

Area West Committee – 17th March 2010

7. 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 West.

Public Interest

This report seeks to provide Area West members with a progress report on the work undertaken by the Council's Community, Health and Leisure team in the last 12 months. This report highlights specific examples of work undertaken within Area West so that members can gain an understanding of how the work of the Community Health and Leisure team may have had an impact on their respective communities.

In general, staff within the Council's Community Health and Leisure team provide or help to promote physical activity, sport, play and youth programmes to help more people to become healthy and active within South Somerset. Team members also provide support and advice to voluntary groups, sports clubs, parish/town councils and also the general public within their respective fields of expertise.

In addition, the team directly manages a number of play areas, youth facilities and outdoor sports facilities within the district and also provides support and funding advice to others in the development and or management of their own leisure facilities.

The Community Health and Leisure Team also incorporates the Community Resource Centre. This public facility is located on the Lynx Trading Estate in Yeovil and the Centre has a range of equipment (including a mini bus) available for loan to community groups, an arts shop, and a Scrapstore (which holds clean business waste that can be used in arts and craft projects). The Centre also co-ordinates the programming and hire of the community activity bus; a double decker bus that is used to support the delivery of community leisure opportunities in rural areas.

Recommendations

- (1) that the Area West Committee notes the content of the report;
- (2) that members contact the Community Health and Leisure Team if they feel that there are omissions from the current work programme or from the 2010/11 priorities listed within the report. Service planning takes place on an annual basis and draft plans for 2010/11 are currently being refined.

Background

Since the last service update provided to Area West Committee just over 12 months ago, the recent corporate restructure has resulted in some changes within the old Sport, Arts and Leisure team.

The former Head of Service, Steve Joel, is now the Assistant Director for Health and Wellbeing and 4th Tier managers have been appointed to oversee: Sport and Leisure Facilities (incorporating Goldenstones), Arts and Entertainment (incorporating the Octagon Theatre) and Community Health and Leisure. Consequently this service update will only focus on the work of the new Community Health and Leisure team and will not include updates on the Octagon Theatre or Arts Development.

The aim of the Community Health and Leisure Service is to consistently improve the quality of life and well being for all through the development and provision of high quality healthy lifestyle, sporting and leisure opportunities.

The service makes a positive difference to resident's lives through **enabling, partnering and delivering** sustainable opportunities for all people to enjoy. At a high level the service covers six main areas:

- Play Development (including the Community Resource Service)
- Play Areas/Youth Facilities
- Opportunities for Young People
- Healthy Lifestyles Development
- Sport Development
- Leisure Facility Development/Outdoor Sports Facility Management

The primary range of services, together with an overview of the main achievements through to September in financial year 08/09 are set out on a service by service basis below.

The service delivers two of the top six council services or facilities used by residents: Cultural Work (85 per cent), Parks (Play Areas) and Open Spaces (82 per cent).

Service delivery is driven by the annual service planning process. This in turn is driven by the commitments set out within the Corporate Plan, the Local Area Agreement and four Strategic South Somerset Framework Documents: Play Strategy, Young People Strategy, Sport and Active Leisure Strategy and Facility Strategy.

Report

Play Development

Play Development is delivered through two important services:

1. Community Resource Centre Service

- **Community Resource Service:** which comprises a unique series of affordable services to assist new and existing voluntary community organisations and individuals across South Somerset to deliver a range of community activities. As of 13th January 2010, **125 community organisations** and **399 individual users** were registered from Area West. The service enables a vast array of play activities to be delivered, which enhance the quality of life and health and well-being of residents, which those organisations would otherwise be unable to provide due to the prohibitive financial costs of doing so.
- **Community Resource Activity Bus:** A flagship high-tech double-decker bus specially converted to provide a wide variety of mobile projects to

children and adults within their communities across the district. *Through supporting Playschemes and play days the bus has reached 313 children, 102 adults and the following 5 Area West communities: Ilminster, Chard, Winsham, Tatworth, Combe St Nicholas. Further visits are planned for February Half Term and throughout 2010.*

In addition, 370 children and 103 adults have taken part in pre school projects delivered on the activity bus since February 2009. Venues visited include; East Chinnock Pre-School, Chard Pre School, Winsham Pre School, Misterton Pre School, Tatworth Pre School, Manor Court Pre School, Cygnet Pre School, Crewkerne Methodist Church Pre School and Ashill Pre School.

