

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Monday 20 August 2007

at 4.30 pm

**in the West View Community Centre,
Miers Avenue, Hartlepool**

MEMBERS: CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM:

Councillors S Cook, Coward, Fleet, Griffin, A E Lilley, London, Plant, Preece, Shaw, Simmons and Worthy

Co-opted Members:

Elizabeth Barraclough, David Relton and Jesse Smith

Leigh Bradley, Jonathan Simpson, Chris Lund, Kelly Goulding, Cassie Jeffries and Gillian Pounder

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Evelyn Leck and Michael Ward

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
2. **TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**
3. **MINUTES**
 - 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2007.
4. **SHORT ICE BREAKER EXERCISE**
5. **RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM**

No items.

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6. **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS REFERRED VIA SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No items.

7. **FORWARD PLAN**

7.1 The Executive's Forward Plan – *Scrutiny Support Officer*

8. **CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

No items.

9. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

9.1 Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool - Setting the Scene Report – *Senior Children's Services Officer / Scrutiny Support Officer*

10. **ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

i) **Date of Next Meeting Monday, 1 October 2007 commencing at 4.30pm at Owton Manor Community Centre, Wynyard Road, Hartlepool.**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

16 July 2007

The meeting commenced at 4.30 pm at the Avondale Centre, Dyke House School, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Shaun Cook, Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Alison E Lilley, Frances London, Arthur Preece and Christopher Simmons

In accordance with Paragraph 4.2 (ii) Councillor Stephen Akers-Belcher was in attendance as substitute for Councillor Gladys Worthy

Co-opted Members:

Elizabeth Barraclough and David Relton

Resident Representatives:

John Cambridge, Evelyn Leck and Michael Ward

Children and Young People Representatives:

Leigh Bradley, Kelly Goulding, Chris Lund and Jonathan Simpson (check Chris Lund)

Officers: John Mennear, Assistant Director, Adult and Community Services

Andrew Pearson, Parks and Countryside Manager

John Robinson, Children's Services Fund Manager

Sandra Saint, Healthy Schools Co-ordinator

Joan Wilkins, Scrutiny Support Officer

Denise Wimpenny, Principal Democratic Services Officer

Also Present:

Cath Hill, Children's Services Portfolio Holder

Beth Hawkridge, Barnardos

Deborah Gibbon – Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator

11. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Gladys Worthy.

12. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

13. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007

Confirmed.

14. Short Ice Breaker Exercise

A representative for children and young people facilitated a five minute ice breaker session which included all attendees of the Forum.

15. Portfolio Holder's Response to the Provision of Sex and Relationship Education (SRE) in Hartlepool Schools *(Joint Report of the Director of Children's Services and Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)*

The Healthy Schools Co-ordinator stated that the Cabinet had approved, in their entirety, the recommendations of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum's investigation into the provision of sex and relationship education (SRE) in Hartlepool at the meeting on 11 June 2006. Appendix A to the report set out the proposed actions to be taken in relation to each of the specific recommendations.

Recommendation

That the contents of the report, be noted and an update report be provided in six months time.

16. Consideration of request for scrutiny reviews referred via Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

None.

17. Consideration of progress reports/budget and policy framework documents

None.

18. Scoping Report – Access to Recreation Facilities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool *(Scrutiny Support Officer)*

The Scrutiny Support Officer presented a scoping report for the Forum's investigation into access to recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool.

The aim of the investigation

To examine the provision of recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool and explore ways of removing barriers to access.

The Terms of Reference for the investigation

- (a) To gain an understanding of national and regional policy/guidance relating to the provision of recreation facilities for children and young people and the barriers to access that exist;
- (b) To consider, and agree, a definition of 'recreation facilities' and 'children and young people' for the purpose of this investigation;
- (c) To gain an understanding of the recreation facilities available for children and young people in Hartlepool, including:
 - How they are provided;
 - What existing research shows to be the barriers to access; and
 - The strategies in place to ensure that they are accessible to children and young people.
- (d) To explore the recreation activities/facilities which children and young people in Hartlepool enjoy/utilise and identify the barriers to access which might exist, including transportation and costs;
- (e) To identify ways of removing any barriers to access to recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool that might exist;
- (f) To compare examples of best practice in other Local Authorities to improve access to recreation facilities for children and young people;
- (g) To seek the views of children and young people and local residents, including representatives of minority communities of interest and vulnerable groups, in relation to access to recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool; and
- (h) To identify how those responsible for the provision of recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool intend to implement the 7 vision statements on participation agreed by Cabinet

on June 24th 2007.

Potential areas of enquiry and sources of evidence to assist the scrutiny review were included in the report together with key suggestions of documentary/internet sources. The Scrutiny Support Officer highlighted the importance of community engagement, diversity and equality in undertaking this enquiry.

Proposed Timetable of the Scrutiny Investigation

16 July 2007 – ‘Scoping Session’ - To formalise the process for the Forum’s investigation and receive evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services.

20 August 2007 - Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A ‘Setting the Scene’ presentation/report from the Department/Scrutiny Support (*Covering Terms of Reference (a), (b), (c), (d)*);
- (ii) Evidence from the Portfolio Holder for Children’s Services (To be confirmed); and
- (iii) Evidence from the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool (To be confirmed).

1 October 2007 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A presentation from a particular recreation scheme to provide a more in depth demonstration of the facilities/activities provided, barriers to access and what could be done to remove them from a young persons perspective; (*Covering Terms of Reference (d)*)

(Group(s) to be decided and suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

- (ii) To compare examples of best practice in other Local Authorities to improve access to recreation facilities for children and young people; (*Covering Terms of Reference (f)*)

5 November 2007 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A presentation from a particular recreation scheme to provide a more in depth demonstration of the facilities/activities provided, barriers to access and what could be done to remove them from a young persons perspective. (*Covering Terms of Reference (d)*)

(Group(s) to be decided and suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

- (ii) Evidence on the views of children and young people in Hartlepool on the issue of access to recreation facilities in Hartlepool (*Covering Terms of Reference (d), (g)*):-

- The results of a survey of participants in Hartlepool Borough Council Playschemes and Oscars Holiday Care Schemes.
- The results of consultations with the UK Youth Parliament and Hartlepool Young Voices.

