

**YOUR SAY** 

 **WIRRAL**

**Leasowe Moreton Saughall**

**Area Forum**

**Papers for the forum meeting**

**Date 16<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Moreton Community Centre**

**Maryland Lane**

**Moreton**

**CH46 7TS**

**7.00pm – 9.00pm**

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# AGENDA

1. Welcome introductions and apologies
2. Area co-ordinators report
  - **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**
3. "You Decide"
4. Feral pigeons
5. Public Question Time.
6. Partner Updates
7. Dates of future meetings - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009

<b><u>Section One</u></b>	<b>Minutes from last Meeting</b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>Section Two</u></b>	<b>Local Updates</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Life chances for children and young people</b>		
▪ Youth Service update		<b>12</b>
▪ Update on projects funded by CIF and PCT		<b>14</b>
<b>Safer communities</b>		
▪ Community Safety update		<b>15</b>
▪ Merseyside Fire and Rescue update		<b>16</b>
<b>Health and well being</b>		
▪ PCT update		<b>19</b>
▪ NHS update		<b>22</b>
<b>Cross cutting</b>		
• Merseytravel update		<b>25</b>
• Equality and Diversity		<b>25</b>
<b><u>Section Three</u></b>	<b>Funding</b>	
▪ Participatory Budgeting		<b>29</b>
▪ Free Funding Information		<b>30</b>
▪ Lottery Funding		<b>31</b>
▪ Community Initiatives Fund and PCT Funding		<b>32</b>

# Section One

## Minutes and Matters Arising

**Minutes - Area Forum (Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie) - 2 July 2008**

Present	
Chair	SR Mountney
Ward Councillors	IO Coates , I Lewis , SD Moseley
Community Representatives	J Borlase (Faith Representative) , Bruce Martin (Faith Representative) , Mrs J McLear , B Seddon
Lead Officer	Russ Glennon (Head of Corporate Policy)
Street Scene Manager	Chris Jones
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Cathy Gritzner
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Alistair Bardsley
Merseyside Police	Inspector Peter Kolokotroni
Council Officers	Roger Calvert (Principal Officer, Parks & Open Spaces) , Tara Dumas (Recycling Officer) , Sai Ming (Community Safety Team)
Apologies	Cllr Ron Abbey , Cllr Chris Blakeley

### **Index to Minutes**

Minute 1 - Welcome introductions and apologies

Minute 2 - Nominations of area forum chair

Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report • Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

Minute 4 - Area Forum Funding DVD Launch

Minute 5 - Recycling Update

Minute 6 - Public Question Time

Minute 7 - Allotment Strategy

Minute 8 - Partner Updates

Minute 9 - Dates of future meetings

### **Minute 1 - Welcome introductions and apologies**

The Area Co-ordinator welcomed Forum members and 25 members of the public to the meeting of the Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie Area Forum in Leasowe. Apologies for absence were received from Councillors RL Abbey and C Blakeley.

### **Minute 2 - Nominations of area forum chair**

The Area Co-ordinator invited nominations for Chair of the Area Forum. It was PROPOSED by Councillor SD Moseley, and SECONDED by B Seddon that Councillor S R Mountney be elected Chair of the Area Forum. There were no further nominations.

Councillor Mountney accepted the Chair.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Councillor S R Mountney be elected Chair of the Area Forum for Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie.

### **Minute 3 - Area co-ordinators report • Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The Area Co-ordinator invited the Forum to consider her report, which contained information on events and developments in the local community and within Wirral Council and its partners.

The CIF Panel has arranged to meet on 10 July to consider the bids received for the current round of Community Initiatives Funding. Successful applications will be notified by 14 August following the Cabinet meeting.

Councillor Lewis referred to a question raised at the last forum meeting regarding the condition of the football fields on Leasowe Road. He had been advised over the weekend that the football club organisers are still not happy with the amount of litter and the lack of regular grass cutting, given that they pay an annual fee to use the pitches.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That –

- i Russ Glennon be thanked for offering to refer back the issue with a view to resolving the matter;
- ii the minutes of the meeting of 13 February 2008 be confirmed as a true record;
- iii the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report.

