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## **YOUTH SPORT DEVELOPMENT GROUP (Minute 23/00)**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1** This report advises Members of the latest Youth Sport Development Group meeting held with young people in the District.

### **2 INTRODUCTION**

- 2.1** At the meeting of this Committee on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2000, during discussion of the Leisure Strategy, Members requested that a feedback report on the meetings of the Youth Sport Development Group be brought to a future meeting.
- 2.2** Key Area 3, Objective 2 of the Leisure Strategy recommended establishment of a Youth Sport Development Group (YSDG) to co-ordinate provision of sport for young people in the District. This group was established in 1998 and its present members represent the Council, schools, Youth Service, Rochford Sports Council, Leisure Connection Plc and local sports clubs. A sub group comprising young people has recently been established to enable them to directly influence the range of activities provided for them.

### **3 YOUNG PERSONS YSDG – 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2000**

- 3.1** The meeting was attended by six young people from Greensward College, Fitzwimarc and King Edmund Schools, apologies being received from Swayne Park School. Their ages ranged from 14 – 16.
- 3.2** Discussions took place regarding the promotion of opportunities for young people to take part in sport, partners that should be involved in the delivery of opportunities and how the young people could help with the objective.
- 3.3** It was suggested that opportunities could be advertised via school newsletters and presentations could be made directly to pupils at assembly.
- 3.4** The young people felt that sports centres could become partners and that they should send information on new initiatives directly to young members. It was also felt that the sports centres should reduce their junior admission fees during school holidays to make activities more accessible.
- 3.5** School noticeboards could also be used to promote initiatives. There were already Sports Development noticeboards in each of the schools and the young people themselves would take a lead role in ensuring the display of information.

- 3.6** The next topic for discussion was what activities would young people like to see provided during the school summer holidays. Those young people present felt that the activities already provided i.e. cricket, basketball, netball etc. were popular with younger age groups. However, their age group wished to see more adventurous activities on offer such as windsurfing, sailing or canoeing. Although we could not provide these activities directly, it may be possible to develop partnerships with organisations who are already involved in this type of activity and facilitate provision.
- 3.7** The young people were asked to encourage more young people to attend the meeting, especially so that each year was represented.

#### **4 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1** Provision of sport and leisure activities has been proven to divert young people away from crime and anti social behaviour.

#### **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1** Any initiatives arising from these meetings will be met from the Sport development budget where appropriate or will be put forward as a special item in the budget estimates for the next financial year.

#### **6 RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1** It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That this report is noted. (HLCS)

Head of Leisure & Client Services

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#### **Background Papers:**

Minutes of Young Persons Youth Sport Development Group meeting held 15.3.2000

For further information please contact Eva McIlwaine on (01702) 546366