

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

16 September 2013

Report of the Director of Street Scene & Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE UPDATE

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 2013 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 2013. 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 the Angel Centre, Tonbridge Racecourse and Tonbridge Farm.
- 1.1.3 This year 798 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 90% 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 258 registered children benefitted financially from the Council's Leisure Pass scheme (£12.00 per family per week compared to the full rate of £37.00 per child per week) rising from 227 children from families eligible for this scheme the previous year.

- 1.1.5 Unfortunately, this year Kent County Council's Children and Families Unit were unable to provide block funding as they have in the past so, although some individual referrals were made, this has had an impact on certain venues which will be included in the annual review and audit of the Playschemes. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council was, however, able to improve links with the Family Liaison Officers and Children Centres, particularly in the Malling end of the Borough resulting in an increase from 42 children attending via referrals to 62. The popular Playscheme Plus programme was also available for children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities with 26 children benefitting from the scheme.
- 1.1.6 As Members will be aware Kent County Council is currently consulting on its proposals for the future of Children's Centres in Kent with the Larkfield, Hadlow and East Peckham centres put forward for potential closure. In partnership with the District Children's Centre Manager and Community Engagement Manager a number of focus groups were held as part of the Summer Playscheme with parents invited to stay for an hour after dropping off their children to help shape the future of the Local Children's Centre arrangements. An update on the Children's Centre Review is provided in a separate report within these papers.
- 1.1.7 Each year the Council sends out a Parental Survey with the results for 2013 showing 94% of parents satisfied with the Playscheme and 95% feeling it was good value for money. As Members are aware the Council developed an online survey in 2011 where parents can now submit their feedback. For those that do not have access to the internet a hard copy is supplied at each of the Playscheme venues. Results for the 2013 Playscheme show that:
- 94% of parents felt their child was safe whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 84% of parents felt their child's needs were met whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 76% of parents felt their child benefitted from having their achievements recognised and celebrated whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 47% of parents felt their child developed a healthier lifestyle as a result of participating in the Playscheme
- 1.1.8 The Mayor formally visited the East Malling, East Peckham and Stocks Green Summer Playscheme venues on the 9 August 2013. At the East Malling Playscheme the Mayor watched as the children learnt the sport of fencing. From East Malling the Mayor went on to visit the Playscheme at East Peckham, where the children were taking part in a cookery workshop. The final stop was the Stocks Green Playscheme where the Mayor was presented with a card signed by all of the children and treated to a talent show.
- 1.1.9 There were 60 members of staff that worked on the 2013 Summer Playscheme with 41 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 2014 Scheme.

