

## WIRRAL COUNCIL

### YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE - 29 MAY 2012

#### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

#### HEAD OF UNIVERSAL YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

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#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

##### 1.0 General Service Update/Staff Movements

- 1.1. The Integrated Youth Support Service, of which the Universal Youth Support Service is part, has secured short-term funding to deliver an intensive youth engagement project in the Stronger Communities Initiative area (Birkenhead). This has seen the deployment of additional resources in the form of youth workers, play workers and sports workers to the area, focused primarily on Bentinck Street and its locality. This new team will be undertaking intensive work in the area until the end of September 2012 focusing on reducing anti-social behaviour, increasing community cohesion and improving outcomes for children and young people.
- 1.2. The Service is working in partnership to deliver an international youth exchange with the Hong Kong Commission. The Mersey International Youth Exchange Programme is a new partnership with Pine Court and Cosmopolitan Housing Associations and has seen a group of nine young people from Wirral selected to be ambassadors for Wirral, together with a group of young people from Liverpool. They will undertake a two-week cultural visit to Hong Kong in September and play host to a group of sixteen young people from Hong Kong in July. The theme of the Programme is 'community' which will include inter-generational work. The young people are currently engaging in a range of fundraising activities to ensure that the visiting students have a great experience of all that Wirral and Liverpool have to offer.
- 1.3. Funded through the Early Intervention Grant and supported by registered charity Involve North-West, a series of 'Battle of the Bands' has taken place across Wirral's four Youth Hubs. These events were used as a selection process to identify eight of the best young bands the borough has to offer to perform at Youthfest 2012 in Birkenhead Park on Saturday 30 June. The event, which is hoping to attract up to 1,000 young people, is being sponsored by Fallen Industries, a recording and rehearsal studio in Upton, who is offering a prize to the winning band on the day including rehearsal time and recording time with Michael Johnson (engineer for New Order, Joy Division, Stone Roses, Pink Floyd and Kraftwerk). The winner will also have the opportunity to play at Astral Coast, a one-day festival at Floral Pavilion to be run by Bido Lito! Magazine in July 2012. The judging panel includes reporters from both the Wirral Globe and Wirral News.
- 1.4. Ian McCabe, Senior Youth Worker (Participation and Workforce Development) will commence a two year employment break in June. This post will be covered by Michelle Langan.
- 1.5. Moira Bridge has been appointed as Principal Youth Worker, Fender Youth Club.

## Area Team reports

### 2.0. South Wirral and Birkenhead Districts

#### Birkenhead District

- 2.1. Young people from Callister Youth Club have been involved in celebrations for Chinese New Year. A number of young people have also achieved certificates in basic First Aid. Aiming High has funded the development of a sensory/craft room for the Club.
- 2.2. Cavendish Youth Club remains closed for essential health and safety repairs. Staff have continued to make contact with young people from the Club and the neighbourhood by taking part in outreach activity in the vicinity. The staff are also supporting the new youth project in the Stronger Communities Initiative area referred to above.
- 2.3. Charing Cross Youth Club has eight young people participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Programme which operates on Thursday evenings. Young people have completed the 'skills' section and have started the 'physical' section, learning badminton and volleyball. Staff have focused upon delivering brief interventions (*Alcohol. Alright?*) to young people following the training of workers through this Early Intervention Grant funded initiative led by Response.
- 2.4. Young people from Grange Baptist Youth Club and Church have participated in Wirral Youth Theatre's thematic workshops covering self-harm, peer pressure, assertiveness and drugs and alcohol awareness. Young people have been conducting interviews to inform the newsletter that they are producing, which will include comments and views from young people and staff in the Club. A number of young people also visited Alton Towers financed through the Youth Opportunity Fund.
- 2.5. Shaftesbury Youth Club (home to Birkenhead Youth Hub) hosted heats of Wirral's Got Talent, D.J. sessions and Battle of the Bands (see above) which were funded by the Early Intervention Grant in partnership with Involve North-West. Young people participated in anti-smoking, sexual health and anti-bullying awareness sessions. The Club planned, organised and delivered a team building residential weekend in North Wales with young people.
- 2.6. Birkenhead Youth Outreach Team delivered diversionary activities for young people which included visiting Chill Factor, Alton Towers and Laser Quest, participating in go-karting and bowling.
- 2.7. Membership to Viking Youth Club has increased due to the promotion of activities in the area. Commemorating the Queen's Jubilee (funded through the Heritage Lottery Project) a group of young people are working in partnership with the Youth Federation and Port Sunlight Museum on an inter-generational initiative exploring what life was like for young people 60 years ago.

