

## **Extract - Executive Annual Report 2010/11**

### **Councillor Ashworth**

#### **Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People**

##### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - PARTNERSHIPS**

Following the restructure of council services, the Children and Young People Team moved into the 'Community Engagement – Partnerships' Service at the beginning of the municipal year. The Team has continued to maintain key communications channels with all council services ensuring essential data is shared and that enquiries from the general public, partners and council colleagues are dealt with. Particular activity of note during 2010/11 includes:

##### **Restructure of Children's Trusts, priorities and supporting officers**

The Lancashire Children's Trust undertook a restructure during late 2010 to become more streamlined and focused on priorities. The district Children's Trusts were required to restructure themselves as well, splitting their membership into a small strategic Board and a wider Operational Partnership. The Board then assumed the role of the Children and Young People's Thematic Group of the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership (LDLSP). The City Council has agreed a statement of commitment with Lancashire County Council to ensure the district Children's Trust has appropriate officer support, with both authorities agreeing to invest £20,000 a year into this support.

The Children's Trust has agreed to focus its energies on a small number of priorities in an attempt to maximise impact – in summary they are:

- Improving the health and wellbeing of C&YP
- Reducing the number of young people who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training)
- Improving outcomes for vulnerable groups
- Better access to positive activities for C&YP

In delivering the agreed priorities it has been agreed there will be a strong focus on developing and embedding integrated working and early intervention.

More information about all of these achievements and more is available at <http://www.lancaster.gov.uk/community-and-living/children-young-people/>

##### **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

The Safeguarding Children & Young People Policy continues to inform and direct staff, Members and volunteers on all aspects relating to Children and Young People, including the Common Assessment Framework. 'Work Experience Good Practice' and 'Bullying Safeguarding Training' is available as part of the Corporate Training Plan.

The Lancashire District Safeguarding Board 'Section 11 Audit' was undertaken in November 2010 highlighting the need for the City Council to appoint a 'Designated Child Protection Officer' and the identification of new Service Responsible Officers due to recent restructures. Options for basic safeguarding training for all staff have also been discussed.

'Lost and Missing Child' guidelines were developed during 2010 in readiness for the Sandcastle and Seaside Festival, incorporating the use of fluorescent wrist-bands with a parent/carer's phone number in case the child becomes lost. These proved to be extremely popular and have since been used at the Firework Spectacular and have been distributed from our tourist information centres.

### **Vetting and Barring Scheme and Independent Safeguarding Authority (VBS & ISA)**

The coalition government halted the roll out of the new VBS & ISA in June 2010. Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) disclosures have continued and the latest indication from government is that the CRB system will be simplified over the coming months.

### **Common Assessment Framework (CAF)**

The Common Assessment Framework is a standardised approach to conducting assessments of a child's needs and deciding how they should be met in a holistic way by all providers of services to children. All City Council staff working with children are encouraged to access 'CAF Level 1 training', which involves an online presentation followed by a mandatory test, before progressing on to 'CAF Level 2 – Practitioner' training. There are some key members of staff that regularly initiate CAFs and who are able to provide guidance to colleagues if required.

### **Local Democracy Campaign**

Local Democracy Week was held in October 2010 providing young people with the opportunity to become involved with their local council. Two full-day events were organised at Morecambe and Lancaster Town Halls involving children from five local schools, our elected Members and partners such as the Police and County Council.

Young people got the chance to stand for and vote in elections to a mock council, and created new political parties such as 'More Sport', 'Dinosaurs' and 'Christmas Every Day'. They also got to experience budgeting for services with a 'Pupil Power' group exercise, met the Mayor and toured the buildings.

**Sports and Arts Project** (funded by the Lancaster District Local Strategic Partnership) run by the Wellbeing Service finished after two years and engaged with well over 1000 young people at risk of offending in a wide range of diversionary activities, far exceeding the original target of 500. Delivery was provided by range of partners including Morecambe Football Club, YMCA, Marsh Community Centre, Ridge Community Centre, the Dukes Theatre, More Music and Regent Park Studios. The programme was supported by the Police, Youth Offending Team, and Lancashire Young Peoples Service.

### **Skerton - Connecting Communities (SCC)**

Part of this project involved consulting children and young people attending the opening of the 'Outdoor Classroom' on Ryelands Park and Summer Playschemes at Skerton St Luke's. They were asked for their thoughts on what they liked about Skerton and what would make it a better place. Their answers have been displayed on eye-catching collages of paper sunflowers at St Luke's, and their thoughts have been incorporated into the Connecting Communities consultation data.

### **Children and Young People Activities across all services**

The majority of the Council's work with children and young people is through Wellbeing within Community Engagement, however other important work done by services work activities include:

- **Environmental Services:** Recycling talks and fun activities with local youth groups and secondary schools
- **Visitor Information Services:** Workshops and presentations on tourism and marketing to over 150 local primary, secondary and college students
- **Health and Housing Service:** Ran an accident prevention quiz with 42 primary schools (in excess of 1000 children participating), plus environment days with local primary schools, careers talks with secondary schools and four work experience placements.
- **Regeneration and Policy:** Consulted with pupils from both primary and secondary schools about the Morecambe Area Action Plan.

### **Lancaster District Multi-Agency Forum**

The Lancaster District CYP Multi-Agency Forum has been supported throughout the year, joining up partner activities at an operational level across the district and increasing the knowledge of frontline workers.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – WELLBEING**

### **Arts**

**Lancaster Arts Partnership** – Supported a number of art organisations including the Dukes Theatre, Ludus Dance, More Music, Storey Gallery and Litfest. The Council provided £226,400 in total and this brought in a further £1,515,022 in grants secured by these organisations, 44 full-time and 65 part-time staff are employed, engaged with 22,943 young people and attracted 21,238 visitors, these figures are up and including Q3 (April-December).

