

YOUR SAY 



Liscard & Seacombe Area Forum

Papers for the meeting

Monday 13th October 2008

Wallasey Town Hall
Committee Room 1
Brighton Street, Wallasey
Wirral CH44 8ED

7.00pm

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Section One

Minutes and matters arising

**Minutes and matters arising from last
meeting in June 2008**

Minutes - Area Forum (Liscard and Seacombe) - 3 June 2008

Present	
Chair	Leah Fraser
Ward Councillors	Karen Hayes , Adrian Jones , James Keeley , Denis Knowles
Community Representatives	Diane Ledder , Fr. Leon Ostaszewski , Carole Thomas (Liscard Community Representative)
Business Representative	Joseph Lee
Lead Officer	Mark Camborne (Health & Safety & Resilience Operations Manager)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Michelle Gray
Street Scene Manager	Chris Jones
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Jo Goodfellow (Div. General Manager for Women and Children)
Merseyside Police	Brian O'Hare
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Tony Mooney
Mersey Society for Deaf People	Paul Bargery , Joanne Tambourne
Council Officers	Emma Degg (Head of Tourism and Marketing) , Tara Dumas (Recycling Officer) , Jim Thompson (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Margaret Allen (Seacombe Community Representative) , Inspector Julie Fletcher , Ken Harrison , Christine Jones (Children and Young People) , Cllr John Salter

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Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions & apologies

The newly elected Chair Councillor Leah Fraser of the East Wallasey Area Forum, introduced herself and welcomed forum members to introduce themselves. There were 32 members of the public at the meeting in Wallasey Town Hall.

The Chair welcomed members of Merseyside Society for Deaf People and the interpreters, Joanne Tambourne and Paul Bargery. She rescheduled the agenda to accommodate input by the group during the early part of the meeting.

Minute 2 - Minutes & matters arising from previous February forum

Matters arising would be dealt with under general public question time.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of East Wallasey Area Forum of 6 February 2008 be confirmed, subject to the amendment of Kemlyn Road to read Kenwyn Road.

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinator update

The Area Co-ordinator presented her report to the Area Forum.

All, or part, of the Area Co-ordinator's report can be downloaded from the Internet at www.wirral.gov.uk; alternatively, a paper version will be sent on request to any member of the public who wishes to attend a future meeting.

Minute Decision :Resolved: To thank the Area Co-ordinator for her report.

Minute 4 - Merseyside Society for the Deaf

The Chair explained that immediately prior to the start of the meeting she had been made aware of a request for members of Wirral Deaf community to express concerns about the loss of their social/leisure centre in Grange Road. It appeared that the alternative accommodation at The Lauries Centre does not meet the needs of the Deaf community, and they are seeking other suitable premises in Wirral.

The Chair invited members of the Deaf Society to address the Area Forum through interpreters Joanne Tambourne and Paul Bargery. A summary of the points raised.

The Deaf Club has about 200 members. The former premises are for sale. The proceeds from the sale should be spent on the deaf community – perhaps by providing a bus or another form of transport, and for a social life. This would make it easier for visitors from Wirral and Liverpool to use the club. They need somewhere in Wirral that is accessible for all users, including those with other disabilities, with similar facilities to those available previously, and for club members to be their own landlord.

The Chair stated that Councillor John Slater has been in discussion with Mary Riley and with the Area Co-ordinator Michelle Gray, John Salter was unable to attend the meeting this evening due to being on holiday. She invited the Lead Officer, Mark Cambourne, to give an initial response.

Mark Camborne said he would discuss the matter with Councillor John Salter and Mary Riley, present all the information to the relevant Department, and ensure that an answer is given.

The Chair thanked members of the deaf community for attending the meeting and presenting their case. She apologised for the misunderstanding about their expectations at the start of the meeting and hoped that it would be possible to provide the services required for the deaf community in the future.

Minute 5 - Area forum funding DVD launch

The Area Co-ordinator commented that most people who attend area forum meetings raise issues and receive information about their local area. Some people may not be aware that each area forum receives a grant of £20,000 - £15,000 from Wirral Council and £5,000 from Wirral Primary Care Trust – for local community initiatives.

Working on a programme offered by the Learning Lighthouse, students from six Wirral Secondary Schools have produced a promotional film in DVD format to illustrate how money has been allocated to projects in the past for the benefit of local communities. The purpose of the promotional film is to give ideas and encouragement to community groups to apply for funding.

The Chair invited the area forum to watch the DVD.

Minute Decision : That the students involved be congratulated on producing an excellent DVD to promote opportunities for Area Forum funding.

Minute 6 - Tall Ships Parade of Sails

The Chair invited Emma Degg, Head of Tourism and Marketing, to update the Area Forum on the plans for the Parade of Sails on 21 July. Further information will provided for local residents and businesses nearer the date of the event.

Emma Degg thanked the Area Forum for the opportunity to explain the plans that have been made so far. She would be pleased to hear of any concerns that people may have, particularly about the day itself, so that appropriate arrangements can be built into the planning process. The main aim is to make sure that everything runs smoothly on the Wirral side and that everyone has an enjoyable day.

The focus of activity between 18 - 21 July will be on the Liverpool side, with an event on the Wirral side on 21 July. The use of the M53 will be monitored closely, but it is not expected that any particular traffic issues will arise on the three days.

On 21 July, the first ships will leave the River Mersey to travel to Norway. The fleet will assemble in the Mersey at 9 am, but the convoy will not start until 2 pm. At 4 pm, the last ship will pass Perch Rock on the way to the North Sea.

The number of spectators expected on the day will depend on the weather. Wirral offers the

most advantageous viewing positions along the promenades, and if the weather is fine, potentially there could be up to 200,000 people assembled on the Wirral side.

A full traffic management plan is being devised and the event will be managed by a team comprised of representatives from Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, MerseyTravel, and Merseyside Ferries. The main objective is to encourage as many people as possible to use public transport, including the ferries. Train services will be increased on the day and ten buses will provide a shuttle service between Hamilton Square and Seacombe. There will be capacity for about 8,000 cars near New Brighton for those who travel by car.

Some schools will be closed on the day, some will be open and some have organised a staff training day. Staff will be talking directly to Headteachers over the next few weeks to encourage schools to become involved in what will be a great opportunity for the children.

Mobile toilets will be hired for the event, and franchises for food and drink are currently being let. The emergency services have identified a route that will allow access by extra emergency vehicles that will be deployed to keep the area as safe as possible. Parking restrictions will be in place on some roads. Local residents will be given as much advance information as possible and every effort will be made to reduce inconvenience to residents. The expectation is that the extra traffic will be cleared by 6 pm,

Minute Decision : Resolved: To thank Emma Degg for the update.

Minute 7 - Streetscene public question time

Issues raised by members of the public –

Q Alleygates. How do people go about getting them?

A Alleygates are not part of the Streetscene remit. They come under the Anti Social Protection Team at the Old Court House. Mike Walker is Head of Service. The scheme ended when the funding expired on 31 March 2008. There is a small amount of funding to repair and maintain the 1000 plus alleygates that have already been installed. The Council will apply again if government funding is announced for another alleygate scheme. Alleygates cost between £1,500 and £2,000 each, and individuals have the option to pay for alleygates themselves.

Q I know there have been a few problems, but when will be speed humps in Serpentine Road be finished?

A There has been a problem with drainage which has prevented rainwater drawing away at that location. Information has been received today that the specialist contractor is working on another job and his next job will be to finish the speed humps in that location.

Q We got our brown bins on Saturday and a neighbour asked for a small bin, but it has not been delivered.

A A standard size brown bin should have been delivered. The bin replacement team works at weekends and the change-over of bins will normally take a week or two. The neighbour should use the larger bin in the meantime.

Q I have noticed traffic going the wrong way down a one-way street – Burns Avenue.

A Police will make sure that the traffic signs for that location are in place and are correct, and then appropriate action will be taken against motorists who contravene the regulations.

Q Parking on Mill Lane. It would help if parking could be prohibited on the approach to Poulton Bridge Road. Also there is dangerous place where large Dutch vehicles are parked – it is outside the boutique on Wallasey Road. The vehicles are as wide as buses, and buses try to get past the crossing and park on the zigzag lines.

Q Rubbish bins with a key lock need another sort of handle because the bin emptier open the doors and leave them open. This causes a major hazard between Cecil Road and the Italian restaurant, especially for buses trying to turn round, because there are bollards there as well.

A A Police presence will be put in the area. A check will be made to ensure that all the signs are correct and are in place and fixed penalty notices will be issued if there are any infringements.

Q Can anything be done about the condition of many litter bins?

A There are many different types of litter bins, and some are in a poor condition. Streetscene

has a maintenance budget and priority is given to health and safety. The particular bins mentioned will be looked at.

Q When will you be dealing with the condition of Belvidere Road?

A Dangerous defects in Belvidere Road will be dealt with as and when needed. It will not be a permanent job until the resources are available to re-surface the road completely.

Q When are you going to raise the height of the guardrails in Kelvin Road where the motor way is? People are using it to jump off and it is known locally as Suicide Bridge.

A [Chris Jones]; I will speak to the bridge engineers tomorrow and ask what their plans are for the bridge. I will take your details and get back to you.

Q Where do we find out about getting signs about fly tipping outside the allotments in the park? Who is responsible for clearing up the debris and rubbish that is dumped on the allotments?

A [Tara Dumas]. The Reinforcement Team in Technical Services is responsible for monitoring fly tipping on the highways, and they can look at doing something to help outside the allotments, but it is difficult inside. I will take your concerns back to the Parks Department and get a response for you.

Minute 8 - General public question time

Q Can we have an update on Liscard Hall [page 10 of the area co-ordinators report for June 2008).

Chair: Two developers have applied to develop the Hall and the Council has asked them to alter their plans slightly and re submit. This has caused caused a hold up.

Q Malnourished patients discharged from hospital. The Chair explained that the figures quoted on the number of cases discharged from Wirral University Teaching Hospital with a diagnosis of malnutrition were taken from the Parliamentary Hansard Record. It was noted that Mr Monaghan's reply on page 11 of the minutes is positive in terms of what is now being done for patients.

Q Following on from the discussion on the new bus pass for senior citizens, would the Area Co-ordinator invite Neil Scales to attend the next meeting.

A The Area Co-ordinator has approached MerseyTravel in the past and is working with them for a representative to attend area forums which have regular transport issues. MerseyTravel have their own forum meetings and public engagement events.

Councillor Knowles is a representative on MerseyTravel. Neil Scales has given him a personal assurance that, if asked, he would be happy to attend an area forum meeting.

Councillor Knowles offered to invite Neil Scales to the next meeting.

Q Councillor Knowles had agreed at the last meeting to raise the issue about numbers on the back of buses and illuminated destination boards with a Merseytravel.committee. We have not had any feedback on the outcome of the enquiries.

A [Councillor Knowles]: I Chair the MerseyTravel Bus Committee. There was a meeting yesterday when the bus operators were in attendance and I raised the question on behalf of the Forum. First Bus said they were happy with the illumination of their buses and ARRIVA stated that their bus signs are quite clear already. When the contracts are re-let, MerseyTravel will specify the two requirements in the new contract.

Q A question on Diversity and Equality prompted a lengthy dialogue between a member of the public, the Area Co-ordinator and Chair. The Area Co-ordinator offered to discuss a reply given by email, on a number of issues raised by the member of the public, but the member of the public chose not to accept the offer. The Chair gave assurances that the email provided answers to all the questions raised and made it clear that she had no knowledge of a request to the previous Chair for Diversity and Equality be put on the agenda. The member of the public expressed his dissatisfaction with the responses given. The Chair intervened and brought the meeting to order.

Q I have asked at previous meetings whether the possibility can be looked at of turning the bus station in the middle of Liscard Way into a smaller bus station to avoid clogging up the

traffic system for five days a week. I also mentioned the timetables.

A [Councillor Knowles] MerseyTravel are looking into the matter and would like to relocate the bus station. Ideally, the taxi ranks should be moved as well.

Q I don't get notification of the Area Forum meeting by mail any more. I only heard of it by word of mouth. Other people are in the same position.

A [Chair] There are notices in the libraries and advertisements in the local Press. The Area Co-ordinator will investigate the reasons why people have not received notification by post.

Minute 9 - Partner updates

Merseyside Fire and Rescue: Tony Mooney drew attention to the comprehensive report on pages 24/26 of the Area Co-ordinator's report. Further information is available by visiting the website addresses given in the article.

Councillor Karen Hayes thanked and paid tribute to a crew from Green Watch who had attended her home and fitted smoke alarms.

Community Safety: The Community Safety Team, which incorporates the Police, Fire Protection and Health, are all working together and achieving some spectacular results. Wirral was a safe place in 2000, now it is a very safe place. On average there are 20 burglaries per thousand households; in this area the figure is nine burglaries per thousand households. Car crime has reduced. The three areas being concentrated on are anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and alcohol related violence. The key message to everyone is you live in a very, very safe Borough and you are ahead of most of Merseyside, thanks to the Council and our partners.

NHS Trust – Jo Goodfellow. The Foundation Trust is inviting people to become Public Members and advise the Trust how it should deliver its health services. There are about 200 public members in this area, and more would be welcome. Application forms and information sheets were distributed at the meeting.

