

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the Committee with an action plan that has been developed to address action points that were identified at the Stocktake Event in July this year. A number of priorities were identified for action as part of the programme of improving the Youth Offer on Wirral. The Committee is asked to approve the Action plan.

1. Background

- 1.1 The idea of holding a review of youth services was developed following the implementation of a number of policy initiatives introduced to improve the quality of the Youth Offer on Wirral. In 2009, as part of the programme of modernising the Youth Service, Cabinet agreed to a number of actions to support the necessary changes. Four Youth Hubs were commissioned (one in each district) and the Positive Activity Fund was used to commission activities to enhance the Youth Offer in each of the districts. In addition to this, an analysis of elements of the work of the Youth Service indicated that the time was right to take stock before deciding on next steps.
- 1.2 Support to run the Stock take Event was provided by the Myplace Support Team. Officers in the Children and Young People's Department (CYPD) worked with a consultant from Myplace to develop a programme that would meet the objectives of the day and identify areas for development.
- 1.3 Approximately 35 people from different organisations attended the event. There was a mix of statutory, private and voluntary sector organisations. The inputs included a number of presentations followed by group discussions. Please see programme (appendix A). The session concluded with the areas for action being agreed and prioritised.
- 1.4 In addition to the Stocktake event, officers from CYPD have been involved in the development of two other initiatives:
 - a) The possible development of a youth facility at Birkenhead Fire Station;
 - b) The development of a skateboard facility by the Rampworx organisation, in Bidston.
- 1.5 Both of these initiatives are at a very early stage of development and both will require external funding if they are to become a reality. If both schemes are developed they will significantly enhance the youth Offer available on Wirral. It is because of the potential positive contribution of these projects to the youth agenda that officers have been providing support to the organisations involved in developing the proposals. If the schemes are successful in securing funding it is reasonable to expect this support to continue to support what would ultimately be public/private/voluntary sector provision. As these developments are linked to the priorities identified at the Stocktake Event they have been included in the Action Plan (Appendix B).
- 1.6 The Action Plan includes a comprehensive programme of activities which seeks to make progress in those areas identified as requiring attention. In addition to the projects listed above, work will be undertaken to create greater involvement by the Voluntary and Community Sector in the design and delivery of youth activities. Other areas for development include a Vision for Youth Provision to underpin the development of youth facilities; the development of a curriculum to ensure services are age appropriate; and the development of a marketing strategy to further develop existing facilities. In addition to the work at Birkenhead fire station and Rampworx, work has started with regard to Actions 1,2,6,7 and 10.

2. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications in the action plan.

3. **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

There are no staffing implications other than the time to attend meetings. Any significant impact on staff time would be addressed during staff supervisions.

4. **EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS/HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The action plan contains actions that seek to address inequality of opportunity and also to improve the health of young people.

5. **COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

There are none arising from this report.

6. **LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

There are none arising from this report.

7. **PLANNING IMPLICATIONS**

There are none arising directly from the Action Plan.

8. **ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS**

The aims of the Action Plan are to improve outcomes for young people and address poverty linked issues.

9. **SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS**

The Action Plan seeks to improve current opportunities for young people and promote social inclusion.

10. **LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS**

This report affects all wards.

11. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Cabinet Report September 2009 – Commissioning of Youth Hubs

RECOMMENDATIONS

That

(1) The Committee approves the actions contained in the Action Plan

(2) Further reports on the progress of the Action are presented to this Committee.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services