

Wirral's Area Forums



New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum

**Wallasey Sea Cadets
Victoria Road
New Brighton
CH45 9LD**

Wednesday 29th June 2011.

6.30-8.30pm

Please note the new time of the forum above

Andy Brannan- Community Engagement Co-ordinator

Tel: 0151 691 8391 **Fax:** 0151 691 8159

Textphone: 18001 0151 691 8391

Email: andrewbrannan@wirral.gov.uk

Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

**Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services, Town Hall, Brighton Street,
Wallasey, Wirral CH44 8ED**

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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
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New Brighton & Wallasey Area Forum

29th June 011

6.30-8.30pm

**Wallasey Sea Cadets
Victoria Road, New Brighton**

AGENDA

- Welcome, Introduction & Apologies
 - Minutes & matters arising
(Previous meeting – February 2011)
- Neighbourhood Plans Presentation
 - Public Question Time
 - Area Forum Partner Updates

Section One

Minutes

Previous minutes

Tuesday, 22 February 2011

Present:

Councillor P Hayes (Chair)

Councillors
A Pritchard
L Rennie
S Taylor
K Wood
P Glasman

Community representatives Martin Revans, Ann Lavin

Older People's Parliament representative
Joe Fish

Lead Officer
Mark Camborne

Streetscene
Chris Jones

Area Service Co-ordinator
Andy Brannan

Merseyside Police
Sergeant Trish McLeod, Sergeant David Baird

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service
Tony Mooney

Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Trust
Lynn Benstead

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES:

The Chair, Councillor P Hayes, welcomed forum members and 31 members of the public to the area forum at St Mary's College.

Apologies were noted from Inspector Peter Kolokotroni, Inspector Mike Barratt, Bob Little, Mark Williams and Dave Green

2 AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT: INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:

2.1) The Area Co-ordinator, Andy Brannan, went through previous minutes pointing out the matters arising on page 4. There is a written update for all the issues raised at previous forum.

Dave Hanlon gave information that his friend Dave Watson who recently passed away was the General Secretary of Rockville Football Club and that the club is the oldest club in Wirral.

An update was provided on the St Peter and St Paul's Church. Much of the information is still confidential but there will be Mass every Friday morning at 9.15am.

Q)-Cllr Glassman enquired about the funding SOUL received from the New Brighton and Wallasey Area Forum for a feasibility study and if there is a need for this study now that progress is being made on the church?

2.2) Andy gave information on the area forums asking for suggestions for locations for grit bins as all area forums have further funding for the allocation of grit bins.

2.3) Andy announced the date of the Coastal Towns Funding event for New Brighton. To be held at 7.00pm at Wallasey Sea Cadets, this meeting is for New Brighton residents only and will allow residents to have a say on how funding is spent in their area.

3 CENSUS 2011:

3.1)-Graham Bottle gave the presentation on the Census 2011, what residents will have to do, why it is important and how the forms can be filled in.

Q)-What about people who are in the armed forces, do they have to fill a form in?

A)-if they are based in the UK special provision will be made to record the information. If they are abroad they are not obliged to complete the Census.

Q)-What are there different questions in this Census questionnaire compared to the previous one?

A)-Sometimes different questions are included to try and capture different information that wasn't included in the last Census.

Q)-What guarantees are there that the information will be confidential as there have been times when people's information has been lost by the Government?

A)-The company who are handling people's information are UK based and there are several security safeguards in place to ensure that any information doesn't go missing and isn't used by any other organisation or council department.

Q)-Will anyone in the EU have access to the information?

A)-No

4 PARKS & COUNTRYSIDE SERVICE PROCUREMENT EXERCISE:

4.1)-Mark Camborne gave a presentation on the progress of the Parks and Countryside Services Procurement Exercise which included the services which will and wont be included within the contract that will go to an external organisation and the dates of the forthcoming consultation events.

The following meetings will all be held at Wallasey Town Hall starting at 5.30pm
3rd March Discussing parks and countryside
8th March Bereavement service
15th March Discussing the golf courses
23rd March Sports services

If anyone has any questions concerning PACSPE they can contact the council's call centre on 0151 606 2004.

Q)-Will the tender be advertised in the public?

A)-Yes, because of the value of the tender the council has to follow EU procurement laws.

Q)-The bereavement service and golf courses make money so why are they included in the tender?

A)-Only the grounds maintenance part of these services are included in the tender and it won't affect the profit making side of the bereavement and golf course services.

Q)-Is the maintenance of the golf course too specialised to go to a single organisation?

A)-The company which takes over the maintenance of the golf will have to provide assurances that they have the ability to carry out the work properly.

Q)-What is happening to the Ranger who was situated at Wallasey Central Park?

A)-The Ranger who was at the park has left the council under the recent EVR scheme. However the walled garden will still be open Monday to Friday and every alternative weekend.

Q)-The information given tonight indicated that the council is going to invest £5m into parks and countryside service. What will this investment be?

A)-It is a capital investment such as sports changing rooms and will be discussed at the consultation events in March.

Q)-The football pitches are still a mess and the some of them are unplayable?