Q Community Representative, Carole Thomas, raised a question about mixed sex wards at Arrowe Park Hospital. People are expected to tolerate conditions in 2008 that were unacceptable in Victorian times. People remain on mixed wards for two/three days and they can be seen by other patients when they are being attended to.

A [Jo Goodfellow]. As we develop wards, we are trying to turn them into single bedroom areas where patients would have their own bedroom and bathroom. The main areas where there are mixed beds are intensive care areas. I will go back to my colleague who covers that work and ask her to write a formal report. .

The Chair suggested that the report should include the number and average length of time that people remain patients in mixed wards.

Q What is the purpose of the new building in Mill Lane Hospital?

A Will pass on question to my Primary Care colleague who will provide an answer for you.

A [Wendy Sheen] As a Public Governor for Liscard, I have been made aware that some of the building work is on doctors' surgeries that are moving on to that site.

The Chair requested a report on building developments on Mill Lane Hospital site to be brought to the next meeting.

Older People's Parliament: Roger Cliffe-Thompson - Member of the Executive Committee. We have an interest in dignity of care, particularly for people in residential homes, and we have a big drive to promote quality and standards for residential homes. I am making a plea tonight to anyone who wants to join the OPP to get in touch via Age Concern. We welcome applicants from all members of society. We are particularly interested in Quality and Diversity.

Minute 10 - Next meeting will be in October 2008 date & venue tbc

Future meetings will be held on Monday, 13 October 2008, and Wednesday, 11 February 2009.

Minute 11 - Other business

Recycling: This week is National Recycling Week. As part of the week, Wirral has launched free re-cycling wheels that advise people which bin to use. The wheels are available in all Wirral libraries and one-stop shops.

Wirral's outturn figure for recycling in 2007/08 is 31.67%, an increase from 14% in the previous year. This represents the most improved authority in the country. Recycling

increased by 34.9% in April 2008. Preparations are in hand for another round of roadshows in the Autumn. . A trailer is being prepared for siting in supermarket car parks etc, at the Wirral Show and other community events.

Garden Waste Bins: The final roll out of garden waste bins has been completed. Anyone who has a garden but has not received a bin should inform Streetscene.

Recycling in Seacombe: A doorstep activity in Seacombe in July will raise awareness of the recycling scheme and to answer questions from residents there and then. The problems of bins being left out on pavements will be addressed.

Graffiti: The East Wallasey area is being targeted for the removal of graffiti. The route from Seacombe to Liscard is now graffiti-free. A team is also working in Seacombe to clear up unadopted land.

The Chair closed the meeting. However, Diane Ledger asked to speak before the meeting was formally closed and congratulated the Chair on the way in which she had conducted the meeting this evening. It had been distressing to witness some of the behaviour demonstrated by certain members of the audience, but the Chair and the Area-Coordinator had coped admirably and were to be congratulated.

Matters arising

- **Response to enquiry from Carole Thomas Mixed Sex Wards:**

Action: I understand that a question was asked at the recent East Wallasey Area Forum "Why do we continue to have mixed sex wards?" The query arose from a particular incident in October 2006, when a patient was admitted into a mixed sex environment. Mrs Thomas felt that little had changed since 2006 and that we continue to have mixed sex bays and wards throughout the Trust.

Trust Policy is that we strive to ensure patients are admitted into single sex accommodation, except when the need to admit a patient takes priority over the need for segregation. Examples of these situations are across our assessment areas e.g. Medical Assessment Unit, Clinical Decision Unit, Lung Assessment Unit and critical care facilities; this is in line with Department of Health guidance. As a means of ensuring dignity in these areas, the Trust has recently introduced new signs on toilets on these wards which can be changed to read male or female, therefore designated as single sex facilities as required.

As part of our continual strive for improvement however, we have recently introduced a project team who are looking at opportunities to identify whether it is possible to have single sex bays in these assessment areas. Our bed bureau team are undertaking an audit on the male / female allocation to unplanned care areas, and the team are investigating how other hospitals manage mixed sexed accommodation issues in their assessment areas.

I do hope that this information will alleviate any anxieties your members may have regarding our policy on mixed sex wards. Please do not hesitate to contact me on 0151 604 7240 if I can be of any further assistance. Michael Monaghan Director of Nursing and Midwifery

- **Father Leon reported at the East Wallasey Area Forum that Biffa were not locking litter bins back up - especially the one by the Post Office C/O Rugby Rd/ Wallasey Rd etc. Please could you have the bins inspected to make sure there is no problem with them and then take appropriate to get them fixed or ensure Biffa are closing them properly.**

Action: Tara Dumas 6th June emailed Technical Services/Biffa to action

- **At the East Wallasey Forum, Dianne Ledder raised that there was a fly tipping problem in and around the allotment at Love Lane. She felt a lot of it was coming from allotment users. This included black bag household waste. Perhaps Alternate Weekly Collections has led to some residents using the allotment facilities as a means of getting rid of excess waste?**

Action: I assume there is an allotment association linked to the site and suggest that site users are asked through the association not to dump rubbish on the site - perhaps you could put up signage etc...? Our Service are happy to assist in the development of any education raising you suggest. With regards to the fly tipping outside the allotments, I am happy to get a sign or two made up if you could let me know which part of the boundary fence is suitable for putting signs on.

Ask Liam to detail any grot spots abutting the allotments on our database, for inclusion in monitoring by the NET team.

- **Merseytravel (Neil Scales) postponed to the next meeting of the forum February 2009 or June 2009**

Action: Community Engagement Co-ordinator to email Neil Scales any travel, bus & train issues that are raised at the forum (s) and to invite him to a future forum.

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, Wirral Primary Care Trust, fire safety representatives 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.

This section covers relevant news under the Council's Sustainable Communities Strategy themes *strong local economy, sustainable appropriate housing, life chances for children and young people, health and well being and living and working environment.*

Strong Local Economy

Council Leader to deliver key speech at International Conference in Suzhou, China

The Leader of Wirral Council, Cllr. Steve Foulkes has been invited to deliver a key speech to a prestigious international conference in Suzhou next month. While in Suzhou, a private meeting will also take place between Wirral Council's Leader, Cllr Steve Foulkes and Mr Yan Li, the city's Mayor.

Currently, Suzhou has a number of sister city relationships throughout the world, but no significant relationships with cities in the United Kingdom. Renowned for its culture, history and tourism, Suzhou believe that a beneficial relationship can be developed with Wirral.

Cllr Foulkes says that the visit has been planned down to the finest detail: "We recognise that establishing a productive working relationship with Suzhou will be mutually beneficial for both regions. "During our visit, we'll be examining the possibility of working very closely on four key areas; education, trade, culture and tourism and port-related activity.

"If you take education as just one example, our schools have already recognised the significance of China. They are involved in significant initiatives to enable students to capitalise on the opportunities that China is likely to generate in the future. For example, Calday Grange Grammar School has been awarded a prestigious role in the development of Mandarin teaching through the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and has been chosen to be the "Confucius Classroom" for the North West of England.

