

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.0 General Service Update/Staff Movements**

- 1.1. The Service responded immediately to the disturbances in Birkenhead Town Centre in August. Working with the police, youth outreach teams took to the streets and traveled the train network to speak with young people and discourage them from entering the town centre. This activity was targeted not only at the very small minority of young people who may have had criminal intent, but also those who may just have wanted to see what was taking place. The dangers of being on the periphery were highlighted, together with the challenge that this presented for the emergency services in dealing with the main perpetrators. Across the Youth Hubs and Youth Clubs, workshops and discussions were led with young people focusing upon the repercussions of damaging property, including the effects on people and the wider community, and the risk that premises may not re-open due to the cost of the repairs needed. Personal consequences around engaging in anti-social behaviour and crime were also explored with young people including the impact on their future job prospects.
- 1.2. In August 2011, the Youth & Play Service organised Wirral's first teenagers only rock festival. The event was held at Vale Park, New Brighton, and was a sell out with over 300 tickets sold to young people. The festival showcased the talents of young guitar bands in the borough and raised awareness of youth facilities in Wirral, such as Youth Hubs, Youth Centres, Wirral Youth Theatre and Youth Outreach Teams and [www.teenwirral.com](http://www.teenwirral.com) the Council's website for 13-19 year-olds. Eight bands played throughout the afternoon with festival anthems and between set banter was provided by Danny Docherty of Seven Waves Community Radio. All the bands gave their services free of charge and included Solitary Confinement, The Heist, Notion, Static Vibe, Casino Heist, The Blackhand, We Were Beautiful and Hippys on the Hill. The event was supported by Wirral News Group and the Wirral Globe. Discussions are now underway about holding a similar event next year reaching even more young people.
- 1.3. A successful bid to Merseyside Police through the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Governance Group (which focuses upon locational issues of anti-social behaviour) has seen the provision of a portable barbeque to each of the four districts. The provision of food to young people has been identified as a key engagement tactic, particularly with otherwise hard-to-engage young people. The barbeques will be used as a key tool over the Bonfire, Halloween and Mischief Nights period to engage with young people in parks and open spaces.

**Area Team reports**

**2.0 South Wirral and Birkenhead Districts**

**Birkenhead District**

- 2.1. Staff at Bebington Youth Club have rallied together with young people and the local community following a burglary in August and the project remained open for both the playscheme and youth club. Topics covered by the club included community spirit, bullying, alcohol awareness, sexual health awareness and substance misuse. One club member has been nominated to carry the Olympic flame.
- 2.2. Callister Youth Club saw young people take part in a summer programme activities, including bowling, Laser quest, meal out in Liverpool One, alcohol awareness workshop, healthy eating

and weight loss, barbeque and games on the promenade, group work around substance misuse and a cinema trip. Young people are currently benefiting from in house competitions and planning the winter programme for the project.

