

REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE



DATE	28th April 2009
PORTFOLIO	Leader / Executive Member for Leisure & Culture
REPORT AUTHOR	Leadership and Community Scrutiny Committee
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Teenagers Working Group "I'm bored nothing to do" Report

PURPOSE

1. To report on the improvements recommended by the Teenagers "I'm bored nothing to do" Working Group after an intense piece of scrutiny work which included schools, sport centres, voluntary organisations, sports & recreation and the private sector.

RECOMMENDATION

2. To consider the following recommendations as the basis for an Improvement Plan:-
 - a) That Lancashire County Council and the Council work together with schools/colleges/ and appropriate agencies to plan an awareness strategy for young people.
 - b) That Officers investigate and bring back an update report on action that can be taken in respect of the identified priorities from the young people event.
 - c) To introduce new thinking to the Council's communications, (for example through the use of Facebook and Bebo), and how they link with young people's activities through Schools and / or the Council and the promotion of the Space Bus sessions and other activities with young people.
 - d) To introduce an bi annual event by involving High Schools within the Borough to debate in the Council Chamber to promote citizenship, part of which will be held during Local Democracy week.
 - e) That the Executive be requested to pursue ways of securing external funding or realigning current budget provision for activities for young people.

- f) That the Leadership and Community Committee urge all Members to consider whether part of the Ward Opportunities Fund could be allocated for Youth activities.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. To allow the Executive to formally consider recommendations from the Leadership & Community Scrutiny Committee following Scrutiny by its Teenagers Working Group “I’m bored nothing to do” and whether the recommendations relate to body/ies within or outside the Council to develop a better way of delivering information, advertising activities and sending out the message to young people on the availability of those activities.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. Objectives

At the first meeting of the Working Group specific objectives were agreed and limited to those set out below, to ensure that the review had a practical focus and concluded over the short to medium term. The Teenagers Working Group met on 6 occasions and included Leadership & Community Scrutiny Members (Councillors Darren Reynolds, Karen Haseltine, Andy Tatchell, John Harbour, Linda White), the Director of Community Services (Mick Cartledge), the Head of Leisure and Recreation (Gerard Vinton) Ruth Wynn (Democracy Manager) and Saima Afzaal (Assistant Democracy Officer from the Chief Executive’s Office).

5. Terms of reference

The review meets the Council’s Strategic Objective of tackling Anti Social Behaviour through seamless partnership working, leading to co-ordinated out-of-hours activities and diversionary work using sport and creative opportunities. (Strategic objective (L5f)

The review also links in with the Children and Young Persons Partnership to develop a district children and young peoples plan to support “every child matters” and to develop a rich programme of creative and cultural activity across the Borough in line with the revised cultural strategy. (Strategic objectives and L5a).

6. Actions

Stage 1 Identify Hot Spot Areas –

- Identify where the youths hang out, why are young people not engaged, contact the police and the Councils MAPS Team to get some background information and choose target.

7. Stage 2 Build a catalogue of activities –

- Identify the sort of activities that are available, explore Lancashire County Council, Borough Council, private sector, MAPS team, voluntary sector, youth clubs and to focus on hot spot areas.

8. Stage 3 Meet the Audience -

- Identify groups of children and young people who the review team would like to consult, identify the appropriate methods and undertake consultation. Implement a buddy system, work with the outreach workers, contact the football club, and identify issues, as to why the young people are not engaged with activities.

9. Stage 4 Solve the Problem -

- Develop and outline priorities and associated costs, develop solutions, solve the issues, look at areas for improvement, ie) marketing, funding make recommendations, work with the children and young people that will need to be fed into the Children's and Young Peoples Strategy, look to promote positive activities for young people.

10. Evidence/Findings

The Working Group carried out evidence gathering, which has resulted in the following findings:-

Members were provided with the current activity provision in Burnley for young people that showed provision across Leisure and Recreation and Green Spaces and Amenities as the main providers of activities for children and young people across the Council combined with other organisations. The activities are aimed at under 25-year olds. The most popular activity is the Youth Bus. (Spacebus)

A new project Dambusters is a Sports Outreach Project, which links directly into the Multi Agency Tasking And Co-ordination (MATAC) group targets Crime and Anti Social Behaviour in hot spot areas, designated by MATAC. From September 2008, a team of four coaches which target two areas per night would be working from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays evenings, and Members had the opportunity to go along and ask the young people in some of the areas of their concerns and to get some feedback on what sort of activities they preferred. ([summary attached App1](#))

Members felt that the Council needed to improve the way it communicates with young people across the borough in relation to the services it provides, to ensure they are aware of the opportunities and activities available to them, and to discuss activities that they would like to see that aren't currently available. Furthermore members wish to explore the current methods of communication with the young people and to look at possibilities to improve the Communication Strategy. Members requested an event at the Town Hall, which will introduce pupils to democracy in a relaxed, fun and interactive environment, and will also relate to Citizenship, which is now on the school curriculum.

Therefore a mix of young pupils from High Schools were invited to the Town Hall on 12th March hosted by the Leadership Scrutiny - Teenagers Working Group

which was a very successful event and brought valuable feedback from young people for their desired future activities within the borough detailed below:-

- Arcade
- Indoor Wall
- Park Improvements
- Inflatable / Slides
- Moto – Cross track
- Space Bus to go round more areas
- Ice rink
- More shops

As discussed some of the above priorities will require investment from other partners including the private sector. However officers will invest them further and report on the above activities and discuss how soon some of these activities would be put into action. Officers will also consider those, which are currently in operation and require more publicity.

Following on from the event members recommended that this should be an annual event with a follow up to pupils who attended the event, and keep them informed of future progress.

Furthermore from 1st April 09 the Executive have approved the introduction of free swimming for residents aged 60 or over and those aged 16 years or under, this should increase participation in swimming within the Borough and assist in the campaign to increase the length and quality of life for local residents.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

11. The work relating to improved communication and holding an annual event for High School pupils can be accommodated within existing budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

12. The report supports L5a and L5f of the Council's Strategic Plan together with the Children and Young People's Strategy.

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

13. Members of Working Group and Leadership & Community Scrutiny

BACKGROUND PAPERS

14. Minutes of Working Group meetings.

Improvement / Action Plan [\(attached\)](#)

FURTHER INFORMATION :

PLEASE CONTACT:

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ALSO: