

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM AGENDA



Monday, 25 February 2008

at 4.30 pm

in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre

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 and David Relton

Young Peoples Representatives: Leigh Bradley, Hannah Shaw, Chris Lund, Kelly Goulding, 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 4 January 2008 (*to follow*)

4. RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO FINAL REPORTS OF THIS FORUM

None

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

None

PLEASE NOTE VENUE

6. CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

- 6.1 Draft Corporate Plan 2008/09: Proposed Outcomes and Actions (*Director of Children's Services and Assistant Chief Executive*)

7. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- 7.1 Draft Final Report – Sustainability of Externally Funded Community Initiatives in Schools (*Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum*) (to follow)

Scrutiny Investigation into 'Access to Recreation Activities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool'

- 7.2 Evidence from the Forum's Co-opted Young People:-

(a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer*, and

(b) Presentation from the Forum's Co-opted Young People on:-

(i) The implementation of the seven visions statements on partnerships in relation to the provision of recreation facilities for children and Young people in Hartlepool; and

(ii) What they have learned and their views on possible recommendations for the way forward in the provision of recreation facilities for children and Young people in Hartlepool.

- 7.3 Possible Barriers - Further Information - *Scrutiny Support Officer* (to follow)

8. ISSUES IDENTIFIED FROM FORWARD PLAN

None

9. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

- i) **Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 25 March 2008, commencing at 4.30 pm in Owton Manor Community Centre**

CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

MINUTES

4 February 2008

The meeting commenced at 4.30 p.m. in the Belle Vue Community, Sports and Youth Centre, Hartlepool

Present:

Councillor: Jane Shaw (In the Chair)

Councillors: Mary Fleet, Sheila Griffin, Michelle Plant, Christopher Simmons and Gladys Worthy

Co-opted Members: Elizabeth Barraclough and David Relton

Resident Representative Michael Ward.

School Representatives:

Judy Thompson, Owton Manor Primary School Governing Body
Beverly Hewitt-Best, Owton Manor Primary School
Sharon Pounder, Stranton Primary School
Keith Story, Brougham Primary School
Bill White, High Tunstall College of Science
Isabel Parkinson, West View Primary School

Also present: Dacre Dunlop, Sports Consultant

Officers: Paul Briggs, Assistant Director (Resources and Support Services)
Steve Haley, Head of Finance, Children's Services Department
Danielle Swainston, Early Years Manager
Alan Kell, Project Manager
John Robinson, Children's Fund Manager
Pat Usher, Sport and Recreation Manager
Charlotte Burnham, Scrutiny Manager
James Walsh, Scrutiny Support Officer
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

80. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Shaun Cook, John Coward, Alison E Lilley, Frances London, Arthur Preece, Resident Representative Evelyn Leck and Young Peoples Representatives Leigh Bradley, Kelly Goulding, Hannah Shaw, Gillian Pounder and Chris Lund.

81. Declarations of interest by Members

None.

82. Minutes of the meeting held on 21 January 2008

Confirmed.

83. Responses from the Council, the Executive or Committees of the Council to Final Reports of this Forum

No items.

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

No items.

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

No items.

86. Sustainability of Externally Funded Community Initiatives in Schools – Evidence from Independent Sports Consultant; Evidence from Children's Services Portfolio Holder; and Evidence from Schools where Externally Funded Community Initiatives were located.

Dacre Dunlop, Independent Sports Consultant, had been commissioned by the forum to produce a report to inform the investigation into the Sustainability of Externally Funded Community Initiatives in Schools. Mr Dunlop's report had been circulated to the forum and at the meeting he highlighted key elements of the report. Mr Dunlop identified that there was a key community leadership role that the Council and/or other partner organisations had a significant role to play. Mr Dunlop indicated that there were a number of options for the future management of these facilities; Direct Service Management, either through Community Services or Children's Services, Private Management Consultants, or a not for profit Trust.

Mr Dunlop outlined fourteen recommendations within his report. In concluding he indicated that it should be recognised that the report has been a "Fast Track" exercise conducted in four days. The report should only be regarded

as a start of a process and that the recommendations needed to be subject to more time and careful consideration and consultation. Mr Dunlop hoped that the contents of the report would provide information and “sign posts” for a way forward to enable informed discussions to take place before a policy is developed and adopted.

Mr Dunlop indicated that Hartlepool had a tremendous opportunity to develop a strategic approach to the development, management and use of school facilities for the community. As this was an issue which most local authorities had to address, the outcome would be of wider value and interest. It was, however, important to “grasp the nettle” and act quickly as the Building Schools for the Future Programme had a tight timescale.

The Children's Services Portfolio Holder, Councillor Cath Hill, commented that this area had been subject to too many budget cuts over recent years and she would wish to see that revenue funding reinstated. Officers had an important part to play in maximising the amount of money available and also maximising its use. The Assistant Director commented that the authority had supported schools through the various bidding programmes to gain these facilities, however, it was the case that not all had adequate business plans to ensure sufficient income and revenue support to maintain them once the funding ceased. There was some Council expenditure in this area through the Adult and Community Services department. The Assistant Director also commented that any audit of the facilities in the town, as suggested by Dacre Dunlop, would need to link into the Schools capital Programme.

The meeting was informed that Stranton Primary School had originally given five years funding through the NDC, Sports England and the Council. This funding was now tapering. Community use during the day was limited due to school use which limited the ability to maximise income. The single biggest cost and the most difficult to meet, was staffing. Owton Manor Primary School supported these concerns and indicated that school's facilities had not available for some time due to staffing issues.

Members commented that many community groups had raised concern at the level of charges on these school facilities. These facilities needed to be commercially competitive if they were to attract increased usage. Many of the representatives present acknowledged this issue but commented that the whole of the costs of supporting the facilities outside of school hours had to come through income generation; these costs could not be met out of school budgets. There was also concern that some of the facilities available at the smaller schools simply did not lend themselves to quite a number of uses.

The issue of employing good quality staff was a major issue highlighted by all of the school representatives present. Good quality staff could bring in new customers and expand on the range of classes and services provided. They were, however, difficult to find and fund. High Tunstall School acknowledged this indicating that much of the success of its facilities was down to the staff employed. The school had taken the view that employing staff from the commercial sports sector was the only way forward.

Dacre Dunlop indicated that he considered that the Council may need to identify key sites in the town, there may be only four or five, then identify the clusters of schools around these sites, which may be no more than half a mile, and coordinate provision within that area.

The Head of Finance (Children's Services Department), stated that the department would like to work with schools on this matter. A three-year plan was needed for the centres and the authority needed to identify who was making a surplus and who was making a deficit as the continued build up of deficits could not be maintained. Schools representatives agreed that some form of external funding was almost certain to be needed to provide the concept of extended schools. They were concerned that the past funding had been provided with over ambitious targets and providers of this funding had not provided continued support and advice.

The issue of the accessibility of to the facilities was also raised as major concern for some schools. In many cases access to the facilities was through the school buildings/site. This meant they could only be used outside school hours but it also had an impact on staff as there was an issue in relation to CRB checks.

The community 'take-up' of these facilities was also an important factor. Even those that were considered well used didn't create significant customer numbers. Members of the Forum saw the cluster principal as an attractive solution to the problem as a more diverse range of facilities could be provided through several venues. However, there was comment that an agreed charging regime may also be needed. The Children's Fund Manager commented that charging had already been a barrier for the voluntary sector using school facilities.

It was acknowledged that all these community initiatives had originally been set up to be self financing. However, serious consideration needed to be given to whether that was viable, or indeed desirable. Council involvement may be necessary for the long-term viability of this provision across the town but that would need to go hand-in-hand with uniform charges and a consistent concessions policy.

The Early Years Manager, highlighted to the meeting that the government had set a requirement that all schools needed to be extended schools by 2010 and that this was very much a responsibility placed upon the schools, not the local authority. Many schools already met the requirements but it was the case that the current provision needed to be assessed in detail to identify the school facilities that were there and how they fitted into an overall provision.

The Sport and Recreation Manager, commented that the issues Hartlepool was facing were not unique. There was expertise within the authority in this area but not the resources to meet this level of provision. In terms of a strategic approach, the Council did have an Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy that had been agreed by Cabinet and was the result of ten months work.