- 2.3. Cavendish Youth Club has delivered step aerobics, a badminton tournament, sexual health workshop, cookery and music work. Young people have taken part in a summer disco, activities and picnic in the park, and a 'perils of alcohol' session. Staff have also carried out outreach work to bring additional numbers into the project.
- 2.4. Charing Cross Youth Club has had an interesting summer. Projects included music, planning and taking part in residential trips to London and Oaklands, partnership work with the West Caribbean Club, designing and creating a sensory room in the club and group work sessions around world poverty and the need to make a difference. The young people delivered a fun day which included stocks, stalls, games and raffle. The project responded swiftly to the August disturbances which occurred in the immediate locality of the club and turned a club night into a cinema trip to Bromborough to keep young people away from the area.
- 2.5. Grange Baptist Youth Club's 'Saturday Club' is going from strength to strength with Saturday night attendances of 90-100 Wirral wide young people. Issues covered have included homelessness, independent living skills, alcohol awareness, substance misuse, education employment and training, equality and oppression. Approximately 20 young people have taken part in Neighbourhood Plan consultations. Young people often lead the sessions and describe the project as the "chill out factor" and their "safe haven". The old church garden has been restored by the young people in partnership with the Youth Federation.
- 2.6. Shaftsbury Youth Club (home to Birkenhead Youth Hub) has seen its young people take part in a variety of activities including Zumba exercise; money management (full day workshops); healthy living workshops including drugs, alcohol, food and fitness awareness; 1-day expedition walk; 3-day residential experience; business enterprise day with Mosslands School; problem solving and a teamwork day with Prenton High School. Young people have also visited Chester Zoo; taken part in community sports leaders' award', undertaken a first aid course and hosted a visit from Chinese students.
- 2.7. South Wirral Youth Outreach Team has seen the number of young people attending the Friday night football at the Oval (run in conjunction with the Council's Sports Development Unit and Merseyside Police) increasing. The Dig it Project steering group is inviting involvement by other partners and young people are looking at a fundraising event to raise money for the pond which needs specialist attention. An event organised by Rampworx at Eastham skate park was a great success and included a barbeque and utilisation of the Kontaktabus to consult with young people. The team took part, with the South Wirral Youth Hub, in an Open Day at Bromborough Police Station; positive feedback was received from members of the community in relation to their work. The team has also taken part in an eco rubbish day, football tournament and Police 'Hats off to Beat Crime' events. They have also organised for young people to take part in horse riding, a trip to Awesome Walls, bowling, cinema trip and visits to locations including Manley Mere and Ironbridge to the Jackfield Tile and Blists Hill Museums.
- 2.8. South Wirral Youth Hub has offered a range of initiatives to young people over the summer which included growing food at the Hub, making menus and cooking produce. Group work has taken place around railway awareness and Internet safety workshops provided together with arts & craft sessions. Three young men have begun ASDAN Sports Awards and French students staying with host families in Eastham attended the Hub during their stay. Members integrated and supported the students and sessions were undertaken to compare and contrast issues and teenage life between the UK and France. Five young people were presented with awards following attainment on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme. An open day, in partnership with Aiming High for disabled young people, saw young people hosting families and parents visiting the Hub.

- 2.9. Viking Youth Club delivered a range of activity, including fund raising bingo, organised and advertised by young people; art and craft sessions; a 6-week creative cookery course; staying safe workshops around alcohol, drugs, crime and prison; barbeque in the park and an accredited music project.
- 2.10. Birkenhead Youth Outreach Team has experienced a busy summer on the streets of Birkenhead, particularly during the social disturbances in the town centre in August. The team has continued to support the work of the multi-agency Problem Solving Groups looking at locational issues of anti-social behaviour around Bentinck Street and Borough Road Library respectively; supporting library staff and engaging with young people to divert them towards positive activities. The team took part in Wirral Partnership Homes' Community Dog Fouling initiative in the Bentinck Street area. Staff used the day to educate young people about the impact of alcohol and also to consult with members of the community about the use of the green space area. Trips have also taken place to Alton Towers and Southport. Following the sad death of a young person from Birkenhead on the railway this summer, outreach workers spent time supporting young people in the community and also are now looking at future sessions around railway safety for young people.

### 3.0. **Wallasey and West Wirral Districts**

#### **West Wirral District**

- 3.1. West Wirral Youth Hub has a new allotment plot in Gilroy Road Allotments. Young people will learn how to cultivate crops and sell them to the community to raise money for the activities in the Hub. Young people will also have the opportunity to take part in a short course on the subject of the environment; this will be accredited by ASDAN (a curriculum development organisation and awarding body, offering programmes and qualifications that explicitly grow skills for learning, skills for employment and skills for life). The Hub has been working in partnership with West Kirby Churches' youth worker to provide an after school club 3.30pm to 5.30pm for young people in the West Kirby area. As a result young people have started attending the main activities in the Hub.
- 3.2. West Wirral Youth Outreach Team ran a Bike It Project in the Woodchurch Leisure Centre where 15 'looked after' young people took part in a 6 week programme, learning about bicycle maintenance with bikes that were donated by the Police, ending with a presentation at Tranmere Rovers on 26 August. This has been a joint project with Merseyside Police and Children's Social Care. On a Friday night the Kontaktabus supports a sports night based in Pensby Boys' School, working with the young people who are not engaging with the sports activities. During the summer there have been trips to Rampworx, Ice skating, Alton Towers and Blackpool.
- 3.3. Fender Youth Club is temporarily closed due to staffing vacancies. The staff team have been redeployed and now support the Friday Youth Sports Night in the Woodchurch Community Sports Complex.
- 3.4. Greasby Youth Club has been providing group work sessions on sexual health, skin cancer and staying safe while on holiday. Over the summer there has been an increase in membership; young people have been playing a variety of sports including badminton, tag rugby and football. Discussions are ongoing with the joint management committee from the community centre around the future use of The Pavilion in Coronation Park for the youth club.

