

Runnymede Borough Council

Listening to Young People in Runnymede

INTRODUCTION

This policy gives a framework for the development of services and facilities for young people in Runnymede. It recognises the part played by other organisations and sets out targets for means of identifying and filling gaps in provision in partnership with others. The policy replaces the Sport and Play Development Policy (2002-2005), many of whose objectives have been fully met and are shown in Annex A. The policy takes account of current legislative changes, Community Strategy goals and the consultation undertaken for the best value review of activities for young people. It also aims to provide the statement of “co-ordinated youth provision” across the authority, highlighted as lacking by the Comprehensive Performance Assessment (2003).

Traditionally, the Borough Council has provided services for young people under its power to provide leisure services. The services were primarily based around play and sport; these remain the focus of provision in terms of levels of resource and activity. The Council’s core values and those targets relating specifically to young people are set out at Annex B.

Statutory services for young people are provided by the Local Education Authority, Youth Service and Children’s Services. Runnymede Borough Council’s approach has always been to provide services in conjunction with others, but without taking on duties that should be fulfilled by agencies with a statutory responsibility.

A number of factors mean that boroughs are considering increasing their direct support for young people:

- The power to introduce services for the well-being of the local community (s17 of the Local Government Act 2000), which is in line with Runnymede Borough Council’s long-standing aim of ensuring “we play our role to enhance the quality of life of all residents and assist those who conduct their business in the Borough”.
- Children Bill’s new duty “for agencies to co-operate among themselves and with other local partners to improve the well-being of children and young people so that all work to common outcomes.”¹
- The local authority’s role as community leader
- The fact that Young people have been highlighted as a key issue in the development of the Community Strategy
- The increased focus on crime and disorder, particularly anti-social behaviour, which highlights local community’s discontent with the lack of positive things for young people to do – resulting in anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti.

¹ Surrey Youth Development Service business plan – 2004/05

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PROVISION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN RUNNYMEDE

Population

The population of Runnymede is approximately 78,000. 2001 census figures show 22% of that population as aged 19. Of these young people, the largest groups were the under 5's (5.5%) and the 10-14 age group (5.4%).²

Education

The Borough has three county secondary schools (one of which, Jubilee High, is managed by the Nord Anglia Foundation) and four independent secondary schools (of which two are American schools), 30 primary and junior schools. There is also a school for 11-19's with moderate learning disabilities, a specialist school for children with autism and a school, run by "ICan" (for children with aphasia) in Ottershaw. The White Lodge Centre in Chertsey caters for young children with disabilities, offering specialist activities through their nursery, clubs and respite care. The centre for living, on the same site, co-ordinates activities for adults with learning disabilities.

Early Years (under 5's)

There are 119 registered childminders, 1 special needs nursery, 1 maintained nursery, 18 sessional pre-schools, 4 crèche's, and 12 full day-care nurseries in the Borough. The Borough benefits from a well-regarded and voluntary-run Toy Library, based in the Methodist Church Hall in Addlestone. The Toy Library is open for one day each week and is staffed entirely by volunteers on hired premises.³ There is an effective early years network in Runnymede, facilitated by the Early Years and Childcare Development Partnership.

Out of School Provision

1888 places are registered annually on summer schemes run by Runnymede Borough Council. The Borough Council also runs an annual Splash scheme for 11-16 year olds. The Borough Council is by far the largest provider of holiday schemes in Runnymede. Eight other holiday schemes, 3 breakfast clubs and five after-school clubs are known to the Early Years Service and invited to participate in the out-of-school network.

Many of the junior and senior schools offer lunch-time and after-school clubs whose activities include sports, arts, languages and computing. There is a gap in after-school club provision, although some after-school providers report that there is not a huge demand for the service. Abbey Fit, Fullbrook and Egham Leisure Centre offer out of school sporting activities. Chertsey Museum offers out of school workshops on Saturdays and in school holidays.

The County's Youth Development Service (YDS) runs clubs at Englefield Green, Egham and Addlestone, and supports detached/club-based activities at New Haw, Pooley Green and Chertsey. There are 41 youth groups registered with the Youth Service in the Borough and a number of unregistered clubs. The Youth Development Service employs a Youth Development Officer, two neighbourhood workers and a schools worker on a full-time basis. There are centre managers at each of the three Youth Centres, who are responsible for centre maintenance and lettings. The centres have a long-standing income target of 70% of their expenses, making it difficult to run many sessions of youth work. The service has provision for a number of part-time youth workers, based in centres and on projects. It runs projects for:

² Census figures 2001

³ Figures taken from www.childcarelink.gov.uk and Early Years Development & Childcare Service

young carers, young parents, sexual health, and a transition project (for 11-13's) at Pooley Green. Youth Workers also run anger management and personal development groups in local secondary schools. The County leased and upgraded empty Borough-owned premises in Gogmore Farm Park (Chertsey) in 2004, from where youth workers run projects with local young people.

The Borough's Community Safety Officer runs an annual Junior Citizen scheme, in which all year 6 children (aged 9-10) in Runnymede are invited to take part.

The Borough benefits from a wide range of voluntary groups: guides, brownies, cubs, scouts and faith groups. Some, such as East to West and New Haw Youth Project are active in local secondary schools as well as in their community and church settings. Many of these are affiliated at a county-wide level to the Surrey Council for Voluntary Youth Services. Four groups in Runnymede are registered with the Youth Development Service.

Parks & Open Spaces

The Council manages 35 children's' play areas, 30 football pitches, 8 cricket squares, 4 bowling greens, 1 rugby pitch, 11 tennis courts and a croquet facility through the parks and open spaces section. 11 of these sites include changing facilities. Seven are managed by local clubs through lease arrangements⁴.

Anti-social Behaviour

The Community Safety Officer chairs the Crime Incident and Accident Group in Runnymede. Approximately 80 % of the cases reviewed by that group involve young people. Initially agencies attempt to find alternative solutions for young people who are repeatedly offending, but if unsuccessful, Anti-Social Behaviour Orders will be obtained in appropriate cases. The groups incorporate contributions from schools, the YDS, Probation and Health.

Transport

The Yellow Bus Scheme, run in conjunction with the Runnymede Business Partnership now consists of 6 buses that run between the main secondary schools in the Borough. The scheme is well known; many junior schools hire the buses during the day for trips.

Discussion with schools concerning travel plans and alternative means of transport.

Agreement has been reached with South West Trains to improve CCTV monitoring on railway stations and the new replacement trains are equipped with on board CCTV.

⁴ King George V (VWFC, KHTC), Coopers' Hill, Egham Cricket Club, EGCC, Kings Lane RFC, Thorpe Green

DETAILED PROVISION RELATING TO COMMUNITY & CULTURAL STRATEGY TARGETS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The following are targets identified for young people in the Council's Cultural and Community Strategies:

Increase and further develop opportunities for young people who are excluded, or at risk of exclusion, in Runnymede schools through a variety of schemes, e.g. buddying/mentoring schemes and through personal development in after-schools clubs.

YDS Projects:

The Youth Development Service currently provides the following projects in the Borough, in addition to the work undertaken in generic youth clubs:

- Young carers' project (Addlestone Youth Centre)
- Young parents' project
- Pre-employment training
- Work in 4 schools⁵ in the Borough dealing with anger management, self esteem, etc

Runnymede Borough Council has supported projects for young people who are at risk of exclusion:

After school clubs exist at: The Hythe School, Stepgates School (326 Club).

Improve the safety of children going to and from school in conjunction with the Community Safety work, encouraging other forms of school transport and the Safer Routes to Schools project. e.g. using schemes such as the Yellow Bus initiative.

In conjunction with Runnymede Business Partnership, RBC has established a Yellow Bus transport to school project. The motivation for the scheme is to relieve traffic congestion and provide safe means of getting to school for young people. It currently operates to the main secondary schools in the Borough (Fullbrook, Jubilee High and The Magna Carta School), although work is in hand to increase the provision.

Safer Routes to school are being encouraged by the County Council's Local Transportation Unit. Cycle shelters have also been installed at all schools in the borough, at Royal Holloway College and at Addlestone, Chertsey and Egham railway stations.

