

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SOCIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 6 APRIL 2016
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR (FINANCE AND OPERATIONS)

YOUTH AND SPORT PARTNERSHIPS ANNUAL REPORT 2015-16

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Youth and Sports Partnership work is delivered by one part time Youth and Sports Partnership Officer and supported by the Community Partnerships Events Apprentice and Manager. Despite limited resources, the Youth and Sport Partnerships work has continued to grow and develop over the past year. The activities and events programme has improved, and a number of new youth and sport initiatives in the borough have been introduced.
- 1.2 The team has successfully engaged with the local community, and especially with young people across the borough. New partnerships and relationships have also been developed with local, county and regional organisations.
- 1.3 Successes of the past year included another record breaking year for both the Dragons Apprentice Challenge and National Playday event. The team also assisted in several funding applications one of which has seen Child UK received funding for a specific 14-25 year old sports project which start in January of this year.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the content of this annual report.

Implications

3 Financial Implications

- 3.1 There are no financial implications directly related to the content of this report. The Service has its own budget which is agreed annually as part of the Council's overall budget process.

4 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 4.1 The content of this report is linked to the council's corporate priority for '*Maintain a safe and healthy community*' and '*engage with communities and provide value for money*'.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications directly relating to the content of this report.

6 Climate Change Implications

6.1 There are no climate change implications directly relating to the content of this report.

7 Risk Management Implications

7.1 There are no risk management implications directly relating to the content of this report.

8 Explanation

The Service's key activities and events over the past year are set out below:

8.1 Dragons Apprentice Challenge 2016

The Dragons Apprentice Challenge has been running for 4 years in the borough of Welwyn Hatfield and this year alone the challenge raised over £26,000 for the selected charities. Some of the activities which were carried out by the teams included some very unique ideas like selling handmade Christmas baubles, penalty shoot outs and a roller skating event, to name just a few. This year we had 8 teams taking part in total (including every secondary school in the borough for the first time ever), all of which were partnered with a different business (dragon) , such as Aon Hewitt and The best of Welwyn Hatfield, helping them along the way. The 2017 Challenge is already in the planning stages.

8.2 Youth Activities

The annual Moonlight Football programme happened over 12 weeks between May and July with around 50 young people attending each session. The Play Rangers programme took place as usual, however in 2015 there was the addition of a pilot Youth Rangers project which was aimed at teenagers. The pilot was largely successful although one day was adversely impacted by inclement weather. Going forward the Play Rangers project will be delivered as part of Child UK's Simply Amazing Welwyn Hatfield programmes.

8.3 Youth Council

September 2015 marked a new start for the Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council, with a brand new elected group of individuals representing all six Consortium Secondary Schools. The group meet on a weekly basis which gives them the chance to discuss relevant issues, and contribute to improving the lives of young people within Welwyn Hatfield.

The Youth Council have now agreed their priorities for 2016/17 which are:

- Mental Health and General Wellbeing for Young People (Continue the work of the Unsaid Campaign to improve service and support for young people's emotional support and wellbeing).
- Body confidence and self image (Recognise the impact of social media trends, recognising the signs and symptoms of eating disorders and self-harm).

- Young Carers (Providing more support for schools to identify and support Young Carers and raise awareness of more support needed for young carers)
- More practical work experience and Careers advice (and moving on opportunities as currently this is one of the areas substantially lacking in schools due to the shortage of work experience placements and insufficient tailored advice needed to match individual aspirations).

As in 2015/16, the Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council will be represented at a number of borough events. These include Crucial Crew, Question Time, Houses of Parliament visit, Healthfest. Youth Council members will be engaging with young people to ensure that they continue to represent the views of young people and that they continue to raise awareness of their 2016/17 key priorities.

8.4 Welwyn Hatfield 11-19 Group

The new look 11-19 group is now led by the Borough Council, in December 2014 there were 9 active members of the group and now there are over 40 different active members of the group. The group has managed to engage with five of the six secondary schools, which have representatives attending regularly. The group also agreed for the first time a new action plan for 2015/16, which has seen the delivery of a peer mentoring training session for all school lead teachers and youth provider lead officers. The session enabled the borough to take a more uniform approach to mentoring, and to also provide detailed information to schools about the processes to follow when running such programmes.

Secondly the group agreed to run a free workshop in every secondary school for either their year 7 or 8 pupils. The schools chose from a selection of sessions from e-safety, drugs & alcohol and bullying. Finally the group ran the first ever Year 9 Crucial Crew, the event saw 50 students from each school attend a free session at the Fielder Centre in Hatfield. Providers from across the borough and county were present to engage and interact with the students, giving them an insight into what opportunities there are for them.