Other planned visits for the remainder of the 2009/10 financial year include:

February/March – Dinosaur Safari (project available to pre schools)
February Half term and Easter holidays – Playscheme support.

- **Community Art Shop:** A store providing art and craft materials at affordable prices to members of the service.
- **Community Equipment Hire:** A wide range of equipment for loan and hire including fundraising, arty packs, community playscheme, production, sports, play, and crèches.
- **Community Scrapstore:** This collects 35 - 40 tonnes of reusable waste each year from the commercial sector which would have gone to landfill, sorts it, and then checks it and then makes it available to groups and individuals for use in arts and crafts projects.
- **Community Training:** A range of training workshops ranging from playscheme activity planning to arts and crafts ideas, delivered both in the community and from the centre.
- **Community Playscheme Support:** A range of support to assist community organisations to run community playschemes ranging from programme planning advice, legislation guidance, to finding artists and crafts people to deliver fresh ideas with subsidised workshops available during the summer Hullabaloo Programme and financial support.
- **Community Mini-Bus Hire:** A mini-bus with wheelchair access and capacity to carry a maximum of 16 passengers anywhere in mainland Britain at affordable community prices.

Priorities for 2010/11

The Community Resource Centre aims to continue to support play and youth activities across Area West in 2010/2011 as the previous year using Activity Bus, Hullabaloo Playscheme Programme, Artshop, Scrapstore and equipment hire.

The team will also promote all the services available at the Community Resource Service to residents in Area West.

- 2. Play Development Partnership:** Following the completion of South Somerset Play Policy and Strategy in 2007 and our successful £274,000 bid to the Big Lottery Fund, the service has developed a multi-agency Play Development Partnership to drive forward the development of play opportunities across the district. A full time Community Play Officer was appointed in February 2008 and this has enabled the service to support the Play Partnership to drive forward with its implementation plans to improve the quality of play opportunities available to children and young people over a three-year period. The Community Play Officer post is currently vacant although a replacement is currently being recruited on a one-year fixed term contract.

Community delivery commenced in April 2008. Initial work focussed on raising the profile of play through the delivery of Play Days and on the commencement of the Play Rangers Programme.

Play Days - Working in partnership with local communities the Big Lottery Funded Community Play Officer has been promoting play and providing young people with stimulating things to do in:

- Combe St Nicholas - 11th July 2009 (estimated 300 people attending)
- Ilminster - 20th June 2009 (estimated 400 people attending)
- Merriott - 28th May 2009 (estimated 330 people attending)
- Winsham - 23rd May 2009 (estimated 340 people attending)

The team also delivered the National Play Day on the 5th August 2009 at Ninesprings in Yeovil. An estimated 1,500 people attended the event from all over the district. Activities on offer included a climbing wall, den building, campfire for toasting marshmallows, circus skills workshop, face painting, roller blading and birds of prey.

In the Next Six Months:

The Community Play Officer post is currently vacant, but a replacement officer is expected to be appointed during March 2010 on a 1 year fixed term contract. Provisional dates for future Play Days can be found at www.southsomerset.gov.uk/playdays.

Play Rangers – The Big Lottery has provided funding for three years towards two part time play rangers to work each summer in Henson Park, Chard. The play rangers completed their second year of activities during 2009. Their programme aims to increase access to the parks by providing an adult presence to improve the sense of security and at the same time organise activities for local children. Play ranger sessions had 265 attendees and children and young people's involvement has increased dramatically from year one.

Further details about the Play Rangers programmes can be found via the following web link: www.southsomerset.gov.uk/playrangers.

Holiday Playscheme Support – Chard St Johns Evangelist Church Holiday Club were awarded £100 during 2009 to support their holiday play activities.

Playground Training – Representatives from Crewkerne Town Council, and Haselbury Plucknett Parish Council attended the Playground Training provided by the Play & Youth Facilities Team in 2009.

Play Areas/Youth Facilities

Play Areas

Bondfield Way Play Area, Chard –A forward thinking design for the play area was developed and all the construction and landscaping works were finished in 2009.

Jocelyn Park Play Area, Chard – Construction work is expected to start in March 2010 on the transformation of this Chard Town Council play area. The project has been made possible by the District Council securing a Playbuilder grant for the project of £25,000, developer contributions of £6,324 and a District Council Play Area Grant of £12,500. The town council have committed a further £12,500 towards the project making a total budget of £56,324. The improvements to the play area will include a zip wire, agility trail, mounding, net swing, a dynamic roundabout, curved slide, net bridges and extensive landscaping.

Redstart Park Play Area, Chard – Consultation with local residents and Redstart Primary School has been completed and final designs have been drawn up for the project. Procurement of this £50,000 regeneration project is now underway and construction work should start this summer.

Merriott Play Area - Construction work has started on this £50,000 parish project, which is funded with a District Council secured Playbuilder grant of £20,000 and Parish Council funding of £30,000. Construction work is expected to be completed in March 2010. The transformation of this site will include new paths to improve access to the play area, mounding, bridges and a stream, relocating existing equipment, a new zip line, net swing and cone climber.

Winsham - Preliminary discussions have taken place with officers regarding the future enhancement of the parish play facilities within this settlement.

In the Next Six Months:

Snowdon Park, Chard - A developer contribution of £15,000 was secured to deliver a play area at Snowdon Park. Consultation has been completed with local residents and plans for the new play area have been drawn up. The Mitchell Gardens Residents Association has been assisting in this project and has secured a further £5,000 towards the project from Raglan Housing Association. Procurement of the goods and services required to construct the play area is currently underway and construction work is expected to take place this spring/summer.

Ashcroft Play Area, Chard - Officers have started work with Chard Town Council to develop plans for the improvement of their Ashcroft Road Play Area. This work will continue during the year ahead with the play area expected to be refurbished in 2010/11.

Furzehill Play Area, Chard - Consultation with the local residents and stakeholders is expected to start in the next 6 months. The refurbishment of this play area is expected to take place during 2010/11.

Happy Valley Play Area, Crewkerne - Officers have been working closely with Crewkerne Town Council to carry out consultation and planning work with local residents regarding the transformation of the play opportunities at this site. The

District Council are working hard to secure a £50,000 Playbuilder grant from Somerset County Council and the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for the site, which should be built in 2010/11.

Developer Contributions, Chard - A £30,000 contribution has been secured from the developer of the Great Western Terrace site in Chard, towards play area provision. Once a small piece of land on the development has been transferred to SSDC ownership, then £3,000 of this funding will be used to landscape the site. The remaining £27,000 has been allocated to enhance Chard Town Council's Henson Park Play Area to make it into a destination play area.

Playground Inspection Service

Annual Playground Inspections – The team has carried out 16 annual playground inspections for parish councils in Area West.

Free Operational Playground Inspections – The team continues to provide a free quarterly playground inspection service to not for profit play area providers in Area West.

Playground Risk Assessments – The team has carried out 3 playground risk assessments for parish and town councils in Area West.

Youth Facility Projects

Chard Skate Park & Multi Use Games Area Floodlighting - Following extensive advice and support from the Play & Youth Facilities Team, Chard Town Council secured £17,000 from the Frontier Youth Trust to provide floodlighting of the skate park and multi use games area. Advice and support is being given by district officers to Chard Town Council and the Frontier Youth Trust for a possible £50,000 external grant (Lottery funding) to improve and extend the skate ramps. A decision regarding this funding is expected by the end of March 2010.

Haselbury Plucknett Play Area – Following a £5,000 Youth Facility Development Grant from SSDC the parish council secured match funding and installed a £10,000 arena combination goal for football and basketball at their recreation ground.

In the Next Six Months:

Combe St Nicholas Youth Facility - Initial meetings have been held with representative from the village to start developing a youth facility project in 2010/11.

Opportunities for Young People

Fame Awards – To formally recognise and support volunteers working with young people, the Gold Star Awards was held this year on 9th September 2009 at Octagon Theatre. From Chard, Colin Rolfe representing residents of Langdon Close Action Group was awarded Male Volunteer of the Year.

B-Active - The B-Active Scheme was launched in January 2008 and offers free access to leisure facilities for three months to young people whose emotional or mental health would benefit from participation. There have been 13 young people

from Area West referred onto the B-Active Scheme and had access to free leisure opportunities for 3 months.

Youth Clubs - The Young People's Officer has provided advice and support to the community in Winsham to set up a new Youth Club for the community.

Youth Development Awards - A Youth Development Award of £500 has been given to the Clocks Youth Theatre in Buckland St Mary and £100 to the St Johns Evangelist Church, Tatworth.

CRB disclosures - 30 CRB forms have been processed and paid for out of the Young People's Officer Budget to encourage more volunteers to work with young people.