## **South Wirral**

- 2.8. Following a successful bid to the Youth Opportunity Fund, young people from South Wirral Youth Hub have had the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities, with many leading to accredited outcomes, including a climbing course at Awesome Walls (gaining NICAS Level 1 and 2) and narrow boat training with Birkenhead YMCA (leading to RYA Waterways certification). Young people also attended First Aid and Food Safety courses gaining a 3-year valid certificate. Young people, as part of an art project, had an overnight stay in London where they watched a performance in the West End. When the project is finished young people will have gained an ASDAN award in Arts.
- 2.9. South Wirral Youth Outreach Team supported young people, funded through the Early Intervention Grant, to complete Levels 1, 2, and 3 in Snowboarding at Chill Factor in Manchester. Young people have also gained the NICAS Level 2 Award at Awesome Walls.
- 2.10. Bebington Youth Club has been working with a group of young women designing a Girls' Room, which will be used as a drop-in facility to enable discussion groups for young women within the Club. Members have been raising money for Children in Need, including raffles, prize bingo and young people dressing up in their pyjamas to attend the Club. Young people have participated in a selection of training courses including First Aid and Fire Safety.

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

### **West Wirral District**

- 3.1. West Wirral Youth Hub has been working with community groups to develop a community allotment. The allotment committee is building three raised beds with disabled access and once complete the allotment will then commence in operation. Over 20 young people have been working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award in bronze, silver and gold respectively and started their expeditions in April 2012. Numbers of young people attending the Hub have been high with over 100 young people attending most Friday nights. Events held over the last few months include a DJ competition, Wirral's Youth Talent, Party Night and Battle of the Bands (see above) all funded by the Early Intervention Grant in partnership with Involve North-West. The partnership with West Kirby Churches Youth & Play Team is ongoing with a youth drop-in running two afternoons per week for ages 10-18. This is well attended with up to 30 attendees per session.
- 3.2. Fender Youth Club is now open following internal recruitment to the Principal Youth Worker post. It is currently open on a Monday night and is due to open on two further nights per week. Young people were successful in a Youth Opportunity Fund bid, which went towards decoration and supplying resources for the Club.
- 3.3. In the next few weeks Greasby Youth Club will be moving from Greasby Community Centre into the Pavilion in Coronation Park. The project will provide a safe space for young people to meet and participate in workshops and discussion groups. There will also be the opportunity to play sports on the multi games area in the park.

- 3.4. Since the last report, West Wirral Youth Outreach Team has offered a range of diversionary activities to over 300 young people, working closely with the police, voluntary sector, community groups, schools and the Council's Sports Development Unit. The Early Intervention Grant funds Youth Sports Nights at both Pensby High School (Friday nights) and West Kirby Concourse (Saturday nights) delivered through a partnership between the Outreach Team and the Sports Development Unit. Over 150 young people have been involved in various diversionary initiatives to challenge the consequences of anti-social behaviour, including climbing and snowboarding enabling young people to achieve various accreditations. 'You Decide' and Youth Opportunity Fund have enabled the development of initiatives encouraging young people to have a voice in their community and participate in self-planned activities, including decision making and having a voice at the West Wirral Youth Forum.

### **Wallasey District**

- 3.5. Wallasey Youth Hub provided a range of activities including advanced band practice, guitar lessons, break dancing and arts work. Young people aged 16 and over took part in the 'Big Screen' for Chlamydia testing. The Youth Hub was also a venue for the Battle of the Bands competition (see above).
- 3.6. Through 'You Decide' funding, Leasowe Youth House has been able to purchase resources which have generated a new interest in the centre by young people and numbers participating has increased in recent weeks.
- 3.7. Young people from Belvidere Youth Club have been involved in various activities relating to emotional health. A new Club Charter has been written by young people, who are also developing a welcoming booklet for new members. Workshops have taken place around relationships, safety and abusive situations.
- 3.8. Moreton Youth Club celebrated Chinese New Year with young people participating in drum workshops, dragon paintings, Chinese symbols, lantern and decoration making. Young people also visited Liverpool to join in the Chinese New Year celebrations. The Club delivered a Life Skills Project aimed at enhancing young people's social skills and developing listening, communication and negotiating skills. The Club has also delivered workshops on drug and alcohol misuse, homelessness, healthy eating, sexual health & relationships and cooking & food preparation.
- 3.9. Wallasey Youth Outreach Team was awarded 'You Decide' funding which enabled young people to be involved in a range of activities such as water sports and cultural events, including Chinese New Year celebrations and an overnight stay in London and associated visit to the Houses of Parliament and meeting with the Right Hon Frank Field MP. This extended to First Aid and Food Safety training. These activities enabled young people to have new experiences, broaden their views and develop their life skills. Young people also raised money and awareness for World Aids Day through an event held at the Hub, supported by Terrence Higgins Trust and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. These activities were alongside part of the Team's core role to respond to hotspot areas of anti-social behaviour, working alongside the Sports Development Unit at weekends offering diversionary activities to targeted young people.

## **Borough-wide Youth Outreach Team**

- 3.10. The Borough-wide Youth Outreach Team has been targeting young people engaged in anti-social behaviour in and around Mersey and Birkenhead Parks. These priority areas were identified by the multi-agency Anti-Social Behaviour Governance Group led by Merseyside Police. On Friday and Saturday nights, sports sessions have been delivered in the multi-use games in these locations. Over 50 young people per evening have been involved, including vulnerable young people at risk of harm. Staff have provided diversionary activities and delivered harm reduction advice and guidance around alcohol and drug misuse, sexual health & relationships and citizenship.

### **4.0. Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (WYT)**

- 4.1. Continues to deliver a wide range of participative performing arts in youth hubs, youth clubs, schools and with community groups. A core programme of activities and projects are provided from Monday to Saturday with some rehearsals taking place on Sundays. Much of this work has been funded by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG) and external commissions. The active membership is now over 350 young people who are involved in longer term projects as well as accredited courses.

- 4.2. A major part of the work is supporting young people to develop as positive role models within projects and now there are over twenty young people who are trained to work as Peer Educators alongside staff. One project which enables young people to develop their facilitation and performance skills is the *Last Minute Theatre Company* which is made up of Peer Educators aged 16 -19 who create issue based theatre and workshop packages for youth and school groups. The company is currently working on a production called '*You Would If You Loved Me*' which explores teenage relationship abuse. The piece has been funded by the EIG to develop work around Risk Taking Behaviour (RTB). The work is in partnership with agencies such as Barnardos, the Zero Centre, NHS Wirral and the Wirral Safeguarding Board who have supported in the research and consultation process. The piece is being performed at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre in May. Schools and youth groups who will be attending include the Observatory and Hospital Schools, Wirral Metropolitan College, Bebington, Pensby, Plessington, Woodchurch, Ridgeway and Oldershaw Schools, Charing Cross Youth Club, Youth Inclusion Project, Overchurch Youth Project and Belvidere Youth Club. Response and Barnardos will also have a presence at the event to support young people who may be affected by the issues raised in the play. Follow up workshops are being offered to schools and youth groups.

The company also regularly perform another piece at NHS staff training conferences across the North West which aims to make health services more accessible to young people. As a result of the success of this work, NHS Wirral has now commissioned the piece to be made into a DVD training tool as part of the 'You're Welcome Strategy'.

Another peer led project is 'The Friday Fun Night' funded by 'Aiming High for Disabled People' which is open to young people between the ages of 8 -14 and their siblings and offers dance and drama activities.

- 4.3. The EIG has enabled WYT to develop a new visual arts project involving twelve young people with a range of learning and physical disabilities. Young people attending over

the twelve weeks have worked with a professional photographer to develop their skills towards mounting their own public art exhibition. They are also completing their Bronze Arts Award. The work they have produced is exceptional and the exhibition will be launched at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre in June before touring to other venues including the Floral Pavilion. The longer term plan is to develop a permanent visual arts studio for young artists to work with artists in residence and to work towards regular exhibitions at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre.

- 4.4. In March, 15 young people completed their OCN course and gained a Level 1 Award in Peer Education including two units in 'Understanding Prejudice and Discrimination' and 'Developing Interpersonal Skills'. WYT is currently working in partnership with DADA (Disability and Deaf Arts) to develop a bespoke training course for up to twenty young people with or without disabilities who are interested in developing their facilitation and project management skills. This will involve 10 young people from the DADA young people's management group and 10 young people from Wirral, beginning with a recruitment event in July at the Bluecoat in Liverpool.
- 4.5. Two residential events, both funded by the Youth Opportunity Fund, took place in March involving 20 young people. Members of the Last Minute Theatre Company went to Trafford Hall to finish the script for the 'You Would If You Loved Me' and members of the Inclusion Dance (ID) company went to a camping barn in Lancashire for five days to develop interpersonal and team work skills and project plans.
- 4.6. The dance team have been involved in delivering a range of projects including work with Grange Baptist Youth Club focussing on self harm and another involving young male peer educators working in Ridgeway School using dance as a tool to explore alcohol misuse.

Other dance projects include a Saturday provision for young people who are looked after enabling older members to mentor younger children in care. Additional provision is also offered for young people with disabilities, young men and young people who are at risk. All these projects feed into an 'integrated dance session' which runs on a Wednesday evening and is attended by over 45 young people.

WYT is also facilitating several Olympic related dance projects including the BIG DANCE 2012 involving fifty young people from Wirral being supported to take part in regional and national dance event. WYT is running the dance stage for schools and community groups in Birkenhead Park as part of the Olympic Torch event on June 1st and also facilitating the dance element of the schools Olympic Event at the Oval at the end of June.

- 4.7. WYT has facilitated two workshop days as part of the Active Families initiative and has also been commissioned to facilitate 'Change 4 Life' packages in 15 schools across Wirral. The Friday morning drama and dance sessions continue with Meadowside and Foxfield Schools and some of the older members of the group are working towards their Bronze Arts Award, which they will complete June 2012. The drama team have also delivered drama taster sessions in Ridgeway School, Woodchurch School, Ellery Park School and Bebington High school.
- 4.8. The drama group meets every Monday to explore different theatre styles through improvisation, mask work, issue based material and script work. The group are currently working on various script excerpts for a performance on the 25<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

WYT is part of the Merseyside Youth Theatre Development Forum and is working towards hosting a Merseyside Youth Theatre Festival at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre in July. This will involve over 150 young people from across the region coming together to take part in workshops and perform pieces from their repertoire. WYT has also worked with NHS Wirral on their Health Champions Programme and, as part of this, provided performances at Moreton Family Centre for young people who are looked after.

- 4.9 The music session on Thursday nights continues to thrive and in March the bands and soloists performed at and hosted another 'Live n Loud' gig to a packed audience. The team are also providing all the technical support for the 'Youth Fest' and worked on the heats in the Youth Hubs in April. The 'Pacific Swing' vocal group continue to rehearse on Thursdays and have been invited to perform at Parr Street Studios in Liverpool in May.
- 4.10 Two young men from Wirral Youth Theatre received Youth Hero 2012 awards with Josh Rotherham receiving overall the title of winner. Five young people have also gained university places including two young men gaining places at prestigious dance academies.

