

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

15 September 2014

Report of the Director of Street Scene & Leisure

Part 1- Public

Matters for Information

1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE UPDATE

Summary

This report updates Members on activities for children and young people that took place over the summer holidays, including the Summer Playscheme, Activate and Y2 Crew.

1.1 Summer Playscheme

- 1.1.1 In 2014 the Summer Playscheme operated at 13 venues across the Borough, offering organised activities for the 4-11 year age range. This year the Council directly operated and staffed seven venues and worked in partnership with Poppy Pre School, Rainbow Out of School Club and Barnies Day Nursery at the other six venues. Attached at **[Annex 1]** is a list of Summer Playscheme venues operated in 2014. Assistance with transport was once again offered this year but was not required due to insufficient demand.
- 1.1.2 The brochure and leaflets advertising the scheme were distributed extensively across the Borough, including primary schools, leisure centres and libraries. Posters were also displayed and banners were positioned outside each of the Playscheme venues.
- 1.1.3 Whilst the number of individual children registered on the Playscheme this year was marginally lower than in 2013 (771 in 2014 compared to 798 in 2013) total bookings taken over the three weeks increased from 1336 in 2013 to 1348. **[Annex 2]** provides a breakdown of the places for each Summer Playscheme venue, including a comparison with last year. Members will note that 91% of the places were booked, with a number of venues reaching maximum capacity throughout the scheme. Where numbers are greater than the capacity this reflects where additional staffing was allocated to account for demand.
- 1.1.4 It is also encouraging to note that 270 registered children benefitted financially from the Council's Leisure Pass scheme (£13.00 per family per week compared to the full rate of £38.00 per child per week) rising from 258 children the previous year.

- 1.1.5 Unfortunately, this year Kent County Council's Children and Families Unit were unable to provide block funding for referrals as they have in the past. Although some individual referrals were made, this had an impact on certain venues. The Youth and Play Development Officer was, however, able to improve links with the Family Liaison Officers and Children Centres, particularly in the Malling end of the Borough resulting in 41 children attending via referrals. The popular Playscheme Plus programme was also available for children with special educational needs and/or physical disabilities with 27 children benefitting from the scheme.
- 1.1.6 In addition to the normal range of activities provided by staff at each venue, specialist workshops were also provided each week. This year workshops included mini-beast hunting provided by Medway Valley Countryside Partnership and Rangers from Leybourne Lakes Country Park. There were also workshops in Athletics, Sports, Kite making, Magic and Cookery.
- 1.1.7 Each year the Council sends out a Parental Survey with the results for 2014 showing 96% of parents satisfied with the Playscheme and 99% feeling it was good value for money. Results for the 2014 Playscheme show that:
- 98% of parents felt their child was safe whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 86% of parents felt their child's needs were met whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 83% of parents felt their child benefitted from having their achievements recognised and celebrated whilst attending the Playscheme
 - 52% of parents felt their child developed a healthier lifestyle as a result of participating in the Playscheme
- 1.1.8 I am pleased to advise Members that the figures below show a positive increase on all results received after last year's Playscheme programme.
- 1.1.9 The Mayor formally visited the Walderslade, Snodland and Tonbridge Girls Grammar Summer Playscheme venues on the 12 August 2014. At the Walderslade Playscheme the Mayor watched as the children participated in an athletics workshop. From Walderslade the Mayor went on to visit the Playscheme at Snodland, where the children were taking part in a mini beast hunt organised by the Council's Park Rangers. The final stop was the Tonbridge Girls Grammar Playscheme where the Mayor was treated to a performance from the children.
- 1.1.10 There were 64 members of staff that worked on the 2014 Summer Playscheme with 36 of these having worked on the previous scheme. All staff were asked to complete a survey at the end of the scheme and the results will be collated to inform the planning of the 2015 Scheme.

1.2 Activate

- 1.2.1 The 2014 Summer Activate programme ran from 28 July - 22 August and offered young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out a wide range of activities that they would not normally have the opportunity to experience. This summer's activities included badminton, golf, trampolining, fencing, magic, urban art t-shirt design, special effects and character make-up, jewellery making, DJing, MCing and creative writing, comedy, cookery, first aid, bike fun day, get safe for summer, windsurfing, kayaking, junior rangers and fishing. Several new activities were also introduced including two pottery sessions and three cupcakes sessions which proved to be very popular with the young people and all were fully booked within the first few weeks.
- 1.2.2 Additional activities were also offered in partnership in with Rock UK, Carrot Wood. This allowed a wider variety of outdoor adventure courses to be run at the Carrot Wood centre on a more cost-effective basis. Rock UK activities included abseiling, geo-caching, team task day, pedal karting, archery, rafting, bushcraft, high ropes, bmxing, climbing and canoeing. Leisure Pass discounts were offered on all courses and the Rock UK week long holiday club.
- 1.2.3 Following the success of the 2013 Oliver! production an extended five day performing arts programme was offered which aimed to inspire future drama participation through the opportunity to experience a full-scale production. The workshop was delivered incorporating skills such as acting, film making, stage make-up, costume design and technical stage design. The workshop concluded with a performance of Bugsy Malone on the Friday afternoon and allowed the young people to showcase the skills that they had developed, as well as developing confidence, self-esteem and experience of delivering to an audience.
- 1.2.4 Attached at **[Annex 3]**, 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 805 bookings were taken, representing 83% of total capacity. The number of bookings represents a significant increase compared to last year (670 bookings).
- 1.2.5 The Mayor formally visited two Activate workshops over the course of the summer. At Wrotham School she attended the new and popular cupcake workshop where chef Mags Murray was teaching the young people how to make delicious and beautiful cupcakes. The Mayor also viewed some budding young actors and actresses in the final performance of Bugsy Malone.
- 1.2.6 An on-line survey was sent out to all parents and overall 97% 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
 - 46% of parents felt their children were more likely to participate in physical activities as a result of having taken part in the Activate programme

