

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**HEAD OF YOUTH & PLAY SERVICE**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report seeks to brief the committee on the work of the Service since the last meeting in May.

**1.0 Staff Movements**

- 1.1 At the end of August, Valarie Wilson retired from her post as Principal Youth Worker for Bebington Youth Club. Val worked for the Youth Service for 28 years. Young people and colleagues wish her well for the future.
- 1.2 Michelle Langan has been appointed to the newly created Health Services in Schools co-ordinator post. Beverly Lloyd Madeley has been appointed as a youth worker within this project. Both these posts will support the health clinics and schools and provide additional support on substance misuse and holistic health issues in the districts. The posts have been funded through PCT and Extended Schools.
- 1.3 Sue Aubusson has been appointed to the post of Web Technical Officer. Sue's role will involve the design, population and development of the Wirral young people's website to publicise positive youth activities.

**Area Team reports**

**2.0 Birkenhead and Bebington Area**

- 2.1. Bebington Youth Club acknowledged the retirement of its Principal Worker, Valerie Wilson with members of the Management Committee, past and current members and staff and colleagues gathering together to wish Val well and present her with a retirement gift. During the summer period many activities took place at Bebington Youth Club. General activities such as arts and crafts and sports were a regular feature of the programme and the Club featured a project focussing on knife crime.
- 2.2. Members of Eastham Youth Club hosted a MC musical evening for young people from Cavendish Youth Club interested in learning this skill. It is hoped that this evening will be repeated in the near future. Successful trips to Alton Towers and ten-pin bowling have taken place with members of the South Wirral Young People's Project. The Club's gardening group are hoping to rent a local allotment in the near future to enable them to significantly extend their project.
- 2.3. Healthy eating and exercise continue to feature on the regular programme at Cavendish Youth Club. The fitness suite and large coffee bar are ideal spaces in which to develop this work. Step Aerobics has recently been introduced and is proving popular. The Club joined with many others to take part in the Fun day in Birkenhead Park and also enjoyed an evening visit to Thurstaston for a picnic.
- 2.4. The Rock Ferry show was the focus for fun and involvement in the local community when members of Viking Youth club ran a stall doing graffiti art tee-shirts. The young people were able to display skills that they had gained in the ongoing arts and crafts workshops that run regularly in the youth club. The young people are planning to make a video about hate crime. This project is supported by Radio Merseyside who are offering support, resources and training. A residential trip to Oaklands is planned in the near future. During the summer Response held workshops on alcohol, drug misuse and sexual health for young people in the Club.

