

Agenda Item No:

Report to: Overview and Scrutiny (Services)

Date of Meeting: 2nd June 2011

Report Title: Scrutiny Review of Youth Leisure Provision

Report By: Kevin Boorman
Head of Communications & Marketing

Purpose of Report

To present the findings of the review team

Recommendation(s)

- The development of a young person friendly web page, hosted on appropriate sites, to share information about youth activities and venues in Hastings.
- To note and support the review team's letter to East Sussex County Council's Lead Member for Children's Services explaining the particular circumstances facing young people in Hastings, and the high level of NEETs (not in education, employment or training).
- To conduct further research into the Government scheme 'Social Grants for Communities'.
- To encourage further work with the Youth Council.
- To work closer with, and facilitate discussions between, providers of youth leisure services in Hastings to provide a diverse selection of provision across the town.
- To improve communications between youth service providers and raise awareness of youth services available in Hastings amongst HBC officers, to ensure maximum take up of provision.

Reasons for Recommendations

To improve the efficiency, effectiveness and take up by young people of the leisure facilities available in Hastings.

Introduction

1. The Scrutiny Review of Youth Provision and Leisure held its inaugural meeting on 15 September 2010, where the Project Initiation Document was agreed. This is included as Appendix A.
2. From the outset the review team felt that it was important that young people had a real voice in the team's work. In addition to the inclusion of the Youth & Senior Participation Officer in the officer group supporting the review, members of the Hastings Youth Council also played a very active role in the review team's work, attending most of its meetings. The Youth Council itself greatly assisted the review by discussing elements of the review of their meetings, and feeding this information back to the review team.
3. The significance that East Sussex County Council play in Youth Leisure provision in Hastings became clear very early on in the review. The review team's work was undertaken at the time that the government's budget, and comprehensive spending review plans, were being announced, followed by these working through into budget decisions being made at a local level. As the work of the review team progressed, it was clear that these could have a major impact on youth leisure provision, and the team therefore focussed on looking at how the budget cuts might impact on the area under review, and what it might do to reduce the cuts, and their impact.

Audit of Existing Facilities

4. The review team were keen to see the facilities available to young people, and interview also, first hand, so visits were made to 'Gigmar' Hollington Youth Centre, Gizmo, Phoenix Arts Centre, William Parker Sports Hall, Xtrax, and the YMCA.
5. These visits were quite invaluable, allowing members to see at first hand the various types of facility on offer. Without exception all members of the team learnt a great deal from the visits, indeed it was clear that a tremendous amount of really good work was being undertaken, in many cases by volunteers. One of the biggest single learning outcomes was the wide variety of activities that were available. Also of note was that many of the 'clients' of these facilities were vulnerable young people.
6. A summary of some of the key points to emerge from the visits is included as Appendix B, although some details cannot be included in a 'Part 1' report.
7. Some concern was expressed at one stage of the lack of awareness of review team members of the various facilities available to young people, but it was respectfully pointed out that the review team were not part of the target audience. The Youth Council reps confirmed that they, and their peers, were generally aware of the various centres and clubs, activities, etc. available to young people. Nevertheless, it was agreed by the leisure providers, the users, the Youth Council, reps and the review team that there could and should be an easily accessible database - perhaps part of a website of activities available to young people. In many cases there was also a lack of awareness by the staff/managers of the

facilities of the work of the other facilities, meaning that potential opportunities for more joined up working were being lost.

8. The Leisure Development Manager summarised the existing facilities/resources available, and these are summarised in Appendix C.
9. It was noted by the review team from this information that 'mainstream' facilities could be targeted towards young people, for example 4000 people have participated in the 'Gym and Swim Card' a venture jointly run by Active Hastings and 'Pulse' which offers free use of local fitness gyms at limited times to eligible new participants. Members of the review team wondered why this was not more widely known around the town, it was explained that wide publicity could cause problems with mass registration of the participating centres, so a low key approach was preferred, funding for the initiative finishes in April 2011.

ESCC Involvement

10. As noted earlier it was clear that ESCC played a pivotal role in Youth Leisure provision, and the review team arranged to interview key officers from County Council. However, as also explained above, these interviews were conducted at the same time as the Comprehensive Spending Review implications were becoming clear, and this inevitably impacted upon the direction of the review.
11. As early as 14 December 2010, one ESCC officer explained that the County's Youth Development Service ('YDS') was looking to move towards a more targeted service. At a further meeting, on 12 January 2011, a YDS manager explained that, under proposals being developed, the existing services provided by YDS would be incorporated into a targeted youth support programme. This would work on a referral only basis and includes youth clubs and detailed works to ensure that access to services was maintained.
12. The review team questioned the YDS manager at length, although it became clear that the future shape of the service was still being discussed. When asked to identify which areas would most benefit from investment, and to identify any gaps in provision, the YDS manager referred to research into services in Hastings which had been conducted over the last eighteen months. These suggested that a mixture of activities including both sports and arts was most successful, with sporting activities proving particularly popular. Feedback from East Hastings suggested that whilst young people felt that most facilities were being provided, more awareness of their provision by both young people and adults was needed - this reinforced the review team's own feelings.
13. HBC officers emphasised the importance of understanding the barriers which prevented young people from taking up these activities. These included cost, transport, care commitments, parental support, etc. The YDS manager suggested that one way to overcome these barriers might be to offer a variety of times/venues for each activity, and improving communications between providers. The work of the 'Community Development Committee' was highlighted which could improve communication.
14. It became very clear at this meeting in January that much existing youth leisure provision might be at risk as a result of ESCC's funding/spending cuts. When the

County Council's draft spending plans were announced, an extraordinary meeting of the review team was held at short notice to draft a letter to the Lead Member for Children's Services, prior to the County Council's Budget Cabinet meeting in January.

15. A copy of the letter sent to the Leader Member is attached as Appendix D; this letter was circulated to all East Sussex County Council Cabinet members before their meeting.
16. As a direct result of the review team's letter to ESCC, the Lead Member offered to come and talk to the review team. This offer was gratefully accepted and the meeting took place on 21 February 2011. This was an extremely lively and informative meeting, with the Lead Member being quizzed by both HBC members, and members of the Hastings Youth Council. All agreed this was an excellent meeting. Because of the significance of this meeting, and its content, a summary of the discussion is included as Appendix E.

Conclusion

17. It has to be said that this was an extremely challenging review, with its whole direction changing as it progressed - the hopes and aspirations of the first meeting of last September seem almost fanciful now, given the scale of the budget cuts seen since then.
18. Nevertheless, the review team members all feel that the review has been a success when measured by its impact. The distribution of the team's letter to all ESCC Cabinet members in advance of the County Council budget cabinet meeting, and the subsequent visit by the Lead Member of ESCC to address the review team have undoubtedly highlighted the work of the review team and, more significantly, the importance of continuing youth leisure provision in Hastings. The active participation of the work of the review team by the Youth Council's reps, and their very lively and challenging questions of the County Council Lead Member, must also be seen as a significant achievement. The impact of the visits to the various facilities should also not be underestimated; the facilities themselves, and the enthusiasm of those delivering the activities there, greatly impressed the review team.
19. The review team discussed how to take their work forward at their final meeting, and their recommendations are below. It was also agreed to their meeting to write a further letter to County's Lead Member for Children's Services, and this is included as Appendix F.

