

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 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, Y2 Crew, the Tonbridge & Malling Local Children's Trust Board and the Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service.

1.1 Activate

- 1.1.1 The 2013 Easter Activate programme ran from Tuesday, 2 April to Friday 12 April and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out a range of more unusual activities. This Easter activities were split into four categories to make it easier for parents and young people to find the activities that they would like to do. Outdoor activities included bmxing, climbing and abseiling. Sports ranged from fencing to golf. Creative arts included drama, DJing and music technology and finally cycling and first aid were on offer as part of the Council's Life skills option.
- 1.1.2 New courses for Easter Activate included skateboard design, dodgeball, cookery, emergency response first aid and a bike fun day. There were also additional locations used for the first time on Activate at Wrotham School and Tunbury Hall, Walderslade.
- 1.1.3 Attached at **[Annex 1]**, is a list of the individual activities that took place and the percentage of places that were taken up. In overall terms the Activate programme was well received with 349 places being booked at 82% capacity. The number of places taken is equal to Easter Activate 2012, however the percentage of capacity has risen from 73%, representing a more efficient programme. Unfortunately, the popular windsurfing and kayaking courses were cancelled due to cold water conditions, whilst the second Treejumpers session was also cancelled due to the company undergoing insolvency. Young people on these courses were offered spaces on alternative courses or the opportunity to take up a space on the Summer Activate programme.
- 1.1.4 A total of 215 children booked onto the scheme with 43 young people benefitting from Leisure Pass rates meeting the Council's objective of Fair Access for All.

74% of parents utilised the online booking system, an increase from 65% during Easter Activate 2012.

1.1.5 The results of an on-line survey indicated that:

- 96% of parents were overall satisfied with the Easter Activate programme
- 97% of parents were satisfied with the overall range of activities on offer
- 36% of parents felt their children were more likely to participate in physical activities as a result of having taken part in the Activate programme
- 41% of children would have been spending time indoors playing computer games if they had not been participating in the Activate programme
- 26% 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

1.1.6 Arrangements for the 2013 Summer Activate programme are now being finalised with the activities running from Monday, 29 July to Friday, 23 August. In addition to the successful workshops within the current programme, new activities will be offered for the 2013 Summer Activate programme including a magic workshop, zumba dance, candle-making and T-shirt design. Venues will continue to include the Council's own leisure facilities, local schools and community halls.

1.1.7 Members will be aware from a previous report that the Council intends to expand the current Drama course in order to offer an extended programme and inspire future drama participation through the opportunity to experience a full-scale production. A four day Performing Arts workshop will be delivered from Tuesday 20 August until Friday 23 August incorporating skills such as acting, film making, stage make-up, costume design and technical stage design. The workshop will conclude with a performance of Oliver on the Friday afternoon allowing the young people to showcase the skills that they have developed as well as developing confidence, self-esteem and experience of delivering to an audience. Young people on the Easter Activate drama course have been informed of this opportunity and initial reports have been positive.

1.1.8 Following discussions with Rock UK, Carrot Wood, with whom we have worked for a number of years to deliver popular Activate courses, a new partnership has been formed which will result in a wider variety of outdoor adventure courses being offered on a more cost-effective basis to the Council. Rock UK will now undertake all bookings for courses run at their centre and, further to the courses that we currently run with them, will be offering additional workshops in Bushcraft and Geo-caching. Leisure pass discounts will still be on offer on all courses.

1.1.9 The Summer Activate brochure will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres during the second week of June, as well as being available to

download from the Council's website. 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.

1.2 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 As Members are aware 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. All 13 venues have also been confirmed and dates are being secured to once again undertake risk assessments in partnership with the Council's Health and Safety Officer.
- 1.2.3 In accordance with the capacity levels set for 2013 and in line with OFSTED regulations, approximately 50 members of staff will be required to work directly for the Council on the 2013 Summer Playscheme. Invitations to return were sent to last year's staff and at the end of March 2013, 44 members of staff had indicated a wish to return. In early February advertising began for the remaining positions targeting specific venues and interviews are now under way. Training for Playscheme staff has now also been confirmed and will include Paediatric First Aid, Child Protection, Special Needs and Encouraging Good Behaviour.
- 1.2.4 The Summer Playscheme brochure will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres during the second week of June, as well as being available to download from the Council's website. 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.

1.3 Y2 Crew

- 1.3.1 The 2013 scheme will be operated from Monday, 29 July to Friday, 23 August. Trips will be run on Mondays and Fridays to activities and venues such as Carrotty Wood, the London Dungeon and the London Eye, the Science Museum, Dover Castle and Howletts Zoo.
- 1.3.2 Either a course or an activity day will run on Wednesdays each week. There will be three courses in total including First Aid to be undertaken by Kent Integrated Youth Services, a Get Ready for Summer day which will be coordinated by the Leisure Services Business Unit and a trip to the Kent Fire Rescue Unit. The activity day will be run from the Hadlow Youth Centre and will offer a wide range of different workshops and taster sessions for young people to try, with transport provided to increase the number of young people able to attend. **[Annex 2]** outlines the proposed programme for 2013.

- 1.3.3 In a review of the number of areas now targeted by the Y2 Crew partnership the decision has been made to open the scheme up to the whole of Tonbridge & Malling.
- 1.3.4 The brochure will be distributed through Kent Integrated Youth Service, Housing Authorities, Kent Police, Kent Community Wardens and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, as well as being available to download from the Council's website. Brochures will be available from mid June.
- 1.3.5 The scheme is funded by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2013 has been secured from the following organisations:
- Community Safety Partnership
 - TMBC
 - Snodland Town Council
 - Tonbridge Lions
 - Wrotham Parish Council
 - Borough Green Parish Council
 - the Local Members Grant.
- 1.3.6 A number of external funding applications have been submitted, all of which await an outcome. Members should note that the extent of the scheme is dependent upon funding being secured.

1.4 Local Children's Trust Board

The Local Children's Trust Board works as part of the Kent Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Board whose principle function is to improve outcomes for children pre birth to 19 years (24 for LAC and disabled young people), through the effective commissioning of services in partnership with a range of agencies, ensuring resources are prioritised according to need and where they achieve the most impact.

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. The first meeting of 2013 took place on the 28 February at the Castle Chamber in Tonbridge. Topics included the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and the Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service (KIASS) as well as updates from the Youth Services Commissioning, Family Focus, Safeguarding and Ofsted and the West Kent CCG and Health & Well-being Board. The minutes of the meeting can

be found at

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/kct/lctb_tonbridge_malling_meetings.cfm

1.5 KIASS

- 1.5.1 The Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service is a major service transformation designed to improve service delivery and outcomes for vulnerable young people aged 11-19 across the County, while providing the opportunity to streamline services and avoid future duplication.
- 1.5.2 The Kent 'Offer' provides an integrated district level programme of services for young people, will pull together multi-agency support, be tailored to the needs of individual young people, and be accessed through a central point. This offer aims to ensure young people are able to access the right service at the right time. There is a commitment across partners to explore joint commissioning with an intention for implementation by March 2015. Discussions have begun to identify the key steps required to establish the foundations for joint commissioning. Work is ongoing linking with the development of KCC commissioning principles and an approach to joint commissioning of teenage pregnancy services will be taking place in 2013. A Dashboard of key performance indicators has been developed and agreed with partners. This will be populated with live data, used to measure trends and patterns.
- 1.5.3 The development of practitioners, managers and administrative staff working in KIASS is critical in supporting effective delivery of integrated working. The aim of the Kent Skills Matrix is to provide a framework of opportunity that supports the professional development of all those who work with people who access services in Kent. To help us identify the workforce development needs of professionals working with young people a skills review will be undertaken to determine where the priorities are for practitioners. This will happen between April and May and will inform workforce development commissioning plans. In order to test the effectiveness of the KIASS skills framework and the delivery methodology the core offer will be piloted and reviewed between May December 2013.

1.6 Legal Implications

- 1.7 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 & Barring Service check.

1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.8.1 The cost of the Council's Summer Activities Programme for young people will be met through the 2013/14 Leisure Development revenue budget, 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 Council support for a week of the Summer Playscheme.

1.9 Risk Assessment

1.9.1 A risk assessment of all the activities and venues is undertaken in liaison with the Council's Health and 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.

1.10 Policy Considerations

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

Background papers:

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Nil

Robert Styles

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