

Sea Views



News issued to the media this week, from across our organisation

Week ending Friday 27th June 2008

Edition 59

Award-winning view finding

Jubilant Southend-on-Sea Borough Council staff members scooped national acclaim for encouraging residents to have their say.

They won highly commended in the 'community engagement through scrutiny' category in the country's first Good Scrutiny Awards 2008.

These awards were launched by the Centre for Public Scrutiny to celebrate the achievements of non-executive members in Scrutiny, responsible for holding decision makers to account.



Our highly commended project called 'Our Own Future Selves' was the Older Peoples Review, carried out by the Community Services Scrutiny Committee. This was an in-depth study

of the independence and well-being of older people in Southend. It helped develop a joint Older People's Strategy and a revised commissioning framework with South East Essex PCT.

There were nearly 80 entries for this first ever Good Scrutiny Awards and Southend was one of the three shortlisted for the 'community engagement through scrutiny' category.

Entries were judged on how communities were engaged rather than just consulted, and also looked for engagement with diverse communities. The highly commended certificate was presented at the Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference in London, to former Councillor Julie Cushion, who chaired the Older Peoples Review, project coordinator Flona Abbott, and Mike Bennett from Adult and Community Services, who supported the project team.

What have you done today to make a difference?

It was formally presented on home ground at the start of the full Council on Thursday 26th June.

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's Executive Councillor for Adult Social Care, Health and Housing, Councillor Mark Flewitt says: "Congratulations to all concerned in this review. It is a huge achievement to have done so well, and it also reflects the success of our partnership with the PCT.

"It is vitally important to ensure our residents truly have their say. We have a growing older population, some of whom will need a variety of services. Older people increasingly expect to be involved in shaping service improvements, and to be actively engaged in their community."

Schools unite against drugs

Secondary Schools throughout Southend have joined together to demonstrate their zero tolerance for drugs.

They have signed a special drugs charter which was officially launched on Tuesday 24th June, at Southend Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend.



At the launch, participating schools were presented with certificates by Southend-on-Sea Borough Council's Director of Children and Learning, Paul Greenhalgh.

The new charter sets out exactly where schools stand on all aspects of the drugs issue, and was developed by a working party including

representatives from the Council, secondary schools, South Essex Primary Care Trust, the Drug and Alcohol Action Team - a specific young persons support team - and Essex Police.

KeyMed has sponsored the charter leaflets, and wrist bands are now also available with the logo: 'my school is drug free' To further boost the charter message, there will be a promotion week starting on Monday 7th July where 13 schools are staging a variety of activities such as staff training, science projects, art work, football tournaments and external speakers.