

WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 24th June 2014

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SENIOR LOCALITY MANAGER - YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 General service update/Staff movements

- 1.1 Youth workers are increasingly playing an active part in the Early Help Offer delivered through Targeted Support. Over the past few months they have authored and co-authored Family Common Assessment Frameworks (CAFs), attended Team Around the Family (TAF) meetings, undertaken lead professional roles and delivered training to multi-agency partners.
- 1.2 Following on from the Committing to Making a Difference in Wirral Strategic Stakeholder Event held on 1st May 2014 at the Floral Pavilion, three Locality Events were held in June for key locality stakeholders. These events provided the opportunity for locality partner organisations to:
- Understand the principles for Early Help and what they mean for Wirral families
 - Find out more about how Early Help priorities link to the national agenda, the local approach and our organisations
 - Have a clearer understanding of why Early Help is important for all our organisations
 - Identify actions to support Early Help in the future

Area team reports

2.0 Wallasey District

- 2.1 Wallasey Youth Hub – there are currently 20 plus young people registered with the v-Inspired programme and 12 of them have already gained their 10 hour accreditation for assisting in the Hub's coffee bar. The members' committee comprises of 10 young people who meet once a month and make decisions on activities that they and other young people would like to be introduced into the Hub. This quarter, the members' committee has planned, facilitated and evaluated work centred around Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) History Week. 19 young people enrolled on a 12 week Virtual Babies course which included sessions addressing sexual health, alcohol, internet safety and the realities of having a baby. All the young people will gain a "Reality Works" accreditation when they complete the course. The Creative Development Team provide dance sessions for members every Tuesday evening in the Hub's activity room. 5 young people recently attended a half day

training session centring around the responsibilities of being a senior member in Wallasey Youth Hub. 12 young people and 2 senior members have signed up to the current G.I.R.L.S. programme with encouraging results.

2.2 Wallasey Youth Outreach Team - The young reporters have now had an article featured in the Wirral News and are currently working towards subsequent articles. The young people have reported on and been involved in a range of activities over the past months and continue to improve their reporting skills through training and experience. Several young people are engaging in a street dance project which is being led by the Creative Youth Development team. They are currently designing performance pieces that convey the thoughts, feelings and attitudes of the young people and then interpreting this into dance. The outreach team is working closely with Sports Development and utilising the Kontaktabus to facilitate open access sessions for hard to reach young people. They are offering brief interventions and support around drug and alcohol use, healthy relationships and sexual health. The recently established lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) group has started meeting on Monday evenings at Wallasey Youth Hub. Young people have been working to identify group needs, promote positive activities, decide on a group name and design a mission statement and poster. Together with the Anti Social Behaviour Team, the Outreach Team have been supporting shops and local businesses which have recently been subjected to hate crime and anti social behaviour. Consequently, additional resources have been put into the Seacombe area in an attempt to engage with more young people and prevent anti-social behaviour (ASB).

2.3 Moreton Youth Club - Membership of the club continues to increase and the gender balance has improved as there are now a considerable amount of young women attending the centre. The club has had a small make over by the staff and young people. Consequently, there has been a noticeable difference in respect, not only to the staff, but to the building itself. The club has recently hosted workshops that have formed part of the G.I.R.L.S. project with the assistance of staff from West Wirral Hub. The centre also hosts the Success for Life project and several members have been referred to and have benefited from the programme. An active members' committee now plays an important part in planning future activities and assists with fund raising to help towards educational visits. Film nights are becoming a regular event and are proving to be popular with members.

3.0 Birkenhead District

3.1 Birkenhead Youth Hub – the work delivered in the Hub during the last three months has consisted of Tae Kwon-Do sessions, dance sessions, table tennis coaching, regular Monday and Friday night football tournaments and football skill coaching sessions and creative art activities. Discussion workshops in this period have covered sexual health, symptoms of stress, alcohol and drugs. Young people have also had the opportunity to express their views at the District Youth Forum. Young people have participated in Sport Relief, enjoyed

a Valentine's Day party and created their own sweet and savoury pancakes. The Hub continues to deliver regular provision for disabled young people on a Saturday evening. Students from Wirral Metropolitan College, as part of their horticultural and small animal course, have been on placement, working on the urban garden, clearing up after winter and preparing the garden for Spring.

