

Wirral's Area Forums



Bidston & Claughton Area Forum

Wednesday 8th June 2011

**University Academy Birkenhead,
North Campus, Park Road South,
Birkenhead, CH43 4UY
(Former Park High School)**

New start time for meeting will be 6.30pm

Michelle Gray - Community Engagement Co-ordinator

Tel: 0151 691 8213

Fax: 0151 691 8159 **Textphone:** 18001 0151 691 8213

Email: michellegray@wirral.gov.uk

Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

Community Engagement Team

Corporate Services - Town Hall, Brighton Street

Wallasey

Wirral

CH44 8ED

Contents

<u>Section One</u>	Area Forum Items	
• Minutes from last Meeting		3 - 7
• Issues/responses		7
<u>Section Two</u>	Local Updates	
• Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team/Safer Wirral		8
• Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service		9 – 10
• Alcohol Scrutiny Review - Information		10 – 12
• Wirral University Teaching Hospital		13 – 15
• Streetscene		15 – 17
• Highway Management Scheme for Bidston Appendix 1		18
• Highway Management Scheme for Claughton Appendix 1		19
• Youth Service		20 – 21

Code of Conduct for Area Forums

- Indicate to the Chairperson when you would like to speak
- Let invited speakers finish what they have to say
- Respect others right to be heard
- Do not use abusive or offensive language
- Do not make any discriminatory remarks
- Do not have private conversations while meeting is in progress

Section One

AREA FORUM Minutes (BIDSTON AND CLAUGHTON) Wednesday, 2 February 2011

Present:

Councillor D Roberts (Chair), Councillors: J Crabtree, G Davies, S Foulkes, AR McLachlan & H Smith
Area Service Co-ordinator: Michelle Gray. Lead Officer: Mark Smith (Head of Service)
Community Representatives: Jean McIntosh. Merseyside Fire and Rescue: Dave Watson
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust: Alistair Bardsley, Joyce Jackson (Public Governor). Older People's Parliament: Ken McDermott: Council Officer Lucy Beed.

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Dr Abhi Mantgani & Merseyside Police. The Chair, Councillor Denise Roberts, welcomed forum members and 19 members of the public to the Bidston and Claughton Area Forum being held at St James Centre.

2 MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: Michelle Gray updated the area forum re: dog control orders in public places such as shopping areas. Michelle explained that she had done some research and is gathering this information, Michelle had also been advised by Environmental Health that there would have to be a full consultation for any order to be considered. Informed the area forum that this was on-going and will keep everyone updated. An issue was raised from the previous area forum that it was difficult for people to hear. Michelle raised this with her department, the marketing team are currently looking at purchasing a portable PA system and one that will be suitable for public meetings and is easily transferable, hopefully we will have a PA system for the next round of area forums.

The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

Q: What powers do the patient representatives have?

A: Michelle Gray this is for Abhi Mantgani to answer, this will be forwarded to him after this meeting.

Q: Funding has been set aside for this year to fund additional grit bins but it is not on the agenda!

A: Michelle Gray there are suggestion cards available for all residents to suggest grit bin locations.

Q: Pigeons on Grange Road West? Has anything been done?

A: George Davies, there is a huge amount of work involved to address the on-going problems with pigeons.

Q: Found cat like paws prints & hairs, and no cat in my garden! I think it could be foxes. I can't hang my washing out because of the pigeons either.

A: Steve Foulkes as the former Chair of the Environmental Health, I advise people not to feed them. People think they are doing good but they are just encouraging them to come back. If nuisance levels increase we will have to take drastic action. Pigeons breed about eight times a year.

Comments:

- Jean McIntosh they only have to be fed twice then they will go back to that area. People also need to use bins correctly as well and secure any rubbish/food etc.
- Over the weekend there are chips, rice, curry over the floor that people have dropped.

Action:

- Cllr Steve Foulkes can we have an officer from Environmental Health to attend next meeting in June.

3 WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN YOUR LOCAL AREA:

Census: Lucy Beed explained that 27th March 2011 was census day. It has extreme importance as it determines how much funding the Council will receive. If the census is not returned households could

be looking at a fine of £1,000. Cllr George Davies the census form can be under exaggerated. For example if only 290,000 people send the census form back out of 312,000 people then that is all the government funding we will receive for all services, based on actual returns.

Key Points:

- Personal information will not be shared with any other government dept, third party or anyone.
- Protected by law for 100 years
- Compulsory – if you don't take part, you could be fined up to £1,000
- Posted out in early March to each household
- Return via royal mail using pre-paid envelope or
- Complete on-line www.census.gov.uk

Information:

- Helpline 0300 0201 101/Text Relay 18001 0300 0201 160
- Individual Appointment – contact Helpline
- Local Charities, Support and Information Services
- Local Drop-in sessions
- Translation services available

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service: Dave Watson full report from page nine. Highlighted the fact that Birkenhead Fire Station is being refurbished and there will be a Youth Service Hub opening for Fire Cadets aimed at 14/18 year olds. Also highlighted the fact that the 'bonfire strategy' was a great success and over 250 tonnes of material was removed before bonfires were started. There has also been a reduction in secondary fires i.e. wheelie bin rubbish.

Q: Cllr Harry Smith how long has the Cadet scheme been running?

A: Dave Watson it has been running for about 3 years in Liverpool and crime/ASB has been reduced.

Q: Are the cadets able to facilitate children with special needs?

A: Dave Watson, yes can't see this being a problem.

Comment:

- Jim Thompson stated that most wheelie bin fires start because alley-gates have been left open. If anyone spots this or your have lost their key etc then they contact Jim on 0151 606 5443.

Q: Gates have been took off on Brow Road, why?

A: Jim Thompson they were not Council alley-gates and were not safe or suitable.

Q: Was the bonfire project a multi agency project?

A: Jim Thompson - Fire, Community Safety, Probation Service, Technical Services, Wardens and PCSO's were all involved.

Q: From an Environmental point of view it was good but sadly we will be losing our Wirral Wardens. Where do we go to protest? This will have a big impact on the community?

A: Cllr Steve Foulkes 100's jobs have gone from Wirral Council because of cut backs – all councils do it, it is a dilemma for elective members. We don't know what is next and what the service will look like. We are as much in the dark. It is difficult for us to answer this question. Many people will not go until June 2011. There are a number of issues emerging and if the picture unfolds we will do our best to let you know.

Comments:

- I would also like to thank the Fire Service and Wirral Partnership Homes who put money forward, Police, Residents Association and Ridgeway High School allowed us to use their grounds up for bonfire night. There were no incidents on the Noctorum and 650 people got together and it was a fantastic night. I would just like to thank everyone who had an involvement from children to elderly.
- Cllr Harry Smith if we clear a piece of land and restore it as allotments and put a bid in it is unlikely that the Live Wirral Wardens will be around.
- Some allotment holders are in talks with Probation to get Community Service people to come and do work on allotments.
- Jim Thompson Wardens are not always Council employees. We do not know what the shape of the future is.
- Cllr George Davies the growth pot which incorporates everything is £1.4 million in the pot. Last year

was £8.6 million in the pot. It is not housing anymore, it is house planning and roads. We have a successful bid to do Milner Street and Carrington Street. We need £4.6 million for the North End and when the private sector moves in it will create £22 million.

Community Safety: Jim Thompson highlighted report which was contained in the papers and also pointed out that crime has reduced by 63% in 5 years. The biggest issue being anti social behaviour which has also reduced. Jim Thompson stressed to the public that when they comment that they ring the Police and nothing happens, all calls are recorded and there will be something done but it just may take some time but calls are always dealt with.

Q: I was fired at by a staple gun in my eye in my own back garden and the Police told me they could not take any further action!

A: Jim Thompson it was an undetectable crime which means it could not be solved due to insufficient evidence unfortunately. It does not mean they did not try.

Comment:

- Reporting anti social behaviour does work. My daughter rang the Police with regards to ASB and now Community Officers are out on their bikes every night and there is no more crime in the area.

Q: Are we going to lose Community Officers?

A: That is a matter for the Police Authority. They are suffering cuts and having to make a lot of hard decisions

NHS Hospital Trust: Alistair Bardsley went over extensive report in the papers across pages 18-20. Thanked the community for coping well with the restrictions around visiting lately with swine flu and norovirus.

Q: my granddaughter was in hospital last week. She found it very embarrassing that a 12 year old boy was in the same ward as her. I got asked to leave because I was not the mother. The Nurse said I could stay but when I went for a coffee they would not let me back in.

A: Staff were just sticking to the new restrictions that were in place at the time.

Q: my granddaughter was so upset they had to allow her home.

A: I appreciate your distress but restrictions were put in place for good reasons.

Q: What is the upper age limit as a 15 year was in a ward with children and could not get any sleep with crying?

A: 15 years, 11 months and so many days. They do try to separate.

Q: Wirral Live is closing and we have no funding. We have people who come who have had strokes they come to use the service and exercise. We need funding quickly and want to keep the classes going?

A: The hospital promotes healthy eating we do not give out funding, this would be HNS Wirral. Ann – Marilyn Maddox from the Health Action Area is your contact.

Older Peoples Parliament: Ken McDermott, went over extensive report across pages 11 – 14 in the papers.

Comments:

- Ken McDermott raised issues and concerns around the future of the care services.
- Cllr Denise Roberts Older Peoples Parliament has gone from strength to strength.
- Lance Ellis has been unwell from the Older Peoples Parliament, is he OK? Cllr Steve Foulkes said he is OK as they had seen him at a previous meeting.

4 PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE: Mark Smith updated the forum on the developments for this service. Costs the council around 13.5 million and covers areas such as parks & country services, cemetery services, rangers, beach/life guards, etc. The council is currently reviewing this service and Cabinet resolved procurement on service delivery. This service will be delivered by an external contractor and will deliver the same or a better service that is already in place.

Key Points:

- Contract to go out to an external organisation
- Tenders to be in by Mid April 2011
- Decisions made by June 2011
- Award to a single contractor by early September 2011
- New contractor in place by Christmas 2011
- Series of workshops with members and staff and those who are interested in

The following subject areas:

- sports/clubs
- golfing
- bereavement services
- parks & countryside
- One large contract worth around 8 million, awarded to the best tender

All to be held at Wallasey Town Hall:

3rd March 2011 Committee Room 1 Parks and Open Spaces

8th March 2011 Committee Room 3 Bereavement

5th March 2011 Committee Room 3 Golf

23rd March 2011 Committee Room 1 Sport and Recreation

Comment:

• Cllr Steve Foulkes - *privatisation of parks* - I believe the current workforce have done a good job and should be allowed to bid for the work as opposed to straight forward privatisation which may be risky"

Q: Are there going to be island refuges on Worcester Road and Tollemache Road for pedestrians to access Tam O'Shanter farm?

A: Cllr Harry Smith the road is too narrow.

Q: Need pedestrian crossing at Boundary Road. It is a blind corner. Children and elderly cross there.

A: Mark Smith will look into this but a certain criteria has to be followed.

Q: With regards to parks, will staff be kept on? Private companies hire agencies with no horticultural experience. Will they promise to hire someone with experience as we do not want Birkenhead park ruined?

A: Mark Smith all people working in the service have employment rights and a pension. They would be on a TUPE transfer. With regards to the company that comes in, they would have to be specific about everything.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:

Q: Have you got to Flaybrick Cemetery and cleaned up the trash?

A: Mark Smith it has been logged for action.

Developments:

• Our Parks team have advised that this area was cleared and coincidentally when I contacted them this morning (Thursday 3rd February) they are actually out there at present clearing the latest flytipping you mentioned last night. This is obviously a frequent occurrence and we are looking into whether we can take enforcement action to discourage this from happening in future. I'll keep you updated of any developments. Mark Smith/Interim Head of Technical Services 606 2103 marksmith@wirral.gov.uk

Q: Seen 3 people throw 10 bags over the wall, the headstones are smashed as well it is a sacred place.

A: Mark Smith the vehicle registration is enough for us to take enforcement action.

Comment:

• Cllr Steve Foulkes we have put extra patrols on at Flaybrick, this has been funded through this area forum from the "you decide" programme.

Q: Area called the "rods" (off Brow Road) people take dogs and people take rubbish there and dump it, it awful. Dumping of rubbish happens of a night.

A: Mark Smith I will look into it.

Q: Hurrell Road (missing/stolen) Grit Bin! I have brought the lid with me today to show you. The problem is the bracket. It is too flexible, it should be a metal bracket. This has been reported to Streetscene. 20+ stolen/missing/moved. Need to make them heavier/put a band around the bin to tie them up. It went missing when people needed to start using it. Can this bin be replaced.

A: Michelle Gray it is being taken seriously and is being dealt with.

Comment:

- Jean McIntosh, taxi driver told me he seen a Colas driver picked up a grit bin with its grabber (Hurrell Road).
- Mark Smith – will look in to it. We were getting them secured down so it might have been for that.

6 NEXT AREA FORUM MEETING: The Chair Denise Roberts thanked all who attended and closed the meeting and announced the next area forum would take place on: Wednesday 8th June 2011, to be within the Claughton Ward.

Issues Responses

Boundary Road adjacent to Tam O'Shanters Farm access (King George's Way). Request for Pedestrian Refuge Island

Boundary Road is a little too narrow (8m) to safely accommodate the provision of a standard width (1.6m) pedestrian refuge island (which would result in a lane width either side of the refuge of 3.2m).

Whether located immediately to the north or south of the Farm access, extensive and expensive new carriageway/footway construction works would be required to achieve the preferred minimum lane widths of 4m. Use of the rough strip of (adopted) land directly adjacent to the highway (currently used by some visitors to the farm) that at first glance may appear to offer some hope of being able to widen the carriageway would however result in an unacceptable alignment 'thru' the junction.

With a limited budget it is necessary to prioritise resources towards those areas that can bring about a significant benefit towards road safety and having checked the accident record for Boundary Road for the length between Upton Road and Worcester Road I can confirm that there have been no recorded personal injury accidents involving pedestrians from 1989 to date. In light of such, it is highly unlikely that a scheme could be justified for potential inclusion in a future Capital Programme of works based on accident savings alone, however as with all roads in the Borough.

Continue to monitor location and should traffic conditions change significantly then further consideration will be given. Mark Redman Technical Services markredman@wirral.gov.uk

The "rods" (off Brow Road)

People take dogs and people take rubbish there and dump it, it awful. Dumping of rubbish happens of a night.

Area Parks Manager Dave Grealis is arranging for the dumped rubbish to be removed ASAP. Unfortunately this is an ongoing problem because people who are in easy walking distance dump it. We did fence off one of the convenient access points for such dumping which did help and Dave is now arranging for some of the damaged fencing to be repaired with the intention that people will have to walk further to dump their rubbish. Area is being monitored.

Winter Resilience – Grit Bins

Hurrell Road will be replaced by Technical Services. Full review is taking place to identify the exact locations of all grit bins throughout Wirral. Received over 300 new requests for grit bins and total responses over 400 for the 2011/2012 allocation, all suggestions have been recorded and Technical Services Inspectors will be looking at every suggestion. £5,000 for up to 10 bins per area forum.

Section Two

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services.



**Update provided by Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team
(Integrated Youth Support Service, Children & Young People's Department)**

Legal action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour have included:

Reported January 2011:

- Two 12-year old cousins from **Birkenhead** were issued with interim Anti-Social Behaviour Orders pending a full hearing (see below);

Reported February 2011:

- Two 12-year old cousins from **Birkenhead** were issued with 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Orders following alleged anti-social behaviour including abusive behaviour and the harassment of local businesses and their customers.

Reported March 2011:

- 16-year old female was issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order pending a full hearing (see below).

Reported April 2011:

- 16-year old female was issued with a 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order following a catalogue of abusive and threatening behaviour.

➤ ASBO helped boy (March 2011)

A teenager and his parents, in an interview with the Wirral Globe, reported how an Anti-Social Behaviour Order [issued against him by the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team] has helped him turn his life around.

The teenager suffering from Asperger's Syndrome was given an ASBO because of his behaviour. The youngster, who also suffers Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was issued with Order after a string of complaints about him. His parents, who initially fought against their child being put under the stigma of an ASBO, spoke out to say it helped him turn his life around.

The young man was 13 years old when he was issued with an ASBO for his continued disturbance in his neighbourhood. The teenager's 2009 ASBO, which recently expired, came after a string of incidents involving verbal abuse and threats to Wirral Council staff. His mum said she tried to get the ASBO lifted many times. She said: *"He was just a nuisance, plain and simple. But I did fight the ASBO because my son has ADHD and asperger's syndrome so I didn't think he would be able to keep to the restrictions imposed upon him. But he surprised us all and got into the habit of not going where he wasn't allowed and improving his behaviour. I think the ASBO definitely helped him because he knows now that if he puts a foot out of line, there may be bigger consequences."*

➤ Calling all local young people (March 2011)

A young sports instructor from Wirral called on other young people to join her to take part in an event to raise money for this year's Red Nose Day. Chloe Tolman, 20, organised a fancy dress 5-a-side football tournament to raise money for **Comic Relief which took place at Seacombe's Soccerdome.**

The event was supported by officers from the Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Youth Offending Service, Youth & Play Service and Sports Development Unit.



Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at.

- **Birkenhead:** Exmouth Street. Birkenhead CH41 4AX 0151 296 5325
- **Bromborough:** Dock Road South. Bebington CH62 4SQ 0151 296 5925
- **Heswall:** Telegraph Road, Heswall CH60 OAF 0151 296 5805
- **Upton:** Arrowe Park Road. Upton CH49 OUF 0151 296 5895
- **West Kirby:** The Concourse. West Kirby CH48 4HX 0151 296 5955
- **Wallasey:** Mill Lane. Wallasey. CH44 5UE 0151 296 6180

For a **FREE Home Fire Safety Check**, including **FREE smoke alarm installation** if required please contact Fire Service Direct on FREE phone 0800 731 5958. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) news can be followed via our website Merseyfire.gov.uk we can also be found on social network sites - @Merseyfire on Twitter or visit our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/merseyfire.

Integrated Risk Management Plan:

MFRS are committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being. We have an Integrated Risk Management Plan which is a local strategic plan that outlines the measures intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside.

Wirral has developed a local IRMP taking account of specific risks and community concerns. The main action points for 2011-2012 have been identified as:

- 1) Road Safety: - To work with partners to provide appropriate education and training thereby delivering improved road safety across the borough.
- 2) Fire Cadets: - The first course of Cadets is now under way at Wallasey fire station.
- 3) Site Specific Risk Information: - Station have commenced a new initiative to identify and plan for managing risk at vulnerable locations and premises... This will enable MFRS to target response and improve community safety.
- 4) Wirral healthy Homes Initiative. Enhance and expand the Wirral Healthy Homes Initiative to reduce risk in homes from the private rented sector through a series of targeted campaigns.
- 5) Reduction of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) in Wirral - Support and enhance the partnership responsible for the reduction of anti-social behaviour. Additional MFRS staffing resources have been embedded within the Merseyside Police ASB team and the Community Safety Team.
- 6) Wirral Stronger Communities Initiative: - Engage with partners to deliver Community Safety Initiatives in the Morpeth Dock area of the Wirral.
- 7) Risk Reduction in the Home: - MFRS resources are being targeted at those most at risk with the objective of reducing risk within the community.
- 8) Health, Safety & Welfare: - MFRS will address emerging issues by developing solutions at local level to improve health, safety and welfare in the workplace.
- 9) Environmental Impact: MFRS staff will help minimise the Service's impact on the environment by reducing overall carbon emissions, conserving energy and minimising other pollution.
- 10) Fire Prevention: - MFRS staff are to take an active role in the safeguarding of members of the public in licensed premises on Merseyside by conducting inspections during hours of operation.
- 11) Equality & Diversity: - MFRS staff will contribute to delivering our service equitably to all communities and individuals by considering the needs and risks associated with their communities and to develop innovative ways of addressing those needs and risks.
- 12) Corporate Social Responsibility: - MFRS staff will take an innovative approach to engaging with voluntary and charitable organisations to deliver benefits to our communities whilst contributing to the overall aims of MFRS

Accidental Dwelling Fires:

Last years campaign to reduce the incidence of accidental dwelling delivered a 10% reduction over the last 12 months... Intelligence shows that the majority of such fires originate in the kitchen and this is supported by current statistics:

February	21 fires	12 originating in the kitchen
March	14 Fires	9 originating in the kitchen
April	13 fires	6 originating in the kitchen

We are continuing with our targeted campaign to achieve a further reduction.

Wirral FireWatch:

Every summer, firefighters see a dramatic rise in the number of grass and rubbish fires, particularly during spells of hot weather and the school holidays.

In Wirral, land around Bidston Hill, Thurstaston Common and Caldy Hill is often left blackened and scorched by fires during the summer. MFRS staff will engage with young people in schools and youth clubs and while patrolling the green space areas to inform them about the dangers of starting small fires. MFRS staff, supported by partner agencies will undertake patrols in areas where small fires are most likely to occur. They will also work alongside other agencies to remove any build-up of combustible materials and provide advice to people living in "hotspot" areas on how they can reduce the risk of fires in their community. Whilst we want people to enjoy themselves following a few simple tips could help improve community safety:

- Always extinguish your cigarette and any other smoking materials properly.
- Store your wheelie bin away from the windows and doors of your property and where possible, store it behind locked gates.
- Dispose of barbecues responsibly.
- Don't leave bottles or glass in woodland areas -sunlight shining through glass can start fires so take them home or put them in a bin.

If you discover a fire or someone starting one, report it immediately by calling 999.

WIRRAL BOROUGH COUNCIL ALCOHOL SCRUTINY REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

This report provides background information regarding the Final Report of the Alcohol Scrutiny Review. It is provided to the Area Forum meeting for information purposes only.

Background

1.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Programme Board, held on 14th September 2009, members agreed to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review regarding progress towards implementation of the Alcohol Strategy in Wirral. The Board members agreed that volunteers should be sought from among scrutiny members to form a Panel.

1.2 Subsequently, the following members volunteered to be members of the Panel:

- Councillor Dave Mitchell (Chair)
- Councillor Sue Taylor
- Councillor Chris Meaden
- Councillor Ann Bridson

2. Focus for the Review

2.1 The Scrutiny Programme Board agreed the Scope for the review in January 2010. Due to the enormous breadth of the topic, it was agreed to focus on specific areas, concentrating particularly on those issues which are within the direct responsibility of the Council. The panel members proposed that, due to the high profile and significance of excessive drinking among young people, the central focus of the review should be the "access to alcohol by young people in Wirral".

2.2 The main issues for the review were identified in the Scope document as:

- What is the impact of alcohol on young people in Wirral?
- What is the impact of young people drinking alcohol having on other residents of Wirral?

