

Special points of interest:

- Welcome Back
- CAMHS Strategy
- Youth Café
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- Robbery Action Plan
- NEET Figures
- DCSF Visit

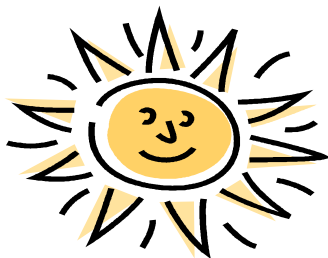
This monthly update is intended to let you know what happens at a strategic level so that you are aware of things that may affect you in the future, or things that you may want to find out more about. If you have any concerns or suggestions that you wish to be fed into this process and discussed at a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



September 2008

The YOW Strategy Newsletter

Welcome Back



Welcome back to everyone after the summer holidays. Those of you that have had a break I hope it was an enjoyable one, and for those of you that have been busy with summer programme service delivery, I hope they have been successful.

Since the last issue of the Strategy Update, I am sad to say that due to other commitments two of the Voluntary Sector Representatives that sit on the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and represent the needs of the voluntary and community sector have had to step down. Both Bruce Kirk and Kath Rees were most valuable and active Voluntary Sector Representatives, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work over the last 2 years, and wish them all the best in the future.

I am pleased to say, following an election process we have now successfully recruited 2 new Voluntary Sector Representatives who will be taking forward the work of representing our sector at a strategic level. We would like to welcome to Raj Bansal of Trinity Training and Kath Farmer of the Haven.

CAMHS Strategy

In Wolverhampton the Children and Young People's Plan 2006-2009 is aimed at improving outcomes for all children and young people in Wolverhampton. All children therefore have the right to; be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being. Wolverhampton's Strategy for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services is a key element in this overall plan for the development and delivery of services in the city.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) cover all types of provision and intervention from mental health promotion and primary prevention, specialist community based services through to very specialist care as provided by in-patient units for young people with mental health illness. Following the consultation on the draft Child and Adolescent Mental Health Strategy, the final CAMHS Strategy 2007-2011 is now available. It contains an implementation plan containing 45 Action Points which have been prioritised over the next three years by using feedback from the consultation. If you would like a copy of the CAMHS Strategy please contact Mai Gibbons on 01902 551104.

Youth Cafe

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 Youth Café is run by young people for young people (with the support of an adult management committee.) It is an alcohol free facility for young people where they can meet, relax, access reasonable priced snacks and drinks and a whole range of other activities and services. They are places where young people can feel safe and have a place of their own in the city. How the cafe will be run and what they offer depends very much on the young people.



A number of venues for the Wolverhampton Youth Café have been considered over the last 12 months to no avail, I am pleased to say however that a City Centre venue has now been identified and work is progressing to develop the site.

Local Democracy Campaign

The Local Democracy Campaign is being developed through the Youth Service Participation Team and will be taking place in October and November 08. This will consist of the following;

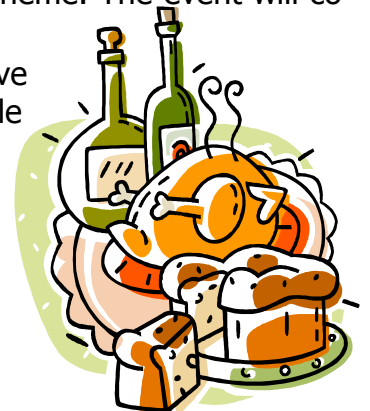
•**Wolverhampton Democracy Dinner-** This provides an opportunity for consultation and discussion between young people and decision makers between the courses of a four course formal meal. It provides an opportunity for young people to consider their own views and opinions about topical decisions as well as being able to debate with and influence decision makers first hand. This event will be taking place on 27th October at the Park Hall Hotel.

•**Political Speed Dating-** Young People have the opportunity to quiz politicians and key decision makers in a 'speed dating' style evening. The young people are allocated 4 minutes to spend with each decision maker, with approximately 50 decision makers attending the evening. This event will be taking place on 27th November.

•**School Council Networking Conference-** This will be taking place on 17th November and will have an anti bullying and local democracy theme. The event will coincide with anti bullying week.

•**Art Gallery Special Event—** This event will explore creative ideas and will include entertainment looking at young people and local democracy. It will be taking place at the Wolverhampton Art Gallery on 5th November.

For more information about the Democracy Dinner, include details of how to book a table for young people to attend contact Marie Taylor on Tel:01902 556337 or email: marie-taylor@dial.pipex.com.



Robbery Action Plan



Since March 2005 the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership has had a challenging stretched target to achieve as part of the Local Area Agreement. The target requires the Safer Wolverhampton Partnership to achieve a reduction of 200 offences, from the baseline of 762 offences (2004/5), by 2009. The figure for 2007 stood at 914.



The Partnership is currently missing the target by 21%. Mobile telephones, cash, credit/debit cards and jewellery account for the majority of all stolen property. The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership has identified that the most vulnerable months for robbery are January to March and October.



Most of the victims are aged under 24, with 28% under 18. Those offenders detected (14%) show a similar profile – predominantly under 24, with a peak age at 15. The Safer Wolverhampton Partnership Robbery Task Group has been working on a number of initiatives specifically aimed at young people to try and reduce the number of victims of robbery. These include a downloadable film produced by young people who have been both perpetrators and victims of robbery, and a poster campaign which gives advice on property marking and keeping items such as mobile telephones safe.



If you have any ideas of how the partnership can achieve these challenging targets or if you wish to be part of the Robbery Task Group contact Andrew Gough, Crime Reduction and Community Safety Coordinator on;

Telephone: 01902 551341 or Email: Andrew.gough@wolverhampton.gov.uk

NEET Figures

NEET are young people aged 16-18 who are **Not** in **E**ducation, **E**mployment or **T**raining. In March 2006 Wolverhampton had the 3rd highest level of NEET in the West Midlands, behind Stoke and Birmingham. In November 06 this had fallen from 12.7% to 10.6%. The NEET figure continues to fall, in May 2008 was 9%. In this tough economic climate, although process is good, we are still facing significant challenges. The tackling NEET action plan is therefore being reviewed and with the continued hard work of all we can strive to reach the 2010 target of 7.6%.

DCSF Visit

Wolverhampton is pleased to have been asked to host a visit from the Department of Children Schools and Families to look at how we manage Early Intervention. The visit will be taking place in September and we look forward to hearing the results.

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