

Area West Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2013

## 8. 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 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 West 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 2013/14 are being drafted and refined over the next few months.

### Background

The Community Health and Leisure 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 services, the Community Resource Centre and the play and youth facilities team.

## Community Resource Service

The service provides:

- **Community Resource Service:** There are approximately 170 community groups and 600 individual users registered from Area West. In total there are approximately 1070 groups and 5500 individuals registered.
- **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 Playscheme Support:** For organisations running summer community playschemes.

In the school summer holidays, staff arranged for the (Yarlington) community bus to travel to Swanmead School, Ilminster (a total of 24 attended) and Manor Court School, Chard (32 attended) to deliver free art and craft activities. In the autumn half term, the bus was sent to Jocelyn Park, Chard (25 attended) and Swanmead School, Ilminster (28 attended) to deliver free arts and crafts activities.

### Changes at the Community Resource Centre

The Resource Centre has now moved from its old premises at Garrett Road in Yeovil to Manor Stables (former museum) in the centre of Yeovil and re-opened on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012. The centre has been busy since re-opening.

During 2012, officers have sought, received and assessed bids for the transfer of the Community Resource Service to a third party operator in order to continue to provide the service at a lower cost to the council. It is likely that the management of the service will transfer from April 2013 although the same core services will continue to be delivered.

## Play Area Projects

**Furzehill Play Area, Chard** – In June 2012 local residents and stakeholders were consulted on their aspirations for this play area. Following this consultation, sketch designs were produced and these have now been developed into final designs for the play area. Quotations are going to be sought in February and the play area improvements are expected to be undertaken early this summer.

**Blackdown View Play Area, Ilminster** – The District Council has been working closely with Ilminster Town Council and Yarlington Housing Group to develop this project. A consultation exercise was carried out at Blackdown View on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012 and secured lots of feedback from residents. Sketch designs were produced and then final design completed in December 2012. Quotations have been received and a funding application submitted to Yarlington Housing Group. On the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2012 a community tree-planting event was held at the play area and 420 trees planted. The event was jointly organised by SSSC, Yarlington Housing Group and Ilminster Town Council. The trees were donated by the Woodland Trust as part of their Queens Jubilee Project and included an Oak sapling sourced from the Royal Estates. Construction of the play area improvement is due to start in April 2013 and is expected to be completed by June 2013.

**Henhayes Play Area, Crewkerne** – A steering group has been established by Crewkerne Town Council to develop plans for their play area. The team has been providing support and working with the steering group to help them transform the play area at this location.

## Youth Facility Projects

**Iminster Skate Park & Multi Use Games Area (MUGA)** – The team has supported Iminster Town Council with the development of their new skate park and is continuing to support them with the development of plans for a MUGA.

**Misterton Multi Use Games Area** – The team is supporting the Parish Council with the development of Floodlit Multi Use Games Area at their Unity Lane Recreation Ground. This project has been made possible as a result of SSDC securing £100,000 from the Betterment Homes Housing Development. There has been extensive public consultation carried out and plans have been finalised. A planning application has been submitted as the Floodlighting and ball stop netting is outside the Parish Council's permitted development rights. Should the planning application be approved it is expected construction of the MUGA will start in April and be completed by the end of May 2013.

## Play Development

**Holiday Playscheme Awards** – The following award has been awarded in Area West:

- Misterton were awarded £100 to support their holiday play activities.

## Playground Inspection Service

**Annual Playground Inspections** – The team has carried out nine annual playground inspections to parish councils in Area West.

**Operational Playground Inspections** – The team carries out five operational playground inspections every quarter on behalf of not for profit play area providers in Area West.

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

**Play Area Management** – The team continue to manage and undertake the maintenance for seven play areas in Area West.

## Youth Development

**Gold Star Awards** – To formally recognise and support volunteers working with young people, the Gold Star Awards was held this year on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at Octagon Theatre. From Area West Brandon Ellis was awarded Sports Coach of the Year for his contributions towards cycling, Weibke Rietz won Senior Sports Performer for her contributions towards Chard Cycling Club and Pete May won Young People Project of Year for the work of his Active Learning + Skills project.

**Youth Clubs** - The Young Peoples Officer continues to provide advice and support to the 7 Youth Clubs that run in Area West.

**Youth Development Awards** – A Youth Development Award of £420 was given to the Winsham Youth Café, Iminster Young People were awarded £250 for their Mega Monday nights, Crewkerne Fun Time Fridays were awarded £250 and Chard Saturday Nights were awarded £500.

**CRB disclosures** – Fifty-two CRB forms have been processed for volunteers in Area West and paid for out of the Young Peoples Officer Budget to encourage more volunteers to work with young people.

**Youth Work Training Workshops** – As part of our teams work to support volunteers working with young people in the district we have organised several training events in 2012/13. A First Aid training day was attended by nine volunteers and Child Protection training was attended by 21 volunteers.

A Food Hygiene Level 2 training day is also planned for 13<sup>th</sup> February 2013 and has been set up to accommodate up to 20 volunteers. All these training days have been or will be held at Chard Young Peoples Centre.

## **Sports Development**

### **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.

The coach provided support to the Crewkerne Jubilee Games at Henhayes Recreation Ground, which took place in June 2012, by delivering a Startrack roadshow event for pupils from Maiden Beech and Crewkerne Middle Schools.

**Cycling** – Continued to work with 1<sup>st</sup> Chard Wheelers Cycling Club and British Cycling to develop cycling within schools in Area West and increase the number of young people guided into the club.

Since September 2011, some of the achievements within cycling in Area West have been as follows:

- British Cycling currently working with Wadham and Swanmead schools providing 4 weeks of coaching. 40 pupils have received coaching through curriculum and after school delivery.
- Supported 1<sup>st</sup> Chard Wheelers to deliver a feeder primary schools cycling event at Holyrood Academy in May 2012, which was attended by 22 pupils from Ashill, Buckland St Mary, Manor Court, Neroche and Tatworth schools.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Chard Wheelers CC provided the cycling events at the Crewkerne Jubilee Games at Henhayes Recreation Ground, which took place in June 2012.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Chard Wheelers CC will be working at Maiden Beech to deliver an after school cycling club after February half term.
- Supporting two school cyclo cross competitions in March 2013 at Swanmead for primary and Year 7 & 8 pupils.
- The club now has six approved club coaches, almost 25% of those in the South West region; these were funded through the Sport England small grants scheme that we secured in 2010.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Chard Wheelers was one of six clubs asked to provide a youth team for the finish line events at the 2012 Tour of Britain in Dartmouth where they rode in club colours.

**Tennis** – Chard Tennis Club along with five other tennis clubs across the district took part in the 4<sup>th</sup> South Somerset Mini Tennis Red Schools Project. The club linked with five primary schools, which took part in a cluster competition at the club. Twenty-two

pupils from Ashill, Buckland St Mary, Manor Court, Neroche and Tatworth primary schools took part.

Unfortunately, the two other tennis clubs in Area West at Misterton and Ilminster did not take part in the project as their coaching programme is provided by Service Line, who did not want to take part. However the School Games Organiser provided coaching and a competition for schools in Ilminster and Crewkerne clusters. Thirty pupils from Merriott, Haselbury, St Barts, Shepton Beauchamp, Barrington and Ilton primary schools took part.

Neroche, Merriott and St Bartholomews (Crewkerne) primary schools from Area West qualified for the South Somerset Mini Tennis Red Final at Martock Tennis Club in June 2012. 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.

Ilminster, Chard and Misterton Tennis Clubs continue to be active members of the South Somerset Tennis Development Group, which meets three times a year.

### **South Somerset Mini Tennis Series**

Now in its sixth year, the South Somerset Mini Tennis continues to provide winter and summer junior inter club competitions. The programme provides competitive opportunities for junior tennis players across the district. 94 (30% increase on 2010/11) took part in the Mini Tennis Winter Series 2011/12 and 149 (24% increase on 2011) junior players took part in the Summer Series, which took place from April to August 2012.

Chard Tennis Club in Area West is one of six clubs across South Somerset who continues to take part in the Mini Tennis Series. This Series gives junior tennis players the opportunity to compete in Mini Tennis Red, Orange, Green and Yellow tournaments across South Somerset, organised by South Somerset Tennis Development Group.

**Badminton** – The South Somerset Community Badminton Network (CBN), which was set up by the team in 2009 has continued to lead the development of badminton across South Somerset in partnership with key partners and Badminton England.

Since September 2011, some of the achievements by the Network in Area West have been as follows:

- Chief Executive of Badminton England, Adrian Christy visited on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to see the work of the South Somerset Community Badminton Network as it is considered to be one of the best networks in the South West and classified as 'World Leading'.
- Delivered a new 6<sup>th</sup> form badminton session at Holyrood Academy attended by 25 participants aged 16-19. This was funded by the academy and delivered by the Community Badminton Network coach.
- Continue to deliver an after school primary badminton club in Chard at CRESTA, which provides an increase in the junior badminton opportunities in the area. Currently offering taster sessions for primary schools in Chard area to feed into this club.

- Holyrood, Wadham and Maiden Beech took part in the National Center Parcs 2012 schools badminton competition. The 1<sup>st</sup> round was played at Holyrood Academy in Chard.
- Delivered a Sportivate badminton project at Wadham Academy in September 2012 for 8 weeks, which was funded by Sport England and delivered by the CBN coach. 15 participants took part in this and it now continues to run delivered by PE staff at the academy.
- Set up a new secondary schools badminton league, which has attracted 17 teams and Holyrood, Wadham and Maiden Beech from Area West are taking part in this which takes place in January and February.
- Continue to support the two 'Pay and Play' badminton sessions at Crewkerne Sports Centre which were set up as part of the No Strings Badminton programme in September 2011. The sessions regular attract 20+ participants each week at the two sessions.

### **Sport England Funding**

Sport England recently announced National Governing Body funding for 2013 – 2017. Some sports have gained additional funding and some have lost funding. It is currently unclear whether this will have much impact locally, but we hope delivery at a district council level will be largely unaffected.

### **Healthy Lifestyles Development**

The Healthy Lifestyles programme is delivered in partnership with the NHS Somerset.

#### **Healthy Workplaces - SSDC Staff:**

A variety of Healthy Lifestyles initiatives have been delivered for the benefit of SSDC staff including blood pressure testing which was offered to raise awareness of know your numbers week, a weight loss challenge, stop smoking advice and support, two rounders tournaments, a dodgeball tournament, weekly rush hockey sessions, two Pilates classes, stress awareness information and lunchtime health walks.

The 2013 weight loss challenge is currently being delivered; two teams have entered from SSDC's Chard office totalling eight staff from Area West.

#### **Health Inequalities:**

The Healthy Lifestyle Team has supported two NHS Somerset Health Trainers who cover Chard, Ilminster and Crewkerne.

The team is also working with Rethink and South Somerset Mind outreach workers in Area West to provide knowledge of healthy lifestyle opportunities suitable for clients they may have in the local community.

Working in partnership with The Watch Project to help set up healthy lifestyle initiatives, the group are looking to set up their own cycling and walking groups through the support of the team to access training at no cost.

#### **Healthy Communities:**

A 12-18 month healthy communities project focussed in Chard has been launched. The project has been running for five months with consultation taking place with key local

groups and organisations. Partnership funding of £4,410.00 has been secured from Yarlington Housing Group.

The key aims of the healthy communities project is to:

- a) Reduce levels of overweight and obese adults and children;
- b) Promote and develop sustainable opportunities for adults and children to increase their physical activity levels;
- c) Increase the use of green space.

So far the following has been delivered:

- Secured 16 lost/stolen or abandoned bikes from Avon and Somerset Police at Yeovil Police Station for a bike recycling project which is taking place at The Watch Project. These bikes will be fixed by the group and then used by group members, sold or loaned to local residents;
- Arranged for a group of volunteers to receive a series of sessions on bike repair and maintenance training at The Watch Project;
- Arranged to visit three supported housing schemes to promote and deliver some physical activity sessions and promote local opportunities;
- Supported StreetSpace youth project with health testing for young people and sign posting to drug awareness support and training for group leaders;
- Set up six new low cost physical activity courses using local community facilities including; move it or lose it with Age UK, Kettlebell, bootcamp, Pilates and Bokwa;
- Recruitment of volunteers in the form of local residents to help map 3, 2 and 1 mile walking and running routes in Chard, which will be formally signposted, mapped and promoted;
- Attended Chard Community Day on 8<sup>th</sup> September at Henson Park. Offered information on local physical activity opportunities, taster Bokwa and Zumba sessions and consulted residents asking what would help them to improve their health.

Chard Community £s project is a five month pilot project taking place in Chard and the surrounding area, this project is being delivered in partnership with Chard Town Team, NHS Somerset, and health trainers from Somerset Partnership NHS trust. Residents of Chard and the surrounding area are being encouraged to sign up and pledge to lose weight in order to fund raise for the Chard community. Through being signed up to the project participants get discounted access to a range of physical activity and exercise opportunities, depending on demand we will also run cooking and weight management courses.

Activities include bootcamp, circuits, Bokwa, walking groups, Kettlebell, Pilates, and legs, bums and tums. Anyone signed up to the Community £s project can access these activities for £1. The activities are also open to those not signed up to the Community £s project who can access the opportunities for just £3.00. So far 41 participants are signed up to the scheme. For every lb in weight lost by those signed up before the end of the project in March £1 will be given back to the community to spend on healthy lifestyles initiatives. The project runs until March 2013 and is not funded by SSDC. To be eligible to be part of the community £s project, residents must; live in Chard or the surrounding area, be aged 16 or over, not be pregnant and have a BMI of 25 or over.

Several Active Somerset Courses have been delivered in Area West, since January 2012 these include; Zumbalates for mums and babies at Merriott, Keep Fit at Ilminster, and Movements for Daily Living at Crewkerne. These courses are 12 week funded activity courses aimed at utilising local community venues and targeted at those or are inactive or not active enough to benefit their health.

**Active Aging:**

Health testing and healthy lifestyle advice was given at an Active Living session at Crowshute House in Chard.

The team has supported the Yarlington Housing Group Core Café initiative and provided health testing, healthy lifestyle advice and Instant Ping! at the Core Café at Muchelney House in Ilminster. Instant Ping! is a table tennis set that can be set up using any table to make playing table tennis more accessible and inclusive.

**Children's Centres:**

We have supported Ashland's Children's Centre (Crewkerne) and Ile Valley Children's Centre (Ilminster) with health testing and healthy lifestyle advice at the following groups:

- Ashland's PEEP (Peers Early Education Partnership) group x 3
- Ile Valley PEEP group x 3
- Neroche Group in Broadway Village Hall
- Merriott Outreach Group x2
- Ashland's and Ile Valley's Dad's Group

The Healthy Lifestyle Team has attended the Advisory Board and Annual Conversation meetings to help guide and support the Children's Centres to better support their families for Ashland's Children's Centre, Ile Valley Children's Centre and Chard Children's Centre. In addition we have supported Ashland's Children's Centre and Ile Valley Children's Centre when they underwent their Ofsted Inspections as a partner organisation. The Healthy Lifestyle Team also fed back to the Somerset County Council Children Services Review about the work that we do to support the Children's Centres.

Buggy walk training was provided to Ashland's Children's Centre parent volunteers in a tailored way over three sessions at the centre, where individuals could bring their children with them to be able to access the training. This was the first time the training has been delivered this way to enable parents to attend.

As a result, a taster Buggy Walk was delivered in the October half term and another one is planned for February Half Term with a longer term plan to deliver regular buggy walks in the Kithill area of Crewkerne. On-going support is being provided to these parents to enable buggy walks to happen.

As part of the 'Be Healthy' strand of the children's centres remit – a 'Be Healthy' consultation session was facilitated by the Healthy Lifestyles Team at the Ile Valley Children's Centre's parents forum and at their Neroche Group (Broadway). This has led on to a development plan of how the team can support and work with the children's centre to have a positive impact on the health of their families.

A 'Get Set Cook' course is starting in January 2013 for Ile Valley's families, buggy walks training is going ahead in February 2013 for parent volunteers to look to deliver buggy walks in Ilminster, Broadway and possibly Combe St Nicholas. Exercise/ dance classes to be set up for parents and possibly swimming with families in the Greenfylde School pool from April onwards.

Promotion of the Cooking Club Training that is being offered to schools to set up Cooking Clubs through the Health & Wellbeing in Learning Programme to the Children's Centres in Ilminster, Crewkerne and Chard. Staff from Ashland's Children's Centre and Ile Valley Children's Centre are attending the training that is taking place at the Ashland's Primary School.



A British Heart Foundation Active Clubs training day was delivered at the Ashland's Children Centre in Crewkerne and was accessed by staff and volunteers from Chard Children's Centre, Ashland's Children's Centre and Ile Valley Children's Centre to encourage children aged four upwards to be more active.

The training was also accessed by a volunteers from the Merriott PEEP Group, a Beaver Scout leader, the Neroche Playgroup in Broadway and a Children's Centre outreach worker.

#### **Community Based Physical Activity:**

Pad-e; the online physical activity directory, has been developed by the Healthy Lifestyles Team in partnership with the Leisure Projects Officer and the GIS Team at SSDC. With over 600 opportunities listed, the directory shows activity and exercise opportunities available in South Somerset and is searchable both by activity category and postcode. The website will help to support and promote local physical activity and exercise opportunities as well as highlighting gaps in provision. Training on how to use Pad-e has been offered to the Area Office staff and more information is available by visiting [www.pad-e.co.uk](http://www.pad-e.co.uk)

Learning disability (LD) focus work has begun which will lead into a project starting in January 2013 aimed at making activities more accessible for individuals with LD which will be South Somerset wide.

#### **Health Walks:**

Since January 2012 eight residents in Area West have undertaken the health walk leader Training. Five are existing walkers as with a health walk group who have stepped up to become leaders. The other three leaders are new to health walks.

Thirteen new and existing leaders accessed The British Red Cross 'Everyday First Aid Training' over the course of the year.

There are currently 26 active health walk leaders in Area West and ten of these attended a 'thank you' event and stakeholder meeting for the volunteers as an opportunity for the leaders to network, highlighting any support needs and to help to shape the future of the Health Walks programme in South Somerset.

The three existing health walk groups have continued to go from strength to strength increasing in numbers. These groups are Broadway health walks, Chard health walks and Crewkerne health walks and more details can be found on [www.southsomerset.gov.uk/healthwalks](http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/healthwalks). In the last year in Area West there have been 2,436 attendances and 68 new walkers.

The Broadway health walks group has been offering a new beginners walk over the last year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. Six leaders from the Broadway health walks group provided six walking opportunities at the Somerset Partnership NHS Annual Carers Event at Dillington House. The group celebrated their third anniversary in November 2012.

A new monthly beginners health walk group was set up as part of the Yarlington Housing Group Core Café Initiative. The walks are led by the Community Core Coordinator (who we trained) and start from their St Gilda's Extra Care Scheme in Chard. The walks started in October and happen on the 1<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, they are sedate walks lasting 45 minutes in the Chard area.

Two of the leaders trained are parent volunteers at the Action for Children Ashland's Children's Centre and they led a taster buggy walk in the Kithill area of Crewkerne in the October half term. The longer term plan is to establish regular buggy walks.

One of the new leaders we have been working with plans to run health walks in East Chinnock from March 2013 on a fortnightly basis to complement the moderately paced two hour long walks that currently happen in the village.

**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 28 Flexercise Leaders delivering Flexercise Sessions in Area West in approximately 18 venues. These venues range from Nursing Homes, Residential Homes, Sheltered Housing Schemes, Care Homes, Day Centres and Active Living Centres.

Since January 2012, one Flexercise workshop has been delivered in Area West with eight individuals from Area West attending the training. In addition, two existing Flexercise Leaders have attended Flexercise Update workshops – core stability and parachute activities.

Four leaders from Area West attended the first Stakeholder meeting for the Flexercise programme in South Somerset. The event brought together leaders from across South Somerset to network to share ideas.

**Newsletter:**

The Healthy Lifestyles team produce a quarterly newsletter that goes out to over 500 volunteers, partner organisations, instructors and individuals who are interested in the work of the team. The next newsletter is due to go out in March 2013. If any member or community member wishes to be added to the mailing list, please contact Charlie Coward ([charlie.coward@southsomerset.gov.uk](mailto:charlie.coward@southsomerset.gov.uk)).

