



**AGENDA ITEM:
SUMMARY**

Report for:	Housing and Community Overview & Scrutiny
Date of meeting:	29th January 2014
PART:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Youth Provision by Dacorum Borough Council 2013
Contact:	Cllr Neil Harden, Portfolio Holder for Resident and Regulatory Services Author/Responsible Officer, Julie Still, Group Manager – Resident Services
Purpose of report:	(1) Monitoring and information
Recommendations	1) That members note the report and identify any areas where they require additional information
Corporate objectives:	Safe and Clean Environment Building Community Capacity Dacorum Delivers
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> Within existing budgets <u>Value for Money</u>
'Value For Money Implications'	
Risk Implications	
Equalities Implications	
Health And Safety Implications	Independent projects assessed

Consultees:	Team Leader Neighbourhood Action, Lead Officer - Active Communities, Adventure Playgrounds, Partners
Background papers:	Service Reports

Youth Provision by Dacorum Council

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Dacorum Borough Council offer to young people is delivered by Resident Services through the Neighbourhood Action Team's Active Communities Officer. This work forms an element of this single posts community cohesion and youth involvement role. The officer receives some support from the wider Neighbourhood Action Team and from other services on a project by project basis.
- 1.2 In addition to the Active Communities role there are 4 youth clubs for 11 to 16 year olds which are delivered by Dacorum Borough Council from Adeyfield, Bennetts End, Grovehill and Chaulden Adventure Playgrounds on Wednesday evenings.
- 1.3 The Adventure Playgrounds are also piloting the extension of the age range for usual opening hours at the playgrounds from year 8 to year 10 on specific evenings.
- 1.4 There is no statutory requirement for Dacorum to provide services to children and young people within the borough as this responsibility lies with Hertfordshire County Council and Youth Connexions who are responsible for the delivery of universal service to young people aged 13 to 19 years of age (up to 25 years with learning difficulties).
- 1.5 The range of services provided by Youth Connexions are: - specific projects; youth centres; volunteering; Duke of Edinburgh Award; democracy events; getting involved; jobs and career advice; and a once stop shop service for advice on drugs, finance, health (including sexual health) and housing to name but a few.
- 1.6 The latest update from the Youth Connexions Manager is attached at appendix A.

2013 – Dacorum Borough Council Youth Projects

2 Youth Democracy -

- 2.1 2013 Was a very busy year for youth democracy in Dacorum with the Dacorum Youth Forum increasing to membership of 19 young people.

- 2.2 The forum meet monthly and designed a recruitment campaign for the first 3 months of 2013 which attracted 6 new members A further campaign for new members will take place over the next few months.
- 2.3 'Animated about Voting' – a film making competition was launched in January 2013 with 6 schools and 69 pupils taking part. The schools were:
 - Astley Cooper, Berkhamsted, Cavendish, Hemel Hempstead, Longdean and Rudolph Steiner.
- 2.4 Those involved took part in workshops where they learned new skills in film making, met and learned from producers and directors, local Councillors and about democracy in Dacorum.
- 2.5 Nine films from five schools were screened and awards made to the top three films and Mike Penning MP presented certificates.
- 2.6 The winning film was 'The Pathway to Democracy', Rudolph Steiner School followed by 'The Resistance' and 'The Movie' by Longdean School. The winning film will be used in future election campaigns to encourage young people to vote.
- 2.7 In March, The Mayor accompanied by 3 members of the Dacorum Youth Forum to Yewtree school (400 children) where they presented at two assemblies about the types of activity they get involved in and the role of the Mayor.
- 2.8 On 26th May 2013 the Berkhamsted Ideas Delivered (BID) participatory budgeting project concluded with all 11 groups who benefited from the £50,000 funding, feeding back what had been achieved at Berkhamsted Civic Centre.
- 2.9 On 7th August 2013 10 members of the Youth Forum and 3 members of the National Citizen Service met with the Mayor and local Councillors to informally discuss issues affecting young people at a local level.
- 2.10 European Democracy Week Local Democracy Week was very busy with 4 members of the Youth Forum presenting to a group of 8 – 11 year old children and their parents about the types of projects they get involved in and how they could get involved in the future.
- 2.11 During the same week, 5 schools took part in a Local Democracy Week art competition following a lesson about local democracy, voting and the suffragette movement – students then designed a banner of the theme of injustice. Competition entries were varied and included subjects such as: protecting our rain forests; women drivers in Saudi Arabia; poaching; pollution and littering.
- 2.12 All competition participants had the opportunity to meet the Mayor and the 10 prize winners received certificates from the Mayor. The winners also visited the Houses of Parliament in December to meet MP's Mike

Penning and David Gauke who gave them a private tour along with a gift and resource packs with games and activities to aid learning.

2.13 On 20th November 2013 10 Members of Dacorum Youth Forum attended a full Council meeting to talk about they had identified which included: -

- Building relationships with the police through the Community Safety Partnership
- Discounted leisure, sporting and cultural activities
- A littering Campaign
- Improved participation in the political process.

2.14 These priorities form part of the Hertfordshire Young Peoples Manifesto, Herts 1125 Action For Change.

3 Partnerships, Community Events, Consultation, Community Cohesion and Volunteering

3.1 Following the success of Dacorum Borough Council's youth clubs at the Adventure Playgrounds where there were up to 70 young people attending per session, January 2013 saw Youth Connexions launch 3 youth clubs at Dacorum Borough Council's Adventure Playgrounds to double the offer to young people in Adeyfield, Grovehill and Chaulden. This work continues and requires close partnership working to ensure that both projects maintain the same values, rules and respect for the venues.

