

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 existing vision 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 and access to provision 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, Carrot Wood, KCC Youth and Children's Centres etc.</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</p>

	<p>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>Description of current delivery arrangements</p>	<p>Signposting activity opportunities to young people for the Easter and Summer Holidays and enabling 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>
<p>Outcomes/Achievements</p>	<p>Holiday activities programme for Easter and Summer:</p> <p>There were 1795 places taken by young people over the Easter and Summer Holidays across the Borough during 2022 in activities showcased by the Council and 101 young people with Leisure Passes took part in reduced cost activities provided with partners.</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 and Summer holidays operating at 2 sites in East Malling and West Malling.</p> <p>Y2 Crew in partnership with Kent County Council:</p> <p>There were 73 attendances by referred young people during the Summer, taking part in free diversionary activities in partnership with Kent County Council's Integrated Youth Services.</p>

Youth Forum:

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 (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

	<p>Derwent Lodge</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>Staffing Allocation</p>	<p>Direct operational provision of one part-time member of staff equal to 0.6 FTE (Full Time Equivalent)</p> <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 review, £1,500 is also allocated for temporary staffing support over the summer holiday period for the Y2Crew partnership scheme with KCC.</p>
<p>Budget Allocation</p>	<p>The operational revenue budget is now only £6k following savings linked to previous scrutiny review of playscheme 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> <p>(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;</p>

	<p>(2) the Borough Council's financial support for the Y2Crew programme be retained subject to other partners providing continued financial contributions;</p> <p>(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:</p> <p>(a) Leisure Pass concessions for Playscheme attendance initially be amended to provide a 50% reduction per child per week;</p> <p>(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;</p> <p>(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> <p>The current revenue budget for the holiday activities is currently £4k, which is £17k less than the scrutiny approved budget of £21k. 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, this year over £6k was raised.</p> <p>The Youth Forum have a budget of £2k for logistics and development initiatives 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 park.</p> <p><u>Y2Crew Income (2022)</u></p> <p>Total contributions (Parish Councils/Reconnect/CSP etc) = £6400 Total bookings income =£0 (all activities were free of charge) Total income = £6400</p>

Partners	<p>Partnership work with;</p> <p>Premier Education Kent County Council Community Safety Partnership Parish Council's Carrotty Wood Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust 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>
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	<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>Significant savings have been made over recent years due to reduction in direct provision of programmes and focus on support of opportunities to families and young people in need. Information now only provided online removing cost of printing and distribution of marketing material.</p> <p>The Youth Forum costs have been reduced further with the introduction of some online meetings and less funded initiatives.</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>