



# WELLINGBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP

*the Local Strategic Partnership for Wellingborough*

## **Children & Young People Theme Group** **Meeting held on 23 June 2008 in the Committee Room, Swanspool House**

*DRAFT – subject to approval at next meeting*

<u>Present:</u>	Hugh Fenton	Chair of Wellingborough Partnership, Chair
	Alison Barlow	Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) Youth Service
	Helen Bradshaw	Prevention through Learning Programme (PTLP)
	Matthew Beams	Sure Start
	Steve Carpenter	NCC - Schools
	Jane Deamer	Service Six
	Julian Elkington	Connexions – Positive Programmes
	Piso Freemantle	Northamptonshire Voluntary Youth Action
	Saeed Ghinai	Connexions – Wellingborough Manager
	David Lindsley	Wellingborough Education Partnership (WEP)
	Adele Phillips	WEP
	Michael Robinson	NCC – Extended Services
	Cllr Maureen Shram	Borough Council of Wellingborough (BCW) & NCC
	William Thallon	Wrenn School
	Jonny Whitmore	Youth Café

<u>Apologies:</u>	Adrian Bell	Connexions – Chief Executive
	Gill Chapman	BCW – Community Development
	Joe Hubbard	BCW – Deputy Chief Executive
	Paula Orr	NCC – Childrens Services
	Cllr Thomas Pursglove	BCW – Lead Advisor, Youth

Hugh Fenton welcomed all to the meeting, introduced himself and asked other to do the same.

### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

These were agreed as being accurate

### **Matters arising**

- Possible office space at BCW for PTLP was progressing slowly – a viewing meeting was postponed.
- Safer Schools Initiative: Each school now linking with a PCSO on an individual basis.

### **Wellingborough Education Partnership (WEP).**

A handout was given out, showing an overview and detailing developments. The WEP is a partnership between the various educational institutions for children and young people aged 0 –19 years old, with the aim of improving standards and life long learning. The local authority has funded it initially for two years. Adele Phillips and David Lindsley are the current co-ordinators on a part time basis.

### **Youth Strategy**

The twelve week consultation is complete. The lack of a Change Manger means that completion of the strategy has been delayed. See next item.

### **Integrated Youth Offer/ Targeted Youth Support (IYO / TYS) Developments.**

Dawn Vessey had decided that the Change Manger role did not suit her so had ended the secondment. A replacement had yet to be found. As a consequence, little progress had been made on the action plan to go with the Youth Strategy and other work to be undertaken.

Wellingborough were still ahead of other Boroughs / Districts in implementation of IYO / TYS but a replacement Change Manger was critical to continuing progress.

### **CAF Implementation**

William Thallon spoke on this item in Paula Orr's absence. There were concerns at the length of the form and the time taken to complete it. Alison Barlow (Youth Service) reported that the filling of the form could be a positive thing but only if it lead to something positive/constructive. Otherwise we could raise expectations of young people only to disappoint them. After discussion, it was agreed to keep the item on the agenda and ask Richard Ward to attend a future meeting.

### **Youth Service Report**

Alison Barlow presented a report on the work of the service. This outlined the purpose of youth work and detailed the work underway in Wellingborough. Sam Ward was the youth worker for Wellingborough and East Northants and was based at the Fairlawn Centre. Current projects include:

\*Virtual Babies: These twelve life size 'dolls' are programmed to simulate the needs of a new born child. Young people have to care for them over a ten week period. There is a waiting list for this course and the group meets between 4.00pm – 7.00pm on Tuesdays at the Fairlawn Centre.

\*Babysitting Course: This is new to Wellingborough and is popular work with young people. It aims to promote understanding of the skills required for safe and enjoyable babysitting. Held on Tuesday's 7.00pm – 10.00pm at Fairlawn.

\*Detached Work: This takes place on Wednesday evenings and rotated between Kingsway Park, Hemmingwell shops and Queensway Youth Shelter.