W/C (date to be decided) – Working Group to seek the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage.

(Suggestion - a small group (possibly 5 members of the Forum) to meet with people with disabilities, people with learning disabilities, people with mental health problems, black and minority ethnic people, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people) (*Covering Terms of Reference (g)*)

10 December 2007 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A presentation from a particular recreation scheme to provide a more in depth demonstration of the facilities/activities provided, barriers to access and what could be done to remove them from a young persons perspective; and (*Covering Terms of Reference (d)*)

(Group(s) to be decided and suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

- (ii) Feedback from the Chair of the Forum on the outcome of the Working Group session with people from minority communities of interest or heritage. (*Covering Terms of Reference (g)*)
- (iii) Evidence from a selection of groups representing vulnerable individuals, including families with disabled children and children looked after by the local authority, on the barriers to children and young people accessing recreation facilities. (*Covering Terms of Reference (g)*)

21 January 2008 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) A presentation from a particular recreation scheme to provide a more in depth demonstration of the facilities/activities provided, barriers to access and what could be done to remove them from a young persons perspective; and (*Covering Terms of Reference (d)*)

(Group(s) to be decided and suggestions welcomed from the Forum)

- (ii) Further evidence on specific barriers to access identified through the investigation and identify suggestions for the removal of these barriers to improve accessibility. (*Covering Terms of Reference (e)*)
- (iii) To identify how those responsible for the provision of recreation facilities in Hartlepool intend to implement the 7 visions statements on

partnerships. (*Covering Terms of Reference (h)*)

25 February 2008 – Formal meeting of the Forum to receive:-

- (i) Further evidence on specific barriers to access identified through the investigation and identify suggestions for the removal of these barriers to improve accessibility. (*Covering Terms of Reference (e)*)
- (ii) Summing up of findings for inclusion in the Draft Final Report.

31 March 2008 – Consideration of Draft Final Report

18 April 2008 – Consideration of Final Report by the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee

28 April 2008 - Consideration of Final Report by the Cabinet

As part of the 'scoping' exercise Members were requested to consider the location of meetings and in view of the proposal for the presentation of evidence from particular recreation schemes, it was suggested that the location of meetings on the site of schemes, where practical and appropriate, be considered with arrangements to be finalised with the approval of the Chair of the Forum.

Members agreed the potential sources of enquiry/sources of evidence, as outlined in the report with the addition of the following:-

- (i) Input from uniformed organisations (Boys Brigade, Sea Cadets, Scouts, Girl Guides, Cubs etc).
- (ii) It would be beneficial to consult with the children and young peoples' organisations which currently operated in the town that had been successful.
- (iii) That information be sought from the Neighbourhood Police Teams relating to feedback they may have received relating to the activities/facilities enjoyed by children and young people as well as any barriers to access these facilities.

Discussion ensued in which the following issues were raised:-

- (i) That information be publicised in relation to the activities/facilities available across the town and feedback be obtained from various Partnership Groups.
- (ii) The investigation should ensure that facilities/activities meet the requirements of the children and young people.
- (iii) The Children's Services Portfolio Holder indicated that there was too

much emphasis on monitoring activities and targets. There should be facilities available for children and young people to relax.

- (iv) A supervised skate park in Middlesbrough was well utilised and successful. It was suggested that this type of facility be considered for Hartlepool.
- (v) With regard to the proposed Working Group to seek the views of people from minority communities of interest or heritage, a co-opted Member advised that work was currently being undertaken with disabled groups and information could be provided regarding their experiences of access to recreational facilities.

Recommendation

- (i) The proposed remit for the investigation was agreed as outlined in the report and the Potential Areas of Enquiry/Sources of Evidence approved as follows, including the changes requested by the Forum as shown in bold:-
 - (a) The views of children and children and young people of Hartlepool who access local recreational facilities;
 - (b) The views of local residents, including parents and carers of children who access recreational facilities;
 - (c) Evidence from the Member of Parliament for Hartlepool;
 - (d) Evidence from the Elected Mayor;
 - (e) Evidence from the Cabinet Member with Portfolio Holder for Children's Services;
 - (f) Evidence from the Director of Children's Services;
 - (g) Detailed Officer reports from the:
 - Children's Services Department (including the Youth Service); and
 - Adult and Community Services Department.
 - (h) Input from the UK Youth Parliament and Hartlepool Young Voices;
 - (i) A survey of the views of participants in Hartlepool Borough Council Playschemes and Oscars Holiday Care Schemes;
 - (j) Evidence from representatives from neighbouring Tees Valley Authorities (to ascertain their position and work being undertaken on

the issue);

(k) Evidence from representatives from other Local Authorities with examples of good practice, **including site visit to Middlesbrough Borough Council to explore the use of 'Pods'**;

(l) The views of representatives from voluntary sector groups/bodies, minority groups and vulnerable people, including:

- OFCA;
- Hartlepool Access;
- Hartlepool Families First;
- Hartlepool Young Care;
- Hartlepool Special Needs Support Group;
- West View Project;
- OSCAR's;
- B76;
- Belle Vue Centre;
- Salaam Centre;
- **Hartlepool Sports Council;**
- **Sportability Club;**
- **Oakesway Netball;**
- **Eldon Grove Tennis Club;**
- **Seaton Carew sports/Social Club;**
- **St Francis Football Club;**
- **Hartlepool Swimming Club;**
- **The Football Development Project;**
- **HUFC;**
- **Stranton Learning Centre;**
- **Respect.;**
- **The Boys/Girls Brigade;**
- **Scouts;**
- **Headland Future; and**
- **Hartlepool Constellation Group. (Pat Alison, Park Road – Disability Group).**

(m) The views of Ward Councillors; and

(n) The views of the Neighbourhood Policing Teams.

(ii) That the comments of the Forum be used to assist with the scrutiny investigation.

(iii) That on site meetings be agreed where appropriate following approval by the Chair.

JANE SHAW

CHAIRMAN

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM REPORT

20 August 2007



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: THE EXECUTIVE'S FORWARD PLAN

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to consider whether any item within the attached version of the Executive's Forward Plan (relating to decisions within the remit of the Children's Services Department) should be considered by this Forum.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 One of the main duties of Scrutiny is to hold the Executive to account by considering the forthcoming decisions of the Executive (as outlined in the Forward Plan) and to decide whether value can be added to the decision by the Scrutiny process in advance of the decision being made. This would not negate Non-Executive Members ability to call-in a decision after it has been made.
- 2.2 As you are aware, the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee (SCC) has delegated powers to manage the work of Scrutiny, as it thinks fit, and if appropriate can exercise or delegate to individual Scrutiny Forums. Consequently, SCC has been monitoring the Executive's Forward Plan on behalf of Scrutiny and delegating decisions to individual Forums where it has felt it appropriate.
- 2.3 At the meeting of SCC on 29 June 2007 Members suggested that to enable more detailed consideration of the Forward Plan, it be disseminated departmentally and reported to the appropriate Scrutiny Forum on a quarterly basis with Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee continuing to receive the whole document.
- 2.4 As such, a version (relating to the Children's Services Department) of the most recent copy of the Executive's Forward Plan is attached at **Appendix 1** for the Forum's information and for Members to decide whether value can be added to the decision by the Scrutiny process.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum considers the content of the Executive's Forward Plan.

CONTACT OFFICER

Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Support Officer
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy
Hartlepool Borough Council
Tel: 01429 523 339
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.



HARTLEPOOL
BOROUGH COUNCIL

FORWARD PLAN

AUGUST 2007 – NOVEMBER 2007

APPENDIX 1

1. **INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The law requires the executive of the local authority to publish in advance, a programme of its work in the coming four months including information about key decisions that it expects to make. It is updated monthly.
- 1.2 The executive means the Mayor and those Councillors the Mayor has appointed to the Cabinet.
- 1.3 Key decisions are those which significantly modify the agreed annual budget of the Council or its main framework of policies, those which initiate new spending proposals in excess of £100,000 and those which can be judged to have a significant impact on communities within the town. A full definition is contained in Article 13 of the Council's Constitution.
- 1.4 Key decisions may be made by the Mayor, the Cabinet as a whole, individual Cabinet members or nominated officers. The approach to decision making is set out in the scheme of delegation which is agreed by the Mayor and set out in full in Part 3 of the Council's Constitution.

2. **FORMAT OF THE FORWARD PLAN**

- 2.1 The plan is arranged in sections according to the Department of the Council which has the responsibility for advising the executive on the relevant topic:

Part 1	Chief Executive's Department	CE
Part 2	Adult & Community Services Department	ACS
Part 3	Children's Services Department	CS
Part 4	Neighbourhood Services Department	NS
Part 5	Regeneration and Planning Department	RP

- 2.2 Each section includes information on the development of the main policy framework and the budget of the Council where any of this work is expected to be undertaken during the period in question. In this instance only Part Three of the Plan is included below.
- 2.3 It sets out in as much detail as is known at the time of its preparation, the programme of key decisions. This includes information about the nature of the decision, who will make the decisions, who will be consulted and by what means and the way in which any interested party can make representations to the decision-maker.

3. **DECISIONS MADE IN PRIVATE**

- 3.1 Most key decisions will be made in public at a specified date and time.
- 3.2 A small number of key decisions, for reasons of commercial or personal confidentiality, will be made in private and the public will be excluded from any sessions while such decisions are made. Notice will still be given about the intention

APPENDIX 1

- 3.3 to make such decisions, but wherever possible the Forward Plan will show that the decision will be made in private session.
- 3.4 Some sessions will include decisions made in public and decisions made in private. In such cases the public decisions will be made at the beginning of the meeting to minimise inconvenience to members of the public and the press.

4. URGENT DECISIONS

- 4.1 Although every effort will be made to include all key decisions in the Forward Programme, it is inevitable for a range of reasons that some decisions will need to be taken at short notice so as to prevent their inclusion in the Forward Plan. In such cases a minimum of 5 days public notice will be given before the decision is taken.
- 4.2 In rare cases it may be necessary to take a key decision without being able to give 5 days notice. The Executive is only able to do this with the agreement of the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee or the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the local authority. (Scrutiny committees have the role of overseeing the work of the Executive.)

5. PUBLICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

- 5.1 All decisions which have been notified in the Forward Plan and any other key decisions made by the Executive, will be recorded and published as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision is taken.
- 5.2 The Council's constitution provides that key decisions will not be implemented until a period of 3 days has elapsed after the decision has been published. This allows for the exceptional cases when a scrutiny committee may 'call in' a decision of the Executive to consider whether it should be reviewed before it is implemented. 'Call in' may arise exceptionally when a Scrutiny Committee believes that the Executive has failed to make a decision in accordance with the principles set out in the Council's constitution (Article 13); or that the decision falls outside the Council's Policy Framework; or is not wholly in accordance within the Council's budget.

6. DETAILS OF DECISION MAKERS

- 6.1 Names and titles of those people who make key decisions either individually or collectively will be set out in Appendix A once they are determined.

7. TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS

- 7.1 The timetable as expected at the time of preparation of the forward plan is set out in Appendix B. Confirmation of the timing in respect of individual decisions can be obtained from the relevant contact officer closer to the time of the relevant meeting. Agenda papers are available for inspection at the Civic Centre 5 days before the relevant meeting.

