

Area North Committee – 23 November 2011

## 9. Community Health and Leisure Service Update

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### Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update on the work of the Community Health and Leisure Service in Area North.

### Public Interest

This report seeks to provide Area North members with a progress report on the work undertaken by the council's Community Health and Leisure Service in the last 12 months. This report highlights specific examples of work undertaken within the area so that members can gain an understanding of how the service is creating value and making a difference for residents in their respective communities.

### Recommendations

- (1) That the Area North Committee notes the content of this report.
- (2) That members contact the Community Health and Leisure Manager, if they would like to discuss the current service delivery programme or recommend future priorities. Service planning takes place on an annual basis and draft plans for 2012/13 will start to be drafted shortly.

### Background

The Community Health and Leisure team was created following a restructure in 2010. The service covers six main areas:

- Play Development
- Play Areas / Youth Facilities
- Opportunities for Young People
- Healthy Lifestyles Development
- Sport Development
- Leisure Facility Development/Outdoor Sports Facility Management

## Report

### Play Development

Play Development is delivered through two important services, the Community Resource Centre and the play and youth facilities team.

**Community Resource Centre Service**, which provides:

- **Community Resource Service:** currently there are 159 (16%) community groups registered with the service from Area North and 745 (15%) individual users registered from the area.
- **Community Art Shop**
- **Community Equipment Hire e.g.** arty packs, conference and sports equipment
- **Community Scrapstore:** Collects 35 - 40 tonnes of reusable waste per year.
- **Community Training:** Training workshops or playschemes.
- **Community Playscheme Support:** For organisations to run summer community playschemes.

Since last years update, due to the requirement to deliver financial efficiencies, a decision was taken to transfer the Community Activity Bus to a third party. Bids were sought this summer from operators prepared continue to utilise the bus to deliver community projects including play and youth opportunities. Last month, the council's District Executive committee approved Yarlinton Housing Group (YHG) as preferred operator to continue running this valuable outreach service. Once the legal documentation is complete, the transfer of this service should save the council around £450,000 over the proposed 15 year lease period. In addition, the council will retain the right to book the bus for up to 30 days per year at no charge. It is likely that YHG will book the 30 free days on a first come first served basis.

The Community Minibus, leased in 2004 until August 2011, has also not been replaced this year due to a significant reduction in usage & income over the last four years.

In all other respects, the Community Resource Centre continues to perform well. The centre had a record number of visitors in the last financial year and in October achieved the best takings to date in a single week. In a difficult economic climate, the centre is helping to provide affordable resources for South Somerset residents to create their own Christmas gifts and cards this year.

### Play Areas/Youth Facilities

#### Play Areas

**Bracey Road, Martock** – During this year the play area has been transformed with exciting new play equipment, landscaping and a pyramid shelter. The work was carried out in two phases and the final few improvements (the installation of stepping logs and a climbing frame) will be complete by the end of this year.

**Hills Lane, Martock** – Improvements to this play area were completed in October 2010 and included a new roundabout, spring rocker, spring see-saw, seating and landscaping.

**Stanchester Way, Curry Rivel** – A draft design has been completed and this project is expected to be complete this financial year.

**Lightgate Lane, South Petherton** – The district council is supporting the parish council's steering group to develop plans for this play area. Consultation work has been completed, draft designs produced. The parish council has been given an extension to complete the project by the end of March 2013 to ensure they have sufficient time to deliver a high quality project.

**Copse Lane Play Area, Ilton** – Officers are continuing to support the parish council to develop plans for the parks new play area. Officers are also assisting the parish council with identifying the location for a floodlight MUGA in the village.

**Shepton Beauchamp** – SSDC has provided grant funding to enable the local community to completely refurbish and extend their play area. Payment is expected to be made shortly.

**Somerton** – Officers advised the town council on the supply and installation of a new toddler-climbing frame at Etsome Terrace Park.

**Barrymore Close, Huish Episcopi** – Quotations are currently being sought to upgrade the play equipment at this site.

### **Youth Facility Projects**

**Martock Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** – Construction work started at the end of October to develop a new full size, floodlit multi sports court at the parish recreation ground. The project has been awarded a £35,000 grant by SSDC and construction work is expected to be complete by the end of November. The floodlighting will also illuminate the adjoining skate park, extending this popular facilities use throughout the year.

