



## Constituency Committee - Wirral South

Wednesday, 21 June 2017

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 for 2017/18, outlining some of the successes of the previous year and highlighting some projects of note for the next 10 months.

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).

### RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that:

RECOMMENDATION 1: A task and finish group (comprising of one elected member per ward) be established to agree the format, terms and conditions of the Wirral South Isolation fund. One volunteer per ward to be established as part of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2: An opportunity is sought to present the Wirral South One to One Youth Counselling Service and its associated benefits to the relevant Cabinet Members and internal commissioners.

## **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 Neighbourhoods Review

Work is currently underway to understand the opportunities for delivering the Wirral Plan in partnership with communities. This will include reviewing the current neighbourhood working model. Members of the Constituency Committee and community stakeholders will be fully involved in the process.

Two workshop dates have been scheduled for engagement with Elected Members, **Thursday 13th July** and **Tuesday 25th July**, both at **Wallasey Town Hall**.

- 3.2 Achievements in 2017/18

- 3.2.1 Improved Open Spaces

It was agreed at the last Wirral South Constituency Committee that the remaining allocated budget of £18,281 would be split evenly between Torr Park and New Ferry Park.

Work has been ongoing to develop and support the communities in both locations to produce a list of improvements on which to spend the allocated budget. Extensive consultation has taken place throughout the year ensuring that any money spent (including the £50,000 of section 106 monies secured for Torr Park) are allocated to projects that the community welcome and see real value in.

There is a high level of probability (based upon ongoing engagement) that a both locations will have a constituted friends group by the end of 2017/18 (see 3.2.4 below for more detail).

Research carried out by the Research and Development Manager in Public Health has identified that investment made by the Wirral South Constituency against this priority has a projected social return on investment of £8.30 per £1 spent.

### 3.2.2 Social Isolation

As the committee are aware the previous GIFT contract (aimed at identifying and reducing social isolation) has now come to an end and will not be extended.

At the previous committee members approved the provision of the Wirral South Social Isolation Grants Fund with the remaining funds for 2017/18 (£15,267.28). It is recommended (see recommendation one) that a task and finish group (comprising of one elected member per ward) be established to agree the format, terms and conditions and the subsequent administration of the new fund. Volunteers for the aforementioned task and finish group are sought as part of recommendation, to ensure detail can be agreed and the fund can be advertised as quickly as possible.

### 3.2.3 Gaps in Youth Provision

Since its commencement in 2016 the Wirral South One to One Youth Counselling Service has engaged directly with over 100 young people aged 13-19:

- In its first year 126 therapeutic counselling sessions have been delivered to 20 unique young people (17 females and 3 males). All of the aforementioned sessions have been delivered at a venue local to the young person, thus negating the need travel to central Birkenhead.
- In its first year over 80 young people have engaged (many on repeat occasions) via drop in sessions held at youth clubs in New Ferry and Eastham. This less formalised contact not only allows young people to

seek immediate support in an environment they know but also allows for referral into formal therapeutic counselling where necessary.

- The Service was also able to deliver reactive responses to 2 x local incidents, namely a fatal road traffic incident involving a young person and the New Ferry explosion.
- At the last Wirral South Constituency Committee (April 20<sup>th</sup> 2017) members resolved to extend the contract for a further 12 months.

Research carried out by the Research and Development Manager in Public Health has identified that the investment made by the Wirral South Constituency against this priority has a projected social return on investment of £7.20 per £1 spent.

#### 3.2.4 Community Engagement

- New Ferry Town Team

With the support of elected members and Wirral South's engagement officer the New Ferry Town Team is now a fully constituted organisation. The focus of the organisation has understandably shifted in the wake of the explosion that occurred in March this year. The Town Team are currently devising a fair and transparent approach to allocating the funding they received via various online initiatives. The Town Team has been an integral part of the weekly update meetings in New Ferry (aimed at keeping residents and traders fully informed) and works closely with Wirral Council to consult on the potential approach to the regeneration of the area.

- Friends of Bromborough Library

The Friends of Bromborough Library is now a fully constituted organisation with over 80 members. The group was established following a request from Wirral's Library Service to the Wirral South Constituency Team to help engage with those communities in which the local library did not have an active friends group. As a result of this request the Wirral South engagement officer held a coffee morning in

November 2016 and it was at this event some of the founding members first met and shared their aspirations to form a group.

- Friends of Heswall Dales  
The Wirral South Constituency Team was contacted by a committed group that regularly volunteered at the dales. They communicated their aspiration to form a friends group but required support to make this aspiration a reality. With support and guidance from the Wirral South engagement officer they are now fully constituted, holding their inaugural AGM in May 2017.
  
- Torr Park Advisory Board/Steering Group  
Following an initial, local communications campaign a group of local residents and stakeholders were brought together to form the Torr Park Advisory Board. This led to the formation of a smaller Steering Group which has made good progress and allocated, in principle, a large amount of their budget (subject to a site visit and final discussions with the advisory board). A final advisory board meeting will be held, and then both the advisory board and steering group will be dissolved and the engagement officer will support volunteers to form a friends group.
  
- New Ferry Park Advisory Board  
The Advisory Board have currently allocated approximately half of their budget, Items include: signage, bins and heritage boards. Over the Summer, the engagement officer will work with the group to form a Friends group to build upon the good work of the advisory Board.

### 3.3 Work to note for 2017/18

#### 3.3.1 Continued Support for New Ferry

The Wirral South Constituency Team will continue to work with the community in New Ferry to offer support throughout the remainder of 2017/18. This will take the form of established projects (e.g. The Town Team previously outlined in 3.2.4 above) and reactive support being offered when necessary.

### 3.3.2 National Citizenship Service (NCS)

The Wirral South Constituency Committee has offered financial support to eight young people to ensure they are able to engage in the NCS over the summer of 2017. Further support will be offered by the constituency team to ensure connection between the NCS and the local communities it operates within are as strong as possible. In previous years the community element of the NCS programme (i.e. where groups of young people support existing voluntary organisations with action) has not been as localised as it could be. It is fair to say that support in previous years has often gone to the larger, more visible organisations and it is the aim of both the constituency team and the NCS providers to address this in 2017/18.

### 3.3.3 Social Isolation Grants Fund

At the previous committee, members approved the provision of the Wirral South Social Isolation Grants Fund with the remaining funds for 2017/18 (£15,267.28). It is recommended that a task and finish group (comprising of one elected member per ward) be established to agree the format, terms and conditions and the subsequent administration of the new fund (see recommendation one).

### 3.3.4 Gaps in Youth Provision

The achievements (to date) of the Wirral South One to One Youth Counselling Service have been previously outlined in section 3.2.3 of this report. Through the successful extension of this service it is believed these achievements can be built upon. Throughout the review process (prior to extension) it was identified that there was an appetite from elected members to showcase this approach to both the relevant Cabinet member and those that commission the current Wirralwide service. The Wirral South approach has allowed flexibility, reactivity and localised delivery, it is believed that the expansion of this approach should be explored leading to the possible reengineering of the current mainstream service (see recommendation two).

#### **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>

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#### **APPENDICES**

None

**REFERENCE MATERIAL**

*None*

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Wirral South Constituency Committee</b>	<b>20 Apr 2017</b>