### **Minute 4 - Area Forum Funding DVD Launch**

Staff from the Learning Lighthouse have supported students from six Wirral Secondary Schools in producing a promotional film in DVD format to publicise ways in which community groups have taken advantage of Area Forum funding to benefit local communities. The purpose of the DVD is to provide ideas and encouragement to community groups to apply for funding. The students were responsible for all the filming and editing of the DVD.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That the students involved be congratulated on producing an excellent

DVD to promote opportunities for Area Forum funding.

### **Minute 5 - Recycling Update**

Tara Dumas, Waste/Environment Officer, gave a verbal update on recycling issues.

Wirral Council has more than doubled its re-cycling performance compared with the same period last year and currently is the most improved Authority in the country. From a re-cycling rate of 14% at the outset, 32% of household waste was re-cycled up to the end of March. The percentage continued to rise in April/May and if this trend continues the Council will be well on the way to achieving its target of 34% for this financial year.

The focus is on increasing the number of recycling bins in use, including properties in multi-occupancy, with the aim of providing some kind of re-cycling facility for all occupancies by March 2009. Aligned to an increase in re-cycling, and despite collecting more garden waste, there has been a decrease in the level of waste generated in Wirral. This is against the national trend and means that Wirral is exceeding the statutory targets for diverting waste to landfill.

To keep the momentum, there will be features on re-cycling at various events, including the Wirral Show, where some new street litterbins will be trialled. The Council is in the process of securing a composting system.

When householders receive their grey bin, they receive a booklet that gives guidance on which items should be placed in which bin. The advice given initially has changed and this has led to some confusion. The Council is constantly looking at new ways to pass information to residents and a recycling wheel has been produced that indicates which bin to use to re-cycle every day household items. The recycling wheels were distributed at the area forum.

An evaluation starts next week when 1,000 residents will be asked to comment on the recycling scheme. The views of all members of the public would be welcome.

Tara distributed copies of a flow chart showing the enforcement approach that is used when crews spot a contaminated grey bin. The flow chart shows the phased intervention that takes place before the stage is reached where, as a last resort, a section 46 notice is issued to the householder.

Tara answered questions from the Forum on the cost of recycling to the Council, the Council's approach towards supermarkets and other waste producing businesses; and the possibility that the Council might consider starting a business collection service.

Councillor Coates asked about recycling in high rise properties. Tara replied that the Council is now in discussion with the occupiers of high rises, and also residential homes, about the possibility of issuing residents with some kind of bag. People who live in these properties are keen to recycle, and it is anticipated that by March 2009 everyone will have some form of re-cycling facility.

Where persons unknown persistently discard rubbish in someone else's bin, the resident can be issued with a grey bin with a lockable lid. Likewise, communal bins will be replaced with ones with lockable lids.

Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Tara Dumas be thanked for the update.

### **Minute 6 - Public Question Time**

Q There are many complaints about the state of local play areas, which I understand are the responsibility of the Council. Are there any plans for investment to bring these areas up to some sort of standard? There are about four play areas in Leasowe where the equipment is broken and there is dog fouling and litter. The play area in Cameron Road is really bad.

A [Roger Calvert, Parks and Countryside]. Play areas are the responsibility of the Council, but currently there are no plans to do work on play areas, apart from one area where there will be some investment to improve the area.

Q I live in Leasowe and I will not take my grandchildren to the local swings and roundabouts because there are not enclosed and secure. There are dogs just running around and glass and litter everywhere.

A [Roger Calvert]. Only one of the play areas will be enclosed. I cannot guarantee the others will be done, but they will be a priority if the Council gets the funding. The concerns about glass and litter will be looked into.

Russ Glennon advised that the area forums have been allocated £20,000 to spend on extra Council services, this could be used for improving the local area. Details will be available at the next area forum.

Q [Cllr Lewis] An application has been submitted for a new Health Park in Pasture Road. The PCT has been asked to contribute towards the cost of some of the facilities. The PCT agreed to contribute £150 and asked to spend it through this area forum.

Q I have noticed an increase in people drinking and smoking outside pubs and smoking in the doorways of buildings. Is it not breaching the law to drink alcohol outdoors in the street? People have to walk through a fog to get into the building.

A [Police] Since the change in the law we have had numerous problems with people drinking and smoking outside buildings, and it is affecting local residents. Each pub has different rules attached to its licence. I would need to look at the particular details of the pub you are talking about.

### **Minute 7 - Allotment Strategy**

The Chair invited Roger Calvert, Parks and Countryside, to talk about allotments and to respond to issues raised in the Moreton and Leasowe areas.

Roger Calvert advised that currently there are no allotment sites within this area forum's boundaries. There are sites close by at Manor Drive and in Cross Lane off Leasowe Road. Interest in allotments has grown in the past 4/5 years, and the waiting list has increased as a result. At Cross Lane there are 28 plots and 19 names on the waiting list, and at Manor Drive there are 19 plots and 22 names on the waiting list, which suggests that most people do not have a reasonable chance of getting an allotment in the foreseeable future. The Council has received petitions about the paucity of allotment provision from Wirral Allotments Association and from the Wirral Federation of Allotment Societies and a further

petition about poor allotment security.

The Cabinet has approved an Allotment Strategy. An additional sum of money will be available in the current and in the next financial year, and capital funding will be allocated on a rolling basis to improve existing sites and to look at further provision. . A steering group has been formed with the two allotment organisations to look at the best way forward. It has been agreed to use part of the additional funding to employ a part-time allotment officer whose main role will be to look at further sources of funding, and the balance of the funding will be used for match funding. The Council's Allotment Strategy is available on the Council website.

Q I run a football club for children from the age of four in Lingham Park. . Will any money be spent on the pavilion? Several teams use the pitches and there are no toilet facilities and no changing facilities. . The park is an eyesore. We have a fenced off pitch provided by Lingham Primary School which is clear of litter and dog muck. We would like to increase the teams, say for 200/300 children, and if we had some agreement we would look after the facilities.

A [Roger Calvert]. There is a lack of investment in football facilities. The main funding provider is the Football Foundation. We applied for money, about £1 million, for ten sites, and Lingham Park was included as a priority site, but the criteria for the funding was altered. Initially, it was about improving facilities and then it was changed to club development. The aim now is to try and get clubs more involved with the sites, perhaps by having more ownership in terms of leasing and helping to manage the land. In that way, those clubs can apply for the funding. I think we need to talk about the issue of the toilets. Discuss after the meeting.

Q You mentioned the link with capital funding. Is that available to establish new provision?

A [Roger Calvert]: It is my expectation there will be an option to use some part of the money for that.

Q [Councillor Moseley]: There are some areas where there are residents who are particularly elderly, and they have large gardens. Could you have a register whereby people who are prepared to donate a portion of their garden for someone to use as an allotment and have a mutual share of the produce? Promote that aspect and see if that would work.

A [Roger Calvert]. An interesting idea, no one has suggested that before. I will include that to be looked at.

ClIr Moseley: Can you take forward a formal proposal to investigate what you would need to do, and how realistic the project is, and come back to us?

Q [Bob Seddon] The old Cadbury site. Encourage businesses to hand over their surplus land or grassed areas Can the Council look at that?

A [Roger Calvert] Yes. .

Q Near the shops in Twickenham Drive. They have just got a piece of land for community use and there is an area for growing vegetables etc.

A The PCT have started a new community garden at their new premises, and a plot of land is attached to the site. A free course called Introductory Horticulture for Beginners will start in September. Further information is available on [www.LA21.net](http://www.LA21.net).



Minute Decision :

Resolved: That Roger Calvert be thanked for the update.

## **Minute 8 - Partner Updates**

PCT:

**Commissioning Strategy:** The response to the consultation was really good with 8,000 responses and 2,500 respondents expressing interest in becoming involved as members of the PCT. The comments received were overwhelmingly in support of the five-year commissioning strategy.

**Access:** There has been considerable Press coverage about the development of polyclinics. The PCT's position statement is that they have no intention of developing polyclinics in Wirral. The PCT is committed to general practices and improving access to those practices in the coming months, and whilst the PCT sites in Wallasey and St Catherine's will be developed, there are no plans to take away any current GP provision.

The Department of Health has said that all areas should have a Primary Access Centre which is open on seven days a week between 8 am and 10 pm. People who cannot attend their GPs surgery during normal opening hours will be able to see a GP at the Access Centre, without registering at this centre. The proposal is to develop a facility on the Arrowe Park Hospital site and to use existing staff with additional GPs.

Bob Seddon asked questions on the impact of the access centre on the rest of GP services across Wirral, whether funding the new clinic will take away funding from existing GPs, and whether the staff will be PCT employees or on the GP contract.

Reply: What we intend is the new service will be complementary to existing practices. People can use the Access Centre, but they do not have to register there. They can go for a check without any loss to the practice they are registered at. The PCT will continue to work with practices to offer additional services and contribute patients too.

Bob Seddon asked the PCT to monitor the situation regarding GPs and not to create a detrimental impact on GPs' practices.

Reply: We are committed to making sure we look at this situation closely and do what we have to do to make sure those services don't feel threatened. This is a PCT initiative and allows us to work in a co-operative way.

Clr Coates: Will details of treatment be sent to their GP?

Reply: Yes, we have a policy in the out of hours service where the information is faxed through to the GP within 48 hours. There will be a system that allows the GP's system to be informed of any treatment or medication the patient has been given.

Wirral University Teaching Hospital

**Improving Standards:** One of the Trust's drivers is to reduce MRSA bloodstream infections. MRSA has reduced from 35 in 2006/07 to 26 in 2007/08. Waiting times

for clinics and operations has reduced, and waiting times for new referrals to the Audiology service have reached an all time low of six weeks.

Additional investment will be made in car parks this year.

The NHS is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this month.

Hazel Kelly announced her election as a Governor on the Assembly of Governors. She thanked the people of Leasowe, Saughall Massie and Moreton who had voted for her. She looked forward to being the link between the public and the Trust and to offering advice to people. Notices giving her contact details have been posted in various public buildings.

Anti Social Behaviour Updates.

The attention of the Area Forum was drawn to the information on Safer Communities on page 17 of the Area Co-ordinator's Report by Sai Maing

### **Minute 9 - Dates of future meetings**

Date of next meeting: THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2008 at Moreton Community Centre, Twickenham Drive, Moreton, Wirral.

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution and closed the meeting of the Area Forum at 8.25 pm.

# 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.*

## Life Chances for Children and Young People

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 25<sup>th</sup> 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**

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.

### *International Work*

Each year the 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 Gorse 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/Youth Arts*

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

**Leasowe Youth Club:** have 4 young men, who are preparing for a 12-week expedition in September to go to Malaysia. This has involved a 5 day residential, liaising with Probation Service, employers and parents, planning fund raising events to cover the cost of vaccinations/kit & flights. A group visited the Maritime/ Slave Trade museum. A group of Young People have recently been involved in a creative

cookery course, where Young People learnt about food and hygiene and at the end of the project cooked for family, friends and other guests from the estate.

**Moreton Youth Club.** has just completed a Sexual Health project which ran for 6 weeks using money gained from Terrance Higgins Trust. Wallasey School PAYP will be using the youth club to run the programme over the summer holidays. They are working towards HPYU gold award. The MC Project are using decks and their MC ing skills to create their own sound. The group are planning to use an empty space in club for a MC room.

### **Updates on Projects funded by CIF and PCT in 2007/08**

**Organisation** Learning and Well-being Centre

**Total awarded by this forum** £1,679.62

**Project Details** To provide outdoor play equipment which will be used to structure a wide variety of physical activities to enhance the well-being of children and young people, and to take the children on an adventurous day out to a purpose built adventure playground set in the grounds of Chester "crocky Trail".

#### **Progress Report**

We have provided 15 children with personal activity kits (PAKS) to encourage them to take up the opportunity of attending free swims provided by the local leisure centre. We took 10 children in an adventure trip to Crocky Trail and have provided 67 activity sessions, from April to August, to a total of 60 children aged 3-16 (with a total of 543 visits).

**Organisation** Girl guiding Wirral

**Total awarded by this forum** £500.00

**Project Details** To purchase equipment, training and storage to encourage guides with their leaders to get out of their meeting places to explore and enjoy the cycle ways of Wirral.

#### **Progress Report**

Planning permission has been obtained for the bike storage unit and the unit, bikes, helmets, lights and locks were delivered on 25th July 2008. Leader training will commence in September 2008, with four evening and weekend dates scheduled.

The bikes went into use on Saturday, 26th July 2008, as part of an activity style camp for 250 girls from across Wirral. The bikes were a huge success with the guides and senior section members, with over 100 girls using them on the Wirral way during the week long camp. We expect units to start using them fully from September 2008.

## Safer Communities

### 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\\_0000601.html](http://www.wirral.gov.uk/News/Archive/200804/news_0000601.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.

### **Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service**

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being.

We have an **Integrated Risk Management Plan 2008/09** which sets out the measures which are intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside. This I.R.M.P can be viewed



online at [www.merseyfire.gov.uk/media](http://www.merseyfire.gov.uk/media) or copies are available at local libraries and One Stop Shops.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activity, in particular the delivery of the **Home Fire Safety Checks** and the provision of free smoke detectors were necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by utilising intelligence led targeting of **HFSCs**. We are currently developing household specific dwelling fire prediction software to assist in the process.

The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets. During the last quarter the Fire Service visited nearly 6,000 homes on Wirral to complete Home Fire Safety Checks.

Following a successful campaign in schools prior to the summer break and close links during the holiday period between Community Safety Team and stations, we saw 65% reduction in reported Anti-Social Behaviour.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service was extremely proud to have hosted the 10th **World Fire-fighters Games** at the end of August this year. Over 3,000 fire-fighters and their families from across the globe travelled to Merseyside to participate in the event, which were a resounding success with the U.K. team topping the medals table!

The event incorporated a wide-ranging and innovative community engagement programme. Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority are very proud of their record in the field of community engagement and the Games represented a great opportunity to continue with this work and engage with people that perhaps we hadn't previously been able to reach.

Following on from the success of our collaborative **Bonfire Strategy** in 2007, which saw a significant reduction in the number of bonfires requiring Fire Service attendance and decrease in the illegal selling and storing of fireworks, we are again working in partnership with the Police, Trading standards, Probation Service and Community Safety Team to ensure the same impact over the bonfire period this year. The number to contact to report suspected illegal storage and/or sales of fireworks and bonfire material that requires removing is

**FREEphone 0800 731 5958**

**Fire Support Network** is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising. Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer can register online at [www.firesupportnet.org.uk](http://www.firesupportnet.org.uk) or contact via telephone on 0151 296 4600.

FSN will be holding their annual **Winter Warm Campaign** this October and will be on the Wirral as follows -

Thu 16<sup>th</sup> Oct- Rockferry Library

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Oct- Wheatland Lane, Seacombe

The events take place between 10am – 2pm and anyone with aged electric blankets should bring them along to be tested by qualified personnel, if condemned they will be replaced **free of charge**. The first 50 people at the events will also receive a **free carbon monoxide detector!**

Fire Service personnel will also be in attendance to offer advice on home fire safety and arrange appointments to perform home visits if required.

In conjunction with the operational crews FSN will be organising a **Bonfire Poster Campaign** in schools across the Wirral. The aim of this campaign is to educate and inform the children of the dangers of fireworks, help reduce incidents of anti-social behaviour and engage with the children. We are hoping to offer a prize for the winning poster and a visit for the winner's class to a fire station.

After a successful **Christmas in the Community** event last year, which was held at Heswall Community Fire Station, jointly arranged by FS and FSN, discussions are underway to hold at least 2 similar events at stations on the Wirral this December. Partner agencies will be invited to attend to provide information and advice to the community.

We are currently working closely with Wirral PCT on the **Smoke Free Homes Campaign**, the aim of which is to encourage smokers to make a pledge not to expose their family and friends to second hand smoke in their homes and cars, this will also assist in the reduction of accidental fires in properties and vehicles due to smoking related material. This scheme is currently being piloted in Heswall and surrounding area prior to being rolled out across the Wirral.

### **Community Fire Stations**

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

**For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on**

**FREEphone 0800 731 5958**

# Health and Well Being

## PCT update

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.

## **2. 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 appoints 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

## **3. 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

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 &amp; 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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. To join, simply complete and return the attached Membership Application Form or join on-line @ [www.whnt.nhs.uk](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk)
  - 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](http://www.whnt.nhs.uk) or a copy can be obtained from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 0121 356

### **BRIEFING NOTE FOR LOCAL AREA FORUMS – OCTOBER 2008**

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LAF submission October 08  
CGT/22/9/08



## Cross Cutting (across all themes)

Merseytravel has expansive plans for the local rail system, with extension to the electrified network prominent among them. Third rail services from Liverpool city centre currently provide a connection at Bidston where there is an hourly class 150 service to Wrexham.

Merseytravel would like to see better services on Wrexham route, not only to draw shoppers from North Wales into Liverpool to spend money with city's retailers, but also to improve labour mobility. The steelworks at Shotton closed in the 1980's but employment levels have bounced back to the point where there is now a shortage of skilled labour in the Welsh border area. British Aerospace and Toyota have big workforces, and the Corus remains an important local employer. Improved rail services from the city could benefit both areas, taking shoppers into the city and delivering key workers to the areas around the stations in the border area.

The PTE has looked at extending the third rail to Wrexham, but 'costs were in the stratosphere and way beyond our expectations' according to Alan Stillwell, Merseytravel's Director of Operations. A need for barrier fencing to deter trespassers, the number of substations required and problems with steel sleepers were all factors in this. As a result, Merseytravel is now looking at 25kV wiring between Bidston and Wrexham, with dual-voltage stock.

*(Press release provided by Tony Garrett, Heswall Community representative)*

## Equality and Diversity

### Week commencing 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 staffs 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.

## Equality

This page will give you relevant information regarding some of the equality strands.

### 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](http://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 behaviour 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'.

# **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](http://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](http://www.open4community.info/wirral)  
[www.open4socialenterprise.info/wirral](http://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](http://www.mfip.org.uk)

## **£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"

# Voluntary and Community Sector Funding

## Community Initiative (CIF)/Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Over £125,000 funding is available for local groups

Closing date for applications - 12 noon on Monday 10th November 2008

Following initial adverts publicising the availability of the funding through the forums, there is some funding unallocated for projects falling within criteria set out below. The funding will be targeted towards meeting the needs of local people within the areas covered by each of the forums listed below, and Voluntary and Community Sector groups are invited to submit applications. Funding is available for the following forums.

Area Forum	Funding Available		Area Forum	Funding Available	
	CIF	PCT		CIF	PCT
Leasowe, Moreton and Saughall Massie	£19,878.86	Nil	Bebington/ Clatterbridge	£10,732.09	Nil
West Wirral	£15,812.77	£4,250.00	Oxton/Prenton	£7,329.04	£2,785.32
New Brighton/ Wallasey	£14,315.17	£2,728.00	Greasby, Frankby, Irby Upton and Woodchurch	£10,379.76	Nil
Heswall/Pensby and Thingwall	£12,303.59	£4,570.00	Liscard/Seacombe	£6,997.40	£1,224.46
Bromborough/ Eastham	£7,664.08	£4,545.00	Birkenhead and Tranmere/ Rock Ferry	Nil	£1,580.00

### COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FUND (incorporating Community Safety and Local Agenda 21 Funds)

Applications are invited for proposals that support the following priorities:

- Strong local economy
- Sustainable appropriate housing
- Life chances for children and young people
- Safer communities
- Health and well being
- Living and working environment

### PRIMARY CARE TRUST FUND

Applications are invited for proposals which show that the grant will be used to support one or more of the key funding priorities for this programme, listed below:

- **Wirral Taste for Health:** improving access to healthy, affordable foods and helping people to develop shopping and cookery skills.
- **Wirral Active:** encouraging people to participate in activities that are enjoyable and health enhancing.
- **Smoke Free Wirral:** providing support for people to stop smoking and protecting children from second hand smoke.
- **Wirral Youth Diversionary Activities:** provides activities for young people that reduce harm and risk taking behaviour related to alcohol misuse.

Application packs can be obtained by contacting the Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services Department, Wallasey Town Hall, Brighton Street, Wallasey, Merseyside, CH44 8ED, Tel: 0151 691 8650/8069, Fax: 0151 691 8159 or email: [engage@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:engage@wirral.gov.uk)