

Wirral's Area Forums



West Wirral Area Forum

Melrose Hall
Melrose Avenue
Hoylelake
CH47 3BU

Papers for the forum meeting
Wednesday 14th October 2009

7.00pm

Tracey Smith Senior Community Engagement Co-ordinator

Tel: 0151 691 8026 Fax: 0151 691 8159

Textphone: 18001 0151 691 8391

Email: traceysmith@wirral.gov.uk

Website: www.wirral.gov.uk

Community Engagement Team, Corporate Services, Town Hall, Brighton Street,

Contents

Section One **Agenda** **Page 4**

Minutes from last Meeting **Page 5**

Section Two **Local Updates**

- Equalities & Diversity **Page 15**

- Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service **Page 18**

- Streetscene **Page 21**

- Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust **Page 26**

- Wirral Youth Service **Page 28**

- Wirral NHS **Page 30**

- Community Safety **Page 32**

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

AGENDA

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
2. Area co-ordinators Report
 - Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
3. Area Plans
4. Community Centres Update
5. Regeneration Update
6. Streetscene Update
7. Public Question time
8. Partner information
 - NHS Wirral
 - Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
 - Merseyside Police/Community Safety.
 - Fire Service
 - Older People's parliament
9. Dates of Future meetings - **Wednesday 24th**
February 2010

Section One

Minutes

Minutes – Area Forum (West Wirral) 17 June 2009

Present

Councillor	Gerry Ellis (Chair)
Councillors	Jeff Green, John Hale, Geoff Watt
Community Representatives	Gary Evans, Cynthia Radford.
Business Representative	
Lead Officer	David Green, (Director of Technical Services)
Area Service Co-ordinator	Tracey Smith
Wirral University NHS Trust.	Lynn Benstead
NHS Wirral	Cathy Doran, Chief Executive
Merseyside Police	Inspector Paul Vickers
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	John Davies
Council Officers	Caroline Laing, Manager, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Jim Lester, Head of Cultural Services, Roger Calvert, Head of Parks and Open Spaces, and Mark Traynor, Area Street Scene Manager
Apologies	Councillor D Elderton.

1 Welcome, introductions and apologies

The Chair, Councillor Gerry Ellis, opened the meeting and welcomed approximately 70 members of the public to the meeting in West Kirby. He invited members of the forum to introduce themselves.

2 - Area Co-ordinator's report – Minutes of last meeting and matters arising.

The Area Co-ordinator presented her report containing the minutes of the meeting on 16 February 2009, and local updates on Community Safety Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service, Equality and Diversity, Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Wirral Primary Care Trust, Wired, Youth, Transport and Wirral's Older People's Parliament.

Gary Evans pointed out that during the discussion on the proposed hotel and the Sail, people had made reference to 'the sailing club'. The minutes should be amended to made it clear that at all times people are referring to the 'sailing school'.

The Area Co-ordinator gave a brief update on '**You Decide**'. In 2008, people filled in the 'You Decide' survey to say on which services they wanted to spend the grant of £20,000 awarded to the area forum for additional services. The people in this area had chosen to spend the funding on additional litter bins and sports facilities for young people. The Area Co-ordinator introduced Joanne Harland, who has been appointed Community sports development worker to develop sporting activities in the community. Four additional litter bins will be placed in West Kirby.

A further £20,000 is available in 2009. Members of the community are invited to take part in the **You Decide Survey 2009**, by indicating which five of the Council services listed they would most like the £20,000 to be spent on.

In addition, there is an additional sum of £18,200 for each area forum to spend on Council highway and road safety schemes. Members of the community are invited to indicate which three services listed on page 4 of the **You Decide** survey they would like the allocation to be spent on this year. The **You Decide** survey is available on line on the Council's website.

In response to a query, Caroline Laing explained that the Respect Bus referred to on page 2 of the You Decide survey is a resource which is used by the Anti-Social Behaviour team. The bus is taken into the community and used by the Police and youth workers to work with young people. The service offered in You Decide is in relation to Enforcement Officers using the bus in areas of anti-social behaviour.

The closing date for the receipt of completed **You Decide** surveys is 28 August 2009. Members of the area forum will then meet to assess the responses and draw up a priority list, based on the feedback received.

The questions under About You on pages 5/6 of the survey are to ensure that the questionnaire has reached all sections of Wirral's communities, that they have the opportunity to become involved in the decision making process and can access council services. Completion of this section is not compulsory, but it does help with quality and diversity and compliance with the Council's quality mark. The Area Co-ordinator gave an assurance that the information given in this section will be treated in total confidence.

Resolved: That –

- i the minutes of the February meeting of the Area Forum be confirmed;**
- ii the Area Co-ordinator be thanked for her report.**

3. 7 WAVES RADIO

The Chair welcomed John Martin, Community Development Officer for 7 Waves Community Radio.

7 Waves Community Radio is a state of the art media centre housed in a new building opened in July 2008 in Twickenham Drive, Leasowe, on the site of the old community centre.

7 Waves is a registered charity funded by European funding and is a partnership between Arena Housing, Wirral Council and the Leasowe Youth and Community Association. Any profits made are invested in the community. The station has been awarded a 5-year licence by Ofcom and broadcasts live 24 hours a day/7 days a week on 92.1.FM. The target audience is the whole Wirral population. Daytime programming is focused on the 25-55 age groups, and offers a mix of essential local information, local news and music. Specialist evening shows give added value to the offer.

7 Waves non-music features include global, international and local news, traffic and travel, weather, faith interviews, local sports events and interviews, community events, topical debate, health concerns and awareness, business interviews, job and training vacancies, leisure news, school news and events.

The new media-training centre has two radio training suites, two broadcasting suites, a news suite and a live room for use by local bands and artistes.

7 Waves radio runs 12-week radio production courses using industry standard equipment, that enables students to learn all aspects of the radio industry, including editing, writing radio commercials, voice-overs, interviewing, making jingles and presentation skills. Students are given the opportunity to broadcast on air at the end of the course.

RESOLVED: That John Martin be thanked for a most interesting presentation.

4. COMMUNITY HALLS AND LIBRARIES UPDATE

The Chair invited Jim Lester, Head of Cultural Services, to update the meeting on the Strategy Asset Review.

Jim Lester reported that a public inquiry on the libraries conducted by Sue Charteris at the Floral Pavilion has just been concluded. The report is expected by the end of July when the Council will consider what further action, if any, they will take. The Council had suspended the closures when the public inquiry was announced and the libraries will remain open pending the outcome of the inquiry.

Councillor Hale reported that he had attended the public inquiry on the Tuesday and Wednesday and had given evidence in favour of keeping the libraries open. He had been impressed with every speaker from every community from Wirral who spoke at that inquiry. An amazing case had been put forward to keep the libraries open particularly on the Wednesday morning when people had been questioned most closely. Their responses had been outstanding.

Councillor Green reported that he had also attended the inquiry, and he agreed with Councillor Hale's comments about the input by a range of people who were in favour of retaining the libraries. Councillor Green had asked whether an Equality and Impact Assessment had been carried out prior to the closure, and what the current status of that is. Sue Charteris had asked the same question, but it appeared that a full Equality and Impact Assessment has not been undertaken for any of the centres.

Jim Lester continued that the process of looking at transferring the community halls and community centres has started as outlined in the SAR. Discussions have been held with centre management committees locally and a joint meeting has been held with three community centres. The commissioning of structural surveys on the building has begun and the process will continue, on a two-year timescale.

Councillor Hale reported on discussions at the joint meeting about the repairs needed to the buildings, and concerns about whether the surveys will be extensive enough to cover all the problems identified so that the management committees know exactly what they are taking on.

Jim Lester explained that Social Funding is a Community Fund which is topped up annually and has about £2.5 to £3 million this year. An undertaking has been given to try and transfer assets in a good condition. The intention is to do full surveys, to find out any issues within the buildings and put them right. The Council does not want to transfer assets and then see the community fail. To help avoid this, the communities will be helped with business planning etc. It is a complex operation, but there are already three pilots that are quite advanced in other areas. The intention is that all buildings will be put in good order and there is money in the community fund to do that.

A member of the public asked the questions: *'How much money will the Council save by selling off the halls, and where will that money go?'* *'How much money will the Council Tax payer save?'*

Jim Lester replied that on the Community side, the target is £150, 000, but the Authority has a reducing budget and it has to reduce this budget each year.

Councillor Green asked the question: *'If we don't have community centres, what do we pay our Council Tax for?'* He added that there is an issue about the way local government is being targeted. The National Audit Office is there to come up with a series of priorities and point all the resources of the Council towards those priorities. The issue is about the whole approach. There is a need for new localism in which people have a much greater say in what services will be provided, instead of being given instructions by the Government and the Council on what those services should be

The Chair commented that it would be impossible for Westbourne Hall to survive on its own. The management committees for Hoylake Community and for Greasby Community Centre have been talking about a proposal to get together and run the three Centres as a joint business venture.

The Chair invited Mr Vaughan Williams, Chairman of the Hoylake Community Centre, to describe the talks.

Mr Williams stated that although some movement has been made towards the withdrawal of funding in 2011, only 18 months of the two-year programme remain, and very little has happened so far. At a meeting at the Hoylake Centre, David Ball had made it clear that things would happen at a greater rate of progress in future.

There had been talk about a condition survey of the buildings. No one will take on something they are not sure about, because the money will not be there. The survey turned out to be a walk about by people, who said OK. The roof, heating, drains etc., had not been part of the survey. The inspector had conceded that these will be checked, but to what extent had not been explained.

The reason for getting together is for each centre to give support to each other. There is a strong desire for Westbourne Hall, Greasby and Hoylake centres to survive, but to do this you need a strong joint management committee, and this is very difficult to achieve. People are working and they have limited time to give. One solution would be to employ a manager centrally who would deal with the lettings for the three centres, and to procure someone who would do a single accountancy job.

By doing this it should be possible to preserve this great hall and run the other two centres. Mr Williams added that he was reasonably confident that it would be possible to move forward in that way. He was concerned about the speed of progress with the Local Authority, and the only reassurance that had been given had been that money is available in a dowry to put the buildings in good order. He would like to say with some confidence that all the centres will survive, but there are serious doubts about some of the smaller ones. For the three centres to survive with a joint management committee, they will have to become a really serious commercial organisation.

Mr Williams continued that Hoylake Community Centre is celebrating its centenary with a week-long series of events from 22 to 28 June. There will be a free exhibition of the 100 years of the Parade School building and old Hoylake. This will give an opportunity for people to see how their ancestors lived and a visit to the refurbished Victorian/-Edward classroom will show how they went to school. A visit is expected from Heather Chapman, a local historian.

A member of the public explained that she has been researching the history of the Parade School using records that were left behind when the school closed. Members of the community have come forward with information and photographs, and that is what next week is all about – sharing what has been learned and celebrating 100 years in the old school.

In summarising the discussion, the Chair stated that local Councillors are totally opposed to the closure of the libraries and a report on the inquiry is awaited. On the matter of the halls, people are trying to do their best to make sure the halls do survive, and local councillors will support people in this in every way possible.

5. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chair explained that, in his absence, Howard Mortimer has submitted a Position Statement on Hoylake & West Kirby Regeneration. He drew attention to the section of the report that referred to The Sail and the hotel, and the resolution of Wirral Council's Cabinet on 23 April, that -

Officers be instructed to undertake further discussions with Carpenter Investments and the Council's appointed independent financial consultants with a further report to be submitted to Cabinet in the next 6 months to enable it to take a final view on the future of the project.'

Councillor Hale reported that between the last meeting of this area forum and the Cabinet meeting on 23 April, a new factor had been introduced which was intended to make up for the loss of the car park. The plateau would become the new car parking area, managed by Carpenters. This would mean that people towing trailers and with boats would have to manoeuvre between the car spaces.

A member of the public asked why a new hotel was needed in West Kirby at all, given that the number of hotels that have closed in West Kirby.

The Chair replied that local councillors had been asking the question for three years. The Cabinet members are aware that councillors and the public are totally opposed to the proposal. It will be interesting to see what is decided in six months' time, and it will be timely to re-open the discussion at the next area forum meeting.

David Green was pleased to report that work on the repairs to the wall is due to finish towards the end of July. Work started in the winter but stopped due to the financial

collapse of the original contractor. Another contractor was appointed and this caused a few weeks' delay. The work, which cost around £1.5 million, has been funded from a grant from the Environmental Agency.

The contractor will be asked to remove the debris and metal objects which have been dumped in the lake over the years, before the lake is refilled and brought back into use.

The Dee Lane project is still on the drawing board and efforts are continuing to secure funding for it to go ahead. The development of Dee Lane is not dependent on the Concourse or the Sail projects.

A member of the public proposed that –

A vote of thanks be passed to David Green for his actions in ensuring that another contractor was appointed without delay following the collapse of the first one, and that this prompt action has meant that minimum delay has been caused in completing the work on the wall.

Following a petition from traders, a decision has been made to postpone plans to pilot test the pedestrianisation of The Crescent for the time being.

John Davies responded to a query concerning access to The Crescent by emergency vehicles. He reassured people that, notwithstanding carelessly parked vehicles, emergency crews are able to access all the properties in the Crescent by approaching from one end or the other.

A member of the public commented on the poof facilities for patients and doctors. Cathy Doran replied that she totally agreed with the sentiments expressed. She has been personally working with the GPs in the West Kirby Health Centre since 1998 to re-provide the Centre. There is nowhere in West Kirby that are available for redevelopment, therefore the Trust is committed to working with the redevelopment of the Concourse. The funding has been in place for a long time, but the redevelopment of the Health Centre cannot go ahead until the rest of the Concourse redevelopment is ready.

Cathy Doran dispelled rumours that the Oncology Centre at Clatterbridge Hospital is to close and the facility transferred to other hospitals in the North West.

She explained that the Clatterbridge Centre of Oncology is a separate entity to the NHS Trust for Clatterbridge and Arrowe Park Hospitals. The Clatterbridge Centre is a regional centre for Oncology Services. There are three main types of treatment for cancer – surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. The Centre at Clatterbridge offers radiotherapy and chemotherapy, but it does not provide surgery for cancer. The surgery for Cheshire and Merseyside is provided regionally in most big hospitals.

The Trust is trying to ensure that people can access services as near as possible to where they live. People from Wirral, Merseyside, Cheshire and the Isle of Man have to travel to Clatterbridge for radiotherapy. The Trust is currently looking at other sites for people to go to for radiotherapy, which are nearer to where they live.

Another report had been produced which concluded that the Clatterbridge site might not be the best place for the small number of patients who need to be admitted to an inpatient bed, and that beds should be provided more centrally. It will take about 18 months to analyse the report and to consult on any proposal for change.

One in every three people will suffer from cancer in their lifetime. Statistically, for every 1,000 people, there are 80 more deaths from cancer of people who live in Wirral than in the average district in England. In Liverpool there are 350 more deaths. The number of people with cancer is increasing all the time, and this trend is expected to continue over the next ten years. The aim of the Trust is to provide services that are excellent for the people of Cheshire and Merseyside, but are nearer to where people live. The guidelines say that no one should travel for more than 45 minutes to access a service.

Councillor Green added that the Hospital Trust has just been recognised as the joint best large acute trust outside London. As a Governor of the hospital he is aware of the need for as many people to become Public Members.

6. QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE

Q [Brigitta Muller]: Are there plans for a new Youth Hub in West Kirby, and if so, are there any plans for extra policing, given there will be more young people coming to West Kirby?

A [David Green]: Youth provision was looked at the time the Council was setting its budget. The Director of Children's and Young People's Services has confirmed that although consideration had been given to closing a number of youth clubs and creating a Hub in West Kirby, the proposal is not being proceeded with.

Q [Margaret Campbell]: Several people have asked me to raise questions about allotments at previous meetings of the area forum, but for various reasons this has not been done. Please ask the following questions next week, even though there may not be enough time to allow an individual response from Councillors.

1, In 2007, Wirral Council received four petitions asking that they fulfil their statutory duty to provide sufficient allotments.

2. Can Councillors please tell me how many people are now awaiting for an allotment in West Kirby, and how many new plots have been created since 2007?

In responding to the question 2, Roger Calvert stated that there are 97 residents on the waiting list in the CH48 postcode area. There are three allotment sites in West Kirby with a total of 62 plots. There are 135 people on the waiting list for an allotment. No new plots have been created in West Kirby or in any other area of Wirral. A number of allotments are neglected and in poor condition, and this aspect will be included in the report that will be going to the Committee in the Autumn.

On the issue of petitions, Councillor Green explained that the role of the Council's Scrutiny Committee is to challenge the Executive and ask them to account for the decisions they make. The Council has a duty to respond to every petition it receives. The whole idea would be that when a report goes to the Scrutiny Committee that the meeting is publicised so that everyone has the opportunity to go along and challenge the Council on why they are not doing more to respond on a whole range of things. He proposed that Jim Lester takes the issue away, and he would take it away and speak to his party's spokesperson on that committee. It should not be just a report, it should be an opportunity for people involved in campaigns to have their say and bring anomalies to the attention of the right people, and to hold them to account for resolving them.

David Green raised the issue of allotment holders taking waste to the Waste Reception Centre in West Kirby. The site is run by the Waste Disposal Authority, not

Wirral Council, and is a facility that is provided for use exclusively by residents to dispose of household waste; not by businesses and individuals to dump commercial waste. Chris Pearce, who uses his trailer to collect waste for other allotment holders, has been banned from using the site.

David Green undertook to speak to the Waste Disposal Authority and try to persuade them to relax the rules and allow Chris to continue to use the facility.

Q [John Hutchinson] Since having to take to the roads in my electric mobility scooter, I have noticed the bumpy nature of West Kirby's pavements. Since my condition is especially sensitive to vibration, I am asking if greater attention can be given to the smoothness of the West Kirby pavements? Also, as there are not enough dropped kerbs for safe and secure navigation by wheelchair users, can more be done?

