



CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 18 October 2023

REPORT TITLE:	AN OVERVIEW OF YOUTH WORK IN WIRRAL
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATION

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Children, Young People and Education Committee with an overview of the current Youth Offer on Wirral for children and young people. It also outlines key documents that have influenced Youth Work as a profession supporting the Youth Offer on Wirral.

The report is aligned to priorities of Wirral Council's Plan 2021-2026:

- Working for brighter futures for our children, young people, and their families by breaking the cycle of poor outcomes and raising the aspirations of every child in Wirral.
- Working for safe and pleasant communities where our residents feel safe, and where they want to live and raise their families.
- Working for happy, active, and healthy lives where people are supported, protected, and inspired to live independently.

The report supports the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority 3- ensure the best start in life for all children and young people.

This is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Children, Young People and Education Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and Scrutinise the youth services provided for children and young people.
2. Agree to receive a further report on how the Youth Offer meets the requirements of the statutory guidance issued by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport under Section 507B of the Education Act 1996, issued September 2023.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide youth services. Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 states that local authorities must 'secure as far as necessary practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational for young people' and make sure young people have a say in the local offer. The Local Authority meets its statutory responsibility through a localised youth offer which includes provision delivered by the Local Authority Youth Services and commissioned third sector partners, at both universal and targeted levels.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 This report is aligned with the Wirral Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Directorate Plan. It contributes to the Wirral Partnership vision to *make Wirral great for children, young people, and families*. Other options have not been considered in the context of this.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Assessing Need

The Youth Offer was reviewed in 2019, to understand what young people in Wirral need and want to support their development and help them to achieve the best possible outcomes. The review focused on listening to what young people told us and was broader than youth clubs and leisure activities, including: health & wellbeing; education, employment & learning; hobbies, activities & free time; youth voice & democracy; young people in their communities; and, advice, information and access. Over 2,700 young people took part in the Youth Offer Review, sharing their views on what they wanted from their local youth services.

- 3.2 In addition to the views of local young people, data analysis has identified priority areas as risk of:

- Criminal exploitation and child sexual exploitation
- Involvement in anti-social behaviour
- Poor mental health and wellbeing, that can lead to self-harm
- Attendances at hospital due to alcohol and/or substance misuse
- Teenage pregnancy and sexual health
- Children and young people living in lower super output areas (LSOAs) achieving poorer outcomes than their peers

- 3.3 Following the Youth Offer Review, Wirral's youth provision was reorganised to provide an effective response to the needs of young people. This involved defining an universal offer which is available to all and targeted support to address issue specific need.

Delivering the Youth Offer- April 2020 to September 2023

3.4 Youth Matters

Youth Workers are a valuable resource in Wirral's Children's Services (see Appendix 1 for detailed information on the role of Youth Work and Youth Workers). Wirral's youth work provision is known collectively as Youth Matters, providing early help through a wide range of universal and targeted support and activities to meet the needs and aspirations of Wirral children aged 6-19 years and up to 25 years for those with a special educational need or disability. This includes:

- Universal Offer- Health Services in Schools (Appendix 2)
- Universal Offer- Zillo (Appendix 3)
- Universal Offer- Hubs and Clubs (Appendix 4)
- Universal Offer- The Hive (Appendix 5)
- Targeted Offer- Response Drugs and Alcohol Team (Appendix 6)
- Targeted Offer- Counselling- Response and The Drop In (Appendix 7)
- Targeted Offer- Creative Youth Development (Appendix 8)
- Targeted Offer- Detached Youth Work (Appendix 9)

3.5 Wirral Youth Collective

Wirral's community, faith and voluntary sector make a valuable contribution to the Youth Offer. Wirral Youth Collective is a collaboration of organisations and groups providing activities for children and young people across the borough. Local Authority Youth Managers co-ordinate this, facilitating a broader offer for young people. It exemplifies the power of partnership working in supporting and enriching the lives of young people in Wirral. By uniting local authority, voluntary and faith organisations they have created a robust support network that addresses the multifaceted needs of the youth population. The collective's reach extends across Wirral making services more accessible to young people from different communities and backgrounds. This inclusivity approach ensures that no one is left behind and that support is available to all, also providing the opportunity to share best practice, tailored solutions, and community engagement.

