



To: Area Committees
Report by: Children and Young People's Participation Service
Manager
Relevant Area
committee:
Wards affected: All Wards

Youth Summit 2009 – Outcome and Actions

1. Executive summary

1.1 A Summit meeting was held with children, young people and Council members on 28th November 2009. The Summit was organised to gather information on neighbourhood issues and on ideas for improving leisure opportunities for young people across the city. £5000 has been allocated to each Area Committee from the Community Development budget to enable Area Committee members to respond to suggestions arising from the event. Issues highlighted by children and young people, during the Summit, included concerns about being “moved on” by the police; tackling anti social behaviour; improvements to parks and open spaces and widening opportunities to leisure activities. The purpose of this report is to seek Area Committee members’ approval of actions arising from the Youth Summit.

2. Recommendations

The Area Committee is recommended to approve:

- 1) A request to the police to organise, with the City and County Councils, a meeting with young people to discuss their concerns about community safety.
- 2) The allocation of £5,000 to be spent on improving access to leisure opportunities for children and young people from the North area, subject to further discussions with children and young people on a fair and equitable method of distributing the funding and opportunities. The funding, subject to agreement of a carry forward, to be spent by the end of the Easter school holiday, 2010.

- £3000 to be spent on multi activity days in the Easter holidays. These days will be promoted via schools to all children in the north area.
 - £2000 to be spent on a pilot project that will involve the roll out of the Cambridge Card to all children in years 7 & 8.
- 3) To discuss with relevant officers how to provide regular information on planned improvements to facilities on recreation grounds, play areas etc. using methods of communication preferred by children and young people.
- 4) To consider, with relevant officers, improvements to the marketing of social, sports, arts and entertainment activities organised by the City Council to ensure that all children and young people have access to information about and opportunities to participate in good quality leisure provision.

3. Background

- 3.1 The City Council's Children and Young People's Participation Service (ChYpPS) the County Council Children and Youth Services and the voluntary sector, in the city, have been working together to create opportunities to help children and young people get more involved in community life and in the democratic processes that make decisions about the services they receive and about the quality of the neighbourhoods in which they live. The participation of children and young people in these issues is a principle underpinning the implementation of the Big Plan, the countywide strategy for children and young peoples' services, and of the national Every Child Matters agenda. Area Committees, because of their focus on the local environment, neighbourhoods and services, have the potential to provide opportunities for children and young people to engage with members on these issues. The Youth Summit is a first step by local authority and voluntary sector partners to promote joint work between Area Committees and children and young people on improvements to services and opportunities and on extending children and young people's knowledge of and engagement in local government.
- 3.2 In the period leading up to the Summit, children and young people from North, South, East and West areas of the city set up Summit action groups. These 4 action groups were made up of children aged 9-13 years old and young people aged 13 –16 years old, and were run by Cambridge City Council Children and Young People's Participation Service and Cambridgeshire County Council Youth Service. During their meetings the Summit action groups identified issues in their neighbourhoods and also consulted their local peers to find out if these issues were widespread.

- 3.3 Thirty -three children and young people from most wards of the city took part in the Summit. Two hundred and eighty young people were consulted before the Summit using questionnaires designed by young people. Participants were asked to record issues they felt needed to be addressed in their areas, what they liked/disliked about their areas, and if they felt safe or unsafe in the area they live.
- 3.4 At the Summit, which was attended by six City Councillors and one County Councillor, together with representatives from City and County youth participation services and the voluntary sector, children and young people were asked to feed back on their consultation and to identify how the total £20,000 Area Committee funding could be allocated to deliver positive experiences for children and young people in wards and city-wide.

4 Main Issues Arising from the Consultation

4.1 Older Young People Aged 13+

- Nowhere to hang out-need equipment aimed at older young people in parks.
- Being moved on from leisure centres, outside areas, parks, shopping centres.
- Transport expensive- need reduced fares on buses.

4.2 Children and Young People Under 13

- Need parks to be improved to include better equipment and more bins.
- Feeling safer on parks – park wardens mentioned.
- Reduce anti-social behaviour.
- More activities for young people - Abbey ward highlighted.

4.3 Area Committee Funding

Many children and young people felt that the funding should be used to improve access to leisure facilities and opportunities by increasing the range and choice available to them and by reducing the costs.

The Ice Rink, which was at that time a temporary facility on Parkers Piece, was highlighted as a destination where discounted tickets would be welcomed. Other options highlighted were access to sport facilities, and reduced cinema or bowling tickets.

The issues of improved lighting on parks and open spaces, or of the provision of youth shelters on open spaces were also raised.

