

Outer North West Area Committee

Children & Young People Sub Group



5th April 2013 Meeting
10am Otley Police Station

Present:

Cllr P Latty (Chair), Cllr Fox, Cllr Collins, Cllr Downes, Jean Davey - Youth Service Lead, Liz Oddy and Charlotte Carroll, (Otley Childrens Centre), Jo Galasso - Aireborough Summer Activities, Sgt Neil Perkiss WYP, Rachel Marshall – AST

Apologies:

N Bowden, Cllr Lay, Inspector Coldwell – WYP

Key Issues discussed:

1. Introduction and Apologies

Cllr Latty welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made

2. Matters arising

A discussion was held regarding the visit by Ben Whitehead at the February meeting when a fostering event was talked about. Also a thank you day for existing foster families which could potentially be linked to Rawdon Fun Day. It was agreed for RM to contact Ben for an update on the situation and arrange a separate meeting with Cllrs Latty, Collins, Downes, Fox - subject to any fostering events planned in ONW in the near future. **RM**

3. Extended Services Summer Activities – Liz Oddy

Liz Oddy was there on behalf of Katherine Robertshaw who is the Events Activities Coordinator for Otley and Aireborough. LO advised the meeting that Extended Services had conducted a consultation with parents that had resulted in recognition of a need for more activities for the over 5's as well as the under 5's. Providers to deliver the activities were being considered, with football coaching sessions being of particular interest. Two bids for Well Being funding have been submitted to the ONW Area Committee and will be decided at the May Area Committee. These are to cover Airebrough (Guiseley, Rawdon and Yeadon areas) and Otley (Pool, Bramhope and Otley.)

Cllr Collins asked for information on similar activities in Horsforth, and who was responsible for organising them. **RM**

The activities are open to all families and are provided at a subsidized cost to parents. Financial assistance can be given if there is a particular hardship. It is hoped that the play schemes will encourage vulnerable families to get involved and allow early intervention as it is recognized that holidays can be difficult for some families and lead to further problems.

Members queried how places were allocated and whether children living out of the wards would be able to attend. Katherine Robertshaw monitors the places and registers children, so will know where the children are coming from. That information will be fed back to the sub group following the Easter activities.

4. Youth Services (Exec Board report) feedback - Jean Davey

Jean advised that a report has gone to Executive Board regarding the provision of Youth Services, Youth Work and activities for young people. There is likely to be substantially reduced Youth Service funding in ONW, although figures are yet to be finalised this could be up to 50%.

Due to the reduction in funding there is also likely to be a restructure of the Youth Service .

At present the Youth Service runs Horsforth Youth Club for only two of nights a week and all are in agreement that the facility could be used more but the Youth Workers do not have the capacity to extend the provision. There is also a view that the Workers should be out on the estates more and there should be more emphasis on working with local volunteers to run activities with support from Officers.

Area Committees will have approx £25,000 this year to spend on activities for children and young people as part of the delegation of Youth Service to Area Committee. How the funding is put to use is at the discretion of the Area Committee but whatever provision it supports will need to be advertised through the Breeze website and participants in the scheme will need to show their Breeze cards when they attend. This will assist in the monitoring of the activities. Consultation will be carried out with young people to decide how the money is spent, this should be done through the clusters.

However it was agreed that the process will need some discussion with roles and responsibilities yet to be clarified.

5. Aireborough summer Activities – Jo Galasso

This scheme started in 1988 and Cllr Latty informed the Sub Group that Cllr Graham Latty had been involved for many years. Since then the scheme has expanded and now runs activities not only over the Summer but other holidays too. There are up to 35 places each day available for children aged 3-19 and approx 70 children access the activities. Places are allocated to those in most need but all children receive some provision.

There is a team of local volunteers aged 14 upwards who come from a range of backgrounds. Many return year after year, working full time and using their own leave to help on the scheme. The activities are varied and include visits to leisure centres, therapies, coffee morning, bowling etc. However consideration is also given to individuals and if a suggestion is made for a particular activity they will try and meet the request.

The children have a range of disabilities from severe autism with challenging behaviours to wheelchair users. Some children require an extremely high ratio of carers to allow them to participate in the activity in some cases as high as 6 to 1. There are high costs for this provision partly due to the high level of staffing and funding has been sought successfully for the coming year from the ONW and INW Area Committees to meet the majority of the expenditure. Additional funding has been pursued in the past through parental, contributions, Playscheme grants, Lottery, Children in Need etc.

Members asked if the scheme could be expanded due to the demand for places but Jo explained that there was a concern that the level of care might not be as high if there were substantially more children accessing places. Carers required training and too many new volunteers could cause problems. Also there was already a concern every year to find funding to run at the present capacity.

Members all agreed the scheme was worthwhile and stated their support.

6. Neighbourhood Policing Update – Sgt Neil Perkiss

Inspector Coldwell is currently on leave with Sgt Neil Perkiss being asked to stand in at the last minute. He therefore had no figures but stated burglaries were at a particularly low level at present. Work has been done on A65 corridor tracking burglars coming in from other areas using CCTV.

Neil talked about the role of PCSOs to promote and support the activities that had been talked about at the meeting. If the Police are informed about an event they will make every effort to attend and if appropriate the Ward specific P.Cs can attend out of uniform, PCSO's have to stay in uniform.

Leeds Bradford Airport are funding a Police presence with 2 P.Cs in Summer and 1 P.C and 1 PCSO in Winter.

New protocols have been put in place with regards to policing Inglewood Childrens Home and so far these seem to be working. Similarly new policing procedures have been instituted with regards to how the Police react to a report of a missing person and they will continue to work with staff at the home to deal with absences and continue to maintain awareness of the potential for sexual exploitation of vulnerable young girls.

7. Date of Next Meeting

10.00 am 5th July at Otley Police Station

Actions:

1. Contact Ben Whitehead to get an update on fostering events and arrange a meeting with Members **RM**
2. Ascertain contact point for childrens' holiday activities in Horsforth **RM**