



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:

- a) 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.
- b) The allocation of £5,000 to be spent on improving access to leisure opportunities for children and young people from the (relevant Area to be entered) 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.

- c) The regular provision of information on planned improvements to facilities on recreation grounds, play areas etc. using methods of communication preferred by children and young people.
- d) 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 county-wide 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, children and young people were asked to feed back on their consultation and to identify how the £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.
- Get 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.
- Help 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.

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.

Equipment in Parks

b) The Council has regularly consulted children and young people and 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 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 2 (c) 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. 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 (b) above)

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 2 (d) 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:

Author's Name: Lisa Pollitt
Author's Phone Number: 01223 457858
Author's Email: Lisa.pollitt@cambridge.gov.uk