Recommendation

20. Cabinet is asked to agree the following:-
 - The development of a young person friendly web page, hosted on appropriate sites, to share information about youth activities and venues in Hastings.
 - To note and support the review team's letter to East Sussex County Council's Lead Member for Children's Services explaining the particular circumstances facing young people in Hastings, and the high level of NEETs (that's not in education, employment or training).

- To conduct further research into the Government scheme 'Social Grants for Communities'.
- To encourage further work with the Youth Council (as the partnership between the review team and the Youth Council reps was so positive).
- To work closer with, and facilitate discussions between, providers of youth leisure services in Hastings to provide a diverse selection of provision across the town.
- To improve communications between youth service providers and raise awareness of youth services available in Hastings amongst HBC officers, so ensure maximum take up of provision.

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 | Yes |
| Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) | No |
| Risk Management | No |
| Environmental Issues | No |
| Economic/Financial Implications | Yes |
| Human Rights Act | No |
| Organisational Consequences | No |

Background Information

Officer to Contact

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Appendix A

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Date | 15th September 2010 |
| Scrutiny Review | Scrutiny Review of Youth Leisure Facilities |
| Project Team | A cross party and cross service team of Members and Officers |
| Project Leader | Kevin Boorman |
| Scrutiny Review Team Members | Councillors :- Paul Barlow, Bruce Dowling, Matthew Lock, Emily Westley Officers :- Kevin Boorman (Head of Communications & Marketing), Virginia Gilbert (Head of Leisure Services), Keith Duly (Leisure Development Manager), Emile Tambeh (Youth and Senior Participation Officer), Katrina Silverson (Scrutiny and Electoral Services Officer) |
| Officer to contact | Kevin Boorman Hastings 451123 kboorman@hastings.gov.uk |
| Review Terms of Reference | 1) Establish the current provision of youth leisure facilities across the town (i.e. include non-HBC provided services as well as those provided by the Council) 2) Establish the current provision of youth leisure facilities in other towns (e.g. Eastbourne, Brighton, Margate) 3) Consult with users and prospective users of the current facilities and identify areas of good practice that can be developed, and areas where lessons can be learned from elsewhere. 4) Identify likely future budgetary provision for this area of activity, and develop a prioritised action plan in conjunction with users, potential users, and other stakeholders. |
| Community Strategy Target or Key | Increasing the proportion of young |

| | |
|---|---|
| HBC Investment Issue? | people who think the town is a good place for them to live in, and improving community cohesion, are key community strategy targets. |
| Objectives | <p>1) To accurately identify what users, potential users and other stakeholders perceive our youth leisure provision to be.</p> <p>2) Investigate the options for joint/shared/'smart' working with other local authorities, agencies, private sector providers and others to ensure that the provision of youth leisure facilities meets the needs of the users and prospective users.</p> <p>3) To recommend to Cabinet a prioritised action plan for the provision of youth leisure facilities in the future, in the context of the likely budget available. If agreed, this will then be 'mainstreamed' into the work of the leisure service.</p> |
| Indicators of Success (how will we know if the project is achieving its purpose) | Regular discussions with users, potential users and key stakeholders during the review, and developing provision for back-checking once the review is complete |
| Methods of Inquiry | <p>Meetings (with users, potential users, the Youth Council, the Excellence Cluster, key stakeholders, etc).</p> <p>Desk research</p> <p>Site visits (e.g. to youth facilities, to youth facility providers, to see other towns' facilities/arrangements, etc.)</p> |
| Key Stakeholders | <p>Users</p> <p>Potential users</p> <p>Youth Council (it is hoped that two Youth Council members will join the project team, if the project team agree to this at its inaugural meeting)</p> <p>Excellence Cluster</p> <p>East Sussex County Council</p> <p>Private/third sector providers (e.g. Gizmo, Respond)</p> |
| Documents | Leisure Facility Review by Capita Symonds |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| Site Visits | | Yes, as noted above, it is felt that these would be beneficial, for example to youth facilities currently provided in Hastings by HBC and other providers, and to see what is provided in other towns. | |
| Publicity Requirements | | <p>Publicity directly aimed at users and potential users will be via 'youth-friendly' media e.g. SMS, Facebook, etc.</p> <p>More general publicity will be undertaken using more traditional methods</p> | |
| Resource Requirements (Staffing and expenditure) | | <p>Members and officers time and resources</p> <p>Minimal petrol/subsistence allowances for site visits</p> | |
| Projected start date | 15th September 2010 | Reporting deadlines | To quarterly meetings of the Resources Overview & Scrutiny Committee |
| Meeting Frequency | Approximately every six weeks, more frequently if necessary/appropriate. | Projected completion date | 31st March 2011 |
| Evaluation date | | June 2011 | |
| Evaluation tracking methods | | It is hoped and expected that all agreed recommendations will be 'mainstreamed' into the work plan of the Leisure Service, and reported on as part of the quarterly performance review. | |

Appendix B

Feedback from Site Visits

The review team discussed their experiences of the site visits attended on 26 October. Members had visited Gizmo, Phoenix Arts Centre, YMCA, Hollington Youth Centre and Xtrax/Connexions.

Xtrax:

This was an organisation based in Hastings town centre.

The young people visiting were mainly local, although some travelled in from other areas.

The organisation was known more by word of mouth than formal advertising.

Approx 9000 visits a year.

£1.00 for a hot meal

Cost approx £160,000 a year to run, with 85% of this going towards staffing costs.

Much of the funding is obtained through bids.

There are 13 volunteer staff.

There is a fully fitted kitchen for 'home cooking' courses, t-shirt making enterprise and courses on how to get into or back into employment.

YMCA:

Safe learning drop-in environment.

Would like to work more with Xtrax and New Horizons.

Many volunteers.

Cost approx £150,000 a year to run and is more sport orientated than other facilities.

Used by approx 120 young people at any one time.

£2.50 per person for food and activity.

Drop-in facility would cost approx £5,000-6,000 a year to run.

Used for learning skills (e.g. woodwork) and also privately run enterprises (e.g. dancing/kick-boxing).

Hollington Youth Centre:

Used by many different organisations, but run by Youth Development Service at East Sussex County Council.

No weekend provision.

Music pod opens 25 November. Professional musicians coming in to teach young people.

Not utilised during the day time.

William Parker School:

Unique Olympic gymnastic facility – tumble track.

Phoenix Arts Centre:

Used as a training centre for young people interested in pursuing Performing Arts.
Not classified as an open leisure centre.
Set up as a profit-making enterprise (profits generated are invested back in to the centre).

Gizmo:

Small fee payable for activities Up to 25 young people at any one time.

Appendix C

WHAT IS THE ACTIVE HASTINGS PROGRAMME?

The Active Hastings programme offers:

Opportunities for local people of all ages to take part in sport & physical activity (mainly for health and community safety benefits)

Leadership and 'sport' training for local volunteers and young people.

The programme includes several projects (attached) which are specifically designed to engage different population segments of our local community, with a focus on those who would truly benefit from these resources.