PART THREE – CHILDREN’S SERVICES DEPARTMENT

A. BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK

NONE

A. SCHEDULE OF KEY DECISIONS

DECISION REFERENCE: ED36/07 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: STAGE 3 CONSULTATION

Nature of the decision

To consider outcomes of statutory consultation on the future of Brierton Community School and decide whether to publish a statutory notice to discontinue the school.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

The decision is due to be made in September 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

- The governing body of Brierton Community School;
- Parents of pupils at Brierton Community School;
- Pupils of Brierton Community School;
- Teaching and support staff at Brierton Community School;
- Governing bodies, parents, pupils and staff at feeder primary schools;
- Other schools in Hartlepool;
- Diocesan Authorities;
- Learning and Skills Council;
- Hartlepool's Member of Parliament;
- Neighbouring local authorities.

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

Outcomes of statutory consultation.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to Paul Briggs, Assistant Director of Children's Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY, 01429 523733, e-mail paul.briggs@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Paul Briggs who can be contacted as above.

DECISION REFERENCE: ED37/07 PLACEMENT STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN

Nature of the decision

Approval of a new/revision Placement Strategy for Looked After Children.

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services as the fostering and adoption services fall within their direct responsibilities.

Timing of the decision

The decision is required in October 2007 to enable the new Strategy to be in place for the start of 2008/09 financial year.

Who will be consulted and how?

- Children and young people through the existing participation programme;
- Foster carers through meetings and written documentation;
- Fostering Service providers by notification, invitation and structured meetings.

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

The nature and type of current fostering provision, service gaps and required changes. Financial information and service options.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to Terry Maley, ICS Project Co-ordinator, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY, 01429 523709, e-mail terry.maley@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Phill Warrilow, Assistant Director of Children's Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY, 01429 523733, e-mail phill.warrilow@hartlepool.gov.uk.

DECISION REFERENCE: ED38/07 BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: THE FUTURE OF BRIERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Nature of the decision

Subject to the outcome of the Cabinet meeting in September 2007 in relation to Building Schools for the Future Stage 3 consultation, to determine the outcome of statutory proposals to discontinue Brierton Community School and related proposals

Who will make the decision?

The decision will be made by Cabinet.

Timing of the decision

The decision is due to be made in October 2007.

Who will be consulted and how?

- The governing body of Brierton Community School;
- Parents of pupils at Brierton Community School;
- Pupils of Brierton Community School;
- Teaching and support staff at Brierton Community School;
- Governing bodies, parents, pupils and staff at feeder primary schools;
- Other schools in Hartlepool;
- Diocesan Authorities;
- Learning and Skills Council;
- Hartlepool's Member of Parliament;
- Neighbouring local authorities.

Information to be considered by the decision-makers

Representations made in relation to the statutory proposals.

How to make representations

Representations should be made to Paul Briggs, Assistant Director of Children's Services, Level 4, Civic Centre, Hartlepool, TS24 8AY, 01429 523733, e-mail paul.briggs@hartlepool.gov.uk

Further information

Further information on this matter can be sought from Paul Briggs who can be contacted as above.

APPENDIX A

DETAILS OF DECISION MAKERS

THE CABINET

Many decisions will be taken collectively by the Cabinet.

- The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
- Councillor Pamela Hargreaves
- Councillor Ged Hall
- Councillor Cath Hill
- Councillor Victor Tumilty
- Councillor Robbie Payne
- Councillor Peter Jackson

EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Members of the Cabinet have individual decision making powers according to their identified responsibilities.

Regeneration and Liveability Portfolio	-	The Mayor, Stuart Drummond
Performance Portfolio	-	Councillor Pamela Hargreaves, Deputy Mayor
Adult and Public Health Services Portfolio	-	Councillor Ged Hall
Children's Services Portfolio	-	Councillor Cath Hill
Culture, Leisure and Tourism Portfolio	-	Councillor Victor Tumilty
Finance and Efficiency Portfolio	-	Councillor Robbie Payne
Neighbourhoods and Communities Portfolio	-	Councillor Peter Jackson

APPENDIX B

TIMETABLE OF KEY DECISIONS

Decisions are shown on the timetable at the earliest date at which they may be expected to be made.

1. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN AUGUST 2007

1.1 NONE

2. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN SEPTEMBER 2007

2.1 DATE NOT YET DETERMINED

ED36/07	BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: STAGE 3 CONSULTATION	CABINET
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3. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN OCTOBER 2007

3.1 DATE NOT YET DETERMINED

ED37/07	PLACEMENT STRATEGY FOR LOOKED AFTER CHILDREN	PORTFOLIO HOLDER
ED38/07	BUILDING SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE: THE FUTURE OF BRIERTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL	CABINET

4. DECISIONS EXPECTED TO BE MADE IN NOVEMBER 2007

4.1 NONE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

20 August 2007



Report of: Senior Children's Services Officer / Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: ACCESS TO RECREATION FACILITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL – SETTING THE SCENE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek consideration of a definition of 'Recreation Facilities' and the age group covering the term 'Young People' for the purpose of the investigation.
- 1.2 To provide information to set the scene for the beginning of the Forum's investigation into 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool'.
- 1.3 To seek the Forum's views on the value of further refining the remit of the investigation to look in greater detail at a smaller number of specific categories of recreation, as outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the report.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At its meeting on the 11 June 2007 the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum selected 'Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool' as its main topic for investigation during 2007/8.
- 2.2 The Forum, on the 16 July 2007, agreed the scope and remit of the investigation and approved its aim as being 'to examine the provision of recreation facilities for young people in Hartlepool and explore ways of removing barriers to access'.
- 2.3 Based upon the agreed scope and remit for the investigation, outlined within this report is a range of information the intention of which is to set the scene for the beginning of the Forum's investigation.

3. A DEFINITION OF 'RECREATION FACILITIES' AND 'YOUNG PEOPLE' FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE INVESTIGATION

- 3.1 As part of the scoping exercise it was recognised that a clear definition is needed of 'Recreation Facilities' and the age group covering the term 'Young People' for the purpose of the investigation.

