



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday, 11 November 2019

REPORT TITLE:	Review of the Youth Offer
REPORT OF:	Director for Children's Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on progress of the Youth Offer Review and findings of the recent consultation undertaken with young people. The report, *Care More About Us*, captures the voice of young people on what they like to do and what they want a future Youth Offer to include. The findings of the consultation and survey are considered in this report alongside data on usage of current youth provision. The report provides detail on steps towards collaboratively developing a business case for a new Youth Offer.

This matter affects all Wards within the borough.

This report does not relate to a key decision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Members of the Committee are asked to:

1. consider the findings of the Youth Offer Consultation;
2. note the progress made to date;
3. endorse the next steps; and,
4. continue to support the collaboration between the young people of Wirral and public services.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 To ensure Members of the Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the opportunity to hear the voice of Wirral's young people and gain a thorough understanding of what they consider would improve the Youth Offer and their daily lives in Wirral. With support of Members, the collaboration between young people, Wirral Council and its partners will continue, developing a full business case for future consideration.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report is aligned with Corporate and Departmental service transformation work. It contributes to the Wirral Partnership vision to *make Wirral great for children, young people and families*, and therefore other options have not been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In April 2017, the Hive Youth Zone opened in central Birkenhead, supported by investment from Wirral Council. Annual funding of £400 000 from Wirral Council to The Hive was agreed for a 3-year period. A review of youth services would be undertaken to establish, with the Youth Zone embedded, what provision would be required to meet the needs of young people in Wirral.

- 3.2 Early in 2019, the Wirral Partnership set its vision to *make Wirral great for children, young people and families*. This prompted multi-agency discussion as to whether a review of youth services was sufficient, or if there should be a multi-agency review which considered the lives of young people in a more holistic way. With services becoming more focused on improving the daily lived experience of children and young people, it was agreed that the Review of the Youth Offer would widen to consider the following aspects:

- Young people and their health & wellbeing;
- Young people and education, employment & learning;
- Young people and their hobbies, activities & free time;
- Young people's voice & democracy;
- Young people in their communities; and
- Young people and advice, information & access.

- 3.3 In agreement with a group of young consultants, the aim of the review was set: to work together to produce a Youth Offer that would make Wirral an amazing place for young people, a place that supports them to be all they can be. The aim is as brave and ambitious as the young people who helped define it.

- 3.4 An amazing offer for young people would mean:

- When they need help, they get it, quickly and easily;
- When they need someone to talk to, they know who that person is and how to contact them;

- They can access the types of hobbies, sports, pastimes, and leisure activities that interest them;
- They are inspired through education and learning to attend and achieve their goals;
- They can enjoy all that Wirral has to offer as a place;
- They are encouraged to have aspirations and there are services that support them to achieve their ambitions;
- Information, advice and guidance for the present and the future is readily available;
- They have belonging in their communities, feel accepted and can live without fear for their safety;
- They can participate in their communities and make a positive contribution.

3.5 The purpose of the review is to work collaboratively with young people, public services, communities, voluntary and faith groups, residents, schools and other organisations to design and implement a Youth Offer which will deliver the outcomes described above and enable young people to have the best possible experience in their daily lives.

3.6 The Review of the Youth Offer is underpinned by a set of key principles:

- The voice and views of young people will direct the review;
- Professionals, agencies, services, and commissioners will set aside their own agendas to work collaboratively in the interest of meeting the needs of our young people;
- The review seeks to make the best possible use of all resources available, including people, buildings, funding, services, facilities and natural resources;
- All agencies and individuals in the partnership recognise that there may be a need to change or re-purpose what we currently do and deliver to meet the needs of our young people;
- The review aims to allow all partners to *play to their strengths*, recognising that there is a part for each to play, regardless of size or status; and
- All partners will seek to avoid any reductions in funding or investment in young people. Any potential savings identified through the review should be re-invested in the new Youth Offer.

3.7 The first stage of the review was to undertake a consultation with young people in Wirral. A survey was designed in partnership with young people from the Youth Voice Group and Children In Care Council. A 2-month consultation was completed between June-September in which almost 3 000 young people took part. Surveys were received from 2 736 young people and several groups took part in the consultation events, forums, and workshops. Events for young people and the public were facilitated by the Youth Voice Group. The results of the survey are detailed in Appendix 3 - *Young People Questionnaire Summary Report*.

