

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD**

**08 December 2014**

**Report of the Director of Street Scene and 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 and the Youth Forum.**

**1.1 Activate**

- 1.1.1 The 2015 Easter Activate programme will run from Tuesday, 7 April to Friday 17 April and will offer young people aged 8-16 the chance to try out a range of more unusual activities. The programme will again be 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 will include windsurfing, kayaking, and golf. Sports will range from fencing and dodgeball to trampolining. Creative arts will include pottery, special effects and character make-up workshops. Emergency first aid, bike skills and the popular cookery and cupcake making will form part of the Council's Life skills option.
- 1.1.2 Additional activities will again also be offered in partnership with Rock UK, Carroty Wood. These will include 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.
- 1.1.3 Building on the success of the Summer Productions of Oliver and Bugsy Malone another extended performing arts programme will also be on the agenda for 2015 starting with an Easter Drama workshop.
- 1.1.4 The Easter Activate brochures will be distributed at the beginning of February 2015, and parents will be able to use the online booking system. Further promotional leaflets, banners and billboards will be utilised during March.

## **1.2 Summer Playscheme**

- 1.2.1 The 2015 Playscheme will run for three weeks from Monday, 3 August to Friday, 21 August 2015 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 now been sent to the relevant Parish/Town Councils.
- 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 been approached to confirm their availability to operate these venues once again in 2015.
- 1.2.3 Letters have now been sent to all staff that worked on the 2014 Playscheme to formally invite them to return in 2015. Members will be updated at the next meeting of the Board as to the progress on this and any further developments.

## **1.3 Y2 Crew**

- 1.3.1 The 2015 scheme will operate from Monday, 27 July to Friday, 21 August and, subject to funding, will include trips, courses and activity days with a number of key agencies offering information, advice and guidance throughout. 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 and the option for young people with disabilities to attend with a 1:1 Support Assistant.
- 1.3.2 Members will be aware that the scheme is organised and funded by a number of partner agencies and the programme will be reviewed by the first multi-agency meeting in January, to ensure that it is operating as cost effectively as possible. Changes/improvements to be considered include types of activities, venues and staffing arrangements. External funding letters and application forms are currently being sent out to a number of organisations to secure the 2015 programme.

## **1.4 Youth Forum**

- 1.4.1 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.
- 1.4.2 A re-launch of the Forum took place in October. All secondary schools in the Borough were asked to send a young person to represent the views of its pupils and raise any issues or concerns for members of Forum to consider. The response was positive with almost all schools represented at the meeting and the others expected to be represented at future meetings.

- 1.4.3 MP Tracey Crouch appeared as a guest speaker at the October meeting which was a great success. Tracey took part in a questions and answers session with questions ranging from lowering the age to vote to 16 years old, through to the immigration policy and Ebola.
- 1.4.4 Elections have recently taken place for a new chairman after the departure of previous chairman Dillon Lancaster and following presentations to the group from interested parties and a secret ballot, Zoe Poole was appointed to the position, with Peter Heslop appointed to the position of Vice Chair.
- 1.4.5 This winter, the TM Youth Forum plan to continue work on growing membership and developing the Forum. The Forum also hope to form closer links with neighbouring Youth Councils, Kent Youth Council and the British Youth Council.

## **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.

## **1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.6.1 The cost of the Council's 2015 Easter and 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.

## **1.8 Policy Considerations**

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

Background papers:

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Nil

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