

Wirral's Area Forums



**West Wirral
Area Forum**

Wednesday 29th June 2011

**West Kirby Concourse
Grange Road
West Kirby
CH48 4HX**

7.00pm – 9.00pm

Tracey Smith – Senior Community Engagement Co-ordinator

Tel: 0151 691 8026 - **Mobile** 07500033692

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

Email: traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk

Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

Community Engagement Team

Town Hall, Brighton Street

Wallasey

Wirral

CH44 8ED



Help shape your services

Contents

<u>Section One</u>	Agenda	Page	3
	Minutes from last Meeting	Page	4
<u>Section Two</u>	Local Updates	Page	13
	• Anti Social Behaviour Team update		14
	• Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service		15
	• Streetscene		17
	• Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust		23
	• Alcohol Scrutiny Review		25
	• Youth Service Update		29

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
-

Area Forum

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome, introductions and apologies
- 2) Area co-ordinators Report
 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
- 3) Reports from Partner Organisations
 - Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
 - Merseyside Police & Community Safety
 - Fire Service
 - Older Peoples Parliament
- 4) Neighbourhood Plans
- 5) Public Question Time
- 6) Dates of Future meetings.

Section One

Minutes

Previous minutes

West Wirral Area Forum Wednesday 9th February 2011

Present:-

Chair:

Gerry Ellis

Councillors:

David Elderton, Eddie Boulton, John Hale

Lead Officer:

Kevin Adderley

Senior Community

Engagement Co-Coordinator:

Tracey Smith

Merseyside Police:

Inspector Mike Blease

Community Safety:

Mike Collins

Merseyside Fire Service:

Myles Platt

Wirral University Teaching Hospital

NHS Foundation Trust:

Sue Green

NHS Wirral:

Glen Coleman

Community Representative:

Gary Evans, Cynthia Radford

Older Peoples Parliament:

Sandra Wall

Council Officers:

Dave Green (Technical Services), Michelle Gray
(Community Engagement/Minute Taker)

In Attendance:

John Mycock (WPH), Deborah Morgan (Census),
Peter Cummings (United Utilities)

Apologies:

Councillor Geoffrey Watt, Councillor Jeff Green

- Minutes are a summary of the meeting, issues raised with individual officers after the main meeting are actioned separately.

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies: The Chair, Councillor Gerry Ellis, welcomed forum members and 60 members of the public to the West Wirral Area Forum meeting being held at Melrose Hall, Hoylake.

He explained to forum and members of the public that they were welcome to raise questions throughout the meeting.

Changes have been made to structure of agenda from previous meeting, partner updates earlier on agenda, fewer items on agenda and time dedicated to public question time.

Amendments:

- Item 4 in minutes title should read: Regeneration of West Kirby
- Item 6 in minutes last paragraph should read Rubbish and not rubbles
- Item 6 further information on Bulky Bobs: This is a social enterprise which specialises in working in partnership with local authorities throughout the UK, they operate contracts to collect, reuse, refurbish and recycle bulky waste, primarily furniture and white goods.

Life Boat Museum: Chair Councillor Gerry Ellis welcomed John Parr to give an update on the success story for the “Life Boat Museum”

John Parr explained the old life boat station was bought by Tony Crane who is local to the area and committed to the development of the station. It will be a museum and will have a heritage theme. It will have charitable status and be run as a non for profit organisation, with a long term lease. This is a success story for the area.

John thanked those who have been involved in the process, Peel Holdings did listen and took on board the tremendous support for this development and for the station to be run locally, thanks to Councillors John Hale and Gerry Ellis for their commitment and extended thanks to John Whittaker and his staff. John also informed the forum that there will be a meeting taking place on Thursday 10th February 2011, and was open to anyone to attend.

Welcome: Chair Councillor Gerry Ellis welcomed Kevin Adderley Interim Director of Corporate Services to his 1st meeting as lead officer and also welcomes Inspector Mike Blease from Merseyside Police.

2. Matters Arising From Minutes of Last Meeting Including Area Co-ordinators Report:

Tracey Smith presented her report containing the minutes from the previous meeting held in October 2010 included was local updates from our partners.

