

WIRRAL COUNCIL

YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE – 25th February 2015 REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

SENIOR LOCALITY MANAGER – YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 Area team reports

2.0 Wallasey District

2.1 Wallasey Youth Hub - currently has 20 plus young people signed up for the V-Inspired volunteering programme. The majority of them have already gained or are close to completing their 10 hour and 50 hour accreditations. 18 young people completed their GIRLS Group course this quarter and another course will commence in January. In addition 7 young men completed the LADS programme last quarter which included a residential trip to Oaklands.

12 young people from Wallasey Youth Hub helped to plan and deliver a Christmas Community event in Wallasey Youth Hub. They raised money and asked for donations to set up stalls such as a grotto, face painting, cake stall tombola, Christmas crafts and a raffle. The young people raised £300 and with the money they bought warm clothes for the homeless and donated much needed essential items to Women's and Children's Aid.

2.2 Wallasey Outreach Team - The Young Reporters project is on-going. Due to the existing college and work commitments of existing members the team are looking at ways of introducing new young people on to the programme. They were however able to report on the recent Youth Voice Conference.

The Virtual Babies course has doubled in uptake as a result of recruitment to the GIRLS project. The group has attended a range of issue based workshops covering topics such as sexual health, drugs, alcohol and internet safety.

The outreach team are currently working on Friday evenings with the Sports Development Team to facilitate open access sessions for hard to reach young people. They offer brief interventions and support around drug and alcohol use, healthy relationships and sexual health together with workshops covering breast and testicular cancer, creative arts, and healthy eating. ASB and Hate Crime support is ongoing. Using intelligence from the Hate Crime Thematic Group and direction from councillors, the Outreach Team and the ASB Team have been supporting shops and local businesses suffering from ASB.

LGBTQ group continues to meet at Wallasey Hub every Monday. Young people have engaged in a number of different sessions including sexual health, HIV and alcohol awareness and photography with the Creative Arts Team. The project has recently been awarded money from Wallasey Constituency Committee to

help brand the group, help with its sustainability and support its NAVAJO Charter mark application which should be achieved early 2015.

- 2.3 Moreton Youth Club** has, in recent months, delivered courses on alcohol awareness and legal highs awareness. The unit has an enthusiastic members' committee which takes an active part in electing which activities should be provided. The club has recently been heavily involved in the delivery of the GIRLS project.

The youth club building hosts a junior club on a Monday evening which is staffed and organised by the Youth Federation and an anti social behaviour diversionary activity session on a Friday evening which is run by a local councillor in partnership with the Wirral Taekwon-do School.

3.0 Birkenhead District

- 3.1 Birkenhead Youth Hub** - During the last 3 months, work undertaken has consisted of regular well attended activities such as Monday and Friday night football tournaments, Tae Kwon-Do sessions, dance sessions, table tennis coaching, football coaching and creative arts sessions. Young men aged 13 – 19 have had the opportunity to take part in The LADS Project, an 8 week informal education course addressing a number of issues relevant to young men. Fun activities in this period have been a Halloween and a Christmas party. Work with other agencies have included hosting a football referees course for young people with Cheshire FA, volunteer contributions on the allotment from local Scottish Power apprentices and tree planting activities funded by the Woodland Trust.

- 3.2 Birkenhead Outreach Team** - Focused work has continued in partnership with local community organisations, Friends of the Arno, Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service. Outreach areas have been targeted with guidance from the Anti-Social Governance Group, including assessments from outreach team analysis work and involvement in the Problem Solving Groups. One of the consistent target areas is Ilchester Park, North Birkenhead. In partnership with Sports Development, youth work interventions utilise the Kontactabus, street engagement, sports sessions in the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). Work involves, harm reduction advice and guidance, educational interventions, challenging anti social behaviour, providing diversionary opportunities addressing alcohol and drug misuse, relationships and personal sexual health and rights and responsibilities.

