



Report of: Executive Manager Community Services

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor A Fowler

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SUBJECT: NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT UPDATE.

The following wards are affected: Borough wide interest

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Following a presentation at the October Executive O&S committee from West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust, Overview and Scrutiny requested information relating to the implications to leisure services arrangements with West Lancashire Community Leisure following cessation of the SSCF funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That members note the report.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Members will be aware of the Safer Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF), which provided both capital and revenue funding to a defined area in Skelmersdale.

3.2 The Councils Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee have taken the lead in relation to the appraisal of the Neighbourhood Management process and the costs and benefits from the SSCF scheme. A copy of the committees report is attached, appendix 1.

3.3 The SSCF board commission services from a number of providers including the Leisure Trust, West Lancashire Community Leisure Ltd.

- 3.4 The sessions commissioned by the SSCF board from the Leisure Trust was for access to swim and gym sessions on Saturday evenings at Nye Bevan Pool and in partnership with Young Peoples Service and the Police funding for 2 x 1 hour five-a-side football sessions at Skelmersdale Sports Centre during school holidays.
- 3.5 The Leisure Trust has advised that they are able to facilitate the sessions provided funding is available to cover the costs.
- 3.6 The swim and gym session have been well attended with over 80 young people taking part every week. The five-a-side session has been actively support by the police community group, with regular reported attendance. Reports from the police have shown a reduction in nuisance problems reported on Friday and Saturday evening. It is believed that this is a result of the positive activities that are available.

4.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Safer Stronger Communities funding was due to finish on the 31st March 2010.
- 4.2 Arrangements have been agreed to carry over a small amount of SSCF project under spend to the financial year April 2010 to March 2011.
- 4.3 The board have agreed to maintain the Neighbourhood Manager in position until December 2010. The board have also agreed to a limited, small grant funding pot for community bids, approximately £12,000 is available.
- 4.4 The County Council Young Peoples Service (YPS) have, from January 2010, continued to fund and support the Swim and Gym sessions at Nye Bevan. YPS have indicated, but not yet confirmed, that they will continue the Swim and Gym sessions in the next financial year. The Leisure Trust also believes that the police will continue to fund the five-a-side football sessions.
- 4.5 While an option is available to bid for funds from the small grants pot remaining as part of the SSCF funding, it is hoped that alternative funding will be secured from YPS and the police community group to continue the sessions at Nye Bevan and Skelmersdale Sports Centre.

5.0 ISSUES

- 5.1 Funding for continuation and development of sessions is an ongoing problem, where there are direct benefits in terms of youth engagement or ongoing reductions in anti-social behaviour then it is easier, but not guaranteed, to attract ongoing funding.

6.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial resource commitments as a result of this report.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The activity sessions developed and funded by the SSCF board, together with the positive partnerships and outcomes has resulted in engagement with a number of youths in the target area. The positive benefits to the local community and the benefits to agencies as a result of the SSCF board decisions should be recognised.

Background Documents

None

Equality Impact Assessment

*There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Neighbourhood Management Costs and Benefits Review (Report of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee)