

**YOUR SAY** 

 **WIRRAL**



## West Wirral

## Area Forum

**Papers for the forum meeting**

**28<sup>th</sup> October 2008**

**Westbourne Hall  
Westbourne Road  
West Kirby  
CH48 4DQ**

**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. Dog Fouling - Phil Dickson Environmental Health Manager
5. Public Question time
  - Frank Amos
  - John Hutchinson
6. Regeneration Projects update - Jim Wilkie & Howard Mortimer
7. Partner information
9. Dates of Future meetings - 16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2009
10. Any other business

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# Section One

## Minutes and Matters Arising

Present	
Chair	Gerry Ellis
Ward Councillors	David Elderton , Jeff Green , John Hale , Geoffrey Watt
Business Representative	Ian McKellar
Lead Officer	Jim Wilkie (Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Wirral Primary Care Trust	Glenn Coleman
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	Sue Green
Merseyside Police	Inspector Paul Vickers
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	John Davies
Council Officers	Mike Callon (Special Initiatives Team) , David Green (Director of Technical Services) , Caroline Laing (Manager, Anti-social Behaviour Team) , Carol Sharratt (Minute Taker) , Sue Weldon (Corporate Services)
Apologies	Gary Evans

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- Minute 9 - Dates of Future meetings
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### **Minute 1 - Welcome, introductions and apologies**

The Chair, Councillor Gerry Ellis, opened the meeting and welcomed Inspector Paul Vickers and approximately 66 members of the public to the meeting in Hoylake. He invited members of the forum to introduce themselves.

Apologies were received from Gary Evans, community representative.

### **Minute 2 - Area co-ordinators Report • Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**

The Area Co-ordinator's report, including the minutes of the last meeting, has been posted on the Council's website, a limited number of copies were available at the meeting. Further copies can be obtained on request to the Area Co-ordinator. [tel. 691 8026. email: traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk.].

Matter arising:

Sue Green did not attend the last meeting of the forum, but was included on the list of attendees. The Area Co-ordinator apologised for this and agreed to arrange for the minutes to be amended

The Area Co-ordinator went through the sections of the report and agreed to answer any queries or questions arising from the report or the minutes.

The Chair thanked Tracey for her report.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

- (i) the Area Co-ordinator to arrange for Sue Green to be removed as an attendee from the minutes for the February 08 forum
- (ii) the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report.

### **Minute 3 - Sustainable Communities Strategy - Sue Weldon**

The Chair introduced Sue Weldon, Sustainable Community Co-ordinator, who gave a presentation on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreements (LAAs).

Sue informed the forum that it is a statutory requirement to have an SCS which sets a strategic, long-term vision for the area. The Council, in consultation with its partners, sets a framework for an action plan, with the LAA as the delivery plan. The aim of this is to enhance quality of life of local communities through actions aimed at improving economic, social and environmental well-being.

The SCS tells Wirral's 'story' (people and places); highlights the differences between areas, the big problems and solutions; determines vision and what do we need to do achieve the long-term vision for Wirral. Wirral's long-term vision: A more prosperous and equal Wirral, enabling all communities and people to thrive and achieve their full potential.

Wirral's 'story' / big problems:

- it is a borough of stark contrasts (25 areas are within the 3% most deprived but 7 areas are within 10% most affluent
- it has the worst health inequality in the North West (there is an 11 year life

expectancy difference between best and worst in Wirral)

- has an underperforming economy and an ageing population
- has a significant inequalities including educational attainment; crime and worklessness.

How do we solve the problems?

- focus on right people and places
- shared local action (work in partnership, involve all agencies including the third sector and direct resources to where most needed)
- shared principles (community cohesion, sustainability and equality & diversity)

The Strategy belongs to and allows everyone to connect to the 'big picture'. You can be involved by letting us know what people and places you think we need to focus on. A consultation document will be available soon, at [www.wirral.gov.uk](http://www.wirral.gov.uk). If you would like more information on this or have this in a different format please telephone 0151 691 8030.

The Chair thanked Sue for her presentation and the following questions / issues were raised:

Q. Do we need to discuss the statistics re: life expectancy?

A. Glen Coleman - the Trust have consulted on a commissioning strategy with the main theme being to reduce health inequalities.

