

Constituency Committee - Wirral South

REPORT TITLE:	Wirral South Priority Update
REPORT OF:	Director for Health and Wellbeing

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides an update on the Constituency Committee's priorities and their associated spend for 2016/17, seeking decisions in relation to priority driven spend.

The work of Wirral South Constituency Committee contributes to a range of Wirral Plan 2020 pledges and neighbourhood working is key to delivery of the Plan.

This report affects all Wards within the Wirral South Constituency (Bebington, Bromborough, Clatterbridge, Eastham and Heswall).

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

RECOMMENDATION 1: The committee note that the current Social Isolation Contract will cease on the 31st of May 2017.

RECOMMENDATION 2: The committee agree to the provision of the Wirral South Social Isolation Grants Fund with the remaining funds for 2017/18 (£15,267.28) allocated. Specific administrative details to be presented at the next committee, prior to launch.

RECOMMENDATION 3: The committee agree the proposal made by the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service Evaluation Panel and agree the extension of the service for another 12 months from the 1st of June 2017.

RECOMMENDATION 4: The Committee note the progress made in providing the Wirral South National Citizenship Service Bursary

RECOMMENDATION 5: The committee make a decision on how to allocate the existing £18,281 between New Ferry Park and Torr Park allowing works to be ordered ASAP ensuring improvements can be realised during the summer months

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

1.1 To enable the work of the Wirral South Constituency Committee to be focussed upon the agreed priorities and spend to be distributed accordingly.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 Learning has been taken from this committee's spend throughout its operation.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Social Isolation

3.1.1 Due to the budgetary decision to freeze the core funding for constituency committees for 2017/18 it is not possible to extend the current Wirral South Social Isolation Contract delivered by the GIFT Network (for more information on the GIFT Network see here: <http://www.giftnetwork.co.uk/>). The existing service ceases on the 31st May 2017 (see recommendation one). Further detail of the Budget Council decision from the 6th of March can be found here: <http://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/mgChooseDocPack.aspx?ID=5516>

3.1.2 Table one gives a detailed breakdown of interaction undertaken by GIFT during quarter 5 (Dec, Jan & Feb) of the current contract

Table One:

	Sep-Nov	Dec-Feb
New Beneficiaries recruited since December	5	11
Existing beneficiaries who just attend lunches	10	15
Existing beneficiaries who attend lunch and have interaction with GIFT in between	8	12
Existing beneficiaries who GIFT contact and interact with depending on their current circumstances.	5	17
Beneficiaries who no longer wish for interaction (closed)	19	39
Beneficiaries contacted who wish to engage again after Christmas	46	
Total active beneficiaries	74	63
No of people given info to, as a one off	?	60+
No. Dementia Friends sessions	1	1
No. GIFT Grants paid and amount in money	0	4 =£800,
No. Admiral Nurse patients	6	11

3.1.3 **See recommendation one.**

3.1.4 The Wirral South Constituency Committee currently holds £15,267.28 within its social isolation budget. It is proposed that this remaining amount (although not enough to extend the existing contract) should be used to provide the Wirral South Social Isolation Fund. This fund would be open in the summer of 2017 and monies allocated by the end of September 2017 in the form of a small grants programme; maximum £2k per application. It is proposed that the fund is open to all social sector partners including smaller, formally constituted organisations in an attempt to engage at the most local level possible.

3.1.5 **See recommendation two.**

3.1.6 The Wirral South Engagement Officer (Shannon Kennedy) has also worked tirelessly on the “2016 Christmas Together Project”. This project is directly aimed at combating social isolation over the 2016 Christmas period in Wirral South. Details of the partner organisations and levels of engagement can be found in table two.

A small amount of general engagement funding was used to facilitate some of the events, Work is already underway for 2017 Christmas Together.

Table Two:

Partner Location	Volunteers Involved	Isolated Individuals Engaged With
Delamere Community Centre, Delamere Avenue, Eastham, CH62 9ED	25	9
Age UK Wirral, Age UK Meadowcroft Centre, Spital Road, CH62 2DE	13	50
Christ Church Community Centre, Kings Road, Higher Bebington, CH63 8LX	29	53
Heswall Parish, St. Peter's Centre, Lower Heswall, CH60 0DZ	(Unknown)	22
St. Mark's Church, St Mark's Church Hall, New Chester Road, New Ferry, CH62 1DG	7	35

3.2 Gaps in Youth Provision

3.2.1 The Wirral South One to One Youth Counselling Service continues to operate with great success. Table three gives a breakdown of the current demand at the end of quarter three (Nov, Dec, Jan). Please note that appointments will now only be offered in Heswall should a young person from the Heswall area be referred to the service.

