



Report for:	<b>Housing and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date of meeting:	<b>7th October 2020</b>
Part:	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	<b>Supporting Young People Programme through the Active Dacorum Hub</b>
Contact:	Julie Banks, Portfolio Holder for Community and Regulatory Services  Author/Responsible Officer Linda Roberts (Assistant Director – People, Performance and Innovation) Matt Rawdon (Group Manager – People and Communities) Alex Care (Community Partnerships Team Leader) Claire Foster (Community Partnerships and Wellbeing Officer, Sport and Physical Activity)
Purpose of report:	To inform Members of proposals to spend the £44k in reserves set aside for youth provision.
Recommendations	That Members note the report and provide feedback on the proposal.
Corporate objectives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building strong and vibrant communities</li> <li>• A clean, safe and enjoyable environment</li> <li>• Ensuring economic growth and prosperity</li> </ul>
Implications:	<u>Financial</u>  The delivery of this action plan is contained within existing budgets within the people and communities group.
'Value for money' implications	<u>Value for money</u>  Providing this seed money for activities for young people will keep them engaged and improve their life chances. This in turn will have positive knock on financially in the future for both DBC and other statutory services.

Risk implication	Risk assessment completed on 25.8.2020.
Community Impact Assessment	Community Impact Assessment carried out on 25.8.2020 and can be reviewed upon request.
Health and safety Implications	All health and safety risks will be identified within individual activity risk assessments and actions will put in place to mitigate any issues.
Consultees:	Councillor Julie Banks  APEX  Herts Sports Partnership  Finance
Background papers:	Proposed Costs for Active Dacorum Hub
Historical background <i>(please give a brief background to this report to enable it to be considered in the right context).</i>	<p>The Council has set aside £100k in an earmarked reserve known as the Youth Provision reserve in order to fund youth-related services in the Borough. Part of the reserve was previously utilised to fund the set-up costs of the cycle hub in 2018 and 2019. There is a balance of £44k now remaining in this reserve, which it is proposed to use for Active Dacorum hub to fund activities and initiatives for young people.</p> <p>The Cycle Hub, now known as the Active Dacorum Hub, is ideally positioned to run this programme as it is in a recognised higher than average area of deprivation, has free parking and is on a major bus route.</p>
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	HSP Herts Sports Partnership  NEET not in education or employment  CIC community Interest Company

## 1. Background

1.1. The Council has set aside £100k in an earmarked reserve known as the Youth Provision reserve in order to fund youth-related services in the Borough. Part of the reserve was previously utilised to fund the set-up costs of the cycle hub in 2018 and 2019. There is a balance of £44k now remaining in this reserve, which it is proposed to use for Active Dacorum hub to fund activities and initiatives for young people.

1.2. The Cycle Hub, now known as the Active Dacorum Hub, is ideally positioned to run this programme as it is in a recognised higher than average area of deprivation. The Public Health Profile for Hemel Hempstead and Dacorum 2016 states the following:

*“Levels of obesity and excess weight in adults and children in Hemel Hempstead are a public health concern. In Hemel Hempstead almost a quarter of children in reception year and nearly a third of children in year 6 have excess weight. Almost a quarter of adults are obese. Although many indicators of child and adult weight are not significantly worse than England, the relationship between excess weight and a range of conditions, including circulatory disease and diabetes, make addressing this issue crucial to improving the long-term health and wellbeing of this population. It is therefore imperative that patients understand these risks and have access to preventative interventions locally.”*

- 1.3. Reducing the prevalence of diabetes can contribute to reducing health inequality in Hertfordshire. Although statistically significantly lower than England, the prevalence of diabetes in Hemel Hempstead is statistically significantly higher than Dacorum and Hertfordshire. If left untreated diabetes can have potentially serious consequences such as increased risk of heart disease, stroke, nerve damage and blindness. It is estimated that 10% of the NHS budget is spent on diabetes.
- 1.4. Health services have a role in supporting improved mental health and wellbeing. Prevalence of depression, in Hemel Hempstead, is statistically significantly higher than Dacorum, Hertfordshire, and England. In addition, the prevalence of mental health disorders is statistically significantly higher than Hertfordshire and Dacorum. Although both statistics require further exploration (particularly as mental illness is often underreported), they indicate the importance of services that promote mental health that are accessible for every demographic. These should include community services. In addition, the interrelation between physical and mental health means highlights the importance of providing integrated services.
- 1.5. Following the latest Dacorum Families First Partnership meeting it was highlighted that there is a gap in provision to keep young people aged 11-16 years busy during, evenings, weekends and holidays in Dacorum. The proposal set out looks to help provide solutions to the health problems noted above, through a combination of physical exercise and other wellbeing initiatives.
- 1.6. The following proposal will design a programme for young people which takes into account all of the above.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1. In order to address the gap in the provision of suitable activities for young people (11-16 years) it is proposed to use the remaining funds (£44k) as seed funding to run a number of projects, of which many are hoped to be self-sustaining.
- 2.2. The Active Dacorum Hub has been launched and the site officially opened by the Mayor in August 2020. Active Dacorum Hub is delivered in partnership with APEX in the Community CIC who will be able to help deliver the projects alongside Grovehill Community Centre and the Grovehill and Woodhall Farm Adventure Playgrounds.
- 2.3. DBC is also working in partnership with Herts Sports Partnership on the Active Local project which is a collaborative place-based initiative to reduce

inactivity. It aims to support targeted areas in highlighting their strengths whilst also responding to local need and identifying where support, intervention or extra capacity is needed to create a more joined-up approach to tackling inactivity. The chosen location (by HSP) for Dacorum is Grovehill. The HSP Active Local Officer will work alongside Claire Foster (Community Partnership and Wellbeing Officer, Physical Activity and Sport) in order to facilitate these activities and events.

- 2.4. APEX is intending to take part in the Government's Kickstart scheme to employ those who are NEET and aged between 16 and 24. The provision of these activities will support the employment of someone on this scheme.
- 2.5. As mentioned before both APEX and Grovehill Community Centre will be the main delivery partners but the team will also be working closely with DBC's housing, community safety, adventure playgrounds teams and the Dacorum Families First Partnership.
- 2.6. Please see the supporting document titled Appendix 1 'Proposed Costs for Active Dacorum Hub' which illustrates how the reserves would be used; including projects such as School's Junior Tennis Tournament, Champions Sports Leaders Course, and themed nights at the Hub (e.g. bounce and flight clubs).

### **3. Intended Outcomes**

The outcomes that the programme intends to deliver are listed below:

- 3.1. Engage young people in activities which benefit both physical and mental health.
- 3.2. Provide a COVID safe social environment for young people to connect, interact and share common interests, reducing social isolation.
- 3.3. Engage lower socio-economic groups, such as BAME, girls and disability groups, in activities that support their physical and mental health.
- 3.4. Give young people the opportunity to influence the delivery of activity
- 3.5. Work closely with the Grovehill and Woodhall Farm Adventure Playground who focuses on young children to ensure there is a pathway for these children to progress into activities as they get older
- 3.6. Work with local businesses to provide opportunities for young people to develop their skills to improve their chance of employment.

### **4. Anticipated Impact**

The impacts that this programme intends to deliver are listed below:

- 4.1. Reduce anti-social behaviour reducing pressure on statutory services e.g. community safety and PCSOs.
- 4.2. Improvement in mental health reducing the demand on health care services.

- 4.3. Supporting national and local strategies to reduce childhood obesity.
- 4.4. Reducing the impact of social isolation on different audiences.
- 4.5. Supporting commitments 1 and 3 from our Physical Activity and Sports Strategy. (Tackling physical inactivity and Facilities and infrastructure)
- 4.6. Reduce the number of inactive children in Years 1-11. (Sport England current figures indicate that 25% of children in Dacorum in these school years are 'less active'.)

## **5. Sustainability**

- 5.1 DBC would monitor attendance figures and collect feedback in order to understand what activities are successful and what is sustainable in the future. There is a limited amount of funding available so the sessions will be initially charged at a nominal fee (supplemented by the reserve) which is intended to help gain interest. It is anticipated that after this period of time, the projects would have gained enough interest that the fees could be increased to ensure sustainability.

## **6. Conclusions**

- 6.1 Young people in Grovehill, Hemel Hempstead and Dacorum will benefit from physical and wellbeing activities delivered via the Active Dacorum Hub, improving their life chances and wellbeing, while helping to reduce the demand on DBC and other statutory provider services.

## **7. Recommendations**

- 7.1 Members support the proposal to release the remaining £44k, earmarked for youth provision.