

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## YOUTH AND PLAY SERVICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

25 FEBRUARY 2015

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>The Future of YAPSAC</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Director of Children's Services</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>Cllr Tony Smith</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>yes</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report advises the committee about the background to the Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee and seeks approval to review its current arrangements and terms of reference. The overarching objective is to ensure that young people are encouraged and supported to engage and participate fully with democratic process.

### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 Background and key considerations for the Youth and Play Service Advisory Committee (YAPSAC) are that the terms of reference have not been revised since 2004 when they were approved, by the then Youth Service Advisory Committee (YSAC) meeting on 8 December 2004 (see attached Appendix 1).
- 2.2 Also, due to changes to local democratic processes, the Education and Cultural Services Committee has been replaced by the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee and matters arising at this committee would as required include consideration of the Youth and Play Service.
- 2.3 Given these committee changes, YAPSAC stopped making recommendations for consideration by any other or 'parent' committee and over time has assumed the role of updating and advising members of the committee on developments, progress and current issues associated to or affecting/likely to affect our young people.
- 2.4 The Youth and Play Service lead officers (not democratic services) manage the planning and administration of the committee which mirrors the democratic process in place for all other Council committees. Young people are therefore involved in

what is a *'good practice'* approach, which ensures that they learn from and have exposure to democratic processes in a safe and managed way.

- 2.5.1 At the end of 2014 Wirral Council launched a Framework for Young People's Engagement and Participation. This framework incorporates three significant layers, namely; Strategic Participation Champions, Participation Reference Group, The Youth Voice Group (young people). It is anticipated that a revised approach for the future of the committee will fully support our young people and the engagement and participation framework to realise its potential within a political context.

### **3.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 3.1 Legislative changes in 2014 have enabled public meetings to be filmed and broadcast using a variety of media. This raises issues of parental consent which could act to deter some young people becoming fully involved in the democratic process.
- 3.2 The Director for Childrens Services, as corporate parent for a number of our vulnerable young people, may not be able to give consent to some young people to be involved in meetings that could inadvertently risk exposing their whereabouts.
- 3.3 Some vulnerable young people may screen themselves out of attendance at or engagement with meetings that are not only in the public domain, but that risk them being filmed or their details being made public.

### **4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 Not applicable

### **5.0 CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation through the engagement and participation framework will be undertaken with young people.
- 5.2 Consultation with members of the YAPSAC committee will be undertaken.
- 5.3 Consultation will be requested to be undertaken with the Families and Wellbeing Policy and Performance Committee.

### **6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS**

- 6.1 Not applicable.

## **7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

7.1 If realised these proposal would ensure that young people from Wirral voluntary, community and faith groups continue to be involved in democratic processes.

## **8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

8.1 Staffing resource to undertake the review.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None known

## **10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 An EIA will be considered during any review period.

## **11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 Not applicable.

## **12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 Not applicable.

## **13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

13.1 That the YAPSAC endorse the approach and gives permission for a review to be undertaken.

13.2 That until a review is completed and the future purpose of the YAPSAC is agreed, that future meetings be removed from the 2015/16 calendar of Wirral Council meetings.

13.2 That existing YAPSAC members work alongside the Youth Voice Group, Strategic Participation Champions and Participation Reference Group to review and revise the YAPSAC terms of reference, membership and name.

## **14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

14.1 To ensure that the YAPSAC committee continues to function and provide a forum that both supports and enables our young people to engage with elected members and democratic processes in a supported and managed way.

14.2 To ensure that core aims of the YAPSAC continue to:

- support the involvement of young people and to ensure that activities for young people are accessible and reflect their needs and aspirations;
- engage young people, to listen to them and to provide positive forms of recreation and activity;
- to review, develop and support the implementation of policies and procedures to ensure that the needs of young people are fully considered by all relevant Council departments.

14.2 It is essential that YPSAC's terms of reference are updated and modernised as part of this process to ensure that the committee:

- Becomes be an integral part of the Framework for Young People's Engagement and Participation.
- Young people are enabled and encouraged to take a full and active part in the committee and in so doing in local democratic processes.

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**APPENDICES**

**Appendix 1 - YAPSAC terms of reference (as of December 2004)**

**BACKGROUND PAPERS/REFERENCE MATERIAL**

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Youth Service Advisory Committee – Terms of Reference</b>	<b>8 December 2004</b>

**YAPSAC terms of reference (as of December 2004)**

(1) That the following be recommended as terms of reference for the Advisory Committee:

(a) Subject to any regulations made by the Authority, to consider Youth Service matters affecting both the Authority, voluntary youth organisations and play providers and to make appropriate recommendations for consideration by the Education and Cultural Services Select Committee.

(b) In accordance with the Council's agreed priorities, to assist in the improvement of services for young people by supporting the following aims:

(i) to ensure that activities for young people are accessible and reflect their needs and aspirations;

(ii) to increase the number and quality of play areas;

(iii) to work actively through the Youth Service and other agencies to engage young people, to listen to them and to provide positive forms of recreation and activity;

(iv) to develop and implement a strategy for disaffected young people in a partnership that includes various Council departments;

(v) to support and encourage play schemes, holiday activities and outreach programmes for young people.

(2) That in relation to membership, it be accepted that the membership of the Advisory Committee should reflect the range of stakeholders involved in the provision of services to young people and therefore it be proposed that membership comprise the following:

8 members of the Education and Cultural Services Select Committee (3:3:2)

4 young people (1 from each youth forum)

2 representatives nominated by Youth Exchange

1 representative nominated by Wirral Play Council

together with co-opted members, to be appointed when the above complement is in place.

(3) That meetings of the Advisory Committee be open to members of the public.

(4) That the Advisory Committee receive reports on progress in relation to performance indicators once the relevant data is available.

(5) That consideration be given to ways of supporting the involvement of young people in the work of the Advisory Committee, particularly in relation to Youth Forums.

