



WIRRAL CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN 2013 - 2016

CONSULTATION RESPONSE

CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

“Children have the right to say what they think should happen when adults are making decisions that affect them and to have their opinion taken into account.”
United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef)

Children and Young People living in Wirral today are the residents and workforce of Wirral tomorrow. It is not only right they should be listened to when making decisions which directly affect their lives, but also wise to involve them as the adults of tomorrow.

It is in this context that the views of children and young people helped to determine the priorities of this new three year Children and Young People’s Plan for 2013 -2016. Consultations carried out in 2012 include the Youth Voice and Youth Parliament events; the ‘What really Matters?’ Survey, to which 433 children and young people responded; and three additional surveys, one involving the Children in Care Council, one of disabled children, young people, their parents and carers and one of fifteen-year-olds participating in the Engagement Programme and the HELP Survey (Health, Education and Lifestyle Profile), to which 3,792 children from Primary, Secondary and Special schools responded. The 2012 consultations added to those of previous years with a wide range of children and young people across Wirral.

The majority of Wirral young people feel happy, are physically active and enjoy and appreciate the facilities, activities and services available to them both in and out of school, many of which are provided by the Council or partners. For some young people local, accessible services and facilities add real quality to their lives.



Over 80% of young people feel safe in the area they live, travelling to school and using public transport. They prioritise the lowest possible levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and value highly a clean, pleasant local environment. Safety in school remains important: 40% of primary and 32% of secondary students said they had been bullied at some point, but the majority (82.7% in primary and 72.3% in secondary) believe their school handles bullying appropriately, although more could be done to involve young people in peer mentoring and awareness-raising of equality and diversity issues.

Wirral young people enjoy and value good health, but also raise concerns related to the pressure to aspire to unrealistic and unhealthy body images. In school, many children worry about examinations and, whilst recognising the importance of achievement and qualifications, would like more than just a narrow focus on an exam-oriented curriculum with opportunities to develop life skills for independent living such as cooking and money management.

Young people want their achievements to be celebrated to dispel negative adult perceptions and their views to be heard. They have a lot to offer and would like more opportunities to discover their potential and skills through full-time, part-time, voluntary, community and charity work and work experience. They enjoy meeting other young people through youth clubs and play services, but want the range of interests and abilities to be more widely catered for. They would like to meet adults who offer positive role models of work to motivate, inform and inspire them.

To promote economic wellbeing young people want advice and information relating to financial support, budgeting, career paths and further and higher education, and for organisations to be more pro-active in advertising their services. Young people want to be in appropriate employment or training, with apprenticeships seen as a positive way forward for all abilities.

Many of the children and young people's recommendations centre on sustaining or making smarter use of what already exists. By listening to young people's practical ideas, services, resources and communication can become more efficient and effective. The willingness of young people to contribute in a voluntary capacity suggests they have much to offer each other.

Building on previous consultations, children and young people consulted in 2012 identified the following areas for action:

| AREA | YOU SAID | PLANNED ACTION IN 2013/16 |
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| <p>HELP YOU MAKE HEALTHY LIFESTYLE CHOICES</p> | <p>Teach and encourage healthy eating and lifestyles, such as cookery classes.</p> <p>Increase the range of physical activities to include the full spectrum of abilities.</p> <p>Sustain local parks, playgrounds and sports clubs as the most popular places for outdoor and physical exercise.</p> <p>Sustain local fitness events which, although challenging, are fun, free or cheap and not just competitive</p> <p>Place the same importance on mental health as physical health.</p> | <p>Breastfeeding will be embedded in the nursery, primary and secondary school curriculum through the use of resources that show women breastfeeding instead of feeding formula milk so that children grow up experiencing breastfeeding as the norm.</p> <p>Explore the potential to deliver healthy cookery classes in schools.</p> <p>Develop an early year's programme to include focus on healthy eating and being active.</p> <p>Develop a Wirral obesity strategy within the wider Health and Wellbeing Strategy with an emphasis on prevention and physical activity.</p> <p>An emotional health, psychological wellbeing and mental health pathway will be established to ensure schools have direct access to informal advice from CAMHS.</p> <p>Pilot the proposed new 'health and happiness' indicator (once confirmed) with low level school based emotional health and wellbeing intervention service as well as other Health Services in Schools (HSIS) providers.</p> |
| <p>KEEP YOU SAFE FROM HARM</p> | <p>Continue to improve responses to bullying by further raising awareness, especially around disability and race, and sustaining mentoring systems.</p> <p>Sustain community policing as an effective method of ensuring street safety.</p> <p>Ensure all children in care know why they are in care and are kept safe.</p> <p>Include children and young people in meetings with social workers to give them some control over their future and ensure appointments are promptly kept.</p> | <p>Promotional programmes are in place and effectively reviewed for Road Safety, Anti bullying, Teenage Pregnancy, Sexual Health and E Safety.</p> <p>All agencies have clear processes for listening to the voice of the child.</p> <p>Deliver the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the refreshed Looked After Children's Strategy.</p> |

