

WIRRAL CHILDREN'S TRUST BOARD –JULY 2010

MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION STRATEGY GROUP REPORT TO THE BOARD

Introduction

The Making a Positive Contribution outcome area within the Children and young people's Plan aims to ensure young people are supported to positively make an impact on the decision making process about issues that affect them. There has been a significant amount of effort in the developing of this work which has resulted in young people being significant partners in the design and commissioning of services for children and young people. The remit of Making a Positive Contribution covers targeted support for young people involved in the Youth Offending service, the development of Healthy Schools to the provision of Universal developmental fun opportunities for children and young people. There are a number of partners integral to the successful implementation of the Positive Contribution Strategy and the range of opportunities available to children and young people reflects the significant contributions of partners from both the statutory and Voluntary, Community and Faith sector. Three priorities underpin the implementation of making a Positive Contribution:

- Fewer children and young people are involved in offending and antisocial behaviour.
- Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play opportunities which meets their needs.
- Children and young people are actively engaged in community and democratic decision making process.

The Making a Positive Contribution strategy Group is chaired by the Principal Manager (Commissioning/ Participation), Wirral's Children and Young People's Department. Membership of the group is drawn from multi- agency representation relating to each priority group and others who have an interest and are able to influence the development of opportunities for the engagement of children and young people in the respective decision making process. Partners include Community safety, Connexions, Healthy Schools, Children's Social Care, Youth and Play Service, Special education Support service, Youth Offending Service, Brook, Young Carers, Learning and Achievement, Participation and Inclusion and the Voluntary Community and Faith sector.

One of the main functions of the Positive Contribution is to monitor and report on progress of the Making a Positive Contribution element of the Children and Young People's Plan, including issues regarding the respective national Indicators, Local area Agreement targets and other locally agreed targets. Meetings are held every six weeks with agreed performance updates timetabled on the agenda for each meeting when partners report on the areas for which they have responsibility.

Other functions of the group include:

- Co-ordination of participation activities formal/ informal
- Providing opportunities for multi agency involvement and networking to share good practice
- Identify with partners, opportunities for them to develop children and young people's decision making processes.
- Co-ordinate the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament
- Maintain the infrastructure underpinning the development of decision making processes for children and young people

Relevant Performance Indicators

The following National Indicators (NI) are monitored through the making a Positive Contribution outcome group.

- NI 111 First –time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10-17
- NI 86 number of secondary schools as judges as having outstanding behaviour

- NI 45 Young Offenders engagement in suitable education, employment and training
- NI 46 Young offenders access to suitable accommodation
- NI115 Tellus Survey, the total number of young people reporting either frequent use of drugs, or alcohol or both is lower compared to the number of respondents in previous survey returns
- NI 57 Children and young people's participation in high quality PE and sport
- NI Young people's participation in positive activities
- 95% schools on Wirral achieve Healthy Schools Status – December 2009

Overview of progress June 2010

<p>Key recent achievements</p>	<p>Fewer children and young people are involved in anti social behaviour</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NI 111 – FTE's - For 2008/09 the PNC data shows 442 FTE's which equates to a rate per 100,000 of the 2007 local population of 1341. The target rate was 1600. This equates to a reduction of 17% overall when comparing 2008/09 with the 2007/08 baseline. Note: the PNC data for 2009/10 has not yet been published by the YJB. • Wirral YOS has successfully exceeded the local target set for 2008/09. In fact Wirral YOS has already exceeded the 2010/11 target. • The introduction of four youth hubs to act as a focus for district planning for provision of positive activities for young people. • Positive Futures has achieved Gold level in a Home Office assessment of its work in producing positive outcomes for young people • Effective use of Restorative Justice to reduce the number of schools exclusions • 11 outdoor play areas developed through consultation with children have been improved and are open <p>Children and Young people have access to a range of appropriate play opportunities which meets their needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More outdoor play areas developed through consultation with children. • 244 children were surveyed across the borough to find out how safe they felt when playing out. <p>Through the strategic commissioning, the commissioning group have been able to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the strategic planning, delivery and evaluation of a District Youth Offer • Give support to provide programmes which respond to the needs and wants of young people • Further develop links with a range of providers, including the voluntary, community and faith sector and Local Authority
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Children and young people are actively engaged in the community and democratic process