#### **Wallasey District**

- 3.5. Wallasey Youth Hub has been delivering guitar workshops and advanced band practice sessions; these have been well attended. One of the bands auditioned for Youthfest 2011 and was successful, earning themselves a spot on the line up for the day. Dance sessions are well attended with senior members supporting other young people choreographing a performance that they performed in a show at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre. Friday nights in the Hub, also known as Metal Night, has had an increasing membership of young people. Young people have taken part in workshops about risk taking behaviour and sexual health. The Virtual Baby project continues

to run; currently 18 young people are taking part in the project. During the summer 64 young people from Wallasey went to Alton Towers. The Fire Cadet training course is ongoing; the young people who attend are from all over Wirral.

- 3.6. West Wallasey Youth Outreach Team has been targeting young people in identified hot spots of anti-social behaviour in Wallasey and undertaking developmental work on the issue of drug use. Workers have been utilising the Primary Care Trust's 'Drug Box' (which contains visual examples of controlled drugs and details the effects they can have on the body) to engage with young people in the area. The use of the Kontactabus in parks has proven to be successful working with sports instructors (from the Council's Sports Development Unit) to provide a safe environment for young people to take part in activities.
- 3.7. East Wallasey Youth Outreach Team has been delivering sexual health sessions on the Kontactabus, working in partnership with Brook and the Terrence Higgins Trust. Also on the bus there has been Healthy Eating Sessions; using visual aids (including bags of fat and sugar) the team raise awareness around healthy eating and hidden sugar, salt and fats inside snack and fast food. Workers coordinated a Summer Sports Day in New Brighton Dips; this was a Wirral wide event which included races, tug of war, Barbeque and a football tournament. Over a 100 young people attended the event and the winning teams won trophies and certificates. Young people from the Youth Forum Committee went on a team building exercise to Manley Mere where they took part in a variety of challenges. The Virtual Baby project has started with young people taking part in sexual health and alcohol awareness sessions. The group are working toward taking home a virtual baby each for the weekend. Working over 10 weeks they learn the different aspects of being a parent and gain an accreditation for their commitment to completing the course.
- 3.8. Moreton Youth Club has been offering healthy eating projects where young people have been learning how to cook a meal for their families. Due to reduced numbers of young people attending the club, workers have been undertaking outreach letting young people in surrounding areas know what is on offer in the club.
- 3.9. Leasowe Youth Club has been running twice a week offering young people a safe space to engage with youth workers. The Youth House (situated on Twickenham Drive) is used as a drop in session and a group work base. This has been supervised over a number of months by West Wallasey Outreach Team due to staffing vacancies. Links have been made with St Chad's Church and the Leasowe Community Homes to provide youth provision for young people who currently do not access the Youth House.
- 3.10. Belvidere Youth Club has been focussing their workshops on emotional health; some of the activities include aromatherapy, Tai-Chi and yoga exercises. They have also had workshops on 'feelings'. The gardening project continues with young people weeding and pruning. Young people planned the summer programme and participated in activities such as bowling, Chester Zoo, Buggy Malone at the Floral Pavilion and games nights including board games, a football competition and a golf morning. Young people also took part in a 'Posh Picnic' where a representative from the Tall Ships gave a presentation.
- 4.0. **Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)**
  - 4.1. WYT is planning a week long Youth Arts Festival at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre from 21 to 25 November. This week of themed events will involve performances and workshops that highlight the wide range of performing arts projects currently funded through the Early Intervention Grant. It will also celebrate and publicise the full programme of arts activities on offer at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre.
  - 4.2. Alongside the outreach provision, WYT is now providing a range of youth arts activities from Monday to Saturday at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre including:
    - Dance for 13-15, 16-19yrs, young men and young people with disabilities (Monday to Saturdays)
    - Accredited training courses for Peer Educators (Thursdays)