### **Leisure**

**Big Lottery Project** – An externally funded (£307,429.53), three year programme linked to the District's Play Strategy, it ends on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2011 . The funding supports two projects; **Adventure Out (Play Rangers)** and **Natural**

**Adventure.** The Play Ranger Project has exceeded the participation target for the project, the Play Rangers have provided over 4376 places that local children have filled in order to participate in free play activity.

- **Happy Mount Park** - With the a new addition to the park (Natural Play Area) and the existing splash park and concessions, this year has proved to be very popular with visitors and the local community. It is estimated that when the weather is good (during April - September) and the children or not at school (weekends and schools holidays) that up 4000 people have been in the park on some occasions.
- **Disability Awareness Event** – This is due to take place on the 26<sup>th</sup> March at Salt Ayre Sports Centre and will provide a marketplace where families can speak to lots of providers about services for children with a disability and their families. 60 families attended the first one last year. This year we expect the event to be even more popular and the Primary Care Trust has provided £2000 of funding towards to event.
- **Leadership Training** - 8 Young leaders/Junior Sports Leader courses have been deliver and 158 young people have gained a nationally recognised qualification..

## **Sport**

- **Children and Young Peoples Holiday Activities** - during the April (Easter), Summer, October and February school holidays. 1555 opportunities for children and young people to participate were taken up and from this 30% were new participants who had not previously taken part and 95% of the children and young people who participated in our holiday programmes this year stated that they had enjoyed themselves.
- **Sport and Physical Activity Alliance (SPAA)** – Externally funded (£659,402), the aim of the SPAA programme is to increase the number of people participating in sport and physical activity over a 3 year period. As a consequence, a number of specific targets have been agreed with the funders and projects are now taking place to help achieve these targets. In particular the projects within this Alliance have been developed in partnership with a number of local organisations and are starting to achieve some outstanding successes in increased numbers participating in physical activity, namely:-

The **Community Activity Programme (CAP)**. CAP consists of a number of smaller projects e.g. YMCA Project, Regent Park Studios Project, Exercise Referral Scheme, Dance Project and Diversionary Sports & Arts Project (DSAP). The DSAP has a further range of partners including Signposts, More Music, Marsh Community Centre, Ridge Community Centre, Morecambe Football Club and the Police. The second of these projects is **Hit 4 Six**, which is a cricket project lead by Lancashire Cricket Board (LCB) and involves Heysham High School and the Lancaster and Morecambe Cricket Development Group.

Since the programme commenced, some 5429 people have participated in regular sport and physical activity, 2531 were under 16, 105 were people with a disability and 114 were people from an ethnic minority background, 36 new coaches have been trained, and 77 new volunteers are working within this programme. In addition the programme has engaged with 624 health referrals (Referred by a GP or Practice Nurse) and 1902 young people at risk from offending. The Police recognise the positive contribution that the Sports and Arts Diversionary Project is making in addressing anti social behaviour - anti social behaviour has fallen by around 21% across the district and up to 40% in some specific wards/areas where activities provided by this project have been provided.

- **Community Swimming Pools** – Continued operation of Heysham, Carnforth and Hornby swimming pools by Wellbeing on behalf of the County. Considerable improvements made during the last twelve months around more cohesive programming ensuring the opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to swim locally are maximised.

### Children and Young People

- **MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition...Do it)** – is a programme aimed at overweight children and their families and helps them become fitter, healthier and happier by offering free healthy living programmes in the local community. 6 families signed up for this programme and attended a 10 week course, the families learned about nutrition, exercise and how to set achievable goals. Each child took part in a fitness test. This programme is funded by the Primary Care Trust.

Feedback from the families was very positive:

- “We have become one big family”
  - “My daughter’s confidence has grown”
  - “I feel that I have learnt a lot on the course and it will benefit me fro the rest of my life”
  - “It has brought my daughter and I closer together”
- **Playschemes** - 508 children (under 11’s) attended this year’s playschemes at 9 sites across the district, plus playschemes that the Council provide funding for (but do not deliver) at the Ridge and Marsh Community Centres. The £10,000 was also provided by the County Council to provide **Playschemes on tour** – 2 hour activity sessions were delivered across the district using parks and open space. A further 519 children and young people took part in activities.
  - **Aiming High Disabled Children (AHDC)** - £4600 secured through AHDC (County Council) to commission 2 projects. An after school club at Salt Ayre Sports Centre which attracts 10 young children each week and is provided by Loyne Special School with support from external sports coaches. The second project was provided by Ludus Dance during February Half Term and involved 9 children attending a 5 day workshop. Although small numbers these children and young people are the most in need and can require quite complex or expensive support in order for them to be able to participate.

- It is important that much of the programming offered across Wellbeing is geared at providing activities (some referred to as diversionary) that enable children and young people to occupy their time in a productive and beneficial manner. All holiday activity programmes and core programming activities such as swimming lessons provide opportunities which deliver against various agendas including health, reducing crime and juvenile disorder and social skills.

**Young People 2010** - Partnership event delivered by Lancaster City Council, Lancashire county Council Young Peoples Service, Lancaster YMCA, Police.

This was funded through PAYP money

Lots of community organisations were involved in delivering a variety of activities and information throughout the day. There was also a large outdoor stage showcasing the musical talent from across the district. In excess of 1000 young people attended with positive feedback received from both participants and contributing organisations alike. Over 400 feedback forms were completed and provided useful information to help future provision / programming.