- 2.5. A four week summer sports camp at Shaftesbury Youth club proved a success again this year, this was run by senior members for the younger members of the club. In addition to the usual sporting activities there have been a number of taster sessions in cricket, Tae Kwon Do, soft tennis, and circuit training. Senior members have also renovated the "chill out" area. The allotments run by the club are being developed and a small husbandry project is being set up to care for a dozen chickens.
- 2.6. Charing Cross Youth Club had a busy summer programme, which included visits to Greenwood Forest Park, Waterworld in Stoke on Trent and Manleymer. The club has recently acquired further accommodation within the church complex and some of the senior members have set up a snooker room. This room being used regularly and proved to be an invaluable resource following the recent arson attack that has put the main clubrooms out of action until repairs are completed.
- 3.0. **Wirral Youth Service Outreach Team.**
  - 3.1. Members of Wirral Youth Service Outreach Team (WYSOT) have been preparing for the changes that will come about as a result of the reconfiguration of the Youth Service and are looking forward to playing a full and active role in Wirral's enhanced youth offer. Regarding the development of weekend work, three of the neighbourhood teams now operate on a Saturday night.
  - 3.2. WYSOT delivers a wide range of positive activities for the street groups with whom they work and in addition, organise Wirral wide events for all young people, one of which is the popular Sand Sculpture competition held annually at New Brighton. A number of projects delivered summer holiday activity programmes and also supported Wirral Youth Theatre's 'Swings and Roundabout' productions in parks throughout Wirral.
  - 3.3. As well as facilitating the Youth Forum meetings, support has been given to young people wishing to apply for Youth Forum funds.
  - 3.4. Neighbourhood Youth Workers attend Respect Panel meetings on behalf of the Service, and with their knowledge of the young people and their circumstances, play an important role in addressing pertinent issues.
  - 3.5. Birkenhead Youth Action Project continues to work with young people in established locations as well as investigating new locations. Good working relationships have been developed with a number of residents groups with a view to promoting positive images of young people. Support has been given to the large 'Indie' group who have experienced violence and aggression from other young people. The group are now attending Viking Youth Club on a Friday and Grange Baptist Youth Club on a Saturday night.
  - 3.6. A successful application for Area Youth Forum Award funding enabled ten young people from Deeside Young People's Project (DYPP) to undertake an advanced level accredited climbing course at Awesome Walls. In partnership with the police, who provided some funds and staffing support, DYPP delivered a holiday activity programme. The youth workers have facilitated a consultation with the young people to further develop facilities at Newton Park.
  - 3.7. Fender Youth Action Project has continued to undertake streetwork on Beechwood and Ballentyne Estates. The young people have also participated in groupwork sessions and been involved in planning activities.
  - 3.8. North End Young People's Project has undertaken developmental work with a number of discrete groups of young people who plan their own activity programmes. Recently these have included arts and craft sessions, visits to the Echo Arena, issue based work and healthy eating courses. During the summer, young people participated in a regular brunch club and took part in an outdoor adventure programme which included a visit to the white water rafting centre at Bala, North Wales.

- 3.9. Noctorum Young People's Project has made good use of the open spaces in the area to organise games activities and hold healthy eating picnics. Issue based workshops are delivered on a regular basis, often in partnership with Response. The youth workers play an active role within the community as well as liaising with parents to support individual young people. The Monday evening football sessions at Ridgeway High School sports hall resumed in September.
- 3.10. Supported by Youth Crime Action Plan funding, Seacombe Young People's Project (SYPP) has been able to develop its profile in the area, not only with the young people but also with the other agencies and organisations. The youth workers participated in recent police-led Operation Stay Safe nights. In response to concerns about vandalism at St Joseph's Primary School, the youth workers have organised a weekly football session in the school playground which has had a positive outcome for the school and for the young people. The development of Friday and Saturday night work is progressing well. One Friday, nine teams with over 70 young people participated in a football competition. On a Saturday night, young people have been successfully signposted to DJ workshops held in the local scout hut.
- 3.11. South Wirral Young People's Project Friday evening football session at the Oval now has the services of four of their young people who have achieved their Community Sports Leader Awards. They assist with planning the session, organising the weekly mini leagues and organising the teams. Following their successful Youth Opportunity Fund bid for resources for a peer led new media project, young people impressed the panel at a Dragon's Den event. Rather than awarding a cash prize to renovate space at the community room at the Digit Project, Bromborough Fire Station, Wirral Partnership Homes, Lovells Builders and Stiebel Eltron Heating opted to provide the materials and work along side the young people to undertake the work. The new media project will be available to the young people who attend the Saturday night Sit Off session. Young people from the Dig It Project visited the Gardeners World Show at the NEC and took up an invitation from Joe Swift from the programme to meet with him there.
- 3.12. Wallasey Young People's Project (WYPP) works with numerous groups of young people throughout the area who participate in a full programme of targeted issue based workshops. Two groups from Mount Road have successfully completed accredited climbing courses. Work is taking place with a Liscard young women's group this has included health and well being sessions. At the weekend of the Wirral Show, youth workers from WYPP and SYPP were on duty at the Friday Fright Night, focusing on harm reduction, advice and guidance with the young people. The youth workers were also present with the Kontakta Bus on the Saturday of the show.
- 4.0. **Wallasey/Deeside**
- 4.1. Fender Youth Club held a 'Virtual Baby' open day to recruit for the next course. Eight young people signed up. Staff and young people have completed Training the Trainer for the Virtual Baby course, enabling them to deliver this to other young people. Young people have participated in a 'Think you know' internet safety course. For the Woodchurch in Bloom event, young people, alongside the community, designed and made up planters. The Re:act project runs every Tuesday looking at knife crime and dealing with managing aggression. The Police Community Support Officers from the area are involved in this project running sessions around weapons and the law.
- 4.2. Greasby Youth Club have been taking part in sports coaching activities funded by GOAL in Coronation Park. There have been trips to Lazer Quest and Bowling over the summer. Young people from the youth club regularly maintain and water the planters outside the community centre. There has been project work in the Pavilion in Coronation Park around skin care and sexual health.
- 4.3. Over the summer months attendance has been low West Kirby Youth Club; this has given the staff team the opportunity to do some outreach work in the surrounding area. 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. During