Matters arising:

- Minutes to record a Question/Answer style format and to include any action points.

Grit Bins: Tracey Smith also informed the area forum that funding of £5,000 is available for additional grit bins in the local area for 2011/2012; anyone can make a suggestion using the grit bin suggestion cards that were made available at the meeting.

Costal Town Funding: In March 2010 the previous Government launched its latest strategy for seaside towns – Strategy for Seaside Success: Securing the future of seaside economies. To coincide with this announcement Wirral along with 24 other local authorities in England was awarded a grant of £200,000 from the Department of Communities & Local Government (DCLG). The allocation in the form of a revenue grant is designed to support projects that will drive regeneration and economic development in the seaside towns of New Brighton, Hoylake and West Kirby.

Cabinet have agreed that Wirral’s allocation be split equally between New Brighton (£100,000) and Hoylake/West Kirby (£100,000) and that the respective Area Forum’s be given responsibility in evaluating and determining which proposals be supported.

Recommendations from each Area Forum will then be presented to a future Cabinet for a decision. The application process was launched on 20th February and the closing date for applications is 12 noon on Friday 25 February 2011. Applications that meet the criteria for funding will be assessed through a process of participatory budgeting at two “Special” Area Forums

- **14th March 2011, at Melrose Hall, Melrose Avenue, Hoylake, CH47 3BU for Hoylake & West Kirby 7.00 - 9.00pm**

If you are a resident in either of these areas and would like to have a say on how this funding is spent, you can attend on the evening and vote on which projects receive funding in your area. If you have any questions about getting involved please call Tracey Smith on 0151 691 8026 or email traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk or engage@wirral.gov.uk

United Utilities: Councillor Gerry Ellis welcomed Peter Cummings from united Utilities to the area forum as there is a lot of work going on in the local area and Gerry felt that it was important for an update. Peter gave out information cards detailing the programme of works for the areas of Hoylake, Moreton & Caldy. Website also gives up to date information, as is updated daily. Peter said there will be full consultation with residents, including letters, leaflets drops, adverts in paper etc.

David Green Director of Technical Services informed the forum that United Utilities have to abide by law to liaise with Wirral Council re: any programme of works, affected traffic flow etc. Elected members will be advised of any disruption to traffic, any planning and timing of events. Council are responsible for carrying out inspection and assessing the quality of work, condition of roads and pavements etc. David Green advised anyone who had an issue or query to ring Streetscene on 0151 606 2004, or can email at Streetscene@wirral.gov.uk

- A comment was made if in the future a more co-ordinated approach can be taken to include other agencies that need to “dig up” roads/pavements (i.e. Gas, Electric). David Green advised the forum that we do try to co-ordinate programme of works, however sometimes it is not practical at that time. Agencies do endeavour to have minimum disruption to the work they need to carry out.

3. Report from Partner organisations:

NHS Wirral – Glen Coleman

- full update for the NHS is in the area co-ordinators page 12

NHS Wirral has received approval from the Department of Health for our provider arm to become a community trust. The new Trust will be from April 2011. Approximately 1400 staff will transfer to the new organisation. Under the Coalition Government’s proposals, groups of GPs (consortia) will come together to commission most health services for their populations, taking over this responsibility from Primary Care Trusts (i.e. NHS Wirral). Wirral will have 3 GP Consortia, representing over 57 practices, will be “pathfinder consortia”, working under the auspices of the PCT until they take over the reigns fully in 2013. NHS Wirral and Wirral Council are working closely together on the transition to the new arrangements.

Q: West Kirby Concourse, does not seem “fit for purpose” for a medical building?

A: Looking for a suitable site, funding is not the issue, as there is money set aside for the funding of this project.

Q: A plot of land had been identified opposite the Concourse, where are we up to with this?

A: The land belongs to Wirral Partnership Homes and not the Council, this piece of land may not be big enough as space is needed to be considered for car parking.

Q: Sandstone Medical centre has and offers an excellent service why can’t we have one similar to this?

A: It is an excellent service, however it is not efficient we want to aim for one reception service, one administration service, under one roof. Streamlining services & improving communication.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital Trust – Sue Green

- full update for the Trust is in the area co-ordinators pages 23 - 26

Sue Green highlighted some key changes to the NHS Foundation Trust, improving the way it delivers services, working with key partners. From a patients point of view they should not see major changes to services.

