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## Introduction

Oxford City Council awarded funding to provide activities for young people during the holiday periods in designated areas across Oxford. The areas identified were Barton, Wood Farm, Blackbird Leys and Rose Hill.

Neil Holman, Active Communities Manager in Oxford City Council worked closely with partner officers in identifying key providers that could provide various activities for young people aged 5-19.

## **Providers & Activities**

The providers applied for funding to provide activities for up to four weeks during the school summer holiday period. Activities were as follows:

Area	Provider	Activities		
Barton	JSC Summer Fun weeks Bayard's Hill Primary School	Art & crafts, DVDs, skipping, marbles, board games, dance classes, karaoke, parachutes, paper mache and		
	Age: 8 to 16	gaming sessions such as football, basketball, hockey, netball, cricket, short tennis and swimming.		
Barton	Youth Service, Youth Centre, Barton Neighbourhood Centre	Arts & crafts, street art, circus skills, T-shirt printing, healthy lifestyle, African drumming, swimming, DJing &		
	Age: 13+ (2 weeks only)	dance, trip to Youlbury.		
Blackbird Leys	Dovecote Primary School, Windale Avenue, Greater Leys	Sports activities, Arts and crafts, invasion games, trips, swimming, puzzles, face painting, photo frames.		
	Age: 5-12			
Blackbird Leys	Blackbird Leys CDI, Pegasus School and Blackbird Leys Community Centre	Street dancing, fashion & design, music technology, photography, swimming, ice-skating, football, scratchin & breaking, workshops, MTV project. Kayaking, cycling		
	Age: 8 to 19	sailing, visit to the Tate Gallery and a day trip to the seaside and Alton Towers.		
Blackbird Leys	Youth Service, Blackbird Leys Youth Centre	Arts and crafts, football, kayaking, sailing, cycling, tennis basketball and day trips to Weymouth, Youlbury and		
	Age: 13+	Coral Reef Leisure Centre.		
Rose Hill	Sure Start Holiday Club, Rose Hill	Themes: ship wreck, go wild (clay animal magnets,		
	Age: 5 to 11	stained glass pictures, treasure chests, beads, football, rounders, cricket, tennis and a two-day sailing event.		
Rose Hill	Youth Service, Rose Hill Youth Centre	Music studio, football and physical training, including a 6 a side tournament and fishing along with centre based		
	Age: 13+	activities and outreach sessions.		
Wood Farm	Oxford Active, Wood Farm	Football, basketball, hockey, tag rugby, benchball,		
	Age: 8 to 14	rounders, cricket, bombardments. The final week comprised of competitions of football, hockey, tag rugby		

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		and cricket.
Wood Farm	Youth Service, Wood Farm Community Centre (2 weeks only) Age: 13+	Arts & crafts, street art, circus skills, T-shirt printing, healthy lifestyle, African drumming, swimming, DJing & dance, trip to Youlbury.

## **Communicating Activities**

Details of some of the activities were published in the Oxfordshire Play scheme booklet but all providers produced posters and leaflets that were distributed within the areas.

Oxford City Council also provided a press release that was published in the Oxford Mail and Times and the Oxford Journal. The press release was also a news item on the Oxford City Council website and Oxford Safer Communities Partnership website.

#### **Attendance**

Area	Average number per Day	Total Number Of different Young People	Age Range	Providers	Charge
Wood Farm	36	77	8-14	Oxford Active	Free
	?	?	13-19	Youth Service	Free
Rose Hill	40	?	5-11	Sure Start	Free
	38	126	13-19	Youth Service	Free
Barton	65	160	8-19	JSC	Free
	?	?	13-19	Youth Service	Free
Blackbird Leys	84	144	5-12	Dovecote	Free
•	60	172	8-19	CDI	£1
	?	?	10-19	Youth Service	Free

Nb. All missing figures should be available soon.

The general consensus from the providers was that there had been a good attendance of the activities. The Rose Hill Youth Service had noticed a reduction in attendance from the previous year. It was felt that this was due to the disturbances around The Oval. The Youth Manager did confirm that numbers increased towards the end of the project.

### **Partnership Working**

A key part of the holiday scheme was for partner agencies to link up with the providers. Emails were sent to all providers and key partners to timetable activities.

Providers	Partner Agencies
Barton, Youth Service	Energy & Vision every Wednesday
Barton, JSC	Barton Residents Research Group
	Street Wardens – 27 July, 3, 10 and 17 August

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Blackbird Leys, CDI	Street Wardens
Blackbird Leys, Youth Service	No outside agency involvement
Rose Hill, Sure Start	None known
Rose Hill, Youth Service	Smoking Cessation Officer – 1/8/06 from 12 pm to 2 pm and 3/8/06 from 11.30 to 12.30 pm
	Evolve – one day per week
	Youth Service Outreach Officer – one day per week
Wood Farm, Oxford Active	Smoking Cessation Officer
	Street Wardens – 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug
Wood Farm, Youth Service	Energy & Vision every Wednesday
	Street Warden – 9/8/06

Though more agencies were contacted, there was insufficient notice for some agencies to organise officers to attend. This area will need to be incorporated within all contracts next year.