**Langport Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** - Meetings of the steering group (Huish and Langport Memorial Management Committee) continue to take place and the group is actively fund raising towards this important project for the area. SSDC has allocated £35,000 for youth facilities in Langport and £5,000 for facilities in Huish Episcopi which could be used towards the delivery of this project if all parties involved are in agreement. The council has also secured Section 106 contributions that will assist the delivery of project.

**Kingsbury Episcopi (MUGA)** – Officers provided advice and assistance to the Playing Field Management Committee to develop a full size, floodlit MUGA on their recreation ground, which was officially opened on the 8<sup>th</sup> October. This project was part funded by an Area North Community Grant.

**South Petherton (MUGA)** – Meetings of the steering group continue to take place and the group are actively exploring plans for the delivery of this important project for the town. SSDC has allocated a £35,000 grant towards the project and has also secured Section 106 funding contributions that will assist the delivery of project.

**Compton Dundon (Youth Facilities)** – Officers have supported the parish council to develop a grant application for a new Youth Shelter and Youth Swing at the Village Hall. SSDC has allocated a £5,000 grant towards this project.

**Chilthorne Domer (Youth Facilities)** - Officers have supported the parish council to develop a grant application for a new Multi Sports Goal and hard standing at the Village Recreation Ground. SSDC has allocated a £5,000 grant towards this project.

## Playground Inspection Service

**Annual Playground Inspections** – The team has received requests from parish councils in Area North to complete 10 annual playground inspections and these were completed in the autumn.

**Operational Playground Inspections** – This service to not for profit play area providers in Area North has been completed over the past year. From April 2012 play area providers will need to submit a response slip to receive the service and a small charge will be made.

**Routine Playground Inspections** – The team continues to provide this service to not for profit play area providers. In Area North, Ilton, Curry Rivel, and Tintinhull Parish Council's continue to use the service.

**Playground Risk Assessments** – The team has received 5 requests from parish councils in Area North for playground risk assessments and these were completed this autumn.

**Playground Training** – In June & July officers arranged two training days covering Routine Playground Inspection and an Introduction to Playground Management. From Area North, trainees attended from South Petherton, Kingsbury Episcopi, Compton Dundon, Ilton and Ash.

## Priorities for 2011/12

- Implement SSDC play area regeneration works at Stanchester Way, Curry Rivel and Thurlocks, Tintinhull.
- Assist South Petherton Parish Council to develop their play area at Lightgate Lane Recreation Ground.
- Assist Huish and Langport Memorial Management Committee to develop their Multi Use Games Area project.
- Continue to deliver continuity and a high standard of play area inspection service.

## Opportunities for Young People

Jay Lewin, the former Young Peoples Officer left the authority earlier this year. However, fellow team member, Steve Barnes, has picked up the majority of her work, which is summarised below.

**Gold Star Awards** – To formally recognise and support volunteers working with young people, the Gold Star Awards was held this year on 25th October 2011 at Octagon Theatre. Josh Aldridge was awarded Young Volunteer of the Year for his work at Ham Hill Country Park and Martock Youth Parish Council was awarded Volunteer Group of the Year. The evening was attended by over 350 invited volunteers from across the district and the night included dance, music and theatrical performances from local youth groups.

**Youth Clubs** - Advice and support continues to be provided to Youth Clubs when requested

**Youth Development Support** – Support (officer time and or small financial contributions) has been provided to following communities/projects in the past year:

- Langport & Huish Youth Club – Purchased a badge-making machine to make club and event badges.
- South Petherton & Crewkerne Circuit – Supported a children and family project worker.

**CRB disclosures** - 35 CRB forms have been processed by play and youth facility officers to encourage more volunteers to work with young people. CRB forms for volunteers are processed at no cost to the council.

**Somerset Rural Youth Project (SYRP) – Service Level Agreement** - Some of the projects that SYRP have worked in partnership with the team on are: -

- Ilton – delivered a positive activities project in partnership with police, traveller education support workers and SSDC.
- Stanchester School – producing a coloured booklet for young people called “See it, Say it, Change It” giving advice and information on how to get involved in their community and make a difference.
- Montacute – Worked in partnership with police and parish council to reduce antisocial behaviour, improve community cohesion and investigate the needs of local young people.
- Stoke Sub Hamdon – SYRP worked with a group of youth people in the village to address anti social behaviour issues that occurred.

