

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

14 January 2008

**Report of the Chief Leisure Officer and the
Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts**

Part 1- Public

**Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken
by the Cabinet Member)**

1 Y-2 CREW SUMMER SCHEME

Summary

This report presents an operational review of the 2007 Y-2 Crew programme and brings forward a number of suggestions for next year.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 The objective of the Y-2 Crew summer scheme is to “provide a programme of diversionary and educational activities for vulnerable young people aged 11-16 years in areas of the borough where crime and disorder issues have been experienced within this age group”. The targeted areas have to date been East Malling, Snodland, Hadlow and Tonbridge.

1.1.2 The scheme runs for the first four weeks of the school summer holidays providing trips, courses and activity days. The trips and courses are run at a subsidised rate for the young people. The activity days are run free of charge to ensure that as many young people as possible are able to attend.

1.1.3 The scheme is funded by a range of partnership organisations with the largest contribution received from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

1.2 Review of 2007 Scheme

1.2.1 The 2007 scheme operated from Monday, 30 July to Friday, 24 August. A total of 136 young people were allocated spaces on the scheme, an increase of 22.5% compared to 2006. A total of nine referrals from Social Services and the Adolescent Resource Centre were received, with the cost of the referred spaces being met by the referring agency. In addition to the referrals, 37 young people were Leisure Pass holders and took advantage of the concessionary rates on offer.

1.2.2 Trips were run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as ten pin bowling, ice skating, paintballing, tree jumpers, Hastings, London Zoo, theatres

and Thorpe Park. The aim of the trips was to provide the young people with new skills and experiences, as well as giving them a chance to visit new places and expand their horizons.

- 1.2.3 All the trips were over subscribed and **[Annex 1]** shows the attendance figures for 2007.
- 1.2.4 Activity days were run on Wednesdays at each location once during the scheme. The activity days were run informally and the young people did not need to pre-book. A number of key agencies provided support to each of the activity days, providing workshops and informal sessions. Attendance at the activity days has historically been poor and whilst 2007 showed a marked improvement this is an area that will need to be addressed in 2008.
- 1.2.5 In addition to the activity days two additional events were run in 2007: a “No Messin’” event run by Network Rail to highlight rail safety and a “Fun Day” run by Russet Homes at its headquarters.
- 1.2.6 Courses were run in conjunction with the Council’s Summer Activate scheme. Attendance on these courses was disappointing, which is due in part to a different payment system being operated by Activate, causing some confusion. This is an issue which will be resolved in advance of the 2008 scheme.
- 1.2.7 In overall terms the 2007 Y-2 Crew Summer programme was successful, and many positive comments were received from both parents and young people. The Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts visited a number of the activity days and may wish to comment at the meeting.

1.3 2008 Scheme

- 1.3.1 An initial meeting of all the key agencies involved has already taken place to agree the way forward and bring forward proposed changes. A number of the proposed changes will be implemented in advance of 2008 subject to partnership funding being available, and are outlined below.
- 1.3.2 Members may recall that as part of the Youth & Play Development Officer post restructure, responsibility for the administration of Y-2 Crew transferred from Central Services to Leisure Services to sit alongside the Summer Playscheme and Activate.
- 1.3.3 As in previous years an Officer from TMBC will administer the scheme, whilst KCC Youth Service staff will run the actual activities of the scheme. It was felt that in order to confirm key responsibilities a formal Partnership Agreement should be developed. Attached at **[Annex 2]** is a draft Partnership Agreement for Member consideration, which is currently being considered by the Chief Solicitor.
- 1.3.4 Due to historically poor attendance in both the areas of Snodland and East Malling a review of the areas in which the scheme is focused is to be undertaken. It is

suggested that the scheme be extended to operate in areas which KCC Youth Service are actively involved. This would cover the areas of Tonbridge, Hadlow, East Malling, Snodland, Ditton, Aylesford, Burham, Eccles and Wouldham

- 1.3.5 In 2007, the programme was marketed through an A4 full colour brochure. It is suggested that a slimline brochure be produced in 2008 and distributed alongside the Activate brochure to raise awareness of the scheme and maximise the number of young people attending.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 The Council has powers to undertake this activity by virtue of Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972. Under the requirement of the Children Act (1999) and in accordance with the Council's Child Protection Policy all staff working on the programme are subject to an enhanced Criminal Record Bureau check.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 Funding for the scheme comes from a number of different sources including the Tonbridge & Malling Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, TMBC, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Parish Councils, Kent People's Trust, Tonbridge Lions and Malling Lions. A summary of funding received in 2007 is attached at **[Annex 3]**.
- 1.5.2 Requests for funding the 2008 scheme have been sent out, and to date £1,000 has been allocated from this Council's Youth & Play Development revenue budget and £500 from both Hadlow and Ditton Parish Councils. External funding is currently being sought from Children in Need and the Youth Opportunity Fund. Members should note that the extent of programme delivered will be wholly dependent on the level of funding received.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 All activities and trips are the subject of risk assessments and health and safety checks. Each of the facilities used will be required to produce adequate insurance certificates and risk assessments.
- 1.6.2 All activities will be conducted in accordance with the Partnership Agreement signed by both lead agencies.

1.7 Recommendations

- 1.7.1 It is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that:
- 1) subject to partnership funding being secured the Y-2 Crew scheme be operated in 2008
 - 2) subject to final approval by the Chief Solicitor the proposed Partnership Agreement be adopted and implemented; and

- 3) the proposed changes to the 2008 Y-2 Crew scheme outlined in the report be approved.

The Chief Leisure Officer confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

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Nil

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