

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

26 February 2013

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, the Y2 Crew programme, the Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board and the Kent Youth Service Review.

1.1 Activate

- 1.1.1 Arrangements for the 2013 Easter Activate programme have now been finalised with a number of new courses including dodgeball, cookery and skateboard design being offered alongside the current most popular courses. Since the last report to the Board a further Bike Fun Day has also been added to the programme where young people will get the chance to participate in a range of enjoyable bike games and obstacle courses designed to develop skills, balance and co-ordination. An Emergency Response First Aid course has also been added to assist young people in developing basic life support and first aid skills.
- 1.1.2 Workshops are held at various locations within the Borough, making use of the Council's own facilities as well as utilising other community venues including schools and village halls. In response to parental feedback, workshops will be run at Tunbury Village Hall, Walderslade and at Wrotham School.
- 1.1.3 The Easter Activate brochure has now been redesigned and savings have been achieved in both design and print costs. A new activate logo will be used across all publications. The layout of activities within the brochure has been changed with the introduction of the following headings:
- Outdoor Activities
 - Sport
 - Creative Arts
 - Life Skills

- 1.1.4 It is hoped that by splitting the programme into four categories it will make it easier for parents and young people to find the activities that they would like to do. The brochures have been distributed widely across the Borough with applications now being received. Once again parents are using the online booking system which requires less 'back office' staff resource. Copies of the brochure will be available at the meeting.
- 1.1.5 This year's Summer Activate will run from Monday, 29 July to Friday, 23 August with the proposed programme of activities currently being developed.
- 1.1.6 As Members will be aware from the last report made to the Board, Officers are currently developing the popular performing arts workshops that are run through the Activate programme. The proposed project will 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, costume design and technical stage design in one course. The full course will run for four days with options of attending for just two days if interested in particular areas. A final performance will take place on the last day with families invited to view the young people's achievements.
- 1.1.7 The project will take place at The Hayesbrook School and will work in close partnership with the School to develop the facilities on offer for young people interested in the 'Arts'. The course will be non-exclusive to school, allowing young people from the Borough to experience professional tuition and learn new skills in the theatre and film industry.
- 1.1.8 The Summer Activate brochure will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres during the second week of June. The Council will once again work with the schools to offer wherever possible an electronic copy of the brochure through the schools emailing system ensuring 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.
- 1.1.9 Plans are also underway to advertise some of the Council's Creative Arts workshops at the Tonbridge Town Day on 23 June 2013. As well as the availability of brochures it is also hoped that a performance will take place from young people who have attended previous Activate drama and film making courses.

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

been sent to the relevant Parish/Town Councils and the majority have now confirmed their intention to continue to support the Summer Playscheme in 2013.

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 In accordance with OFSTED regulations 50 members of staff will be required to work directly for the Council on the 2013 Summer Playscheme. Invitations to return have been sent to last year's staff with early indications showing more than 75% 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.

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 once again support 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 February, 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 are continuing to source external funding streams and are currently waiting to hear if a Tesco Charity Trust Community Award has been successful. A bid for funding through the County Council's Local Members Grant scheme has been already 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 final meeting of 2012 took place on 13 December at the Council Offices in Kings Hill. Topics included the Troubled Families Programme, Safeguarding and Ofsted, the Paramount Development Opportunities for Tonbridge & Malling and the District Child Protection Partnership. The recently commissioned service providers were also invited to update the Board on the progress of their projects including the TMBC Summer Playscheme, the Young Leaders in Cricket programme, West Kent YMCA and the Emotional Health and Well-being First Aid training. The minutes of the meeting can be found at http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/lctb_tonbridge_malling_meetings.cfm
- 1.4.3 At the meeting held on the 13 December and in a series of follow up discussions both the Tonbridge and Malling Local Strategic Partnership and Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board identified a need for a more joined up approach in the Borough regarding Youth Leadership and Mentoring. Both KCC and TMBC recognise the importance of this area of work and would support a collaborative approach to try and secure resources and funding to provide the best possible service to young people and families across the district.
- 1.4.4 Organisations working with young people to provide them with leadership and mentoring opportunities within the Borough were invited to a meeting held on 30 January 2013 with the following objectives as stated below:
- To understand the breadth and scope of services dealing with youth leadership and/or mentoring in the Borough
 - To look to provide a co-ordinated approach for funding opportunities within the Borough
 - To provide a clear offer to young people / parent / school & colleges
 - To reduce duplication of services
- 1.4.5 A report from the meeting will now be submitted to the next meeting of the Local Strategic Partnership to be held in March 2013.

1.5 Kent County Council Youth Services Review

- 1.5.1 Further to previous reports to this Board, Members will be aware of the review of Youth Services that was undertaken by Kent County Council. The newly commissioned services are now in place and working closely with the Integrated Youth Services and Theresa Seal, the Area Youth Officer, to develop the local youth offer in Tonbridge and Malling. The Area Youth Officer, Senior Youth Work

Practitioner and young people as young inspectors and mystery shoppers will be visiting the projects over the forthcoming weeks and months. Members will be updated later in the year on how these projects are progressing.

- 1.5.2 Members will also be aware that a new Tonbridge Hub has now been developed on the Adult Education site in Avebury Avenue with Ellen Shaw appointed as the Senior Youth Work Practitioner for Tonbridge & Malling. The centre is currently running one night a week and intends to be fully operational by the end of June 2013. A further appointment has also now been made with Anthony Peat taking on the role as the new Youth Community Tutor for The Holmesdale School.

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.

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.7.1 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.

1.8 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:

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Nil

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