**Playscheme Support** – In the last year the following towns and villages have been given playscheme support:

- Chilthorne Domer Youth Sports Club - support to deliver a Play Day held on 29<sup>th</sup> August.
- South Petherton - volunteers were supported to run three days of play activities held at their youth centre and recreation ground.
- Martock – the Youth Club was supported with the organisation of a Martock Play Day held on the 12<sup>th</sup> August at the recreation ground.

### **Priorities for 2011/12**

- Through regular monitoring, ensure our SLA with SYRP is delivering the required outcomes for Youth Development.
- Co-ordinate the numerous stakeholders involved in youth development to ensure the objectives of the council’s Young People Strategy continue to be met.

### **Sports Development**

Our primary services include:

- Supporting the development and implementation of sport specific development plans.

- Supporting the development of new and existing sport clubs.
- Enhancing school sport.
- Supporting the development of coaches, volunteers and officials.
- Making the most of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

### **District-wide Sports Specific Development:**

**Athletics** - Continued to financially support a part time athletics coach in partnership with Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership and Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club based at Yeovil Athletics Arena. This partnership has now been in place for 3 years, and continues to deliver the Junior Athletics community programme, which includes FUNdamentals (2 – 14%), Junior Athletics (9 – 17%) and the Academy (5 – 16%). The participation figures for Area North are shown in brackets.

**Tennis** – Somerton Tennis Clubs along with 5 other tennis clubs across the district took part in the 3<sup>rd</sup> South Somerset Mini Tennis Red Schools Project. High Ham, Monteclefe (Somerton), Huish Episcopi, Charlton Mackrell and Long Sutton primary schools took part in the project with Somerton Tennis Club. 117 participants took part in five weeks of tennis coaching, with 20 of these attending the cluster competition organised by Somerton Tennis Club.

High Ham, Ash and Monteclefe (Somerton) schools from Area North qualified for the South Somerset Mini Tennis Red Final at Martock Tennis Club in June 2011. High Ham and Ash schools from Area North were the winners and runners up respectively. The project was co-ordinated and funded by the South Somerset Tennis Development Group, which was set up by the sports development team in 2006.

**Football** – The sports development team continues to support the delivery of 'Onside', a free weekly football skills training programme for eight to 18 year olds delivered by coaches from Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust. This programme was started in September 2009 and continues to be delivered in Martock, within Area North. 25 participants are currently registered at Martock and 12 young people are currently attending the programme.

Martock will operate under the following schedule for 2011/12: - Autumn: 5<sup>th</sup> September – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2011 (7 Weeks), Winter: 6<sup>th</sup> February – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 (8 weeks), Spring: 16<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 (7 weeks), Summer: 11<sup>th</sup> June – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2012 (6 weeks). During July there will be a tournament based on an European championship theme and during the summer holidays a series of one-day soccer schools at each venue.

**Badminton** – The South Somerset Community Badminton Network (CBN), which was set up by the sports development team in 2009 has continued to lead the development of badminton across South Somerset in partnership with key partners and Badminton England. The network has levered in over £13k of funding since 2009/10, which has funded the appointment of a Community Badminton Network coach for 10 hours per week to work in schools and clubs, who started in September 2010.

Since September 2010, some of the key achievements by the network in Area North have been as follows:

- 48 young people have received Out of School Hours badminton coaching at Huish Episcopi and Martock primary schools in Area North between September 2010 and June 2011. 22 hours of coaching were delivered in Area North.



- 41 young people have received Out of School Hours badminton coaching at Huish Episcopi and Stanchester secondary schools in Area North between September 2010 and June 2011.
- A new adult participation badminton session was developed at Huish Leisure Centre in Area North, 23 individuals are registered with this session. Huish Leisure now pay for the Community Badminton Network coach to deliver these sessions.
- 18 participants attended the first Social Series event in September 2011 at Huish Episcopi Leisure Centre. The Social Series has been introduced by the South Somerset Community Badminton Network to get beginners and leisure players into the sport in a friendly environment, but also to give participants the opportunity the chance to play competitively against different people of the same standard. The network plan to organise future social series tournaments on a bi-monthly basis in the future.

