

YOUR SAY 

 **WIRRAL**



Bidston & Claughton
(covering St James & Noctourm)

Area Forum

Papers for the forum meeting

Thursday 12th February 2009

**Birkenhead Sixth Form College,
Park Road West, Claughton
Village, CH43 8SQ**

7.00pm

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Code of Conduct for Area Forums

- Indicate to the Chairperson when you would like to speak
 - Let invited speakers finish what they have to say
 - Respect others right to be heard
 - Do not use abusive or offensive language
 - Do not make any discriminatory remarks
 - Do not have private conversations while meeting is in progress
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Information

We are very pleased to announce that the new Local Strategic Partnership website is now live.

We would really appreciate it, if you could browse the website and let us have your views. Some areas of the website are still under development, it is expected that the site will be fully operational by March 2009. Your input and ideas would be really helpful, particularly at this initial stage.

The website address is <http://wirral-lsp.org/>. Please can you inform as many people as possible. Maxine Joynson 0151 691 8266 maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Section One

Minutes

Minutes from last meeting October 2008

AREA FORUM (BIDSTON AND CLAUGHTON)

Wednesday, 29 October 2008

Present: Councillor D Roberts (Chair)
In attendance: Councillors J Crabtree, G Davies, S Foulkes, H Smith
Community Representatives Pat Landsborough
Lead Officer John Webb, Director of Adult Social Services
Council Officers Ian Lowrie, Community Safety, Jan Johnson, Adult Social Services
Area Service Co-ordinator Michelle Gray
Streetscene Manager Brian Smith
Merseyside Police Inspector Graham Bell
Merseyside Fire and Rescue Ben Ryder
Partners / other officers Joyce Jackson, Public Governor WUTH, Anna Wallis
Apologies Councillors AR McLachlan, Marie Armitage, Garry Cummings, Pip Jones, Jean McIntosh, Inspector Paul Harrison, Ian Jones, Dr Abhi Mantgani, Edith Niblock

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

The Chair, Councillor Denise Roberts, welcomed forum members and 6 members of the public to the Bidston & Claughton Area Forum meeting being held at St James Centre, Laird Street, Birkenhead.

2 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM JUNE FORUM

The minutes of the Area Forum meeting of 25 June 2008 were agreed and there were no matters arising.

Minute Decision/Resolved that: Minutes of the Forum held on 25 June 2008 be agreed.

3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Michelle Gray updated on two issues: Wirral Council was looking at the Highway Structural Maintenance Programme 2009/10. If there were any roads/pavements that people felt needed attention please give details at end of meeting. Community Initiative Fund, closing date for application forms was Monday 10th November. Bidston/Claughton Area Forum have spent their money, however other areas still have money left over.

Q – The footpath between West Road, Bidston Court and Ford Hill has been unattended for many years. Who has responsibility for maintenance of it?

A – Streetscene

Q – The footpath is in a disgraceful condition, with chopped down trees/vegetation left and old scrap and also graffiti. Councillor Davies referred to problems, which had been ongoing for a long time. These included a house in Westway, with a side wall covered in graffiti, youths lighting fires, with fences burnt down on 3 occasions, motorbike nuisance. He had brought with him tonight a DVD of culprits which he would pass over to the Police. Fire & Rescue had a graffiti strategy and Ben would get that checked up and Ian would check what action Anti Social Behaviour advocates were taking around it.

Q – Acknowledgement about the graffiti problem, however Streetscene have not taken the trees/rubbish away, it has just been left to pile up.

A – Fire Service would arrange to have it removed tomorrow.

Q – Had previously raised issue around Barnston.

A - Speak to Streetscene following the meeting to go through details.

Q – Wanted to report a burst water main Noctorum Avenue. This was near the site of the present Somerville store and the surface of the road there was starting to break up again. Would someone please take a look into this?

A – Yes we are aware of it and dealing with it.

Minute Decision/Resolved: To thank the Area Co-ordinator for the report.

4 YOU DECIDE RESULTS

The Council had agreed a budget of £20,000 for each Area Forum to spend on additional council services. This was an initiative to bring local communities closer to the decision-making, around the YOU DECIDE campaign. People were asked to put forward suggestions for Council services. In September we had a marketing campaign and people were encouraged to use the internet to answer questionnaire. There was also a postal questionnaire for those without internet access as well as street surveys. Priorities for Bidston/Claughton Area Forum were:

- Cleanliness – Litter Bins
- Safety – CCTV the use of mobile camera
- Sport and Youth Activity – Youth Sports Nights
- Safety – Household security
- Environmental – new benches
- Roads/Safety

A couple of sites had been identified for litter bins. The Sixth Form College had agreed to contribute as well. Any further suggestions to Michelle. Identified hiring a mobile CCTV camera and any hot spots that people are aware of please let Michelle know. Sport and Youth Activity – suggestion of holding sports nights in the area. Environment – panel decided to purchase benches. Lower Park and Ilchester Park had been suggested as sites and plaques would be placed on benches to identify funded by Area Forum. Road safety which would cover residents parking. Councillor Harry Smith, on behalf of Councillor Ann McLaughlin, raised the issue of a possible pedestrian crossing being installed at the site of Lincoln/Corporation Road. John Webb confirmed there was still £2,500 available and it had been agreed that there could be further discussion tonight if anyone had any ideas they want to put forward. Councillor Foulkes provided a breakdown of costs. 1 litter bin £500 and 10 had been purchased so do need to know of other locations. The next most popular item was CCTV and the Forum thought it would be useful to be able to buy a mobile unit to use, as and when surveillance was needed. Again, we need to know where hot spots are. On Youth Activity need to know which groups of people can engage in which types of sport etc. There had been a positive response to questionnaires, however 166 was not a very high number compared to the size of the population. Communication was always one of the biggest challenges we have. Any ideas about that would be welcomed. The Chair confirmed there were another 4 weeks for suggestions to come in before it goes to Cabinet.

The Area Co-ordinator confirmed that for the Community Initiatives Funding pot of money, Bidston/Claughton had received lots of bids in and spent money first time round. It may be useful to advertise more in other areas for groups to get involved. You Decide is a pilot scheme and hopefully we will receive money next year.

Q - Pat Landsborough asked whether there was a time limit for the roll forward regarding the carry-over of Community Initiatives Funds.

A – Councillor Foulkes referred to the forthcoming Area Forum Annual Conference and whether this point could be raised there. Suggestion could be made to carry the unallocated funding over or to share it between those Forums that were over subscribed.

Councillor Smith proposed a litter bin be sited at Hoylake Road shops. He also raised the issue of a letter and petition received requesting alley-gates between constituent's house and a neighbour's house and he would pass the letter on. The results of the YOU DECIDE campaign would be published in a press release and the Chair confirmed that they would also be announced at the next forum in February.

Q – How did the questionnaires go out, if there was such a poor response.

A – The main vehicle was the Council website, use local press and radio interviews and a free phone number was issued. The vast majority came back through the website. This was

very much a learning exercise and it was always a challenge to try and get past the front door of every house in the community. Suggestion made of putting questionnaires directly into the local press.

Councillor Davies referred to also making grants through Your Wirral and explained the background to this initiative which starts again in November and how this would be publicised through a variety of methods.

Q – I notice there is no youth representative here?

A – Youth Parliament/ Older People's Parliament have their own meetings/forums and are responsible for their own funds.

5 PARTNER ORGANISATIONS UPDATE

Unfortunately nobody here from PCT or NHS Foundation Trust and apologies had been given. John Webb offered to take back any questions. Joyce Jackson, the public governor for Wirral University Hospital Trust introduced herself as someone the community could contact. The Chair asked whether she would like to give a talk sometime.

Q – Query around the proposal to move from the Miriam Centre to a new build at the Aldi site, and rumour picking up is that it has fallen through.

A – Councillor Foulkes confirmed that Cavendish/Miriam would be separate practices but would share a building. He thought patients of practices had agreed. JW would get this clarified.

Police

Overall good progress to report. Crime had reduced, however assaults had increased, mainly domestic but also on police officers. There were a number of initiatives running throughout the year to try and reduce crime. There had been a high profile incident over the last couple of months, one involving fire arms in Trinity Street. They were actioning diversionary activities of youth around this weekend towards 5 November.

Wirral Community Safety Team

Team consists of Policy, Fire Service, Council, Youth Offending Service, Anti Social Behaviour Teams and was a mix of people working together towards crime and disorder reduction. They reported a drop by 32% burglary/car crime. They worked with partner agencies around the North West as well and Wirral was the best performing local authority. Recently involved in 'Not In My Neighbourhood' week to let public know what doing to reduce crime in the area. Had 500 referrals back from members of the public indicating priorities in the area they wanted to address in the community. This would be published fairly soon. Over last 3 years, owing to Fire Service and ourselves, reported the lowest number of firework incidents across Merseyside. The Anti Social Behaviour Team had run a 6 month programme of advice surgeries. They used the Respect bus and youth engagement was part of their activity, e.g. Operation Safe Space involving open spaces such as parks etc. All helped to reduce amount of anti social behaviour and gave young people something to do during the summer months.

Q - Councillor Smith had received a number of referrals raising concerns around a shop in Duke Street and had written to Paul Harrison about this.

A – We are aware of and looking into it, using as many different ways as possible. Councillor Smith raised the issue of the proposal for a new Police Station on the old Rivers Streets site. He wanted to put forward that this be called Dixie Dean House the Area Forum agreed to put forward the proposal.

Q – Pat Landsborough asked Ian how these positive reviews were being publicized.

A – Ian agreed could do more to spread the message and he would take that comment back. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service Ben Ryder, District Manager updated on activity since the previous forum. This was a busy period for the Fire Service and partners. We were addressing the issues at all levels throughout the organisation and working at a strategic level to stop illegal fireworks, and were probably the best region in the country for tackling this. We have to try and improve every year. In terms of fireworks sold, inspections had been carried out on premises to make sure fireworks are being sold in the right manner, in

conjunction with Police and other agencies. This involves daily briefings to share information on where incidents are occurring. Bidston is one area that needs resources putting in. Purposely don't advertise strategies as children are resourceful. Fire Service have a network of volunteers clearing bonfire materials. If there are materials you spot in your local community phone local fire stations and a Freephone number was given out. Last year, Wirral was the only district to have a reduction in bonfire and secondary fires and the anti social behaviour that it brings, and the service was working hard to do the same this year. Another thing we are proud of in the Wirral is that we will have been to every secondary school by 5.11.08 to target specific age groups. The Department of Children and Young People have invited us in and been of help to get message out.

Q – Councillor Davies – are you getting any financial assistance from partners?

A – not sure any funding, but partnership working going very well. Trying to work with housing associations etc to try and get premises, if not in use, secured properly. Ian confirmed Community Safety were working with Wirral Partnership Homes.

Q – I have noticed improvements and had letter box sealed.

A – We are able to do if resources available.

Q – Are you moving the rubbish in Brow Road?

A – If there is rubbish that you consider can be set on fire phone your local fire station and they will speak to their Arson Reduction Team and Anti Social Behaviour Team and try and get it cleared. The best people to tell us are yourselves, we do need your assistance.

6 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Q – Speed limits at Beryl Road – the signs are ignored. Have contacted Streetscene four times since August to complain about this. Councillor Foulkes asked whether, since installation, there had been any accidents?

A - Didn't think there had been any accidents but queried the number of speeding offences. Councillor Smith suggested the use of the Speed Activator Monitoring System (SAMI) as an alternative deterrent in Beryl Road, Streetscene to look into this. Attention was drawn to Noctorum Avenue where it was reported that it was almost impossible for pedestrians to cross the road from Windermere Road into the Supermarket and the stretch from Beryl Road to Ridgeway.

Minute Decision: Resolved that: Streetscene to look into use of the SAMI in Beryl Road.

7 NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked people for attending and St James' Centre for the use of the venue. The next Area Forum would take place on Thursday 12 February 2009 in the Claughton ward.

Section Two

Local Updates

Area forums provide an opportunity for people who live or work in Wirral to have a greater say on local issues and be more active in decision making and shaping local services.

They involve local ward councillors, police, NHS Wirral, University Teaching Hospital Trust, fire safety representatives etc along with community representatives and officers from various departments of the council.

Forums also provide information about current services, how they can be accessed and ultimately raise awareness of local council initiatives.

