

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

HEAD OF YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report seeks to brief the committee on the work of the Service since the last meeting in October.

1. Staff Movements

- 1.1. Michelle Langan has been seconded from her post at Leasowe Youth Youth/Outreach to the post of Health Services in Schools Co-ordinator.
- 1.2. Jenny Lloyd has retired from her post as Youth Support Worker, Moreton Youth Club. Jenny has worked in a number of roles in the Youth Service since 1977. Jenny will be missed by young people and her colleagues who all wish her an enjoyable retirement.

Area Team reports

2.0. South Wirral and Birkenhead Districts

- 2.1. Shaftesbury Youth Club's regular programme includes Tae Kwon-do, football training/coaching/fitness, badminton, volleyball, basketball, table tennis, I.T., art, residential work and group work discussions on issues such as 'Cyber Bullying'. Recently, there have been a number of sessions linked to digital music and dance. Shaftesbury has been designated as the Youth Hub for the Birkenhead District, this will mean more opportunities for young people in the area.
- 2.2. Bebington Youth Club is open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The main range of opportunities includes the popular computer suite, games in the sport hall, snooker and table tennis. Good health and physical fitness are the topics being developed for Health Promoting Youth Settings. As well as the Christmas celebrations there has also been workshops on healthy cooking, music and alcohol misuse.
- 2.3. Eastham Youth Club is open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings. It has been designated as the Youth Hub for the South Wirral District. Play Point the Wirral Play Council play initiative continues every Tuesday tea time for younger children. The current programme includes sports, dance and drama.
- 2.4. Charing Cross Methodist Youth Club continues to be busy, particularly the Special Needs group which is attracting over 70 young people. The success of the group is attributable to the array of activities available each session and the welcoming atmosphere generated by the staff and members. The club is open on four occasions throughout the week, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings plus Saturday afternoon. Mondays and Thursday are dedicated to work with special needs young people who come from a wide range of localities and the other two sessions run as an open youth club. The programme for both groups includes an extensive variety of craft workshops, discos and games and the Club makes full use of a garden area to enjoy games and activities in the outdoors. A fund raising project for stroke victims led to a member of the club abseiling down the Cunard Building dressed as Dracula this raised over £200.
- 2.5. Viking Youth Centre is open for three sessions a week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. The Club members enjoy a varied programme of sport and creative arts and play a full

and active role in the activities of the Youth Federation. Recent activities have included creative cookery, sports nights, discussions on programme planning and a trip to Alton Towers.

2.6. The Cavendish Youth Centre is open on Monday and Wednesday evenings. The newly refurbished club is proving popular with local young people; there are now separate areas for specific activities including a chill out area, a computer room and a fitness room. The theme of health continues with workshops on sexual health, alcohol awareness and street drinking.

3.0. **Wirral Youth Service Outreach Team**

3.1. In this period in the run up to the reconfiguration of the Service which will result in the formation of district outreach teams, Deeside Young People's Project and Fender Youth Action Project have been without a project manager and Noctorum Young People's Project has had a temporary manager in post. Whilst the outreach youth workers with these projects are working hard to deliver a quality service to young people, it is inevitable that the development and scope of their work has been less than if line managers had been in situ. Nevertheless, the Wirral Youth Service Outreach Team (WYSOT) has been active in engaging young people from the street groups in positive structured activities. For example, on the afternoon of Mischief Night, WYSOT organised a well attended football tournament at the Soccer Dome and the District Activity Fund has enabled the establishment of a Friday night sports session in Central Park, Liscard. The session, which is enhanced by the presence of the KontaktaBus and the use of its' lighting system, is staffed by youth workers from Wallasey Young People's Project, Seacombe Young People's Project and Sports Development coaches. The outreach youth workers made it a priority to raise awareness of the consequences of risk taking behaviour, knife crime and firework safety by means of structured sessions, opportunist workshops and discussions. Young people have been encouraged to do things that benefit others in their community and wider afield. Those from Birkenhead Youth Action Project chose to support Operation Christmas Child by using their pocket money to buy items as well as collecting donations of gifts to fill shoeboxes to send overseas. Young people from Wallasey Young People's Project visited St George's Residential home to help with Christmas decorations and to sing carols. Some of the young people developed a rapport with the residents and plan to make future visits.