Investigate the feasibility of extending "Yellow bus" scheme to provide out of school hours transport (including for summer holiday schemes). (Cultural strategy.)

Currently the scheme is too expensive to be viable for use by summer schemes.

Seek to provide enhanced investment in sports facilities for Jubilee High School with the dual purpose of also serving community needs.

⁵ I know of work in Jubilee, Fulbrook, Magna and Sir William Perkins's; there may be more!

£1.2m investment agreed – June 2003. The facility is in prime position to be well used by the school and local community and work effectively with local young people. Local young people are being consulted about plans development of the proposed new facility.

Work with other agencies to identify areas of greatest need, target resources to make the best use of facilities, skills to develop leisure/sport-based out-of-school activities and personal development for young people.

The Sports Development Officer has been involved in developing plans for funding improved infrastructure community sports facilities benefiting the Chertsey St. Ann's community (Jubilee High School, Abbey Fit and Salesian). However, no leisure/sport based out-of school activities have been developed specifically for young people in areas of greatest need, as defined in the deprivation indices as Chertsey St. Ann's, Englefield Green West/East and Addlestone Bourneside, as these are not identified as Council priorities.

The Council works with the following partners to implement the aims of the youth policy:

- ◇ Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership (Surrey)
- ◇ White Lodge Centre (Chertsey)
- ◇ Surrey Children's Services (referral scheme for children and young people at risk of offending or from offending)
- ◇ Surrey Police, Elmbridge Borough Council (Junior Citizen)
- ◇ Surrey Youth Service (splash and provision of activities in parks)
- ◇ Surrey Sports Partnership (Active Surrey, Sports Development Unit, sports Governing bodies and local authorities).

Through:

Summer holiday playschemes for 5-11 year olds. A small pilot scheme in 2004, taking rising 5's was very successful: staff trained & CRB checked.

Splash – summer holiday activities for 11-16 year olds.

RAZ – Easter and half-term activities, mainly playschemes for under 12's. However, a graffiti project held in Addlestone in October 2004 with young people, known to the YDS, whose ability was honed by professional graffiti artists, encouraging them to express themselves legally and produce work that can be publicly displayed.

The Youth Development Service operates activities for young people in central Chertsey, from Gogmore Farm Park (leased from RBC), Egham, Englefield Green and Addlestone Youth Clubs and has demonstrated high levels of need in each of these places. The Youth Development Service also runs a project in the Hythe/Pooley Green for year 6 and 7 students, to assist with the transition from junior to senior school and introduce them to youth provision in Egham.

YDS Officers are also in the process of scoping the need for additional counselling facilities for young people in the Borough.

Egham Leisure Centre (ELC), Abbey Fit – offer after school, weekend and holiday play and sports activities.

Chertsey Museum - Weekend and holiday play workshops.

Sports Development programmes (athletics, basketball, girls' football, netball, Surrey Youth Games).

Junior Citizen – A partnership between the Council, emergency services and local junior schools to organise sessions to educate children on many aspects of safety.

Consult with young people about the development of new services and facilities through the Youth Forum and other voluntary organisations working with Young People.

RYAT – Runnymede Youth Are Talking – formed in 2004, with representatives from schools, youth clubs and voluntary youth organisations in the Borough.

Consultation in schools for best value reviews, development of strategies and Local Development Framework.

Local young people are consulted about the development of new play areas, parks and skate facilities.

Encourage the voice of Young People in town centre regeneration e.g. in the 'Planning for Real' type exercises.

Young people in Pooley Green/Egham Hythe have been actively consulted about the development of new open space in that area, through youth clubs, schools and contact in local open spaces.

Support scout, guide, voluntary youth groups and individual young people through grant aid and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

RBC supports Duke of Edinburgh Award Forum by participating in forum, operating equipment store and through grant aid to individuals.

£9,400 is set aside in grant aid (Leisure ad hoc provision).

Scouts & Guides £3,000 capital provision.

Support for the Runnymede Sports Council, c. £1,600.

