stop shop for children under five and their families. The state-of-the-art centres provide a rich environment of activities, advice and support services for parents of young children and they put childcare and early education at the heart of the community.

The new phase will see nine new centres opening to serve areas of Wirral which, as yet, have not been able to benefit from a facility.

On Tuesday September 16th Stephen Hesford MP will be opening both the Hoylake and the West Kirby Children's Centres.

Other new centres are either opening soon or have already opened in Bebington, Eastham, Moreton and Saughall Massie, New Ferry, Oxton, Pensby and Thingwall, Prenton.

Existing centres are at Bidston and St James, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Bromborough, Claughton, Leasowe, Liscard, New Brighton, Rock Ferry, Seacombe and Woodchurch.

Phil Davies, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, said: "There really is something for everyone at your local Children's Centre. The range of activities is excellent – from breastfeeding advice, specialist support and advice on health issues to 'stay and play' sessions, craft activities and other fun activities the children love.

"I would encourage parents to just pop in and see what there is on offer at their local centre...much of it is free and is a great way to make sure children are getting the best start in life."

Wirral Youth Service Update

Wirral Youth Service provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

The Youth Service in Wirral works with many young people in a variety of different settings, these include:

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- "Kontaktabuses"
- "Wirral Youth Theatre" and Youth Arts
- "Response" – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- International exchanges
- Duke of Edinburgh's Award

- Outdoor activities
- Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of sixteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs.

This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

Response

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe.

The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

International Work

Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and the Azores.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the

Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities.

One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity.

Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorsey Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus.

In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units to run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills. Currently 'swings and roundabouts' a play helping young people to examine risk taking behaviour has toured in some of Wirral's parks and Youth clubs and will be going into school next term

Greasby/Frankby/Irby, Upton and Woodchurch. Area Information:

Fender Youth Club: has been involved in a Virtual Baby Project, young people took part in sessions leading up to taking babies home for the weekend. Job Club- has been working alongside Connexions and Reach Out working with NEET young people in a drop in environment every Wednesday 1-3pm. 6 young people have completed a ten-week course, NVQ in Confidence and Employability. The Motivate presentation evening was a success.

The Mayor attended as a guest of honour, representatives from Raleigh International also attended along with families and friends of the young people involved, the evening was to celebrate the achievement of the 4 YP. Alongside the Police, 12 young people took part in a discussion/ group work session around Knife, gun and related violent crime. Three young people went on a youth service international visit to the Azores in July.

Greasby Youth Club: has taken part in a series of workshops around sexual health, healthy eating, drug and alcohol misuse and bullying. They are pulling together the evidence for HPYUs Bronze Award. The Pavilion is used to for structured group work

and for young people who don't want to access the youth, but just want drop in and be involved in group work.

Deeside Young People's Project: has continued to work in the mid and west Wirral areas using streetwork and the Kontakta Bus to engage with young people. DYPP has a good working relationship with the Police, particularly through the joint delivery of successful school holiday activity programmes.

During the summer, 81 young people participated in an exciting programme of activities. A new group in Irby Park not only participated in the summer programme but are also engaged in plans to refurbish the play area in the park. There is ongoing work to address risk-taking behaviour in the Overchurch area.

Safer Communities

Wirral leads the way in reducing volume crime

The level of reported volume crime is reducing faster in Wirral than almost any other area of England and Wales, figures have shown.

In the first quarter of this year, Wirral reported the second biggest reduction in crimes such as burglary, vehicle crime, violence and criminal damage compared to the same period last year.



And these figures are just a further demonstration of what is more than three years of achievement by Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team in meeting the Government's PSA1 target for crime reduction; achievements that were recently acknowledged by the Home Office, who invited members of the Wirral team to a reception celebrating the most successful crime reduction partnerships in the country.

The facts speak for themselves.

Volume crime in Wirral dropped by 32% in the first quarter of this year, compared to the same period in 2007. Only the crime reduction partnership in Mid-Devon bettered this performance out of 424 partnerships in the country.

Over the last three years, Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team, which brings together staff from Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, probation and Wirral PCT, has far exceeded its PSA1 targets - the target was 20%, but the figures showed a 40% reduction.

Since April this year there have been the lowest monthly recorded totals since 2003 for burglaries to people's homes and the theft of motor vehicles.

Between May and July 2008, Wirral has been the best performing local authority of all 19 North West authorities according to the British Crime Survey comparator crime figures.

Steve McGilvray, Manager of the Joint Community Safety Team, puts the success achieved in the area down to the ability of staff from all the agencies to work together.

"The fact that we are all under one roof, I'm sure, has been a big factor in the level of crime reduction in Wirral. Our work is intelligence-led where all the agencies share and analyse crime data and target our attention on the areas where it is most needed, that's how we get results."

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team June 2008 – September 2008

In addition to ongoing enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, specific activity has included:

Anti-Social Behaviour Advice Surgeries - A six-month programme of advice surgeries for residents in the private sector suffering with anti-social behaviour is continuing (launched May 2008) by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team. This sees the Team's Respect Bus taken into communities and staffed with Enforcement Officers who can take complaints directly from the public and provide comprehensive advice. The full timetable can be found at:

http://www.wirral.gov.uk/News/Archive/200804/news_0000601.html

Respect Watch Scheme for Overchurch (launched July 2008) Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, in partnership with Merseyside Police and landlord Wirral Partnership Homes, has designated part of Royden Road as a Respect Watch Scheme area. The initiative is designed to protect residents who have already suffered at the hands of anti-social individuals and includes a Local Lettings Agreement with residents. The scheme will run for 12 months.

Wirral Show (July 2008) Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's hoard of displays drew the crowds at this year's Wirral Show. Visitors were attracted to the Team's Respect Bus staffed with officers giving advice and information about tackling anti-social behaviour; not to mention the 'Love Your Neighbour' competition which required visitors to guess the number of love heart sweets in a jar. The team's ice cream van attracted both adults and young people, with its realistic mannequins styled to support the Department of Health campaign around binge drinking themed "you wouldn't start the night like this, so why end it like this?". Finally, the team's marquees drew in huge numbers focusing upon the theme of graffiti. A graffiti wall was used to interact with young people highlighting the consequences of committing graffiti, including Fixed Penalty Notice and prosecution, up to the penalties of eviction and ASBO.

Celebration for Seacombe young people (July 2008) - A Celebration of Achievement night, hosted by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, saw thirty-one young people from Seacombe who had just completed Sport Leadership programmes, receive their awards. The presentations were made by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr. Adrian Jones, at Wallasey Town Hall. Young people aged between eight and nineteen took part in three courses, each lasting eight weeks. The courses, which have been run by an organisation called 'Play Like Brazil' for two years now, were staged at the Soccer Dome, Seacombe. The programme is supported by a range of partners, including the Live Wirral Wardens, Wirral Partnership Homes, RegendaFirst (Maritime) Housing Association, Riverside Housing Association, Seacombe Residents' Group, 'Play Like Brazil' and Wirral Council's Community Sports Development Unit.

Operation SafeSpace (launched July 2008) - A partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, which aimed to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved, throughout the summer months, enforcement activities across hot-spot parks by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in parks, open spaces and multi-use games areas.

Challenge & Support Respect Project launched (September 2008) - A multi-agency early intervention process for dealing with young people engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, anti-social behaviour. The process takes a twin-track approach of both 'challenge' (in terms of enforcement action for unacceptable behaviour) and 'support' (in terms of intervention to tackle the underlying causes of their behaviour and/or to divert them from anti-social behaviour).

Between 750-1,000 children and young people (aged up to 19 years) are expected to go through the process over the next year. Wirral has received £250,000 over three years from the Department for Children, Schools & Families to support the project.

3G CCTV As discussed, the 3G CCTV system is owned and operated by Wirral Council with two laptops which are loaned to Merseyside Police for access to the cameras within their Neighbourhood. At present we have the following cameras situated at the below 'hotspots' -

Tranmere: Church Road, Bedford Road / A41, Rodney Street, Well Lane / Victoria Park

Woodchurch: Hoole Road, Pemberton Road, 2 new cameras to be sited soon -, Big Meadow Road, Eltham Green shops

Others: Stadium Road, Bromborough, Hillburn Drive, Birkenhead, Grange Road West, B'head, Illford Ave, Poulton

The cameras within Tranmere and Woodchurch (4 in each) have been purchased using Neighbourhood Management funding and cameras are deployed through the 'hot-spotting' process through their Neighbourhood Action Groups operated through Merseyside Police and their respective Neighbourhood Management with data supplied through the Joint Community Safety Team and Police Intelligence. That is the agreed protocol so that there won't be a precedent set by anyone 'shouting loudest' and there is a clear rationale based upon data mapping.

Camera deployment for the rest of Wirral is determined through the same process as above in respect of data however it is through the Joint Agency Group which consist of a variety of agencies which have signed up to the Data Sharing Protocols.



Upton and Prenton

Crime over the area for the past few months has been relatively low with only a couple of trends to report. One of these is the theft of vehicle number plates of which there have been four instances. Number plates are easily removed from most vehicles and can be used to disguise a vehicle for the purposes of crime. Security screws are available from motor dealers for a small cost and can prevent this type of theft.

We have had a reduction in all classes of reported crime except theft of motor vehicle. The vehicles taken fall into two categories : older cars without immobiliser keys and mopeds. The numbers of vehicles taken are small (April – August 07 - 20 cases and April – August 08 22 –cases There have been some significant arrests of offenders but it is still a rise and therefore disappointing.

Considering the fact that all areas have had the additional demands of leave periods allied to Force wide commitments such as the Open Golf Tournament and the Tall

Ships all held in the traditionally busy time of school summer holidays the number of reports of Anti Social Behaviour have reduced from last year. (See table below) I am sure that the weather has more than played its part as well as work done by my staff along with Youth Services and the ASB Team.

Operation Alliance targets those young people as being identified as responsible for ASB and works with them through Acceptable Behaviour Contracts. Work is done by Youth Services and the Wirral Borough Council ASB Team. Currently there are 13 contracts running with 6 impending and 10 completed. To be completed the individual has changed their behaviour and not come to notice or attention. It is pleasing to see that some of the individuals who were “on the brink” of criminal behaviour now have jobs. Everyone wins – the individual who is not criminalised and the community who get reduced ASB.

Work has continued in those areas where young people gather and all staff - police officers, PCSO (Police Community Support Officers) and Special Constables have all continued to seize alcohol from young people and to gather evidence against those supplying alcohol to those underage.

One significant case was one where information was received that alcohol was being supplied from a private house to young people. Observations were kept and the offender arrested. He was later fined £380. As alcohol and young people is a major cause of anti social behaviour we continue to try and break the link. Officers work with Trading Standards and target licenced premises with test purchases to ensure that the staff are not selling to young people.

We also work closely with youth services and the voluntary organisations in providing diversionary activities. One such event was held in August and was organised by Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and was held in Arrowe Park. Operation Safespace has been running in Arrowe Park also with the aim of allowing all persons to enjoy the park in safety.

One of the Special officers who works from Upton S/Sergeant Danny Chu received the “ Volunteer of the Year Award ” from the local Council of Voluntary Services. Danny does a great deal of work at Upton with a number of Special Officers particularly targeting ASB and underage drinking and I am pleased that his work has been recognised.

As a guide to crime figures on the area I have compared April – August 2007 to the same time this year with the following results.

Crime	Last Year (Apr-Aug)	This Year (Apr-Aug)	Number Difference	% difference
All Crime	776	653	-123	-16%
Violence	154	139	-15	-10%
Robbery	5	4	-1	-20%
Burglary Dwelling	27	19	-8	-30%
Theft From Motor Vehicle	51	39	-12	-24%
Theft Of Motor Vehicle	20	22	+2	+10%
Criminal Damage	187	110	-77	-41%
ASB Reports	1071	890	-181	-17%

The table shows the Theft Of Motor Vehicle issue that I have already mentioned but also shows how such small numbers of offences can have dramatic effects on the crime figures. (Robbery reduction of 1 crime giving a reduction of 20 % because we only had 4 offences against five last year over the same period).

Police and PCSO staff have continued to target speeding motorists and on average 15 prosecutions occur every month. This does not include figures from the dedicated Roads Policing (Traffic) department or camera enforcement. These figures relate to the roads identified by the public to us via the community meetings as problem roads.

Brian Griffiths

A4 Neighbourhood Inspector 8th September 2008

Health and Well Being

Smokefree Wirral – One year on and successfully Smokefree

July 1st marked the first anniversary of the banning of smoking in public places in England. The good news in Wirral is that the concept of going smokefree has been widely embraced by the vast majority of people. There has also been a tremendous level of compliance and support from local employers and businesses.

So what has Smokefree Wirral been up to recently?

Smokefree Wirral is a partnership between the Primary Care Trust and Wirral Council. The partnership aims to reduce the risks associated with tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

You may have observed the Smokefree trailer at various venues over the last year, maybe in Birkenhead town centre, leisure parks or at the Wirral Show. With couches, a flat screen TV and activities to take part in, it's a great place to be.

Young People

The Stop Smoking Service along with Smokefree Officers has been attending various youth events in order to reduce smoking uptake in young people and to offer advice and support to those wishing to quit. Over 100 young people have tried the new Age Progression Software, an innovative way of demonstrating the harmful effects of smoking on facial appearance, designed to encourage young people and adults to stop smoking or better still never to start. In addition,

Environmental Health has initiated a Mersey wide policy development to tackle young people smoking on school buses.

Black and Ethnic Minority groups

The Stop Smoking Service has developed a specialist provision for those using tobacco from other countries, with translation services and the choice of a male or female advisor. Around 100 trained Council Staff have been increasing awareness of this service as part of their normal roles; stop smoking advice can now be received at One Stop Shops, libraries and from community staff.

For the last month One Stop Shops have asked every customer if they would like advice about stopping smoking, reaching around 3,500 Wirral residents a week. Partnership working with Wirral Change and the Wirral Multi-cultural Organisation has resulted in many smokers from varying communities quitting tobacco use.

Smokefree Homes Pledge

Wirral PCT is launching a smokefree homes campaign. The main aim of the campaign is to reduce children's exposure to cigarette smoke by persuading parents and carers to refrain from smoking in the presence of children, particularly in enclosed places like the home and car.

This will impact on the health of babies and children, reducing childhood ailments and will also reduce adult smoking rates. At the heart of the campaign is the Smokefree Pledge which we are hoping parents and carers will take to ensure their

homes and cars remain free from cigarette smoke. Once parents or carers have made the pledge we can send them a range of exciting products for their children.

Consultation

To support and encourage responses in Wirral Smokefree Northwest postcards were used as a quick and easy way for the public to respond in large numbers. These have been used at various public events and are placed in Wirral One Stop Shops. An online web page was also developed and Smoke Free Wirral was out in Birkenhead Town Centre to engage with local people. A Smoke Free Wirral Response has been drafted but will only be finalised when we are able to insert public responses.



Primary Care Trust Update

1.NHS Constitution

Introduction

1. Alongside Lord Darzi's review of the NHS, the Government published in July 2008 a draft UK-wide constitution setting out NHS values and the rights and responsibilities of 'people who pay for, use or work for the NHS'.
2. The PCT is supporting this consultation.
3. The 12 week consultation began in August and will end on the 17 October 2008.
4. During this time the PCT will be:
 - Raising awareness of this draft national consultation through our communications network, ie via our and partner websites, press releases and advertorials.
 - Briefing any LINK meetings and Area Forums which take place within the consultation period on ways to respond. The draft consultation was presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) meeting on 2 September 2008. The OSC will consider their response at their October meeting.
 - Inviting a group of people from those who have said they wish to be actively involved with us to an event to provide them with a specific opportunity to generate some responses.
 - Contacting partner organisations who work with hard to hear groups such as Black & Racial Minority, disability and faith groups to ask them to publish the consultation to ensure people in these groups have their say.
 - Undertaking staff briefings to ensure those of us working in the organisation can contribute.
 - Making a formal response on behalf of the PCT.
5. Should anyone wish to contact the PCT on this matter they should do so via our 'Have Your Say' team (telephone number 0151 647 4251).

Summary of the Consultation

6. The constitution poses 17 questions, and is summarised in a quick guide document .
7. There is a lot of supporting information on the Department of Health (DH) website e.g. 'handbooks' explaining some of the detailed thinking behind the values, rights and responsibilities proposed.
8. In addition, the PCT has a limited amount of literature supplied to us by the DH which we are able to send out on request.

2. PCT Advertorial Programme

An 8 week programme of full page advertorials has been placed in both local papers each week commencing on the 3/9. These cover service development areas or stories relating to the positive steps being taken by the PCT to promote good health and or treat ill health. The topics covered are:

Small Grants Programme: small amounts of money have been given to community groups to enable them to improve what they do.

AMD (age related macular degeneration): a new service has been commissioned which is helping to stop people going blind.

Stop Smoking: Stopping smoking can make a real difference to your life and the PCT are promoting the uptake of stop smoking services wherever it can

Waiting Times: PCT are increasing investment into services to ensure waits between gp appointments and hospital appoints are reduced.

Stroke services: There will be increased investment into preventing and treating strokes.

Better mental health: Healthy living can improve your mental health, the PCT are investing in early identification and treatment of mental health

Advice Services for young people: PCT have made an investment into on-line counselling services through Kooth.com

Plus 1 more campaign to be confirmed

3. Annual report

Copies of the Annual report to be launched at the PCT AGM on the 26/9 will be available at the meeting. The PCT will briefly report on some of the achievements of the PCT highlighted in the document

topical issues. Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency.

- Controlling Infection.....
 - Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
 - Our Women’s Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
 - The ‘rate’ of MRSA infections at the Trust (i.e. rate per 10,000 bed days) compares very favourably with national and regional rates:
 - Wirral = 0.86
 - Regional = 1.05
 - National = 1.16
 - The ‘rate’ of Clostridium difficile infections (i.e. rate per 10,000 bed days) also compares favourably with national and regional rates:
 - Wirral = 1.89
 - Regional = 2.11
 - National = 1.56
 - Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and staff continue to implement a comprehensive action plan to achieve this.
 - In partnership with local GPs, our staff are working towards a more prudent use of broad-spectrum antibiotics that, if over-used, can make C.difficile infection more likely to develop.

- Improving Our Standards.....
 - Our Women’s Services achieved a ‘hat-trick of excellence’ when they were recently awarded **CNST Level 3** accreditation. Of the 156 Maternity Units in the country, only 17 others have achieved Level 3 and our Unit is the **only one** to have achieved 100% in every standard at every level. Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) Level 3 is evidence that our maternity services are extremely safe, well-managed and overall ‘first-class’. This follows the Unit’s score of ‘best performing’ in the Healthcare Commission’s Maternity Services Review and being named ‘best in the region’ in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be at the end of 2007
 - For the second year running we have been named as one of the country’s Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.
 - In the 2006/07 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored ‘good’ for our use of resources and ‘good’ for the quality of our services. Note – the 2007/08 assessment is due to be published on 16th October 2008
 - An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2008 -

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Good</i>
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Excellent</i>

- **Consulting with Local People**
 - During October the Trust is consulting with local people on its draft **Public Health Strategy**. A copy of this is enclosed in this briefing pack and you are invited to contribute by answering the questions on the back page. The closing date for responses is 31st October 2008.

Providing New Services.....

- The Trust is now able to offer women who require a **hysterectomy** a new, less invasive type of operation, the benefits of which include a shorter stay in hospital, fewer complications and a shorter recovery time. Ladies who are suitable for this type of 'keyhole' surgery will be able to discuss treatment options with hospital staff in clinic.
 - The Trust is now designated as a centre for providing drug therapy for age-related Macular Degeneration. This is a new, local service for the benefit of Wirral residents.
 - The Trust is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery
 - We are the only NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions for men.
 - We will soon be bringing our Rheumatology services closer to where people live and work with the appointment of an additional Consultant Rheumatologist – clinics will soon be up and running at St Catherine's Community Hospital and Victoria Central Hospital as well as Arrowe Park & Clatterbridge Hospitals
 - We now provide Sexual Health services in the community – closer to where people live and work
- Easy to Use Website.....
 - Our new-look, easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services go to www.whnt.nhs.uk
 - The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems
 - The new, easy click, 'email a patient' facility continues to be a popular feature
 - Come and Join Us!
 - As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have more than 5,800 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join, simply complete and return the attached Membership Application Form or join on-line @ www.whnt.nhs.uk
 - The Trust will shortly be holding elections for Public Governors to represent the Public Members in Bidston and Ellesmere Port – if you, or someone you know is interested in standing, please contact the Membership Office ☎ 0800 0121 356.
 - **For more information.....**
 - The Trust has published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2007/08. This can be accessed via our website www.whnt.nhs.uk or a copy can be obtained from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 0121 356

Living and Working Environment

New facility preserves local history

Wirral Council's Archive Service will open the doors to its new, cutting edge records facility on 1st September.

The new premises at the Cheshire Lines building on Canning Street, Birkenhead, features a spacious search room, with microfilm and microfiche readers and state of the art computers to support research into local history. The facility boasts over 5 miles of compelling documents, covering local government, workhouses, schools, hospitals, law courts and businesses, including the world-famous Cammell Laird shipbuilders. Photographs, maps, plans and local newspapers dating back to the nineteenth century are preserved in a large, purpose-built strong room along with records including census, electoral and burial registers, which give an interesting insight into Wirral's family history.

Leader of Wirral Council, Councillor Steve Foulkes explained: "The new archive facility will provide a much better service, combining important historic documents with modern technology. The building is in a convenient location, with good bus and rail links making it easy to access a wealth of information on local history. People will be impressed by the thousands of documents available; the oldest being a medieval title deed for Wallasey dating back to 1447! I am delighted with the improvements and look forward to opening our doors to the public."

Councillor Jerry Williams, Wirral's Heritage Champion added: "The opening of the new Wirral archive facilities is an important response to the never ending enthusiasm and interest in the diverse history of Wirral that has local, national and international significance. Wirral's numerous Historical Societies, are highly knowledgeable, well organised, with an energy and drive few could match. They have pioneered the preservation of important archive material. The sheer numbers of local history publications published in recent years is an example of Wirral people's love of local history. The amazingly productive partnership between Wirral Council and local history organisations is making major strides forward. I applaud this latest development."

Wirral Archive Service is running free Saturday morning workshops aimed at everyone from schoolchildren to families and local history groups. The sessions will be brought alive with original documents and cover topics including family history, the history of Wirral, schools and education and Wirral at war.

The archive service is accessed via Shore Road, Birkenhead, and is open from Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm and Saturdays from 10am to 1pm. For more information call 0151 606 2929 or email archives@wirral.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.wirral.gov.uk, go to 'Leisure and Culture' then select 'Records and Archives'

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Equality and Diversity

Week commencing 3rd November is National Diversity week

Equality Watch, the Council's equality and diversity programme team, are delighted to announce that Wirral Council's first Employee Diversity Day will take place on Thursday 6th November and all **council employees** are invited to attend.

All employees are encouraged to drop-in on the event and sample cultural food, see what services are provided by our local communities, talk to colleagues who have joined a staff diversity forum and also to 'road test' the new online equality training.

As part of Wirral's ongoing commitment to equality and diversity issues, Wirral hosted its first pilot equality watch think-tank session on Thursday 4th September. Community leaders / projects / organisations were randomly selected from the council's community database, to attend.

