

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

22 September 2009

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 2009 SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Summary

This report updates Members on activities for young people and children that took place over the summer holidays, including the Summer Playscheme, Activate and Y2 Crew.

1.1 Summer Playscheme

- 1.1.1 In 2009 the Summer Playscheme operated at 14 venues across the Borough, offering organised activities for the 4-11 year age range. This year the Council directly operated and staffed eight venues and worked in partnership with Poppy Pre School, Little Uns Day Nursery, Rainbow Out of School Club and Barnies Day Nursery at the other six venues. Attached at **[Annex 1]** is a list of Summer Playscheme venues operated in 2009. Members will be aware from previous reports that St James The Great Primary School in East Malling was due to be moving into a new building and that the old school, where we have previously held the East Malling Playscheme, would be undergoing refurbishment this summer. Members will be pleased to note that the new building was completed in time and the 2009 East Malling Summer Playscheme was able to run without any problems.
- 1.1.2 The brochure and leaflets advertising the scheme were distributed extensively across the Borough, including all primary schools and libraries. Numbers of registrations remained good with 1329 children registered in 2009. **[Annex 2]** provides a breakdown of the places for each Summer Playscheme venue, including a comparison with last year. Members will note that overall registration levels this year are almost identical to 2008, with an increase in total places taken.
- 1.1.3 It is encouraging to note that 287 registered children benefitted financially from the Council's Leisure Pass scheme (£8.00 per family per week compared to the full rate of £30.00 per child per week). This illustrates the important role played by the Summer Playscheme in reaching all social groups within the community, and meeting the Council's objective of fair access for all. In 2009 a number of new

discounts were also introduced to benefit those parents who wished to book their children on to the scheme for two weeks or more.

- 1.1.4 As in previous years the Council also offered the Playscheme Plus programme which is available to children with additional needs or learning disabilities who have 1:1 support at school. In 2009 a total of 24 children took part in the scheme. In addition to Playscheme Plus, a further 64 children took part in the Summer Playscheme through referrals from Kent County Council's Children and Families Unit. This reflects the inclusive nature of the Summer Playscheme for all residents of the Borough.
- 1.1.5 Transport was provided from Kings Hill to the West Malling and Leybourne centres with an extra pick up in Larkfield, and from Wrotham to Borough Green enabling those children who may not otherwise have been able to attend to do so.
- 1.1.6 Each year the Council sends out a Parent's Survey with the results for 2009 showing high levels of satisfaction. 83% stated they were very satisfied/satisfied with the Playscheme and 87% of those responding found the charges to be about right.
- 1.1.7 Members may be aware that the 14 National Standards, as outlined by OFSTED as a legal requirement, were replaced in September 2008 with the Early Years Register and the Compulsory and Voluntary Childcare Registers, all of which the Council's Playschemes are registered on. In 2009 OFSTED inspected five of the Summer Playscheme venues with positive feedback being received during each inspection. We are now awaiting the final reports following which an action plan will be drawn up to ensure all recommendations made by OFSTED are implemented in advance of 2010.
- 1.1.8 The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Murray, formally visited the Stocks Green, Borough Green and Walderslade Summer Playscheme venues on the 6 August 2009. A number of the children had prepared a performance including a puppet show and dance piece and the Mayor judged a number of competitions. Articles of the day can be seen in the Sevenoaks Chronicle and the Malling edition of the Kent Messenger.
- 1.1.9 80 members of staff worked on the 2009 Summer Playschemes with 58 of these having worked on previous schemes. All staff are asked to complete a survey at the end of the scheme and the results will be collated to inform the planning of the 2010 Scheme.

1.2 Activate

- 1.2.1 The 2009 Summer Activate programme ran from the 27 July - 21 August and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out some more unusual activities. This summer activities included special effects and character make-up, badminton, fencing, jewellery making, dance, art, cookery, drama, junior rangers,

film making, outward bound, windsurfing, trampolining, table tennis, drama, gymnastics, history off the page, tree jumpers and golf.

- 1.2.2 Attached at **[Annex 3]**, 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 90% of the places were taken and a number of courses reached full capacity in a matter of days of the brochures being distributed with the outward bound courses at Carrot Wood in Tonbridge proving to be particularly popular. This year 399 children registered on Activate compared to 301 in 2008 reflecting the continued popularity of the programme.
- 1.2.3 Good use of the Council's own facilities was made by running a Junior Ranger one day workshop at both Leybourne Lakes and Haysden Country Parks, and a history, drama and story telling day at Tonbridge Castle. The Council's Sports Development Officer also successfully ran three one day Sports Camps at The Hugh Christie Technology College in Tonbridge, and The Malling and Holmesdale Schools with activities available on the day including football, cricket, rugby, basketball, judo and tennis.
- 1.2.4 Parents' views were sought through a questionnaire. Listed below are the key issues arising from the responses:
- 96% of respondents were very satisfied/satisfied with the Activate programme overall.
 - 100% of respondents felt there was an adequate range of choices.
 - 81% of respondents were very satisfied/satisfied with the cost of activities.

1.3 Y2 Crew

- 1.3.1 The objective of the Y2 Crew summer scheme is to "provide a programme of diversionary and educational activities for vulnerable young people aged 11-18 years in areas of the borough where crime and disorder issues have been experienced within this age group". Members may recall that a review of the areas in which the scheme was focused was undertaken in 2009 and the scheme was extended to cover the areas in which Kent County Council Youth Service is actively involved. In 2009 Y2 Crew was targeted in the areas of Tonbridge (including Hildenborough), Hadlow, East Malling, Snodland, Burham, Ditton, Eccles, Aylesford, Borough Green, Wrotham, West Malling, Larkfield and Leybourne.
- 1.3.2 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.

- 1.3.3 The scheme is funded by a range of partnership organisations, including: Community Safety Partnership, Kent Police, TMBC, Kent Fire & Rescue, Russet Homes, Kent Library Services, Youth Opportunities Fund, Crime Prevention Panel, Tonbridge Local Children Services Partnership, Malling Local Children Services Partnership, Hadlow Parish Council, Wrotham Parish Council, Borough Green Parish Council, Aylesford Parish Council, Snodland Town Council, Tonbridge Lions, Hyde Housing, Sanctuary Housing and income from participants.
- 1.3.4 The 2009 scheme operated from Monday 28 July to Friday 22 August. A total of 224 young people were allocated spaces on the scheme, an increase of 58% compared to 2008. Referrals were received from Social Services, The Adolescent Resource Centre, Hugh Christie School, Hayesbrook School and KCC Youth Service. The cost of the referred spaces are met by the referring agency. In addition to the referrals, 26 young people were Leisure Pass holders and took advantage of the concessionary rates on offer.
- 1.3.5 Trips were run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as ten pin bowling, paintballing, Madame Tussauds, Bewl Water, the West End Theatre 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. **[Annex 4]** shows the attendance figures for 2009.
- 1.3.6 Activity days were run on Wednesdays. Activity days were theme based and transport provided to increase the number of young people attending. A number of key agencies provided support to each of the activity days, providing workshops and informal sessions. **[Annex 4]** outlines the activity day programme and the attendance figures in comparison to 2008, which highlights an improvement in the number of young people who took advantage of these days. Feedback received from the key agencies has also been positive.
- 1.3.7 As Members may recall, in 2008 courses were run in conjunction with the Council's Activate programme, however attendance on these was disappointing. In order to address this issue it was decided that the Y2 Crew programme would run its own courses. Three courses were offered, Spray Art, BOOM Film Production and Dance, all of which were well attended.
- 1.3.8 As part of the ongoing review of Y2 Crew, evening sessions were trialled in 2009, as it was felt that this would further reduce the risk of crime. Once a week a barbecue and sports taster session was held in each of the key areas. These proved to be very successful and will be continued and developed in 2010.
- 1.3.9 The Mayor, Councillor Mrs Murray, formally visited the two activity days, the Rap Workshop at Borough Green library and the Crime Scene Investigation day at Hadlow Youth Club.
- 1.3.10 A glossy A5 brochure was introduced in 2008, following young people's comments that they preferred the new look brochure, it remained in 2009. The brochure publicises the scheme and also the key agencies. A consideration for 2009 is to

increase the size of the brochure in an attempt to include more information about local activities/events that are relevant to the 11-18 year old age group.

- 1.3.11 In overall terms the 2009 Y2 Crew Summer programme was successful, and many positive comments were received from both parents and young people.
- 1.3.12 Additional funding was made available from the Local Children's Service Partnerships, providing the scheme was extended into the October half term as a pilot. It is, therefore, proposed that a week long programme is provided consisting of two trips, two courses and one activity day, programme to be confirmed. A flyer will be produced with all the details and distributed to all the young people who attended Y2 Crew Summer Scheme plus any new referrals. Please note that this is a pilot and is only available due to additional funding being accessible at this time.
- 1.3.13 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 2010, subject to partnership funding being available and these are outlined below:
- A review of the targeted areas be undertaken and extended to new areas subject to funding being available.
 - A review of the payment and booking systems to increase efficiency and maximise the number of actual attendances.
 - The current brand and marketing material be increased and distributed alongside Activate.

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 Childrens 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.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 The cost of the activities will be met from the existing 2009/10 Leisure Development revenue budgets and through fundraising for the Y2 Crew.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 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. The Summer Playscheme venues are all registered with OFSTED and comply with the Early Years and Childcare Registers.

1.7 Policy Considerations

1.7.1 Healthy Lifestyles, Young People, Community, Crime & Disorder Reduction.

Background papers:

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Nil

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