the summer there have been outings to the Spaceport and on the Mersey Ferry and a BBQ in Thurstaston.

- 4.4. Leasowe Youth Project held trips to Lazer Quest and bowling. Three teams entered into a five aside competition which was held in the Soccerdome. Young people are taking part in a DVD with Response and Wirral Youth Theatre looking at risk taking behaviour, this is due to be launched in the coming months.
- 4.5. Moreton Youth Club, as part of National Condom week, produced a poster and delivered workshops on safe sex and STI's. Young people also took part in workshops for skin care month, which focused on sun damage, use of sun beds, skin cancer and caring for skin in summer time. Three young people and a worker are participating in a virtual baby course being run at Fender Youth Club. Some young people from the club took part in awareness sessions around personal hygiene, where they had the opportunity to take part in games and win toiletry items for prizes. Senior members are delivering a creative cooking project to junior members.
- 4.6. St Mary's Youth Club has just started back in September for the autumn term; they are in the process of recruiting for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. Prior to July it was expedition season with groups from Bronze Silver and Gold taking part in their expedition sections of DofE. 144 young people attended the club's leavers disco.

#### 5.0. **Wirral Youth Theatre/Youth Arts (Wyt) - Highlights**

- 5.1. The WYT in-house and outreach programme is thriving. The programme includes a weekly open programme of participative arts, training and outreach provision. WYT is currently designing a programme of multi media urban arts tasters and projects to be delivered in each of the District Youth Hubs funded by the District Activity Fund.
- 5.2. 'Swings & Roundabouts' was originally commissioned by Wirral PCT as part of the reducing risk taking behaviour strategy. As a result of a successful series of performances in parks in 2008, Merseyside Police commissioned a further week of performances for all schools at Pacific Road as well as another tour of parks in the school holidays. Two new companies of ten young people aged 16 – 19yrs, were recruited and during the last week of term, over fifteen hundred pupils came to Pacific Road to see the piece which looks at the risks some young people may take on a night out in a park. WYT has also produced a pack of resources for schools and youth projects to use in their follow-up work. In partnership with outreach teams, an abridged version of the play was taken into six parks across Wirral in August. WYT is now working on several ideas for the next issue based outreach tour and will be consulting with schools, youth projects and a range of partner agencies on the focus and appropriate target groups.
- 5.3. In June, working in partnership with Schools Sports Development, WYT hosted a week of dance performances from schools across Wirral at Pacific Road Arts Centre. On the last day of this festival WYT worked with 50 young men from several schools, towards an integrated performance at an evening event entitled Machismo. Other performances from male dance groups have been established as part of the extended schools activity programme. School Sports Development is currently funding a male dance worker to target young men with the aim of encouraging their access to other progression routes and opportunities in dance outside of school. One of the outcomes of this work is there is an increased in numbers of young men now attending the WYT in-house dance provision.
- 5.4. WYT are supporting a group of young men from Birkenhead North and Wallasey who are working towards setting up safe training and performance opportunities for break-dance crews across Wirral. This group, who have name themselves 'Contembreak', applied to the YOF to help develop their ideas and received funding to take this project Wirral wide. The group have performed at the MACHISMO event and at the Lowry Theatre in Salford at a Youth Dance England event. 'Contembreak' are currently working on a piece to take on tour to the new Youth Hubs with the aim of continuing to recruit for the project.