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team- September 2008 – January 2009

In addition to ongoing enforcement action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, specific activity has included:

Graffiti busting campaign given green light (September 2008)

A new anti-graffiti campaign was launched as part of Wirral's strategy to tackle anti-social behaviour and improve the environment and quality of life for local residents. This new approach saw a partnership between the Council's Streetscene service, Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Together Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder based in Tranmere; working closely with Wirral Youth Offending Service and Probation Services and supported by Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service. This wider service for the first time allows homeowners, tenants and small business to have general graffiti removed for free. The Council's tough stance on removing racist and other offensive graffiti within 24 hours remains. A key element of this new approach is a detailed strategy that focuses not only upon the prompt and effective removal of graffiti, but also gathering intelligence on the perpetrators and taking robust enforcement action, coupled with strengthening preventative work in schools targeting the peak age group for committing graffiti of 14-17 years old. Information campaigns and reward schemes will also feature as part of the new approach.

Anti-Social Behaviour Advice Surgeries

A six-month programme of advice surgeries for residents in the private sector suffering with anti-social behaviour concluded in October 2008. This saw the Anti-Social Behaviour Team's Respect Bus taken into communities and staffed with Enforcement Officers who took complaints directly from the public and provided comprehensive advice.

Community Mobile Police Station relocated to Birkenhead (October 2008)

The station, a 40 x 12 x 10 foot converted shipping container, was relocated to north Birkenhead to tackle anti-social and criminal behaviour. The specially made unit is equipped with a public enquiry desk and a wide range of literature for community safety, support groups and local activities and is a partnership between Wirral Council and Merseyside Police. The unit is managed by a Community Development Officer, who is based within Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, and whose role it is to co-ordinate multi-agency activity within the deployment area.

Parents 4 Parents support group launched (October 2008)

A new support group run by parents for parents with children engaged, or at risk of engaging, in anti-social behaviour, was launched with the support of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team. The group provides a friendly non-judgemental atmosphere for parents to share experiences and be given support; offering a ear to listen or a shoulder to cry on if needed. The group specifically offers a weekly drop-in service; speakers on relevant topics; signposting to services and one-to-one and group discussions. The group is run by four committed parents who have come together, with the support of Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's parenting service, to provide a route for parents who want help and support from other parents who understand the difficulties of dealing with difficult behaviour by children and young people. Parents 4 Parents can be accessed by contacting Bobbie Crawford (Parenting Co-ordinator) or Alison Sendall (Parenting Support & Intervention Worker) on 606 5773 or 606 5757.

'Sportsmobile' launched to tackle anti-social behaviour in hot spot areas (October 2008)

The Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Sports Development Unit launched an exciting new project aimed at preventing and tackling anti-social behaviour; the 'sportsmobile'. The vehicle is equipped with sporting equipment, staffed by Sports Development Workers, and deployed into hot-spot areas to divert young people from anti-social behaviour. A lighting rig on the roof allows for dark and poorly lit spaces to be floodlit. Seventeen young people, who were successful in winning a photograph competition run by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team at last year's Wirral Show, were adorned on the vehicle.

Wirral Family Intervention Project celebrated a year's successful operation (November 2008)

Launched in 2007, the Family Intervention Project (FIP) was created to work with the most problematic families engaged in anti-social behaviour, by both challenging unacceptable behaviour and providing and co-ordinating support and interventions to address the underlying causes of their behaviour. In the last year, more than 30 families have been referred and more than 80% of the families allocated to Project Workers have engaged with the service. Complaints of anti-social behaviour across the families has reduced by 71%. School attendance has also improved. The project has recently recruited for additional Project Workers due to the demand for the service. The FIP is delivered on behalf of the Council by registered charity Action for Children (formerly NCH). The project delivers support to families through outreach work in their homes and through dispersed tenancies.

Respect Watch Scheme for Bidston Rise (November 2008)

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, in partnership with Merseyside Police and landlord Wirral Partnership Homes, has designated the Bidston Rise area of Birkenhead as a Respect Watch Scheme area. The initiative is designed to protect residents who have already suffered at the hands of anti-social individuals and includes a Local Lettings Agreement with residents. The scheme will run for 12 months and covers over 400 properties within this area.

New powers to tackle anti-social behaviour (December 2008)

Community safety partners in Wirral received significant new powers to tackle anti-social behaviour. New Closure Order powers came into force nationally that enable a property where persistent disorder is reported to be closed temporarily. The powers work in a similar way to current 'Crack House' Closure Order powers that allow premises, where the misuse of Class A drugs is causing serious disorder to local residents, to be closed for a period of time. The new Closure Order powers for persistent nuisance or disorder allow for any premises to be closed for a three month period where there is significant and persistent disorder or persistent serious nuisance to a community. The powers, which are available to both police and local authorities, are tenure-neutral and therefore apply to any tenure, including owner-occupied properties. Premises can also include residential properties, common areas adjacent to properties, factories, shops, pubs and clubs, public buildings, community centres or halls and car parks. Properties closed can remain sealed for a further three months, up to a maximum of six months, but other interventions will be used alongside the power to resolve the problem in the longer-term.



Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey. We are committed to innovative and imaginative change in order to help make our communities safer and stronger. We are also committed to integrated working with other authorities, agencies and the voluntary sector to improve public safety and well being. We have an **Integrated Risk Management Plan** which is a local strategic plan that outlines the measures intended to be taken to continue the modernisation and improvement of services to the people of Merseyside. Past and current I.R.M.P can be viewed online at www.merseyfire.gov.uk or copies of the latest plan are available at local community fire stations across the district, public libraries and One-Stop shops.

There were a number of public consultation meetings held at fire stations across the district and we would like to thank all those that attended for their input. This input will be considered as part of the consultation process before a final draft is published. The subsequent document will inform you of any new responsibilities that the service and the authority must comply with and will also demonstrate how we intend to provide compliance and any effects that it will have on the Service, its partners and our community.

Community engagement remains the cornerstone of our proactive activities, in particular the delivery of the **Home Fire Safety Checks** and the provision of free smoke detectors where necessary. We continue to improve our effectiveness by utilising intelligence led targeting of **HFSCs**. Unfortunately there are still some vulnerable groups within the communities we serve which have proven difficult to access. To ensure all efforts are made to reach these targeted properties, MFRS has developed a collaborative strategy with partner agencies to access these groups throughout the coming year. The Service has set challenging performance targets and we are pleased to report that Wirral stations regularly achieve and exceed these targets. During the last quarter the Fire Service visited nearly **6,000** homes on Wirral to complete Home Fire Safety Checks.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has set a goal to become an environmentally regenerative service. We will carry out investigations to reduce our carbon footprint with the ultimate aim of becoming carbon positive. The aim of which is to leave the climate in better shape at the end of each year. This goal will take a sustained effort over a number of years and will require radical change in how we operate as a business, whilst we maintain our high levels of service, intervention and response to the people of Merseyside. The Fire Service are committed to working in partnership to achieve strategic objectives within the Local Area Agreement.

The Fire Service has been working with partners to develop facilities at Wallasey Fire station as part of an integrated healthier lifestyle project. Work is nearing completion on a new **Lifestyle Centre** which will incorporate a Wirral HeartBeat gym and new community meeting and welfare facilities. It is envisaged that this will be available for use early 2009.

Another such initiative, utilising forum funding, is the development of a **Beacon Programme** running out of Birkenhead Fire Station. This is run 1 day a week for 12 weeks and is designed for children aged 11-16yrs. This is a partnership project to engage young people at risk of exclusion from mainstream education and involvement in arson related crime. The course participants are given a learning experience outside the school environment to build their confidence and self-esteem. The course combines practical drill ground and scenario based training with classroom centred activities and workshops-including community fire safety.

In conjunction with Merseyside Police and other partners we are working towards reducing road traffic accidents across the district through the development of an educational training package, which is to be delivered to students by FS personnel.

Fire Support Network volunteers will also be utilised in the overall strategy to assist in reducing speeding and other contributory factors of road traffic collisions.

Fire Support Network is a non-profitable registered charity which works in partnership with the Fire Service on Merseyside to promote fire safety to the local communities through volunteers and partner organisations. Volunteer roles vary from working directly with the fire-fighters, leafleting and replacing batteries in smoke detectors to providing an after fire care service and fund raising. Anyone interested

in becoming a volunteer can register online at www.firesupportnet.org.uk or contact via telephone on 0151 296 4600. The **F.S.N** are currently developing campaigns targeted towards the older people in the community and working with other relevant agencies to publicise further the facilities available to older people and the need to maintain fire safety in the home.

We are currently working closely with Wirral PCT on the **Smoke Free Homes Campaign**, the aim of which is to encourage smokers to make a pledge not to expose their family and friends to second hand smoke in their homes and cars, this will also assist in the reduction of accidental fires in properties and vehicles due to smoking related material. This scheme is currently being rolled out across the district, half of which is now included with the other station areas to follow shortly.

Community Fire Stations

- **Birkenhead:** Exmouth Street. Birkenhead.CH41 4AX. 0151 296 5325
- **Bromborough:** Dock Road South. Bebington.CH62 4SQ 0151 296 5925
- **Heswall:** Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 OAF. 0151 296 5805
- **Upton:** Arrowe Park Road. Upton.CH49 OUF. 0151 296 5895
- **West Kirby:** The Concourse. West Kirby. CH48 4HX. 0151 296 5955
- **Wallasey:** Mill Lane. Wallasey. CH44 5UE. 0151 296 6180

For a FREE Home Fire Safety Check, including FREE smoke alarm installation if required please contact Fire Service Direct on FREEphone 0800 731 5958

Equality & Diversity Update

The Council's first staff diversity event took place on Thursday 6th November 2008 in the Civic Hall, Wallasey Town Hall, as part of National Diversity week.

The Deputy Mayor of Wirral, Councillor Andrew Hodson opened the event along with Jim Wilkie Deputy Chief Executive, Wirral Council.

We were fortunate to be visited by Carole Eniffer from the Home Office who made a special trip from London to be with us. She attended in support of the Hate Crime promotion campaign that is currently underway. Andy Pownall from Government Office North West (GONW) also attended the event.



The Equality Watch team are delighted to report that over 400 people visited the town hall throughout the course of the day. Over 50 volunteers helped by staffing stalls and over 20 artistes performed. The Equality Watch team would like to thank **EVERYONE** who took part and all those who took time out of their working day to visit the event. The layout of the civic hall embodied the six equality strands. Community groups and council sections shared tables to reflect this. Some services that are 'cross cutting' were also in attendance:

Sexual Orientation - Wirral LGB&T forum (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender) and Terrence Higgins Trust

Age- Age Concern, Connexions and POPIN (Promoting Older People's Independence Network)

Gender - Trans Wirral, Women's Enterprise Breakthrough and Men's Health Group

Disability - WIRED (Wirral Information Resource for Equality & Disability) Access Improvements (Corporate Services/Technical Services), WIRED also arranged for PSS, Advocacy in Wirral and Merseyside Society for Deaf People to be in attendance.

Religion or belief - Merseyside of Council Faiths

Race - BRM Partnership (Black & Racial Minority), Irish Community Care Wirral Change, Wirral Multicultural Organisation, BME Supporting People

Cross cutting services – Streetscene, Human Resources, Staff Diversity Forums, Pensions, Customer Services (including One Stop Shops and Call Centre) Unison, Hate Crime, Child Support Agency (CSA)

A huge variety of activities took place with a whole host of performances throughout the day including demonstrations of tai chi and yoga, chinese lion dance, bag piper, service users from several of our day centres performing 'sign-along', Bengali musician, multi cultural band, cultural food, Indian dancers and our very own Tony Excell as DJ and Brian Jones as master of ceremonies!!

Equality Watch Scheme Consultation

The Council's Equality Watch Team want your views on the draft 2009 – 2012 Action Plan. A public consultation process is now underway for people to have their say on Wirral Council's Equality Watch Scheme 2009 – 2012. The Equality Watch Scheme is the Council's equality and diversity action plan for the period April 2009 to March 2012, covering all six equality strands, also taking into consideration multi-forms of discrimination

The Equality Watch Scheme details the actions that will be taken across the whole Council to eliminate any discriminatory practices and to promote equality and recognise diversity within employment and service delivery. The scheme will also provide the framework for the Council achieving the different levels of the Equality Standard for Local Government.

The Equality Watch Scheme replaces the Council's Race, Disability and Gender Equality Schemes. However, this proposed scheme does take into account the Council's statutory equality duties under the Race Relations Act 1976, the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, and the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. The Equality Watch Scheme also gives appropriate regard to the forthcoming Single Equality Act relating to sexual orientation, age, religion or belief.

The Equality Watch Scheme will be co-ordinated by the Council's Corporate Equality and Diversity Co-ordinator, who will be supported by the Corporate Equality Watch Team and Departmental Equality Lead Officers. The Council will also work in partnership to actively promote involvement of external stakeholders, including voluntary and community sector projects and peers within other public sector organisations. An Equality Watch Review Group will be established made up of members from a variety of stakeholders.

