

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: 8 NOVEMBER 2011
title: YOUNG PEOPLE'S POSITIVE ACTIVITIES PROJECT
submitted by: JOHN HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
principal author: CHRIS HUGHES, HEAD OF CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform members of a project aimed to provide diversionary activities and support to young people involved in, or on the fringes of, drug and alcohol misuse.
- 1.2 Relevance to Council Priorities / Ambitions:
 - Council Ambitions: to make people's lives safer and healthier

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Although there is little evidence of drugs and alcohol misuse by young people across the Ribble Valley, there are hotspots where the problem is more apparent.
- 2.2 One such area is Clitheroe Castle Grounds, where evidence of such activity, particularly at weekends, is very apparent.
- 2.3 In recent years, the Borough Council, in conjunction with the Crime Reduction Partnership, has delivered a series of diversionary activities to encourage young people to adopt more positive lifestyles, and to show that the castle grounds is an area where people can feel safe in the evenings.
- 2.4 Similar activities in Longridge at the Civic Hall and Sports Centre have also had a positive effect.
- 2.5 A reduction in funding to Community Safety Partnership, however, will mean that such good work is in danger of ending.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The introduction of a number of external funding sources has presented an opportunity to extend the level of activities. These are:
 - £10,000 from the Performance Reward Grant;
 - £40,000 from Lancashire Drugs and Alcohol Team (£30,000 via the Children's Trust and £10,000 via the Crime Reduction Partnership);
 - £15,000 through Lancashire Partnership Against Crime (LANPAC)
 - Sport England Inspired Facilities programme
- 3.2 So far, both the Performance Reward Grant, and Lancashire Drugs and Alcohol Team funds have been secured. We are likely to hear from the LANPAC application within the next three or four weeks.
- 3.3 After consulting with the Crime Reduction Partnership and Children's Trust, the Council's Head of Cultural & Leisure Services agreed to co-ordinate a working group to agree the priorities of the project going forward, based on the principle

that the main emphasis should be on the Castle Grounds, but also take into consideration other areas across the Borough.

3.4 The first meeting of the steering group was attended by representatives from:

- Police
- The Grand
- Young People's Service
- Children's Trust
- Ribble Valley Homes
- Borough Council

Apologies were received from Early Break.

3.5 The group agreed the following:

- The main emphasis of the project should be positive activities, focussed on areas that present concerns.
- The location and activities should be based on the views of young people and agencies working in related activities.
- A counselling/mentoring element should be included to support individuals with specific needs.
- The project should seek to improve facilities in agreed location, where funding allows.
- A performance management framework is to be developed to measure the impact of the project.

3.6 The Council's Community Sports Facilitator agreed to develop a template to be used by partners to gather information from young people about current lifestyle choices and suggestions for future activity programmes.

4 ISSUES

4.1 The funding secured so far can be used for either revenue or capital elements, but have fairly tight timescales, particularly Lancashire Drugs and Alcohol Team funding, which needs to be committed within the next twelve months. It is important, therefore, that proposals are confirmed as soon as possible. To this end, reports will be submitted to the next Children's Trust, and Community Safety Partnership meetings for final approval.

4.2 If the Council is to co-ordinate the project, then it would need to extend the employment of the Community Sports Facilitator beyond the remaining six month contract. This could be achieved through using a proportion of the secured funding, leaving the remainder to commission/deliver other elements of the project. The Council would need to continue its 'in-kind support' through the provision of office accommodation and line management.

4.3 By acting as project co-ordinator, the Council will be expected to manage each element of the project and report performance to Children's Trust, Crime Reduction Partnership, and funding bodies.

5 RISK ASSESSMENT

The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- **Resources** – Apart from any in-kind hosting costs, the Council will need to act as accountable body to the various elements of external funding.
- **Technical, Environmental and Legal** - none
- **Political** – Our involvement demonstrates a commitment to supporting partner agencies.

- **Reputation** – the future health & well-being of young people is extremely important and something we should be actively encouraging.

6 **RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 6.1 Notes the contents of the report and endorses the Council's support to the project.
- 6.2 Agrees to offer the services of the Council to co-ordinate the project provided that sufficient funds can be secured to support the employment of the Community Sports Facilitator for the duration of the project.
- 6.3 Agrees to the provision of in-kind support to enable the project to progress.

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