

Carrickfergus Youth Fair – supporting and encouraging local young people

Over 400 pupils aged 14-15 from Carrick College, Carrickfergus Grammar, Downshire School and Ulidia Integrated College attended the 4th Annual Youth Fair at Oakfield Community Centre, Carrickfergus. The fair was hosted by the Carrickfergus Raising Attainment Group and the Locality Planning Group.



The main theme of the fair was “Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing” of young people. Twenty eight voluntary, community and statutory organisations offered young people information about the services and activities available for them in the local area.



The fair was opened by guest speakers Alderman Billy Ashe, Co-ordinator for Carrickfergus Community Forum, and Andrew Wilson, Chair of the Carrickfergus Policing and Community Safety Partnership. Both emphasised how they want young people to get a sense of achievement to enable them to gain better and more useful qualifications, becoming confident young adults.

The Locality Planning Group works to co-ordinate existing services for young people to make them more effective. It also regularly reviews needs in the area to see that services meet the actual needs identified by young people and their families.



Roy Beggs MLA, Chair of the Locality Planning Group, said: "Today's event is a good example of what the partnership is about - organisations coming together for the benefit of young people in the Borough."

Mr Beggs also thanked the Mayor's office for donating prizes for the quiz.



The Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP), led by the Health and Social Care Board, is a multi-agency partnership that includes the leadership of key statutory agencies and community and voluntary organisations that have a responsibility for improving the lives of children and young people in Northern Ireland.



For more information about the CYPSP Carrickfergus Locality Planning Group visit <http://www.cypsp.org/carrickfergus.htm>

To join the CYPSP Carrickfergus Locality Planning Group or for more information contact Selena Ramsey, Northern Area Locality Development Worker at Selena.ramsey@northertrust.hscni.net or by telephone at 028 2563 6608