3.2 From January to March 2013 the 'Kick It Out' Partnership organised coaching sessions for 45 young people. Accreditation in basic football skills was available along with a healthy eating session provided by Youth Connexions and those completing 8 out of 10 sessions were treated to a trip to an Arsenal Football match.

3.3 In February 2013 lighting was installed at Canal Fields, Berkhamsted Skate Park. The Active Communities Officer worked with Berkhamsted Youth Town Council to successfully campaign and raise funds for the lighting. Partnership working took the Youth Council through the consultation process, planning, fund raising and installation and involved the Town Councillors, Town Council Clerk, Neighbourhood Police Community Support Officer, Anti-Social Behaviour Team, Crime Prevention Officer and designers to name but a few.

3.4 In April 2013, 8 members of the Youth Forum supported the Housing Service Your Place project and organised an Easter egg hunt. The group contacted schools, councillors and designed and distributed the publicity for the event.

3.5 In June and September October 2013, 18 young volunteers were trained to do face painting and did so at 10 events during 2013. Their contribution was very much welcomed by the range of agencies involved

and the hundreds of children, young people and adults receiving their service – some great skills were developed as well as improved capacity at events to deliver face painting at community events.

- 3.6 On 7th July 2013, 5 members of the Youth Forum volunteered their time at the Herts Learning Disability Games organised by Sportspace and funded through Herts Sports Partnership. One of the volunteers wrote an article which appeared in Dacorum Digest.
- 3.7 Hemel Skate Jam took place on 17th August 2013 and was well attended. This project was in partnership with Hemel Skates to raise funds for improvements to the park and the event was funded through County Council locality budgets. Youth Connexions provided equipment and music for the event and local bands, DJ's and rappers entertained the crowd.
- 3.8 Volunteering opportunities for young people were presented by the Neighbourhood Action Team at the John F Kennedy Fresher's Fair in September.
- 3.9 As part of their business administration apprenticeships, 5 students from Adeyfield School attended a weeks work experience at Dacorum Borough Council. The placements were co-ordinated within 4 departments.
- 3.10 On Saturday 2nd November 2013 the Neighbourhood Action Team worked with Global Pindd, Hemel Mosque, Arsenal Soccer School, Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association, and Youth Connexions to deliver a Kick it Out football tournament and an 'introduction to coaching' workshop to outline careers in coaching for 16 – 25 years olds.
- 3.11 In December 300 children from 6 local primary schools took part in a competition to design Dacorum Borough Council's Chief Executives Christmas Card. The winner received their prize from Sally Marshall at the school assembly as did the 3 runners up.
- 3.12 There are now 65 volunteers registered as Youth Action Entertainers and during 2013, they delivered 6 entertainment events at sheltered and residential schemes across the borough. The entertainment and refreshments as well as the quizzes and conversation are well received by residents and the group are now receiving requests from private organisations.

4 Youth Clubs

- 4.1 The very successful youth clubs at the 4 adventure playgrounds were mainstreamed as part of the core Adventure Playground Service during July 2013.
- 4.2 During 2013 there were over 5000 attendances at the Dacorum Borough Council Youth Clubs which continue to attract over 150 individuals aged

11 to 16 to the 4 playgrounds in Hemel Hempstead on a Wednesday night.

- 4.3 Each youth club sets their own agendas with 3 of the clubs deciding that the young people just want a safe place to meet and hang out with friends.
- 4.4 Adeyfield Adventure Playgrounds Youth Club has established a youth forum that raises funds and delivers events for the younger children in the playground. In addition they also secured funding (£500) from a County Councillor to improve the gardens at Mountbatten Lodge and carried out improvements for the elderly residents.

5 2014 – The Future

- 5.1 The Active Communities Officer who led on youth provision has been seconded to a new role for 12 months from the end of November 2013. A new Neighbourhood Action Officer has been appointed from 30th December 2013 and will be working on this area as part of their duties.
- 5.2 The priorities will be to work with the Dacorum Youth Forum to deliver the priorities identified to full Council in November (appendix B) and work with other departments to increase the involvement of young people across all Council services.
- 5.3 Plans are in place for the Youth Forum to meet with the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Community Safety Partnership during a visit to the borough on 6th March 2014. The Forum will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss their priority of building relationships with the police.
- 5.4 The Council's Environmental Projects Lead Officer will be meeting with the Youth Forum over the next couple of months to discuss their ideas of a youth led litter campaign and the other environmental issues raised. This work will continue through the year.
- 5.5 Opportunities to work with and understand local Councillors roles will be explored and implemented where possible and a programme for Local Democracy Week will be agreed with Democratic Services.
- 5.6 Work to explore access to cultural and sports facilities as identified in the priorities will be explored at Dacorum Borough Council with the Old Town Hall and with Sportspace.
- 5.7 The Youth Forum will continue to work with Youth Connexions to deliver the wider priorities identified in the Herts 1125, Action For Change Young Peoples Manifesto 2013/14 which are reflected in the Dacorum Youth Forum Priorities. Where possible joint projects to deliver on these priorities will be identified and delivered.

- 5.8 Youth clubs will continue to run from the 4 adventure playgrounds within Hemel Hempstead. The Dacorum Borough Council Youth Clubs programme will continue to be set by the young people that attend them and will continue to consult them on their views. Support will continue to the Forums that have formed.
- 5.9 Partnership working will continue with Youth Connexions to deliver the youth clubs from the Adventure Playgrounds and increase the attendance at their sessions.