The three year action plan is split into four sections and will be reviewed on an annual basis. More information can be found at www.wirral.gov.uk or contact the Equality Watch Team on **0151 691 8064** or email equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk

The deadline for comments is 27 February 2009

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL SERVICES

REVIEW OF ALLOCATION OF INTEGRATED TRANSPORT FUNDING TO AREA FORUMS

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is at the request of the Council's Cabinet, which met on 4th September 2008. It invites your Area Forum to give comment as to whether or not it wishes to receive de-centralised funding in 2009/10 of a proportion of the Local Transport Plan Capital Budget known as the Integrated Transport Block.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the Cabinet meeting held on 12th June 2008, a report was considered on the de-centralisation of Integrated Transport funding to Area Forums. Cabinet subsequently agreed to continue the allocation of funding to the two Forums for Heswall/Pensby/ Thingwall and Bromborough/Eastham for the current year 2008/09.
- 2.2 The success of this initiative piloted in 2007/08 in these two Area Forums, was also reported upon with the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Services welcoming the positive feedback.
- 2.3 Cabinet resolved (inter alia).
- the positive consultation feedback from the two pilot Forums and strong support for the continued de-centralisation of funding in future years be noted; and
 - officers be requested to consult the remaining nine Forums in the next cycle of meetings to determine if they wish to receive de-centralised funding for 2009/10 based on the success of this pilot initiative.

3.0 REPORT

- 3.1 For the Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall Forum, the improvements introduced in 2007/08 were as follows:
- a pedestrian refuge at Barnston Road near to its junction with Border Road.
- 3.2 For the Bromborough and Eastham Forum, the improvements introduced in 2007/08 were as follows:
- contribution to a Traffic Calming scheme at Winstanley Road, New Ferry;
 - direction signing at the junction of Bebington Road/Howell Road;
 - lowered kerb crossings at Tarvin Road, Kelsall Avenue and Delamere Avenue.
- 3.3 For the remainder of the Integrated Transport allocation apportioned between the remaining nine Forums, a variety of highway improvements were introduced focusing on improved pedestrian facilities and speed reduction measures as set out in the Walking and Cycling Capital Programme 2007/08 approved by Cabinet on 28th June 2007 (Minute 93 refers).
- 3.4 The total budget for the Integrated Transport block is £180,000. Apportioned across the eleven Area Forums this would equate to around £16,300 per Area Forum. This is the value of the budgets this financial year which both Heswall, Pensby and Thingwall and Bromborough and Eastham are allocating to schemes similar to those carried out in 2007/08. Officers will report verbally on these schemes at your meeting.
- 3.5 This funding and the rationale behind its use is not to be confused with the "You Decide" initiative. The Integrated Transport Block is a composite part of the Local Transport Plan Capital Fund and can only be used to bring about improvements to the movement of traffic and pedestrians and to assist in enhancing road safety.

- 3.6 The “You Decide” initiative however can be used as community-based funding to a current financial ceiling of £20,000 per Area Forum. This means that should each Area Forum choose to have their own individual share of £16,300 as previously mentioned, the “You Decide” monies could be added to the Integrated Transport Block allocation making a total allocation of £36,300. This level of funding would clearly enable schemes of a greater degree of complexity and cost to be introduced.
- 3.7 Where any identified traffic management engineering schemes cross Area Forum boundaries, neighbouring Forums could combine their funds together to facilitate an even larger scale scheme, for example 2 x £36,300 = £72,600, which would fund a large area speed reducing scheme or possibly a set of traffic signals.
- 3.8 In arriving at a decision on the way in which the Integrated Transport Block is distributed, it must be borne in mind that there is no guarantee of the “You Decide” initiative funding being available in subsequent years.

4.0 SUMMARY

- 4.1 During the last financial year and being similarly piloted this year, two of the eleven Area Forums decided that they would prefer to benefit locally by having part of the LTP Integrated Transport Block decentralised and put at their disposal for consideration of local schemes. This arrangement was reached based on a similar consultation exercise to this held in 2006.
- 4.2 It has been accepted by the Council that this initiative has proved popular and that officers now consult with the remaining nine Area Forums to determine if they wish to receive decentralised funding for 2009/10.
- 4.3 The sum of money is in the region of £16,300 per Area Forum and can typically be used to provide lowered kerb crossings, modest local signposting and road lining schemes. In some instances depending upon physical constraints it may be possible to provide for a central road island to help people cross the road and/or introduce pedestrian safety barriers.
- 4.4 Should you Area Forum decide that it wishes to go along with this approach, this will be reported back to the Cabinet.
- 4.5 The alternative to not decentralising the funding is for it to be administered centrally as now and for larger, more expensive schemes to be put in on a Borough-wide basis based on a priority assessment so some areas will benefit but others would not.
- 4.6 Those two Area Forums currently holding their own budget receive officer input to guide them in their decision making process and this would be made available if the initiative was expanded to cover all Area Forums.
- 4.7 Should Area Forums decide to have their own de-centralised share of Integrated Transport funding, there is no restriction of neighbouring Area Forums combining funding or providing match funding from “You Decide” or other sources.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The overall works, estimated to cost in the region of £180,000, will be financed from the 2009/10 Transport Capital Programme. The decision to be taken is whether or not each Area Forum wishes to have a one-eleventh share of around £16,300.

6.0 STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no additional financial or staffing implications arising directly from this report. Staff will assist in any decision-making process. Future maintenance costs will be met from the Highway Maintenance Revenue Budget.

7.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None directly from this report, however some schemes can have a positive effect on assisting disabled, visually impaired persons and persons with prams and pushchairs to cross the road.

8.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Introducing traffic calming features will ensure that vehicle speeds are moderated at all times.
- 8.2 Typical schemes in the programme are designed to support the Council's endorsement of the Local Transport Plan.

9.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None arising directly out of this report.

10.0 PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no specific planning implications arising directly from this report.

11.0 HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 There are no specific human rights implications arising directly from this report.

12.0 ANTI-POVERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 There are no specific anti-poverty implications arising directly from this report.

13.0 SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 There are no specific social inclusion implications arising directly from this report.

14.0 LOCAL MEMBER SUPPORT IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 This report has implications for all Wards.