- What is already being done to enable young people to make good choices regarding alcohol?
- What are the key issues relating to access and availability: Where? Price? Promotions?
- What restrictions of access to alcohol exist at present?
- What additional restrictions of access are available and which have been successfully used elsewhere?
- Can Council policies be sensibly amended relating to the access and availability of alcohol, particularly with respect to young people?

3. Evidence Gathering and the Report

The Panel have used a number of methods to gather evidence for the review:

- Meetings with key officers
- Visits by panel members to local communities accompanied by Youth Outreach workers
- Written evidence

4. Scrutiny Review Recommendations

In considering the evidence found during the review, the Panel Members formulated the recommendations listed below:

A. Wirral Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy as a Council priority

It is recognised that 'Tackle alcohol harm' is a Priority for Improvement in the Council's Corporate Plan for 2010/11 and an Aim for 2008-2013. Given the statistical evidence of alcohol harm in Wirral, the Cabinet is encouraged to ensure that alcohol misuse remains a priority among the Council's objectives for the foreseeable future. Financial support for the service should follow its recognition as a priority service.

B. Funding

In the past, the alcohol harm reduction services have been provided from a variety of short-term funding streams. This does not promote long-term stability in service provision. In the future, Cabinet is urged to promote long-term planning for the delivery of service by encouraging budgeting for the service over a longer time-frame.

C. Performance Management

Cabinet is urged to support the implementation of a series of performance indicators which will measure the outcomes of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy, including the preventative aspects of the work and the impact on young people. Further development of suitable data-sharing arrangements among the partners, using a single set of data wherever possible, would be beneficial.

D. Education of young people

Council is requested to recognise the importance and continued priority of education for young people regarding the dangers of alcohol misuse. Education is recognised as a cornerstone of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. The support of all agencies, including schools, health authorities, the Police, Fire & Rescue Service and the voluntary sector, as well as Wirral Council, is fundamental to the delivery of this service. There is concern that appropriate alcohol awareness education should be available to young people in Years 5 and 6 at primary school. Research shows children aged ten and eleven are the most vulnerable age group regarding alcohol.

E. Legislative framework

Wirral Council Cabinet is encouraged to lobby the Home Office for changes in the law aimed at reducing the supply of alcohol to young people by:

- Limiting the promotion of the sale of alcohol, for example, through 'happy hours'
- Restricting the use of alcohol as a 'loss leader' by supermarkets and other retail outlets
- Reducing the promotion of alcohol through advertising
- Reducing the scale of proxy sales by imposing greater fines on those purchasing alcohol on behalf of under-age drinkers

F. Minimum unit pricing for alcohol

The Review Panel supports the principle of minimum unit pricing for alcohol. Council is requested to engage positively in the process to introduce a regional minimum price for alcohol in the Merseyside region.

G. Cumulative Impact Policy

Council should actively seek to introduce a Cumulative Impact Policy, as has been introduced by Local Authorities such as Liverpool and Brighton, in order to tackle the increase in outlets in specific hotspot areas.

H. Trading Standards

The work of Trading Standards is considered an important element in combating the sale of alcohol to young people. An additional £40,000 was included in the 2010/11 budget of the Council to enable Trading Standards to continue tackling under-age sales of alcohol using a number of methods, including test purchasing, which had led to a reduction in sales to under-age young people. Cabinet is urged to retain that financial support.

I. Alcohol-related hospital admissions

All agencies, including Wirral DAAT, are encouraged to ensure that the excellent advice services currently available to support young people who are subject to alcohol-related hospital admissions are continued and, if necessary, expanded.

J. Relationship with Magistrates

The Council is encouraged to further develop a tripartite relationship with magistrates and the Police in order to cultivate a mutual understanding of issues relating to the application of licensing laws in the courts.

K. Multi-agency working

Wirral Council Cabinet is invited to congratulate all of the agencies and staff involved in the delivery of the Wirral Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. Although much progress remains to be made in tackling the problem of alcohol misuse in Wirral, the impressive partnership working already in place provides a firm foundation for future progress. The Outreach Workers are among the key front-line staff who engage directly with young people and are responsible for the delivery of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. In the current difficult financial circumstances for public services, the protection of the front-line staff should be recognised as a priority in the onward delivery of the strategy. The approach of strong multi-agency working should continue to be supported in the future.

5. Outcomes of the Scrutiny Review

In January 2011, the Scrutiny Programme Board approved the Alcohol Scrutiny Review and, among other resolutions, agreed that the report be referred for consideration by each of the Area Forums.

Subsequently, Wirral Council Cabinet, at the meeting held on 17th March 2011, resolved the following:

- i. That the Cabinet welcomes the report and notes the hard work put in by the Alcohol Scrutiny Panel and the Scrutiny Programme Board in carrying out the review.
- ii. That the Cabinet expresses its concern about the serious issues for the health, safety and wellbeing of young people that the report raises and all of the recommendations of the Panel be accepted.
- iii. That it be noted that recommendation A is picked up in the Corporate Plan and that recommendation H has already been acted on in the Budget.
- iv. That the Scrutiny Review be referred to the Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee, with a request that it gives specific attention to recommendations E, F, G and J.
- v. That the report be referred to the LSP Executive with a request that it gives specific attention to recommendations B, C, D, I and K.
- vi. That the Director of Public Health be requested to be the lead officer for co-ordinating the response of the Council and other agencies to the report.

6. Complete Report

The complete scrutiny report, 'Access to Alcohol by Young People in Wirral', is available at the following link: <http://bit.ly/alcreport>

wirral.gov.uk

- **Council & Democracy**
 - Council Meeting & Minutes
 - Document Library
 - Overview & Scrutiny
 - Scrutiny Reviews
 - Click on Alcohol Scrutiny Review Report

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust at each Forum will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency. This report sets out the main challenges and opportunities for the Trust over the coming months and highlights achievements and service developments:

1. **Treating you well into the future**

On May 9th the Trust launched a widespread staff and public engagement programme, called *Treating you well into the future*. This is the title of a 28 page staff and public engagement document and a four page summary, both of which are published on the Trust's website at:

www.whnt/nhs.uk/treatingyouwellintothefuture/

The aim of *Treating you well into the future* is to ensure a vibrant future for both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals whilst continuing to deliver safe, high quality patient care and services in the years to come. The Trust needs to make the best use of these hospitals, avoiding duplication of services and working more efficiently.

We are therefore proposing changes to some services at both hospitals and are actively seeking the views and opinions of everyone with an interest in local hospital services including staff, patients and carers, Foundation Trust Members and Governors, partners, statutory and voluntary organisations and the general public.

These proposals are **not** about closing Clatterbridge Hospital. Nor are they about cutting services or costs. On the contrary, the level of investment needed to develop the proposals would be between £12.8 million and £28 million.

The *Treating you well into the future* document sets out the reasons why the Trust needs to make changes to some services. These range from clinical and quality issues - the Trust's top priority - to estates and financial considerations. The document also highlights three options and two sub options for change along with their anticipated benefits, an analysis of their strengths and weaknesses and their projected costs.

The document also sets out the ways in which staff and public can express their views and we would urge everyone with an interest to make their views known by answering the eight engagement questions. Responses can be made either on-line via the website (as above) or by completing and returning the form in the document, via the freepost address provided. The Trust's Board of Directors are committed to taking everyone's views into account before a final decision is taken on the way forward at the end of June. **The closing date for the receipt of comments is 13th June 2011** and the outcome will be widely communicated during July.

The engagement documents may be obtained on request in different formats - including hard copy, easy read, audio, large print or other languages – by:

- emailing: wih-tr.engagement@nhs.net
- phoning: the Communications and Marketing Team on 0151 604 7003

Hard copies of the documents will be available in local authority one stop shops, libraries and GP surgeries.

2. **Providing Excellence in Healthcare**

We are pleased to announce that three of our services have recently been acknowledged as amongst the best in the North West or in the country:

Stroke Services in the Top Ten

- Services for Wirral people who have suffered a stroke are amongst the best in the country according to the Care Quality Commission.

- Services provided from both Arrowe Park and Clatterbridge Hospitals and in the community across Wirral were judged to be 'best performing' and ranked in the top 10 in the country for primary care trust areas.
- Our Early Supported Discharge Team has been especially praised for the support it gives to stroke patients and their families.
- The work of the Team complements the other high quality services provided for stroke patients on Wirral including preventative work undertaken by GPs and the speed at which thrombolysis (clot-busting drugs) are given at Arrowe Park Hospital to patients whose stroke is caused by a clot, rather than a bleed.

Community Midwives

- The Birkenhead Community Midwife Team scooped one of the UK's top midwifery prizes, the 'Innovation in Midwifery' Award, for their 'Mums and Midwives' shop project, at the recent Royal College of Midwives Annual Awards.
- Opened in 2009 and based in The Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead, the 'Mums and Midwives' shop is open five days a week. Staffed by a team of community midwives, it provides local women with an easily accessible place in the community where they can get advice on a range of pregnancy and postnatal issues.

Oxygen Services

- The Cardio Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), pulmonary rehabilitation and home oxygen service based at Victoria Central Health Centre has also just scooped a prestigious award. The community based team, comprising staff from our Trust and NHS Wirral, was a winner at the first NHS North West Respiratory Awards in the category of Best Oxygen Service.
- The service was launched in autumn 2009 with the aim of improving the quality of care for patients with COPD and patients in need of home oxygen. So far more than 1,300 patients have benefited from the service and focus groups have shown that patients are extremely satisfied with the service

3. Our Core Values

Our Trust has adopted a set of core values to help shape our culture and character and guide decision-making.

4. Controlling Infection

The Trust is committed to reducing the incidence of healthcare associated infections. We are one of the few trusts nationally to screen admitted medical & surgical patients for MRSA (meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus). This has reduced the risk of those patients who carry the germ harmlessly from developing an infection and reduces the risk of cross-infection to other patients.

We have implemented improved antibiotic prescribing practice and increased our isolation facilities. We also investigate **all** serious infections so that we can learn from them and take action to improve practice where necessary. We routinely publish our infection rates on our website and information can also be found on the Health Protection Agency's website www.hpa.org.uk

- **MRSA Bacteraemias** – we are pleased to be able to report that there have been NO cases of MRSA bacteraemia across the Trust since September 2010. This has been achieved as a result of many new trust-wide initiatives that all staff have incorporated within their daily practices.
- The incidence of **Clostridium Difficile** has also significantly reduced over recent months and we are well below the threshold number set by the Primary Care Trust.

5. Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) Assessment Results 2011

- The Trust has just received it's 2011 PEAT assessment results for environment, food and privacy and dignity for each hospital as follows:

Site Name	Environment Score	Food Score	Privacy & Dignity Score
Arrowe Park Hospital	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Clatterbridge Hospital	Good	Excellent	Excellent

6. Assembly of Governors

The Trust's Assembly of Governors meets in public at least 4 times year. Both Public and Staff Members of the Trust and members of the public are welcome to attend. The next meeting will be on

Wednesday 15th June at 6.00pm in the Education Centre, Arrowe Park Hospital. Further details about this meeting or about how to become a Foundation Trust Public Member, is available from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 012 1356

For more information...

Our easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services. Go to www.whnt.nhs.uk The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems and the easy click, 'email a patient' facility continues to be a popular feature

Come and Join Us!

As a Foundation Trust we want to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have 8,500 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join on-line go to www.whnt.nhs.uk or complete the form enclosed in this information pack and return it to the freepost address given.

