

SOMEWHERE TO GO, SOMEONE TO BE

Select Committee Report on Provision of Activities for Young People in Kent

March 2009



Kent County Council
County Hall
Maidstone ME14 1XQ
08458 247247
county.hall@kent.gov.uk

Contents

Foreword – DRAFT	9
I Executive Summary.....	11
Committee membership	11
The Terms of Reference.....	11
Evidence gathering.....	12
Reasons for establishment of the Select Committee	12
Introduction	13
Recommendations.....	15
Glossary	19
II National and Local Policies and Strategies.....	21
Youth Matters	21
Integrated Youth Support.....	21
Positive Activities	22
Medium Term Plan.....	23
Towards 2010	25
Kent Youth Justice Plan.....	25
Other Kent Strategies	25
III What is there in Kent for young people?	27
Youth Matters Next Steps.....	27
District Youth Strategies.....	27
Ashford.....	27
Canterbury	28
Dover.....	28
Swale.....	29
Maidstone	29

Tonbridge & Malling.....	29
Tunbridge Wells.....	30
Kent County Council	30
Maps of youth provision in Kent.....	31
What are young people doing?.....	33
Music concerts and gigs.....	35
One off music events.....	36
Sport in Kent.....	38
KCC Sports Leisure and Olympic Service.....	38
High adrenaline activities in Kent	40
Arts in Kent	41
Cinemas and Theatres	41
Cultural Development Unit	41
Kent Youth Service.....	42
Libraries.....	45
Mobiles.....	45
CAFÉ IT	45
Community Librarians	45
Extended Schools	47
Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations	50
Silver Cross Youth Club	51
Girlguides.....	52
Scouts.....	53
IV A Level Playing Field	55
Cost.....	57
Finding freebies	57
Financial support for talented sportspeople	58

Leisure Pass.....	59
Positive Ticketing	59
Cost of KYS centres	60
Hidden costs	60
Transport.....	60
Freedom Pass.....	61
Community Transport	63
Transport issues raised by the Youth Service	64
Issues affecting particular groups of young people.....	65
Profiling Communities	66
Mosaic	68
Aiming High for Disabled Children.....	69
me2	72
Disabled athletes.....	72
Young Carers	73
Young people in the care of the Local Authority	74
Ethnicity	75
Young people who are LGBT	76
V Motivating Young People	79
A matrix of motivation.....	79
Changing negative perceptions of youth	80
Positive media – Oi! Magazine	81
Positive role-models	83
The Young Emergency Service Volunteers.....	84
Challenger Troop	84
Princes Trust	84
AZACYA and Blade.....	85

Gifted Young Gravesham.....	87
Try Angle Awards.....	93
Young people and volunteering	94
VI Part of the community?	97
Consultation	97
Accessing Democracy.....	97
Kent Youth County Council.....	99
Youth Advisory Groups.....	100
The Culture of Youth Communities.....	106
Bridges between generations.....	107
Opportunities for shadowing.....	109
Bridges between communities	110
VII Communicating with young people about leisure activities	111
Legislation, indicators and targets	111
Communication Strategy	112
KCC Websites	112
Leisure and Culture	113
Kent TV	113
What's On.....	114
Kent sports websites.....	115
Kent Libraries websites.....	115
Kent Resource Directory.....	115
Togogo.....	117
District Web Sites	118
Links between Leisure and Sport Services	119
New Media	120
Social Networking	120

Pic n Mix.....	122
Texting Services.....	123
Printed Information	123
Face to face communication with young people	124
VIII Working together – making the most of funding.....	127
Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)	128
Youth Inclusion Support Panels	129
The Voluntary and Community sector.....	131
Information Advice and Guidance - Changes and opportunities	131
Maidstone Info Zone	133
Appendix 1: Witnesses giving evidence in person.....	135
Appendix 2: Names of people providing written or supplementary evidence	136
Appendix 3: Visits undertaken as part of select committee review.....	137
Appendix 4: Recent relevant KCC Select Committee Recommendations.....	137
Appendix 5A: Data used to produce map – KCC Youth Service Venues	139
Appendix 5B: Data used to produce map - Additional youth service projects.....	140
Appendix 5C: Data used to produce map- Adventure	141
Appendix 5D: Data used to produce map- Cinemas.....	142
Appendix 5E: Data used to produce map-Sports/Leisure Centres	143
Appendix 5F: Data used to produce map – Air Training Corps	145
Appendix 5G: Data used to produce map - Libraries.....	146
Appendix 5H: Data used to produce map – Sea Cadets	148
Appendix 6: - Kent Freedom Pass - Extract from Terms and Conditions 2008/09 ..	149
Appendix 7: Kent Freedom Pass – Participating Operators – January 2009	150
Appendix 8: Kent Freedom Pass - Participating Schools.....	151
Appendix 9: District Youth Websites	153
Appendix 10: National Youth Agency 2007-8 Comparative Finance Data	155

References.....161

Foreword



Being part of the select committee on the provision of activities for young people has been a pleasure. We have carried out many enjoyable visits and have been privileged to meet a wide range of young people and many individuals within Kent County Council and elsewhere, including the voluntary sector who are passionate and committed to improving things for young people. We were pleasantly surprised at the diversity and quality of activities available and were constantly being told about events we should include in our report.

It was essential that we established the range of activities available; any barriers preventing young people from participating and that young people were able to have their say on the kind of activities made available.

Over the period of time in which this select committee has taken place there have been changes affecting us all, not least the development of a 'credit crunch' which has impacted adversely on many families in the county. We have borne these impacts in mind as we have considered the effects of our recommendations and focused on real value and tangible benefits that might accrue from our decisions on this vital aspect of all young people's lives including those who will need targeted youth support services, of which positive activities are so vital a part.

In light of this, and in view of the evidence we have heard, we have aimed to make recommendations that will together contribute to increasing engagement with young people in Kent and making life more enjoyable and fun for them. We have looked at opportunities for young people to participate in **more activities**; at increasing the **positive influences** on young people both through different media and through positive role models amongst adults and peers; **how young people are empowered** to contribute, change, and influence; at actions to decrease public fear and in particular **decrease the demonisation** of young people.

All these will, we believe, contribute to better outcomes for young people in particular and communities in general. The result we would most like to see is really a step change in the way young people feel about themselves and their communities and the way adults and communities as a whole respond to and interact with young people. We hope that in time there will be clear benefits for everyone.

We would like to thank everyone - the young people, the youth workers, officers of the County Council and the Research Officer, all of whom have contributed to the important recommendations included in this report.

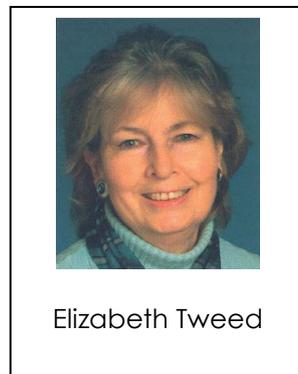
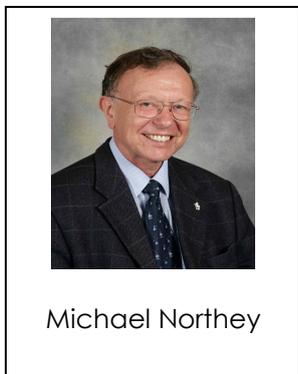
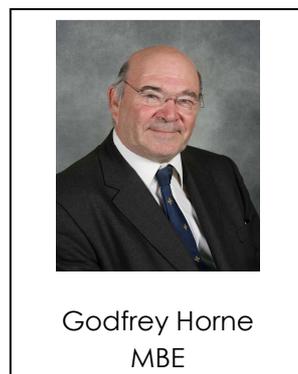
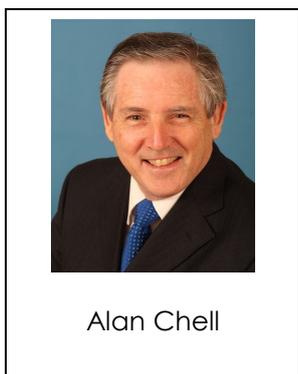
Alan Chell – Chairman (February 2009)

I Executive Summary

Committee membership

The Select Committee consisted of six Members of the County Council, five Conservative and one Liberal Democrat. The committee also had the assistance of labour representative Mr Terry Birkett.

Kent County Council Members (County Councillors):



The Terms of Reference

1. To explore national and local policies and strategies in relation to the provision of (leisure-time) activities for young people.
2. To examine recent consultations and consult with young people during the review, with an emphasis on young people who may not currently engage with services, and motivational aspects.

3. To explore how the range of activities available to young people is communicated to them and whether there are opportunities to make this communication more effective
4. To examine collaborative and partnership work taking place between KCC and other organisations particularly through Youth Advisory Groups, and any opportunities to develop this further.
5. To examine whether existing funding streams for provision of activities for young people could be used more creatively to benefit young people and communities.

Evidence gathering

The Select Committee gathered evidence through desk research and received evidence in person and in writing from a range of stakeholders including young people, the Youth Service, the Youth Offending Service, Environment & Regeneration, Children, Families and Education Extended Services, District Councils and the voluntary sector. The original aim to include an in-depth look at Youth Advisory Groups was scaled down due to the appointment of an independent consultant to carry out a simultaneous review.

A list of the witnesses who attended Select Committee hearings is at Appendix 1. A list of those submitting written or supplementary evidence is at Appendix 2. Details of visits carried out are at Appendix 3.

Reasons for establishment of the Select Committee

The Select Committee was formed in response to concerns that young people are increasingly being acted against rather than provided for and that information about activities provision could be made more inclusive.

The review has looked at:-

-  activities on offer to young people and how this is communicated
-  barriers to access
-  motivational aspects
-  multi-agency work and funding

Introduction

This is the first select committee to have been appointed by the Communities Policy Overview Committee. 'Communities' is the Kent County Council Directorate in which Kent Youth Services and KDAAT 'sit'. In many other council areas youth services are under the same management as Children, Families and Education but in Kent this is a very large directorate, covering all of education and children's social services and it was felt that keeping them separate would help the council to focus on many of the issues that affect young people and their communities as they grow up.

At the same time, having Integrated Youth Support Services means that all the people involved in youth provision will in future meet, talk and work closely together to make things better for young people and one aspect of this is the provision of positive activities.

There have been other Kent select committees which have looked at the topic of activities such as 'Transition' in April 2007, as well as those which have looked at other important issues affecting people (including young people) such as the Alcohol Misuse Select Committee in 2008. This work was carried out because there were serious concerns about the damage alcohol can cause to people's health and wellbeing and its terms of reference included looking at vulnerable groups (people who are often badly affected), one of which was young people. The report said that one of the reasons for alcohol misuse among young people was having 'nothing else to do'. Some of the report's recommendations and those of other recent KCC select committees are given at the end of this report in Appendix 4.

Members of this committee decided not to focus just on the work of the Kent Youth Service (KYS) since independent consultants BMG carried out detailed research and published a report in 2008 and Ofsted¹ also inspected and reported on KYS in June 2008. It was decided instead to look at what kinds of activities are on offer in Kent, where they are, how young people find out about what's on and what might be stopping them from taking part.

Kent has a variety of leisure opportunities provided by all sorts of organisations: this ranges from activities anyone could take part in, to those aimed specifically at young people or particular groups of young people. It is not too surprising to find out that young people from less well-off

¹ Office for Standards and Education

backgrounds and those who are no longer at school, are less likely to participate in positive activities². Apart from that, there are many young people who would like to take part in more leisure activities but can't because of their family situation, or other obstacles such as being disabled or having caring responsibilities, a lack of things to do locally, the cost of taking part, and the availability and cost of transport. Sometimes it's as simple as just not knowing what is around. Therefore we have looked at ways of communicating with young people about what is on offer and how young people with different needs and wants can be encouraged and enabled to participate.

Statistics about the population in different parts of the county can be useful in helping to decide where services should be and people from different organisations can put their knowledge together to help managers to identify where the gaps are, and plan services for the future. It also helps when different organisations put their money together to provide something that young people really want and need – and they only find out what this is by listening to experts, and of course this includes young people themselves. The most important thing is that, because all young people are individuals, there need to be plenty of different things to do. This means that the County Council, district and borough councils, the voluntary and community sector, and private organisations must all work together, and must communicate with young people all the time.

Many youth projects are now funded through the Youth Capital Fund and Youth Opportunity Fund and this gives young people lots of control and choice since they are involved in projects from start to finish.

Another thing which concerned the members of this committee was that many people seem to have a poor opinion about young people because of the kinds of negative stories and images that are always in the news. There is a lot of evidence to suggest that this view is not at all fair or balanced and that there are far more young people acting positively and doing constructive things for themselves, and to contribute to their communities. We therefore also looked at actions that could be taken to bring back some balance and to give people (including young people themselves) a more realistic view. A list of the recommendations that are made in the report is shown on the next few pages.

² Policy review of children and young people – A discussion paper, HM Treasury, 2007

Recommendations

Recommendations are numbered according to their sequence in the report but the ten which select committee members believe to be most important are shown first, in bold print. The Chairman will also be consulting with young people to find out which recommendations they feel will make the most significant difference in Kent, given the financial constraints which currently prevail.

R2 That KCC particularly through the Kent Youth Service and Extended Services continue to encourage and support schools in their efforts to develop extended services that compliment and supplement those already available in their local communities as an essential part of Integrated Youth Support in Kent.

To facilitate this, the Extended Services Team should explore how available funding could be utilised to ensure that schools are supported in their efforts to develop up to and beyond the core level of extended services by, for example:

- making extended school co-ordinators or community youth tutors available in more schools
- with colleagues in the Youth Service, developing expertise among School Governors and Head Teachers by providing training/presentations on extended service development and community engagement
- ensuring that information about extended services within Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) is gathered, recorded and made available to the public through various media (as outlined elsewhere in this report) and taken into account as an integral part of the Youth Strategy in every district
- with Youth Service Colleagues, encouraging and assisting schools to ensure there is effective and ongoing consultation with local communities (beyond the immediate school population) about the development of extended services
- ensuring that the allocation and distribution of funding for extended services (routed LCSPs) is clearly recorded and made available to assist with planning for service provision within local communities.

R3 That KCC together with district and borough councils should:

a. proactively engage with rail travel providers in Kent to determine the feasibility, cost and business benefits of incorporating off-peak rail travel into the Freedom Pass to enable more young people to make use of existing activities and facilities.

b. proactively engage with bus travel providers to determine the feasibility, cost and business benefits of adding integrated (perhaps specific nights of the week) later bus services to enable more young people to make use of existing activities and facilities.

c. consider the benefits and potential cost savings of combining the Freedom Pass with any (future planned) Leisure Card and for example, Library card. This should be considered alongside the concept of rewards for positive activities (e.g. encouraging use of healthy activities). (p53)

R4. a. That to fully utilise available transport KCC directorates should co-operate to produce a register of passenger carrying vehicles (minibuses) that could potentially be shared with the youth service and/or voluntary sector organisations for individual trips or on a more regular basis and that guidelines be produced for the use of such vehicles.

b. That the Youth Service liaise with the Rural Regeneration Officer to determine whether links could be made to existing community transport schemes to provide assistance with transporting young people to leisure activities, or to investigate whether any joint funding arrangements could be of benefit.

c. That there be a drive to recruit certified PC V drivers employed by KCC and partner organisations in Kent to register for occasional voluntary driving duties (subject to satisfactory CRB disclosure being in place) to assist the Youth Service's provision of sports/leisure activities to young people. Once established the Youth Service should assess the viability of extending the scheme to include affiliated and non-affiliated voluntary organisations. (p55)

R6 That KCC (Youth Service and others) should work with district partners including those in the voluntary and community sector to build upon the success of events such as Gifted Young Gravesham, those organised by Blade and Youth of Generation and explore opportunities to hold similar events elsewhere in the county. (p73)

R7 That KCC adopts a policy of promoting positive language, perceptions and expectations of young people in all KCC publications and communications and encourages and engages with partners and the media to further this aim. (p77)

R8 a. That meetings which are to involve young people are planned and structured in a young person-friendly format.

b. That Youth Advisory Groups focus on strategic planning in their districts and extend invitations to, and renews efforts to engage, private and voluntary sector facility and activity providers as well as potential funders, in order to create opportunities for mutually beneficial discussions at YAG meetings.

c. That KCC Members be encouraged to contribute towards local young people's transport funds from Members' Community Grants (and other available sources) to finance organised trips for young people from their local area, focusing on those who attend youth groups and projects. (p90)

R12 a. Development of Togogo could include:

- Clear links to leisure listings for specific areas of interest such as cycling, parks, sports
- Times dates of meetings/venue contacts
- How to contact local Kent Youth County Councillor and Local Members of the County Council (by postcode look-up)
- The facility to vote on youth-related proposals
- Continually providing the opportunity for and proactively seeking out private and voluntary providers to invite listing
- Interactive local maps showing private/voluntary/LA provision
- Requesting that schools signpost Togogo on pupil VLEs (virtual learning environments screensaver and enabled in favourite sites) thus reaching every schoolchild
- Advertising Togogo on the Freedom Pass/Kent Travel Card/Library Card
- Allowing additional and selected advertising on the website (directly leisure related) to generate revenue and show discount offers.
- Liaising with the Children's Disability Register co-ordinator to ensure that views and experience of disabled young people and their families help to make the site informative and relevant.

b. Following an initial reluctance by young people to engage with Togogo its effectiveness in reaching a range of young people from different areas and backgrounds should be measured before and after development of the site by using Mosaic to analyse users registering on the site with a postcode. (p104)

R13 That KCC Innovations Team works with young people, supported by professional advisers to produce a policy and guidelines for the safe use of social networking sites (Facebook, Bebo etc) by young people, and that KCC work towards developing protocols for effective and appropriate use of social networking sites by youth work practitioners, other KCC staff and Members as well as members of Kent Youth County Council. (p106)

R15 That KCC should consider providing support to Oi! (provided there is a sustainable business plan) to enable more young people to benefit from the work experience and personal development it offers and for the magazine to reach and involve a greater number of young people across the county. This support might take the form of a regular advertising slot paid for by the Kent Youth Service and other directorates/service (particularly CFE Extended Services) to: publicise activities and the availability of other local youth provision, and get across important messages e.g. links to advice on internet safety. (p108)

R16 That the Youth Service increases its engagement with the diverse range of services provided by the voluntary and community sector to ensure that the contribution of this sector can be fully acknowledged, mapped and taken into account in planning positive activities within an area. (p114)

R1 That, as part of the comprehensive review of community library services, Libraries and Archives consider the role of mobile libraries as a means of engaging more young people in positive activities, and whether a change of timetable is a practical way of facilitating this. (p40)

R5 That the Youth Service and in particular the Diversity Team should liaise with the Analysis and Information Team to determine how Mosaic could enhance their work in terms of community profiling and targeting information. That the Analysis and Information Team determine whether Mosaic could incorporate data on Traveller communities. (p58)

R9 a. That projects with an intergenerational theme should receive a high priority in decisions about funding in Kent in order to break down barriers and build community cohesion.

b. That KCC should consider how intergenerational activity could be supported in other ways such as through the Staff Club and Staff Discount schemes. (p92)

R10 That there should be increased opportunities for well motivated young people to shadow community leaders in order for them to gain experience of political life and leadership and that Members of Kent County Council should take a lead in facilitating this. (p93)

R11 That Kent TV continues to provide young people with the opportunity to broadcast their interests and concerns and gain experience of TV and film production through the apprenticeship programme and the development of a dedicated broadcasting unit. (p99)

R14 That KCC should investigate the implementation of an SMS texting service to notify young people of discounts and offers of free access to leisure activities. (p107)

R17 That KCC, with its partners, considers how to increase the proportion of activities, as well as information advice and guidance, provided to young people in young-person centred surroundings, in locations accessible during evenings/weekends. (p116)

Glossary

ACP	Alternative Curriculum Programme – for young people who are excluded from, or at risk of being excluded from school
CAF	Common Assessment Framework – to help professionals to work together in an integrated way, to support young people
CDRP	Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership
CDU	Cultural Development Unit (new KCC unit)
CFE	Children, Families and Education (KCC Directorate)
Children's Trusts	Local partnerships between different organisations who work with young people
DAAT	Drug and Alcohol Advice Team
DCSF	Government Department of Children, Schools and Families
ECM	Every Child Matters
ETE	Education, Training and Employment
IAG	Information, Advice and Guidance
Ibid	Latin term used in references to indicate 'same as the one before'
IDeA	Improvement and Development Agency
KCVYS	Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Services
KROOF	Kick Racism out of Football
KY	Kent Youth (voluntary sector organisation)
KYS	Kent Youth Service (KCC)
LCSP	Local Children's Service Partnership
LSC	Learning and Skills Council
NEET	Not in employment, education or training
NYA	National Youth Agency
PAYP	Positive Activities for Young People (distinct funding stream)
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
RASP	Rural Access to Services Programme
SPA	Single Point of Access – a panel of professionals who work with young people
Statutory	Relating to a written law
Targeted Services	Services which are aimed at particular people who need them
Universal Services	Services which are available to everyone
'v'	Independent Charity launched in 2006 to inspire 16-25 year olds to volunteer.
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector also known as the Third Sector

White Paper	A government report with guidance on a particular topic
YISP	Youth Inclusion Support Panel
YOS	Youth Offending Service
YS	Youth Service

II National and Local Policies and Strategies

Youth Matters

The Youth Matters³ White Paper in 2005 outlined government proposals for improving outcomes for all 13-19 year olds. It set out four key challenges of more positive activities; more volunteering; better information advice and guidance and intensive support for those who need it. This was to be enabled through integrating services and making them more responsive, getting young people to take responsibility for their actions, alongside their having greater opportunities.

The involvement of the voluntary, community and private sectors was seen to be crucial in order to achieve this, as was 'building on the best of what is currently provided'.

Youth Matters proposed the merging of funding to allow Children's Trusts to respond flexibly to the provision of universal and targeted services and laid the foundations for the integration of Connexions into the wider youth support framework along with statutory youth services, by April 2008.

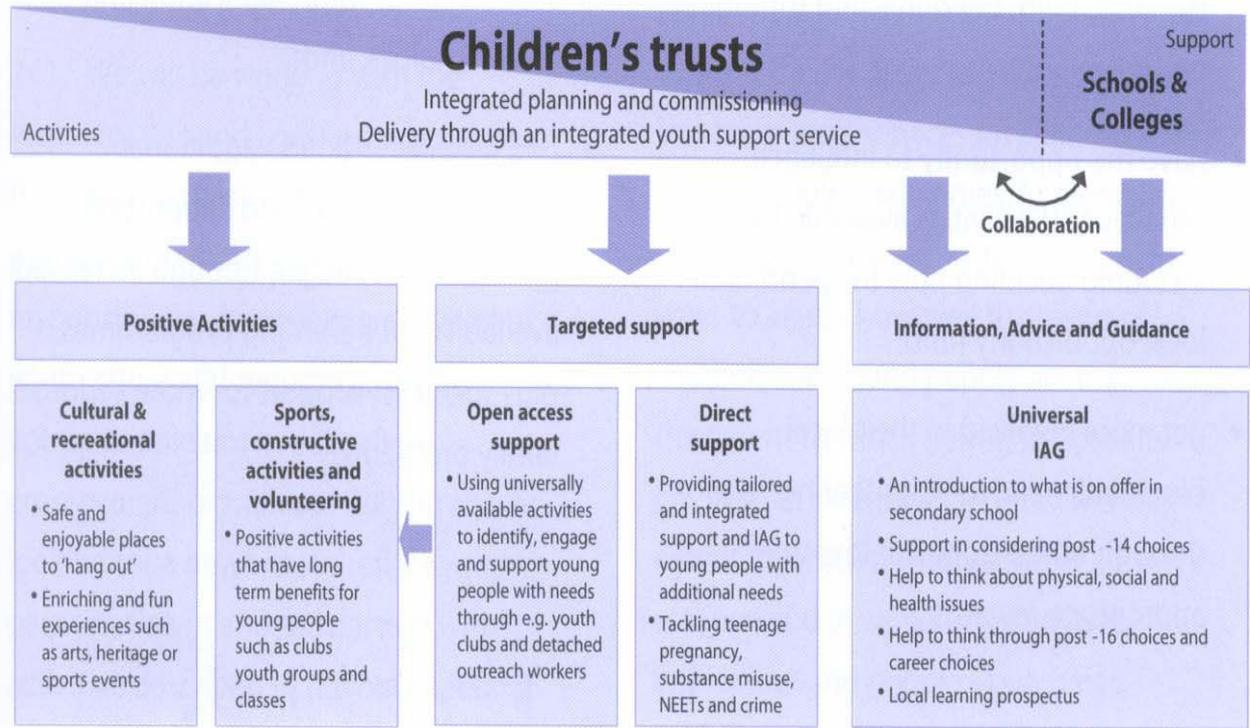
The 14–19 Education and Skills White Paper dealt with reforms to the education system; Youth Matters the important roles of the Youth Service, Connexions, mainstream and targeted services (including positive activities) in joining up support around young people.

Integrated Youth Support

Figure 1 opposite shows how the provision of positive activities to all young people fits in to the wider vision of integrated youth support.

³ [Youth Matters - Every Child Matters](#)

Figure 1: Integrated Youth Support⁴



© Crown Copyright 2005, Youth Matters, DCSF

Positive Activities

From January 2007 in England, a new section 507B of the Education Act 1996 requires that a local authority must, 'so far as reasonably practicable, secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to –

- sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and
- sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.⁵

At the same time, KCC and Districts signed up to enhanced 2-tier working in the Kent Commitment.⁶

⁴ Taken from Youth Matters, DCSF Crown Copyright 2005

⁵ [Statutory Guidance on Positive Activities](#)

⁶ [Kent Commitment](#)

Kent Agreement 2 between central government, KCC and major partners was signed up to in June 2008 – it contained 35 indicators chosen by Kent plus statutory DCSF indicators. Kent is one of 77 local authorities targeting the national indicator (NI 110) regarding young people's participation in structured positive activities outside of school time in order to help their physical, social, emotional and intellectual skills.

National Standards for Positive Activities

Access to two hours per week of sporting activity including formal and informal team and individual sports, outdoor and adventurous sports, and other physical activities such as aerobics and dance - provided through national curriculum and leisure-time activities.

Access to two hours per week of other constructive activities in clubs, youth groups and classes. This includes activities in which young people pursue their interests and hobbies; activities contributing to their personal, social and spiritual development; activities encouraging creativity; innovation and enterprise; study support; and residential opportunities.

Opportunities to make a positive contribution to their community through volunteering, including leading action, campaigning and fundraising.

A wide range of other recreational, cultural, sporting and enriching experiences.

A range of safe and enjoyable places in which to spend time. This could simply be somewhere to socialise with friends.

Medium Term Plan

Kent County Council's 2008-11 – [Medium Term Plan](#) priorities include:

-  Improved participation by all young people in youth, cultural and community activities
-  Provision of greater local information on sport, leisure and community organisations
-  Increase number of Kent volunteers (including through 2012 Olympics)
-  Transformation of library service (heart of local community/ integration with other services)

For the Communities Directorate in which Kent Youth Service is located, this is translated into several service priorities including those with a particular focus on young people:

- Develop a cultural strategy in Kent which delivers opportunities for people to take part in the arts for pleasure, personal fulfilment and as a career, contributing to economic and educational wellbeing and to vibrant community life.
- Continue to modernise the library service and to widen community access to Kent's rich culture and heritage;
- Promote and encourage interest and involvement in preparation for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2012; specifically through the Kent School Games and by encouraging the army of volunteers that will be needed and also by securing long term improvements in sporting and other facilities for the county;
- Increase participation in sport by young people across the county, supporting those striving for competitive excellence and those striving for health for enjoyment;
- Encourage young people to reach their individual potential through voluntary work; participation in sport, arts and other activities; and through tackling urgent problems they may face through offending, or drug and alcohol misuse;
- Continue to promote a sense of confidence and security in local communities by helping to reduce crime and fear of crime; and by ensuring consumers are protected;
- Work with the community and voluntary sector to support their work in building community capacity and local engagement and to encourage volunteering;
- Encourage involvement in service development in the portfolio and work with others on the Gateway concept. Ensure that everyone who contacts the County Council is listened to and their views are taken into account during service development; and
- Ensure information technology is fit for purpose in enabling access to services and in particular deliver upgrades in Libraries, Youth and Community Safety services.

Towards 2010

KCC [Towards 2010 Public Action Plans 2008](#) contain a number of targets relevant to the topic of provision of activities for young people (targets 21-29, 30, 47 and 63 and particularly):

Target 23: Facilitate and enhance the development of Kent Youth Theatre activities.

Target 30: Work towards introducing a Kent Youth Travel Card to give free public transport within Kent for all 11-16 year olds, by piloting schemes in Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells and in Canterbury district.

Target 47: Create and launch initiatives that facilitate more competitive sport in schools, support after-school sports clubs and sponsor more inter-school competitions and holiday sports programmes.

Kent Youth Justice Plan

The Delivery Plan for National Indicator NI110 lists further relevant targets and the Kent Youth Justice Plan 2008/9 includes strategic aim A2:

- Targeting, in partnership with the Youth Service, the funding available for 'Positive Activities for Young People' at the 'hard to reach' population.

Other Kent Strategies

Other strategies/issues which will impact on this topic include:

- Connexions – changes, plans, opportunities.
- More support planned for single families
- Building schools for the future programme – remodelling of 12 secondary schools (£200m, ultimately £1.8b investment)
- Extended schools
- Mentoring programmes
- The development of Gateways in Kent

III What is there in Kent for young people?

Youth Matters Next Steps

[Youth Matters: Next Steps](#) stated the government's wish that through Children's Trusts local authorities should assess the needs of young people and map services against those needs including the voluntary, private and public sectors. As part of the forward planning of activities provision in the 23 Kent Local Children's Service Partnerships, District Councils have, in addition to producing their Youth Strategies, submitted details of how they will be contributing to the National Indicator (NI 110) on positive activities in their local areas and these plans were discussed at a multi-agency meeting in December 2008. In future, the select committee believes that the district Youth Advisory Groups will provide a valuable strategic link between district councils and other partners in the voluntary, community and private sectors; contributing a 13-19 focus to the assessment of young people's needs by the Local Children's Service Partnerships.

Extracts from district youth strategies and plans for increased sporting and non-sporting leisure activities for young people are highlighted below⁷.

District Youth Strategies

Ashford

-  Support provision of more rural neighbourhood leisure activities
-  Support local agencies and young people to access funding for activities and places to go
-  Support the Ashford Community Network in establishing a youth family and delivering positive activities.
-  Establish a new youth facility for the town centre that will include a range of positive activities and offer preventative youth work programmes⁸
-  Build youth spaces into community hubs and ensure community halls are available for youth activities

⁷ Data from some districts was not available at the time of writing.

