

# TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

15 September 2015

### Report of the Management Team

#### Part 1- Public

#### Delegated

#### **1 REVIEW OF HOLIDAY ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE - SCOPING REPORT**

**To set out and agree the scope of the proposed review.**

#### **1.1 Background**

1.1.1 Members of the Committee will be aware from the agreed work programme that later in the year a review of holiday activity programmes will be undertaken. Due to the need to secure venues, appointment of staff well in advance and registration of Ofsted, it is recommended that a review of the summer play scheme and holiday activity programmes for older children (Activate and Y2Crew) should be brought forward. Holiday programmes have all now been completed for 2015/16 and it is therefore timely undertake a value for money review to inform how such programmes could be delivered in 2016/17 and future years. This review will, in part, link to the wider Scrutiny review of charges across all Council services which is also being undertaken.

1.1.2 The provision of holiday activity programmes for young people is a discretionary service. All three programmes have now been running for a number of years. Reviews of the programme have been undertaken previously which have resulted in significant changes including the introduction of charging, a reduction in the number of play scheme venues, reduction of the play scheme from 4 weeks to 3 and the use of external partners to operate venues on the Council's behalf. A further review is now needed to assess the scope to provide the programmes in the context of the significant financial challenge faced by the Council.

#### **1.2 The Current Programmes**

1.2.1 For 2015, the summer play scheme ran for three weeks at 13 venues across the borough, catering for children between 4 and 11 years. The Council funds two weeks of the play scheme, with contributions for one further week being provided by Parish/Town Councils. A number of partners are involved in helping to deliver the programme. Approximately 55 members of staff (mainly temporary) were employed to work on the play scheme this year.

- 1.2.2 The 2015 Easter Activate programme ran from Tuesday 7 April to Friday 17 April. This programme offers young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out a range of more unusual activities including sport, creative arts, life skills and outdoor activities. Additional activities are offered in partnership with Rock UK, Caroty Wood. The summer Activate programme ran from Monday, 27 July to Friday, 21 August with a similar range of activities and programmes.
- 1.2.3 The Y2crew 2015 scheme (a programme which seeks to focus on engaging with harder to reach young people) ran from Monday, 27 July to Friday, 21 August and included trips, courses and activities with a number of key agencies offering information, advice and guidance throughout. The Y2 Crew programme also aims to ensure its inclusiveness with the option for young people with disabilities to attend with a support assistant. The scheme is organised and funded by a number of partner agencies including KCC's Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service (KIASS). Funding is also received from some Parish Councils following requests.
- 1.2.4 Copies of the brochures for each of the holiday activity programmes are available for Members to view on the Council's website.
- 1.2.5 Expenditure provision for youth and play development in 2015/16 totals £218,000 with projected income (charges and partner contributions) of £52,600 giving a budget estimate of £165,450. The majority of this budget is used to fund the Summer play scheme and Activate programmes although other costs such as those for the Youth Forum are also part of this cost centre. Costs of the Y2Crew programme is accounted for separately. A more detailed financial analysis relating to Y2Crew and the holiday activity programme element of the budget will be provided as part of the review process.

### **1.3 Suggested Issues for Review**

- 1.3.1 The review of the activity programmes could usefully address the following issues:
- the overall objectives of the three programmes and the extent to which these should be regarded either as a universal service for all, one targeted to certain areas of need, or perhaps more closely linked to other Council objectives such as health improvement and community development;
  - value for money and the sustainability of the schemes in their current form when weighed against the financial landscape and competing priorities;
  - the current market place for activity programmes and how users could be signposted to schemes operated by the private and voluntary sectors as an possible alternative to direct provision;
  - the potential to make greater use of information technology in the administration and marketing of the schemes; and,

- feedback from the users of each programme (both parents and young people) and the views of partner organisations to help inform the above issues and choices.

#### **1.4 Suggested Review Process**

- 1.4.1 As with other reviews recently undertaken, it is suggested that this review should be taken forward by an informal panel drawn from the membership of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Panel will be asked to consider the above issues and make recommendations to the next full meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- 1.4.2 Work to begin development of holiday programmes for 2016/17 starts in November/December 2015. In order that planning work can continue whilst this review is in progress, it is recommended that the Easter Activate programme in 2016 should proceed as planned. Therefore any changes resulting from this review will be implemented in time for the summer 2016 holiday programmes.

#### **1.5 Legal Implications**

- 1.5.1 Any arising will be addressed as part of the review.

#### **1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.6.1 As above.

#### **1.7 Risk Assessment**

- 1.7.1 As above.

#### **1.8 Equality Impact Assessment**

- 1.8.1 It is likely that the review will involve a review of current legislation and safeguarding issues which may require an impact assessment to be undertaken.

#### **1.9 Recommendation**

- 1.9.1 That the proposed scope of the review of holiday activity programmes for young people **BE ENDORSED**.

Background papers:

Nil

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