Outreach deployments have also worked with large groups of young people in the Arno and Townfield Close Shop areas. The sessions have been supported by the smoking cessation team by training staff and delivering cessation interventions to groups and individuals. The Young People's group supported the Friends of the Arno by participating in an intergenerational community tree planting event. As part of Operation Banger, a trip to Farmageddon in

partnership with Merseyside Police was organised for 14 young people as part of the diversionary activities on Mischief Night.

3.3 Charing Cross Youth Club - Food safety, fire marshall and first aid training were delivered for young people and staff. Grants were gratefully received from the Deutsche Bank and the Community Foundation for Merseyside who funded the courses. Young people learnt the basics of first aid and how to use a defibrillator. Overall, 42 young people gained qualifications to enhance their employability. In February, an award ceremony is planned in the church to celebrate the achievements of the young people concerned.

4..0 West Wirral

4.1 West Wirral Youth Hub has been working alongside Leisure Link to encourage and support young people with additional needs to access mainstream youth provision. Leisure Link provides a disability support worker who attends the Youth Hub on a Thursday evening. Since this partnership started there has been an increase of young people with additional needs attending the Youth Hub. There are currently nine Gold and four Bronze participants attending the Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme.

4.2 West Wirral Outreach Team - During Operation Banger West Wirral Youth Outreach Team provided an enhanced service on key nights that had been highlighted by Merseyside Police. This included the team operating for four hours in an evening. The team have been targeting young people who have been drinking alcohol and involved in risk taking behaviour in various hot spot areas. 14 Young men that had been identified by the team were referred on to the LADS personal development programme.

4.3 Fender Youth Club - Through the Halloween and bonfire period, Fender Youth Club in partnership with local residents, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Merseyside Police and West Wirral Youth Outreach Team organised a community party. This was funded by Merseyside Police with the aim to reduce anti-social behaviour. Fender Youth Club hosted the GIRLS personal development project which young women from the Woodchurch estate attended and completed.

5.0 South Wirral

5.1 South Wirral Youth Hub - 28 young people participated in both the LADS and GIRLS projects which were run from South Wirral Youth Hub. 5 young people have gone on to be peer educators and with training in the Youth Hub, they will assist in the delivery of the next cohort of LADS and GIRLS projects. As a result of receiving funding from South Wirral Constituency Committee, a worker from Response provides advice and guidance on a number of issues including, housing, risk taking behaviour and substance misuse. A counsellor runs an appointment and drop in based opportunity. 20 young people from South Wirral

Youth Hub visited Creative Youth Development to watch 'If You Loved Me You Would'.

5.2 South Wirral Outreach Team have been working in partnership with alcohol workers from Response offering support to vulnerable young people putting themselves at risk by drinking on the streets. The team has been targeting an area where there is substantial antisocial behaviour, supported by Sports Development who offer sports sessions at these locations. The team have been working with a group of young people with specific substance misuse needs. Funding from the South Wirral Constituency Committee enabled the team to fund a mountain bike trip which was used to further build relationships with this hard to reach group. Young people from South Wirral have been referred on to the GIRLS and LADS projects.

5.3 Bebington Youth Club has a new music/dance room. Young people have been using it to express themselves through dance and they aim to start a dance troop. The youth club has delivered workshops on substance misuse in response to the needs of the young people. The youth club has delivered activities on being healthy and keeping fit. Young people were encouraged to design a programme within the youth club. One of the tasks was a competition between staff and members where the Wii was used, to play a dance game followed by healthy snacks and drinks.

6.0 Response

Response work with some of the most vulnerable young people in Wirral; who often are in need of support and crisis intervention. This quarter, Response has been fortunate to receive kind donations of food and toiletries from a variety of sources. Successful networking with primary schools saw 22 schools donate their harvest festival goods to Response. This enabled Response to have a supply of tinned and dried goods to hand out to young people in crisis. Alongside this, Response have worked in partnership with Wirral Food Bank to ensure the most suitable food supplies are given to young people, adults and families.

In December Response worked in partnership with Wirral Council's Sports Development Team. Their young volunteers from the National Citizen Service (NCS) programme raised money to make up 72 Christmas hampers for homeless and vulnerable young people. This was a massive success and there was an article published to celebrate young peoples' contribution.

Consequently, the week before Christmas, Response staff were able to distribute hampers containing pyjamas, slippers, food, toiletries and selection boxes to young people and vulnerable families.

"The Christmas Hampers where a great idea and filled with things I wouldn't normally buy but introduced me to new things that me and my little boy like" (young mum, aged 18).

During the Christmas/New Year shut down period, Response remained open for those who may have presented as homeless or in need of support. There were 10 young people who needed support from Response during this period with 2

individuals presenting as homeless and requiring emergency accommodation. Wirral Youth Offending Team and CAMHS also used the building to see young people.

The new Alcohol Pathway for 13-19 year olds was launched in November at the Liver Conference and during Alcohol Awareness Week. The pathway for when a young person aged 13-19 attends Arrowe Park Hospital Accident and Emergency Department due to alcohol intoxication has been revised. This pathway promotes the new Brief Intervention Clinic which offers young people the opportunity to attend a follow up appointment at Arrowe Park Hospital. During the Liver Conference, Response delivered a presentation on 'Legal Highs' to other professionals.

Response were able to offer a counselling service to young people in the South Wirral area due to funding from the South Wirral Constituency. The Response counsellor is offering sessions at the Bebington Children's Centre and South Wirral Youth HUB. This will enable young people who live in this area to access confidential counselling services.

7.0 Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Award is delivered in four districts by way of the Youth Hubs. Young people attending Award sessions are supported by the Principal Youth Worker (DofE). The programme is also being successfully delivered in Wirral YMCA where an enthusiastic group meet on a Monday evening. In addition, DofE staff continue to provide logistical assistance to schools, and voluntary organizations as well as acting as verifiers and assessors for the Award on a borough wide basis. In October 12 young people from Wirral attended St James's Palace to receive their Gold Awards from HRH Prince Philip.

8.0 Creative Youth Development

Creative Youth Development (CYD) is in the last stage of delivering a range of participative arts with targeted groups commissioned by the Early Intervention Grant. Over six hundred young people have taken part in a range projects and many of them are currently involved in a Heritage Lottery funded project to create a procession and performance at Birkenhead Priory. Over two hundred young people are currently working on drama, dance, music, film and photography projects which will contribute to a procession from Pilgrim Street to the Priory and several site specific performances within the recently renovated building. The aim is to provide four family events over two evenings during the Easter holidays and in the longer term increase the number of visitors to the site. The photography project will culminate in a permanent exhibit at the Priory.

The Last Minute Peer Education Company (LMT), part of CYD, has been commissioned by the Public Health Outcomes Fund to deliver two theatre-in-education packages to all secondary schools. One of the pieces is 'If You Loved Me You Would' explores the broad spectrum of teenage relationship abuse and the other piece called 'Because', focuses on all aspects of bullying. A new company of young actors and facilitators were recruited in September and

worked intensively for six weeks to rehearse the piece and plan the workshops. All Secondary schools were offered the opportunity to attend performances at Pilgrim Street and a subsidy for transport costs was provided. A counsellor attended every performance to offer support to anyone affected by the issues raised. In November LMT performed the piece to ten schools and colleges and nine youth organisations including the Princes Trust, Wirral Brook and the Utopia Project. Young people from the Youth Inclusion, Adolescent Support Team and Family Support also attended. In all, over 1,800 young people saw the piece over a two week period performed in the theatre at Pilgrim Street. Follow up workshops have been offered to schools, to date 3 schools have taken up this offer and over 460 young people have benefited from these workshops. Feedback from schools and other services has been positive and many professionals have commented how the piece has enabled them to have conversations exploring this issue which they may not have been able to have previously. Several young people used the counselling service and were signposted onto further agencies. One young person made a disclosure which the school referred to social care safeguarding. The second stage is now to offer a touring package for schools to host the production. Additional funding has also been provided by the South Wirral Constituency Committee to provide ten performances in South Wirral and these will be at South Wirral Youth Hub, New Ferry Hall, Heswall Hall, the JIREH project and Bromborough Civic Hall.

