

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

10 June 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, and the Youth Forum.

1.1 Activate

- 1.1.1 The 2014 Easter Activate programme ran from Monday, 7 April to Thursday 17 April and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out a range of more unusual activities. The programme was again 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 windsurfing, kayaking and junior rangers. Sports ranged from fencing and dodgeball to trampolining. Creative arts included music technology as well as magic and special effects and character make-up workshops and emergency first aid, bike fun day and cookery formed part of the Council's life skills option.
- 1.1.2 Activities were also offered in partnership with Rock UK, Carroty Wood. These included 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. Due to the popularity of a number of activities additional days were added for archery and bushcraft.
- 1.1.3 Building on the success of the summer production of Oliver an extended performing arts programme was also on the agenda starting with an Easter drama and TV presenting skills workshop. The Mayor formally visited the TV presenting skills workshop and watched as the young people tested out their presenting skills, experiencing hands on working from Autocue, presenting a weather report and reading a news report. This all took place in front of a green screen so pre-recorded video could be inserted behind their performance to give it authenticity and experience. The drama workshop then 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.

- 1.1.4 Attached at **[Annex 1]** is a list of the individual activities that took place and the percentage of places that were taken up. As Members can see, in overall terms 482 registered places were taken this year (354 in 2013), representing 84% of total capacity. 46 young people also benefitted from Leisure Pass rates meeting the Council's objective of Fair Access for All.
- 1.1.5 An on-line survey was sent out to all parents and overall 100% of parents were satisfied with the Activate programme. A summary of the results is shown below:
- 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
 - 42% of children would have been spending time indoors playing computer games if they had not been participating in the Activate programme
 - 69% 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 This year's Summer Activate programme will run from Monday, 28 July to Friday, 22 August with a mixture of our popular outdoor activities, sports, creative arts and life skill courses. New activities will include a comedy workshop where young people will learn about slapstick, improvisation and stand-up, Mcing and creative writing where young people can transform spontaneous rhymes or lyrics around a particular topic into rap/freestyle or pottery where young people will get the chance to try out the potters' wheel as well as use the hand building technique to create some inspirational designs. We have also expanded the programme in the Council's country parks to offer young people a wider choice and longer hours. Junior Rangers and a Bike Skills Fun Day will be on offer at Haysden Country Park and Junior Rangers and Fishing at Leybourne Lakes Country Park. Young people will have the option to attend the individual workshops or stay for the full day with lunchtime supervision included.
- 1.1.7 This summer the Council will be running a week long production of 'Bugsy Malone' culminating in a final performance on the last day with families invited to view the young people's achievements. Young people will get the chance to take part in a variety of performing art disciplines including acting, singing, film-making, character make-up, dance, costumes and lighting and sound. Participants particularly interested in the film and technical side of production will also have the option to attend a three day workshop using state of the art equipment to focus on learning how to light, sound check and film the performance.

- 1.1.8 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 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 all 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. 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.
- 1.2.1 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 were sent to last year's staff and at the end of April 2014, 40 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 complete. Training for Playscheme staff has now also been confirmed and will include Paediatric First Aid, Child Protection, Special Needs and Encouraging Good Behaviour.
- 1.2.2 The Summer Playscheme operates a number of offers and discounts to ensure that the holiday activities are affordable, particularly for families on a low income. To further improve accessibility this year, working parents will be able to use childcare vouchers to pay for their child's place meaning that they can benefit from sacrificing a proportion of their salary in order to make tax and NI contribution savings.

1.3 Y2 Crew

- 1.3.1 The 2014 scheme will operate from Monday, 28 July to Friday, 22 August and will include trips, courses and activity days with a number of key agencies offering information, advice and guidance throughout. Attached at **(Annex 2)** is the full programme schedule. Courses and activity days are offered free of charge and this year will include a new activity held at Bore Place, Chiddingstone where young people will harvest seasonal organic produce and use it to cook a delicious healthy lunch to share together. Further additions to the programme will also

include drop in sessions at the new Tonbridge Youth Hub where young people can take part in a range positive activities and benefit from qualified youth workers on site to offer information, advice and guidance on a range of issues.

- 1.3.2 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.
- 1.3.3 Application forms will be available from early June and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council will work in partnership with a range of statutory services as well as the community/voluntary sector to ensure that targeted young people are referred onto the scheme.

1.4 Children's Operational Group

- 1.4.1 The Tonbridge & Malling Children's Operational Group is 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 the 4 April at the Little Foxes Children's Centre in Tonbridge. Topics included the Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service (KIASS), the outcomes from the Children's Centre Ofsted report, school development and expansion and an update on the Family Focus (Troubled Families) Programme. 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

1.5 Youth Forum

- 1.5.1 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.
- 1.5.2 The Youth Forum recently attended the East Malling Community Sport Relief Mile where, as well as taking part in the sporting event and raising money for charity, they were also able to show other young people what being a member of the Forum involves and encourage them to join them in being able to influence decisions that affect young people. The Forum also took the opportunity to support the Council's Improvement and Development Manager in encouraging more young people to join the Online Residents' Panel. Using ipads members were able to inform young people of the opportunity to give their views on a range

of topics by registering and taking part in a series of online surveys. Following on from the East Malling event the Chair of the Youth Forum, along with officers from Leisure and the KCC Community and Engagement Manager, held a stand at Hadlow College again promoting the work of the Forum and signing young people up to the resident's panel.

- 1.5.3 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 through a phone application (app). A meeting has now been arranged between a sub group of the Youth Forum and a producer from ITV fixers, with a member of the Council's IT department also due to be present. Members will be updated further after this meeting has taken place.

1.6 Legal Implications

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

1.7 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.7.1 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.

1.8 Risk Assessment

- 1.8.1 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.

1.9 Policy Considerations

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

Background papers:

contact: Stephen Gregg

Nil

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene and Leisure