**2012 Olympics** – The team has limited capacity to directly deliver a wide variety of new events during 2012, but will certainly be looking to incorporate the Olympic theme within programmes such Startrack (athletics), holiday activities and national play day. The team do anticipate developing web pages to help promote local activities that may be held which celebrate the Olympics and will work in partnership with key organisation such as the Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership to promote local initiatives.

Community Health and Leisure Officers will of course also be supporting the Olympic Torch Relay which travels through South Somerset on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012. In Area North the torch will travel through Somerton.

## Healthy Lifestyles Development

- Our primary services include:
- Supporting targeted communities to establish activity teams and programmes.
- Developing community based Active Health programmes with health practitioners.
- Encouraging Healthy Workplaces.
- Developing targeted programmes for those at risk.

The programme is delivered in partnership with the NHS Somerset.

## Healthy Communities (targeted active lifestyle support):

### Health Inequalities

Health testing has been delivered at three gypsy/traveller sites in Area North, Ilton, Tintinhull and Gawbridge. A total of 15 residents were tested across the three sites. The team is working with the Gypsy Liaison Officer, Tina Adams, to support the development of health walks and other physical activity groups.

### Children's Centres

The team met with the Levels Children Centre regarding supporting their parents and families with buggy walks, weight loss programmes and Active Somerset Physical Activity sessions. Progress has been limited due to organisational changes, however, two volunteers have been identified to attend the next health walk leader training day in February 2012 with the view to setting up buggy walks at the centre.

Health Testing and lifestyle advice including Change4Life resources have been delivered at an outreach family event run by the Ile Valley Children's Centre where six individuals accessed the health testing.

### **Active Living Centre**

Health Testing and lifestyle advice and support has been offered at a number of events at a variety of venues across Area North including the Active Living Centres in Curry Rivel and Bearley House, Martock. In total more than 50 individuals accessed the health testing.

Active Living Centres are funded by Somerset County Council and work in partnership with community, voluntary and statutory groups to promote and develop opportunities for people aged 50 and over to access information and activities that keep them active and well. Funding for the two Active Living Centre co-ordinators is only secure until 2013. However, the healthy lifestyles officers are working closely with key organisations working in this area such as Yarlinton Housing Group, NHS Somerset and Age UK to ensure that this work continues after the withdrawal of this funding in 2013.

### **Healthy Workplaces**

#### **SSDC Staff**

A variety of healthy lifestyles initiatives have been delivered for the benefit of SSDC staff including blood glucose testing which was offered to raise awareness of diabetes on World Diabetes Day, a weight loss challenge, stop smoking advice and support, two golf tournaments, a rounders tournament, two Pilates classes and lunchtime health walks. However no staff from Area North accessed these initiatives.

#### **Flexercise (training for volunteers to lead chair-based exercise):**

Flexercise is a countywide project to train up staff and volunteers to deliver chair based physical activity sessions. There are now 32 Flexercise Leaders delivering Flexercise Sessions in Area North in approximately 17 venues. These venues range from nursing homes, residential homes, sheltered housing schemes, care homes, day centres and Active Living Centres.

Since October 2010 one Flexercise Workshop has been delivered in Area North with six Area North leaders attending this training day. In total 13 new Flexercise leaders have been trained up in Area North and 12 existing Flexercise leaders from Area North have attended four Flexercise update workshops – core stability, additional activities, parachute activities and music, relaxation and stretches.

#### **ProActive (GP Referral Service):**

Since October 2010, 52 residents of Area North have been referred by GP's, practice nurses, physiotherapist and other health professionals to the ProActive physical activity referral Scheme. These residents have attended Huish Leisure Centre.

The management of the ProActive Scheme transferred back to NHS Somerset in April 2011 and is now coordinated and managed by the Integrated Lifestyle Team who are part of Somerset Community Partnership (the delivery arm of NHS Somerset).