In December the 'Kidstime' family mental health project was awarded the 'Going the Extra Mile Award' by the Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CYP). CYD delivers this project in partnership with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Adult Mental Health Services, Barnardo's and Family Support. The team of professionals and peer educators was presented with the award by the chief executive of CWP at a special lunch where they received a certificate for their contribution.

In November, CYD hosted the Red Carpet presentation event for the GIRLS developmental programme. CYD ran three groups as part of the second GIRLS programme and these were attended by young women who are looked after, young women with additional learning needs and young women referred in by family support. Supported by the peer educators, some of the young women performed at the event and continue to be actively involved in a range of projects designed to continue to build their self esteem and reduce their risk taking behaviour.

Also in November, CYD hosted the anti bullying conference at Pilgrim Street and was commissioned by the anti-bullying strategy group to create four workshops led by peer educators. The event was organised by the Behaviour Support Manager from Learning and Achievement and was attended by over 100 professionals from primary and secondary schools. The four workshops delivered by the young people were disability, hate crime, cyber bullying and body image.

9.0 Engagement and Participation

The Youth Voice Conference took place on 16th October at Wallasey Town Hall. The aims were to provide young people with the opportunity to explore the theme of emotional health and well-being and to question council officers, councillors and partner organisations on policy matters relating to this theme. This year the Youth Voice Group and CYD peer educators identified the theme of emotional health and well-being as the focus for a wider consultation process with young people from across the borough. For this, the group developed a simple questionnaire which was completed by over 200 young people. The workshop themes identified from this consultation were social isolation, media, loss and change, healthy relationships, homophobia, media pressure, understanding autism and managing stress. The workshops enabled young people to share opinions, access support and information, formulate their views and questions to present to a panel of officers from a range of services. 96 young people attended the conference from 16 schools, colleges and youth groups. From the evaluation form completed by 61 delegates, 93% rated the conference 7 – 10 (10 being excellent). These 61 young people are awaiting an Open Award Accreditation for their participation.

A new development for the 2014 Youth Voice Conference was the establishment of a time-limited 'steering group' to ensure the conference benefited from the input of a range of services and to enable better outcomes for those young people involved. The services represented included Public Health, School Nurses, CAHMS, Terrence Higgins Trust, Wirral Autistic Society and the NHS Early Intervention Team. The Steering Group continued to meet post conference in order to ensure that the recommendations raised by young people are embedded into the design and delivery of services and particularly within the Vision 2018 Strategy.

The annual Youth Parliament took place on November 11th 2014. Motions are taken from young people and shortlisted by the Major of Wirral. This year young people were encouraged to take forward the issues explored at the Youth Voice Conference, namely emotional health and well-being. Motions debated this year came from Upton Hall School, Birkenhead Sixth Form, the Youth Voice Group and the LGBTQ Group. The motions debated included euthanasia, gender neutral toilets, the media, social media and effects of cuts to council services on vulnerable young people. 49 young people attended the Youth Parliament from 9 schools and 3 youth groups supported by the Youth Service. There was a marked increase in the confidence and participation of young people supported by the Youth Service. CYD peer educators and the Youth Voice Group also supported young people with additional needs to make contributions.

As part of the development of the Framework for Young People's Engagement and Participation, a 'Champion Event' was also held on the day of the Youth Parliament which aimed to enlist a virtual team of officers from the private, public, voluntary, community and faith sectors to ensure Wirral's leaders fully support and champion positive youth engagement in Wirral. The event was attended by strategic managers from Children and Young People's Services, Police, Fire and Rescue Service, Public Health and NHS. The Youth Voice Group also presented their remit as the overarching mechanism for young people's engagement/participation.

10.0 Health Services in Schools (HSIS)

The HSIS team had a busy period providing Health Promotion events especially in the lead up to Christmas with a particular focus on keeping safe. A number of Bitesize events have been delivered and the HSIS Team have developed a HSIS Zone for Bitesize called 'Risk and Consequence'. It is currently being piloted with a number of small groups before it goes to print. So far the feed back from the young people has been very positive and they have commented that the game was engaging. Gateway referrals are regular, along with consistent delivery of the HSIS education programmes.

