



**WIRRAL  
INTELLIGENCE  
SERVICE**

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**SEND Youth Focussed  
Partnerships Event:  
Pilgrim Street Arts  
Centre**

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**Summary Event Report**

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**November 2018**

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## SEND Youth Focussed Partnerships Event: Pilgrim Street Arts Centre

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### Background to JSNA – Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

#### **What is a JSNA?**

A Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, better known as a JSNA, is intended to be a systematic review of the health and wellbeing needs of the local population, informing local priorities, policies and strategies that in turn informs local commissioning priorities that will improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce inequalities throughout the Borough.

#### **Who is involved?**

Information from Council, NHS and other partners is collected and collated to inform the JSNA and this reflects the important role that all organisations and sectors have (statutory, voluntary, community and faith) in improving the health and wellbeing of Wirral's residents.

#### **About this document**

This JSNA section looks to contain the most relevant information on the topic and provides an overview of those related key aspects

#### **How can you help?**

If you have ideas or any suggestions about these issues or topics then please email us at [wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk](mailto:wirralintelligenceservice@wirral.gov.uk) or go to <https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/>

Version Number	Date	Authors
1.0	November 2018	Sally Tittle – Local Offer – Communications Officer

### Content overview

<b>Abstract</b>	<p>This report outlines the detail of the SEND Youth Group Focussed Partnerships Event held at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018. This event was a pilot for what is hoped will be an on-going facility and was in direct response to the highlighted needs at the SEND Youth Voice Conference in January this year.</p> <p>SEND young people report they don't feel listened to and cannot access the employment opportunities they feel they should be able to and are more than capable of accessing. They wanted a vehicle to speak to providers and challenge the reasoning behind the barriers to paid employment and showcase their aspirations, skill set and experience whilst asking for leads to help them reach their career goals.</p>
<b>Intended or potential audience</b>	<p><b>Internal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colleagues across the Local Authority from the Local Offer, Creative Youth Development Group, Apprenticeship &amp; Supported Internships and SEN Team</li></ul>

	<p><b>External</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 members of the SEND Youth Voice Group</li> <li>• Cross section of 19 local employment and education providers/supporters including:</li> <li>• Wirral Chamber of Commerce, ILM, Wirral Met College, Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Community Action Wirral, Youth Federation, Health &amp; Work Programme, Involve Northwest, The Hive and The Open-Door Centre</li> </ul>
<p><b>Links with other topic areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Children and Young People: Special Educational Needs &amp; Disability</a></li> </ul>

# Wirral JSNA: SEND Youth Focussed Partnerships Event: Pilgrim Street Arts Centre

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## SEND Youth Group Focussed Partnerships Event

### Summary Report - November 2018

#### Introduction

This report outlines the detail of the SEND Youth Focussed Partnerships Event held at Pilgrim Street Arts Centre on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2018.

This was an opportunity for young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities, to have one to one time with a panel of professionals from a range of organisations specialising in bespoke training, CV writing, Interview techniques, Apprenticeships, Supported Internships and Paid employment leads.

There were between 25-30 people attending the event.

#### Background to widening public voice through our JSNA

The Local Offer is an informative conduit to identifying gaps in service provision and is an ongoing process that should wherever possible look to include detail, knowledge and experience from a wide group of contributors.

Acting on local feedback to remedy highlighted issues and shaping future provision is an integral function of the Local Offer.

JSNA’s should be making efforts to enhance that content through the involvement of local people.

## **How the SEND Youth Voice Focussed Partnership Event was created**

One of the issues raised by the SEND Youth Voice Group at their annual Conference was the whole subject area of Independence. They had strong feelings and a high level of dissatisfaction around their options and support when it comes to career planning and meaningful job prospects.

The Local Offer and representatives from the SEND Youth Voice group attended a Disability Confident event in July aimed at encouraging more Wirral businesses to sign up and be open to employing disabled applicants. Seline Wakerley (Team Leader of Dance, Engagement & Participation), and Sally Tittle (Local Offer Communications Officer) work closely with the SEND Youth voice group.

They created the Focussed Partnership event to give the SEND Youth Group an opportunity to have direct interaction with local providers, break down perceived barriers to employment and progress their future career paths.

The Local Offer approached the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), who had pledged support at the SEND Conference, and requested a joined-up approach to addressing this issue. Lynne Costello, Partnership Assistant at DWP liaised with Sally Tittle.

By pooling resources and contacts, some 23 local professionals welcomed the opportunity to be involved and 19 attended on the day.

