

## **Item 13**

# Youth Initiatives in Surrey Heath

## SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SURREY HEATH

**2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004**

### **KEY ISSUE:**

This report outlines the discussions being held across County regarding youth initiatives.

### **SUMMARY:**

Following a survey of needs for Youth Provision in Surrey by the Community Services Select Committee, it was recommended to pursue on a local scale the development of partnerships that would assist in creating opportunities for attractive locations for young people to meet and/or to facilitate running events and activities.

### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the Local Committee in Surrey Heath:

1. Discuss how youth issues could be addressed by the development of partnerships in the Borough,
2. Nominate a County Councillor to act as a point of contact.

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. Surrey County Council's Community Services Select Committee has recommended exploration of opportunities for developing meeting places in attractive locations through partnerships with entertainment/leisure venues and Borough / District Councils.

### **ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

2. The local knowledge of Members is seen as vital in the process of initiating local provision through the Youth Service. Therefore, the Select Committee has asked that Local Committees pursue exploration of potential partnerships within their area and welcomes feedback of any progress and/or how other youth issues are being addressed in the local committee framework. The Committee recommends that Local Committees liaise with their Borough Councils to facilitate partnership working with the sports development officers who would be able to assist in running events and activities for young people.

3. In response to the national concern for greater inclusion of young people in the decision-making process, it is vital that Surrey County Council engage young people in planning for our communities. In order to provide young people with a voice, it is proposed to set up a structure that would enable each Surrey youth parliament member to have contact with a local member through which to seek advice and support. The Local Committee is asked to nominate a Member to act as a contact for the two youth parliament members from Surrey Heath. There will be no specific demand on the nominated Member, the onus will be on the young person to contact them through their local youth worker.
4. In Surrey Heath there are two possible projects that might be taken forward. The first is a possible Youth Café project, following on from a successful project in Epsom that saw a commercial café unit being used as a youth café for one night a week. The second is a virtual youth club. Members may recall that a report on the virtual youth club was brought to the Local Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2004. An updated report was due to the October Committee but has been delayed until the meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2005.

#### **CONSULTATION**

5. None

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6. None

#### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS**

7. None

#### **CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

8. None

#### **EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

9. The Surrey Youth Parliament is open to all young people.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Surrey Heath Local Committee

1. Discuss how youth issues could be addressed by the development of partnerships in the Borough,
2. Nominate a County Councillor to act as a point of contact.

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<b>BACKGROUND PAPERS:</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Number of Annexes:</b>	<b>None</b>