

## WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL

**CABINET**  
**27<sup>th</sup> October 2005**

### PASSPORT TO LEISURE/LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

<b>OPEN</b>	
<b>COMMUNITY STRATEGY THEME</b>	Greater Learning & Participation
<b>CORPORATE PLAN THEME:</b>	Enhancing Cultural Life
<b>KEY PRIORITY:</b>	Passport to Leisure
<b>CABINET MEMBER:</b>	Cllr Nathan Desmond
<b>RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:</b>	Head of Cultural, Leisure and Commercial Services
<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	Kay Higman Extension 2902 kay.higman@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
<b>APPENDICES</b>	

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To add 'Looked After Children' to the eligibility criteria for the Council's Passport to Leisure Scheme.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

**The Cabinet is asked to DECIDE:-**

- 2.1 **To add the category of 'Looked after Children' to those currently eligible to receive benefits under the Passport to Leisure Scheme.**

#### **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Council has a Passport to Leisure scheme which is available for any resident of Wyre Forest District Council who receives benefit.
- 3.2 The scheme entitles the holder to 50% off activities at Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre, Stourport Sports Centre and Bewdley Leisure Centre.
- 3.3 The scheme is managed on behalf of the Council by DC Leisure as part of the leisure management partnership contract.

#### **4. LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN**

- 4.1 The Children Act 1989 introduced new terminology for children previously known as being 'in care'.
- 4.2 The broad term 'Looked After' embraces all those young people (age 0 – 13 years) for whom the County Council has some degree of formal responsibility.
- 4.3 At April 2005 there were 326 Looked After Children in placements, 48 of those in Kidderminster and Stourport.
- 4.4 Most of these children are in foster placements, however, children in care can still be living at home, with friends, relatives or in a residential unit.
- 4.5 In addition to the 'Looked After Children' there are 57 Foster carers registered and these carers have 11 of their own children.
- 4.6 Looked after children are amongst the most socially excluded of all children.

#### **5. PROPOSAL**

- 5.1 Discussions have taken place between Social Services, DC Leisure and the Council regarding the benefits of adding this category to the current Passport to Leisure scheme.
- 5.2 DC Leisure is very positive about the inclusion of Looked After Children and would jointly promote the opportunities available with the Council.
- 5.3 DC Leisure has agreed that any loss of income would be its responsibility and not the Council.

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications for the Council as any loss of income will be borne by DC Leisure.

#### **7. LEGAL & POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no legal and policy implications.

#### **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 There are no risks associated with this project.

**9. CONCLUSION**

- 9.1 Providing the opportunity for Looked After Children and their carers to access sports and leisure facilities more easily should enable some progress to be made in improving disadvantaged children's life experiences.

**8. CONSULTEES**

Head of Financial Services  
Head of Legal & Democratic Services  
DC Leisure

KH/JHL  
28<sup>th</sup> September 2005