

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This paper reports on the activities of the Youth and Play Service since the last meeting on 16 February 2010. The major item has been the introduction and launching of four Youth Hubs, one in each district, and the associated re-configuration of the Youth Service.

1.0. STAFF MOVEMENTS

- 1.1 All the four Youth Hub Managers are now in place, appointed from within. Many staff have been re-deployed to the vacancies created and to re-designated posts. This process has been subject to the current vacancy control procedures and is almost complete.
- 1.2 Fred Derbyshire has been appointed as Lead Outreach Worker for South Birkenhead and Katrina Maxwell for East Wallasey. These are full-time professional grade posts which are temporary until 31 March 2011 and funded by the Youth Crime Action Plan.

AREA TEAM REPORTS

2.0. South Wirral and Birkenhead Districts

- 2.1. The Birkenhead District hub held its official launch event on the evening of Thursday 17 June and was a huge success. The event was attended by the Mayor of Wirral, many local dignitaries, personalities and young people from across the district. It was a most enjoyable evening with many young people show casing their talents in musical performances and a display of Tae Kwon Do. The summer programme has included a number of residential outdoor pursuit experiences, including Oaklands. Other off-site events have involved groups of young people attending graffiti workshops in the Bluecoat and Tate galleries, theatre visit to see Blood brothers, and go carting. The urban garden is developing well and the care of the rabbits and fowl is proving a very useful learning experience for young people. Claremount School are attending the Hub regularly.
- 2.2. Callister has run an interesting programme over the summer months with regular outings to places of interest and activities. Working with Aiming High for Disabled Children, the club is publicising its programme and will be holding an Open Evening for young people and their parents in the autumn.
- 2.3. Dance, Pilates and fitness have been the focus of the summer events in Cavendish youth club. The staff have run a number of workshops and discussion groups on the subject of internet safety and alcohol awareness. The members committee are currently deciding on the autumn programme.
- 2.4. The highlight of the programme at Charing Cross was the successful culmination to their fund raising for a mini bus to enhance the work with the disabled members. This was a fantastic achievement and of great credit to all the members. The arrival of the new bus coincided with the fiftieth anniversary of the Methodist Neighbourhood Centre which has been serving Birkenhead since 1960.
- 2.5. The summer months have been very busy at Viking Youth Club, where a large number of exciting events have taken place. Two groups of young people have enjoyed an experience of the British waterways on narrow boats. There have been two visits to Blackpool to the Pleasure beach and

Sandcastle. A course of creative cookery resulted in delicious two course meals and AQA Award in communication.

2.6 The South Wirral District Hub at Eastham was officially launched on Monday 28 June and was a huge success thanks to the hard work of many young people and staff who had organised and planned the events across Wirral. Over the summer months a number of building improvements have taken place, a computer suite funded by the Youth Opportunity fund has been equipped. Rooms have been dedicated to offer life skills and the sports facilities have been improved. New members from the wider district are beginning to sign up for the broader range of activities that are now available.

2.7 Environmental clean up and gardening projects are increasingly catching the imagination and interest of young people. A group from Bebington are regularly weeding and tidying the immediate area around the Club and hope to fund raise to get planters and garden furniture to improve the look of the exterior. A recent trip to Oaklands run by senior members for children from the Play group was very successful. A shoebox appeal for the troops in Afghanistan has been running with young people filling shoeboxes to be dispatched before Christmas.

3.0 Wirral Youth Service Outreach Team

3.1 The reconfiguration of the Youth Service involved some District realignment of the geographically based outreach teams. The wards covered by each youth outreach project are listed below.

District	Team	Wards
Birkenhead Ria Modena	North Birkenhead Youth Outreach Project	Claughton, Oxtan, Prenton, Bidston & St James (west)
Birkenhead Fred Derbyshire	South Birkenhead Youth Outreach Project	Rock Ferry, Birkenhead & Tranmere, Bidston & St James (east)
Wallasey Mike Holbrook	North Wallasey Outreach Project	Moreton West & Saughall Massie, Leasowe & Moreton East, Wallasey.
Wallasey Katrina Maxwell	East Wallasey Youth Outreach Project	New Brighton, Liscard, Seacombe.
West Wirral Gary Atkinson	West Wirral Youth Outreach Project	Heswall, West Kirby & Thurstaston, Hoylake & Meols, Greasby, Frankby & Irby, Upton, Pensby & Thingwall.
South Wirral Liz Hawkins	South Wirral Youth Outreach Project	Eastham, Bromborough, Bebington, Clatterbridge.

3.2 As part of the District strategy, the outreach youth workers not only provide a complementary Youth Offer to that of the Youth Hub and Youth Clubs but also support the development of these centres and signpost young people to their activities.

3.3 Although without a District Youth Worker until the beginning of September, South Birkenhead Youth Outreach Project has maintained its presence on the streets and in the parks of Tranmere and Rock Ferry. Football coaching sessions have been organised in Mersey Park and a BBQ was held in Victoria Park. The young people enjoyed bowling and a trip to Laser Quest. The Kontakta Bus funded by the Youth Opportunity Fund has proved to be popular and has provided a venue for workshops that have raised awareness of the dangers of smoking and alcohol consumption.

3.4 The newly appointed District Youth Worker with the North Birkenhead Youth Outreach Project is playing an active role in the network structure of north Birkenhead: links have been made with the

Friends of the Arno and NAG meetings have been attended. In addition to streetwork, the Monday evening football sessions have continued at Ridgeway High School and the project base has been the venue for cookery sessions and a holiday breakfast club. A programme of winter activities is being developed with the young people.

- 3.5 In South Wirral, You Decide funding was made available for a programme of activities, chosen by the young people and the South Wirral Youth Outreach Project has taken the lead in bringing this about. Young people who have not previously engaged with the Youth Service have had the opportunity to participate in horse riding, bowling, and trips to Manley Mere and to Alton Towers and this has been appreciated by parents. In partnership with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Trailblazers, a mountain biking, riding and maintenance project was launched in August. As a result of a successful Youth Forum funding bid, the young people have set up a weekly sewing and craft club at the Dig It Project. The Friday evening football session at the Oval continues to attract over a 100 young people a week.
- 3.6 West Wirral Youth Outreach Project has benefitted from having a District Youth Worker in post. Streetwork and the Kontakta Bus has enabled work with young people to be undertaken in Woodchurch, Arroe Park, Irby, Upton, Pensby and Heswall and contact has been made with new groups of young people. An active role has been played in the partnership work undertaken to address anti social behaviour in West Kirby on a Friday night and the successful weekly BarBQs, together with sports activities, provided the young people with the opportunity to engage in positive activities.
- 3.7 The West Wallasey Youth Outreach Project has undertaken streetwork and made use of the Kontakta Bus throughout the patch, developing work in the new areas of Moreton and in Leasowe. On a Friday night, the session in Harrison Park is well attended with some young people enjoying sports sessions organised by Sports Development coaches and others engaged in activities and workshops on the Kontakta Bus. A successful Youth Opportunity Fund bid has enabled the young people to plan a programme of positive activities that has included a weekend at Oaklands and a big event at the New Brighton Bowl at which a number of agency offering services to young people were present.
- 3.8 The East Wallasey Youth Outreach Project has been successful in engaging young people in a variety of activities, for example young women have been involved in a project to raise their self esteem and promote their well being. Young men completed a course of urban dance sessions. The well attended Friday session in Central Park, makes use of the Kontakta Bus whilst Sports Development coaches organise sports activities. Visits to Manley Mere and go karting are amongst the activities chosen by young people during the summer. The youth workers supported community fun days at Victoria Park, Poulton and at Belleview Park, Seacombe.

4.0. **Wallasey and West Wirral Districts**

- 4.1 Wallasey Youth Hub officially opened on the 15 June 2010. An evening of music and dance preformed by a wide range of young people from across Wirral launched the event. Acts included beat-boxers, break-dancers, bands and vocalists. The event was a celebration of talent co-ordinated by Wirral Youth Theatre. A youth worker and school nurse from Health Services in Schools attended three evenings during summer. They offered young people advice around all aspects of their health needs. They delivered informal sessions around sexual health, contraception and alcohol misuse, resulting in 13 young people gaining recorded outcomes. During the summer the Hub was used as a school for 42 Spanish young people from a Spanish Student Exchange Programme they came to learn English for four weeks. During the evening a lot of the Spanish young people attended the HUB, allowing Wirral young people to mix with young people from another country. During the semi-final of the World Cup a Spanish evening was held, where both Wirral young people and Spanish young people watched the match - and supported Spain. During July, mentors from Clarendon School brought a minibus of young people who lived in the Wallasey area. The young people, who have moderate learning difficulties and can often be socially isolated outside of school, came for three evenings. The aim of the initiative was to

encourage those young people to continue to come after the three days were over. The result of this was that five young people have continued to attend.

