

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

14 May 2012

### 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 Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board and the Kent Youth Service Review.

#### 1.1 Activate

- 1.1.1 The 2012 Easter Activate programme ran from Monday, 2 April to Friday 13 April and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out some more unusual activities. This Easter activities included fishing, fashion recycling, gymnastics, photography, jewellery making, dance, special effects and character make-up, drama, crazy ball games, mountain biking, outward bound, windsurfing, badminton, tree jumpers, kayaking, trampolining, junior rangers, film making, fencing, music technology 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. In overall terms the Activate programme was well received with 349 places being booked. 207 children benefited from taking part in the scheme with 43 young people also benefitting from Leisure Pass rates meeting the Council's objective of Fair Access for All. Registration levels were slightly lower than in 2011, largely as a result of current economic conditions and a number of other providers now offering holiday activities. Whilst demand for the Council to offer positive activities for young people to enjoy in the holidays is still been high, a review will be undertaken in advance of future programmes to ensure there is no duplication of provision.
- 1.1.3 65% of parents utilised the online booking system and an on-line survey indicated that:
- 100% of parents were overall satisfied with the Easter Activate programme
  - 93.8% of parents were satisfied with the overall range of activities on offer

- 53.8% of parents felt their children were more likely to participate in physical activities as a result of having taken part in the Activate programme
- 52.3% of children would have been spending time indoors playing computer games if they had not been participating in the Activate programme
- 56.9% of parents felt their children were more likely to participate in positive activities all year round as a result of having taken part in the Activate programme

1.1.4 Arrangements for the 2012 Summer Activate programme are now being finalised with the activities running from Monday, 23 July to Friday, 17 August. This summer workshops will include drama, DJ-ing, photography, street dance, film-making, fencing, golf, special effects and character make-up, windsurfing, kayaking, tree jumpers, music technology, trampolining, circus skills, jewellery making, gymnastics, fishing, outward bound activities at Caroty Wood plus many more. Venues will include the Council's own leisure facilities, local schools and community halls.

1.1.5 The Council has extended its lunchtime supervision scheme to cover more activities, enabling children attending a morning and afternoon session to remain at a venue all day. This service is designed to support children who might otherwise not be able to attend.

1.1.6 The Summer Activate brochure will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres during the second week of June. This year the Council is also looking to extend its marketing through electronic communications. A number of schools within the Borough are now providing students and parents with information via email so it is hoped that we will be able to work in partnership with them to ensure that a greater number of people are made aware of the activate programme. Further marketing will also include use of the Council's billboards in Tonbridge as well as specific leaflets and posters being distributed widely across the Borough.

## **1.2 Summer Playscheme**

1.2.1 This year's scheme will run for three weeks from Monday, 30 July to Friday, 17 August 2012 at 13 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), and Poppy Pre-School (Aylesford) have all formally confirmed their availability to operate these venues once again in 2012. Mrs B's Daycare has recently advised it no longer wishes to operate the venue at East Malling and arrangements are in hand with Ofsted to enable the site to be operated directly by

the Council. All 13 venues have also been confirmed and dates are being secured to undertake risk assessments in partnership with the Council's Health and Safety Officer.

- 1.2.3 In accordance with the capacity levels set for 2012 and in line with OFSTED regulations, 58 members of staff will be required to work directly for the Council on the 2012 Summer Playscheme. Invitations were sent to last year's staff and at the end of April 2012, 35 members of staff had indicated a wish to return. In early February advertising began for the remaining positions targeting specific venues and interviews are now under way.
- 1.2.4 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 Y2 Crew**

- 1.3.1 The 2012 scheme will be operated from Monday, 23 July to Friday, 17 August. Trips will be run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as ten pin bowling, tree jumpers, Chatham Ski 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. **[Annex 2]** outlines the proposed programme for 2012.
- 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 2012. Based on the crime statistics and advice from the Community Safety Partnership the following areas will be targeted in 2012:
- Aylesford, Ditton, Snodland, Eccles, East Malling, Larkfield, Leybourne, Borough Green, Tonbridge (including Hildenborough), Hadlow, Wrotham, Burham, Wouldham and Kings Hill.
- 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 June.
- 1.3.5 The scheme is funded by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2012 has been secured from the following organisations:
- Community Safety Partnership, TMBC, Aylesford Parish Council, Russet Homes and Hyde Housing.
- 1.3.6 A number of external funding applications have been submitted, all of which await an outcome. Members should note that the extent of the scheme is dependent upon funding being secured.

## **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.
- 1.4.2 Members will be aware from previous reports to this Board that the Local Children's Trust Board for Tonbridge & Malling meets 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 2012 took place on the 23 February at the Rural Regeneration Centre, Hadlow College. Topics included Early Years and Intervention, Youth Service Update, Improvement Planning for Safeguarding and Local Priorities. The minutes of the meeting can be found at [http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/lctb\\_tonbridge\\_malling\\_meetings.cfm](http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/lctb_tonbridge_malling_meetings.cfm)

## **1.5 Kent County Council Youth Services Review**

- 1.5.1 Further to previous reports to this Board, Members will be aware of the current review of Youth Services being undertaken by Kent County Council. At the last meeting of this Board it was agreed that this Council would continue to liaise with the Kent Youth Service to help define what youth work provision is required at a local level, and also to advise on the allocation of resources for the commissioning process.
- 1.5.2 A meeting of the Joint Advisory Panel has subsequently taken place between Members of the Borough and County Councils to consider the County Council's revised proposals. I have attached at **[Annex 3]** a copy of a letter sent from the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts to the County Council's Cabinet Member outlining the Borough Council's current position. Members will note from the letter that it is felt that the direction of travel regarding the revised proposals brought forward by the County Council has been positive, particularly in relation to the future of Samays, which will continue to act as a centre of youth provision through a partnership agreement between the County Council and Holmesdale Technology College. The Borough Council has requested greater detail relating to this partnership arrangement as, at the present time, there is no specific information on the level of the youth work proposed.
- 1.5.3 The Borough Council remains concerned regarding the overall level of County Council funding for Youth Service provision in the Borough which, within the new proposals, remains well below the average across the County. A request has, therefore, been submitted to the County Council to consider a fairer allocation of resources for young people in this Borough in the future.
- 1.5.4 With regards to the delivery of commissioned services, Members will note from **[Annex 3]** that a particular focus on Borough Green/Wrotham, Hadlow, the areas of the east bank of the Medway, and Kings Hill has been requested, together with

a need to address key issues including antisocial behaviour, alcohol/drug abuse and mental health issues.

- 1.5.5 The County Council has given an ongoing commitment to involve the Borough Council with regard to the development of detailed specifications linked to the commissioning of services and Borough Council Members will continue to be involved through meetings of the Joint Advisory Panel. I will, of course, continue to keep Members updated on progress with the continued aim of making the most effective use of limited resources and providing a joined up approach to youth service delivery in the future.

## **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 2012/13 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 and 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**

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

Background papers:

contact: Stephen Gregg

Nil

Robert Styles  
Chief Leisure Officer