Youth Work Training Workshop - The Young People's Officer held a Youth Resources and Activities Workshop in Area West on the 3rd February 2010. Nineteen youth leaders attended the workshop at Henhayes, Crewkerne.

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.
- Delivering and expanding the ProActive GP Referral Service with health practitioners.
- Encouraging Active Workplaces.
- Developing targeted programmes for those at risk.

The programme is delivered in partnership with the Somerset Primary Care Trust.

Active Communities (targeted active lifestyle support):

- The Department for Culture, Media and Sport and NHS Somerset has funded free swimming to enable everyone aged 60+ to swim for free during public swimming sessions. Free swimming has been running since the 1st April 2009. The programme has been running at CRESTA Sports Centre Pool and Crewkerne Aqua Centre Pool since the programme began. The number of free-swimming sessions utilised by residents at CRESTA Sports Centre Pool in that time is 3,713 and 285 residents have signed up to the project. At Crewkerne Aqua Centre the number of free-swimming sessions that have been utilised by residents in that time is 10,136 and 801 residents have signed up to the project.
- Free swimming lessons have been funded by the ASA (the National Governing Body for Swimming in England) and these lessons have been offered at both CRESTA Sports Centre Pool and Crewkerne Aqua Centre Pool within Area West. The lessons are for adults aged 11 upwards who are unable to swim or are not confident within the water to swim. Through November and December 2009, 3 courses of swimming lessons ran at CRESTA Sports Centre Pool with 28 residents accessing the lessons and a further 3 courses are running through January and February 2010 at CRESTA Sports Centre Pool. Crewkerne Aqua Centre Pool ran 2 courses of free-swimming lessons during November and December 2009 with 15 residents accessing the lessons and a further 2 courses are running through January and February 2010 at Crewkerne Aqua Centre.

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 that also benefit the participant's social and mental well-being. Since April 2009 one Flexercise workshop has been run in Area West. There are now 49 Flexercise Leaders delivering Flexercise Sessions in Area West in 25 venues. These venues range from Nursing Homes, Residential Homes, Shelter Housing Schemes, Care Homes, Day Centres, Active Living Centres, Cafes, and Healthy Living Centres and in village halls. Our first community group based Flexercise Class has now been running for over a year now, it did take a break over the summer, resumed during the autumn and has now started a spring run of sessions in Tatworth.

ProActive Active Communities (GP Referral Service):

- Since April 2009, 124 residents of Area West have been referred by GPs, Practice Nurses, Physiotherapists and other health professionals. These residents have attended either Crewkerne Aqua Centre or CRESTA Sports Centre. Crewkerne Aqua Centre has continued to host outreach sessions for Phase IV Cardiac Rehabilitation in conjunction with the Cardiac Rehabilitation Team at Yeovil District Hospital, which has enabled 5 residents referred through the ProActive Scheme to access Cardiac Rehabilitation closer to home and not have to continue to travel to Yeovil District Hospital.
- In addition Shine (Somerset) Ltd was supported during the year to submit their ProActive Recognition Portfolio and they successfully gained their accreditation to run Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase IV Classes at the Boden Centre (the Old Library) in Chard. These classes offer the residents of Chard and the surrounding villages a chance to access Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase IV classes closer to home rather than having to travel to Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton.

Health Walks

- Since April 2009, 10 residents in Area West have become Health Walk Leader trained. Health Walks take place every Wednesday from the Boden Centre in Chard, and Buggy Walks have also started in the town. Health Walk Leader Training is offered four times per year, and one of those locations is Chard. Chard has also hosted the Somerset Primary Care Trust's 'Soul Walks' during World Mental Health Week in October, and many participants enjoy a series of walks focussing on Mental Well-Being. Health Walks take place in Crewkerne, Ilminster, Broadway and Tatworth and Forton. We have approximately 60 residents of Area West registered on these Health Walks. A further Health Walk Leaflet has been produced and printed with a variety of health walks that are not focused around the centre of Chard.

Priorities for 2010/11

- Implement objectives in South Somerset and Area West within the new Healthy Weight and Healthy Lives Adult Obesity Strategy and Action Plan 2010-2013, which will be launched in April 2010.
- Deliver NHS Health Checks (Over 40's) within Area West in 2009/10 in partnership with Somerset NHS.

- Deliver a Family Outdoor Activity session within Chard in 2010/11, to ensure that parents can be active in a supportive environment with their children.
- Continue to use a social marketing approach to address the issue of childhood obesity by implementing the Change for Life initiative in South Somerset.