Support for Runnymede Association of Arts.

Grant aid via Arts Development Steering Group for arts related activities.

Publicise the availability of the RBC grants for young people for achievement in sports and the arts.

The RBC website advertises grant aid available from the Council and from other sources (Runnymede4Community).

Develop and maintain close links between the evolving Community Strategy, the Youth Forum and other young people.

A member of RYAT is now on the Local Strategic Partnership.

Work with Runnymede Youth Forum (RYAT) to identify what sorts of drop-in/café facilities young people want.

No work has been undertaken by RBC officers. However, young people are contributing to changes being made to the building at Egham Youth centre and were involved in changes at Englefield Green and Addlestone Youth Centres. They've also been fully involved in the development of the space and projects at Gogmore Farm Park.

Create an 'information portal' for young people and provide a link between the Youth Forum and the RBC website.

Youth and Community is now a separate section on the Leisure section of the Runnymede Borough Council website. This links into the RYAT website, which is maintained by RYAT members, the Surrey County Council "UR County UR Say" website and the Connexions website.

Promote healthy life-styles for young people through sports centres, schools, clubs, parks, countryside and waterways (cultural strategy)

The Council's 300+ hectares of park and open space parks offer places for young people to meet and play. This includes 25 hectares of supervised parks, 35 play areas, independently inspected against international standards (EN1178 and EN1177) on a monthly and annual basis.

The Council's parks offer free use of tennis courts for under 16's.

One local school has formed a partnership with Sayes Court allotment site to create a successful healthy living/eating project.

Sports Development programmes (athletics, basketball, Surrey Youth Games). The Active Surrey programme also includes annual festivals for hockey, girls' football and rugby.

Arrange holiday sports courses in parks

These have been arranged since October 2002. Sports specific courses are not as popular as general playscheme activities. However, Fulham FC run football coaching in the Borough and the Sports Development Officer held Norwich Union sponsored "Star Track" and Netball coaching courses during the summer holidays. Active Surrey athletics, basketball, girls' football and netball courses have also been run during 2003-05.

ACTION PLAN

Theme/Aim/ Measurement	Source(s)	What do we need to do? (Agreed targets and actions)	Potential barriers	Are new resources needed?	Property requirements	What has been achieved? (Benefit for public)	Responsible Officer
Work with all agencies concerned to identify areas of greatest need, target resources to make the best use of facilities and develop diversionary activities for young people.	Cultural Strategy	Investigate increased use of Council-owned facilities, eg. halls, sports centres for young people	Synchronising need and times of usage	Staff/volunteers	Community halls	25% of activities in community halls are currently for children and young people. Gogmore Farm Park facility.	HOLS
		Investigate options for cross-border working (Elmbridge, Spelthorne, Surrey Heath, Woking and Windsor) to maximise capacity.	Officer time	Staff		Active Surrey.	PSSM
		Improve communication/contact with Youth Development Service and Health services relating to children and young people. Identify gaps in statutory provision.	Identifying resources to respond to need	Project funding & staff capacity		Representation on Local Children's Partnership board. Youth activities group. Graffiti project.	PSSM
		Pursue Ofsted and training organisations to develop high quality, but realistic standards for playscheme staff.	Application of same standards to holiday and full-time day care	No. Needs lobbying at national level.		Leisure Development Officer accredited to train.	
		Review expansion of existing provision, eg.	Funding Officer time			Expansion of existing workshops and school visits to fill Education Officer time.	
		Chertsey museum education work	Contact with young people. Income targets.				