- 220 children at 11 feeder schools asked their views on the design of play areas
- 77 Primary, Secondary and Special schools surveyed on play activities within schools
- 650 pupils surveyed on their individual play experiences
- 5 Neighbourhood studies undertaken asking 130 children about access to play and knowledge of play facilities in their local community.
- 100% of Wirral Schools reached National Healthy School Status-three months ahead of schedule.
- To further support pupil consultation Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 Healthy Schools' pupil panels have been developed and held on a termly basis to support areas such as transition. These panels link into the Key Stage 4 panel which has run for many years. All pupil panel members link into school councils and have reported changes that have taken place as a result of attending the panel meetings range from additional play equipment being purchased to friendship schemes being developed. A wide range of partners have attended the meetings for consultation, to deliver training and development of resources eg DAAT, Targeted and Mental Health Services in schools (TaMHS) pilot and the Young Carers Liaison Officer.
- Effective strategic decision making by young people on the Youth Opportunity Fund as evidenced in the following decisions:
 - Commission programmes tackling Teenage Pregnancy.
 - Purchasing scooter to help young people who are NEET to be able to have transport to employment

- Development of Children in Care Council
- Development of Wirral's Pledge to children in care.
- Involvement of parents/ carers and children in development of activities as part of Aiming High for Disabled Children.
- Between the period of March 2009 and March 2010 the Young People's Interview Panel have interviewed candidates ranging from entry level Social Workers up to new roles such as Practice Managers, Advanced Social Work Practitioners and Local Safeguarding Children's Board Manager.
- The young people have devised and firmly established a standard set interview for Social Workers based on previous experiences which include interactive exercises, a written exercise, a group discussion and a young person's centred skill base exercise.
- Effective strategic decision making by young people on the Youth Opportunity Fund Grant Panel, evidenced through them funding programmes which targeted national and local priorities, i.e. reducing teenage pregnancy, reducing young people who are NEET, increasing young people's participation in positive activities.

Key issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring schools are part of the consultation/ decision making process. • More engagement by young people from priority groups • IYSS – Integration of a number of services into new structure • Government economic measures reducing funding to Children's Services
Key challenges ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness across the Trust about issues linked to involvement of young people in decision making and consultation. • Further develop links between schools councils' and the five Strategy Group • Sustaining work undertaken to reduce schools exclusions • IYSS - Integration of a number of services into new structure
Risks to outcome delivery and proposed actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clarity about the funding of Youth opportunity Fund and Youth Capital fund • Funding of a number of intervention programmes finish in March 2011 • Integrated Youth Support Service stream lining of services. • Grant Funding ends march 2011. • Play Builder programme grant now not ring fenced, so potentially more vulnerable
Areas requiring further partnership involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of work with schools via schools councils to promote more engagement by young people • To ensure full representation by young people from the minority ethnic communities' development links with relevant organisations.
Equalities impact assessment areas for development and progress made	<p>Following and assessment of current and previous work identified in the Children's Plan, Work with young people with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities has been identified as a priority for the Positive Contribution Group 2010-2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YOS Participation Group needs to recruit new young people onto the group as a number of previous members have now left the

	service.
Areas for promotion /publicity / communication / engagement	<p>Effective use of Restorative Justice</p> <p>Effective involvement of parents/ carers and children in commissioning of activities for Aiming High for disabled children.</p> <p>Reduction of the number of First Time Entrants into the Youth Justice System</p> <p>Effective strategic decision making by young people</p>

Areas for Reporting Focus

Outcomes from Young people's involvement in Decision Making

There are clear outcomes for young people in how the Grant Panel decided to manage this year's Youth Opportunity Fund. Applications to the general fund with emphasis on priority areas, has meant that projects funded are contributing towards:

- Reducing teenage pregnancy
- Increasing awareness of substance and alcohol misuse
- Increasing awareness of homelessness and reducing the number of young people who become homeless
- Music, Arts and Media projects for young people
- Environmental projects which benefit the community

Through the strategic commissioning, the commissioning group have been able to

- Increase young people's access to leisure activities
- Increase young people's access to a variety of forms of transport
- Promote young people's use of public transport
- Facilitate organisations working together for the benefit of young people
- Increase young people's participation in a range of opportunities
- Reduce the number of young people who are NEET
- Reduce the overall cost of leisure time activities
- Increase the general mobility of young people
- The number of young people who have benefited from YOF has increased due to the strategic use of the funds
- Some of the transport schemes funded by the commissioning group will benefit young people after April 2010, potentially for a number of years

Outcomes for the young people on the commissioning group have been far reaching. Increasing their knowledge on the local and national context has proved to be beneficial, not only by informing their decision making but also that they are now cascading this information to their peers on the other decision making groups that they attend locally, regionally and nationally. Being able to share learning with other young people in order to gain their views has resulted in young people now having a good working knowledge of policies and targets and how they can ensure that young people's voices are heard.

- The commissioning group now have a better understanding of youth provision across all four districts, including the imbalance of provision linked to areas of deprivation and high population.

Young people's involvement in decision making has contributed to national and local initiatives

- The targets for Healthy Schools have been realised before the national deadline
- The Children –in - Care Council has been established and the Youth Pledge published

The Impact of Preventative measures to Reduce the Number of First Time Entrants to the Youth Justice System

- Wirral YOS has successfully exceeded the local target set for 2008/09. In fact Wirral YOS has already exceeded the 2010/11 target.
- The Police National Computer (PNC) rate published by the Youth Justice Board for 2007/08 shows a rate of 1618 compared to a rate of 1341 for 2008/09. This equates to a **reduction of 17%** overall when comparing 2008/09 with the 2007/08 baseline. This far exceeds the 6% reduction set over the three year target period.
- Although the indicator will be reported on **annually**, data is to be submitted on a quarterly basis to allow areas needing support to be targeted.
- The data for this indicator will be submitted using the Police database PNC.
- The use of Restorative Justice to reduce school exclusions

Brief SWOT Analysis of the Outcome Area

Strengths	Weaknesses:
1. Good focus on priorities 2. Effective planning to meet priorities 3. Partnership working	1. Level of involvement with schools 2. Lack of universal perspective on work of strategy group - business not relevant to all group members 3. Lack of breadth in groups of young people engaged in decision making/ consultation 4. IYSS \ TYS – Duplication of services to be addressed by new integrated structure
Opportunities:	Threats:
1. Change in national policy 2. Use information gained from Strategy group to influence future service planning 3. Use information from positive contribution group to inform work of other outcome groups. 4. Development of Teen Wirral website 5. Positive contribution group to formalise its	1. Change in national policy 2. Not enough information about strategy group is in the public domain 3. Government economic measures reducing funding to Children's Services

position on leading on youth engagement.	
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Summary

Progress across the Positive Contribution area has been good. There have been a number of achievements which have contributed to positive outcomes for young people. Young people are able to identify where they have affected decisions and improved outcomes for young people. There is still work to be done such as the engagement with young people from priority groups. There is however a good foundation from which future work will develop.

Recommendations:

That Wirral Children's Trust Board endorse the report.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 Making a Positive Contribution Priority Framework

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<p>Children and Young People's Plan Positive Contribution Priorities 2009/10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fewer children and young people are involved in anti social behaviour.• Children and young people have access to a range of appropriate play opportunities which meets their needs.• Children and young people are actively engaged in community and democratic process.
<p>Wirral Council Corporate Plan 2008-2013 Making a Positive Contribution Linked Aims</p> <p>Objective 4 To Raise the Aspirations of Young people</p>
<p>Local Area Agreement Related Indicators</p> <p>NI 111 First –time entrants to the youth justice system NI 110 Young people's participation in Positive activities Local Indicator 1700a –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The percentage of young people participating in youth work.• The percentage of young people achieving outcomes from their participation in youth work.