Q. Chair - Has everyone received a copy of the strategy?

A. Glen Coleman - it was posted in January, to all residents over 16 years old, and the consultation closed in April.

Q. Councillor Green - schools across Deeside lost revenue and staff to fund changes in other areas, need assurance that this won't happen in other areas (e.g Streetscene).

A. Jim Wilkie - we have a duty to all residents in Wirral and are working hard to level all of the areas, but have not reduced levels in West Wirral re: Streetscene. He agreed to get someone to come along to the next meeting to discuss this in more detail.

Q. Councillor Green - requested reassurance that resources of health care for Deeside would not be reduced and used to help other areas.

A. Jim Wilkie - that is not what the Council / PCT want to do. Whilst the PCT is measured on disparities, it is also measured on averages. We are trying to find out why / better understand what contributes to the differences.

Q. Ken Medlock - thanked Sue for the very thorough and well presented information. He informed the forum that he is the Vice-President of the Pro-Life Education Centres, that have 80 mobile classrooms across the country and offer education to young people on healthy living / eating. We receive no national funding and must find this locally, but find it difficult to interface with the PCT (across the whole country - not just Wirral) and would like to improve contacts within this area.

A. Jim Wilkie - there is a restriction with what funding can be used for, and the PCT have been able to fund a number of projects tackling health issues. The forums are here to bridge such gaps. Glen Coleman agreed to discuss this issue in more detail at the end of the meeting.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

- (i) Sue Weldon be thanked for her presentation
- (ii) Area Co-ordinator to arrange for officer to attend next meeting to discuss service levels in Wirral

#### **Minute 4 - Regeneration of West Kirby & Hoylake - Howard Mortimer**

The Chair informed the forum that there are a number of community projects taking place at the moment and gave special thanks to the ladies of Hoylake for the flowers planted last weekend.

Jim Wilkie informed the forum that Howard Mortimer was unable to attend the forum due to illness and agreed to provide an update on this. The Open helped towards the regeneration of West Wirral and a number of improvements have been made on the back of this. The following projects are underway:

Hoylake Promenade - Scott Wilson Co. undertook an exercise, attended by 250 people, on a feasibility study for improvements to the promenade.

Golf Resort - we have been looking at how we can provide more golfing facilities on Wirral, and are now looking for expressions of interest. Further information will be provided on this once the study has been completed.

West Kirby

Sail - a public exhibition of proposals is taking place on 25th to 28th June at the Concourse and a letter drop is being made, to all CH48 postcodes, advertising this.

Concourse - the concourse provides a range of essential services but the building is looking tired, so we are looking at ways of renewing the facilities.

Improvements - a study was undertaken last Autumn and five projects, listed below, were looked at:

- Promenade
- Crescent (pedestrianisation)
- South Parade (parking / infrastructure)
- Town Centre Parking
- Canopies (Banks Road / Acacia Grove).

The Chair thanked Jim for his update and the following questions / issues were raised:

Councillor Hale - informed the forum that a scheme for the whole infrastructure of the promenade was asked for nine years ago and consultants were looking at options so hopefully scheme will cover most peoples' wishes. He would welcome ideas for the Concourse and the canopies. He requested that Jim Wilkie look at having an impartial assessment on the outcome of the consultation on the sail, by developers, be carried out to ensure that it is a fair assessment of what the public want.

Q. Harold Pugh (West Kirby) - is there any information on where the hotel is to be built?

A. Councillor Hale - on the car park on landside of the road.

The Chair informed the forum that this can be discussed in more detail at the exhibitions to be held on 26th, 27th and 28th June, between 11am and 7pm.

Q. Peter Ryan (West Kirby) - what progress has been made, in terms of improvement, on the building by the station?

A. Councillor Elderton - there has been no change to this situation. The owner acquired the property as an investment and the Council only has powers re: making the building safe, and can't force the owner to improve this gateway to the area. The transom should have been repaired over a week ago and the window boarded. He requested that officers try to use their influence with the owner to get this property improved.

Q. Ally McDermot - as Mr Panou is only the leaseholder of the property, could it be checked to see if he is in breach of his lease agreement?

