

30th JANUARY 2012

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES

COMMUNITY ACTION IN SUNDERLAND EAST: IDENTIFYING NEW ISSUES AND AGREEING ACTIONS (2010/11 WORK PLAN)

NATIONAL CITIZEN SERVICES

1.0 Why has it come to Committee?

1.1 To enable the future development of area based working, the Area Committee requires detailed information to be freely available from a number of different sources.

2.0 Background

2.1 The National Citizen Service (NCS) is an initiative that contributes to the building of sustainable communities, which is a corporate priority of the City Council. It supports the creation of strong and positive relationships between people from different backgrounds within neighbourhoods, schools and clubs. It will also act as a gateway for young people into their communities by supporting them to develop the skills they need to become more engaged in their locality and become active and responsible citizens.

2.2 NCS brings together 16 year olds from different backgrounds in programme of challenges, enabling young people to develop confidence, skills and positive attitudes.

2.3 Nationally, NCS will give 11,000 16-year-olds, the chance to learn new skills and get involved in their community in summer 2011. Sport and Leisure will offer 15 young people the opportunity to participate. In addition, there will be other opportunities being delivered in the city by Catch 22 in North Washington and the Princes Trust working with Sunderland AFC Foundation.

2.4 Sunderland City Council has been selected by Catch 22, a national charity who works with young people, to pilot the National Citizens Service.

3.0 Current Position

3.1 The Sunderland Programme will have a focus on the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games which will see young people support the Sunderland in 2012 programme. The following offer has been developed:

- An introductory event where participants and staff get to know each other
- A residential week away from home arranged by the charity disseminating the funding, Catch22, which will focus on teamwork, physical and mental challenges, with space for discussion and guided reflection. The participants will also have the opportunity to take part in exciting outdoor activities such as mountaineering, canoeing and abseiling
- A 'community visit and skills week', where young people develop new skills and serve their local neighbourhood, again with time to reflect on learning. The criterion for the venue for this part of the programme is that it should be within 20-30 minutes from

where the young people live. The young people will therefore be staying at Moor House (off the A690) to plan their social activity event and undertake the core elements of the Community Sports Leaders Award and an emergency first aid qualification.

- A 'social action' week, when young people meet their community to help them understand the local area and design their own social action project that will benefit the local community. This will have a specific focus on delivering community sport to young people in the neighbourhood as part of the Sunderland in 2012 programme.
- 30 hours of part-time social activity followed by an event which will encourage participants to think about how to further develop their volunteering linked to their local community through sport. There will also be a large celebration or graduation event which is to be held on the beach at Adventure Sunderland.

3.2 One of the objectives of the programme is to bring young people of differing backgrounds together to develop an understanding of community cohesion and the recognition of others in society. The funding guidelines therefore have asked that where possible, the cohort comprises the following:

- A member of a faith group
- A participant in a sports inclusion programme
- A participant of a youth group
- A young person with a disability
- A young person from a minority ethnic background
- A pupil from a private/grammar school

4.0 Next Steps

4.1 Young people are currently being recruited through the Secondary School in the East and West specifically Southmoor, Venerable Bede and Thornhill schools in the East. Assembly visits are currently being arranged with young people from the previous programme leading the talk to enable the future young people to relate to the scheme.

4.2 Following the recruitment phase the programme will look to start in June once the exam period has finished and will see participants take part in the above programme.

5.0 Recommendation

Committee is requested to:

- i) note the report

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