A [Mark Traynor]: Wirral has a duty to maintain its road and footways in a safe condition. Whenever we reconstruct a road, we keep disabled persons and wheelchair users in mind and we now use bituminous materials, which give a smoother ride quality.

If Mr Hutchinson has any specific locations he would like to bring to my attention, I will happily meet with him on site to discuss the issues.

A dropped kerb user programme has been developed and undertaken in consultation with Wirral Information Resources for Equality and Disability [WIRED]. Locations identified for treatment are those with high pedestrian movement, links between residential areas and services such as shopping centres, health centres, libraries etc. The opportunity is also taken to introduce dropped kerbs within the footway reconstruction programme and the planning application process.

Q [Rosemary Chandler, Secretary, Hoylake Allotments Association]: In its allotment strategy, Wirral Council claims that it is committed to increase the allotment provision in Wirral. If this is the case, why is the unused land in Sandringham Avenue not being used for allotments?

Roger Calvert explained that the issue of allotment sites has been considered by the Council on a number of occasions. A report will be presented later this year looking at the issue and whether there is a possibility of additional land etc. He is currently working with Rosemary Chandler, who has made a request for a self-managed site. He is working to try and assist Rose with that, but it is not straightforward. The area of land is part of a playing field, which as a publicly owned space requires planning permission and permission for change of use. There are a few things to progress, but he is working to see if approval can be given. Funding will still be an issue. One of the Development Officers will be discussing the issue with Rose.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the Chair suggested that the discussion is continued outside the meeting.

7. PARTNER INFORMATION

The Chair drew attention to the written reports included in the Area Co-ordinator's Report from Streetscene, NHS Wirral, Wirral University NHS Trust, Merseyside Police/Community Safety, the Fire Service, and the Older peoples parliament.

The Older People's Parliament would like everyone over the age of 50 to become Associates so that as many people as possible are working towards the facilities and

services for older people in Wirral. Application forms and further information was available at the meeting.

Lyn Benstead read out a Press Statement regarding Swine Flu issued by the Health Protection Agency. The Health Protection Agency had reported that a spokesman for Arrowe Park Hospital had stated:

'We can confirm that a man from Wirral with confirmed H1N1v [swine flu] infection was initially given a negative test result in error. This was an administrative mistake for which we apologise. He was given the correct test result the following day, Monday June 15. The decision to allow him to return to work yesterday was made on clinical grounds because he had recovered from the illness and is not infectious. He does not pose a risk to people who work with him and the decision to allow him to return to work was correct.'

David Green advised that, from 1 April 2009, a new partner has delivered many services provided by Streetscene. Roads in Wirral continue to be safe places to drive on and the Council's performance in reducing accidents on the road has improved.

Waste recycling facilities have been rolled out to most multi-occupancy dwellings. Consideration is being given to facilities for recycling food waste in the future.

Land has been secured for the Thurstaston cross road scheme to go ahead. The contract is out to tender with a start on site in the spring 2010.

8. *DATE OF NEXT MEETING:14 OCTOBER 2009 at a venue to be confirmed.*

The Chair thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

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.

Equality and Diversity

Maxine Joynson – Equality and Diversity Officer

Diversity Day to be held at Wallasey Town Hall!

Diversity Day – Wednesday 4 November 2009, 2pm – 9pm,

We are delighted that our second diversity day will take place on **Wednesday 4th November at Wallasey Town Hall.**

This year the event will run from 2pm – 9pm and will be open to members of the public and our partners.

There will lots of activities taking place throughout the course of the day including:

- Samples of cultural food
- Various entertainment such as Lion dancers, signalong, Wirral Youth Theatre, tai chi, South Wirral High African Choir, Respect bus to name but a few!
- Talks from community groups and our partners
- Opportunity to visit stall holders
- Competition to win high street vouchers
- Debate in Council Chamber hosted by Executive Youth Parliament
- Much, much more!

Special thanks are extended to members of Wirral Equalities Forum - who are not only participating in the event, but have also very kindly supported the event financially.

If you would like to get involved in the event or offer support to help on the day, please contact Maxine Joynson on 691 8266 or email maxinejoynson@wirral.gov.uk

Look out in the next report for feedback from the event!!

Council to launch new Gender Identity Policy

As part of the Council's ongoing commitment to promoting equality and diversity and ensuring that our services and employment opportunities are accessible to all members of the community, the Council will launch its new Gender Identity Policy on 8th September, 2009 at Wallasey Town Hall and has pledged to:

- treat transgender people with respect and dignity
- support and consult with transgender employees and the wider transgender community
- strive to ensure that our policies meet the needs of the transgender community
- identify and remove any barriers that may exist for transgender people who wish to access employment and/or services

The policy will support transgender people i.e. those whose gender identity does not match their appearance and/or anatomy and who decide to adopt the opposite gender to the one they were born with or assigned at birth.

Many thanks go to the Corporate Equality and Diversity Team, the Council's Employee Diversity Forums and TransWirral who all worked with Corporate Human Resources to produce the policy.

If you would like further information please contact Jan Evans on 691 8430 or Andrea Morrell-Foulkes on 691 8584.

Positive Action vs. Positive Discrimination

Positive Action

Actions taken to attract applications and interest from under-represented groups.

Examples of positive action include:

- Designing job adverts to reach members of under-represented groups and encourage their applications, e.g. through use of the ethnic minority press.
- Using employment agencies and careers offices in areas where under-represented groups are concentrated.
- Encouraging employees from under-represented groups to apply for promotion or transfer opportunities
- Providing career development training for employees of under-represented groups who lack particular expertise but show potential

Positive Discrimination

Making decisions which actively favour an under-represented group e.g. women, minority ethnic groups etc. Positive discrimination is illegal as it results in people within majority groups being unfairly disadvantaged.

Building audits

New buildings have to be fully accessible for all users however the Council has many buildings each built to the standards relevant to when they were built. Also the buildings constantly change to accommodate the users and services provided out of them. So they may have alterations and additions to later standards.

With the Disability Discrimination Act coming into force and its subsequent public duties amendments we have now a duty to make all our buildings reasonably accessible to disabled people. An accessibility audit is a critical part of meeting this duty.

The purpose of an access audit is to establish how well a particular feature, usually a building, performs in terms of access and ease of use by a wide range of potential users, not only disabled people. The audit gives a snapshot of a building at one point in its life.

The audit should identify how a person:

- Gets there
 - Gets in
 - Gets around
 - Gets out especially in an emergency.
- And finally and most importantly

Even if the building meets all the current laws the way it is managed is crucial. Accessibility can be compromised by, for example untidy working practices

obstructing circulation spaces or causing tripping hazards or when over zealous polishing leads to slippery floors. It can also be compromised by subsequent purchasing of unsuitable furnishing and fittings.

To date over 100 council buildings have had their public areas assessed and recommendations have been made.

The recommendations are grouped under the following headings:

- **essential or immediate**

This is where there are hazards or where there is a potential for action being taken under the Disability Discrimination Act or there are health and safety implications. This could be the highlighting of steps, filling in of mat wells or releasing the emergency alarm in an adapted toilet or moving a display stand which is blocking a fire exit.

- **desirable**

Anything appearing under this category would improve the accessibility further, such as providing a portable induction loop for meetings or fitting a second handrail to steps or a ramp.

- **refurbishment**

This is where bringing up to the current standard when repairing or refurbishing such as when a door needs repairing make sure it has the current vision panels and fittings, when redecorating make sure the guidelines for tonal contrast are met or on a larger scale install a lift to the upper floors.

- **Maintenance**

These consist of minor items which can be accommodated within the day to day maintenance such fitting push plate or kick plates to doors, sweeping up leaves on ramps in winter or moving furniture or displays to allow circulation space.

Once an audit is completed it is discussed with the building manager and a copy sent to the service manager. Also some of the works can be prioritised to be undertaken using the DDA budget. By undertaking repeat audits every five years means that an accurate picture of improvements undertaken can be built up.

For further information contact Steve Foden, Access Officer or Ged Smyth, Equalities and Access officer within the Equality and Diversity Section, Corporate Services on 619 8212 or by email stevefoden@wirral.gov.uk or gerardsmyth@wirral.gov.uk

Do you want to become a member of Equality Watch?

This will entitle you to receive copies of equality watch newsletters, regular updates on national and local equality and diversity headlines and the opportunity to be involved in the council's equality watch initiatives.

If you are interested in becoming a member of equality watch and would like to register please email: equalitywatch@wirral.gov.uk

We are waiting to hear from you!



Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service

Operations.

The Fire Service on Wirral is delivered through 6 community fire stations located at Birkenhead, Bromborough, Heswall, Upton, West Kirby and Wallasey.

As previously reported we have made a commitment to risk assess every home in Merseyside and now are proactively targeting those homes that are still outstanding an initial assessment.

To ensure that every home on Merseyside has had a Home Fire Risk Assessment/**Vulnerable Property Assessment** (VPA's) by the end of the current fiscal year we commenced a new strategy of targeted campaigns in April 09. In addition to normal operations, we have run 7 campaigns across Wirral targeting those at risk properties resulting in an additional 929 HFSC being completed, 1471 VPA being passed and the identification of a further 136 vulnerable properties where there was a need for additional support and intervention in conjunction with partner agencies.

Within the first 6 months we have achieved 55% of the annual VPA target for Wirral.

In addition to the above work has continued in respect of reducing the risk of death and injury across the area. Attached are statistics for Deliberate Fires & Road Traffic Collisions which show a continuing year on year decline.

MFRS has a statutory duty to maintain operational readiness and training is a key element of that. The Service has carried out a number of realistic training exercises with some of our major industry partners on the Wirral including, Camel Lairds, Uni-Lever, Shell and Costains to ensure that we are operationally prepared for any incident that may occur.

Wirral Deliberate Fires Statistics

The tables below show the figures for deliberate fires in Wirral from April 2006 until August 2009. The trend shows a year on year decline in Deliberate Fires from April 2006 to April 2009. The table also includes the first 6 months figures for April – August 2009 inclusive and indicates that we are likely to see another reduction for the year 2009-10.

Deliberate fires for Wirral

National Indicator	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	April - August 2009	Grand Total
NI33a - Deliberate Primary	409	310	295	128	1142
NI33b - Deliberate Secondary	2376	1639	1434	643	5449
Grand Total	2785	1949	1729	771	6463

Environment.

Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service has set a goal to become an environmentally regenerative service and 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. In 2004 we became the first Fire Authority to be certified to ISO 14001 for our Environmental Management System. In addition we received in 2008 an award for our Bike wise scheme in the Merseyside Annual Transport Awards as 10% of our staff has taken up the offer of our salary sacrifice scheme to purchase bikes to travel to work.

Recently we received a British Standards Institute Award for our **Energy Efficiency Accreditation**, and a Certificate from the Carbon Trust in recognition and appreciation of our efforts in the field of carbon management, emission reduction and the mitigation of climate change. These awards will be converted over to the Carbon Trust's Carbon Standard in November.

Partnerships.

The Fire Service are committed to working in partnership to achieve strategic objectives within the Local Area Agreement, examples of this are

A partnership has been set up between MFRS and **Wirral Roadsafe Partnership** to impact on RTC Reduction National Indicators. We have trained staff to check Child Car seat fitting for safety and to give advice on type and legal requirements. A number of events have been arranged where MFRS, along with Wirral Road Safety, will be on hand to provide child restraint checking information and advice. Two events were held in September and 2 further events will be held in November, further dates to be scheduled.

- Saturday 14th November – Aldi, Heswall
- Saturday 21st November – Morrisons, West Kirby

A partnership has been set up between MFRS and Wirral Community Patrol with a view to tackling anti-social behaviour on the beaches in Wirral. Over the summer period Wirral Community Patrol and MFRS personnel patrolled the beach areas and interacted with youths, providing them with information and education on issues of anti-social behaviour, its effects on the local community, alcohol use by young people and anti-social behaviour fires. Although only in its early stages the partnership approach has been well received by the youths and local community alike. It is envisaged that the campaign will continue when the weather or the circumstances dictate the likelihood of youths being present on the beach.

Following on from the success of our previous collaborative **Bonfire Strategies**, which have seen a significant reduction in the number of bonfires requiring Fire Service attendance and decrease in the illegal selling and storing of fireworks, we are again working in partnership with the Police, Trading standards, Probation Service and Community Safety Team to ensure the same impact over the bonfire period this year. We continue to encourage safe & responsible use of fireworks during this period.

However, if anyone has any concerns over build up of bonfire materials, they can contact MFRS on **Freephone 0800 731 5958** similarly any concerns over the illegal selling of fireworks can be reported on **0151 296 4607**.

Wallasey Youth Centre is a joint project currently underway involving MFRS and Wirral Borough Council Youth Service. The scheme involves the development of facilities at Wallasey Community Fire Station to provide amenities for young persons to interact; these will include meeting area, I.T.C suite, dance studio and a number of activity rooms. The overall design was developed in conjunction with young persons who will ultimately be using the facility. Work is due to commence on site at the beginning of October and the facilities should be available by the end of the current fiscal year.

This scheme will complement the recently completed Lifestyle Centre at Wallasey and will provide an opportunity for interaction between all age groups.

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.

Fire Support Network are promoting Fire Safety during Winter Time with the continuation of their **Winter Warm Campaign!**

As in previous years they will be offering Electric Blanket Testing and **free** replacement blankets should they be deemed unsafe, **Free Home Fire Safety Checks** and **Free Carbon Monoxide Detectors** to the first **50** people at each event.

In addition, as chip pans can pose a potential risk of fire if not closely monitored, this year they are also offering to exchange chip pans for Deep Fat Fryers and provide **Free Energy Efficient Light Bulbs**.

The events will run from 10am to 2pm at the following locations on the Wirral

MON 12th OCT BIRKENHEAD FIRE STATION (Exmouth Street, CH41 4AX)
TUE 13th OCT WALLASEY FIRE STATION (Mill Lane, CH44 5UE)

FSN will also be running a campaign on the lead up to Christmas, testing tree lights and replacing any that are declared unsafe – details of these events will be published in the local media nearer the time.

FSN are looking to recruit a total of 60 volunteers for their **Bright Spark** programmes running in October, January and February. The principal criteria for volunteers are that they should not currently be in Employment, Training or Education and should be aged between 16 and 25.

The principal objective of the programme is to work in the most vulnerable parts of Wirral encouraging residents to take advantages of some of the free services available to them in order to make their home safer, warmer and more energy efficient during the winter months. There are lots of incentive activities as well which are sure to maintain interest and enthusiasm throughout the 4 week programme. Cadets will be involved in a huge variety of activities which should enhance many of their skills and hopefully enable them. If you could circulate the programme to your partner agencies in the hope that they might have young people they would like to

nominate. Further details can be obtained by contacting Isabelle Walker, Project Delivery Officer on **0151 296 5346 / 07837 113330**

Community Fire Stations Contact Numbers

- **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**

STREETSCENE UPDATE

New Highway Maintenance Partner

Our new Highways Maintenance Partner Colas Limited officially began works on 1st April.

You may have noticed the newly branded vehicles around the borough as a planned programme of works is well underway.

Since April 2009 Colas have completed a series of surfacing treatments on roads and footways and 30 new dropped pedestrian crossings have been introduced along with 80 private vehicle crossings.

As part of our road safety improvements 3 traffic safety schemes have been completed along with the installation of 2 Puffin crossings, 1 Toucan crossing and 1 pedestrian refuge.

Across the borough 70 new street name plates have been replaced and new signage installed for the 'U boat story' and Floral Pavilion.

32,000 gullies have also been cleansed as part of the planned programme of works.

The new partnership is an example of true efficiency savings for the Council, and will result in many improvements in service delivery and the introduction of new technologies.

Traffic Management Schemes

Traffic Management Schemes – the following have been completed since April 2009:

- Old Chester Road / Town Lane, Bebington – Toucan Crossing

- Woodchurch Rd / Osmaston Rd, Prenton – Puffin Crossing (Complete Oct 09)
- Claughton Road Bus Station, Birkenhead – Puffin Crossings
- Central Park, Wallasey – Cycling Strategy Scheme
- You Decide (2008/09) – Bebington / Clatterbridge – “Slow” carriageway markings

Traffic Safety Schemes – the following safety schemes have recently been completed:

- Heron Road, Saughall Massie – Local Safety Scheme
- Brimstage Road, (Phase 1) – Local Safety Scheme
- Barnston Road, Barnston – Local Safety Scheme
- Cathcart Street, Birkenhead – Local Safety Scheme
- Rock Ferry By-pass (Phase 2) – Local Safety Scheme
- St Albans School, Liscard – Safer Routes to School Scheme (Complete Oct 09)
- Bring Accidents to Zero Campaign – 7 new sites

Pedestrian Facilities:

- Pedestrian Dropped Kerb Programme – Various Locations
- Telegraph Road, Heswall – Pedestrian Refuge

Further details on completed schemes and future proposed schemes can be obtained from Streetscene.

Road Safety

Initiatives under the Roadsafe partnership with Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service continue to be rolled out and regular coordination meetings ensure progress made / corrective action taken.

The numbers of people killed or seriously injured continued to fall towards the LAA and DfT targets. In 2008 there were 145 KSI casualties on Wirral - this is the 3rd consecutive year the figure has reduced, however we accept that this is still too high and we and our partners are committed to reducing this figure.

In partnership with Merseyside Fire and Rescue we will be holding 4 car seat checking events across Wirral. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service will be on hand to provide child restraint checking information and advice on:

- Nov 14th (Sat): Aldi, Heswall, 10am-1pm
- Nov 21st (Sat): Dee Lane Car-park, West Kirby, 10am-1pm

‘Bring Accidents down 2 Zero’

A pilot scheme, ‘Bring accidents down 2 zero’ took place in 2008. The initiative is a community based project that works to address the concerns of residents.

The initiative encourages drivers to slow down to 20mph in areas of high collision rates, without the need for expensive traffic calming measures such as speed bumps or chicanes.

Feedback from residents and drivers within the areas the scheme was piloted showed that 74% of drivers preferred the new scheme, with the voluntary 20mph speed limit to physical speed reducing measures. 89% of drivers thought that the scheme should be provided in other areas of Wirral.

Cabinet at its March meeting agreed 14 areas for the next phase of the scheme. These sites will be rolled out in 2 phases and all areas will receive signage on a cyclic basis.

West Kirby

Jubilee Drive, Kington Road, Bridge Road, Darmonds Green, Lang Lane, Marine Park, Birkett Road, Grainger Avenue, Boulton Avenue, Broxton Avenue, Raeburn Avenue, Gresford Avenue

The new areas were selected following suggestions from members of the public, Councillors and Area Forums.

Community Speed Watch

Along with Merseyside Police, we continue to recruit volunteers for our Community Speedwatch Scheme, where residents and community groups can use our radar guns and hi-viz jackets to perform speed checks on problem roads. All data captured can be passed back to the police and action may be taken.

School Travel Plans

During 08/09 we worked with 13 primary schools to produce School Travel Plans, to date 87 primary schools, 19 secondary schools and 2 nursery schools have all produced a School Travel Plan.

Personal Travel Training Project

Since May 2009 residents in Heswall, Pensby, Irby and Thingwall have been taking part in a pioneering TravelWise initiative, which aims to reduce peak-time congestion on the main routes into Birkenhead and Liverpool city centre. The TravelWise Personal Travel Planning project set out to challenge around 10,000 households in the area to opt for greener modes of travel - such as public transport, walking or cycling - instead of jumping in the car. The project ran until end September offering free personalised travel service for residents to help them to cut the cost, time, hassle and carbon emissions from their journeys. Participants were offered free support, information and discounts to help them try out smarter ways to travel. Headline results for the project will be available early December.

West Kirby Marine Lake

Following extensive civil engineering works to West Kirby Marine Lake, the Lake was officially reopened on 1st August.

During the works the lining to the outer perimeter wall has been replaced and the perimeter walkway has been resurfaced, refurbishment of the jetties has also taken place. Replenishment works to the rock armour which provides additional protection to the lake has been completed.

During the refurbishment works a change of contractor took place with minimum disruption to the work, and allowing the 60th anniversary of the Wilson Trophy to take place.

Recycling Update

Recycling figures continue to increase since the launch of the scheme; we have exceeded the LAA recycling Target of 34%, recycling 36.33 % of household waste in 2008/9.

We have finalised plans to provide recycling facilities for residents in flats and communal properties and work is now underway to roll out a collection service across the borough.

Brown bins – garden waste

Well done to Wirral residents using the garden waste recycling collection service. You have all played a part in the success of the scheme and in helping the borough to improve its recycling and composting performance. Between April 2008 and March 2009, you have contributed 18,879 tonnes of garden waste.

Love Food Hate Waste

Merseyside Waste Partnership has secured £195,000 funding for a Merseyside wide Love Food Hate Waste Campaign. Up to a third of the food we throw away could have been eaten. The campaign aims to reduce the amount of food thrown away while saving residents money. For more information contact Streetscene or visit www.lovefoodhatewaste.com

Tidy Business Awards

We are working closely with local businesses through the Tidy Business Award scheme; working with them to improve their waste management practices and meet their statutory obligations. In July 34 Wirral businesses were awarded Tidy Business awards from Wirral Council at a 'Tidy Business Conference, 33 Silver awards and 1 gold award.

Since the scheme began in August 2008 over 60 businesses have now received Tidy Business Awards.

The Tidy Business Award scheme is a national campaign led by Tidy Britain. The scheme encourages businesses to implement initiatives for waste minimisation, reuse and recycling schemes, and practical efforts to improve the local environment. This includes ensuring they store and dispose of their waste responsibly and take ownership of their shop frontages to help keep them free of litter and graffiti.

Wirral Businesses that would like to get involved in the voluntary scheme should contact Daniel Molyneux, Trade Waste Officer, at Streetscene, 0151 606 2004.

Waste Permit Scheme

If you drive a van or use a large trailer then from 1st October 2009 you will need a Permit to use Wirral's Recycling Centres.

All recycling centres are paid for by Council taxpayers and therefore should only be used for disposing or recycling household waste.

However commercial businesses and traders attempt to use these facilities free of charge. This isn't fair and is illegal.

By using a Permit Scheme (as is used in lots of other areas across the country) we will continue to make sure householders have exclusive access to what is rightfully theirs.

You will need a permit if you use:

- A van
- Any 'flatback' or 'pickup' vehicle
- An estate/hatchback/4x4/car with rear seats permanently removed and/or blanked out side/rear windows
- A trailer between 2 and 3 metres long

Every householder can apply for an ANNUAL PERMIT. This covers frequently arising recyclable waste like garden clippings, newspapers, cans etc.

If you want to dispose of bulky household items like TVs, rubble or furniture you will need a TEMPORARY PERMIT.

Both Permits are free and you can apply for either by ringing 0151 236 0305 or logging on to www.merseysidewda.gov.uk

Schools Recycling

We are continuing to work with primary and secondary schools to educate people on the importance of reducing waste and 96% of schools are now taking advantage of our recycling collection service.

Wirral's first School environment awards took place in April at Pacific Road Arts Centre. Nine of Wirral's schools received awards for their achievements in environmental projects. The awards will take place again next year and schools are invited to nominate themselves for awards in 2009/2010.

The winning schools for 08/09 were:

- Tranmere Rovers Green team award: Pensby High School for Boys
- Mayor's Outstanding contribution Award: Grove Street Primary School
- Wildlife Conservation Award: Orretts Meadow Primary School
- Biffa Schools Recycling Award: Woodchurch High School
- Junior Road Safety Officer Award: St. Albans RC Primary School
- Community Environment Award: Hoylake Holy Trinity CE Primary School
- Energy Awareness Award: Prenton Primary School
- Road Safety Participation Award: Oldershaw High School
- Green Facilities Champion: The Observatory School

Street Cleansing and Litter Bins

Daily audits on street cleansing and inspections carried out yearly in July, November and March indicate that street cleansing is at a satisfactory level. We are continually monitoring and looking to improve our performance. Our aim is to provide continual improvements by looking at alternative methods of working and employing the most appropriate way to deploy resources where they are most needed.

You Decide Litter Bins

Area Forums have requested a total of 94 litterbins and the instructions to install them have been passed to the contractor for installation. Only four locations are outstanding because of particular installation problems and we are working to resolve these.

Coastal Litter Bins

In the past the provision of litterbins around the coastal area has been a problem in terms of vandalism and the erosion to the bins due to the severity of the weather conditions.

These bins are to be replaced during the next few months with stainless steel bins that will match the standard litter bin in appearance.

Litter Bin Survey

A new survey is being undertaken and is nearly complete. This will allow us to map the location, type and condition of all the litterbins out there and improve the service.



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.....
 - Reducing the incidence of MRSA and *Clostridium difficile* is a very high priority for the Trust and figures released by the Health Protection Agency in September show that between April and June 2009 there were 56 cases of *C.difficile* compared with 81 cases during the same quarter in 2008 - a 30% decrease.
 - In the same period, recorded cases of MRSA bloodstream infection reduced to four, a reduction of eight from the same quarter in 2008.
 - 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
 - ‘Working Together to Keep It Clean’ – an on-going campaign that aims to raise the Infection Control profile even higher at the Trust and to increase awareness amongst staff, patients and visitors of how important it is to ‘Keep it Clean’

- Improving Our Standards.....
 - The Trust has been awarded the title of ‘Best Large Hospital*’ in the Dr Foster Good Hospital Guide 2008 which compares services and treatment outcomes at all hospitals across the country.
 - We are proud to have been named, for the third year running, 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 June 2009 we were delighted to receive accreditation by the NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) at Level 2, with an exceptionally high level of achievement.

This shows our commitment to delivering the highest quality and safety in our patient care.

- Our Stroke Services have been rated as among the best in the country by the Royal College of Physicians following a recent audit and we will be improving services even further when we become a hyper-acute stroke centre thanks to an investment of £1.6million from NHS Wirral
- In the most recent (2007/08) Healthcare Commission Annual Health Check we scored 'excellent' for our use of resources and 'good' for the quality of our services
- Our Maternity Unit was judged to be one of the 'best performing' in the country according to the 2008 Healthcare Commission's Maternity Services Review and was named 'best in the region' in a national survey of new mothers and mothers-to-be.
- An external assessment of our standards by the Patient Environment Action Team resulted in the following scores being awarded to the Trust for 2009 -

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

- **Providing New Services.....**

- The Trust has announced a major capital investment in services for **Women and Children** at Arrowe Park Hospital. The £11million scheme, due for completion in spring 2011, will radically change the face of the current Maternity services building and will create a 'centre of excellence' by bringing together under one roof, all acute hospital services for women and children. The development will include:
 - A major refurbishment of the **maternity wards**, providing all patients with single rooms and en-suite facilities
 - A brand new **maternity delivery suite** featuring five new delivery rooms, including two with birth pools and additional facilities to allow partners to stay overnight
 - Creation of an attractive single **front entrance and reception area** to welcome patients and visitors.
- On 1st June our brand new **Children's Outpatients Department** opened at Arrowe Park Hospital. Re-located from the main hospital building, this is the first phase in our plan to bring all children's services together.
- A new **accommodation facility for parents** of children being treated at Arrowe Park Hospital will open at the beginning of October. Funded by Ronald McDonald House Charity, this is the granting of the Jellybean Kid's Appeal third wish.
- Over the course of the next two years we will be **upgrading wards** in the main hospital block at Arrowe Park on a rolling programme to provide more single rooms and better sanitary facilities.
- A second **MRI scanner** is currently being installed at Arrowe Park.
- We are investing nearly £1million in adapting our wards to comply with Department of Health guidance on **eliminating mixed sex accommodation** for patients.
- 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.

- 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
- Annual Report...
 - Our full Annual Report and Accounts for 2008/09 is now available to view in the About Us section of the Trust website. A summary version, 'Highlights of the Year 2008/09', together with a summary version of our Annual Plan for 2009/10 and our Goals entitled 'Moving Forward', are also available either on the website or in hard copy from the Foundation Trust Membership Office at Arrowe Park Hospital ☎ 0800 0121 356
- Come and Join Us!
 - As a Foundation Trust we want to involve our Public Members in helping us to shape future services – we currently have 8,000 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 on-line go to www.whnt.nhs.uk or complete the pink form in this information packs and return it to the Freepost address given.
- Best large acute trust outside London – awarded jointly with Darlington and County Durham NHS Foundation Trust.

WIRRAL YOUTH SERVICE

Introduction

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 fourteen 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

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.

International Work

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. They have recently hosted a group from Germany; this is done in partnership with Upton Hall School

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Service holds the operating licence for administering and running the DofE. The Youth Service is therefore able to issue individual operating licences to single units such as schools, youth clubs and uniformed organisations. Young people within the borough are able to participate in at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels and are offered a wide and diverse menu of opportunities.

A well equipped Open Award Centre is able to provide comprehensive and quality expedition training for those wishing to attempt their expedition or exploration.

Young people are encouraged to make improved use of their leisure time and by participating in the DofE they are guided towards, helping their own communities, acquiring new skills, keeping fit and taking on new and exciting challenges.

Anyone aged between 14 and 25 can take part in the Dof E regardless of background or ability and participants are able to increase their own self confidence and self esteem, make new relationships and develop fresh skills.

Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts

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

West Kirby Youth Club attendance has been low over the summer months; staff have been doing outreach around the surrounding area and taking part in house training. There has been an attic sale held in the youth club which young people organised as a fundraising activity. Young people have also taken part in a consultation event, looking at the service reconfiguration. There has also been trips to the Spaceport, Mersey Ferry trip and a BBQ in Thurstaston.

Deeside Young People's Project has continued to work in the mid and west Wirral areas using streetwork and the Kontakta Bus to engage with young people. DYPP has developed a positive working relationship with the Police, targeting those young people at risk of offending and involved in risk taking behaviour. The young people enjoyed the joint youth service/police summer holiday positive activities programme.

Wirral NHS

St Catherine's Health Centre, Tranmere

At a cost of £32 million, the new St Catherine's Health Centre will provide a new home for clinical services currently housed in outdated Victorian buildings on the current Church Road site.

It will enable local people to access a range of new services including outpatient clinics, minor and day case surgery facilities, X-rays and other tests, and health and lifestyle advice closer to where they live. In addition, there will be two GP practices, a pharmacy as well as a Walk-in Centre.

On the 10th September Wirral Council Planning Committee approved planning permission for the scheme. The next steps are to await the further decision of the Regional Government Office and to submit a full business case to the Strategic Health Authority to obtain permission to use the funding identified for the scheme.

Seasonal Flu and Swine flu

Seasonal flu season is approaching and it is important that those people who are at risk of infection take up the offer of vaccination. This includes those people involved in caring for family or friends. Your GP will be able to advise you if you or your carers are at risk and will call you should this be the case. It is important to remember that the viruses in the vaccine are not live and cannot cause flu. The seasonal flu jab does not protect against swine flu but does give 70-80% protection against seasonal flu infection.

With regards to swine flu there has been a continued reduction in the rates of flu-like illnesses in recent weeks. The majority of cases continued to be mild and there is no sign that the virus is changing. However, flu rates are higher than normal for this time

of year and a second wave of infection is expected although its timing cannot be accurately forecast. A swine flu vaccine will become available in the Autumn and at risk groups have been identified:

- ❑ Those aged 6 months and up to 65 who have underlying chronic health conditions such as asthma or diabetes or breathing difficulties.
- ❑ All pregnant women
- ❑ Household contacts of people with illnesses which effect their immune system
- ❑ People aged over 65 who have underlying chronic health conditions
- ❑ Frontline health and social care workers

As with seasonal flu, your GP will call you if you are in any of these risk groups.

The collection point for antiviral treatments is now the All Day Health Centre on the Arrowe Park Hospital site.

For further information about both seasonal and swine flu go to the following websites:

www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu

www.hpa.org.uk

www.dh.gov.uk

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

Eastham Walk-in Centre is on its way

A new Walk-in Centre in Eastham will open its doors to Wirral residents in Autumn 2009 and is to offer patients in South Wirral a wide range of nurse-led health services.

The Walk-in Centre, in Eastham Rake, will be able to offer an extended health service seven days a week – weekdays 5pm to 9pm and weekends and bank holidays 8am to 6pm. An out-of-hours GP service will also be based here later in the year.

There are more than 20,000 people living within one mile of Eastham Clinic who will be able to ‘walk-in’ to this service during the out of hours period when other local services are closed.

The Walk-in Centre will provide advice and treatment for Wirral residents with the following:

- Assessment for everyone by an experienced NHS professional
Leg Ulcer Clinics (Dressing care)
- Emergency contraception and advice
- Hayfever, bites and stings
- Health promotion: diet and exercise
- Indigestion, constipation, vomiting and diarrhoea
- Information on staying healthy/local services
- Men's and women's health problems
- Minor cuts and wounds - care, dressings
Phlebotomy (taking blood)

- Skin complaints - rashes, sunburn, headlice
- Stitching for small cuts
- Treatment for minor illnesses and injuries

If you arrive at the Walk-in Centre and your condition requires services not supplied at the Centre, you will be guided and then referred to the appropriate service elsewhere.

Wirral welcomes new Dental Practice

From Monday 3rd August 2009 people in Wirral have been able to access more dental services courtesy of a new practice in Greasby.

The practice was commissioned by NHS Wirral in January 2008 to ensure easy access to NHS dental services for residents affected by the move of three local dental practices into the private sector.

The practice team consists of two dentists and a dental therapist and will combine NHS dentistry services, which include routine and unplanned oral care, with flexible opening times and preventative orientated practice. The surgery will also be a training centre for future dentists and Dental Practitioners.

The new dental practice has cost approximately £800K to buy and develop, with 50% of the investment made by the practice owners and 50% investment in capital funding from NHS Wirral.

The new dental services will be called Greasby Dental Centre and is found at 230 Greasby Road, Greasby, Wirral CH49 2PW. The phone number is 0151 678 0199.

Community Safety Update

Roles of Wirral Community Patrol

Officers

Wirral Community Patrol is Wirral Council's service that is tasked with providing security for all of their premises 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The team consists of over 20 officers dedicated to "Helping make Wirral a safer place to live and work." Security of Local Authority property remains a major responsibility of the Community Patrol. Mobile patrols play an active role across the Authority, dealing with various types of incident.

These include responding to intruder and fire alarm activations as and when they occur.

Improve the Environment

Promoting a clean, secure environment by reducing the presence of litter, graffiti, fly-tipping and generally improving the physical appearance and management of your area.

Tackling Anti-social Behaviour and Nuisance

Working together with the public and other agencies to identify problems and try to

apply long term solutions. Providing public re-assurance on community safety issues by attending community meetings and patrolling problem areas.

Enforcement and Intelligence gathering

Working with other council departments and partner agencies to report, record and analyse occurrences to develop appropriate measures to prevent and combat future offences.

Partnership Working

The officers work closely with many other agencies to promote Community Safety, you will often find Officers accompanying the police on neighbourhood patrols. They work closely with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Merseyside Police, British Transport Police, the Environmental Services and Wirral Partnership Homes and other housing associations.

Friend on the street

Working within all communities to provide peace of mind, support and offer public reassurance. Regularly attending resident and community meetings, ward walks with area and neighbourhood managers. The officers remain accessible to listen and respond to local people's needs

Authority

Wearing smart, visible uniforms and patrolling in a variety of ways. The officers presence alone provides a deterrent to any potential criminal. The officers are in direct contact with the Community Safety control room and the police via radio to ensure support is always available. The officers have the power to issue fixed penalty notices to offenders for a variety of offences.

Wirral Community Patrol Officers are involved in a number of community safety activities and schemes.

Regular daily patrols of the borough are carried. Often with the police particularly at events.

If you are aware of any anti-social behaviour and environmental crime in your area, please contact

**Wirral
Community Patrol
0151 666 5265.**

Frequently Asked Questions

What do the Wirral Community Patrol Officers Do?