- 5.5. In addition to the in-house dance, WYT is working with Youth Dance England to set up Centres for Accredited Training schemes (CAT schemes) which is part of the national 'Gifted and Talented' strategy. As part of this strategy, WYT is providing training on working with harder to reach young people and has nominated several young people who fit this category for the scheme, which will enable them to access additional training with nationally acclaimed dancers and facilitators.
- 5.6. Sound Steps Stage Two came to an end with another extremely successful 'Live n Loud' gig at the beginning of July. The final report has been submitted to the National Foundation for Youth Music who has funded the project for over four years. Sound Steps has created an extremely successful programme providing a wide range of music related opportunities for young people. The legacy of this is a thriving music project which is currently being sustained by two other externally funded projects, 'Voltage' and 'Reverberate'. 'Reverberate' which concentrates on band development and work with young women will come to an end in December which will leave a gap in the open access music provision at WYT.
- 5.7. 'Voltage' is part of V the National Volunteering Programme. WYT has been funded to work with volunteers aged 16 -25 known as Youth Music Ambassadors to train them to co-facilitate music activities and to promote volunteers opportunities for young people across Wirral. The first cohort completed their training programme at the end of April and were presented with their V50 and Arts Awards at an event facilitated by Wirral CVS and WYT at Pacific Road in May. The new group of nine Voltage Volunteers aged 16 – 21yrs have now started their training and will be facilitating the involvement of other young people in WYT's next large scale musical piece due to be staged in February 2011.
- 5.8. During the summer, over fifty young people took part in a range of drama, dance, music, new media and technical theatre workshops looking at the theme of image and they worked towards a sharing of their work at the end of this workshop period. This work has contributed to the final script and score for an original musical to be performed at Pacific Road early next year. In September over sixty young people attended group auditions for this production and weekly rehearsals have now started.
- 5.9. WYT ran weekly drama workshops with a Young Muslim Group which culminated in a performance for friends and families in May.
- 5.10. Yr 7 pupils from the Observatory School came into Pacific Road to take part in drama and dance workshops as part of a programme to improve their communication skills. WYT is currently working with a group of Yr 11 pupils towards producing a DVD.
- 5.11. WYT runs a weekly Friday night drama sessions for young people at Riverside Community Centre. The 16 -19 yr old Peer Educators co-facilitate these workshops which are attended by over thirty participants, this project will culminate in a performance night for the local community in December.
- 5.12. WYT continues to run weekly drama sessions for Meadowside and Foxfield pupils who come into Pacific Road each Friday to participate in a programme designed to improve their life skills. The students are also working towards their Bronze Arts Award and some have integrated into other WYT projects including the current large scale production.
- 5.13. Young people who attend the twice weekly technical theatre sessions have worked as the stage crew on several productions and projects including the 'Live 'n' Loud' music gigs, the Schools Dance Festival and are currently designing the next large scale production. A major development in this work is the partnership with West Cheshire College in the facilitation of a community based accredited training programme. Within this scheme, WYT will be able to accredit young people's achievements at GCSE and A level equivalents.

- 5.14. A major outcome of the technical theatre department is that one young man has recently gained part-time employment in the field and another young woman has just gain full-time employment at the Floral Pavilion Theatre as a theatre technician.

