

WIRRAL COUNCIL

WIRRAL SCHOOLS FORUM January 13th 2016

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

City Learning Centres

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To outline the activities in City Learning Centres (CLCs) 2015-16 supported by a Schools Budget contribution of £694,700.

CONTEXT

Over the last thirteen years Wirral City Learning Centres (WCLCs) have become part of Wirral's school community, enhancing and enriching the curriculum through innovative workshops using the latest technologies that are not generally available in a mainstream school setting. The three CLCs: Discovery, The Learning Lighthouse & West Wirral Works, have merged to form one organisation with a new staffing structure. WCLCs provide valued support, help and guidance in a very practical way to all phases of Wirral education and to the full range and ability of students, extending learning for everyone.

CURRENT PROVISION

This budget contribution allows the WCLCs to provide services which include half and full day workshops incorporating the use of technology, linked to all areas of the curriculum. These provide opportunities to use whole class facilities, resources and specialised skills to engage pupils and enable them to complete activities which would be difficult or impossible to achieve at school. Some examples include:

- Evolution & Inheritance (including using iPads to record scientific findings), Programming, Working Scientifically (KS1 & 2) & Bugs and Bogies (KS1)
- iSciArt, Early Art Early Man, GCSE GIS Mapping & KS5 Video Editing/PhotoShop
- KS5 CAD/CAM training & workshops 2D & 3D Design training & manufacture, Moving Vehicles, Pneumatics & Creative Writing

An outreach service extends WCLCs' provision into schools with workshops such as creative writing, coding, animation, music technology and filmmaking.

WCLCs provide INSET to schools, creating opportunities to:

- appraise emerging new technologies for their suitability in schools, for example floor robots, iPads and SEN
- train teachers in specialised curriculum, software & hardware, for example iPad training for whole school staff, SolidWorks training for secondary D&T staff, Working Scientifically.

Another service provided to schools from the budget has been the extensive loan programme; from bridge building construction kits and digital cameras to daylight projectors and mobile studios. This extensive, diverse, loanable asset stock has a value of many thousands of pounds.

WCLCs continue to provide specialised events, conferences and Wirral wide competitions for schools such as the Wirral Schools' Film Festival (12th year) and the Schools' Science Fair (4th year).

Take up by Schools 2014-2015

During the last academic year 44,157 pupils accessed WCLC services. In addition to this there have been 371 staff attending INSET sessions.

| September 2014 – July 2015 | No. of Class Visits to WCLCs | *No. of Pupils Visiting WCLCs | No. Pupils Taught on Outreach Sessions | TOTAL No. Pupils (Visiting & Outreach) Accessing WCLC Sessions | No. Teachers Attending INSET Sessions |
|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| Bebington & Bromborough | 167 | 5,999 | 2,239 | 8,238 | 30 |
| Deeside | 153 | 5,331 | 1,772 | 7,103 | 27 |
| Wallasey | 287 | 8,735 | 2,473 | 11,208 | 52 |
| Birkenhead N | 156 | 4,817 | 621 | 5,438 | 48 |
| Birkenhead S | 135 | 4,629 | 2,589 | 7,218 | 43 |
| Wirral Primary TOTAL | 898 | 29,511 | 9,694 | 39,205 | 200 |
| | | | | | |
| Birkenhead | 326 | 3,930 | 0 | 3,930 | 126 |
| Wallasey | 16 | 166 | 6 | 172 | 10 |
| West Wirral & South | 14 | 213 | 18 | 231 | 23 |
| Wirral Secondary TOTAL | 356 | 4,309 | 24 | 4,333 | 159 |
| | | | | | |
| Special Schools | 48 | 513 | 70 | 583 | 12 |
| Nursery Schools | | | 36 | 36 | |
| | | | | 44,157 | 371 |

*Some pupils visited WCLCs more than once for different activities

The figure above represents a significant commitment and contribution to the educational outcomes and enrichment programmes for Wirral schools. These figures are limited by staffing issues that have occurred over the last 12 months. Wirral City Learning Centres deliver an exciting and innovative wide range of workshops that cannot be delivered within the standard school provision/curriculum. Head teachers have noted that pupils return to school with a positive attitude, 'buzzing with excitement'.

Recent Developments & Costs

Following the allocation of £120,000 from LA capital fund WCLCs have

- invested in new servers
- upgraded computer suites
- installed up to date WiFi & CCTV and
- allocated £11,000 towards refurbishments at Discovery (flooring & toilets)

The next phase will radically transform workshops by the incorporation of new and emerging technologies and enhance the range of loan items: centralising resources and providing increased value for money for schools. This will enable the WCLCs to significantly develop the delivery of high quality activities and resources. These include:

- A revamped & extended Science space at Discovery providing more children with a better experience of the science curriculum and meeting the STEM agenda. This new space will give Primary pupils a real feel for being immersed in a complete science experience to be able to conduct their own research and experiments
- 'Programming Plus' for revisiting schools that require extended activities. These workshops will be supported by an investment in New Floor Robots, Lego WeDo and Lego Mindstorms
- A new Design & Technology Hub for Wirral Primary Schools at West Wirral Works (WWW) providing an opportunity to support Design & Technology teachers and coordinators in the delivery of the new curriculum. This will ensure that WWW are working with them to offer workshop support and guidance to meet their requirements
- Two one-day primary workshops facilitated by WWW: 'Art of Manufacturing' and a five day 'Industrial Cadets' secondary project to access the new D&T curriculum (funded by the NAC group)
- A range of exciting, new workshops taking a different tack on the Programming curriculum at The Learning Lighthouse (TLL). Codebugs and other programmable peripherals making Programming physical, 'Music and Visual Notation' (for the non-expert) and the practical use of HTML programming to build pupils' own website content; making pupils active participants in the digital world
- Wirral Schools' Film Festival summer 2016 at 'The Light Cinema' through investment from the community playing a role in strengthening Wirral's 2020 vision. Plans to hold a Wirral wide Digital Photography Exhibition and 'Designer of the Year' competition
- INSET: Programmable Robots providing schools with an opportunity to assess a range of devices; leading to an inter-school competition 'Programmable Robot Wars' next year. A series of 3 Lego INSETs are to be held at each CLC
- Cross CLC workshop opportunities: e.g. start at WWW & move on to TLL as part of a whole day CLC experience

Outcomes

According to the feedback taken from every user group, the outcomes achieved at WCLCs allow children to learn in a way that prepares them for learning in the classroom and beyond, which no other current offer provides. Part of the WCLC delivery model is to include teacher participation, developing skillsets as part of their CPD.

The Learning Lighthouse

Between September 2014 & July 2015, 384 evaluations were completed.

95% rated TLL facilities as excellent, 5% as good.

92% rated TLL workshops as excellent, 7% as good and less than 1% as satisfactory

Discovery

Between September 2014 & July 2015, 507 evaluations were completed

63% rated Discovery workshops to be excellent and 32% as very good

5% rated workshops as good and 1% as satisfactory

Evaluations from WWW are not available

Targets

- To complete the restructure of WCLCs
- To maximise usage within full potential of staffing available
- To continue to provide a service to ALL Wirral Schools which is not generally available in a mainstream school setting

Wirral City Learning Centres believe harnessing the potential of digital technologies allows students to incorporate more efficient and engaging approaches to learning. Wirral City Learning Centres will continue to seek the best technology, educational content and resources to meet the future demands of the new curriculum for Wirral Schools.

Recommendation

Schools Forum to note the contents of this report.

Julia Hassall
Director of Childrens Services