

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

10 December 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 the Summer Playscheme, Activate, the Y2 Crew programme, the Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board, the Kent County Council Community Chest Grant, the Kent Youth Service Review and the Youth Forum.

1.1 Activate

- 1.1.1 Arrangements for the 2013 Easter Activate programme are now underway offering a variety of activities for 8–16 year olds. It is once again the intention to offer the most popular courses from this year, including kayaking, windsurfing, trampolining, tree jumpers, special effects make-up, outward bound as well as offering new courses such as dodgeball, cookery and skateboard design. Venues will include the Council's own facilities, local schools and community halls. The Easter Activate brochures will be distributed towards the end of February 2013, and parents will be able to use the online booking system.
- 1.1.2 A review of the marketing for the holiday activity programmes has recently been undertaken and savings have been achieved in both design and print costs. A new brochure design will be available in 2013 as well as information on other schemes/services offered by the Council.
- 1.1.3 Officers are currently working on a funding bid to support the popular performing arts workshops that are run through the Activate programme. The project proposed would progress existing workshops by combining all creative performing arts to form a 'Mega' workshop that involves skills such as acting, film making, stage make-up and technical stage design in one course. This would be designed to be a non-exclusive project allowing young people from the borough to experience professional tuition and learn new skills in the theatre and film industry. Members will be kept updated on progress.

1.2 Summer Playscheme

- 1.2.1 This year's scheme will run for three weeks from Monday 5 August to Friday 23 August 2013 at 13 venues across the borough, catering for children between 4 and 11 years.
- 1.2.2 Members will be aware that this Council funds two weeks of the Playscheme, with contributions for one week being provided by Parish/Town Councils. Letters have now been sent to the relevant Parish/Town Councils.
- 1.2.3 In terms of delivery partners involved in the Summer Playscheme, Rainbows (Hildenborough, Snodland and West Malling), Poppy Pre-School (Aylesford) and Barnies (Hadlow and Tonbridge Baptist Church) have all formally confirmed their availability to operate these venues once again in 2013.
- 1.2.4 Members will be aware from previous reports that the Council intends to introduce online booking and payment in line with the Activate scheme. A specification for the development of online booking and payment has now been developed and is currently being considered by software suppliers.
- 1.2.5 Members will be aware from a previous report that the new Early Years Framework commenced in September 2012. The Youth & Play Development Officer is making the appropriate changes to the Council's policies and procedures prior to the 2013 Summer Playscheme, to ensure compliance with the Framework.

1.3 Y2 Crew

- 1.3.1 The 2013 scheme will operate from Monday 29 July to Friday 23 August and, subject to funding, will include trips and activity days (including accredited courses where possible) with a number of key agencies offering information, advice and guidance throughout. This year it is the intention to extend the programme to support even more young people at risk of anti social behaviour and to target those at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) when they leave school. Activity days will be centred around the following:
- Extended Learning
 - Crime Prevention
 - Personal Safety
 - Self esteem and Emotional Wellbeing
- 1.3.2 Members will be aware that the scheme is organised and funded by a number of partner agencies and the programme will be reviewed by the first multi agency meeting in January, to ensure that it is operating as cost effectively as possible.

Changes/improvements to be considered include types of activities, venues, and staffing arrangements.

- 1.3.3 Officers will also be reviewing external funding streams and a bid for funding through the County Council's Local Members Grant scheme has been successful providing a contribution of £3,000.

1.4 Local Children's Trust Board

- 1.4.1 The Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board works to secure improved outcomes for all children and young people in the Borough, in line with the Kent Children and Young People's Plan. 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.
- 1.4.2 The third meeting of 2012 took place on 26 September at Tonbridge Castle Council Chamber. Topics included the Troubled Families Programme and the Young Leaders in Cricket Programme, as well as a number of updates including the Community Chest funding, safeguarding, the Youth Service and NEET and Youth Employment in Tonbridge & Malling. The minutes of the meeting can be found at http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/lctb_tonbridge_malling_meetings.cfm Full reports on the Young Leaders in Cricket initiative and the Troubled Families Programme have now also been reported to the Communities Advisory Board.
- 1.4.3 At the meeting held on 26 September the Board also discussed the proposals regarding the Children and Young People's Commissioning Board's Local Partnership arrangements consultation document. The recently established Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Board replaced the Kent Children's Trust as the strategic partnership body whose principle function is to improve outcomes for children and young people through the effective commissioning of services in partnership with key agencies.
- 1.4.4 The consultation document provides an opportunity to feedback on the proposed guiding principles, commissioning services: the role of local partnerships, governance arrangements and how the new local partnership arrangements will work. Included at **[Annex 1]** is the draft Terms of Reference for the Joint Commissioning Board Local Partnership. The Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board has responded to the consultation document and will update Members further when we have more information.

1.5 Community Chest Grant

- 1.5.1 Members will be aware that a Community Chest Grant, managed nationally via government funding through the Early Intervention Grant, was recently set up to provide support to vulnerable children, young people and families. Tonbridge & Malling's Local Children's Trust Board was, therefore, given the chance to use the

knowledge and information of its Members to shape what services are being delivered locally. Following the establishment of a small working group and a number of discussions with Members of the Trust Board, five Community Chest proposals were granted and organisations were provided with the chance to bid for a percentage for the funding available. Below are details of the projects and organisations which have been successful:

	(£)
• Summer Playscheme (Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council)	3,000
• Emotional Health and Well-being for Young Women (Platform 51)	8,400
• Emotional and Mental Health 1st Aid Training (to be run via CAMHS)	4,500
• Young Leaders in Cricket (Tonbridge & Malling District Cricket Partnership)	3,000
• ASB Reduction and Prevention (The Beat Project)	14,500

1.6 Kent County Council Youth Services Review

1.6.1 Further to previous reports to this Board, Members will be aware of the current review of Youth Services being undertaken by Kent County Council. Since the last meeting of the Board this Council has liaised with the Integrated Youth Services on the allocation of resources for the commissioning process and has been involved in the evaluation of the bids submitted. Recommendations were then made to help inform Mike Hill, KCC Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities, in making his decisions on commissioned youth services in Kent. On 19 November the successful organisations as detailed below were informed:

• Young Mothers/Parents (Borough Wide)	Platform 51
• Hadlow	The Beat Project
• Borough Green/Wrotham	The Beat Project
• Rural Areas	CXK (formerly Connexions)
• North Tonbridge	West Kent YMCA

1.6.2 Members will be updated in 2013 on how the projects are progressing.

1.7 Youth Forum

1.7.1 The 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.

1.7.2 The Youth Forum has recently undergone elections with a number of new candidates working in the following key positions:

- Chair: Alex Rolfe
- Secretary: Oliver Tanner
- Campaign Manager: Peter Heslop
- Membership Co-ordinator: Dillon Lancaster
- Researcher: Zoe Poole and Eleanor Swan

1.7.3 The Youth Forum is currently looking to work with the British Youth Council to run a series of workshops including 'Making Democracy Happen' and 'Public Speaking'. These train the trainer courses will be aimed at providing Youth Forum members with the knowledge and skills to be able to deliver their own bespoke workshops within school lessons and to the wider community particularly to some of the harder to reach and vulnerable groups of young people living within Tonbridge & Malling.

1.7.4 The workshops will aim to have the following learning outcomes:

- Provide young people with an understanding of what democracy is
- Explain the different levels of decision making bodies and processes
- Explore how politics effects young people and how they can take action

1.7.5 Once trained the Youth Forum will look to work with other young people to help support them to get their voices heard on issues that mean something to them, particularly reaching out into the wider community to ensure that all young people have access to the same opportunities. As well as educating young people on the value of democracy they will also use the workshops to support young people to become members of the Youth Forum, giving them access to express their opinion on various policies and consultations.

1.7.6 As part of the project the Youth Forum will also be looking to introduce comment boxes into schools and various community locations so that those young people who do not yet have the confidence to attend meetings or who are unable to regularly attend are still able to influence decision making within Tonbridge & Malling. This will enable even more young people from different backgrounds to represent their peers, engage in local democracy and encourage community participation and leadership.

1.7.7 A funding application was submitted to KCC Members to support this project which was successful providing the Youth Forum with a budget of £1,000.

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 Council's 2013 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.

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

1.11 Policy Considerations

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

Background papers:

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Nil

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