The team are tasked with the security of all council premises including responding to alarm activations. The officers also help tackle anti-social behaviour, keep an eye on the local environment and provide a friendly, reassuring face in the community.

2) What kind of problems are they tackling? Environmental crime like graffiti, vandalism, abandoned cars, dog-fouling, litter and other low-level nuisance crime are among the things they help tackle.

3) How do we know who they are?

The officers are a uniformed service and use distinctive liveried vehicles bearing the Wirral Community Patrol Officers logo. You may well have seen them around the district recently.

4) Why do we keep hearing so much about 'Crime & Grime' at the moment?

Crime and anti-social behaviour, and environmental issues such as street cleansing and abandoned cars, are high on the public's priority list. We know this because residents have told us. The Wirral Community Patrol are just one of the measures initiated by the council this year to help tackle these issues - often in partnership with local agencies like the police.

5) What hours do they work?

The Wirral Community Patrol Officers are available seven days per week 24 hours per day.

6) Do the officers work closely with the community?

Working with local residents - particularly the more vulnerable elements like the young, the elderly and minority groups - is a key part of the job.

7) What training have the officers had to undergo?

The officers have undergone intensive training to help them prepare for their role in the community. Members of the team also have a wealth of experience behind them from working in a range of relevant jobs and professions in the past. All officers are SIA licensed and CRB checked.

Dog Fouling Campaign 2009

The campaign included education of dog walkers and if necessary enforcement of Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

In 2008 Wirral council's cabinet allocated a sum of money (£40,000) for a summer dog fouling campaign. The campaign is to be managed by Wirral Community Patrol.

All members of Wirral Community Patrol received training in enforcement of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

The areas designated for the campaign were the waterfront areas of Wirral coast.

It was decided to allocate an area, each month, to be covered by all agencies these being:

- May- New Brighton
- June- Moreton
- July- Moreton
- August- West Kirby

In addition to these areas additional areas were allocated as designated by the project manager in consultation with Principal Officer Environmental Health

These areas included:

- Vale Park.
- Central Park.
- Birkenhead Park.
- Eastham Country Park.
- Thurstaston Country Park.
- Wirral Way.

- Claughton & Oxton villages.
- Additional “hot spot” areas.

Other council sections and outside agencies were involved in the summer campaign which has developed working partnerships. These include:

- **Wirral animal control and welfare section.** All members of the section already enforce the dogs (fouling of land) act 1996.
- **Wirral coastal lifeguard section.** WCP have worked closely with Tony Jones and two by law officers from his section received the appropriate training in enforcement of the dogs (fouling of land) act 1996. He also gave additional support including the loan of an ATV to assist with the patrolling of the promenade, beaches and embankment. TJ and his staff were enthusiastic in the education of dog walkers and the distribution of “poo” bags.
- **Merseyside Police PCSTOs.** 15 PCSTOs were trained in the enforcement of the dogs (fouling of land) act 1996.
- **Environmental health department.** 4 pest control officers were trained in the enforcement of the dogs (fouling of land) act 1996.
- **Wirral ranger service.** 10 rangers were trained in the enforcement of the dogs (fouling of land) act 1996.
- **Birkenhead park rangers and security staff.** All of Birkenhead park rangers and security staff were trained in the enforcement of the dogs (fouling of land) act 1996. All of them have taken an enthusiastic approach to the campaign. The May winner of the reward prize draw was a dog owner from Birkenhead park.
- **Council press and publicity department** provided assistance and publicity.
- **Beanbag volunteers.** These volunteers have been handing out reward cards and “poo” bags to dog walkers in the Seacombe, new ferry and north end areas.

It was decided that the campaign would take advantage of summer events the campaign caravan and staff attended the following events to highlight the campaign:

- **Wirral show.** The display caravan was situated on one of the roundabouts which proved a focal point for those interested in dog matters. Over 7,500 dog owners/walkers spoken to and 10,000 “poo” bags given out. 4,500 free items with the campaign’s logo were given out to members of public. During the show in excess of 1,000 dogs were present and the owners were provided advice on dog legislation when required.
- **Tranmere Show and fun day.** 2,000 dog owners/walkers spoken to and 5,000 “poo” bags given out. The show had a dog display and besides our own stall the dog display area had posters and tri-signs displayed in full view of the visitors. In excess of 300 dogs were seen at the fun day.
- **Port Sunlight fun day.** Over 3,000 dog owners/walkers spoken to and 10,000 “poo” bags given out. We were provided with a stall next to the fun dog show arena giving access to all dog owners and we were able to provide support and advice to a large number. Approximately 300 dogs were seen at the fun day.

- **Poulton Park family and fun day.** Over 500 dog owners/walkers spoken to and 7,000 “poo” bags given out. The attendance at the fun day is a continuation of the ACWS work regarding animal welfare and issues.
- **Warwick Park family and fun day.** Wirral Community Patrol attended at the request of the friends of Warwick Park. Approximately 100 dog owners/walkers spoken to and 500 “poo” bags given out.

The local papers were informed of the campaign and we received publicity in the Wirral Globe.

Tranmere Rovers Football Club and its mascot (Rover) have been involved in the campaign in partnership with MBW . WCP are in discussions regarding an event at a televised football match.

To increase the campaign’s publicity a prominent display board at Tranmere Rovers F.C. has been purchased. As part of additionality, campaign staff advised dog walkers that the leaving of used “poo” bags on trees and bushes etc was littering and that the bags should be deposited in litter bins.

Further publicity events are being planned to provide continuity for the campaign. Throughout the campaign all participants were informed that anyone not picking up their dog’s fouling were to receive a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or to be prosecuted. No member of the campaign has issued a FPN because when staff observed a dog fouling the dog walker always picked up the fouling.

To ensure that this continued when there were no uniformed personnel around members of Wirral Community Patrol patrolled the areas out of uniform. They observed all dog walkers picking up their dog fouling. When staff observed dog walkers picking up their dog’s fouling they gave the dog walker a reward card which was entered into a monthly draw for £50 of vouchers. A monthly draw was held each month and the winner notified. Over 2,000 reward cards were issued by the campaign participants.

When staff were out on duty the majority of dog walkers were stopped and spoken to, which highlighted the campaign. Advice and bags were given when necessary. When members of the public were spoken to, the campaign was positively met with enthusiasm and support. Any negative comments made by members of the public were focussed on the lack of bins on a variety of areas as well as the lack of consideration of irresponsible dog walkers.

Numerous members of public have positively commented on the reduction in dog fouling being left on the ground. A runner involved in this year’s tunnel run commented “for the last few years the run along the prom was like running through a dog *** minefield. This year it was great the prom was clear.” There have been numerous similar comments.

Reduction of dog fouling waste left in park areas will assist in achieving green flag status. Reduction of dog fouling waste left in beach areas will assist in improving the national status of Wirral’s beaches. **Over the campaign period over 60,000 “poo” bags given out.**

**Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (prepared by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team)
May 2009 – September 2009**

Legal action against the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour has included:

Reported (end of) May 2009:

- 33-year old female from Hillcroft Road, **Wallasey**, issued with an eviction order due to anti-social behaviour by her son.

Reported June 2009:

- 43-year old female from Walby Close, **Woodchurch**, and 24-year old male from Houghton Road, **Woodchurch** (mother and son), gave a 12-month Undertaking and was issued with a 3-year Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction respectively following alleged threatening behaviour.

Reported July 2009:

- 40-year old female from Mill Park Drive, **Eastham**, issued with an eviction order due to threatening behaviour, verbal abuse and intimidation primarily by her 17-year old son;
- 58-year old male from Moreton Road, **Upton**, issued with an eviction order postponed for two years on condition that he complies with the terms of his tenancy agreement. This was following aggressive and threatening behaviour towards employees of a contractor of Wirral Partnership Homes;
- 35-year old female from Park Street, **Birkenhead**, issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction due to alleged threatening behaviour;
- 49-year old male from Glebe Hey Road, **Woodchurch**, issued with a 12-month Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction following threatening behaviour towards an elderly resident;
- 29-year old female from Price Street, **Birkenhead**, issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction following alleged threatening behaviour towards a neighbour.

Reported August 2009:

- 49-year old male from Glebe Hey Road, **Woodchurch**, issued with an eviction order suspended on condition that he complies with the terms of his tenancy agreement. This was following him being verbally abusive and threatening to torch a 78-year old neighbour's flat. The male had previously been made subject to a 12-month Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction in September 2008;
- 51-year old from Windmill Gardens, **Beechwood**, issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Injunction pending a full trial, following repeated complaints about her dog. This case was dealt with in partnership with Beechwood & Ballantyne Community Housing Association.

Reported September 2009:

- 45-year old female from Needham Crescent, **Noctorum**, issued with an eviction order postponed on condition that she complies with the terms of her tenancy agreement. This action was due to anti-social behaviour by her, her partner and her three sons;
- 51-year old from Windmill Gardens, **Beechwood**, gave a 2-year Undertaking following repeated complaints about her dog (see above);
- 43-year old female from Sandbourne, **Moreton**, issued with an interim Anti-Social Behaviour Order pending a further hearing. She had previously been evicted from her tenancy in Inman Road, **Overchurch**, in November 2008 due to loud music, parties and problem visitors;
- 42-year old female from Price Street, **Birkenhead**, was issued with an eviction order due to anti-social behaviour by her ex-partner and 20-year old son.

