

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel was held on 22 October 2018.

PRESENT: Councillors J Blyth, A Hellaoui, J McGee, L McGloin, J A Walker, V Walkington, J Young and L Lewis(As Substitute)

PRESENT AS OBSERVERS: J Cain - Evening Gazette

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: H Black - Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland
T Brittain - Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency
A Falconer - Hope4Boro
R Tomlinson - Linx Detached Youth Project

OFFICERS: J McNally

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Councillor T Higgins, Councillor M Walters.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Name of Member	Type of Interest	Item/Nature of Interest
Councillor J Walker	Non Pecuniary	Agenda Item 5

1 **MINUTES - CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S LEARNING SCRUTINY PANEL - 17 SEPTEMBER 2018**

The minutes of the Children and Young People's Learning Scrutiny Panel held on 17 September 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

2 **HOPE4BORO**

Andy Falconer, Game On 2018 Facilitator attended the meeting to update the Members on the Game On 2018 project. Members heard that 'Game On' was a grass-roots and asset-based network of holiday activity providers across Teesside. The project worked in collaboration across diverse settings. Members were advised that in 2018 Game On linked with 46 projects providing activities and food for 1910 young people.

Members were advised that in late 2011, a small group of youth workers from Nexus Middlesbrough agreed to a new summer activities pilot. The youth workers co-created an Olympic themed program on community activities, working with schools to initiate three summer projects in 2012. In 2014 hope4boro emerged as a thriving peer-based network, which resulted in a dozen projects that found creative ways to support one another to offer free activities and healthy snacks for young people in Middlesbrough.

Members heard that £2000 in funding was secured from seedbed which helped each group to amplify their work. In 2018 the program was reborn as 'Game On', which was a diverse and multi-faceted network, allowing small, autonomous groups to share a platform, skills, ideas and resources.

Members were advised that there were year-on year increases in the number of projects integrated into Game On. Members heard that in Middlesbrough there were 24 projects that delivered 178 sessions that were attended by 925 young people, meals/snacks provided amounted to 3200, there were 176 volunteers providing 4000 voluntary hours.

The projects were generally permanently based in their locality. The projects are supported by volunteers and fundraising activities take place within the community. Members heard that FreeStyle offers light support for Game On to facilitate a peer-driven network. In 2018, Game On had a budget of £5000 to fund shared resources and to offer small grants to facilitate the

work of each project.

Members heard that a huge proportion of the value (both for groups and the network) came from in-kind support; be it food or venue usage, but mostly through volunteer time.

Members heard that a huge challenge is there is no statutory acknowledgement regarding holiday provision so organisations have to find their own funding to run the provision.

Another challenge is communicating and making holiday provision visible to all.

3 **LINX DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT**

Ricky Tomlinson, Senior Youth Worker from the Linx Project attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on the work carried out by Linx during the summer holidays.

Members were provided with background information on the Linx project is a non-profit organisation which was established in 1993 in Hemlington. The project is based in the Bungalow at Hemlington Recreation Centre but provides outreach work in Grove Hill/Saltersgill, Ayresome/Breckon Hill, Newport/Park and Hemlington/Coulby Newham.

Members heard that during the school summer holidays Linx provided activities to young people, Members were advised that the young people were asked what activities they would like to take part in. During the 2018 school summer holidays Members heard that:

- 48 young people attended Lightwater Valley
- 38 young people attended Wet N Wild
- 10 young people attended a trip to the seaside
- 50 young people attended Flamingoland, and
- a sports day was held at Albert Park however attendance was low

In regards to providing food to young people during the school summer holidays it was advised that food was obtained through Greggs and Tesco. It was advised that if a child was vulnerable Linx would work with them on a 1:1 basis and take them for a hot meal if needed.

A Member queried if there was a cost to attend the arranged trips, Ricky confirmed that there was a cost but this could be subsidised if needed.

Members were advised that Linx work with the families of young people if issues are identified.

4 **EVALUATION OF THE FEAST OF FUN PROJECT**

Heather Black from Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland attended the meeting to provide Members with an update on the evaluation that had been carried out in relation to the Feast of Fun Project. Heather advised Members that 116 people had been interviewed and the key message from the evaluation was how much families appreciated the quality of food provided during the holiday provision particularly fruit and vegetables.

Members heard that the Feast of Fun Programme was a place for children and their families to flourish. The project provided:

- 'Fullness of life - a place to flourish'
- Safe space for children to have fun, learn and grow together
- Warm welcome, love, nurture and care
- Welcome for asylum seekers and refugees

- Healthy food
- Activities that would support their development, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually

The Feast of Fun Programme was delivered across Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland in 23 communities, to 974 children and 415 adults.

Through 166 sessions delivered across Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland during the 2018 summer holidays, Feast of Fun provided 6163 meals to children and their families.

As part of the Feast of Fun Programme this summer 490 children and adults took part in cooking workshops.

As part of the Feast of Fun holiday clubs, 1106 children and adults were given new experiences through trips and outings. Through these opportunities the children are on a more equal footing with children from more affluent families when they return to school in September. Members were advised that day trips included the North Yorkshire Moors National Park at Danby, Bowes Museum and trips to the seaside. It was advised that many of the children had never left the town, nor seen a beach or travelled by train before.

Members heard that through a partnership with the National Literacy Trust and Meals and More, 300 books were given to children to take home, providing them with the opportunity to develop their literacy skills further over the school holidays.

It was stated that volunteers were essential to the success of the Feast of Fun programme this summer the programme was supported by 214 volunteers, 4245 volunteer hours were given and 109 of the volunteers were aged over 50.

The Feast of Fun programme represented extraordinary value for money. Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland spent £19,267 in grants to Feast of Fun groups and direct delivery costs, but the total value of the programme as delivered was estimated at £93,380. Members heard that for every £1 invested grew to £5 of direct benefit for local families.

It was explained to Members that added value came from staff and volunteer time, financial and in-kind donations raised by local groups, and partnerships between the Feast of Fun Programme and local organisations and businesses. It was advised that this did not include the staff time given by Together Middlesbrough and Cleveland in supporting and developing the programme.

Members were advised that a meeting had taken place with Helen Dudiak of Teesside University to explore the University carrying out robust evaluation of the Feast of Fun Project which would be a requirement of DfE funding. Members heard that the University were very interested in carrying out the evaluation and had offered enrichment activities for the Feast of Fun Programme.

A Member queried if the roll out of Universal Credit would impact on the Feast of Fun Project. It was advised that the Universal Credit would put more pressure on families. The current Feast of Fun venues accommodated 30-40 children per session, the project would need to significantly grow to benefit more families. It was explained that currently the programme could not be advertised broadly and referrals were made to the project for vulnerable families via schools and Health Visitors for example.

A Member stated that schools could apply for funding through Awards for All for out of curriculum activities. It was agreed that all Members should encourage schools to apply for this funding which could be used to fund holiday provision.

5 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD - AN UPDATE

The Chair presented an update on the matters that were considered at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting on 2 October 2018. The Chair provided the Scrutiny Panel with information in respect of the following items

- Budget and Balanced Scorecards - Position at Quarter 1 2018/19
- Final Report - Economic Development, Environment and Infrastructure Scrutiny Panel - Housing Delivery Vehicle
- Executive Forward Work Programme
- Scrutiny Panel Progress Updates

AGREED as follows:

- That the update be noted