- 3.2 Birkenhead Outreach Team – continue to focus their work in four main locations, working in partnership with Friends of the Arno, North Birkenhead Community Trust, Lairdside Community Trust, Police and Fire Service. The Anti Social Behaviour Governance Group (ASBGG) provides guidance on areas to target including ongoing assessments and analysis from the youth outreach team. Youth work interventions are delivered from the Kontactabus in Ilchester Park North Birkenhead in partnership with the Sports Development Team. These include sessions on, harm reduction advice and guidance, challenging anti social behaviour, providing diversionary opportunities, addressing alcohol and drug misuse, relationships and personal sexual health and rights and responsibilities.

Outreach workers continue to monitor and work with young people in Larch Road, Borough Road, the Woodlands area (which incorporates Birkenhead Town Centre), Exmouth Estate, Birkenhead Park, the Arno and Townfield Road Shop areas. Recently a number of young people were asked to participate in the Youth Zone Consultation including a group visit to Wigan Youth Zone. Outreach staff recently participated in "Love Life" sexual health training delivered by the Brook to support and facilitate focused targeted work. This culminated in Project Valentine, targeting hot spot areas on Friday 14th February to address potential risk taking behaviour and promote young people's resilience.

- 3.3 Charing Cross Youth Club** - Young people have engaged in group sessions focusing on internet safety, stranger danger, cyber bullying and mobile phone safety. This has provided young people with the opportunity to discuss issues around using social media and advice on how to keep themselves safe. Young people shared their personal experiences and were able to support each other and give each other reassurance. Important safety advice was also shared by staff on the dangers of communicating with strangers via the internet.

4.0 South Wirral

- 4.1 South Wirral Youth Hub continues to see improvements in attendance by young people. The Chill Out Room has been refurbished and decorated. Young people have been involved in football accredited courses, G.I.R.L.S group and the members' committees. Young people regularly take part in workshops around substance misuse and healthy relationships. The Hub works closely with South Wirral High School and the local PCSOs to identify young people who are engaging in risk taking behaviour and refer them into the Gateway.
- 4.2 South Wirral Outreach Team delivered a smoking cessation course to young people on the Kontactabus. Young people engaged in discussions and were

given information around the health risks for themselves and others. At the end of the project young people took part in quizzes to see how much they had learnt from the project. Friday Night football is a positive diversionary activity at the Oval where young people have the opportunity to improve their health, wellbeing and physical fitness.

- 4.3 Young people from Bebington Youth Club redesigned and painted the Music Room. Bebington Rotary Club funded this, providing music and DJ equipment. There has been a 12 week boxercise course, the aim of this project being to offer alternative sports that encourage young people to keep fit and have fun.

5.0 West Wirral

- 5.1 West Wirral Youth Hub has been delivering workshops on smoking cessation, anti-racism, anti-bullying and internet safety. Nine young people are working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The Hub is working in partnership with Wirral Short Breaks to support young people with additional needs accessing youth activities.
- 5.2 West Wirral Youth Outreach Team has been involved in a problem solving group to address on-going ASB on the Woodchurch Estate. The team, alongside Sports Development and Response, provided an 8 week diversionary activity programme with the aim of reducing ASB on Friday nights. Youth workers used the Kontaktabus and outreach to challenge ASB and to provide brief interventions around substance misuse. As a result of this intervention, ASB reduced by 14%.
- 5.3 At Fender Youth Club young people have taken part in workshops focussing on sexual health. However, due health and safety building issues, the club has been closed for the past few weeks. Therefore, youth workers have been using outreach to contact young people and to support Sports Development on a Monday and Friday night. This has given youth workers an opportunity to build relationships with a very challenging group of young men and to redevelop a youth offer for the local area.