3.6 Wirral Youth Zone- The Hive

Children and young people in Wirral benefit from access to a purpose-built youth facility, The Hive. Children's Services have continued to award a grant of £200,000 to The Hive for 2023-24.

3.7 As a charity, The Hive publishes its annual accounts on Companies House. For the period ending 31 March 2022, the charity reported a difficult financial year for 2021-2022, seeing income drop by £653,000. At financial year end, The Hive reported annual expenditure of £1.594m and annual income of £1.197m, leading to a deficit. Action has been taken by the charity's Board, through a senior management restructure and extending fundraising capacity. The accounts for 2022-23 have been filed with Companies House on 23 September 2023 and are due for publication on 03 October 2023.

3.8 During the 2021-2022 period, The Hive engaged with young people 25,815 times and membership grew to over 3,000. Children's Services Commissioning Team conduct quarterly contract monitoring meetings with The Hive to ensure

delivery of the Service Level Agreement. This includes oversight of reach and attendance. Figures for 2022-2023 are as follows:

Neighbourhood	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Birkenhead A	3825 (42%)	3658 (44%)	4314 (44%)	4180 (41%)
Birkenhead B	1488 (16%)	1377 (17%)	1782 (18%)	1758 (17%)
South Wirral A	248 (3%)	261 (3%)	259 (3%)	430 (4%)
South Wirral B	319 (3%)	357 (4%)	476 (5%)	577 (6%)
Wallasey A	835 (9%)	764 (9%)	806 (8%)	770 (8%)
Wallasey B	381 (4%)	387 (5%)	442 (4%)	523 (5%)
Wallasey C	1062 (12%)	845 (10%)	997 (10%)	1228 (12%)
West Wirral A	224 (2%)	145 (2%)	172 (2%)	209 (2%)
West Wirral B	608 (7%)	430 (5%)	427 (4%)	363 (4%)
Non-Wirral	152 (2%)	79 (1%)	170 (2%)	128 (1%)

- 3.9 The attendance data above shows that the majority of attendances are by children and young people living in Birkenhead, with those in neighbouring parts of Wallasey regularly attending. These are known lower super output areas (LSOAs) where levels of deprivation are significantly higher and show that this facility is engaging with a population in need of additional support.

Publicising the Youth Offer April 2020- September 2023

- 3.10 Findings from the Youth Offer Review showed that young people wanted more information about services, support and young people's lives to be available online. Over a 12-month period, staff from Youth Matters worked with a cohort of students at Wirral Metropolitan College to develop Zillo, a website for young people in Wirral. The Youth Offer is publicised through Zillo, which lists all services and activities across the borough. Young Reporters are actively engaged to produce reviews and articles of interest to the youth community.