- 4.2 Leasowe Youth Project has been working with Unity in the Community which is a group of youth providers in Leasowe developing a youth offer for young people. Some of the activities that have taken place include bowling, Go Karting and a football competition. Young people have also been involved in the Coastal walk and a trip to the theatre to see Birkenhead Tale.
- 4.3 Moreton Youth Club hosted "It's a Knockout" Moreton Come Together Day on the 21 August which was a great success. Some of the activities that young people have taken part in include a Quiz Night, Big Ball Volley Night, Go Karting and a Circus trip.
- 4.4 Belvidere Youth Club have been advertising what happens in the club through young people producing flyers and a monthly magazines, activities young people have been involved in bowling trips, all night pool (12 hour) fundraiser and creating a new garden area to the side of the building.
- 4.5 St Marys Youth Club runs Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze Silver and Gold awards. Young people have been preparing and going on expeditions putting what they have learnt in to practice. The Tuesday club is for young people with additional needs, some of the activities that have been discos, sports and arts and craft. Wirral Youth Theatre worked with young people to introduce new dance routines. The young people performed at the Wallasey Youth Hub launch.
- 4.6 West Wirral Youth Hub launched on the 24 June. The evening showcased music and dance performed by a wide range of young people from across Wirral. 130+ attended the event. The Hub has built links with church youth groups in West Kirby which has led to an after-school drop-in operating from the Hub on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 3:30pm – 5:30pm. These have been going well and have formed a link for young people who access the church youth clubs to start accessing the Hub activities. Young people have been gaining accreditation and voluntary experience through running the coffee bar and organising projects. This is accredited by the 'V Award'. 15-20 young people attend the Tuesday Night Football in the Concourse sports hall. NHS Stop Smoking service came in to publicise their drop in clinic at the Concourse on a Monday night and have offered to come in and work with groups in the evening view a view to forming links into their day service.
- 4.7 Greasby Youth Club have been working closely with Sports Development and the West Wirral Outreach team to provide sporting opportunities from the Pavilion in Coronation Park. Young people have been involved in arts and crafts, healthy cooking projects. They have received the bronze award for Health Promoting Units and are on their way in gaining their Silver Award.
- 4.8 At Fender Youth Club Staffing issues have led to a reduced youth offer for young people in the neighbourhood. Young people have access to the core facilities in the youth club i.e., computer room, coffee bar and pool tables. When there is insufficient staff to open the Youth Club, staff are re-deployed as outreach, maintaining relationships with the young people in the locality.
- 5.0 **WIRRAL YOUTH THEATRE/YOUTH ARTS (WYT)**
- 5.1 Wirral Youth Theatre is expecting to relocate from the Pacific Road Arts Centre to Gilbrook School in Pilgrim Street, Birkenhead. After some initial essential refurbishment, the provisional date for the move is 27 September. Negotiations to maximise the use of the venue as a focal point for wider arts and youth activities are under way.

- 5.2 WYT will also be delivering a new Peer Education course accredited by the Open College which will enable young people 16+ to gain Youth Arts facilitation skills. This will be piloted from October.
- 5.3. 55 young people from WYT received their V awards for achieving 50 or 100 hours of volunteering. Young people were presented with their certificates at a celebration evening held at Pacific Rd arts Centre.
- 5.4. Youth Arts Worker Training - WYT workers hosted an experiential arts training evening for staff across the service with the aim of demystifying the arts in youth work offering a better understanding of using the arts within youth work. Over 40 staff attended opting for taster sessions in their chosen art form choosing from drama, dance, music, music production, photography, and singing workshops.
- 5.5. WYT's young people's outreach company – "First Class" will be touring its latest production "Somebody's Son", to Youth Hubs and to six secondary schools across Wirral during September. The production will premiere at Pacific Rd Arts Centre on 20 September. The piece explores the consequences of violent behaviour and peer pressure on all those concerned.
- 5.6. Young people from "First Class" have been involved in supporting and facilitating training at a number of conferences and training events including attending a conference to raise awareness about the Advocacy Service held at the Floral Pavilion in June, and facilitating at two separate training workshops for the Northwest Society of Doctors which explored blocks and barriers young people face regarding sexual health at a GPs.
- 5.7. Machismo 2 was a secondary dance event funded by the YOF panel was delivered over 4 days during March to develop dance with young men. The workshops explored a variety of issues with young men including masculinity. The event culminated in 101 young men performing together at the Machismo 2 event "The Beat Strikes Back" at Pacific Rd Arts Centre.
- 5.8. Girls Get Active offered a range of dance workshops over four weeks encouraging young women aged 14-16 to be healthier through physical activity.
- 5.9. The CITC Project worked specifically with NEET young people offering a range of dance development workshops. The work culminated in a performance evening at the Floral Pavilion
- 5.10. "Voltage" is part of "V" – the National Volunteering Programme. WYT has been selected as one of five projects across England to run the scheme and to 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 volunteers opportunities for young people across Wirral for three years 2008 - 2011. Nine "Voltage" Volunteers aged 16 – 21 yrs completed their training and volunteering in May 2010. They attended a celebration event in London in July, hosted by Youth Music. The new "Voltage" group for 2010–11 is being recruited for the final phase of the scheme. This year young people with an interest in the performing arts will attend an intensive accredited training course to equip them with peer mentoring skills. They will then create an issue based performance project which will be delivered in schools in December.
- 5.11. Young people attended a variety of music workshops at Pacific Road, Charing Cross, Eastham Youth Club and the Shaftesbury and performed at the four HUB launches in Eastham, Birkenhead, West Kirby and Wallasey. Vocal and music production workshops were also offered in the Hubs and were well attended. Young people made CDs of their original tracks.