- Drama for 13 -19yrs and improvisation workshops for 16 -19yrs (Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays).
  - Technical workshops in stage lighting and sound (Mondays)
  - Band, vocal and choir workshops (Wednesdays and Thursdays)
  - Projects for 'looked after' young people and children (Saturdays)
  - Projects for young people with disabilities (Tuesdays and Fridays)
  - Peer Education Outreach Companies (Mondays to Saturdays)
- 4.3. Throughout the summer, WYT provided a full programme of activities in partnership with Community Informal Training Company (CITC) which culminated in a performance in the new Theatre space at Pilgrim Street involving dance, drama and film presentations. In dance, the 'Machismo' week event provided 80 young men from 5 schools with the opportunity to develop their dance skills and to perform together at a final event in Pilgrim Street. As a follow up to this, the Summer Dance School provided street, break and contemporary dance sessions for young men that explored issues around trust and relationships. The summer dance school attracted over 40 young people and offered experience in various dance forms including musical theatre, contemporary, urban, break, cultural, jazz and ballet.
- 4.4. WYT continues to provide specific work with young people with disabilities with the aim of supporting participants to successfully integrate into the mixed provision. The 'Friday Fun Night' funded by Aiming High continues to grow and offers dance and drama activities for children aged 8 -14 years with disabilities. Peer Educators also work on this project as part of their Open College NorthWest (OCN) training. The work with Foxfield and Meadowside School continues on Friday mornings and pupils are working towards the Bronze Arts Award. The Early Intervention Grant has also enabled the provision of a new session called 'Likewise Arts' for young people aged 13 -19 with disabilities to build their skills and confidence. All these projects help to provide a fully integrated youth arts provision and feedback from parents and carers has been extremely positive about the impact on the lives and development of their young people. Another outcome of this work is that WYT now have two young women with learning difficulties working as Peer Educators within all these projects.
- 4.5. The on-going drama provision includes weekly sessions including a general drama night and an additional improvisation night for more experienced young people. Young people attending these are now working towards performing the Halloween Walk at Birkenhead Park in partnership with Claire House. This is the third year that WYT has facilitated the walk with a series of 'spooky' performances and this year will be even bigger and better than the previous highly successful and well attended fundraising events. The drama team have also facilitated taster sessions in schools and the Multi-Cultural Centre. The Merseyside Youth Theatre Development Forum now meets at Pilgrim Street and plans are afoot to hold a Merseyside Youth Theatre Festival at the centre in 2012. The drama team are also delivering workshops in the Zero Centre which are helping young people to build their confidence and self esteem. These young people come from families who have experienced domestic violence and workshops are focussed on conflict resolution.
- 4.6. The Early Intervention Grant is also funding two projects using Peer Educators to explore risk taking behaviour through drama and physical theatre workshops. Following consultation with a number of agencies and schools, two key risk taking behaviour issues have been identified which the 'Last Minute Peer Education Company' will now devise performances and workshops for young people in a range of settings across Wirral.
- 4.7. WYT is expanding its opportunities for accreditation of Youth Arts and is now a Centre for Open College NorthWest (OCM) and for the National Arts Award. 16 young people have enrolled onto the 'Introduction to Peer Education Training' course and 30 young people have also signed up for the Arts Award.
- 4.8. WYT's music provision continues to develop through the Early Intervention Grant and includes weekly music workshops for young people from across Wirral based at Pilgrim Street. Building on the successful swing vocal project, the aim is to develop an Urban Choir and music leaders have been facilitating vocal tasters in schools and Youth Hubs including Weatherhead School, the

Hospital School, South Wirral Hub, Wallasey Hub and the Multi Cultural Centre. In addition to this, WYT is providing samba drumming in Wallasey Youth Hub and Beat-boxing in South Wirral Youth Hub. The Swing Group have also performed at several events and continue to grow in membership and repertoire.

