

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 YOUTH & PLAY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Summary

This report updates Members on activities and initiatives for children and young people.

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 2010/11.

1.2 Try Angle Awards

1.2.1 The Try Angle Awards are a partnership scheme between Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Maidstone Borough Council and Kent County Council to celebrate the achievements of young people aged from 11–18 years.

1.2.2 Young people can be nominated for an award by their school, youth group, parents or friends. The categories are bravery, personal achievement in the arts, music, sport or outdoor activity, volunteering and service to the community, good friends and young carers, citizenship, environment and personal development.

1.2.3 This year the ceremony will be taking place at Mote Park Leisure Centre in Maidstone and will be hosted by young people from Maidstone in the same way that the Co-Chairs of the TM Youth Forum hosted the 2009 awards at the Angel Centre in Tonbridge. Members of the TM Youth Forum are also part of the Try Angle Awards Steering Group with the Webmasters designing the invitation ticket, the programme for the awards night and the evaluation form.

1.2.4 Nominations for the 2010 awards are now closed, with a meeting arranged for May to score the nominees and decide the winners for each category.

1.3 Youth Forum

- 1.3.1 TM Youth Forum is a panel of young people between the ages of 11-18 representing the views of young people who live in the area of Tonbridge and Malling. Members come from a wide range of youth clubs, schools and community groups and meet five times a year to discuss important local issues.
- 1.3.2 In 2009 the Youth Forum set out to consult with other young people around a number of key issues including the perception of young people in our society, young people and the environment, and local services for young people. The Youth Forum took a MiPod (an interactive style big brother diary room) to a number of community events to find out what young people really think and want, and are now working with key agencies to put some of these ideas into action.
- 1.3.3 Due to a lot of feedback from young people stating they would like to do more to help improve their local environment, but were not sure how to go about this, the Youth Forum supported the Environmental Projects Co-ordinator at a Summer Fair to increase awareness amongst young people of small but significant changes they could make in their lives. The Youth Forum is now also in the process of designing a webpage where young people can see what improvements have been made to their local environment as a result of issues raised, such as graffiti being reported to the Council. Five members of the Youth Forum were awarded the 2009 Environmental Champions Award due to their ongoing hard work in this area.
- 1.3.4 The Youth Forum has also been involved in consultation with a number of key agencies including the NHS on a young person's anti smoking campaign and an initiative led by the Department for Children, Schools and Families to reduce the harms associated with young people drinking too much alcohol.
- 1.3.5 As part of Shine Week, a national celebration of young people's talents, four members of the Youth Forum had the opportunity to debate in the House of Lords, tackling subjects such as talent versus celebrity. Three members also attended a Young Advisors conference in Birmingham which was an event to celebrate innovative engagement practice and to disseminate research on what young people have identified as the key barriers and enablers to their involvement.

1.4 Youth Perception Event

- 1.4.1 The TM Youth Forum is organising an event to promote the great things young people do in the borough and inspire others to get involved. The idea for the event came up at a recent Youth Forum meeting when members of the Forum were discussing how they could improve the perception of young people in Tonbridge and Malling, who are often portrayed in a negative light.
- 1.4.2 Youth Forum members have been working hard with a range of organisations and agencies in the Borough to create a 'Positive about young people' day, which will take place on Saturday 17 July at Tonbridge School. Anyone can go along to the

event, which will run from 10 am to 4 pm and is completely free of charge. There will be a number of fun activities, interactive stands and stalls and information available throughout the day. The event will be split into three key themes:

- **Healthy lifestyles** – including information and taster sessions on a range of sports and activities, advice on drugs and alcohol issues, and details on how to make sure you eat healthily. Charlton Athletic Football Club will be there on the day running its popular community football sessions.
- **Community involvement** – a host of information on how to get involved in community projects and clubs including the TM Youth Forum, volunteering, litter picking and graffiti clearing and how to become a Street Monitor.
- **Positive stories** – a celebration of young people’s successes over the last year including those who have won Triangle Awards, Young Achiever Awards or become Environmental Champions.

1.4.3 Other organisations offering advice and support on the day include: Tonbridge & Malling Community Safety Partnership, the Borough Council, KCC Youth Services, Kenwood Trust, YWCA and The Beat Project.

1.4.4 The Youth Forum has also met with the head reporter of its local newspaper to find out how the media plays a part in the perception of youth. As a result the KM Group has agreed to run a media workshop on the day and will be advertising the event through its publications. The Youth Forum agreed with the reporter that the article advertising the event and the follow up piece will be written by young people themselves, and there is also a further opportunity for the Youth Forum to have a monthly article in the KM newspaper.

1.4.5 In order to fund this event the Youth Forum has submitted a number of application bids and has now secured funding from the Local Strategic Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership. The Forum has also submitted a bid to the Youth Opportunities Fund and has sent a letter to local KCC Members.

1.5 Kent Children’s Trust

1.5.1 Over the past six months the Kent Children’s Trust has been working with the national Commissioning Support Programme to undertake an extensive review of its commissioning and delivery arrangements at strategic and local levels. At the Board’s meeting in December 2009, partners came together to consider and scrutinise seven key proposals [**Annex 1**] to strengthen the Children’s Trust arrangements during 2010, and committed to developing a long term strategic ‘Change for Children’ programme, which is to be resourced by all partners of the Kent Children’s Trust. These proposals were developed with partners to address the immediate improvement areas from the review and also respond to the new requirements of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 and new Department of Children, Schools and Families Children’s Trust guidance.

1.5.2 The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 builds on The Children Act 2004 by:

- Requiring every area to have a Children's Trust Board from April 2010
- Transferring responsibility for preparing the Children & Young People's Plan from the local authority to the Children's Trust Board
- Requiring the Children's Trust Board to monitor Children & Young People's Plan implementation
- Extending the range of statutory Children's Trust partners to include schools, FE and sixth form colleges and JobCentre Plus from January 2010

1.5.3 The Department of Children, Schools and Families guidance seeks to strengthen Children's Trusts co-operation arrangements, and provides a detailed steer on a host of issues including:

- Integrated processes and delivery
- Commissioning
- Workforce Development
- Developing a new jointly resourced Children and Young People's Plan from April 2011

1.6 Local Children's Trust Board

1.6.1 The Local Children's Trust Board works as part of the Kent Children's Trust arrangements to secure improved outcomes for all children and young people in a district in line with the Kent Children and Young People's Plan. The Local Children's Trust is neither an operational body nor one that delivers services directly instead its role is to provide local leadership and coordination to ensure the effectiveness of what its partner organisations are doing.

1.6.2 The Children Act 2004 as amended by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act lists the partners with a statutory duty to cooperate in children's trust arrangements. The Local Children's Trust Board includes senior representation from the following partners:

- District Councils – both officer and elected member representation
- County Council Member
- Police
- Primary Care Trusts

- Communities Directorate, KCC
- Children's Families and Education Directorate, KCC
- Schools and FE sector
- Early Years and Childcare
- Voluntary and Faith Sectors
- Business Community
- Local Community Leaders

1.7 Kent Children and Young People's Plan

1.7.1 The Kent Children and Young People's Plan is the single, strategic, overarching plan for all services affecting children and young people across Kent. The aim of the Plan is to identify where better multi-agency and partnership working can significantly improve outcomes for children and young people over a three year period. The current Kent Children and Young People's Plan runs until 2011 and the Kent Children's Trust is now in the process of producing the 2011 – 2014 CYPP.

1.7.2 In response to a request from the Kent Children's Trust to provide as much information as possible, regarding the processes that will be required to ensure that the Children and Young People's Plan priorities and supporting commissioning plans are delivered during the period 2011-2014, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council has now completed and returned the partners template detailing our projected timelines for implementation of the new plan.

1.8 Legal Implications

1.8.1 The Council has powers to undertake this activity by virtue of Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

1.9 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.9.1 The cost of the activities will be met from the 2010/11 Youth and Play Development revenue budget as well as external funding for the Youth Perception Event.

1.10 Risk Assessment

1.10.1 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.

1.11 Policy Considerations

1.11.1 Young People, Healthy Lifestyles.

Background papers: Nil

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