3.2. Birkenhead Youth Action Project has supported young people who want to play a part in the redevelopment of the Woodlands Park. Consultations have taken place and the young people are addressing the issue of funding. The Seven Kings group, whose membership is drawn from the Muslim community, are participating in a health and fitness course, regularly attending badminton sessions at Grange Road West. The youth workers have continued to support the Indie group who attend Grange Baptist Church on a Saturday night, helping to develop the activity programme and focusing upon identifying and addressing issues of importance to the young people such as stereotyping, self esteem and body image.

3.3. Deeside Young People's Project has continued to work in a variety of locations in the area. The KontaktaBus lighting system has enabled young people to continue to make use of the Heswall Skate Park and the football pitch in Newton Park during the dark nights. Links have been established with Sports Development to enhance the offer available to young people.

3.4. Fender Youth Action Project has continued to maintain their contact with the young people of Beechwood and Ballentyne Estates. The lack of access to local sports facilities is of concern to the young people and limits the offer available to them.

3.5. The formal groups of young people affiliated to the North End Young People's Project have continued with their programmes of activities and personal development. Their activities have included a visit to Scareshow Night at Church Farm, making pumpkin lanterns for Halloween and a meal at a Chinese restaurant. During the course of their streetwork, the youth workers have maintained their efforts to engage with some of the challenging young people who gather in the

vicinity of Park Station and have had some success in relationship building with the young women of the group.

- 3.6. The Noctorum Young People's Project continues to undertake streetwork in the Noctorum, Prenton and Oxtan areas and in appropriate situations, works with the Response Alcohol and Substance Outreach Team and the Police. The Monday evening football session at Ridgeway High School sports hall is well attended.
- 3.7. Seacombe Young People's Project has made good progress in engaging with the young people in the area, some of whom are now participating in the sports sessions at St Josephs and in Central Park. A strategic approach to addressing anti social behaviour in Central Park has been developed with the Respect Team. The youth workers participated in police-led Operation Stay Safe nights and have delivered workshops to address risk taking behaviour.
- 3.8. Numbers attending South Wirral Young People's Project's (SWYPP) Friday evening football session at the Oval continue to increase. It is pleasing that girls' teams now participate. The Team England Footballers Charity funding, secured by Positive Futures for the pitches has now come to an end. However, SWYPP and the Police have secured alternative funding for these sessions until the end of April and are exploring other avenues of funding to sustain this highly successful initiative. SWYPP identified the need for a programme of sexual health education for the young people who meet in Higher Bebington Park which has resulted in a joint project with Brook which has received positive feedback from the young people and the Brook workers. The young people enjoyed the video workshops run by Wirral Youth Theatre as well as benefiting from the opportunity to learn new skills.
- 3.9. The District Activity Funded Urban Adventure Programme has provided the opportunity for groups affiliated to Wallasey Young People's Project (WYPP) to enjoy go-karting and ice skating this winter. In addition, WYPP has delivered a varied programme of activities and personal development opportunities. The KontaktaBus is an excellent resource and provides a venue for workshops and discussions about issues of importance to young people.

4.0. **Wallasey and West Wirral Districts**

- 4.1. Fender Youth Club are running a project called RE:ACT, where young people have been delivering workshops to other young people from Woodchurch High School around the dangers of carrying knives. The project involves young people delivering workshops around why and who carries knives, the dangers of knives and the law. The young people involved are also going to work with the Youth Theatre to help with their new touring production about knife crime and are going to make a DVD about people's experiences of knife crime. Fender Youth Club has now received the Bronze award in Health Promoting Youth Units.
- 4.2. Greasby Youth Club has been awarded the Bronze award in Health Promoting Youth Units. The club has had two well attended parties for Halloween and Christmas. Response staff have been coming in once a week to offer advice and guidance to young people. In addition, there have been workshops on fireworks safety and sexual health.
- 4.3. West Kirby Youth Club has had an increase of numbers since October. On a Tuesday they run a football session in the leisure centre which is well attended. The Club has been developing projects on a Monday night with Response and Brook has also been coming in to deliver sexual health and relationships sessions to the young people.
- 4.4. Leasowe Youth Project has been supporting Arena housing in developing an art project aiming to design a logo that agencies will display in their windows to say that they are youth friendly. There was a celebration night in the Millennium Centre where around 20 young people attended.
- 4.5. Moreton Youth Club has been working jointly with the police in delivering projects focusing on knife crime. They have also worked on a healthy cooking project. There have been projects on breast cancer awareness, where young people created a noticed board for both females and