15.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 15.1 No specific background papers have been used in preparation of this report other than Cabinet minutes.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Area Forum is requested to:

- (i) Note the type of traffic management schemes which can be funded through the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block allocation;
- (ii) Provide views as to whether or not it wishes to receive a decentralised one-eleventh share of the Local Transport Plan Integrated Transport Block Allocation equating to approximately £16,300 per Area Forum to carry out scheme(s) of a traffic management/road safety nature in the local area.

DAVID GREEN, DIRECTOR TECHNICAL SERVICES

Community Safety – report on crime

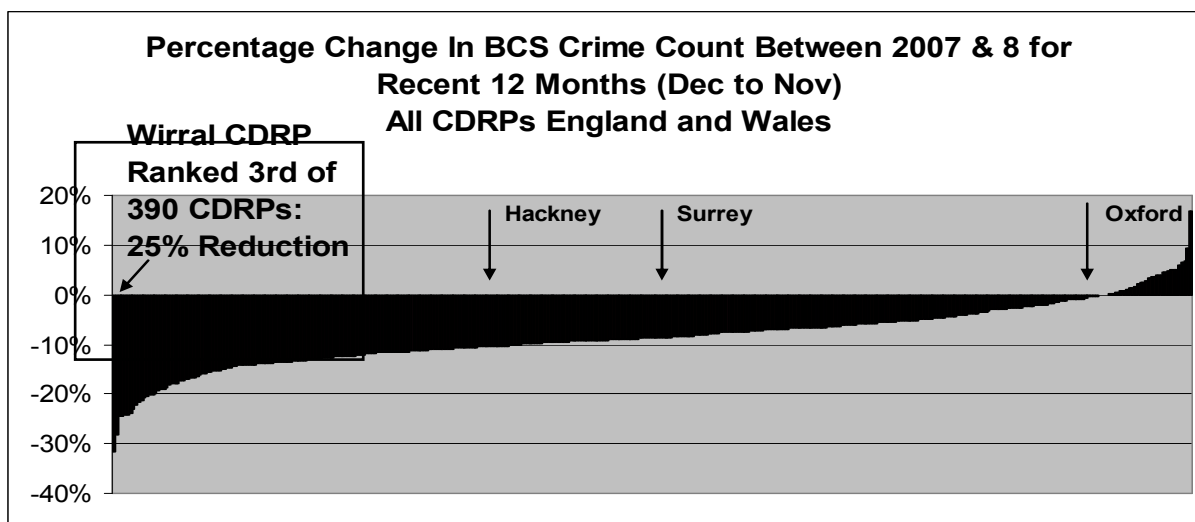
Assessment of Wirral Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

The Assessments of Policing and Community Safety (APACS) framework was introduced in April 2008 and applies to all police forces in England and Wales. It covers key services delivered by the police working on their own or in partnership, complementing (but not substituting) performance arrangements being developed by other partners. These are used to assess and monitor performance to the public and, critically, to help partners in England and Wales deliver and improve performance against national and local priorities.

Crime rates can change as a national trend due to environmental factors such as improved security. It has therefore been increasingly important to measure performance against other areas using the same criteria with data which is as recent as possible.

Local Area Agreements have been made between Wirral Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and Government Office. Local measures, as well as the '198 National Indicator' measures have been used to monitor and ensure improved performance. Overall performance is monitored by APACS measures

British Crime Survey Comparator Crime is a measure taken from a basket of crime categories. Although this is no longer a target, it is still monitored in Wirral as it reflects the trends measured nationally by the British Crime Survey. Government Office targeted reductions of 20% by March 2008 were met and surpassed.



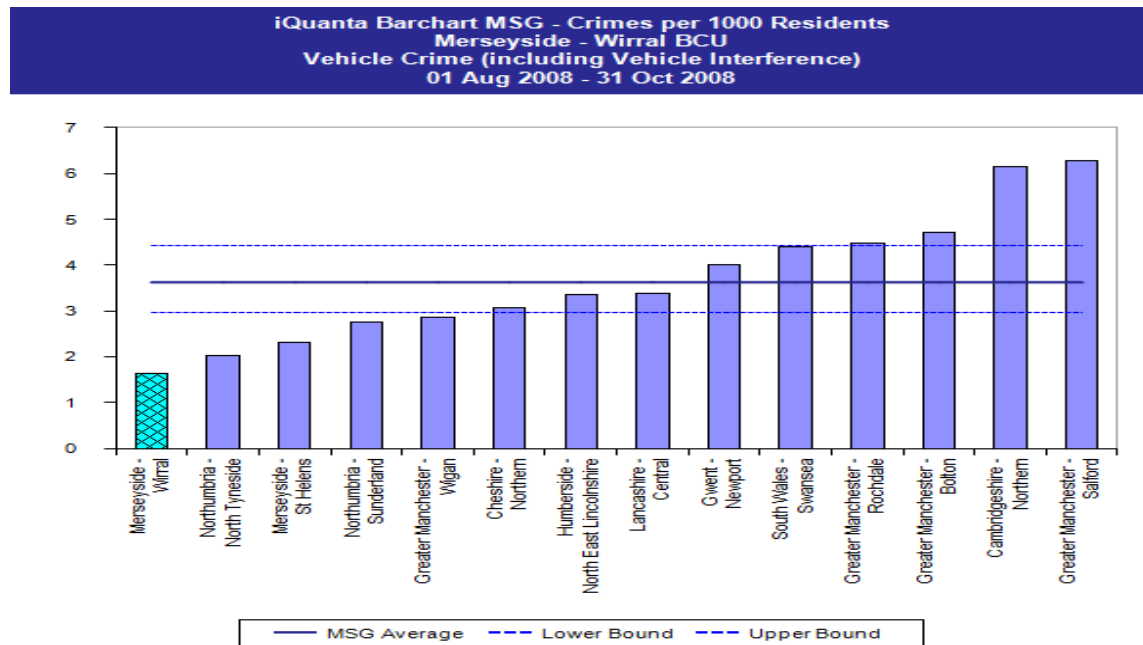
Theft of a Vehicle

Despite being a stretch target, performance has been sufficiently dramatic that the Partnership is confident the target of 941 car thefts in 2009/10 will be easily met.

Success in reducing the rate of car theft has meant that the forecast for 2008/9 is to be less than 600 crimes. This equates to a 75% drop in the annual number of thefts from vehicles in the three years since the target baseline.