### **Health Walks**

- Since October 2010, four residents in Area North have undertaken the health walk leader training.
- A new health walk group has started up in Stoke Sub Hamdon in September 2011, offering walks on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month.
- A Health Walk Directory has been produced detailing all the walking groups across the district.



## Leisure Facility Development/Outdoor Sports Facility Management

### Our primary services include:

- Providing sports clubs and community organisations with specialist advice.
- Assessing the needs of leisure facility and playing pitches across the district.
- Working with Somerset Leisure Limited (shortly to be rebranded as 1610) and schools to maximise access to existing dual use sports facilities.
- Negotiating contributions from housing developments to enhance local and sport and recreation provision.
- Managing the council's sport and recreation facilities.

**Planning Applications** – Between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011, the team has provided Development Management with 43 detailed responses to planning consultation requests of which nine (21%) were for developments in Area North. Our responses set out the leisure obligations required to make developments acceptable in planning terms.

**New standards incorporated within the Local Development Framework** – Working with Planning Policy, new local standards of provision covering play areas, youth facilities, playing pitches, changing rooms, theatres and arts centres, artificial grass pitches, swimming pools, indoor tennis centres and sports hall provision were included within the Local Development Framework. We now secure in the order of £4,000 per dwelling subject to local variables and viability.

**Passport to Leisure scheme** - We currently have 448 live cards in circulation at present; approximately 8% (35) of cardholders live in Area North.

**Startrack athletics:** 146 young people attended our popular athletics camps at Yeovil Athletics Arena in 2010/2011. 35 young people attended our winter programme during October 2010, 14% (5) of these young people were from Area North.

48 young people attended our spring programme during April 2011, 13% (6) of these young people were from Area North. 43 young people attended our summer programme during August 2011, 26% (11) were from Area North.

### Area specific work:

- Supported Tintinhull Tennis Club to prepare funding applications and provide technical advice to re-surface tennis courts and install new fencing at the courts within the village. The funding for the project will hopefully come from Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund (application submitted at end of September 2011) and also parish council and the club's own funds. A decision is expected at the end of December 2011.
- Huish Episcopi School – the support provided to Huish Episcopi School will be covered separately the Huish Sports Centre report being delivered by the Assistant Director (Health and Wellbeing).
- Somerton – The Community Health and Leisure Manager and Area North Community Development Officer recently attended a meeting of Somerton Recreation Ground Trustees to give advice on the potential development of new changing facilities at the Gassons Lane site. The Trustees are currently considering their options and exploring funding opportunities.

## Other Service Achievements

E-newsletter – The Community Health and Leisure team co-ordinates the production of a monthly leisure e-newsletter (which also goes to customers of the Octagon and Goldenstones). We now have just over 5,200 individuals registered to receive the newsletter, an all time high, and this method of marketing has proved extremely successful in promoting activity for young people.

Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) – The Community Health and Leisure team recently put forward a submission for ‘Best Sport, Leisure and Culture Service’ of the year and was shortlisted as a finalist but was pipped to the post by East Riding of Yorkshire Council. However, to have reached the final amongst such stiff competition is in itself an achievement to be proud of.

## Financial Implications

No new implications.

## Corporate Priority Implications

The work of the Community Health and Leisure Team in Area North contributes to the following Corporate Priorities, Key Targets and Actions:

Corporate Plan Priority: Improve the housing, health and well-being of our citizens

Key Targets:

3.19 Support SST to develop a long term (20 year) action plan to reduce obesity in children and adults, delivering one initiative by 2012.

3.20 Increase children and young people’s satisfaction with parks and play areas and adult participation in sport and active recreation from 23.3% to 25.4% by 2011/2012.

Corporate Plan Priority: Ensure safe, sustainable and cohesive communities

Key Targets:

4.22 Outcome: Sustainable local communities - Measured by: Increasing those who participate in regular volunteering at least once a month.

4.1 Deliver positive activities for children, young people (especially those at risk of exclusion or offending) and families, designed to reduce antisocial behaviour by October 2010.

4.2 Decrease first time entrance to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 from 1470 per 100,000 to

## Equality and Diversity Implications

Consideration is given by the service to ensure that all facilities and services are accessible.

**Background Papers:** *Community Health and Leisure Service Update – ANC 28 July 2010*