males; they also made their own pink ribbons. During Bonfire night the club was open to entice young people away from the park after the display, this was done in partnership with the police.

- 4.6. St Mary's Youth Club went to see 'We will rock you' they also had a Christmas Disco where 163 young people attended. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award groups have been preparing for their expeditions learning about navigation. The Club also held a Ready Steady Cook game with only the use of trannies. Since October the club has had 2586 attendances.

5.0. **Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)**

- 5.1. WYT is now working on a new outreach tour and schools production to be staged in July – August 2010 which this year will be exploring knife and hate crime. The Theatre will be delivering a new Peer Education course accredited by the Open College which will enable young people aged 16+ to gain youth arts facilitation skills. The dance leadership course is underway with ten young dancers, accredited by Sports Leaders – British Sports Trust.

- 5.2. WYT is supporting a group of young men from Birkenhead North and Wallasey who are working towards setting up safe training and performance opportunities for break-dance crews across Wirral. This group who have named themselves CONTEMBREAK, received funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund and have run workshops called 'CYPHER NIGHTS' in youth units in youth clubs across Wirral. In March 2010 they will be holding a week long dance school for young men towards a performance event at Pacific Road. This event entitled MACHISMO 2 is an extended version of an extremely successful partnership project with schools undertaken in June 2009 and, as a result of this success, will be open to all Wirral schools and involve up to 100 young men. The CONTEMBREAK group will co-facilitate these workshops and perform at the event.

- 5.3. Music projects continue to thrive at Pacific Road and up until recently, have been sustained by two externally funded projects – 'Voltage' Volunteer Training programme and 'Reverberate' which concentrates on band development and work with young women. 'Reverberate' came to an end in December 2009 with another highly successful and well attended Live 'n' Loud gig at Pacific Road. The acts including bands, solo artists and an Urban Choir performed to an audience of over 300 and the night was facilitated by volunteers from the Voltage programme. Voltage' is part of V, the National Volunteer Programme and WYT has been selected as one of five projects across England to run the scheme and represent the North West. WYT has been funded to work with volunteers aged 16 -25 known as Youth Music Ambassadors to train them to co-facilitate music activities and to promote volunteer opportunities for young people across Wirral for three years 2008 - 2011. The current group of nine Voltage Volunteers aged 16 – 21 years are currently working as volunteers on WYT in house and outreach projects and as Young Promoters for the Live 'n' Loud gigs.

- 5.4. In September 2009, over sixty young people attended group auditions for the latest large scale multimedia production which is due to be staged in February at Pacific Road. The cast is made up of over 100 young people with a range of abilities and life circumstances. The production, named 'The Fame Factor' is a new musical theatre piece which explores the pros and cons of reality talent programmes and includes original music composed by the Voltage Music Volunteers. There will be four public performances of the show in February half term and young people will be involved at all levels of the production including front of house and as stage crew.

- 5.5. Commissioned by the District Activity Fund, WYT is running a range of Urban Arts workshops in youth clubs in each of four districts. Activities include digital film, photography and music, beat box, rap, dance and drama. To ensure this work is embedded into the youth offer in the Youth Hubs, WYT will also be running training for youth workers and senior members on using arts as a tool for good youth work. In order to extend the reach of these workshops, WYT will be running two nights of taster workshops for outreach groups and young people who do not attend youth clubs.

- 5.6. WYT has also received funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund to run a project called 'Massive' which will involve young people in each district in a series of workshops leading to a Big Urban Arts & Music Event which will launch each of the four Youth Hubs. These nights will celebrate the work

and talent of young people who have been involved in Massive and the Urban Arts Activities funded by District Activity Fund. There will also be a Young Promoters project which will support young people to take part in these large scale events and to recruit and support bands and performers from across Wirral. Young people from each district will also get an opportunity to perform at Pacific Road in a MASSIVE finale show at the end of the project.