Numbers of young people accessing HSIS provision from October to December 2014 were :

- New attendance – 1,196
- Repeat attendance – 1,465
- Interventions / topics covered – 5,411

11.0 Play Service

11.1 Beechwood - This year's annual Halloween haunted house was held over 2 nights and attracted over 300 visitors. Over 200 people also visited the Christmas grotto and received presents donated by local businesses. These large community events would not be possible without the tremendous support of local residents, businesses and partner organisations such as the Estate Management Board, Beechwood Community Association, Schools, Police and the local children who participated in planning, building and attending the events.

Children's play can move in trends and this summer, the children enjoyed making Loom Bands, as well as participating in more traditional street games. A projector was purchased and the children are planning to have their own 'Drive in' movie night in the sports hall, and making cardboard cut out cars to sit in.

Links with the local Tesco store at Bidston Moss have been established. Staff supported and built a Christmas Grotto in their community room. Tesco have adopted the play scheme as one of their community projects. They will support repainting parts of the community centre and provide some new play equipment.

With a proliferation of mobile phones and electronic tablets bought for Christmas, children are increasingly using social media. Therefore, the scheme has been promoting the N.S.P.C.C's 'Share Aware' Campaign to inform children and parents about staying safe online.

11.2 Leasowe - In October children from the Adventure Playground participated in the lantern parade. They designed and created their own lanterns during several sessions leading up to the parade. Lanterns were made by local organisations, including schools, church groups and partners from the local initiative, Unity in the Community. The parade on the estate encouraged involvement for the local community and was a great success with over 300 people taking part.

During the Mischief Night period a Halloween fancy dress party was organised funded by local resources. Over 100 children attended the free celebrations participating in traditional activities. The Adventure Playground once again hosted the annual community bonfire and firework display. Staff and volunteers support the event, by providing refreshments, conducting the firework display and maintaining crowd control and safety. This year, the crowd was estimated to be over 3000 in attendance.

Over 100 children celebrated Christmas with a visit to Santa Claus, each receiving a present. The Addy choir children participated in the Christmas event based at the Millennium centre with contributions from local schools, dance troops and staff from the Leasowe Trust. All the celebratory events enjoyed by the children and local community were provided free of charge made possible by the fundraising efforts of the staff and volunteers.

11.3 Gautby Road - Staff and volunteers built a Haunted House called the Gautbygeddon Scarefest to celebrate Halloween. The sports hall was converted into a walkway of terrifying tunnels and rooms with special effects such as such as UV lights, cobwebs, glow up paint, mummies and graveyard scenes. Staff dressed up for the occasion and over 100 children and 50 + parents attend the event. The children created a fantastic wall mural with painted witches, bats and tissue paper ghosts.

Children created a fireworks mural to promote how to stay safe on bonfire night and made artefacts using scrap recycled materials. They also made posters and flyers as part of the promotion of anti-bullying week in the local community.

A Winter wonderland Christmas grotto was built and organised for local children. Birkenhead Lions kindly donated 150 children's toys to give out. Iceland also donated refreshments and food for the party. Over 200 children and parents attended the celebrations, each child receiving a present. Children decorated homemade picture frames for their photograph with Santa Claus.

11.4 Wirral Play Council

A 4 day holiday scheme at Livingstone Street was delivered over the October half term period. There were 42 registered children, including 28, under 8's. There were 138 attendances over the 4 days which was supported by the Committee and advertised in the local area.

In December, after-school play sessions commenced at Bentinck Street located in the Community House. Wirral Play Council has developed the project funded by a grant and supported by Magenta Housing. Doorstep open access sessions are free of charge and run every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 4pm-6pm. Local play workers have been employed to deliver the play sessions. The sessions target the 6 – 11 age group and already have over 20 children registered. Magenta Housing also provided funds for the Christmas celebrations and presents for the children. A small allotment project is planned in the garden, which will enable the children to plant and grow their own fruit and vegetables.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson
Senior Locality Manager – Youth Support