

## **Youth Engagement Annual Report 2010**

### **Executive Youth Board (EYB)**

The EYB is Wirral's overarching young people's group for consulting and engaging young people in strategic decision making. The EYB has been established for two and a half years. There are 12 young people who regularly attend meetings held approximately once every four weeks.

Over the past year, the group have been involved in a variety of activities in addition to their scheduled meetings, namely:

- planned and hosted the annual Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament
- attended North West Region Youthforia meetings
- supported the launch of the Youth Hubs
- attended their local Youth Forums
- supported the promotion of the Teenwirral website

### **Next steps/recommendations:**

- A recruitment process needs to be undertaken in response to some members leaving (due to age or educational commitments).
- After recruitment, priorities for the EYB need to be set.
- Clear action plans need to be formulated with timelines and achievable goals listed
- Representation at Youth Forums and other consultative meetings need to be developed and maintained
- Strengthen links to elected members with accountability of both parties clearly defined

### **Youth Forums**

Following feedback from young people, the Youth Forums have moved from a quarterly meetings to an eight week cycle. This ensures more effective communication and the ability to take effective action on issues identified by young people. Any one or all of the young people's decision making groups (EYB, Grant Panel, UKYP, Young Verifiers) will take any action needed either with the young people or on their behalf.

### **Next steps/recommendations:**

- A relaunch of the Youth Forums needs to be planned to include advertising/promotion via the Teenwirral website and schools.
- All workers and young people involved in the facilitation of the forums need to be pro-active in promoting the forums across all sectors within their districts.
- Training should be offered to young people who are keen to take positions of responsibility of the forum i.e. Chairperson, minute taking
- Youth and Play Service should aim to have representation from each youth unit attending each of the forums regardless of where the forum is held.

### **United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP)**

The Members of Youth Parliament (MYP) and deputies have had a busy year. They have attended the Youthforia meetings every six weeks, where they have been working on the UKYP national campaigns (cheaper bus fares for young people, scrap university tuition fees and political education for all). They participated in a North West region residential and the 4 day National Sitting in Belfast. The MYP's attended the high profile debate at the House of Commons (now an annual event) and have had contact with local MP's. Locally, they attend their Youth Forums and work with the other decision making groups on issues for the young people of Wirral.

#### **Next steps/recommendations:**

- That the election of 2 deputies be put on hold for 12 months. The 2 current deputies will assume full MYP positions in February 2011 for a year. Elections held in 2012 would be to elect 2 MYP's for a one year term of office and 2 deputies for 2 years.
- Evaluate Wirral's commitment to engaging in UKYP on a "value for money" and outcomes basis.
- Potentially strengthen links with the North West Regional Youth Work Unit to enable young people's participation in regional action and involvement.

### **You're Welcome Young Verifiers**

Seven young people were trained to become Young Verifiers for the NHS 'You're Welcome' standard for health services for young people. Following organisations submitting a self assessment, the young people have undertaken 'mystery shopping' visits to verify the service delivery. Recommendations made by the young people have not only directly impacted on the practice of organisations but also affected the decision to award the standard.

#### **Next steps/recommendations:**

- A recruitment process needs to be undertaken in response to some members leaving (due to age or educational commitments).
- Develop the young verifiers group to become a more generic young people's group of inspectors, with the remit of monitoring Health Services for Young People, Youth and Play Service provision and any other services requiring some form of young people's assessment.
- Potentially use the project as an income generating project by way of selling the "mystery shopping element" to outside agencies as a means for them to develop services etc.

### **Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament**

The Youth Voice Conference is an annual event planned by the EYB. Young people from all secondary schools in Wirral, training providers and key support services are invited to discuss issues important to them. On average, 120 young people attend the Youth Voice Conference. A series of workshops are held, followed by a hotseating session, where young people have the opportunity to question key decision makers and senior council officers.

The Youth Parliament in the evening starts with tea with Elected Members, followed by group discussions and then culminates in an open debate in the Council Chamber. An average of 60 young people attend the Youth Parliament.

This year, rather than focus the conference theme on issues identified by young people, the EYB took the opportunity to promote the Council consultation 'Wirral's Future - be a part of it'. The EYB felt that the event would enable a large group of young people to make informed comments on the future planning of Council Services.

### **Next steps/recommendations:**

- The EYB are eager to maintain the Youth Voice Conference as a young person led event.
- Structured and timetabled feedback must be given to young people who attend both the conference and parliament, for example through publication on the Teenwirral website or directly to schools/organisations.
- Revert to original format of the Youth Voice Conference by using "Hot Seating" as a means for young people to ask direct questions to key decision makers.

### **Older People's Parliament**

The EYB have met with the Older People's Parliament to identify ways of working together in the future.

### **Next steps/recommendations:**

- Identify key areas where co-working can take place and then develop these areas.

### **Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund (YOF & YCF)**

The YOF and YCF has been running since 2006, with a new Grant Panel of young people being recruited and trained each year. This year, following recruitment and training, the Grant Panel of 13 young people assessed applications against criteria set by DCSF (now DfE) and allocated funding accordingly. During February and April, the panel undertook site visits to over 50 applicants who met the essential criteria. These site visits enabled the Grant Panel to ascertain whether the applicants were eligible for the funding and they were scored against a matrix. A total of 39 projects were funded.