The Trust has a board of Directors which is made up of directors and non-directives membership. With effect from January this year the Trust welcomes Dr Jean Quinn to the board. In addition the Trust has an Assembly of Governors with a membership of 37 governors representing our public, stakeholders and staff. The next meeting is scheduled for the 16th March 2011 to be held at the Arrowe Park Site and will be looking at plans for "Treating you Well into the Future", the meeting is an open meeting for all to attend.

Sue Green wanted to thank residents for their commitment and support of the Christmas period due to there being a restriction on visitors to hospitals. The disruption was kept to a minimum.

Q: Councillor Eddie Boulton raised concerns over the administration services at the hospitals especially around correspondence, he provided examples of his experience in a number of hospitals and particularly in relation to information.

A: The Trust has made a major investment into a new clinical information system and has already started to see improvement. Further improvements will be made over the next 12 months, including improvements in administration services (patient letters, quality and accuracy of correspondence).

Merseyside Police – Mike Blease

- Newsletter was available at the area forum

Mike Blease introduced himself and one of his targets is to improve relationships within the community. Mike informed the forum that he is looking to re-vamp the "Have You say" events which are due to take place on:

- **15th February 2011 at 2.00pm – West Kirby Concourse**
- **16th February 2011 at 2.00pm – Hoylake Police Station**

Everyone welcome to attend these meetings. Mike also gave some updated information:

- Burglaries are low in this area
- UPVC doors are easy targets, advised residents to ensure they lock the door from the inside and not to have key in the door but somewhere accessible for home owners to get out of the house safely

Q: Resident wanted to inform the forum that Community Police Officers on the streets, it is very re-assuring, and had a huge impact on the community of the visible presence and makes people feel safe?

A: Mike Blease & Chair thank residents for the positive feedback

Q: Is there going to be any cuts to PCSO?

A: PCSO's those that were on a temporary contract have been made permanent after 4 years, Government have set money aside for the funding of these officers and we will not be losing any of our neighbourhood policing, cuts like all leading bodies have to be

met and the police will be looking at back office services, the administration services are being reviewed. Police are not recruiting and front line services are staying as they are.

- PCSO's – reduce their work they spend on administration and have them on the beat more, the use of blackberry's is a way forward and less paperwork.

Community Safety – Mike Collins

- full update for community safety is in the area co-ordinators pages 9 - 12

Community Safety Team work closely with other partners such as: Police & Fire, all officers are equipped to deal with small fires, they are the leading body for addressing dog fouling and have a team appointed to this, officers were recruited from the "Future Jobs Fund" and are funded until September 2011.

Over 60,000 bags issued to dog owners, huge campaign to launch this, now the future programme of works is looking at enforcement in the area.

If you see these officers in your area and have issues you can approach them and will be happy to help or advise.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service – Myles Platt

- full update for fire service is in the area co-ordinators pages 13 - 14

Myles Platt informed the area forum of the fire service spending review and this is detailed on page 13 of report. Wirral will not see major changes in deduction over the next 3 years, after this time it may be different. One of the key roles for the fire service is joining up and working with other partner organisations to address the prevention agenda and delivering the emergency response.

Q: Smoke Alarm randomly going off, why does this happen?

A: maybe faulty, contact fire service and will be more happy to come out and replace it.

An incident had taken place in the West Kirby area where a gentleman lost his life due to a fire, his wife was saved. Myles emphasised the importance of having smoke alarms and more importantly have a fire escape route of your own for yourself and family members.

Forum members/residents wanted to thank the fire service for their hard-work and quick response to this incident. Since this incident fire officers went into the area visited more than 120 homes providing safety advice to vulnerable and isolated residents anyone wanting advice or support to see Myles at end of meeting.