6.0 Response

- 6.1 The Housing Support team has seen 149 different young people (for 328 sessions) between October and December. There is a vacancy on the team which has caused some capacity issues. It is intended that the post will be shortly filled.
- 6.2 Stop Gap is currently working at full capacity with those more vulnerable young people, to avoid homelessness. Feedback from the programme has been positive from young people, families and partner agencies. Young people taking part in the programme show greatly improved housing stability. They also continue to demonstrate significantly positive outcomes in other areas of their lives. Of the caseload of 14, 11 are now engaged in education or training and one young person is caring for her baby full time. The Stop Gap pilot funding from Supporting People has been extended until the end of March, with the expectation that other funding is found to continue the project.
- 6.3. The Housing Support team is currently delivering information, advice and guidance sessions to the wider Youth Service as part of the District Activity Fund bid. During the last month staff have built good relationships with young people and youth club staff. Advice and guidance has been delivered informally within the projects to 100+ young people. The initiative has allowed young people to access wider Response services and raise their awareness of other support services. Appropriate referrals have started to flow following identification of support needs. Response workers are in the process of assisting youth club staff to identify and organise workshops from specialist services, including Response teams.
- 6.4. During this quarter 68 new referrals have been received by the counselling team. Referrals included those from Response staff, self referrals, parent's, Adolescent Crisis Team, Youth Offending Service, Schools, local hostels, training agencies, colleges, GP's, Social Workers, Connexions, Police, and W.I.R.E.D. A total of 190 sessions have been delivered in this period. However, there are 43 young people on the waiting list at the moment. Presenting issues include, dealing with the past, bullying, family breakdown, personal relationship, bereavement, anger, anxiety, rejection, loneliness, sexual abuse, depression, risk taking behaviour, domestic violence, and self harm. In this three month period two males and 13 females (all under 18yrs) have admitted to feeling suicidal, some of these young people have planned and attempted suicide on one or more occasions.
- 6.5. In this quarter, the Tier 2 outreach team have received 29 one-to-one referrals, with 24 young people engaging for individual support and 22 for screenings. There have been 90 one-to-one sessions delivered, with 38 young people reporting a reduction in substance misuse. The Tier 2 Alcohol worker has received 148 referrals, with 13 individuals engaging for individual support and 12 screenings. There have been 73 one-to-one sessions delivered with 11 young people reporting a reduction in alcohol misuse. During this period, the Alcohol Intervention worker has received 73 'Arrest' and 98 'Stop' referrals. There has been 58 *Simple* and 18 *Extended* Interventions delivered this quarter.
- 6.6. The Outreach Team has engaged with an additional 2,526 young people, giving information and advice to groups in a variety of settings. The team have delivered 45 workshops, educating a further 470 young people on the risks and consequences of alcohol and substance misuse.
- 6.7. Relationships with young people through street work have developed well this quarter, with three young women coming into Response to participate in developmental group work working on self-esteem and reducing risk taking behaviour. Also, the team have engaged with a particularly hard-to-reach group of young men, who regularly engage in substance misuse. The aim is to build

trust and support them into appropriate services, e.g. the Tier 3 team. A young man, who had been part of a notorious group and introduced the team into new younger groups in his community for support, has started work for Positive Futures – Sports Coaching. This is both a positive outcome for him and a good role model for the community.

7.0 Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

- 7.1. The last few months have seen a considerable number of young people in the borough achieve Gold Awards. 30 participants from schools and youth clubs will shortly receive their Gold badges and within the year will be invited to St James' Palace to be presented to HRH Prince Philip.
- 7.2. It is encouraging to see an element of integration and cooperation between DofE units in Wirral. Many units find it difficult to staff or resource an expedition by themselves. Therefore, it is becoming more common for larger units, such as the Service's Open Award Centre, to work in conjunction with and support smaller units.
- 7.3. DofE delivery has been greatly enhanced by successful applications to the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund. In addition, Hilbre High School is being supported in their application to Aiming High for an all terrain wheelchair.
- 7.4. The DofE's new electronic registration and evidencing system, eDofE, continues to be developed in Wirral. Although this will inevitably be a long changeover with a steep learning curve, staff seem to be coping well.

