

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**12 March 2014**

**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 key areas of the Children and Young People work programme, including Activate, the Summer Playscheme, the Y2 Crew programme, the Children's Operational Group, KCC Children's Centres and the Youth Forum.**

**1.1 Activate**

- 1.1.1 The 2014 Easter Activate programme will run from Monday, 7 April to Thursday 17 April and will offer young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out a range of more unusual activities. The programme will again be 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 will include windsurfing, kayaking and junior rangers. Sports will range from fencing and dodgeball to trampolining. Creative arts will include music technology as well as magic and special effects and character make-up workshops. Emergency first aid, bike fun day and cookery will form part of the Council's life skills option.
- 1.1.2 Street art stencil workshop, Chinese circus skills and jam zone will also be on the programme this Easter with additional activities also being offered in partnership with Rock UK, Carrot Wood. These will include abseiling, geo-caching, team task day, pedal karting, archery, rafting, bushcraft, high ropes, bmxing and climbing, with Leisure Pass discounts offered on all courses allowing Fair Access to All. Building on the success of the summer production of Oliver an extended performing arts programme will also be on the agenda for 2014 starting with an Easter drama and TV presenting skills workshop. The workshop will conclude with a performance of Roald Dahl's 'The Witches' on the Friday afternoon allowing the young people to showcase the skills that they will have developed, as well as developing their confidence, self-esteem and experience of delivering to an audience.
- 1.1.3 This year's Summer Activate will run from Monday, 28 July to Friday, 22 August with the proposed programme of activities currently being developed. Plans are

again in place to develop the performing arts programme moving to a week long production resulting in a final performance on the last day with families invited to view the young people's achievements. Workshops available will include acting, film making, stage make-up, costume design, dance and TV presenting skills allowing young people from the Borough to experience professional tuition and learn new skills in the theatre and film industry.

- 1.1.4 The Activate programme was recently successful in receiving a £2,000 KCC Local Members Grant towards this year's activities. The funding will enable an extension of the scheme to areas including Borough Green, Larkfield and East Peckham with new venues also being considered such as the Aylesford Priory.
- 1.1.5 The Activate brochures will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres. Further marketing will also include attendance at community events starting with the East Malling Sport Relief Mile in March where members of the team will be encouraging children and young people to have a go at a range of activities.

## **1.2 Summer Playscheme**

- 1.2.1 The 2014 Playscheme will run for three weeks from Monday, 4 August to Friday, 22 August 2014 at 13 venues across the borough, catering for children between 4 and 11 years. 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 2014.
- 1.2.2 In terms of delivery, partners involved in the Summer Playscheme, Rainbows (Hildenborough, Snodland, West Malling and Tonbridge Baptist Church), Poppy Pre-School (Aylesford) and Barnies (Hadlow) have all formally confirmed their availability to operate these venues once again in 2014.
- 1.2.3 In accordance with OFSTED regulations approximately 55 members of staff will be required to work directly for the Council on the 2014 Summer Playscheme. Invitations to return have been sent to last year's staff with early indications showing more than 50% wishing to work on the scheme again. To recruit the remaining staff an advert will be 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 2014 scheme will operate from Monday, 28 July to Friday, 22 August and, subject to funding, will include trips, courses and activity days (including accredited courses where possible) with a number of key agencies offering information, advice and guidance throughout. Building on the success of the partnership with Ridgeview, a special school for children with profound, severe

and complex learning difficulties, the Y2 Crew programme will again aim to ensure its inclusiveness with the option for young people with disabilities to attend with a 1:1 Support Assistant.

- 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 March, to ensure that it is operating as cost effectively as possible. Changes/improvements to be considered include types of activities, venues and staffing arrangements. Officers are continuing to source external funding streams and are currently waiting to hear if a County Council's Local Members Grant has been successful. Funding has already been received from some Parish Councils and the Tonbridge Lions Club.

