

COMMITTEE: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY

DATE: 20TH FEBRUARY 2007

SUBJECT: REFERENCE FROM REGENERATION AND
CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - RESEARCH
INTO YOUTH & LEISURE IN LUTON

REPORT BY: HEAD OF LOCAL DEMOCRACY

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES		ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

PURPOSE

1. To request that Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee include as a monitoring item on their Work Programme the Youth and Leisure Activities in Luton that are available for young people in the summer holidays once the outcome of the Best Value Review on Youth Services has been released.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

2. Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is recommended to continue to monitor the Youth and Leisure Activities available for young people in the summer holidays once the Best Value Review on Youth Services has been released in September 2007 and to continue to monitor these activities provided by the Council and the voluntary sector on an annual basis.

BACKGROUND

3. Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee were requested by the Luton's Children Panel to discuss affordable leisure activities for children under 16 years of age with the emphasis on more activities being arranged during the school holidays. The Scrutiny Officer conducted this research during the summer of 2006. Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee have been scrutinising this topic and presented the final report to Committee on 9th January 2007 where it was considered appropriate that continued monitoring of affordable leisure activities be undertaken on an annual basis by Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee once the Best Value Review on Youth Services has been released.

REPORT

4. During the Scrutiny of the topic questions were asked around what young people did in their spare time and found socialising with friends/family and boyfriends a high priority, closely followed by sports and playing computer games.
5. Young people had requested more youth clubs as the most popular answer, followed by a swimming centre and subsidised sports and leisure facilities for young people. More specialist clubs such as boxing, yoga and rock climbing were seen as essential activities that should be made available.
6. The survey also found the cost of activities was perceived as a barrier along with the lack of efficient transport to reach such facilities. This was especially prevalent to children with learning difficulties that forced young people often to depend on parents/guardians to gain access to these facilities.
7. In general there is a need for more leisure activities and opportunities, particularly those that are sport related to be more widely available, such as:-
 - Provide young people with more access to subsidised gym or sports facilities e.g. swimming.
 - Provide more youth clubs.
 - Offering more subsidised activities to ensure the cost does not act as a deterrent to young people from accessing services.

PROPOSAL/OPTION

8. Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee are requested to continue to monitor the leisure activities organised by the Council and the voluntary sector for children and young people in Luton.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no legal implications with this report and this has been agreed with the relevant solicitor on 18th December 2006.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

Report Ref: R&CS - 10/06/8.2

Minute No. R&CS - 52/06

Report Ref: R&CS - 01/07/9.4

Minute No. R&CS - 4/07