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| <p>HELP YOU ACHIEVE WELL AT SCHOOL INCLUDING THOSE OF YOU WHO REQUIRE EXTRA SUPPORT</p> | <p>Recognise the potential for anxiety in relation to examinations and balance enjoyment with achievement.</p> <p>Recognise the skills gained from involvement in languages, dance, music, drama and sport.</p> <p>Offer more opportunities for interaction with other students and other schools.</p> <p>Teach life skills to support independent living in areas like cooking and money management.</p> <p>Cater more fully for the range of interests, abilities and disabilities.</p> <p>Ensure advertising of services to young people, especially local and Council services, is effective.</p> | <p>Schools below floor standards, schools causing concern and/or schools in an OFSTED category will be supported to make good or better progress; and should be removed from that category in the shortest possible time.</p> <p>Persistent absence will be reduced and attendance in primary schools improved.</p> <p>Expansion of the project targeting primary schools with the largest attainment gaps.</p> <p>The Raising Attainment for Disadvantaged Youngsters (RADY) project for secondary schools will continue to develop and outcomes and learning will be transferred to all secondary and primary schools.</p> <p>Narrowing the post 16 education attainment gap projects will continue with schools and further education providers; specifically at level 3.</p> |
| <p>SUPPORT YOU WELL IN ADULT LIFE</p> | <p>Sustain existing inclusive opportunities and facilities which give young people valuable skills for future employment.</p> <p>Improve ways of informing young people of work and volunteering opportunities and include all young people.</p> <p>Develop a network of inspirational adult role models from a range of employment backgrounds.</p> <p>Build on the success of work-based learning and apprenticeship programmes as a valued career path for young people of all abilities.</p> <p>Provide advice and information relating to financial support, budgeting, further and higher education, career paths and apprenticeships.</p> | <p>Young people will have access to, and be equipped to take advantage of, a range of training, employment or entrepreneurship opportunities.</p> <p>To provide young people with the best possible preparation for work we will maintain and further develop strong partnerships which connect the educational sector, training providers and the business sector.</p> <p>A targeted careers information, advice and guidance service for vulnerable young people aged 16-18 (up to the age of 24 if subject to a learning difficulty assessment) will be delivered.</p> <p>A web based careers information and advice interactive tool – Mersey Interactive (www.merseyinteractive.com) will be provided for use by all Wirral young people, parents, carers and teaching professionals.</p> <p>Contribute to the Liverpool City Region Apprenticeship Hub and ensure Wirral supports the headline regional delivery target of 10,000 apprenticeships starts in 2013-14.</p> |

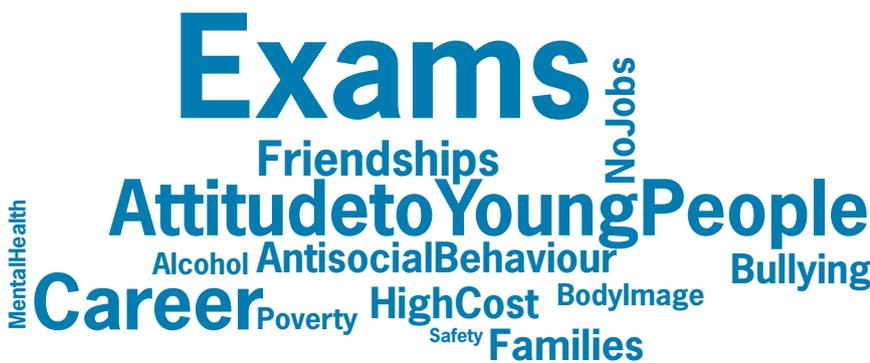
| AREA | YOU SAID | PLANNED ACTION IN 2013/16 |
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| <p>LISTEN TO YOUR VIEWS WHEN MAKING DECISIONS THAT AFFECT YOU.</p> | <p>We want to have our views and opinions listened to.</p> <p>I would want to have a say in the decisions that are made about my care, I want to feel involved.</p> <p>We have some good ideas about how things can be made better and we want you to listen to them and help us make them happen.</p> | <p>Key participation events - The Youth Voice Conference, Youth Parliament and Participation Action Group.</p> <p>Development of Junior Children in Care Council (CICC).</p> <p>Young people in care are trained and support to formally recruit and select Wirral social care staff.</p> <p>CICC peer mentoring for young people in care.</p> <p>Children's Takeover Day 2013 involving 50 young people in care.</p> <p>The Wirral Peer Education Programme (WPEP).</p> |
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The word clouds below illustrate what is most important to young people living in Wirral with the size of the text representing the number of young people who had strong feelings about these topics.

Figure 1: Things important to children and young people



Figure 2: Things that concern children and young people



“We are very grateful to all the young people who contributed to the consultations and we will ensure that those involved receive feedback on how their views have informed this plan.”
 Councillor Tony Smith,
 Wirral Children’s Trust
 Board Chair

