

AREA COMMITTEE: BRAMINGHAM, SUNDON, LIMBURY, ICKNIELD & NORTHWELL

DATE: 10th JANUARY 2005

SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND YOUTH SERVICE

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING (HEAD OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT)

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES	ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL	CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING	OTHER

WARDS AFFECTED: BRAMINGHAM, SUNDON, ICKNIELD, LIMBURY & NORTHWELL

PURPOSE

1. Progress up-date of Community Education and Development Division's (incorporating community development and youth service) initiatives and projects impacting in the area.

BACKGROUND

2. Areas of responsibility:-
 - a. Shamsuz Zaman – Area Community Development Officer
 - b. Vina Harvey – Area Community Development Worker – Sundon, Bramingham & Northwell
 - c. Linda Farmer – Head of Centre
 - d. Jackie Moore – Head of Centre
 - e. Kathy Bocutt - Family Learning/ICT Outreach Co-Ord
 - f. Mick Forshaw – Senior Area Youth Officer
 - g. Sophie Rahim – Area Community Development Worker – Limbury & Icknield

REPORT

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Best Value Review

3. The Community Development Service has completed it's Best Value Review and the recommendations have been adopted by the Council. Implementation is delayed due to extended discussions involving staff and their Trade Unions. Until this process is completed no progress is possible.

The Community Development Service along with Adult Education will move to a different Department in April as part of a Council wide restructure to develop the Services that support children.

Jubilee Community Centre

Marsh Farm Fund Raising Group Summer Youth Programme

4. As part of the Summer Youth Programme funded through Marsh Farm Community Development Trust, a variety of activities were put on for young people aged 11 – 18 years old who attended school in Marsh Farm during October Half Term. Trips included Go Karting, London Theatre performance; Dry Slope Skiing, Ice Skating and Alton Towers. This programme was developed and run in partnership with Connexions, Safer Luton Partnership and Luton Borough Council Community Development staff.

A series of trips have been planned during the Christmas Holiday break. This will include Ice Skating, a History of London Tour, Brentwood Karting and skiing lessons.

Playschemes

5. October Playschemes went well and 69 young people benefiting from the activities with a maximum of 41 children attending each day. Activities included Spooky Gingerbread Man, Halloween mask making, Salt dough pumpkin making and Halloween disco.

Jubilee Management Committee

6. The existing Management Committee at the Jubilee Community Centre will be supporting the development of the centre through regular meetings along with support from staff at the centre. It is also hoped that the Management Committee will increase in numbers in order to take forward the development of the centre.

Marsh Farm Firework Festival

7. The Firework Festival took place on the 5th November 2004 on Lea Manor field. The project was supported by New Deal for Communities and Marsh Farm Fund Raising Group along with the Marsh Farm Firework Committee and Luton Borough Council officers. Kelvin Hopkins MP officially opened the Fireworks Festival. The event was very successful with approximately 2000 people attending. The benefit from carrying out such an event is to stop fires around the estate and helps in reducing accidents with people setting off fireworks unsupervised. The event was also fully supported by Bedfordshire Police and

Bedfordshire Fire Service. On the night of the Fireworks Festival, there were various fairground rides which children enjoyed along with families. Refreshments were also provided.

Christmas Bazaar

8. The Annual Christmas Bazaar was organised by Marsh Farm Fund Raising Group and supported by the staff at Jubilee Community Centre and was held on the 2nd December 2004. The event was well attended and included a raffle, tombola, new toy stall and a bric-a-brac stall.

DDA Works

9. Jubilee Community Centre underwent various work in order to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. One of the major part of the work was the completion of the kitchen which now has accessibility for people with disabilities and is much more user friendly. This work also meets the Health and Safety requirements for a kitchen specified by Environmental Health. This is now widely used by users of the centre as well as external organisations.

Sundon Park Community Centre

Sundon Park Trust

10. The Centre is currently running programmes like IT Classes, Weight Watchers, Art Classes, Bingo, Tai Chi, Film Club, Playschemes, Bingo and Slimming World. Luton Borough Council will be providing ongoing support to the Trust. Along with the Trust, Luton Borough Council Officers will be looking to find ongoing avenues of funding in order to continue development in the Sundon Park area. Subject to the outcome of the Best Value Review, this would provide an outcome on how the Trust goes forward along with what support is likely to be provided by Luton Borough Council.