Table Three:

Area	In Counselling	Waiting to be seen	Counselling ended	Attended drop in
Heswall	0	0	4	No drop-in
Bebington	3	0	6	38 + 4 outreach
Eastham	3	1	4	32

3.2.2 Following the recommendation of the previous committee the Wirral South Youth Counselling Service Evaluation Panel met on Thursday the 9th of March. The incumbent contractor was given the opportunity to present their progress to date and asked to clearly define how they would deliver the contract in the second year should the available extension be offered. The contractor was asked how they have/would meet the following criteria:

- a) *Minimise waiting times for young people (from Wirral South) accessing a one to one counselling service in Wirral thus maximising the potential for successful intervention*
- b) *Offer one to one counselling services to young people throughout Wirral South on a more localised footprint thus minimising the need to travel to an appointment*
- c) *Increase awareness that a Wirral South Specific service exists thus, maximising potential referrals and overall impact*
- d) *How the service has evolved throughout the year to meet the needs of the population of Wirral South aged 13-18?*
- e) *What innovation they intend to initiate should the one year extension be granted?*

The panel (which consisted of elected members from this committee) gave each element of the evaluation either good (4 out of 5) or excellent (5 out of 5) and their evaluation scores were recorded. Based upon the evaluation panel's findings it is recommended that the contract is extended for 12 months from the 1st of June 2017, at the existing cost.

3.2.3 See recommendation three.

3.2.4 At its meeting on the 5th October, 2016 the Wirral South Constituency resolved to:

“...Commit £3,097 (remaining gaps in youth provision budget for 2016/17) to provide a National Citizenship Service bursary for young people who are financially excluded in Wirral South (with further details to be reported to the next committee on 2 February 2017)”
(minute 21, resolution one refers)

The proposal was to utilise the underspend offering a bursary to young people from deprived areas in Wirral South, covering:

- Initial signup fee
- An agreed list of essential kit for residential elements
- Access to public transport for a 2 week period during social action element.

3.2.5 At the time of writing this report 8 individuals meeting the criteria have applied for support. Further updates and case studies will be brought to committee once the programme has actually commenced. Members will be given the opportunity to attend various NCS graduations later in the year to experience first-hand the results of the programme.

3.2.6 See recommendation four.

3.2.7 Work has been ongoing between the Constituency Manager, Wirral's Sports Development team and Ingeus (Central Government's delivery partner) to ensure the programme can be launched and assessed and allocated in line with the wider recruitment timetable.

3.3 Improved Open Spaces

3.3.1 Work continues in line with the committee's previous resolution and existing priority to support both New Ferry Park and Torr Park across 2016/17 and 2017/18. The Wirral South Engagement Officer has worked tirelessly to

establish one advisory board for each of the aforementioned parks. These advisory boards consist of local residents and stakeholders and their objectives are not only to influence the decisions on spend for their respective open spaces but also to add built in sustainability in two parks that although well-loved and used have no form of friends group in place.

3.3.2 Following the decision to freeze this committee's funding for 2017/18 a committee decision is sought to agree the budgetary allocation for both new Ferry and Torr Park.

Current (total) available budget stands at £18,281 (this includes various, sundry carry overs from previous years). As such a decision is sought on how to split the available amount across the two sites whilst considering that Torr Park has also secured £50k section 106 funding (now confirmed and paid to the council).

3.3.3 **See recommendation six.**

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report has implications for the expenditure of budget allocated to Wirral South Constituency Committee.
- 4.2 Regular budget monitoring with Business Services takes place to ensure that the expenditure incurred is accurate and complies with what has been agreed by the Committee.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The arrangements help the Council to deliver on the Localism Act 2011 and Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Funding available may assist in greater use of and/or access to community assets.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failure to agree the distribution of funding limits the Committee's ability to effectively tackle its priorities and may result in a loss of funding allocation.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Elected members, community representatives and members of the public have the opportunity to participate in all Constituency Committees.
- 8.2 The neighbourhood working model strengthens the Council's relationship with the voluntary, community and faith sector.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments/equality-impact-assessments-2010-14/chief>

REPORT AUTHOR: *Fergus Adams*
Constituency Manager Wirral South
telephone: (0151) 666 3074
email: fergusadams@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Budget Council	6/03/17
Wirral South Constituency Committee	5/10/16