

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

19 May 2009

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Summary

This report updates Members on the recent Easter Activate programme and the arrangements for the 2009 Summer Activate programme, Summer Playscheme and Y2 Crew.

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 Members will be aware that each year the Council determines a range of key priorities for improvement that inform the work of each Service and are incorporated within the Corporate Performance Plan.
- 1.1.2 To 'involve, safeguard and meet the needs of children and young people' is a published key priority in 2009/10.

1.2 Easter Activate

- 1.2.1 The 2009 Easter Activate programme ran from the 6-17 April and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out some more unusual activities. This Easter activities included martial arts, fencing, jewellery making, Indian dance, art, cookery, drama, film making, outward bound, windsurfing, trampolining and golf. It was hoped to introduce on-line booking and payment in advance of the Easter programme. Unfortunately, this was not possible due to last minute technical difficulties with our software supplier, however, the Information Technology Manager is expecting the system to be available for the Summer programme.
- 1.2.2 Attached at **[Annex 1]**, is a list of the individual activities that took place and the percentage of places that were taken up. As Members can see, in overall terms 93% of the places were taken, reflecting the continued popularity of the programme.
- 1.2.3 Feedback so far from the young people participating and their parents has all been positive, and in the next few weeks the results from the questionnaires completed will be collated and taken into consideration for future programmes.

1.3 Summer Activate

- 1.3.1 Arrangements for the 2009 Summer Activate programme are now being finalised with the activities running from Monday 27 July to Friday 21 August. This summer some of the workshops included are, drama, dance, film-making, fencing, golf, special effects and theatrical make-up, windsurfing, tree jumpers, trampolining, gymnastics, art and design, jewellery making, table tennis, outward bound activities at Carroty Wood and Yoga Bugs. A cookery and food hygiene course and a 'Get Safe for Summer' day at Tonbridge Swimming Pool will also be run.
- 1.3.2 Good use of this Council's own facilities will be made by running a Junior Ranger style one day workshop at both Leybourne Lakes and Haysden Country Parks, and a history, drama and story telling day at Tonbridge Castle, with The Little Bridge Theatre Company hopefully providing the characters.
- 1.3.3 The Council's Sports Development Officer will be running three one day Sports Camps at The Hugh Christie Technology College in Tonbridge, and The Malling and Holmesdale Schools. Some of the activities available on the day will include football, cricket and baseball.
- 1.3.4 The Summer Activate brochure will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres during the second week of June.
- 1.3.5 Members of staff who have worked on previous Activate courses are being contacted to confirm their availability for the 2009 programme with the necessary Criminal Record Bureau checks being completed.

1.4 Summer Playscheme

- 1.4.1 This year's scheme will run for four weeks from Monday 27 July to Friday 21 August 2009 at 14 venues across the borough and will cater for children between 4 and 11 years. All 14 venues have been confirmed with arrangements for the East Malling Playscheme being finalised.
- 1.4.2 Members will be aware from previous reports to this Board that St James The Great Primary School in East Malling is moving into a new building and that the old school, where we have previously held the East Malling Playscheme, will be undergoing refurbishment this summer, preventing it from being a venue for the 2009 Summer Playscheme. OFSTED has confirmed that the Council will not need to re-register the school as the new building is within the current school site and we are currently awaiting written confirmation of this from OFSTED. The new school building is due to be completed and ready for use in May 2009 and recent liaison with the County Council indicates that this completion date should be achieved.
- 1.4.3 As a precautionary measure we also approached The Malling School about holding the East Malling Playscheme at its facilities, if St James the Great Primary School was not ready. I am pleased to be able to confirm that the School has

agreed. In March the OFSTED registration process for The Malling School was started and OFSTED has now visited the School, and the Inspector is happy with the arrangements. The official OFSTED registration certificate is now awaited.

- 1.4.4 In terms of operational partners involved in the 2009 Summer Playscheme, Rainbow out of School Clubs (Hildenborough and West Malling), Barnies Day Nursery (Hadlow and Tonbridge Baptist Church), Poppy Pre-School (Aylesford) and Little Uns Day Nursery (Snodland) have all formally confirmed their availability to operate these venues once again in 2009. Partnership contracts are being progressed with the operators.
- 1.4.5 In accordance with OFSTED regulations 76 members of staff will be required to work directly for the Council on the 2009 Summer Playscheme. Invitations were sent to last year's staff at the end of 2008 and more than 50% intend to return. In early February we began advertising for the remaining positions and interest in working on the Scheme has been high. Letters to all candidates will go out in the first week of May letting them know if they have been successful and which site they will be allocated to.
- 1.4.6 As members will be aware each of our Summer Playscheme venues are also provided with one professional workshop each week. In 2009 we have arranged activities including circus skills, dance, traditional story telling, yoga bugs, drama, discovery bus and basketball.
- 1.4.7 The Summer Playscheme brochure will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres during the second week of June as well as being available to download from the Council's main website.
- 1.4.8 Training will be provided for staff as required, with the aim of providing at least two first aid qualified workers and one staff member trained in the use of epipen at each centre. Additional training such as Child Protection, Behavioural Management and Special Needs for those working as 1:1 Support Assistants will also be provided.

1.5 Y2 Crew

- 1.5.1 The 2009 scheme will be operated from Monday 27 July to Friday 21 August. Trips will be run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as ten pin bowling, paintballing, London Dungeons, Theatres and Thorpe Park.
- 1.5.2 Activity days will be run on Thursdays. Activity days will be themed and transport provided to increase the number of young people able to attend. A number of key agencies provide support to each of the activity days, providing workshops and informal sessions. **[Annex 2]** outlines the proposed programme for 2009.
- 1.5.3 In a review of the areas to be targeted the Y2 Crew partnership considered the recorded crime statistics from April to October 2008. Based on the crime statistics and advice from the local Police the following areas will be targeted in 2009:

Aylesford, Ditton, Snodland, East Malling, Larkfield, Leybourne, Borough Green, West Malling, Tonbridge (including Hildenborough), Hadlow and Wrotham.

1.5.4 As the number of areas to be targeted has been increased the number of places available on each of the trips has also be increased from 40 to 60 places.

1.5.5 The scheme is funded by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2009 has been secured from the following organisations:

Community Safety Partnership, Kent Police, TMBC Leisure Services, Ditton Parish Council, Hadlow Parish Council, Borough Green Parish Council and Wrotham Parish Council.

1.5.6 A number of external funding applications have been submitted, all of which await an outcome. Members should note that the extensions to the scheme highlighted above are all dependant upon funding being secured.

1.6 Legal Implications

1.6.1 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's Act (1999) and in accordance with the Council's Child Protection Policy all staff will be subject to an enhanced Criminal Record Bureau check no older than 12 months.

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.7.1 The cost of the Activate and Summer Playscheme programmes will be met from the 2009/10 Youth and Play Development revenue budget. The cost of the Y2 Crew scheme is met by a number of partners as detailed at sub-section 1.4.5 of the report.

1.8 Risk Assessment

1.8.1 A risk assessment of all the activities and venues is undertaken in liaison with the Council's Health & Safety and Insurance Officers. Each of the facilities used will be requested to produce adequate insurance certificates and risk assessments.

1.9 Policy Considerations

1.9.1 Young People, Healthy Lifestyles.

Background papers: Nil

contact: Jeni Ashmore

Robert Styles
Chief Leisure Officer