⁸ Depending on success of MyPlace funding bid

- Extend the range of activities in the summer holidays and after school and support Extended Schools through the Active Ashford sports network
- With Active Ashford and Ashford Youth Forum promote healthy living and participation
- Support clubs and organisations such as Charlton Athletic to deliver positive activities at Council owned facilities particularly the Tenterden Leisure Centre, Stour Centre, Soccer Centre, Courtside, Multi-use Games Areas and parks around Ashford
- Hold the 'Create' festival to celebrate youth music each summer

Canterbury

- Support supervised activity funding bids for 2 voluntary sector organisations per year
- Establish 4 community led sustainable projects by 2011
- Launch new youth facility in Herne Bay by January 2009
- Establish 3 new rural youth projects by 2011
- Enhance use of existing ball courts by 2011 through 2 funding bids
- Engage 100 young people in 'taster' sessions per year
- Increase membership at Riverside youth club to 40 disabled young people by 2011

Dover

- Identify Volunteering placements for young people
- Provide Training workshops for young people to increase skills in volunteering
- Identify suitable locations to enable street art provision and secure funding for workshops
- Encourage greater participation in Multi-Cultural festivals and other projects aimed at raising awareness of social inclusion
- Establish healthy eating events and promotions and increase leisure and physical activity programmes
- Implement the development of targeted art/leisure programmes in school holidays
- Support key partners to source funding to deliver identified projects
- Support the Community Sports Network in promoting youth sporting activities
- Provide support for Town, Parish Councils and Third Sector providing transport
- Extend the range of sporting events and other cultural opportunities, including Passport to Sport, Teenscheme and Charlton Positive Futures program
- Support local clubs to achieve Club Mark status
- Encourage more youth dance/music events across the District
- Introduce Summer Slam events and Teenscheme activities
- Publish a directory of social and educational activities

Swale

- Pilot a scheme for 10-19s with community workers issuing £2 and £50 vouchers for cultural activities in reward for good behaviour⁹
- Provide 5 holiday sports and arts activities throughout the year for 8-14s
- Develop provision through sports network and School Sports Partnership, including cricket
- Support Rural Youth Project in Warden Bay and purchase outdoor fitness equipment
- Provide Parish Grants for holiday activities
- Work with AmicusHorizon and PCT to deliver MIND (mind, exercise, nutrition, do it).
- Build skate park and ball park in Queenborough with play strategy funding
- 'Work with Sittingbourne Community College and Groundwork on NEET Project at Rectory Ground
- Work with Swale Housing on a temporary ballcourt facility in Minster
- Develop natural play in Bartons Point
- Provide a of new youth shelter in Queenborough
- Build a skatepark and community centre in the Meads, Sittingbourne by 2011, the Unreal Skatepark in Sittingbourne, and skate facilities at Faversham and Sheerness
- Provide youth arts activities at Oare Gunpowder Works with Groundwork
- Develop new play facilities at Hugh Price Close, Murston, Sittingbourne
- Develop two new play areas

Maidstone

- Develop the Switch Town Centre Youth Cafe Project
- Develop an effective Text Messaging Service
- Develop comprehensive multi-agency publicity to promote activities for young people
- Improve www.digitalmaidstone.gov.uk webpages to make them young people friendly

Tonbridge & Malling

- Install new play equipment at Leybourne Lakes Country Park.
- Extend targeted Y2Crew activities for 11-18s to the Borough Green area.¹⁰
- Enhance 'activate' holiday activities for 8-16s

⁹ Scheme currently includes swimming pools and leisure centres, Tonge Golf Club, Sheerness Youth Centre

¹⁰ supporters and funders include Kent Police, Kent Youth Service and Kent Fire and Rescue

- New Excel programme of keep fit for 11-15s
- Develop the Summer Active holiday fitness scheme piloted in 2008
- Introduce a new Power Play 9 hole golf competition

Tunbridge Wells

- With Kent Youth Service support Tea-Time Club/after school clubs and youth clubs in priority neighbourhoods and rural areas
- Use the Borough's Streetcruiser (mobile youth club) Bus with KYS and partner organisations for outreach youth services on 4 evenings per week
- Build on the success of the International Youth Day event in 2008: which involved a football tournament, bbq, multi sports, and dance and art workshops¹¹
- With KYS and the PCT, provide positive activities in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and rural areas – such as youth clubs, football, non-contact boxing, kick boxing, basketball, dance workshops, and multi sports sessions
- Work with KYS on Summer Play Schemes for young people in priority neighbourhoods

Kent County Council

KCC will be focusing on the following areas through the work of the Youth Service and partners and further details on many of these topics are given throughout this report.

- Aiming High for Disabled Children
- District Council Youth Strategies
- Duke of Edinburgh's Awards
- Extended Schools
- Free Theatre for Young People
- Freedom Travel Pass
- Increasing Opportunities for Volunteering by Young People-
- Kent Youth County Council
- Leisure Pass
- Partnership Awards
- Positive Activities for Young People (targeted programme & promotion for all)
- Positive Futures
- School Holiday Programmes

¹¹ The event was organised by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Kent Youth Service, community groups, Charlton Athletic's Community Team, Army Careers Advisors and local Police Community Support Officers.

- Youth Opportunities Fund, Youth Capital Fund¹² and other youth projects

Maps of youth provision in Kent

Figure 2 on page 28 is based on a small selection of data and shows the location of Kent Youth Service Centres and projects, Libraries, Leisure and Adventure Centres, Cinemas, Air and Sea Cadets.¹³ Locations of, for example, Scouts and Girlguides, extended schools, voluntary sector youth clubs and sports and arts activities as well as parks and open spaces could also be shown. County level mapping requires postcode information; full postal address is required for more accurate street level mapping.

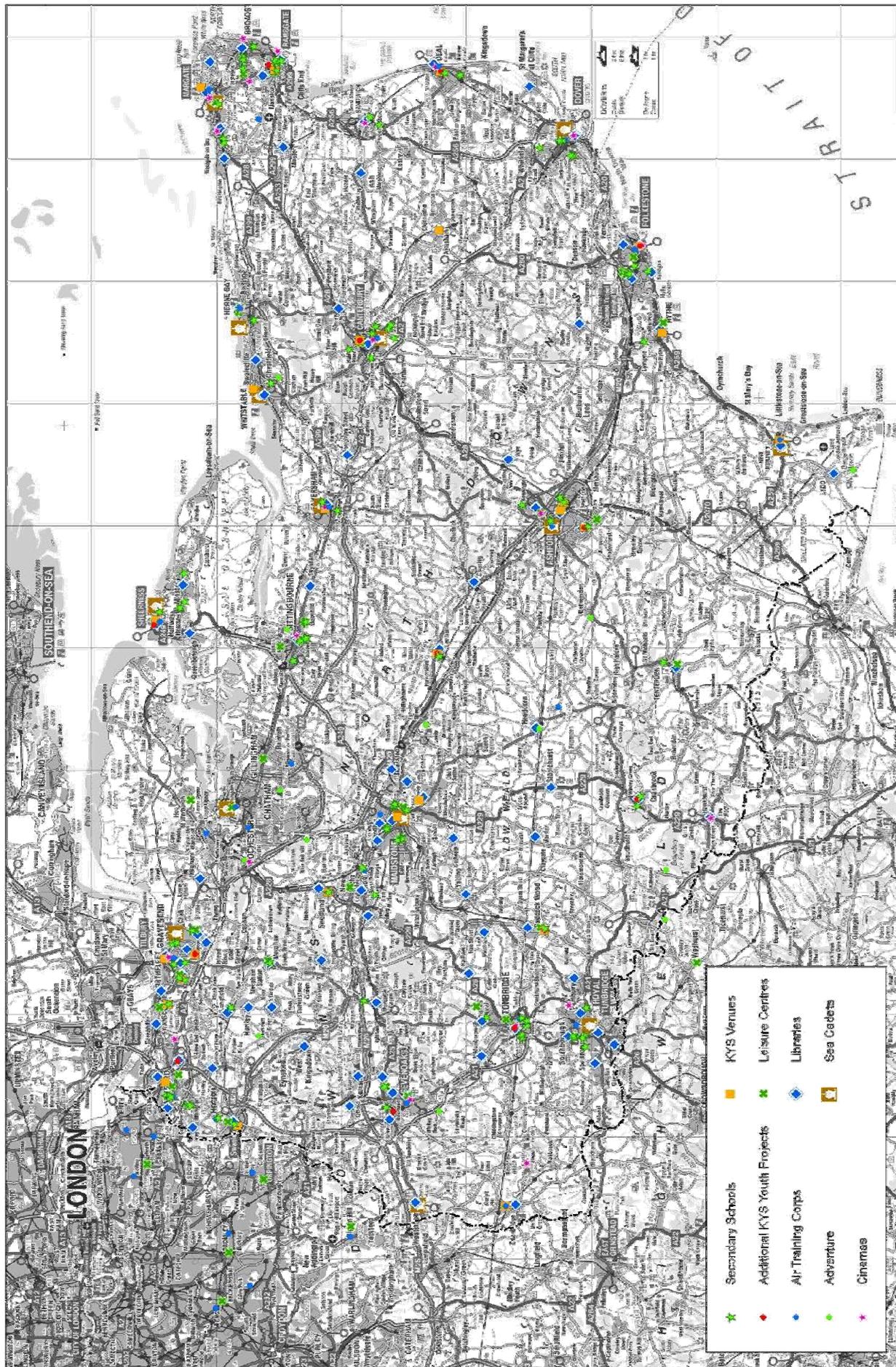
The committee learned that an interactive mapping system using GIS technology is planned for Kent Resource Directory¹⁴ in early 2009. This visual mapping will function partly as a strategic tool for managers and practitioners within the Local Children's Services Partnerships helping them to plan more effectively and identify and evidence gaps in service. The use of similar technology is under consideration by the Youth Service for direct use by young people accessing their website for young people: 'Togogo'.

¹² From September 2006 to September 2008 the Youth Opportunities Fund allocated 595 separate grants funding a wide variety of projects across the county, varying in value from £185 to £19,249 (for a festival). (A small number of projects did not come to fruition, and the returned monies for these are not included in these figures). During the same period Youth Capital Fund grants of between £1,500 and £250,000 were allocated to 70 projects.

¹³ Details given in appendix 5.

¹⁴ discussed further in Section VII

Figure2: Kent map showing location of selected facilities/activities



1:275000

Produced by KCC GIS Team
 This map is based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office (© Crown Copyright).
 Unauthorised reproduction in any form is prohibited without the prior written permission of the Controller. 100016238, 2005
 Ref: IM11035

What are young people doing?

The NFER Children and Young People Survey in Kent 2006/7 revealed what young people are actually doing in their free time and this is shown in table 1 below:

Table 1: How young people in Kent spend their free time

What children and young people do:	On weekdays between 4pm and 7 pm		On weekdays from 7 pm onwards		At weekends	
	11-16	Post - 16	11-16	Post - 16	11-16	Post - 16
Age:	11-16	Post - 16	11-16	Post - 16	11-16	Post - 16
Use the internet	57	61	54	70	53	61
Watch TV	57	54	61	72	48	54
Spend time with their family	55	53	54	56	42	44
Play computer/playstation type games	45	33	41	39	44	36
Homework	42	43	27	36	33	37
A sports activity	42	29	21	23	44	37
Hang out with friends	41	39	25	39	69	73
Activities at a club or centre	23	13	16	14	25	15
Help to look after someone	19	14	15	14	26	20
Shopping	18	20	9	8	68	69
Reading	17	15	29	31	21	20
Voluntary work	7	7	4	4	12	9
Paid work	7	18	4	16	17	47
No response	6	5	10	5	7	4
11-16 No. of young people = 10,344 Post-16 No. of young people =961						

It is not too surprising to find that internet use is the top activity, given that once access is available this activity is free and has scope for allowing young people to follow their interests and keep in touch with friends. However, what is surprising is that in the 11-16 age group, only 4% fewer young people have a caring role than attend a club or centre and in the post 16 group 1% more young people reported having caring responsibilities than attending a club

or centre. This puts into perspective how many young people are performing this valuable and often unseen and unrewarded service.

What young people *would like to be doing* in their spare time was the subject of one of the questions in the [TellUs3 Survey](#) which in 2008 asked young people across the country which of the following activities, if any, they would like to go to *that they didn't at the moment* and the resulting percentages, shown in table 2 on the next page, will give some idea of the preferences that young people gave (they could select as many as they wanted):

Table 2: Young people's preferred activities from the Tellus3 Survey

	%
A music concert or gig	39
Gym	38
Cinema or theatre	37
Swimming pool (not in school lessons)	29
Art, craft, dance, drama, film/video-making group or class (not in school lessons)	26
Sports club or class (where I've done sport not just watched it)	20
Local park or playground	18
A youth centre/café to meet friends (with few or no organised activities)	18
A youth club or youth group with organised activities run by adults	16
Music group or lesson (not in school lessons)	14
Library/museum	14
Residential course (e.g. outward bound)	13
Faith or Community Group	6
Something else	21
Nothing (I don't want to go to anything else)	11

Other studies reveal that within certain groups there are preferences for particular types of activity. For example BMG's report carried out for Kent Youth Service¹⁵ identified that young people from Traveller communities in particular enjoy 'traditional' and creative activities like cookery, arts and crafts.

¹⁵ Use and Perceptions of Kent Youth Service

Music concerts and gigs

As the activity young people express the most enthusiasm for, this is probably one of the most expensive and the least accessible to the under 18s. Kent has a number of music venues catering to varied tastes but many of these are based in pubs, clubs and bars and are mainly suitable for the over 18's. More general venues available to younger people are much less widespread but the select committee heard two excellent examples (and there are many more) of how committed individuals in the voluntary sector have stepped in to address this deficit. A case study later in this report outlines Blade Nzou's work with talented young musicians and on the following page is an outline of Youth of Generation, who run music gigs for the under 18s. Started by teacher Lisa Candy and her husband in 2006, YOG has grown to meet the demand for a showcase for some of the many talented musicians in Kent and well organised musical venues for young people.

Youth of Generation

'Calling all young musicians in Kent!'

Since December 07 Youth of Generation have been holding band gigs on Friday and Saturday evenings from 7 – 10.30 where young people under 18 with little or no performing experience can show off their musical talents alongside more experienced bands. There were 31 gigs last year! Shows are open to all but there is a strict no alcohol policy.

Currently gigs attract around 150 young people and the entrance fee of £4 pays for insurance, professional sound and lighting, security and collectible wristbands. Additional funding covers the venues which are well established in Maidstone, Dover and Swanley where they are now taking place every 4-6 weeks. Gigs are just getting started in Sevenoaks but are so popular in Swanley that sometimes 250-300 young people turn up. They hear about gigs from the new website and postings on MySpace and Bebo as well as word of mouth. Bands are also attracted by poster advertising. Gigs are now so popular Lisa needs 5-10 hours of admin help and will be employing a young person in this role.

YOG receive support from KCC via the Youth Opportunities Fund in each area, KCC Member's Community Grant, and Maidstone Borough Council. They also have a supply of instruments funded by the National Lottery for young people just getting started.

Youth Service venues have hosted gigs and YOG are at Infozone in Maidstone in February as part of Gay History Month. They would welcome groups of young people from youth clubs all over Kent to any of their events (as musicians or audience!)

Each area has a young people's committee (from contacts in the Youth Service) who are consulted about venues and planning. The Police are always informed about gigs and sometimes assign a Community Police Officer. Sexual Health and Drug and Alcohol Advice teams have also come along to provide information. Connexions were invited but were unable to take part as they don't work during the evening when the gigs take place.

YOG would like to arrange gigs in other areas of Kent and are currently looking for a venue near Canterbury. Every gig has a chill-out zone so there is somewhere to relax away from the crowd.

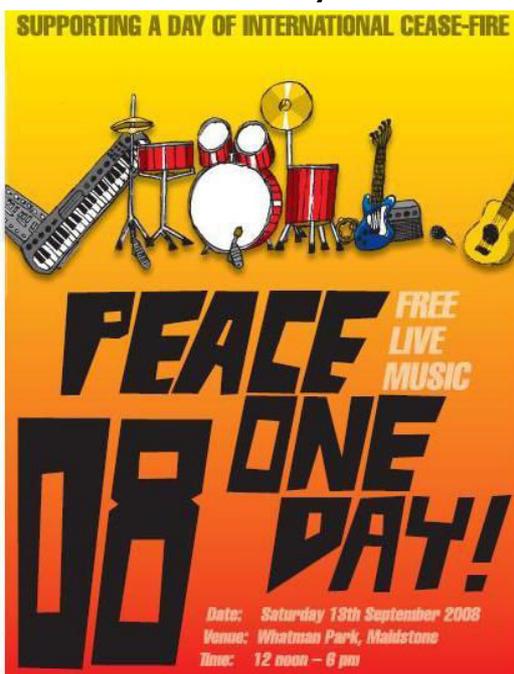
Website: www.yoggigs.co.uk

www.myspace.com/yoggigs

One off music events

The select committee heard evidence about several recent one off events for young people in the county that had been particularly popular. Young people's access to such events is made much easier where they are planned within easy access of public transport routes.

Peace One Day!



Peace One Day! is an annual event held in Maidstone to celebrate World Peace Day, which last year took place on Saturday 13th September in Whatman Park. It was organised by young people of the Maidstone Youth Forum, enabled and supported by Maidstone Borough Council's Sports, Play and Youth Development Team. To kick off the project, the young people prepared and submitted a bid for £5000 funding to the Youth Opportunities Fund. They were granted £3500 and Maidstone Borough Council added a further £1400 to that. The young people planned every aspect

Contact: The Sports, Play and Youth Development Team on 01622 642222
Email: sportsandplay@maidstone.gov.uk
Visit: www.maidstoneyouthforum.com



of the event including bands, stalls, suppliers, publicity, prizes (all within budget) at fortnightly meetings and drop in sessions at the council offices. The young people gained a huge range of skills and had individual roles on the day itself which was a huge success with 3,500 of 12,600 (28%) of young people in the area attending it! Partners attending the event were:

Kent County Council Youth Service, Maidstone Borough Council Community Planning Department, Maidstone Housing Trust, Maidstone Leisure Centre and the Primary Care Trust, Kent Police, Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and local security staff also attended on the day to ensure the safety of everyone concerned.

The Radio 1 Big Weekend

A different type of event, and with corporate organisation, this too proved highly popular with young people from all over Kent. In 2008 this took place in Mote Park over the weekend of 10/11 May. 30,000 free tickets were available and the popularity of the event is evidenced by the fact that over half a million people applied for them. Many young people got the chance to see, free of charge, international artists including Madonna, Hoosiers, The Feeling, Scouting for Girls, The Fratellis and Duffy. The event cost the organisers £1.4 million and though there was no entrance charge and bands performed free, 75 hours of TV and 59 hours of radio coverage resulted.

Blast Events (3 times per year in Thanet)

Thanet Blast Events are put together by a group of organisations known as [Engage](#) for young people aged 11-19 in Thanet. Over the Easter 2008 holidays, over 1000 young people had the chance to try out a wide range of activities at four locations: Dane Park, Margate, Warre Recreation Ground, Ramsgate; St Peter's Recreation Ground in Broadstairs and Lymington Recreation Ground, Westgate including those involving live music, DJ-ing and MC-ing. As well as this, a variety of sports, cheerleading, arts and crafts, a mobile skate park and youth centre were available offering computer games, a chill out zone and cinema.¹⁶

¹⁶ Bill Butler, Senior Youth Worker

Sport in Kent

Towards 2010 Target 28: Support and encourage the large number of local and voluntary groups and sports clubs in Kent

Kent has around 15,000 sports clubs, 27 school sports associations and 60 sport governing bodies and in addition to indoor facilities there are 'acres of playing fields, hundreds of grass sports pitches, multi use games areas, tennis courts, golf courses, indoor bowls centres and athletic tracks'. There are also sports facilities owned by education establishments including schools as well as trusts, and those of private centres and companies.¹⁷

Some of the larger indoor sports and leisure facilities are mapped in Figure 2 (page 28) and listed in Appendix 5.

KCC Sports Leisure and Olympic Service

In general KCC's Sport Leisure and Olympic Service (SLO) are not involved in direct delivery of sports activity but work at strategic level with partners in Kent and elsewhere.¹⁸

The forthcoming Olympic Games in London are providing a focus for sport in Kent and the Kent [Strategy for the 2012 Games](#) has at its core the inspiration of young people to do well in whatever field they choose including the arts as well as sport. KCC Sports, Leisure and Olympics Service are leading on the Cultural Olympiad in Kent and are involved in a wide range of schemes which benefit young people across the county including:

Sports Leadership

SLO work with the Youth Service, Youth Offending Service and Community Wardens as well as external partners Sports Leaders UK and Meopham School to provide leadership skills to young people through the Sports Leadership Project and Sport Unlimited targeted at young people who tend not to like mainstream sports. Young people over 16 can also pay to attend courses which can lead them into long term involvement in coaching and officiation¹⁹.

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Chris Metherell, Kent Sports Facilities Development Manager - Sports, Leisure and Olympics Service – Written Evidence

¹⁹ Such as being a referee or linesman

Step into Sport (SiS)

20 young people in 2008-09 rising to 40 young people in 2010-11 from each School Sport Partnership will be involved with community volunteering through school club links and SLO maintains a register of sports officers, mainstream and non-mainstream, to promote sport and seek opportunities for volunteers.

Kent eVent Team (KET)

KCC in partnership with the voluntary sector through KET have a target to coordinate the recruitment of 250 volunteers by April 2009, and aim to register 2500 volunteers by 2011 to assist with one-off sporting, leisure and cultural events in Kent in the run up to the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The scheme should attract young people as it is flexible and does not require a long term commitment. Young people registered with Step into Sport will be encouraged to take part and the scheme will ensure volunteers have experience on record if they wish to apply to become a volunteer at the Games through the Olympic Organising Committee²⁰ in 2010.

Folkestone Forward

This project involving the Sports, Leisure and Olympics Service, Adult Education and Libraries will be aimed at four deprived wards in Folkestone and will include activities for disadvantaged residents including 16-19s who are not in Education Training or Employment in the wards of Folkestone Harbour, Folkestone Foord, Folkestone East and Harvey Central.

PAYP

The Youth Service also has Positive Activity for Young People (PAYP) Co-ordinators who sometimes link with leisure facilities to provide targeted sporting activities.²¹

Non-mainstream sports

These are promoted to young people who are not so interested in mainstream sport, especially through the 2008 Kent School Games, which for example, included a Sport Stacking competition. This is an individual and

²⁰ LOGOC – London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games

²¹ Please see PAYP in final section of this report.

team activity played using plastic cups that improves hand eye co-ordination and dexterity and encourages co-operation and teamwork.²²

High adrenaline activities in Kent

Kent has a number of high adrenaline activities available to young people including a ski centre and go-karting (in Medway), paintballing and several skate parks, many of the latter developed following consultation with young people and partnership work between KCC, the district councils and the community and voluntary sector.

Parkour

Parkour, or free-running involves running, jumping and climbing to overcome obstacles to move quickly across an urban area. It was developed in France by founders Sebastien Foucain and David Belle based on obstacle courses undertaken by the French military. The activity has been made popular by films and TV advertisements and is also subject of three films featured on Kent TV. [Parkour Ashford Concrete Motion](#) shows clearly just how dedicated, fit and skilled participants have to be.

Westminster City Council in 2008 introduced an accredited Parkour (also known as PK or Le Parkour) course for up to 20 young people aged between 8 and 19 as part of its Holiday Fun programme of activities. They developed the free four day course with the dual aims of entertaining the young people and reducing the incidence of any anti-social behaviour during the holidays.

There are so far a small number of projects in Kent offering training activities for Parkour and the select committee heard²³ that Kent Police are setting up a special sub-group of the Youth Forum in Ashford to consult with young people at Sk8tside about the use of parts of the site for free running, with an emphasis on training, in a supervised and safe environment.

While acknowledging the merits of Parkour as a fun and exciting means of engaging young people in a controlled environment, members of the committee have concerns about safety and would not support the activity taking place in public urban spaces due to the risk of serious injury both to

²² www.speedstacks.com

²³ Mrs Elizabeth Tweed – written evidence regarding initiative by Police Community Support Officer.

participants and members of the public. The select committee also note that as yet, Parkour is not recognised as a sport by Sport England.²⁴

Arts in Kent

Cinemas and Theatres

A list of Kent venues is shown at Appendix 5 and included in figure 2 on page 28. Visiting the cinema and theatre were among the top activities listed by young people as those they would like to be able to do. As the map at the start of this section shows there are cinemas in most of the Kent districts – however, the size of the county means that in some more rural areas there is a considerable journey involved and good transport links may not be available.

Cultural Development Unit

KCC has a new Cultural Development Unit which now works strategically and in an advisory capacity and has £300k per year to provide in grants to organisations across the county many of which include young people or have youth elements. KCC has also invested £2m in the new Folkestone Theatre and £100k in the Folkestone Triennial. Initiatives, assisted by the appointment of a new Youth Arts Officer, will include a Youth Theatre Festival involving existing theatre companies in early 2009.

Examples of organisations and projects to which the Cultural Development Unit (CDU) have contributed a proportion of funding²⁵ and which particularly involve young people are noted below. Many will have themes related to the Cultural Olympiad which is led by the Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service, with CDU leading on the cultural elements.

-  Beeping Bush – media company creating short films
-  Broadstairs Folk Week
-  Canterbury Festival
-  Chalkfoot Theatre (visit schools)

²⁴ Chris Hespe, Head of Sport Leisure & Olympics – written evidence

²⁵ Funding will also be gained, for example from ticket sales, trusts, Arts Council, District Council.

- Deal Festival
- Mela – Multi Cultural Festival Day
- North West Kent Race Equality Council Children’s Parade to Launch the Cultural Olympiad
- People United (Arts Programme in schools)
- SE Opera Studios (child workshops)
- Stour Valley Arts (education programme)
- Strange Cargo (creative building projects)
- Strange face mask theatre (work in schools)
- Trinity Arts Youth Theatre (Tunbridge Wells)
- The RHYTHMIX project works with young people considered ‘hard to reach’

Kent Youth Service

The select committee heard from the Head of Kent Youth Service (KYS), Nigel Baker that the service consists of 30 youth centres, 17 detached or mobile projects, and 4 residential and outdoor centres. The latter are located at Kent Mountain Centre (North Wales), Swattenden Centre, Kearsney Campsite and Bewl Water in Kent.

KYS also engage in a varied range of specialist youth work: The PAYP project team work with vulnerable young people; the Alternative Curriculum Programme (ACP) is operated by the Youth Service in 4 locations for 25 hours per week; there is a youth worker in each of the two 16plus teams run by Children, Families and Education, and Catch 22 (formerly known as Rainer); there is an ARC based worker and a worker based with the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership. Currently there are also 18 community youth tutors employed by the Youth Service and based in schools.

The BMG report on Use and Perception of Kent Youth Service last year found that youth centres were being well used and the greatest use was in Thanet, Tonbridge and Malling, Swale and Dover where centres where 90% of the young people questioned (total 902) attended at least once a week. Each of the KYS detached projects (where workers take youth services out to young people in target areas where there is no access to a permanent youth facility) has a qualified youth worker supported by a part-time team²⁶.

²⁶ Steve Edwards, Staff Development and Training Officer, Kent Youth Service - written evidence

Youth Centres receive revenue money as a grant from the Youth Service but this is insufficient to keep them running and local money has to be raised. On the next page is an example of an excellent youth centre whose success is evidence of strong leadership and effective partnership work with, for example, Health, the Police, the voluntary and community sectors and primarily, young people themselves. Just under 6%, or £420,000 of the total Youth Service budget²⁷ in 2007/8 was used to commission services from the Third Sector.

Sheerness County Youth Club and Activity Centre

This Kent Youth Service club is staffed and run by a senior youth worker; bursar; team of part time youth workers; 9-member committee of young people; and cleaner. It



opens every weekday evening offering activities for 11–19s.

There is a seating area and cafe staffed by volunteers, plus a chillout zone; radio station; TV and film studio; internet cafe, dance studio; make up room; pool and table tennis tables and a performance area with stage!

Young people can develop their personal skills by taking part in 'Action 4 all' - signing up for 2+ activities and recording their efforts in a skills book – gaining participation 'stamps' which can be used to buy rewards. There are separate clubs for boys and girls and a club night every Friday in the aptly named 'Tardis' for 13-19s; the Youth



²⁷ £7,498,000

Service and Police through the Community Safety Partnership have worked together to provide a knife detector and fund a bouncer to ensure safety.

The 12 week 'Stay' programme for young people disengaged from school was set up by the club and runs from 9-3 on Tuesday for boys and on Thursday for girls, led by a community youth tutor using transactional analysis methods to help young people tackle their difficulties and get back on track.



The club also has the benefit of a Healthy Living Centre nearby. Bike racks are provided with free locks for hire, as local transport links are poor.

Funding sources include KCC, Youth Opportunities Fund, the National Lottery (one-off) and fund-raising efforts of dedicated volunteers. The canteen makes a profit; door takings (average 40p to get in and around 35 young people per night) help to the pay for activities and the 20p charge for pool pays to keep the tables in good condition. The local Rotary Club donated plaques.



Libraries

There are currently 101 [Libraries in Kent](#)²⁸ comprising a number of main libraries and smaller branch libraries, 12 of which have undergone modernisation in the last 2 years. In addition there are 11 mobile libraries which visit villages throughout Kent. The select committee learned from Janet Davies, Family and Lifelong Learning Services Manager, that the whole of the community library service is currently under review²⁹ with the aim of improving services and making them accessible to more customers. The review will look at postal services, mobile libraries, visits to residential homes (which could include disabled people or those unable to leave their home or residence and people who are active but in isolated locations).

Mobiles make 700 or so stops lasting around 10 minutes on an extensive weekly or two weekly route. They tend not to engage much with teenagers, and this is likely in part due to the operating hours which are 9-5.30 on weekdays³⁰. There is some scope for the vehicles to be used differently; there has previously been some weekend promotional work: for example Arts Development had a joint project with Nord pas de Calais sponsoring a vehicle which went along the coast providing books and activities.

CAFÉ IT in Folkestone is one of 20 venues set up based on a Derbyshire pilot, using Headspace national funding to provide books and shelving. It combines library and youth provision, with books of high interest chosen by young people themselves. Aimed at those aged 16 and over, CAFÉ IT opens during evenings and weekends and offers a range of activities including volunteering opportunities. The latter improve job prospects for volunteers while encouraging other young people to develop their reading skills and love of books.³¹

Community Librarians are involved with a number of activities in partnership with colleagues from the Youth Service and external partners including the voluntary sector to attract young people:

²⁸ Also listed in Appendix 5.

²⁹ Review being carried out by Access Services Manager, Sheila Golden

³⁰ these timings have evolved for traditional reasons.

³¹ Janet Davies, Family & Lifelong Learning Services Manager

- Design and drama events at the Quarterdeck Youth and Training Centre in Thanet
- A song writing competition as part of the national year of reading with Dover YMCA in partnership with the Discovery Centre
- An inter-generational project with a youth worker at Linwood Club in partnership with an art group to record the regeneration of Dover town for the Deal Festival
- Weekly outreach work with the Youth Service at Dartford Library with activities on Wednesdays from 4-6 pm.³²
- The Ask a Kent Librarian Service
- A teenage text reading group in Swale³³
- A consultation at the County Show letting young people choose a book for their local library. (There were 750 votes!)
- One off events such as writing workshops for year 9 students with author Lola Jaye at Meopham in conjunction with publishers Harper Collins.
- Out of hours provision at Showfields (boxing club) and Rusthall (Zone Youth) libraries
- Art Exhibitions, Homework Clubs & Teen User Group
- Volunteering (web wizards)

Libraries will in future be promoted to young people on the Kent Freedom Pass z-card (information about the pass which folds up into a credit-card-size pack). The select committee believe there is scope for mobile libraries in particular to reach out more to young people particularly in the less accessible parts of the county and a change to the vehicles' timetables could introduce the service to a whole new batch of young readers. In addition, information about libraries youth activities, other youth services and facilities could be made accessible to young people, along with information about volunteering opportunities for all ages.

³² Christine Matthews, Community Development Librarian - written evidence

³³ Darren Kearle, Kent Youth Service - written evidence

RECOMMENDATION

That, as part of the comprehensive review of community library services, Libraries and Archives consider the role of mobile libraries as a means of engaging more young people in positive activities, and whether a change of timetable is a practical way of facilitating this.

Extended Schools

The 2008/09 KCC Children Families and Education Strategy Policy & Performance Division's business plan states that:

"The development of extended schools at a local level provides children, young people and adults with a range of positive diversionary activities. A number of schools have been informed by local police officers that crime rates have fallen in areas where before school, after school and holiday activities are available."

The government expects all schools to provide a core offer of extended services by September 2010 which includes, among a raft of other extended services, clubs before and after school and during holidays, 'swift and easy' referral to targeted and specialist services and parenting advice and support.

Marisa White, Head of Extended Services explained to the select committee that extended schools are also required to open their facilities to the community where they are of a reasonable standard, safe and would not undermine other local facilities or businesses.

So far, with the involvement of students aged 13 and over in planning services, KCC Extended Services Development Team has been involved with a number of successes such as:

-  Dover Grammar School for Boys - A Level Students have received training and are running a Yu Gi Oh Maths Club for younger pupils at lunchtimes

-  Walmer Science College - A Level Students have been trained as Librarians and help run transition, breakfast club and homework sessions

- Funding has been provided for after school clubs, Saturday and holiday clubs
- Funding has been provided for Saturday schools in Kent's new vocational centres
- Work with Youth Service Community Youth Tutors has helped develop Duke of Edinburgh's Award projects, drama projects and a motocross challenge project
- At Playing for Success Centres, students can learn through sport and ICT, including after school.