- 4.9. The Saturday Multi-Media Arts Workshops for Children In Care continues to grow and as a result of the Early Intervention Grant, WYT have been able to extend the work to provide additional training and support for the older members to develop their peer education skills.

## 5.0 **Response**

- 5.1 The service continues to be busy across all sections. A high number of young people presenting with complex needs, including mental health needs, involve a significant amount of support.
- 5.2. Alcohol 'brief intervention' and advice training has been commissioned through the Early Intervention Grant to improve knowledge and confidence in dealing with alcohol related issues amongst young people. A further report on this work will be submitted for the next reporting phase.
- 5.3. The Young Persons' Alcohol Intervention Worker is now in post and is working in partnership with the wider service, Merseyside Police and the Youth Offending Service. A new programme of alcohol intervention work is currently being commissioned following the successful pilot of work delivered at Arrowe Park Accident and Emergency Unit.
- 5.4. Health Services in Schools remains busy with the majority of secondary schools having clinics in operation. This service is funded by the Primary Care Trust, who have recently commissioned additional services, including mental health and smoking cessation.
- 5.5. The housing team continues to offer a housing support service to Wirral young people. The team focus on a Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment at the first meeting to identify the young person's level of need and support them to achieve the best outcome for their holistic wellbeing. Many young people require the Child In Need multi-agency support, where housing support workers attend and often take the lead professional role in Team Around the Child (TAC).
- 5.6. Wherever possible staff work with young people to prevent homelessness and encourage relationship improvement with families through referral to Wirral Mediation Service and/or wrap around support from other Response services. There are a growing number of young people, who present with complex needs and require a high level of support from the team. This quarter has seen over 60 individuals present as, or at risk of becoming homeless, with the staff delivering more than 300 one-to-one sessions.
- 5.7. The multi agency 'preventing homelessness workshop' project 'The Wake Up Call' commenced this quarter, with Response staff delivering training to other professionals. The purpose of the project is to enable pooling of limited financial and staffing resources across organisations to prevent and reduce unnecessary youth homelessness in the Borough. Since the training, a number of Wirral schools have signed up to deliver in-house homeless prevention workshops as part of their Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) programmes.
- 5.8. Two young people supported through the Stop Gap project have successfully been accepted for Housing Priority via the Housing Priority Panel (HPP). This will enable them to apply regularly for properties advertised via Wirral Homes and be registered under Group 1 urgent need status for the next six months. The aim being that both individuals will obtain their own property, with tapered resettlement support.
- 5.9. Over the three month period from July to September there were 45 new referrals into the Counselling Team. There are currently 15 young people on the waiting list which is between two to four weeks. Young people presenting with suicidal ideation/attempts remains to be a concern for the service.

5.10. The outreach team have continued to work with vulnerable, harder to reach groups of young people who congregate on the streets and parks. The team delivers interventions to reduce alcohol, substance misuse, associated risk taking and anti-social behaviour. The team have been delivering a multi agency developmental project with young people in Central Birkenhead, targeting a group who have been engaging in criminal activity, substance, alcohol misuse and anti social behaviour. Others involved in this project include the wider Youth Service, Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Merseyside Police.

## 6.0 **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

- 6.1. As this years DofE expedition season draws to a close, in excess of 400 young people successfully completed either a practice or qualifying expedition. These ventures have taken place in a variety of settings across Wales and the north of England. Since the last YAPSAC report a further 18 young people have achieved their Gold Awards.
- 6.2. Several schools in the borough are interested in enhancing and increasing their delivery of the Award. Three schools have received additional funding from Scottish Power and one school is receiving support from Unilever.
- 6.3. Following a restructure of the DofE interactive online system, it is now even easier for participants to collect evidence such as photographs, sound bytes and video clips and submit for approval.
- 6.4. Following a successful application, the Oaklands Outdoor Education Centre has now been granted Approved Activity Provider status. This will enable the centre to advertise and run its own expeditions and residential courses.