Those present were asked for their views on the following:

1. What equality and diversity issues do you feel will be affecting your community(s) in 5 years time? What issues are affecting them now?
2. What are your projects/ organisations doing to support those issues? What will you need to do to support future issues?
3. How would you / your organisation like to get involved in the council's equality and diversity programme?
4. What is the council doing to address community issues? What will the council need to do to support future issues?
5. How are you able to participate in working together to support Wirral's diverse communities? How would you like to participate in the future?

The information provided during the think-tank session will help the council as we embark on major equality and diversity developments, including a Single Equality Scheme, full equality impact assessments for services and policies, a comprehensive engagement strategy, equality and diversity training for all staff and councillors, and identifying the equality and cohesion priorities for Wirral. A summary of the outcomes of the day will be available from October 2008 for anyone who may be interested.

Please email equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk to request a copy.

Equality Watch newsletter - Since December 2007 five bi-monthly electronic version newsletters have been produced for council staff that have access to the intranet. We are pleased to report that a full colour, glossy brochure will be produced in February 2009 that **all** council staff will receive with their payslips. We also intend to distribute this (and future editions of the glossy version) to various locations throughout Wirral such as libraries, one stop shops, health centres, community centres / groups etc.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list as a contact point, please contact Maxine (listed below) with your details and how many copies you would like to receive.

Disability Issues Voice UK – is a national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse. We also support their families, carers and professional workers.

We provide a telephone helpline, the line is attended from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday: **Telephone 0845 122 8695**

Our statistics show that calls to our office from people needing advice and assistance are increasing steadily. Each new case represents a shocking, traumatic event for a person with learning disabilities and their families and carers.

For more information please visit www.voiceuk.org.uk or call 0845 122 8695.

Sexual Orientation Issues Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill (17 July) -

Parliament passed important new legal protections against incitement to hatred on grounds of sexual orientation on Wednesday 7 May 2008. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill received Royal Assent on 8 May, another historic step towards legal equality.

Stonewall believes that the newly-extended criminal offence of incitement to hatred will go some way towards addressing the hatred and violence directed towards lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in Britain at a time when homophobic attacks are on the increase. It sends a strong signal that such behaviour is unacceptable in a civilised society. Like race, a person's sexual orientation is an intrinsic characteristic for which no citizen should ever feel under threat of verbal or physical violence.

Regrettably the House of Lords also voted, by 178 votes to 164, to retain an amendment to the Bill that Stonewall believes 'is unnecessary and could mean that a very small number of people of extreme views attempt to avoid prosecution by citing a 'religious defence'. We will work hard to press Ministers, the Crown Prosecution Service and police forces to ensure that this defence is not deployed unscrupulously by those who incite hatred'.

Recent guidance

In Focus: Putting people first - Equality and diversity matters two This bulletin aims to address the needs of black and minority ethnic people using care services. It calls for black and minority ethnic people to have their cultural and social needs addressed on a more personal level, which will help to ensure that their specific needs are adequately considered during assessments by care homes and providers. <http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/917137>

Equality Bill: a new public duty Following A Framework for a Fairer Future, the Equality Office has now published the government's response to the consultation on the single equality bill, and set out some markers for the new single duty. This briefing concentrates on the single equality duty, and suggests that some further dialogue is needed, particularly on the need to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of age to children. This briefing was sent earlier to LGiU members and is now being sent to members of CSN.

<http://www.csn.info/csn/briefing-detail.jsp?&id=1952&md=0§ion=briefing>

Government launches Manchester search for role models to inspire black boys (7 August) -

A major search in Manchester to recruit Black male role models gets underway today as Government calls for motivational Black and mixed heritage men to take a lead in inspiring the next generation of Black boys to achieve and succeed.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=919908>

LAA PLUS Peer-to-Peer Challenge Workshop: Dreaming of Equality –

Equalities in LAAs Learning Paper (14 Aug) - LAA PLUS held two workshops, in

Manchester and London on 25th and 26th June respectively, bringing together a rich mix of different areas and partners with different experiences of promoting equalities through LAAs. Following learning generated by participants on the day we have now developed a paper which sets out:

- An introduction to the current debate around equalities and links to community cohesion, · The new policy context, · The Equality Impact Assessment process, Case studies highlighting how equalities have been addressed in different areas, The learning paper can be downloaded at the following:

http://www.laa-plus.net/downloads/Integrating_Equalities_into_LAAs.pdf

Board announced for Government Equalities Office (21 Aug) - Three new non-executive board members of the Government Equalities Office (GEO) were announced today by Director General Jonathan Rees.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=936195>

Equality experts, business and unions to help make Britain fairer (22 Aug) - The Government Equalities Office (GEO) announced a new senior stakeholder group to support development of a new equality framework which will help make Britain a fairer and more equal place.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=937775>

If you would like more information please contact Maxine Joynson on 691 8266 or email maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Community news

The third edition of **Greasby Messenger** was distributed throughout Greasby and Frankby in September. This is now jointly produced by Greasby Community Association and Richprint (who do the design, printing and distribution - through the Scouts). We hope this quarterly publication will prove of value. Contributions for future editions should be sent to John Smith at smithjmdj@btinternet.com or phone 678 6201 or mail 52 Eastway, Greasby, Wirral CH49 2NT. Closing date for the next edition in 15th November 2008.

Further planting of **bulbs** in the centre of Greasby will take place on Saturday 18th October from 9.30am. All offers of help would be welcome, and donations of bulbs can be left at Greasby Library.

Christmas lights will again be put up in the centre of Greasby. Over £750 is needed to pay for these. All offers of help will be appreciated. Contributions can be left at Greasby Library.

Greasby Community Centre has completed a major refurbishment, which has included new flooring, redecoration, resealing of the main hall floor, new shutters and automatic front doors. Enquiries from potential users are welcome - call Cath Humphreys on 678 3420.

The **RNLI** are holding their annual Bazaar in Greasby Community Centre on Saturday 25th October from 10.00 till 12.00

Section Three

Funding

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

The Community Engagement Team pilots a new and exciting way of giving money to the community.

July saw the first '*Participatory Budget (PB)*' event take place in Wallasey Town Hall. Wirral has been chosen as one of the national pilot areas for PB, so all eyes were on this event.

Every year, each area forum has funding available for organisations and individuals looking to carry out projects in their community.

Traditionally this funding has been allocated by a panel of councillors and community representatives assessing each application.

While this way of allocating the funding stayed the same for 8 out of the 11 area forums, the Bidston and Cloughton and Oxton and Prenton Area Forums were chosen to pilot PB.

The purpose of PB is to allow the community itself to decide how the money should be spent in their own area.

Everyone who applied for funding was asked to come along and give a 3 minute presentation on their project and why they should be funded.

However, the unique part of PB is that all the applicants themselves get to vote on each others projects to see who gets funded.

The projects with the highest number of votes then received the funding they requested.

Comments from the PB event.....



"This process was more democratic than most funding application processes"

"Good opportunity to network & make links with similar organisations"

"This process was more democratic than most funding application processes"

Of course not all the comments were as positive as these! Like any other pilot project there are aspects of it that can be improved for next year. All the comments from the groups who took part in the event have been taken on board.

Our first PB Event proved to be successful and while lessons will be learned to improve the process for next year, we are confident 'Participatory Budgeting' will provide the community with more of a say on how money is spent in their area.



FREE FUNDING INFORMATION 4 YOU

Wirral Council supported by Wirral Local Strategic Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund are pleased to provide a FREE funding information service available online.

There are hundreds of grants available to support Wirral's voluntary and community groups from local opportunities to Government, National Lottery and Trust Funding sources.

To find out which grants you may be eligible to apply for visit our free search facility:

Step One

Go to **www.wirral.gov.uk**

Click on the *Funding Initiatives* icon under the 'Popular Pages' list.

Step Two

Then click on one of these links to browse and search for funding information.

www.open4community.info/wirral
www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral

You no longer have to be left in the dark about what funding your group or organisation could apply for, find this out for yourself.

In addition you can also visit the following web site for a wide range of associated information including signing up for regular early funding alerts via email.

www.mfip.org.uk