

SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

27 OCTOBER 2008

BOX YOUTH PROJECT –SIB UPDATE (DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES)

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE PAPER

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to advise the Area Committee of progress relating to the completion and successful operation of a £40,000 Strategic Investment Budget (SIB) allocation for Youth Diversionary Activities.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2001, a £40,000 allocation was awarded by the South Area Committee as a contribution towards a £450,000 Neighbourhood Renewal Funded (NRF) project in South Sunderland. The £40,000 SIB allocation was specifically aimed at youth diversionary activities for agreed areas of Doxford Park and Ryhope.
- 2.2 The total NRF funding package included matched funds from Sunderland Housing Group (SHG) and the Police. The original £40,000 SIB allocation was made to SHG to enable the tenancy support officer and local police to develop a play and diversionary activities project.
- 2.3 In April 2004, Community and Cultural Services (CCS) developed a Young People's Play and Urban Games Strategy, which was subsequently adopted by the city. In light of this, the Area Committee determined that the diversionary activities project should also be taken forward by CCS.
- 2.4 Detailed consultation led to the idea of a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) being developed next to a well established youth provider. This would provide somewhere for young people to gather and take part in activities with informal control by a local youth activities provider.
- 2.5 Despite some early challenges around the planning application for the new play provision, the MUGA eventually received planning permission and progressed to site.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The Multi Use Games Area has now been in operation for over 2 years. The development has been extremely well used.

Whilst the project received a few early issues around litter gathering and minor noise disruption, the multi use games provision has settled down well, and is well used by the neighbouring Box Youth Project.

Most evenings children and young people can be seen playing.

- 3.2 The project has also been well praised by the local beat officer. The Police were heavily involved in the design and development of the project, and the benefits of this have been huge. Young people have been signposted to the play area and indeed to the wider support services of the neighbouring youth provision. Feedback from the police indicated that the project had assisted in reducing nuisance calls concerning young people gathering with nothing to do.
- 3.3 The co-located educational and recreational programme, delivered by the Box Youth Project, has also provided additional support for a wide range of young people including those excluded from school, unemployed people and local residents.
- 3.4 Sport and Leisure have further assisted through external funding and partnership working with Groundwork East Durham to deliver multi-activity sessions on the MUGA.

The sessions have been delivered during school holidays and on some evenings during the light nights. Attendance has been between 10-15 at each session and it is estimated that over 300 children & young people have accessed the activities. The activities are free of charge and publicised with the support of the Box Youth Project.

Whilst this is only short term funding, it has encouraged young people to join in who might not have otherwise, and encouraged a broader range of activities beyond football. Netball and tennis have been also been delivered, for example.

Funding is in place to continue to deliver these activities until November 2009.

- 3.5 A weekly inspection takes place of the area by the Play and Urban Games inspection team, and the youth project also carries out litter picks and supports the area.
- 3.6 The successful completion of the project also contributes firmly towards the key indicator in the 'Play and Urban Games Strategy - Moving Forward' which is to increase access for children and young people to high quality play provision 1km from their homes. The city currently rests at 19% high quality access and is aiming for 55% by 2012.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Area Committee is requested to note the successful completion of the project and the benefits to local children and young people.

COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES

REPORT APPROVAL FORM

TITLE OF COMMITTEE	SOUTH AREA COMMITTEE	
DATE OF COMMITTEE	27 OCTOBER 2008	
REPORT TITLE	BOX YOUTH PROJECT –SIB UPDATE (DIVERSIONARY ACTIVITIES)	
AUTHOR	J RUSSELL	
GERSHON – Have Efficiencies been considered ? If yes are they included in the report	Efficiencies Considered	Included in the Report
	Yes/No	Yes/No
FINANCIAL VERIFICATION	DATE	SIGNATURE
CITY TREASURER	<hr/>	<hr/>
VERIFICATION OF OTHER DIRECTORATES	DATE	SIGNATURE
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
AREA COMMITTEE YES -SOUTH If yes please identify Area Committee	PRE-MEETING DATE	MEETING DATE 27 OCTOBER 2008
OFFICER ATTENDING AREA COMMITTEE	PRINT NAME	PRINT NAME
APPROVED BY HEAD OF SERVICE	DATE	SIGNATURE
APPROVED BY DIRECTOR	DATE	SIGNATURE

**NB All sections of this form must be completed and faxed to Audrey Proud
Directorate Support Manager (Fax No 7550) when the report is forwarded to the
Director for approval.**