6.0 Creative Youth Development

- 6.1 Creative Youth Development (CYD) formerly known as Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts, continues to offer a wide range of arts based activities and specific provision for targeted groups of young people including young people with disabilities, young people who are looked after, young carers and young people who are affected by mental illness in their families. This work takes place at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre and across Wirral in schools, community and youth settings. The majority of this work is commissioned by the Early Intervention Grant (EIG), Public Health, Sports Development and Schools. In 2013/14, over 1,000 young people participated in creative arts activities through EIG and 40% completed an accreditation. The EIG grant has been rolled over into 2014/15 to develop work with young people from targeted localities and children and young people with disabilities.

- 6.2 'CONTEMBREAK' Dance Company for young men provides training opportunities to create issue based dance pieces that challenge negative male stereotypes. Contembreak also take on a mentoring role in a weekly session for other young men. Recently, they have played host to students from Hope University and have also worked in Mosslands School recruiting five new young men to dance sessions at Pilgrim Street. CYD is also devising a new performance piece on teenage fatherhood which will be toured across Wirral.
- 6.3 'LIKE U' is progression route for young people with disabilities which aims to challenge misconceptions of disability through creative dance training. For the second year running they will be performing at the DADAFEST in Liverpool which this year is to be staged at the new Everyman Theatre.
- 6.4 Funded by the NHS, CYD continues to run the KIDSTIME workshop programme in Wirral which is the only one of its kind in the North West. The KIDSTIME model was developed at The Anna Freud Centre in London and can best be described as a social and educational event for parents and children. The overall aims are to enable children and young people who have parents with mental illness to increase their confidence and coping skills and reduce feelings of isolation, by providing a safe environment for them to share experiences. CYD co-facilitates the monthly workshop with staff from CAHMS, AMHS and more recently Family Support workers. Families are referred into the project and to date KIDSTIME has received over fifty referrals from Targeted Youth Support, Barnardos, Catch 22 and CAHMS.
- 6.5 CYD provides a range of opportunities for young people to hone their skills and gain experience in facilitation leading to further training and employment. 'LAST MINUTE THEATRE COMPANY' (LMT) produces issue based drama for a range of organisations and targeted groups of young people. On the back of successful work for the North West Society of GP's, they have been commissioned by West Lancashire NHS to devise and deliver Theatre in Education (TIE) productions in nine schools. LMT young people created three pieces which explore alcohol misuse, smoking and road traffic safety.
- 6.6 WYT has delivered projects in a range of settings including work with the Charlotte Brightside Charity, Birkenhead Youth Club and St James Centre. A project with the Women's Enterprising Breakthrough (WEB) culminated in a celebration event in March and was an opportunity to exhibit and showcase some of the art work created by the young women. A series of taster workshops has been delivered at the Multi-Cultural Centre including drama, dance, drumming, photography and vocals.
- 6.7 Working with professional artists, young people from the visual arts project have exhibited at Birkenhead Park and the Williamson Art Gallery. The group had the honour of being invited to exhibit indefinitely at the Williamson Art Gallery, and their last exhibition was opened as part of the private view event for the Henry Moore Exhibition. The project supports a number of young people with disabilities with over half of the young people on the project have autism and learning difficulties. One young woman recruited from the WEB

project has also been supported in her successful application to Liverpool Community College to study photography.

- 6.8 Weekly workshops enable young people to develop musicianship and promotional skills. In addition to the band workshops, Pacific Swing run vocal workshops and are regularly invited to perform at external events.
- 6.9 Children, young people and their families will be involved in a major multi media production planned for October 2014 as part of the audience development programme for the Birkenhead Priory. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, CYD has been commissioned to stage a large scale celebratory procession and performance and to make a short accessible promotional film.