## 5.0 Response

- 5.1 Between January and April 2012 there were 89 new referrals in to the Counselling Team. 323 counselling sessions were delivered during this period. At the time of writing this report, there are currently 56 young people on the waiting list and this increase in demand has seen the waiting time to see a counsellor increase to twelve weeks. The counselling drop-in on a Tuesday (1-5pm) has now been extended until 6pm and is becoming increasingly popular. Young people presenting with suicidal ideation/attempts remains a concern for the service. Issues young people present with include bullying, depression, stress, family breakdown, loss/bereavement and anger.
- 5.2. Response has been successful in maintaining further investment (through Wirral DAAT) for its work carried out at Arrowse Park Accident & Emergency Department, delivering brief alcohol interventions. An evaluation of the *Alcohol. Alright?* intervention will be provided to the next Committee. Further Early Intervention Grant funding to develop this successful intervention training has been secured.
- 5.3. The Housing Team continues to offer housing advice, guidance and support to Wirral young people. The extension of the drop-in service, detailed in the last report, is proving to be effective, particularly with those young people who are in need of a speedy intervention due to being at risk of homelessness. A daily duty worker engages with young people upon arrival at Response and delivers a brief intervention, offering a further appointment to those who require more detailed advice and guidance. A Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment is undertaken with young people being threatened with homelessness or who are homeless and an appropriate support plan put in place.
- 5.4. This extension of service now ensures that young people are seen and assessed on the day they present. A 'virtual' Team Around the Child (TAC) process is commenced, helping to prevent and/or relieve homelessness. This approach has seen over a third

of young people presenting to the housing team successfully returned home with a holistic support package. Young people with multiple needs and limited housing options are still referred into the service's 'Stop Gap' project. There are currently 17 young people receiving this level of intensive tailored support; 12 of whom have a care history and/or social care involvement. Young people are not only supported with their basic needs but also in raising aspirations and self-esteem, which has seen a number of young people return to education and training. By way of example, one young man was recently accepted into mainstream supported lodgings and entered training, after two 'Stop Gap' assessment placements following family breakdown.

5.5 The multi agency preventing homelessness workshop programme, 'The Wake Up Call', has seen a number of Wirral schools participate and follow up with internal homeless prevention sessions with their Year 10 and/or Year 11 groups. To date, approx 1,400 young people have participated in prevention sessions.

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

6.1. The number of organisations across the borough delivering the Duke of Edinburgh's Award continues to increase, with the number of establishments now authorised to deliver the Programme under Wirral's Operating Licence rising to 38. The number of young people currently registered with these units is 1,990; 737 of whom are participating within Universal Youth Support Service units.

6.2. In March of this year, 14 young people from a number of operating units visited St James' Palace and received their Gold Award certificates from HRH Prince Philip.

6.3. Scottish Power's recent financial support for the Programme in four Wirral schools (St John Plessington Catholic College, Mosslands School, Wallasey School and Woodchurch High School) is proving to be effective with 455 young people recruited as a direct result of this provision.

6.4. The first expeditions of the season are now underway and thanks must go to the large numbers of adult volunteers who assist with these activities.

## 7.0 **Play Service**

7.1. The BIG Lottery play projects are continuing to deliver as projected in the final year. The Lottery has agreed and approved the extension of the projects into Year 4 within existing budgets, which has now achieved 87% of the budget expenditure. The projects have been extended as follows:

- Play for All project to 31 Aug 2012.
- Community Play Rangers to 20 July 2012.
- PlayPoint – Play Practitioners to 20 July 2012.
- Management and evaluation of programme to 30 September 2012

The project has been developed in order to meet a number of the BIG Lottery portfolio outcomes, namely:

Projects Outcome1: Number of children and young people participate in a range of more inclusive and accessible play experiences in areas of identified need			
	Year 3 Targets	Year 3 achieved	%
Play Rangers	1167	1048	90
Playpoint	300	460	153
Play for All	100	69	69
Total	1567	1577	

Overall, the projects have already met 100% of the projected target for Year 3.