- 54% of children would have been spending time indoors playing computer games if they had not been participating in the Activate programme
- 60% 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

1.3 Y2 Crew

- 1.3.1 The objective of the Y2 Crew Summer scheme is to provide a programme of diversionary and educational activities for vulnerable young people aged 11-18 years in areas of the Borough where crime and disorder issues have been experienced within this age group. The scheme is open to all residents within Tonbridge & Malling, with partner organisations encouraged to refer appropriate young people who would benefit as a priority and then bookings opened up to the general public.
- 1.3.2 The scheme runs for the first four weeks of the school summer holidays providing trips, courses and activity days. The trips are run at a subsidised rate for the young people and the courses and activity days are run free of charge to ensure that as many young people as possible are able to attend and benefit.
- 1.3.3 The scale of the scheme is dependent upon funding which is obtained by a range of partnership organisations. Funding for 2014 was received from the following: Community Safety Partnership, TMBC, KCC Local Members Grant, Wrotham Parish Council, Borough Green Parish Council, Snodland Town Council, East Peckham Parish Council, Mereworth Parish Council, Hadlow Parish Council, Plaxtol Parish Council, Tonbridge Lions and income from young people taking part.
- 1.3.4 The 2014 scheme operated from Monday 28 July to Friday 22 August. A total of 84 young people were allocated spaces on the scheme with many more attending the free drop in sessions. 30 of these young people were Leisure Pass holders and took advantage of the concessionary rates on offer and 13 young people were also funded directly by the Y2 Crew Scheme due to their exceptional circumstances. Unfortunately, no referrals were received from Kent County Council's Children and Families Unit this year although the Community Safety Partnership did support 9 young people to access various trips and courses.
- 1.3.5 Building on the success of 2013 the Y2 Crew scheme again formed a partnership with the Ridgeview special school for children with profound, severe and complex learning difficulties. Working with the Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Services Community Youth Tutor, who is based at Ridgeview, the Y2 Crew trips were offered to students and arrangements were made for the young people to be accompanied by a 1:1 Support Assistant. Feedback so far has all been positive with the students themselves gaining independence skills they need to help them take their place in the community, and above all develop their self-esteem and

self-worth. With the emphasis on inclusion all young people attending the scheme also benefitted from working together.

- 1.3.6 Trips were run on Mondays and Thursday to activities and venues such as Ten Pin Bowling / Ice Skating, Chatham Ski Centre, London Dungeon / London Sea Life, Bowles Activity Centre, Laser Rush, Bewl Water, White Rock Theatre and Thorpe Park. The aim of the trips was to provide the young people with new skills and experiences, as well as giving them a chance to visit new places and expand their horizons.
- 1.3.7 The courses and activity days were run on Wednesdays and included Get safe for Summer, a Water Wise course held at Tonbridge Swimming Pool, Grow, Cook & Eat run at Bore Place which involved harvesting seasonal organic produce and using it to make a delicious healthy lunch for the young people to enjoy together and activity days held by the youth worker in Hadlow and at the Tonbridge Hub. There were a number of workshops on offer at the Activity Days including arts and crafts, sports including professional boxing training and cookery as well as a number of agencies providing information, guidance and support. The Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service also offered additional Youth Drop in Sessions as part of the Y2 Crew programme opening the Tonbridge Hub on Friday afternoons. **[Annex 4]** outlines the activity day programme for 2014.
- 1.3.8 Feedback received from the partner agencies, KCC Integrated Adolescent Support Service and both parents and young people have indicated that the 2014 Y2 Crew Summer programme was again very successful and provided young people with a number of positive experiences. A full debrief and evaluation meeting with the partners will be held later in the year.

1.4 Try Angle Awards

- 1.4.1 This year saw the 20th anniversary of the Try Angle Awards take place at K College in Tonbridge. The scheme was run in partnership with KCC Integrated Adolescent Support Service and was introduced to raise the profile of young people in the community who really try, often with little recognition, to do their best.
- 1.4.2 Categories included in the awards cover achievement in the Arts, Music or Sports and Outdoor activities, Community action, Good friends and young carers as well as Personal development, Courage and Positive intervention.
- 1.4.3 The award evening once again highlighted and recognised the positive achievements of many young people across Tonbridge and Malling, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.

1.5 Legal Implications

- 1.5.1 The Council has powers to undertake this activity by virtue of Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972. Under the requirement of the Children Act (1999) and in accordance with the Council's Child Protection Policy all staff will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check no older than 12 months.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.6.1 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.

1.7 Risk Assessment

- 1.7.1 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.

Background papers:

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Nil

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