## **What we set out to achieve**

- Listen to and act on the raised concerns of the collective voice of Wirral SEND young people
- Challenge current local employer mindset around the capabilities of SEND
- Training on CV writing, Interview skills and clear signposting to support
- Forge on-going links with local employment supporters and providers
- Pursue support options re independent travel to places of learning/work
- Clarify the impact of paid work when young person is in receipt of benefits
- Break down the 'glass ceiling' mentality. Focus on what can be done
- Remove barriers to employment opportunities for young people with SEND
- Signpost the young people to the services in Wirral that can help them
- Inform professionals of the current state of play re young SEND people and employment
- Replace the plethora of voluntary work undertaken with paid work
- Establish a local collaborative partnership to give informed advice to SEND young people
- Afford each young person 1-1 time with a panel of careers experts
- Map out bespoke action plans with professionals pledging support
- Secure employment

## **The Format of the Event**

- The event ran from 9.30am to 4pm
- A timetable was drawn up and each young person allocated a thirty minutes timeslot. A ten minutes action plan write up followed each meeting.
- Professionals sat around round tables for an informal feel and each young person was accompanied by Sally Tittle, Local Offer Communications Officer.
- The young people had prepared notes with help from Seline Wakerley, Participation & Engagement Officer ahead of the day to help prompt their input.
- Supported by Sally the young person gave the meeting a pen picture of their age, education, work experience to date, frustrations, levels of independence, skill set, areas for development and career aspirations.
- Professionals responded when help/advice from within their area of specialism was appropriate.
- Wirral Chamber of Commerce kindly provided lunch for the young people.
- A designated scribe captured the offers, suggestions, contacts and plan of action. A copy was given to the young person and the original to Sally Tittle to oversee.
- Given the pilot status, feedback was sought from the professionals and young people.

## **Young People's feedback (sample)**

- The professionals didn't intimidate us and gave us good advice.
- Today helped me to feel comfortable to talk, I finally felt listened to.
- I am excited to go for an interview & feel confident I can do it.
- Today helped me with interview skills and cv writing
- I'd have preferred less people round the table
- The time went so quickly, I could have talked for longer
- I'd like this to be offered to all Wirral SEND young people. We all need this level of support.
- I liked that people gave their time to listen to me, give me great advice, the support I need and helped to make an action plan just for me.
- I never thought I would be offered the opportunities I have today, I burst into tears when a professional offered to complete a CV for me (that same day!) and an interview next week for my chosen career in a Nursery which is a Disability Confident Employer.
- Finally, the support and advice I need. Thank you so much!

## **Professionals' feedback (sample)**

- Excellent event seeing the young people face to face was good.
- Inspirational, the format should be replicated for all young people to have their needs heard.
- A great day, I now have a greater awareness of the barriers faced by these young people
- Great conversations on how we can all work as partners
- Great way of working together, we need to build on this!
- I now have an awareness of employers who are 'using' a labour source to possibly 'overuse'.
- This event clearly has helped those willing to work who may need some support and scope to have their say in their future.
- Maybe 1 -1 discussions for young people with anxiety?
- It was a pleasure to attend today. The confidence of the young people is inspiring and a credit to the work you do with them and themselves.
- The young people did very well engage with everyone around the table and it was fantastic that so many offers of support/leads were made.
- Timeslots could have been shorter.
- It would be good to do a bigger event with even more participants.
- Excellent opportunity to work with partners
- Would love the opportunity to extend to other vulnerable people.
- Let's do this regularly and celebrate successes and exchange good new stories. There is clearly a gap in services and the handling of careers advice for SEND kids in schools needs significantly reviewing.
- Good solutions, pathways are being offered and the young people are obviously feeling that things are happening for them.
- Excellent event with some positive outcomes for each young person seen.
- Brilliant to see so many organisations coming together to support people who need it the most.
- Fantastic! I'd love a catch up on all the participants' progress in a few months.
- Basic info about the young people before-hand may be helpful?

## **Outcomes**

- The young people were listened to by an informed group of supportive professionals
- All professionals left with a far greater understanding of the barriers currently in place and the scale of 'exploitation' of businesses only offering voluntary work with no remuneration
- Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) offered training on CV writing and interview skills and happy to roll out across Wirral schools
- Solid supportive links with local employment supporters and providers
- Disability Employment Adviser offered to liaise with those who would benefit from Access to Work applications to help with independent travel to places of learning/work
- Those young people in receipt of benefits understand that to work 15 hours a week or less will not adversely impact on their level of benefits.
- The young people were comprehensively signposted to the services in Wirral that can help them
- A range of tangible and appropriate offers were made to the young people which are very likely to lead to paid employment in the Williamson Art Gallery, the Dog Hotel, Wirral Bee nursery and a gaming hub in Liverpool
- A willing local collaborative partnership to give informed advice to SEND young people was formed
- Individual action plans were drawn up and will be overseen to completion
- Wirral Chamber of Commerce agreed to support one young person realise his dream to open his own dance school for disabled children on completion of his degree in 2020. Business planning, financial support, on-going mentoring through the first twelve months were offered and other organisations also offered financial options
- A live vacancy matched the profile of one of the young people and by lunchtime she had a CV prepared for her by the Chamber of Commerce and an interview for a full-time position that will enable her to use her Level 3 Childcare qualifications and considerable admin experience

## **Next steps**

- Healthy recognition, and appetite from professionals and young people, for the need to roll this model out across all Wirral SEND young people in a variety of settings.
- The focus will be for youngsters aged 14-25.
- Pledged on-going support from key partners Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Wirral Chamber of Commerce, ILM and Wirral Met College.
- Pursue a review of Careers advice/planning for SEND young people in all Wirral schools.

- The planned SEND Youth Voice Conference 2019 will report upon the success of this event and continue to probe new partnerships to make the improvements flagged up by the young people.

## Contact details

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