Definition of the Age Group Covered by the Term 'Children and Young People'

- 3.2 When looking for a definition of the age range covered by the term 'young people' the National Youth Agency defines young people as being between the ages of 13 - 19 years. This definition is used by Hartlepool's Youth Service in its Strategic Priorities, Needs Assessment for Operational Plan 2007/8 and has been used by other Local Authorities during the course of their Scrutiny investigations. Where some young people experience difficulty in transitions into adulthood and require more support, the age range there is also the option to extend to 25 years. (e.g. differing physical, mental or emotional needs).
- 3.3 In the Children's Fund guidance the age range for children is deemed as 5 - 13 but with recognition that 11 - 13 is a key period of transition. This transition undoubtedly poses organisations with many difficulties as young people do not develop uniformly. We do have situations where a young person is mature enough to mix with an older group when someone at the same age would be at risk if they did so. It may be worthwhile the scrutiny forum investigating how different organisations respond to this transition process. Culturally the term children is used to cover 0 – 13. For the purpose of attempting to keep this investigation manageable we would suggest that we adopt the Children's Fund and Youth Service age ranges.
- 3.4 During the course of the scoping exercise it was clear that the Forum felt that the issue of access to recreation facilities affects children and young people across the age range and as such it is suggested that Members consider:
- (i) The extension of the aim of the investigation to include 'children and young people'; and
 - (ii) The setting of the age range for the investigation as being children and young people between the ages of 5 to 19 years old.

Definition of the Term 'Recreation Facilities'

- 3.5 Further consideration also needs to be given to the establishment of a clear definition of 'Recreation Facilities'. Recreation facilities can be described in many ways and it is suggested that for the purpose of this investigation they be broken down into the following categories, undertaken by children and young people in their spare time (outside school hours):-

- (i) Sport;
- (ii) Arts and Culture;
- (iii) Organised Activities;
- (iv) Free play; and
- (v) Other Interests.

3.6 The Children's Services Scrutiny Forum has over the years prided itself on the depth / detail of its investigations and this was a contributory factor in the Forum's decision to select only one topic for its 2007/08 Work Programme. Looking at the categories of recreation outlined above it is clear that the provision of recreation facilities covers a very wide area and a view needs to be taken as to whether the Forum wishes to look at all five categories of recreation facility or focus in greater depth on a smaller number of specific categories. Member's views are sought on this.

4. THE BENEFITS OF THE PROVISION OF EFFECTIVE RECREATION FACILITIES

4.1 The provision of effective recreation facilities across all five of the categories identified above plays a key role in the development of personal/interpersonal skills, confidence building and wellbeing (both economic and physical) of children and young people.

4.2 The Department for Culture, Media and Sport produced a document – "Time for Play", encouraging greater play opportunities for children and young people. Play provides children and young people with an important opportunity to develop their values, beliefs and traditions and understanding on how they impact on their environment.

4.3 The benefits of play:-

- (i) Play provides valuable life skills and is vital to their development;
- (ii) Play is integral to learning, but cannot be taught through formal education;
- (iii) Play keeps children and young people healthy and active;
- (iv) Play promotes independence, resilience, fosters self – esteem and self awareness;
- (v) Play stimulates the five key areas of development in a child, social, physical, intellectual, creative and emotional;
- (vi) Play is fun;
- (vii) Play raised awareness of different cultures and traditions; and
- (viii) Disabled children will benefit from being able to play with other children in a safe and accessible environment.

4.4 Added benefits of play for parents, carers and the wider community are:-

- (i) Improved family relations;
- (ii) Social contact with other families, including those from marginalised groups;

- (iii) Healthy and resilient children;
- (iv) Happier and more confident children;
- (v) Involvement of children in creative and positive activities;
- (vi) Anti social behaviour is reduced and children are less at risk of crime;
- (vii) Facilities are a focal point for the community;
- (viii) Families are supported;
- (ix) Young people are helped to prepare for working life - Every Child Matters (Outcome Framework); and
- (x) Improved cultural and learning activities through informal settings.

5. NATIONAL AND REGIONAL POLICY/GUIDANCE RELATING TO THE PROVISION OF RECREATION FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

5.1 The Education Act 1996 (Section 507B) requires that every Local Authority in England must, so far as reasonably practicable, provide sufficient recreational leisure time activities and facilities, for the improvement of young people's well being. The Youth Matters Green Paper also contains a duty for Local Authorities to secure positive activities for young people, as both a commissioner and provider, with National Standards indicating that 'positive activities' should have a broad scope with access opportunities to:-

- (i) Volunteering;
- (ii) Sport and recreational/cultural activities; and
- (iii) Constructive activities in clubs, youth groups or classes.

5.2 The importance of play and the contribution of making space for play has been the subject of campaigning and awareness raising at a national level for a number of years.

5.3 The Children's Play Council, the national organisation for children's play in England as an example has produced a number of significant documents in recent years, including Best Play.

5.4 Every Child Matters is a shared national programme to ensure that Children's Services work better together with parents, carers and organisations to help give children and young people more opportunities and better support.

- (i) Be Healthy
- (ii) Stay Safe
- (iii) Enjoy and Achieve
- (iv) Make a Positive Contribution
- (v) Achieve Economic Well – Being

5.5 The Dobson Review 'Getting Serious about Play', was a government commissioned document to advocate and raise the profile of play across government departments. The report prompted a funding scheme for play from the Big Lottery Fund in England and Wales.