3.8 As part of the survey and workshops, young people were asked for their views on what would make Wirral an amazing place. 1 904 responses were given via free text submissions, providing a wealth of insight into what really matters to the young people of Wirral. The findings and analysis of their views are captured alongside the survey results in Appendix 1- *Care More About Us* report.

3.9 Analysis of the consultation with young people has been distilled into a **Top 10 Recommendations** which should be read and considered as the key findings at this stage of the review.

- 3.10 In addition to the consultation with young people, a multi-disciplinary group has commenced analysis on usage of current provision. This is a broad area with young people using facilities and services provided by a wide range of agencies and departments of the Council-from leisure centres to libraries, Public Health funded provision to voluntary groups, and more. Work will be undertaken over the coming weeks to understand and consider usage across those areas.
- 3.11 As a priority, analysis has been undertaken on usage of Council funded youth services. This includes The Hive, Wirral Council Youth Clubs, Hubs and Play Service. As the systems to capture usage are different across these services it has not been possible to capture data consistently, however, the data analysis does provide a helpful starting point for understanding the current youth offer. The data is outlined in detail in Appendix 2- *Usage of Local Authority Funded Youth Provision*.
- 3.12 At this stage of the review, the findings of the consultation with young people are the priority. Further work to interrogate, understand and analyse data on usage will be undertaken in the next stage. This will be completed in line with the key principles described at 3.6, in that the review will *play to the strengths* of each organisation/service and strive to make best use of all facilities and resources.
- 3.13 There is correlation between the findings of the local consultation and the UK Youth Parliament *Make Your Mark* survey via the following link:

<http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/makeyourmark/>

The largest UK Youth consultation of its kind, this year's results showed participation trebled on the previous year with over 9 000 Wirral youths taking part. The results, published in October, give a very similar message to the local survey with the following issues as priorities for young people in Wirral:

- *Protect the environment*
- *Tackle hate crime*
- *Mental health*
- *Curriculum to prepare us for life*
- *Transport and roads*
- *Improve future prospects*

- 3.14 Earlier this year, Wirral Safeguarding Children Board (now Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership) undertook a contextual safeguarding survey with young people. Again, there are direct correlations in the findings of both surveys with street lighting, personal safety, parks, and town centre spaces being highlighted as causing concern for our young people. Full details of the Contextual Safeguarding Survey can be found at <https://www.wirralsafeguarding.co.uk/news/contextual-safeguarding-survey/> and the Business Manager for Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership is a member of the Youth Offer Project Group to ensure that work is aligned.

Next Steps

- 3.15 Our commitments to young people in progressing the Review of the Youth Offer are outlined in Appendix 1- *Care More About Us*.
- 3.16 A multi-agency Project Group has been meeting since spring 2019 to co-ordinate the review. The Project Group made a significant contribution to the design and delivery of

the consultation. The Project Group will continue to meet on a regular basis and oversee a number of workstreams to develop the business case for a new Youth Offer, providing the detail of how it will be delivered and implemented.

3.17 A Management Group has been established with multi-agency membership at senior leadership level. The Management Group have the capability to take decisions regarding resource, funding, service delivery and system change. The proposals made by the Project Group will be reviewed by the Management Group, with a view to presenting a full business case to Wirral Council Cabinet in February 2020. The Management Group will be responsible for ensuring that the proposals developed through the Project Group can be delivered.

3.18 The Young People's Advisory Group will continue to provide guidance, challenge and endorsement through each stage of the process.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Actions going forward may incur some financial decisions which will be fully considered in the Business Case.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

6.1 Actions going forward may incur some resource implications which will be fully considered in the Business Case.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Actions going forward may incur risks which will be identified in the Business Case.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 Consultation has been undertaken with approximately 3,000 young people as detailed in the above report and following appendices.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A full Equality Impact Assessment will be completed alongside the Business Case.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no CO2 emission impacts arising from this report. However, all environmental implications will be considered in the Business Case.

11.0 APPENDICES

Appendix 1- *Care More About Us* Findings from the Youth Consultation

Appendix 2- Usage of Local Authority Funded Youth Provision

Appendix 3- Young People Questionnaire Summary Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Responses from the survey and young people's workshops have informed the appendices to this report.

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SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children and Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Workshop Report-Youth Review)	25 September 2019