A. Jim Wilkie - the statutory powers the Council has are very limited, and matters have been made worse in some cases where action has been taken, however will look into this. Mike Callon added that the building could be considered with the concourse project and that it may be possible to expand it to incorporate the building in the long term.

Q. Ian McKellar - where is the application for petrol filling station up to, as the current station is running a dual petition asking "are you for / against the development?" (no one has signed the petition in favour of the development. Councillor Watt added that he believed that the petition was asking "do you want to keep a petrol filling station in West Kirby?" and that the petition is misleading.

A. Councillor Elderton - there have been preliminary discussions between Aldi and the Council's Development Control Section, but an application has not been submitted. Any application will be treated fairly and objectively and will be assessed on planning grounds. Councillor Hale added that the same chaos could be caused when traffic lights were placed at the top of Dee Lane if traffic lights are added as part of this development.

Q. Who owns the station, as every clock face shows a different time. Wrote to the owner in London and asked for the clocks to be put right, and the local jeweller was sent in to correct them, but this only lasted for a few months?

A. Councillor Ellis - Mr Panou arranged for Randal Jewellers in Hoylake to monitor the clock and he continued to do this for two years, however the arrangement now seems to have ceased.

Q. John Hutchinson (West Kirby) - what is happening to the site at Orrysdale Road / Bridge Road?

A. Chair - this is run by Wirral Partnership Homes, who have are considering rebuilding homes on the site, but no more up to date information is available.

Councillor Green added that residents are concerned about the site and have been trying to get information from Wirral Partnership Homes. He requested that it be arranged for someone from Wirral Partnership Homes come along and provide a more detailed update on this. The Chair agreed to arrange this for the next meeting.

Q. Bill Atkins (Hoylake) - was there matched funding from European Union for the Promenade Project?

A. Jim Wilkie - we are still looking at European funding and the North West Development Agency, but are in competition with others for this.



The Chair requested that any further questions be raised with officers at the end of the meeting.

Minute Decision :  
Resolved that:

- (i) the ladies of Hoylake be thanked for the flowers planted in the area
- (ii) Jim Wilkie be thanked for his update
- (iii) Jim Wilkie to look into details of lease for property by station
- (iv) Officers to arrange for a detailed update from Wirral Partnership Homes on the redevelopment of the Orrysdale Road / Bridge Road site at our October meeting.. Mike Callon added that still need ideas for the Promenade Project before looking for funding. When the final report is received in July this will need to be broken down into phases.

### **Minute 5 - Recycling update - Dave Green**

Dave Green gave the following update, on behalf of Tara Dumas, and informed the forum that a recycling wheel was available at the meeting and that any queries can be raised through the Streetscene call centre on 606 2004:

- 108,000 properties with gardens have kerbside collection, but flats and some excluded rounds do not have this facility due to access problems. There is some spare capacity for anyone not receiving this service.
- 8 additional banks for bring banks for wax cartons (tetra Paks) have been added, three in the West Wirral area - at Morrison's Dee Lane, Greasby Library and Tesco Heswall
- Wirral has the highest recycling rate on Merseyside. In 2006/07 14% of waste was recycled/composted and this rose to 32% in 2007/08 and was 35% in the first month of 2008/09.
- The target for waste sent to landfill sites has exceeded the 2010 target.
- there has also been a 10,000 tonne reduction in municipal waste collected by Wirral compared to last year.

Recycling and waste reduction are important targets in Wirral's Corporate Plan. The best Local Authority rate is 40 - 50% and they recycle food waste. If Wirral took this on we would push our rate up by 10% but there are no plans to do this yet.

We plan to meet our targets by:

- making sure our infrastructure is available to all Wirral residents including multi-occupancy complexes (we aim to have this in place by March 2009)
- to give all schools a grey bin system
- to trial recycling litter bins on streets
- continue with communication campaign (will have a roadshow trailer at the Wirral Show)
- engage and educate and maybe enforce (will only enforce when exhausted all other avenues)
- promote home composting (bins sold at £17), real nappies, swap days, free cycle, smart shopping, reusable carrier bags (5,000 eco-bags, paid for by the PCT, have been ordered and they will be available at the next meeting)
- improvements to brown bin service (at the moment the recycling centre is in Hapsford and we are trying to get a more localised station)
- trial on recycling street cleansing waste
- continual reduction of missed collections

- help list, to assist those who can't move the bins (there are 5,000 on the list at present and we need to update this)
- enhanced monitoring of Biffa
- improving cleanliness of streets and reviewing street cleansing methods.