- 5.6 The government have issued many policy statements on sport and physical activity including “increasing significantly levels of sport and physical activity with the target of achieving 70% of the population as reasonably active by 2020” – Game Plan 2003.
- 5.7 There is recognition in many policies that sport and recreation can contribute to wider agendas such as increasing participation in activity, reducing obesity, tackling anti social behaviour and increasing educational attainment.
- 5.8 The North East Regional Plan for Sport and Physical Activity has eleven priorities around sport and physical activity in the region. Of particular interest to the scrutiny forum is the ambition to improve access for all to all facilities and programmes.
- 5.9 Despite much investment in sports facilities it is recognised regionally and nationally that this has not had a dramatic increase in participation in sport and physical activity. This has called for greater partnership working between health and sporting sectors and greater emphasis and access to sport in school.
- 5.10 The Sport and Recreation Strategy of 2000 emphasised the need for a strategic overview of refurbishment of facilities or development of new facilities. This has been evident in the investment in facilities locally such as Summerhill Country Park, King George V Playing Fields, Grayfields Recreation Ground and the Headland Sports Hall.
- 5.11 A major emphasis over the past few years has been the removal of barriers to participation in sport and physical activity and this has been evident in many of the successful programmes currently being delivered such as the Swimming Development Strategy, the Football Development Plan, the Hartlepool Exercise for Life Programme and the very successful Outdoor Activities Programme. The Active Card scheme introduced in 2004 offers concessionary prices across a range of activities and has had a very good uptake amongst people. There are currently 736 young people who hold active cards, 528 of which qualified for a free active card under concessionary pricing criteria. CIPFA comparison of leisure charging across all local authorities rate Hartlepool as offering good value for money for swimming pool charges and key activity charges.
- 5.12 Recent strategic work around leisure and recreational opportunities that will impact upon provision locally are being finalised. The Indoor Leisure Facility Strategy, due to go to cabinet for adoption in October, is a key strategic document that will inform future leisure provision across the town. The Multi Use Games Area Study and the Open Spaces Strategy (Due to be published later in 2007) will inform the provision of more open access facilities and endeavour to lever in funding from developer contributions to invest in new or refurbish existing play areas, multi use games areas and recreation grounds. Once the Open Spaces Strategy is complete all strategic documents will underpin the rewriting of the Sport and Recreation Strategy

(2000) as a working document to provide future investment in facilities and programmes in line with the findings of these strategic documents.

6. HOW RECREATION FACILITIES ARE PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL

- 6.1 Across Hartlepool recreation facilities are provided through a variety of routes including extended schools, play schemes, the voluntary sector, the youth service and the leisure service. Opportunities are also available for children and young people to amuse themselves as individual citizens within their own communities. It is often this use of their “free time” that brings children and young people into conflict with other community members.

Extended Schools

- 6.2 The Local Authority receives grant funding to support the development of extended services; this comes via Standards Fund and the General Sure Start Grant. Additional funding has been allocated directly to school via their School Standards Grant, however this is not ring fenced. Schools are also able to fund some services directly from their delegated budget if they benefit pupils' learning.
- 6.3 Government guidance states that ‘Local Authorities should be developing in consultation with schools and other children's services partners a strategy for how funding will be allocated to help schools develop extended services over the next few years.’
- 6.4 In Hartlepool funding allocations have been strategically planned in line with the Children's Centre and Extended Schools strategy, based upon locality working. This has included funding partnerships with, health, social care and the voluntary and community sectors to deliver extended services.

Funding Streams	Which extended activities can it be used to fund	
	Young people attending school	Wider community
Delegated school budget	✓	x
School Standards Grant	✓	✓
Borough Council's Standards Fund allocation, through localities for identified activity	✓	✓
Other Borough Council initiatives, such as Sure Start.	✓	✓

- 6.5 Recreational activities for children and young people 5-19 are delivered by two elements of the Extended Schools 'core offer':-
- (i) Varied Menu of Activities which included Study Support; and
 - (ii) Wider community access to sports, arts and ICT facilities.
- 6.6 Varied Menu of Activities includes, sporting activities, arts based clubs and general interest clubs i.e. cheer leaders club, chess.
- 6.7 Schools across Hartlepool have a strong commitment to after school recreational activities, which are now well established and have been sustained through delegated school budgets and extended schools funding following initial pump priming from New Opportunities Fund grants in 2000.
- 6.8 On average primary schools offer 16 after schools recreational activities (one primary offers 38 activities) with secondary schools providing an average of 72 activities.
- 6.9 Wider community access is not specifically audited based upon participants' age, 25 schools currently offer their facilities for wider community use accessible to those who fall into the 16-19 age range.

Play Schemes and Out of School Holiday Care Schemes

- 6.10 The following activities are delivered by the Play Development Team:-
- (i) **Summer Playschemes** - a heavily subsidised service to promote play opportunities. It operates over 4 weeks of the year during the summer school holidays. It has the capacity to accommodate up to 254 children per day aged 5 – 11 years. The service is provided across 4 venues and provided on a town wide basis;
 - (ii) **National Playday** - An annual event to celebrate the Child's Right to Play. This event is a free event to all children and young people, encouraging families to engage in the art of play; and
 - (iii) **Out of School and Holiday Care Schemes** – Provided over 50 weeks of the year, primarily for childcare, with a strong emphasis to provide a range of play opportunities. The service operates across 3 sites, is inclusive and caters for children aged 4 – 16 years, with the capacity to accommodate around 143 children per day.

The Voluntary Sector

- 6.11 Hartlepool has a vibrant and effective third sector that provides a wide range of opportunities for children and young people. Many of these organisations have been providing leisure opportunities to generations of children, are self funding and self directed. The third sector is a major provider of out of school clubs, special interest groups and holiday play opportunities. HVDA has for

instance over a hundred such groups on its database. Furthermore, new bodies are coming "on stream" all the time.

- 6.12 Many small groups are supported by faith centres and special interest clubs across the town. Uniformed organisations such as the boys brigade the scouts and the guides all have a presence in the town and we would hope to have some evidence of the current nature of their operations in Hartlepool. The town is also fortunate in that we have a number of organisations who have developed a range of services that meet the needs of those children and young people who have additional needs. Many organisations in Hartlepool have benefited from local and central government grants and post coded regeneration projects. Strong partnerships exist that allow a range of activities to be provided that would otherwise not be possible. The local authority is involved in commissioning specific services from the voluntary sector. These are often short notice and time limited schemes and consequently the long term planning of organisations is detrimentally impacted upon. This is a major issue for commissioners and providers and one that we continue to engage in dialogue about with central government.