IS IT FOR EVERYONE?

The programme is open to all but has a real focus on i) local people and families who are typically inactive or have low activity levels and ii) sporting opportunities for young people who typically wouldn't be involved in positive activities or physical activity.

The sessions take place all over the Borough in various venues such as schools, parks, MUGAs, local community centres. Non traditional sporting venues are also utilised such as youth football in car parks, mum's fitness at Clambers, fitness sessions in local pubs. Numerous sessions such as the Street Games 'doorstep sport' sessions take place within our deprived wards.

WHAT DO WE DO FOR DISABLED PEOPLE?

People of all abilities and backgrounds are welcome to attend the current sessions. Disability specific sessions have included cricket and fishing. Football for blind players is starting soon. The team also support the annual East Sussex Inclusive Disability Festival, the annual Parallel Games for special schools and the regular Wheelers Wheelchair Basketball sessions.

Active Hastings has supported the local Buddy Scheme by previously engaging young carers. Thanks to a recent Youth Bank grant we will soon be offering street dance sessions as part of their programme.

Hundreds of local volunteers and young coaches have achieved accredited training in disability awareness and equality courses with Active Hastings.

ARE BME GROUPS INVOLVED?

Everyone is welcome at the sessions and we have had feedback that sessions have improved local cohesion¹. The programme includes activities which promote and encourage under represented groups such as multi-cultural football tournaments, kick-out racism initiative and a regular women's specific swimming session which caters for all women including those of muslim faith.

¹ St Andrews Square Residents Association

DOES HASTINGS REALLY NEED THE ACTIVE HASTINGS PROGRAMME?

The national Active People survey placed Hastings at the bottom of the South East in terms of physical activity levels and ranked Hastings 339th out of 354 local authorities nationally. Only 16.7% of Hastings residents achieve the recommended activity rate².

There are numerous health inequalities in Hastings often linked to deprived areas. Hastings has lower life expectancy, a higher rate of violent crime and lower GCSE achievement compared to the England average. 1 in 4 women smoke, the proportion of school aged children spending at least 3 hours each week on physical activity/sport is lower than the England average, teenage pregnancy is higher.³

“Being physically active is crucial to good health. If a medication existed that had a similar effect on preventing disease, it would be hailed as a miracle cure!”

Chief Medical Officer 2010 Dept of Health

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

Active Hastings focuses on the least active people in the town to realise the biggest health benefits.

The youth sessions also work with community safety and alternative education partners. For example there is evidence from Sussex Police that suggests that youth crime decreases in certain areas during Street Games sessions.

The Active Hastings team run and advertise over 65 physical activity sessions per week, working with a wide range of partners to ensure that all residents of Hastings and St Leonards are able to access these opportunities. Since its inception in 2006, 12,078 residents of Hastings and St Leonards have registered with Active Hastings. Of these 12,078, 32% had taken part in no physical activity in the 12 months prior to attending and Active Hastings session and 51% were active on less than three days per week. 35% of the participants were living in areas of deprivation within the most deprived 20% in the country.

Street Games have engaged a further 2860 young people since October 2008, primarily from deprived wards.

The British Heart Foundation also pays for one of the workers to support work in schools. Since launching in June 2009, 8 primary schools, 3 secondary schools and 4650 young people have benefitted from curriculum sessions, after school clubs and playground sessions focusing on physical activity and healthy eating. 181 parents have also attended sessions.

Evaluation of the project, carried out by the University of Brighton in 2010, showed a significant increase in participants' physical activity levels after joining Active Hastings. Activity levels pre to post Active Hastings showed an increase of 57%. Additionally, 83% of participants attributed their increased activity levels to Active Hastings.

WHO RUNS ACTIVE HASTINGS?

² Active People Survey 2006 Mori Ispol

³ Hastings Health Profile July 2010 Department of Health

The programme is managed by HBC Leisure Services. A small team of externally funded community workers promote and deliver the programme. The majority of the team are local. Several of the younger workers were initially involved as participants before going on to volunteer, becoming qualified and eventually obtaining paid employment with Active Hastings.

Dozens of young people have completed work placements with the team. For example, 5 long term placements will start in March 2011

The team have won several awards (such as Hastings Achievers, Sussex Sport Development Awards and a national fishing innovation award). The project is highly regarded amongst partners and funders.

HOW MUCH DOES HBC CONTRIBUTE TO ACTIVE HASTINGS?

Hastings Borough Council gives an annual cash contribution of 32k to Active Hastings (plus recharges). Using this contribution as match funding, Active Hastings and associated projects (Street Games and Active Leadership) has brought in £1,483,362 of external partnership funding over the last five years (06/07-10/11).

Street Games have recently secured an additional £50,000 for the next two years and Active Hastings has already secured an additional £368,735 for 2011-2014, subject to the continuing match funding from HBC.

IS THERE A BENEFIT TO LOCAL FACILITIES?

The project also supports local venues through booking facilities and through bringing residents who wouldn't normally access the centres through the door.

Active Hastings contributes approximately 20k per year into hiring local venues, including the Hollington Youth Centre, Salvation Army Hall, the YMCA, Ore Community Centre, St Mary in the Castle and Freedom Leisure sites.

During the recent overview and scrutiny tour of facilities Active Hastings was flagged up as supporting in the following ways:

Xtrax – Active Hastings runs a weekly evening session working with young parents

Hollington Youth Centre – Active Street Games currently support 3 youth club sessions and run 2 adult fitness sessions at the centre.

William Parker / Phoenix Arts – lots of linked school work with the School Sports College and School Sport Partnership Project based at the school. The venue also hosts the Active Hastings sports training courses.

Gizmo - no current link, but previously booked the venue for an older person session

Respond – limited support from Active Hastings, although a Christmas sports event has recently been planned

YMCA – Active Hastings was running a leadership course (30 hours) for young people on the day of the tour. The YMCA is often hired and promoted by the

programme.

Some sessions which were originally piloted by Active Hastings have been taken over by the community and are sustained as commercial sessions; examples include gardening, tai chi and military fitness sessions. Our Cheerleading initiative has also developed a new community club with committee to sustain the good work.

WHO CHOOSES WHAT ACTIVITIES ARE PUT ON?

Consultations with residents are held from time to time. We have a women's focus group starting soon. We also value the informal feedback which we receive at our events. Diagnostics such as Sport England's market segmentation data are used. Piloting innovative successful and unsuccessful sessions over the years also help influence the programme. We seek ongoing advice from local partners and our team are very passionate about doing sessions which have a genuine impact.

The Active Hastings Partnership meets regularly to discuss and influence the development of the programme. Examples of the partners involved include Xtrax, housing associations, children's centres, Youth Offending team, Inclusive Learning Tutors, school nurses, YDS, PCT, Sea View Project HBC Regeneration, Youth Council and Sussex Police

WHAT SORT OF TRAINING IS PROVIDED FOR LOCAL PEOPLE?

The team promote and encourage volunteering opportunities, especially with young people. The training arm of Active Hastings is branded Active Leadership and offers Sports Leadership training from 14yrs + (all on the QCF network) and sports qualifications such as coaching awards and generic duty of care training such as children protection, first aid qualifications.