Sport Development

Our primary services include:

- Supporting the development and implementation of sport specific development plans.
- Developing community sport partnerships.
- 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.

The service works in partnership with the Somerset Activity and Sport Partnership, South East Somerset School Sport Partnership and the National Governing Bodies of Sport. The service capacity has been reduced from 2 FTE to 1 FTE in September 2009 as part of corporate savings.

District-wide Sports Specific Development:

Swimming

- There were two South Somerset Swimming Development Camps organised in 2009, taking place at Sherborne in May 2009 and Millfield in October 2009. These camps are organised by the South Somerset Community Swimming Coach who is based at Yeovil and District Swimming Club, and South Somerset District Council, Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership and Yeovil & District Swimming Club financially support this post. 45 swimmers attended the May 2009 camp, with 9 swimmers from Chard & District Swimming Club and 3 swimmers from Ilminster Swimming Club. 109 swimmers attended the October 2009 camp held in conjunction with Mendip clubs, 7 swimmers from Chard attended the day.

Tennis

- Chard, Ilminster and Misterton Tennis Clubs are all part of the South Somerset Tennis Development Group, which is a group set up by SSDC Sports Development to lead the development of tennis across the district. Chard, Misterton and Ilminster have benefited from £4,872 from Awards for All in May 2009. This funding was used to deliver a schools tennis coaching programme across the district for 7 and 8 year olds across South Somerset during May and June 2009. The three clubs in Area West linked to 5 primary schools and coached over 50 young people. The schools project is due to be repeated in 2010, with the three clubs involved.

Cricket

- The South Somerset Cricket Development Group, made up of representatives from 9 cricket clubs across the district, South Somerset District Council Sports Development and Somerset County Cricket Board, was awarded

£8,615 from Sport England Small Grants Scheme in August 2009. The funding will be used for training more coaches and volunteer grounds staff within clubs as well as a number of projects aimed at increasing participation and ensuring more new people can take part in the sport. Chard Cricket Club will receive £1,590 to fund Level 1 and 2 coaching courses, school to club links, new junior recreational sessions and a pilot Street Cricket project. West and Middle Chinnock Cricket Club will receive £860 to fund a new Level 1 coach, holiday activities and school club links. Crewkerne Cricket Club will receive £1,040 to fund a Level 1 coach, pitch maintenance training for club volunteers, junior recreational sessions and 8 weeks of community cricket coach support. North Perrott Cricket Club will receive £300 to fund a new Level 2 coach.

Football

- 'Onside' is a new free weekly football skills training programme for eight to 18 year olds, which is currently being delivered in Chard, Crewkerne and Ilminster in Area West. This exciting project started in 2009 and is being delivered by Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust. The management and development of the project is being overseen by a steering group, which includes the Sports Development Team at SSDC. This group were responsible for selecting the 7 communities, using the anti social behaviour data from across the district to select 'hot spot' areas. There is also an opportunity for adult community volunteers to receive free FA Level 1 coaching qualifications and CRB checks by supporting the programme. Sport England, Yarlington Homes and Community Cashback 2009/10 have funded this project.

Rugby Union

- **Chard** and **Crewkerne Rugby Clubs** are part of the South Somerset and Mendip Community Rugby Partnership, which in partnership with Somerset RFU continues to appoint a dedicated full-time community rugby coach working with 5 clubs across South Somerset. **Crewkerne RFC** have used the community rugby coach to set up new Mini & Youth Rugby sessions at the club in October 2009, following coaching sessions for primary schools in the Crewkerne area. **Chard RFC** is using the community coach to deliver their school club links objectives at both primary and secondary schools within the area.

Bowls

- South Somerset Bowls Open Day 2009 took place on 2nd May 2009, and was attended by over 100 people new to bowls with 7 clubs each holding coaching and taster sessions on the same day. The following clubs from Area West took part in the day to support clubs with increasing their membership: Crewkerne Severalls Jubilee Bowls Club, Crewkerne Bowls Club, Ilminster Bowls Club and Merriott Bowls Club.

Cycling

- In partnership with British Cycling, Chard Wheelers CC, South East Somerset School Sports Partnership set up a new opportunity for cycling at Holyrood School. Over 100 students attended the cycling coaching offered by the club and now have the opportunity to ride at the club's training facilities. All

partners are working together to look at the feasibility of employing a part time coach to deliver further cycling and competitive opportunities at Maiden Beech and Wadham in Crewkerne.

Club Development:

- **Coach Education:**

3 people have attended the 2009/10 Somerset Coach and Volunteer Education from Area West from a total 28 participants from across the district. There are two further courses, a Club for All and also a First Aid course, both in Yeovil in February and March respectively.

- **Sport Awards:**

The 2009 Sport Awards were held in November at Haynes International Motor Museum in front of 150 people and attracted 76 nominations in total. Seven of these came from Area West with Terry Sterland from Chard Cricket Club and Poppy Tuck from Ilminster Swimming Club nominated for AgustaWestland Volunteer of the Year. Bethany Lacey from Misterton Tennis Club and Liam Biddlecombe from Chard (Yeovil Olympiads AC) were highly commended in the Junior Performer of the Year. Jake Hayes from Chard Cricket Club was also nominated in this category. Chard Cricket Club were nominated for Senior Club of the Year. Merriott Youth Football Club won the Junior Club of the Year award.

- **South Somerset A-Z Sport and Leisure Directory 2010/11**

We are currently in the process of producing the 3rd edition of the South Somerset A-Z Sport and Leisure Directory 2010-2011, which will provide information on a wide range of sport and active leisure opportunities available in South Somerset. We currently have 16 sports clubs details from Area West. The directory will be published in March/April 2010.

- **School Club Links:**

34 sports clubs within Area West now have formal links with schools. These agreements help provide a pathway for young people to continue in sport once they leave school.

There are also 7 School Club Link Champions within Area West who champion their local clubs within their school encouraging more young people to take part in club sport. These individuals are based at: Holyrood (Chard Hockey Club, Chard & District Swimming Club, Chard Rugby Club, Windwhistle Golf Club), Swanmead (Ilminster Swimming Club), Maiden Beech (North Perrott CC) and Wadham (North Perrott CC).

- **1:1 Support:**

Supported Chard and Ilminster District Boxing Club, who are a new club in Chard to write a constitution and child protection policy. Now working with club to prepare a funding application to Sport England Small Grants Scheme to expand the club and provide new equipment and coach education courses for potential coaches.

Priorities for 2010/11

- Deliver remaining projects within the South Somerset Cricket Development Plan in relation to Sport England Small Grants funding, in partnership with Chard, Crewkerne and West and Middle Chinnock Cricket Clubs.
- Continue to support the delivery of the 'Onside' football development programme in partnership with Yeovil Town Community Sports Trust and other local agencies in Chard, Ilminster and Crewkerne.
- Develop the 'Give a Club a Go' project in partnership with sports clubs across Area West and funded by Sport England, to increase the number of adults taking part in sport and who are members of a club.
- Develop cycling programme to build on work in Chard in partnership with Chard Wheelers CC, British Cycling and South East Somerset School Sports Partnership and look to extend this to Crewkerne area.

Leisure Facility Development/ Outdoor Sports Facility Management

Our primary services include:

- Providing sports clubs and community organisations with specialist advice on facility refurbishment, development and funding opportunities.
- Providing good practice guidance and consultancy support on the maintenance and management of facilities to the local providers of sports pitches and recreation grounds.
- Identifying and reviewing built leisure facility and playing pitch needs across the district in order to determine the correct strategy to address future leisure facility requirements.
- Working with Adult Learning and Leisure to maximise access to the existing dual use sports facilities and ensure that they are managed in the most effective, efficient and sustainable way.
- Negotiating contributions from housing developments to enhance local and strategic sport and recreation facility provision where required.
- Maximising the use, operation and financial performance of the Council's sport and recreation facilities (Yeovil Recreation Centre, Turners Barn Lane Recreation Ground (Yeovil) and Yew Tree Park (Yeovil)) and provide facilities that meet the needs of our customers.

To date, this has resulted in the following achievements:

Of district wide benefit:

- ***District PPG 17 Sport and Recreation Assessment Update*** – draft complete.
- **District Playing Pitch Strategy update** – being updated to align with our PPG17 Sport and Recreation Assessment. This strategy helps to provide the evidence base to secure developers contributions.

