

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

17 September 2012

Report of the Chief Leisure Officer

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Summary

This report updates Members on activities for children and young people that took place over the summer holidays, including the Summer Playscheme, Activate and Y2 Crew.

1.1 Summer Playscheme

- 1.1.1 In 2012 the Summer Playscheme operated at 13 venues across the Borough, offering organised activities for the 4-11 year age range. This year the Council directly operated and staffed seven venues and worked in partnership with Poppy Pre School, Rainbow Out of School Club and Barnies Day Nursery at the other six venues. Attached at **[Annex 1]** is a list of Summer Playscheme venues operated in 2012. Assistance with transport was once again offered this year but was not required due to insufficient demand.
- 1.1.2 The brochure and leaflets advertising the scheme were distributed extensively across the Borough, including primary schools, leisure centres and libraries. Posters were also displayed by Parish Councils, in local shops, GPs' surgeries or wherever was the most suitable location in a particular village/town. Banners were also positioned outside each of the Playscheme venues and at some of the Council's facilities including Tonbridge Castle and the Angel Centre.
- 1.1.3 This year 828 children registered onto the Summer Playscheme. **[Annex 2]** provides a breakdown of the places for each Summer Playscheme venue, including a comparison with last year. Members will note that 93% of the places were booked, with a number of venues reaching maximum capacity throughout the scheme.
- 1.1.4 It is also encouraging to note that 227 registered children benefitted financially from the Council's Leisure Pass scheme (£11.00 per family per week compared to the full rate of £36.00 per child per week) indicating a rise from 24% to 28% in the number of families eligible for this scheme.

- 1.1.5 Unfortunately, this year there was a significant reduction in funding from Kent County Council's Children and Families Unit. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council was however successful in a bid to the Community Chest Fund for £3,000. The funding enabled additional spaces and time for vulnerable children to access the scheme including four looked after children currently residing with foster carers within the Borough. The funding was also used to ensure that one to one support assistants were available for more children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities, together with dedicated equipment to meet the needs of these children. 21 children benefitted from the Council's Playscheme Plus programme which was a 14% rise on 2011.
- 1.1.6 Members will be aware from previous Board reports that the Council intends to introduce online booking and payment in line with the Activate scheme. Preparation towards online booking took place in advance of the scheme and, although this was unable to be completed in time for this year, it is hoped that this will be available for 2013.
- 1.1.7 Each year the Council sends out a Parental Survey with the results for 2012 showing 92% of parents satisfied with the Playscheme and 94% feeling it was good value for money. As members are aware the Council developed a new online survey for 2011 where parents can now submit their feedback online. For those that do not have access to the internet a hard copy is supplied at each of the Playscheme venues. Results for the 2012 Playscheme show that:
- 92% of parents felt their child was safe whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 90% of parents felt their child's needs were met whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 66% of parents felt their child benefitted from having their achievements recognised and celebrated whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 24% of parents felt their child developed a healthier lifestyle as a result of participating in the games and activities at the Playscheme
 - 22% of parents felt their child developed new skills as a result of attending the Playscheme
- 1.1.8 This summer Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council had three of its directly operated sites inspected by OFSTED: Woodlands, Tonbridge Girls Grammar School and Walderslade. All three centres received an award of 'Good' and below are some of their comments:
- The Playscheme provides a welcoming, inclusive and positive learning environment for children who engage in a broad range of activities.

- Children make outstanding progress in all areas as a result of the inspiring and plentiful fun play experiences and opportunities.
- Children's welfare is safeguarded effectively due to the vigilance of a well managed staff team and the positive implementation of the provision's policies and procedures.
- The provision's effectiveness is mainly evaluated by management who successfully identify strengths and areas for improvement, demonstrating a strong capacity to maintain continuous improvement.

1.1.9 Members may be aware that the new Early Years Framework will commence in September 2012. The Youth & Play Development Officer will be attending the relevant training and making the appropriate changes to the Council's policies and procedures prior to the 2013 Summer Playscheme.

1.1.10 The Mayor formally visited the Borough Green, Leybourne and West Malling Summer Playscheme venues on the 8 August 2012. At the Leybourne Playscheme, where the theme was arts and crafts, the Mayor watched the children making an Olympic collage, at Leybourne a dance performance was put on for the Mayor to view and at Borough Green the Mayor presented the children with the medals that they had designed and made for their Olympic themed week.

1.1.11 There were 56 members of staff that worked on the 2012 Summer Playscheme with 32 of these having worked on previous schemes. All staff are asked to complete a survey at the end of the scheme and the results will be collated to inform the planning of the 2013 Scheme.

1.2 Activate

1.2.1 The 2012 Summer Activate programme ran from 23 July-17 August and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out a wide range of activities that they would not normally have the opportunity to experience. This summer's activities included special effects and character make-up, badminton, fencing, jewellery making, fashion recycling, drama, junior rangers, film making, outward bound, windsurfing, trampolining, gymnastics, kayaking, tree jumpers, crazy ball games, fishing, photography, music technology, djing, mountain biking and golf. Street dance and circus skills were also introduced for the first time this summer and both proved to be popular with the young people.