121 people have achieved their sports leadership award (30 hour course) and 17 coaching awards since Active Leadership started (Jan 2010 to Dec 2010).

HOW WILL ACTIVE HASTINGS BE AFFECTED BY THE CUTS?

The Active Hastings programme and projects mentioned in this paper are funded largely by external funding. However, without the HBC £32k contribution the Active Hastings programme would struggle to continue. We must also bear in mind our current legal commitments to several service level agreements with external funders.

The Leisure Development Manager line manages the externally funded project co-ordinators. Until recently the projects were also significantly supported by the currently vacant Sport Development Officer post whose role included line managing part of the project staff, co-ordinating elements of the programme and fund raising to sustain them. Not filling this post would create a significant challenge for the remaining team, however the current financial situation is appreciated and the Sport Development post will be reviewed along with all HBC services.

Additional Information: Description of projects hosted by Active Hastings:

Summary of projects hosted by Active Hastings:

Youth Projects: Hearty Lives Hastings, Active Leadership, Active Street Games, Girls Gettin' Active and Fishing4U.

Adult Projects: Ladies Getting Active, Active@ Work

Older People Projects: Onwards and Upwards.

Family Projects: Change for Life

Disability Projects: Fishing4U

Youth Projects:

Hearty Lives Hastings is a 3 year, British Heart Foundation funded project which aims to educate children living in areas of high deprivation about the risk factors of Cardiovascular Disease. Since launching in June 2009, 8 primary schools, 3 secondary schools and 4650 young people have benefitted from curriculum sessions, after school clubs and playground sessions focusing on physical activity and healthy eating. 181 parents have also joined in the activities. The project also runs weekly sessions in Xtrax young people's centre, with 17 young people having attended these.

Active Street Games is a 'doorstep sport' project, delivering sport to young people where they want it, when they want it and how they want it. The project is dedicated to making sport accessible to young people regardless of their social circumstances. Active Street Games helps individuals develop their sports and leadership skills through participation and volunteering, fulfil their ambitions and help bring communities closer together via sport.

Girls Gettin' Active (GGA) was launched in 2005 with the aim of engaging girls aged 10-16 who are not interested in taking part in traditional physical activity. Since its inception GGA has engaged 995 girls. A particular success of the GGA programme is the South East Stars Cheerleading club, who have built up to a 70 strong squad and were recently awarded first place in the BCA International Cheerleading Championships.

Fishing4U seeks to engage local young people in outdoor recreation, in order to improve health and enhanced quality of life by making environmental learning and sporting activities more accessible. The project also aims to introduce young people to local angling clubs and conservation groups, to provide support and advice until they have gained the necessary competence and confidence to become self-supporting

active members of those community groups. In 2007 the Fishing4U project was awarded the Dreamstore UK Social Inclusion Award.

Adult Projects:

Active Hastings run a wide range of low cost, accessible activities for adults of all ages and abilities, including yoga, aqua-aerobics, golf and football. Active Hastings is also a partner in the Gym and Swim project that allows free access to a range of gyms and swimming pools in Hastings and Rother at certain times of the day. Since its launch, the gym and swim project has engaged 3180 residents of Hastings and St Leonards.

Additionally, Active Hastings runs targeted activities, aimed at the least active groups in our community. These include the Ladies Getting Active and Active@Work projects as well as those aimed at older people and people with a disability.

Ladies Getting Active was launched off the back of the highly successful GGA project, due to ladies over the age of 16 still wanted to take part in non-traditional forms of physical activity. The LGA project aims to break down the barriers that women come up against when trying to be physically active. A key barrier is childcare, so this project provides free crèche facilities at four sessions per week in Hollington and Ore in order to reduce this barrier.

The Active@Work programme focuses on the fact that working aged adults spend a large proportion of their time in the workplace. This project encourages working adults to increase their physical activity levels by being more active whilst at work. It also encourages workplaces to introduce an Active and Healthy Workplace programme which can down absenteeism and staff turnover, reducing costs of overtime, sick pay and temporary staff cover, as well as recruitment and re-training costs. Physically active employees take 27% fewer days of sick leave, which can ultimately translate to huge savings. This project also encourages people to be more active after work with their colleagues through running workplace tournaments such as netball, dodgeball and rounders.

Older People Projects:

Onwards and Upwards offers activities specifically designed to appeal to older people. Activities include gardening, dance, tai chi, bowls and badminton. Active Hastings also helps to advertise the BTCV health walks. Funding was also secured this year to produce a calendar highlighting physical activity opportunities for older people in Hastings and Rother. This was a partnership project between Active Hastings, AgeUK, the BTCV and NHS Hastings and Rother.

Change 4 Life Family Activities:

Active Hastings submitted a successful bid to the Department of Health to become a pilot project for a social marketing toolkit that they had developed in relation to the national Change 4 Life project. As part of the award, Active Hastings received 100 hours of social marketing support from The Hub social marketing company. Through this project extensive research into the physical activity levels, barriers and needs of families in the areas of high deprivation in Hastings and St Leonards was carried out.

Following this consultation a tailored physical activity programme and marketing campaign was launched. Evaluation of this project will be carried out in January 2011, however there is already a clear increase in the number of families attending Active Hastings sessions.

Disability Projects:

Wherever possible, Active Hastings sessions take place in accessible venues and we aim to ensure that the whole project is open and welcoming to anyone with a disability. The project has worked closely with the Parchment Trust, who brought to our attention that their service users would be keen to learn to fish. In order to accommodate this, the Fishing4U project was expanded to run fishing sessions for people with disabilities. A specific session is held at Harmers Pond, where there are ramps to allow wheelchair users to get to the water. However, the Parchment Trust also bring service users to the adult fishing at Clive Vale. Since developing the project to include a specific session for people with disabilities sixty people with disabilities have accessed the Fishing4U sessions.

As well as the publicised Active Hastings programme, the Hastings Borough Council and partnership funding, ensures that developmental and strategic work are able to take place. The Active Hastings Coordinator is a member of the Sussex Disability Sports Group, which plays an integral part in ensuring that disabled people are given the opportunity to participate in sport by removing barriers, widening opportunities and increasing choice. As part of this role, the coordinator is involved in the Parallel Youth Games which ensures that all disabled young people in Sussex, including those from Hastings, are able to take part in a large scale sporting event each year. Active Hastings also supports the Wheelerz Wheelchair Basketball club, recently helping them to secure funding to buy new uniforms for the team.

Dozens of young people have completed work placements with the team. Active Hastings is an established, trusted brand which is extremely important when trying to engage hard to reach people. The project is clearly important to residents of Hastings, with benefits ranging from improved physical health and weight loss to increases in mental wellbeing and social interaction. One participant describing it as “amazing and necessary, low cost exercise for everyone and it has certainly changed my life”.