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Work with all agencies concerned to identify areas of greatest need, target resources to make the best use of facilities and develop diversionary activities for young people	Cultural Strategy	<p>Coaching in youth centres and sports centres and for “hard to reach” young people and for voluntary groups</p> <p>Inclusion of 16+ age group in sports courses at sports centres</p> <p>Community Sports Leadership Award and Active Surrey Young Coaches & Officials programme</p> <p>Use of arts activities to engage young people</p> <p>Contribute to the Community Safety Strategy for the Borough by developing diversionary activities for young people in appropriate locations.</p> <p>Ensure that the part played by drug and alcohol misuse in youth problems is recognised and, by working with partners, address these issues wherever and whenever they arise.</p>	<p>As above</p> <p>As above</p> <p>Officer capacity to make contacts to progress projects</p>			<p>“Sorted” and Surrey Young Dancemakers exist in the Borough. Funding is in place for participation in other Surrey Local Authority Arts Partnership projects.</p>	

ACTION PLAN

Theme/Aim/ Measurement	Source(s)	What do we need to do? (Agreed targets and actions)	Potential barriers	Are new resources needed?	Property requirements	What has been achieved? (Benefit for public)	Responsible Officer
Work with all agencies concerned to identify areas of greatest need, target resources to make the best use of facilities and develop diversionary activities for young people	Cultural Strategy	Improve information for young people and review the best means of giving simple information about where to go for housing advice to organisations such as the Youth service and faith groups who approach them for advice.					
Work with schools, governing bodies and voluntary organisations to develop leisure and sports-based after-school activities		Support scout, guide, voluntary youth groups and individual young people through grant aid and the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Work with SCVYS to identify whether there is an alternative mechanism for grant aiding voluntary groups for young people, both for work to buildings and for revenue grant aid.					

ACTION PLAN

Theme/Aim/ Measurement	Source(s)	What do we need to do? (Agreed targets and actions)	Potential barriers	Are new resources needed?	Property requirements	What has been achieved? (Benefit for public)	Responsible Officer
Work with schools, governing bodies and voluntary organisations to develop leisure and sports-based after-school activities	Cultural Strategy Challenge meeting	<p>Improve liaison with the voluntary sector, particularly reviewing: gaps in funding for general youth activities, particularly in the 11-13 age group.</p> <p>Investigate feasibilities of hiring summer scheme equipment for use by voluntary youth clubs.</p> <p>Improve co-ordination re. schools' visits & newsletters – where could advice/info be combined? E.g. Spelthorne's CEO holds a termly meeting with school heads in the Borough.</p> <p>Publicise the availability of the RBC grants for sports clubs and individual young people for sports arts.</p>	Time (both for school and local authority staff). Different priorities.	Officer time to visit schools more often might help.		<p>Good contact with schools for specific projects (eg. assemblies for Surrey Youth Games, consultation for the Hythe Park and Local Development Framework). Harder to gauge general demand.</p> <p>Contacts for grant aid are on the Runnymede Borough Council website.</p>	

ACTION PLAN

Theme/Aim/ Measurement	Source(s)	What do we need to do? (Agreed targets and actions)	Potential barriers	Are new resources needed?	Property requirements	What has been achieved? (Benefit for public)	Responsible Officer
Work with schools, governing bodies and voluntary organisations to develop leisure and sports-based after-school activities	Cultural Strategy Challenge meeting	<p>Investigate the feasibility of schemes to provide transport for young people that enables them to access leisure facilities in Staines, Woking and Windsor safely, reliably and at reasonable cost, eg. Spelthorne Community Safety initiative⁶.</p> <p>Review the use of Yellow buses for holiday activities, or the use of a shared bus with Community Safety – to visit schools with community safety messages and use during holidays.</p> <p>Improve information for young people.</p>					
Promote healthy lifestyles for young people through sports centres, schools, clubs, parks, countryside and waterways.		Develop opportunities for cycling development and safety, following the installation of cycle shelters and paths across the Borough.					