\*Dance and Graffiti Group: Young people are taught street, break and dance styles by a qualified instructor. The group meets on Thursday's 7.00pm – 10.00pm at Fairlawn.

Discussion followed and Alison Barlow was asked as to how many young people attend. She replied that there were sixty to seventy young people on the books and approximately twenty to twenty-five attend. The babysitting course has just started and attracts girls mainly. Generally speaking, more boys than girls attend the Youth Service activities. Another question was on the methods used to recruit young people, as sixty to seventy young people was not seen as a high figure. Alison was asked about the 'commissioned services'. She said she would ask Helen Devine to attend a future meeting so committee members would have a better picture. It was also suggested that the babysitting course could benefit from a link with Sue Reynolds from Early Years and Extended Schools Partnership.

### **Early Years/ Children's Centres Report**

Michael Robinson gave two handouts detailing the various aspects. There was increased revenue being passed on to projects by NCC. The service was increasingly being seen as a support service for children and parents and not limited to buildings and centres. He referred people to the detailed report on Wellingborough via [www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/EB7E206](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/EB7E206) Concern was expressed as to why the three managers positions were vacant. Another concern was the holiday provision for older children during the holidays.

### **Sure Start Governance Report**

Matthew Beams shared information from 'Whats On' calendar with the meeting. Attendances were up substantially and a youth work approach was being tried, with a good response. Some fathers were attending the Young Parents group. He gave details of a holiday project for parents/children and families funded by the big lottery fund. Kettering CAB was providing benefit and debt advice. He was asked if Wellingborough CAB had been asked, but it was a question of capacity. Hugh wished to record thanks and appreciation for Anne Waterman's role and contribution to the Wellingborough group. He wished her well in her new role at NCH.

### **New Information- Round Table**

\*Connexions staff in Wellingborough are undertaking two locality projects. This will involve two groups of approximately fifteen young people. The first project is to use video to report on their views and experience of life in Wellingborough.

\*Regarding new housing developments and provision of schools. Possibility of inviting Adam Fitz to give an update on housing developments and demographic changes and provision of schools.

\*Piso Freemantle reported on a new volunteering programme which she is working on with the Youth Action Teams & Youth Café. She will provide more details at the next meeting.

\*William Thallon reported that there was much interest and enthusiasm to get the 14 – 19 initiative to work effectively. A conference will be held 20<sup>th</sup> /21<sup>st</sup> November 2008 to progress the work.

\*Adele asked about the skill requirements for Wellingborough and the need to match/ up skill the workforce in order to improve economic development prospects of the town.

\*Jonny reported on the Youth Café. Open on Wednesdays 6.00pm – 9.00pm and Saturdays 2.00pm – 5.00pm. Up to fifty-five young people have been through the doors.

\*Helen Bradshaw reported on two new staff joining the team; Early Prevention worker and a Referral worker with the Police.

\*Jane Deamer reported on the successful work done about the Anti-Bullying campaign. It is now part of the county strategy with a major launch in October. This will form part of a countywide accreditation scheme with bronze, silver and gold awards. English secondary schools are adopting our Anti-Bullying campaign.

\*Service Six are developing peer mentoring days.

\* Service Six have relaunched the new C Card scheme (condoms).

\*Maureen Shram asked about the ways schools deal with racial bullying and about the links between schools and the police. She was concerned about the under reporting of incidents. REC maintaining records and a co-ordinator can follow up the matter.

\*Kingsway centre is being refurbished.

### **Wellingborough Partnership Organisation Review Progress**

Hugh reported that the priorities for the revised Community plan are going for public consultation from July to September inclusive. The Partnership was now considering the organisational structure needed to deliver the priority outcomes. We also needed to allow for a possible area C&YP Board, area based commissioning and a delivery group for the Youth Action Plan. A paper was being prepared on a proposed new structure to be presented to the Partnership Steering Group on 14 July.

He would report further to the next meeting.

**Date of next meeting: 06/10/2008.**