All the cases above were dealt with in partnership with Wirral Partnership Homes except where indicated.

Additional activity has included:

➤ **Youth Respect Team**

The Anti-Social Behaviour Team's youth outreach team (Youth Respect Team) has operated in **Wallasey, North Birkenhead, Bidston, Bebington, Rock Ferry and Tranmere.**

➤ **Bluetooth enables Respect message to spread (June 2009)**

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team launched its use of Bluetooth proximity marketing to keep the public up-to-date with efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour by the Council and its partners. The Bluetooth technology allows animated messages and information to be sent to mobile telephones within a particular radius. When members of the team and partners are working in an area, important information can be sent to the public. People can choose to accept or reject a message and over time the technology will be used for social marketing purposes delivering information about anti-social behaviour related issues such as alcohol misuse.

➤ **Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team's stands drew the crowds at this year's Wirral Show (July 2009)**

Visitors to the show were attracted to the team's Wild West Saloon to have fun, but hear serious messages about alcohol misuse. The Saloon was run by Senior Youth Worker and Sheriff for the weekend, Alf Mullin, whose team attracted young people and adults with the Beer Goggles Game. This involved throwing a ball into a bucket whilst wearing goggles that simulate the effects of alcohol, showing the impact that the varying levels of alcohol has on our senses. Displays also outlined the calorie content of popular alcoholic drinks amongst young people. The Team also called upon budding young sleuths to investigate their way around their stands, answering simple questions that enabled them to enter a competition for the chance to visit the professional mobile studio and have a photograph taken, either by themselves or with their friends. It was left to their imagination how to make the photograph as interesting as possible using the investigation themed props such as binoculars and magnifying glasses. The most creative image will be selected to be printed onto a new community reassurance vehicle to be launched in partnership with the Council's Housing Market Renewal Team. Every young person who entered also received a free 'Respect' key ring with their photograph in to take away.

➤ **Graffiti Busters (July 2009)**

Artwork produced by a talented young student from Prenton High School for Girls is providing eye-catching support to a team which is helping to tackle graffiti problems in Wirral. Jade Chen of Year 10 came up with the winning entry in a competition run by the school in association with Wirral's Graffiti Buster service to design the livery for a vehicle being used by the team in their work. Jade got the chance to see for the first time how her depiction of the former Birkenhead Town Hall building transferred onto the side of the vehicle when the Graffiti Busters brought the van to her school.

The Graffiti Buster service, a partnership between the Council's Streetscene service, Anti-Social Behaviour Team and Together Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder based in Tranmere and was officially launched on

July 31st at the Pyramids Centre in Birkenhead. The service will remove graffiti from public and private property, all people have to do is call the Council's anti-social behaviour hotline 'It's Your Call' on 0151 606 2020 and the team will be dispatched in their new van. Residents reporting graffiti can also report who they believe is responsible for it if they have reason to suspect a particular offender.



➤ **Confiscation cops hit the streets (August 2009)**

A partnership between Merseyside Police and Wirral Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Team saw a dedicated patrol of police officers specifically focused on removing alcohol from young people. The dedicated patrol, launched on Saturday 8th August, is working at peak times to tackle alcohol misuse by young people. Targeting hot-spot locations of alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour, identified by analysis of police and partner data which includes calls from the public, the officers confiscate alcohol from young people. The officers, branded as the 'Confiscation Cops', are patrolling the borough in a high visibility vehicle, responding to public concerns. The officers are, however, seeking out young people on foot in areas where they congregate. The 'Confiscation Cops' patrols were funded by the government's Youth Taskforce for the summer months as one of a number of initiatives to tackle alcohol fuelled anti-social behaviour by young people, but are a regular feature at peak times from September onwards.

➤ **Step on board for help with problem neighbours (August 2009)**

Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team embarked on a new timetable of street-based surgeries for 2009. The timetable sees the team's Respect Bus visit locations across Wirral staffed with Enforcement Officers who can take complaints in confidence from the public and provide detailed advice and guidance. The team expanded its service into the private sector in 2003, at which point it opened its doors to private tenants and owner occupiers having problems with other residents in the private sector. The team receives at least one new complaint of anti-social behaviour in the private sector every day.

Timetable:

13th October 2009 at 11am-1pm: Allport Lane Precinct, Bromborough
28th October 2009 at 11am-1pm: Cool Trader, Hoylake Road, Moreton
10th November 2009 at 11am-1pm: Birkenhead Precinct
8th December 2009 at 11am-1pm: Liscard Precinct

➤ **Mobile Police stationed in Noctorum (August 2009)**

Wirral's Community Mobile Police Station has been deployed to Noctorum to tackle anti-social behaviour. The unit, a partnership between Wirral Council and Merseyside Police, managed by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, has been located on land at the top of Ormond Way. Noctorum has been identified as a 'hot-spot' for anti-social behaviour and the unit is located within the area, as a central hub, for tackling crime and disorder within the neighbourhood. The Community Mobile Police Station, a 40 x 12 x 10 foot converted shipping container, was introduced in Wirral in January 2006. 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. It also contains a meeting area that can be used for a variety of purposes and is equipped with the technology necessary to help with a wide range of activities, such as meetings, workshops and group sessions.

A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) from the police neighbourhood has been seconded to work alongside the Anti-Social Behaviour Team for the duration of the station's deployment. The officer is working alongside the community and other agencies, and in particular Wirral Partnership Homes, to ensure that any work undertaken is sustainable by the community following the withdrawal of the unit.

➤ **Landlords working together to tackle anti-social behaviour (September 2009)**

A consortium of social landlords has signed up to a new information sharing protocol to tackle anti-social behaviour. The Respect Consortium was created in 2007, co-ordinated by Wirral Anti-Social Behaviour Team, to work together to tackle anti-social behaviour in Wirral. This partnership was solidified through signing up, both individually and as a local consortium, to the Respect Housing Management Standard. The consortium meets on a monthly basis to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour and promote respect, share good practice and develop initiatives. This includes sharing information about individuals who have been charged with committing offences in, or connected to, social landlord stock, through monthly analysis conducted by the Joint Community Safety Team. This assists landlords to take consistent action against individuals who have breached tenancy conditions and provide protection for tenants and wider residents.

The new Information Sharing Protocol, which encompasses the sharing of data and information across a wide range of agencies, has been signed up to by 15 social landlords. Mark Armstrong, Chair of the Respect Consortium and Head of Policy & Strategy with landlord Wirral Partnership Homes, signed the protocol on behalf of the consortium.

The following social landlords signed up to the new Information Sharing Protocol:

Arena Housing Association & Leasowe Community Homes
Beechwood & Ballantyne Community Housing Association
Cosmopolitan Housing Association
Family Housing Association
Forum Housing Association
Liverpool Housing Trust
Pierhead Housing Association
Pine Court Housing Association
Plus Dane Housing

RegendaFirst (Maritime)
Riverside Housing
Venture Housing Association
Wirral Methodist Housing Association
Wirral Partnership Homes

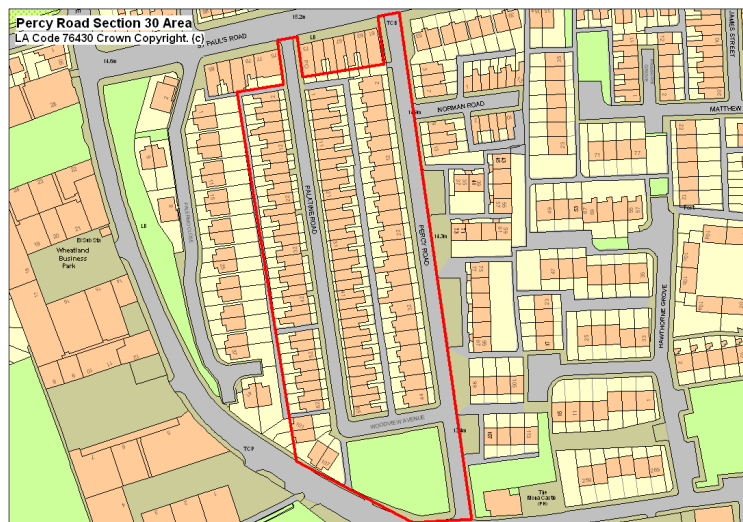
➤ **Section 30 Dispersal Areas**

Three areas have been designated by the Police and Council as (Section 30 Order) Dispersal Areas. The Orders are just one of a number of tools used to tackle anti-social behaviour. The powers under the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003 mean that police officers can move youths on and make arrests on those who return within 24 hours. The areas are outlined below:

Wallasey: Brougham Road area (period: 31 July 2009 – 31 January 2010)



Wallasey: Percy Road/Palatine Road area (period: 31 July 2009 – 31 January 2010)



Overchurch (period: 21 September 2009 – 21 January 2010)