There were lots of issues with these facilities and we need to identify where to invest in improvement. The strategy mapped out a vision for the future and built in BSF and the H2O Centre feasibility study. It also included issues of accessibility, outdoor facilities, population, age profiles etc. The key recommendation was that a coordinated approach was needed together with common management.

The Scrutiny Manager reported that a draft of the final report would be submitted to an informal meeting of the forum on 11 February 2008. The final report would build on the report provided by Dacre Dunlop. It was suggested that a joint working group may be a way forward to further this issue with officers from Children's Services and Adult and Community Services. There needed to be an audit of the current facilities so Members were clear where we stood now and a clear three-year financial plan for the facilities seemed to be another key issue raised by members. It would also be key to define what 'community use' is. The Schools Trust agenda had to be factored into the future consideration of extended schools and particularly how future funding was to be integrated.

The Chair thanked Dacre Dunlop for his excellent report and thanked all those present at the meeting for their attendance and input into the very productive discussion. The Chair considered that there was a need to start this process at the beginning again to develop a provision that would meet the communities need, the government's requirements, and the funding that was available. This issue needed to be considered properly, taking a long term view and not rushing into a 'solution'. Departments needed to work together and we needed to be realistic about what the authority could and couldn't do.

Decision

That the Forum's discussions and comments be utilised, together with the report provided by Dacre Dunlop, in drafting the final report on this investigation.

JANE SHAW

CHAIRMAN

CHILDRENS SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM

25 February 2008



Report of: Director of Children's Services and Assistant Chief Executive

Subject: CORPORATE PLAN 2008/09: PROPOSED OUTCOMES AND ACTIONS

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the opportunity for the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum to consider the proposed outcomes and actions for inclusion in the Corporate Plan 2008/09.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Government introduced the Best Value regime as part of its programme to modernise local government and the Corporate (Best Value Performance) Plan for 2008/9 must be approved and published by the Council by 30 June 2008. This is the Council's top-level corporate plan. It sets out the Council's top priorities and contributions for delivering the Community Strategy aims in 2008/9.
- 2.2 The Corporate Plan is an important document because it formally communicates the council's vision and priorities. The process for producing the plan has been designed to ensure the risk is minimised and that the Corporate Plan is fit for purpose.
- 2.3 The focus of the Corporate Plan for 2008/9 is on priority activities for improvement at a strategic level rather than day to day service delivery objectives. The operational service delivery objectives are picked up through Departmental service plans which are reported to individual portfolio holders.
- 2.4 At a meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee held on 18 January 2008 it was agreed that the Corporate Plan proposals should be considered by each of the Scrutiny Forums. Each Scrutiny Forum will see the proposals relating to the Community Strategy themes that fall under their remit.

- 2.5 The comments/observations of each Forum will be fed back to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 14 March 2008 and will be used to formulate the formal Scrutiny response to Cabinet on 28 April 2008.

3 THE CORPORATE PLAN

- 3.1 As in previous years the plan will be produced in two parts. Part 1 describes the Council's overall aim, contributions to the Community Strategy aims and organisational development priorities.
- 3.2 Part 2 will continue to contain the detailed supporting information relating to performance statistics which the Council is required to publish. This will include the Best Value performance indicators for 2007/08 and any future targets for 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. This information can not be collected until after 31 March 2008, and is therefore not available at present.
- 3.3 **Appendix A** details those outcomes and actions that are proposed for inclusion in the 2008/09 Corporate Plan that fall under the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum remit.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum:-
- (a) considers the proposed outcomes and actions for inclusion in the 2008/09 Corporate Plan as attached at **Appendix A**.
 - (b) formulates any comments and observations to be presented to the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee to be held on 14 March 2008 to enable a formal response to be presented to the Cabinet on 28 April 2008.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

Corporate Plan 2008/09 – Proposed Outcomes and Actions

Children's Services

Theme: Jobs and the Economy

Outcome	Actions
Achieve economic wellbeing for all children and young people ensuring that they are prepared for working life* (Children and young people will achieve the qualifications, develop the skills and be given the necessary life experiences to enable them to lead full and active adult lives)	Reduce the level of young people who are NEET
	Implement, with partner agencies, the local 14 - 19 plan and the 14 - 19 regional strategy
	Promote the development of enterprise education in Hartlepool secondary schools
	Raise aspirations of young people from vulnerable backgrounds

