

Agenda Item No: 9

Report to: Museums Committee

Date of Meeting: 5 December 2011

Report Title: Loan Boxes and Schools

Report By: Cathy Walling

Purpose of Report

to inform members of the current arrangements for loan boxes and feedback from schools.

Recommendation(s)

1. the report is for noting

Reasons for Recommendations

Introduction

1. Loan Boxes

Hastings Museum & Art Gallery currently has ten boxes available for loan to schools and details of these are on the attached information sheet.

Two natural history boxes (Fossils & Skulls) are planned for 2012.

Boxes are available free of charge, but must be collected from and returned to the Museum by the teacher. Loans are for a term at a time (approx 6 weeks).

This term, the following boxes have gone out to schools:

Victorian Toys & Games (Rye CP x 1 class)
World War II (Staplecross Methodist Primary School x 1 class)
Native America (Adult Education Class Bexhill x 4 groups + Sandown CP x 2 classes)
Skulls (Sussex Coast College x 2 classes)

We encourage feedback on how the box was used & how many children accessed it, but the return rate for this is very poor.

2. Access & Learning Policy

The service offered to schools should be seen in the context of the broader learning programme and consultation on its future priorities should be considered as part of the revision of the Access & Learning Policy currently underway.

At the beginning of term, a letter was sent to 59 headteachers of schools in a 10 mile radius of Hastings, highlighting the forthcoming consultation & asking for their support in developing “a realistic, practical and, above all, inspiring Museum education service that meets the needs of your school’s teachers and students.” The letter also asked them to identify a key member of staff who could act as the primary point of contact for the Museum. If schools had identified a contact member of staff in a similar process in 2008, they were asked to confirm or update staff contact details. Of these, the following confirmed or updated contact details Bodiam CE Primary School, Staplecross Methodist Primary School, Red Lake CP School, St Richard’s Catholic College & Little Ridge CP School. The following returned a contact form for the first time: The Hastings Academy, Little Common CP School, St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Primary School, St Leonard’s CE Primary School & All Saints CE Junior School. This is an overall return rate of 15%.

A revised Access & Learning Policy will be posted on the consultation pages of the Hastings Borough Council website. A letter inviting comments will be sent, along with a website link, to all organisations consulted in 2008, as well as schools, individual & family users via our monthly What’s On e-newsletter.

In addition, a questionnaire will be sent to teachers on both the new & existing contact lists, as well as to all the non-responding headteachers. This will help to inform changes to the objectives of aim 3.1 of the policy: To encourage more schools to use the museum to enhance and support their teaching and learning”. There will be two

parts to the questionnaire: what services they would use (ie loan boxes, self-guided visits to museum, visits to museum + led activity/workshop, INSET, visits into schools); & which collection areas would be most relevant to their curriculum (ie World Art/India, Native America, Seaside Holidays/Mods & Rockers, other local history, natural history/dinosaurs, general art, what is a museum?)

Wards Affected

Ashdown, Baird, Braybrooke, Castle, Central St. Leonards, Conquest, Gensing, Hollington, Maze Hill, Old Hastings, Ore, Silverhill, St. Helens, Tressell, West St. Leonards, Wishing Tree

Area(s) Affected

Central Hastings, East Hastings, North St. Leonards, South St. Leonards

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	No
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	Yes

Background Information

List of Museum Loan Boxes
Letter to Schools, Sept 2011

Officer to Contact

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