Currently in Kent 62 out of 104 secondary schools provide the extended schools core offer³⁴ but information regarding the specific services offered at individual schools is not yet centrally available though these are sometimes advertised in schools and district directories. So far, consultation with parents and pupils about the nature of community access to facilities they would like has taken place in only 40% of secondary schools³⁵. The following proportion of secondary schools has these different types of community access already in place:

- Adult basic skills (41%)
- Other Adult Learning (53%)
- Community Sport (75%)
- Community ICT (44%)
- Community Arts (49%)
- Community Other (46%)

68% of secondary schools have still to consult with parents about the varied activities they would like to see and 24% of secondary schools have programmes that run till at least 6 pm. However a good number are offering the following:

- Learning Support (76%)
- Homework Clubs (73%)

³⁴ Kent Agreement 2 NI 110 Delivery Plan

³⁵ Marisa White, Head of Extended Services, oral and supplementary evidence

- 🌐 Arts Activities (77%)
- 🌐 Sports Activities (83%)
- 🌐 Mentoring Programmes (69%)
- 🌐 Other Activities (76%)

Schools report that they involve various people when planning activities including pupils, parents/ guardians/carers, staff, the local community and school governing body. However children of school age who are not pupils are seldom consulted (presumably this refers to those living in the catchment area of the school). Very few secondary schools (23%) have a Lead Governor for Extended Schools but 58% have extended school development in their improvement plan. A range of other data has been collected from schools on whether particular facilities are located close by, including community and sports centres, church halls, other schools, and vocational centres. Mapped, this data would provide a much more usable and visual aid to planning. In fact the planning of extended activity using a range of local information such as local surveys, plans, health and other data is barely evidenced so far and less than half of all secondary schools are comfortable sharing information to enable their extended activities to be monitored and evaluated.³⁶

VCS Engage was a programme set up by the DCSF and which ran from September 2006 until March 2008 in order to inform the voluntary sector about engaging with schools in order to be able to work with them more effectively on the extended schools agenda. Although the programme is now finished – advice for voluntary sector organisations including the [Extended Schools Guide](#) is still available from the website.

RECOMMENDATION

That KCC particularly through the Kent Youth Service and Extended Services continue to encourage and support schools in their efforts to develop extended services that compliment and supplement those already available in their local communities as an essential part of Integrated Youth Support in Kent.

To facilitate this, the Extended Services Team should explore how available funding could be utilised to ensure that schools are supported in their efforts

³⁶ Ibid

to develop up to and beyond the core level of extended services by, for example:

- making extended school co-ordinators or community youth tutors available in more schools**
- with colleagues in the Youth Service, developing expertise among School Governors and Head Teachers by providing training/presentations on extended service development and community engagement**
- ensuring that information about extended services within Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) is gathered, recorded and made available to the public through various media (as outlined elsewhere in this report) and taken into account as an integral part of the Youth Strategy in every district**
- with Youth Service Colleagues, encouraging and assisting schools to ensure there is effective and ongoing consultation with local communities (beyond the immediate school population) about the development of extended services**
- ensuring that the allocation and distribution of funding for extended services (routed LCSPs) is clearly recorded and made available to assist with planning for service provision within local communities.**

Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations

Youth Matters stressed the central role of the voluntary and community sector in providing positive activities especially for young people who are vulnerable but may fall through the net of government services; citing faith groups, sports and youth clubs, scouts, guides, Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and Community Service Volunteers as being particularly important.

The voluntary and community youth sector in Kent fall into two categories in the way they work with KCC Historically, a funding structure has grown up whereby groups with an umbrella organisation such as the Scouts, Girlguides or Diocese affiliate to KCC through the Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Services (KCVYS). Those that don't have an umbrella organisation affiliate to KCC through another voluntary organisation, Kent Youth which works with these smaller groups or organisations to help them achieve minimum standards.

Kent Youth's Head of Programmes and Services, Eve Johnson, explained to the committee that clubs could derive a number of benefits from affiliating to Kent Youth. For example if a group wish to set up a youth club Kent Youth can provide them with a club pack consisting of model documents to assist them with their constitution, Health and Safety, Child Protection Policy, and other aspects of running a youth club. Kent Youth provide evening/weekend STEP by STEP training for volunteers and staff at low cost (£5 to £10) and assist with Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks for volunteers, providing 3 free and further checks at a cost of £5 each. Kent Youth also run activities for the affiliated clubs including boxing championships, samba, DJ mixing among others.

Silver Cross Youth Club

The Chairman of the select committee Mr Alan Chell visited Kent Youth affiliated Silver Cross Youth Club in Allington on 7th November 2008 and found a vibrant, happy group of young people participating in a charity Christmas gift wrapping session in what he described as an 'excellent example of a youth club'.

Silver Cross features in the Parish Magazine of St Nicholas Church, Allington - the Grapevine which contains a wealth of information about the parish including youth pages on Silver Cross and in the February edition a youth news feature on Girlguiding Allington. Clearly Parish contacts are a valuable potential source of information regarding voluntary activities in local areas and would need to be involved in discussions about planning extended school and other activities.



The young people and staff of Silver Cross Youth Club

There are a large number of voluntary sector organisations that make a vital contribution to the wide spectrum of young people's activities on offer in Kent. Two of the many which provide activities for teens are Girlguides and Scouts. The select committee heard from Barry Clout of the Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Services (KCVYS) that organisations such as Kent Youth and KCVYS do not publicise all the details about these organisations due to their voluntary nature and the fact that some contact addresses are private.

Girlguides

'The aim of guiding is to help girls and young women develop emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually so that they can make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.'

Girlguiding UK gives girls between 10 - 14 and over the opportunity to take part in a wide range of activities. There are many units in Kent and currently 'GO FOR IT' packs are available so that group challenges can be undertaken within specific themes such as 'chocolate' or 'Lights Camera Action'. Guiding provides options including adventure holidays, camping and travelling abroad. For young women of 14 – 26 the Senior Section offers the

chance to progress into leadership roles, Duke of Edinburgh's Scheme and numerous groups and guilds. Website: www.girlguiding.org.uk

Scouts

Scouts have a number of groups in Kent for young people aged 10 - 14 years as do Explorer Scouts for 14 - 18 year olds. The latter get involved in:

- adventurous activities
- conservation projects
- creative projects and entertainment
- camps, hikes, expeditions
- international issues
- community support
- Scout Awards or Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

Beccy Martin, County Projects Manager for the Scouts told the Select Committee that since groups operate independently (but within a framework) sites like Kent Youth Service's Togogo would feature central contact details but individual groups might wish to advertise their own information; some be found online in the Kent Resource Directory. Websites: www.kentscouts.org.uk and www.scouts.org.uk

A recommendation regarding publicity for voluntary sector activities through the Kent Youth Service website Togogo, is made later in this report.

IV A Level Playing Field

'Truncation of opportunity prevents aspirations from being realised. The relationship between opportunity and aspiration is a more level playing field for some of us than for others.' (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2008)³⁷

Given there is a variety of leisure provision in Kent, both universal and targeted, the select committee was interested to find out what stops young people in general, as well as particular groups of young people, from taking part in the activities that are on offer.

National and local consultations with young people have highlighted a variety of barriers that frequently prevent them from participating in extra-curricular activities. One such consultation was carried out by the government in 2005 - a questionnaire was filled in by over 19,000 young people and as a result the Youth Matters: Next Steps report was published and the Youth Opportunities and Youth Capital Fund were introduced to give young people a greater say in shaping services. Next Steps also identified that in order to reduce non-participation, the organisations supporting and providing for young people locally would need to work together to meet the challenge and this included the joint managing of targets between local authorities, Learning and Skills Councils and Connexions. Integrated work is also discussed throughout this report.

KCC stressed their commitment to respond to the views of young people in the Integrated Youth Support Strategy which quotes as a key action, to:

'Implement [Youth Matters](#)³⁸ including the development of district based youth strategies and ensure effective engagement of young people in the design and delivery of the youth offer and the distribution of the Youth Opportunities and Capital Fund.' (Priority 7: Key action 74)

³⁷Creegan, Chris (2008) [Opportunity and aspiration: two sides of the same coin?](#), Joseph Rowntree Foundation

³⁸ Youth Matters Green Paper

The select committee learned that young people in Kent are now empowered both to make bids for, and to allocate funds from both these sources.

In the Ofsted, TellUs2 survey which takes place nationally and each year, young people were asked what would stop them attending out of school activities they would like to take part in, including going to a youth club or group, swimming pool, sports club, music group or lessons, art, craft, dance, drama, film-making group or class and the main reasons given by young people in Kent are compared in table 3 below to the views expressed by young people generally.

Table 3: Barriers to taking part in extra-curricular activities (TellUs2)

	Kent %	National Average %
There aren't any near me	26	30
Don't have time	25	31
Costs too much	24	23
Lack of transport	15	14
Don't like the ones near me	12	11
Don't know what there is	10	13

As shown, young people in Kent responded very similarly to those across the country with issues of distance and transport being of prime concern, as well as knowing about what is on offer. Another survey carried out in Kent: the NFER Children and Young People of Kent 2007, also asked (11-16 year olds) about barriers to their participation in activities and had comparable results which are shown in table 4 below though interestingly, the greatest proportion here (35%) said nothing was stopping them which could relate to motivational issues, which are discussed in the next section.

Table 4: Barriers to taking part in extra-curricular activities (NFER)

	Kent %
Nothing is stopping them	35
Cost	33
Lack of time	30
Activity is not available locally	27
Lack of transport	23
Family have safety concerns	11
Their health	6
Other reason	10

No response	7
-------------	---

The Morgan Inquiry into volunteering opportunities for young adults, cited another survey carried out among 1000 young people aged 16-25 who were representative of the youth population as a whole and found very similar barriers were preventing them from getting involved in volunteering:

Table 5: Barriers to volunteering³⁹

	National sample %
Don't have the time	51
Not sure how to help	50
Have nothing to offer	23
Not sure how to go about it	20
Transport	17
Information is confusing	13
Childcare	6
Worried what friends think	6
Other	5
Nothing	10

Cost

Can fun activities be provided for young people at a reasonable price?⁴⁰

Finding freebies

Clearly a high cost to activities is prohibitive to many young people and their families, and events and activities which are free or low cost will always be popular (such as the Radio 1 Big Weekend held in Maidstone last year). Some local authorities make it easy for young people to see what is free in their area by incorporating a 'FREE' button on their youth websites and the select

³⁹ Barriers preventing passionate young people acting on their concerns (v, 2007)

⁴⁰ Question from young people at Swadelands School, during consultation 10th November 2008

committee were told by Andrew Bose⁴¹, that it may be possible to incorporate this feature into the Kent Togogo website.

Evidence from Dr Alex Stevens from the University of Kent suggested that there was a wide disparity in spending on leisure between the richest fifth of the population who spend an average of £106 per week on leisure compared with an average of £9 for the poorer four fifths so for many young people, the availability of free or low cost activities is the only way they can access them until able to finance their own activities.

The select committee were told of a number of initiatives relating to free activities including the possibility of free swimming dependent on district council bids for a Department for Culture Media and Sport grant which would allow free swimming for the under 16s in addition to the funding of £444,000 that districts will receive for free swimming for the over 60s.⁴²

This type of scheme is vital for broadening access since building or updating existing facilities does not solve the problem of making sports and other leisure facilities available to those who cannot afford them.⁴³

Chris Metherell of the KCC Sports, Leisure and Olympics Service (SLO) said that the service has links with all the Borough and District sports facilities and co-ordinates the external funding of initiatives and activities. However, since these facilities are commercially managed the good relationship of the Unit with the senior Sports and Leisure Directors and Councillors in the Borough and District Councils has been crucial in negotiating cheaper access for young people. The select committee also feel that inviting private sector organisations to Youth Advisory Group Meetings will contribute to good relationships and co-operation.

Financial support for talented sportspeople

The Sport, Leisure and Olympics Service runs schemes aimed at talented young sportspeople including the Free Access for National Sportspeople scheme (FANS) and Free Access for County Sportspeople (FACS), run by the boroughs and districts councils. The Sports Leisure and Olympics Service are

⁴¹ KCC Public Involvement and Communications Manager

⁴² Felicity Adams, Staff Officer (Management Trainee)

⁴³ Chris Metherell, Sports Leisure and Olympics Service, written evidence

allocated funds by the Kent Reliance Building Society (though this may be at risk) and Pfizer to unemployed young people on the FANS scheme to help pay for training, travel and other expenses.

The top 20 performers in Kent nominated by their sport's National Governing Bodies will benefit from a new KCC Talented Performers Fund. The Sports, Leisure and Olympic Service also provides funding to SportsAid to support young talented performers in Kent.⁴⁴

Leisure Pass

Kent Youth Service and partners in the districts, including the voluntary sector are investigating a Leisure Pass to provide cheap access to leisure activities. The select committee wholeheartedly support the development of such a pass and would like to see the project given a high priority. There may also be merit in investigating whether administrative cost savings could result from a combined travel and leisure card. A 'Smart' Freedom Pass with the facility of electronic information storage is being trialled in Thanet and may in future lend itself to the development of a multi-use card in Kent.

KCC has built a considerable network of business contacts in negotiating discounts as part of the KentRewards staff benefit package and could presumably build on these existing good relationships in order to benefit young people in the county.

It is also felt that encouraging greater voluntary and private sector involvement in meetings such as the Youth Advisory Groups will facilitate ongoing discussions about discounts, benefits and special offers that could be made available to young people either via the leisure pass or through other schemes such as positive ticketing, which is to be trialled initially in Tunbridge Wells.

Positive Ticketing

It is envisaged that this scheme, based on a Canadian model, and which rewards good behaviour, will eventually be countywide. A positive ticketing scheme is also to be piloted in Swale, offering £2 and £50 vouchers. These could be distributed, for example by a KCC community warden or other professional in touch with young people on the street who on witnessing

⁴⁴ Ibid

good behaviour could issue a voucher to be used for activities such as free swimming or use of a football pitch free of charge.⁴⁵

Cost of KYS centres

BMG Research spoke to young people using Kent Youth Service facilities and found that charges to attend youth centres were felt to be very reasonable, ranging from around 30-80p per session and that this revenue was used to further subsidise residential stays or trips, which might cost £20/30 for a weekend. Some young people may use the centres free of charge.

Hidden costs

Members of the select committee asked young people at Swadelands School and young people attending an Alternative Curriculum Programme in Canterbury, how much they would be prepared to pay for fun activities during a week and the young people agreed that around £20 was reasonable, but that some activities could involve a lot of extra expense if uniforms or costumes were involved. They used Scouts as an example which they said cost £1.50 a week to attend, but the uniform cost £30 and badges and camps cost extra.

Loss of pay or benefits

The Russell Commission and later Commission on the Future of Volunteering also identified that young people on benefits could have difficulty accessing voluntary work without losing out financially. v also stated that young people should receive an allowance to cover their expenses since many would be excluded from participating by being unable to pay upfront costs.

Transport

How could you provide safe transport to leisure activities in Kent?⁴⁶

Towards 2010 Target 30: 'Work towards introducing a Kent youth travel card entitling all 11-16 year olds to free public transport in the county, subject to the outcome of two district pilot's.

⁴⁵ Chief Superintendent Matthew Nix, Kent Police

⁴⁶Question posed by young people at Swadelands School.

Freedom Pass

In the Tellus2 survey young people clearly identified transport difficulties as a key barrier to their participation in activities. Responding to this, and to calls from the Kent Youth County Council, KCC piloted the 'Freedom Pass'⁴⁷ which for an annual fee of £50 per child provides transport for 11-16 year olds on participating operators⁴⁸ at any time. So far the majority of the impact has been on home to school travel with 75% of journeys falling into that category. However 25% of journeys with the Freedom Pass have been outside of these core times. David Joyner, KCC Sustainable Transport Manager informed the select committee that the Transport Integration Team had been working closely with KYCC, public transport providers and secondary schools⁴⁹ to implement the pass and so far it had proved very successful and popular with schools and young people. Furthermore it has contributed to environmental aims by reducing car journeys.

So far over 12,000 young people have been issued with passes (at January 2009) around half of these in the original pilot areas of Canterbury, Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells; just under 5,000 are in Dover, Maidstone, Malling and Shepway (which came into the scheme in June 2008) and the rest in Swale and Thanet. The scheme should be countywide by June 2009 with the inclusion of remaining districts Ashford, Dartford, Gravesham and Sevenoaks.

There is no doubt that the scheme has been of great benefit to many families, however in discussion with a group of young people attending an Alternative Curriculum Programme⁵⁰ it was pointed out to the committee that some parents would be more than willing to pay £50 for a pass which would save them several hundred pounds in school travel costs⁵¹, but if you did not already have these costs and could not yourself afford the £50 fee – it wasn't an option. It would therefore seem that young people whose home to school journeys are inexpensive or free or who are attending non-mainstream education such as an Alternative Curriculum Programme (ACP) are disadvantaged by having to persuade parents to part with £50 for their

⁴⁷ Freedom Pass terms and conditions extract - appendix 6

⁴⁸ List of participating operators at appendix 7

⁴⁹ List of participating schools at appendix 8

⁵⁰ Visit to Key Training, Canterbury 7th October

⁵¹ In preference to school bus travel season tickets which cannot be used outside of school travel times.

leisure travel or finance this themselves. The select committee were pleased to learn of plans for a Kent & Medway Credit Union, which will be in operation from 1st October 2009. Under this scheme, adults who live and work in Kent will be able to apply for affordable loans and credit and this may help less well-off parents to afford a Freedom Card, paid for in instalments over a period of time.⁵² Further information can be found on the website: <http://www.kentcreditunion.org.uk>.

The government expects that all schools will offer 'wraparound' services from 8.00 am to 6 p.m. by 2010 and clearly the Freedom Pass will enable travel during these extended periods. However, this is also dependent on the availability of suitable transport services. This was evident to the committee when attending Swadelands School in Lenham to discuss the review topic with pupils. Despite the school having onsite a fantastic facility 'Activate' available to the community (including pupils of the school) from 5-9pm on weekdays there was a mass exodus to get the school bus at 3.00 because without this, young people could not get home! Some young people expressed the wish that train services could be brought into the scheme to increase their travel choices and members of the committee felt that there was scope for these negotiations⁵³ given the potential business benefits to rail providers, increasing the customer base during off-peak travel times when many services run with a minimum of passengers. The benefits to young people in terms of increased access to leisure activities could be substantial and service providers would have the added benefit of the behaviour guarantee that comes with the use of the pass.

The Freedom Pass has now been made available to children who are educated at home, and those who have left local authority care. The target number of passes to be issued to 11-16 year olds by 2010 is 20,000 and the Transport Integration Team intend to investigate extending the scheme beyond the 11-16 age group (school years 7-11). The scheme will be publicised further through leafleting, press releases and presentations in schools in order to encourage uptake.

⁵² Caroline Hooper (Chief Executive's Department) – written evidence

⁵³ Some negotiations have already taken place.

RECOMMENDATION

That KCC together with district and borough councils should:

- a. proactively engage with rail travel providers in Kent to determine the feasibility, cost and business benefits of incorporating off-peak rail travel into the Freedom Pass to enable more young people to make use of existing activities and facilities.**
- b. proactively engage with bus travel providers to determine the feasibility, cost and business benefits of adding integrated (perhaps specific nights of the week) later bus services to enable more young people to make use of existing activities and facilities.**
- c. consider the benefits and potential cost savings of combining the Freedom Pass with any (future planned) Leisure Card and for example, Library card. This should be considered alongside the concept of rewards for positive activities (e.g. encouraging use of healthy activities).**

Community Transport

A report on community transport schemes carried out by voluntary sector organisation ACRK⁵⁴ found that there are over 100 schemes in Kent and Medway, ranging from private cars to organisations with fleets of vehicles, and some of these schemes are dedicated to young people.⁵⁵ The select committee learned from Julie MacIntosh, Rural Regeneration Officer about the Rural Access to Services Programme (RASP) which runs for the next three years with the dual aims of improving transport to services, and helping to set up community shops⁵⁶. Working through ACRK, her team will be helping to direct people to available community transport and will provide support to help schemes become more sustainable (for example by doing marketing plans and helping to write grant applications). A total of £53,000 is available;

⁵⁴ [Action with Communities in Rural Kent](#)

⁵⁵ (though young people's needs were little reflected in the survey ACRK carried out due to survey replies mainly coming from older respondents requiring the assistance of community transport to medical appointments.)

⁵⁶ Where communities can't support a viable shop the community are empowered to get together, obtain a grant and manage and run the shop themselves on a voluntary basis.

£22k in year 1, £20k in year 2 and £10k in year 3. The team is about to launch a pilot scheme to test the viability of a vehicle sharing scheme in an area yet to be selected. Within this area they will broker between transport providers and users, identify gaps in times and routes and try to make the best use of available vehicles.

Transport issues raised by the Youth Service

During interviews with several youth workers, it was pointed out that there is a shortage of Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) certified drivers and that obtaining this licence is costly, at around £1000. At one youth centre, Linwood in Deal, the select committee were informed that only one member of staff is a certified minibus driver, and this is in fact the bursar. This situation has arisen due to legislation which means that individuals passing their driving test after 1 January 1997 do not automatically hold D1 (minibus) licence entitlement. (Those who passed their test prior to 1 January 1997, do.) Older, more experienced youth workers with a normal driver's licence will be covered to drive a minibus in order to transport young people between venues, or on an outing or team event. However, the licences of younger workers do not allow them to drive minibuses without the additional training and cost. An experienced worker made the point that when taking young people out to take part in team games it is not very useful to be able to transport only one team!

The legislation has therefore impacted adversely on young people's access to positive activities from a variety of providers including the youth service, schools, extended school activities and Duke of Edinburgh's Award. While there are exemptions (fully explained in the DVLA's guide: Driving a Minibus) the need to assure the safety of young people has meant that teachers/youth workers, though they are providing a community service, are usually required to have the D1. Voluntary drivers, however, are not.

MiDAS, the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme, is operated by the Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Services in order to improve skills in driving and passenger awareness and provide accreditation to minibus drivers in the voluntary sector, youth service, schools, colleges and so on.

KCC also made a commitment in the Kent Compact⁵⁷, to the voluntary and community sector in Kent to 'work towards making Kent County Council vehicles available to voluntary sector groups when they are not in use.'

RECOMMENDATION

a. That to fully utilise available transport KCC directorates should co-operate to produce a register of passenger carrying vehicles (minibuses) that could potentially be shared with the youth service and/or voluntary sector organisations for individual trips or on a more regular basis and that guidelines be produced for the use of such vehicles.

b. That the Youth Service liaise with the Rural Regeneration Officer to determine whether links could be made to existing community transport schemes to provide assistance with transporting young people to leisure activities, or to investigate whether any joint funding arrangements could be of benefit.

c. That there be a drive to recruit certified PCV drivers employed by KCC and partner organisations in Kent to register for occasional voluntary driving duties (subject to satisfactory CRB disclosure being in place) to assist the Youth Service's provision of sports/leisure activities to young people. Once established the Youth Service should assess the viability of extending the scheme to include affiliated and non-affiliated voluntary organisations.

Issues affecting particular groups of young people

Narrowing the Gap, a two year programme funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) aims to identify ways to improve outcomes for vulnerable and other disadvantaged children and young people and IDeA have produced a [benchmark](#)⁵⁸ for 'gap narrowing' for central and local government in partnership with schools.

The [Equality Framework for Local Government](#), currently in draft form and due to take effect in April 2009 helpfully provides a broader definition of equality which identifies a range of groups whose needs may be overlooked

⁵⁷ Paragraph 7.1.22

⁵⁸ Benchmark version 4, April 2008

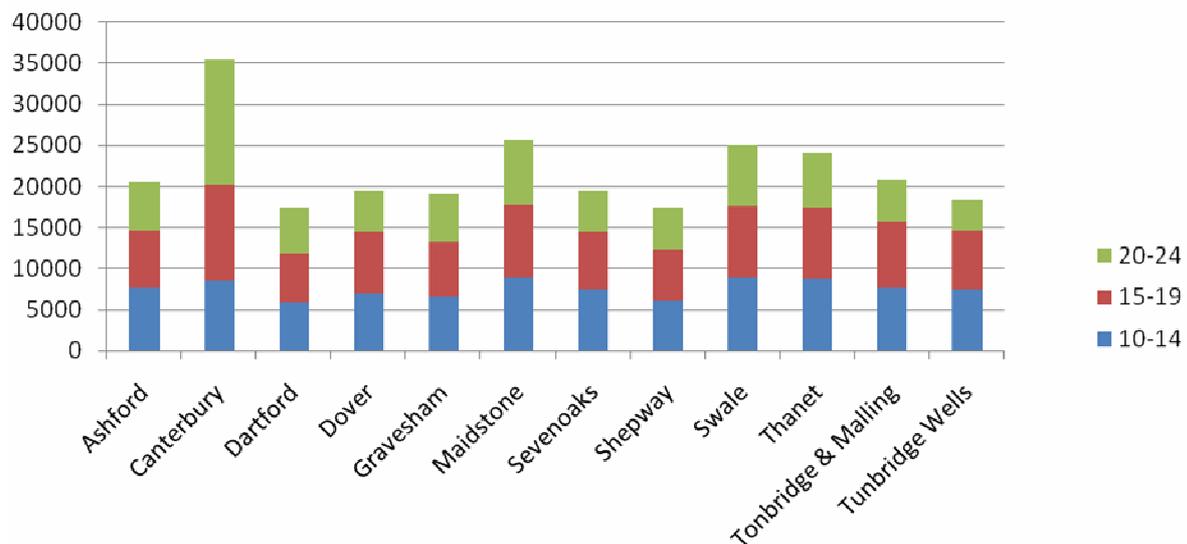
in addition to those that already have legal protection⁵⁹ and these include children in the care of the local authority, gypsies and Travellers and white working class boys.⁶⁰

Kent Youth Service Partnership Awards prioritise projects which target disadvantaged groups of young people⁶¹ including young people who live in one of the 28 wards identified by the Supporting Independence Programme (SIP) as the most deprived wards in Kent and:

-  are unlikely to achieve 5A* to C grades GCSEs
-  are disabled
-  are from BME backgrounds or are migrants
-  are teenage parents
-  are disadvantaged in other ways by society
-  young women's groups.

Profiling Communities

Chart 1: Number and distribution of young people in Kent districts



⁵⁹ Groups based on race, gender, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation and age are already protected in the law

⁶⁰ Sveinssen, K.P. (2009) [Who Cares About The White Working Class](#), Runnymede Trust

⁶¹ Source: KCC Communities Directorate KYS Partnership Awards To Voluntary Youth Organisations Information and Application Pack

Chart 1 shows the number and distribution of young people throughout the county of Kent. The Ofsted inspection of Kent Youth Service (whose services are primarily aimed at 13-19s) found that 5.3% of this age group are from minority ethnic backgrounds and the select committee learned from Diversity Officer Gary Forde that the work of the Diversity Team has been hampered by the difficulty in obtaining community profiles. In providing a service that is responsive to the needs of a particular area, community profiling is an essential tool. One of the first tasks of a detached youth worker beginning to work in an area is to create a manual profile by obtaining population statistics, speaking to local professionals and local residents.⁶²

KCC has an [Equality and Diversity Policy Statement](#) which was itself subject to an [equalities impact assessment](#) in March 2008 and as a result a number of amendments were made to bring the 2004 policy up to date and take into account the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, stating the authority's aims in regard to its roles as community leader, employer and service provider, to:

- Provide services which are accessible to all people within the community
- Provide clear and meaningful information about council services in ways that are accessible and meet diverse needs
- Work with partners in consulting with all sections of the community on service needs and provision
- Monitor take-up and evaluate services to ensure they do not discriminate or exclude, including the complaints procedure
- Aim to achieve Level 5 (highest) of the Equality Standard for Local Government and ensure that services meet Best Value principles.'

Currently Kent has been externally assessed at Level 3 of the Local Government Equality Standard and its action plan and priority outcomes for the 3 years to 2010 are set out in the [KCC Equality Strategy 2007/10](#). The Standards are:

Level 1: Commitment to a comprehensive equality policy
Level 2: Assessment and consultation

⁶² Dan Pyke, Detached Youth Worker, Isle of Sheppey

Level 3: Setting equality objectives and targets

Level 4: Information systems and monitoring

Level 5: Achieving and reviewing outcomes

Mosaic

Rachel Tinsley, from KCC's Analysis and Information Team spoke to the select committee about Mosaic - a system allowing the production of detailed maps profiling communities based on census information, the electoral role and numerous other sources including questionnaire responses. Originally designed for marketing, Mosaic has now been adapted to local authority work. There are 11 Mosaic groups based on attitude, lifestyle, health, hobbies and so on, made up from 61 detailed 'types'. Using postcode information it is possible to highlight pockets of deprivation in otherwise affluent areas, indicating where particular services may need to be targeted.

KCC's Children, Families and Education directorate (CFE) have used Mosaic to profile children attending schools in Kent to assist Local Children's Services Partnership (LCSP) managers with planning. The select committee were told that service commissioners were faced with the dilemma of profiling the needs of young people in an area based on where they live, or where they go to school. However, the BMG report on Use and Perceptions of Kent Youth Service found for example, that the vast majority of young people who attend centres (83%) travel there direct from home and it might be assumed that travel to leisure activities more generally is also primarily from home. Therefore it would seem that determining the needs of an area based on where young people live is of more value when planning leisure services than based on where they attend school. Mosaic can also be used to target who should receive particular sets of information.

Mosaic Data is currently purchased from Experion by KCC Children Families and Education directorate but is licensed for use by any KCC directorate. The select committee was told that by becoming a 'superuser' of the system, benefits and cost savings could be gained. Mosaic could also be enhanced by the addition of further data sets which would make it more specific to Kent. The work of the Diversity Team would be aided by their having access to community profiles, and detached youth workers and others could also benefit if granted access to Mosaic profiles for areas in which they begin to work. Mosaic could also facilitate monitoring of service use and this work would help contribute towards achieving level 4 or 5 of the Quality Standard.

There were some reservations about whether Mosaic had sufficient data to assist managers to respond quickly to local changes in population such as an influx of a particular ethnic group, as has occurred in Sittingbourne. However, this type of knowledge comes from local intelligence and can be used to supplement information available from Mosaic in order to build a true representation of the communities being served. There is however, a particular need to determine how Traveller communities can be incorporated into Mosaic.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Youth Service and in particular the Diversity Team should liaise with the Analysis and Information Team to determine how Mosaic could enhance their work in terms of community profiling and targeting information. That the Analysis and Information Team determine whether Mosaic could incorporate data on Traveller communities.

In their report on Use and Perceptions of Kent Youth Service, BMG Research found 'pronounced differences' between the 'attitudes, experiences and/or cultural approach' of some groups of young people, citing particularly Travellers, young carers, young people following the Alternative Curriculum Programme (ACP) and young people from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities. Specific issues had impacted enough on these groups to make their views stand out when qualitatively appraised against those of the wider population. In the BMG research 12 of the 902 respondents said they had a disability but the qualitative research did not focus on this group.

It is important to consider issues of physical access since many disabled young people will not otherwise be classified as disadvantaged but may be unable to access sports or other facilities or activities; even those claiming to be 'accessible' or 'disability compliant'.⁶³

Aiming High for Disabled Children

The challenges that families with disabled children face in accessing leisure time activities are complex and centre around suitable activities being available and accessible and also crucially around respite and the

⁶³ Chris Metherell, Sport, Leisure and Olympics

availability of trained carers for disabled children and young people, where appropriate.

The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme (AHDC) was launched in England and Wales in May 2007 and with funding from 2008-2011 comprising £370m for short-breaks, £19m for transition support, £35m for childcare pilot schemes and £5m for parents' participation.⁶⁴

KCC is one of 21 pathfinder authorities, and will receive around £15 million to invest in services for disabled children, young people and their families in Kent. This year funding comprised £1.6m revenue and £800k capital and funding worth up to five times that will be available next year to develop services further. The plan for service development and new service provision in Kent has been put together in consultation with parents of disabled children and young people and will take shape in a hub and spoke form with services reaching out into the wider community from specialised resource centres. These services will include activities during the day, evenings, weekends and holidays and some of the planned development is noted below:⁶⁵

-  Windchimes, Herne Bay is a joint venture between KCC, Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT and The Children's Society providing respite and activities for disabled children, young people and their families living in the Canterbury, Dover, Swale and Thanet areas. Wooden Spoon Charity and others have contributed to the equipment available. It has a sensory room, therapeutic spa pool, soft play room, disabled children's kitchen with fully adjustable height worktops, an ICT room for children and parents and a large sensory garden with specialised equipment. The centre has a six-roomed house where children with complex needs can stay for up to 3 nights to provide a break in positive surroundings and the opportunity to socialise and take part in activities. The Special Needs Advisory & Activities Project (SNAAP) is also based there. With money from AHDC, it is planned to set up a toy library and extend the use of the building during evenings and weekends.

⁶⁴ Glynis Payne, AHDC Programme Manager, KCC

⁶⁵ Source: Pathfinder Newsletter

- Fairlawn provides short breaks to disabled children and their families in the Shepway and Ashford area. With AHDC funding it is proposed to extend the provision at Fairlawn through the development of a new Ashford Multi-agency Resource and Development Centre. In the meantime it is planned to commission a voluntary organisation to extend current activities during the day.
- Elsewhere, AHDC funding will help to extend the range and quantity of activities available including holiday activities.

Members of the select committee visited the Sunrise Resource Centre in Southborough in order to speak to professionals and to parents of disabled children and young people. The Centre has 6 respite beds managed by KCC (who also own the premises) and the children's charity Barnardo's manages the resource centre. It is also supported by the rugby children's charity Wooden Spoon. Included in the facilities on offer are a soft play room, sensory room and sensory garden, computer room, independent skills training kitchen, Jacuzzi and outside play area.

It was stressed to the select committee that in the absence of activities for disabled young people or those with special needs, holiday times in particular could be very distressing for families in trying to meet the needs of every member of the family. Well planned and provisioned respite such as that at Sunrise was therefore a crucial and possibly life-saving resource. Parents also felt that it was beneficial to families if there could be more activities integrating disabled and non-disabled young people so that siblings and families could meet, interact and share information. Currently it is felt that evening and weekend activities are very limited or non-existent and where they exist they need to be better publicised.

AHDC's Programme Manager for KCC, Glynis Payne, told the Select Committee that in partnership with organisations like Barnardo's two key aims would be to look at provision of activities in rural areas, and provide more weekend activities where siblings and whole families could meet together. Alan Milner, of Parents Consortium explained that there could be access for disabled children to a much wider, mainstream range of activities if equipment such as hoists could be provided. Hoists are available, for example, in many swimming pools, but without equipment to facilitate lifting for less able young people, particularly in toilet facilities, many would be excluded from venues which would otherwise be suitable for them. This is in

line with the philosophy of local government partnership duties outlined in Narrowing the Gap that: *'All settings integrate provision for children with disabilities and special educational needs and provide additional support where appropriate'*.

me2

Kent Youth run the me2 project for disabled young people since their research and experience had shown that disabled young people can have low expectations of themselves and do not always feel included in the mainstream world. Me2 seeks to address young people's lack of confidence, and improve their social and communication skills as well as raising disabled young people's aspirations, sometimes beyond those of their parents for whom their children's transition to adulthood can also be very challenging.

The project takes around 10 disabled young people from each district and matches them 1:1 with young people aged 16-19 who have completed 12 weeks of training. The disabled young people are then supported to work in a local community group in a voluntary work placement with adults who have also received training. The mentors 'are not buddies or befrienders' and work towards SMART goals with the young people to develop 'strategies, skills and resilience'.⁶⁶ They stay with the disabled young person until they feel confident enough to manage alone, usually for around 9-12 months but in reality 'as long as it takes'. Young people are also supported to access mainstream leisure activities through for example, improved transport and links with the youth service. News about the scheme and projects is communicated to parents and young people via the disability register website.

Disabled athletes

The Sports, Leisure and Olympics Service also benefits from the strategic leadership of a dedicated Sports and Development Manager for Disabled People⁶⁷, supported by a full time officer and network of voluntary Associate Officers. Their aim is to increase disabled people's access to mainstream sports activities and clubs, facilitate the development of specialist sports clubs

⁶⁶ Eve Johnson, oral and written evidence

⁶⁷ Michael Bishop (supported by full time officer Paul Panton) – written evidence

(including multi-disciplinary) for disabled people and raise the profile of Disability Sport.

With the London 2012 Paralympic Games as a focus, the team are able to identify and support talented disabled sportspeople, enabling them to access appropriate sports pathways to develop their skills and participate at elite level. Talented disabled athletes can also benefit from funding that has been secured by the SLO from the Denne Group.⁶⁸

Young Carers

The Carers in Kent Select Committee in 2008 highlighted the fact that young carers have restricted opportunities for leisure, relaxation, maintaining friendships and socialising outside of school and as noted earlier in this report 175,000 young people under 18 were identified in the 2001 census as unpaid carers in the UK; some for over 50 hours a week. The BMG research carried out recently on the Use and Perceptions of Kent Youth Service also found that young carers' were among those whose experiences were different enough to make their opinions distinct from those of the wider youth community.

Swale Carers is one of seven young carers' services in Kent.⁶⁹ The select committee learned from Chris Lovelock, Chief Executive of Swale Carers that on Sheppey, young carers aged 5-18 had added problems accessing activities because of the lack of transport. Swale Carers run outings and twice-weekly support groups for the young people they work with and a key aim is to 'restore lost childhood'. In the school holidays they organise events and have a big trip out each week. In 2008, for example they took young people on a visit to Hever Castle and have had an arts and crafts event as well as a picnic on the beach and camping for the over 12s which proved very popular. A disco has revealed the hidden DJ-ing talents of one of the young carers!

As a Charity working also with adult carers and adults with learning disabilities, the ring-fenced funding they receive from different sources is not conducive to arranging joint activities and outings even though this is something that could provide many benefits and costs savings.

⁶⁸ Chris Metherell, Kent Sports Facilities Development Manager

⁶⁹ Including Medway

The majority of funding for social activities comes as a result of 2 mums who fundraise, with only backroom support from Swale Carers. However, respite funding from KCC is crucial enabling young people go to a festival which attracts 2000 young carers from all over the country. It also pays for a few other trips and for work with Charlton Athletic Football Club. This pot of money is at risk as two trusts will be competing for it - new funding arrangements also mean that they may be in competition with fellow service providers, since they are co-terminus (i.e. in the same 'funding region) even though Swale Carers have enough resources to work with only 120 young carers out of the 274 that live on the Isle of Sheppey.

Young people in the care of the Local Authority

In recognition of the corporate parenting role it has for children in care, and following the Care Matters Green and White Papers, Kent County Council has in consultation with young people in care, as well as care leavers, made a pledge to young people in the care of Kent and a separate pledge to young people who have been placed in Kent by another local authority.



The pledge is a list of promises including that each young person will have a passport by the time they are 16 (or before) so that they can take part in activities or for example, go on school trips abroad and also that each young person who has been in care for at least 6 months is provided with a computer and if appropriate, access to the internet.

The pledges can be found at:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/846CA9A8-F232-42BB-8C02-ADBE72BD55A5/14462/Pledge_Kent.pdf

http://www.kent.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/846CA9A8-F232-42BB-8C02-ADBE72BD55A5/14463/Pledge_OtherLA.pdf

Ethnicity

As noted earlier in this report, the detached workers of the Kent Youth Service play a key role in carrying out community profiles in order to help tailor services to local need and direct future programming.

Festivals and celebrations such as Black History Month (held in October 2008), organised by KCC (in particular the UNITE staff group)⁷⁰, Kent Police and partners throughout the county also help young people to take a pride in and celebrate their different cultures, promote race equality and eliminate racial discrimination. A number of events were aimed at particular age groups including the Kick Racism out of Football (KROOF)⁷¹ campaign for 13-19 year olds which attracted over 100 young people to each of the events in Ashford & Shepway, Canterbury & Swale, Dartford & Gravesham, Maidstone, Thanet and Dover, Sevenoaks & Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling.⁷²

Young people from all different backgrounds attend mainstream youth provision and in addition Diversity Officer Gary Forde told the select committee about a range of one-off and ongoing events tailored to meet the needs of specific groups:

-  A project at Highfield Youth and Community Centre in Dartford for Muslim young people⁷³
-  A project run by Kent Youth Service and the Gravesend Baptist Church for Slovak Romany young people which provides a friendship group and activities for over 30 young people aged 13-19

⁷⁰ KCC group for Black and Minority Ethnic staff

⁷¹ KROOF was delivered by Kent Youth Service and Kent Police in partnership with North West Kent Race Equality Council, Walk Tall, Kanko Arts and Kent County Football Association.

⁷² Gary Forde, KCC Diversity Officer, written evidence

⁷³ This group had membership of 40+ young people aged 13-19 each week but folded due to building works.

-  Riverside Youth Centre in Canterbury have a new Sunday club for young people from a Traveller background aged 11-19
-  To promote the KROOF event in Dover & Thanet the Artwise Youth Art, engaged young people in a poster competition, and poetry-writing about slavery - the work formed a display as part of Black History month in October.
-  Over 150 young people from the Nepalese community benefited from a partnership between Kent Youth Service and the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) team to provide activities based on sport (football) and healthy lifestyles ⁷⁴ and 25 of the young people received the government Respect Agenda Award.
-  Kanko Arts were commission by Kent Youth Service to deliver music, arts & craft as well as Nigerian food-tasting sessions and participants received a certificate.
-  A Friday evening youth project at Newhouse Youth and Sports Centre for young people from a Traveller background run with the help of volunteer staff from the Traveller community.

Young people who are LGBT⁷⁵

In addition to the Every Child Matters agenda, as noted above there is an anticipatory duty on local authorities which means, for example, that the Youth Service should make reasonable adjustments to cater for the needs of LGBT young people. Diversity Officer Gary Forde outlined for the select committee some of the ways in which the Kent Youth Service had acted to take account of this identified need ranging from universal to specifically targeted projects and that KCC works with its partners such as Kent Police, schools and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) to ensure that young people are directed towards appropriate provision. In terms of universal provision LGBTQ young people attend youth centres and are actively involved in the Kent Youth County Council and the Maidstone Info

⁷⁴ In the wake of this project there was a 20% reduction in ASB and a 45% reduction in 'race' hate crime.

⁷⁵ Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, sometimes shown as LGBTQ which includes those questioning their sexuality.

Zone. In addition there are targeted venues and projects in Folkestone, Tonbridge, Gravesham and Canterbury as well as the Art Wise LGBTQ Project.

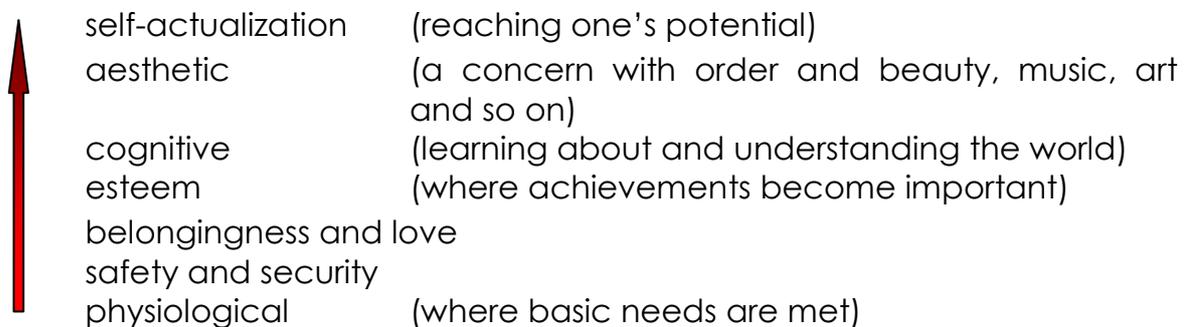
Web based Kent TV provides the facility for videos and films to be uploaded by young people in Kent and one which made particular impact was 'By the Way I am Gay' which won Kent's Summerscreen festival award and was watched by over 5000 people in its first two days on the site.⁷⁶

⁷⁶Pascale Blackburn, Project Officer Kent Film Office And Kent TV

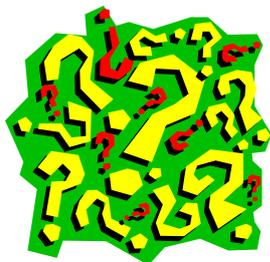
V Motivating Young People

A matrix of motivation

Many theories have been put forward to explain what motivate individuals to act, including those that propose genetics determine how motivated a person is and that instinct rules; to those that rely on external stimuli or incentives. Maslow's hierarchy of need suggests in order to progress we move through a series of stages and that until each set of needs is met, individuals do not move on to the next stage:



According to this theory very few people reach the 'final' stage but more modern theories tend to groups stages differently, or acknowledge that they can all, to some extent, operate at the same time. What is clear is that individuals will be at a different 'place' within a complex 'matrix' of motivation and the key to success, in terms of getting a young person into some kind of positive activity is not only finding the right 'hook' but creating the kind of environment where young people feel cared for, safe, valued, informed, involved, and confident and happy enough to pursue their goals and dreams. In order to provide the diversity of service that is needed it is vital that plans include a wide range of provision including the voluntary and community sector and the private sector.



*'The most important thing for me to take part in a new leisure activity is that it is FUN, I get to make friends and it's value for money.'*⁷⁷

BMG research in Kent in 2007/8 found 90% of respondents

⁷⁷ Tom Marsh – Member of Greenhouse, KCC Younger Person's Staff Group

were motivated to attend their youth centre by the prospect of 'having fun' compared with 48% being motivated to attend by the opportunity to gain a qualification or award. In fact, having fun was the main motivation for all age groups when taken together, and each age group individually apart from those at 18+ for whom the relationship with the youth worker was the most important factor.

Changing negative perceptions of youth

'How do you think the public perception of young people can be changed?'⁷⁸

In December 2008 Liverpool hosted a 2-day national youth summit, organised by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Liverpool Culture Company as part of the European City of Culture Celebrations. 'Portrait of a Nation' gave young people the opportunity to explore questions of identity and culture through dance, music, theatre, painting and photography. At the event, 400 young people appealed to the media to 'stop slugging us off' and the Youth Magazine Children & Young People Now later reported that panel member and comedian Richard Blackwood said '*Unfortunately the media will always be interested in more negative stories but you've got to keep shouting about the positive.*'⁷⁹ Youth leader, Blade Nzou, told the select committee that it is common for young people to be branded trouble makers just for 'standing around and wearing a hoodie'.

KCC's Integrated Support Strategy acknowledges that providing good services for young people is not enough without other changes taking place. It addresses the negative and stereotypical images that young people often have to contend with. The media is far more likely to publish negative 'scare-type' stories about young people as they are more newsworthy (so it seems) than stories about the positive contributions that young people make to their communities. A Princes Trust survey of 2,488 adults (released November 2008) reveals that only nine per cent of respondents thought that young people make a positive contribution to their local community. In reality, figures show that teenagers are more likely to volunteer than any other generation.⁸⁰

⁷⁸ Question asked by young people at Swadelands School

⁷⁹ Children and Young People Now, December 2008

⁸⁰Home Office Citizenship Survey 2005

Within this unfair portrayal of young people as a whole are more specific difficulties faced by particular groups. For example, young people from Traveller communities feel people have a very negative view of them.

The following comment was featured in BMG's recent report commissioned on Use and Perceptions of Kent Youth Service:⁸¹

'We try and tell them that because we are gypsies we are not Pikies...Basically people [think] it's normally gypsies, oh they steal, we don't like them, they're dirty and just don't really want to talk to them, and that's what we are trying to put over, like our point across to people that that's not how we are and that's not how we are brought up to be....'

Female aged 14, Traveller

BMG also found that young Travellers may be more dependent than other groups on the youth service since they feel their youth workers have a better understanding than their teachers about their motivation and their different aspirations in life. A particular group of young Travellers with whom BMG did some qualitative research, made a DVD with their youth worker, in an attempt to teach people more about Traveller culture.

In 2005 the Home Office Citizenship Survey identified a *'need for a cultural change to eliminate the images and language that promote young people as distinct from the rest of society'*⁸² and a new impetus is given to this philosophy by the Princes Trust's Change the Record Campaign which seeks to dispel negative images of young people and promote positive contributions young people make to their communities.

Positive media – Oi! Magazine

Madeleine White of CreativeUK Solutions gave evidence to the select committee about her work with young people at Marlowe Academy and Oi! Magazine.⁸³ CreativeUK Solutions is a commercial concern but Oi! is run as a charity. It is sponsored by Shepherd Neame and has received funding from

⁸¹ Use and Perceptions of Kent Youth Service – with Appendix

⁸² Ibid

⁸³ The name Oi! was chosen by Emily Thompson who was a pupil and the school, and a young carer. It stands for 'outspoken individual'.

the Kent Foundation, the Youth Opportunities Fund and Kent TV. Each issue costs £12,500 to produce (using CreativeUK Solutions print facilities). A limited amount of advertising space is sold to preserve the essence of the magazine; the back page for example costs £1,000. Oi! will shortly be launched online through Bebo and MySpace. Mrs White told the select committee that a 15 year old student who had been a young offender, wanted to write about gangs in Kent. He had done this very successfully and afterwards was motivated to write a book on racism.

Oi! magazine is run along democratic lines and young people assume all the regular roles of a publishing concern, including features editor and production editor. The editorial team for Oi! is 12 teenagers aged 11-17 from backgrounds ranging from the traumatic to the talented and gifted. Editors work as they would on a 'real' magazine. A succession of young people can take on editorial roles as others grow up and move on. By then, they are fully grounded in the commercial concerns of publishing having been involved from start to finish; carrying out all the interviews themselves.

Young people from all over the county contribute to the magazine by writing articles on a different theme for every issue and recently the magazine has covered masks (those that people adopt in everyday life), immigration and the environment. Young people who need extra support with literacy are able to contribute using a framework to ensure the essential elements of an article are present.

40,000 copies of Oi! are printed quarterly and delivered to young people throughout Kent, via schools, libraries and youth clubs. Articles have been reprinted in The Times and Sunday Times and an interview with the Archbishop of Canterbury achieved international coverage. Oi! magazine is free to young people.

The select committee were impressed with the philosophy and content of the magazine, comparing it very favourably to other magazines aimed at young people which are viewed by Mrs White as largely brand driven and having a negative influence. Mrs White spoke of her fears about 'advertorial' being presented as editorial in magazines aimed at young women in particular, and which she believes leads to a negative vicious circle as readers become immersed in and aspire to levels of perfection which are unrealistic and unattainable. This is borne out by professional views expressed to the

committee regarding the fact that many young women today suffer from issues of low self-esteem which are detrimental enough to require intervention.

Positive role-models

Dr Alex Stevens, Senior Researcher, European Institute of Social Services at the University of Kent spoke to the select committee about some common perceptions of youth, such as that having a single parent is seen as a risk factor. Dr Stevens explained that while step parenting can be and often is problematic, he believed that the evidence demonstrated that it is the quality of parenting that is paramount. However, he also felt it important to acknowledge that loss through family breakdown and other types of bereavement can lead to mental health and behavioural problems in young people who may respond to their distress with aggression and self harm. It is often this type of negative behaviour on which the media focuses and which the wider community come to associate with young people as a group.

The way we perceive young people's behaviour is a key factor in determining how as adults we respond, and Dr Stevens compared the situation in England to that elsewhere in Europe: In Sweden for example, the population is largely secular but there is a strong sense of social equality and community responsibility; in southern Europe, countries like Italy are more religious and have a strong family structure which means that problems with young people tend to be dealt with as a matter of course by the family and/or community. Dr Stevens believes the situation here to be somewhere between those two examples, 'without strong families and without a strong welfare state' and this leads to young people having fewer positive role models and the perception of young people as problematic. He also feels it significant that in this country we have the lowest age of criminal consent, at 10.

Dr Stevens explained that providing structured activities with positive role models as leaders is a very protective factor for young people and is associated with better outcomes and the acquisition of important skills. This could be for example, in a youth club setting, a cadet group or an air training corps; the best clubs having more than just facilities, also having positive activities, positive adult role models and pro social peers. The Ofsted inspection of the Kent Youth Service observed that '*youth workers provide positive, sometimes inspirational role models*'.

The Select Committee learned that uniformed services and voluntary sector organisations could both provide very good and positive role models for young people giving them a sense of worth and belonging through the example of three schemes:

The Young Emergency Service Volunteers scheme in Canterbury was launched in September involving the Ambulance Service, Coastguards, Fire & Rescue Service and Police. The scheme will bring together a diverse group of young people aged 14-18, initially from 9 different schools, and will also include an element of peer support. The scheme is so far proving very successful and following its evaluation in May 2009 there is the potential to roll the scheme out across the county. It is also the aim to encourage participants to act as mentors for the next group

The second scheme includes young people who may be disengaged from school. Chief Superintendent Nix of Kent Police informed the committee that online solutions such as social networking were also being considered as a means of trying to engage young people not attending school.

Challenger Troop is a non profit-making organisation which specialises in team building adventure courses for young people. Challenger makes the course known to young people by word of mouth, and through work with schools, youth inclusion programmes and centres. There is an induction programme where young people's commitment to the course is ascertained – and they must explain their motivation for joining the troop; writing down a list of promises. If accepted, they will join a group of fellow 9-17 year olds at one of a number of bases in Kent and elsewhere to complete a course which includes mentoring, leadership skills, personal hygiene, and bushcraft. They learn to live off the land – eating and cooking from the forest, and to build a shelter. There is an emphasis on team work and at the end of the course friends and family are invited to see the young people on parade, receiving credits which is an integral and important part of the course. Challenger relies on four different sources of funding including the Youth Offending Service, and on voluntary support from a pool of 200 Kent volunteers, many of whom are ex youth workers and all of whom are 'special kinds of people who can inspire and lead'.

Princes Trust run a week-long programme that uses a love of football as a motivational hook. Get Started with Football is a week-long programme for young people aged 16-19 who are not in employment, education or training.

The course gives them the opportunity to develop team building skills, communicate effectively, as well as learn to organise and lead. An added bonus is accreditation in football coaching . Once young people have been positively engaged in this way The Princes Trust will then support them for up to six months by moving them onto employment, education and/or training.⁸⁴

The select committee firmly believe that courses or activities like these, and those such as Scouts and Girlguides provide the kinds of positive role models that young people need and would like to express particular support for the expansion of the Young Emergency Service Volunteers scheme across the county, to give more young people a chance to take part.

AZACYA and Blade

Among the inspirational youth leaders that the select committee spoke to during the review was Blade Nzou⁸⁵ who explained how, by talking to young people out on the street and getting to know them where they were 'hanging out', he had found out what motivated them – music! - and this had now, after a lot of hard work and dedication, led to enjoyment and some very positive experiences for the young people as well as entertaining music shows. Blade believes that some young people enjoy the limelight – they want to be noticed and if they are not given the chance to do something positive they may seek to get noticed with crime – and get altogether the wrong type of attention. Blade helps young people to follow their dreams by finding out about and helping them to gain recognition for their musical talents.

Building on the work of the charity AZACYA⁸⁶ Blade works with talented young people in Ashford, giving them the opportunity to have fun, gain skills and showcase their talents in public music performances. Blade and his colleagues set clear expectations and boundaries for behaviour, at the same time showing respect to the young people, which they give in return.

⁸⁴ Simon Fulford, South East Regional Director, Princes Trust

⁸⁵ Blade is a stage name which refers to the blades on a turntable

⁸⁶ Abby's Zimbabwe Anointed Community Youth Association, a charity started by Blade's mother.

The young people are required to have the right attitude towards each other and to others, both inside and outside the venues they attend and they are helped to realise this is important to enable the project to continue. It also gives them a great sense of responsibility. The wish young people have to remain part of the project has been enough incentive for some, who had previously misbehaved, to 'clean up their act'. If young people need help with professional counselling, this is available, but there has been a problem finding a proper and safe venue in which this can take place.

Blade and his colleagues work with the young people and put together shows which can be staged both as entertainment for others, a showcase for the young people's talents, and an opportunity to win a prize. Videos of the shows demonstrate that the young people are not only talented but act with real professionalism. They meet every Saturday in premises made available by Ashford Youth Theatre, but unfortunately this abandoned warehouse is cold and has poor security. Ashford North Youth Centre supports them by providing a room to use as a recording studio.

In October 2008 the young people took part in a competition, attended by the former Mayor of Ashford Palmer Loughton and by Keith Wyncoll from KCC. The event was a great success giving out the message:

'if you believe it you'll achieve it'.

Blade spoke with passion to the select committee about making better futures for the young people he works with and wanted to find ways of improving the facilities available to them. It is his dream that they could have a permanent base; somewhere to relax and play games as well as play music and have access to support and counselling. It is his aim to obtain a licence for performance so that as more talented performers and musicians became involved he can hold regular competitions for them and offer a £50 prize. With a dozen or so computers and a tutor, the young people could also gain skills in instrumentation and track recording; a van would enable them to travel safely to different venues.

This project is a good example of a voluntary sector project 's valuable contribution to young people within the community and the select committee believe that the Youth Service, through Youth Advisory Groups which meet in Kent districts, need to make contact with such projects and activities in order to have a good awareness of services in the district provided by all sectors – and to identify gaps in provision (feeding this knowledge into Local Children's Service Partnerships) and help with planning.

Youth Advisory Groups also provide a suitable forum for voluntary sector organisations to be directed towards assistance and advice, helping them to make appropriate contacts and develop expertise and professionalism.

Gifted Young Gravesham

Last year, The Gr@nd in Gravesham was the home of a project which gave hundreds of talented young people the opportunity to show off their skills in a number of auditions across the borough, culminating in a show at Gravesham's Woodville Halls.

The event also provided the opportunity for young people, with the guidance of youth workers, to use their skills in organisation and stage management and provided the opportunity for creative young people including artists and photographers to contribute in a variety of ways.

Funding was raised from sources including Gravesham Borough Council, Kent Youth Service (approximately £3,000), the West Kent Primary Care Trust, Health Action and The Gravesend and Meopham Rotary Club who contributed £1,000.

The final showcase event provided an evening's entertainment as well as the opportunity for young people to show off their skills to VIPs and be spotted by talent scouts!

Kent has a wide variety of sport, gym and fitness-related opportunities for young people and the select committee applaud the efforts of the Youth Service, Cultural Development Unit, local councils, health colleagues and partners in the voluntary, community and private sector to provide opportunities for and motivation to young people with a love for the creative arts. This is exemplified by events such as Gifted Young Gravesham, and those the select committee heard about from Blade, Youth of Generation and others.

RECOMMENDATION

That KCC (Youth Service and others) should work with district partners including those in the voluntary and community sector to build upon the success of events such as Gifted Young Gravesham, those organised by Blade and Youth of Generation and explore opportunities to hold similar events elsewhere in the county.

Peer role-models (Buddy Schemes)

Aiming High for Young People highlighted that young people were not only influenced by adults such as parents, but by their peers who could also provide important role-models. Sunrise Resource Centre in Southborough, for example, operates a buddy system for children and young people with special needs and parents at the centre told the select committee members during a visit that this buddy scheme works very well.

With its focus on out of school activities, the select committee did not take evidence from schools on the extent of buddy schemes within education, such as those where young people with special needs are educated in mainstream settings. However, Sue Clark, Chairman of Pegasus Playscheme told the select committee about Pegasus, which pairs disabled children and young people with a teenage buddy in a highly successful holiday play scheme.

The Pegasus vision is:

'For teenage volunteers to be given the opportunity to enable young children with a disability to feel part of the community'

Pegasus has run for 23 years and operates for three weeks from the first Monday at the start of each summer holiday to provide activities for disabled children and children with severe learning difficulties who live in the Dover



and Deal area and attend special schools.

Last year the scheme brought together 69 disabled children and 72 teenage volunteers. 5 minibuses and drivers were hired to take children aged between

8 and 21 to activities such as sailing, swimming, bowling, riding and Howlett's Zoo – it cost £1200 for everyone to get into the zoo - Meridian TV followed the group and they were on TV for 3 minutes! Everyone was very proud.

The relationship between the disabled children and the teenage volunteers is crucial. Teenagers are 'often cocky at first' but all soon become firm friends and more volunteers are always coming forward. All the young people gain skills and each child makes a scrapbook with the photos taken every day. On the last day there is a big celebration. Last year the scheme costs were £55,000. Next year costs will be greater due to the rise in fuel costs.

Photo by kind permission of Sue Clark

Sue Clark of Pegasus gave the select committee two examples of young people being on the receiving end of negative perceptions that the public hold. The first was while taking disabled young people on a visit to Kearsney last year for a BBQ when she was astounded by a family who asked her group to move (as if they had no right to be there). Since then she has had leaflets printed to inform and educate the public about the work her organisation does and to try and allay fears and negativity.

Mrs Clark's second example involved a shopping trip with her son, who is a disabled young person aged 17. While in a supermarket a large group of young people wearing 'hoodies' approached and it was obvious that they appeared intimidating to other shoppers. However, they were a group of young helpers who had worked with her, knew her son, and were coming over to hug him and greet him.

The select committee also commended the refreshing attitude of a young person 'Robbie' who was taking part in discussions at Linwood Youth Centre in Deal. Robbie was asked if it would 'put him off coming' if disabled children attended his youth centre. Robbie replied that it wouldn't and that '*they are just normal people who still need things to do*'. This should not perhaps be surprising: When Princes Trust⁸⁷, questioned young people about future happiness 71% felt we would all be happier if we put the needs of other people before our own and that the poor reputation of young people en masse is unfair is evidenced by their research, 'The Truth about Youth'⁸⁸ which

⁸⁷ The Culture of Youth Communities, Princes Trust

⁸⁸ The Truth About Youth, Princes Trust

demonstrates teenagers are more likely to do voluntary work than people from any other generation. A 2005 Citizenship Survey⁸⁹ also found that 50% of 16-19 year olds volunteer informally, at least once a month.

Further evidence presented by to the select committee by the Princes Trust is compelling:

- The community work of 10,000 on Prince's Trust projects last year was worth £6 million (£100 million over the life of the Trust)
- 65% of 10-15 year olds have helped raise money for charity or a local group⁹⁰
- 175,000 under 18s are unpaid carers in the UK (7.4% provide over 50 hours a week)⁹¹

Yet despite these statistics, Barnardo's research found from a poll of more than 2,000 adults that just under half believe children are a danger to themselves and others, and over half think children behave 'like animals'. Unfortunately a TV campaign launched by Barnardo's to counter these views somewhat backfired and was misunderstood.

There is evidence of progress in Kent on dispelling negative perceptions. BMG's research on the Youth Service found that young people following the YS Alternative Curriculum Programme feel listened to, and that negative labelling occurs less within the Youth Service than in schools. The select committee also heard from Chief Superintendent Matthew Nix that there had been progress made within Kent schools through the Managing Incident Policy, which helps to de-criminalise young people by allowing incidents to be handled without involving the police, provided all concerned are happy with the outcome. This is particularly useful as, for example, an Edinburgh study shows that once a young person is labelled as an offender, he or she is more likely to act like one: If we expect young people to behave badly, they do – so the reverse must be true?

⁸⁹ Home Office Citizenship Survey 2005

⁹⁰ TellUs2 online survey

⁹¹ 2001 Census and Children's Society

Chief Superintendent Nix stated that there was a perceived gang and knife culture in Kent, but in fact this was not the case and he indicated the mass media does have a part to play in this. Kent Police are working in partnership with Kent Youth Service and Kent Fire & Rescue on prevention and education projects 'to dispel myths and negative labels of youth'. They are also working, following KCC's Alcohol Misuse Select Committee, with alcohol retailers on an initiative to prevent young people under 18 from purchasing alcohol and to change some of the negative perceptions focused on youth and alcohol.

KCC is involved in the celebration of young people's achievements through for example the Try Angle Awards and the select committee would like to ensure that there is a dialogue with colleagues in the media about ways in which we can work together to promote balance in the media and ensure that negative reporting is balanced by proportionate and realistic portrayals of young people and the great contribution they make to their communities.

RECOMMENDATION

That KCC adopts a policy of promoting positive language, perceptions and expectations of young people in all KCC publications and communications and encourages and engages with partners and the media to further this aim.

Restorative Justice

The select committee were of the view that educating young people in a non-judgemental way about the consequences of negative actions and behaviour would help to motivate them to become more involved in positive activities. Chief Superintendent Matthew Nix agreed with this and informed the committee that there were four pilot schemes in operation; three in Folkestone and one in Maidstone involving a community restorative justice panel which had the added benefit of breaking down and changing the perceptions of different groups. The participants will consist of members of the public who would be trained in mediation and would then participate in the two strands of the scheme; a street restorative justice process and a community restorative justice panel. Currently different restorative justice work is taking place in Youth Offending and within schools and Chief Superintendent Nix felt that bringing this work together and including partners in the voluntary sector would ensure the overall success of the process. The emphasis of the scheme is to encourage mediated debate and a discussion of issues, rather than about enforcement. CS Nix also made it clear that this

scheme is separate from the judiciary conditional cautioning system which might include reparation.

Awards and rewards

KCC is involved with a number of awards that offer motivation to young people including the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme and Try Angle Awards. In addition there are eight categories of award offered by the Kent Volunteers Scheme.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The kind of training where skills are used to achieve a long term goal are highly beneficial to young people and KCC operates a highly successful Duke of Edinburgh's scheme in the county. As with many parts of the voluntary sector there is a shortage of volunteers to deliver courses.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charity⁹² provides national awards which are available to young people aged 14-24 of all abilities and backgrounds. There are three levels of award: Gold, Silver and Bronze each with four elements: service, skills, physical⁹³, recreation and expedition. A huge range of activities is available and young people are encouraged to also come up with their own ideas. The awards are about young people taking part, pushing their personal boundaries and tapping their potential in order to reach a goal rather than being about competition with others. Currently more than 225,000 young people are working on an award.

KCC through Kent Youth Service is the second largest of 400+ Operating Authorities⁹⁴ who pay an annual fee of £6,500 for a licence to deliver the scheme, involving:

-  Setting up and support of DofE centres and groups
-  Recruitment, support and inspiration of Leaders and volunteers
-  Delivering training and health and safety for all Leaders⁹⁵ and participants

⁹² [National Website](#)

⁹³ [Programme ideas - Physical](#)

⁹⁴ ranging from large organisations to independent schools, private businesses, voluntary organisations such as the Scouts and Guides and targeted providers such as Young Offender Institutes.

Authorising and granting Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

The select committee heard that funding of the Youth Service for the licence and supporting staff costs was vital in order to avoid a decline in the number of young people enabled to take part (as has happened in Surrey, who have so far been the largest operating authority). A set of key performance indicators for the Kent Youth Service⁹⁶ includes the involvement of 3,450 young people in the award in Kent in the year 2008-9 and there are two new targets to encourage the inclusion of disabled young people and to prevent offending.

Award groups are run by adult leaders many of whom are volunteers in, currently, 150 operating units across Kent which range from uniformed groups to schools and who act as a link between young people, their parents/carers and the Youth Service. In Kent and elsewhere much of the recruitment is done through schools and for example, in each of the 150 operating units there are between 1 and 352 young people undertaking the award. The largest number attend Maidstone Girls' Grammar School where the Award has become integral to the PE curriculum thanks to the dedication of staff, and as a result the school gained favourable comments about value added in their Ofsted Inspection.

Aylesford Rugby Club in Kent is also the first sports club nationally to offer the whole Award programme.

Try Angle Awards

Kent Youth Service set up Try Angle awards 15 years ago to celebrate young people's achievements. The awards continue to attract support from KCC, Kent Police, Pfizer, Kent Fire & Rescue and Medway Council, local district borough and parish councils and others, who recognise that there are a wealth of young people making significant contributions to society and through their own motivation, acting with generosity and selflessness. Every young person nominated (from any source but often through schools and youth clubs) receives a certificate and there are also winners in eight categories:

⁹⁵ Including CRB checks

⁹⁶ KYS Performance Indicators from the KYS Operating Plan

- Bravery
- Personal Achievement in the Arts
- Personal Achievement in Music
- Personal Achievement in Sport or outdoor activity
- Good Friends and Young Carers
- Service to the Community
- Citizenship and Environment
- Personal Development

A selection of nominees in each category are invited to a gala presentation event to jointly celebrate with family and friends, receiving an award to thank them for their efforts.

Young people and volunteering

The charity v was launched in 2006 to implement the 16 recommendations of the Russell Commission⁹⁷ which began its work in 2004 and arrived at A National Framework for Youth Action and Engagement. The aim was for more and better opportunities to be created for young people to get involved in voluntary work and £50m from the Cabinet Office through the Office of the Third Sector was made available to match funds raised from the private sector. Volunteering is seen to provide many benefits – for young people these include increased confidence and skills (which are often transferable into future training or employment), the opportunity to meet people and engage with the community thus reducing social exclusion and a chance to have fun. By March 2008 pledges from the private sector had exceeded £28m and the vinspired.com website had been set up to provide access to volunteering opportunities. Also in early 2008 the [Morgan Inquiry](#) was set up to look into the 'real' benefits of volunteering for young adults aged 18-24 and to investigate the barriers to young people accessing volunteering opportunities. The Scouts had involvement in this enquiry since at that time they needed around 10,000 more volunteers to cater for all the young people wishing to join⁹⁸.

With increased investment from the charity v the range of volunteering will increase significantly in the future and in Kent, [VSU – Youth in Action](#) will be commissioned to provide more volunteering opportunities. Some of the

⁹⁷ [Russell Commission Report](#)

⁹⁸ wearev.com

barriers that prevent young people from volunteering are discussed in section V.

The Morgan Inquiry into volunteering found a variety of motivations which caused young people to seek out volunteering opportunities and these ranged from, at one end of the spectrum, altruism to simply having fun. A very important motivation for some young people was the chance to increase communication and team work skills, both seen as transferable to the workplace. A survey that v carried out with the Human Resources Departments of 371 employers believed the following skills could be developed through volunteering (so this is clearly a very sound motivation!):

	Team work	88%
	Communication	88%
	Self-confidence	88%
	Listening skills	80%
	Taking responsibility	79%

Interestingly comments by young people indicated that some felt that wanting to volunteer simply to improve a CV was 'selfish', though clearly, volunteering can never be selfish since it brings benefits to others.

KCC and many other employers recognise the value of volunteering as a form of activity with many benefits, including personal development, by releasing their staff without loss of pay to allow them to engage in volunteering activity. KCC's Policy on Employee Volunteering allows staff to volunteer 'for up to two days per annum as part of their guaranteed 5 days learning and development either on and/or off the job per year (pro rata for part-time/temporary staff)'. v allow their staff to have 4 days off each year to volunteer.⁹⁹

Some young people gave their reason for not getting involved in voluntary work as 'I have nothing to offer' when clearly everyone has something to offer and this was addressed by the marketing campaign *whatsyourv?* to spark young people's interest by giving them the opportunity to pursue something they are already interesting in or passionate about.

Sue Clark of Pegasus Playscheme said that three years ago there was a volunteer who was clearly not ready to do the necessary work. He used

⁹⁹ V response to the Morgan Inquiry – March 2008

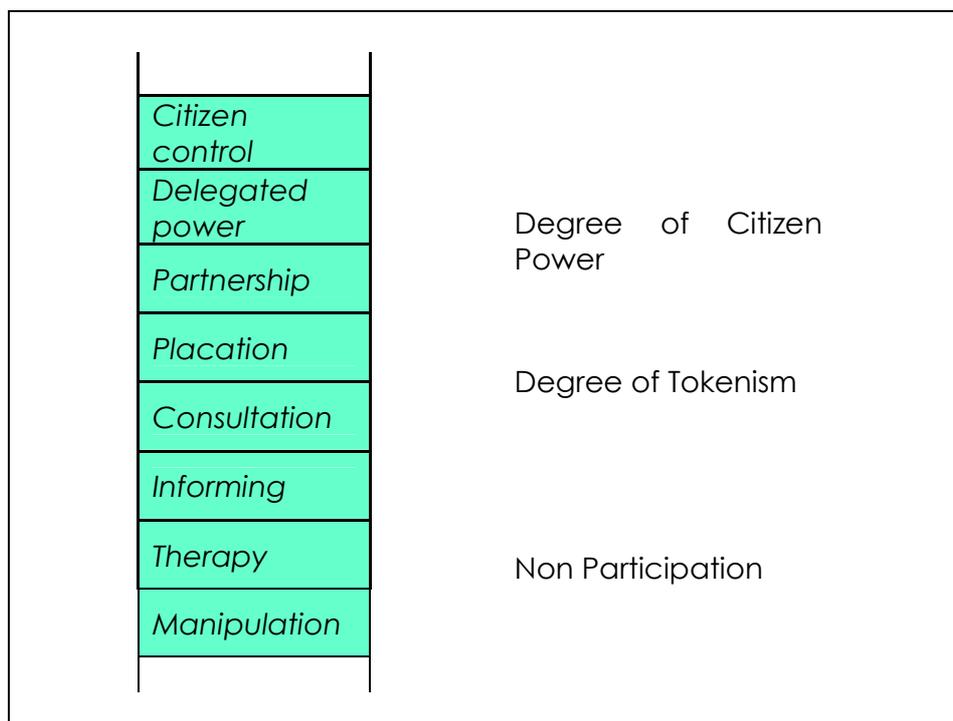
inappropriate language, swearing at Sue, and had to be sent home. The next year he came back and after initially sitting in the corner was given another chance by Sue. This young man contributed so much he eventually won the award for the most improved volunteer and continued to help thereafter. He has now joined the Army and is soon to go away to Afghanistan.

VI Part of the community?¹⁰⁰

Consultation

Various models can be used to describe the effectiveness and degree of consultation that takes place such as the ladder of participation shown in 2 below:

Figure 3: The Ladder of Participation (Arnstein Model)



Accessing Democracy

Dr Alex Stevens explained to the select committee that ensuring members of the community are close to the decision making process leads them to feel more involved and effective. In Sweden, for example, local communities are in charge and the system is directly democratic whereas a previous project Dr Stevens was involved with showed that in England we have the lowest ratio of elected representatives to community members so people are further from local democracy. Increasing the collective efficacy of a community is

¹⁰⁰ Joseph Rowntree Foundation (October 2008) Young People and Territoriality in British Cities

one of the protective factors which can ensure young people have positive outcomes and not, for example, become involved in offending behaviour. A recent select committee [Accessing Democracy](#) looked at ways in which more people could be enabled to take part in the decision making process and a number of recommendations were made including those noted in Appendix 4.

Young people can access democracy and get involved in the decision-making process in Kent in a variety of ways, for example through the Youth Parliament, Kent Youth County Council, District youth forums, school councils and youth action groups, Youth Advisory Groups and online groups and voting. Young people are involved at what could be considered the 'top rung' of the ladder of participation in Kent through the operation of the Youth Opportunities and Youth Capital Funds.

The KCC select committee report on accessing democracy considered all young people to be 'hard to reach' in terms of the democratic process and recommendation 5 included that

'Linkage between School Councils, Kent County Council and District, Town and Parish Councils should be promoted.'

However, Dan Bride, County Youth Crime Prevention Manager, told the select committee how important it is that we focus on young people such as young offenders and those at risk of offending to ensure they as well as some of the young people who are already well motivated to engage and contribute to the decision-making processes of the council, are also given the confidence to express themselves effectively to be enabled to take part. Her new team, working with vulnerable young people, began this process at the outset by involving young people who were young offenders or at risk of offending in the recruitment of Youth Inclusion Support Panel co-ordinators to ensure that those employed were committed to full participation. This process involved using a MYPOD (which members of the select committee were introduced to!) – an inflatable structure like a 'Big Brother Diary Room' to help young people to engage in a non-threatening and familiar way. Co-ordinators also had to design an activity to demonstrate their practical skills in engagement.

Kent Youth County Council

'Do you think that the Kent youth county council represents the views of young people if not what could be changed?'¹⁰¹

KYCC is non-party political and made up from 48 young people aged between 11 and 18, 4 each who either live or attend school, college or work, in each of the 12 council districts. Members are elected for a year but can stay on for a second to support new members.

The select committee heard from several youth workers in Kent that the KYCC was gradually beginning to draw young people from more diverse backgrounds. It originally started in grammar school and is going through a natural evolution as more and more young people come to hear about it, vote, and stand for election. (In Maidstone last year, for example there were five secondary schools who did not participate in the voting. However, due to the work of Maidstone Borough Council and Kent Youth Service with schools in the area, elections for the next Maidstone Youth Forum will take place in every secondary school in the borough.¹⁰²) Some of the questions asked by young people are shown on KYCC's webpage:

Why do I have to wear school uniform?

Where can I get a proof of age card?

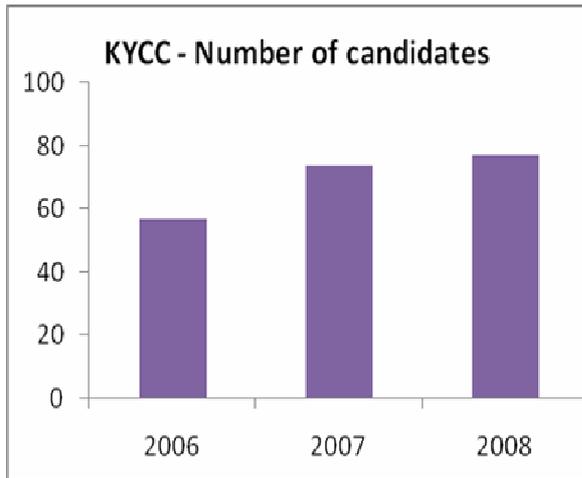
Why should anyone listen to me – I'm not old enough to vote?

Why can't Youth Centres serve beer to their members like they do in Holland?

Why is my local youth information centre only open from Monday to Friday 9 to 5?

¹⁰¹ Question from young people at Swadelands school.

¹⁰² Eddie Walsh, Infozone – Oral evidence, 3rd November 2008



As this chart shows, between the 2006 and 2007 elections the number of candidates rose sharply by nearly 30% but the increase was only 4% in 2008. The number of polling stations has increased slowly during this time and the total number of votes cast has been more static rising last year by 2%.

This year's elections in Kent schools, colleges and youth venues will take

place in November.

Where the Youth Service has Community Youth Tutors working within schools this is an excellent way of ensuring that more young people are encouraged to participate and for example could become involved making decisions about the development of extended schools, and what services they would like to see developed locally. Young people can also get involved in school councils and youth action groups and many young people are now joining groups supporting particular causes in online communities like Facebook. Not all young people will want or be able to contribute in the same way, but it is important to identify how they can best be enabled to take part and help them reach their potential. Kent Youth Service can offer guidance to Local Children's Services Partnerships (LCSPs) on running consultations¹⁰³.

Youth Advisory Groups

One of the forums where young people in Kent get the opportunity to interact with community leaders, including Members and officers of KCC and the borough and district councils in Kent, is at Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs). These meetings replaced Youth Centre Management Committees in 2003 and have since taken place approximately quarterly (sometimes less frequently) bringing together a range of partners involved in provision of youth activities across the districts and giving young people the opportunity to input to meetings and make presentations on projects they have been involved with.

¹⁰³ Jane Sales, County Youth Participation Co-ordinator

A review was commissioned by Kent Youth Service into the function and effectiveness of these meetings and the extent to which they fulfil their original terms of reference, asking:

- Are they still needed?
- If so, what should their function be?
- Should there still be one for each district?
- What should their new terms of reference be?
- How do they relate to the new Children's Trust Board and LCSPs – Should the Manager be a YAG member?
- Who else should be members?
- What is the role of the Area Youth Officer in relationship to them?
- How should the agendas be built and what should they look like?¹⁰⁴

This review was carried out by an independent consultant, to run concurrently with this select committee and the results will be available shortly.¹⁰⁵ The select committee did, however, consider Youth Advisory Groups (YAGs) as a forum for youth participation and was interested to find how many young people had taken part in meetings. The number of young people participating in meetings in 2007/8 is shown in Table 6 on the next page¹⁰⁶ which shows that the greatest number are involved in YAGs in Maidstone (39) and Shepway (36), closely followed by Canterbury (29) with the fewest being involved in Thanet. However, when the number of young people is looked at as a proportion of the total attendees, Tunbridge Wells' meetings had the greatest proportion of young people in attendance (64%) or just under two thirds young people/one third adults followed by Shepway (38%) and Canterbury (35%).

More qualitative data on this aspect may be available from the recent review and although the findings are not yet to hand, Members of the select committee (some of whom have direct involvement in the YAG process through chairmanship) feel that Youth Advisory Groups are a valuable entity in terms of the interface between young people and community leaders though would stress the emphasis should be on 'quality, rather than quantity'

¹⁰⁴ YAG Review Criteria, Kent Youth Service

¹⁰⁵ Quantitative data has been shared between the Select Committee and consultant Alan Bernstein who carried out the independent review.

¹⁰⁶ From minutes provided by Kent Youth Service.

of engagement. As noted earlier in this report, the select committee would strongly encourage the extension of invitations to private and voluntary sector organisations who provide facilities or activities in order to create the opportunity for greater co-operation, and increased benefit to young people in Kent as well as other potential funders such as Rotary and Lions Clubs, who contribute a great deal to the youth sector.

Inclusive meetings

The select committee had the valuable assistance of Jane Sales¹⁰⁷, and Amy Barker¹⁰⁸ who prior to the select committee had gathered the views of a group of young people about a range of topics. This work resulted in a number of excellent display boards showing information about the Youth Service and Youth Offending Service, which were used to inform and enhance select committee meetings. The young people also gave valuable comments about how intimidating it can feel to attend what they view as adults' meetings and how it can be boring and non-inclusive.¹⁰⁹ Clearly there is the potential for young people to gain great benefits from their interaction with adults at Youth Advisory Group meetings and other meetings where decisions about spending on youth projects are made and members of the select committee would like to see continued efforts to make these meetings more 'young-person' friendly.

¹⁰⁷ County Youth Participation Co-ordinator

¹⁰⁸ ADP Student who has carried out research for the Youth Offending Service on youth participation

¹⁰⁹ One display board is shown on the back of this report

Table 6: Participants in Youth Advisory Group Meetings 2007/8

	Ashford	Canterbury	Dartford	Dover	Gravesham	Maidstone	Sevenoaks	Shepway	Swale	Thanet	Tonbridge & Malling	Tunbridge Wells	TOTAL
Adult Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Borough/Town or City Councillors	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	7
Borough/Town or City Staff	4	4	1	10	7	7	3	7	8	1	5	0	57
CFE	0	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	2	0	1	1	8
Community Wardens	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
Connexions Kent & Medway	0	0	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	1	9
Health/PCT	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Housing Association	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	5
KCC Members	11	9	6	17	4	5	16	7	3	6	14	1	99
Libraries	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Partner Organisations	6	4	4	2	1	18	5	8	9	1	3	1	62
Police (inc PCSOs)	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	4	0	10
School/College	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Social Services	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4
Young People	20	29	19	12	17	39	11	36	10	2	12	16	223
Youth Offending Service	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Youth Service (including community youth tutors, admin, 16plus youth workers)	23	33	24	14	17	33	19	32	19	8	18	4	244
Total	69	83	56	60	50	115	60	95	54	19	60	25	746
Young People as % of total	29	35	34	20	34	34	18	38	19	11	20	64	30

Local Boards

Other KCC public forums where decisions take place about funding for youth activities (though currently without a focus on youth engagement) are the local boards, which are facilitated by Community Liaison Managers within the Chief Executives Department. As can be seen from table 7 below, through these meetings Members of the Council are able to allocate funding from their Members Community Grants¹¹⁰ to projects or organisations presented to them. It should be noted that these sums relate to youth related projects and some will be provided by organisations that are not specifically youth organisations.¹¹¹

Table 7: Members' Community Grants for youth projects

Local Board	2006/7		2007/8	
	No. of Grants	Value of grants £	No. of Grants	Value of Grants £
Ashford	10	4,771	21	19,192
Canterbury	12	27,303	10	16,410
Dartford	8	6,400	10	6,300
Dover	17	11,300	13	6,420
Gravesham	10	10,175	10	10,562
Maidstone	20	20,598	26	26,398
Sevenoaks	6	6,637	5	6,181
Shepway	18	26,637	12	18,380
Swale	12	14,150	10	8,950
T Wells	6	10,941	8	15,103
Thanet	15	11,880	10	10,675
Ton/Malling	14	27,950	20	22,503
Total	148	178,741	155	167,074
Total MCG		828,797		822,198
% this represents of all Member Community Grants	20%	22%	20%	20%
Average youth project grant		1,208		1,078

¹¹⁰ Currently each of 84 KCC Members has an allocation of up to £10,000

¹¹¹ Tom Phillips, Community Liaison Manager, written evidence

The select committee did not during the course of its work to undertake any examination of local boards other than requesting the above information but there would seem to be some scope for (greater) youth involvement in local board meetings and it is suggested that this receives consideration during any review of those forums. Certainly if the benefit from these meetings is to be maximised, there should be links between the two so that, for example, the YAGs can benefit from the parish contacts and knowledge and Local Boards can benefit from and contribute to young people's participation.

In making decisions on allocations of funding for youth projects, Members and young people will in future be assisted by improved service mapping and intelligence from Local Service Partnership Boards (LCSPs) and the integrated youth support service in order to identify where gaps in activity provision exist. Strategic planning to meet the needs of young people across the county will be greatly enhanced by the close co-operation of the LCSPs (23, across the 12 Kent Districts) and the Youth Advisory Groups which provide a 13-19 focus in those locations.

The select committee learned that in Maidstone, Council Members have for the last three years agreed that a proportion of their Community Grant is allocated to a transport fund to pay for organised trips for young people¹¹². The fund is very much in demand¹¹³, particularly to pay for minibuses and has in the last three years benefited hundreds of young people in 14 separate trips; already planned for this year are further trips for young carers and a group of disabled young people. In Malling Central and North East, Members have also set up a transport fund which, with the assistance of Nu Venture Coaches, will be used to coach young people to Unit 1 Skatepark, Laker Road, Wouldham on a regular basis. This will begin on 31st March and continue at monthly intervals, initially for a 6 month trial period. Local Member Grants will meet the entire cost of the first trip and enable subsequent trips to be offered at a discounted rate

It is suggested that KCC Members may wish to discuss locally the implementation of similar schemes, targeted at young people attending voluntary and community sector and Youth Service provision (including detached and other similar projects) or in areas of identified need such as those in rural areas with poor transport links. With regard to detached

¹¹² Member Grants may only be used for groups, rather than individual young people.

¹¹³ Jenny McDonald, - written evidence

projects, this should assist youth workers in their forward planning and enable them to prepare the necessary E-GO¹¹⁴ documentation in advance.¹¹⁵

RECOMMENDATION

- a. That meetings which are to involve young people are planned and structured in a young person-friendly format.**
- b. That Youth Advisory Groups focus on strategic planning in their districts and extend invitations to, and renews efforts to engage, private and voluntary sector facility and activity providers as well as potential funders, in order to create opportunities for mutually beneficial discussions at YAG meetings.**
- c. That KCC Members be encouraged to contribute towards local young people's transport funds from Members' Community Grants (and other available sources) to finance organised trips for young people from their local area, focusing on those who attend youth groups and projects.**

The Culture of Youth Communities

In their 2008 report [The Culture of Youth Communities](#)¹¹⁶ Princes Trust suggested that factors such as low levels of parental support and few positive adult role models are driving young people to their peers for support, and at the extreme end of this, is gang activity. They back up this suggestion with findings from their research among 1,754 14 to 25-year-olds which found, amongst other things that:

-  34% of young people surveyed did not have a parent who they consider to be a role model
-  58% join a gang to find a sense of identity joining a gang
-  22% say young people are looking for role models in gangs
-  55% cite friends and peers as role models

¹¹⁴ E-GO is a KCC devised safety assurance notification and approval system for youth service and school (550 currently subscribe) trips

¹¹⁵ Richard Hayden, KCC Senior Outdoor Education Adviser - oral evidence 11th November 2008

¹¹⁶ Simon Fulford, written evidence: Culture of Youth Communities – Executive Summary

- 60% would turn to a peer with a problem compared with 31%, to a parent

These factors, combined with young people's natural wish for safety were all given as reasons why young people might seek out and join gangs. Evidence from Chief Superintendent Nix of Kent Police would suggest that Kent does not have the kind of gang problems that might be found elsewhere in the country. However the select committee believe that it would be irresponsible to ignore the threat that exists elsewhere to young people and their communities and therefore believe it to be very important that measures are taken proactively to increase community cohesion and decrease the more negative aspects of territoriality.

Bridges between generations

The importance of projects which bring different age groups together is given added credence by the new Intergenerational Volunteering Fund worth £3million which aims to involve 20,000 volunteers in such schemes.

Dr Alex Stevens told the select committee that building relationships between generations and facilitating meetings between people with common interests were both important factors in the development of communities and the avoidance of poor outcomes and criminal behaviour in young people. Although not an expert on issues in Kent, he cited the work of the Children's Society's in Thanet as a particularly good example of community development. Thanet's Youth Strategy has committed to furthering intergenerational work through its aim to:

'Develop a community venue that provides a central point of access to information and a greater range of activities and facilities for young people and their families targeted at times/provision where gaps have been identified. Centrally located, this will limit issues of access and as an umbrella provision the stigma attached to accessing particular services should be limited. Equally, the community focus should support intergenerational/community engagement and redress negative perceptions.'

This sentiment was also echoed by KCC Leader Paul Carter who stressed in his blog of 21st January 09 the importance of 'strengthening communities through promoting volunteering and bringing older and younger people together to benefit from each other's experience and skills'. This theme will

also be developed by the Communities Directorate in planned workshops to explore a multi-generational work programme.¹¹⁷

Age Concern offer a range of information to groups wishing to set up an intergenerational project including a [factsheet](#) and their Intergenerational Development Officer, Tracey Berridge¹¹⁸ told the select committee that West Sussex Age Concern had recently hosted a very successful intergenerational debate.

The Imperial War Museum who fund educational intergenerational projects, find that in their experience such projects challenge stereotypes about young people, and enable connections between generations through shared interests and themes. Surveys conducted by Age Concern indicate that this 'works both ways' and can combat ageism against all age groups. Their surveys and intergenerational work have also shown that the vast majority of young people are 'knowledgeable, respectful and well behaved' during these interactions (a different picture from the one usually depicted in the media).

The government's 'Full of Life' research on older people in society, in 2008 found that contrary to popular belief two thirds of the young people they spoke to aged 15-24 rejected the view that they 'do not have anything in common with other ages'. Clearly there are misconceptions and the select committee believe that a renewed emphasis on intergenerational projects in Kent as well as those which bring common-interest groups together, would help to build community cohesion and break down some of the more negative, and commonly held perceptions both about younger people, and held by younger people about the older generation.

The National Youth Agency's Youth Action Team also began work last year with a number of local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to develop models and guidance for future intergenerational projects including arts based initiatives. They provide case studies of two projects:

[The National Youth Agency - Darlington Intergenerational Project](#)

[The National Youth Agency - Buckinghamshire Community & Youth Engagement Intergenerational Project](#)

¹¹⁷ Jill Bromley, Strategic Manager - Libraries & Archives

¹¹⁸ Tracey Berridge, Age Concern Intergenerational Development Officer - written evidence

RECOMMENDATION

- a. That projects with an intergenerational theme should receive a high priority in decisions about funding in Kent in order to break down barriers and build community cohesion.
- b. That KCC should consider how intergenerational activity could be supported in other ways such as through the Staff Club and Staff Discount schemes.

Opportunities for shadowing

Some young people are highly motivated to succeed and the select committee were keen that such individuals should be given the chance to develop themselves further by taking part in activities that challenge them and broaden their outlook and scope for high achievement. A scheme with this in mind was offered by Kent politician Helen Grant under the headline:

'Do you know a Teenager who wants to be Prime Minister? If they win this competition, they might learn how. Read on'

The competition was taken to schools, and ran until 26th September 2008. It offered the winners (who had to be aged between 16 and 18 at that time) the opportunity to shadow Helen Grant while she is fighting for a parliamentary seat at the next general election, with the chance to gain all round experience of the business of politics; visit the House of Commons, meet councillors, ministers and shadow ministers, fundraise, carry out research, write and deliver speeches and get involved in other aspects of campaigning.¹¹⁹

RECOMMENDATION

That there should be increased opportunities for well motivated young people to shadow community leaders in order for them to gain experience of political life and leadership and that Members of Kent County Council should take a lead in facilitating this.

¹¹⁹ <http://www.helengrant.org/shadowing.pdf>

Bridges between communities

Recent research by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation¹²⁰ (JRF) carried out by a team from the University of Glasgow describes territoriality as a kind of “super place-attachment”. As, mentioned previously, Kent is not badly affected by gang-culture as are some parts of the country. However, gaining a broader understanding of the issues around territoriality could help to shape services and reduce the likelihood of these problems taking hold in Kent. JRF cite a number of anti-territorial projects or ATPs in their study and say:

‘While the hypothesis underlying the research is that territoriality is problematic for the life chances of the young people caught up in it and for the neighbourhoods that experience it, we recognise the potentially positive nature of territoriality as an expression of mutual support and community attachment.’

‘Projects that help young people build bridges to other communities and break down their isolation should be especially helpful.’

The select committee received evidence from Dan Pyke, a Detached Youth worker on the Isle of Sheppey regarding work with colleagues at the newly opened Gateway, which is planned to act as a focus for community resources. Simply by providing a tangible link between two traditionally separate communities in Queenborough and Rushenden, Dan felt that there would be multiple benefits to be gained. Dan is also planning a project to help young people deal constructively with the ‘bad reputation’ that Sheppey has and help to restore self esteem and identity.

Other evidence received by the select committee¹²¹ would suggest that online groups are another way that young people, in particular are creating new social groupings which can help to break down barriers and reduce prejudices. It would also be beneficial to create links between clubs and groups in different areas such as via the video-loan facility and uploading ‘news’ to websites, ensuring that young people in detached youth settings get a chance to join in and contribute.

¹²⁰ [Young people and territoriality in British cities | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#)

¹²¹ Tim Davies, Practical Participation, oral evidence 6th November 2008

VII Communicating with young people about leisure activities

Legislation, indicators and targets

Section 507B of the Education Act 1996 placed a legal requirement on local Authorities in regard to publicising positive activities, in paragraph 21 of the legislation. This was felt to play a key part in encouraging young people to participate:

'In order to assist young people to engage in positive activities, the local authority will need to provide a comprehensive, accurate and accessible information service for young people regarding existing local positive activity provision - including a directory of provision which should be updated regularly to maintain accuracy - at least annually - and publicised to all young people through a wide variety of media.'

[Guidance on Publicising Positive Activities \(Oct 2006\)](#), also sets out the level of detail which should include:

- the name and description of activity, the name of the provider, location, time of activity, cost, and contact details;
- travel information that will enable young people to access the positive activities in their area;
- details on the accessibility of provision for young people with disabilities;
- confirmation of whether providers of activities or transport accept young people's leisure cards or similar, when in operation.

Towards 2010 Target 21 concerned the launching and marketing of a new website, "What's on in Kent?" which would list sport and leisure activities and local organisations for all age ranges in the county and KCC's Medium Term Plan included the target: Provision of greater local information on sport, leisure and community organisations and these aims are being achieved through the development of Kent TV.