Cllr Foulkes added: "And schools are just one example of how we in Wirral are positively engaging with China. In addition we are keen to progress discussions with Peel Holdings to deliver a significant link between businesses in Suzhou and the Wirral Waters project. The Government of Suzhou has expressed a strong desire to establish formal links with Wirral and I am confident this visit will be the start of a relationship that will deliver significant benefits to the children and businesses of Wirral."

Lindsey Ashworth, Development Director at Peel Holdings who is leading the delivery of the Wirral Waters project said: "The significance of this potential relationship cannot be underestimated. I have been impressed already by the commitment shown by both Wirral Council and the Government of Suzhou. Our ambition for Wirral Waters is to deliver a truly world class waterfront and the significant interest already shown by China must be capitalised upon to help us achieve that."

Life Chances for Children and Young People

£880,000 Lottery boost for play projects

Wirral Council and Wirral Play Partnership - with the support of hundreds of Wirral children and young people - have successfully secured a massive £881,208 for children's play from the BIG Lottery Fund.

The money will fund seven play projects across Wirral over the next three years, and will help deliver Wirral's Play Strategy and provide more and improved play opportunities across Wirral.

Projects include: -An extensive Community Play Ranger scheme to provide outreach play sessions in parts of Wirral where no formal opportunities currently exist. The rangers will facilitate play in local parks, open spaces and informal play spaces, and encourage participation in active play.

-The development of four exciting Adventure and Nature play areas incorporating natural landscapes and new fixed play equipment.

-A Play Practitioners project to provide supervised open access play sessions in five identified locations across Wirral

-An inclusive 'Play For All' project which will encourage children to access local free play opportunities and engage other children through play. It is estimated that nearly 15,000 children and young people aged five-16 years will benefit from the new play projects and facilities across Wirral.

As part of the projects' development, the Council consulted with over 1,000 children and young people through surveys and focus groups. This involved nearly 60 schools, as well as representatives from a range of statutory and voluntary agencies who attended Play Strategy seminars to develop a Play Policy and Strategy for Wirral.

Children highlighted a number of issues including safer routes to play, the need to feel safe in their play space with the support of qualified staff, more challenge and risk in equipped play areas, and better access to natural play environments. They suggested more localised play places designated for play within short walking distances so they could 'see and be seen'. They also wanted increased access to free play through inclusive play provision for vulnerable children and young people and more opportunities to access local play facilities, including use of local schools for play and playschemes which are open all year round.

Welcoming the big Lottery boost, Cllr Chris Meaden, Wirral Council's Play Champion said: "This money means that more children and young people will be able to access free play and socialise with friends on their doorstep. Children need space to play in the community and play is nature's training for life which is essential for a healthy and happy childhood. We want Wirral children to be afforded the best possible play opportunities and facilities and the award will enable a number of play projects to come to fruition"

New Children's Centres for Wirral

Wherever you live in Wirral, if you have children under five there will soon be a new centre – designed with you in mind. Wirral Children's Centres are continuing to grow with another phase of nine centres now opening across the borough.

There are already ten centres serving local communities as a one stop shop for children under five and their families. The state-of-the-art centres provide a rich environment of activities, advice and support services for parents of young children and they put childcare and early education at the heart of the community.

The new phase will see nine new centres opening to serve areas of Wirral which, as yet, have not been able to benefit from a facility.

On Tuesday September 16th Stephen Hesford MP will be opening both the Hoylake and the West Kirby Children's Centres.

Other new centres are either opening soon or have already opened in Bebington, Eastham, Moreton and Saughall Massie, New Ferry, Oxton, Pensby and Thingwall, Prenton. Existing centres are at Bidston and St James, Birkenhead and Tranmere, Bromborough, Cloughton, Leasowe, Liscard, New Brighton, Rock Ferry, Seacombe and Woodchurch.

Phil Davies, Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning, said: "There really is something for everyone at your local Children's Centre. The range of activities is excellent – from breastfeeding advice, specialist support and advice on health issues to 'stay and play' sessions, craft activities and other fun activities the children love. "I would encourage parents to just pop in and see what there is on offer at their local centre...much of it is free and is a great way to make sure children are getting the best start in life."

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

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty. The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and the Azores.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The Award is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the Award, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

During the summer holidays the Youth Service was able to offer an adventure activity programme to youth clubs and associated organisations. Over 160 young people took part in sailing, canoeing, rafting, climbing and adventure course activities which were delivered by both licensed operators and our own staff. Despite the inclement weather there was a 90% take up on the activities offered.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children in a bid to help them successfully complete their Bronze Awards. In August, most of this group attended a 3 day residential course at The Oaklands Centre where they engaged in a wide variety of outdoor activities. One young woman in particular was identified as having the potential to take a future lead role and will probably be invited back and given a work experience opportunity.

Wirral's D of E Open Award Centre is due to move premises again. Following a decision to vacate the Somerville Site at Gorsey Lane we have entered into negotiations regarding the use of the Wirral Alternative Schools Programme new premises at Solar Campus.

In our drive to make the Award available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units to run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with complex learning difficulties.

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. Currently 'swings and roundabouts' a play helping young people to examine risk taking behaviour has toured in some of Wirral's parks and Youth clubs and will be going into school next term

Seacombe Youth Project: have just completed a funding application for more updated music equipment. They are currently working with Hope 08, leisure service and y/p to fund a project in the sports cage between G.G baths and the Town Hall. The YP's involvement will be input into the design of the cage taking into account safety issue

Wallasey Young People's Project: has continued to work with young people in Wallasey, Seacombe, Liscard, Poulton and New Brighton using streetwork and the Kontakta Bus to engage with young people. WYPP supported the Lottery Fund to develop the all weather pitches for community use at Weatherhead and has made use of the facility on Mondays and Fridays. The Kontakta Bus is sited in Central Park twice a week and provides a focus for sporting activities, providing advice and support as well as addressing as well as addressing risk-taking behaviour.

New Brighton and Wallasey - St Mary's Youth Club: have just had finished the Expedition season for D of E. The Silver D of E groups completed their second and Final Expedition in the Yorkshire Dales, with all 45 candidates completing. YP are preparing their Oral presentation about their expeditions. The Gold group are prepared route cards. a small additional expedition was run in Snowdonia, with the aim of getting 7 young people up to the levels of fitness needed for their Final which was in July. The Tuesday special needs club attracts 70 young people each week, about 50 being people with moderate or severe learning difficulties. The club is run with the help of 20 or so young people from St Mary's. The Thursday Youth Club This has been disrupted with school functions and expeditions. However, it still has a strong following, with a mixture of people from different backgrounds enjoying a safe and friendly place to socialise.