1.2.2 Attached at **[Annex 3]**, 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 628 registered places were taken, representing 81% of total capacity. 70 young people also benefitted from Leisure Pass rates meeting the Council's objective of Fair Access for All.

- 1.2.3 Registration levels were slightly down compared to 2011, reflecting both economic conditions and the introduction of other service providers particularly in Tonbridge. In previous year's the Council has also worked in partnership with Asda Sporting Chance offering young people a free voucher to participate in certain sporting activities. This has equated to 50 places each year being taken up by this scheme but, unfortunately, Asda has now discontinued this scheme. The Youth & Play Development Officer will be considering alternative external funding streams, as this will form part of the review in advance of the 2013 programme.
- 1.2.4 The Mayor formally visited two Activate workshops over the course of the summer. At the Angel Centre he was given some badminton tuition and assisted some of the young people to develop their skills, and at Carrotty Wood he was given the opportunity to take part in a high ropes session where he climbed the structure in a race against the young people.
- 1.2.5 An on-line survey was sent out to all parents in the same way as the Summer Playscheme and overall 97% of parents were satisfied with the Activate programme. A summary of the results is shown below:
- 98% of parents were satisfied with the overall range of activities on offer
 - 51% of parents felt their children were more likely to participate in physical activities as a result of having taken part in the Activate programme
 - 58% of children would have been spending time indoors playing computer games if they had not been participating in the Activate programme
 - 41% 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

1.3 Y2 Crew

- 1.3.1 The objective of the Y2 Crew Summer scheme is to provide a programme of diversionary and educational activities for vulnerable young people aged 11-18 years in areas of the Borough where crime and disorder issues have been experienced within this age group. A review of the areas in which the scheme was focused was undertaken in 2012 with Burham, Wouldham and Kings Hill being added. All locations are where Kent County Council Youth Service is actively involved and target areas suggested by Kent Police.
- 1.3.2 The scheme runs for the first four weeks of the school summer holidays providing trips and activity days. The trips are run at a subsidised rate for the young people and the activity days are run free of charge to ensure that as many young people as possible are able to attend.
- 1.3.3 The scale of the scheme is dependent upon funding which is obtained by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2012 was received from the following:

Community Safety Partnership, TMBC, KCC Members Grant, Hadlow Parish Council, Wrotham Parish Council, Borough Green Parish Council, Aylesford Parish Council, East Malling & Larkfield Parish Council, Snodland Town Council, Hyde Housing, Russet Homes, Tonbridge Lions and income from young people taking part.

- 1.3.4 The 2012 scheme operated from Monday 23 July to Friday 17 August. A total of 118 young people were allocated spaces on the scheme. 54 of these young people were Leisure Pass holders and took advantage of the concessionary rates on offer and four young people were also funded directly by the Y2 Crew Scheme due to their exceptional circumstances. Unfortunately no referrals were received from Kent County Council's Children and Families Unit this year.
- 1.3.5 Trips were run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as Ten Pin Bowling, Ice Skating, Marlowe Theatre, Tree Jumpers, Chatham Ski Centre, Bewl Water, Brighton, Port Lympne and Thorpe Park. The aim of the trips was to provide the young people with new skills and experiences, as well as giving them a chance to visit new places and expand their horizons.
- 1.3.6 Activity days were run on Wednesdays in three locations, SAMAYS (Snodland), Hadlow Youth Club and Block C (on the site of Adult Education) the new Youth Centre being developed in Tonbridge. Activity days were based on an Olympic theme with the workshops and activities inspired by the values of pride, respect and friendship, inspiration, determination and courage and equality. **[Annex 4]** outlines the activity day programme and the attendance figures for 2012.
- 1.3.7 The Mayor formally visited one of the activity days, 'Pick 'n' Mix' at Hadlow Youth Club and watched the young people participating in various workshops such as skateboard design, creative writing, special effects and character make-up, healthy cooking, boxing and many other arts and crafts and sporting activities. A number of agencies were also present, providing information and interactive workshops on a variety of topics from environmental health to drug and alcohol awareness.
- 1.3.8 Feedback received from the partner agencies, KCC Integrated Youth Service and both parents and young people have indicated that the 2012 Y2 Crew Summer programme was again very successful and provided young people with a number of positive experiences. A full debrief and evaluation meeting with the partners will be held later in the year.

1.4 Legal Implications

- 1.4.1 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.

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.5.1 The cost of the Council's 2012 Summer Activities Programme for young people is met from the existing revenue budgets, 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/Town Council support for one week of the Summer Playscheme.

1.6 Risk Assessment

- 1.6.1 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.

1.7 Policy Considerations

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

Background papers:

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Nil

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