7.0 Response

- 7.1 Housing Team - annual figures this year show that the Response housing service has worked with 259 individuals, with 111 young people needing intensive support from the Stop Gap service. The team has carried out 1,831 contacts with young people accessing the housing service this year, compared to 1,334 contacts last year. The service works with young people, who are often in crisis and have multiple issues. The housing team aim to explore all options for a young person to remain at home or with family, where it is safe to do so. The team will work with young people throughout their journey often into adulthood. Information showing the housing service intervention and outcomes in relation to preventing homelessness, outline outcomes for 259 young people at the end of March 2014. These outcomes include 79 individuals returning home or accommodated with family; 72 receiving advice, guidance and crisis intervention to remain living in their current accommodation; 40 in mainstream supported accommodation; 11 supported lodgings; 13 social care funded placements; 16 living independently; 24 staying with friends or partner; 2 in Response Stop Gap flats; 1 in hospital and 1 prison.
- 7.2 In March, Response and Creative Youth Development, delivered a joint pilot project in three primary schools. Funded by Public Health, the project provided drug and alcohol education workshops to a total of 130 year five pupils from three Wirral primary schools. Each school had two sessions a week for four weeks and a celebration event followed the final session. Parents attended the celebration event in all the three pilot schools. The project has been very successful, combining learning, drama and play. The feedback from teachers, pupils and parents has been extremely positive.
- 7.3. Referrals coming into service from Arrowe Park Accident and Emergency Department have risen in this quarter. The alcohol education workers have lengthened shifts to finish at midnight on a Friday and this, combined with the weather becoming warmer, has seen an increase in the amount of people being referred into service.
- 7.4 Over the summer the substance misuse team will link with South Wirral youth provision and ensure key messages are delivered to young people surrounding

the risks, dangers and consequences of drug and alcohol misuse. This work is aimed at preventing young people from requiring treatment at accident and emergency to substance abuse.

- 7.5 Counselling Team - The counselling service at Response offer a no appointment needed drop-in service three days a week. They also offer appointments should young people request a specific time to use the counselling service. The drop-in's are becoming more popular and increasingly other professionals such as CAMHS's, workers, G.Ps etc. are also signposting young people to the service. The issues young people bring to counselling continues to be varied and often they have multiple issues. The issues include loss / bereavement, issues from the past, abuse, sexuality issues, low self esteem, low confidence, bullying, difficulties at school, exam stress, fears for the future, fitting into fostering placements and possible breakdown of placement, going into alternative accommodation, aggressive behaviour, low mood, self harm, suicidal ideation, family / relationship breakdown, parent's mental health problems.

8.0 Participation and engagement

- 8.1 The Youth Voice Group - One of the aims of the Youth Voice Conference in 2013 was to recruit for a new Youth Voice Group to act as an overarching mechanism for young people's engagement and participation. The group will be part of the new 'Framework for Youth Engagement and Participation' which was ratified by the Children's Trust Board and is due to be taken out for wider consultation. At present, a small group of young people who signed up to be involved in the Youth Voice Group at the conference are meeting regularly as a working group for the Youth Voice Group. The group have focussed on planning for the next Youth Voice Conference along with looking at ways of recruiting more young people. As part of the groundwork for developing the Youth Voice Group they have also spent time looking at meeting procedures and the need to be both inclusive and representative.

In April, the Youth Voice Group was invited by Onside to visit the Oldham Youth Zone to give their feedback on the provision and to make recommendations for the Wirral Youth Zone. From this experience they have made recommendations to Onside for the Wirral Youth Zone which included the need for multi purpose spaces offering different activities, a climbing wall, information screens throughout the building advertising activities including issue based workshops, training and work opportunities for young people and appropriately trained staff.

In June, the group will be attending each of the Area Youth Forums to help promote the Youth Voice Group and to consult with young people on the theme and style of the Youth Voice Conference. The aim will be to build on the success of the last conference by continuing to involve young people in the design and delivery of the event. This year, the date for the Youth Voice Conference is October 14. The Youth Parliament will again be held separately on November 11th. In preparation for the Youth Parliament, the Youth Voice Group and Peer Educators will also be facilitating

the training for Elected Members on 20th October which will be looking at tools for youth engagement.