The Youth Service

- 6.13 Facilities/activities are either directly provided by the Youth Service or commissioned by/to the Youth Service. Building based provision controlled by the Youth Service, with dedicated young people's space is provided at Throston, Brinkburn and Rossmere Centres. These buildings are purpose built and offer sports halls, social areas, arts/crafts, music, I.T. etc.) Further building based provision is made using other's facilities, some of which are owned by the local authority. These are at Abbey St., Wharton Terrace, Greatham, Seaton Grange, Seaton Carew, Bridge Centre, The Studio, B76, Salaam Centre, Deaf Youth Centre in Middlesbrough, Café Clavering (St. Marks), schools/colleges and Central Library.
- 6.14 We also offer detached and mobile work to access groups of young people who choose not to use buildings, and from the relationships formed between young people and workers, use of recreational activity often results.
- 6.15 The Youth Service also uses private providers (e.g. cinemas, pools, ice rinks, theatres, marina, etc.) We are further strongly committed to residential work to offer challenges and an extended range of experiences to young people away from Hartlepool. These can often involve recreational activities as well as social and cultural. The latter two are particularly evident from international work and exchanges.

The Leisure Services

- 6.16 Community Services in Hartlepool offer a wide range of formal and informal sporting and recreational facilities.
- 6.17 In total there are 16 open access play areas ranging from small local play areas such as those provided at Block Sands and Greatham to larger

Neighbourhood Play Areas such as those at Summerhill or Bum Valley Gardens. All these sites are open access with the majority being open to the public at all times.

- 6.18 The provision of Multi Use Games areas continues to be informed by the Multi Use Games Area Strategy and there are MUGA's currently in operation at King George V, Mill House, Burbank as well as recreational facilities at Town Moor, Seaton Park, Rossmere Park and King George V.
- 6.19 Sports Provision is town wide at various venues including the major leisure centres (Mill House, Belle Vue, Headland and Brierton) as well as satellite sites such as the Community Centres, School Sites and club sites (Cricket, Football Clubs and Rugby Clubs are examples).
- 6.20 The sports development team have effectively developed partnerships over the years with sports clubs and other organisations to provide sporting and recreational activity. The programmes involving outdoor activities, swimming and football have been particularly innovative involving partners such as Youth Services, Connexions, Café 173, Fast Project, Barnado's, Mencap and OFCA to name just a few.
- 6.21 Work is currently ongoing with skateboarders investigating local provision and addressing some of the concerns around the use of the skate parks in the town.

7. TRANSITION ISSUES - THE PROVISION OF RECREATION FACILITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 11 AND 13 YEAR OLD

- 7.1 Transitions tend to be difficult periods for children and young people and special attention is often given to transitions in school and into adulthood nationally there is a transition issue in leisure and recreation that is impacted upon by both allocated funding and an individual's personal development. Organisations set age limits for their service with the best intentions or as a consequence of funding and guidance. We know however that young people develop at different rates and consequently those who mature quicker are often left in an unsatisfactory position as are those that mature more slowly. This leaves service providers with a range of challenges when providing services to children and young people. It would be interesting to enquire, as part of this investigation how people meet this challenge.

8. FUNDING FOR THE PROVISION OF RECREATION FACILITIES IN HARTLEPOOL

- 8.1 Funding for the provision of recreation facilities comes from a variety of sources, details of which are outlined below.

The Youth Service Funding

- 8.2 The Youth Service gets its budget from the Department of Children Schools and Families (formerly DfES). It comes at the same time as the dedicated schools budget, but forms the Local Authority element under section 52. This is the basis for an annual revenue budget. Facilities and activities are funded from this budget. The Youth Opportunity/Capital Fund, which has just been continued to 2011, offers the chance for young people to bid for grants to our G.G.'S (young people Grant Givers), for places to go, things to do and buildings options, in line with Every Child Matters 5 outcomes.
- 8.3 Additional monies are sometimes attracted for specific work, not normally recreation based, (e.g. teenage pregnancy; social inclusion; NEET, etc.). Some income is generated by young people and the hire of premises.

Play Scheme and Out of School Holiday Care Funding

- 8.4 Play Development has funding to deliver the following services:-
- (i) The summer playscheme is reliant on the generation of income to offset the subsidy provided from the local authority;
 - (ii) There is a Play Opportunities Pool Grant Fund to the value of £18,849 for 2007/2008. This fund is open to Voluntary and Community Groups to provide a range of play opportunities and activities across the town which compliment those currently provided by the local authority; and
 - (iii) The Out of School and Holiday Care is 95% self funded through the generation of income.
- 8.5 Other potential source of income will be available through the Big Lottery Fund, Hartlepool's allocation of £296,457.46 over a three year period to provide free accessible play for children and young people. This allocation is subject to the development of a Play Strategy and success Play Portfolio Bid to Big lottery. Both of these will be submitted in September 2007, with an outcome by December 2007. The funding has been committed, subject to the funding being drawn down, to a number of projects to be delivered across the town. These have been identified as priority through the consultation and audit of provision process as part of the Play Strategy.

Voluntary Sector Funding

- 8.6 The third sector provides a wide range of services with support from a wide variety of grants made available from companies' trusts, charitable bodies as well as from central and local government. In Hartlepool the voluntary sector is a leading provider of services for children and young people not only as providers of "open access" activities but also "targeted and referred access". Children's Fund for example has commissioned services in the voluntary sector valued at over 1.5 million pounds since 2001 to provide preventative services for vulnerable families. Developing local commissioning

partnerships with the third sector is currently a clear central government policy.