1.2 Activate

- 1.2.1 The 2013 Summer Activate programme ran from 29 July - 23 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 badminton, dodgeball, golf, trampolining, gymnastics, fencing, special effects and character make-up, jewellery making, music technology, DJing, cookery, first aid, bike fun day, windsurfing, kayaking and junior rangers. Magic, urban art t-shirt design and candle-making workshops were also introduced for the first time this summer and proved to be popular with the young people.
- 1.2.2 Additional activities were offered in a new partnership with Rock UK, Carroty Wood. This allowed a wider variety of outdoor adventure courses to be run at the Carroty Wood centre on a more cost-effective basis than previously. Rock UK activities included abseiling, geo-caching, team task day, pedal karting, archery, rafting, bushcraft, high ropes, bmxing and climbing. Leisure Pass discounts were offered on all courses and the Rock UK week long holiday club programme allowing Fair Access to All.
- 1.2.3 An extended performing arts programme was also offered which aimed to inspire future drama participation through the opportunity to experience a full-scale production. A four day workshop was delivered incorporating skills such as acting, film making, stage make-up, costume design and technical stage design. The workshop concluded with a performance of Oliver! on the Friday afternoon and allowed the young people to showcase the skills that they had developed, as well as developing confidence, self-esteem and experience of delivering to an audience. An estimated 85 people viewed the final performance.
- 1.2.4 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 670 registered places were taken, representing 86% of total capacity. 81 young people also benefitted from Leisure Pass rates meeting the Council's objective of Fair Access for All.
- 1.2.5 The Mayor formally visited two Activate workshops over the course of the summer. At Larkfield Village Hall he attended the magic workshop where 'The Magical El Balinho' taught him some basic card tricks. This was followed by the urban art t-shirt design course where the Mayor assisted the young people in completing their designs. The Deputy Mayor also viewed some budding young actors and actresses in the performance of Oliver! which followed the performing arts workshop.
- 1.2.6 An on-line survey was sent out to all parents in the same way as the Summer Playscheme and overall 96% 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
- 55% of parents felt their children were more likely to participate in physical activities as a result of having taken part in the Activate programme
- 57% of children would have been spending time indoors playing computer games if they had not been participating in the Activate programme
- 45% 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. In a review of the number of areas now targeted by the Y2 Crew partnership the decision was made to open the scheme up to all residents within Tonbridge & Malling, with organisations encouraged to refer appropriate young people who would benefit as a priority and then bookings opened up to the general public.
- 1.3.2 The scheme runs for the first four weeks of the school summer holidays providing trips, courses and activity days. The trips are run at a subsidised rate for the young people and the courses and activity days are run free of charge to ensure that as many young people as possible are able to attend and benefit.
- 1.3.3 The scale of the scheme is dependent upon funding which is obtained by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2013 was received from the following: Community Safety Partnership, TMBC, KCC Local Members Grant, Wrotham Parish Council, Borough Green Parish Council, Snodland Town Council, Tonbridge Lions and income from young people taking part.
- 1.3.4 The 2013 scheme operated from Monday 29 July to Friday 23 August. A total of 91 young people were allocated spaces on the scheme. 34 of these young people were Leisure Pass holders and took advantage of the concessionary rates on offer and 7 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 although the Community Safety Partnership did support six young people to access various trips and courses.
- 1.3.5 This year the Y2 Crew scheme also formed a partnership with the Ridgeview special school for children with profound, severe and complex learning difficulties. Working with the Kent Integrated Youth Services Community Youth Tutor, who is based at Ridgeview, the Y2 Crew trips were offered to students and arrangements were made for the young people to be accompanied by a 1:1 Support Assistant.

Feedback so far has all been positive with the students themselves gaining independence skills they need to help them take their place in the community, and above all develop their self esteem and self worth. With the emphasis on inclusion all young people attending the scheme also benefitted from working together particularly on the Team Development Day at Carrot Wood.

- 1.3.6 Trips were run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as Ten Pin Bowling, Gravesend, London Dungeon / London Eye, Carrot Wood, Howletts Zoo, Dover Castle, Bewl Water, White Rock Theatre 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.
- 1.3.7 The courses and activity day were run on Wednesdays and included Get safe for Summer, a Water Wise course held at Tonbridge Swimming Pool, First Aid run by the Kent Integrated Youth Service at the new Tonbridge Hub and an activity day held at Hadlow Youth Club. There were a number of workshops on offer at the Hadlow Activity Day including arts and crafts, creative writing, sports and cookery as well as a number of agencies providing information, guidance and support. **[Annex 4]** outlines the activity day programme and the attendance figures for 2013.
- 1.3.8 Feedback received from the partner agencies, KCC Integrated Youth Service and both parents and young people have indicated that the 2013 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 Youth Awards

- 1.4.1 The Try Angle Awards were introduced in 1994 to raise the profile of the vast majority of young people who really TRY, often with little recognition, to do their best! The most inspirational young people in Tonbridge and Malling received the special recognition they deserve at this year's Try Angle Award winners' ceremony which took place on Wednesday 10 July 2013 at The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone. The Try Angle Awards are presented to young people aged 11 to 18 from Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells as well from as Tonbridge and Malling, who have overcome personal struggles in their lives and made an important contribution to their local community.
- 1.4.2 As well as celebrating young people's achievements at the Try Angle Awards this summer an inspirational young person from Borough Green was also awarded the Council's Young Achiever Award. Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling, Councillor Howard Rogers, presented the Award to Alex on Sunday 23 June on stage in Tonbridge High Street in front of thousands of spectators who had come to celebrate 'A Taste of Tonbridge'. Double Olympic gold medallist Dame Kelly Holmes was also there to congratulate Alex on his award. Alex Rolfe (18) has been an active member of the TM Youth Forum for eight years and has been

Chair of the Forum since 2008. During this time he has worked tirelessly to make a difference to the local community, displaying great determination and effort to take on any challenge. He was also presented with a Try Angle Award for the exceptional support he has given to other young people across the borough.

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 Disclosure and Barring Service check no older than 12 months.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 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.

1.7 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.

Background papers:

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Nil

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