

Special points of interest:

- Voluntary Sector Representation
- Sally's Leaving
- My Place
- Free School Meals
- The Youth Cafe



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 YOW on 01902 771163.



May 2009

Voluntary Sector Representation

As you will recall, last month we asked for people to register their interest to become a Voluntary and Community Sector Representative at the Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership Strategy and Development Board. This was because 2 of our existing reps had to step down due to re-arrangements at their own organisations.

I am glad to announce that following an application process Nicola Salt from the YWCA has been elected. She has a great deal of experience of working strategically, and with young people so we are really pleased she will be joining us and representing our needs.

So, that's one slot filled and one slot remains...

Sally's Leaving YOW

I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I will be leaving YOW at the end of the month. I have really enjoyed being part of the YOW team but will now be working for the YMCA as the Children's Services Manager.

However, in leaving YOW this has provided me with the opportunity to apply to become a Voluntary and Community Sector Representative at the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership Strategy and Development Board. I am pleased to say that my application has been approved, and I will now be joining Nicola in representing your needs at a strategic level.

The Voluntary Sector Representatives are now as follows:

Margaret Thompson — Re-entry

Raj Bansal — Trinity Training

Nicola Salt — YWCA

Sally Perks — YMCA

My Place Round 2

You may recall in the January issue of the Strategy Update that we discussed the My Place funding being administered by Big Lottery on behalf of the Department for Children, Schools and Families DCSF to deliver £190 million capital funding to develop world-class youth facilities. A bid was submitted for Wolverhampton (facilitated by TLC college) but unfortunately it was not successful. This was disappointing, but thankfully the DCSF has now announced a second round of My Place funding. Keep an eye on the Big Lottery web site for more information.

To find out more about any of the items mentioned in the YOW Strategy Update or the process of having your views, comments or concerns voiced at a strategic level, contact Sally at YOW on; Telephone: 01902 771163 Email: sally.perks@ymca-wolverhampton.co.uk

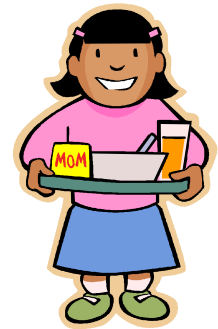
Good news on Free School Meals

In January 2009, Local Authorities (LAs) and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) were invited to submit joint Expressions of Interest in one of three pilots to be run over a two-year period in conjunction with the Department of Health (DH) and Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF).

It was announced on 1 May 2009 that Wolverhampton was successful in its bid to pilot the extension of the current eligibility criteria for Free School Meals so that a larger group of families on low incomes are entitled in both primary and secondary schools.

This is a joint Wolverhampton City Council and Wolverhampton City Primary Care Trust scheme and the £6million pilot will run for two years from September 2009 and will investigate whether free school meals:

- reduce obesity/have an impact on a child's BMI;
- change eating habits at home;
- impact on behaviour and academic performance at school;
- improve school standards; and
- improve general health and well being.



The pilot will formally start in the summer term, with pupils receiving their free lunch from September 2009. The summer term will be used to prepare and establish the pilots and the evaluation arrangements.

The Youth Café

Last month we told you that the Youth Café situated in Litchfield Road is due to be opened in July 2009, unfortunately there has been a slight delay with the planning and the provisional date may be put back slightly. We will keep you posted.

Young People at the Centre

The Young People at the Centre (YPAC) programme is now in its fourth year of operation and has been a successful approach to ensuring effective collaboration between schools and their local partners when working with disadvantaged or 'at risk' young people. Its central feature is the control and decision-making opportunities that the young people are given. It has received very positive independent evaluation reports and funding throughout from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. Management of the programme has been overseen by the Learning Partnership acting on behalf of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership.

YPAC has now been identified as a key initiative within the 'Building Young People's Capacity' strand of the LAA Delivery Plan 2008 – 2011 and has received an allocation of funding accordingly. Partners have recognised that it is both necessary and timely to review and refine the scope and mode of operation of YPAC, believing in the potential of the programme to encompass a wider range of interventions with young people across a wider number of schools and neighbourhoods. YPAC is therefore expanding to include other areas of high priority and are also reviewing the criteria for selection of the young people it works with. To find out more about YPAC call the Learning Partnership on 01902 821937.