

Special points of interest:

- Youth Café
- Health Related Behavior Survey
- The Local Area Agreement
- Home Safety
- Targeted Youth Support

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 and discussed at a strategic level, then contact Sally Perks at YOW on 01902 771163.



March 2008

Youth Café

The aspiration for a Youth Café in Wolverhampton was first discussed in 2006, when concerns were expressed about the numbers of young people who gathered in the City centre on a regular basis, either in the piazza or by the statue of Prince Albert, known locally as, the Man on the Horse. The majority of the young people were coming into the city to meet with friends, but the number of young people and their lively behaviour gave rise to concerns by local businesses and shoppers.

As a result of the concerns raised, the Youth Council did some consultation with young people and summarised their findings in a report. This led to the aspiration to establish a Youth Café in Wolverhampton.

A number of venues for the Youth Café have been considered over the past 6 months but to no avail. I am pleased to say however that progress is being made. A business model for the Youth Café in partnership with young people is under development and is due to be presented to the Children and Young Peoples Partnership in April. The business model will also refer to a central venue that has been highlighted as a possible location for the café, discussions are underway to ascertain whether or not this has been secured. For more information contact Ravinol Chambers on 07949 639699



Health Related Behaviour Survey

2 years ago the Schools Health Education Unit was commissioned to undertake the Health Related Behaviour Survey in Wolverhampton.

The Survey enables strategic planners and school managers to obtain accurate information about the lifestyles of the school population, in order to plan appropriate services and relevant educational experiences for pupils.

59 Schools participated in the survey in 2006 and the data obtained from the survey has been used extensively. Wolverhampton Primary Care Trust has agreed to fund the survey for schools in 2008, making it available to all schools with pupils in years 6,8 and 10. The Survey is planned to take place before the end of the summer term.

The Local Area Agreement

Local Area Agreements (LAAs) are designed as key ways of channelling funding to councils and bringing together local partners, to achieve better outcomes agreed with the Government.

The aim of the LAA is to achieve local solutions that meet local needs, while also contributing to national priorities and the achievement of standards set by central Government. The LAA is being developed within the context of the Governments commitment to reducing the number of performance indicators (targets) placed on localities, and the LAA is intended to be the only place where negotiations take place between local and central Government.

The new LAA for Wolverhampton will be introduced on the 1st June 2008. The LAA will consist of up to 35 targets plus 17 Department for Children Schools and Families (DCSF) targets focusing on educational attainment.

Negotiations with Government Office regarding which 35 targets should be included in the Wolverhampton LAA are underway and the Government Office has proposed a timetable for the completion of the negotiation phase of the Local Area Agreement to allow for ministerial sign-off in June.

Safety in the Home for Children and Young People

'Accidents are the biggest cause of non-medical deaths for children...most accidents occur in the home, and disadvantaged families are particularly vulnerable.' (DCSF, Children's Plan, Dec 2007) The Staying Safe consultation document highlighted the risk faced by children in lower socio-economic groups, particularly in the home.

In response to this it is proposed that there is a one year home safety pilot scheme for children in Wolverhampton. This scheme will initially operate out of 5 of the Children's Centres.

There will be a Home Safety Co-ordinator to co-ordinate the project, organising training and arranging for home safety equipment to be fitted by

The aim of the home safety scheme would be to visit, access and advise 100% of new parents within the pilot areas on maintaining a safe home environment. It is felt that this will not only have a preventative role but will also be an effective way of offering other support from the Children's Centres.



Targeted Youth Support

A multi-agency group has been working to develop the local strategy for Targeted Youth Support. The Targeted Youth Support Strategy will enable young people to achieve the 5 Every Child Matters Outcomes, supported by coherent, young person-centred delivery of information, advice and guidance, support, development opportunities and positive activities.

It will enable vulnerable young people who are likely to need help and opportunities from a range of different agencies and who have the most to gain from timely, co-ordinated and effective responses. Getting this right gives vulnerable young people the chance to enjoy their teenage years, build positive futures and avoid a range of potentially serious problems. The Strategy will be in place by April.