A commissioning group was established from across all of the decision making groups for allocating funding for transport initiatives. The focus was to support young people in accessing essential services and positive activities, as well as providing transport options for young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). A variety of schemes were funded, including purchasing scooters, mountain bikes and a range of travel passes. In order to achieve this, the commissioning group met with key decision makers (e.g. Merseytravel, Elected Members and company directors).

**Next steps:**

- Monitoring and evaluation of funded projects to take place at the end of the financial year in line with DfE requirements.

**Recommendations:**

- As the funding may not be continuing, the young people on the Grant Panel need to be accessed to other decision making groups. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience which will be valuable in other arenas (e.g. EYB and Young Verifiers).

**Wirral Wide Initiatives**

**Teenwirral** - All of the decision making groups were involved in the development of the website.

Representatives of all of the decision making groups have been involved in the promotion and marketing of the Teenwirral website. In the New Year some young people will be addressing school assemblies to further promote the website. The Web Editor has been instrumental in supporting this work, a training session has already taken place and further training opportunities will take place in early 2011.

Next steps: further develop the Have Your Say section to include facility for young people to register their interest in becoming involved and log issues for debate at the Youth Forums

**Housing Strategy Consultation** - all youth service units have accessed young people to the online Housing Strategy consultation, ensuring that their views form part of the feedback.

**Wirral's Future Consultation Task Force** - from August to November, three young people were members of the independent Children and Young People's Task Force group who gave recommendations to the Council regarding future planning of services. This required a large time commitment at very short notice. The young people were commended for their valuable input and professional attitude.

**Open Space Consultation** - after an approach from the Spatial Planning Team, young people will be directly involved in the Open Space consultation. The decision making groups have given feedback on the questionnaire and helped to facilitate sessions in the Hubs for young people to be involved.

**Dates of Key Meetings/Decision Making Groups' Activities****January**

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> - Youthforia (UKYP Regional meeting)  
 Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> - Grant Panel assessing YOF applications  
 w/b Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - UKYP Election soundbyte recordings  
 Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> - Youthforia (UKYP Regional meeting)

**February**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> - Grant panel assessing YOF applications  
 Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> - Youth Forums  
 Friday 5<sup>th</sup> - North West Region Circles of Influence  
 Monday and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> - young person on work experience  
 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> - EYB meeting  
 Monday and Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> - You're Welcome Young Verifier training  
 Monday 15<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> - Grant Panel YOF application site visits  
 (morning, afternoon and evening)  
 Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - EYB charring YAPSAC  
 Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> - Youthforia (UKYP Regional meeting)  
 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Grant Panel YOF decisions  
 Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> - NW regional Goody in the Hoody

**March**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> - Grant Panel YOF decisions  
 Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> - UKYP election announcement event  
 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> - Grant Panel YOF decisions & YCF applications  
 Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Grant Panel YOF decisions & YCF applications  
 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> - Grant Panel YOF decisions & YCF applications  
 Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> - Youth Forums

**April**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> Grant Panel YCF application site visits and decisions  
 Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> - EYB meeting  
 Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> - UKYP Regional residential Trafford Hall  
 Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Children and Young People's Department Development Day

**May**

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> - EYB meeting  
 Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> - You're Welcome Young Verifier training  
 Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> - UKYP meeting  
 Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> - Youthforia (UKYP Regional meeting)  
 Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> - UKYP Earful of Health preparation  
 Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> - Youth Forums  
 Friday 28<sup>th</sup> - Earful of Health

**June**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> - Visit with Grant Panel (Chill Factoré)

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> - Wallasey Hub Launch

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> - You're Welcome Young Verifier mystery shopping visits

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> - Birkenhead Hub Launch

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> - You're Welcome Young Verifier mystery shopping visits

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> - West Wirral Hub Launch

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> - South Wirral Hub Launch

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> - Greater Merseyside Youth Services Youth Forum

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> - EYB meeting

**July**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> - Youthforia (UKYP Regional meeting)

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> - Youth Forums

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> - You're Welcome Young Verifier mystery shopping visits

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> - You're Welcome Young Verifier mystery shopping visits

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Media Workshop

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 26<sup>th</sup> UKYP National Sitting

**August**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> - Task Force meeting

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> - EYB meeting

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> - Task Force meeting

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> - Task Force meeting

**September**

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> - Youth Voice Conference & Youth Parliament planning

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - Youth Voice Conference & Youth Parliament planning

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> - Youthforia (UKYP Regional meeting)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> - Youth Voice Conference & Youth Parliament training

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> - EYB chairing YAPSAC

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> - Youth Forums

**October**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> - Visit to Bolton Lads & Girls Club

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> - Youth Voice Conference & Youth Parliament

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> - meeting with Alison McGovern MP

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> - UKYP @ The House of Commons

**November**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - Youthforia (UKYP Regional meeting)

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> - You're Welcome Young Verifier mystery shopping visits

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> - meeting for all decision making groups re consultations

**December**

w/b Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Youth Forums

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> - training session for promoting Teenwirral website in schools