Reviewing the Youth Offer to meet new statutory guidance

- 3.11 In September 2023, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) issued new statutory guidance for local authorities on services and activities to improve young people's wellbeing. The guidance requires that Wirral reviews its assessment of local need, priorities, barriers to participation, and needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to ensure that the local offer supports young people to achieve their potential.
- 3.12 The Youth Participation Action Group (YPAG) is being re-established and will lead the review of the youth offer against the new statutory guidance.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.
- 4.2 The budget to deliver Youth Offer services is £1.977m. Core funding from Children's Services meets 57% of the cost (£1.124m) with 43% (£852,905) being raised through Public Health Grant, Integrated Care Board and Project ADDER funding.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Local authorities have a statutory duty to provide youth services. Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 states that local authorities must 'secure as far as necessary practicable, sufficient provision of educational and recreational for young people' and make sure young people have a say in the local offer. Through provision of the youth offer, Wirral Council is meeting its statutory duty.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no resource implications arising in the context of this overview report.
- 6.2 The Youth Offer estate, detailed in Appendix 9, has an annual running cost of £82,600.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Failing to deliver a co-ordinated youth offer would mean the Council not meeting its statutory responsibilities and presents the risk of missed opportunity, in terms of meaningfully tackling issues that lead to health inequalities and reducing demand for high-cost, acute services.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Participation and engagement is a core aspect of youth services. The Youth Voice and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Youth Voice Groups meet on a weekly basis to ensure there is regular opportunity for engagement and consultation. The annual Youth Parliament provides an opportunity for borough-wide engagement and the Zillo website allows regular online surveys and feedback to be collected from a wide range of young stakeholders.
- 8.2 The Youth Parliament will return in the autumn, with a Roundtable Workshop for young people and Elected Members on 01 November 2023, followed by the Youth Parliament session at Birkenhead Town Hall on 06 November 2023. Following this activity Members of Youth Parliament representing Wirral will attend the British Youth Council Youth Parliament at the House of Commons on 17 November 2023.
- 8.3 The first Zillo Youth Awards took place on June 23rd 2023 at Pilgrim Street Centre. The awards acknowledge young people's dedication, hard work and community engagement.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity.

9.2 All employees of Wirral Children's Services undertake equality and diversity training and there are leads for protected characteristics as well as support groups for young people which are thematic, such as SEND and LGBTQ+.

9.3 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and reviewed for Wirral Youth Offer. The EIA can be found via the following link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/files/eia-youth-offer-.pdf/download?inline>

9.4 A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and reviewed for the Wirral Safer Adolescence Strategy. The EIA can be found via the following link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no environmental or climate implications arising from the delivery of the youth offer. It has no impact on the emission of greenhouse gases. The views of young people are reported to Cool Wirral Climate Emergency Group and there is an Environment Lead on the Youth Partnership.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Community organisations are significant stakeholders in Wirral Youth Collective providing opportunity for growth, promotion, and collaboration of resource, training, and capacity.

11.2 Fundamental to the youth offer is the importance of community. It is recognised that individuals and families will be more likely to sustain positive outcomes if they are living, with a sense of belonging, in a community where support, friendship and advice are easily available.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1- Youth Work

Appendix 2- Universal Offer- Health Services in Schools

Appendix 3- Universal Offer- Zillo

Appendix 4- Universal Offer- Hubs and Clubs

Appendix 5- Universal Offer- The Hive

Appendix 6- Targeted Offer- Response Drugs and Alcohol Team

Appendix 7- Targeted Offer- Counselling- Response and The Drop In

Appendix 8- Targeted Offer- Creative Youth Development
Appendix 9- Targeted Offer- Detached Youth Work
Appendix 10- Youth Offer Estate
Appendix 11- Universal Youth Offer- Hubs and Clubs Data

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-Being <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities-youth-provision/statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities-on-services-to-improve-young-peoples-well-being>

Wirral Safeguarding Children Partnership Safer Adolescent Strategy 2021 – 23
<https://democracy.wirral.gov.uk/documents/s50073758/WSCP%20Safer%20Adolescence%20Strategy%202021%202023.pdf>

NYA (National Youth Agency) website - <https://www.nya.org.uk/what-is-youth-work/>

APPG Youth Work Enquiry - [review of the role and sufficiency of youth work in England](#)

LA Guidance for Providing Youth Services - [Guidance for Local Authorities on Providing Youth Services](#)

Wirral Youth Zone's company accounts can be accessed in full at:
<https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/09267940>

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Children, Young People and Education Committee in accordance with section a of its Terms of Reference:

(a) exercising management, oversight and delivery of services to children and young people in relation to their care, wellbeing, education or health, with the exception of any powers reserved to full Council.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Children, Young People and Education Committee	15 June 2021