The Sundon Park Trust have received £10,000 towards a garden within the Sundon Park area. Work on the garden will commence on the 17th January 2005.

Sundon, Northwell and Bramingham Community Development

Regional & Local Economic Development Strategy

11. Engaging community development trusts in collaborative corporate development of Luton's Community Enterprise Strategy through audit of skills, assets and gaps to build an infrastructure of local support, expertise social capital and inward investment.

Further developing construction training programme through ESF and Future builders programmes with the Building Works Division, local and regional partners to champion vocational training with pathways to employment for long term unemployed, those affected from closure/downsizing; disabled, disaffected youth, BME communities..

Strength in partnership Social Enterprise Conference, Bedford Corn Exchange 2nd November 2004. Engaging representatives from the voluntary sector in measures for creating sustainable wealth and social benefit for the community. Examples of best practice include Emmaus Village, the Innovation Centre and

the Resource Centre which support homeless, long term unemployed, asylum seekers, people with learning difficulties, custodial sentence, various

Community Development, Social Inclusion and Equality

12. Enabling joint working between voluntary organisations from Italian, Bengali, Bosnian, Greek Maltese, Irish, Gujarati, African Caribbean, Tamil, African Asian, Indian, English communities to promote learning, sharing best practice, social integration and consensus building to invest in wider local and regional strategic development.

Providing communities and the voluntary sector access to information and services (LBC, community safety, mediation, PCT), funding organisational development (committee skills, policy development, financial and project management, monitoring evaluation).

Enabling Voluntary Organisations to participate in Race Awareness Seminar, 18th November 2004 to make a direct investment in community led regeneration with Neighbourhood Renewal Unit and MENTER – East of England Black & Minority Ethnic Network to promote BME involvement in local, regional, national initiatives, build cohesive infrastructure, promote equality and advocacy to redress disproportionate impact of deprivation on BME communities and East of England Development Agency's Investing in Communities Policy to improve economic performance in deprived areas.

Enabling voluntary organisations to participate in Community Renewal Network East Learning Roadshow on 24th & 25th November 2004 to promote viable networks for partnership work, develop understanding and confidence in evaluation to substantiate value and evidence of social capital, and social cohesion to produce user friendly models for monitoring/evaluation, quality standards in achievements and reduce margin of error in measuring intangible outcomes for community development, renewal and regeneration.

Conduct of Marsh Farm NDC Capacity Build Workshop 1st November 2004.

Big Lottery Young People's Fund. Collaborative work with residents, tenants, voluntary sector, corporate colleagues to formalise structures for the purpose of attracting additionality to competent and sensitive services for young people, reduce anti-social conduct and enable peer led consultation for young people and promote intergenerational cohesion.

Sundon, Bramingham and Northwell Area Team

13. The Area Team, which up to now, has consisted only of Officers from Community Education & Development will now be extended and invitations will be sent to representatives from local schools, Connexions Workers, youth initiatives, Libraries, New Deal for Communities, Police, Voluntary Action Luton, Social Services and the Community Safety Officer.

YOUTH SERVICE

Lea Manor Youth Centre

Truancy Awareness Project

14. The Head of Centre is currently working in partnership with the schools

Education Welfare Officer (EWO) on a Truancy Awareness Project (TAP). A team of 14 young people meet weekly to raise awareness of both internal and external truancy and non-school attendance. An awareness day is to be held within the school in March to conclude the project. The young people are creating slogans, posters, and a variety of merchandise to be handed out on the awareness day. The young people promote the project by notice boards in the school and youth centre, and by assemblies to all year groups.

Local celebrities **“Voices with Soul”** have been asked to attend the awareness day in support of the project.

Support Work

15. Head of Centre is currently carrying out more extensive support work, and has received some training from the school on ‘Working with Families’, and in addition, commences a Counselling level 2 course in January at Barnfield College to enable current work to be developed.

Lea Manor Friendship Scheme

16. The Lea Manor Friendship scheme took place on October, and was attended by some 70 young people daily – 33 clients and 37 young people volunteers. The scheme is now at its maximum and a waiting list has been created.

Refurbishment

17. Further building improvements are being carried out over the Christmas Closure to include new flooring in girls toilets and painting to coffee bar area.

DIPHE Award

18. Head of Centre attended Demont-fort University in November for Graduation Ceremony, to receive DIPHE award as a Connexions Personal Advisor.

National Youth Work Week

19. Lea Manor Youth Centre staff and young people joined others at Sundon Park Youth Centre on November 3rd to celebrate National Youth Work Week – the theme for the evening was Health, and consisted of a variety of workshops to include - Sexual Health, Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, Primary Care Health Trust and the Healthy Eating food tasting with fresh fruit smoothies. The evening also had a range of fitness equipment and a SOCA aerobics demonstration. Over 100 young people town wide attended the event.

Bedfordshire Crimebeat

20. On Tuesday 16th November, the centre was visited by the High Sheriff of Bedford to support Bedfordshire Crimebeat in a workshop on road safety. Some 25 young people attended and joined in quizzes and tests on special Laptop programmes to ascertain their own level of knowledge in this area.

Area Youth Work

Marsh Farm Community Development Trust

21. The Senior Area Youth Development Worker for the area, Mick Forshaw, has

begun to work more closely with the Marsh Farm Community Development Trust and now sits on the CDT Youth Committee. This is a positive move because it should enable the Borough Youth Service to work in partnership with the Trust in a way that maximises the resources in the area. It should also mean that both organisations are aware of what the other is doing and this will lead to a reduction in the likelihood of duplication. As well as this, the Council is committed to partnership working and the Youth Service is very much part of this commitment.

Youth Centres

22. Information about the variety of work that is taking place in the area's two large centres, Lea Manor and Sundon Park Youth Clubs is to be found elsewhere within this report. However, it is important to emphasise the event that Sundon Park Youth Club hosted on 3 November as part of National Youth Work Week. This featured a special series of activities and information that focused on young people's health and was attended by young people from across the town. Not only did they receive useful and life enhancing information, they also met other young people from different locations within Luton. This coming together of young people is an important element in the contribution that the Youth Service can make to community cohesion.

Staffing

23. Across the service, some new appointments have been made, most subject to the usual conditions relating to enhanced police clearance and satisfactory references. Three people have been appointed to the posts of Youth Worker in Training and one of them is likely to be assigned to the five wards covered by this Area Committee. A Senior Area Youth Development Worker was also appointed last week. This appointment completes the Senior Worker team and an analysis of their geographical areas of work will be undertaken. Finally, a Full Time Detached Youth Worker has been appointed who will be instrumental in the development of the Detached Youth Work team.

OFSTED

24. The new head of Service has begun the process of preparing the Youth Service for an OFSTED inspection. It is crucial that staff can prove that they are delivering the kind of youth work that the Government is demanding and this means that detailed information about activities and events, organised or facilitated by youth workers and indeed, by young people, is vital.

LYTE

25. A key issue for the service is the full participation of young people at all levels. The service is supporting the work of LYTE, the Luton Youth Cabinet, which aims to represent the views of the town's young people. Membership of LYTE is open to anyone aged 13 to 18 and the group elects a Youth MP and deputy MP for the town. Elections for LYTE are to be held in mid February and information about this and the work of the group is available from Mick Forshaw.

ADULT EDUCATION

26. Luton Borough Council Adult Education is currently working with a number of agencies in order to provide adult education provision across the Wards of Sundon, Bramingham and Northwell. Current working development as follows:

27. Establishing links with Lea Manor High School to target parents and staff and raise awareness of Adult Education provision.
28. Working with Learning and Skills Council to carry out a mapping exercise of ICT provision within Luton.
29. Ensuring that Adult Education will be included in the Community use of the e:learning@luton center at Sundon Park. The Project Manager is Emma Darcy.
30. Adult Education provision at North Luton Community College - on-going and expanding.