

14 June 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Review of youth engagement, sports and events development

The Community Safety Partnership (comprising of Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue Service, Kent County Council and others) works together to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in the borough.

The events and diversionary activities that Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council provide are valuable tools for the Community Safety Partnership to use to help to prevent crime and anti-social behaviour by young people in the borough. We believe that the events and diversionary activities provide value for money and can also help with community cohesion by assisting with policing due to communities coming together and supporting each other, looking out for vulnerable members and helping to feel safe with more positive feelings about areas and communities. An example of this has been explored through intergenerational work looking at 'issues' with young people gathering in hoodies and how this can be resolved through better understanding from both parties and work on a safe havens campaign in town centres.

The Community Safety Partnership continues to provide some funding towards the Y2 Crew summer activity scheme as we feel that it helps to provide some of the more vulnerable young people in our borough with diversionary activities over the summer holiday period. Whilst we do not have statistics to show a reduction in calls to the Police or a reduction in anti-social behaviour during this time, anecdotally we know that the young people value this scheme and that residents also appreciate having a scheme which young people can attend at a price which is reasonable. Members of the CSP are also able to refer young people that they come into contact with to this programme (and to other diversionary activities) which again, is a valuable asset to us.

The Community Safety Partnership would like to see these schemes continue in the borough and we look forward to continuing to work with Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Members of the Community Safety Partnership