



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
EPSOM & EWELL**

**SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE
AND THE BOROUGH YOUTH PLAN
FOR 2007/08**

3rd December 2007

KEY ISSUE

The key issue is the way in which the County Council, Borough Council and other agencies, notably YELL (the Borough Youth Forum) and Connexions, are working together to improve services for young people and to encourage their participation in democratic processes.

SUMMARY

This report summarises the actions against the Borough Youth Plan for 2007/08.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Epsom & Ewell Local Committee is asked to agree that:

- (i) it notes the progress against the Borough Youth Plan for 2007/08, and
- (ii) it consider ways in which it would wish to support the development of any particular initiatives and identify any specific priorities it would like to see taken forward in the future

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Young people's issues have been high on the national agenda since the publication of documents such as *Every Child Matters* and *Youth Matters*, which aim to secure sustained and beneficial participation of young people and encourage continual improvements in the activities of organisations providing services for them.
- 1.2 Whilst the Borough Council has no statutory responsibilities to provide services for young people beyond the general well-being duty, Improving Services for Young People has been one of the Key Priorities the Borough Council and has been restated as such in the Corporate Plan for 2007 to 2011.
- 1.3 A Best Value Review was instigated to examine the issues and to identify where improvements could be made. This has been translated into an annual action planning process involving the key partner agencies (i.e. the Borough Council, the County Council's own Youth Development Service and Connexions). It contains a series of specific actions for the principal agencies working on services for young people.
- 1.4 The Local Strategic Partnership has also included Young People as one of its priority areas and treats the Borough Youth Plan as one of its Community Strategy Targets for 2007/08.

2 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Whilst not providing a comprehensive picture of all the work by the individual partner agencies relating to young people, the Epsom & Ewell Borough Youth Plan is intended to set out the work which involves two or more of the partners in the delivery of service improvements or initiatives.
- 2.2 Since the last report to this Committee, in December 2006, the Borough Council published the Borough Youth Insight insert in January 2007 and soon after launched the Text 4 U initiative.
- 2.3 Some of the highlights of progress against the Borough Youth Plan 2007/08 targets include:
 - Hosting the Surrey Euphonic music festival on Hook Road Arena in July
 - Adoption of the Borough Play Strategy which has a particular emphasis on providing equipment for teenage play. This has secured £200k Big Lottery funding and the first equipment will shortly be installed in Alexandra Recreation Ground
 - Work of the Community Basketball and Community Football coaches. Particular focus is given to the Self Reliance Areas of Court and Ruxley Wards. The Football post has now been converted to a full-time post in partnership with Fulham FC and Surrey FA, with work in both schools and the community
 - Instigation of the MEND programme to tackle obesity in 7-13 year olds
 - Holding the third Borough Youth Leisure Day at the Ebbisham Centre in September

- Distributing the Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Funds to thirteen successful young people-led bids across the Borough, including Epsom Phab, the Lighthouse Education Project, Stonez Project (Stonleigh Broadway Youth Café) and 1st Ruxley Explorer Scouts.
 - "Positive Activities for Young People" (PAYP) funded projects - Community Merits, Stepping Up and It's 4 U are targeted intervention programmes aimed at NEET young people (i.e. those not in education, employment or training), young people referred by the Nuisance Prevention Group and by Education.)
 - Mentoring scheme, construction training at the Stephen Woods Centre (also part PAYP funded) and other diversionary activities
 - Work on the pilot "Safer Schools" initiative in conjunction with Epsom & Ewell High School
 - Facilitating Local Democracy Week activities, which involved discussions between young people and focused on the work of school councils and the links to YELL
- 2.4 Work is currently taking place looking at youth homelessness, domestic abuse as it affects young people (as victims or witnesses) and initiatives undertaken by the Surrey Arts Partnership (possibly in the Self Reliance Areas).
- 2.5 The following activities have benefited from contributions from Members' Allocations:
- New trampoline purchased for disability trampolining (a disability sports club has subsequently been set up)
 - Funding to continue Tennis for Free from January 2008
 - The new MUGA at Longmead (the second year development plan currently being implemented)
 - Branded Youth Theatre - providing a show
 - New flooring at the Stephen Woods Centre
 - Young People's Arts award
 - New gym mats for Ruxley Gym Club
- 2.6 One of the underlying principles in drawing up the Plan was the commitment to involve young people, and officers have worked with YELL (the Borough Youth Forum) in particular to ensure that this was achieved. Information has been provided back to young people on specific projects and via the regular School Bulletins which is sent to both state and private secondary schools.
- 2.7 In Local Democracy Week in October, twenty young people took part in a discussion at the Town Hall about issues of topical and local interest, including personal safety, public transport, cycling and leisure activities. A Police Youth Panel has subsequently been formed. It is intended to develop the relationship between the school councils and YELL to build on this event.

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Consultation with young people has continued to be a key strand to this work either through the annual school-based questionnaire, events (such as Youth Leisure Day and Local Democracy Week) or via work with YELL.

- 3.2 Consultation and engagement is therefore an on-going process, with one of the key objectives being to facilitate and improve the ways in which young people themselves are consulted and involved in decision-making.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Youth Services budget has to accommodate any County contribution to the costs associated with the work under the Youth Plan. Other work will only be carried out if alternative funding sources can be identified.
- 4.2 The Local Committee has historically supported work with young people, for example by the use of Members' Allocations to help YELL develop their website, and may wish to continue to build on this approach.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Borough Council's Leisure Developments team audited disability access to sport and, as a result, organised some multi-activity taster sessions over the half term periods. The events were put on in partnership with Disability Challengers, NESOT and Let's Get Active, and involved more than twenty participants.
- 5.2 Following a meeting with interested parents and young people with disabilities, the Leisure Developments Team was able to identify the specific sporting interests of the young people which led to a disability trampolining club being formed, as well as the development of a generic Disability Sports Club.
- 5.3 Further links were formed with Disability Challengers resulting in the development of holiday provision for disabled young people. The provision takes place for three weeks in the summer and two weeks at Easter at Lintons Youth Arts with support from the YDS Youth Worker team.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Whilst one of only a number of factors leading to crime and anti-social behaviour, the lack of diversionary activities and the general disengagement of some young people probably contributes to some of the problems seen locally. The Plan specifically refers to work of the new Youth Diversion Coordinator to tackle this particular issue.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The key to success relies on:
- the effective co-ordination of the various agencies involved in delivering services to young people and a common evaluation of those services to inform further development.

- the involvement of young people to shape the services that they want and need
- 7.2 The partnership-based approach to helping young people to achieve their potential has been shown to be effective in a number of areas, evidenced by the activity under the Borough Youth Plan.
- 7.3 The Committee is asked to note the actions under the Borough Youth Plan and the improvements this is delivering for the young people of the Borough. The Committee might wish to consider how this work could develop in future, through its influence on the work that is undertaken by the Youth Development Service, the Borough Council and others, bearing in mind that any activity will have to be within the constraints of the available budgets. The Local Committee is therefore invited to identify any particular issues or areas of work that it would like to see included in future plans.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 7.4 The partner agencies will continue to work together to deliver activities against the Borough Youth Plan. The Borough Council will also be developing a 4 year action plan to support its Key Priority of "Enhancing services for young people".

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	Epsom & Ewell Borough Youth Plan 2007/08 (not attached)

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