Older People's Parliament – Sandra Wall

- full update for the OPP is in the area co-ordinators pages 15 - 19

Sandra gave an update from her report that is detailed in the papers, Sandra wanted to promote an event that was taking place:

Floral Pavilion Conference Centre for two full days 26th & 27th May 2011 to showcase what Wirral has to offer its older population. There will be stalls displaying services available from health, the local authority, and a range of voluntary and independent groups. There will be many leisure activities and special interest clubs, advertising their programmes. There will be entertainment by musicians and others throughout both days. There will be a series of workshops in one of the lecture rooms on a variety of topics. We are asking all participating

organisations to contribute as much as they can to the funding of the event, the key costs of which are being met by Wirral University Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust.

4. Census 2011:

Census Area Manager - Deborah Morgan

Gave an update on the importance of the census for the Wirral. The census is a snapshot of the whole population and gathers data on how many people live here, how we live our lives, how many children we have, if we have a car etc, it also collects data about what services we need in our area, like schools, hospitals, houses, roads & transport to name just a few. Census Day is scheduled for 27th March 2011. Wirral's Census 10 years ago, had a really good return however it was recorded that about 6% did not return forms and this cost around £13 million in funding for Wirral.

Key Points:

- Personal information will not be shared with any other government department, 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

5. Wirral's Future:

Kevin Adderley updated the forum on outcome of the Consultation exercise "Wirral' Future- Be a part of it". He recapped on the Four Task Forces and outlined the engagement activities undertaken to consult with the public and businesses. He stated that 5,659 responses had been returned, which was the largest number of responses of any similar consultation exercise, and all responses fed into a report to Cabinet on December 9th 2010. The vast majority of comments and suggestions from the four Task Forces were agreed by residents. The Task Forces met again after the consultation had closed to consider all responses. They then made recommendations to Cabinet that were endorsed at the meeting on December 9th and fed in to the budget and priority proposals for 2011/12.

Q: What Percentage of Wirral residents returned completed forms?

A: 40,000 questionnaires were distributed, and 5,659 were returned, giving a response rate of 14% - this is a significantly higher response rate than we could have expected by mailing a questionnaire to every resident, and also cost a lot less.

Q: How much was spent on the consultation, including staff time

A: All staff who engaged with residents during the consultation process had engagement as their usual duty and therefore, they were carrying out usual engagement activities. The cost of preparing the questionnaires and all promotion of the exercise was £15,000

Tracey explained it was one of the biggest consultation exercises we have been involved in, delivered over 120 events, over 10, 000 people completed forms, staff were out about during

the 6/7 weeks consultation period and about 30 per day were out promoting and advising on the questionnaire.

Kevin also explained it is a good way forward, consultation hasn't ended and was one of the highest response in England, consultation is vital. All information regarding the consultation is on our website www.wirral.gov.uk

Q: Can residents have an input into future questionnaires?

A: This was the first of what are planned to be continuous consultation exercises. It has to be pointed out that residents were involved in designing questions as the vast majority of Task Force members were Wirral residents. Obviously, a balance needs to be drawn between having enough members with an interest and expertise and making the Task Force manageable. Lessons learnt and future improvement exercise is being undertaken to determine how consultation, including the design of the questions can be taken forward.

Q: Form was difficult to complete?

A: Guidance was given out on the sessions and staff were trained in explaining the process for completion of the questionnaires.

Q: Concerns over completed forms, some residents did not tick the box, was answered then missed out and not recorded

A: All information was recorded and all data from the free text boxes was recorded this is all detailed in a full report (2 x folders and these are available at all libraries and One Stop Shops)

6. Wirral Partnership Homes: Claire Moore and John Mycock attended the area forum to answer any issues or concerns residents have with regard to housing in the local area.

Key points

- Bridge Court – currently empty does not meet living standards
- Need appropriate housing for young people
- Hoose Court – needs to be re-developed
- Shortage of properties in general
- Empty properties could take up to 3 to 4 years to develop
- Yeoman Cottages – remote area behind industrial estate, are being updated and brought up to standard

7. Parks & Countryside Services Procurement Exercise (PACSPE): David Green updated the forum on the most recent development relating to the Parks and Countryside Procurement Exercise (PACSPE). This exercise will see key parts of the overall service "externalised" with a view to improving the service and also reducing the overall cost. This new arrangement will be in place by January 2012 and work is underway preparing the tender timetable.

The series contained within the new contract includes;

Parks and Countryside Services, Management of Golf Courses and Crematoriums
Highway verges and trees, Public open space and account for approximately £8m from the overall budget of £13m.

Consultation is key to understanding the views of the public and service users and the second round of public meetings have been arranged they are;

All sessions 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

Council are overseeing the process and specialist consultants are also being used to provide advice.

In addition to this the services being retained by the Council are also being reviewed and a number of key aspects are being actioned:

1. Use of Street-Scene Call Centre for all enquiries (606 2004).
2. Introduction of an electronic payments system.
3. £4m Capital investment programme over 3 years to improve facilities within Parks and Countryside.

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

8. Public Question Time:

Wirral Way:

Q: Concerns raised over the trees along the Wirral Way Corridor, trees being cut down which is affecting the wildlife in that area.

A: This issue has been addressed and is currently under review. David Green offered to speak to those individuals at the end of the meeting to arrange an appointment.

Comment: Hoylake Beach is a great asset to the Wirral, visitors and local residents. The Spartina grass that was growing on the beach was affecting the beach area. This has been removed and is a huge improvement

- **Thank you to Streetscene & Elected Members for their commitment to this.**

PACSPE:

Q: How did you come to decide on a 10 year contract for the new contract?

A: Had discussions within this industry, and this is standard this helps the new contract develop and improve services and helps with purchasing and using equipment etc (example Biffa is 14years clause in place after 7 years). A performance management framework will also be in place.

Area Forums:

Q: What is the future of the area forums?

A: Area Forums will still have funding for voluntary and community groups, they will also have funding available to help improve the local area. The format of area forums is currently under review due to the Localism agenda, a report will go to Cabinet later on in the year.

9. Date of future meeting/AOB:

Next area forum is scheduled for Wednesday 29th June 2011 in West Kirby Area

Question raised from Members of the Public after the Area Forum Meeting.

Q The demolished WPH buildings at Bridge court what is the future use of the space?

Q. What are the PCT's plans for a new health centre and whether WPH could provide this space?

A. Response from WPH - WPH is the owner of the land at Bridge Court, West Kirby. As a charity, WPH is always required to ensure that the use of its assets best meets its charitable objects. Currently WPH are working with key stakeholders in West Kirby, including the Primary Care Trust and Wirral Borough Council, to determine what might be possible on the Bridge Court site. It is anticipated that the feasibility work will be concluded later this year and any proposals will be the subject of consultation with all interested parties.

A. Response from PCT - Glen Coleman who is the Deputy Director of Primary care in relation to Bridge Court Site and here is his response. The PCT is supporting the three West Kirby Concourse practices with their desire for new premises and are involved in on going discussions with Wirral Partnership Homes and the planning department regarding a joint project on the Bridge Court site.

A number of meetings have taken place to help progress this, the latest one was mid May. Nightingales (a firm of architects) have been appointed to undertake a feasibility study to identify whether the needs of Wirral Partnership Homes and the NHS can be accommodated on the site. Initial views are that this is possible. The practice and the PCT are hopeful that the scheme will progress.

Q. Do you know how the £ 35.000 clean up money was decided upon and why it is the chamber in West Kirby, who takes decisions instead of it being discussed at an Area Forum?

A. The Brief for the Keeping It Local Town Centre work was to engage with local traders within the shopping centre area, to establish what they would see as beneficial to improving the specific area around the shops and other businesses. Upon agreement of proposals, it was also directed that we should keep the Area Forum Chairs informed of proposals.

For West Kirby, it was accepted, as for some other shopping areas, that there is an established forum for town centre traders/businesses i.e. the Chamber of Business and Community. Hence it was decided to engage with that group. Their approach has included seeking input from the wider local community; inviting people to a 'town meeting' on 31 May 2011.

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**Update provided by Wirral Council**

Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team
(Integrated Youth Support Service, Children & Young People's Department)
January 2011 – April 2011

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, Hoylake, was sentenced to electronic tagging for 6 weeks and ordered to stay at his mum's address in Hoylake 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.

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:** Arrowse 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.