- 8.2 Wirral Youth Zone Consultation - Following on from the visits to Wigan and Oldham Youth Zones, a group of young people from across Wirral was established to work with Onside on the development of the branding of the Wirral Youth Zone. This group included young people contacted through the South Wirral Outreach team, young people from the NCS and young people from across Wirral involved with Creative Youth Development at Pilgrim Street. The group have worked with a marketing company to produce branding ideas for the Wirral Youth Zone and these ideas were distributed for wider consultation into schools and youth groups including young people with disabilities and young people who are looked after. From four potential names and logo designs the 'HIVE' came out as the young people's choice for Wirral. Representatives from the group presented the new branding to the Wirral Youth Zone Executive and the HIVE and logo was accepted as the branding. The next stage for the engagement of young people in the design of the Zone will focus on the facilities and exterior and interior design.

9.0 Health Services in Schools (HSIS)

- 9.1 Health Services in School (HSIS) have delivered a newly developed programme for use within Wirral secondary schools. The programme focuses on education, prevention and reducing risk as well as sexual health, drug and alcohol happiness and well-being. Schools recognise the value of the resource and the young people complete a pre and post evaluation which records their knowledge gained from the intervention. From January to March, 1,685 'new' young people have accessed HSIS and 1,546 'repeat' young people have continued to remain engaged. There have been 5,478 interventions covering, relationships, emotional health and well-being, healthy lifestyles, weight management, smoking, drug and alcohol and sexual health; which forms part of the HSIS services' 'Core Offer'. Since the Gateway Referral process commenced, the HSIS team have received a total of 25 referrals from the four locality teams, as well as direct referrals from the Gateway.

10.0 Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE)

- 10.1 There are currently 1,200 young people active in the Award under Wirral Council's DofE operating licence. These young people participate and are supported in a range of establishments including secondary schools, special schools, youth hubs, youth clubs, voluntary organisations and independent groups. In the year 2013/14 the number of Awards achieved in Wirral was 266 Bronze, 64 Silver, and 28 Gold. Partner organisations throughout the borough continue to approach the authority for support with regard to running the Award in their own establishments. Currently 24 young people who are doing their Award in the youth hubs have nearly completed either a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award and only need to successfully complete an expedition to achieve their full Award. Staff are working closely with colleagues from the Oaklands

Outdoor Education Centre in order to deliver an expedition programme for this year's participants.

11.0 Play Service

- 11.1 Beechwood – A young person aged 9, who regularly attends the playscheme, was inspired by story she read on social media, about a charity, the 'Little Princess Trust', who provide wigs for children suffering from cancer. The young person pledged a commitment to raise a minimum donation of £350.00 as well as having at least 7 inches of her own hair cut off. With the help of her family and play staff, she then organised a fund raising event held at Beechwood Community Centre, with over 100 local residents attending and witnessing her having her hair cut. Children from the play scheme decorated the centre with artwork of butterflies, specially created as a tribute to the Little Princess Trust. The event was a great success and in total she raised £1,200.00 and was presented with certificates in recognition of all her hard work and determination.
- 11.2 Leasowe Adventure Playground – Kilgarth School regularly attend the playground every Wednesday and Friday afternoon, as part of the school's curriculum. Pupils support the wider community, as part of the citizenship agenda, and engage in play activities. Castleway Primary also use the site, as part of the school day, utilising the playground as part of a reward hour. A Saturday Breakfast Club has been introduced with children preparing and cooking their own healthy food alternatives for breakfast, as well as a more traditional menu.
- 11.3 Gautby Road – As part of the Chinese New Year celebrations children designed and painted a wall mural depicting the year of the horse. Children learnt about the relevance of their birth year and how it relates to specific animals and personality characteristics. They also cooked a variety of traditional Chinese dishes and tasted food associated with celebrations, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Australia day was also celebrated by designing and producing hats, flags and boomerangs, as part of learning about the cultural diversity of Australia.

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