**Leisure Facility Development/Outdoor Sports Facility Management**

**Area Specific work:**

- Crewkerne Town Council - £292,719 of capital and Section 106 funding (secured by the team) and officer support was provided to Crewkerne Town Council to assist in the delivery of the new George Reynolds Centre. The building of this new multi-functional sports and community centre was completed in November 2012, will be the new home for the sports clubs who use Henhayes.
- Jocelyn Park (Chard) – initial support is being provided to Chard United FC and Chard Rangers FC who currently use the Chard Town Council football pitches at Jocelyn Park. The clubs are looking to develop plans for new football changing at the site in conjunction with the town council. Further support will be provided to look at ownership, design and funding for this project.

**Planning Applications** – Between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2012, the team has provided Development Management with 40 detailed responses to planning consultation requests of which 10 (25%) were for developments in Area West. Our responses set out the leisure obligations required to make developments acceptable in planning terms. The teams also provided information for the Planning Appeal for Land at Mitchell Gardens (APP/R3325/A/12/T2176355), Chard.

**Summary of planning gain secured for Area West by the service (not yet spent):**

<b>Contribution Type Secured</b>	<b>Capital Sums Available</b>	<b>Commuted Sum</b>	<b>Area of Anticipated Spend</b>
Sports Pitches/changing (local contribution)	£23,654	£5,102	Chard
	£91,273	Included within capital sum	Ilminster
Equipped Play (local contribution)	£12,235	£4,805	Chard
	£29,319	£23,987	Ilminster
Youth Facilities (local contribution)	£6,956	£1,749	Chard
	£4,576	£2,464	Ilminster
	£100,000		Misterton – delivery of a MUGA underway
<b>Contribution Type Secured</b>	<b>Capital Sums Available</b>	<b>Commuted Sum</b>	<b>Area of Anticipated Spend</b>
Strategic Facilities (includes sports halls, pools, indoor tennis, theatres/arts centres)	£19,625	n/a	Chard/District
	£29,523		Ilminster/District
Artificial grass pitches (strategic contribution)	£1,516	n/a	Chard
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>£318,677</b>	<b>£38,107</b>	

In addition, the majority of the allocated £242,728 of S106 contributions has been paid (in the last 12 months) towards the delivery of the new George Reynolds Pavilion at Henhayes, Crewkerne.

Community Health and Leisure officers now work closely with Area Development teams to also seek contributions for community halls where need for additional provision has been identified.

A more detailed breakdown of S106 contributions secured will be contained within the S106 Monitoring Officer's next report to Area West Committee.

**Passport to Leisure scheme** - We currently have 441 live cards in circulation at present; approximately 2% (8) of cardholders live in Area West.

Leisure facilities in Area West do not accept Passport to Leisure Cards but do operate their own concessionary schemes.

## Other Service Achievements

**London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay** – South Somerset residents helped create a special atmosphere when the Olympic Torch Relay visited the district on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2012. Ilminster was one of four towns in South Somerset that welcomed the flame and in excess of 22,000 watched the flame in the district.

The Olympic Torch Relay was co-ordinated by South Somerset District Council in partnership with Ilchester, Somerton, Ilminster and Yeovil town councils. The team played a key role in the co-ordination of this event locally.

**E-newsletter** – The 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 5,600 individuals registered to receive the newsletter, an increase of approximately 7 % in the last year.

## The Year Ahead – Strategy Review

In the year ahead the team will be focusing on the review and refresh of their Next Level and Play and Youth strategies, combining them into one leisure strategy for South Somerset. Members will be invited to take part in the process to prepare a new leisure strategy.

Work has also commenced to update our playing pitch strategy and supporting data. The strategy will help to identify gaps in provision and priorities for development across the district. The information gatherer will also assist with planning consultation responses where contributions for formal playing pitches are sought. This update is being supported by Sport England and the Somerset Activity and Sports Partnership at no cost to the district council other than officer time.

## Financial Implications

No new implications.

## Corporate Priority Implications

The work of the Community Health and Leisure service contributes to the following aims within the Health and Communities Focus of the Council Plan:

- Ensure that the strategic priorities of the Somerset Health and Well-being Board reflect local needs and align council resources to deliver projects to address those needs;
- Maintain and enhance the South Somerset network of leisure and cultural facilities, optimising opportunities for external funding to promote healthy living.

## Equality and Diversity Implications

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

**Background Papers:** *none*