

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

24 February 2015

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 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 of Sport, Creative Arts, Life Skills and Outdoor Activities to make it easier for parents and young people to find the activities that they would like to do. Some new sessions are on offer this Easter including a Balloon Modelling workshop, Orienteering, Nature Explorer and Bird Box Building. There will also be a free Bush craft and Wildfood Day taking place at Leybourne Lakes Country Park. This is part of the Save Our Magnificent Meadows Project that is delivered through the Medway Valley Countryside Partnership and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- 1.1.2 Building on the success of the drama productions in previous years a three-day performing arts programme will also be on offer for Easter which will conclude with a performance of 'Wacky Soap' 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.
- 1.1.3 As in previous years additional activities are being offered in partnership with Rock UK, Carrot Wood. These will include abseiling, canoeing, team task day, pedal karting, archery, kayaking, bush craft, high ropes, bmxing and climbing, with Leisure Pass discounts offered on all courses allowing Fair Access to All.
- 1.1.4 This year's Summer Activate will run from Monday, 27 July to Friday, 21 August with the proposed programme of activities currently being developed. Plans are again in place for a performing arts programme with a week-long production resulting in a final performance on the last day with families invited to view the

young people's achievements. Workshops available will include acting, stage make-up, costume design, and dance allowing young people from the Borough to experience professional tuition and learn new skills in the theatre and film industry.

1.2 Summer Playscheme

- 1.2.1 The 2015 Playscheme will run for three weeks from Monday, 3 August to Friday, 21 August 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 the majority have now confirmed their intention to continue to support the Summer Playscheme in 2015. Discussions are ongoing with some of the remaining Parish Council's regarding contributions, particularly linked to local resident's attendance levels and it is hoped that they too will confirm support shortly.
- 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 2015.
- 1.2.3 One Playscheme venue, Tonbridge Girls Grammar School, informed us that they will no longer be able to host the Playscheme. As a result, Officers visited two alternative sites and have been able to secure an alternative venue at Hillview School for Girls. Due to the timing of this change of venue, it is unfortunately not possible to fully register this venue with Ofsted in time for the start of the Summer Playscheme 2015. On Ofsted's recommendation we are still able to operate this site however, but only for 14 days instead of the normal 15 days.
- 1.2.4 In accordance with OFSTED regulations approximately 55 members of staff will be required to work directly for the Council on the 2015 Summer Playscheme. Invitations to return have been sent to last year's staff with early indications showing 30% wishing to work on the scheme again. Although this is substantially lower than last year, recruitment letters were sent out two weeks later than 2014, due to the new staff induction process. A follow up email has already been sent out to staff and it is hoped that this will generate an upturn in responses. To recruit the remaining staff an advert will be placed in the local paper and a recruitment leaflet will be sent to all of the nurseries and Out Of School Clubs in Tonbridge and Malling as in previous years.

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 (including accredited courses where possible) 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 with 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. An initial meeting to discuss the programme requirements with KCC's Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Service (KIASS) was held in December. A further multi-agency meeting is planned for March, to check on plans and ensure that the programme can operate as cost effectively as possible. Changes/improvements being considered to maximise a currently reduced budget include the types of activities, venues and staffing arrangements. Officers are also continuing to source external funding streams. Funding has already been received from some Parish Councils following requests.

1.4 Marketing

- 1.4.1 The brochures for Activate and Playscheme will be distributed to all schools, libraries and leisure centres, as well as being available from the Council Offices and the Council's website. Electronic copies will also be sent to those on the Council's mailing list that have previously attended the scheme.
- 1.4.2 The Y2 Crew brochures are distributed directly to targeted young people through partner agencies, particularly KIASS staff and community wardens.
- 1.4.3 Further marketing will also include use of the Council's billboards in Tonbridge, as well as banners and posters at specific sites including the Council's Country Parks, Leisure Centre's and venues being used for activities. Specific leaflets and posters will also be distributed widely across the Borough including Parish Council's.
- 1.4.4 Online marketing through various 'what's on' pages and groups will also be undertaken to further increase awareness to residents together with use of the Council's social media, with messages programmed through the Twitter account and on the Facebook page.

1.5 Children's Operational Group

- 1.5.1 The Tonbridge & Malling Children's Operational Group is now formally 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.
- 1.5.2 The last meeting of the Tonbridge & Malling Children's Operational Group took place on 29 January at the Council Offices in Kings Hill. Topics included a CAMHS Service Overview, a Young Healthy Minds presentation, an update from public Health on the 6 ways to Wellbeing campaign and updates on the children's centres Annual Conversation and Ofsted inspection, Early Help referral process

and 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

1.6 Youth Forum

- 1.6.1 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.
- 1.6.2 As reported to the last meeting of this board, following the re-launch event, the Youth Forum appointed a new Chair, and Vice Chair. There has, therefore, been a short period of adjustment and reviews are being undertaken of the website and use of social media.
- 1.6.3 The next meeting of the Youth Forum that is planned for 11 February with Dementia Awareness attending to give a presentation and promote discussion on mental health awareness. A discussion on possible involvement in environmental projects including the Love Kent, Hate Litter campaign is also proposed.

1.7 Legal Implications

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

1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.8.1 The cost of the Council's 2015 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.

1.9 Risk Assessment

- 1.9.1 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 with the exception of Hillview School for Girls which is covered in section 1.2.3 and all comply with the Early Years and Childcare Registers.

1.10 Equality Impact Assessment

1.10.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.11 Policy Considerations

1.11.1 Healthy Lifestyles, Young People, Community, Crime & Disorder Reduction.

Background papers:

contact: Ruth Lowe

Nil

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene and Leisure