Comparable statistics are not available for theft of a vehicle, but when measured together with **Theft From A Vehicle** and **Vehicle Interference** and compared to demographically similar areas:

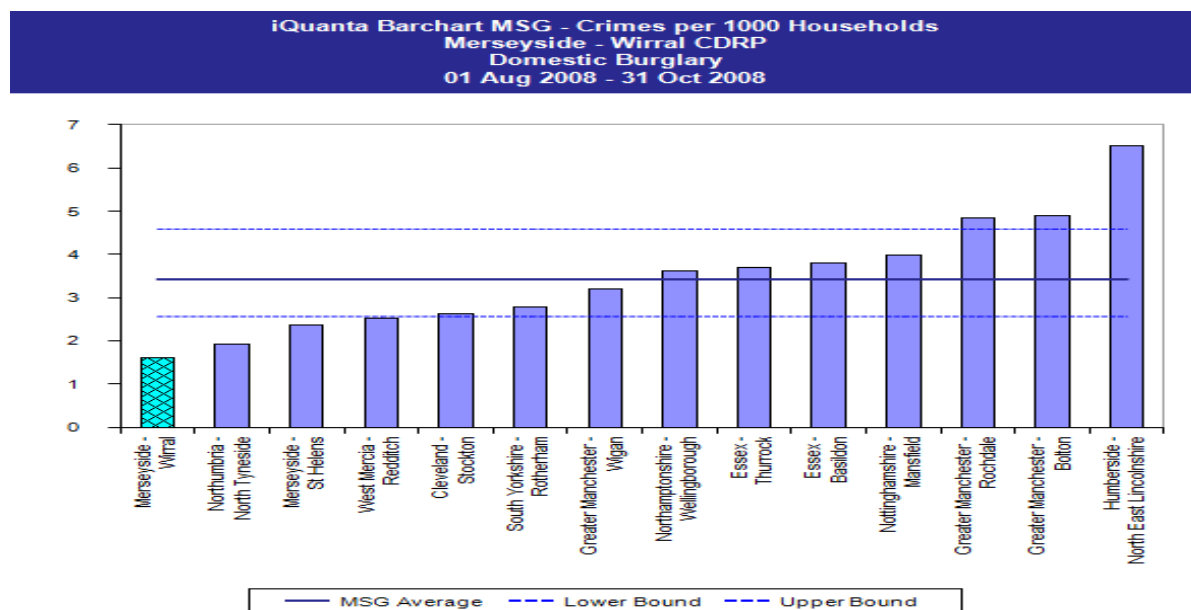
Wirral has the lowest vehicle crime rate per population in our most similar family;



Burglary This stretch target is for domestic burglary. Performance has been consistently beyond targets every year since they were set. The target for 2008/09 is 1500 burglaries whilst the year end projection is only 837. This means that the final target of 1205 burglaries in 2009/10 will also be achieved. This has meant the rate of burglaries for Wirral has been reduced 67% over four years from 2539 to 837.

Compared to demographically similar areas:

Wirral has the lowest domestic burglary rate per population in our most similar family;



Domestic Violence

There are two LAA Stretch targets for domestic violence. The first is to increase the number of crimes reported to the Police, and the second to reduce the number of victims reporting abuse who have previously reported in the past twelve months. These two targets are specifically aimed to promote reporting this 'hidden' crime and thus enable victims to access support more easily. The support is provided as a package by a wide range of agencies coordinated to reduce the likelihood of repeated victimisation. One of the difficulties in combating domestic violence has been the high incidence of under-reporting and hence the cycle of abuse being allowed to continue.

The LAA target is to increase the number of domestic violence victims reporting to the Police from 3325 in 2006/07 to 5522 that is projected to be achieved by 2008/09.

- This is a 66% increase in two years.

The LAA target to decrease the victims reporting to the Police who have reported in the previous 12 months is also forecast to be achieved by the end of 08/09. This achievement would mean repeat victimisation is reduced from 43% to 26%.

These two LAA targets have been met through the dedication of a wide range of agencies increasing their commitment and care for victims, focussed and coordinated through the MARAC process.

Wirral Youth Service

Provides opportunities, which are open to all Wirral young people. Youth work helps young people learn about themselves, others and society, through informal educational activities which combine fun, challenge and learning. The Service works with young people aged 13-19 years, and specifically targeted young people aged 20 until their 25th birthday who have additional needs and need support with transition into adult life/services. The Youth Service in Wirral works with many young people in a variety of different settings, these include:

- Youth clubs, Street work projects, "Kontaktabuses", "Wirral Youth Theatre" and Youth Arts, "Response" – Advice, support, advocacy and information service and Substance Misuse Service, International exchanges, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Outdoor activities, Projects in schools

The Service is flexible and able to respond to the needs of young people and offers opportunities that are both universal and targeted. Youth work on Wirral is delivered through joint working between the Local Authority, voluntary organisations and other agencies. Youth workers work with young people in many different localities in Wirral. Having a variety of youth clubs and street work projects allows youth workers to work with young people in their neighbourhoods, meet their specific needs and respond to issues that are important to them. Much of the work of the Youth Service takes place in one of sixteen open access youth clubs located across the Borough. Street work teams of youth workers make contact with young people who do not access the service elsewhere, build relationships with them and in negotiation with the young people, develop programmes which address their specific needs. This work is delivered on the streets, through project work and on mobile Kontaktabuses.

Response is a Borough wide Youth Service provision, providing counselling, support, advocacy and information for young people. Many of these young people have complex needs requiring intensive support from the service including homelessness, abuse, poor health and poverty.

The agency also has a team of specialist workers providing support to young people who have drug and alcohol problems. The team work with those individuals in a variety of settings including outreach street work and one to one work in their homes or wherever young people feel safe. The team also deliver educational programmes within schools and other youth settings on the risk, consequence and health implications of substance misuse. Partnership work plays an important role in targeting vulnerable, hard to reach groups of young people. Service level agreements and regular joint working ensures the needs of young people are met.

Each year the Youth Service runs a comprehensive programme of International Youth Exchanges. Young people from Wirral take part in a number of international opportunities including, Hong Kong and the Azores.

The Youth Service is the Licensed Operating Authority for the whole of Wirral. Awards can be gained through a variety of approved operating units and access organisations made up of a combination of youth centres, schools, an open award centre and a selection of voluntary groups. Young people in Wirral consistently gain over 450 awards per year at bronze, silver and gold levels.