We are committed to improving local areas by maximising resources in those areas and not by moving resources from other areas. We have appointed a new Trade Waste Officer, who will work to get trade waste out of domestic waste collections. We now have a team available to remove any graffiti.

Frequently asked questions:

- Plastic bottles: Tops on or off? EITHER WAY IS FINE
- Broken glass.... What if my bottles/ jars break when I put them in the bin? THAT'S OK... We just don't want other types of glass like broken windows of wine glasses as it's a different type of glass.
- Can I put milk cartons in the grey bin? YES if they are plastic but not wax cartons.
- Can I put glass jars in the grey bin with lids on? NO THANKS as its hard to separate it and glass may be lost to landfill as a result. Loose metal lids can go in the grey bin though.
- Why can't we put shredded paper in the grey bin? It is too small and litters the street during the bin emptying process, litters the MRF as it falls through the belts, and PAPER MILLS DON'T WANT IT because it produced weak recycled paper. It can be added to a home compost heap though.

The Chair thanked Dave for his update and the following questions / issues were raised:

Q. Glennis Dickinson (West Kirby) - is the Council putting pressure on businesses to get suppliers to provide food in recyclable containers (I filled one trolley full of plastic waste in one month)?

A. We are trying to do what we can and have tried to engage with supermarkets on a local level, but the public have a high level of buying power. We believe that Central Government will be doing more by introducing legislation on this.

Q. Colin Hawkesworth (Meols) - Why is garden waste taken to Cheshire, maybe people with large gardens could be given a composter?

A. This is a situation we inherited, we are working on this but had to go through the European procurement route. We should have new system in place by next year. An offer for the purchase and delivery for composter bins at £17 have been made available and 2,600 have taken up this offer.

Q. Is there a campaign to get supermarkets to label their packaging to show if it is recyclable, this should be easily recognisable and should be done at the start of the campaign?

A. The recycling wheel clearly indicates what can be recycled e.g what types of plastic. There is no easy answer to the labelling as there is nothing in law to make suppliers to label packaging, but believe that this will come in the future.

Q. Ken Medlock - is the information included in the update readily available and

the colour green is not easy to read when used for wording on slides?

A. The Area Co-ordinator can arrange for copy of slides to be sent out on request and will pass on information re: use of colours on slides.

Q. Mrs Waters (Trinity Road, Hoylake) - what can be done re: the bins deposited on the corner of Ferndale Road that are not collected back and cause an obstruction?

A. Notify Streetscene of this and it will be looked into. The first step would be to place stickers on bins, the next stage would be to send a letter asking the owners of the bins to contact us. The third stage would be to knock on door / send a stronger letter. The last option would be to take enforcement action for those who won't co-operate.

Q. Mrs Waters - How do you identify the owners of the bins?

A. This is not always easy, in some places we have painted the numbers on the bins ourselves, in other areas we have just removed the bins and the residents have had to contact us to get them returned.

Q. Why are there no plans to collect food waste?

A. The chemical process for this is technically difficult and expensive. We had a trial to collect kitchen and garden waste but this did not work, but we may introduce a food waste system in the future. Sefton are running an opt-in food waste collection at the moment and we are looking at this. We are open to the idea but are waiting for the Waste Disposal Authority to bring out a strategy and watching to see how well the scheme in Sefton is working. Currently home composting is the best option.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that;

- (i) Dave Green be thanked for his update
- (ii) Dave Green to arrange for eco bags to be made available at the next meeting

### **Minute 6 - Transition Town West Kirby - Patrick Cleary**

The Chair welcomed Patrick Cleary to the meeting to give a brief overview of Transition Town West Kirby.

Patrick informed the forum that it is a community seeking to adapt to climate change / increased cost of oil (which has doubled in the last year). Oil prices are rising due to the gap in the amount of oil being found / being consumed. At present four barrels of oil are being consumed to each one being found. The Transition Town recognises that we have to get by with less resources and try and resource things locally.