Leisure Service Funding

- 8.7 Funding for the provision of recreation facilities is sought from a number of sources. Revenue Budgets are responsible for the maintenance of play areas, leisure facilities and recreation grounds. However it must be recognised that increasing costs to maintain a fit for purpose facility means budgets are consistently under pressure to maintain existing facilities and do not allow for targeted investment in facilities and recreational facilities.
- 8.8 However Hartlepool Borough Council has successfully achieved a high level of investment in recent years to improve the stock of recreational facilities from small scale developer contributions for replacing play areas to large scale multi agency funded projects such as the building of the Headland Sports Hall and the developments of Grayfields – both investments worth over a £Million each.
- 8.9 As well as buildings funding has been sought to provide innovative programmes such as recent Free Swimming initiatives through LPSA reward grants and activity programmes for young people around football through NDC and NRF funding. A major area of success locally has been the provision of outdoor activities which has allowed a huge number of young people the opportunity to experience outdoor activities in a challenging, stimulating setting either through educational programmes or community based programmes.

9. WHAT EXISTING RESEARCH SHOWS TO BE THE BARRIERS TO ACCESS IN HARTLEPOOL;

- 9.1 The findings have been taken from a number of consultation documents and participation sessions with children, young people, parents, carers, organisations and local communities. This information has been pulled from the consultation process, part of Hartlepool's Play Strategy and Action Plan.
- 9.2 The summary of findings suggested that discussion groups had similar issues regardless of their age, gender, race or religion or in fact where they lived.
- 9.3 The following were highlighted as priority issues:-
- (i) People consulted had a fear of bullying, gangs, drug addicts and underage drinking in public spaces;
 - (ii) People felt there was a lack of safe play areas;
 - (iii) People felt the cost of transport and lack of transport was a barrier accessing provision;
 - (iv) Little or lack of localised provision;
 - (v) The cost was a barrier to access many activities;

- (vi) Lack of supervision of outdoor activities and play areas; and
- (vii) Limited access to school grounds outside of school hours, including use of toilets and drinking water facilities.

10. STRATEGIES IN PLACE TO ENSURE THAT RECREATION FACILITIES ARE ACCESSIBLE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL

The Youth Service

- 10.1 For building based provision we have frozen charges for a number of years. At present, young people pay an annual membership of £1 and 30p every time they attend a project. This obviously does not apply to mobile and detached work, but these ways of working offer a greater flexibility of accessing young people, that locality-based buildings cannot. To some extent they can fill in the gaps in provision.
- 10.2 We open in the evening, at weekends and during the holidays and therefore offer a service which does not clash with school times. We are flexible with our timings, for example “midnight soccer” to accommodate Asian young men, many of whom work in catering.
- 10.3 We support and target groups who may be under-represented within our service, (e.g. Young Carer's; Salaam Girls Group; Rossmere PHAB and Asian Girls Cultural Groups; Music Group; Hartlepool Special Needs Group for Duke of Edinburgh's Award; and we are commencing partnership working with Hartgables to meet LGBT needs). Part of the support we give these groups will offer recreation and activities.
- 10.4 Further, when we cannot meet needs directly for groups with low numbers, as is the case with Hartlepool deaf young people, we have youth workers transport them to Middlesbrough Deaf Centre, where they can engage with other deaf young people from Tees valley in a more appropriate and meaningful way.
- 10.5 The Youth Opportunity/Capital Funds also offer, particularly those young people “hard to reach”, opportunities to get funding for activities and recreation.

The Voluntary Sector

- 10.6 The voluntary sector provides a wide range of recreation and leisure facilities for children and young people across Hartlepool. These are typically locality based and work primarily with children and young people from within that locality. They have grown as a consequence of developing local need and are often personality driven. As a consequence of their position access is easily encouraged and many such organisations have had generations of the same family attending. Two of the major leisure, recreation and adventurous activities providers in Hartlepool are in the voluntary sector.

- 10.7 For those children with additional needs there are access issues and many organisations have a real challenge with disability access as a consequence of their buildings. This is a challenge that is being actively tackled. Those organisations that provide disability services tend to operate across the town. Colleagues from the third sector will be invited to participate in this investigation.

The Leisure Service

- 10.8 Many recreational activities (Play Areas, MUGA's, Summerhill, Skate Parks) are both free and accessible to young people. There are sites spread across the town and the Open Spaces Strategy will inform the Council and Members of gaps in provision.
- 10.9 Work is already in place to address some of the shortfall in Multi Use Games Areas and although this strategy is aspirational it will inform where provision will be prioritised should funding become available.
- 10.10 Development programmes in Sports Development are often free or at low cost to young people with the recent summer programme an example with activities ranging from 50p for a football camp to £20 for a three day outdoor activities adventure camp.
- 10.11 The success of the recent Free Swimming Initiative in Hartlepool has resulted in the replication of the initiative this year with funding being accessed from the PCT to provide free structured swimming over the summer holiday period.
- 10.12 The Active Card for young people, available free to those meeting concessionary criteria, has been very popular and there are 528 young people who currently have the free active card concession, and a further 208 who are holders of active card memberships.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 11.1 That Members consider and approve a definition of 'Recreation Facilities' and the age group covering the term 'Children and Young People' for the purpose of the investigation, as outlined in Section 3 of the report;
- 11.2 That Members consider the value of further refining the remit of the investigation and if appropriate, identify the categories of recreation, from those outlined in paragraph 3.5 of the report, to be looked at in greater detail; and
- 11.3 Receive the information provided as part of the first evidence gathering session for this investigation.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were consulted or referred to in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Scoping Report – The Availability of Affordable Good Quality Rented Accommodation in Hartlepool (Regeneration and Planning Services Scrutiny Forum – 12 July 2007);
- (ii) Blyth Valley Borough Council Scrutiny Report – Access to Leisure for Young People (2004);
- (iii) Youth Service Strategic Priorities, Needs Assessment for Operational Plan 2007-2008; and
- (iv) Borough of Telford and Wrekin Scrutiny Report – Review of Youth Facilities (2004).