## 7.0. **Play Service**

- 7.1. All BIG Lottery projects are running as projected. Overall, the Play Rangers and Practitioner 'Play Point' project and Play For All have already achieved their end of year 3 target of 4,700 registered children. The current total is 4,718. All the new timetables were extensively advertised in 'Let's Go' school holiday magazine. The 'Play Out, Feel Safe' talk was delivered to 388 children in two local primary schools during assembly time.
- 7.2. For five weeks during the summer, the Play Point project delivered outdoor play sessions at five new venues; Harrison Park, Birkenhead Park, Conway Field in Rock Ferry, Thornton Hough Green and West Kirby Beach. Summer playschemes operated in all Play Point's year round schemes. Overall, 228 new children aged over 6 years of age and their families enjoyed activities which included volley ball, cricket, football, mini-Olympics, the slackline, obstacle courses, crossbow challenge and a waterslide which proved to be very popular. Children also designed a plaque, made from materials collected from the beach. They designed moulds and poured plaster over them, the results were fantastic and each child took home their own individual plaque. Changing venues for the summer programme enabled Play Point to reach and target more communities who would not normally be able to access free play sessions. The sports activities encouraged fitness, team work, personal achievement and most important fun. Children made use of the natural elements in the arts and crafts activities and were involved in the decision making process when designing their plaques. The children gained a great sense of achievement, learnt new skills, made new friends and took home their creations.
- 7.3. The Community Play Ranger programme encourages children to stay safe whilst in the parks and on their journey from and to the play session. Play workers offer advice when they observe risk-taking behaviour and explain why that action is risky and how to keep themselves safe.
- 7.4. This summer, the Community Play Rangers provided 20 outreach play sessions geographically spread across the Wirral, targetting areas without supervised play provision. Sessions delivered included Spital, Port Causeway – Bromborough, Whiteheath - Leasowe, Wallacre Road - Wallasey, Central Park - Wallasey, Royden Park - Frankby, Kelsall Avenue - Eastham,

Ridgewood Park – Pensby, Earlston Gardens – Wallasey, Torr Park - Eastham, Puddydale – Heswall, Duck Pond Lane - Oxton, Whiteheath Park - Leasowe, Flynn’s Piece - Wallasey Village, Grange Park - West Kirby, Tower Grounds - New Brighton, Grove Road – Hoylake, Mersey Park – Tranmere, St. Joseph’s RC Primary School – Prenton, The Priory – Birkenhead and Meols Park - Meols

- 7.5. The Play for All Inclusion project continues to have steady referrals from parents and other agencies. The co-ordinator introduced a monthly review meeting with the team for general updates of the organisation, review of current cases, allocations new work cases and planning the project delivery on monthly basis.
- 7.6. The Play Builder and BIG Lottery play area improvements for year 2 have all been completed with the exception of Central Park. The final play area for improvement is due for completion by the end of November 2011. Monitoring the play areas has shown that numbers of children playing out has increased. The play areas have provided opportunities for children to engage with the wider community. This supports children’s independence and resilience essential for a healthy childhood. This strategy has enabled children to have more access to safe outdoor play space and supports the child obesity programme by improving and maintaining children’s physical and mental health. A play area satisfaction report was completed in seven parks consulting with 57 children and young people. The overall consensus was children and young people were satisfied with the improvements and attendance on all new play areas has increased. Recently, a number of play areas have been officially opened including Whiteheath - Leasowe, Ilchester Park - Birkenhead, Torr Park – Eastham, Higher Bebington play area and Port Causeway-Bromborough. Councillors, local school children and families attended the events which were publicised in the press.
- 7.7. A detailed Play Builder report will be produced, once the final play area has been completed.
- 7.8. Beechwood held a ‘Fruit Day’ to encourage children to eat more healthily and sample a wide variety of different fruits from around the world. Over 40 children sampled different fruits. This provided the play workers with a platform to discuss the benefits of a varied and healthy diet. Children, as part of a ‘keeping yourself safe’ activity, were encouraged to travel to and from play scheme in small groups. Local Police Community Support Officers gave talks to the children and promoted staying safe in the community. Over the summer months the Wall of Fame project at Beechwood encouraged children to take black and white digital portrait style photographs of each other. These were then enlarged, printed out and a collage was produced and displayed in the centre. Over 70 children participated in the activity, promoting social and practical skills. The completed collage received positive feedback from the children and increased their self-esteem and self-awareness.
- 7.9. Livingstone Street enabled over 40 children to participate in day trips to Play Day and the local cinema. Many of the trips were on foot, so busy roads were unavoidable. The Play staff used this as an opportunity to remind children of the importance of road safety. The children enjoyed planning and taking part in the Mini Olympics. They made their own winners medals and Olympic ribbons and participated in events and tournaments which were suited to the children’s age range and abilities. Children also contributed making equipment for the ‘events’, adapted games for younger children and refereeing events. This enabled the children to make decisions and work together in teams. The children are also collecting aluminium cans, as part of the ‘cash for cans’ scheme. This encourages them to understand the importance of recycling and they will see the direct benefit of the monies for the playscheme.
- 7.10. Leasowe Adventure Playground organised a successful trip to Chester Zoo. During the summer, the scheme increased its numbers and attracted other children from outside the Leasowe catchment area i.e. YewTree, Moreton. Recently, a number of traveller families have moved into the area, and staff are working with their children to make them feel welcome on the scheme.
- 7.11. Charing Cross jointly organised, with the Play For All project, a residential weekend to Oaklands. Overall, 20 children attended the weekend, including 6 referrals supported by Play For All, who participated in canoeing, rock climbing, and gorge walking through a waterfall, and in the evening

