

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

26 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	YOUTH PARLIAMENT PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2012
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	ACTING DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	CLLR ANN MCLACHLAN
KEY DECISION	NO

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report is produced at the request of the Committee and outlines proposed arrangements for planning the next Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament. Both events are held on the Tuesday of Local Democracy Week, last year this was the 11th October. This year the date has not been confirmed but the 9th and 16th October are possible dates. The aim of both events is to provide young people with an opportunity to influence council decisions by presenting the views of young people.

1.2 This report has no exempt sections.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee is asked to note the report and forward it to Cabinet for inclusion in the Corporate Plan.

3.0 REASON FOR THE REPORT

3.1 To allow for the Youth Parliament in 2012 to be planned and progressed.

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 The Youth Voice Conference started in 2003 and the Youth Parliament started in 2006. Each year there has been an overarching theme which previously has been identified by the Executive Youth Board and Grant Panel. In previous years themes debated have included the Public Perception of Young people; The Priorities for the Executive Youth Board and the Priorities which would underpin the Youth Offer for young people on Wirral in 2007.

4.2 Schools are notified in the preceding June and are invited to send up to 4 young people to the day event (Youth Conference) and 2 young people to the evening event (Youth Parliament). The numbers for the Youth Parliament are supplemented by young people who have been nominated by staff from the Youth and Play Service and voluntary youth organisations. This provides an opportunity for young people who may not normally get invited through schools to access the event. The rationale is that this should be a positive experience for young people and one that further develops Youth Engagement.

- 4.3 The themes of the workshops are identified by the Executive Youth Board. The Youth Voice Conference includes a Hot Seating Session when young people are able to question chief officers, councillors and senior officers from other organisations such as the police and Mersey travel. Central to the ethos of both events is that it is planned and supported in delivery by young people.
- 4.4 The Youth Parliament takes place in the evening with a debate in the Council Chamber. The aim of the debate is to enable young people and councillors to have a structured debate on an issue which is relevant to both groups. Each year in preparation for the Youth Parliament, young people have been involved in meetings to help them prepare for the forthcoming Youth Parliament. Although there has been increased involvement by young people in the debates, there is still room for improvement. This report outlines a number of strategies that will support improvement in the Youth Parliament and contribute to better outcomes for young people.
- 4.5 For the October 2011 Youth Parliament a change in the planning process was introduced. Councillors were invited to attend local planning meetings and to help young people prepare for the Youth Parliament.
- 4.6 In addition, district meetings took place during September and October 2011 to prepare more young people from the districts. (In the course of the Parliament, there were four debates, one for each district). Many of the young people were better prepared and understood the debating procedures as a result; however, there were others from schools who did not fully engage. We need to involve schools at an earlier stage and introduce them to the roles and expectations of the Youth Parliament.
- 4.7 It is recommended that there is an earlier start to the planning process this year. This will allow:
- i) Schools time for preparation which can be built into the curriculum.
 - ii) Broader representation at District (including councillors).
- 4.8 With this in mind the following actions have been identified: (A proposed timeline is attached at Appendix A listing tasks, responsible person and deadlines).
- i) Time line with key dates prepared to steer planning process.
 - ii) Schools contacted to identify their willingness to be involved.
 - iii) Planning meetings with schools representatives take place in January 2012. Dates for follow up meetings to be agreed at this time.
 - iv) Roles and Responsibilities document prepared for all parties involved (young people, councillors, teachers and organisers). This will ensure that expectations are clarified and people understand their roles.
 - v) Training for elected members provided in February to include support for councillors involved in district planning.
 - vi) Executive Youth Board roles and duties to be reflected in the time line.

- vii) Progress report to YAPSAC midway in process April/ May.
- viii) Induction training on Youth Engagement to take place in June 2012 to support newly elected councillors in their involvement in the youth engagement agenda.

5.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 5.1 If no action is undertaken, the Youth Parliament could be less regarded as a key part of the Council's agenda for engaging young people. This could result in school support for the Youth Parliament declining.

6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Other options considered were to continue as in previous years but such an approach has been regarded as too late to enable schools and councillors to be fully involved.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Discussions have been undertaken with young people, colleagues within CYPD and staff from local secondary schools. In addition colleagues from the Positive Contribution Strategy Group have been consulted. Further consultation meetings with schools are arranged for 25 January and 1st February.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

- 8.1 There are no implications for Voluntary, Community and Faith Groups.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

- 9.1 There are none arising from this report

10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are none arising from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The recommendations seek to increase the opportunity for young people from different abilities to fully engage with opportunities presented by the Youth Parliament

- 11.2 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)
 - (a) Is an EIA required? Yes
 - (b) If 'yes', has one been completed? Yes

12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are none arising from this report.

13.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are no planning and community safety implications linked to this report.

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APPENDICES Appendix 1

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date