Theme: Lifelong Learning and Skills

Outcome	Actions
Enjoy and Achieve* (Raise the achievement and standards of children and young people in the early years, primary and secondary phases of education)	Implement the 10 year Childcare Strategy by developing integrated services in Children's Centres / Extended Schools ensuring sufficient high quality childcare places and continuing to develop a highly skilled workforce
	Narrow the gap between the Hartlepool average and the most disadvantaged areas in the Foundation Stage
	Challenge and support schools to improve performance to national averages and above.
	Challenge and support schools in targeting vulnerable children and young people for additional intervention and support so that they achieve in line with or better than expected levels and the gap between Hartlepool average and the most deprived areas is reduced
	Work with partners to extend and improve the quality of services for children and young people which enable them to enjoy their education, improve their well being and enrich their lives

Theme: Health and Care

Outcome	Actions
Be Healthy* (Children and young people will be physically, mentally, emotionally and sexually healthy, lead healthy lifestyles and choose not to take illegal drugs)	Work with partner agencies, young people, schools and families to reduce under 18 conception rate by 55% and improve sexual health
	Continue to work with schools and other agencies to address childhood obesity
	Work with partner agencies to ensure an appropriate substance misuse treatment plan is in place
	Promote children's emotional health
	Work with Health and partners in other agencies to improve the health of infants e.g. increase prevalence of breastfeeding, reducing smoking during pregnancy
	Improve services for disabled children

Theme: Community Safety

Outcome	Actions
Stay safe* (Children and young people will live, grow and learn in safety, where parents, carers and all adults take responsibility for their safety and well-being)	Increase the number and range of foster and adoptive placements to meet local needs
	Reduce the number of placement moves for looked after children and increase the stability of placements
	Develop the work of the Local Safeguarding Children Board and ensure child protection processes are effective and efficient
	Support the development of preventative services and improve the efficiency of social care assessment

Theme: Strengthening Communities

Outcome	Actions
Make a positive contribution * (Children and young people who live in Hartlepool are provided with the opportunity to participate fully in the life of the community)	Establish the role of commissioner of parenting support and develop a Parenting Strategy for Hartlepool to establish a continuum of services for parents to assist them in promoting positive outcomes for their children
	Ensure that children and young people from vulnerable groups (LDD, BME, traveller, asylum seeker and refugee communities) have the opportunity to gain full access to services and have a role in service development
	Establish the Participation Strategy through the development of standards that support organisations in Hartlepool in its implementation
	Support and improve the level of young people's participation in positive activities
	Work with partner agencies to reduce youth offending
	Assist in the transition of young people with LDD to post 16 education and training

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM**

25 February 2008



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: PRESENTATION FROM THE FORUM'S CO-OPTED YOUNG PEOPLE - SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'ACCESS TO RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL'

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that representatives from the Forum's co-opted young people will be present to give a presentation as part of the ongoing investigation into 'Access to Recreation Activities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool'.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum on 16 July 2007 the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry/Sources of Evidence were approved for the Forum's 'Access to Recreation Activities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool' investigation.

3. PRESENTATION BY THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATIVES CO-OPTED INTO THE FORUM

- 3.1 As the investigation drew to a close, in accordance with the process agreed through the 'scoping' exercise, the young people's representatives co-opted onto the Forum will at today's meeting be providing a presentation in relation to:-
- (i) The implementation of the 7 Vision Statements on Partnerships in relation to the provision of recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool; and
 - (ii) What they have learned and their views on possible recommendations for the way forward in the provision of recreation facilities for children and young people in Hartlepool.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That Members of the Forum consider the evidence provided during the course of the presentation.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Setting the Scene Report – Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool (Children's Services Scrutiny Forum – 20 August 2007)

**CHILDREN'S SERVICES
SCRUTINY FORUM**

25 February 2008



Report of: Scrutiny Support Officer

Subject: POSSIBLE BARRIERS - FURTHER INFORMATION -
SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'ACCESS TO
RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG
PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL'

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with further information in response to the possible barriers to children and young people accessing recreation activities identified so far as part of the Forum's ongoing investigation.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Children's Services Scrutiny Forum on 16 July 2007 the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry/Sources of Evidence were approved for the Forum's 'Access to Recreation Activities for Children and Young People in Hartlepool' investigation.

- 2.2 During the course of the investigation as far various possible barriers to accessing recreation facilities by young people have been discussed, including. These include:-

(i) **The cost of, and a availability of funding for, recreation activities.**

Issues raised during discussions were:

- Costs generally for young people (inc. Youth provision, etc) and what is done to make them affordable;
- How Council facilities are let to voluntary groups and at what rates (local authority facilities and schools) and what could be done to make this cheaper, including the possibility of subsidy; and

- How voluntary groups are funded, or what assistance if any is available to them, to provide recreation activities.

(ii) The provision of funding / assistance to help young people access recreation activities (including young people with disabilities).

Issues raised during discussions were:

- What funding / assistance is there, if any, to help disadvantaged young people and their families (inc. those with disabilities) access recreation activities;
- If 'yes' how well used is this support, how is it advertised and how is it co-ordinated (i.e. provision of officer support).
- What funding / assistance is there, if any, for voluntary groups to help them make their activities accessible for disadvantaged young people (inc. those with disabilities. If 'yes' how well used it this and how is it advertised.

(iii) The advertising of recreation activities.

Issues raised during discussions were:

- How effective is the advertising of recreation activities; and
- How do parents know what's on and what can be accessed by young people with disabilities.

(iv) The availability of transportation to, and location of, recreation activities.

Issues raised during discussions were:

- What is provided in terms of transportation to help children and young people (including those with disabilities) access recreation activities.

(v) Physical accessibility of recreation facilities.

Issues raised during discussions were:

- How the local authority ensures the recreation facilities are physically accessible for young people, including those with disabilities.

(vi) **The provision of what young people want (consultation).**

Issues raised during discussions were:

- How are young people (including those with disabilities) asked what they want to access in terms of recreation activities and what could be done to improve the process.

2.3 As the investigation draws to a close, further consideration needs to be given to these suggested barriers, and any others that Members might identify, with a view to their possible inclusion within the Forum's Final Report. To assist in this, further information in relation to the suggested barriers to access recreation activities is outlined in **Appendix A and B**, with officers to be present during the course of the meeting to provide further clarification / information where necessary.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Members note the evidence provided in Appendices A and B, and the input of officers during the course of the meeting; and
- 3.2 That Members consider possible barriers to accessing recreation activities by children and young people for inclusion in the Forum's Final Report.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background paper was used in the preparation of this report:-

- (i) Setting the Scene Report – Access to Recreation Facilities for Young People in Hartlepool (Children's Services Scrutiny Forum – 20 August 2007)

Appendix A**ACCESS TO RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN HARTLEPOOL**

1. The consultation/marketing processes adopted within the Sport and Recreation Section in informing and encouraging access for young people in respect of recreational opportunities and activities are quite wide and varied.
2. Opportunities are provided for sport and recreation participation via sports development initiatives delivered by the Sports Development Team, (e.g. Holiday activities) and the provision of facilities and activities such as Mill House Leisure Centre, Headland Sports Hall, sports pitches and multi-use games areas. The service is also responsible for the management of the Borough's Community Centres and the distribution of funding to the voluntary sector.
3. Providing ease of access to facilities and the promotion of recreational activities/opportunities for children and young people are of paramount importance if we are to meet the leisure and recreational needs of this specific target group. Initiatives are run in a variety of settings and are heavily subsidised; indeed, on occasions are even offered free of charge.
4. Promotion/marketing material is distributed across a myriad of venues including libraries, youth centres, community centres, leisure centres, local shops, Salaam Centre, Grayfields Pavilion etc in the form of posters and leaflets. Direct promotion within the schools is carried out on occasions where staff will access children via assemblies or classrooms. This is organised specifically via the primary school link teachers and the School Sports Co-ordinators with whom we undertake extensive partnership working.
5. Information on facilities and activities can also be accessed via the authority's website. Partnerships with local sports club also provide an outlet for marketing literature/material to be promoted to a targeted group who have a particular interest in a specific sport or activity.
6. The favoured medium for wider coverage is advertising in the local press or free supplements that are distributed throughout the town. Specific material (e.g. holiday programmes) is taken directly into the schools but the effectiveness of the promotional activity has only recently started to be measured and evaluated.
7. The involvement of children and young people in the planning of activity programmes and developments is currently somewhat limited however and is an area where we are conscious we need to improve. Currently, feedback from participation in holiday schemes, classes and courses is utilised to inform/shape future recreational provision – the most recent concerned the evaluation of our free swimming scheme last Summer.
8. Where we do however do much better is with the development of any new strategy and for example, young people have been specifically consulted for the

