



WIRRAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2012 - 2013

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

In response to your views we have planned actions on how these requests will be addressed in the coming year



It was really important to us to ask you for your ideas when planning for services for children and young people in Wirral. In 2011 we held a series of consultation events to ask you about your views on what the best and worst things about living in Wirral were and what you would like to see changed.

The consultation was designed to be as inclusive as possible to ensure the views of a wide range of children and young people across Wirral were captured. A range of groups in different areas of the borough were involved including: youth clubs, the Children in Care Council, and the Wirral Youth Parliament.

It is not possible to do justice to the richness of all the ideas we received in this plan but the key points can be outlined.

You told us that Wirral had good outdoor spaces. In particular that the local facilities on offer were good and that the transport network was convenient for you. Many of you said that the beaches and parks are great places to visit and you were positive about youth clubs and sports and leisure facilities. You said that you enjoyed school and that the standard of education provided was high.

Although you said that you enjoyed living in the Borough, some of you noted that you felt unsafe on the streets especially at night time. A number of you said that you felt that litter and vandalism was an issue for your neighbourhood and that there was a lack of community spirit and care about the communities you lived in. You wanted more affordable transport, better careers advice on the choices available when you leave school and more job opportunities. You wanted your views to be heard and thought that more should be done to celebrate your achievements.

The 'word clouds' on this page illustrate what you thought were best and worst about living in Wirral with the size of the text representing the number of young people who had strong feelings about these topics.

The key areas you highlighted in the consultation where you thought that additional activities were required are outlined below. In response to your views we have planned actions on how these will be addressed in the coming year.

The feedback you have given has informed the priorities in our new Children and Young Peoples Plan 2012-13. This new plan sets out the things that we are going to do over the year to help you be healthy, be safe from harm, do well at school, take part in activities and enter into adulthood.



AREA	YOUNG PEOPLE DEFINED ACTIVITIES	ACTION IN 2011/12
<p>BEING HEALTHY</p>	<p>There should be more lessons on how to cook healthy food in schools and healthy food should be available in schools.</p> <p>More opportunities to get fit through sporting activities.</p>	<p>All Wirral schools have achieved healthy school status and should already be offering healthy food in schools. Further consultation will take place during 2012-13 through the Healthy Schools Pupil Panels, Children in Care Council and other forums to identify need and barriers and to address the request for cookery lessons as part of the school curriculum. The findings will inform the multi-agency Change4Life and Healthy Settings Enhanced Status planning.</p> <p>All schools are being encouraged to engage in either level 1 or 2 of the School Games framework. There are numerous sporting activities organised by Sports Development throughout the year.</p> <p>The 'Step into Leisure' programme continues to be offered to all children who are 'in need' or 'looked after' and free swimming is available for under 18s during the holidays in all our Leisure Centres.</p> <p>The Active All Sports Programme runs during the holidays and weekends and some evenings for young people with a disability or who are over weight. Junior Invigor 8 membership is available at all Leisure centres.</p>
<p>STAYING SAFE</p>	<p>Better street lighting to provide safer streets at night.</p> <p>More should be done to stop Bullying.</p> <p>In meetings with social workers children should be involved in making decisions about their future.</p> <p>Reducing anti-social behaviour (ASB) and vandalism.</p> <p>Foster carers should be given training about alcohol and drugs awareness.</p>	<p>Further discussion with young people will take place to identify locations for investigation and potential street lighting improvement.</p> <p>Anti-bullying work in Wirral will be strengthened through increased membership of the Anti Bullying Steering Group to include representatives from Early Years Settings, Social Care, Schools and Youth Settings. All settings will have anti-bullying policies, and a consistent message will be promoted.</p> <p>New information leaflets for Children in Care (CiC) have been produced. Workshops and audits are being held in 2012-13 on listening to children's needs. CiC Council members will train social workers to improve practice.</p> <p>There is continued investment in the ASB team. There is an integrated response to reducing ASB through youth outreach teams working together.</p> <p>A new targeted training programme about young people's alcohol use will be delivered to Foster Carers during 2012-13.</p>

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ENJOY AND ACHIEVE	<p>Help with money management and budgeting.</p> <p>More school and after school activities associated with independent living including cooking.</p> <p>Children in care (CiC) should be provided with extra support in schools for education, exams and attendance.</p>	<p>Head teacher representatives on the Enjoy and Achieve group will share this with schools to take it into account when designing the curriculum and extra-curricular activities. This area will also be progressed through the Wirral Child Poverty Action Plan.</p> <p>Head teacher representatives on the Enjoy and Achieve group will share this with all schools so they can take this into account when designing the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.</p> <p>Schools have been provided with information regarding funding for CiC including the Pupil Premium and the Personal Education Allowance, both of which could be used by schools to provide extra support. This will be raised with schools through review meetings and by the Virtual Head Teacher(s) (who represent CiC) at head teacher meetings.</p>
POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION	<p>More opportunities for young people to volunteer and gain work experience.</p> <p>More should be done to listen to the views of young people.</p> <p>Better communication of the youth activities that are available.</p> <p>More diversionary indoor activities to accommodate those with disabilities.</p> <p>Reduction in the costs associated with Youth Clubs.</p> <p>More positive promotion of the achievements of Wirral young people.</p> <p>More opportunities to feedback to young people on consultations.</p>	<p>Work is underway to identify and promote opportunities for volunteering and work experience.</p> <p>Commissioned services will have to demonstrate how they have involved young people in the decision making process in their organisation.</p> <p>We are currently working to identify a number of ways to communicate the opportunities that are available for young people.</p> <p>We will ensure this is considered as part of the process for the rollover of contracts for the provision of Short Breaks for Disabled Children and Risk taking Behaviour in Children and Young people.</p> <p>We will review the charging policies for youth activities.</p> <p>This is an area that has not developed as well as we would want. It is a priority for 2012-13. Commissioned services will be required to provide evidence to promote positive images of young people.</p> <p>Work is underway through schools and youth organisations to develop clear processes to feedback to young people on consultations.</p>

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SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<p>Young people should be given more support on careers advice and how to get the job they want.</p> <p>More inclusive opportunities for workplace experience courses.</p> <p>More affordable transport.</p>	<p>Will be launching Greater Mersey Interactive, on the 1st April 2012. This is a web based interactive portal which will bring together a wealth of information to support and enable young people to better make informed career decisions.</p> <p>The Council is looking to provider greater internal work placement and internship opportunities for young people.</p> <p>The Council will be supporting sustainable modes of transport. Free bicycles will be made available for those young people who have an offer of a job. Travel cards may also be made available for the first month of a young person taking up a job opportunity.</p>
	<p>More apprenticeships should be available for young people.</p>	<p>We will ensure local employers are aware of new government Youth Contract initiatives for employers and young people, including employment subsidies.</p>

GRAFFITI WALL



The Aiming High for Disabled Children Team facilitated an artistic project to create a 'graffiti wall'.

The art on the front cover and used as a theme running through our Children and Young People's Plan is the result of an Aiming High for Disabled Children artistic project to create a 'graffiti wall'. Starting with a blank canvas the group was given freedom to express themselves on the things that mattered most to them. The wall illustrates some of the issues highlighted such as more opportunities for residential trips for disabled children to build lasting friendships, more after school activities associated with independent living, better access for wheelchair users, more positive promotion of the achievement of young people to break down adult poor opinion and more ways for the views of young people to be heard.

We are very grateful to all the young people who contributed to the consultation. We thank you for your participation and contribution.