- 5.12. Young people performed with a big band at the Live 'n' Lounge event at the Floral Pavilion, New Brighton in July. There were vocal performances supported with dance from the era.
- 5.13. The production named "The Fame Factor" was a new musical theatre piece which explored the pros and cons of reality talent programmes and included original music composed by the Voltage Music Volunteers. There were public performances of the show in February half term, with over 60 young people performing at Pacific Rd Arts Centre. Young people were involved at all levels of the production including front of house and as stage crew. Young people are developing a project to support fundraising for Claire House, this will culminate in a performance in October.
- 5.14. Commissioned by the District Activity Fund, WYT is running a range of Urban Arts workshops in youth clubs in each of the four districts. After a series of taster activities young people were offered the opportunity to develop further in the areas of music and dance. Activities included street dance, break-dancing, beat-boxing, lyric writing, urban choir and vocal work, swing choir, band development and rap digital film, photography and music, beat box, rap, dance and drama.
- 5.15. An ongoing programme of dance and drama sessions have been delivered for Looked After Children developing their skills and self esteem. The young people have performed their work at Pacific Rd and a different piece at the Tranmere Show.
- 5.16. WYT Linked with the Education Psychology team to develop the TaMHS project. The work used dance and drama performing arts as a way to get young people to express themselves and find ways to deal with stress and self respect. The project was piloted with Rock Ferry High School. The WYT staff are now developing a programme which will now be rolled out to more schools across Wirral.
- 5.17. WYT has also received funding from the Youth Opportunity Fund to run a project called 'Massive' which involved young people in each district in a series of workshops leading to a Big Urban Arts & Music Event. The work developed in each area helped form part of the launch night of each the four Youth Hubs in June. These nights celebrated the work and talent of young people who had been involved in Massive and the Urban Arts Activities funded by the District Activity Fund. As part of the build up to the launch WYT created a "flashmob" of dancers who performed at various locations across Wirral to advertise the launch of the new Hubs. These highly entertaining evenings consisted of a number of performances and all events were compared by young people.

6.0. **RESPONSE**

- 6.1. The service has been busy supporting the needs of vulnerable young people across the borough. Hundreds of young people have benefited from alcohol, drugs, housing, exploitation, family problems, self harm, suicide intentions interventions this period and as a result have prevented a further decline into what could be a very costly crisis. Response has many positive working relationships with a number of agencies and services to ensure that young people get the best deal possible from services.
- 6.2. The Housing Support Team had contact with 622 young people between January and June for support around housing issues. Many young people have come for support and have also presented with issues of domestic violence. A small sample of DV statistics have been collated and have been shared with other partners e.g. NHS, PCT, etc to look further into these issues in relation to next steps.
- 6.3. Response is delighted to report that "Stop Gap" has been funded until 31 March 2010. A report and presentation on the work of "Stop Gap" is presented under Agenda Item 4 of this meeting.
- 6.4. The arrival of the Health Service in Schools has been met with enthusiasm by many of the secondary school Head Teachers, parents and governing bodies across the borough and many

schools are now fully onboard with the service. The School Nurse led service works in full partnership with a team of Youth Workers who are managed by the Head of Response. The service is attracting a lot of young people to talk about all health related topics that affect them. The service works well as it is based in school during the same time and day each week and young people can talk to professionals about any health worry or concern.

- 6.5. The Response team is currently delivering information, advice and guidance sessions to the Hubs as part of the District Activity Fund bid. Information, Advice and Guidance has been delivered within the projects to 587 young people. The work has supported many young people to become more engaged with the service and improved referrals to other specialist provision for those with complex needs.
- 6.6. During this six month period 193 new referrals have been received by the counselling team. Referrals have come from many sources particularly schools. A total of 527 sessions have been delivered in this period. There are currently 45 young people on the waiting list at the moment. The team have recruited a number of volunteers to help with the ever increasing demands and complex issues presented by vulnerable young people.
- 6.7. In this six month period a high number of young people have admitted to feeling suicidal, some of these young people have planned and attempted suicide. Methods disclosed have included -: overdose of tablets, cutting/blades, stabbing with knife, planning or attempting to jump in front of a train or bus, drowning, jumping off a bridge, strangulation, hanging, not eating. The Head of Response attends both the NHS Suicide Prevention Group and the Staying Safe Group where the findings from Response and other counselling organisations will consider any further appropriate actions.
- 6.8. The Response Outreach Drug and Alcohol Team have engaged with 3,147 young people, giving information and advice to groups in a variety of settings. Relationships with young people through street work have developed well and as the summer approaches more young people have been contacted either through the team's outreach work or through partnership work with the Police on Operation Staysafe. Attempts to reduce risk taking behaviour amongst young people continues to be a challenge particularly around the issue of alcohol, however, the various teams in Response work well at picking up the vulnerable and at risk young people and provide a fully supportive service that meets those challenges.
- 6.9. Response works in partnership with the hospital A&E dept and one of the Response team is based in A&E during the evenings at weekends and can offer support and guidance following alcohol-related admissions. Working with children's A&E, all alcohol related admissions are followed up with an offer of support from a dedicated worker. Young people are offered non judgemental and confidential support, education and guidance to address their problems and to enable them to have control over their lives, increasing their self esteem and empowering them to become productive and confident members of society.

7.0. **DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD**

- 7.1. See Agenda Item 7.

8.0. **PLAY SERVICE**

- 8.1. Community Play Rangers provided by Wirral Play Council started outdoors programme at Easter and will continue to do so until October half-term. The project provided 30 play sessions in parks and play areas over the summer, and is attracting new children on a weekly basis. Activities that have taken place over the summer are junk modelling, play dough making, face painting, sports and games, arts and crafts. The children decide at each play session what games and activities they would like to take participate in. It is half way into the duration of the programme but it has almost achieved its three years target (see summary of outcomes 6.13). The project has a strong staff team, however, over the past 18

months there have been two resignations which is relatively low when comparing the norm with projects of this type.

- 8.2. PlayPoint continues its existing programme provide five indoor play sessions across Wirral. The venues are due to be reviewed in September. During the summer a World Cup Tournament, Design and Take Home a T-Shirt, Mini Olympics and Wet and Wild week were organised. All BIG projects have been working in partnership with other agencies and have worked together on the Foster Carers Fun Day and Friends of the Parks Fun Days.

The project continues to work with local community groups and to link with the regional Inspire Programme coordinator to discuss how the 2012 Olympics can be used to inspire children at the play sessions after being granted Inspire status.

Through the outcomes of 'Feel safe' survey, Playpoint is working in conjunction with local youth clubs to encourage older young people to become involved in the project.

- 8.3. Staff recruitment issues delayed the start of Play For All, and another set-back was the resignation of two members of staff in July 2010. Lottery has granted a six month's extension to the project with the underspend from Year 1. Work has now progressed from receiving more referrals than the reduced staffing levels could manage, and children previously unable to attend are now being supported and included in play projects.
- 8.4. A multi agency approach has proven successful. Not only is Play For All receiving requests from other agencies, but being in contact with them ensures the child gets the best from all agencies available to them, for example, ensuring that sessions do not conflict, so children can benefit from more activities.
- 8.5. Overall, the programme spend is on the projected path except for one project which has substantial underspend from Year 1, possibly Year 2 as well. This is related to delays in staff recruitment meaning the salary budget was not spent. The Year 1 underspend has been granted by Lottery to spend on an extension of the project, for possibly a further six months.
- 8.6. Capital Big Play Project Tenders for the two sites (Whitfield Common and Port Causeway) have been delayed due to the problems with the PlayBuilder programme and the site will now be progressing with reduced budgets. The success of the two sites completed in Year 1 continues to attract hundreds of children on a weekly basis. This leads to maintenance problems due to over use which is a good sign. Play space satisfaction survey was carried out during the summer. The results will reported at the next meeting.
- 8.7. Feel Safe Play Safe 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".
- 8.8. 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 September to ascertain do 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.
- 8.9. The first year Playbuilder programme has been completed, 11 play areas have been built and improved. Due to the timescales involved and the grant conditions, year one sites were selected based on the Play Strategy audit and consultation, areas of identified need, geographical locations, maintenance cost, match funding opportunities and also sites where there were strong community groups and Friends of Parks involvement. These sites were approved at Cabinet on 23 April 2009 and subject to further consultation with the Play Partnership the proposed year 2 sites be considered as projects for year two (2010/2011).

<u>No.</u>	<u>Year 1 sites Completed</u>
1.	Meols Rec. Play Area
2.	Harrison Park, New Brighton
3.	Ashton Park, West Kirby
4.	New Ferry Park
5.	Moreton Linear Park
6.	Woodlands play area, Birkenhead
7.	Irby Park
8.	Newton Park, Newton
9.	Tower Grounds, New Brighton
10.	Victoria Park, Tranmere
11.	Bromborough Recreation Ground

- 8.10. Consultation was 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, play centres, Play Day and the Wirral Youth Conference. This included identifying their play needs, any barriers to playing outdoors and what they liked to experience through playing. The children worked in small focus groups which generated ideas and drawings. These were interpreted and included in the final designs. This has led to the inclusion of more risky and challenging play equipment being incorporated into the plans.
- 8.11. The programme has been complimented by the support of local Friends of parks groups and community groups who have generated extra funding to support further improvements. A Focus group was held with parents of disabled children at Stanley School to discuss access issues from their perspective. A number of questions were raised to generate their views.
- 8.12. Following this discussion, an additional grant of £25k from Aiming Higher was secured to provide more inclusive play equipment. Specific consultation work with girls was also undertaken through a local secondary school, who preferred equipment which enabled more risky play experiences.
- 8.13. Meols Park has proved to be very popular; it has attracted hundreds of children each day since it was completed in July 2009. A survey of park attendance revealed out of 382 pupils from Great Meols Primary school, 342 pupils have using the Park since its opening. The Park is attracting children and parents from wide catchment area, from Hoylake, Moreton and Frankby.
- 8.14. The development of Wirral's, year 1 play sites have proved to be very successful and monitoring supports this. Children are playing out, engaging with the wider community and gaining independence and resilience which leads to the development of healthy adults. This early intervention strategy has enabled children to have access to safe outdoor play space which supports the fight against child obesity by improving and maintaining children's physical and mental health. The provision of local recreational play facilities also helps to tackle anti-social behaviour issues, whilst providing opportunities for developing social skills and learning.
- 8.15. The development of the year 2 Playbuilder has been put on hold. The Play Builder grant has been de-ring fenced, and a final decision as to how much grant Wirral will be allocated to complete the year 2 programme has yet to be announced.
- 8.16. Playwork staff attended training sessions on inclusion and equality, road safety and promoting positive behaviour. They also attended the Playing on the Range course facilitated the University of Gloucester, which is a recognised qualification.
- 8.17. 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 really positive to see some of the children who visit with the school also attending the playground in their own time and weekends and during 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. This also encourages children to attend the playground after-school. There are also individual children, attending with their carers on a regular basis, as well as children who are cared for by social services. They have now started attending independently and travel to the playground on their bikes.

- 8.18. The highlight of the summer at Beechwood for a lot of the children was the home made interactive Laser-Quest. The children helped design and build the arena in the sports hall. It proved so popular, it ran for two weeks.
- 8.19. The Playscheme celebrated the summer with a big family day trip to Drayton Manor theme park, taking 75 children and parents on a double-decker bus, who had a fantastic family day out.
- 8.20. This summer at Charing Cross saw the usual mix of indoor and outdoor play activities, electronic games, table top sports together with arts and crafts kept the children busy indoors, while outside the most was made of the climbing frame, slide and tyre swing.
- 8.21. A family trip out to Light water valley theme park, Yorkshire was organised. All went well, everyone had a good time and even the weather was good that day.
- 8.22. During the summer Michael Jackson's Thriller was performed for the youth club party in August. The children practiced for weeks in advance and made their own costumes. This was done in conjunction with the Play For All project which operates an inclusive playscheme on Monday evenings at Charing Cross.
- 8.23. Gautby Road In August, 17 Children stayed at Oaklands for a residential visit for five days and four nights. The children had a great week of adventurous activities and some experienced being away from home for the first time.
- 8.24. There were also various trips to Greenacres Farm for 35 younger children and 52 children visited Drayton Manor theme park. The final trip for the summer was to Lego Land in Manchester and 30 children 6-13 years participated in interactive activities.
- 8.25. During the holidays the children participated in the annual summer superstar's competition and they were presented with a medal and certificate at the local Fun Day which was held on Friday 27 Aug.
- 8.26. Livingstone Street project continues to provide play activities despite staff recruitment issues. A full summer programme was offered, including a much welcomed end of scheme party, which involved the support of local parents from the community.

No	Portfolio Outcome	Project Contribution to Outcome over 3 years	Project Target achieved to date
1	4700 children & YP able to participate in a range of more inclusive and accessible play experiences in areas of identified need by the end of three years.	Community Play Rangers Target –3500 Play Practitioners Project Target – 900 Play for All Target – 300	Community Play Rangers :3045 Play Practitioners Project : 829 Play for All : 62
2	Enable 20% more children & YP to feel safe and reduce the fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment by the end of three years.	Community Play Rangers Target –700 Play Practitioners Project Target – 180	Year 1 Play out survey 244 children participated. Play Safe campaign is launched as a result of the findings of survey.