Communication Strategy

KCC has published a Draft Communication Strategy for 2008-10¹²² to provide a framework for the fast-developing topic of communication in the county. The strategy applies to internal communications and those of directorates with their target audiences, listing its key commitments under the following headings:

- Customer focused
- Open and honest
- Timely
- Jargon free
- Accessible to all
- Relevant to the audience (both in message and method)
- Continue to develop new ways of reaching audiences (particularly those seldom heard)
- Encourage and enable feedback
- Listen actively as much as inform
- Regularly evaluate and measure our communication, and respond to the outcomes
- Minimise environmental impact
- Value for money

KCC Websites

‘How do you currently display and communicate what KCC offers to young people and do you think it’s effective?’¹²³

The guidance makes an assumption that most authorities will use online methods of publicising activities for young people. There are currently a number of websites based within the different directorates of KCC giving information about activities on offer. In some cases this is theme-based such as for libraries and sport, with information for all age groups including young people. In the case of the Kent Resource Directory – though aimed at different audiences including parents and practitioners, the focus is on 0-19s

¹²² Draft 1.4 published 13 March 2008

¹²³ Question posed by young people at Swadelands School who spoke to the committee on 10th November 2008.

and for Togogo – the focus is solely on young people (of core age 13-19). The main KCC Kent.gov.uk site also has a Leisure and Culture section.

Leisure and Culture

The [Leisure and culture](#) section of KCC's main website has links to several areas of interest that will be common to adults and young people alike with links to:

- Arts and entertainment (which contains a sections on: Clubs and Societies, within which there is 'Activities in Kent' and 'Youth Activities' with a link to Togogo; Exhibitions and Galleries and Kent Media
- Libraries (which contains the a number of sections including Teens)
- Archives and local history
- Heritage
- Museums
- Countryside and coast
- Sports (with links to Kent sports (main sport website) and Youth sports¹²⁴)
- Tourism (with links to explore Kent and visit Kent)
- Explore (with links to Walking, Cycling – with list of cycling clubs, Riding - with list of list horseriding routes), Parks and open spaces, Easy access, Great days out - with fun outdoor activities for children¹²⁵ and Join Explore.

Kent TV

Kent TV is a KCC funded and independently operated web-based media platform accessible via <http://www.kenttv.com>. It was launched on 1st September 2007 and by January 2009 had received 1.3million visits from people of all ages.¹²⁶ There are currently fourteen channels: Community, Creative, Education, Emergency, Food, Health, History, How To, Jobs & Business, County News, Kent Politics, Sport, Visit Kent and What's On. All can be accessed by young viewers but there is no dedicated youth channel. However Kent TV has been encouraging young people to use the site by holding youth-oriented competitions such as 'Sound Clash' – to showcase musical talents and 'Animate and Create – giving primary and secondary age schoolchildren the opportunity to create their own animation. Kent TV

¹²⁴ Youth Sports link not working

¹²⁵ 2006 Booklet

¹²⁶ Pascale Blackburn - Project Officer Kent Film Office And Kent TV, written evidence

also sponsored an edition of the youth magazine Oi! and enabled 20 students at Christ Church University to gain hands on experience of studio production by staging a debate on housing.

Hundreds of videos feature on the website, many uploaded by young people and Kent TV also embeds videos onto social networking sites such as Facebook, You Tube and Myspace to ensure the channel engages with as many young people as possible.

Young people at Kent Youth Service centres could also be encouraged to record events and network with other clubs, sharing 'news' via this medium, since recording equipment is available through most youth centres.

As there is currently no dedicated youth channel on Kent TV, and young people might find things of interest to them on various different channels of the site, the select committee would like there to be consideration of a dedicated youth broadcasting unit to encourage the acquisition of film making skills and promote communication and networking between clubs.

RECOMMENDATION

That Kent TV continues to provide young people with the opportunity to broadcast their interests and concerns and gain experience of TV and film production through the apprenticeship programme and the development of a dedicated broadcasting unit.

What's On

The What's On section of Kent TV was launched in October 2008 and allows events, including those of interest to young people from across the county, to be flagged up either by individuals or organisations – currently 5,000 activities are featured and 1400 films have been uploaded.¹²⁷ Pascale Blackburn informed the committee that coverage of the Radio One Big Weekend in Mote Park, Maidstone, where they had interviewed celebrities and visitors, proved very popular, with more than 54,000 hits on the site, many of whom are likely to have been young people.

¹²⁷ John McGhie, Editor, Kent TV – Oral Evidence 26th November 2008

Kent sports websites

KCC has a comprehensive sports website www.kentsport.org which has 3 million hits per year and is Kent's biggest sport website (for all ages) with over 1000 pages. The site has information about sports, activities, events, talks, qualifications and funding as well as links to the Kent 2012 (Olympics) website.



Kent Libraries websites

Kent Libraries have a [Teens](#) link on their website with a comprehensive search facility for clubs and societies, by District.

Radio Waves is a subscription based website for libraries and extended services with information by young people for young people. Schools can buy into it and young people can upload videos, like You Tube.

Kent Resource Directory

The [Kent Resource Directory](#) (KRD), launched by KCC in June 2008, provides online information about national and local services and activities (currently around 3500) for children and young people aged 0-19 years. Children, Families and Education have worked together with the Youth Service and other partners to produce this, and a dedicated youth website – Togogo¹²⁸.

¹²⁸ James Harman, Executive Officer, Kent Resource Directory – written evidence

Currently, there is no clear geographical focus and a search can therefore come up with fairly random and unrelated information. However the site is early in its development and is being built to meet a range of objectives, including the 5 outcomes of the Every Child Matters Agenda and the requirements of the national Information System for Parents and Providers to which it will be linked in Autumn 2009.¹²⁹

A teenager accessing KRD at present would find a mish-mash of leisure information in a flat text format, accessible through a series of links: Young People>Community and Leisure linked to Support, Leisure and Interests, What's on, Get Involved:

'Leisure and interests': [Youth clubs and projects](#)
[Scouts, guides and cadets etc](#)
[Computers and technology](#)
[Libraries](#)
[Music](#)
[Sports and games](#)
[Museums and heritage](#)
[Sports and games](#)
[Arts, drama and creativity](#)

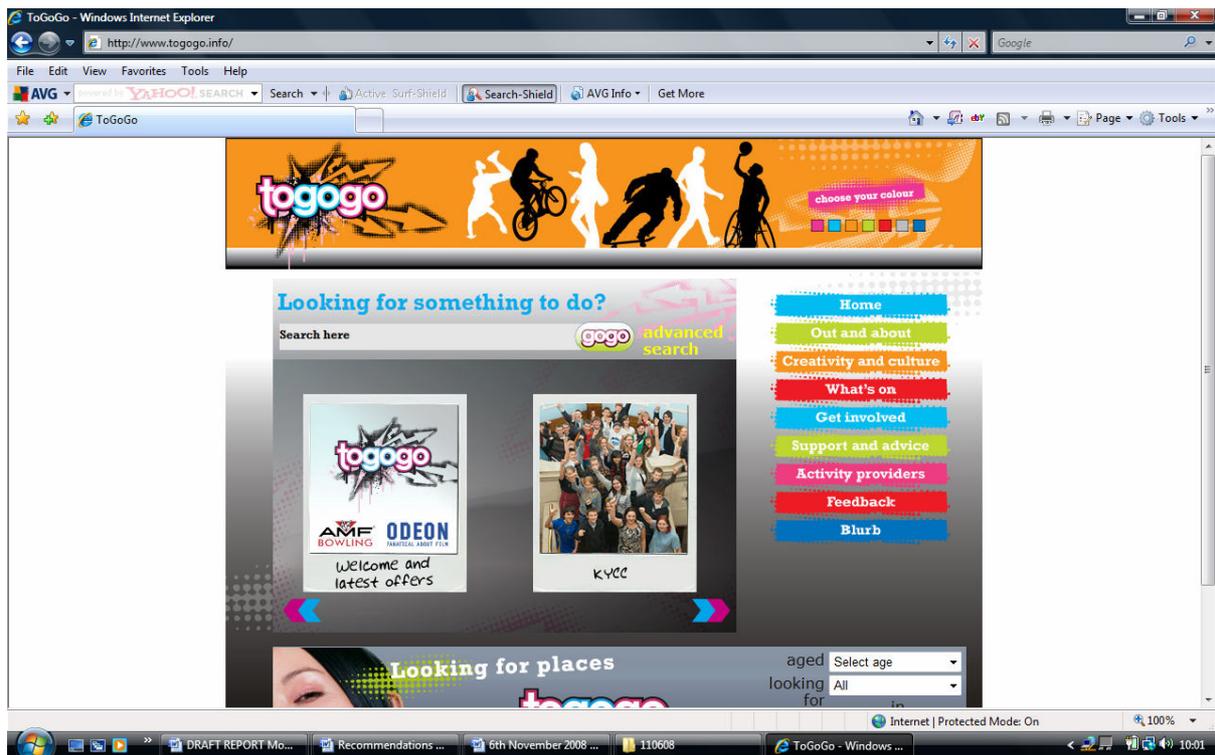
'What's on': [Cinemas and theatres](#)
[Special events](#)
[Club nights](#)
[Exhibitions](#)
[Sports leagues and tournaments](#)
[Holiday activities](#)
[Festivals and gigs](#)

'Get Involved': a mixture of clubs, groups and volunteering opportunities.

The first promotional material for the Kent Resource Directory was distributed in January 2009. There is capacity for the level of information the guidance suggests should be available i.e. the name and description of activity, the name of the provider, location, time of activity, cost, and contact details but these fields have yet to be fully populated.

¹²⁹ Every Child Matters (EMC) Outcomes: Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution, Achieve Economic Well-being

Togogo



KCC's Integrated Youth Support Strategy, as well as consultations carried out in formulating individual district youth strategies identified that many young people wanted their to be better communication about the opportunities available to them. The Togogo website was commissioned by the Youth Service and designed by a specialist marketing agency to provide information on leisure activities to young people in Kent. It sits 'on top of' the Kent Resource Directory and both sites are still in development. The select committee believe that young people will be assisted in their search for local information if Togogo features clearer links to district websites and the 'out and about' link could provide these links as well as topic based information which is currently patchy but which lends itself to a mapping option.

Andrew Bose¹³⁰ informed the select committee that Togogo was focused on 'activities and entertainment – things to do and places to go for young people aged 13 to 19 – not the wider remit of services for children and families (as for the Kent Resource Directory).

Togogo includes both public and private sector activities as well as some limited voluntary sector information. There are currently no plans to include

¹³⁰ KCC Public Involvement and Communications Manager

information about services provided by extended schools though the select committee was told that there would be a link to this information.¹³¹

Opportunities to generate income by encouraging advertisers to the site have not yet been explored. Original marketing of the site included the Evening Fridge on Invicta FM, KMFM Radio and the County Show Youth Village. Andrew Bose informed the select committee that there has now been some promotion of the site in schools but it was still considered to be at 'soft launch' stage.

Togogo currently has insufficient detail for disabled young people¹³² and the select committee were informed that this was an area of planned development. Given the experience of the Disabled Children's Register co-ordinator in communicating with families with disabled children and young people it seems prudent that any development of Togogo in this regard should only be done following consultation and links should be set up between these sources of information.

In order to assess whether communication with young people via Togogo is effective the select committee learned that the number of hits on websites can be measured so the efficacy of marketing/advertising can be assessed. Registration to websites is seen as a potential barrier to the widest possible 'readership' but it may be worth considering a time limited pilot in order to allow analysis of users using the Mosaic¹³³ tool.

District Web Sites

As can be seen from the map on page 25 and information in section II, while KCC provides leisure activities to young people through its Youth Service and other targeted provision, the main leisure facilities for young people are run by the local councils, community, voluntary and private providers. All twelve Kent district and borough councils have their own leisure information and/or youth-focused websites¹³⁴ – these are not currently accessible via an easy-to-find link on Togogo. Among districts there are examples of interactive sites

¹³¹ Marisa White, oral evidence

¹³² Ibid

¹³³ Rachel Tinsley, oral evidence, 3rd November 2008

¹³⁴ Please see Appendix 9

with excellent links to youth participation in democracy and youth volunteering opportunities.

Links between Leisure and Sport Services

A 2006 report on Kent Two Tier Youth Work concluded that 'links between leisure and sport services and youth services should be strengthened and there should be better integration of information'. The select committee believe that this is still the case partly due to the fact that new sites have developed alongside existing sites which have remained accessible. This could be remedied by the deletion of old or out of date sites and links, integration of some sites and improved or added links between specific disciplines or areas of interest and Togogo. Close co-operation between the development teams of What's on, Togogo and the Kent Resource Directory should reduce duplication. The select committee would also like to make specific recommendations for areas of development of the new dedicated youth website.

RECOMMENDATION

a. Development of Togogo could include:

- **Clear links to leisure listings for specific areas of interest such as cycling, parks, sports**
- **Times dates of meetings/venue contacts**
- **How to contact local Kent Youth County Councillor and Local Members of the County Council (by postcode look-up)**
- **The facility to vote on youth-related proposals**
- **Continually providing the opportunity for and proactively seeking out private and voluntary providers to invite listing**
- **Interactive local maps showing private/voluntary/LA provision**
- **Requesting that schools signpost Togogo on pupil VLEs (virtual learning environments screensaver and enabled in favourite sites) thus reaching every schoolchild**
- **Advertising Togogo on the Freedom Pass/Kent Travel Card/Library Card**

- **Allowing additional and selected advertising on the website (directly leisure related) to generate revenue and show discount offers.**
 - **Liaising with the Children's Disability Register co-ordinator to ensure that views and experience of disabled young people and their families help to make the site informative and relevant.**
- b. Following an initial reluctance by young people to engage with Togogo its effectiveness in reaching a range of young people from different areas and backgrounds should be measured before and after development of the site by using Mosaic to analyse users registering on the site with a postcode**

New Media

'Communication is also a key driver of internet use amongst older girls; they are significantly more likely than older boys to use the internet for contact with other people (84% compared to 75% using the internet at least once a week for instant messaging and 79% compared to 64% using the internet at least once a week for social networking.'¹³⁵

Social Networking

According to Ofcom, the Office of Communications, social networking sites such as Facebook, Bebo and MySpace are now "a mainstream communications technology for many people".

Online Social Networking is extensively used by young people to 'keep in touch with peers; develop new contacts; share content and media; explore self identities; hang out and consume content, access information and for informal learning'¹³⁶; Furthermore, research has shown that youth workers feel they should be engaging with young people and helping them to 'navigate the risks' and 'make the most of the opportunities'¹³⁷. Social Networking sites are currently subject of a blanket ban by many organisations including KCC, largely to avoid inappropriate use by employees during work time.

¹³⁵ [Ofcom Media Literacy Audit – Report on UK Children's Media Literacy](#)

¹³⁶ Davies, T. and Cranston P. (May 2008) [Youth Work and Social Networking](#), Interim Report, National Youth Agency and Practical Participation

¹³⁷ *ibid*

In a straw poll carried out by the select committee among small a group of young people at Swadelands School, 100% had a profile on a social networking site and evidence from Tim Davis of Practical Participation provided research evidence of a larger sample of young people, 60% of whom used social networking sites.

Within some local authorities, such as Devon Youth Service, social networking is already being utilised by the Youth Participation Team to carry out online youth work and a video is available to view at:

[Devon Youth Service - Youth Participation Team - Youth Work Online](#)

The National Youth Association published a report on Youth Work and Social Networking¹³⁸ in September 2008 and as part of this work a literature review, then a national online survey of youth workers and other professionals was followed by focus groups with three youth services. Some of the key findings would suggest that whether or not local authorities choose to engage, young people are already deeply involved: The report quotes two statistics from the literature review – firstly that only 18% of young people have not tried a social networking site and more disturbingly that 40% have their profiles set to 'public' which means that anyone can see them.¹³⁹

The Federal Trade Commission in the United States has issued safety guidance 'for teens and tweens' which gives tips about risks such as stalking, identity theft and hacking and other advice¹⁴⁰ and KCC Innovations team has carried out an evaluation¹⁴¹ of social media and made a number of recommendations including that KCC should:

- *adopt a more strategic, evidence-based approach to social media use that integrates with corporate priorities and strategies around communications, engagement and collaborative working*
- *Raise awareness of what social media tools are available and the benefits, risks and opportunities they offer*
- *Develop guidelines, a toolkit and training for the use of social media*

¹³⁸Davies, T and Cranston P. (September 2008) Youth Work and Social Networking Final Report, National Youth Agency and Practical Participation

¹³⁹ Ibid

¹⁴⁰ [Social Networking Sites: Safety Tips for Tweens and Teens](#)

¹⁴¹ Noel Hatch, Projects and Research Lead – Innovation – written evidence

The US Health Journal Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine also recently published research which indicated that young people can be easily persuaded to change their profiles to display less 'risky' information, by intervention (one GP adopted a 'belt and braces' approach and contacted young online users displaying evidence of risky behaviour using the same social media tools; pointing out the risks and offering advice).¹⁴²

Social networking sites have great potential for bringing together groups of young people with common interests, publicising events, forging valuable links and mobilising support. However the select committee have concerns about confidentiality issues and risks to workers, in particular, should Youth Services adopt this medium of communication. Given that young people are already engaging in these online environments, the select committee would strongly support the recommendations made by the Innovations Unit to develop guidelines as well as suggesting that KCC commission further research into the benefits of social networking tools in terms of youth engagement and reaching the 'hard to reach'.

RECOMMENDATION

That KCC Innovations Team works with young people, supported by professional advisers to produce a policy and guidelines for the safe use of social networking sites (Facebook, Bebo etc) by young people, and that KCC work towards developing protocols for effective and appropriate use of social networking sites by youth work practitioners, other KCC staff and Members as well as members of Kent Youth County Council.

Pic n Mix

KCC Innovations won the Innovate 08 award for their project [Pic n Mix](#) which allows information available from websites to be "mashed-up" by residents (this would increase personalisation and potentially, accessibility.)¹⁴³ This tool could doubtless be readily adopted by young people to help them personalise their choice of information about clubs and activities of interest to them and the select committee feel it would be very appropriate to assess its suitability for Youth Service use.

¹⁴² Reducing At-Risk Adolescents' Display of Risk Behavior on a Social Networking Web...
Moreno et al. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.*2009; 163: 35-41.

¹⁴³ Carol Patrick, Head of Innovation

Texting Services

Young people at Swadelands schools said they would do more if they knew about things and received information by email, text or newspapers.

'Westminster City Council has introduced a texting service that allows people to locate their nearest youth club, children's centre, library or leisure centre. The service, run by mobile marketing company Incentivated, allows people to text LEISURE, LIBRARY, YOUTH or CHILD to 80097 and receive an instant message with details of the location and phone number'.¹⁴⁴

Texting messages to young people who register on Togogo may be one option to explore to communicate, for example special offers that can be negotiated with sports and leisure partners in the Kent districts and boroughs, as well as cinemas and theatres. Swale Borough Council already has a similar texting service as many other districts.

RECOMMENDATION

That KCC should investigate the implementation of an SMS texting service to notify young people of discounts and offers of free access to leisure activities.

Printed Information

There is currently no KCC printed directory of young people's activity provision though young people accessing information from various online sources are able to print pages of their choice. Information on activities for young people is often featured in other KCC publications, for example, the Around Kent Magazine produced by the KCC Communication and Media Centre has featured several pages dedicated to young people in the last couple of issues. It is published and delivered quarterly to homes throughout Kent and is also available online at <http://www.kent.gov.uk/publications/council-and-democracy/around-kent.htm>. It does not have a focus on activities but an issue of the magazine has, for example, introduced the idea of young people's participation in the democratic process by becoming involved with the Kent Youth County Council.

¹⁴⁴ Children and Young People Now, 9 January 2008

Madeleine White of CreativeUK Solutions gave evidence to the select committee about her work with young people at Marlowe Academy who publish Oi! Magazine (please see case study on page 63).

The select committee feel that it is important that no young people are excluded from sources of information about activities available to them. This is particularly relevant given that while internet use continues to grow, young people from less advantaged households are 23% less likely to have internet access at home and more likely to be reliant upon access either at school or at their friends' homes.¹⁴⁵ The following recommendation is made with the joint aims of providing ongoing support for Oi! magazine, and a printed resource for young people about activities offered by the Youth Service/links to provision from other sectors and a means by which key messages can be conveyed to young people in an informal way.

RECOMMENDATION

That KCC should consider providing support to Oi! (provided there is a sustainable business plan) to enable more young people to benefit from the work experience and personal development it offers and for the magazine to reach and involve a greater number of young people across the county. This support might take the form of a regular advertising slot paid for by the Kent Youth Service and other directorates/service (particularly CFE Extended Services) to: publicise activities and the availability of other local youth provision, and get across important messages e.g. links to advice on internet safety.

Face to face communication with young people

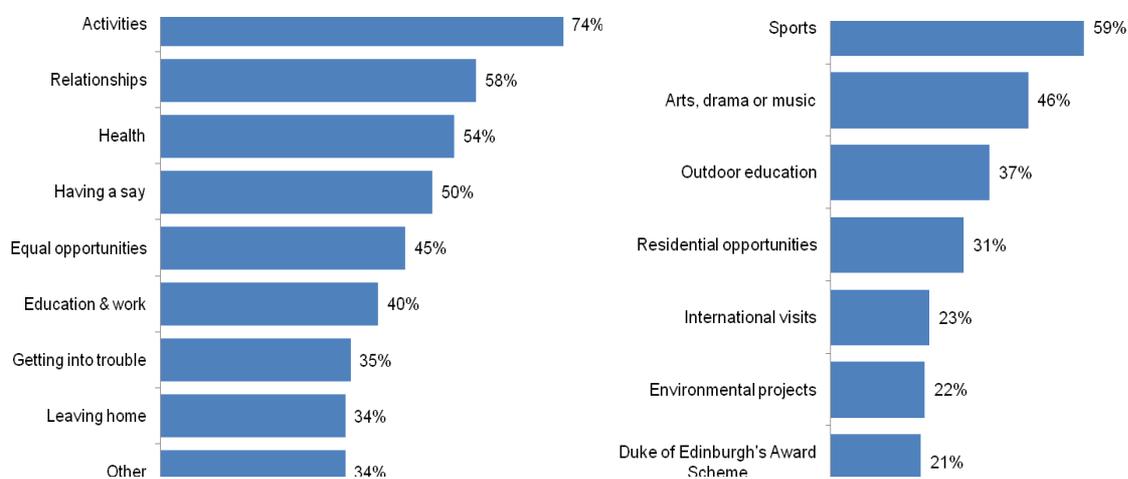
There are various references in this report to the importance of positive and constructive interaction between adults and young people and so face to face communication of the sort provided by youth workers, Connexions personal advisers, teachers, and others plays a key part in young people's well being and development. One quote from BMG's report on young people's perceptions of the Youth Service indicates:

¹⁴⁵ Ofcom Media Literacy Audit – Report on UK children's media literacy: Access to the internet in socio-economic group households ABC1 is 86% compared to 63% in C2DE households.

'They feel that they have very strong relationships with their youth workers, and most feel that there is someone within the Youth Service that they could approach about almost any issue/problem'

This was found to be even more the case with young people from the Traveller community for whom longevity of relationship and trust were extremely important. This also applied to young people attending non-mainstream education through alternative curriculum programmes, since having disengaged from school often following poor relationships with teachers, they would tend to turn to their youth workers for advice.

Figure 4: data from BMG report



From 902 respondents figure 4 above shows what young people were most likely to discuss with their youth workers – the chart on the right shows which activities. Overall, young people were shown to value the relationships with their youth workers (and this applied particularly to Travellers and their detached workers) feeling that they treated them seriously as adults without being patronising.

The Audit Commission's report *Tired of Hanging Around*¹⁴⁶ echoes these findings saying that 'young people value adults who make an effort to get to know them and do not pre-judge', particularly community police officers (CPOs) and police community support officers (PCSOs); appreciating the

¹⁴⁶ [Audit Commission - Tired of hanging around](#)

effort these community officers make to speak to them and get to know them before judging their actions.¹⁴⁷

The select committee is also aware of the important role played by church organisations, in providing activities for young people on a regular basis and responding, for example, to difficulties young people face from too much alcohol after a night out clubbing. The Lighthouse Project¹⁴⁸ co-ordinates volunteers to provide rescue services in Canterbury: somewhere safe for young people to have tea, coffee and toast to help them sober up. Having started in response to problems outside a club, the project operates on Fridays and Saturdays and hopes to develop along the lines of Norfolk's SOS bus; already supported by the Police, the local council, NHS (PCT) and St John's Ambulance due to the value of the service to the community and the inevitable reduction in calls to emergency services.

¹⁴⁷ The select committee is also aware of the excellent work of Street Pastors but did not have time to consult.

¹⁴⁸ Andrew Fitzgerald (Founder) and Simon Ashmore (Project Manager), oral evidence 13th November 2008

VIII Working together – making the most of funding

‘What ways are leisure opportunities for young people funded in the county?’¹⁴⁹

It is widely acknowledged that youth work has suffered from underfunding – however, in its inspection of the Kent Youth Service last year, OFSTED commented:

‘Per head of the youth population, the council’s expenditure on youth work is low compared with similar authorities¹⁵⁰. The service, however, attracts substantial levels of external funding, with partners often confident to commission particular pieces of specialist work. Good use is made of resources and at over 30%, the service reaches a relatively high and increasing proportion of young people. Resources are used effectively and efficiently and the council receives a very good return on its initial modest investment.’

Julia Margo and Alex Stevens concluded from their research¹⁵¹ that it is important to provide activities for all 12-18 year olds and to consolidate funding for structured activities to reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in negative behaviour and crime. The select committee also heard from Angela Slaven, Head of KCC Youth Services and KDAAT that national research¹⁵² backed up this view, highlighting that for troubled young people already in conflict with the law access to mainstream provision is often made possible only by ‘the brilliance of the Youth Workers who are able to make contact and work with the issues.’

¹⁴⁹ Question from young people at Swadelands School.

¹⁵⁰ The National Youth Agency Audit 2007-8 found Kent to rank 109th out of 118 local authorities in terms of net expenditure per head of 13-19 population. The complete ranked list is given as appendix 10

¹⁵¹ Margo, J & Stevens, S (May 2008) Make Me A Criminal: Preventing Youth Crime, IPPR 2008

¹⁵² Citing Misspent Youth: Young People and Crime (Audit Commission, 1996)

KCC works with a wide range of partners in order to provide leisure opportunities for all young people and to direct targeted specialist services at young people who need them bringing together funding from a range of sources.

Funding Example: Deal Skate Bowl

Deal Skate Bowl, next to Tides Leisure Centre, had its grand opening (attended by members of the select committee) on 30th October 2008. KCC Second Homes money contributed £158,500, The Big Lottery Fund £50,000, Dover District Council £45,000 and the Respect Youth Task Force £10,000. The project came to fruition as a result of co-operation between young people (including skaters, skate-boarders, and bike riders), Dover District Council Leisure Services, KCC Youth Workers from Linwood Youth Centre and others.

The work of this review has shown that the most successful provision of activities for young people has the involvement of all sectors (including, vitally, young people themselves) and can draw upon funding from several sources. KCC is also involved in two substantial schemes targeting activities at vulnerable young people:

Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP)

This programme is commissioned by KCC Children, Families and Education directorate and delivered by Kent Youth Service to provide activities for vulnerable young people at risk of social exclusion and community crime to help them develop social and emotional skills and improve their engagement with education, employment and training.¹⁵³

Funding¹⁵⁴ for the three years to 2011 has initially been used to set up a team comprising a co-ordinator and area teams of 3 PAYP workers each in East, Mid and West Kent to deliver arts, sports and outdoor education activities to young people alongside detached workers in, for example youth centres, schools and village settings during evenings, weekends and school holidays. Most of the first year funding of £352k was dedicated to staffing and setting up a varied calendar of activities; in year 2 around £200k of the £605k funding is also available for commissioning a number of outside projects at around

¹⁵³Working closely with Connexions on NEET targets.

¹⁵⁴ Through Area Based Grant

£5,000 each¹⁵⁵ from the voluntary and community sector. Year 3 funding amounts to £705k. Opportunities also exist for pooling funding with in-school activities providers e.g. for a coach who could work inside and outside school hours.¹⁵⁶

A network of communications has been set up so that young people may be referred into the programme by a range of partners including colleagues in the Youth Service, Youth Offending Service, Connexions, Local Children's Services Partnerships and Community Wardens and the programme ranges from activities designed around the needs of particular young people, to holiday activities that are open to all, publicised via the Togogo website and, for example, through extended schools. The success of the programme therefore depends on working together with a range of partners in order to ensure that firstly, young people are promptly identified and referred into the scheme and secondly a varied range of activities is available to meet diverse needs.

Examples of targeted work:

-  Learning to play snooker and pool as a way of managing anger and improving behaviour
-  Weekend war hammer group to address bullying, personal safety and knife-crime awareness
-  Taster art sessions for young parents

Examples of open access holiday activities:

-  2 day arts project at Turner Contemporary where young people can create their own piece of textile art
-  1 day sports leader course leading to a certificate
-  Street based music, dance and art workshops

Youth Inclusion Support Panels

The [Youth Crime Action Plan](#) sets out the government's 'triple track'¹⁵⁷ approach to addressing youth crime and anti-social behaviour which aims by 2020 to reduce by 20% first time entrants to the criminal justice system

¹⁵⁵ More if necessary for the provision of ongoing services.

¹⁵⁶ Jo Carter, PAYP Co-ordinator

¹⁵⁷ Enforcement, prevention and parental support

(aged 10-17). Practitioners from a range of disciplines and organisations are already working closely together to provide early intervention and support to the most vulnerable young people. In Kent this will now take place through Youth Inclusion Support Panels (YISPs) who will be able to plan activities as part of each young person's reintegration into mainstream provision and contribute to a reduction in the number of first time offenders.¹⁵⁸

Young people will be engaged through the programme in constructive leisure activities over the summer holidays involving a mixture of fun, healthy eating, service user involvement and learning by stealth.¹⁵⁹ Often these young people will have been excluded from other holiday provision because of their behaviour or low self-esteem or because they did not have the right equipment, clothing or food. Another way of the Youth Inclusion Support Panel supporting young people might be to commission a session on substance misuse. The YISP will work with the young person to address their particular needs.

The process is designed to bring together all the facets of integrated youth support services, and Local Children's Service Partnerships avoiding duplication. YISP Co-ordinators are in place to bring together each young person's multi agency plan and hold agencies to account. The plan might involve Community Wardens, Police Community Support Officers, Housing Officers, Social Services, Education and Health – with community based workers being the point of first contact and referral to the YISP and other practitioners becoming involved through Single Point of Access panels. In some locations across Kent, Police Joint Family Management Programme Officers who work with chaotic families may be the source of referral into the Single Point of Access panel.

As the processes and organisations are brought together initial duplication of assessments and referrals should be replaced by the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and through their programme (including provision of activities) the YISP Co-ordinators will look at factors identified by the professionals concerned and determine which they can address. YISPs are also designed to prevent any young people from falling through the net of services since the two routes of referral into the Single Point of Access captures both those young people already facing difficulties in the area and

¹⁵⁸ National Indicator NI111

¹⁵⁹ Dan Bride, County Crime Prevention Manager

Community Safety workers – PCSO's and Community Wardens as well as Housing Officers - would pick up young people who might be new to the area.

The Kent YISP programme is a good example of a range of organisations getting together to maximise the benefits for young people. It works with: Challenger Troop, Army Cadets, Coastal Inclusion Programme run by the Police, PCT – Healthy Eating programme, Kent Fire and Rescue Service (targeting hoax calls, assaults, arson) Charlton (Kick Racism out of Football), Family Group Conferencing, Sports Unit/Sports Leaders/Awards and others.

The Voluntary and Community sector

Throughout this report there has been reference to the multi-agency nature of funding for youth provision and the Select Committee has seen much evidence of the huge contribution made by the voluntary and community sector to the wide spectrum of structured activities that have been shown to benefit young people most during their teens. This sector would seem to face continual challenges in planning ahead in the light of short term initiatives and the ever present need to fund raise and while some have done so highly successfully it is a credit to some inspirational and dedicated leaders that their work can continue. The voluntary and community sector are vital partners in provision of activities for young people and the select committee would like to see even greater integration and co-ordination of Youth Service Activities with those of this sector. This will be an important aspect of the strategic planning of integrated youth support and enable decision makers to have a clearer idea of the entirety of activities provision in a local area.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Youth Service increases its engagement with the diverse range of services provided by the voluntary and community sector to ensure that the contribution of this sector can be fully acknowledged, mapped and taken into account in planning positive activities within an area.