We have been a Transition Town for eight months and have held a whole host of awareness raising events. More events will be taking place and information on these was available at the meeting. The next step will be to form working groups to help work on these issues which affect all people.

The Chair thanked Patrick for his overview and no questions were raised.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that Patrick Cleary be thanked for his overview.

### **Minute 7 - Public Question time**

The Chair informed the forum that a question had been submitted in advance re: Coronation Gardens and that this will be passed to Howard Mortimer for a response and if the person enquiring about this could pass in their address a written response will be sent out.

Q. Mr Amos - raised concern that local democracy is not working as it should. Alcohol is the root cause of a lot of youth crime and the cause of long term problems for the Primary Care Trust, but a licence for a premises to open from 6am to 11pm was approved despite 800 people in Newton being against it, and it was voted on by local councillors from 6-8 miles away from the area (the local councillors from the area were not able to vote on this). Also the planning permission for the change of use of the Skoda garage was also voted on by councillors outside of the area, and believe that they should not be allowed to vote on local issues, in regard to planning permissions residents can't appeal against decisions but applicants can. We need to consider how decisions are made locally.

A. Councillor Hale - The licensing panel makes the decision, and councillors from the ward concerned cannot vote, but can go to meetings ask questions, give evidence and object to applications.

A. Jim Wilkie (a) Licensing Officers - will come back with a detailed response on the legal parameters for licensing. (b) Planning - a neighbour notification process is part of the planning process and enables local residents to comment on applications, and these are reported to committee. Local members that are not part of the planning committee can come along and present their views. It would be impractical to have all 66 councillors on the planning committee.

The following questions were received in advance of the meeting:

Q. Margaret Campbell – requested an update on progress made by the Council re: Newton Park allotments since the Culture Committee meeting and details of how many people were awaiting allotments at Newton.

A. Councillor Hale - was unable to answer this as had not had sight of the question before the meeting, but added that: a) the Culture Committee recommended a rolling programme of capital investment for allotments similar to that of play areas, and that this would be considered by the Cabinet; b) that the Cabinet had already approved a sum of £40,000 for allotments.

Minute Decision :

Resolved that:

- (i) Jim Wilkie to arrange for a detailed response on the legal parameters for licensing
- (ii) Jim Lester to set up a meeting to discuss allotment issues

### **Minute 8 - Partner information**

Updates from the Police (P21), Fire and Rescue Service (P24) and NHS Trust (P26) were included in the Area Co-ordinators report. Information packs on the NHS Trust were also available at the meeting.

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

The next meeting will be held on 28th October 2008 - venue to be confirmed.

### **Minute 10 - Any other business**

Mike Vaughan raised the issue of control of dogs in the area and it was agreed that Cllr Ellis would arrange to get someone to talk on this at the next meeting. (we have invited Phil Dickson to attend the next meeting)

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9.10pm

## **Matters arising**

### **Minute 3 - Sustainable Communities Strategy**

Q. Councillor Green - schools across Deeside lost revenue and staff to fund changes in other areas, need assurance that this won't happen in other areas (e.g. Streetscene).

### **Minute decision**

Area Co-ordinator to arrange for officer to attend next meeting to discuss service levels in Wirral

### **Response**

**From Chris Batman Head of branch for planning and resources.**

The formula for funding schools is reviewed every three years (timed to fit with the general Spending Review cycle). The changes which took effect from April 2008 were implemented by the Council, following full consultation during 2007. The next review will be in 2010 in time for the funding period commencing 2011/12. Decisions on any changes will again be for the Cabinet to make in consultation with the Schools Forum.

### **Minute 4 - Regeneration of West Kirby & Hoylake**

Q. Peter Ryan (West Kirby) - what progress has been made, in terms of improvement, on the building by the station? Jim Wilkie responded that the statutory powers the Council has are very limited, and matters have been made worse in some cases where action has been taken, however he will look into this.

### **Minute decision**

Jim Wilkie to look into details of lease for property by station

### **Response**

The freeholder is **Spacia** the property arm of network rail (and their interest is retained due to the need for access to the station) and **Vijayant Properties** (Mr Pannu's company) have a long lease arrangement with Spacia and sub-let to the various tenants.

