



## Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Tuesday, 28 October 2014</b>
<b>Time:</b>	<b>5.30 pm</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	<b>Committee Room 2 - Wallasey Town Hall</b>

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### AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**
2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 2)**  
Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 24 June 2014
3. **MATTERS ARISING**
4. **HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT (Pages 3 - 12)**
5. **ALUMNI PROJECT-CREATIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT-  
PRESENTATION**
6. **YOUTH VOICE CONFERENCE-PRESENTATION**
7. **WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES 2014 REPORT  
(Pages 13 - 24)**
8. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
9. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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## YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 24 June 2014

Present:

Chair

Cllr Chris Meaden / Cllr Tony Smith  
Beth McGuinness (young person)

Councillors

Cllr Tony Smith  
Cllr Paul Hayes  
Cllr Walter Smith  
Cllr Tracey Smith

Officers

Deborah Gornik  
*Head of Targeted Services*  
Lindsay Davidson  
*Senior Locality Manager - Youth Support*  
Steve Chan  
*Youth Support Team Manager (Birkenhead)*  
Mark Newman  
*Youth Support Team Manager (West and South Wirral)*  
David Decorte  
*Youth Support Team Manager (Wallasey)*  
Caron Drucker  
*Youth Support Team Manager (Creative Arts Development)*  
Pat Rice  
*Team Manager Response*  
Jamie Greer  
*Team Leader – Youth Support*  
Adam Mellor  
*Team Leader – Youth Support*  
Jo Day  
*Team Leader – Operations Manager, Response*  
Christina Diamond (young person)  
Beth McGuinness (young person)  
Isobel McDaid (young person)

Apologies

Cllr Pat Williams, Cllr Wendy Clements, Cllr Cherry Povall, Cllr Chris Carubia, Cllr Philip Brightmore

Index to minutes

Minute 1	-	Welcome and apologies
Minute 2	-	Minutes of previous meeting
Minute 3	-	Matters arising
Minute 4	-	Head of Service Report
Minute 5	-	Making a Difference, Youth Support Case Studies - Presentation
Minute 6	-	Wirral Young Peoples Engagement and Participation Framework
Minute 7	-	Any other business
Minute 8	-	Date of next meeting

**Minute 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

Cllr Chris Meaden opened the meeting and handed the chair over to Beth McGuinness.

**Minute 2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Agreed as a true record

**Minute 3 MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising

**Minute 4 HEAD OF SERVICE REPORT**

Lindsay Davidson presented the Head of Service Report including outlining the Early Help Offer and prevention principles. Deborah Gornik reported that a Targeted Services Steering group is being developed to progress early help and partnership working.

**Minute 5 MAKING A DIFFERENCE, Youth Support Case Studies - PRESENTATION**

Creative Youth Development – Kidstime Project

Presented by Christine Diamond and Jamie Greer

Response

Presented by Pat Rice and Isobel McDaid

An example of a young person's journey

Presented by Adam Mellor – highlighting the journey through the Gateway process and partnership with Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP).

**Minute 6 WIRRAL YOUNG PEOPLES ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION FRAMEWORK**

Lindsay Davidson presented the draft Young People's Engagement and Participation framework.

Beth McGuinness explained the process for Wirral young people and her involvement in the Youth Voice Group. Deborah Gornik outlined the role of the Youth Engagement Strategic Champions and Youth Engagement Reference Group. The Framework will be launched in Autumn 2014.

**Minute 7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Tony Smith asked if the new 'my ticket' day bus pass was useful for young people. Beth McGuinness commented that it helps, but it would be also good to consider a weekly/monthly pass.

Beth McGuinness handed the chair back to Cllr Smith who thanked her for chairing the meeting.

**Minute 8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 28 October 2014 – to be confirmed. Meeting closed at 6.45pm.

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 28<sup>th</sup> October 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 **GIRLS Project** - The next G.I.R.L.S. Project, funded by the Public Health Outcomes Fund, commenced in September. The G.I.R.L.S. Project is a specialist project specifically designed to support the most vulnerable and at risk young women aged 13 -19 across Wirral. The project, offers a unique, informal and educational 12 week personal development programme to Wirral young women, which includes a weekend residential at Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre and a 'finale' celebration event.

The overall aims of the project are to:

- Reduce risk taking behaviour including drug and alcohol misuse
- Reduce offending / re-offending and anti-social behaviour
- Increase resilience around peer pressure and harmful relationships
- Improve aspirations and opportunities, particularly regarding healthy lifestyles and making informed choices

1.2.1 **LADS Project** - Building on the success of the G.I.R.L.S. Project, the Youth Support Service began delivering the Lads Project in September. The project is aimed at young men aged between 13-19 years old and is taking place in the four Wirral localities. Each locality project will have up to 14 young men participating in the course. The project has been designed to address a number of issues relevant to young men in today's society, including:

- Drug / alcohol misuse
- Harmful / exploitative relationships
- Criminal / anti-social behaviour
- Raising aspirations and developing resilience

Each of the four groups will take part in an eight week informal education programme aimed at developing young men's awareness and an understanding of the above issues to support them to build confidence, self-esteem and strengthen resilience. Towards the end of the project there will be a residential run from Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre to consolidate what young people have learnt throughout the course. There will also be a focus on building on skills, strategies and aspirations and the young men will work towards setting a personal action plan for the future.