Information Advice and Guidance - Changes and opportunities

Youth Matters envisaged that the bringing in-house of Connexions services would have a great impact on the service and as integrated youth support services are coming together as part of a raft of reforms of services for children and young people, it is clear that this could provide an opportunity to continue to adapt and tailor services more closely to the needs of young

people. Due to the size and complexity of the task in Kent, the requirements for tendering and employee legislation (TUPE), KCC effectively had dispensation to delay full implementation until 2010 and decisions on the way forward will shortly be known.

This select committee has focused on the 'activities' strand of the Integrated Youth Support Strategy rather than on Information Advice and Guidance but is aware of potential changes to Connexions services as part of wider youth reforms in Kent and nationally, and that these changes offer both challenges and exciting opportunities to make youth support services more flexible and tailored to young people.

A review is currently being carried out to determine how in future Connexions-like IAG services will be offered in Kent and as a result there could be improved access to all types of youth support services through a number of different venues. There are a number of options available and Kent will be putting its arrangements in place by 2010. The funding for Connexions (around £11.4 million) came 'in house' in April 2008 and KCC currently commission them to provide services; Connexions then contract back with the Youth Service to deliver some services.

There are quality standards for Information Advice and Guidance as well as statutory targets on reducing the numbers of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) which have been delivered by Connexions through their Personal Advisers in two very different types of role: either careers-related roles, working for example with caseloads of several hundred young people in a number of schools who will be seen once a year for careers advice; or intensive support roles working with young people who may for example be in the care of the local authority, be disabled or have other special needs.

There are Connexions Access Points (CAPs) where young people can call in for advice during weekdays, in Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Dover, Folkestone, Gravesend, Margate, Maidstone, Ramsgate, Sittingbourne and Tonbridge. The focus is on information, advice and guidance in sometimes fairly formal settings and the select committee heard that Connexions services are not currently available in the evening or at weekends, though a project in Ashford - Sk8side has been open on Saturdays and young people there can take part in a 'range of positive activities' and have access to information about work and leisure, as well as pop in for sexual health advice in informal surroundings.

The select committee heard from senior youth worker Eddie Walsh about Info Zone in Maidstone where advice is delivered to young people in an informal setting combined with the opportunity to get involved in positive activities.

Maidstone Info Zone

Info Zone aims to provide a welcoming environment to young people who can access information, advice and guidance in an informal setting, as well as get a free cup of tea and meet other young people. The supportive relationships they form with staff are very important, particularly for those for whom Info Zone acts as a referring agent to the Trinity Foyer.

Since housing is often the focus of the advice needed there are tangible outcomes to be measured in terms of the number of young people rehoused. 16-24 year olds are also assisted to find employment along with Connexions who help with CV production.

There is a mix of advice work and evening social events and either one could lead to the young person accessing the other as well as telling friends about the place and coming back to use the social space or just for a cup of tea. Young people often want to do activities based on audio/visual arts and music and work on their own funding bids for the equipment that they would like.

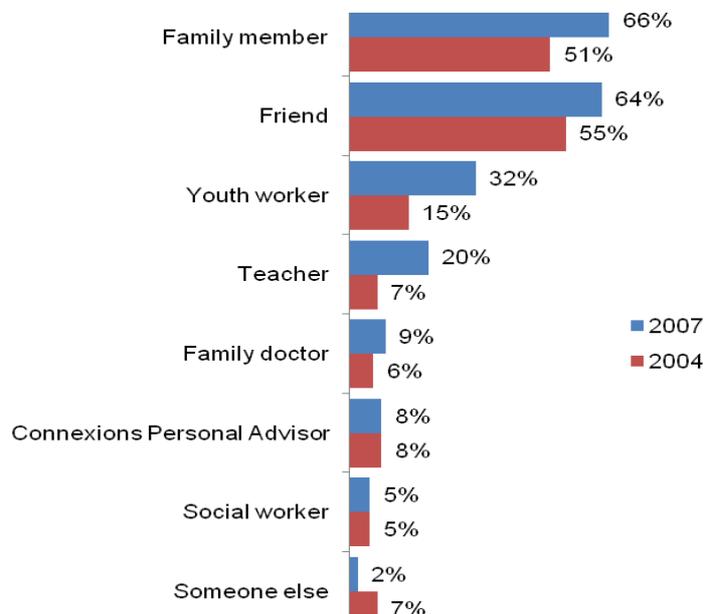
The 16plus group like to meet there since they can fit it in after college, from 3.30 until 6.00.

Info Zone hold a variety of programmes for schools and classes have come in on focus days which sometimes involve Kent Police and Health Agencies. Often advice given informally by youth workers is easier for young people to engage with. Staff also go out to schools and were recently involved in an event at St Simon Stock school attended by 120 young people from various groups. Staff from Info Zone also take services out to young people on the streets and engage with more during the summer months. Other street based youth projects in Maidstone refer young people into Info Zone for advice.

The idea that young people more readily engage with IAG given in an informal setting is backed up by the BMG research carried out in 2007. Most said they would prefer to go to informal sources for advice (such as friends and family members). However a third in the 2007 research mentioned youth workers as sources of advice or guidance which was more than double the number who mentioned this in similar research in 2004. Teachers were found

also to be a preferred source of guidance and in all 48% of respondents to the survey would consider going to a professional for help. Only 3% of young people said they would not go to any professional source. Figure 5 below shows sources of guidance reported by the young people in the two surveys.

Figure 5: Sources of guidance – over time Sample base: 2007 (902); 2004 (500)



RECOMMENDATION

That KCC, with its partners, considers how to increase the proportion of activities, as well as information advice and guidance, provided to young people in young-person centred surroundings, in locations accessible during evenings/weekends.

Appendix 1: Witnesses giving evidence in person

Ashmore, Simon – Project Manager, Lighthouse Project
Baddeley, Richard – Head Teacher, Swadelands School
Baker, Nigel - Head of Kent Youth Service
Barker, Amie – (previously with Youth Offending Service)
Barber, Norry - Duke of Edinburgh's Award Co-ordinator
Barron, Paul - Director, Kent Foundation
Bose, Andrew - Public Involvement & Communications Manager
Bride, Dan - County Crime Prevention Co-ordinator
Butler, Bill - Area Youth Officer, Thanet and Dover
Cameron, Mr & Mrs - parents
Chapman, Julie - Senior youth work practitioner
Clark, Sue - Chairman, Pegasus Play scheme
Clout, Barry - Executive Officer, Kent Council for Voluntary Youth Service
Davies, Tim - Practical Participation
Davis-Chapman, Chris - PAYP worker
Fitzgerald, Andrew – Founder, Lighthouse Project
Forde, Gary - Diversity Officer
Fulford, Simon - Regional Director, Princes Trust SE Region
Hayden, Richard - Senior Outdoor Education Adviser
Henn-Macrae, Rosemary - West Kent Manager, Disabled Children's Service
Holmes-Brown, Robbie - young person (Linwood Youth Centre)
John, Ms B - Parent
Johnson, Eve - Kent Youth
Kirk, Ian - Policy & Research Officer, Kent Youth Service
McGhie, John – Editor, Kent TV
Milner, Alan - Parents Consortium
Nix, Matthew - Chief Superintendent, Kent Police
Nunn, Jill - Assistant Head, Key Training
Nzou, Blade - Voluntary Youth Worker
Payne, Glynis - Aiming High for Disabled Children Programme Manager
Sales, Jane – County Youth Participation Co-ordinator
Sartain, Alex - Member of KYCC
Slaven, Angela - Director, Youth Services and KDAAT
Smith, Gerry - Detached youth worker
Snooks, Sue - Disabled Children's Register Co-ordinator
Staff and young people at Linwood Youth Centre
Staff and young people at Swadelands School
Staff and young people at Key Training, Wincheap
Stevens, Dr Alex - Senior Researcher, European Institute of Social Services
Tinsley, Rachel - Team Leader, Information & Resources
Walsh, Eddie - Area Youth Worker
Watson, Mr M - Registered Manager, Sunrise Centre
White, Madeleine - CreativeUK Solutions

White, Marisa – Head of Extended Services

Appendix 2: Names of people providing written or supplementary evidence

Baillie, Allan - Connexions Strategy Officer
Beaumont, Charlie - Effective Practice & Performance Officer
Bernstein, Alan - Independent Consultant
Billings, Jenny – Senior Researcher, Centre for Health Studies, University of Kent
Bishop, Michael - Kent Sports & Development Manager for Disabled People
Blackburn, Pascale - Project Officer, Kent Film Office & Kent TV
Brightwell, Paul - Policy & Performance Manager - Looked After Children
Bromley, Gill - Strategic Manager, Libraries & Archives
Brown, Gail – Arts Manager
Candy, Lisa – Youth of Generation
Carter, Jo - PAYP County Co-ordinator
Clarke, Jane - Head of Communications & Media Centre
Crilley, Des - Director of Community Cultural Services
Dadd, Richard – GIS Technician
Davies, Janet - Family and Lifelong Learning Services Manager
Doherty, Judy - Policy Manager – Communities Policy & Resources
Douch, Jane – The Mediation Service (has now taken up a different post)
Easton, Mark - Head of Key Training Services
Edwards, Judy - Director, Policy & Resources
Featherstone, Ray – Senior Youth Work Practitioner
Flory, Loic – Community Liaison Manager
Frazer, Julia – Maidstone Borough Council
Gough, Wayne - Staff Officer to the Managing Director
Harman, James – Executive Officer, Kent Resource Directory
Hatch, Noel - Projects & Research Lead, Innovation
Herron, Ruth – Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator (has now taken up a different post)
Jones, Helen – Commissioning Officer, CFE
Joyner, David – Sustainable Transport Manager
Lovelock, Chris - Chief Executive, Swale Carers
MacQuarrie, Bruce – Capital Strategy Manager
Morris, Sally - Head of Strategic Planning & Review
Mort, Anthony - Policy Manager, Policy & Performance
Park, Ian - Community Development & Social Inclusion Manager
Maidstone Borough Council
Phillips, Tom – Community Liaison Manager
Pyke, Dan - Detached youth worker
Ricci, Charlotte - Executive Support Officer To Director Of Health
Children And Young People (current position - previously with strategic planning)
Tonkin, Jo - Interim Young Persons Commissioning Manager, KDAAT

Turner, John - Assistant Head of Youth Service
Members of Greenhouse – KCC Younger Person's Staff Forum

Appendix 3: Visits undertaken as part of select committee review

11 th September	Conference: Aiming High for Young People – Delivering in Partnership
7 th October	Key Training, Wincheap
30 th October	Opening of Deal Skate Park & Linwood Youth Centre, Deal
4 th November	Engaging Youth Forum, Concorde Youth Centre, Ramsgate
5 th November	Sunrise Respite Centre, Southborough
7 th November	Silver Cross Youth Club, Allington
10 th November	Swadelands School, Lenham
25 th November	Conference: Unboxed – Positive Activities for Young People
22 nd January	Sheerness County Youth Club and Activity Centre

Appendix 4: Recent relevant KCC Select Committee Recommendations

[Accessing Democracy \(August 2008\)](#)

Recommendation 5

- a) Embrace democracy in secondary schools and school councils should be encouraged to operate through age range – advocate school councils in primary school.
- b) All elected members should be involved in schools democracy week
- c) Ensure all teaching staff are firmly encouraged to undertake Continuous Professional Development on democracy.
- d) Linkage between School Councils, Kent County Council and District, Town and Parish Councils should be promoted.**

[Alcohol Misuse \(March 2008\)](#)

Recommendation 23

The Select Committee supports the KCC Towards 2010 target 58 to work with off licence, pub and club owners to reduce alcohol fuelled crime and disorder, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse. In addition, we recommend that problems of drinking outside the curtilage of licensed premises should be addressed, **and that KCC should seek to discourage the practices of discounting alcoholic drinks, charging high prices for soft drinks and other strategies that could promote irresponsible drinking by all retail outlets.**

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that: KCC supports, where appropriate and after other measures have been explored, the establishment of alcohol free areas and of Alcohol Disorder Zones, which can require **premises failing to implement actions designed to reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour in their vicinity to contribute towards the cost of the additional policing necessary to suppress the disruption.** Kent Police, Trading Standards and other appropriate agencies should increase their efforts to identify retailers who supply alcohol to under age persons and ensure that penalties are applied.

Carers in Kent (January 2008)

Did not focus on leisure aspects or make recommendations in this regard but highlighted that young carers have restricted opportunities for leisure, relaxation, maintaining friendships and socialising outside of school. It noted also that where assessments take place they should take account of leisure aspects.

Transition to a Positive Future (April 2007)

Recommendation 1

That KCC work with all providers to increase the availability and choice of leisure facilities for young disabled people and promote and publicise 'taster sessions' to encourage participation.

Recommendation 9

That KCC, Connexions and partners identify how to use available resources more effectively to benefit young disabled people (including those with learning difficulties) in transition.

Appendix 5A: Data used to produce map – KCC Youth Service Venues

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	<u>Contact number</u>
Archers Court	Melbourne Avenue, Whitfield, Dover,	CT16 2EG	01304 820559
Artwise	St.Luke's Avenue, Ramsgate,	CT11 7HS	01843 584343
Ashford North	Essella Road, Ashford,	TN24 8AL	01233 636550
Aylesham	Ackholt Road, Aylesham,	CT3 3AJ	01304 840309
C@fe.IT	5 Grace Hill, Folkestone	CT20 1HA	01303 850005
Christchurch	Christchurch Sports Hall, Stanhope Road, Ashford,	TN23 5RQ	01233 628173
Concorde	High Street, St.Lawrence, Ramsgate,	CT11 0QG	01843 592014
Deal	Linwood, Mill Road, Deal,	CT14 9AH	01304 374140
Faversham	South House, 46 South Road, Faversham,	ME13 7LR	01795 532238
Highfield	Heath Lane, Dartford	DA 2JS	01322 291366
Hythe Youth Centre	Cinque Port Avenue, Hythe	CT21 6HS	01303 268588
InFoZoNe	3 Palace Avenue, Maidstone,	ME15 6NF	01622 755044
Lenham	Ham Lane, Lenham, Maidstone,	ME17 2QJ	01622 859171
Mascalls Youth Centre	Mascalls School, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood,	TN12 6LT	01892 835068
Miracles	Windsor Road, Gravesend,	DA12 5BW	01474 535989
New House	Chalkwell Road, Sittingbourne,	ME10 2LP	01795 423836
Nomad	The Pebbles, 55 High Street, Tenterden	TN308BD	01580 763554
Northfleet	Hall Road, Northfleet,	DA11 8AJ	01474 351451
Phase II	Station Road, New Romney	TN28 8BB	01797 362782
Quarterdeck	Zion Place, Margate,	CT9 1RP	01843 232873
Riverside	Kingsmead Road, Canterbury,	CT2 7PH	01227 464807
SAMAYS	Malling Road, Snodland,	ME6 5HS	01634 240638
Sheerness	The Broadway, Sheerness,	ME12 1TP	01795 662808
Shepway	Cumberland Avenue, Maidstone,	ME15 7JN	01622 754095
Sk8side	PO box 89, Tannery Lane, Ashford,	TN23 1XZ	01233 623223
Swan Valley	The Discovery Centre, Swan Valley Community School, Southfleet Road, Swanscombe,	DA10 0BZ	01322 623117
Thames Gateway South YMCA (pts with KYS)	The Roundhouse, Overy Street, Dartford	DA1 1UP	01322 220521
The "Junction" Swanley	Swanley Youth Centre, St Mary's Road, Swanley,	BR8 7BU	01322 662779
The Edenbridge Centre	Four Elms Road, Edenbridge,	TN8 6AD	01732 863152

[The Gr@nd
Whitstable Youth &
Sailing Centre](#)

**43 New Road, Gravesend,
Tower Parade, Whitstable,**

DA11 0AB
CT5 2BJ

01474 320220
01227 275178

Appendix 5B: Data used to produce map - Additional youth service projects

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	<u>Contact number</u>
Dartford Detached	Fleetdown Library, Swaledale Road, Dartford,	DA2 6JZ	01322 279231
Gravesham Detached	Northfleet Youth Centre, Hall Road, Northfleet,	DA11 8AJ	01474 351451
Ethnic Minority Worker	Miracles Youth Centre, Windsor Road, Gravesend,	DA12 5BW	01474 535989
Sevenoaks Detached	C/o The Bradbourne School, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks	TN13 3EJ	01732 465838
Tunbridge Wells Detached	C/o Mascalls Youth Centre, Mascalls School, Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood	TN12 6LT	01892 835068
Tunbridge Wells Rural Detached	C/o Cranbrook Library, Carriers Road, Cranbrook	TN17 3JT	01580 720465
Maidstone Rural Detached	C/o Lenham Youth Centre, Ham Lane, Lenham, Maidstone	ME17 2QJ	01622 859171
Malling Detached	C/o SAMAYS, Malling Road, Snodland	ME6 5HS	01634 240638
Tonbridge Detached	C/o Tonbridge Teen & Twenty, Riverlawn Road, Tonbridge	TN9 1EP	No number
Canterbury Detached	C/o Riverside Youth Centre, Kingsmead Road, Canterbury	CT2 7PH	01227 479954
Sheppey Inter-Agency Project	C/o Swale Foyer, Bridge Road, Sheerness	ME12 1RH	01795 665733
Young Traveller Project	Christchurch Youth Centre, Stanhope Road, Ashford	TN23 5RQ	01233 662925
Thanet Detached	C/o Artwise Youth Centre, St.Luke's Avenue, Ramsgate,	CT11 7HS	01843 850547
East Kent Coalfields	C/o Area Youth Office, Linwood, Mill Road, Deal,	CT14 9AH	01304 374140
Folkestone Youth Project	c/o Grace Hill, Folkestone	CT20 1HA	01303 850005

Appendix 5C: Data used to produce map- Adventure

Adrenaline Skydiving	Adventures	25 High Street, Headcorn	TN27 9NH
Airborne Headcorn Ltd	Adventures	Headcorn Aerodrome	TN27 9HX
Bayford Meadows (Karting)		Symmonds Drive, Sittingbourne	ME10 3RY
Bewl Water Outdoor Centre		Bewl Water, Lamberhurst	TN3 8JH
Buckmore Park Karting Ltd		Maidstone Road, Chatham	ME5 9QG
John Nike Liesuresport Ltd		Chatham Ski Centre, Alpine Park, Capstone Road, Gillingham	ME7 3JH
Diggerland Kent		Roman Way, Medway Valley Leisure Park, Strood	ME2 2NU
Go Ape		Bedgebury Forest Visitors Centre, Bedgebury Road, Goudhurst, Cranbrook	TN17 2SJ
Go Ape!		Leeds Castle, Maidstone	ME17 1PL
LAZER RUSH		45a Joseph Wilson Estate, Millstrood Road, Whitstable	CT5 3PS
Lydd International Raceway (Karting)		Dengemarsh Road, Lydd	TN29 9JH
Paintball Kent		Gracious Lane, Sevenoaks	TN14 6HR
Paintball Warrior		Birches Wood, Wissenden Lane, Bethersden	TN26 3AJ
Skybus Ballooning		The Guard House, Headcorn, Maidstone	TN27 9HX
Thanet Squadron, Air Training Corps		The Drill Hall, 69 Victoria Road	CT9 1NA
Treejumpers Outdoor Multi Activity Centre		Woodland Park School Lane Three Gates Road Longfield	DA3 8NZ

Appendix 5D: Data used to produce map- Cinemas

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Postcode</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
Carlton Cinema	25-29, St. Mildreds Rd, Westgate-On-Sea	CT8 8RE	01843 832019
Cineworld	Eureka Entertainment Centre, Ashford	TN25 4BN	08712 208000
Dreamland Cinemas	Marine Terrace, Margate	CT9 1XL	01843 227822
Empire Cinemas	Delf St, Sandwich	CT13 9HB	01304 620480
Flicks	32-36 Queen Street, Deal	CT14 6EY	01304 361165
Granville Cinema & Theatre	Victoria Parade, Ramsgate	CT11 8DG	01843 591750
Gravesend Cinema Film and Theatre	Woodville Halls, Woodville Place, Gravesend	DA12 1DD	01474 337774
Hever Cinema Film And Theatre	Hever Castle, Edenbridge	TN8 7NG	01732 866114
Kavanagh Cinema	William St, Herne Bay	CT6 5NX	08451 662384
Kino Hawkhurst	Victoria Hall, Rye Rd, Hawkhurst, Cranbrook	TN18 4ET	01580 754321
New Century Cinema	High Street, Sittingbourne	ME10 4PG	01795 426018
ODEON Canterbury, Royal Cinema	43/45 St George's Place, 9, Market Place, Faversham	CT1 1UP ME13 7AG	08712 244007 01795 535551
Showcase Cinemas	Unit Msu4, Water Circus, Bluewater, Greenhithe	DA9 9SG	08712 201000
Silver Screen Cinema	Gaol Lane, Market Square, Dover	CT16 1LZ	01304 228000
Silver Screen Cinema	Guildhall Street, Folkestone	CT20 1DY	01303 221230
Southern Cinema	Angel Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge	TN9 1SF	01732 359966
Stag Theatre Ltd	London Road, Sevenoaks	TN13 1ZZ	01732 450175
The Odeon Cinema Complex	Knights Park, Knights Way, Tunbridge Wells	TN2 3UW	08712 244007
The Picture House	Top of High Street, Uckfield, East Sussex	TN22 1AS	01825 764909
UGC Cinemas	Medway Valley Leisure Park, Chariot Way, Rochester	ME2 2SS	08712 002000
Vue	Westwood Cross, Thanet	CT12 5GR	08712 240 240
Windsor Cinema	Harbour Street, Broadstairs	CT10 1ET	01843 865726

Appendix 5E: Data used to produce map-Sports/Leisure Centres

Name	Address	Postcode
<u>Angel Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Angel Lane, Tonbridge	TN9 1SF
<u>Bannatyne's Health Club</u>	Westwood Farm, Westwood Road, Broadstairs	CT10 2NR
<u>Bannatyne's Health Club</u>	Shearway Business Park, Folkestone	CT19 4RH
<u>Bannatyne's Health Club</u>	Unit 2, Lower Terrace, Eureka Leisure Park, Ashford	TN25 4BN
<u>Black Lion Leisure Centre</u>	Mill Road, Gillingham	ME7 1HF
<u>Cascades Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Thong Lane, Gravesend	DA12 4LG
<u>Crook Log Sports Centre</u>	Brampton Road, Bexleyheath	DA7 4HH
<u>Cygnets Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Old Perry Road, Northfleet, Gravesend	DA11 8BU
<u>Darwin Sports Centre</u>	Jail Lane, Biggin Hill,	TN16 3AU
<u>Dover Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Townwall Street, Dover	CT16 1LN
<u>Edenbridge Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Stangrove Park, Edenbridge, Kent,	TN8 5LU
<u>Fairfield Pool & Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Lowfield Street, Dartford	DA1 1JB
<u>Folkestone Sports Centre (Local Council)</u>	Radnor Park Avenue, Folkestone	CT19 5HX
<u>Hartsdown Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Hartsdown Park, Hartsdown Road, Margate	CT9 5QX
<u>Herons Swimming Pool (Local Council)</u>	William Street, Herne Bay	CT6 5NX
<u>Hundred of Hoo Pool (Local Council)</u>	Main Road, Hoo, Rochester	ME3 9EY
<u>Hythe Swimming Pool (Local Council)</u>	Sea Front South Road, Kent, Hythe	CT21 6AR
<u>King's Recreation Centre</u>	St. Stephen's, Canterbury	CT2 7HU
<u>Kingsmead Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Kingsmead Road, Canterbury	CT2 7PH
<u>Larkfield Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	New Hythe Lane, Larkfield	ME20 6RH
<u>Maidstone Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Mote Park, Maidstone	ME15 7RN
<u>Meopham Fitness & Tennis Leisure Centre</u>	Wrotham Rd, Meopham, Gravesend	DA13 0AH
<u>Nobby's Gym</u>	Vicarage Road, Milton Regis, Sittingbourne	ME10 2BL
<u>Park Farm Recreation Centre</u>	Field View, Ashford	TN23 3NZ
<u>Pavilion Leisure Centre</u>	Kentish Way, Bromley	BR1 3EF
<u>Pier Sports Centre</u>	Central Parade, Herne Bay	CT6 5JN
<u>Poult Wood Golf Centre</u>	Higham Lane, Tonbridge	TN11 9QR
<u>Princess Golf & Leisure Centre</u>	Darenth Road, Dartford	DA1 1LZ
<u>Putlands Sport and Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Mascalls Court Road, Paddock Wood	TN12 6NZ

<u>Ramsgate Sports Centre (Local Council)</u>	High Street, Ramsgate	CT11 9TT
<u>Ramsgate Swimming Pool (Local Council)</u>	Warre Recreation Ground, Newington Road, Ramsgate	CT11 0QX
<u>Sevenoaks Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Buckhurst Lane, Sevenoaks	TN13 1LW
<u>Sheppey Leisure Centre & Healthy Living Centre (Local Council)</u>	Off the Broadway, Sheerness	ME12 1HH
<u>Sittingbourne Community College Sports Centre</u>	Swanstree Avenue, Sittingbourne	ME10 4NL
<u>Splashes Leisure Pool (Local Council)</u>	Cozenton Park, Rainham	ME8 7EG
<u>Stour Centre (Local Council)</u>	Tannery Lane, Ashford	TN23 1PL
<u>Swallows Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Central Avenue, Sittingbourne	ME10 4NT
<u>Swanmead Sports Association</u>	Swanmead Sports Ground, Swanmead Way, Tonbridge	TN9 1PT
<u>Swanscombe Sports Club (Local Council)</u>	The Grove, Swanscombe	DA10 0AD
<u>Tenterden Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Recreation Ground Rd, Tenterden	TN30 6RA
<u>The Pier Sports Centre (Local Council)</u>	Central Parade, Herne Bay	CT6 5JN
<u>The Spa at Beckenham</u>	24 Beckenham Road, Beckenham	BR3 4LS
<u>Tunbridge Wells Sports & Indoor Tennis Centre</u>	St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells	TN4 9TX
<u>Uplands Sports Centre</u>	Lower High Street, Wadhurst, E Sussex	TN5
<u>Valley Leisure Centre (The VLC)</u>	Tile Kiln Lane, Folkestone	CT19 4PB
<u>Walnuts Leisure Centre</u>	Lynchgate Road, Orpington	BR6 0TJ
<u>Westborough Sports Centre</u>	Oakwood Park, Tonbridge Road, Maidstone	ME16 8AE
<u>White Oak Leisure Centre (Local Council)</u>	Hilda May Avenue, Swanley	BR8 7BT
<u>Whitstable Swimming Pool (Local Council)</u>	Tower Parade, Whitstable	CT5 2BJ
<u>Wilderness Sports Centre</u>	Seal Hollow Road, Sevenoaks	TN13 3SL

Appendix 5F: Data used to produce map – Air Training Corps

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Postcode</u>
305 (Ashford)	Rowcroft Barracks, Chart Road, Ashford	TN233HX
359 (Bexleyheath)	TA Centre, Watling Street, Bexleyheath	DA6 7QQ
2427 (Biggin Hill)	RAF Enclave, Biggin Hill, Westerham	TN163ED
228 (Bromley)	St Hughes Playing Fields, Bickley Rd, Bromley	BR1 2ND
312 (City of Canterbury)	Cossington Road, Canterbury	CT1 3HU
1404 (Chatham)	1404 (Chatham) Boundary Road, Chatham	ME4 6TS
1051 (Dartford)	1051 (Dartford) Heath Lane, (Lower) Dartford	DA1 2QH
2235 (Deal)	2235 (Deal) The Old Drill Hall, Hope Road, Deal	CT147DF
2374 (Ditton)	2374 (Ditton) The Drill Hall, TA Centre, London Rd, Maidstone	ME206DB
354 (Dover)	Albert Road, Dover	CT161RD
340 (Edenbridge)	340 (Edenbridge) Eden Valley School, Four Elms Road, Edenbridge	TN8 6AD
1579 (Erith)	1579 (Erith School) Erith School, Avenue Rd, Erith	DA8 3BN
1242 (Faversham)	1242 (Faversham) The Drill Hall, TA Centre, Preston St, Faversham	ME138PG
99 (Folkestone)	Ship Street, Folkestone	CT195BE
1039 (Gillingham)	Marlborough Road, Gillingham	ME7 5HB
402 (Gravesend)	92 Wrotham Road, Gravesend	DA110QQ
500 (Headcorn)	The Aerodrome, Shenley Road, Headcorn	TN279HX
1063 (Herne Bay)	Venture House, 3 Hanover Square, William Street, Herne Bay	CT6 5NY
578 (Langley Park)	Langley Park School for Boys, Hawksbrook Lane, off South Eden Park Road, Beckenham	BR3 3BP
2511 (Longfield School)	Longfield School, Main Road, Longfield	DA3 7PH
578 (Langley Park)	Langley Park School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham	BR3 3BP
40F (Maidstone)	Yeomanry Cottages, Boxley Road, Maidstone	ME142AP
173 (Orpington)	TAVR Centre, Anglesea Road, St Mary Cray	BR5 4AN
173 (Orpington)	RFCA Centre, Anglesea Road, St Mary Cray, Orpington	BR5 4AW
25 (Parkwood)	Deanwood CP Infant School, Long Catlis Road, Parkwood, Rainham, Gillingham	ME8 9TE
1903 (Penge)	290 Kent House Road, Beckenham	BR3 1JG
2433 (Ramsgate)	MOD FSCTE, Manston Fire School, Manston	CT125BS
213 (City of Rochester)	Wainscott School, Wainscott Road, Wainscott	ME2 4JY
2513 (Romney Marsh)	Southlands School, Station Road, New Romney	TN288BB
2158 (Sevenoaks)	Argyle Road, Sevenoaks	TN131HJ
2316 (Sheppey)	Granville Place, Sheerness	ME121QR

2230 (Sittingbourne)	Westlands School, Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne	ME107PF
593 (Swanley)	Crawfords, College Road, Hextable	BR8 7LT
438 (Thanet)	The Drill Hall, 69 Victoria Road, Margate	CT9 1NA
2520 (Tonbridge)	St Stephens CP Infant School, Hectorage Road, Tonbridge	TN9 2DR
129 (Tunbridge Wells)	TAVR Centre, St John's Road, Tunbridge Wells	TN4 9HH
358 (Welling)	Berwick Road, Welling	DA1 6XX

Appendix 5G: Data used to produce map - Libraries

LIBRARY	ADDRESS1	ADDRESS2	POSTCODE
Allington Library	Castle Road	Allington	ME1 60PR
Ash Library	Ash Village Hall	Queen's Road	CT3 2BG
Ashen Drive Library	Ashen Drive	Dartford	DA1 3LY
Ashford Library	Church Road	Ashford	TN231QX
Aylesham Library	Aylesham Community Centre	Ackholt Road	CT3 3AJ
Bearsted Library	The Green	Bearsted	ME144DN
Birchington Library	Alpha Road	Birchington	CT7 9EG
Bockhanger Library	Bockhanger Community Centre	Bockhanger Court	TN249JE
Borough Green Library	High Street	Borough Green	TN158BJ
Boughton Library	Village Hall	Boughton-under- Blean	ME139JF
Broadstairs Library	The Broadway	Broadstairs	CT102BS
Canterbury Library	High Street	Canterbury	CT1 2JF
Charing Library	Market Place	Charing	TN270LR
Cheriton Library	Cheriton High Street	Folkestone	CT194HB
Cliftonville Library	Queen Elizabeth Avenue	Cliftonville	CT9 3JX
Coldharbour Library	Coldharbour Road	Northfleet	DA118AE
County Central Lending Library	Springfield	Maidstone	ME142LH
Coxheath Library	Heath Road	Coxheath	ME174EH
Cranbrook Library	Carriers Road	Cranbrook	TN173JT
Dartford Library	Central Park	Dartford	DA1 1EU
Dashwood Library	Dashwood Road	Gravesend	DA117LY
Deal Library	Broad Street	Deal	CT146ER
Dover Library	Dover Discovery Centre	Market Square	CT161PH
East Peckham Library	3 Pound Road	East Peckham	TN125AU
Edenbridge Library	Church Street	Edenbridge	TN8 5BD
Faversham Library	Newton Road	Faversham	ME138DY
Fleetdown Library	Swaledale Road	Dartford	DA2 6JZ
Folkestone Library	2 Grace Hill	Folkestone	CT201HD
Gravesend Library	Windmill Street	Gravesend	DA121BE
Greenhithe Library	London Road	Greenhithe	DA9 9EJ
Hadlow Library	School Lane	Hadlow	TN110EH

