



**OFFICER REPORT TO LOCAL COMMITTEE
(SPELTHORNE)**

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

**DDA/IMPROVEMENT WORK TO
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT CENTRES**

4th February 2008

KEY ISSUE

To inform the Local Committee of planned closures to three of Spelthorne's five Youth Development Centres to allow for required Disability Discrimination Act and building improvement works.

SUMMARY

The Youth Development Service operates five dedicated Youth Facilities for the young people of Spelthorne. The Youth Development Centres vary in quality and the range of spaces available to young people. Surrey County Council, Estates Planning and Management who manage the facilities maintenance on behalf of the Youth Development Service are preparing to carry out substantial improvements to these centres.

1. Following the Disability Discrimination Act (2005) all public buildings need to comply with new requirements for improving access and functionality of facilities for the public.
2. The desire of SCC to improve the quality and range of facilities available to young people and the public.

These works have been completed at Stanwell and Shepperton Youth Centres.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS

The Spelthorne Local Committee is asked to agree that the planned works to Spelthorne's Youth Development Centre's is essential to ensure Surrey complies with the Disability Discrimination Act and provides modern and improved facilities for young people.

1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 1.1 This report aims to inform Members of the impact the planned closures may have and the timescales involved. The Youth Development Service and Estates, Planning and Management aim to provide excellent quality facilities and a range of specialist facilities across the borough that young people can use.
- 1.2 These include providing:
- A group work/class room at each centre.
 - A 1-2-1 space within each centre.
 - Improved DDA approved facilities for young people and centre users. These include low level kitchen spaces, toilets and improved doors and colour schemes.
 - Provision of a Dance/Drama Studio.
 - Development of an Arts and Skills facility.
 - Workshop space.
- 1.2 Shepperton and Stanwell Youth Development Centres have already had these works completed and with minimal disruption. The work at these sites has been carried out during holiday periods or when the work will not interfere with the centres running.
- 1.3 Ashford Youth Centre is due to close on the 1st February 2008 for 4 months. This centre is having substantial works carried out and will need to close for an extended period.
- 1.4 Leacroft and Sunbury are currently due to close on the 22nd of February to allow works to be completed (this may be subject to change). These centres will be closed for up to three months.

1 ANALYSIS

- 2.1 It is important to highlight that no Youth Work will cease whilst the works are carried out. The Youth Development Service will still be delivering at full capacity throughout. Provisions will either be relocated, or the method of delivery will change to fit our ability to engage with young people. We are grateful to our partners for their assistance during this time.

2 OPTIONS

- 2.1 Not applicable

3 CONSULTATIONS

- 3.1 Work is being carried out to get young people's views on the new interior design and colour schemes.

4 FINANCIAL AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The work planned totals over £400,000 and this is in addition to an investment of £25,000 in new equipment and resources in 2007 by the Youth Development Service.

5 EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is essential for SCC to comply with the DDA regulations and for these works to be carried out. Following completion our centres will be far more welcoming and accessible to young people, staff and the public.

6 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 During the closed period no youth work capacity in Spelthorne will be lost. The Youth Development Service is to provide new training to staff on detached youth work skills to ensure where provision cannot be relocated our work can take place on the streets, parks and spaces young people frequent.

7 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Nothing to report.

8 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Nothing to report.

9 WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

- 9.1 Once the work is completed the centres will re-open. Should timescales move or any changes to the planned works be made this will be communicated to Members.

LEAD OFFICER: Leigh Middleton, Youth Development Officer
TELEPHONE NUMBER: 07854 870 393

E-MAIL: Leigh.middleton@surreycc.gov.uk

CONTACT OFFICER: Leigh Middleton
TELEPHONE NUMBER:

E-MAIL:

BACKGROUND PAPERS: