

REVIEW OF POLICIES AND SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITHIN THE DISTRICT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report introduces the review of policies and services for young people, which Members agreed should be undertaken by this Committee. It provides a summary of the Council's current policies, facilities and programmes in relation to young people as the first part of this exercise.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 A report was presented to this Committee on 16 October 2003, giving details of a proposed review of policies and services for young people within the District. As a result it was agreed that this Committee should undertake such a review (Minute 467/03).
- 2.2 The aim of the review is to consider existing policies, services and facilities that are provided by not only the District Council but also by Essex County Council, Connexions and any other providers of services for young people in the District. The specific list of organisations to be invited to future meetings of this review can be discussed and decided upon at the meeting on 28 January 2004.
- 2.3 It is also proposed to consider the factors that may have an impact on the way these services and facilities are provided in the future and to obtain views of the young people in the District.
- 2.4 Once this "stocktaking" exercise has been completed, then it is envisaged that gaps in service provision and possible funding opportunities can be identified, proposals put forward in respect of the District Council's future role in this area and in doing so, formulate a long term strategy for provision for young people in the District.
- 2.5 In undertaking this review it should be noted that in the consultation around the Community Strategy, young persons' issues, in terms of lack of facilities and perceived nuisance, ranked very highly with residents of the District as matters to be addressed.

3 TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 3.1 The terms of reference agreed for this review are as follows:

- To focus on the 11 – 19 age range, with particular emphasis on the 11 – 17 age range.
- To look at existing policies and the range of services available within the District and who provides these services.
- To look at the way in which this is likely to change in the future (emerging new structures, procedures etc.)
- To examine what services / facilities would be welcomed by young people and in particular, canvas the disadvantaged youngsters for their views.
- To put forward proposals in respect of the District Council's role, its policies and the services it provides.

4 CURRENT DISTRICT COUNCIL PROVISION

4.1 The Council currently provides a range of services for the young people within the District and linked to this position are the following:

- The Council funds the summer swimming scheme that operates through the school holiday period at various school pools, currently to the extent of £12,000 p.a.
- Funding of the Outreach Sports Programme undertaken during the summer holiday by Holmes Place at various locations around the District. The current cost is £9,100.
- The Council maintains its playspaces via a rolling programme that is agreed on an annual basis.
- The Council, as one of the main partners of the agreed Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy, oversees and assists in the implementation of an action plan that includes various issues related to young people.

4.2 The range of services that the Council provides for young people also includes:

- Providing a broad range of sports and arts activity programmes during all school holidays, co-ordinated by the Sports and Arts Development Officers, whose salaries are now fully funded by Holmes Place as part of the Leisure Management Contract.
- Regular activities are also run during term time, including a drama club, D.J.ing workshop, football in the community, the "Hyper" activity

programme at Great Wakering Sports Centre and the junior cinema sessions at The Mill in Rayleigh.

- A disability playscheme is also operated during the various school holidays throughout the year.
- A mini newsletter is now produced by the Leisure Section that is sent to a database of approximately 2,000 young people and also distributed to schools and libraries.
- There are a number of projects undertaken by the Community Safety Unit, including the “Crucial Crew” week, “Roadrunner” project, and “Theatre Active” providing young people with information and advice on how to recognise signs of domestic violence and support given to the proof of age card scheme.
- The Council annually promotes a Citizenship debates initiative with the 4 local secondary schools.
- The Council has also been participating in promoting the Essex Youth Assembly that will be holding elections in January 2004.

- 4.3 However, the Council has very few facilities that are specifically for young people in the District. The Council does own 57 South Street, which it leases to Essex County Council for the provision of a young persons “Information Station.”
- 4.4 There are various facilities located within Clements Hall Leisure Centre, Great Wakering Sports Centre and The Mill that are utilised for the provision of services / activities for young people.
- 4.5 Many of the District’s Community Centres are also used to provide programmes for young persons.
- 4.6 There are 27 playspaces located around the District that are owned and maintained by the District Council.
- 4.7 There are 3 skateboarding facilities owned by the District Council located in Hullbridge, Canewdon and Hawkwell, with a full scale skate park planned as part of the facilities to be created at the former Park School site.
- 4.8 There are various other facilities provided within the Council’s parks and open spaces including the bmx track and the “five-a-side” area at Hullbridge and a number of basketball goals implemented via the Outdoor Basketball initiative. A teen-shelter has been provided at the play area off Sutton Road.
- 4.9 Appropriate officers will be present at the meeting to provide further details on the services / activities provided and also to answer any questions Members

may have. It is also hoped that representatives from Essex County Council will be present at this meeting, to provide an overview of what services and facilities they provide for the young people of the Rochford District.

5 OUTSIDE GROUPS / ORGANISATIONS

5.1 The Council is represented on a number of groups / outside bodies that have been created to specifically deal with issues related to young people, both by Members and officers.

- Castle Point and Rochford, Young Peoples Strategic Partnership (CYPSP). (Officer Representative).
- Youth Strategic Group, Rochford Locality. (Members + Officer).
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. (Member & Officer).
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (Youth Sub Group). (Officer Representative).
- Castle Point and Rochford Drugs Reference Group. (Member & Officer).

6 RISK IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Strategic Risk

Work at this stage should help the Council to identify its long term role in this area of work.

6.2 Resource Risk

In the short term these will be the officer and Member resources associated with the review.

6.3 Reputation Risk

The undertaking of this review should help the Council to clarify any reputational issues, especially amongst the younger community.

7 RECOMMENDATION

7.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

to agree the list of organisations / representatives to be invited to future meetings.

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Background Papers:

None

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