

## Special points of interest:

- Guns, Gangs and Knives
- Multi-Agency Support Teams
- A City Fit for Young People

This monthly update is intended to let you know what happens at a strategic level so that you are aware of things that may affect you in the future, or things that you may want to find out more about. If you have any concerns or suggestions that you wish to be fed into this process please contact Sally Perks at YOW on 01902 771163.



**December 2007**

## Beating the Threat of Guns, Gangs and Knives in Wolverhampton

While the number of gun and gang related incidents are fairly small in Wolverhampton, there are understandable concerns about the risk to and impact on local communities and the reputation of the city.

In autumn 2006 in response to concerns raised by local communities following a series of shooting incidents in the City, a meeting took place between community members and West Midlands police; community representatives present called for a joint strategy with public agencies to tackle not only the problem of armed criminality as it currently exists but also the underlying issues that were felt to create the conditions for young people becoming involved with guns and gangs.

The 'Beating the Threat of Guns, Gangs and Knives in Wolverhampton' draft action plan has been developed in response to these concerns raised by the Guns and Gangs Steering Group. It is part of an ongoing process of dialogue and partnership between local communities (represented by the Steering Group) and the City Council and its problem of guns and gangs in the city.

The key issues that the action plan tackles are;

- School Exclusion/Modified Timetables
- Youth Empowerment
- Community Engagement
- Access to Work and Employment

The action plan deals with each of the above priorities in turn, providing a short analysis of the key issues, draws on existing data and available information, gives a summary of some of the current activity in place, and a set of suggestions for further action to address the perceived gaps.

If you would like a copy of the action plan, please contact Sally at YOW on 01902 771163.

## Multi-Agency Support Teams

Multi-agency support for children and young people is already provided through a number of agencies across the City. Early intervention and prevention services however are not. Proposals are being developed with partner agencies to establish 8 Multi-Agency Support Team's (MAST's) over the next 12 months across the City to offer integrated, locally focused support for children, young people and families.

The establishment of MAST's will bring together professionals from a range of existing service areas working with children and young people, building on the existing effective range of support. MAST's will have a focus on the early intervention and preventative services; they will look different in one area to the next, and be responsive to local need.

In order to drive MAST's forward a multi-agency steering group is being set up which will include representation from the voluntary sector. We will keep you informed.

## Wolverhampton: A City Fit for Young People

The overall aim of the review was to find out what young people think will make Wolverhampton a City that offers them something to do, somewhere to go and someone to talk to. The review has focused on identifying the concerns and future expectations of young people and the extent to which current plans and activities are likely to meet these concerns. A key part of the review involved asking young people for their ideas of things that they or others could do to make Wolverhampton better for them in the future.

'There is too much traffic in town'

The review involved a survey of the views of 613 completed questionnaires, and the questions asked included;

What are the key concerns of young people about living and growing up in Wolverhampton?

What ideas do young people have for dealing with the issues they have highlighted as a concern?

The top three things that the majority of young people said that they liked most about living and growing up in Wolverhampton was as follows;

'I would like more activity centre's in Wolverhampton.'

- Town Centre/Shops (26%)
- Nice place to live/nice people (12%)
- Family close/my home (10%)



The top three things that the majority of young people said that they liked least about living and growing up in Wolverhampton was as follows;

- Crime/ disorder level (22%)
- Poor public spaces (18%)
- Not enough to do/ boring city (16%)

'I don't like all the litter in the City Centre.'



The top three ideas from young people that would make Wolverhampton a better place for them in the future were as follows;

- More things for young people to see and do (25%)
- Make Wolverhampton a greener/cleaner place (24%)
- Make the streets safer (10%)



The findings of this review will be considered as part of the review of the Children's Plan.