Area Forum Streetscene Update – June 2011

Traffic Management

The following Traffic Management schemes have been completed since the last round of Area Forum reports:

Hoylake Road / Mercer Road, Bidston	Local Safety Scheme
Hoylake Road / Gautby Road, Bidston	Local Safety Scheme
Bidston Cycleway, Bidston	Cycling Strategy Scheme

Upton Road/ Noctorum Avenue, Upton - Proposed Junction Improvement.

Upton Road/ Noctorum Avenue is a junction improvement scheme to provide traffic signals at the junction to reduce congestion and assist with turning movements to and from Noctorum Avenue. The scheme will also provide improved controlled pedestrian crossing facilities. Works are due to commence on site May 2011 and continue for a duration of 9 weeks.

Birkenhead North Station- Proposed Park And Ride, Birkenhead. This scheme is to provide a car park to Birkenhead North train station on the land between the station and Beaufort Road. The scheme will reduce the parking congestion in Station Road and the surrounding area. The scheme is funded by Merseytravel. It is currently under detailed design and is due to commence on site 2011/2012.

Highway Management Last year each Forum was given the opportunity to contribute to the current Structural Maintenance Programme and submit lists of roads they considered to be local priorities for significant repair. Each suggested road was assessed according to the criteria below and if successful included in the programme.

The current programme of schemes attached as Appendix 1 (pages 18 & 19)

Network Condition and Assessment Criteria: In order to fulfil its duty to maintain the highway, it is necessary to consider how the Council will prioritise the maintenance schemes to be undertaken and what treatment of the prioritised schemes should comprise in order to repair and prevent further deterioration of those lengths of road and footway. The following criteria are used in carrying out this analysis:

- (i) In accordance with national best practice the Council undertakes surveys of the highway network in order to determine the condition of the carriageways.
- (ii) Areas of constant repairs; mainly due to vehicle over-ride; are highlighted in the Highway Inspectors' safety inspections.
- (iii) Particular roads brought to the Council's attention, as warranting significant repair, by Area Forums, Elected Members, the public and Streetscene officers.

(iv) Feedback from the Council's Term Maintenance Contractor regarding the suitability of different repair solutions depending on the existing road condition and use.

Road casualty information, where collisions with road surface condition as a potential causation factor, to determine whether prioritising a scheme in the programme may also address a recognised road safety concern.

Technical Services are now in the process of preparing the Structural Maintenance Programme for 2012/2013 and would once again appreciate your assistance in providing lengths of roads and pavements that should be considered for resurfacing or reconstructing due to their poor condition. Please submit any roads for consideration by contacting your local Councillor or the Community Engagement team on 0151 691 8695, alternatively email, engage@wirral.gov.uk no later than 1 August 2011.

Waste and Recycling Wirral Council has exceeded its recycling target of 37% for 2010/11 - we are now recycling 40% of our waste. The increase in recycling has been as a result of recycling the Borough's street sweepings and also an overall reduction in the weight of refuse produced per household. Well done and thank you to all our residents for their hard work.

In March, Wirral Council rolled out a recycling service to all properties in hard to access areas (bag collection rounds). 350 properties have received a new box for recyclable material, to be collected on a weekly basis. We are now very close to 100% of Wirral households having a kerbside recycling service - just two more properties to go!

Wirral Council will be holding a compost giveaway on Sat 11th June at Port Sunlight Garden Centre from 9am till 1pm. Bags of compost will be available on a first come first serve basis, one bag per customer. Information will also be available on home composting and www.getcomposting.com, where residents can purchase low cost compost bins, wormeries and water butts.

The Waste and Environment section have employed our third and final round of Future Job Fund posts - 6 Assistant Recycling Project Officers have joined the team until September 2011. These officers will continue the good work being done to tackle contamination of the grey recycling bins. Since May 2010, the Assistant Recycling Project Officers have worked with the Biffa crews in the worst performing areas and have seen a 50% reduction in the number of bins rejected for contamination. A secondary project has begun, auditing properties presenting two or more green bins for refuse. The aim of this project is to ensure that all properties presenting two bins are authorised to do so and also to keep accurate records for future reviews.

Due to the success of the Future Job Fund projects, the Waste and Environment Team has received authorisation to employ 6 full time staff in these posts. We anticipate beginning the recruitment process in July/August, so as to ensure continuity.

Local Transport Plan 3 The Third Local Transport Plan for Merseyside became active from 1st April 2011.

The plan sets out the implementation plans in the short term to 2015 and looks to the longer term strategy for 2024 on how to improve transport in Merseyside.

The Third Local Transport Plan has the following vision: 'A city region committed to a low carbon future, which has a transport network and mobility culture that positively contributes to a thriving economy and the health and wellbeing of its citizens and where sustainable travel is the option of choice'.

The Local Transport Plan has six goals:

- Help create the right conditions for sustainable economic growth by supporting the priorities of the Liverpool City Region, the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Local Strategic Partnerships.
- Provide and promote a clean, low emission transport system which is resilient to changes to climate and oil availability.
- Ensure the transport system promotes and enables improved health and wellbeing and road safety.

- Ensure equality of travel opportunity for all, through a transport system that allows people to connect easily with employment, education, healthcare, other essential services and leisure and recreational opportunities.
- Ensure the transport network supports the economic success of the city region by the efficient movement of people and goods.
- Maintain our assets to a high standard. (Please note all goals have equal status).

The Local Transport Plan and supporting annexes are available to download from www.transportmerseyside.org or by contacting 0151 330 1294

School Environment Awards The Wirral Council School Environment Awards, in association with Biffa and Tranmere Rovers, are now in their third year and have seen some very successful, exciting and challenging projects being rewarded to schools across Wirral. The awards are open to all schools and provide recognition to schools studying a range of environmental topics that are strongly linked to the National Curriculum and compliment work towards Eco Schools.

