

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

21 May 2013

Report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure (Designate)

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 COMMISSIONING OF YOUTH SERVICES

Summary

This report updates Members on the Commissioning of Kent Integrated Youth Services

1.1 Background

1.1.1 In January 2012, a paper was presented to the KCC Procurement Board about the commissioning of a dynamic purchasing system to procure open access youth services in the county, as an appropriate process to support the service transformation within Integrated Youth Services.

1.1.2 The paper outlined the significant move from providing youth services internally to providing services through contracts within a commissioning framework to ensure:

- Better consistency and quality across districts
- Accessibility of services so they could be safely provided by micro providers within Kent
- Robust contract and performance management
- Clear specifications and outcomes
- Compliance with “Spending the Council’s money” and legal requirements around procurement

1.1.3 KCC’s key priority was to achieve better outcomes for young people in Kent through:

- High quality of youth work provision and infrastructure support within Kent
- Increased levels of engagement among young people

- Supporting Kent business through increased participation from a wide range of small youth work providers in Kent who otherwise may struggle to participate in a procurement exercise.

1.1.4 Members will be aware from previous meetings of this Board that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council liaised with Kent Integrated Youth Services on the allocation of these resources for the commissioning process and proposed the following areas of focus:

- Young Mothers/Parents (Borough Wide) 15%
- Hadlow 15%
- Borough Green/Wrotham 20%
- Rural Areas 40%
- North Tonbridge 10%

1.1.5 Based on these allocations organisations were assessed to join the framework based on their financial sustainability, suitability to work under the safeguarding requirements of youth services and ability to demonstrate and deliver quality. The process for evaluating bids began in September 2012 and ran until October 2012. Locality Boards or local representative Member groups were involved in 'task and finish' groups working with representatives from the Integrated Youth Services whilst Youth Service Area Youth Officers coordinated young people's involvement in the evaluation of bids. Recommendations from the above groups were then presented to Mike Hill, Cabinet Member for Customer and Communities, in order to support him in making his decisions on commissioned youth services in Kent with contracts being awarded towards the end of October 2012.

1.2 West Kent YMCA

1.2.1 After engagement and consultation with their residents, trainees, youth work participants, youth champions, supporters, volunteers and young staff members West Kent YMCA decided to use a Juice Bar concept with all stakeholders designing, choosing and pricing the equipment and resources needed to ensure that the Juice Bar meets their objectives - which are:

- A focus to bring disadvantaged young people together and to draw in isolated young people.
- A welcoming, safe place for advice and information on services and issues affecting young people.
- A training 'hub' to deliver training and provide a 'taster' of other opportunities locally.

- A meeting place to bring hard to reach young people together with agencies to express individual and collective need and voices- and to empower young people to be the best.

1.2.2 The Juice Bar is now operating weekly on a Thursday evening 5.30–7pm at the Horizon Project in Tonbridge. West Kent YMCA has also recently become a directly licensed DofE Award Centre and plans to offer this service to all participants in V4C youth work and Juice Bar Youth Clubs.

1.3 The Beat Project

1.3.1 As part of their contract the Beat Project has been commissioned to work in Hadlow as well as Wrotham/Borough Green. All of their courses are designed to increase young people's self-confidence and self-esteem and to offer an alternative outlet for them to be creative, work in teams, express themselves, meet new people and learn new skills.

1.3.2 Weekly sessions are now taking place at Wrotham Pavilion on Thursday evenings 5.30-8pm and Hadlow Youth Centre Tuesday evenings 4.30–7pm with activities running in four week blocks. The first block involves music technology, mc-ing and lyric writing and the next due to take place will be based around animation where the young people will get to learn how to make a short animated film using techniques such as cut-outs, plasticine, drawing and stop-start. The majority of the Beat Project's courses are accredited with AQA Unit Awards. The number of young people attending varies each week but on average at the moment it is ten per session with a view to increase the more established they become in these new areas. At Hadlow Youth Centre in particular a local youth worker has been employed as an assistant on the course to engage the young people in that area.

1.3.3 Other activities that the Beat Project will provide in all of the locations mentioned will include dance (particularly street dance), art projects (various), African singing and drumming, film, photography and drama. The aim is to provide a varied, interesting, fun and safe environment to stimulate young people.

1.4 Platform 51

1.4.1 Platform 51 has been commissioned to work with young parents and young women who are pregnant from the Tonbridge & Malling area, within the age group up to 25 years. As part of the initial set up a mapping exercise was undertaken to clarify where young parents are living, what services they are accessing and what services are available to them within Tonbridge and Malling. Following on from this a consultation was undertaken with a number of young parents to find out what activities and services they would actually like to participate in and what they felt would meet their needs as young people who also happen to be parents.

1.4.2 The consultation results highlighted that a large percentage of young parents would like to first participate in a well-being course that includes aspects such as cooking, understanding a healthy diet and fitness. The first programme is now

due to start in May with the Teen to Twenty Group based at the Woodlands Children's Centre in East Malling and a taster day to be held shortly at the South Tonbridge Children's Centre. Work has also been undertaken at Platform 51's Centre with four groups this month attended by young parents and parent to be. Friday morning: young parent drop in, information and guidance – many of the young parents are facing multiple barriers such as relationship issues, emotion and mental wellbeing issues, safeguarding and relationship issues. A six week healthy cookery programme ran from 31 January – 7 March. A weekly introduction to English language skills and citizenship is attended by three young parents. A financial capability programme started 9 April and is running for the next eight weeks. Young parents also attend basic skills, literacy and numeracy on Tuesday mornings 10am–12 noon. A young parents' wellbeing programme is due to start in Tonbridge at the end of May.

1.5 CXK

- 1.5.1 CXK were awarded the contract for the rural areas and proposed to run a mobile positive activity programme for 11-25 year olds with a specific focus on 13-19 year olds. Given the rural nature of the communities, youth work will be delivered through a combination of engagement programmes, detached work and positive activities utilising mobile transport, and local community venues in order to maximise accessibility for all young people. This work will be co-ordinated through the 'Community Action Team' who will provide a consistent visual identity which will be instantly recognisable to young people and other stakeholders as a source of reliable youth service provision.
- 1.5.2 Currently sessions are running in Leybourne on Tuesdays, 3.30pm-6pm by the Multi Use Games Area in Oxley Shaw Lane and in Burham on Sundays 12.30pm-3pm on the recreational ground. Sessions were also held in Eccles and Wouldham in the Easter holidays and plans are underway to develop more regular days and times in these areas. Daytime sessions will be focussed on young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) through job club, Information, Advice and Guidance, positive activities and voluntary activities and evening and weekend sessions will include detached work, Information, Advice and Guidance and variety of positive activities to meet the local needs of participating young people such as games machines, computers, sports and art programmes. CXK also intend to use to incorporate 'House on the Move' resources within the programme where it meets local needs.

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 None.

1.8 Risk Assessment

- 1.8.1 It is clearly important that the future provision of youth services in the Borough is based on identified need and the views of partner organisations are taken into consideration in making decisions.

1.9 Policy Considerations

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

Background papers:

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Nil

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