

# ***Information/Discussion Paper***

## **Social and Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**2nd December 2004**

### **Sport and exercise provision for young people**

This note contains the information to keep Members informed of matters relating to the work of the Committee, but where no decisions from Members are needed

#### **1. Why has this come to scrutiny?**

**1.1** Members may recall the submission, by Councillor Anne Regan, of a scrutiny topic form to the September Overview & Scrutiny Committee regarding the provision of facilities for gymnastics in the town for young people. Following a discussion at Committee, it was agreed that this committee consider this matter in the broader context of health and exercise of young people.

**1.2** Subsequently, a meeting of the following members and officers has been held in November in order to identify the scope of the proposed project and the resources required to deliver it:

- Councillor Barbara Driver
- Councillor Anne Regan
- Chris Huckle
- Sonia Phillips
- Kath Chamberlain
- John Crowther

**N.B.** Greg Howard (representing MAD Young People's Council) was unable to attend

**1.3** This briefing note provides members with information on the matters discussed and agreed actions.

## **2. Summary of the Issue**

- 2.1 Concern with the range of sports and recreation facilities, activities and the opportunities available in the town to encourage, promote and improve the health of young people.
- 2.2 Concern with the barriers and issues facing young people with regard to their taking part and accessing sport and recreation in Cheltenham.

## **3. Summary of evidence/information**

- 3.1 Notwithstanding the information collated by the Green Environment Division in respect of the Playing Pitch Strategy and the baseline assessment of play area provision presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on July 1st 2003, and ongoing Open Space Strategy, it was agreed at the meeting that there was currently limited, evidence-based, information available in respect of the range of sports provision available to young people across the Borough.
- 3.2 A full audit of the council's sports facilities had been undertaken in 1992, which had never been updated and which did not take into account provision by other key agencies, e.g. Gloucestershire County Council (education and youth), Neighbourhood projects, private schools.
- 3.3 Similarly, a comprehensive audit of the current range of activities and opportunities available to young people did not exist.

## **4. Next Steps - possible next steps for the committee to consider eg potential witnesses, further report, site visit etc.**

- 4.1 Members and officers were acutely aware that this issue did not address the council's corporate priorities. They were also mindful of the financial constraints facing the council currently and within the medium term, however, the following actions were agreed:
  - 4.1.2 Officers will liaise with key agencies and fellow providers in order to ascertain whether they have undertaken research in respect of sport and recreation provision for this target group, and, if they have, whether future funding opportunities may exist. These include, the county council, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury PCT (health promotion), University of Gloucestershire, Sport England.
  - 4.1.3 Officers will re-investigate a project undertaken in 1999 aimed at identifying the barriers and issues facing young people with regard to taking part and accessing sport and recreation in Cheltenham.
  - 4.1.4 Officers will engage with MAD and the sports development officer, to create a consultation model which will survey the current needs, expectation and issues facing young people regarding this matter.
  - 4.1.5 Where appropriate, officers will identify where members of this Committee can provide assistance and support to the delivery of future outcomes and actions of this project.

- 4.2 The outcomes of the above actions will be reported to this Committee, through briefing notes.

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<b>Background Papers</b>	Overview & Scrutiny Committee September 2004 Scrutiny Topic form
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Sonia Phillips, Assistant Director Health & Wellbeing. Tel : 01242 262626 e-mail <a href="mailto:sonia.Phillips@cheltenham.gov.uk">sonia.Phillips@cheltenham.gov.uk</a>
<b>Accountability</b>	Rowena Hay, Deputy Health Wellbeing & the Economy
<b>Scrutiny Function</b>	Overview & Scrutiny (Social & Community)