

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**22 September 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 Awards**

1.2.1 Tonbridge & Malling's most inspirational young people celebrated in style at this year's Try Angle Award Winners ceremony which took place on 2 July at Maidstone Leisure Centre. A host of young people aged 10 to 18 went up on stage to receive their trophies and certificates, awarded for a range of achievements. Each year Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council and Maidstone Borough Council take turns to host the event with the 2011 Awards due to be held at the Angel Centre on the 8 July.

1.2.2 Tonbridge & Malling's own Youth Forum were presented with an award for Citizenship and Environment having worked on a range of key issues including improving the environment, raising awareness of the harm alcohol can cause and helping to promote an anti smoking campaign.

1.2.3 As well as celebrating young people's achievements at the Try Angle Awards this summer two inspirational young people were also awarded the Council's Young Achiever Award. Jack and Joe Heskett were presented with the award by the Mayor of Tonbridge & Malling, Councillor Sue Murray as they have been active members of the TM Youth Forum and have dedicated themselves to making a difference to their local community.

### **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 & Malling. As Members will be aware from the last meeting of this Board the Youth Forum have undertaken a number of projects in 2010, the most significant being the launch of the Youth Perception Project.
- 1.3.2 The TM Youth Forum began their efforts to improve youth perception with a 'Positive about young people day' on 17 July. Young people were invited to take part in a host of fun activities including street dance, climbing wall and samba drumming workshops and were provided with advice on healthy lifestyles, how to get involved in community projects and the benefits of volunteering.
- 1.3.3 The aim of the project was to help raise awareness of the common misconceptions that many have about young people. In the weeks running up to the launch of the project the Youth Forum were commissioned to produce a series of posters and banners highlighting each of these misconceptions, all of which was filmed to produce a Youth Perception DVD. The posters and banner are now on display around the borough and will be used along with the DVD to take to schools and youth groups to help promote all the good work that young people do.
- 1.3.4 The Youth Forum is currently in a transitional period with a number of members now leaving school to go to University. As a result the Youth Forum will be looking to appoint a Webmaster at the next meeting on the 27 September and will be meeting with representatives from School Councils and youth groups over the coming weeks to ensure a high degree of representation across the Borough is maintained.

### **1.4 KCC Youth Service**

- 1.4.1 Members may be aware that KCC Youth Service is currently undergoing some changes with the reduction of six Area Youth Officers to four. The reduction in the total number means that the four remaining Area Youth Officers will now take on a new geographical area. For Tonbridge and Malling, who are currently partnered with Maidstone, this will be increased to include Tunbridge Wells. Up until recently Angela Ford had been the Area Youth Officer for Tonbridge & Malling with Gaele Jezequel acting Area Youth Officer once Angela left on maternity leave. As of 1 September, Colin McCadden took up the permanent position of Area Youth Officer for Tonbridge & Malling.

### **1.5 Kent Children's Trust**

- 1.5.1 Members will be aware from the last meeting of this Board that during 2009 the Kent Children's Trust worked with the national Commissioning Support Programme to review our Children's Trust arrangements. At the December Board meeting partners came together to consider and scrutinise seven key proposals with significant progress now having been made to take these forward as follows:

- The Kent Children's Trust Executive has been re-established as a strategic commissioning group and is meeting monthly with new terms of reference.
- Joint commissioning plans are being developed for parenting and teenage pregnancy.
- Needs assessment for the new Children & Young People's Plan is well underway.
- Draft terms of reference for the new Local Children's Trust Boards have been agreed with the new Local Children's Trust up and running from September 2010.

## **1.6 Local Children's Trust**

- 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 role of the Local Children's Trust Board is to provide strategic leadership to harness the collective efforts of its partner organisations. Whilst delivery will be the responsibility of individual services the Local Children's Trust Board will promote a 'total place' approach to join up delivery where it makes sense for local communities.
- 1.6.2 Members will be aware from previous reports that in December 2009 the Kent Children's Trust Board made the decision to move from 23 Local Children's Services Partnerships to 12 new Local Children's Trust Boards. From September 2010 this means that Tonbridge and Malling will now be represented by one Local Children's Trust Board. Over the summer months the two former Local Children's Services Partnerships met to discuss the new terms of reference and membership of the new Local Children's Trust. It has now been announced that George Parkin the previous Local Children's Services Partnerships Manager for Tonbridge will become the Preventative Services Manager, that Councillor Nick Heslop will be the elected Member official and that the Chief Leisure Officer will be the District Council Officer.

## **1.7 Children & 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.
- 1.7.2 On 15 July the Kent Children's Trust published the 'Positive About Our Future' Kent's Children and Young People's Plan 2008 -2011 Second Annual Review, 2009 – 2010. The report highlights a number of areas where Kent Children's Trust has consistently strong performance, areas of improved performance where

a number of performance indicators have improved to a point that is above or in line with national performance and areas for improvement or development. The full report can be obtained from Leisure Services or alternatively can be downloaded at

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/education\\_and\\_learning/plans\\_and\\_consultations/education\\_plans/children\\_young\\_peoples\\_plan.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/education_plans/children_young_peoples_plan.aspx)

1.7.3 The Kent Children's Trust is currently developing its third Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2011 – 2014 with 6 key stages, Needs Assessment, Engagement and Consultation, Commissioning Plans, Resources (and budget process), Approval and Publication. The outcome based and evidence led multi agency needs assessment has been used as a way of estimating the nature and extent of the needs of a population so that services can be planned accordingly. To date the needs assessment has identified seven emerging areas of need as follows:

- Emotional and Mental Health
- Healthy Start in Life
- Safeguarding
- Primary Aged Children's Learning
- Adolescent Engagement
- Housing / Accommodation
- Family Poverty

1.7.4 In developing the next plan for Kent the Children Trust is committed to ensuring that the priorities reflect what children, young people, parents and carers are telling them. As such a programme of engagement and consultation is underway with a public debate on 'What makes a good childhood in Kent?' A range of creative activities have been designed to engage the public and to hear their views and are currently being used at a number of key events. Tonbridge & Malling aims to support this by undertaking the consultation with the TM Youth Forum and at a number of community events held across the borough.

## **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:

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Nil

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