experienced a nightline through the woods. Children also participated in trips to the ice cream farm and Flamingo Land theme park. They also attended the Annual Play Day and particularly enjoyed the talent show tent, climbing wall, water slide and playing on the straw bales.

- 7.12. Gautby Road organised a residential at Oaklands for 17 local children. Children participated in canoeing, gorge walking, caving, sea level traversing and hill walking. The children had a rewarding experience and worked together as a team encouraging each other and helping each other overcome their fears. The play scheme remained open during the residential ensuring continuity of play provision. Day trips were also organised to Apple Jack's Farm in Warrington, Drayton Manor theme park and the Welsh Mountain Zoo. Overall, 125 children participated in these days out, enabling them to participate in diverse activities outside of their normal environment. Over 80 parents and children attended the locally organised fun day at Gautby Road. The children enjoyed the disco, beat the goalie, bouncy castle and face painting. The awards for the Summer Superstars competition were presented. Each child received a certificate and medal for taking part and the winners received a trophy and certificate.

## **8.0. Training and Staff Development**

- 8.1. The Service has developed a short, medium and long term strategy to roll out Safeguarding training to all staff in The Youth & Play Service.
- 8.2. Further in house training is also currently being offered to the Youth & Play workforce on various topics i.e. managing challenging behaviour, ADHD, First Aid. In addition to the above, some workers have recently completed the Management and Leadership Training programme delivered by FPM. Through attending this course, managers will have a greater understanding of the benefits of working in an integrated service both with internal departments and external organisations/providers.
- 8.3. Negotiations are underway with the North West Region Workforce Development Group to address the void that has been left by dissolution of the NVQ part-time qualification in Youth Work. There are a variety of routes that can be taken by the Service in terms of professional development. When clarification is gained in regards to the quality standards of the various awards available, relevant staff will be supported in working towards one of the recognised awards.

## **9.0. Youth Participation**

- 9.1. Wirral's UKYP representatives are currently undertaking a consultation on the issues to be debated in the House of Commons in November. To date over 600 young people have been consulted in Wirral. Outcomes of the consultation will be made available soon.
- 9.2. The Youth Opportunity Fund Young People's Grant panel have now short listed the potential beneficiaries of the fund. The Grant Panel will make recommendations at the Annual Youth Parliament, where young people will debate what issues should be addressed as a priority with the allocation of the money.
- 9.3. Work with neighbouring local authorities across the North West continues to be productive. Recently consultation has taken place with decision makers in the Department for Education which will inform national policy on health provision for young people.
- 9.4. Members of the Executive Youth Board have been working with representatives of the Young People's Grant Panel and members of UKYP in planning the forthcoming Youth Voice Conference & Parliament. The plan and themes of the conference and parliament have been drawn up through consultation and involvement of young people from across Wirral.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson  
Head of Youth & Play Service