AREA FORUM STREETSCENE UPDATE

West Wirral

Traffic Management Updates

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

- Meols Drive, West Kirby – Vehicle Activated Sign
- North Parade, Hoylake – Pedestrian dropped kerbs

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** (see pages 19 - 20)

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	Estimate £s	Category	Works Description
Cleveley Road	All	Hoylake	15,300	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Bennets Lane	All	Hoylake & Meols	25,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
Cleveley Road	All	Hoylake & Meols	20,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
Meols Drive	The Kings Gap roundabout to Winnington Road	Hoylake & Meols	50,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Meols Drive	Winnington Road to Riversdale Road	Hoylake & Meols	100,000	Structural Carriageway	Resurface Carriageway
Meols Drive	Morpeth Road to Winnington Road	Hoylake & Meols	30,000	Structural Footway	L/R & P/L kerbs as required. L/R flags as required. Construct/reconstruct flexible footway.
North Parade	Meols Parade to The Kings Gap	Hoylake & Meols	50,000	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor	Surface Treatment to be decided following consultation with Term Maintenance Contractor
Burlingham Avenue (Part)	Selected	West Kirby	2,200	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Covertside	All	West Kirby	5,600	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Croome Drive (Part)	Selected	West Kirby	300	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal

Kings Walk	All	West Kirby	300	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
Sandstone Drive	All	West Kirby	2,100	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal
The Spinney	All	West Kirby	900	Surface Treatment to Footway	Slurry Seal

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.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital

The Trust is pleased  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

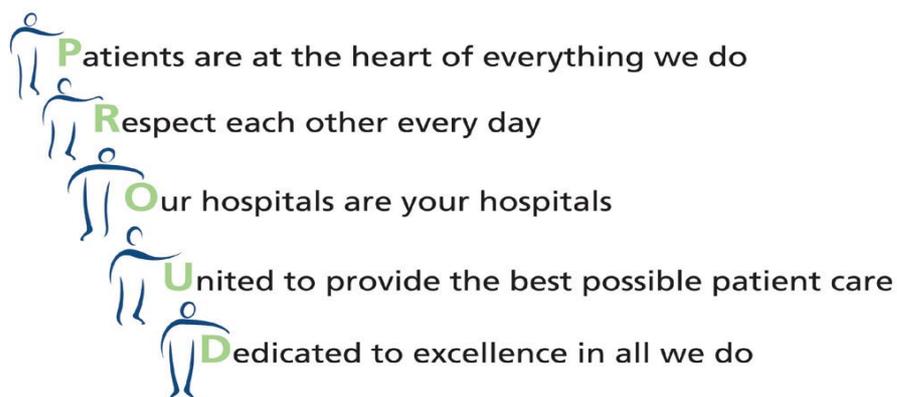
- The Birkenhead Community Midwife Team scooped one of the UK's top midwifery prizes, the 'Innovation in Midwifery' Award, for their 'Mums and Midwives' shop project, at the recent Royal College of Midwives Annual Awards.
- Opened in 2009 and based in The Grange and Pyramids Shopping Centre in Birkenhead,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

Youth Service Update

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.

West Wirral Youth Hub has a members committee of six young senior members who have been meeting to discuss future projects and opportunities. All of the young people have an input into the running of the Hub and now feed directly into the Friends of West Wirral Youth Hub meetings. Health Promoting Youth Units work has started and the Hub aims to achieve their bronze accreditation soon. On Saturday evenings a Show Choir has been formed. The Choir are working towards putting on a show in June 2011 to showcase the group and the Hub. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has started with a group of five Silver and six Bronze participants. On a Tuesday and Saturday evening there are sports sessions in the Concourse where young people can achieve an ASDAN accreditation. A young women's confidence and beauty project is started in April 2011. The project offers young women pamper nights, confidence and personal development workshops and will culminate in a fashion show at the end of the summer. Five young people from the Hub participated in a community day at Grange Park (West Kirby) planting trees and working alongside the local community and local residents.

West Wirral Outreach Team attended the West Kirby PSG meeting on the 6th April at the Mobile Police Station to discuss how we are to use & target young people in the Park who have started causing anti- social behaviour. We are now committed to outreach on a Thurs in Newton/Grange Park to continue contact with established groups & make contact with new young people identified by the WK Problem Solving Group.