8.5 Welwyn Hatfield Young Carers Group

The aim of the Welwyn Hatfield Young Carers Group is to try to identify and support our Young Carers in Welwyn Hatfield schools by implementation of a Young Carers schools framework. This group aims to identify the needs and try to influence change. Young Carers in our schools need to be identified, supported, given time and space to talk and to gain help and support through a targeted action plan and create a school culture in our borough which is fully accessible and understands and respects the issues that come with disability and caring.

Young Carers are young people under the age of 18 who provide care for another person. Research has shown that a large majority of these young people, as many as 1 in 12 young people, may have some sort of caring responsibility in the home and they are very often unnoticed. Being a Young Carer can often have an impact on their school attendance, they are often bullied, have significantly lower GCSE grades and become withdrawn. The aim of the Welwyn Hatfield Young Carers Group is to improve outcomes for Young Carers in Welwyn Hatfield.

8.6 Unsaid Campaign

The Unsaid Campaign is a Mental Health Awareness Campaign initiated by the Welwyn Hatfield Youth Council. During 2015/16 they were successful in securing funding for a teacher training day to which each of the Welwyn Hatfield Secondary Schools were present at. This training was so well received there is now a teacher forum group formed specifically on mental health in our schools, which enables us to share best practice and look at efficiencies around mental health support in schools. This group is also supported and attended by Public Health.

There is currently a funding bid in place with Public Health for £5000 through the District Offer which we hope will support these needs in future.

The schools focus group aim is also to adopt a “Whole School Approach” around mental health. Engaging all teachers as well as students and school staff and offering them techniques and tools to support each other through train the trainer MHFA programme and peer mentoring.

8.7 National Playday

Overall an excellent day for the Borough. There were over 8,000 people in attendance, with over 40 different partners participating in providing a wide variety of activities and programmes. There are improvements needed to ensure that the 2016 event is better equipped to manage the numbers that attended, this is being done through a cross department approach to the event and more support from Finesse Leisure rather than just Stanborough Park staff.

8.8 Hertfordshire Arts Culture and Public Health Conference

After the success of the 2014 county Sports Conference, there was a request and a need to run a similar conference of the Arts and Culture sector. Again this was run in partnership with Public Health, but was led by Herts Music Service and Creative Hertfordshire. Due to the involvement and management of the Sports Conference which was led the team, we were once again involved in the delivery of the this conference.

8.9 Sir Frederic Osborn Section 106 Obligations

The funding available from this development has recently been made available to the Council. This has meant that the Council is required to ensure that the completion of the previously agreed works, linked to the S106 agreement, have been carried out to develop and improve sports facilities across Welwyn Garden City.

8.10 Welwyn Hatfield Sports and Physical Activity Alliance (WHSPAA)

Another successful year for the Alliance, there were some significant changes over the past year. The Alliance Board and the Clubs Forum have merged after consultation with clubs. The reason being is that there was a need to reduce the number of meetings, but also increase the relationship between facility providers and clubs. WHSPAA now has a management group which meets on a quarterly basis and drives the strategic and operational sides of WHSPAA.

May 2016 though will see the current Chairman Dave Bartlett stand down as chair after over 10years in the position. Dave is working with us to ensure that we have a sustainable and appropriate succession plan.

8.11 Welwyn Hatfield Sports Awards

A fantastic evening was held on the 8 March at Campus West, once again local sports men and women turned out in their numbers. The array of nominations made it very difficult for the judges to choose winners yet again. There were a few special recognition awards given to Billy Joe Saunders for success on the international stage in boxing; Platypus Swimming Club for their 50 years service in providing disability swimming and finally special awards were given to the borough's nine sports apprentices working in the local schools. 13 other awards and the Olympic and Paralympics Value awards were also handed out on the night.

8.12 Hertfordshire Disability Sports Hub

Having now been fully operational for a year in August 2015, the hub has shown since it first started its value not only at Gosling Sports Park and Stanborough Lakes but across the entire county. Nearly 20 different day centres from around Hertfordshire use the service on a regular basis and 1000's of people have now benefitted from the project. Both Gosling Sports Park and Stanborough Lakes have benefitted in terms of facility investment, equipment investment, coach education and a huge increase in the participation of disabled users across their sites. The Hub over the next 18 months will be focusing in on sustainability and trying to ensure that post September 2017 the project will continue not only at the two sites in Welwyn Garden but also across the county.

9 Equality and Diversity

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has not been carried out in relation to this report, as it is for information only.

Name of author	Matthew Rayner (01707) 357174
Date	March 2016
Title	Community Partnership Manager