## 6.0 Response

- 6.1. The Housing support team have been very busy supporting vulnerable homeless young people. In addition to the mainstream housing support offered is the Stop Gap project. The Stop Gap programme has been of great benefit to many homeless young people with a high number given extensive support during this period. The programme is currently working intensively with 15 young people with more complex needs to avoid rough sleeping, homelessness or entering bed and breakfast accommodation. Feedback for the programme has been positive from young people. The funding for Stop Gap from Supporting People has been extended until end of December. However, it is anticipated further funding will be available to continue the project until the end of this financial year. .
- 6.2. Over the six month period from April to September there were 122 new referrals into the counselling team. Referrals have come from a wide variety of agencies including schools, YOS, accommodation providers, local training agencies, colleges, GP's, Kooth, social workers, Connexions, and the Police. A total of 301 appointments have been taken up by young people.
- 6.3. Issues young people present with include, family breakdown or lack of communication with family, dealing with parents divorce, dealing with parents alcohol and substance addiction (this is on the increase), domestic violence, personal relationship breakdown, bullying, bereavement, anger, anxiety, stress, sexuality issues, low confidence, low self esteem, feelings of abandonment, living alone in accommodation, sexual abuse, and suicidal feelings.
- 6.4. The Response Outreach Team continue to deliver safe sex sessions to young people engaged with Counselling Team, also awareness of alcohol, substances, personal safety is included at young persons request. This approach is working really well and proving to be successful thus empowering young people with knowledge and choices. At assessment young people are now asked if they have ever had any suicidal thoughts or feelings, this helps to further explore the issues of young people and confidential information will be passed on to the Suicide Audit group.
- 6.5. Over the past six months, the Alcohol worker has engaged with 747 young people across the Wirral, giving them information and advice on the effects of alcohol. There have been 20 individuals provided with one-to-one support; 90 one-to-one sessions delivered. In addition, 13 evaluated alcohol awareness workshops were delivered during this period.
- 6.6. The Alcohol worker has built good relationships with Children's Accident and Emergency, which has meant referrals coming swiftly into Response and more young people taking up the offer of education and support.
- 6.7. The Young Person's Alcohol Intervention Programme received referrals from the Police for 165 young people arrested through alcohol related incidents and a further 327 individuals that had been stopped in public places. Over a six month period, 492 young people (aged 13-19) were referred to the Alcohol Intervention worker by the Police.
- 6.8. Response Outreach Team have engaged with 2,411 young people across the Wirral through work in schools; street work and large events giving advice and information on drugs, alcohol and personal safety to both individuals and groups. The team have delivered 30 evaluated substance misuse sessions to target groups of young people in a variety of settings. There have been 134 one-to-one sessions delivered and 31 young people reporting a reduction of substance misuse over the six month period. In addition, the team have provided 45 parents with support.
- 6.9. Key progress made over this period includes the development of the BiteSize event, which is delivered in schools across the Wirral. Following the success of last year, the team, working in

partnership with Wirral Brook Advisory, have delivered 13 events and developed a new interactive game to engage young people and deliver the important information on substance misuse.

The Outreach team have supported Wirral Youth Theatre's 'Swings & Roundabouts' play, with drug and alcohol information and education following each performance delivered both in the theatre and in local parks. This is the second year we have supported this educational play and this year it included a performance to Parents & Carers, highlighting the risks and consequences of substance misuse, alcohol and associated risk taking behaviours.

- 6.10. The team have also worked in partnership with the Police, Wirral Anti-social Behaviour Team and local youth workers at the Wirral Show. The multi-agency approach was effective and using the Kontakta Bus as a resource for young people as a safe place and staff was useful and allowed for staff to deliver personal safety messages. It was reported that there were no alcohol related arrests on the Friday evening.
- 6.11. New drug trends include amphetamine and ketamine use amongst young people. Alcohol is still the number one drug of choice, followed closely by cannabis. Although still used, cocaine and ecstasy have been less reported by young people. This appears to be due to lack of purity and value for money.

## **7.0 Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

- 7.1. The completion of a successful expedition season has resulted in a large number of young people now being well placed to complete their DofE awards within the next few months. The number of young people achieving Gold Awards is steadily increasing and a number of these will be receiving their certificates from Prince Philip this October.
- 7.2. The expedition in Snowdonia in August was subject to a further inspection by the Adventure Activity Licensing Service who recommended that our operating licence should continue for a further two years.
- 7.3. Delivery of DofE is now making significant changes in the way participants interface with leaders and DofE managers. eDofE is an interactive online system that helps young people manage their DofE programme and leaders monitor their progress. The system allows young people and leaders to engage with the DofE at times and places convenient to them. Young people can record their DofE activities in multiple formats – from photos and videos to blogs and pdfs. Their evidence can be uploaded directly from computers, cameras and mobile phones. eDofE makes it easier for young people to move between the sections of their DofE programme and to advance from one level to the next.

## **8.0 International Work/ Special Needs**

- 8.1. This year's Hong Kong youth exchange has now been completed. The group of young people from Hong Kong visited Wirral in August and Wirral's group of young people visited Hong Kong and China during September. The theme of this year's project was youth participation with a varied programme being carried out both here and in Hong Kong. Although the official partner of this exchange is the Hong Kong Government's Home Affairs Bureau the actual programme provider was the Chinese YMCA. The highlight of the project was the two day visit to Qing Yuan on the mainland where the Service has sponsored the local school over the past five years.
- 8.2. The Belvidere Centre continues its' work with disabled young people and offers a full and challenging programme of activities, workshops and group work. Members have recently been awarded the bronze award for the Health Promoting Youth Club scheme and are currently working towards the silver award. The club ran a full summer programme of activities including workshops, visits and projects. The Centre is open four evenings a week.
- 8.3. The Callister Youth Club continues to meet on two evenings a week and has had a successful summer programme with a varied menu of activities including items such as eating out, healthy cooking and sports training.

8.4 It is proposed that a new Senior Member Training Course will start later in the Autumn.

## 9.0. **Training and Staff Development**

9.1. The partnership with Wirral Metropolitan College continues, and a presentation ceremony is to be held on 16 October where members of staff will be presented with their NVQ Level 2 Certificates. The success of the candidates is due in no small part to the dedication and skill of the assessors. The April 2009 intake is progressing and applications are arriving for the next proposed intake after April 2010. Costs have been reduced as candidates are eligible for Train2Gain funding.

9.2. Specialist training continues in fields such as alcohol and drug misuse, young men and gender issues, housing and law for young people, mental health, suicide risk management and core skills such as Appointed Person Training.

9.3. The imminent service reconfiguration is being used as an opportunity for both team development and re-visiting basic practice. The detail of the programmes will be driven by the five Every Child Matters outcomes and the key components of PSA Delivery Agreement 14 (reduce the N.E.E.T. rate; more participation in Positive Activities; reduce use of illicit drugs and the misuse of alcohol; reduce the under-18 conception rate and reduce the number of first-time entrants to the criminal justice system).

## 10.0. **Youth Participation**

10.1. A Participation Residential, was held at the end of June at Trafford Hall. As there are now a number of different groups of young people who are involved in decision the residential enabled these groups to work towards shared goals to improve services and opportunities for Wirral young people. Groups who attended were: Executive Youth Board, Youth Opportunity Fund/Youth Capital Fund Grant Panel, UKYP, Area Youth Forums and Young Advisors.

10.2. The weekend comprised of a variety of workshops, discussions and fun activities that enabled the young people to create shared goals and understanding.

10.3. Key decisions made by young people at the residential included relaunching the Area Youth Forums following Youth Service reconfiguration and establishment of the Hubs and representation from each of the groups at events and meetings which will enable all of the decision making groups to work more effectively together.

10.4. New members for the Executive Youth Board were recruited during the school summer break. Approximately half of the previous EYB decided to continue their involvement for a further 12 months. Training for the Board took place on 12 September. At this meeting, the EYB decided on the theme for this year's Youth Voice Conference and Youth Parliament, 'Perceptions of Young People'. The EYB have been working hard planning this event.

10.5. The EYB decided that they would take the majority of their action points directly from the issues raised at the District Youth Forums and will be represented at each meeting. They also discussed how the EYB fits in with overall council structures (i.e. Trust and Cabinet) and how the EYB links in with other groups.