Wallasey Young People's Project: has continued to work with young people in Wallasey, Seacombe, Liscard, Poulton and New Brighton using streetwork and the Kontakta Bus to engage with young people. Harrison, Elleray, Earlstone and Vale Parks, together with the Tower Grounds being particular points of contact. A significant amount of work looking at risk taking behaviour is undertaken with the young people. In the summer, some young people from Wallasey, together with people from Poland, Spain, the Czech republic and Portugal, attended an international conference in the Azores

Belvidere Centre: is open 4 evenings a week and caters mainly for disabled young people together with their non disabled peers. Current projects include working towards the Health Promoting Youth Unit, sexual health issues, a garden project and various sporting competitions. There is an active members committee who, in consultation with other members, have successfully bid for a YCF grant for a new roof for the club. They have just completed a successful varied summer programme of activities and visits.

Safer Communities

Wirral leads the way in reducing volume crime

The level of reported volume crime is reducing faster in Wirral than almost any other area of England and Wales, figures have shown.

In the first quarter of this year, Wirral reported the second biggest reduction in crimes such as burglary, vehicle crime, violence and criminal damage compared to the same period last year.



And these figures are just a further demonstration of what is more than three years of achievement by Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team in meeting the Government's PSA1 target for crime reduction; achievements that were recently acknowledged by the Home Office, who invited members of the Wirral team to a reception celebrating the most successful crime reduction partnerships in the country.

The facts speak for themselves. Volume crime in Wirral dropped by 32% in the first quarter of this year, compared to the same period in 2007. Only the crime reduction partnership in Mid-Devon bettered this performance out of 424 partnerships in the country. Over the last three years, Wirral's Joint Community Safety Team, which brings together staff from Wirral Council, Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, probation and Wirral PCT, has far exceeded its PSA1 targets - the target was 20%, but the figures showed a 40% reduction.

Since April this year there have been the lowest monthly recorded totals since 2003 for burglaries to people's homes and the theft of motor vehicles. Between May and July 2008, Wirral has been the best performing local authority of all 19 North West authorities according to the British Crime Survey comparator crime figures. Steve McGilvray, Manager of the Joint Community Safety Team, puts the success achieved in the area down to the ability of staff from all the agencies to work together.

"The fact that we are all under one roof, I'm sure, has been a big factor in the level of crime reduction in Wirral. Our work is intelligence-led where all the agencies share and analyse crime data and target our attention on the areas where it is most needed, that's how we get results."

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team June 2008 – September 2008

In addition to ongoing enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, specific activity has included:

Anti-Social Behaviour Advice Surgeries - A six-month programme of advice surgeries for residents in the private sector suffering with anti-social behaviour is continuing (launched May 2008) by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team. This sees the Team's Respect Bus taken into communities and staffed with Enforcement Officers who can take complaints directly from the public and provide comprehensive advice. The full timetable can be found at:

http://www.wirral.gov.uk/News/Archive/200804/news_000601.html

Respect Watch Scheme for Overchurch (launched July 2008) Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, in partnership with Merseyside Police and landlord Wirral Partnership Homes, has designated part of Royden Road as a Respect Watch Scheme area. The initiative is designed to protect residents who have already suffered at the hands of anti-social

individuals and includes a Local Lettings Agreement with residents. The scheme will run for 12 months.

Wirral Show (July 2008) Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's hoard of displays drew the crowds at this year's Wirral Show. Visitors were attracted to the Team's Respect Bus staffed with officers giving advice and information about tackling anti-social behaviour; not to mention the 'Love Your Neighbour' competition which required visitors to guess the number of love heart sweets in a jar. The team's ice cream van attracted both adults and young people, with its realistic mannequins styled to support the Department of Health campaign around binge drinking themed "you wouldn't start the night like this, so why end it like this?". Finally, the team's marquees drew in huge numbers focusing upon the theme of graffiti. A graffiti wall was used to interact with young people highlighting the consequences of committing graffiti, including Fixed Penalty Notice and prosecution, up to the penalties of eviction and ASBO.

Celebration for Seacombe young people (July 2008) - A Celebration of Achievement night, hosted by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, saw thirty-one young people from Seacombe who had just completed Sport Leadership programmes, receive their awards. The presentations were made by Wirral's Mayor, Cllr. Adrian Jones, at Wallasey Town Hall. Young people aged between eight and nineteen took part in three courses, each lasting eight weeks. The courses, which have been run by an organisation called 'Play Like Brazil' for two years now, were staged at the Soccer Dome, Seacombe. The programme is supported by a range of partners, including the Live Wirral Wardens, Wirral Partnership Homes, RegendaFirst (Maritime) Housing Association, Riverside Housing Association, Seacombe Residents' Group, 'Play Like Brazil' and Wirral Council's Community Sports Development Unit.

Operation SafeSpace (launched July 2008) - A partnership initiative, led by Merseyside Police, which aimed to increase the use of parks and open spaces. This involved, throughout the summer months, enforcement activities across hot-spot parks by the police and diversionary activities throughout the summer in parks, open spaces and multi-use games areas. **Challenge & Support Respect Project launched (September 2008)** - A multi-agency early intervention process for dealing with young people engaged in, or at risk of engaging in, anti-social behaviour. The process takes a twin-track approach of both 'challenge' (in terms of enforcement action for unacceptable behaviour) and 'support' (in terms of intervention to tackle the underlying causes of their behaviour and/or to divert them from anti-social behaviour). Between 750-1,000 children and young people (aged up to 19 years) are expected to go through the process over the next year. Wirral has received £250,000 over three years from the Department for Children, Schools & Families to support the project.

3G CCTV As discussed, the 3G CCTV system is owned and operated by Wirral Council with two laptops which are loaned to Merseyside Police for access to the cameras within their Neighbourhood. At present we have the following cameras situated at the below 'hotspots' -

Tranmere: Church Road, Bedford Road / A41, Rodney Street, Well Lane / Victoria Park

Woodchurch: Hoole Road, Pemberton Road, 2 new cameras to be sited soon -, Big Meadow Road, Eltham Green shops

Others: Stadium Road, Bromborough, Hillburn Drive, Birkenhead, Grange Road West, B'head, Illford Ave, Poulton

The cameras within Tranmere and Woodchurch (4 in each) have been purchased using Neighbourhood Management funding and cameras are deployed through the 'hot-spotting' process through their Neighbourhood Action Groups operated through Merseyside Police and their respective Neighbourhood Management with data supplied through the Joint Community Safety Team and Police Intelligence. That is the agreed protocol so that there won't be a precedent set by anyone 'shouting loudest' and there is a clear rationale based upon data mapping.

Camera deployment for the rest of Wirral is determined through the same process as above in respect of data however it is through the Joint Agency Group which consist of a variety of agencies which have signed up to the Data Sharing Protocols.

