

Scrutiny Review – Service Appraisal

Service Area	YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
Purpose of Service	Giving young people the opportunity for healthy lifestyles and diversionary activities, Young people involved in decisions that affect them, Help make sure young people have a say in the services and help they need, Promote a more inclusive community, Provide a cost effective way of accessing the views of young people, Consider and review services for Children and Young People in the Borough and help shape local provision.
Contribution to National/Corporate Objectives	<p>The Council's vision for the next three years is: <i>To be a financially sustainable Council that delivers good value services, provides strong and clear leadership and, with our partners, addresses the needs of our Borough.</i></p> <p>The existing service contributed to this through consultation and engagement with young people, identifying their needs in the Borough, working with partners to address the needs and offering good value holiday activity services through partners with concessionary charges.</p> <p>The availability of the Leisure Pass enables an equality of opportunities to those that require financial assistance.</p> <p>The Service Embraces Effective Partnership Working therefore achieving more by working and engaging effectively with a wide range of local partners from the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. This includes holiday activities with Premier Education, Carrotty Wood, KCC Youth and Children's Centres etc.</p> <p>Tonbridge and Malling's Community Safety Partnership has a number of priorities for 2018/19 these being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organised Crime - to include gangs, child sexual exploitation, modern slavery and human trafficking, violent crime and burglaries. • Vulnerable People – to include hate crimes, domestic abuse, Anti-social behaviour and mental

	<p>health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Counter Terrorism • Substance Misuse <p>The Action Plan highlights the key role of the Youth Forum in education and awareness linked to campaigns and provision of diversionary activities.</p> <p>Section 11 of the Children Act places a statutory duty on key organisations to make arrangements to ensure that in discharging their functions they have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.</p> <p>All District/Borough Councils are required to ensure that the planning and development of services to safeguard and promote children's welfare are informed by the views of children and parents. This could be through one-off consultations on specific projects, consulting ongoing user groups or drawing on feedback on existing services. Particular efforts should be made to ensure that specific groups of children and young people who are often excluded from participation in activities are supported in giving their views.</p> <p>In addition, in exercising their duty under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, District/Borough Councils should consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the impact of each service on children's safety and welfare, for example does the location of a service mean that it can be safely and easily accessed by the children and families for whom it is intended? • how children are to be kept safe whilst using services, for example having in place appropriate supervision by trained staff, and adhering to health and safety regulations; and • ways in which they can improve existing services to ensure children's safety and promote their welfare, for example, ensuring all play areas are safe, accessible and provide opportunities for children to learn and enjoy themselves, and that these changes are informed by the views of local children and their parents.
Description of current	Signposting activity opportunities to young people for the Easter and Summer Holidays and enabling

delivery arrangements	<p>opportunities to those in receipt of certain benefits that qualify for the Council's Leisure Pass by subsidising the costs.</p> <p>Directly supporting and enabling a forum for young people representatives from schools in the area. Partnership working and scrutinising/ challenging provision from Kent County Council in relation to Early Help provision, diversionary activities, children's centres and schools. Promotion and focus on Mental Health and wellbeing linked to the early help agenda set by Kent County Council.</p>
Outcomes/Achievements	<p>Holiday activities programme for Easter and Summer:</p> <p>There were 6,465 places taken by young people over the Easter and Summer Holidays across the Borough during 2017 in activities showcased by the Council and 266 young people with Leisure Passes took part in reduced cost activities provided with partners. The number of activities continues to grow since the change of delivery to partnership working and increased by nearly 1,200 from the previous year.</p> <p>Premier Education, who operate a Summer Playscheme equivalent with Leisure Pass discounts available, now also offer and fund Leisure Pass discounts during the Easter Holidays operating at 15 sites locally for residents, including the key areas identified at the scrutiny review of Snodland and East Malling.</p> <p>Y2 Crew in partnership with Kent County Council:</p> <p>There were 200 attendances by young people last Summer, taking part in diversionary activities in partnership with Kent County Council Integrated Youth Services, including 35 young people using Leisure Passes.</p> <p>Youth Forum:</p> <p>The Youth Forum have been involved in recent consultations including, Tonbridge railway station improvements, Tonbridge High Street, Youth Mental health, Dementia awareness/ Champions, Electoral services, recycling schemes in schools and work with the Community Alcohol Partnership</p>

(CAP) in Tonbridge linked to the Community Safety Unit.

Independent Police Advisory Group (IPAG):

Regular attendee of the group with involvement in plans and policy including work on a recent survey
The following feedback was recorded:

“Completed Young Persons survey which was completed by over 390 young people; fantastic!. This report will be escalated to Kent Police and County IPAG. A big thank you to the T&M IPAG Youth contingent who began the project which has proved to be a great success and to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council for setting and escalating the survey monkey to young people across the borough and compiling the report.”

Active Lives Children and Young People survey for the summer term with Kent County Sports Partnership reaching the following schools:

- Hugh Christie Technology College
- Plaxtol Primary School
- St Katherine's School
- St Peter's Church of England Primary School
- The Judd School
- Tonbridge Grammar School

Campaigns:

Development of a Mental Health and wellbeing awareness programme targeting young people in the local area. The scheme has been designed and developed by the Youth Forum in conjunction with TMBC and KCC to produce a ‘Quick Tips’ card for mental health awareness that will be distributed within all schools and available in local shops / café’s, the card will provide quick tips and then sign post young people to a website via a QR code.

The Youth Forum is also working in partnership with Tonbridge Town Team and the Community Safety Partnership to develop a safe havens scheme, this will highlight 3-4 safe spaces in Tonbridge

High Street that can offer help and advice to young people who feel vulnerable and threatened. This work is then planned to roll out to West Malling and the rest of the Borough.

Youth Forum Schools represented:

Tonbridge Grammar School
 The Judd
 Hayesbrook
 Holmesdale
 Weald of Kent
 Woodlands Primary School
 Malling School
 Discovery School

Additional Schools represented Outside of Borough but with pupils that live in Tonbridge & Malling:

Bennett Memorial
 TWGSB
 Invicta
 Skinners School, Royal T.Wells
 Maidstone Grammar school
 Mascalls Academy in Paddock Wood
 Derwent Lodge

Working with the following schools to circulate information and send representatives occasionally:

Aylesford School
 Hillview School for Girls
 Hugh Christie Technology College
 The Malling School

	<p>Wrotham School</p> <p>Other groups represented and consulted include:</p> <p>Faith groups Young carers Mind Tonbridge Town Team NCS</p> <p>Although not every school attends each meeting, average attendance of Youth Forum is 17 young people, although this fluctuates around exam times and transition periods and for events is often over 40 young people.</p> <p>Young people Award schemes:</p> <p>Supporting awards to give and reinforce positive imagery and messages about young people in the Borough.</p> <p>Try angle awards:</p> <p>Supporting Kent County Council annual nominations for young people aged 11-18 years who really TRY, often with little recognition, to do their best, recognising their outstanding efforts and achievements within our community.</p> <p>Young achiever awards:</p> <p>Available to a young person or group of young people in the Borough under the age of 26 who have achieved something truly outstanding in sport, art or citizenship.</p>
Staffing Allocation	Direct operational provision of one part-time member of staff equal to 0.6 FTE (Full Time Equivalent)

	<p>The three services areas contained within this Scrutiny Report are also supported by 1 full-time Member of staff, therefore, a proportion of their time is allocated to Youth Engagement.</p> <p>As agree at a previous Scrutiny Review, £1,500 is also allocated for temporary staffing support over the summer holiday period for the Y2Crew partnership scheme with KCC.</p>
Budget Allocation	<p>The operational revenue budget is £27,000 which follows savings linked to previous scrutiny review of playscheme of approx. £59,000 with recommendations that:</p> <p>The Panel agreed that the Borough Council should, from the Summer 2016, withdraw from the direct provision of the Activate programme and instead help market and promote the wide range of schemes already being provided by other parties and</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) set aside a sum of £3,000 to provide support for leisure pass holders at the current rate to access programmes provided by other agencies; (2) the Borough Council's financial support for the Y2Crew programme be retained subject to other partners providing continued financial contributions; (3) the Borough Council withdraw from the direct provision of the Summer Playscheme from Summer 2016 and seek the support of external providers to take over these schemes subject to the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Leisure Pass concessions for Playscheme attendance initially be amended to provide a 50% reduction per child per week; (b) a sum of £18,000 be set aside to provide continued support for Leisure Pass holders to access schemes at the current 12 sites; (4) the consideration of the Public Sector Equality Duty be noted and financial provision be made, as set out at paragraph 1.6.4.of the report, to mitigate any impact on children with disabilities who require 1-2-1 support. <i>Which is currently £1,000.</i>