10.6. The EYB met with a representative of the Older People's Parliament in September to discuss links between the two groups and potential areas for co-working. The EYB are now chairing their meetings and producing the minutes. Ellis Palmer spent a week with the Children and Young People's Department for his work experience with school. During his placement Ellis spent time with key council officers and the Chief Executive.

10.7. All of the MYP's and deputies were invited to attend the Mayor's Inauguration on Monday 11 May. This was a high profile event which young people had not attended before.



- 10.8. Paul Aitchison represented Wirral and the North West Region at a meeting with Beverly Hughes on 18 May, to discuss citizenship in schools. This was a very productive meeting, as a well established government minister within the DCSF is now aware of the campaign.
- 10.9. Monica Boughdady, Leah Cope & Paul Aitchison met with Ben Chapman in May to highlight the issue of citizenship in schools. The meeting was very productive with Ben Chapman showing support for the campaign. It is hoped that they will meet again in November/December.
- 10.10. In July, Leah Cope shadowed Ben Chapman in the House of Commons for a week as part of her work experience through school. Leah also spent a week on placement with Youth and Play Service.
- 10.11. Jade Jones put forward a suggested campaign about the international monetary fund and the management of debt in developing countries. Unfortunately, the campaign was not taken on nationally, but at a regional level, it has been recognised as an excellent example of an innovative campaign which was very well prepared and thought out. This is now being used as a model of good practice for regional MYP's and deputies when preparing campaign action plans.
- 10.12. Leah Cope attended a meeting at Government Office North West (GONW) on 30 June. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss positive ways forward on how to develop local links with representatives of GONW. GONW has allocated a specific named worker who will build positive relationships with Local Authorities and the young people who are involved in developing services and decision making groups. The priority for staff and young people is to develop a strong professional relationship directly with GONW.
- 10.13. MYP's and deputies have regularly attended regional meetings to work on regional and national campaigns (i.e. transport, young people in the media).
- 10.14. The Young Minister of Health also attended and is involved in planning and executing large scale Health Services Consultation with the outcomes being used to develop services. Over 1,000 questionnaires have now distributed and the results will be collated for Youth and Play Service, NHS/PCT and the North West Regional Youth Work Unit.
- 10.15. National Sitting was held at Kent University, Canterbury this year. MYP's attended discussing and voting on National Campaigns. A varied young person and worker programme was on offer for the four days which allowed further development of work.
- 10.16. Recent consultation with workers from across the region has resulted in the regional meetings being opened up to involve more young people from across the various participation groups. This is in recognition that the issues relevant to young people need to become focused and managed in a more coordinated way. As a result, Wirral will be able to involve young people from the Executive Youth Board, Youth Forums, Grant Panel or any other young people that have a particular interest in any of the issues being raised at these meetings.
- 10.17. The next round of Area Youth Forums will take place week beginning 28 September. The focus of the meetings will be allocation of Area Youth Forum Awards, consultation on Health Services and the future developments for District Youth Forums. Following the residential, the Youth Forums will be relaunched in February 2010 as District Youth Forums. Representatives from each of the decision making groups will attend, initially to explain the role of their particular group and inform young people of how the decision making group structures will be working together for the benefit of Wirral young people. District Youth Forums will then take place every other month. This is following feedback from young people and workers who identified that the frequency of the meetings was impacting on action.
- 10.18. New members of the Grant Panel were recruited during the summer. Approximately half of the group decided to continue their involvement for another year. Training will take place in October and applications for the 2010/2011 YOF/YCF funding will be available in November.

10.19. The commissioning sub group have been working extremely hard over the summer on allocating the money for young people's access to leisure facilities. Initial decisions on this funding will be made by December. The group are currently exploring options for the funding available for young people's access to transport. Meetings with Merseytravel and Council officers are currently taking place.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to note the report.

Lindsay Davidson  
Acting Head of Youth & Play Service