In terms of the Council's powers – these are limited to the enforcement if and when there is a public safety issue arising. This was pursued in advance of the open in connection with some repairs to the roof. In terms of general maintenance and cosmetic improvements, we have no powers and this is a matter for the various leaseholders.

Q. John Hutchinson (West Kirby) - what is happening to the site at Orrysdale Road / Bridge Road?

**Minute decision**

Officers to arrange for a detailed update from Wirral Partnership Homes on the redevelopment of the Orrysdale Road / Bridge Road site at our October meeting

**Response - from Steve Eaves - Regeneration and Development Manager Wirral Partnership Homes.**

You will be aware that Wirral Partnership Homes (WPH) recently announced it was closing down its Bridge Court sheltered housing scheme. Due to a lack of demand for the scheme, its shared facilities and generally the poor condition of the building, it was fast becoming unlettable. We had no alternative therefore but to undertake this option after an independent options appraisal was carried out. WPH has liaised closely with residents to consider the rehousing options and is working with them to find new homes that residents are happy to move to. The scheme will be closed in the longer term, over the next 3 to 5 years. In the meantime, we will continue to meet our landlord obligations.

There are a number of challenges for WPH to develop workable redevelopment proposals. These include the availability of funding, alternative accommodation to enable clearance and building work and the phasing of clearance, demolition, cross subsidy and building work on other sites.

For these reasons we have not been unable to set out our proposals in detail, however, the scheme is not capable of providing good quality accommodation for the future.

WPH owns two of the three buildings on the site with Wirral Council owning the middle property. We are meeting with the Council to discuss how we can work together and to see if there are ways the site can support the regeneration plans for West Kirby.

We will continue to keep residents updated and when there is further news on any development proposals for the site, WPH will be happy to keep you fully informed.

**Minute 7 - Public Question time**

Q. Mr. Amos - raised concern that local democracy is not working as it should. Alcohol is the root cause of a lot of youth crime and the cause of long term problems for the Primary Care Trust, but a licence for a premises to open from 6am to 11pm was approved despite 800 people in Newton being against it, and it was voted on by local councillors from 6-8 miles away from the area (the local councillors from the area were not able to vote on this). Also the planning permission for the change of use of the Skoda garage was also voted on by councillors outside of the area, and believe that they should not be allowed to vote on local issues, in regard to planning permissions residents can't appeal against decisions but applicants can. We need to consider how decisions are made locally.

**Minute decision**

Jim Wilkie to arrange for a detailed response on the legal parameters for licensing

**Response from Stuart Williamson Planning Enforcement Officer**

As regards planning, we advise Licensing of restrictive conditions attached to planning permissions for specific premises. We can only make representations when we have records of breaches of planning conditions.

It is always made clear to applicants that they must adhere to planning and licensing conditions, even if one is more restrictive than the other.

# 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

**The Deeside Young People's Project:** has continued to work in the mid and west Wirral areas using streetwork and the Kontakta Bus to engage with young people. The Deeside Young People's Project has supported the development of West Kirby Youth Club by introducing street groups to what is on offer there. DYPP has a good working relationship with the Police, particularly through the joint delivery of successful school holiday activity programmes. During the summer, 81 young people participated in an exciting programme of activities. Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award

candidates from St Luke's Church are being supported in all aspects of their award programme. In Newton Park, a group is about to start working on Phase 2 of the park redevelopment. This group made a successful to the Youth Forum for trips and equipment and participated in the summer activity programme. The new Kontakta Bus, funded by the Youth Capital Fund, will be operational in the near future.

**West Kirby Youth Club:** has opened their Multi Media room which is allowing YP to record their MCing and they are planning on using the new facility for internet use and film and music editing. Numbers have dropped through the summer but on average around 25 YP attend on a regular basis. Links are being made with CSO's who come and visit the club on occasions.

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

**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.

**Organisation** Listening -2-U

**Total awarded by this forum** £300.00

**Project Details** To run a consultative day just related to the services for fathers.

#### **Progress Report**

The consultative fun day took place on 9th August 2008 between 11am and 3.30pm. We provided a large scale model railway which children and adults could drive around the track, craft activities, pass the parcel, sports activities, an inflatable assault course and face painting. A local band provided live music for us and we provided a barbecue.

