

**Report of:** Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager

**To:** Executive Board




**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2006

**Item No:**

**Title of Report :** Holiday Play Provision



### Summary and Recommendations



**Purpose of report:** To set out proposals for spending the 90k allocated in the budget for 2007 to develop play provision in the City.

**Key decision:** Yes

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Dan Paskins, Port Folio Holder for Social Inclusion

**Scrutiny Responsibility:** Community

**Ward(s) affected:** 


**Report Approved by :** Councillor Dan Paskins (Portfolio Holder)  
Andy Collett (Financial Services)  
Jeremy Thomas (Head of Legal and Democratic Services)



**Policy Framework:** Oxford Plan



**Recommendation(s):**



1. That the proposed plan for delivering holiday activities for children and young people is adopted.



## Background

1. Last summer there was a reduction in the funding available to the Youth Service for youth activities during the summer holidays. It is not the statutory function of the Youth Service to provide full holiday programmes.
  2. Last Summer Holiday the City Council financially supported a number of activities through the Area Committees. A number of holiday activities were funded across the City and in particular a pilot holiday activities programme was established in Wood Farm.
  3. Since last summer there have been discussions in the Oxfordshire County Council and Oxford City Bilateral meetings on developing joint planning of play activities and as a result there is a commitment to joint plan and commission holiday activities.
  4. A report was also presented to the Oxfordshire Community Safety Partnership setting proposals as to how future summer activities can be planned.
  5. A series of workshops between all commissioners of children's activities have agreed joint planning and funding of holiday activities.
  6. Other, complementary externally funded city council projects include;
    - An allocation of funding from the Big Lottery to local authorities for Play. Oxford City Council has received an allocation of £260,000 over three years. This funding is a mixture of revenue and capital funding. In the Council have responded with an expression of interest to say that they would wish to draw down this funding from July 2006. In order to achieve this the Council must have a Play strategy and Action Plan in place that is agreed by representatives of the voluntary and community sector.
    - The Sport England Funded Multi-Activity Project.
  7. Officers in Neighbourhood Renewal and Leisure and Parks have been in discussion with regard to developing the Play Strategy and Action Plan
- 8. Play Action Plan.** The OSCP identified the need to produce a plan of summer activities for 2006-07. There are three core elements to the plan:
- Area-based multi-activity sessions, tailored to the needs of the young people in the area, in areas identified as the most deprived by the Child Poverty Index. Two separate age groups need to be catered for: 8 – 13 year olds and 14 – 19 year olds.
  - A Reactive Service of two staff with the mobility to provide multi-activity sessions in any part of the city on request and supplement Area-based activities when demand is low.

- Effective publicity of activities across the city
9. This plan is one element of the work programme of the OSCP Vulnerable Young Person's Action Group (VYPAG) who are developing an audit of activities, identify gaps and setting up a provider network.
10. The Child Poverty Index indicates that the Super Output Areas facing the most severe income deprivation affecting children are situated in:
- Barton
  - Blackbird Leys
  - Rose Hill
  - Wood Farm
11. There exist various area-based steering groups to look at provision of activities for young people, this scheme links to these steering groups;
- Barton Youth Committee
  - LYAC (Leys Youth Action Committee)
  - Rose Hill Children and Young People's Steering Group
  - Wood Farm Young People's Steering Group

All four of these groups are a mixture of; local providers from the voluntary sector and local authorities, youth service, children's centres, police, street wardens.

**12. Scheme objectives** Each scheme will be required to:

- Provide activities for five summer holiday weeks and one week at Easter.
- Provide separate activities for the 8-12 and 13-19 age ranges.
- Operate for at least 5 hours per day, 5 days per week.
- Customise its activities to the needs of the young people.
- Include support sessions
- Involved the local community in the delivering the service.
- Effectively publicise the activities on offer using timely and accurate material.
- Work with existing services in the area

**13. Community involvement** Key community members will be asked to support the schemes, including:

- local councillors including parish councillors
- residents
- schools
- shop keepers and local businesses
- charities and voluntary agencies

**14. Engaging young people** Partner agencies will be asked to assist in promoting the activities to their clients and young people within the local area. Key partners include:

- YOT workers
- Social Services
- Youth Service
- Positive Futures
- Councillors

#### **15. Support Sessions**

Schemes will be expected to work closely with partners and encourage them to attend sessions in an advisory capacity during breaks in activities. Organisations offering advice and support to you people will have a captive audience during the day. Potential partners include:

- Fire and Rescue Service
- Community Beat Officers
- CANAcT
- Street Wardens
- Connexions and Career Advisors
- Drug and Sexual Health Officers
- Oxford United Football in the Community
- Youth Service
- Healthy Living Initiative

**16. Engagement by local clubs and community groups** Local clubs and community groups will be actively encouraged to recruit young people during the activities:

- Community group work
- Arts and dance clubs
- Sport clubs
- Junior Warden scheme
- Further Education establishments
- Voluntary organisations
- Healthy Living Initiative

**17. Promotion and Advertising** Promotion of the Area-based activities needs to be timely, accurate and targeted. There is a promotion group including communications officers from the City and County Councils to ensure co-ordination.

Methods for effective promotion could include:

- Leaflets and posters for each area
- Letter drops to all households
- Local papers (Leys News)
- Local public buildings such as schools, community and leisure centres and libraries
- Local shop windows

Young people may be asked to assist in the distribution of information or people who have community orders maybe asked to assist.

## 18. Reactive service

The Reactive Service is a low cost, mobile service that will respond to requests from partners to operate in an area with little or no provision where young people are causing concern. Two experienced staff members will run the service and target the 13 -19 age range. Working closely with existing service providers will be a prerequisite of the Reactive Service and they will be expected to delivery fast-time, low cost and short-term activities in an area. When demand is low they will supplement the Area-based schemes.

## 19. Management

The Area-based schemes will aim to build upon existing provision in the areas but where there are none Oxford City Council Active Communities Partnership Manager will commission and oversee the area-based schemes. The OSCP co-ordinating group will be the Steering Group for the project. Discussions about the delivery of these services in currently happening with the locality partnerships outlined at point 11.

## 20. Costs

Area	Places	Cost
Wood Farm	120	18,400
Rose Hill	120	18,400
Barton	120	18,400
Blackbird Leys	230	23,000
Mobile Outreach	Max 40	9,680
		£ 87,880

## 21. Activities Total : £ 87,880

Administration Contribution : £2,120 (management and co-ordination to be resourced through existing budgets and staff time)

## TOTAL : £90,000

22. These costs have been derived on the basis of the successful pilot scheme held in Wood Farm in Summer 2005. All expenditure will be incurred within the financial year 2006-2007 and will form the basis of an extended scheme (to be brought before members) for 2007-2008 as outlined in the Budget.

23. The delivery of the Holiday schemes will be through external contractors engaged by the city council to deliver to our specification for these activities. For procurement purposes this year's Easter and Summer schemes are separate. The Easter schemes will be commissioned from providers within the areas and we will go through a full tendering process for the Summer schemes.

24. Service providers will vary from area to area and the type of provision will be tailored to the ages and preferences of the young people in the area who access the service.

25. We have recently set up a Strategic Planning and Commissioning group, which include partners from the County Council, Thames Valley Police, Youth Service and Voluntary Sector. We are encouraging partners to work together and co-ordinate funding streams

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Background papers: None