## **Young Peoples Views**

The general consensus from the young people who attended was extremely favourable. Below are a few quotes from some of the attendees:

"Canoeing – team thing, it's the best. It ruled. Better to work as a team".

"I had a really good time. I went climbing in the trees and played cricket". Male aged 10.

"Snack time is a nice way to have your five a day. It gives you a bit of free time to talk to your friends while you're eating. And you can try different things like Cherries, Kiwi, Melon and Banana". Female aged 10.

## **Crime Analysis**

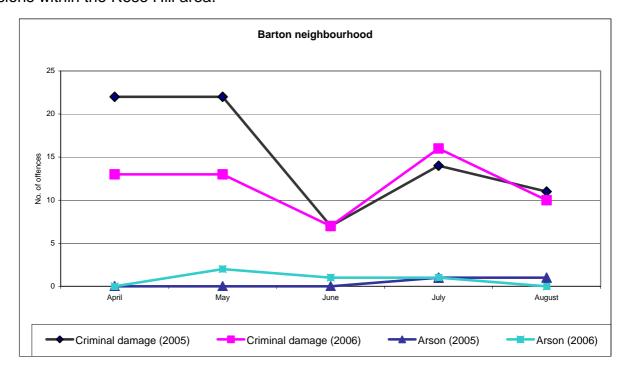
A Crime Analysis was carried out comparing rates of criminal damage this year compared with the previous year.

During the period the scheme was on, criminal damage declined in all but one area. Criminal damage is not solely committed by young people but is identified as a key factor in anti-social behaviour.

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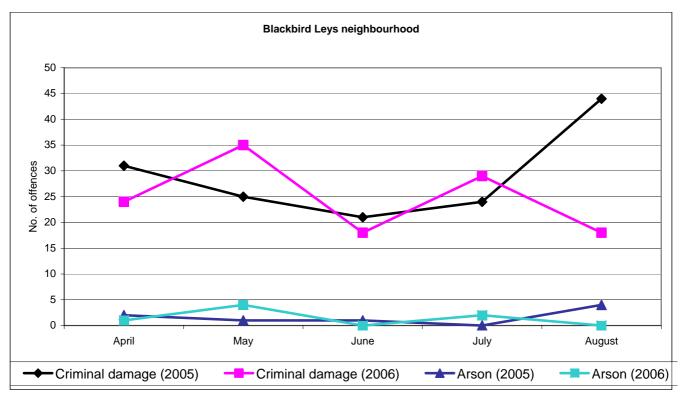


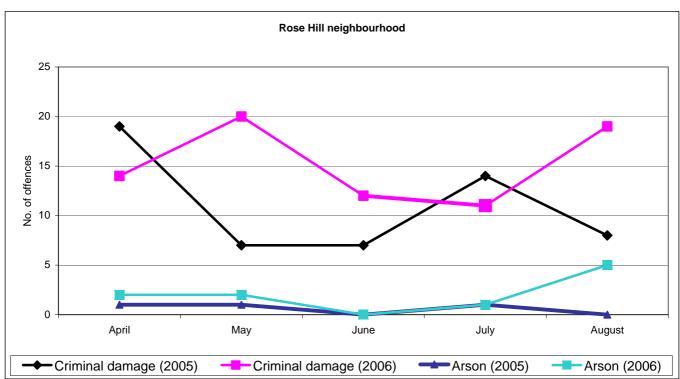
Wood Farm and Girdlestone Road saw a 50% reduction of criminal damage in August, from 16 to 8 recorded crimes and Blackbird Leys also saw a reduction of 41% for criminal damage. Rose Hill saw an increase in criminal damage and arson. This again was probably due to tensions within the Rose Hill area.



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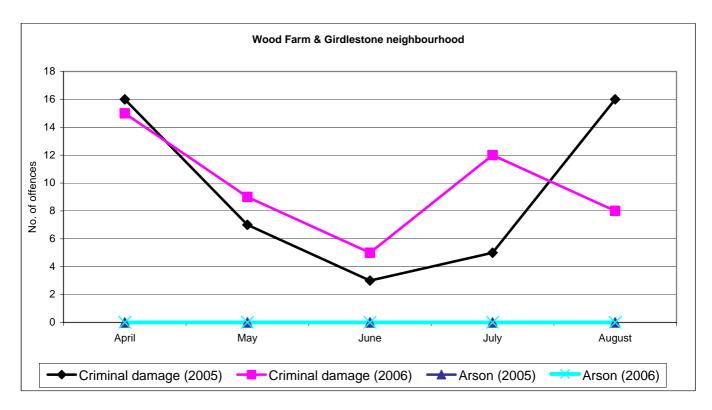






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#### Recommendations

- 1. Identify gaps in service
- 2. Improve communication between partners and communicating activities in a more joined up approach.
- 3. Report to be tabled at Oxford City and Oxfordshire County Council's bi-lateral meeting.