Hastings Demographic and Facilities Audit

Demographic characteristic count
(000s)

| Indicator | Hastings | | | South East | | | England | | |
|-----------|----------|------|------|------------|---------|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| | 2006 | 2008 | 2009 | 2006 | 2008 | 2009 | 2006 | 2008 | 2009 |
| Male | 32.1 | 30.7 | 32.1 | 3,155.8 | 3,229.9 | 3,257.4 | 19,667.9 | 20,056.9 | 20,237.7 |
| Female | 35.7 | 34.1 | 32.9 | 3,372.5 | 3,428.8 | 3,456.0 | 20,743.9 | 21,028.4 | 21,178.5 |
| Total | 67.8 | 64.8 | 65.1 | 6,527.9 | 6,658.3 | 6,714.0 | 40,411.0 | 41,083.8 | 41,416.8 |
| 16 to 19 | 5.2 | 4.7 | 3.5 | 415.4 | 428.7 | 428.6 | 2,618.5 | 2,647.5 | 2,626.5 |
| 20 to 24 | 3.5 | 5.5 | 4.9 | 481.8 | 506.5 | 519.8 | 3,284.2 | 3,449.5 | 3,508.1 |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 25 to 34 | 11.4 | 7.1 | 9.5 | 1,003.6 | 992.0 | 996.6 | 6,637.7 | 6,630.4 | 6,727.6 |
| 35 to 49 | 19.5 | 17.0 | 15.5 | 1,836.9 | 1,859.8 | 1,856.1 | 11,185.9 | 11,283.4 | 11,259.8 |
| 50 to 64 | 14.0 | 18.9 | 20.2 | 1,498.4 | 1,536.8 | 1,550.6 | 8,967.7 | 9,166.7 | 9,246.4 |
| 65+ | 14.2 | 11.6 | 11.5 | 1,292.8 | 1,334.9 | 1,362.2 | 7,714.2 | 7,904.1 | 8,040.8 |
| White | 65.4 | 61.0 | 62.6 | 6,170.5 | 6,231.2 | 6,266.6 | 36,335.5 | 36,599.9 | 36,817.5 |
| Non-White | 2.3 | 3.8 | 2.5 | 354.2 | 421.8 | 439.0 | 4,046.8 | 4,457.6 | 4,562.1 |
| Both DDA & worklimiting | 7.0 | 7.8 | 6.3 | 445.2 | 444.1 | 448.9 | 3,459.3 | 3,460.7 | 3,437.1 |
| DDA only disabled | 5.2 | 2.4 | 4.5 | 268.0 | 281.7 | 285.6 | 1,568.5 | 1,649.4 | 1,692.2 |
| Work-limiting only disabled | 2.2 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 172.5 | 163.5 | 158.2 | 1,027.5 | 1,014.2 | 1,025.3 |
| Not disabled | 39.2 | 42.2 | 42.0 | 4,348.6 | 4,432.0 | 4,454.2 | 26,628.7 | 27,043.9 | 27,201.4 |
| Total | 67.8 | 64.8 | 65.1 | 6,527.9 | 6,658.3 | 6,714.0 | 40,411.0 | 41,083.8 | 41,416.8 |

Source: Annual Population Survey Year:

2006, 2008 & 2009

Measure:

Number of
adult
population
broken down
by gender,
age, ethnicity
and disability

For more information click
here

NB: *

signifies that
the entry has
been
suppressed
due to
confidentiality
or because of
sample size
and this is
the case
throughout
the
spreadsheet

Population projections by local authority area (2009-2015) (000s)

Indicator Hastings

| | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | Chg 09 - 15 | % Chg |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------------|--------|
| Male | 42 | 42.1 | 42.3 | 42.5 | 42.7 | 42.9 | 43.2 | 1.2 | 2.9% |
| Female | 44.6 | 44.7 | 44.9 | 45.1 | 45.3 | 45.5 | 45.7 | 1.1 | 2.5% |
| 0-4 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 0.1 | 1.9% |
| 5-9 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.8 | 5 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 0.7 | 14.9% |
| 10-14 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 4.9 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 4.7 | -0.8 | -14.5% |
| 15-19 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.3 | -0.4 | -7.0% |
| 20-24 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 5.1 | -0.1 | -1.9% |
| 25-29 | 4.7 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 0.7 | 14.9% |
| 30-34 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 5 | 5.1 | 0.5 | 10.9% |
| 35-39 | 5.6 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5 | 4.9 | 4.9 | 4.9 | -0.7 | -12.5% |
| 40-44 | 6.7 | 6.5 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 5.7 | -1 | -14.9% |
| 45-49 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 0.2 | 3.1% |
| 50-54 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.6 | 0.8 | 13.8% |
| 55-59 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.9 | 0.4 | 7.3% |
| 60-64 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.3 | -0.5 | -8.6% |
| 65-69 | 4.1 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 5 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.4 | 1.3 | 31.7% |
| 70-74 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 4 | 0.5 | 14.3% |
| 75-79 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 3 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3 | 0.1 | 3.4% |

Obesity levels in adults and children (000s)

| Geography | Adult Obesity | | Childhood Obesity | |
|-----------|---------------|-------|-------------------|------|
| | Number | Rate | Number | Rate |
| Hastings | 16.9 | 25.9% | 0.1 | 8.4% |

| Facilities | Count | Ownership Type | | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|--------|
| | | Commercial | Education | Local Authority | Not Known | Others |
| Athletics Tracks | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Golf | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Grass Pitches | 34 | 0 | 18 | 13 | 0 | 3 |
| Health and Fitness Suite | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Ice Rinks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Indoor Bowls | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Indoor Tennis Centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ski Slopes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Sports Hall | 9 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Swimming Pool | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Artificial Grass Pitch | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| | | | | | | |
|------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|----|-------|
| Total | 55 | 4 | 30 | 14 | 0 | 7 |
| South East | 12,242 | 1,645 | 5,941 | 3,187 | 2 | 1,467 |
| England | 65,124 | 8,385 | 30,588 | 16,968 | 54 | 9,129 |

Source: Active Places Power: Year: Jan 2010: Measure: Number of sporting facilities by type of owner

For more information click here

| Clubmark Type | Hastings Number | South East Number | England Number |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Angling | 0 | 5 | 80 |
| Archery | 0 | 8 | 60 |
| Athletics | 1 | 57 | 353 |
| Badminton | 0 | 54 | 300 |
| Baseball / Softball | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| Basketball | 0 | 22 | 144 |
| Bowls / Crown Green | 0 | 4 | 18 |
| Boxing | 0 | 9 | 50 |
| Canoeing | 1 | 30 | 151 |
| Cricket | 1 | 461 | 2,464 |
| Cycling | 0 | 39 | 222 |
| Equestrian | 0 | 17 | 87 |
| Fencing | 0 | 14 | 66 |
| Golf | 1 | 197 | 999 |
| Gymnastics | 3 | 134 | 614 |
| Handball | 0 | 1 | 7 |
| Hockey | 1 | 77 | 465 |
| Judo | 3 | 79 | 351 |
| Lacrosse | 0 | 5 | 35 |
| Netball | 0 | 84 | 455 |
| Orienteering | 0 | 7 | 47 |
| Rowing | 0 | 34 | 127 |
| Rugby Football Union | 2 | 142 | 865 |
| Rugby League | 0 | 3 | 257 |
| SnowSports | 0 | 4 | 24 |
| Squash | 0 | 54 | 251 |
| Swimming | 1 | 120 | 820 |
| Table Tennis | 1 | 39 | 238 |
| Tennis | 2 | 205 | 1,022 |
| Triathlon | 0 | 12 | 72 |
| Volleyball | 0 | 15 | 86 |
| Other | 0 | 40 | 183 |

| | | | |
|-------|----|-------|--------|
| Total | 17 | 1,973 | 10,917 |
|-------|----|-------|--------|