## Area team reports

### 2.0 Wallasey District

- 2.1 **Wallasey Youth Hub** - 20 young people have completed the V-Inspired programme gaining their 10 hours volunteering accreditation for carrying out duties in the Youth Hub. 11 young people have joined the Youth Hub members committee which meet once a month to make decisions on activities and what they would like to see in the Youth Hub. 20 young people have completed a 12 week Virtual Babies course which included sessions around sexual health, alcohol, internet safety and the realities of having a baby. The course finishes with young people taking a virtual baby home for the weekend.
- 2.2 **Wallasey Outreach Team** facilitates open access sessions for hard to reach young people using the Kontaktabus. Youth workers offer brief interventions and support around drug and alcohol use, healthy relationships and sexual health. The team deliver workshops covering breast and testicular cancer. The Lesbian, Gay, Bi, Transgender and Questioning group (LGBTQ) operates on a Monday night. Young people have engaged in a number of different sessions including sexual health, alcohol awareness, LGBT history and gender identity.
- 2.3 **Moreton Youth Club** - Young people have participated in workshops supporting their personal development in sexual health, also Alcohol Alright, anti-bullying sessions and what is anti-social behaviour, delivered by the Youth workers. They also worked in partnership with Response on a substance misuse workshop.

Healthy eating sessions have provided opportunities for young people to experience sampling new fruits and making healthy fruit kebabs. Over the summer five young people participated in the National Citizen Service Project graduating in September. These young people have also engaged in the G.I.R.L.S. project and are active senior members. Sports Development workers have enhanced the sport offer in the youth club and provide regular sessions.

### 3.0 Birkenhead District

- 3.1 **Birkenhead Youth HUB** - Young people participated in sporting and recreational activities such as football, rounders, badminton, basketball, Tae Kwon-Do, dance and Majorettes. Discussion sessions have focused on media safety, highlighting the dangers of the use of mobile phones and the internet, as well as looking at risk taking behaviour and consequences of their actions. Young People have also had the opportunity to express their views at the District Youth Forum. Partnership work between the Hub and the Youth Federation providing National Citizenship Service (NCS) projects have

benefited young people who have been raising funds for local good causes by organising community fun days.

- 3.2 **Birkenhead Outreach Team** – Outreach Youth Workers work in partnership with Targeted Youth Support agencies including Sports Development, Merseyside Police and Brook to deliver regular Thursday and Friday night diversionary activities. The target areas are identified by the Anti Social Governance Group, analysing local data and observation by Youth Outreach staff. The use of the Kontactabus enables group work to take place, delivering brief interventions addressing and responding to alcohol and drug awareness, relationships and sexual health. The primary focus is to create a safe environment whilst reflecting on risky situations. Young people consider personal safety and harm reducing options available to them through information resources and workshops delivered by Youth Support staff within the boundaries of a negotiated relationship. Young people are also sign posted to other focused main initiatives supported and delivered by Youth Support and partners, e.g. the G.I.R.L.S. and LADS Projects.

The current targeted geographical areas are located in Mersey Park, Charing Cross, Borough Road, Birkenhead Park, Ilchester Square, North Birkenhead, Townfield Close and The Arno, Prenton. The team operates Tuesday to Saturday between 6-10pm. Key to the work is maintaining voluntary relationships with targeted young people in the hot spot areas, supporting young people through the Gateway referral process, working closely with the Intensive Family Intervention Programme (IFIP) and linking up with the Merseyside Police 7 Beats Initiative and the Anti-Social Behaviour Problem Solving Groups.

Special project work includes working in partnership with the Police, Parks and Open Spaces responding to the criminal damage caused in Flaybrick Memorial gardens. A volunteering opportunity for 14 young people was organised to help challenge the negative image of young people and promote their engagement in positive activities. Staff from Birkenhead Youth Outreach Team also utilised the Birkenhead Kontactabus to engage and challenge peer groups of young people who were believed to be responsible for the damage.

- 3.3 **Charing Cross Youth Club** - The club members' committee organised and held a Saturday evening disco. It proved to be an excellent social event. A young person was the DJ who was praised for his professionalism. An unexpected but welcomed older young person with learning difficulties that had become estranged from his family was re-united with his mother at the event. The young people helped with the food and sold raffle tickets raising over £100.

## 4.0 South Wirral

- 4.1 **South Wirral Youth Hub** - Young people have been engaging in a variety of projects/ activities including the GIRLS project, smoking cessation work, World Cup Fever, drug workshops and music quiz Thursdays. The team manager has been supporting eight young people through the Gateway process either as a lead professional or as part of team around the family meetings. Through this work, five additional young people are regularly engaging in Youth Hub activities.
- 4.2 **South Wirral Outreach Team** has been working in partnership with Response to address anti-social and risk taking behaviour taking place in New Ferry. Issue based youth work using the Kontaktabus gave young people the opportunity to access information to help them make healthier lifestyle choices. Youth workers signposted young people to both the locality Youth Hub and Youth Club and other relevant agencies that offer support and information appropriate to their needs.
- 4.3 **Bebington Youth Club** - Young people have redesigned and repainted the Music Room. A G.I.R.L.S Group ran from the youth club providing resources and information to the young women involved. The Wirral Crime Prevention Panel funded a twelve week Boxercise class with the aim to encourage young people to keep fit and have fun.