Hartley Library	Ash Road	Hartley	DA3 8EL
Hawkhurst Library	Rye Road	Highgate	TN184EY
Headcorn Library	King's Road	Headcorn	TN279QT
Herne Bay Library	124 High Street	Herne Bay	CT6 5JY
Higham Library	Villa Road	Higham	ME3 7BS
Hildenborough Library	Riding Lane	Hildenborough	TN119HX
Hive House Library	10-11 The Hive	Hive Lane	DA119DE
Hythe Library	1 Stade Street	Hythe	CT216BQ
Kemsing Library	Dippers Close	Kemsing	TN156QD
King's Farm Library	Sun Lane	Gravesend	DA125HR
Larkfield Library	Martin Square	Larkfield	ME206QW
Lenham Library	11 The Limes	The Square	ME172PQ
Longfield Library	49 Main Road	Longfield	DA3 7QT
Lydd Library	Old School	Skinner Road	TN299HN
Lyminge Library	7-9 Station Road	Lyminge	CT188HS
Madginford Library	Egremont Road	Madginford	ME158LH
Maidstone Library	St Faith's Street	Maidstone	ME141LH
Marden Library	High Street	Marden	TN129DP
Margate Library	Cecil Square	Margate	CT9 1RE
Marling Cross Library	266 Mackenzie Way	Gravesend	DA125TY
Meopham Library	Wrotham Road	Meopham	DA130AH
Minster-in-Sheppey Library	Worcester Close	Minster-in-Sheppey	ME123NP
Minster-in-Thanet Library	4a Monkton Road	Minster-in-Thanet	CT124EA
New Ash Green Library	New Ash Green		DA3 8QT
New Romney Library	82 High Street	New Romney	TN288AU
Newington Library	Newington Road	Ramsgate	CT126PX
Otford Library	High Street	Otford	TN145PH
Paddock Wood Library	9 Commercial Road	Paddock Wood	TN126EN
Pembury Library	The Hop House	Henwood Green Road	TN2 4HS
Queenborough Library	Railway Terrace	Queenborough	ME115AY
Ramsgate Library	Guildford Lawn	Ramsgate	CT119AY
Riverhead Library	31 London Road	Riverhead	TN132BU
Riverview Park Library	The Alma	Leander Drive	DA124NG
Rusthall Library	High Street	Rusthall	TN4 8RZ
Sandgate Library	James Morris Court	Sandgate High Street	CT203RR
Sandwich Library	13 Market Street	Sandwich	CT139DA
Seal Library	High Street	Seal	TN150AL
Sevenoaks Library	Buckhurst Lane	Sevenoaks	TN131LQ
Sheerness Library	Russell Street	Sheerness	ME121PL
Shepway Library	17 Northumberland Court	Northumberland Road	ME157LW
Sherwood Library	Greggs Wood Road	Sherwood	TN2 3JG
Showfields Library	Showfields Road	Tunbridge Wells	TN2 5PR
Sittingbourne Library	Central Avenue	Sittingbourne	ME104AH
Snodland Library	15-17 High Street	Snodland	ME6 5DA
Southborough Library	Yew Tree Road	Southborough	TN4 0BA

St John's Library	St John's Primary School	Bayham Road	TN133XD
St Margaret's-at-Cliffe Library	Community Centre	Kingsdown Road	CT156BB
Stanhope Library	Stanhope Square	Ashford	TN235SH
Staplehurst Library	The Parade	High Street	TN120LA
Sturry Library	Chafy Crescent	Sturry	CT2 0BA
Summerhouse Drive Library	Summerhouse Drive	Bexley	DA5 2EE
Sutton-at-Hone Library	Main Road	Sutton-at-Hone	DA4 9HS
Swalecliffe Library	78 Herne Bay Road	Swalecliffe	CT5 2LX
Swan Valley Library	Swan Valley Community School	Southfleet Road	DA100BZ
Swanley Library	London Road	Swanley	BR8 7AE
Temple Hill Library	Temple Hill Square	Dartford	DA1 5HY
Tenterden Library	55 High Street	Tenterden	TN306BD
Teynham Library	London Road	Teynham	ME9 9QJ
Tonbridge Library	Avebury Avenue	Tonbridge	TN9 1TG
Tonbridge North Library	5 York Parade	Tonbridge	TN103NP
Tunbridge Wells Library	Mount Pleasant Road	Tunbridge Wells	TN1 1NS
Vigo Library	The Bay	Village Hall	DA130TD
West Kingsdown Library	Gamecock Meadow	London Road	TN156BZ
West Malling Library	22-24 High Street	West Malling	ME196QR
Westerham Library	London Road	Westerham	TN161BD
Westgate Library	Minster Road	Westgate-on-Sea	CT8 8BP
Whitstable Library	31-33 Oxford Street	Whitstable	CT5 1DB
Wood Avenue Library	Wood Avenue	Folkestone	CT196HS
Wye Library	6 Upper Bridge Street	Wye	TN255AF
Yalding Library	Adin Coates House	High Street	ME186HU

Appendix 5H: Data used to produce map – Sea Cadets

Name	Address	Postcode
Ashford	Rowcroft Barracks, Chart Road, Ashford	TN23 3HX
Canterbury	Puckle Lane, Canterbury	CT1 3JX
Dover	T.S. Lynx 108, Old Broadlees School, Upper Road, Dover	CT16 1HW
Faversham	Conduit Street, Faversham, Kent	ME13 7DF
Gravesend	Old Caretakers House, North West Kent College, Dering Way, Gravesend	DA12 2JJ
Herne Bay	Hampton Pier, Herne Bay	CT6 8EP
Maidstone	Master Towers, College Road, Maidstone	ME15 6YF
Margate	Hartsdown Park, Hartsdown Road, Margate	CT9 5QX
Medway Towns	SE RFCA Centre, Collingwood Block, Khyber Road, Brompton Barracks, Chatham	ME4 4UT
New Romney	The Greens, Littlestone, New Romney	TN28 8DR

Sheppey	Bartons Point, Sheerness	ME12 2BX
Tunbridge Wells	Albion Road, Tunbridge Wells	TN1 2PF
Westerham	The Drill Hall, High Street, Westerham	TN16 1RF
Whitstable	Bonnors Alley, Whitstable	CT5 1BL

Appendix 6: - Kent Freedom Pass - Extract from Terms and Conditions 2008/09

The Kent Freedom Pass (hereinafter referred to as KFP) remains the property of Kent County Council. Payment of the fee (currently £50) and submission of an application form is deemed to be acceptance of these Terms and Conditions. The fee is a one-off charge and does not vary during the period until August 2009, irrespective of the date of application. No refunds shall be made under any circumstances.

Eligible persons

A pupil in academic year groups 7 - 11 from September 2008, resident within the administrative boundary of Kent County Council and enrolled at a school in a scheme area is eligible to apply. A pupil enrolled at a school outside of a scheme area, but attending an educational establishment in a scheme area on a part-time basis is not eligible to apply. A pupil enrolled at an educational establishment in a scheme area but not one specified in the list of Pilot Schools (including home-schooled pupils), is not eligible to apply. Students moving to a pilot school after 2 June will not be issued a pass until they are attending the school.

Care Leavers:

Applicants must live within a scheme area and have their application endorsed by Rainer Kent Services within the Children, Families and Education directorate. Care leavers can apply for a pass until the end of the scheme year in which they reach the age of 20. Rainer Kent Services will meet the £50 administration fee.

Young People in Care:

Applicants must live within a scheme area and have their form endorsed by Rainer Kent Services within the Children, Families and Education directorate. They are eligible until the scheme year in which they reach the age of 18. For those in residential care, Rainer Kent Services will meet the £50 administration fee. For those in foster care, the foster carer, through the young person's transport allowance, must cover the administration fee.

Companion Passes:

These passes are available to students attending a pilot school and living within Maidstone Borough only. Applicants must be in receipt of Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, proof of which is required with each application. The Pass issued will allow the student to travel with a companion without charge, however the companion cannot travel on his or her own or remain on the vehicle after the Pass holder has alighted. The standard £50 charge applies, and the applicant must meet all other scheme criteria.

Educated at Home:

Applicants must live within a scheme area and be registered as Educated at Home with the Admissions and Transport team within the Children, Families and Education directorate. There is no need to have the application form endorsed prior to submission, as this will be checked as part of processing the application. Any applicant not registered as Educated at Home, may be subject to further investigation by the Children, Families and Education directorate.

Any correspondence should be addressed to:

Kent Freedom Pass
Sustainable Transport
Kent Highway Services
1st Floor Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone ME14 1XX
Telephone: 08458 247 247
Email: kentfreedompass@kent.gov.uk

Appendix 7: Kent Freedom Pass – Participating Operators – January 2009

The following list details all local bus operators that will accept the Kent Freedom Pass. Please note that these operators may also run services that are not included in the scheme, such as private hire contracts or services wholly in another council's area.

Arriva+	Grangeville
AMK	Griffin Bus
ASD Transport	Hams Travel
Autocar	High Rocks
Bigfield's Coaches	Jaycrest
Brighton & Hove Bus & Coach Co	Jempsons
Brookline Coaches	KCC Passenger Services
Buzzlines	Kent Coach Tours
Cardinal Coaches	Kent Top Travel
Carr (AJ & NM)	The King's Ferry
Chalkwell	Kingsman International
Clarke's of London	Lehane Travel
Clarke's Minibuses	Lewis Travel
Classic Omnibus	Manns Travel
Coastal Coaches	Marshopper
Countryliner	Meopham Community Bus
County Town Coaches	Metrobus
Crosskeys Coaches	New Enterprise
Eastbourne Buses	Nu-Venture
Eastonways	Owen's
Ensign Bus	P&O
Farleigh Coaches	Poynters Coaches
Flights Hallmark	Redroute

Regent Coaches
Renown Coaches
Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway
Royal Mail Postbus
Sam's Taxis
C D Smith

Southdown PSV
Spot Hire
Stagecoach*
TT Travel
West Kent Buses
Zee

Bus

+ Maidstone Borough Council's Park & Ride services, operated by Arriva, do not accept the Kent Freedom Pass

* Stagecoach enforces certain restrictions in order to manage capacity within their network of services, such as on services 4X and 6X (Herne Bay to Canterbury) and 160 (Hythe to Folkestone). Alternative services are available - please contact Stagecoach for details (0870 243 3711). Although London Buses (TfL) do not accept the Kent Freedom Pass for travel, 11 – 15 year olds can apply for an Oystercard, which gives free travel on their services, within Kent and across the whole of Greater London. Application forms are available from Post Offices and for further information please contact TfL on 0845 330 9876 or visit www.tfl.gov.uk. Operators of registered services that are not open to the public and therefore not included in the scheme:

MTC, Roberts, Scotland & Bates

Appendix 8: Kent Freedom Pass - Participating Schools

Pilot Schools – June 2007 onwards

Canterbury

A C P (Riverside Centre)
A R C (Aylesham)
A R C (Canterbury)
Barton Court Grammar School
Canterbury High School
Canterbury Steiner School
Chartham LR Centre
Chaucer Technology College
East Kent Hospital School
Greenfinch Education Centre
Grosvenor House – Herne Bay
Herne Bay High School
Junior King's School
Kent College (Canterbury)
Orchard School
Prince of Wales Youth Centre
Project 15
Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys
Simon Langton Grammar School for Girls
Spires Academy (previously Montgomery School)
Star Challenge Project
St Anselm's Catholic School
St Edmund's School
St Nicholas' School

Stafford House College
The Archbishops School
The Community College, Whitstable
The Kings School
Voices

Tunbridge Wells

A C P (Ridgeway)
Angley School – A Sports College
Apex Project
Bedgebury School
Beechwood Sacred Heart School
Benenden School
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School
Bethany School
Broomhill Bank School
Charles Street Centre
Cranbrook School
Dulwich Preparatory School
Holmewood House School
Kent College Pembury
Marlborough House School
Mascalls School
Oakley School
Rose Hill School
St Gregory's Catholic Comprehensive School
St Ronan's School

The Skinners' School
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys
Tunbridge Wells High School
West Kent Health Needs Education Service
Yardley Court

Tonbridge

A R C Tonbridge
A C P (West Kent College)
Hilden Grange School
Hillview School for Girls

Extension Schools – June 2008 onwards (Tonbridge &) Malling (in addition to those above)

Aylesford School
Grange Park College
Holmesdale Community School
Malling School
Wrotham School

Shepway

A C P (Folkestone)
A R C (Folkestone)
Brockhill Park School
Brook Education Centre
Environmental Therapy Project
Folkestone Academy (previously Channel
School)
Folkestone School for Girls
Foxwood School
Harvey Boys Grammar
Highview School
Marsh Academy (previously Southlands)
Oakwood School (Folkestone,
Independent)
Pent Valley High School
St Marys Westbrook
Threshold (Folkestone)
Warm Stone Project

Maidstone

A C P (Maidstone, Shepway Estate)
A R C (Maidstone)
Astor of Hever
Bower Grove School
Cedars PRU
Charlton Court School
Cornwallis School
Dandelion Trust
Five Acre Wood School
Gatland House
Invicta Grammar School
Kings Reach

Horizon Project - Tonbridge
Hugh Christie Technology College
Ridge View School
Sackville School
The Hayesbrook School
The Judd School
Tonbridge Grammar School
Tonbridge School
Weald of Kent Grammar School for Girls
West Kent Health Needs Education Service
YWCA

Link Employment Services
Maidstone Grammar School for Girls
Maidstone Grammar School
Maplesden Noakes
Oakwood Park Grammar
Oldborough Manor (New Line Learning)
Senacre (New Line Learning)
Shepway Youth & Community Centre
St Simon Stock
Sutton Valence School
Swadelands School
Threshold (Howard de Warden YC)
Threshold (Maidstone)
Threshold (Ringlestone)
Up 2 U
Valley Park Community
West Kent Health Needs Education Service
Youth & Adult Training Centre, Bedford
Place

Dover

A C P (Dover)
Archers Court School
Aspen Unit II
Astor College
Brewood Centre
Castle Community School
Concept Training
Connexions (Dover)
Dover Boys Grammar
Dover College*
Dover Girls Grammar
Duke of York's Royal Military School
Harbour School
Learning Opportunities Centre (Ringwould)
MXCP (Dover)
Northbourne Park
Old School (Capel)
Old School (St Margarets)
Portal House
Ripplevale School
Sandwich Technology School

Sir Roger Manwoods School
South Kent College – New Start Centre
St Edmunds (Dover)
Threshold (Dover)
Triangles Community Centre

Up 2 U (Deal)
Up 2 U (Dover)
YMCA (Dover)
Walmer School

*Dover College students are eligible to apply, but the pass is not accepted on transport operated by Dover College

Phase 3 Schools – January 2009 onwards

Swale

Abbey School
A R C Sheerness
Borden Grammar School
Boulton Learning and Skills Centre
Challenger Project Centre
Cheyne Middle School
Danley Middle School
Fulston Manor School
Highsted Grammar School
Hill View School
Hythe House Education
Integrated Services Programme
Meadowfield School
Minster College
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School
Sittingbourne Community College
St George's CE Middle School
Threshold Learning Centre
Westlands School

Charles Dickens School
Chatham House Grammar School
Clarendon House Grammar School
Dane Court Grammar School
Ellington School for Girls
Foreland School
Hartsdown Technology College
Hereson School
King Ethelbert School
Laleham Gap School
Marlowe Academy
Northwood Centre
Project 15 (Ramsgate)
St Anthony's School
St George's CE Foundation School
St Lawrence College
Stone Bay
Ursuline College
Thanet College
Wellesley House
Westwood Project
Westwood School (NCH)

Thanet

A C P Thanet

Appendix 9: District Youth Websites

(Other sites may also be available)

www.whatmattersashford.co.uk (Ashford)

www.notbored.net (Canterbury)

www.dartford.gov.uk/youth/index (Dartford)

www.doverdc.co.uk/community/youth_services (Dover)

www.digitalmaidstone.co.uk/community/sports_play_youth (Maidstone)

www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/leisure_culture/young_people

[Youth Club - Shepway District Council](http://www.shepway.gov.uk) (www.shepway.gov.uk)

www.boredinswale.co.uk (Swale)

www.thaneyouthmatters.co.uk (Thanet)

www.tmyouth.org.uk (Tonbridge & Malling)

www2.tunbridgewells.gov.uk (Tunbridge Wells youth pages)

Appendix 10: National Youth Agency 2007-8 Comparative Finance Data

(Source: National Youth Agency – please note footnotes here are those of NYA)

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Gross expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶⁰	Rank	Net expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶¹	Rank	Net expenditure as a proportion of education expenditure ¹⁶²	Rank
BARNET	£114	70 of 118	£51	112 of 118	0.55%	109 of 110
BARNSELY	£131	51 of 118	£116	21 of 118	1.41%	17 of 110
BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET	£100	83 of 118	£75	72 of 118	1.03%	58 of 110
BEDFORDSHIRE	£67	114 of 118	£52	110 of 118	0.61%	106 of 110
BIRMINGHAM	£96	88 of 118	£71	82 of 118	0.73%	99 of 110
BLACKPOOL	£140	47 of 118	£64	98 of 118	0.78%	97 of 110
BOLTON	£117	63 of 118	£95	39 of 118	1.07%	53 of 110
BOURNEMOUTH	£147	37 of 118	£124	15 of 118	1.65%	11 of 110
BRACKNELL FOREST	£107	76 of 118	£71	84 of 118	1.01%	61 of 110
BRADFORD	£148	35 of 118	£86	54 of 118	0.93%	75 of 110
BRENT	£235	10 of 118	£94	40 of 118	0.74%	98 of 110
BRIGHTON AND HOVE	£140	48 of 118	£90	48 of 118	NA	NA

¹⁶⁰ In addition to the mainstream local authority youth service expenditure this includes other funding received by the youth service from local authority and other area-based sources, from national government and from other national and international bodies. It excludes income such as lettings, membership fees and coffee bar income.

¹⁶¹ We (NYA) use figures provided to us on mainstream net youth service expenditure. We provide guidance on what should (e.g. employees, premises and transport) and should not (e.g. some third party payments and capital financing) be included but we are aware that some authorities count expenditure differently from others.

¹⁶² Refers to the net current expenditure for education. The line reference is 105 (m) of the Section 52 Outturn Statements 2007-08.

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Gross expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶⁰	Rank	Net expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶¹	Rank	Net expenditure as a proportion of education expenditure ¹⁶²	Rank
BRISTOL	£153	33 of 118	£116	20 of 118	1.53%	13 of 110
BROMLEY	£71	111 of 118	£52	111 of 118	0.60%	107 of 110
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	£125	55 of 118	£73	77 of 118	0.83%	90 of 110
BURY	£115	67 of 118	£95	37 of 118	1.21%	35 of 110
CALDERDALE	£174	22 of 118	£98	33 of 118	1.06%	54 of 110
CAMBRIDGESHIRE	£64	115 of 118	£41	118 of 118	0.59%	108 of 110
CITY OF LONDON	£1,657	1 of 118	£1,657	1 of 118	11.57%	1 of 110
CORNWALL	£116	65 of 118	£84	58 of 118	NA	NA
COVENTRY	£120	58 of 118	£81	62 of 118	0.95%	72 of 110
CROYDON	£105	77 of 118	£80	65 of 118	0.92%	76 of 110
CUMBRIA	£109	74 of 118	£89	51 of 118	1.23%	30 of 110
DARLINGTON	£142	45 of 118	£124	16 of 118	1.78%	9 of 110
DERBY	£143	42 of 118	£80	66 of 118	1.20%	36 of 110
DERBYSHIRE	£87	98 of 118	£70	87 of 118	0.89%	81 of 110
DEVON	£116	66 of 118	£84	59 of 118	1.14%	43 of 110
DONCASTER	£144	41 of 118	£85	57 of 118	1.14%	42 of 110
DORSET	£94	89 of 118	£74	75 of 118	1.03%	57 of 110
DUDLEY	£109	73 of 118	£99	32 of 118	1.38%	20 of 110
DURHAM	£114	71 of 118	£73	78 of 118	0.84%	87 of 110
EALING	£223	15 of 118	£90	50 of 118	0.85%	84 of 110
EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	£86	100 of 118	£65	95 of 118	0.83%	91 of 110
EAST SUSSEX	£69	112 of 118	£46	116 of 118	0.69%	102 of 110
ENFIELD	£157	30 of 118	£102	30 of 118	0.94%	73 of 110
ESSEX	£102	80 of 118	£65	94 of 118	0.78%	96 of 110

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Gross expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶⁰	Rank	Net expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶¹	Rank	Net expenditure as a proportion of education expenditure ¹⁶²	Rank
GATESHEAD	£145	39 of 118	£95	38 of 118	1.01%	63 of 110
GLOUCESTERSHIRE	£90	94 of 118	£72	79 of 118	8.62%	2 of 110
GREENWICH	£185	20 of 118	£130	13 of 118	1.02%	59 of 110
HACKNEY	£321	5 of 118	£192	5 of 118	1.66%	10 of 110
HALTON	£114	68 of 118	£85	56 of 118	0.93%	74 of 110
HAMPSHIRE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
HARTLEPOOL	£126	54 of 118	£86	55 of 118	0.98%	66 of 110
HEREFORDSHIRE	£86	102 of 118	£70	88 of 118	0.97%	71 of 110
HERTFORDSHIRE	£69	113 of 118	£48	114 of 118	0.69%	103 of 110
HOUNSLOW	£142	46 of 118	£72	80 of 118	0.84%	88 of 110
HULL (Kingston upon)	£162	26 of 118	£84	60 of 118	1.07%	52 of 110
ISLINGTON	£234	11 of 118	£166	8 of 118	1.22%	33 of 110
KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA	£335	4 of 118	£166	9 of 118	1.98%	6 of 110
KENT	£81	105 of 118	£56	109 of 118	NA	NA
KINGSTON UPON THAMES	£139	49 of 118	£114	23 of 118	1.22%	32 of 110
KNOWSLEY	£184	21 of 118	£94	44 of 118	1.15%	40 of 110
LANCASHIRE	£221	16 of 118	£75	71 of 118	1.18%	38 of 110
LEEDS	£155	32 of 118	£102	29 of 118	1.33%	23 of 110
LEICESTER	£124	56 of 118	£100	31 of 118	1.14%	41 of 110
LEICESTERSHIRE	£90	92 of 118	£73	76 of 118	1.02%	60 of 110
LINCOLNSHIRE	£82	103 of 118	£57	106 of 118	7.33%	3 of 110
LIVERPOOL	£157	31 of 118	£119	19 of 118	1.26%	27 of 110
LUTON	£108	75 of 118	£94	41 of 118	1.25%	29 of 110
MANCHESTER	£283	7 of 118	£112	25 of 118	NA	NA

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Gross expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶⁰	Rank	Net expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶¹	Rank	Net expenditure as a proportion of education expenditure ¹⁶²	Rank
MEDWAY	£114	69 of 118	£96	36 of 118	1.12%	48 of 110
MERTON	£103	79 of 118	£75	70 of 118	0.89%	79 of 110
MILTON KEYNES	£160	28 of 118	£121	18 of 118	1.31%	25 of 110
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE	£119	59 of 118	£94	43 of 118	0.89%	80 of 110
NEWHAM	£225	14 of 118	£129	14 of 118	1.18%	37 of 110
NORFOLK	£71	110 of 118	£44	117 of 118	0.35%	110 of 110
NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE	£127	53 of 118	£80	64 of 118	1.13%	44 of 110
NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE	£145	38 of 118	£108	26 of 118	1.26%	28 of 110
NORTH SOMERSET	£80	106 of 118	£63	102 of 118	0.97%	69 of 110
NORTH TYNESIDE	£87	97 of 118	£68	91 of 118	1.00%	64 of 110
NORTH YORKSHIRE	£100	81 of 118	£68	90 of 118	0.91%	78 of 110
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE	£59	118 of 118	£46	115 of 118	NA	NA
NORTHUMBERLAND	£63	117 of 118	£63	103 of 118	0.71%	100 of 110
NOTTINGHAM CITY	£162	25 of 118	£151	11 of 118	2.06%	5 of 110
NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	£134	50 of 118	£91	47 of 118	1.13%	45 of 110
OLDHAM	£120	57 of 118	£91	46 of 118	0.97%	70 of 110
OXFORDSHIRE	£97	85 of 118	£59	104 of 118	0.91%	77 of 110
PETERBOROUGH	£429	3 of 118	£247	2 of 118	2.48%	4 of 110
PLYMOUTH	£143	43 of 118	£114	22 of 118	1.37%	21 of 110
POOLE	£119	60 of 118	£90	49 of 118	1.23%	31 of 110
READING	£104	78 of 118	£84	61 of 118	1.42%	15 of 110
REDBRIDGE	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
RICHMOND	£144	40 of 118	£94	42 of 118	1.10%	50 of 110
ROCHDALE	£237	9 of 118	£71	81 of 118	0.83%	92 of 110

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Gross expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶⁰	Rank	Net expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶¹	Rank	Net expenditure as a proportion of education expenditure ¹⁶²	Rank
ROTHERHAM	£307	6 of 118	£105	28 of 118	1.40%	19 of 110
RUTLAND	£72	109 of 118	£48	113 of 118	NA	NA
SALFORD	£130	52 of 118	£98	35 of 118	1.10%	49 of 110
SEFTON	£161	27 of 118	£112	24 of 118	0.97%	68 of 110
SHEFFIELD	£256	8 of 118	£87	52 of 118	0.98%	65 of 110
SHROPSHIRE	£100	82 of 118	£78	68 of 118	1.09%	51 of 110
SOLIHULL	£72	108 of 118	£65	97 of 118	0.85%	85 of 110
SOMERSET	£81	104 of 118	£64	101 of 118	0.83%	89 of 110
SOUTH TYNESIDE	£91	91 of 118	£56	107 of 118	0.67%	104 of 110
SOUTHAMPTON	£97	84 of 118	£71	83 of 118	0.97%	67 of 110
SOUTHEND	£117	62 of 118	£67	93 of 118	0.66%	105 of 110
SOUTHWARK	£199	18 of 118	£169	7 of 118	1.45%	14 of 110
ST HELENS	£150	34 of 118	£105	27 of 118	1.31%	26 of 110
STAFFORDSHIRE	£111	72 of 118	£87	53 of 118	1.12%	46 of 110
STOCKPORT	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
STOCKTON ON TEES	£117	64 of 118	£93	45 of 118	1.17%	39 of 110
SUFFOLK	£63	116 of 118	£56	108 of 118	0.70%	101 of 110
SUNDERLAND	£168	24 of 118	£122	17 of 118	1.80%	8 of 110
SURREY	£86	101 of 118	£81	63 of 118	1.12%	47 of 110
SUTTON	£93	90 of 118	£67	92 of 118	0.81%	94 of 110
TAMESIDE	£142	44 of 118	£98	34 of 118	1.42%	16 of 110
TELFORD AND WREKIN	£200	17 of 118	£70	86 of 118	0.88%	83 of 110
TORBAY	£88	96 of 118	£64	99 of 118	0.81%	93 of 110
TOWER HAMLETS	£635	2 of 118	£243	3 of 118	1.34%	22 of 110

LOCAL AUTHORITY	Gross expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶⁰	Rank	Net expenditure per head 13-19 population ¹⁶¹	Rank	Net expenditure as a proportion of education expenditure ¹⁶²	Rank
TRAFFORD	£87	99 of 118	£74	74 of 118	1.04%	56 of 110
WALSALL	£159	29 of 118	£159	10 of 118	1.80%	7 of 110
WANDSWORTH	£225	13 of 118	£207	4 of 118	NA	NA
WEST SUSSEX	£172	23 of 118	£70	85 of 118	1.05%	55 of 110
WESTMINISTER	£231	12 of 118	£174	6 of 118	1.57%	12 of 110
WIGAN	£96	86 of 118	£64	100 of 118	0.80%	95 of 110
WILTSHIRE	£88	95 of 118	£69	89 of 118	0.89%	82 of 110
WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD	£96	87 of 118	£74	73 of 118	1.01%	62 of 110
WIRRAL	£118	61 of 118	£79	67 of 118	1.22%	34 of 110
WOKINGHAM	£75	107 of 118	£58	105 of 118	NA	NA
WOLVERHAMPTON	£198	19 of 118	£135	12 of 118	1.32%	24 of 110
WORCESTERSHIRE	£90	93 of 118	£65	96 of 118	0.84%	86 of 110
YORK	£147	36 of 118	£77	69 of 118	1.41%	18 of 110
AVERAGE	£119		£84		1.04%	

References

Please note documents referred to are generally included as links throughout the report and footnotes (press control and left-click on mouse to go direct to site). Some websites and links are not repeated here to save space.

[14-19 Education and Skills White Paper](#) (2005)

[Benchmark for Gap Narrowing](#) version 4, Local Government Association, April 2008

Chamberlain, T et al (2007), [Children and Young People Survey of Kent Survey 2006/7](#), NFER

Children and Young People Now, 9 January 2008

Community Transport Provision in Rural Kent & Medway (2008), Action with Communities in Rural Kent

[Culture of Youth Communities](#), Princes Trust (August 2008)

Davies, T. and Cranston P. (May 2008) [Youth Work and Social Networking](#), Interim Report, National Youth Agency and Practical Participation

Davies, T. and Cranston P. (September 2008) [Youth work and social networking - final report](#), National Youth Agency and Practical Participation

[Equality Framework for Local Government](#), IDeA, May 2008

[Extended Schools Guide](#), Department for Children, Schools and Families, 2008

Guidance on Publicising Positive Activities (Oct 2006)

KCC Communities Directorate KYS Partnership Awards to Voluntary Youth Organisations Information and Application Pack

KCC Draft Communication Strategy

KCC Medium Term Plan

KCC Towards 2010

KCC Towards 2010 Public Action Plans 2008

Kent Agreement 2 NI10 Delivery Plan

[Kent Compact](#)

Kent Youth Justice Plan

Kintrea, K et al (October 2008) [Young people and territoriality in British cities](#), Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Margo, J & Stevens, S (May 2008) [Make Me A Criminal: Preventing Youth Crime](#), IPPR, 2008

Misspent Youth: Young People and Crime (Audit Commission, 1996 and updates)

Morgan Enquiry

[Narrowing the Gap](#)

[Ofcom Media Literacy Audit – Report on UK Children's Media Literacy](#)

[Ofsted Inspection of Youth Service](#)

[Opportunity and aspiration: two sides of the same coin](#), Joseph Rowntree Foundation, December 2008

[Policy review of children and young people – a discussion paper](#), HM Treasury, 2007

Moreno et al. *Arch Pediatr Adolesc Med.* 2009; 163: 35-41, Reducing At-Risk Adolescents' Display of Risk Behavior on a Social Networking,
Russell Commission

[Social Networking Sites: Safety Tips for Tweens and Teens](#)

Statutory Guidance on Positive Activities

[TellUs2 Survey](#): Children and Young People of Kent

[TellUs3 Survey](#): Children and Young People of Kent

[The National Youth Agency - Buckinghamshire Community & Youth Engagement Intergenerational Project](#)

[The National Youth Agency - Darlington Intergenerational Project](#)

[The National Youth Agency Audit 2007-8](#)

[Tired of hanging around](#), Audit Commission (January 2009)

Use and Perceptions of Kent Youth Service – with appendix (2008), BMG

[Who cares about the white working class?](#), Runnymede Trust (January 2009)

[Young people and territoriality in British cities | Joseph Rowntree Foundation](#) (October 2008)

[Youth Green Paper: Youth Matters \(2005\)](#)

[Youth Matters: Next Steps](#)

