

**CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT**

<b>REPORT OF</b>	Councillor Paul Stuart
<b>CABINET PORTFOLIO FOR</b>	Law & Order
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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relevant to his portfolio.

**WIRRAL'S COMMUNITIES ARE SAFE**

I want to start my update for Members with the news of a domestic abuse centre supporting male victims and survivors has opened in Wirral. The Paul Lavelle Foundation (PLF) officially opened at Royal Standard House in Rock Ferry with the help of legendary Everton goalkeeper Neville Southall.

The hub will offer services for men who are suffering domestic abuse and act as a base for future events from the charity.

Read more about this important story in the [Wirral Globe](#).

On the same theme, I would like to place on record my thanks to our colleagues at the Hive Youth Zone. Youngsters there have backed our campaign to highlight hidden domestic abuse. The #ItsNeverOk campaign, run by Wirral's Domestic Abuse Alliance, is using the Valentine's Day weekend to draw attention to the issue of coercive control - an act or pattern of acts which include assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse used to harm, punish, or frighten the victim.

#ItsNeverOk is targeted at young people in Wirral aged 14-21, with the aim of highlighting the subtle nature of controlling behaviour. Read more about this in the [Wirral Globe](#).

The following points give Members a good picture of our ongoing work and performance within this portfolio.

- It is pleasing to see reports of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) continue to fall, with reports down by a third compared to last year.
- This reduction was particularly evident during the bonfire night and Halloween period, a time period of perennial ASB issues. Operation Banger on the lead up to bonfire night was carried out to ensure high

visibility in areas dealing with the distress of overnight ASB fires; Operation Stay Safe tackling young people involved in risk taking behaviour and an Arson Awareness day.

- This work continues alongside multi agency engagement with residents through Community Days of Action taking place in Wallasey and Oxton.
- One of the priorities set out in this pledge was to build communities where people feel safe, as part of this work we have commissioned a specialist organisation to deliver specialist age appropriate training to schools, this is being prioritised within schools within communities where racial tensions have been identified.
- Building on the success of the Safer Wirral Hub we are aligning with the Local Policing Model and planning further integrated partnership working as part of Phase 2.

Finally, this month I would like to draw Members' attention to our work on reducing Modern Slavery in our borough. In January, a powerful photographic exhibition, created to help raise awareness of the issue of modern slavery and human trafficking, went on display in Wirral.

Invisible People is a touring exhibit, created by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and brought to life by award-winning photographer Rory Carnegie and human rights charity the Helen Bamber Foundation.

It has already been to 15 different cities, including Glasgow, Bristol and Cardiff, as well as landmark London venues such as Westminster Abbey and Canary Wharf. The Wallasey exhibition was the first time it could be seen in the North West.

The exhibition was part of our Modern Slavery Conference, held to bring agencies together to produce a strategy for tackling this practice in Wirral. It is so important that we come together to address these heinous practices in a co-ordinated and effective way in Wirral. I will soon be bringing an action plan to Cabinet on this important issue. Read more about this in [Wirral View](#).