8.0. International Work/ Special Needs

- 8.1. Both Callister and Belvidere Youth Clubs had to close for a few days during the recent cold spell but the closures were kept to a minimum.
- 8.2. The Belvidere Centre continues its' work with disabled young people and offers a diverse programme of activities designed to both stimulate and challenge members. During December the programme included many Christmas themed activities including quizzes, pantomime visit, disco, photography and design workshops, decoration and Christmas cooking. As part of the programme over 40 members sat down to a four course Christmas meal in the club to which they also invited committee members to join them. The unit is open on four evenings a week with members currently working towards the silver award for the Health Promoting Youth Club scheme. The Principal Youth Worker has been on sick leave for most of the year and thanks must go to the staff members who have coped in her absence. She is expected back at work in early May.
- 8.3. The Callister Youth Club meets on two evenings a week and continues with an exciting and interesting programme with emphasis on life skills training. The unit had an interesting seasonal programme including a Christmas meal, various visits, quizzes, theatre visit and art working. Members are currently planning a residential weekend for early March with the theme of integration.

9.0. Play Service

- 9.1. Wirral Play Council Special Needs playscheme was successful in gaining an Aiming High grant to fund the running of the group until March 2011. Applications for additional funding for the summer projects are also underway as planning for summer 2010 begins in February with Play Day meetings and Summer Playworker vacancies being advertised. Problems with the central heating system at the Wirral Play Development Centre began in late 2009 but a new system should be in place and working by the end of January.

- 9.2. Play Practitioners Project (Playpoint) - A consultation exercise with children led to the development of the theme 'Back to Nature' at the Woodchurch Community Centre. Children and young people were involved in the designing and painting of the exterior walls of the centre and improving the garden area with planting seeds and growing plants. Other themes were the 'Be safe' Bonfire night, Road Safety week, Playpoint Got Talents (parents were the invited audience), Olympics, Scrapheap challenge, Around the World and Food Week. Through the outcomes of the 'Feel safe' survey, Playpoint is working in conjunction with local youth clubs to encourage older young people to become in the project. This will hopefully help to break the age barriers and any negative image of teenagers.
- 9.3. The Community Play Rangers started their indoors winter programme in October half term and will return to full outdoor sessions from the Easter holidays. Current, delivery areas are Greasby, Viking Youth Club Rock Ferry, West Kirby, New Brighton, Heswall, Moreton, Liscard, Bromborough, Meols and Bebington. Most sessions have been well-attended, and the senior worker has promoted the indoor sessions at local school assemblies, leading to an increase in numbers. The Community Play Rangers are also looking to work with youth clubs to bring older children into the play sessions to promote positive images of older youths.
- 9.4. Feel Safe Play Safe Project - The project has been developed in order to meet one of the BIG Lottery portfolio outcomes, 'Enable 20% more children and young people to feel safe and reduce the fear of playing out beyond the confines of their home environment'. A survey was undertaken and 244 children were consulted in June 2009. The main findings and areas of concern were children's fear of being alone, groups or gangs of teenagers, traffic and bullying issues. These findings have been developed into the Play Safe Action plan. Following the collection of the baseline data, a further survey will be conducted in April to ascertain if children and young people feel safer. Influencing factors will be the increased presence of Community Play Rangers, the physical improvement of some play areas and the implementation of the Play Safe action plan.
- 9.5. The Leasowe Adventure Playground has been well used over the past months and has extended its opening hours to enable children from the Observatory School to use the facility during the day between 1-3pm. The school use the sessions at the playground as a reward for good behaviour during the week. It has been extremely positive to see some of the children from the school also attending the playground in their own time at weekends and evening sessions. Local primary schools also use the playground as part of the school rewards system (golden time). An arrangement was made for one of the local primary schools, to bring the whole school to the playground, 140 children attended. There are also individual children, attending with their carers on a regular basis, as well as children in care. The Senior Playworker is currently taking a healthy eating course and intends to incorporate what he learns in future playscheme activities.
- 9.6. The Beechwood Playscheme helped celebrate Halloween by turning their sports hall into a haunted forest. Over 100 children and parents screamed their way through on the night. Christmas was celebrated with a community fayre and the art room of the community centre was transformed into Santa's grotto complete with log cabin and dancing penguins. The children have started their own dance club for those children who do not wish to attend one of the fee-paying clubs that are on the estate. During the recent bad weather the Playscheme opened during the day to accommodate those children whose schools were closed. Fantastic snowball fights and snowmen competitions were held in the outside play area. The scheme is currently preparing to celebrate Australia Day on January 26 with the children making and decorating boomerangs, minisurfboards and didgeridoos.
- 9.7. The Charing Cross playscheme ran a successful programme of festive activities and organised a sit down Christmas dinner for 40 children.
- 9.8. The Lottery funded Play for All Co-ordinator is now in place and started work mid December. She is promoting the project to other professionals who can make referrals. A pilot scheme will begin on Monday 1 February at Charing Cross Playscheme; all four Play For All playworkers will be

attending the session. They will promote inclusive play and encourage children with a variety of needs and abilities to become involved.

- 9.9. The children at Gautby Road enjoyed plenty of festive fun in the run up to Christmas with many of them attending the Christmas party and visiting Father Christmas in his grotto. In early January, despite the adverse weather, the children and playworkers went to the pantomime at the Floral Pavilion.
- 9.10. Currently, Livingstone Street playscheme has 161 children registered. There have been numerous activities including a summer superstars competition, Camelot and Welsh Mountain Zoo visits. An annual Halloween party was organised and the art room was transformed into a haunted graveyard and half of the centre into a haunted house. The party was very successful with 95 children attending the event.
- 9.11. Play Builder Programme - The first year programme is entering its final phase, a number of play areas have been improved and allocated sites are due to be completed by the end of April 2010. Due to the timescales involved and the grant conditions, year one projects have been selected based on previous consultation, existing community driven projects, match funding opportunities and also sites where there are strong user/friends groups.
- 9.12. Consultation has been conducted by Play Rangers and Play Practitioners on all 11 play areas allocated for improvements. Children and young people have been involved in the decision – making process through local feeder schools, youth clubs and play centres. This included identifying their play needs and choosing play equipment for the final designs. This has led to the inclusion of more risky and challenging play equipment being incorporated into the designs.
- 9.13. The programme has been complimented by the support of local Friends of parks groups who have generated extra funding to support the improvements and an additional grant of £25k from Aiming Higher has been secured to provide more inclusive play equipment.
- 9.14. Initial year two sites had been proposed as part of the requirement of the Playbuilder Project Plan submitted to DCSF although they were subject to further consultation and negotiation to ensure a strategic approach to the location of play areas with the Wirral Play Partnership. The final year two play sites for completion in by March 2011 have been identified and agreed. Year two play sites complement the previously chosen year one play sites and ensure that there are improved play facilities across the Borough.

10.0. **Training and Staff Development**

- 10.1. The Management Development Programme (MDP) for frontline managers within the Integrated Youth Support Strategy (IYSS) is now underway in Wirral. This is a national initiative via the Children's Workforce Development Council (CWDC) and delivered by FPM Training of Leicester. There are 24 participants representing several strands of the IYSS. Five professional grade youth workers are attending along with staff from the Voluntary & Independent Sector, the Youth Offending Service, Education Social Welfare, Probation, Brooke Advisory and other who work with disabled young people. Initial feedback has been positive, and the course ends just before Easter.
- 10.2. Candidates on the NVQ programme with Wirral Metropolitan College are progressing well and many of the current cohort are nearing completion. Recruitment for the next intake after Easter is beginning. The visit by the City & Guilds External Verifier in December was extremely positive, and there were no action points.
- 10.3. The new staffing arrangement for the HUB/District model of delivery are starting to happen, and discussions for details of team development training and refreshing core skills will begin as soon as the new Hub Managers and other District youth workers are in place.

11.0. Youth Participation

- 11.1. Four young people attended a Department for Schools and Families event on 26 October at Old Trafford. The event was called "Goals - New Choices and Better Guidance for Young People" and was about raising young people's aspirations and the exciting new options in learning and work for young people. Ed Balls Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, and Sir Alex Ferguson were key speakers, along with other leading figures from business, the professions and Higher Education.
- 11.2. Representatives from the Four districts (including the Executive Youth Board, Grant Panel members and young people contacted via outreach youth workers) attended a focus group with the Police on 25 November 2009. Merseyside Police need to establish a young person's advisory group in each local authority area which meets no less than four times a year. The purpose is to enable effective consultation to take place and for young people to be at the core of those consultations. This initial meeting was to discuss knife crime relating to young people in Wirral, linked to the Home Office Tackling Knives Action Programme agenda (TKAP), stop and search techniques, 'My Ideal Police Officer' questionnaire and exploring personal experiences of dealing with the police. This will inform the work around what young people can expect through all interventions with the police. Work will continue with the Police in developing this group.
- 11.3. Councillor Shadowing Programme (in partnership with The Youth of Today, led by British Youth Council and UKYP) - A programme of shadowing with local councillors will enable over 600 young people to engage with local councillors nationally, helping them to learn about, understand and value the role of local government. A shadowing scheme will provide 480 opportunities for young people to shadow Ministers from across central government departments. Initially, Wirral will recruit and select 12 young people to participate in the local programme in May 2010. Young people will shadow Wirral Elected Members for 25 hours over a 1 - 6 week period. There may be the possibility of extending the programme to provide more young people with the opportunity of shadowing.
- 11.4. The Executive Youth Board (EYB) hosted the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament on 13 October 2009. Overall, feedback has been extremely positive, with recommendations for further development in 2010.
- 11.5. The EYB had a joint meeting with the Older People's Parliament on Thursday 10 December 2009. Five members of each group had a lengthy discussion around the new Youth Hubs, education options for young people, and the common difficulties which both groups have in publicising their activities. The Older People's Parliament offered the EYB members the opportunity to attend their Away Days (subject to school/training commitments). This was a positive first meeting, where both groups took the time to get to know each other and share current work areas. It was agreed that the two groups should make arrangements to meet again to look at common areas for working.
- 11.6. In November the EYB met with senior department officers to get an overview of the ECM strategy groups (Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve and Make a Positive Contribution). Each strategy lead gave an overview of their role, the purpose of the strategy group they lead on and some details of the priorities. The EYB found the information extremely useful and gave some ideas of how they could help and support work on the priorities.
- 11.7. Wirral successfully hosted the UKYP regional forum on Sunday 1 November at Wallasey Town Hall. These meetings take place bi-monthly across the North West and are an opportunity for UKYP representatives and other young people to meet to discuss and action issues.
- 11.8. On Friday 30 October 2009, elected Members of the UK Youth Parliament (MYPs) made history when they sat on the green benches in the House of Commons and debated the issues that matter to young people from across the UK. Two of Wirral's UKYP representatives attended this

event. During July and August young people from across the UK put forward a wide range of issues that they wanted to see and hear discussed. Eight pages of issues were submitted, and these were condensed into 22 debate statements by members of UKYP's Procedures Group. Between the middle and the end of September 2009, an online vote was held and young people from across the UK participated in this online vote. The issues discussed were:

- University education being free
- Youth crime and how to tackle it
- Free transport for over 60s, but not for young people
- Job opportunities for young people
- Lowering the voting age to 16

The event created massive media interest. It was covered by the BBC through BBC News reports and debate footage being shown on BBC Parliament as well as many newspaper articles.