## 5.0 West Wirral

- 5.1 **West Wirral Youth Hub** has been offering support to young people who are making the transition to sixth form or college. On Thursdays, with support from Leisure Link, young people with additional needs are accessing the Youth Hub with the aim of supporting them in accessing mainstream provision. Young women took part in a twelve week G.I.R.L.S personal development programme which includes a residential experience.
- 5.2 **West Wirral Outreach Team** offered a range of diversionary activities to over 150 young people this quarter using a coordinated approach to maximise resources, working closely with the Police and voluntary sector. In partnership with Sports Development and Fender Youth Club the team run a sports night targeting young people involved in anti-social behaviour (ASB) on the Woodchurch Estate. Youth workers have encouraged young people to have a voice in their community and participate in self planned activities including decision making choices linked to various consultations.
- 5.3 **Fender Youth Club** has been closed due to a health and safety issue. The team have been using outreach to build relationships with a group of young people that have been causing criminal damage and ASB in the local

community. As a result of young people not taking part in ASB, young people were involved in two trips to reward good behaviour; this was funded by the Police Crime Commissioner Fund.

## **6.0 Creative Youth Development**

- 6.1 **Creative Youth Development** (formerly Wirral Youth Theatre) is currently delivering a range of participative arts projects with targeted groups of young people funded by the Early Intervention Grant. Under the Youth Challenge programme, Creative Youth Development (CYD) has been commissioned to work with 400 young people in specified localities including Tranmere, Birkenhead, Seacombe and Bidston. This target has been exceeded within the first 6 months of the 12 month contract with over 500 young people having participated in a range of arts based projects at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre and in locality settings such as St James Centre, Birkenhead Youth Club and Guinea Gap Leisure Centre.
- 6.2 **The Alumni Portrait Exhibition** funded by EIG, celebrated the work of 9 young photographers with specific learning and additional support needs. Building on skills learnt in previous photography projects, they embarked on an ambitious process to photograph and interview over 50 former members of Wirral Youth Theatre (WYT), recording their stories and reflecting the positive influence it has on their journey into adulthood. Rising to the challenge of using a 40 year old film camera, the young photographers improved their technical skills through classroom based study and hands on practical sessions using digital and film cameras and experimenting with different lighting techniques. They received talks from guest speakers and learnt interviewing techniques from a journalist. The exhibition was opened by the Mayor of Wirral at an event at Pilgrim Street in September which involved over 80 past and present members sharing their personal stories about how WYT had influenced their life and career pathways. A presentation pack of 13 postcards has also been produced as a record of the distance travelled by the photographers and the Alumni subjects. The exhibition now has a permanent place at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre and a touring version is currently sited at the Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre from where it will move on to a number of venues across Merseyside. The event also celebrated the new name and branding as Creative Youth Development.
- 6.3 **The Last Minute Peer Education Company**, part of CYD, has also been commissioned by the Public Health Outcome Fund to deliver two theatre-in-education packages to Wirral schools. One of the pieces is 'If You Loved Me You Would' which explores the broad spectrum of teenage relationship abuse. It will be performed at Pilgrim Street for two weeks in November and schools have been offered free performances; follow up workshops and a bursary to help with transport costs. The second production, entitled 'Because', explores the consequences of bullying behaviours. This will also be offered free to schools with follow up workshops and will tour schools in early 2015.

- 6.4 The Kidstime project has recently won a NHS award and has been featured in a number of good practice journals. However, the project is currently working at capacity and there is a waiting list of families referred by a range of organisations. The cross agency steering group are seeking further funding to ensure the project continues and is able to meet the demand. Several of the young people who attend 'Kidstime' have been supported to progress onto and gain additional support from other CYD projects and from the G.I.R.L.S. personal development programme.
- 6.5 CYD has also delivered workshops for CATCH 22 working with vulnerable young women delivering a workshop on media literacy. Other externally funded work includes delivering community dance modules at Hope University and training and advice on developing girls work at the Toxteth Youth Zone.

## 7.0 Response

- 7.1 **Housing Service** - The team has carried out 495 contacts with young people accessing the housing service this quarter. A new Wirral based supported housing project for 16 and 17 year olds who are in need of immediate accommodation has been opened this quarter. The project provides emergency accommodation and a safe place to stay for up to 8 weeks, for 6 young people. Initial Assessment via Social Care, and a suitable plan is explored with the young person and family during this interim period. Outcomes have included a return home; living with family members or referrals to supported accommodation projects. The new project is working well and has enabled some families to have a period of respite, receive support and young people return home in a planned way where possible.

A joint initiative involving an accommodation provider, Response and young people took place this quarter and resulted in a positive healthy eating project which has received good outcomes for those young people involved.

- 7.2 **Counselling Service** - This quarter 280 sessions have been delivered to 109 unique individual young people. The Drop-in service is well used and a number of agencies are signposting young people for counselling.

