

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 16 December 2014

Subject: Leisure & Community Services

Portfolio Holder: Councillor H Kane

Recommending:

That the report of the Leisure and Community Services Portfolio Holder be noted.

Community Services:

Inclusive Projects:

1. Epping Forest Inclusion Project, working in conjunction with the local primary schools South Local Delivery group, have been successful in securing £7,825 from Essex County Council, to fund a pilot primary schools programme for selected pupils. This will be delivered in 10 local primary schools, over a 10 week period during curriculum time. The programme will provide an alternative learning environment for selected pupils from Year 3-4 who are identified as having ADHD, ESB, Dyslexia and a range of other additional needs. Weekly sessions of one hour duration, will be delivered by the Epping Forest Inclusion Officer, supported by a Teaching Assistant. The sessions will include theory & physical activities (30mins of each) and pupils will produce/complete a portfolio of work.

2. The aim of the project is to:

- Improving the health and wellbeing of the pupils
- Support their emotional and social development
- Highlight the pupils' strengths and capabilities
- Develop confidence building skills

3. The Council is also launching a brand new project for people with disabilities aged 14 and over, called 'Six for All'. 'Six for All' is being funded by Sport England and aims to get disabled people more active. Working with local sports clubs in six different sports, the project aims to increase the number of sporting opportunities around the district, by increasing the number of disabled people being more active and up-skilling volunteers, participants and coaches by running a number of workshops and courses. Over the next three years, 'Six for All' will target local clubs offering Table Tennis, Trampolining, Swimming, Judo, Boccia and Athletics.

Norway House Art Project:

4. Over the last six months, Community Arts has worked with residents and staff at Norway House in North Weald, to develop a beautiful mural on a wall in the resident's main lounge area. The mural depicts the history of Norway House when it was an Officers Mess during the Second World War and the lives of the residents who live there. A series of workshops were held with children, young people and their families over the six month period and the residents were supported in designing and developing a mural consisting of

photographic and hand drawn images. The backdrop of the mural is a photograph of a tree canopy in Rough Talley's Wood, taken by a six year old child who previously lived at Norway House. Overlaid on top of this, are a range of parachutes and aircraft, along with translucent images of words of residents, about their feelings of living in a homeless hostel. The Chairman of Council unveiled the mural on 20th November, in the company of the staff from Norway House and the residents that were involved and I would encourage any Members to arrange to see this wonderful artwork, which will be added to, as new residents find themselves living at Norway House.

Essex Artists Residences in the District:

5. The Council has been successful in securing funding from Essex Network of Artist's Studios, for two artist residencies in the district, by. The Artists, who are to be selected in January, will develop pieces of artwork that will be displayed locally in Autumn 2015. Where and what they produce will depend on what the artist submissions are, but it is thought that they may develop public Realm work.

Lowewood Museum 'Takeover Day':

6. As part of the national Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day, students became curators for the day when they took over the running of Lowewood Museum in Hoddesdon, which is managed by the Council. Broxbourne School students spent two days at the museum learning about marketing, conservation and all the behind-the-scenes work at the museum before taking the reins and running the place themselves on Friday November 21.

7. They ran activities for pupils of Westfield Primary School and invited guests to participate in activities based around the 1660s, 1860s and 1960s. Visitors were challenged to identify by touch alone what toys and decade were in a selection of boxes and there was a demonstration of how to handle and conserve artefacts. The youngsters from Westfield also had a taste of Victorian schooling run by the students.

Good Neighbour Scheme:

8. Residents living in Oakwood Hill, Loughton and Shelley in Ongar, were invited to come together, to make these areas a great place to live. Council staff visited properties in the two focus areas and spoke to residents about the Good Neighbour Scheme, which aims to link people together to help support each other and reduce isolation and loneliness. To encourage residents to take part, an incentive of receiving a £5 Sainsbury's voucher was on offer, for anyone signing an official pledge to do a good deed for a neighbour. The types of good deed which people signed up to included helping neighbours with garden work, popping in for a cup of tea and a chat and picking up shopping once a week for those unable to get out.

9. This scheme has been developed by Community Services, to help address the nationally recognised problem of loneliness and isolation, which is suffered by thousands of people of all ages across the country.