A)-This is the information that will be covered at March's meetings. The council have recently announced that money will be put into cleaning up parts of Wirral, this will include open spaces and football pitches.

Q)-If the contract is for 10 years will there be anything in place to ensure that the standard of work is maintained?

A)-Yes, there will be service level agreements to ensure this happens.

Q)-The Wallasey Cricket Club leases its facilities from the council. Is there any chance of the facilities being included in the PACSPE contract?

A)-Will we look into this and contact the club.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME / AREA FORUM PARTNER UPDATES:

5.1 TRISH MCLEOD (MERSEYSIDE POLICE)

All crime, except burglary offences have decreased. A spate of burglaries in one block of empty flats has contributed to this.

The police have recently taken a group of young people to Oaklands during the school holidays. This has allowed the police to engage with younger people in the area.

If anyone wants to raise any policing issues they can call Crime Stoppers on 0800 555 111. This also includes anti social behaviour issues.

5.2 DAVE BAIRD (MERSEYSIDE POLICE)

Again, crime is down except for burglaries. 3 cannabis farms have been found in the Wallasey area and there has been an increase in cannabis production recently.

Q)-Is the police force to reduce in size?

A)-Yes, but it hoped that this will be through natural wastage of officers retiring initially.

Q)-Youths have been congregating in the Cherrytree car park in Liscard. This is very intimidating for people in walking through the car park?

A)-This will be looked into

Q)-Grove Road has been bad for cars speeding, is it possible to have a speed trap?

A)-A operation will be undertaken on the road to discourage cars from speeding.

5.3-PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Q)-Radio Merseyside reported about the closure of Fernley Centre for temporary respite, are people aware of this?

A)-This has been reported throughout the press to keep people up to date with what's happening. Some care homes in the authority will be closing to permanent beds, however some of these homes will be converted into respite centres.

Q)-What is happening with the plans for a roundabout at Bayswater Drive?

A)-Unfortunately when investigating the road for the roundabout, gas pipes were found under the road. This has added significant price to the amount of the scheme. Talks are on going with Neptune about how this cost will be met.

Q)-Will Neptune be able to cope with the additional traffic that the resort will bring?

A)-This has always been a concern of local residents and councillors. It was deemed that the surrounding areas will be able to cope and has been given planning permission. If there are problems then all the concerned organisations such as the council and police will look at all solutions.

Q)-Wellington Road in New Brighton has numerous pot holes after the recent bad weather?

A)-Additional funding has been put into road repairs, this road will be highlighted and an investigation done.

Q)-The shop at the corner of Zig Zag and Rake Lane is applying for a second license, will it be rejected?

A)-Objections have been submitted to the committee and the ward councillors will be

attending the committee itself to put forward these objections again

Q)-Will all pot holes be repaired?

A)-Additional funding has been made available for repairing pot holes. Inspections will be carried out to identify the areas of biggest need. Following this, as many pot holes as possible will be repaired.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Meeting was closed at 8.45pm.

Matters arising

Q)-The Wallasey Cricket Club leases its facilities from the council. Is there any chance of the facilities being included in the PACSPE contract?

A)-We will look into this and contact the club.

Council officers have spoken to Wallasey Cricket club and Cllr Wood who is supporting the club. The club cannot be included in the Parks contract but the council will look at any others ways to assist.

Q)-Grove Road has been bad for cars speeding, is it possible to have a speed trap?

A)-An operation will be undertaken on the road to discourage cars from speeding.

Patrols have targeted the area through Roads Policing Enforcement Operations and although no drivers have been caught speeding a number of drivers have been issued warnings for minor offences. The Police will continue to monitor the area.

Q)-Youths have been congregating in the Cherrytree car park in Liscard. This is very intimidating for people in walking through the car park?

A)-This will be looked into

The town centre is an ongoing issue and there is an operation in place covering it, which includes the specified area. Complaints have fallen and the area will continue to form part of the Police's summer ASB plan.

Q)-The shop at the corner of Zig Zag and Rake Lane is applying for a second license, will it be rejected?

A)-Objections have been submitted to the committee and the ward councillors will be attending the committee itself to put forward these objections again

The Zig Zag Road application was granted by the Sub-Committee on 14 October 2010. This was the only time it went to a hearing. The application did not contravene any of the four licensing objectives and no representations were made by the responsible authorities.

Section Two

Local Updates

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.

They involve local ward councillors, police, NHS Wirral, University Teaching Hospital Trust, fire safety representatives etc along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council.

Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour

Legal action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour has 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);
- 40-year old female from Heygarth Drive, **Greasby**, was sentenced to 20 weeks' imprisonment following breaches of an Anti-Social Behaviour Order obtained against her in 2010. Her 51-year old partner from Grove Road, **Hoyle**, was sentenced to electronic tagging for 6 weeks and ordered to stay at his mum's address in Hoyle between 7pm and 7am, following a breach of a 2-year Anti-Social Behaviour Order obtained against him in 2010.

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.

Activity has included:

- **Programme to tackle anti-social behaviour in New Ferry & Bromborough (February 2011)**

Teenagers were offered a 12-week alcohol and drug intervention course, with emphasis on gun and knife crime, to tackle anti-social behaviour in the area.