Comparisons with nearest neighbours of Hastings

Number of facilities compared with nearest neighbours

| Facilities | Hastings Number | Thanet Number | Great Yarmouth Number | Shepway Number |
|------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Athletics Tracks | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Golf | 0 | 11 | 8 | 12 |
| Grass Pitches | 34 | 93 | 60 | 61 |
| Health & Fitness Suite | 6 | 13 | 12 | 13 |
| Ice Rinks | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Indoor Bowls | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Indoor Tennis Centre | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Ski Slopes | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Sports Hall | 9 | 32 | 16 | 15 |
| Swimming Pool | 3 | 12 | 9 | 7 |
| Artificial Grass Pitch | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| Total | 55 | 165 | 110 | 113 |
| Population (000s) | 65.1 | 101.0 | 78.8 | 81.6 |

Source: Active Places Power, Population Data: ONS Annual Population Survey 2009, Year: Jan 2010
facilities

Population compared with nearest neighbours (000s)

| Indicator | Hastings | | Thanet | | Great Yarmouth | | Shepway | |
|-----------|----------|------|--------|------|----------------|------|---------|------|
| | 2006 | 2009 | 2006 | 2009 | 2006 | 2009 | 2006 | 2009 |
| Male | 32.1 | 32.1 | 47.1 | 47.1 | 34.9 | 37.2 | 35.8 | 40.7 |
| Female | 35.7 | 32.9 | 52.3 | 53.9 | 40.8 | 41.5 | 40.4 | 40.9 |
| 16 to 19 | 5.2 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 6.7 | 3.2 | 4.7 | 5.2 | 5.8 |
| 20 to 24 | 3.5 | 4.9 | 7.8 | 7.4 | 4.5 | 7.3 | 5.3 | 4.7 |
| 25 to 34 | 11.4 | 9.5 | 15.5 | 13.8 | 9.6 | 8.5 | 8.3 | 9.1 |
| 35 to 49 | 19.5 | 15.5 | 24.1 | 25.3 | 19.9 | 17.5 | 24.9 | 19.0 |
| 50 to 64 | 14.0 | 20.2 | 22.0 | 21.7 | 20.8 | 19.8 | 15.9 | 20.1 |
| 65+ | 14.2 | 11.5 | 25.2 | 26.1 | 17.6 | 21.1 | 16.7 | 22.9 |
| White | 65.4 | 62.6 | 96.1 | 99.7 | 75.0 | 78.8 | 74.7 | 79.4 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Non-White | 2.3 | 2.5 | 3.3 | 1.3 | * | * | 1.5 | 2.2 |
| DDA & also work-limiting | 7.0 | 6.3 | 13.9 | 7.4 | 12.2 | 8.6 | 7.5 | 6.7 |
| DDA only disabled | 5.2 | 4.5 | 5.7 | 3.7 | 3.4 | 4.1 | 3.3 | 3.0 |
| Work-limiting only disabled | 2.2 | 0.8 | 2.6 | 4.6 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 1.4 |
| Not disabled | 39.2 | 42.0 | 52.0 | 59.2 | 39.0 | 42.7 | 46.4 | 47.5 |
| Total | 67.8 | 65.1 | 99.4 | 101.0 | 75.6 | 78.8 | 76.2 | 81.6 |

Source: Annual Population Survey, Year: 2006-09, Measure: Adult population (16+)

Comparisons with nearest neighbours of Hastings

Total area in sq km

| Geography | Total Area in sq km | Proportion of England |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Hastings | 29.7 | 0.0% |
| Thanet | 103.3 | 0.1% |
| Great Yarmouth | 174.0 | 0.1% |
| Shepway | 356.7 | 0.3% |
| Barrow-in-Furness | 77.9 | 0.1% |
| Remaining | 129,536.9 | 99.4% |
| England | 130,278.5 | |

Source: Office of National Statistics Year: 2007
Measure: Area measurements for local authority areas by sq km

Appendix D

Email sent to Cllr Keith Glazier, Lead Member, Children's Services, 24th January 2011

Dear Cllr Glazier,

East Sussex County Council Revenue Spending Plans

We are a group of cross party Hastings Borough Council members currently undertaking a scrutiny review of youth provision and leisure here in Hastings. Our work has been underway for some time now, and has included visits to a number of youth facilities, and interviews with a number of people connected with the provision of services to young people in Hastings, as well as young people themselves. Indeed, a member of the Youth Council sits on our review team.

As you would expect, East Sussex County Council is a major partner in this area, in every respect, and it was therefore with considerable concern that we have read of your plans to make what you acknowledge to be 'very significant' reductions in the budget for this area for 2011/12.

Our biggest worry is that there is signalled to be a clear move away from mainstream funding for universal youth development services to a much smaller provision for approximately 900 young people, by your estimates, identified as being at risk across East Sussex.

We are sure that we don't need to remind you that Hastings is not just the most deprived town in East Sussex but the most deprived town in the whole of the south east, and that a number of partners, including yourselves, of course, have been investing very significant resources here to help us address the very real problems we face. Quite frankly we believe that there are more than 900 young people at risk of NEET, teenage pregnancy, substance misuse or offending in Hastings alone, so clearly your plans will result in a major dilution of what is currently available here.

If, as we fear, your targeted approach misses those borderline at risk, and some do 'cross the line,' there will be additional costs incurred e.g. in policing, as well as in the indirect, but very real, social costs.

As we have noted above, as part of our review we have visited facilities such as the Hollington Youth Centre, and spoken to both members of your team providing services (e.g. the detached team), and the beneficiaries of this work. We were impressed by both the quality of the provision, and the importance the young people of Hastings place on it.

In addition to the cut in universal provision, mention is also made in your proposals of exploring the closure of possibly eight Children's Centres. Presumably this must include some of the Children's Centres here in Hastings, and that is something that greatly worries us. As well as the reduction in provision per se, widening the geographical reach of the centres, as suggested, must impact upon our most deprived residents.

Although not explicitly discussed, your plans seem to suggest the demise of groups such as 'Funky Teens,' which as you will know is targeted at disabled young people. To take this activity/pleasure away from this particularly vulnerable group would be especially unfortunate.

As you will also be aware, a number of community centres rely on their funding from a wide range of uses/lettings. In many cases this includes ESCC-supported children's activity, and we are further concerned that, given the precarious nature of the business models these centres have, the loss of effectively core income generated by County-funded activity will reduce the income to below the critical mass necessary to run the centre. In other words, the withdrawal of youth-focussed activity might be sufficient to result in the total closure of the centre, thereby having a massive impact on all users, and the wider community.

To summarise, our scrutiny review has shown us just what an invaluable resource East Sussex County Council makes available to all of the young people of Hastings. At a time when these young people face an uncertain future, it would indeed be ironic if mainstream access to the excellent services you provide to them were to be cut.