		Play for All Target – 60	<p>During National Child Safety week, projects visited 3 schools, delivered 'Play Safe' talk to 126 Year 6 children.</p> <p>Year 6 Road Safety programme delivered by Road Safety team to include road safety awareness near playing areas.</p>
3	200 more children & YP will be involved in the design, planning and delivery of play provision which will increase satisfaction and meet their play needs by the end of three years.	<p>Community Play Rangers Target –150</p> <p>Play Practitioners Project Target – 38</p> <p>Play for All Target – 12</p>	<p>Collectively over 1000 children have participated in the consultation of play areas and activities to be delivered by the projects.</p> <p>Projects visited 11 primary schools and consulted YP who come to the schemes.</p>
4	10,000 children & YP will use new, more challenging and varied equipment by the end of three years.	<p>Community Play Rangers Target –3500</p> <p>Play Practitioners Project Target – 900</p> <p>Play for All Target – 300 4 Adventure and Nature Playgrounds</p>	<p>Community Play Rangers :3045 Play Practitioners Project : 829 Play for All : 62</p> <p>Two Playgrounds completed in Year1, Meols and Harrison Park.</p> <p>Two further parks to be completed this year. Whitfield Common and Post Causeway</p>

9.0. TRAINING AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

- 9.1. A large thrust of the training over the last six months has been directed at the skills and knowledge required to deliver the re-configured service for young people. Staff of all grades and from all projects have attended sex and relationship training which focused on the Wirral policy as a professional framework; Youth Arts taster workshops (see above under WYT) and training on the delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.
- 9.2. Nine Youth Support Workers have gained their Level 2 NVQ Award and another cohort of eleven were recruited to start in April. The partnership with Wirral Metropolitan College continues, though there are tighter constraints on the funding arrangement reflecting the national austerity measures. Revised qualifications will be offered next year when the new Qualifications and Credit Framework goes live on 1 January 2011.
- 9.3. A large scale Safeguarding programme is being planned following revised guidance laid out Working Together to Safeguard Children and Young People 2010. This covers not just responding to Child Protection issues but introducing preventative measures, often involving electronic communication.
- 9.4. The National Programme for Front Line Managers delivered FPM from February to April 2010 proved very successful, with much positive feedback. Participants were from all sectors of the Integrated Youth Support Services, included many from the Voluntary Sector. One Youth Worker opted for the additional assessed assignment as passed with distinction. A second such course will begin at the end of September.
- 9.5. Staff have been taking up opportunities for non-accredited learning offered by the Department, such as Managing ADHD, Autism and Drug Awareness.

10.0. YOUTH PARTICIPATION

- 10.1. On 23 April two young people attended the Department Development Day for the Children and Young People's Department, where engaging with young people was explored by staff. The young people delivered a workshop where they explained their levels of involvement in decision making and provided opportunities for staff to look at how this could be developed in their sections.
- 10.2. Due to national budget changes, Councillor Shadowing Programme (in partnership with The Youth of Today, led by BYC and UKYP) will not be operating nationally. The possibility of running a smaller, local programme in the future is being explored.
- 10.3. The Executive Youth Board (EYB) chaired the YAPSAC meeting on 16 February 2010. Following the Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament in October, where the theme was perceptions of young people, Roger Phillips (Radio Merseyside) and Kathryn McGiveron (Press and PR department) attended and offered their guidance and views on how the EYB could promote positive stories of young people. Following this meeting, Kathryn and Sue Aubusson ran a workshop for the EYB and young people from other decision making groups, to look in more depth at how the positive promotion of young people can be developed. The workshop covered areas of:
- Working with the local media (newspapers, radio, TV)
 - Where the media get their stories from
 - Who to go to
 - Why work with the media
 - What makes a good story
 - How to write a press release
 - How to deal with journalists
 - Working with the Council
- 10.4. The group also looked at the new Teenwirral website and how this could be used to promote positive stories.
- 10.5. As part of the workshop, Kev MacCallum attended to speak to the young people about the comprehensive public consultation which would be taking place in September. The group gave ideas of a range of ways to consult with as many young people as possible.
- 10.6. From these initial discussions, the EYB have now agreed that the focus of this year's Youth Voice Conference will be the comprehensive public consultation. Preparation for the event is currently underway, with the EYB identifying how to make the content accessible to young people.
- 10.7. The EYB is still in contact with the Older People's Parliament and are looking at ways of working together on specific projects.
- 10.8. The EYB met with the Chief Executive, Steve Maddox, in August to talk about the Council's approach to equality and diversity, as the Chief Executive has been appointed the Champion for Age Discrimination.
- 10.9. The group also updated Steve on their work and discussed a range of issues, including jobs and apprenticeships, transport, volunteering and the role of the Council in prevention work/positive role modelling.
- 10.10. There were 13 young people who recorded soundbytes for this year's UKYP elections from five different schools. A total of 1430 votes were cast. The successful candidates were Stephanie Lockwood and Maria Kendall.
- 10.11. UKYP Regional residential 16-18 April, Trafford Hall 21 Local Authorities from across the North West were represented at this event, with in excess of 100 young people attending. Wirral took

young people representatives from the UKYP, EYB and Young Ministers of Health groups. The young people took part in a series of workshops that included Equality & Diversity Training, how to be representative, group development games and issue based campaign planning.

- 10.12. YouthForia Regional Meetings originally designated as UKYP regional meetings, these have now evolved into a more inclusive form of a North West regional Youth Forum now known as YouthForia. The transition from being solely UKYP meetings to YouthForia has enabled more young people who want to make a difference the opportunity to become involved. The meetings take place every eight weeks and are hosted by a different Local Authority each time. The young people work on local, regional and national issues that have been identified as a priority by young people. The idea of the forum is to support young people in influencing decision makers and ultimately local, regional and national policies by working collaboratively with key decision makers and other young people who represent other Local Authorities. YouthForia tends to work on large campaign work. Recently there has been growth in Wirral's partnership work with the Greater Merseyside Youth Services to develop campaign strategies, where the issue and goals of the group are the same, i.e. Transport (as Merseytravel is the umbrella organisation for all the Merseyside Local Authorities). The involvement of this Youth Forum has enabled more young people to become involved at a regional and national level. Representatives of the Executive Youth Board, YOF/YCF Grant Panel and Young Verifiers have complemented the four Members and Deputy Members of United Kingdom Youth Parliament at their meetings.
- 10.13. The aim of Earful of Health - 28 May, held in Widnes was to enable young people to work collaboratively with health professionals to explore the use of youth participation and youth involvement techniques in Health Services and develop recommendations for improvements across the Cheshire and Merseyside and wider North West Region. The event itself was planned, designed and facilitated by young people from the Young Ministers of Health Project. As part of the conference health professionals and the young people who attended were asked to work together to identify the key factors for good youth involvement and develop ideas for projects which involve young people.
- 10.14. The Cheshire and Merseyside Child Health Development Programme (CHDP), has committed to developing each of the ideas and where possible identify funding so they can be delivered. Despite being relatively well established within Children's Services Youth Participation and Youth Involvement is an emerging field within the Health sector. Both CHDB and North West Regional Youth Work Unit (NWRWU) hope to share the learning from this event by distributing the conference report through their networks and NWRWU hopes to continue to encourage Health Services to link to youth services around this agenda, as well as a variety of others.
- 10.15. The National Sitting for UKYP was in Belfast from 23–26 July at the Jordanstown Campus of the University of Ulster. MYPs who attended, discussed and voted on National Campaigns – “Free For All” (free university tuition fees), “Get On Board” (transport provision for young people) and “Think Inside the Box” (political education in schools). A varied programme was on offer for the four days which allowed further development of work. A particular highlight was a visit to Stormont Castle on the Sunday. Stormont officials opened the historic building on a Sunday – an unheard of occurrence. Several Northern Irish MLAs attended: Anna Lo, Basil McCrea and the Deputy Speaker, Francie Molloy.
- 10.16. There were also a number of key speakers at the event, including: Charles Hendry, a Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Gill Hicks, founder of MAD 4 Peace and a survivor of the 7/7 London bombings, Tim Loughton, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Education (via video link) and John Bercow the Speaker of the House Of Commons.
- 10.17. The next round of District Youth Forums will take place on 30 September 2010.
- 10.18. The decision making process for the 2010/11 Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Funding has been partially completed. The YOF applications were available in November, with a deadline of 22 January 2010. The YCF commissioning applications were available from the end of January with a deadline of 10 March. The Grant Panel allocated approximately half of the funds by the end of

May 2010, prior to the announcements of the Government efficiency savings. Since then, allocation of the remaining amount has been frozen until final decisions are made.

- 10.19. Seven young people have now been trained as Young Verifiers for “You’re Welcome” achieving PCT Quality Standards. Since May, two organisations have applied for the ‘You’re Welcome’ standard, and the young people have undertaken a number of mystery shopping visits in order to assess the services. Feedback from the young people has been actioned by the organisations, including adaptations for disability access and changes in procedures to ensure that services are appropriate to the needs of young people. The group have found this to be a very interesting and exciting piece of work, which has very tangible outcomes for young people.
- 10.20. As an opportunity to try a different activity, on 4 June staff took members of each decision making group for a snowboarding lesson at the Chill Factore Snow Centre. This is the first time in two years that the young people have participated in a ‘fun’ activity, rather than completing tasks or attending meetings. All of the group had a thoroughly enjoyable day.
- 10.21. As part of the comprehensive public consultation “Wirral’s Future - be a part of it” Task force meetings, which will take place during September and October, three young people have been members of the Children and Young People’s Task Force Group. They have been an integral part of the process; attending meetings and participating fully in discussions. The group will meet again in November to finalise the options paper prior to this going to Cabinet.

11.0. **TeenWirral Website**

- 11.1 The TeenWirral website www.teenwirral.com went live from 15 September 2010

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson
Principal Manager Youth & Play Service