The programme, a result of partnership between Merseyside Police and Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team, was run in conjunction with Wirral's Challenge and Support Project co-ordinated by the Team, which provides a twin approach of enforcement to challenge the behaviour of young people involved in anti-social behaviour and intervention to tackle the underlying causes.

Alongside the curricular activities there was opportunity for the young people to get involved in community projects. The young people were presented with their completion certificates at Merseyside Police's headquarters in May and work is currently underway to extend this programme across the borough.

- **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.

AREA FORUM STREETSCENE UPDATE

New Brighton & Wallasey

Traffic Management Updates

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

- Rowson Street, Wallasey – Vehicle Activated Sign
- Wallasey Village / Folly Lane, Wallasey – Cycling Strategy Scheme (Due for completion May 2011)
- Broadway, Wallasey – Cycling Strategy Scheme (Due for completion May 2011)

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 at Appendix 1** denotes those schemes with an “F”.

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.
- (v) 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.

Road Name	Limits	Ward	Est £s	Category	Works Description
Dalton Road	To complete	New Brighton	15,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
Duke Street	All	New Brighton	7,300	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Duke Street	All	New Brighton	25,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
Field Road	All	New Brighton	10,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Hertford Drive	All	New Brighton	20,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor

Portland Street	Wellington Road to Kings Parade	New Brighton	20,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Rowson Street	Seabank Road to Magazine Lane	New Brighton	40,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Wellington Road (identified through the Area Forum)	All	New Brighton	33,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Bayswater Road	Green Lane to Newport Avenue	Wallasey	70,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Belvidere Road	Britannia Road to Broadway Avenue	Wallasey	50,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Harrow Road	All	Wallasey	17,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
Hose Side Road	All	Wallasey	23,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Shrewsbury Road	All	Wallasey	30,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
Kings Parade	Selected	Wallasey / New Brighton	35,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway

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.



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 Council Youth Service

Introduction

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

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.

New Brighton and Wallasey Area.

Belvidere Youth Club provides a range of youth club facilities for young people with additional needs. Activities in the club include table tennis, pool, snooker and video games. Recently discussion groups and workshops have taken place which has provided advice and guidance around issues such as bullying, drugs and alcohol and health and relationships. Over the past few months young people have been busy producing a newsletter. The unit has just received their Silver Award in Health Promoting Youth Units.

St Mary's Youth Club Is open four nights two of which is the DofE scheme and in fact has the second biggest number of output in Wirral with the Gold being particularly high
It also has a night for people with special needs where a significant number of young people work to make the night a success and also achieve the service award in the DofE scheme.

North/West Wallasey Outreach Team has been working in close partnership with Sports Development, Response, Parks and Open Spaces, Youth Respect Team and the Police on Friday nights in Harrison Park. Here the Kontaktabus has been used to provide a venue to deliver harm reduction advice and guidance workshops. In

addition, games, hot chocolate and toast have been used to help engage 40 -70 young people

Wirral University Teaching Hospital

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

At the beginning of May the Trust launched a widespread staff and public engagement programme, called *Treating you well into the future*. A 28 page staff and public engagement document which outlined the proposals for change was published on the Trust's website at: www.whnt/nhs.uk/treatingyouwellintothefuture/, circulated widely to staff and key stakeholders and promoted within the local community.

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 and recognising that the Trust needs to make the best use of these hospitals, avoiding duplication of services and working more efficiently.

The 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.

During the engagement period, which ended on 13th June 2011, we actively sought 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.

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 and the outcome of the engagement programme will be widely communicated during July.

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

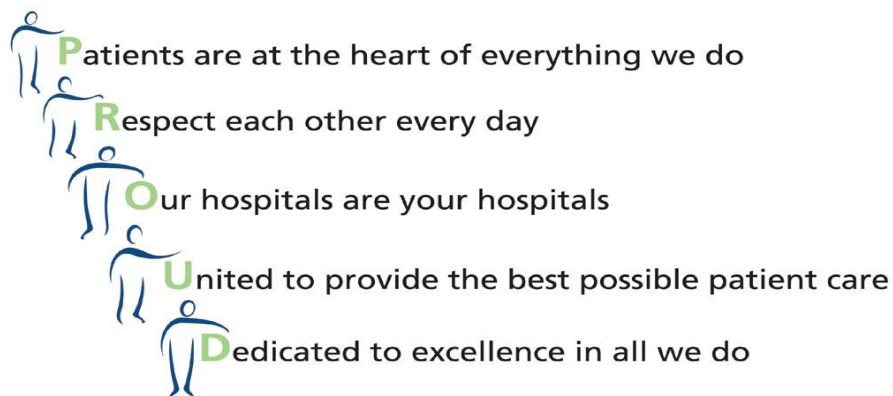
- The Birkenhead Community Midwife Team scooped one of the UK's top midwifery prizes, the 'Innovation in Midwifery' Award, for their 'Mums and Midwives' shop project, at the recent Royal College of Midwives Annual Awards.
- Opened in 2009 and based in The Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead, 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.

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>