

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**18 May 2010**

**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 2010 summer holiday activities for young people.**

**1.1 Easter Activate**

1.1.1 The 2010 Easter Activate programme ran from the 6-16 April and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out some more unusual activities. This Easter activities included fencing, fashion design and jewellery making, dance, art in the park, music technology, special effects and character make-up, 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 the Council's software supplier. The Information Technology Manager is confident the system will be available for the Summer Activate scheme.

1.1.2 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 98% of the places were taken, reflecting the continued popularity of the programme. It is also worthy of note that the numbers of young people taking part increased by 36 compared to the previous year.

1.1.3 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.

**1.2 Summer Activate**

1.2.1 Arrangements for the 2010 Summer Activate programme are now being finalised with the activities running from Monday 26 July to Friday 20 August. This summer, workshops will include drama, dance, film-making, fencing, golf, special effects and character make-up, windsurfing, kayaking, tree jumpers, cookery, music technology, trampolining, pottery painting, jewellery making and outward bound activities at Carrotty Wood. The libraries within the Borough will also be

utilised by holding 'The Joe Craig Show' at Tonbridge Library and a storytelling workshop at Larkfield Library.

- 1.2.2 Good use of this Council's own facilities will be made by running a Junior Ranger workshop at both Leybourne Lakes and Haysden Country Parks, and a 'Get Safe for Summer' day will run at Tonbridge Swimming Pool. Due to the popularity of the Free Cycle Fun Day held on the 6 April and the positive feedback from the Mayor's Charity Bike Ride, new one day Bike Maintenance and Bike Ability courses will be run in both the Council's Parks.
- 1.2.3 The Summer Activate brochure will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres during the second week of June.
- 1.2.4 Members of staff who have worked on previous Activate courses are being contacted to confirm their availability for the 2010 programme with the necessary Criminal Record Bureau checks being completed.

### **1.3 Summer Playscheme**

- 1.3.1 This year's scheme will run for four weeks from Monday 26 July to Friday 20 August 2010 at 14 venues across the borough and will cater for children between 4 and 11 years. All 14 venues have now been confirmed with the West Malling Playscheme relocating from the Cricket Pavilion to the West Malling Church of England Primary School. The West Malling Playscheme is being run by one of the Council's partner organisations, (Rainbows) who have completed the required OFSTED registration.
- 1.3.2 Members may be aware that Tonbridge Girls' Grammar School has recently been re-built and as a result the venue used for the 2009 Playscheme is now being demolished. In liaison with the School's Property Manager premises have been secured within the new school building, and the Council's Health & Safety Officer visited the site in March to ensure that it met the Playscheme requirements. I can confirm that all arrangements have been finalised and that OFSTED has been informed of the changes.
- 1.3.3 In terms of operational partners involved in the 2010 Summer Playscheme, Barnies Day Nursery (Hadlow and Tonbridge Baptist Church), Poppy Pre-School (Aylesford) and Rainbow Out of School Clubs (Hildenborough, Snodland and West Malling), have all formally confirmed their availability to operate these venues in 2010. As Members are aware Rainbows has replaced Littleuns as the partner for the Snodland Playscheme, and I can confirm that OFSTED have visited the site and the new certificate is awaited.
- 1.3.4 In 2010 Mrs B's will also be joining the Council as an operational partner and will be operating the East Malling Playscheme. The Youth and Play Development Officer is assisting Mrs B's with its recruitment process, by approaching members of staff who worked for the Council at the East Malling venues last year. So far the

Deputy Manager, a Playworker and the 1:1 Support Assistant have all formally registered their interest to work for Mrs B's.

- 1.3.5 In accordance with OFSTED regulations, 76 members of staff will be required to work directly for the Council on the 2010 Summer Playscheme. Invitations were sent to last year's staff and at the end of March 2010 over 60 members of staff had indicated a wish to return. In early February we began advertising for the remaining positions targeting specific venues. Letters to all candidates have now gone out letting them know if they have been successful and which site they will be allocated to.
- 1.3.6 As Members will be aware each of our Summer Playscheme venues is also provided with one professional workshop each week. In 2010 activities will include circus skills, dance, special effects make up, music technology, pottery painting, traditional story telling, drama and sports camps.
- 1.3.7 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 website.
- 1.3.8 The Council's training schedule has now been set and includes Paediatric First Aid, Child Protection, Epipen use, Special Needs, and Promoting Positive Behaviour. The Kent County Council Out of School Consultant is also looking to provide the Council's Playscheme staff with free training including an Introduction to Playwork, Playwork Theory into Out of School Practice, Planning for Play opportunities and Getting Active.

#### **1.4 Y2 Crew**

- 1.4.1 The 2010 scheme will be operated from Monday 26 July to Friday 20 August. Trips will be run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as ten pin bowling, Buckmore Park Go Karting, London Bridge Experience, Theatres and Thorpe Park.
- 1.4.2 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 2010.
- 1.4.3 In a review of the areas to be targeted the Y2 Crew partnership considered the recorded crime statistics from April to October 2009. Based on the crime statistics and advice from the local Police the following areas will be targeted in 2010:

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

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.

The scheme is funded by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2010 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.

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.

## **1.5 Legal Implications**

- 1.5.1 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.

## **1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.6.1 The cost of the Activate and Summer Playscheme programmes will be met from the 2010/11 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 of the report.

## **1.7 Risk Assessment**

- 1.7.1 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.

## **1.8 Policy Considerations**

- 1.8.1 Young People, Healthy Lifestyles.

Background papers: Nil

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