Projects Outcome 2: Enable 20% more children & YP to feel safe and reduce the fear of playing beyond the confines of their home environment by the end of three years.

Over three years, 940 children have been consulted and surveyed. The campaign was delivered in 13 schools and delivered to 2085 pupils. The main findings and areas of concern were children's fear of being alone, groups or gangs of teenagers, traffic and bullying issues. These findings have led to the formulation and delivery of the Play Safe Action plan which offered solutions to address the issues.

	Target	Survey	Play Out, Feel Safe Campaign delivered
Year 1	313	244	
Year 2	313	152	1536
Year 3	313	85	549
Total	940	481	2085

The final BIG Lottery report will be available in September 2012.

- 7.2. The Play Practitioners project have a group of children involved with music and drama activities. They have produced and performed short plays to their peers. Children who are interested in singing have requested to make a video or CD. This is a child-led activity; the play workers support and encourage their interests in the performing arts. This activity has led to an increase in numbers attending sessions at the Woodchurch Community Centre and Shaftesbury Youth Hub.
- 7.3. Playpoint, who are based in Birkenhead and South Wirral Youth Hubs and Bebington Youth Club, have continued to liaise with youth clubs to look at ways to work together to encourage progression to youth provision. Links with Aiming High and Sure Start are well established and these organisations have provided access to valuable training. The Play for All project supports children with additional needs to attend the sessions. The trained Play Workers encourage inclusive play and interaction with the other children registered on the schemes. This has proved to be successful and a number of children now attend regularly without needing any extra support.
- 7.4. The new Spring Play Rangers programme has commenced and will finish at the end of July 2012. They will offer 20 play sessions a week covering four district areas as follows:

**Birkenhead** - Noctorum Estate; Mersey Park – Tranmere; Prenton Dell Park; New Chester Road – Rock Ferry; Tollemache Road – Claughton; Duck Pond Lane – Oxton; Merlin Road play area - Birkenhead.

**Wallasey** – Whiteheath Park – Leasowe; Wallacre Road play area – Wallasey; Yew Tree Road play area – Moreton; Tower Grounds - New Brighton; Brighton Street Cage – Wallasey; Belle Vue Cage – Seacombe; Central Park – Seacombe.

**West Wirral** – Meols Park – Meols; Carr Lane – Hoylake; Grange Community Park – West Kirby.

**South Wirral** - Port Causeway – Bromborough; Torr Park – Eastham; Bromborough Recreation Ground – Bromborough Rake.

The Play Rangers project has also been working in partnership with youth workers from the Borough-Wide Outreach Team in Mersey Park, Tranmere. They facilitate play activities for children and young people, and then encourage children to return home safely, so then Youth workers can engage with the young people over 13 years. This has proved to be a successful strategy working with over 40 plus children and young people.

- 7.5. Charing Cross have concentrated on the development of the Civic Awards Scheme and 32 children have registered. They have focused on the emergency services, visiting the local fire station and a trip to the life boat station is planned. There has also been some informal group work on how to stay safe on the streets particularly for those children who walk home in the dark. Children are encouraged to walk home in groups, and parents are advised to collect their children wherever possible. Children have learnt basic safety skills and how to keep themselves safe.
- 7.6. To coincide with World Book Day children at Livingstone Street have been sharing their favourite books with the play workers. The children have been recreating new front covers to their favourite stories and telling workers why they enjoy reading them. The children who took part also encouraged the children who did not like to read to get involved too. The children have also expressed an interest in making the playscheme more personal to them, so they are planning their 'perfect play scheme'. They are looking at the layout and appearance of the building. This encourages the children to take ownership of their space. Any suggestions and plans that are viable will be presented to the Joint Management Committee and will be included in future funding applications. The children took part in a sponsored 'bounceathon' and have managed to raise approximately £600 for the Livingstone Street play scheme. The children will be consulted on how they wish to spend the funds for the benefit of the scheme and local children.
- 7.7. During Easter, Gautby Road organised a family fun day for local children. Over 110 local parents and children attended the event. The Fire Service and Police provided activities and opportunities to explore the vehicles. There was face painting, a disco and various outside activities. It also provided an opportunity for local people to be consulted on the development of the new play area and join a consultation board who would be raising funds for new play equipment.
- 7.8. Over the previous few months the children at the Beechwood Play Centre has participated in various celebrations and activities. These include Australia Day were