5 Responses to the Summit

- 5.1 Members are asked to comment on, consider and some cases approve the following responses to the Summit:

Being Moved On - Feeling Safe – Tackling Anti Social Behaviour

a) A meeting should be organised with the police to explore the issues raised by young people and to consider the use of and implications arising from Section 30 Dispersal Orders. (See Recommendation 2 (a) above)

A more ambitious approach could involve implementing a “Shared Places” project to address the issue of different members of the community sharing spaces in local areas and in the city centre. The aim of the project would be to identify what “being moved on” means to children and young people, to clarify the rules and regulations regarding “hanging out” and to develop some work addressing anti-social behaviour and also attitudes to and perceptions of children and young expressed by adults and the media. The project would involve younger children, teenagers, the police, local communities and local businesses. An intended outcome of this project would be to raise awareness of children and young people’s lives with the PCSO’s and to look at ways that young people can share spaces with adults.

The feasibility of undertaking a Shared Places project will be dependent on the outcome of service and budget planning processes now under way within both the city and county councils. Account should also be taken of the outcome of research into “Children and Young People Living in Deprivation and at risk of Alienation” being carried out on behalf of the City and County Councils which is due to completed by the Spring of this year.

The Cambridge Leisure Park was identified as an important destination for young people but also one where they experienced being ‘moved on’ on a regular basis. Partnership work with the Junction, including a capital grant to extend the cafe area to enable greater engagement with young people, is already underway, and the new Dec will begin Friday evening sessions in March. It is likely that the Leisure Park will provide a good focal point for the Shared Spaces project.

Equipment in Parks

b) The Council does consult children and young people and has involved them in the development of its plans to improve equipment on parks and open spaces. An extensive programme of refurbishments is planned and being implemented. Given the concerns raised at the Summit, officers should review their arrangements for involving and regularly updating children and young people in their planning processes.

Given the timescales involved in the consultation, planning and implementation of capital schemes, it is possible that children and young people have insufficient access to information about plans for their play areas and parks and that better communication and sustained feedback from consultation could improve their knowledge and understanding of what is being proposed and when it will be implemented.

Officers should review the methods used to communicate the outcomes of consultation and the plans and timescales for the implementation of improvements. Children and young people should be consulted on their preferred method(s) of communication. (See Recommendation 3 above)

Access to Leisure Opportunities

c) Further work should be done in conjunction with children and young people, the County Council, voluntary organisations and leisure providers to develop a fair and balanced package of social and leisure opportunities for children and young people in neighbourhoods and city-wide, and one which provides for equal access for the widest range of children and young people. The programme, using the funding allocated to Area Committees for this purpose, should be implemented by the end of the Easter school holidays in 2010. (See Recommendation 2 (above).

A further option under consideration is enhanced use of the Cambridge Card, which is a partnership between the City Council and Local Secrets. Working in partnership with Local Secrets and children and young people to develop a dedicated children and young people's web page could help inform of opportunities for children and young people.

An upgrade from the Local Secrets card to the Cambridge Card could also open up a range of free or discounted sport and leisure opportunities including swimming, events at the Corn Exchange,

sports development service city sports activities and Cambridge On Ice. A scheme to use some of the money available (£2000 from each area) to offer this upgraded card to all children and young people in Years 7 and 8 (in the region of 1500 children and young people) in the six city secondary schools is under discussion. Year 7 and 8 young people were chosen as those starting to use independent travel to access sport and leisure opportunities.

The multi activity days in the Easter holidays will involve a range of activities (sports, arts, music) and be based at a range of venues across the north of the city including parks and open spaces and indoor community centres. These multi activity days will be targeted at school children across the north of the city. They will be open access and free at the point of delivery. Age specific activities may be offered but the intention is to provide something for children aged 5 – 13.

The City Council provides an extensive programme of social, sports and arts activities, as well as entertainment, for children and young people. Officers should review the marketing of these activities and arrangements for user and customer feedback to ensure that the programme is both attractive and accessible to all children and young people in the city. (See Recommendation 4 above)

Transport Costs

d) The cost of public transport regularly features in consultations with young people over access to leisure opportunities and services. There is little the City Council can do directly to mitigate the impact of these costs. Effective action would require intervention at a strategic level. Consequently, the Children and Young People's Area Partnership will be informed that once again this issue has been highlighted as a major problem.

6. Implications

- 6.1 **Financial:** Officers will request permission to carry forward the money allocated to Area Committees. This will ensure that there is sufficient time to discuss an "Access to Leisure" programme with providers, to involve children and young people in the process and to develop a balanced and accessible package.

As well as the local authorities, Access to Leisure providers will be drawn from both the private and voluntary sectors and are likely to include e.g. cinemas, the Junction etc.

- 6.2 **Equal Opportunities:** Proposals arising from this initiative will require an equalities impact assessment.
- 6.3 **Staffing:** Staff from the County, City Councils and the voluntary sector, particularly Romsey Mill, are involved in this initiative. Members should be aware that all sectors are operating in a difficult financial environment in which the capacity and ability to take forward projects and new pieces of work could be constrained.

7. Background papers

These background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Questionnaire for Children and Young People
Feedback from Questionnaires

6. Appendices

Questionnaire for Children and Young People
Feedback from Questionnaires (Graphs)
Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003 Part4 Dispersal: Dealing with Intimidating Groups (Sections 30-36)

7. Inspection of papers

To inspect the background papers or if you have a query on the report please contact:

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