

TITLE: YOUTH INITIATIVES, SPRING ROAD SCOUT HUT

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL SERVICES

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 To brief the Committee on the background of the £5,000 revenue funding for youth initiatives based at the Spring Road Scout Hut..
- 1.2 To request the Committee for financial support for alternative activities / provision for young people in Westbury.

2. FORWARD PLAN

- 2.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key decision and has not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Letchworth Area Committee at its meeting on 7 March 2007 allocated £5,000 revenue funding for the proposed delivery of youth initiatives at the Spring Road Scout Hut.

The proposal included employment of two workers for one night a week, for 40 weeks and to provide a range of youth services from the Scout Hut.

At that time, it was anticipated that external agencies such as the Youth Service or Rap – Aid would be the suitable organisations to help deliver services from the Hut. However, the Youth Service was already extremely committed to existing projects on the Grange and Jackmans.

At the same time, Rap-Aid, as part of the Mrs Howard consortium group, had started to take on the management and formal hand over the Hall. They were also working on joint projects with the Council such as the coordination of the Youth Conference at Plinston Hall in July 2007, the Estate Based Soccer Training sessions running from Easter through to the Summer Soccer festival and the preparation and management of their own festival, also in July 2007.

During autumn 2007, the Letchworth School's review heightened community concerns that parts of the town may end up with very little community activity / focus and in the worst cases none at all.

It became evident that any activity delivered from the Spring Road Hut would be restricted, owing to the Scouts activities based there and the fact that any provision would be time limited and unsustainable in the long term, unlike the facilities on the Grange & Jackmans where there was stronger continuity..

Recently, there has been liaison between Community Development Officers and Ward Members and community groups to focus on what is thought to be the best possible route for activities for children and young people in the area. A range of positive initiatives, suggested by the Council's Children's Services Team, is set out below.

4. ISSUES – FUNDING DECISIONS TO BE MADE

- 4.1 The Children's Services team (CST) identified that there is a need for activities for 3 different age groups of children and young people on the Westbury estate and the following proposal for the re-allocation of the £5,000 is made:

0-5 years:

£500 for equipment to provide additional services for this age group during holiday periods. There are already resources available through the Children's Centre's toy library but these do not include any consumable resources such as paper, paint, play dough that has a time limited use.

5-13 years:

£2,200 for provision of a 2 hour holiday scheme operating Monday – Friday over the Easter and summer holiday periods, . The money would pay for the workers on site. The scheme could be located at the Westbury school, on the school field or elsewhere on the estate.

13+:

£2,300- the Children's Services Team will look to involve an agency to work with this age group. A suitable site has still to be identified.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Committee has the delegated powers to administer funds from the budget described.
- 5.2 There are no other legal implications pertinent to this report.

6. FINANCIAL AND RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Members are asked to note the information detailed in Appendix ?? of the report, which relates to the Area Committee budget balances for the current financial year 2008/09.

7. HUMAN RESOURCE AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no human resource and equalities implications pertinent to this report.

8. CONSULTATION WITH EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND WARD MEMBERS

- 8.1 The Community Development Officer has been advised by members to undertake investigations and propose alternative projects/ initiatives for young people that may benefit from this funding.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Committee re-allocate a grant of £5,000 for children and youth related projects in Westbury as detailed in Section 4.1 of the report.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The allocation of funds will improve the services provided by local organisations and groups that are available and accessed by members of the community.

11. APPENDICES

None

13. CONTACT OFFICERS

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