East Wallasey Neighbourhood Inspector's Update

Drugs: In August, we secured a closure on an address in the Wallasey area utilising 'crack-house' legislation. This was the first time in Wirral that the owner/ occupier of a private house had been evicted under this legislation. I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the local community who worked to assist us secure enough evidence to enable us to take this through the courts.

If anyone has any information in relation to misuse of drugs, I would urge you all to continue to contact us directly with anything you feel is relevant. Alternatively, if you prefer to remain anonymous, please telephone Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. We will endeavour to act on all information.

Anti-Social Behaviour

We have been working in partnership with the Mercian regiment to provide personal development courses for young people of the Wallasey area, whose behaviour has caused problems within the local community.

Two five-day residential courses have taken place so far at an army training facility in Swynnerton, Stoke-on-Trent. The course objective is to empower the young people to make positive decisions and to respect themselves and others by introducing structure and discipline into their daily routine.

Twenty-nine young people attended the latest course and were chaperoned by police officers from my team. During the week, they participated in a wide range of physically challenging activities, whilst also receiving presentations by my officers that are designed to help them understand the effects of their behaviour on others.

It is interesting to note that for the period they were away, crime on the neighbourhood reduced by 28% and anti-social behaviour fell by 26%.

Following on from the success of this initiative, we will continue to work with these young people and are currently looking into opportunities for them to participate in other initiatives, such as the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.

Halloween/Bonfire Night

Planning for this busy period is well under way and we will have additional staff on duty at key times. We will be liaising with local schools and providing literature to parents in an attempt to minimise problems to the local community. We will also be liaising with local retailers regarding the responsible sale of flour and eggs during this period and my staff will be speaking to local community groups to identify vulnerable residents/locations, who might be in need of additional support.

As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss with me, then please ring my team directly on 777-2046 or email us at A.BCU.Wards.A1@Merseyside.police.uk

Julie Fletcher - East Wallasey Neighbourhood Inspector

Health and Well Being

Smokefree Wirral – One year on and successfully Smokefree

July 1st marked the first anniversary of the banning of smoking in public places in England. The good news in Wirral is that the concept of going smokefree has been widely embraced by the vast majority of people. There has also been a tremendous level of compliance and support from local employers and businesses.

So what has Smokefree Wirral been up to recently? Smokefree Wirral is a partnership between the Primary Care Trust and Wirral Council. The partnership aims to reduce the risks associated with tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke.

You may have observed the Smokefree trailer at various venues over the last year, maybe in Birkenhead town centre, leisure parks or at the Wirral Show. With couches, a flat screen TV and activities to take part in, it's a great place to be.

Young People The Stop Smoking Service along with Smokefree Officers has been attending various youth events in order to reduce smoking uptake in young people and to offer advice and support to those wishing to quit. Over 100 young people have tried the new Age Progression Software, an innovative way of demonstrating the harmful effects of smoking on facial appearance, designed to encourage young people and adults to stop smoking or better still never to start. In addition, Environmental Health has initiated a Mersey wide policy development to tackle young people smoking on school buses.

Black and Ethnic Minority groups The Stop Smoking Service has developed a specialist provision for those using tobacco from other countries, with translation services and the choice of a male or female advisor. Around 100 trained Council Staff have been increasing awareness of this service as part of their normal roles; stop smoking advice can now be received at One Stop Shops, libraries and from community staff.

For the last month One Stop Shops have asked every customer if they would like advice about stopping smoking, reaching around 3,500 Wirral residents a week. Partnership working with Wirral Change and the Wirral Multi-cultural Organisation has resulted in many smokers from varying communities quitting tobacco use.

Smokefree Homes Pledge Wirral PCT is launching a smokefree homes campaign. The main aim of the campaign is to reduce children's exposure to cigarette smoke by persuading parents and carers to refrain from smoking in the presence of children, particularly in enclosed places like the home and car.

This will impact on the health of babies and children, reducing childhood ailments and will also reduce adult smoking rates. At the heart of the campaign is the Smokefree Pledge which we are hoping parents and carers will take to ensure their homes and cars remain free from cigarette smoke. Once parents or carers have made the pledge we can send them a range of exciting products for their children.

Consultation To support and encourage responses in Wirral Smokefree Northwest postcards were used as a quick and easy way for the public to respond in large numbers. These have been used at various public events and are placed in Wirral One Stop Shops. An online web page was also developed and Smoke Free Wirral was out in Birkenhead Town Centre to engage with local people. A Smoke Free Wirral Response has been drafted but will only be finalised when we are able to insert public responses.

Primary Care Trust

NHS Constitution - Introduction

1. Alongside Lord Darzi's review of the NHS, the Government published in July 2008 a draft UK-wide constitution setting out NHS values and the rights and responsibilities of 'people who pay for, use or work for the NHS'.
2. The PCT is supporting this consultation.
3. The 12 week consultation began in August and will end on the 17 October 2008.
4. During this time the PCT will be:

Raising awareness of this draft national consultation through our communications network, ie via our and partner websites, press releases and advertorials.

Briefing any LINK meetings and Area Forums which take place within the consultation period on ways to respond. The draft consultation was presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC) meeting on 2 September 2008. The OSC will consider their response at

their October meeting. Inviting a group of people from those who have said they wish to be actively involved with us to an event to provide them with a specific opportunity to generate some responses.

Contacting partner organisations who work with hard to hear groups such as Black & Racial Minority, disability and faith groups to ask them to publish the consultation to ensure people in these groups have their say. Undertaking staff briefings to ensure those of us working in the organisation can contribute.

Making a formal response on behalf of the PCT.

5. Should anyone wish to contact the PCT on this matter they should do so via our 'Have Your Say' team (telephone number 0151 647 4251).

Summary of the Consultation

6. The constitution poses 17 questions, and is summarised in a quick guide document .
7. There is a lot of supporting information on the Department of Health (DH) website e.g. 'handbooks' explaining some of the detailed thinking behind the values, rights and responsibilities proposed.
8. In addition, the PCT has a limited amount of literature supplied to us by the DH which we are able to send out on request.

PCT Advertorial Programme - An 8 week programme of full page advertorials has been placed in both local papers each week commencing on the 3/9. These cover service development areas or stories relating to the positive steps being taken by the PCT to promote good health and or treat ill health. The topics covered are:

Small Grants Programme: small amounts of money have been given to community groups to enable them to improve what they do.

AMD (age related macular degeneration): a new service has been commissioned which is helping to stop people going blind.

Stop Smoking: Stopping smoking can make a real difference to your life and the PCT are promoting the uptake of stop smoking services wherever it can

Waiting Times: PCT are increasing investment into services to ensure waits between gp appointments and hospital appointments are reduced.

Stroke services: There will be increased investment into preventing and treating strokes.