- 11.9. For a number of years, UKYP regionally and nationally has campaigned to ensure that each young person across the UK receives the same high-level standard of sex and relationship education. On Thursday 5 November, Government announced that the parental right to withdraw a child from Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) lessons will be removed from the age of 15.
- 11.10. UKYP Elections 2010 - Candidate soundbyte recordings will take place week beginning 25 January and be uploaded on the website for voting the following week. The announcement event will be held on Tuesday 9 March, where two newly elected deputies will take up their positions. As UKYP elections are being held across the country at this time, the campaigns for UKYP nationally and regionally will be reviewed.
- 11.11. Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Fund - In 2009/10 following extensive consultation, the young people's grant panel identified two priority areas for the funding:
- Strategic commissioning (£293, 220) to improve young people's access to transport and leisure facilities.
 - General fund (£100,000) applications which specifically address priority areas identified by children and young people will be given priority. (Areas include: reducing teenage pregnancy; substance and alcohol misuse; homelessness; music, arts and media projects for young people; environmental projects which benefit the community).
- 11.12. For the strategic commissioning, a Commissioning sub group was established with representatives from the Grant Panel, Executive Youth Board and UKYP representatives. For access to leisure facilities, the group were aware of the commissioning and development of the Youth Hubs and wanted to support the programme delivery within these new units. Each Hub was therefore allocated £18,400 to be spent on the following areas:
- £500 towards camera/video equipment;
 - £3,500 for kitchen/dining area; £400 for arts and crafts materials;
 - £2,500 for music equipment;
 - £500 for educational books/dvds/games;
 - £750 for "Chill Out Zones"; £1,500 for Dance/Drama;
 - £3,000 for general decoration;
 - £3,000 towards trips out or to further enhance any of the above points;
 - £750 for marketing;
 - £500 for a new large TV;
 - £1,500 for running "Big Events".
- The group also agreed to topslice £100,000 for third sector organisations to enhance their provision for young people. This has led to more third sector organisations applying to the fund for the first time and a further 19 organisations have received funding.
- 11.13. For access to transport, the commissioning group have had a number of meetings with Merseytravel, the Council Forward Planning Team, Elected Members and Managing Directors of Bus Companies. The group are now aware of a range of transport initiatives they could financially support and are in the process of negotiating exactly how the money will be allocated. As a result of the meetings there have been a number of additional outcomes including:

- discussions around school transport accommodating young people's access to extended school activities
- agreement from bus providers to further explore how they could support Big events in the Hubs
- the existence of a discount card for young people aged 16-22
- agreement that two of the bus companies are willing to be hotseated at the Youth Voice Conference in 2010

11.14. Following consultation at the Youth Voice Conference, it was decided that YOF and YCF would be further commissioned in 2010/11. The funds have been allocated as follows:

- £100,000 YOF and £182,100 YCF - for strategic commissioning purposes, this money will be used borough wide for larger capital projects
- £293,220 – General Fund with emphasis on projects that meet priority areas

The decision making process for the 2010/11 funding has now started. The YOF applications have been available since November, with a deadline of 22 January 2010. The YCF commissioning applications will be available before the end of January with a deadline of 10 March. The Grant Panel are aiming to allocate all of the funds by the end of April 2010, so that projects have almost 12 months to spend the money.

11.15. You're Welcome' achieving PCT Quality Standards - Working with Government Office North West and the NHS, each PCT is developing the 'You're Welcome' quality standards as directed by the Department of Health. The standard aims to make health services more young people friendly and contains principles that will help health services (funded by the PCT) become more appropriate to the needs of young people. A worker and a group of young people will be trained to carry out a desktop evaluation of paper self assessments and mystery shopping visits. From this, areas for development will be identified and action planned with the young people as part of this process. The Service has been approached to assist Wirral PCT in the development of this group, which will include supporting the recruitment and training of young people and fulfilling the service assessment programme. Three young people will initially be trained on the 15 and 16 February, with the aim being that a pool of approximately ten young people will be trained.

12.0. Reconfiguration

12.1. The reconfiguration should be implemented in April 2010. The Youth Hubs will launch operating over 5 evenings a week and will move to six evenings as soon as possible. The Youth Hub launch events will take place at the end of April. Following discussions with Human Resources, Staffing and trade unions staff relocations are commencing.

12.2. A number of working groups have been meeting since last Autumn to work on various aspects of the reconfiguration. These working groups include marketing, workforce development, building, communication and procedures.

12.3. The development of the Youth Hub at Wallasey Fire Station is going well. The building work has been beset by a few problems which has resulted in a slip on the time frames. The architects are now indicating a handover date of 19th April 2010.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That

(1) The Committee notes this report.

Lindsay Davidson
Acting Head of Youth & Play Service