This year's winners were:

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| • Energy Awareness Award - | Greenleas primary School |
| • Mayor's Outstanding Contribution Award - | Irby Primary School |
| • Wirral Ranger's Wildlife Conservation Award - | Hoylake Holy Trinity |
| • Junior Road Safety Officer's Award - | Great Meols Primary School |
| • Road Safety Participation Award - | Upton Hall School, FCJ |
| • Biffa Schools Recycling Award - | Stanton Rd Primary School |
| • Tranmere Rovers Community Award - | Prenton High School For Girls |
| • Green Facilities Champion - | University Academy of Birkenhead |

Street Cleansing Wirral's street cleansing contractors Biffa have adopted a new 'area based' approach to cleaning the borough. Wirral has been divided into four areas meaning that each area has its own designated cleansing operatives, supervisors and manager.

This change in approach identifies the following opportunities for improvements:

Geographical ownership is created for frontline operatives and management. This not only highlights locations presenting a reoccurring challenge but creates an extra element of ownership and pride in the cleanliness of any one particular location.

Localised working will reduce the distances that cleansing vehicles will need to cover. This will obviously reduce fuel costs but will also lower carbon emissions for the street cleansing service as a whole. This will aid in Biffa and Wirral's aim to make the service as environmentally sustainable as possible.

Big Tidy Up's From May, Tidy Ups will begin in those wards who have allocated money through the 'You Decide' funding. In West Wirral we will be engaging Tranmere Together to work with a number of local organisations.

Community Speedwatch Is speeding a problem in your neighbourhood? Make a difference by joining the Wirral Community Speedwatch team and help to make Wirral's roads safer. Community Speedwatch allows Wirral residents concerned about speeding in their local area to monitor motorist's speed using state of the art radar guns. The scheme aims to tackle areas where the dangers of careless driving and speeding are a real concern to local people. For more information on becoming a Community Speedwatch Volunteer contact Carolyne Hankey on 0151 606 5448

carolyne.a.hankey@merseyside.pnn.police.uk

Bidston	Limits	Cost £'s	Category	Work Description
Arthur Street	Beckwith St to No. 81	20,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway
Banning Close	Even side	300	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Bidston Village Road	Lennox Lane to Observatory Sch ent	1,600	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Cleveland Street	Duke Street to Old Bidston Road	800	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Deansway	All	500	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Fender Way	Warren Drive to Second Avenue	40,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Harcourt Street	All	5,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Hoylake Road	Fender Lane to Gautby Road	80,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Old Bidston Road	Price Street to Cleveland Street	2,000	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
School Lane	All	2,400	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
St Anne Street	Duke Street to St Annes Place	30,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway
St. Anne Street	Vittoria St to medical centre car park	300	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Tollemache Road	Upton Road to Flaybrick Close to cemetery side only	3,400	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Vittoria Street	Beckwith Street to Park Rd North	10,500	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Vittoria Street	St Anne St to Corporation Rd	1,500	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Vulcan Close	All	1,600	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Rendel Street	Tower Road to Cleveland Street	45,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway

Claughton	Limits	Cost £'s	Category	Work Description
Birchview Way	All	4,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Eleanor Road	All	28,000	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Noctorum Avenue	Upton Road to Windermere Road	50,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Noctorum Lane	All	70,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Noctorum Road	All	22,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Park Road South	Claughton Road to Francis Avenue	25,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Rydal Avenue	All	20,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
The Ridings	All	700	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Vittoria Street	Park Road North to Price Street	50,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Waterford Road	All	20,500	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
West Close	All	1,500	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
West Road	North side only	2,300	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal

Highway Management Last year each Forum was given the opportunity to contribute to the current Structural Maintenance Programme and submit lists of roads they considered to be local priorities for significant repair.

Michelle Gray Community Engagement Co-ordinator has full copy of report michellegray@wirral.gov.uk /0151 691 8213

Wirral Youth Service

Provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning.

The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services.

The Youth Service in Wirral works with many young people in a variety of different settings, these include:

- Youth clubs
- Street work projects
- “Kontaktabuses”
- “Wirral Youth Theatre” and Youth Arts
- “Response” – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service
- Duke of Edinburgh’s Award
- Outdoor activities
- Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies.

Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them.

Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of fourteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

Duke of Edinburgh’s Award The Youth Service holds the operating licence for administering and running the DofE. The Youth Service is therefore able to issue individual operating licences to single units such as schools, youth clubs and uniformed organisations. Young people within the borough are able to participate in at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels and are offered a wide and diverse menu of opportunities. A well equipped Open Award Centre is able to provide comprehensive and quality expedition training for those wishing to attempt their expedition or exploration. Young people are encouraged to make improved use of their leisure time and by participating in the DofE they are guided towards, helping their own communities, acquiring new skills, keeping fit and taking on new and exciting challenges. Anyone aged between 14 and 25 can take part in the DofE regardless of

background or ability and participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT) Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills. WYT has now relocated to the Gilbrook School site in Birkenhead.

You Decide Funding There are projects being planned in a number of wards across the face of Wirral using the You Decide funding. The outputs of these projects will be maximised by the joint working of partners in the Integrated Youth Support Service including Youth sports and the Anti-social Behaviour team.

The Cavendish Youth Centre is operational on Monday and Wednesday evening from 7pm to 10pm with Monday night particularly busy. Music workshops are very popular. A girls group are currently putting a netball team together and are hopeful to achieve this in the near future

North Birkenhead Outreach Team. A group of young people were successful with a Youth Opportunity Fund bid earlier in the year. The last of the positive activities have been taking place over the past few months and they have included: Oaklands weekend, relationship and sex education workshops, mountain biking in Delamere Forest, theatre trips and bowling.