We had 14 local helpers on the day, 4 of the volunteers were under 22 years of age. We had two children attend from the BME community, the remainder being white British. The event gave us ideas on what the dads and their children would like to at future sessions.

## 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**

### **Police Update**

Licensing Issues - Hoylake

Residents in Hoylake have told us that disorder around the night time economy of bars and pubs was causing a concern.

To address the issues raised, we have:

Enforced licensing conditions. Uniformed formal visits have been made to licensed premises within the area. The Wirral Licensing Section have organised groups of young people to attempt to purchase alcohol in both pubs and off licenses. Officers

from Hoylake always attend the 'Pub watch' meetings to pass information to, and from, licensees.

Merseyside Police carefully scrutinise and if appropriate object to, all licensing applications for extended hours opening or variations to individual licences. Extra staff have been deployed to Hoylake and West Kirby at times of anticipated extra demand. The Wirral Licensing Section regularly carries out visits to premises within Hoylake. Colleagues from Birkenhead and the Special Constabulary have also contributed to the policing operation. Senior Police officers on the Wirral have reinforced their commitment to Hoylake by launching 'Operation Beddius' to tackle violence and anti social behaviour in several areas across Wirral. It is hoped that by continuing to drive the matter forward with our partners and the local community, we can all work together with the licensees and premise owners to ensure Hoylake remains a safe environment in which to enjoy a night out whilst reducing the impact that this activity has on the local residents.

#### A3 - Hoylake Neighbourhood – Operation Vibronic

The aim of the operation was to ensure that licensed fisherman were allowed to harvest cockles, subject to conditions being imposed by their licences (as issued by the Environment Agency, in a way that did not cause disruption to the community.

This operation is being run by Merseyside Police (Hoylake Neighbourhood) and North Wales Police. The areas to be harvested are all located on the mud beds on the River Dee.

This operation commenced on 1st September 2008 with a high profile commitment utilising both BCU and Force resources. These resources included the mounted and dog sections, Roads Policing Unit and the underwater search unit. The cockle beds remain open until 31st December 2008. Throughout this period Hoylake Neighbourhood staff, with support if required, will monitor the cockling activity and act in support of the Environment agency in enforcing any breaches of license conditions.

#### A3 - Hoylake Neighbourhood – Major Event – RNLI Open Day 2008.

The aim of the operation was to ensure that the annual RNLI Open Day on Hoylake Promenade passed without incident, and in particular that visitors to the show and the local community could enjoy the day. Historically there have been incidents of crime and anti social behaviour.

The event takes place on the bank holiday Monday in August, this year crowds were estimated at 30,000. To assist in the operation Police officers from Hoylake Neighbourhood along with colleagues from the Special Constabulary and the BCU Roads Policing Unit were deployed. The event ran smoothly – one report of theft was made at the show site and an assault was reported later in the day on the periphery of the show. One male was arrested for drink driving – and his vehicle was seized.

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

**Organisation** Wirral Raynet

**Total awarded by this forum** £100.00

**Project Details** To provide a radio and tracking device to enable a quick response

of deployment of emergency vehicles.

### **Progress Report**

We have purchased the major part of the equipment and it has been used during several training events.



# 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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  - 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

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

**Organisation** Wirral Disability Swimming Development

**Total awarded by this forum** £250.00

**Project Details** To contribute towards pool hire costs for bridge sessions.

### **Progress Report**

The organisation continues to provide a sustainable "bridge" to competitive swimming clubs. We coach a wide spectrum of disabilities and special needs, and provide advice, teaching and coaching to a high standard. We are now getting swimmers form further a-field on recommendation from those within the programme.

**Organisation** Friends of Meols Park

**Total awarded by this forum** £1,250.00

**Project Details** To help re-equip Meols Park with suitable and safe play / recreational equipment for local children, young people and adults.

### **Progress Report**

The funding was used to help re-equip the Meols Park, photos of the equipment can be seen on our website [www.friendsofmeolspark.co.uk](http://www.friendsofmeolspark.co.uk).

We raised the additional funding through attic sales, sponsored walks and other grant sources. The new play equipment has allowed the young people n our local area the opportunity to actively play and exercise in the park and has brought people back to the park and fostered a greater level of community spirit and co-operation.

## 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)