Information relating to self harm and suicide ideation during first assessment remains a significant indication in young people requiring help, e.g. of 58 unique individuals seen this period 29 (50%) said they had self harmed and had at some time had suicidal thoughts.

- 7.3. **Drug and Alcohol Service** - This quarter a number of young people reported to the drug/alcohol worker during their one to one sessions that a large organised fight had taken place with over a hundred young people in attendance at Victoria Park. This was between Rock Ferry and several other areas including Birkenhead, Seacombe, Beechwood and Birkenhead North. Several young people had been arrested for offensive weapons and illegal substances including cannabis and ecstasy. Drug related violence towards

young people is still a concern. Youth workers are hearing about young people being assaulted, intimidated and properties being targeted due to drug debt.

- 7.4 Progress is being made on a new Arrowe Park Hospital Accident and Emergency Department, alcohol pathway. A room has been identified at the hospital for Response to deliver a brief intervention / support clinic for young people. This progress is supported by a number of health partners who are pleased with developments and the work being undertaken at Arrowe Park Hospital with hospital presentations involving substance misuse and young people.

## **8.0 Participation and engagement**

- 8.1 **The Youth Voice Group** continues to meet at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre on Monday evenings and the main focus of their work has been on planning the workshop content of the Youth Voice Conference to be held at Wallasey Town Hall on 16<sup>th</sup> October, 9.30 – 3pm. Initially, the group helped to design a questionnaire that was completed by 200 young people from across Wirral. The consultation feedback was then analysed and the pre-dominant theme that young people wanted to focus on was mental health and emotional well being.

A time-limited 'steering group' has been established to ensure that the conference benefits from the input of a range services to enable better outcomes and be a more meaningful experience for those young people involved. The theme identified from the consultation links closely with the Vision 2018 Children and Young People's Department priorities and so the need for close linkages particularly important during the conference planning stage. The services involved include CAHMS, Terrence Higgins Trust, Wirral Autistic Society and the NHS Early Intervention Team. The partners' role has been to provide support and correct information to inform the workshop content and planning.

Seven workshop themes have been identified which are isolation (related to social media and gaming), dealing with loss and change, healthy relationships, dealing with homophobia, media pressure and literacy, autism and ADHD and managing stress. The aim of the workshops will be to enable young people to share opinions, access support and information, formulate their views and questions to present to panel members. The workshops will be planned and facilitated by district youth work teams, consultants from the steering group and young people who are trained as peer educators. The structure of the day will include issue based performances by young people from Creative Youth Development, a 'hot seating' panel and a market stall of relevant organisations. Motions from the Youth Voice Conference will also be carried forward to the Youth Parliament which will take place on the evening of 11<sup>th</sup> November.

## 8.2 Framework for Young People's Engagement and Participation

Elected members, chief officers from across the private and public sectors and the voluntary, community and faith sector have been invited to an event that will take place before the Youth Parliament to launch the Youth Engagement Strategic Champion team which will be an integral part of the 'Framework for Young People's Engagement and Participation'. The role of the Youth Engagement Strategic Champions will be to facilitate a strategic approach to co-ordinate youth engagement across the respective organisations in relation to listening to and involving young people in decision making about local services. They will also ensure organisations have open communication with young people to make sure that they are at the heart of service development and delivery and offering challenge and scrutiny in respect of the design and delivery of strategies and policies which may affect young people. The event will involve an interactive activity facilitated by young people from the Youth Voice Group.

## 9.0 Health Services in Schools (HSIS)

9.1 This summer Health Services in Schools delivered a personal development programme for vulnerable and young women over a two week period. Two, five day programmes were delivered followed by a celebration meal for both groups. The programme provides a personal development opportunity for vulnerable and at risk young women that would enhance their self-esteem, confidence, resilience, respect for themselves, others and aspirations for the future. This programme links closely with the G.I.R..L.S. project.

## 10.0 Play Service

10.1 **Beechwood** – Currently, there are 142 children registered, and a noticeable increase in the number of under 8's attending the playscheme. The World Cup tournament held this summer in Brazil enabled the staff to introduce a host of cultural activities for the children including food tasting, flag making, carnival costume making and Samba drumming. The playscheme was decorated with flags created by the children from every country taking part in the tournament. Children participated in obstacle courses, circus skills and sports which increased their physical activity. Staff delivered sun awareness sessions with the children and how to keep themselves protected during the hot weather period. It also provided opportunities for water games and making a water slide. The staff have been supporting children and young people with their homework projects, especially when it involves creating an artifact; these artifacts have included a model of an atom. Over £800 was raised at the Summer Fair to purchase new equipment and materials for the playscheme.

10.2 **Leasowe Adventure Playground** – Children expressed a wish to build their own bike ramp, staff provided advice on the safety aspects i.e. height, bike suitability and safety equipment. The bike ramp challenge was organised by a

group of young people aged 12 -14 years. During the hot weather, staff provided sessions for the children on water safety, especially raising awareness of the dangers of the local Birket River and Moreton Shore.

Children participate in a regular cooking club choosing the menu and the meals to be prepared and cooked. They made spaghetti bolognese as well as a vegetarian option. It was such a success that the children expressed a wish to continue this project. Overall, 60 children contributed to the menu, shopping, cooking, gathering information from other children and costing out the project. The Saturday Breakfast Club continues, children experience preparing and cooking their own healthy food alternatives for breakfast.

