



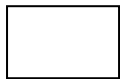
Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Culture and Leisure)

Date: 12th November 2007

Subject: Inquiry into Wharfemeadows Park Fencing and the Council's Water Safety Policy

Electoral Wards Affected:



Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Board has been undertaking an inquiry into the decision to erect a fence at Wharfemeadows Park, Otley and the general water safety policy of the Council. A working group has been established to collate information on behalf of the Board and this has reported back to the Board after several meetings. Having discussed the issue of legal advice received during the decision making process, the Board is now in a position to discuss other factors which contribute to the approach to water safety in which the Council is currently engaging.

2.0 Reports submitted to the Board

- 2.1 Attached to this report are two reports prepared by RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents). The first is a water safety audit undertaken for the Council in 2005 which provides generic guidance using sample sites. The second report was prepared in April 2007 and includes site specific reports on Wharfemeadows Park, Otley and Roundhay Park. These two sites represent examples of fast flowing water sites and lakes in an urban environment.
- 2.2 A representative from RoSPA will be in attendance to discuss the issues raised within the reports and to contribute to the discussion around the case of Wharfemeadows Park. A representative from the department will also be in attendance.

3.0 Next steps

3.1 To assist Members in deciding the next stage of the Inquiry the Terms of Reference for this Inquiry are attached.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Members are requested to note the contents of the two RoSPA reports, discuss issues raised with the representatives in attendance and to make comments and recommendations as appropriate.

4.2 Members are also requested to determine the next stage of the inquiry.