

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

YOUTH AND CHILDREN ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, 9th September, 2008

Present: Cllr Mrs E M Holland (Chairman); Cllr Mrs F A English (Vice-Chairman); Cllr J A L Balcombe, Cllr D A S Davis, Cllr Mrs M F Heslop, Cllr D Keeley, Cllr Mrs F A Kemp, Cllr M R Rhodes, Cllr Ms S V Spence and Cllr B D Stone.

Councillors Mrs Anderson, Coffin, Court, Heslop and Worrall were also present pursuant to Council Procedure Rule No 15.21.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Boakes, Mrs Brown and Mrs Oakley.

PART 1 - PUBLIC

**YC
08/010 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**YC
08/011 MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the notes of the meeting of the Youth and Children Advisory Board held on 12 March 2008 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**YC
08/012 PRESENTATION BY KCC YOUTH SERVICES ON THE HADLOW
YOUTH WING**

The Board received a presentation by Angela Ford, Area Youth Officer for Maidstone, Tonbridge and Malling, who introduced the role of the Youth Service in supporting young people and described the evolution and development of the Hadlow Youth Centre project. She indicated that the new youth wing had benefitted from input from a number of agencies but represented a considerable achievement of the young people themselves who wished to make their own presentation to the Board at a later date.

Angela Ford outlined youth service activities elsewhere in the Borough including the TN10 Youth Project in Trench Ward, Tonbridge where a venue was being sought. Members raised a number of questions and made various suggestions. It was noted that a new web site had been launched for all youth activities across Kent as a channel for making young people aware of the facilities available. The Chairman then thanked Angela Ford for her contribution to the meeting.

MATTERS SUBMITTED FOR INFORMATION

**YC
08/013**

CHILDREN'S CENTRES

The report of the Chief Leisure Officer provided background information on the Children's Centres currently being developed in the Borough by Kent County Council. The programme was designed to provide good quality integrated services to children under five and their families and it was anticipated that over 100 Children's Centres would be established across Kent by 2010. Karen Barnard, Manager of the East Malling Children's Centre to be based at St James the Great Primary School, attended the meeting and provided an update on progress of the four centres planned or under development in the Borough. In addition to East Malling, these would be based at Snodland and two locations in Tonbridge. The activities of the two Managers and Community Involvement Workers in the Borough since their appointment were outlined together with future plans. Karen Barnard undertook to keep the Board informed and issued an invitation to Members to visit the East Malling Centre when it opened in 2009. She then responded to a number of questions from Members and was thanked by the Chairman for her presentation.

**YC
08/014**

YOUTH FORUM

The Chief Leisure Officer provided an update on the work undertaken by the Youth Forum since the last meeting of the Board. This was supported by a presentation by Alex Rolfe and Beth Surgenor, members of the Executive Board of the Youth Forum. A number of activities and events were highlighted including involvement in the 2008 Try Angle Awards and development of a promotional pack for the DVD. Future plans included promotion of the DVD to schools and youth groups, establishment of focus groups in schools utilising the mipod equipment and organising an event involving Youth Forums from neighbouring boroughs.

Members commended the Youth Forum for its work and suggested that the Forum be invited to consider whether it would wish to be represented on the emerging Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership. The Chairman then thanked the representatives of the Forum for their contribution to the meeting.

**YC
08/015**

YOUTH AGREEMENT UPDATE

The Chief Leisure Officer updated the Board on progress towards completing initiatives/targets within the Youth Agreement for the Borough which had been developed in partnership with Kent County Council Youth Service to meet the commitment set out in the Kent Agreement. It was noted that the majority of the initiatives and actions within the current agreement, as set out in the Annex to the report, had been completed. An outline was given of the proposed way forward including the preparation of a new Youth Agreement for the 2009-2012 period.

Reference was made to progress on linkage with local schools including Aylesford and Hayesbrook and Hillview in Tonbridge. The Board discussed possible future opportunities to extend such partnerships including involvement in a new Foundation Trust being developed by the Malling and Holmesdale Schools.

**YC
08/016**

LOCAL CHILDREN'S SERVICES PARTNERSHIPS UPDATE

The report of the Chief Leisure Officer provided an update on the establishment of the two Local Children's Services Partnerships within the Borough. The draft priorities were annexed to the report and it was noted that the full plans would be presented to the Board in due course.

**YC
08/017**

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN FRAMEWORK

The Chief Leisure Officer's report updated the position on actions undertaken over the last year in respect of the Council's Safeguarding Children Framework. Details were given of progress made against the responsibilities and requirements considered by the Board on 11 September 2007, in particular the successful review of the Corporate Child Protection Policy.

The Chief Leisure Officer drew attention to a report to be submitted to the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee on the Government's announcement of the creation of the Independent Safeguarding Authority, a new body which would maintain a register of those cleared to work with young people. Whilst welcoming the additional protection afforded, Members wished to be reassured that the proposal would not create an extra layer of bureaucracy resulting in delay and detriment to the Council's ability to operate its services.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION IN PRIVATE

**YC
08/018**

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

No items were considered in private.

The meeting ended at 2046 hours