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.

- 10.3 **Gautby Road** – The summer programme was attended by over 40 children each day, participating in sports, water games and activities including design your own hair clips and bobbles, wall murals, wool monsters and pom pom's. Children designed colourful costumes and head pieces for the Ilchester Park Festival with the support of the St James Centre. Over 50 children attended trips to Farmer Teds, Gulliver's World and also joined in the celebrations at the Annual Play Day in Birkenhead Park. The finale of the summer was the Fun Day, children enjoyed the disco, bouncy castle, face painting, football games, the new playground improvements and a barbecue.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson  
Senior Locality Manager – Youth Support

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## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

28 OCTOBER 2014

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WIRRAL SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYSCHMES 2014</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>JULIA HASSALL</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Cllr TONY SMITH</b>
<b>KEY DECISION</b>	<b>NO</b>

#### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the summer play opportunities provided through Wirral Play Council Summer Holiday Play Scheme Programme and the Targeted Youth Support Service's play schemes in 2014.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

2.1 Committee is asked to note the report.

#### 3.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

3.1 The report is for information.

#### 4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 Wirral Play Council has been providing free (at the point of delivery) open access play for children in Wirral since 1974, and receives a grant from Wirral Children and Young People's Department to provide summer play schemes, in the school summer holidays throughout Wirral. Children and young people aged 6 to 14 are welcome to attend the play schemes. The Wirral Play Council Executive Committee manages the summer playschemes, with the day to day running organised by the Play Development Officer, supported by administration staff.
- 4.2 To enhance existing provision, Wirral Play Council applied for funds to provide additional summer play schemes. An application to the Lottery Fund supported by the Magenta Umbrella Residents group enabled summer playschemes to run in Prenton and Eastham. Grants from the West Wirral constituency and Public Health Outcomes Fund also supported schemes in West Kirby and Livingstone Street, Birkenhead.
- 4.3 In 2014 Wirral Play Council conducted an operational review in order to maintain an effective service without compromising standards set each year. Therefore, schemes operated four day weeks, to retain a level of geographical coverage. A large percentage of the budget is allocated to playworkers staffing costs and this figure is increasing each year to keep in line with the minimum wage set by the government. The remaining grant is spent on play equipment, transport,

administration and providing the Play Day. Wirral Play Council also received funding of £500 from “Love Wirral”. This supplied each playscheme with tomato and strawberry plants which children grew and sampled for the duration of the schemes.

- 4.4 Recruitment for the summer playworkers started early in the year with posts advertised in February and March. This allowed adequate time to put workers through the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Scheme) process and complete other checks, such as references. The interviews occurred during the Easter break. Every year a number of play workers return. This year, there were 34 returning play workers making up 60% of the overall total of play workers recruited. The returning play workers previous experience is invaluable, as they can offer support and guidance to new play workers.
- 4.5 All new play workers complete a programme of pre summer training that takes place at Wirral Play Council. During their time at the Play Council they undertake a nationally recognised play work qualification, Take 5 for Play, which is delivered in-house. This is a comprehensive introduction to playwork and accredited by the University of Gloucester (Playwork Partnership). In order, for them to complete the course they must complete practical work and a reflective diary, to support their play work practice. Further in-house training provided at Wirral Play Council equips the play workers with working knowledge of legislation, policies and procedures plus practical play skills such as arts and craft, sports and games. Paediatric First Aid was delivered by Coniston, as it is a requirement that each play scheme has at least one qualified First Aider. This year, 11 play workers gained this qualification which enabled every scheme to provide two qualified First aiders.
- 4.6 This year 15 play schemes were run by Wirral Play Council, throughout the Wirral, and number of new venues were utilised, details of all summer play schemes can be found in Appendix 1. The schemes were promoted through the local libraries, schools, community groups, local supermarkets, the Wirral Play Council website and a Facebook page. (In addition, leaflets were distributed to each elected member).

A highlight of the summer was the Play Day. Over 3,000 children and their families came from all over the Wirral to enjoy the free play activities in Birkenhead Park (see Appendix 1). Once again, Wirral Play Day proved to be a major summer attraction in Birkenhead Park.

## **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 5.1 Not applicable

## **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 Not applicable

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The majority of play activities involve children, young people, parents/carers and the wider community as active participants in the consultation processes when planning new and existing summer play schemes.

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

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

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

9.1 This year 12 play schemes were funded primarily by a grant of £30,000 from Wirral Borough Council.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are none.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

11.2 No Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for this report.

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 There are none.

## **13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 There are none.

### **REPORT AUTHORS: Steve Chan**

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### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Play schemes by District and Play Day 2014

Appendix 2 - Attendance and Registration Statistics 2014

## Playschemes by District and Play Day 2014

### Wallasey District

#### **Seacombe Community Centre, Seacombe – 49 registrations**

Seacombe Community Centre has now moved through the Asset Transfer process and is managed by the community. The Play Council were unable to use this facility last year, so were delighted to return this year. Local children who attended the scheme consistently returned. The building is a focus within the community, and the play scheme provides much needed provision in the area. Overall, this was a successful playscheme attended by local children who enjoyed a variety of crafts activities and outdoor play which included jewellery making, group games, dressing up and lots of free play using their imagination with the support of enthusiastic playworkers.

#### **Moreton Youth Club, Moreton - 76 registrations**

This centre is an ideal space for a playscheme, incorporating a sports hall for sports and a large activity room alongside the hall for quieter activities and crafts. There is a lack of outdoor space but the playworkers utilised Lingham Park on occasions throughout the summer. This venue is always well attended and the children produced colourful posters asking for the playscheme to return next year. The children enjoyed dodge ball, bingo, icing cakes and an extensive range of arts and crafts, sports activities, planting and growing plants which they could sample and take home.

#### **The Belvidere Centre, Liscard – 73 registrations**

This playscheme is closed access and provides activities for children with a wide variety of abilities and additional needs. The playscheme is integrated and siblings are encouraged to attend. The facility is fully accessible, meets the needs of the children and has a large outdoor space. There is a high level of involvement from both parents and volunteers, which proves invaluable. Overall the children enjoyed themselves and had the opportunity to socially interact with their peers. The total number of registered children remains high year after year. The children attended Wirral Play Day and enjoyed joining in the celebrations.

#### **Harrison Hall, Wallasey Village - 63 registrations**

This venue has a great atmosphere. The playworkers have formed good relationships with the children and their parents, along with good support from the committee and the Reverend. The children participated in activities including bracelet making, collage, planting and growing, games and sports, dance and drama, free play, den making, dodge ball, arts and craft and creative challenges. The parents expressed the view and showed interest in running the scheme at half term.

### Birkenhead District

#### **Ridgeway Community Centre, Noctorum – 48 registrations**

The Ridgeway Community Centre had been fully refurbished and includes a large hall, recreation room and fully equipped kitchen area. Due to the refurbishments ball games could not be played in the large hall, but the children enjoyed table tennis, badminton, pool and a range of parachute games and arts and craft activities, planting and growing strawberries, den making and slack lining. This venue needs a banner style advert outside of the building to promote the playscheme as it is not very visible from the road.

#### **Prenton Rugby Club, Prenton - 95 registrations**

This is the third year at the Rugby Club and is becoming an established venue. The registration figures increased and it was well supported by the local community, who value the importance of a play provision in the area. A large banner was displayed at the entrance to the long drive promoting the playscheme. This provided parent and children with times of operation, target age and the open access policy. The scheme was supported by Magenta Housing and the Resident's Umbrella Group, who secured funding for the venue. The children participated in dodge ball, prisoner, cricket, football, rounders, tag-rugby, treasure hunt, den building, creative painting, clay model making, loom bands, face painting, jewellery making, dressing up, planting and growing their own tomatoes and strawberries. The children particularly enjoyed the talent show and parents valued importance of the scheme as a community resource.

### **Livingstone Community Centre, Birkenhead - 68 registrations**

Building on the success of the play scheme delivered in the Whit holidays, a five week scheme was provided for the local community. This is an established venue in the heart of Birkenhead consisting of a large hall, coffee bar area, outside playground and caged sports area. The scheme was regularly attended and the children participated in creative arts and crafts, painting, collage, loom bands, hama beads, sand pictures, clay modelling, producing some interesting sculptures and forms which they could paint the next day. The children showcased their creativity at Play Day by winning first prize for their colourful and imaginative 3D poster "Play is". The indoor sports hall was utilised for dodgeball, prisoner, tennis, footy and parachute games. The children participated in talent shows on the outdoor stage, football, basketball, quick cricket, and used the outdoor space for physical free play. The next scheme is planned for the October half term break.

### **Wirral Play Council (additional needs scheme) - registrations 78**

This playscheme is closed access and provides activities for children with a wide variety of abilities and additional needs including autistic, severe and learning difficulties with eight children attending needing 1-1 special care. This is a closed access play scheme running weekdays from 10.00am until 3.00pm and the facility is fully accessible with sensory room, art room, large hall, quiet space and a small well resourced outdoor space. The play workers are fully trained and deal with every aspect of welfare for the individual children. The scheme is a central hub for children with disabilities who are transported to the facility on escorted mini buses or dropped by their parents. The children like to produce lots of creative art work and last year they won first prize in the canvas competition at Play Day, judged by the Mayor of Wirral. They consistently produce creative art work and this year came a close second in the Play Day poster competition. A large group of the children attended Wirral Play Day and joined in the celebrations.

## **West Wirral District**

### **Coronation Park, Greasby – 44 Registrations**

This playscheme operated from the Greasby Pavilion which has a small modern indoor area for arts and crafts, and being ideally situated in the park, immediate access to a large outdoor area along with a caged area and fixed outdoor table tennis. With the fantastic weather this summer, the outdoor area proved to be a big hit with the children. They participated in a myriad of sports activities, such as basket ball, football, cricket, rounders, netball and den building. Children also enjoyed lots of arts and craft model making and designing loom bands. This venue attracts a core group of local children who attend on a regular basis. This year the play scheme operated from the Greasby Pavilion, which being situated in the park provides immediate access to a large outdoor area. A core of children regularly used the scheme, and enjoyed the activities, such as den building, creative arts & crafts, bracelet making and outdoor sports and games

### **Overchurch Community Shop, Overchurch – 30 registrations**

This playscheme was again located at the Community Shop, which has been refurbished. The venue consists of two small rooms which the staff and children utilise well. They were able to participate in dressing up, drama, dance, creative arts and crafts, loom bands, growing and nurturing plants. The outdoor area is excellent for den building, treasure hunts, slack lining, football rounders, cricket, parachute games and lots more besides. The registrations showed a small increase on last year's figures.

### **Woodchurch Leisure Centre, Woodchurch - 60 registrations**

This venue was originally to be held at the Fender Youth Club, but due to health & safety reasons it was moved down stairs to the hall in the leisure centre. The staff and children adapted well and utilised the indoor and outdoor areas fully. The children participated in a variety of activities including face painting, drama, Woody's got Talent, dodgeball, cricket, football, painting, collage, creative free play, planting and growing tomatoes, strawberries and pansies which they could take home at the end of the summer.

### **West Kirby Youth Hub – 75 Registrations**

The play scheme was based at West Kirby Youth Hub in the Concourse. Although, lacking any outdoor space, the facility is well resourced with a spacious indoor area. The playscheme has almost doubled its registration figures from last year, with the children regularly returning on a daily basis. The children enjoyed a myriad of activities including; creative art and crafts, model making, junk modelling, loom bands, threads, talent shows, drama, dance, active sports, pool, table tennis, parachute games, competitions, board games and lots opportunities for large interactive team games. Children also experienced being gardeners for the summer and planted and grew tomatoes and strawberry plants. They watered and nurtured the plants, by the third week they were able to taste what they had grown. Again, children and parents gave positive feedback about play scheme and the impact for the area.

## **South Wirral District**

### **Eastham Youth Hub, Eastham - 126 Registrations**

A large venue with two indoor halls, coffee bar, plus an outdoor space including purpose built sports pitch. This offered the chance for children to explore and enjoy the outdoors in a safe environment and engage in free play. A well attended scheme, with a number of children moving on to the Youth Hub. This transitional link with the Youth Hub enables a seamless service to be delivered for children and young people in the area. The scheme was funded by the lottery with support of Magenta Housing and the Wirral Residents Umbrella group. The children participated in a wide range of activities including, creative arts and crafts, loom bands, painting competitions, collage, clay model making, paper dresses, drama, dance, dressing up, talent show and competitions. The outdoor space was utilised fully, children and staff joining in the water games, rounders, football, basketball, cricket, den building, slack lines, parachute games, and traditional games, including stuck in the mud, sharks/seaweed and hide and seek. The play workers organised treasure hunts and facilitated loose parts sessions. The children also planted and grew their tomatoes and strawberries. They were also each given a pansy plant, which was their responsibility to water for the duration of the playscheme. After four weeks, they took these home to either re-pot or replant in the garden. The local parents expressed their gratitude by contacting Wirral Play Council to congratulate them on a successful scheme provided by an excellent staff team.

### **Bebington Youth Club, New Ferry – 45 registrations**

This is the fourth year at the Bebington Youth Club and great links have been forged with the staff, children and parents, with many children that have attended our

playschemes moving on to the youth club. Bebington Youth Club was operational for two days a week and Courtney Park Community Centre was utilised for the other two days. This was reflected in the lower registration numbers. However this is a special venue where the children and staff feel they belong and can explore and expand their play experiences. They enjoyed sports activities including slack lining, prisoner, dodgeball, the spider web challenge, the cube, football and cricket along with arts and creative crafts including, loom bands, models, collage, threads etc. The link with the youth club was reinforced by a young male volunteer, who has been a great ambassador for the club and the children. The parents and children expressed their wishes that their club should remain open and the summer playscheme should return there next year.

### **Courtney Park, Rock Ferry – 19 registrations**

This venue operated a split week with the Bebington Youth club resulting in a two day week, and again this is reflected in the registrations. The venue has a small indoor space which was utilised for arts and crafts, board games, reading, and quiz games. The outdoor area is fully enclosed by the surrounding houses and is a fantastic space for all sports and large group participation games. Courtney Park Playscheme was organised by a group of volunteers, with qualified support from Wirral Play Council staff.

### **St Barnabas Village Centre, Bromborough - 59 registrations**

This was a new venue located in the centre of Bromborough Village. The previous year the scheme had to re-locate because the venue was not fit for purpose anymore. The centre consisted of a large hall and kitchen area indoors, with a large grassed area that could be accessed by crossing the enclosed car park. The children participated in arts and creative crafts, loom bands, friendship bracelets, drama, dance, role play, dressing up, den building, treasure hunt, parachute games, football, netball, rounders and cricket.

### **Bebington High Sports College, Bebington - 125 registrations**

This was the second year at this venue and it continues to be one of the most attended playschemes. There is access to a large dining hall, a large outside area, which all have great amenities. The children enjoyed activities such as arts and creative crafts model making, poster design, competitions, drama, dance, loom bands, dodgeball, cricket, parachute games, prisoner, rounders, netball and large games. The playworkers and children fully enjoyed this playscheme, and the telephone calls from parents passing on congratulations to the staff, confirmed the playscheme as a valuable local resource.

