

## **Provision of Activities for Young People Select Committee**

**Programme - Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008- 1.45 p.m.**

### **Swale 3, Sessions House**

There are two speakers this afternoon and the theme relates to activities that young people can undertake, particularly outdoor activities which can contribute to personal development through adventure and gaining life experiences and are both character building and enjoyable. There will also be a chance to explore some of the procedures that are necessary for schools and youth workers to follow in order that young people's safety is assured while taking part. This document provides links to more detailed information should you wish to access it (please click on the underlined links while holding the Ctrl key).

**1.45 Richard Hayden**

**2.30 Norry Barber**

#### **Richard Hayden – Senior Outdoor Education Adviser (CFE)**

Richard is based at the Outdoor Education Unit, Swattenden, Cranbrook ; one of seven KCC outdoor education centres including at campsite at Kearsney. The Outdoor Education Unit does not, however, manage these Centres. Further details of the centres can be found at:

[Bewl Water Outdoor Centre](#)

[Canterbury Environmental Education Centre](#)

[Kent Mountain Centre](#)

[Lullingstone Country Park](#)

[The Swattenden Centre](#)

Adventurous activities or visits that include a stay overnight are subject to KCC approval and this is administered by the Outdoor Education Unit using an online system known as e-GO. A small team has as its core function ensuring that KCC adheres to statutory requirements for maintaining health and safety of young people and supporting outdoor education in general.

The statutory requirements to which KCC must adhere are embodied in the Health & Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits ([HASPEV](#)) 1998 guidance and subsequent DCSF supplements (2002) covering: Standards for LEAs overseeing educational visits; Standards for adventure; Handbook for Group Leaders and Group Safety at

the Water Margins. The Outdoor Education Unit was set up in 2003 in response to these requirements.

CFE, through the Outdoor Education Unit provide guidance to those seeking approval for activities via a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) document, and [Approval Process Guidance](#).

Coventry City Council have provided a comprehensive document summarising requirements for educational visits which can be found at: [Coventry HASPEV Guidance](#).

The Government recently launched a new Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTC) manifesto and the website can be accessed at: [Learning Outside the Classroom - Home](#).

### **Suggested themes for questions – Richard Hayden**

1. The Outdoor Education Unit – resources (human) and funding.
  
2. What checks/vetting take place on venues and how long does approval last? (What happens if for example a visit to a beach were to take place?)
  
3. The e-GO system –
  - What are the procedures to be followed - are these the same for schools and for youth workers arranging activities and trips?
  - How does this work with KCC Centres
  - What does approval cover and how long does it take
  - To whom does notification apply and what timescales are involved?
  - Do e-GO procedures apply to voluntary organisations arranging trips and activities for young people (whether affiliated in part or in full?)
  - Training and for whom this is available
  - challenges and opportunities

## **Norry Barber - County Co-ordinator for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Charity 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, physical recreation and expedition.

A huge range of activities is available and young people are encouraged to also come up with their own ideas. To give some idea of the scope – a range of activities are listed here: [Programme ideas - Physical](#).

While the awards are not about competition with others, they are very much about personal achievement and pushing personal boundaries and tapping potential in order to reach a goal. Currently more than 225,000 young people are working on an award.

KCC is an Operating Authority which means that it is one of more than 400 bodies licensed (through an annual fee) to deliver the scheme, ranging from large organisations such as ourselves to independent schools, private businesses, voluntary organisations such as the Scouts and Guides and targeted providers such as Young Offender Institutes.

As an operating authority KCC is licensed to:

- Set up and support DofE centres and groups
- Recruit, support and inspire Leaders and volunteers
- Deliver training and health and safety for all Leaders and participants, including CRB checks
- Authorise and grant Duke of Edinburgh's Awards

and is also responsible for providing statistics about its administration of the Award to the Charity. Other organisations can act as approved activity providers or commercial partners.

Award groups are run by adult leaders, many of whom are volunteers, 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 there are two new targets to encourage the inclusion of disabled young people and to prevent offending.

Further details about the awards are available from the [National Website](#).

## **Suggested themes for questions – Norry Barber**

1. Role and responsibility
2. Structure of Duke of Edinburgh's Awards
3. How information about the scheme is communicated to young people
4. Does the scheme currently reach or is it promoted to young people who are from BME community, are disabled or are on the fringes of offending – what more could be done in this area – what are the challenges and how can we overcome them?
5. Capacity of the scheme to meet the demand for positive activities of this type – are there any planned future developments and are there any barriers to progress? (Example/s?)
6. Issues around social networking and the development of Award HQ social media
7. KCC targets which the scheme contributes to
8. E-go procedures

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