- **Passport to Leisure scheme** We currently have 600 live cards in circulation at present, approximately 6% of card holders live in Area West. Over 60's now automatically get 20% discount at SSDC facilities without having to apply for a card.
- Eighty-one young people attended our popular 3-day summer **Startrack athletics** camp at Yeovil Athletics Arena and thirty-seven young people attended the winter programme during October. Only 3% of participants came from Crewkerne, and therefore we hope that the South Somerset Community Athletics Coach (primarily supports Yeovil Olympiads Athletics Club) will be able to do some outreach work in Area West in the next 12 months to encourage greater take up of our athletics programmes.
- **Community / Village Hall Supply and Demand Modelling** – the service is continuing to work with the Area Development Teams to establish a model similar to those used in the planning of swimming pools and sports halls, to enable the Council to secure planning contributions where developments generate additional demand for provision in our rural and market town settlements.

Area specific work:

- Funding advice/officer time devoted to Merriott Parish Council and Ilminster Town Council, Crewkerne Town Council/Crewkerne Leisure Management, Forton Rangers and Chard Tennis Club in order to progress local facility development projects.

Members previously approved funding support of £15,500 for a new pavilion and hard court enhancement at Merriott Recreation Ground. However, Merriott Parish Council wrote to the Community Health and Leisure Manager on 9th February 2010 saying that on 1st February 2010, their members had “resolved to withdraw the offer of a site for a new sports pavilion”. The letter also confirmed that the Area West allocation of funding towards the project would not be drawn on.

The letter indicated that the Football Foundation's offer of joint funding to both Merriott Parish Council and Merriott Youth Football Club had not been acceptable to members “who maintained a need to remain sole managers of the Recreation Ground in order to provide a leisure space for all residents of Merriott as required within the land covenant”.

- Discussions with Somerset Leisure Trust about SSDC capital investment (2010/11) in the dual use facilities at CRESTA has taken place. We await receipt of a project brief from Somerset Leisure Trust for our consideration.
- Two meetings with the management team at Swanmead School and Ilminster Town Council to monitor the community usage of Swanmead MUGA have taken place. The facility appears to be well used by organised community groups during the winter although there is modest use of the facility by casual users in the early evening.
- Pre-application planning advice concerning service requirements (based on Local Plan Policy) for playing pitches and strategic sports facility contributions required have been provided to Development Control in relation to development sites in Misterton, Ilminster and Chard in the past 12 months.
- Formal planning consultation responses have been provided for two development sites in Chard in the last 12 months. The responses make recommendations regarding the level of contributions that should be sought for playing pitch and strategic leisure contributions in order that developments comply with Local Plan Policy. Further dialogue regarding the finalisation of a S106 agreement for a

development in Crewkerne have also taken place in the last three months, which should secure further in-principle financial contributions for leisure facilities in South Somerset.

Priorities for 2010/11

- Undertake the necessary project work in order that members can take informed decisions about the future of the **Sports Zone**. It is anticipated that further information will be presented to members during autumn 2010.
- Ongoing support for Ilminster Town Council (to investigate the feasibility of developing a new changing pavilion and community sport and leisure facility), Merriott Parish Council (to support their application for Football Foundation funding for a new pavilion) and Crewkerne Leisure Management (new pavilion/youth centre development).
- To continue to provide facility development support to clubs, parish/town councils in Area West as necessary.
- Continue to attend strategic management meetings to monitor community usage at Swanmead Community School.
- Continue to secure developer contributions to support the development of sports facilities as identified in the Council's playing pitch and built facilities strategies.

Financial Implications

No new implications.

Corporate Priority Implications

The work of the Community Health and Leisure Team in Area West 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.

Key Actions:

- Develop 8 community based activities/play areas per year.
- Maintain the development of Active Somerset – 10 additional courses developed in South Somerset per year.
- Deliver 20 Health MOT sessions each year to help identify those at risk of circulatory diseases.

- Run 4 Flexercise workshops per year, so that 90 care homes run their own programmes by 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.

Key Actions:

- Reduce the percentage of anti-social behaviour in hotspots by delivering 2 intervention projects per year in each hotspot.

Carbon Emissions & Adapting to Climate Change Implications (NI188)

None.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Consideration is given by the service to ensure that facilities used are accessible.

Consideration is also given to accessibility when the team is involved in the design of new play, youth or leisure facilities and external expert advice is sought as necessary.

Activities run by the team are provided on an all-inclusive basis. Targeted work is undertaken where required to ensure all residents are able to access leisure opportunities.

The Passport to Leisure Scheme helps to remove the price barriers that sometimes stop South Somerset residents from choosing and enjoying an active and healthy lifestyle.

Background Papers: *Sport, Arts and Leisure Service Update – Area West Committee - 19/11/08*