### **Play Day – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, Birkenhead Park**

This year's Play Day took place in Birkenhead Park on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August. The day requires organisation, planning and preparation, including assembling large marquees, shelters, positioning barriers, setting up activities by a dedicated team of playworkers, as well as ensuring the site operates within health and safety requirements. Extra toilets and refuge bins were supplied to cope with the additional demand. The Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Steve Foulkes officially opened Play Day by judging this year's banners, based on the theme, "What does play mean to me?" The banners were produced by children from each playscheme and were displayed for the public in the Pavilion gallery for the whole week.

During the day, children could access all the free activities on offer. Play Day activities included slack lining, the big art attack, inflatable castles, drum circle, the straw bales experience, talent show tent, art and crafts, face painting, water slide, climbing wall, body zorbs and the large soft play construction in the game zone. Large queues formed throughout the day and were managed well by the staff. The day was a great success and the weather was fantastic, with 3,000 children and their families in attendance. Other

agencies who provided activities and supported Play Day included Youth Support Service, Park Rangers, Police, Fire Brigade, Sports Development Staff, Barnardo's, Magenta Housing, NHS Live Well camper van, Surestart, Soccer Loco, Tracey's Stories and St. John's Ambulance. It was reported in the Birkenhead Park news that Wirral Play Day was a great success and the most attended activity on the calendar for 2014.

## **Summary**

This year, there were 16 play schemes with 1,038 children registered with attendances totalling 4,751 children. The service endeavours to provide an inclusive service and 58 children with additional needs attended open access provision, as well as 73 on closed access schemes. Play Day was celebrated in conjunction with National Play Day, over 3,000 children and parents attended the event in August at Birkenhead Park.

The standard of applicants applying for temporary summer playworker jobs remained high and there was a significant increase in the number of job applications. A high percentage of summer workers return to work the following summer, and develop careers working with children in the professions of early years, Playwork, child care workers, and teachers.

## **Comments from Children, Parents and Summer Play Workers**

The Play Council asked children, parents and summer workers their opinion of the summer programme and here is a sample of some of their comments:

### **Children said:**

*"The playscheme helped me to make friends and learn cool facts and skills that I can use at home and in school. We planted strawberry and tomato plants and we got to look after them by taking turns to water them over the four weeks."*

*"The four weeks I spent at the scheme helped me to gain confidence making me more confident now that I am back in school. I got to try a lot of new things in the scheme that made me see what I am good at. I have started to play for my school rounder's team and I practice my drawing skills every night after school."*

**Parents said:** *"A visible and practical support for families who operate on a low budget"*

*"A safe and friendly environment for young people to relax and play"*

*"Coordinated and well planned sessions that engage with the young"*

*"Encourage young people to be creative, interact with others and develop relational skills."*

*"I believe the playscheme is more than important, it is essential and significant. To lose this vital community programme would, in my opinion, be detrimental to the continued well-being of community life and confidence"*

### **Summer Play Workers said:**

*"This was my first interview and job in 2012 and it changed my life, I was unsure whether working with children was something I wanted to do! But after working for the Wirral Play Council I have volunteered for community outreach projects and now I am going on to do my PGCE"*

*“This was the first time I have worked for the Wirral Play Council, I would be more than happy to work every summer. I suffer from anxiety and mild depression, however in my role as a playworker, I regained confidence in myself and I could see the impact this playscheme has on the children’s holistic development”.*

*“Throughout the summer, I observed children evolve physically, mentally and socially, I saw first hand children interacting with people and activities they may never have had the confidence to do before”.*

*“Having worked for the Wirral Play Council as a playworker, as well as having worked within a number of local schools, I know the importance of play in a child’s development. The Wirral Play Council ticks all of the boxes and beyond! Allowing all children access to a high quality play in a safe constructive environment in which they can flourish, regardless of problems they face outside”.*

## Attendance and Registration Statistics 2014

## Summer Holiday Play Schemes

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Days</b>	<b>No of Children Registered</b>	<b>Under 8's Registered</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>Daily Average</b>
Bromborough	15	59	16	274	18
Eastham	19	126	28	1325	70
Greasby	15	44	13	268	18
Livingstone Street	16	68	29	511	34
Higher Bebington	15	30	30	709	47
Moreton	15	76	14	626	42
New Ferry	8	45	15	353	44
Noctorum	15	48	18	284	19
Overchurch	15	30	9	247	16
Prenton	19	95	18	707	37
Seacombe Children's Centre	15	49	18	331	22
Rock Ferry	7	19	7	95	14
West Kirby	19	75	24	570	30
Woodchurch	15	60	20	254	17
Wallasey Village	15	63	23	435	29
Belvidere Centre	12	73	32	875	73
Wirral Play Council Special Needs	16	78	N/A	624	32
Total		1038	314	8488	N/A

## Open Access Full-time Play schemes

<b>Centre</b>	<b>No of Children Registered</b>	<b>Under 8's Registered</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>
Beechwood	126	47	2782
Gautby Road	84	33	4252
Leasowe Adventure Playground	153	60	6018
<b>Total</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>13052</b>

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