development of the Swimming Development Strategy, the H2O Feasibility Study and the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy.

9. Links into young people's groups in Hartlepool via the Youth Service have recently been established to help shape future service delivery and this group also has a voice via the School Sports Partnership, which constantly monitors and evaluates programmes of activity and provision.
10. In respect of future developments to help improve our effectiveness, the array of promotional venues should reach our main target groups, but identification of specific mediums and the format of the literature produced is being re-examined to ensure it is suitable for all groups.
11. Activity programmes and summer play schemes at the Leisure Centres will also be evaluated more effectively adopting more appropriate methods to suit the targeted audience such as verbal feedback from the younger age groups.
12. Feedback from the newly formed Community Activities Network for sport and physical activity, whether this be via the steering group or any of the sub groups will provide an invaluable source of information in helping to shape future provision and service delivery. This network is not just concerning the Council's provision but all providers of participation opportunities. This is a really key step, as young people will have representation via the schools champions' network, the youth parliament and membership of a specific subgroup of the network.
13. It is intended also to further build upon the existing links and partnerships with key personnel from organisations that deal specifically with vulnerable groups; for example, mental health professionals, young carers association etc. Consultation and feedback will aid the development of activity programmes and opportunities for participation and ease of access to facilities that meets the needs and requirements of this specific client group.
14. Much work is being done but it is nonetheless recognised that there are areas where we can significantly improve. Further progress will be made in encouraging greater consultation, evaluation and the improved marketing and promotion of activities and opportunities for young people. This will be further embedded by being specifically referenced within our future service plans.

Appendix B

- (i) Membership of the Youth Service is £1 per year, and this gives membership to all of our projects, if young people wish. Every time a young person attends a buildings based project, they pay 30p. We never turn away young people who don't have or can't afford the payment. We action this process sensitively and also monitor for individuals looking to take advantage. Cost has rarely (never), been a barrier to young people accessing our youth provision. It has not been raised as an issue informally, during discussion, or formally as part of user/non-user surveys.
- (ii) "Room" hire charges are a means of income generation and subsidy to young people's activities, in what are our young people dedicated buildings. Timetabling prevents interference with YP priority times, and where adults use facilities; this is reflected by increased costs. Concessions apply to bona-fide youth/voluntary groups. e.g. (Main Hall Adult/Standard £12/hour - Concession £6.75/hour; Sports Hall Adult/Standard £20/hour - Concession £7/hour; Small Room Adult/Standard £4/hour - Concession - £2.75/hour.) Extra charges are made for weekends to cover caretaking and cleaning costs. As with the youth membership principle of waiving payment for cases of hardship/need, groups such as Young Carers and PHAB are not charged. Each case would be looked at on its own merits. The main barrier to access here is availability of resources rather than cost.
- (iii) The Youth Opportunity/Capital Funds have proved excellent for providing access to activities, particularly for disadvantaged groups. The Opportunity Fund offers access to activities, mainly of a "one-off" nature, whereas the Capital Fund offers activity development of a more ongoing way. The young people Grant givers have their own website; organise press releases and good news stories; run large scale open days; to publicise their programme. Word of mouth is also proving very successful as the programme becomes established.
- (iv) Publicising Positive Activities for young people (and children), is being undertaken in a comprehensive way, by the development of the Children's Services Directory. The project is very much work in progress and we have developed a group of young people, to inform the process, so that the product will be attractive and user friendly to young people. Obviously parents will be able to access the site to see what is available for their youngsters.
- (v) All Youth Service buildings, the mobile and our minibus, are accessible to young people with differing physical abilities.