#### **1.4 Children's Operational Group**

- 1.4.1 The Tonbridge & Malling Children's Operational Group is due to formally become a sub-group of the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group Health & Wellbeing Board. Its purpose is to ensure effective child and family centred local engagement by partners and to promote collaboration between organisations with the aim of improving the wellbeing of all children through the effective implementation of strategies, planning, joined up commissioning and effective service delivery.
- 1.4.2 The last meeting of the Tonbridge & Malling Children's Operational Group took place on 16 December at the Council Offices in Kings Hill. Topics included 'Mind the Gap', Tonbridge & Malling's Health Inequalities Action Plan, the outcomes from the Children's Centre Review, school development and expansion and an update on the Family Focus (Troubled Families) Programme and the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy. Minutes from the meeting will be available on the night or can be requested from James Harman, KCC Community Engagement Manager [james.harman@kent.gov.uk](mailto:james.harman@kent.gov.uk)

#### **1.5 KCC Children's Centres**

- 1.5.1 Following endorsement by the Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee on the 5 December 2013 a decision has now been made on the proposed closure of certain KCC Children's Centres within Tonbridge & Malling. With effect from the 1 April 2014 the Larkfield and Hadlow Children's Centres will close. Outreach services, however, will still take place ensuring that vulnerable families in these areas have access to the support that they need. Kent County Council's Tonbridge & Malling District Manager will now be looking to work with partners to design these new services including looking at the possibility of holding some sessions in venues such as Larkfield Leisure Centre. The next stage of the "shaping the future of Children's Centres" will be to undertake a full staffing restructure to deliver further savings. The full post consultation report can be found at:

[http://www.kent.gov.uk/education\\_and\\_learning/childcare\\_and\\_early\\_education/childrens\\_centres/shaping\\_the\\_future\\_of\\_centres.aspx](http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/childcare_and_early_education/childrens_centres/shaping_the_future_of_centres.aspx)

- 1.5.2 In January 2013 a model of working district wide was introduced with the eight KCC Children's Centres within Tonbridge & Malling being reconfigured into two clusters. Between the 30 October and 1 November 2013 the Tonbridge & Malling Cluster containing Burham, Larkfield, Snodland and South Tonbridge centres were inspected by OFSTED and KCC achieved an overall rating of inadequate.
- 1.5.3 The key findings from the OFSTED report found that access to services by young children and families was inadequate, that the quality of practice and services requires improvement and that the effectiveness of leadership, governance and management requires improvement. The report, however, did also highlight some key strengths including the new management team which is driving improvements and the good quality group and direct work with families that is being delivered by both community involvement workers and early years practitioners which is developing parents confidence, knowledge and understanding of their children's development. The remaining cluster which includes Woodlands, Little Foxes, Borough Green and Hadlow/East Peckham is still due to be inspected.

## **1.6 Youth Forum**

- 1.6.1 The TM Youth Forum is a panel of young people between the ages of 11-18 representing the views of young people who live in the area of Tonbridge & Malling. The objectives are to provide a forum for discussion on the issues that concern young people, to involve young people in the development of the Council's youth programme and to create a positive image of young people within Tonbridge & Malling.
- 1.6.2 At recent meetings of the Youth Forum guest speakers have included a representative from SAFE (Suicide Awareness For Everyone), a health awareness organisation group that works alongside schools to educate young people about what mental health really is and how to stay healthy mentally, James Harman, KCC Community Engagement Manager who consulted with the Forum on the Kent County Council's future budget plans, and Angela Borsos from the Beat Project who is supporting the Youth Forum to be involved in the East Malling Sport Relief Mile Community Event.
- 1.6.3 As Members will be aware from the last Board report the Youth Forum is also working with ITV Fixers, who funded by the Big Lottery, help young people take on any issues that matter to them and help them find a creative way to do something about it and make a positive change to their communities and the world around them. The Forum is currently developing the idea of 'Lights, Camera, Action' promoting the Forum as a means for all young people in Tonbridge & Malling to have their say on issues that are important to them. Discussions included developing or commissioning a phone application (app) which would advertise activities/projects that young people can get involved with, provide a forum for

young people to pose questions, link to useful websites for young people such as SAFE, provide a means for the Council or other organisations to gain young people's views on important topics and promote the Youth Forum itself. A meeting will be arranged for the near future to investigate this option further.

## **1.7 Legal Implications**

- 1.7.1 The Council has powers to undertake this activity by virtue of Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

- 1.8.1 The cost of the Council's 2014 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.

## **1.9 Risk Assessment**

- 1.9.1 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.

## **1.10 Policy Considerations**

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

Background papers:

contact: Jeni Ashmore

Nil

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene and Leisure