

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

23 May 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 and the Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board.

1.1 Activate

- 1.1.1 The 2011 Easter Activate programme ran from Monday, 11 April to Thursday 21 April and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out some more unusual activities. This Easter activities included fencing, fashion design, jewellery making, dance, basketball, special effects and character make-up, performance art, mountain biking, outward bound, windsurfing, badminton, tree jumpers, kayaking, trampolining, junior rangers, pottery painting and golf.
- 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 92% of the places were taken, reflecting the continued popularity of the programme. It is also worthy of note that 51% of parents utilised the online booking system which requires less 'back office' staff resource.
- 1.1.3 Members will be aware from the last meeting of this Board that, in partnership with the Council's Improvement and Development Manager, an easier and more cost effective way of completing questionnaires was being planned, allowing parents to complete and submit a questionnaire online with paper versions still available for those who do not have access to email. The results from the survey are now being collated but initial figures show that 94% of parents were satisfied with the Activate programme. It is also worthy of note that we had a 20% increase in the number of people who completed the survey.
- 1.1.4 Arrangements for the 2011 Summer Activate programme are now being finalised with the activities running from Monday, 25 July to Friday, 19 August. This summer, workshops will include performance art, DJ-ing, photography, street dance, film-making, fencing, golf, special effects and character make-up,

windsurfing, kayaking, tree jumpers, music technology, trampolining, pottery painting, jewellery making, cheerleading, basketball, outward bound activities at Carrotty Wood plus many more. Venues will include the Council's own leisure facilities, local schools and community halls.

- 1.1.5 The Summer Activate brochure will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres during the second week of June. Further marketing will include use of the Council's Billboards in Tonbridge as well as leaflets and posters being distributed widely across the Borough.
- 1.1.6 Members of staff who have worked on previous Activate courses are being contacted to confirm their availability for the 2011 programme with the necessary Criminal Record Bureau checks being completed.

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.
- 1.2.2 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.
- 1.2.3 All 14 venues have been confirmed and dates are being secured to undertake the risk assessments in partnership with the Council's Health & Safety Officer. The Aylesford Playscheme will be a priority as the operational partner recently moved into a new building, having secured funding in 2010 for a state of the art Pre School.
- 1.2.4 In accordance with the capacity levels set for 2011 and in line with OFSTED regulations, 57 members of staff will be required to work directly for the Council on the 2011 Summer Playscheme. Invitations were sent to last year's staff and at the end of March 2010, 46 members of staff had indicated a wish to return. In early February advertising began 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.
- 1.2.5 The Council's training schedule has now been set and includes Paediatric First Aid, Child Protection, Special Needs, and Promoting Positive Behaviour. The Kent County Council Out of School Consultant has also arranged to provide the Council's Playscheme staff with free training in June 2011 including an Introduction to Playwork, Playwork Theory into Out of School Practice, Planning for Play Opportunities and Getting Active.

- 1.2.6 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. Further marketing will include use of the Council's billboards in Tonbridge as well as leaflets and posters being distributed widely across the Borough.

1.3 Y2 Crew

- 1.3.1 The 2011 scheme will be operated 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, Tree Jumpers, Bowles Centre, Theatres and Thorpe Park.
- 1.3.2 Two activity days will be run on the middle Wednesdays. The activity days will offer a wide range of different workshops and taster sessions for young people to try, with transport provided to increase the number of young people able to attend. Courses will be run in partnership with Platform 51 and Kent Youth Service to offer sessions based around body image and self esteem. In addition to the above there will also be a number of evening sessions which will offer cooking workshops and sports and arts sessions. **[Annex 2]** outlines the proposed programme for 2011.
- 1.3.3 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 following areas will be targeted in 2011:

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

- 1.3.4 The brochure will be distributed through KCC Youth Service, Local Housing Authorities, Kent Police and Kent Community Wardens. Brochures will be available from mid May.
- 1.3.5 The scheme is funded by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2011 has been secured from the following organisations:
- Community Safety Partnership, TMBC, Hadlow Parish Council, Borough Green Parish Council, Aylesford Parish Council, PAYP (Positive Activities for Young People), Tonbridge Lions and Kent County Council.**

1.4 Local Children's Trust Board

- 1.4.1 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.

- 1.4.2 Members will be aware from previous reports to this Board that the Local Children's Trust Board for Tonbridge & Malling intends to meet four times a year with the aim of making sure that services respond to local needs and that children and young people are listened to and are able to influence decisions made about them. The first meeting of 2011 was held on the 16 February and discussed items such as Improvement Planning for Safeguarding, the CYPP 2011–14 Draft Tonbridge & Malling Plan, Budget Monitoring and Information Exchange and the Teenage Pregnancy Local Implementation Group. The full minutes of this meeting can be found at **[Annex 3]**.
- 1.4.3 A presentation by Gaelle Jezequel (Acting Area Youth Officer for KCC) on Youth Participation and Engagement was also included at the February meeting. It was noted that it was a requirement of the Local Children's Trust Board to establish a Shadow Board for young people, and it was agreed that the Area Officer would lead on establishing a Shadow Board utilising the existing arrangements with the Youth Advisory Group and the Youth Forum. The need for further consultation and engagement with young people on the four priorities for the local section of the Kent Children and Young People's Plan 2011–2014 in particular was highlighted so the Youth & Play Development Officer will be arranging for the work of the Local Children's Trust Board to be shared with the Youth Forum at the next meeting on the 5 April 2011.
- 1.4.4 At the Board meeting held on the 17 December 2010 it was highlighted that new guidance on the role of an Independent Chair had been issued and that the Kent Children's Trust Board and the Kent Safeguarding Children's Board were both advertising for interest in line with the new guidance. As a result the Tonbridge and Malling Local Children's Trust Board also placed an advert for an Independent Chair and four applications were received, all of which were to a very high standard. An appointment panel was formed to review the applications and a preferred candidate was identified. Following completion of the recruitment process Jonathan Shaw was offered the post of Independent Chair, which he has now accepted. Jonathan will be briefed on the progress of the Board so far and will shortly be scheduling the meeting dates for the rest of the year.
- 1.4.5 Further information on the Board, including membership, minutes of meetings, and priorities, can be found on the Kent Children's Trust website – www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/kct_home.cfm

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 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 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.

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

1.8 Policy Considerations

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

Background papers: Nil

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