We are ourselves going through a difficult budget process, but are doing all we can to ensure that frontline services are maintained. We urge you to think very carefully about where you make your cuts, and, if at all possible, ensure that universal provision to youth services is maintained in this, the most deprived town in south east England.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Emily Westley, Chair
Cllr Bruce Dowling
Cllr Matthew J Lock

* * * *

Appendix E

Extract of Notes of Meeting With Cllr Glazier, 21 February 2011

Present: Cllr Emily Westley
Cllr Matthew Lock
Cllr Bruce Dowling
Cllr Keith Glazier, Lead Member for Children's and Adults' Services, East Sussex County Council (until 7.25pm)
Kevin Boorman, Head of Communications and Marketing
Keith Duly, Leisure Development Manager
Emile Tambeh, Youth Support Worker
Faye Clarke, Youth Support Worker (until 7.00pm)
Michael Courts, Democratic Services Support Officer
Oli Fawcett, Youth Council
Paris Rosier-Harte, Youth Council

Interview with Councillor Keith Glazier, Lead Member for Children's and Adult's Services, East Sussex County Council

KB gave a brief description of the progress and objectives of the review, those present introduced themselves.

Cllr Westley welcomed Cllr Glazier to the meeting and requested an update on the current situation at East Sussex County Council concerning Children's Services.

Cllr Glazier responded by outlining the significant budgetary cuts faced by the service. He explained Children's Services budget would be reduced by £20 million through losses to both core funding and grants. As a result, ESCC would consider a new model to deliver services; this is likely to involve consolidation of existing services and a move towards a more targeted approach to the most deprived areas.

Cllr Westley then invited questions from Members of the Youth Council.

Q. Why are young people so heavily targeted by the budget cuts?

Answer: The cuts to Children's Services are a reflection of the scale of reductions facing ESCC as a whole. Whilst investment is still being made in young people, it will no longer be delivered through established routes. The cuts are likely to result in a consolidation of services, with access to specialist expertise as necessary. The size of cuts faced by services aimed at young people are matched by those aimed at adults, however the £7 million ring fenced by the government for health care has off set this to a degree.

Q. ESCC has identified 900 vulnerable young people across the County, the Youth Council believe there are more than this figure in Hastings alone?

Answer: Cllr Glazier acknowledged the difficulty in quantifying the number of vulnerable people. He continued this by detailing that the governments plans would place greater

emphasis on society and the transition would require the development of skills within the community. It would also require ESCC to work with Hastings Borough Council and other local partners, including those within the voluntary sector, to maximize resources.

Q. With proposed budgetary cuts to schools, how will buildings and facilities be maintained?

Answer: Cllr Glazier gave the group information on the 'Dedicated Schools Grant' which was set up under the last government is paid directly to schools. However, Cllr Glazier also provided the team with information on the funds set aside by ESCC, estimated at approximately £20 million, for investment in academies.

Cllr Lock also described the changing role of school governors under government plans to provide them with powers formerly held by the County Council.

Q. Under plans to cut 315 workers, was your job under threat?

Answer: Clarification was provided regarding elected Members and officers of the Council. Cllr Glazier highlighted that it was 300 posts under consideration and that this figure included a number of posts which ESCC has held vacant over the past two years in anticipation of budgetary cuts. Cllr Glazier stated he recognized concerns regarding staff side cuts, indicating that knowledge regarding the best way to deliver savings will 'grow from the bottom up'. Cllr Glazier also acknowledged the responsibility of his post in the future of Children's Services.

Q. Which services are you cutting and why?

Answer: Whilst plans are in place, discussions are still ongoing with a transition towards an eventual outcome. Cllr Glazier highlighted plans for ESCC to work with local partners, including Hastings Borough Council to manage the reduction in resources. The specific challenges faced in Hastings as well as other authorities across the country were also acknowledged.

Cllr Glazier suggested the Youth Council contact the Children's Trust to express their concerns; he also invited them to email him directly with any queries.

Cllr Westley thanked members of the Youth Council for their questions.

Members and Officers were then invited to bring their questions to Cllr Glazier.

Are ESCC going to evaluate existing services provide by Hastings Borough Council to establish whether local partners could deliver services more economically?

Answer: Cllr Glazier confirmed that this was the County council's intention, adding that the intention of a more targeted deliver of youth services was to remove duplications and provide greater clarification of roles across organizations.

Q. As a governor of New Horizons School, have the challenges in the most deprived wards of Hastings been acknowledged, given that these areas will require initial investment which would not otherwise be available within the community itself?

Answer: Cllr Glazier asserted that alongside changes in funding a change in ethos within communities was also required, drawing on his own experience setting up and running a community centre in Rye.

Hastings is the most deprived area across the County both in terms of young people and vulnerable young adults- the cuts proposed are too severe for Hastings?

Answer: Cllr Glazier acknowledged the demographic in Hastings stating that 10,129 people were between 11-19 years of age, accounting for 18% of the total population, he continued by noting details on the high rates of teen pregnancy and substance abuse and emphasizing that ESCC officers were aware of this through their work in the town.

Q. How have ESCC officers arrived at these decisions?

Answer: Cllr Glazier underscored the role of Councillors in outlining policy which officers then support through research; he indicated that ESCC officers are still undertaking research into the cuts and the effects of proposals.

OF suggested that Cllr Glazier make further contact with the young people of Hastings to establish the effect of reductions in financial support leading greater need amongst the youth of the town.

How will groups currently receiving support, but not classified as a vulnerable group, be provided for in the future?

Answer: Cllr Glazier highlighted that the balance of responsibility will move toward more community led support, whilst still ensuring that service users have access to resources. As well as this, those on the cusp of services will have access to professional expertise.

Following an earlier question regarding the role of Councillors in setting policy, what scope do officers have to meet young people when shaping a scheme?

Answer: ESCC employed Youth Workers come into contact with young people regularly through their role, it is hoped that in the future systems could become less bureaucratic to allow for this.

Q. Following recent site visits as part of the review, could more effective use be made of existing resources, such as opening youth centres during the day?

Answer: KD noted that current arrangements are in line with work to target young people as part of the YDS. Cllr Glazier responded by highlighting the role of the YDS in bringing income, resources and staff to centres and other facilities.

From experience, the YDS already seems to provide a targeted service focused on deprived areas, echoing earlier comments, what provision will be available for those, not classified as vulnerable, but who live in deprived areas and therefore may be subject to lower aspirations and ambitions. How will the loss of universal services heighten these risks?

Answer: Although this is a possible risk, past high levels of funding have not produced a 'silver-bullet' solution. Under new plans, focus will move towards educational achievements. Educational attainment and job expectations in Hastings have been long standing ESCC objective and whilst progress has been made towards meeting them, further community effort is also required. Cllr Glazier continued that many of these changes will be 'generational' and take place over extended periods of time.

Some families within communities may lack the expertise required, will these cuts inspire these generational changes?

Answer: Cllr Glazier asserted that in the past, higher levels of funding have not produced the community effort required.

How can we devote the same attention to each child with reduced resources?

Answer: Cllr Glazier responded that whilst this may to be possible, plans to reduce the amount of paperwork required will maximize the time available.

OF followed this by explaining that in his personal experience, young people also require a clear path with stability and vision as well as job expectations, adding that these points should be in place before support is withdrawn.

Answer: Cllr Glazier accepted OF's comments regarding dependency.

OF continued that a positive portrayal of young people in the media, highlighting achievements such as the work at St Mary in the Castle, would help to break down wider stereotypes.

Answer: Cllr Glazier agreed, but noted industry objections which often create difficulties in promoting such stories.

FC leaves at 7.00pm

Q: How are targeted youth services going to facilitate education?

Answer: Cllr Glazier answered that through work with the community ideas will be collated to attract bids for external funding. Cllr Glazier acknowledge the success of the Youth Development Service in attracting funding.

Q: Would this be a post in itself?

Answer: ESCC currently employs a bidding officer.

Cllr Lock acknowledged the responsibility held by local authorities to every child living in a deprived area. He stated that whilst the Borough Council and Youth Councils efforts were focused on Hastings, ESCC must consider the county as a whole.

OF informed the group of his personal experience and contacts from working with young people in the town.

Cllr Lock acknowledged the greater proportion of young people living in deprived areas across the town.

Cllr Glazier highlighted the differences across the county, continuing that a Hastings based team would be best placed to allocate resources in the town.

Going forward Cllr Glazier requested that the findings and recommendations of this review are shared with County to create helpful solutions.

KB asked Cllr Glazier for more information regarding the ESCC timetable to allow the review to communicate these recommendations in a timely fashion.

Cllr Glazier noted that discussions were still ongoing at the County Council and that a summer timetable was most likely.

KB responded that a second letter from the Review team discussing broader issues to the review as well as points raised at this meeting be sent to Cllr Glazier as well as the recommendations of the final report.

Cllr Lock drew the team's attention to the leisure aspect of the review, highlighting specifically the athletics track at William Parker School and the POD at Hollington Youth Centre.

Cllr Glazier noted that some facilities are funded through the schools budget.

Cllr Westley added that some existing facilities are funded through Children's Services.

Cllr Lock requested further information regarding ESCC plans for the provision of leisure facilities, adding this would allow Hastings Borough Council to compliment county provisions. He continued that the review was an opportunity to raise awareness of new facilities and services currently on offer in Hastings at County level.

Cllr Westley noted that in the case of the POD as this facility is located within a County owned building (Hollington Youth Centre) this could restrict access.

Cllr Glazier explained that in the future it may be possible for such facilities to be run from within the community.

Cllr Westley noted this, adding that communities would require support during such a transition.

PRH added that this could be an opportunity for greater involvement from the Youth Council.

OF suggested piloting services which could fill 'gaps in the market' to see how these could be filled in the future.

Cllr Lock responded that the reviews findings to date indicated that whilst many services are provided across the town, increased awareness amongst young people and adults was required.

Cllr Lock questioned whether in some instances ESCC was best placed to provide leisure facilities, instead it could facilitate organizations with specialist knowledge to take projects forward.

Cllr Westley reaffirmed the role of the Council in ensuring young people have access to services in Hastings.

Cllr Glazier left at 7.25pm.

Appendix F

Email sent to Cllr Keith Glazier, Lead Member, Children's Services, 31st March 2011

Dear Cllr Glazier,

East Sussex County Council Revenue Spending Plans

It was very good indeed of you to come and talk to our scrutiny review of youth provision and leisure in Hastings on 21st February. I know that fellow review team members, and the Hastings youth council reps who came, really welcomed the opportunity to be able to talk to you first hand.

You mentioned at that meeting that you would welcome any further comments we had on your spending plans.

As we mentioned at the meeting, our biggest worry is that the clear move away from mainstream funding for universal youth development services to a much smaller provision for approximately 900 young people, by your estimates, identified as being at risk across East Sussex.

As we know you are aware, Hastings is not just the most deprived town in East Sussex but the most deprived town in the whole of the south east, and a number of partners, including yourselves, of course, have been investing very significant resources here to help us address the very real problems we face. As we explained at our meeting, we believe that there are more than 900 young people at risk of NEET, teenage pregnancy, substance misuse or offending in Hastings alone; you may recall that our youth council reps spoke particularly forcefully on this point. Clearly your plans will result in a major dilution of what is currently available here.

We also made the point that if, as we fear, your targeted approach misses those borderline at risk, and some do 'cross the line,' there will be additional costs incurred e.g. in policing, as well as in the indirect, but very real, social costs.

When we met we asked what provision would be made for those not classed as vulnerable, but who live in deprived areas and so might have lower aspirations and ambitions. We were concerned that the loss of provision might heighten these risks. You acknowledged that this was a possible risk, but you said that high levels of funding have not produced a 'silver bullet' solution.

You suggested that reduced bureaucracy in the future will increase the amount of 'contact time' front line workers will have with young people. With respect, we find it difficult to accept that there will be an improved service with the magnitude of the cuts you are making.

As one of the Youth Council representatives explained, young people require a clear path with stability and vision as well as job expectations. You accepted these points, yet still intend to withdraw mainstream funding, meaning that more young people in Hastings are almost doomed to failure.

A further concern, aired at our meeting, is the reduction in school funding. As you acknowledged, some facilities provided (e.g. the William Parker athletics track) are part funded by schools. As pressure on school funding increases, we fear that non-curriculum activities such as this will be at greater risk.

We discussed the fact that mention is made in your proposals of exploring the closure of possibly eight Children's Centres. As we explained, this may well include centres here in Hastings, something that greatly worries us. As well as the reduction in provision per se, widening the geographical reach of the remaining centres must impact upon our most deprived residents.

A point we made in our earlier email, still unresolved, is the impact of the loss of ESCC-revenue on community centres. As we mentioned, a number of community centres rely on their funding from a wide range of uses/lettings. In many cases this includes ESCC-supported children's activity, and we remain concerned that the loss of effectively core income generated by County-funded activity will reduce the income to below the critical mass necessary to run the centre. In other words, the withdrawal of youth-focussed activity might be sufficient to result in the total closure of the centre, thereby having a massive impact on all users, and the wider community.

A concern which came out of our visits is that Hollington youth centre did not appear to us to be fully used, certainly not as intensively as, say, the YMCA. We wonder whether the rules on its use might be relaxed. This should benefit those who cannot currently access the facility, and ESCC because of the greater rental extra hirings might bring in. We did appreciate the time you took coming to meet us, but many of our fears remain. Our review has demonstrated just what a vital resource County provides to the young people of Hastings and how widely used, and valued, these services are. There is a genuine enthusiasm here for the community to help where it can; unfortunately, with second and third generation unemployment now common in parts of the town, the community just cannot deliver the work required by itself. We need the support, and capacity-building, you provide.

We can do no more than repeat our original plea, and urge you to think very carefully about where you make your cuts, and, if at all possible, ensure that universal provision to youth services is maintained in this, the most deprived town in south east England. We attach for your information a copy of our final report, which will be presented to our next Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Services.

Yours sincerely,
Cllr Emily Westley, Chair
Cllr Bruce Dowling
Cllr Matthew J Lock

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