	<p>The current revenue budget for the holiday activities is currently £18,000, which is £4,000 less than the scrutiny approved budget of £22,000. This has been achieved through partnership work and efficiency savings.</p> <p>Funds are raised separately for the Y2Crew and are used to provide the diversionary activity programme directly in partnership with KCC.</p> <p>The Youth Forum have a budget of £4k for logistics and a development initiatives budget of £5k annually.</p>
Income Generation	<p>Income is received from partners, Parish Council's and the Community Safety Partnership Additional income is also received from direct activity provision at the Country parks and from partners providing adverts in the holiday activities brochure.</p> <p><u>Y2Crew Income (2017)</u></p> <p>Total contributions (Parish Councils/Tonbridge Lions/CSP etc) = £5,300 Total bookings income =£652.50 Total income = £5,952.50</p> <p><u>Holiday Activities Brochure</u></p> <p>2017 Easter/Summer Advertising income = £500 Den Building and Bushcraft sessions = £345 Total income 2017 = £845</p> <p>2018 Easter/Summer Advertising income = £790 Den Building and Bushcraft sessions = £202 <i>(so far from Easter sessions)</i></p>

	Total income 2018 = £992 (to date)
Partners	<p>Partnership work with;</p> <p>Premier Education Kent County Council Kent Youth County Council Community Safety Partnership Parish Council's Carrotty Wood Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust Tonbridge School Local clubs and organisations Local businesses</p> <p>Youth Advisory Group (YAG):</p> <p>Co-chaired by member of Youth Forum who is also listed as a core member of the group, to ensure there is a good understanding of the Youth Offer within their respective Districts and the developments required to enable it to remain consistently of a high standard, from their perspective, for children and young people, aged 8 – 19 years (up to 25 with additional needs), living in the District.</p> <p>Local Children's Partnership Group (LCPG):</p> <p>Discussing themes identified on the dashboard as being of concern for Tonbridge & Malling. The dashboard highlights levels of absenteeism in secondary schools and the rates of early help referrals in relation to mental health issues. Helping to target resources and funding grants and monitor and review issues as a group. Arrange Early Help Grants to support healthy relationships and obtain regular troubled families and safeguarding updates.</p> <p>Children's Centres District Advisory Board (DAB):</p>

	<p>Agenda covering Children's Centre delivery and priorities as well as updates from partners relating to health, safeguarding and early years provision and outcomes across the Borough, scrutinising delivery effectiveness and directing provisions.</p>
Value for Money	<p>A young person in the criminal justice system costs the taxpayer over £200,000 by the age of 16. But one who is given support to stay out costs less than £50,000.(Tired of Hanging Around, Audit Commission, 2009) – Diversionary activities (Holiday activities and Y2Crew and positive role models highlighted through awards and engagement and understanding through Youth Forum)</p> <p>A report produced in partnership by the Local Government Group and the National Youth Agency on strengthening democracy found that youth participation strengthens outcomes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving service delivery • leading to development of new appropriate provision • improving community cohesion • improving personal and social confidence in young people • improving skills of young people • improving the political literacy of young people • saving Councils money. <p>http://tinyurl.com/bvyjnt7</p> <p>Alternative methods of engaging with young people across the Borough to satisfy the Children's Act 2014 - Section 11 Audit voice of the child would be difficult and it would be hard to guarantee attendance and achieve the same level of representation and borough coverage. It would also suggest less valued participation and possible suggestion of tokenism than the degree of involvement given through the current partnership with the Youth Forum and the level of engagement they have in determining agenda items, issues and campaigns that matter to them.</p>
Risks	<p>Reputational risk of failing to provide for children most in need and financially disadvantaged and in failing to provide a mechanism for feedback and consultation with young people of the Borough. Disengaged and disenfranchised young people with increased risk of anti-social behaviour. Ineffective engagement activities and outcomes with and for younger people in the Borough as uninformed or increased costs of engagement without an organised group and mechanism into schools to canvas wider option.</p> <p>Equality impact assessment for young people and disadvantaged groups would be required if the services were reduced.</p>

<p>Future Delivery/Associated Savings</p>	<p>Continued focus on income generation through advertising within the marketing of holiday activities, possible reduction in quality of marketing material to reduce the costs and consideration of alternative marketing mechanisms could be considered although printed materials are the expected means of information and industry norm. Printed material also a key benefit in the partnership with Premier Education who provide the Playscheme equivalent across the Borough offering the Leisure Pass subsidy.</p> <p>Work on obtaining grants and sponsorship opportunities for the Youth Forum and their projects. Possible reduction in the Youth Forum budget for projects and reduction in budget used for marketing and promotion of the Forum. Review of the logistics of the Youth Forum meetings to reduce the cost of transportation and review of the frequency of meetings to be supported.</p> <p>Reducing the Youth Forum and development Initiatives budgets by 28% would generate a £2,500 saving to the Council.</p>
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