the children learnt about Australian culture through displays and art projects. Boomerangs were made out of cardboard and decorated tin traditional aboriginal styles. The children also participated in a 'Bush Tucker Trial' experiencing and tasting unusual foods, such as Dragon fruit, dates, dried mango and olives. During Chinese New Year, with support from the local Chinese takeaway, the children prepared a small banquet with fortune cookies. The children also constructed a Dancing Dragon, learnt how to write their name in Chinese characters and how to use chop sticks. Valentines Day and Mothers' Day were celebrated with card making activities and Easter was celebrated with a Big Easter Egg Hunt in the Community Centre.

7.9. Leasowe Adventure Playground has been successfully awarded from Aiming High, £20,000 capital funds for additional build pieces of inclusive play equipment for the playground. These includes a multi see saw, a wheel chair roundabout, an imagination playground and two dark dens for sensory play.

7.10. The final number of children registered on full-time play provision from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 is as follows:

<b>Total Children Registered Apr 2011 - March 2012</b>							
Centre	Male Under 8	Female Under 8	Total Under 8	Male Over 8	Female Over 8	Total Over 8	Grand Total
Beechwood	18	20	38	97	73	170	208
Charing Cross	36	29	65	81	60	141	206
Gautby Rd.	26	25	51	29	50	79	130
Leasowe APG	46	44	90	70	73	143	233
Livingstone St.	31	39	70	35	37	72	142
BWOT	48	14	62	1	0	1	63
<b>Totals</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>606</b>	<b>982</b>

## 8.0. Training and Staff Development

8.1. Workforce Development - Many in-house courses are being attended by the Youth & Play workers including safeguarding children & young people, attendance management, safer recruitment and fraud awareness.

8.2. Work is continuing with the North West Regional Workforce Development group to address the void that has been left by dissolution of the NVQ part-time qualification in Youth Work. There are many changes taking place regarding how Youth Work training is delivered and funded. Regional and national groups are meeting regularly to find a suitable outcome which will enable workforce development to be appropriate for the learner, service providers and young people's needs.

## 9.0. Participation

9.1 The term of office for Wirral's United Kingdom Youth Parliament (UKYP) representatives is coming to an end. Recruitment and selection process will soon be under way to elect 4 new young people to carry on the good work of their predecessors. Sincere thanks go to the young people who have served their peers so well over the last 2 years. UKYP is now under the stewardship of British Youth Council.

- 9.2. Youth Opportunity Fund – the 2011-12 grants reached out to 39 Youth Projects. Annual returns are showing a significant increase in accredited outcomes for young people. Other evidence submitted shows positive interventions to the most vulnerable groups across Wirral i.e. homelessness, drug and alcohol interventions, reducing anti-social behaviour, positive activities and inter-generational work. The grants have also enabled the development and enhancement of partnership work between Local Authority, voluntary sector providers and other community groups.
- 9.3. YouthForia – The regional group of young people continue to work hard on the issues impacting on young people. Particular focus is currently being spent on the issues of Health, Transport and the young people's alternative spending plan. The alternative young people's spending plan has now been shared with Government representatives within the Treasury Department.
- 9.4. Executive Youth Board – Following last years' successful Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament, many young people registered their interest in getting involved in the many groups across Wirral. Recruitment and selection of young people to form a new group of representatives will soon take place. The new members will share responsibility of allocating the Youth Opportunity Fund as well as being the overarching group of representatives who will be available for consultation and other engagement opportunities.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson  
Head of Universal Youth Support Service