The DofE is available to all young people aged between 14 and 25 with the emphasis being the development of young people's leisure time. By taking part in the DofE, participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award staff continue to work with a group of Looked After Children who after successfully achieving their Bronze Award are now working towards their Gold. This group recently successfully bid for Youth Opportunity Funding to enable them to visit the Czech Republic. This visit, which involved studying social and foster care in a former communist state, satisfied the requirements of their DofE Gold Residential.

A newly formed Bronze group is hoping to complete their expedition at the Oaklands centre in the forthcoming expedition season.

In our drive to make the DofE available to everyone and to diversify its delivery we are now helping several new units to run the Award. This includes Meadowside Special School and the Observatory School where we will adapt the Award for pupils with learning difficulties.

Wirral Youth Theatre operates across the Borough to enable young people to access a wide range of performing arts related activities. Art forms such as drama, dance, music, technical theatre and new media are used to help young people to develop personally and socially as well as developing theatre and media related skills. A peer education company within the Wirral Youth Theatre have performed in parks and youth clubs a play about risk taking behaviour this is now going into schools.

The North End Young People's Project undertakes street work in the North End of Birkenhead, in Birkenhead Park and in the Exmouth area. The Kontakta Bus is also used in some locations. The young people participate in a wide range of activities that aid their personal development as well as making a positive contribution to the community.

The Fender Youth Action Project works with young people from Beechwood and Ballantyne Estates. The young people have enjoyed participating in creative and cultural activities as well as developing a Youth Opportunity Funded health promoting project.

The Cavendish Youth Centre is open on Monday and Wednesday 7.00 pm – 10.00pm. The newly refurbished club is proving very popular with young people; there are now separate areas for specific activities including a chill area, a computer room and a fitness room. The D.J.ing and M.C.ing continues in popularity with the young people, this activity is currently very popular and likely to remain so for some time. The Christmas activities were well attended. The New Year is following a health theme with healthy eating and exercise as a major part of the Youth Offer

Wirral University Teaching Hospital 
NHS Foundation Trust

The Trust is pleased to be able to participate in the Local Area Forums and welcomes the opportunity to brief Wirral residents and our partner organisations on topical issues. Representing the Trust will be an Executive Director or Senior Manager and the elected Public Governor for the host constituency.

- **Controlling Infection.....**

- Our Elective Surgical Unit at Clatterbridge remains MRSA bloodstream infection free – this Unit can undertake most planned surgical procedures including joint replacements.
- Our Women's Services Unit at Arrowe Park is also MRSA bloodstream infection free
- Reducing the incidence of MRSA and Clostridium difficile is a very high priority for the Trust and staff continue to implement a comprehensive action plan to achieve this including a new 8 bed isolation unit for medical patients diagnosed with C.diff.
- For the three months July – September 2008 the number of Clostridium difficile cases reported at the Trust reduced by 37% - from 124 cases to 78.
- Our recently launched publicity campaign - 'Working Together to Keep It Clean' - aims to raise the Infection Control profile even higher at the Trust and to raise awareness amongst staff, patients and visitors of how important it is to 'Keep it Clean'
- In partnership with local GPs, our staff are working towards a more prudent use of broad-spectrum antibiotics that, if over-used, can make C.difficile infection more likely to develop.

- **Improving Our Standards.....**

- The Trust was awarded the accolade of 'Best Hospital*' in the Dr Foster Good Hospital Guide 2008 which compares services and treatment outcomes at all hospitals across the country.
- For the second year running we have been named as one of the country's Top 40 performing hospitals by an independent benchmarking company that compares our performance in 20 key areas – including infection rates, mortality rates and waiting times – against other, similar hospitals.
- In the 2007/08 Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored 'excellent' for our use of resources and 'good' for the quality of our services

- Our Women's Services achieved a 'hat-trick of excellence' when they were awarded CNST Level 3 accreditation. Of the 156 Maternity Units in the country, only 17 others have achieved Level 3 and our Unit is the only one to have achieved 100% in every standard at every level.

Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts (CNST) Level 3 is evidence that our maternity services are extremely safe, well-managed and overall 'first-class'. This follows the Unit's score of 'best performing' in the Healthcare Commission's Maternity Services Review and being named 'best in the region' in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be at the end of 2007

- An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2008 -

	<i>Environment</i>	<i>Food</i>	<i>Privacy & Dignity</i>
<i>Arrowe Park</i>	Excellent	Good	Good
<i>Clatterbridge</i>	Excellent	Good	Excellent

Providing New Services.....

- The Trust has just announced a major capital investment in services for Women and Children at Arrowe Park Hospital. Due to commence in May this year, the £10million scheme will create a 'centre of excellence' by bringing together under one roof, all acute hospital services for women and children. More information on this exciting development will appear in a special supplement to appear with the 'Wirral News' newspapers in w/c 9th February
- A state of the art ward (Ward 14) to treat patients diagnosed with urological conditions has recently opened at Arrowe Park Hospital after a £1.4million up-grade.
- The Trust is a designated Urology Cancer Centre for Wirral, Chester and Northern Cheshire patients requiring major cancer surgery
- We were the first NHS organisation in Merseyside and Cheshire to offer a new laser technique – the *greenlight laser* – that is transforming the treatment of prostate conditions for men
- A brand new, multi-million £ Dialysis Unit has opened at Clatterbridge Hospital to treat patients with renal (kidney) conditions.
- We now provide Sexual Health services in the community – closer to where people live and work
- **Easy to Use Website.....**
 - Our new-look, easy access website can provide lots of useful information for patients, the public, staff and GPs about the Trust and its services go to www.whnt.nhs.uk
 - The website is speech enabled for browsers with sight related problems
 - The new, easy click, 'email a patient' facility continues to be a popular feature
- **Come and Join Us!**
 - As a Foundation Trust we are keen to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have more than 7,000 Public Members and are keen to recruit more. Public Members can get involved as much or as little as they like – from just receiving 'Public Membership News', our regular newsletter, to participating in surveys or standing for election as a Public Governor. To join, simply complete and return the Form or join on-line @ www.whnt.nhs.uk
- **For more information.....**
 - The Trust has published its Annual Report and Accounts for 2007/08. This can be accessed via our website www.whnt.nhs.uk or a copy can be obtained from the Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 0121 356
- Best large acute trust outside London – awarded jointly with Darlington and County Durham NHS Foundation Trust.