

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL

17 APRIL 2007

Reference from the Meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 January 2007: Question and Answer Session with the Portfolio Holder for People First – Children’s Services and the Portfolio Holder for Legal Services

Extract from Minute 37

Question 8: *What is the Council doing, and in partnership with other agencies, to deter anti-social behaviour especially after the school day and on the way home? Please note the impact of free bus passes for school children.*

1. The Portfolio Holder for People First – Children’s Services responded as follows:
 - A wide range of programmes were provided within the Borough for young people, to encourage them to participate in positive activities and avoid anti-social behaviour. These included after school clubs, sports activities (Kickz project, Canons Cricket academy and basketball), youth clubs (residential and outreach projects), and Connexions funded activities (through Positive Activities for Young People - PAYP - funding). Young people were also encouraged to participate in decision making through the Youth Council, Youth Question Time, Student Advisory Group and Operation Empower;
 - The extended schools agenda also meant that schools were looking for ways to provide opportunities for further involvement of all ages beyond the school day. The Safer Harrow Community officers worked closely with a number of schools and were present at school gates to deter anti social behaviour, and promote positive citizenship;
 - When local residents expressed concern about the large number of young people gathering in Boxtree Park (Harrow Weald) over the summer holidays, the youth service used this opportunity to use outreach youth workers in the park to deliver a six week series of activities, culminating in a youth-led fun day attracting up to 150 local teenagers (aged 13-19);
 - During Junior Citizens week, the Watford Football Club manager spoke to children about what footballers ate and the importance of exercise. He was seen as a positive role model for the children;
 - Young people had expressed the view that CCTV did not have an impact on their fear of crime. There would be a Member Development event on 6 February 2007 to look at the fear of crime.

2. In response to a supplemental question about anti-social behaviour at the bus station and members of the public being prevented from using buses by school children with free bus passes, it was explained that steps taken would be to address this matter.

The Council was working with the police to reduce anti-social behaviour at Harrow's travel hubs, a three year programme was in place to educate young children, Headteachers of the pupils involved in anti-social behaviour were working together to agree a strategy, after school activities had reduced the number of children leaving school at the same time and the links between community police and schools would benefit young people and the community.

3. The Portfolio Holder for Legal Services and Issues Facing Young People explained that young people had also raised concern about the level of policing at the bus station.

RESOLVED: That (1) the above responses be noted;

(2) Members receive responses to the questions, which were not answered during the meeting due to the time constraint, together with responses to any supplemental questions;

(3) the Sub-Committee receive, at the next meeting, the results from the recent survey of water provision in schools;

(4) the School Meals Improvement Strategy and provision for pupils on the Autistic Spectrum be added to the Work Programme;

(5) the Member Development Panel be made aware of the discussions on anti-social behaviour in the bus station.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background Papers: Minutes of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 9 January 2007.

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