

AREA COMMITTEE: SOUTH LUTON

DATE: 3 OCTOBER 2006

SUBJECT: LUTON YOUTH SERVICE

**REPORT BY: MELANIE SKYERS – YOUTH PROGRAMMES
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: DALLOW, FARLEY AND SOUTH

PURPOSE

1. To update and inform the Area Committee of current Youth Service activities and developments in Dallow, Farley and South wards.

RECOMMENDATION (S)

2. **That the report be noted**

BEST VALUE

3. The Best Value Review of the youth service is nearly completed and a final report has been submitted for Executive approval on the 11 September. In the future the majority of the youth service budget will be delegated to the 3 Children and Learning Department delivery areas and each area will have an area manager. This manager will develop an Area Youth Reference Group, which will include young people as members.

This Reference Group will have responsibility for allocating the youth work budget on an annual basis in order to meet both local and national priorities and help to coordinate all the services on offer to young people aged 10 - 19 and to make the most of what is available for them. It is hoped that this new structure will begin in November.

PARTICIPATION

4. As part of the Best Value review implementation the youth service are in the process of developing opportunities for young people to take an active role within the management and governance of the youth service. To support this a 25-hour per week Youth Worker in Charge has been recruited to develop the level of young people's participation.
5. The Deputy Youth MP attended the annual sitting of the UKYP, the organisation will be focusing on three campaigns this year Sex & Relationships Education in Schools, Transport - A National Concession Card For Young People and Votes At 16. The Luton Youth Together for Everyone (LYTE) group are meeting to consider how to raise the profile of these campaigns locally.
6. As part of the Youth Matters Agenda the government have set up two new funds to give young people power over where money is spent. The Youth Capital Fund will purchase a mobile youth centre, young people will have a direct voice and influence on the design and purpose of the centre. As part of this consultation over 4,000 questionnaires were sent out to young people across the town.
7. The Youth Opportunity Fund is managed by a group of young people. The group has over £250,000 to administer by March 2008. The group have named themselves Young Fundz, they have developed the funding criteria, posters and application forms. The young people have attended training to enable them to make fair and informed decisions.
8. In March 2006, seven young people were trained in interview skills this has enabled all youth service's interview panels to include a young person. Initial feedback from staff, young people and applicants has been very positive, a second round of training is due to be delivered in December 2006.

STAFFING

9. There have been no permanent changes to the staff team in the area but a number of youth work vacancies for part time and full time work across the Borough have been advertised. The response has been good and interviews for some of the posts have taken place and appointments are

being processed. Each interview panel now includes a young person who has received the appropriate training.

SOUTH LUTON HIGH SCHOOL

10. The Youth Service has improved links with schools and attends termly school liaison meetings as a minimum. This has led to an increase in awareness of activities offered by the youth service to support young people. As Senior Area Youth Development Worker, I am working closely with South Luton High School and have attended several meetings including the South Luton Support Group and the School Council. It is hoped that this will develop the participation of students in activities in the local area and also the areas where they live.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

11. A wide variety of summer holiday activities were offered across the borough and area youth workers supported a number of different projects. An area day trip to Herts Young Mariners Base at Cheshunt gave ten young men the opportunity to sample climbing, caving and kayaking. They are keen to pursue these outdoor activities further. Unfortunately an area wide Junior Football Organisers course had to be cancelled due to lack of support by young people.

FARLEY YOUTH CLUB

12. A trainee youth worker has been volunteering here to meet the criteria for his course. It proved a very successful placement and he ran a number of drumming workshops for the young people which proved very popular and some members achieved recorded outcomes for their participation. The club continued to operate during the summer holidays although attendance was low. Two female members attended a residential at Herts Young Mariners Base and achieved their British Canoe Union 1 star awards. They are keen to do more canoeing. Five members also joined the borough wide trip to Alton Towers.

PAKISTANI KASHMIRI YOUTH FORUM (PKYF)

13. As usual this has been very active over the recent months and had a very good internal quality assurance visit in June where the work of the part – time staff was recognised. Luton Youth Service supported the four week summer programme organised by staff from Dallow Learning Community Centre. It included educational workshops around personal development, self-esteem and safety. There was an emphasis on road safety which included scenarios where young people had the opportunity to discuss and explore potential dangers and focus on prevention such as the

importance of wearing seatbelts. Alongside this was bicycle training with three instructors from Luton Borough Council and in conjunction with Sustrans. Every successful participant received a reconditioned bicycle. Fifteen bicycles were given out. Other activities included visits to the Fire Safety Centre in Studley Road, a poster competition highlighting the dangers of knives, an Anne Frank Exhibition and visits to the Hertfordshire Young Mariners Base where young people were able to experience caving, kayaking and climbing. A large number of young people successfully completed a First Aid course and gained certificates.

STARLIGHT

14. During June the centre ran a successful Smoking Cessation workshop where 13 young people achieved recorded outcomes for their participation. A wide variety of opportunities were on offer daily at Starlight Youth Centre during the holidays. These ranged from arts and craft, drama to videoing, a barbecue and a Rave. Trips and activities included ice-skating and participation in the borough wide trip to Alton Towers.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

15. There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 12 September 2006