

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

1 March 2011

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UPDATE

Summary

This report updates Members on key areas of the Children and Young People work programme, including Activate, the Summer Playscheme, Y2 Crew, the Youth Forum and the new Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board.

1.1 Activate

- 1.1.1 Arrangements for the 2011 Easter Activate programme have now been finalised with a variety of activities for 8–16 year olds running from the 11 April–21 April 2011. This Council will once again offer the most popular courses from last year, including kayaking, windsurfing, trampolining, tree jumpers, fashion design, jewellery making, special effects make-up, outward bound as well as offering new courses such as mountain biking. Venues will include the Council's own facilities, local schools and community halls.
- 1.1.2 Members will be aware from the last meeting of this Board that a review of marketing for the Holiday Activity Programmes has been undertaken, and savings have been achieved in both design and print costs. The brochure has now been designed for the 2011 Easter Activate programme with copies having been sent to schools, leisure centres and libraries. Parents are able to use the online booking system which requires less 'back office' staff resource. Copies of the Easter Activate brochure will be available at the meeting.
- 1.1.3 The Council aims to provide the best possible programme for the children and young people attending its holiday schemes, and user feedback is important to help develop and improve the services provided. In partnership with the Council's Improvement and Development Manager, an easier and more cost effective way of completing questionnaires will be introduced, allowing parents to complete and submit a questionnaire online. For those who do not have access to email, paper versions will still be available.

1.1.4 This year's Summer Activate will run from the 25 July to 19 August with the proposed programme of activities currently being developed.

1.2 Summer Playscheme

1.2.1 This year's scheme will run for four weeks from Monday 25 July to Friday 19 August 2011 at 14 venues across the borough, catering for children between 4 and 11 years. All 14 venues have now been confirmed.

1.2.2 Members will be aware that this Council funds three weeks of the Playscheme, with one week's contribution being provided by Parish/Town Councils. The majority of Parish/Town Councils have confirmed their intention to continue to support the Summer Playscheme in 2011.

1.2.3 In terms of operational partners involved in the Summer Playscheme, Rainbows (Hildenborough, Snodland and West Malling), Barnies (Hadlow and Tonbridge Baptist Church), Mrs B's Daycare (East Malling) and Poppy Pre-School (Aylesford) have all formally confirmed their availability to operate these venues once again in 2011.

1.2.4 Members will be aware from my report to the last meeting of this Board, that a review was undertaken in 2010 of current demand and staffing levels, resulting in 55 members of staff being required to work directly for the Council on the 2011 Summer Playscheme. Invitations to return have been sent to last year's staff with early indications showing more than 50% wishing to work on the scheme again. To recruit the remaining staff an advert has been placed in the local paper and a recruitment leaflet has been sent to all of the nurseries and Out Of School Clubs in Tonbridge and Malling. A number of enquiries have already been received from people wanting to continue working with children in the summer months and, as a number of them are already working in a child care setting during term time, they hold the relevant qualifications that staff are legally required by OFSTED to hold.

1.2.5 The Council's training schedule has now been set and includes Paediatric First Aid, Child Protection, Special Needs, and Promoting Positive Behaviour. Liaison is underway with members of staff to access external training via Kent Early Years, which is being offered free of charge, including the Early Years Safeguarding Module 1 - for Designated Person.

1.3 Y2 Crew

1.3.1 The 2011 scheme will be operate from Monday 25 July to Friday 19 August. Trips will be run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as ten pin bowling, Bewl Water, paintballing, theatres and Thorpe Park.

1.3.2 The Y2 Crew Partnership has decided to focus closely on ensuring that all places on courses, evening sessions and activity days are maximised. It has been agreed that there will be more places offered on the courses and evening

sessions, and transport provided to ensure they are accessible to all young people.

1.3.3 Two activity days will be run on the middle two Wednesdays. 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 1]** outlines the proposed programme for 2011.

1.3.4 In a review of the areas to be targeted the Y2 Crew Partnership considered the recorded crime statistics from April to October 2010. Based on the crime statistics, and advice from the local Police the same areas will be targeted in 2011 including:

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

1.3.5 The scheme is funded by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2011 has to date been secured from Kent Police and this Council. Applications have been made to the Youth Opportunities Fund, local Parish Councils, Tonbridge Lions, Malling Lions, Kent Fire and Rescue and local Housing providers.

1.3.6 Members should note that the details of the scheme highlighted above are all dependant upon funding being secured.

1.4 Youth Forum

1.4.1 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. The objectives are to provide a forum for discussion on the issues that concern young people, to involve young people in the development of the Council's youth programme and to create a positive image of young people within Tonbridge & Malling.

1.4.2 Members will recall from the report to the September 2010 meeting of this Board that the Youth Forum has recently undergone a transitional period, with a number of members leaving to go to University. As a result, at the Youth Forum meeting on the 7 December new young people were appointed to the roles of Co-Chair, Administrator and Webmaster.

1.4.3 Greater representation is an aim of the Forum, and visits to the Aylesford and Judd School Councils have taken place. Other schools will be visited in the next few weeks. Representation from faith groups has also been sought and it is hoped to have new members from St Stephen's Church and the Tonbridge Baptist Church at the next meeting. The Youth Forum has also been liaising with a number of community groups and in particular has invited members of Carers First to attend.

1.4.4 At the 11 February 2011 Youth Forum meeting, members were joined by Sir John Stanley who was invited as a guest speaker. Sir John spoke about his role as a Member of Parliament and invited questions from around the room on the issues that affect young people with particular attention to the issues that young people felt were important to Tonbridge & Malling.

1.5 Local Children's Trust Board

1.5.1 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, its role is to provide local leadership and coordination to ensure the effectiveness of what its partner organisations are doing.

1.5.2 Members will be aware from previous reports to this Board 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. Since the introduction of this change in structure the Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board has met on two occasions on the 1 October 2010 and the 17 December 2010. Agenda items so far have included transitional arrangements and new Terms of Reference, the appointment of an Independent Chair and a Vice Chair, improvement planning for safeguarding, emotional and mental health and, most importantly, the determination of local priorities for the Board.

1.5.3 Four priorities have been selected for this Borough by the Local Children's Trust Board as follows:

- Safeguarding Children and Young People
- Emotional and Mental Health
- Healthy Start in Life
- Adolescent Engagement

1.5.4 Further information on the Board, including membership, minutes of meetings, and the priorities can be found on the Kent Children's Trust website – www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/kct_home.cfm

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 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 Council's Summer Activities Programme for young people will be met through the 2011/12 Leisure Development revenue budget, and through partnership funding for the Y2 Crew. In addition to income from charges, external funding is received from a number of sources, most notably relating to Parish Council support for a week of the Summer Playscheme.

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

1.9 Policy Considerations

- 1.9.1 Healthy Lifestyles, Young People, Community, Crime & Disorder Reduction.

Background papers: Nil

contact: Jeni Ashmore

Robert Styles
Chief Leisure Officer