

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 16 MARCH 2010

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

CHILDREN IN CARE COUNCIL UPDATE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report updates members on the progress made in the development of the Wirral Children in Care Council, and asks members to note and comment on the first Children in Care Council Annual Report.

1. Background

1.1 Children in Care met with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on March 16th 2009 to put forward a proposal for the creation of Wirral's Children in Care Council. It was resolved that:

- Sam and Chris together with all of the young people and officers involved in the process, be thanked for their work;
- The pledge and the whole of the arrangements for the Children in Care Council be endorsed;
- Progress to be reviewed in 12 months time with representatives of the Children in Care Council being invited to the meeting.

The Children in Care Council has now been running for a year; attached is a report by the Children in Care Council, which sets out what they have achieved over the past year and their future work plan.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The cost of running the Children in Care Council for 2010/11 has been estimated at £5,000; the appropriate budget has been identified. This cost includes making payment to the Children in Care Council members, training, and team building activities for the young people.

3. Staffing Implications

3.1 There are none arising from this report.

4. Equal Opportunities Implications/Health Impact Assessment

4.1 The Children in Care Council will help ensure the views of children in care, including children from Black and Minority Ethnic communities and children with a disability, are sought and taken into account.

5. Community Safety Implications

5.1 There are none arising from this report.

6. Local Agenda 21 Implications

6.1 There are none arising from this report.

7. Planning Implications

7.1 There are none arising from this report.

8. Anti-poverty Implications

8.1 There are none arising from this report.

9. Social Inclusion Implications

9.1 The Children in Care Council will promote and support inclusive practice with Children in Care.

10. Local Member Support Implications

10.1 The Children in Care Council will actively promote and support members to fulfil their corporate parenting responsibilities.

11. Background Papers

11.1 Care Matters: Government White Paper (2007)
Good Practice Guidance for CICC (NYAS 2008)
Appendix 1 – Children in Care Council Annual Report

RECOMMENDATIONS

That:

(1) Members note the report

(2) Members have opportunity to ask questions to the Children in Care Council.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services