



Community & Leisure Services Service Policy Panel

Briefing Paper

Report of: Cultural Services Manager
Date: Wednesday 21st June 2006
Open

UPDATE ON YOUTH PROVISION SCRUTINY REVIEW

1. Summary

1.1 The purpose of this briefing paper is to update Members on the progress of the Youth Provision Task and Finish Group.

2. Background

2.1 At the former Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel's meeting on 14th July, 2005, two Task and Finish Groups were established, one to concentrate on Skateboarding and the other to look at the District's youth provision in general.

2.2 There is no formal deadline for the Panel to report back to Cabinet with its proposed recommendations.

3. Task and Finish Group – Youth Provision

3.1 The group has met four times and is chaired by Councillor Wheway.

3.2 Other Members of the group are Councillor Mrs Dyke and Councillor Baker.

3.3 The review concentrates on 14 to 18 year old young people.

3.4 The Group has carried out the following:

- Scoped the review.
- Carried out consultations with community, voluntary and statutory organisations, including at a separate date the Youth Service.
- Produced a paper (by Councillor Wheway) in January 2006 entitled "Youth and their Free Time: The other 90% matter".
- Designed a questionnaire to be distributed at local schools and other relevant organisations.

- 3.5 The Group has experienced considerable delay in carrying out the consultation with young people, primarily due to absences in personnel in the Youth Service and therefore the Group was unable to progress as quickly as expected.
- 3.6 The Group is trying to establish, through the questionnaire, how best we might enhance leisure and recreational opportunities for young people.
- 3.7 The following background documents are being considered as part of the review:

Previous Minute Extracts:

- C&LS P&S Panel – 11th November 2004 (*Minute CM.416 refers*)
- Cabinet – 16th December 2004 (*Minute CM.580 refers*)
- C&LS P&S Panel – 6th January 2005 (*Minute CM.612 refers*)
- Cabinet Scrutiny Committee – 26th January 2005 (*Minute CM.686 refers*).
- Community and Leisure Services Policy and Scrutiny Panel – 10th March 2005. (*Minute CM.813 refers*)
- C&LS P&S Panel – 8th September 2005 (*Briefing Paper from the Acting Scrutiny Officer*)
- C&LS P&S Panel – (*Minute CLS.13.b refers*)
- ‘You Think’ Survey dated October 2004, which gives a wide perspective of young people’s thinking on a number of quality life issues
- Community Safety – Diversionary Activities (*Scrutiny report from Worcestershire County Council dated March 2005*)
- Diversionary Activities in Wyre Forest (*Document from the Community Safety Officer*)
- Results from the Hear by Right Survey from the National Youth Agency (NYA) – July 2005. (The survey sought information on organisations’ awareness and use of Hear by Right (HbR), the NYA/Local Government Association standards for the active involvement of children and young people in decision-making and local democracy)
- Summary of Youth Matters Report
- Facilitating Play on Housing Estates (*Report written by Councillor Wheway*)
- “Youth and their Free Time: The other 90% matter” (*paper written by Councillor Wheway*).

4. Big Lottery Fund

- 4.1 Since the start of the scrutiny exercise the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) has announced an allocation of approximately £207,000 to Wyre Forest. The Council plays the lead role in co-ordinating this money.

- 4.2 A formal application, together with a play strategy, is intended to be produced by mid November.
- 4.3 A Big Lottery Fund group has been established with partners to co-ordinate this approach and it is intended that play providers across the District will be consulted.
- 4.4 This funding potentially could complement the work of the Task and Finish Group, in that potential resources could be made available through the BLF to fund conclusions from the Task and Finish Group.
- 4.5 The BLF Group met again on Friday 9th June 2006 and previous consultation exercises are being collated.

5. Future Meeting

- 5.1 Future meetings will be co-ordinated between the BLF Group and Task and Finish Group.

Background Papers:

Nil

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