Better mental health: Healthy living can improve your mental health, the PCT are investing in early identification and treatment of mental health

Advice Services for young people: PCT have made an investment into on-line counselling services through Kooth.com. Plus 1 more campaign to be confirmed

Annual report

Copies of the Annual report to be launched at the PCT AGM on the 26/9 will be available at the meeting. The PCT will briefly report on some of the achievements of the PCT highlighted in the document

Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency.

- Controlling Infection.....
 - Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
 - Our Women’s Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
 - The ‘rate’ of MRSA infections at the Trust (i.e. rate per 10,000 bed days) compares very favourably with national and regional rates:
 - Wirral = 0.86
 - Regional = 1.05
 - National = 1.16
 - The ‘rate’ of Clostridium difficile infections (i.e. rate per 10,000 bed days) also compares favourably with national and regional rates:
 - Wirral = 1.89
 - Regional = 2.11
 - National = 1.56
 - Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and staff continue to implement a comprehensive action plan to achieve this.
 - In partnership with local GPs, our staff are working towards a more prudent use of broad-spectrum antibiotics that, if over-used, can make C.difficile infection more likely to develop.

- Improving Our Standards.....
 - Our Women’s Services achieved a ‘hat-trick of excellence’ when they were recently awarded CNST Level 3 accreditation. Of the 156 Maternity Units in the country, only 17 others have achieved Level 3 and our Unit is the only one to have achieved 100% in every standard at every level.

Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) Level 3 is evidence that our maternity services are extremely safe, well-managed and overall ‘first-class’. This follows the Unit’s score of ‘best performing’ in the Healthcare Commission’s Maternity Services Review and being named ‘best in the region’ in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be at the end of 2007

- For the second year running we have been named as one of the country’s Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.
- In the 2006/07 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored ‘good’ for our use of resources and ‘good’ for the quality of our services. Note – the 2007/08 assessment is due to be published on 16th October 2008
- An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2008 -

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Good</i>
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Excellent</i>

- Consulting with Local People
 - During October the Trust is consulting with local people on its draft Public Health Strategy. A copy of this is enclosed in this briefing pack and you are invited to contribute by answering the questions on the back page. The closing date for responses is 31st October 2008.

Providing New Services.....

- The Trust is now able to offer women who require a hysterectomy a new, less invasive type of operation, the benefits of which include a shorter stay in hospital, fewer complications and a shorter recovery time. Ladies who are suitable for this type of ‘keyhole’ surgery will be able to discuss treatment options with hospital staff in clinic.

- The Trust is now designated as a centre for providing drug therapy for age-related Macular Degeneration. This is a new, local service for the benefit of Wirral residents.
- The Trust is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery
- We are the only NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions for men.
- We will soon be bringing our Rheumatology services closer to where people live and work with the appointment of an additional Consultant Rheumatologist – clinics will soon be up and running at St Catherine’s Community Hospital and Victoria Central Hospital as well as Arrowe Park & Clatterbridge Hospitals
- We now provide Sexual Health services in the community – closer to where people live and work
- Easy to Use Website.....
 - Our new-look, 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
 - The new, easy click, ‘email a patient’ facility continues to be a popular feature
- Come and Join Us!
 - As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have more than 5,800 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.
 - The Trust will shortly be holding elections for Public Governors to represent the Public Members in Bidston and Ellesmere Port – if you, or someone you know is interested in standing, please contact the Membership Office ☎ 0800 0121 356.
- For more information.....
 - The Trust has published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2007/08. This can be accessed via our website www.whnt.nhs.uk or a copy can be obtained from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 0121 356

Living and Working Environment

New facility preserves local history

Wirral Council’s Archive Service will open the doors to its new, cutting edge records facility on 1st September.

The new premises at the Cheshire Lines building on Canning Street, Birkenhead, features a spacious search room, with microfilm and microfiche readers and state of the art computers to support research into local history. The facility boasts over 5 miles of compelling documents, covering local government, workhouses, schools, hospitals, law courts and businesses, including the world-famous Cammell Laird shipbuilders. Photographs, maps, plans and local newspapers dating back to the nineteenth century are preserved in a large, purpose-built strong room along with records including census, electoral and burial registers, which give an interesting insight into Wirral’s family history.

Leader of Wirral Council, Councillor Steve Foulkes explained: “The new archive facility will provide a much better service, combining important historic documents with modern technology. The building is in a convenient location, with good bus and rail links making it easy to access a wealth of information on local history. People will be impressed by the thousands of documents available; the oldest being a medieval title deed for Wallasey dating

back to 1447! I am delighted with the improvements and look forward to opening our doors to the public."

Councillor Jerry Williams, Wirral's Heritage Champion added: "The opening of the new Wirral archive facilities is an important response to the never ending enthusiasm and interest in the diverse history of Wirral that has local, national and international significance. Wirral's numerous Historical Societies, are highly knowledgeable, well organised, with an energy and drive few could match. They have pioneered the preservation of important archive material. The sheer numbers of local history publications published in recent years is an example of Wirral people's love of local history. The amazingly productive partnership between Wirral Council and local history organisations is making major strides forward. I applaud this latest development."

Wirral Archive Service is running free Saturday morning workshops aimed at everyone from schoolchildren to families and local history groups. The sessions will be brought alive with original documents and cover topics including family history, the history of Wirral, schools and education and Wirral at war.

The archive service is accessed via Shore Road, Birkenhead, and is open from Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm and Saturdays from 10am to 1pm. For more information call 0151 606 2929 or email archives@wirral.gov.uk. Alternatively, visit www.wirral.gov.uk, go to 'Leisure and Culture' then select 'Records and Archives'

Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Week commencing 3rd November is National Diversity week!!!

Equality Watch, the Council's equality and diversity programme team, are delighted to announce that Wirral Council's first Employee Diversity Day will take place on Thursday 6th November and all **council employees** are invited to attend.

All employees are encouraged to drop-in on the event and sample cultural food, see what services are provided by our local communities, talk to colleagues who have joined a staff diversity forum and also to 'road test' the new online equality training.

As part of Wirral's ongoing commitment to equality and diversity issues, Wirral hosted its first pilot equality watch think-tank session on Thursday 4th September. Community leaders / projects / organisations were randomly selected from the council's community database, to attend.

Those present were asked for their views on the following:

1. What equality and diversity issues do you feel will be affecting your community(s) in 5 years time? What issues are affecting them now?
2. What are your projects/ organisations doing to support those issues? What will you need to do to support future issues?
3. How would you / your organisation like to get involved in the council's equality and diversity programme?
4. What is the council doing to address community issues? What will the council need to do to support future issues?
5. How are you able to participate in working together to support Wirral's diverse communities? How would you like to participate in the future?

The information provided during the think-tank session will help the council as we embark on major equality and diversity developments, including a Single Equality Scheme, full equality impact assessments for services and policies, a comprehensive engagement strategy, equality and diversity training for all staff and councillors, and identifying the equality and cohesion priorities for Wirral. A summary of the outcomes of the day will be available from October 2008 for anyone who may be interested.

Please email equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk to request a copy.

Equality Watch newsletter - Since December 2007 five bi-monthly electronic version newsletters have been produced for council staff that have access to the intranet. We are pleased to report that a full colour, glossy brochure will be produced in February 2009 that all council staff will receive with their payslips. We also intend to distribute this (and future editions of the glossy version) to various locations throughout Wirral such as libraries, one stop shops, health centres, community centres / groups etc.

If you would like to be added to the distribution list as a contact point, please contact Maxine (listed below) with your details and how many copies you would like to receive.

Disability Issues Voice UK – is a national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse. We also support their families, carers and professional workers.

We provide a telephone helpline, the line is attended from 10am to 4pm Monday to Friday:
Telephone 0845 122 8695

Our statistics show that calls to our office from people needing advice and assistance are increasing steadily. Each new case represents a shocking, traumatic event for a person with learning disabilities and their families and carers.

For more information please visit www.voiceuk.org.uk or call 0845 122 8695.

Sexual Orientation Issues Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill (17 July) - Parliament passed important new legal protections against incitement to hatred on grounds of sexual orientation on Wednesday 7 May 2008. The Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill received Royal Assent on 8 May, another historic step towards legal equality.

Stonewall believes that the newly-extended criminal offence of incitement to hatred will go some way towards addressing the hatred and violence directed towards lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in Britain at a time when homophobic attacks are on the increase. It sends a strong signal that such behavior is unacceptable in a civilised society. Like race, a person's sexual orientation is an intrinsic characteristic for which no citizen should ever feel under threat of verbal or physical violence.

Regrettably the House of Lords also voted, by 178 votes to 164, to retain an amendment to the Bill that Stonewall believes 'is unnecessary and could mean that a very small number of people of extreme views attempt to avoid prosecution by citing a 'religious defence'. We will work hard to press Ministers, the Crown Prosecution Service and police forces to ensure that this defence is not deployed unscrupulously by those who incite hatred'.

Recent guidance

In Focus: Putting people first - Equality and diversity matters two This bulletin aims to address the needs of black and minority ethnic people using care services. It calls for black and minority ethnic people to have their cultural and social needs addressed on a more personal level, which will help to ensure that their specific needs are adequately considered during assessments by care homes and providers.
<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/917137>

Equality Bill: a new public duty Following A Framework for a Fairer Future, the Equality Office has now published the government's response to the consultation on the single equality bill, and set out some markers for the new single duty. This briefing concentrates on the single equality duty, and suggests that some further dialogue is needed, particularly on the need to extend protection against discrimination on grounds of age to children. This briefing was sent earlier to LGiU members and is now being sent to members of CSN.
<http://www.csn.info/csn/briefing-detail.jsp?&id=1952&md=0§ion=briefing>

Government launches Manchester search for role models to inspire black boys (7 August) - A major search in Manchester to recruit Black male role models gets underway today as Government calls for motivational Black and mixed heritage men to take a lead in inspiring the next generation of Black boys to achieve and succeed.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=919908>

LAA PLUS Peer-to-Peer Challenge Workshop: Dreaming of Equality – Equalities in LAAs Learning Paper (14 Aug) - LAA PLUS held two workshops, in Manchester and London on 25th and 26th June respectively, bringing together a rich mix of different areas and partners with different experiences of promoting equalities through LAAs. Following learning generated by participants on the day we have now developed a paper which sets out:

- An introduction to the current debate around equalities and links to community cohesion, · The new policy context, · The Equality Impact Assessment process, Case studies highlighting how equalities have been addressed in different areas, Te learning paper can be downloaded at the following:

http://www.laa-plus.net/downloads/Integrating_Equalities_into_LAAs.pdf

Board announced for Government Equalities Office (21 Aug) - Three new non-executive board members of the Government Equalities Office (GEO) were announced today by Director General Jonathan Rees.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=936195>

Equality experts, business and unions to help make Britain fairer (22 Aug) - The Government Equalities Office (GEO) announced a new senior stakeholder group to support development of a new equality framework which will help make Britain a fairer and more equal place.

<http://www.info4local.gov.uk/filter/?item=937775>

If you would like more information please contact Maxine Joynson on 691 8266 or email maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Section Three

Funding

Every year each area forum has funding to give out to small community groups within their ward area. This funding is to help and support services that benefit the community. This section provides an update on how some of this money has been spent in this area.

The Community Engagement Team pilots a new and exciting way and giving money to the community.

July saw the first '*Participatory Budget (PB)*' event take place in Wallasey Town Hall. Wirral has been chosen as one of the national pilot areas for PB, so all eyes were on this event.

Every year, each area forum has funding available for organisations and individuals looking to carry out projects in their community.

Traditionally this funding has been allocated by a panel of councillors and community representatives assessing each application.

While this way of allocating the funding stayed the same for 8 out of the 11 area forums, the Bidston and Cloughton and Oxton and Prenton Area Forums were chosen to pilot PB.

The purpose of PB is to allow the community itself to decide how the money should be spent in their own area.

Everyone who applied for funding was asked to come along and give a 3 minute presentation on their project and why they should be funded.

However, the unique part of PB is that all the applicants themselves get to vote on each others projects to see who gets funded.

The projects with the highest number of votes then received the funding they requested.

Comments from the PB event.....



"This process was more democratic than most funding application processes"

"Good opportunity to network & make links with similar organisations"

"This process was more democratic than most funding application processes"

Of course not all the comments were as positive as these! Like any other pilot project there are aspects of it that can be improved for next year. All the comments from the groups who took part in the event have been taken on board.

Our first PB Event proved to be successful and while lessons will be learned to improve the process for next year, we are confident 'Participatory Budgeting' will provide the community with more of a say on how money is spent in their area.



FREE FUNDING INFORMATION 4 YOU

Wirral Council supported by Wirral Local Strategic Partnership's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund are pleased to provide a FREE funding information service available online.

There are hundreds of grants available to support Wirral's voluntary and community groups from local opportunities to Government, National Lottery and Trust Funding sources.

To find out which grants you may be eligible to apply for visit our free search facility:

Step One

Go to **www.wirral.gov.uk**

Click on the *Funding Initiatives* icon under the 'Popular Pages' list.

Step Two

Then click on one of these links to browse and search for funding information.

www.open4community.info/wirral
www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral

You no longer have to be left in the dark about what funding your group or organisation could apply for, find this out for yourself.

In addition you can also visit the following web site for a wide range of associated information including signing up for regular early funding alerts via email.

www.mfip.org.uk