ACTION PLAN

Theme/Aim/ Measurement	Source(s)	What do we need to do? (Agreed targets and actions)	Potential barriers	Are new resources needed?	Property requirements	What has been achieved? (Benefit for public)	Responsible Officer
<p>To find out what young people want and need. To do this, young people need to maintain an effective voice in the community, which in turn means better communication between statutory bodies and young people.</p>	<p>Leader's Position Statement</p>	<p>Consult with young people about the development of new services and facilities through RYAT and other voluntary organisations working with Young People.</p> <p>Identify how best to consult young people and how to integrate their choices into Council policy.</p> <p>Maintain close links between the Community Strategy, RYAT and other young people.</p> <p>Continue Encourage the voice of Young People in town centre regeneration e.g. in the 'Planning for Real' type exercises.</p> <p>Improve information for young people.</p>	<p>Need to clarify process for consulting RYAT, electing to RYAT and influencing Council decisions.</p> <p>As above</p>	<p>Administrative support for RYAT.</p>	<p>Use of Council rooms</p>	<p>RYAT currently represents five of the Borough's secondary schools, one youth centre, guides and two scout groups.</p> <p>RYAT has a position on the Local Strategic Partnership. Schools and community audit being undertaken.</p> <p>Effective consultation re. Hythe Park.</p>	
	<p>Child Protection Policy</p>	<p>Develop internal guidelines and protocols for training and information sharing under the child protection policy.</p>	<p>Officer time for training and developing guidelines</p>				

Annex A

Since the adoption of the Council's policy for sport and play in 2000, targets have been met and exceeded in a number of areas:

<p>Facilities and Capital Projects</p>	<p>The Council recognises the need for high quality, safe, interesting and fun play areas accessible to all members of the community, including children and young people. These may be provided in parks, sports centres and open spaces</p>
<p>Objective</p>	<p>Achievements</p>
<p>Commission a leisure facilities strategy to identify the demand for and viability of developing leisure facilities in the Borough.</p> <p>Develop facilities to meet local people's needs, either through direct provision or partnership with other agencies and private organisations. Provide for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch drainage and maintenance • Increased pitch provision • Changing facilities for pitches • Safe and stimulating play areas for children and young people 	<p>Secured NOF funding for school-based community facilities (Pycroft Grange, Jubilee High and Salesian).</p> <p>See below for details of improved play areas.</p>
<p>Monitor the balance between demand for new play facilities and the provision of existing facilities and, where necessary, correct any shortfall in provision.</p> <p>In according with best practice principles this is done in consultation with local children and young people, residents and community groups</p>	<p>Six multi-use games areas installed in parks & open spaces.</p> <p>Football tournament programme run with YDS using these spaces in 2001*.</p> <p>New skate areas installed: Kings Lane (Englefield Green), Skate Zone (Heathervale, New Haw) and Aviator Park (Addlestone). All built to PAS 30 standard.</p> <p>New play equipment installed at: Warwick Avenue. Built to BS EN1176/1178 standards.</p> <p>Young people consulted in all projects and on input into the new Hythe Park.</p>
<p>Continue to work towards developing a new urban park at Pooley Green, subject to funding and the departure of the swan sanctuary</p>	<p>Friends of Hythe Park group formed – March 2004. Consultation with local young people in partnership with YDS, Magna Carta School and local community police.</p> <p>Plans developed by Woodland Environmental, on the basis of consultation with local residents.</p>

<p>Monitor the standard of play areas in the Borough's parks and open spaces and update them when necessary. All play areas should meet EN1176 and LEAP/NEAP criteria. This includes:</p> <p>Safer Surfacing upgrade – Parks play areas.</p> <p>Monthly and Annual inspections of play equipment.</p> <p>Replacement of worn out equipment to EN1176/EN1178</p> <p>Re-design existing sites with local people in order to meet current demands.</p>	<p>Achieved consistently, with different firms undertaking annual and monthly inspections to achieve objectivity. Daily inspections undertaken in staffed parks.</p> <p>This will be done as integral part of play area refurbishment programme.</p> <p>Done.</p> <p>Refurbishment budget approved for first phase (June 2003).</p> <p>This will be done as integral part of play area refurbishment programme.</p>
<p>To have regard to the NPFA's standard with regard to pitch and play provision in the Borough and to maintain facilities to a good standard of play at reasonable cost for local groups to use.</p>	<p>There is an identified short-fall of playing pitch provision in the wards of New Haw, Woodham, St Paul's, Addlestone Bourneside, Hythe, Chertsey Meads and Addlestone North.</p> <p>Drainage schemes completed for pitches at Chertsey Recreation Ground, Heathervale Recreation Ground, Kings Lane Playing Field, Ottershaw Memorial Fields. Additional drainage has been identified as necessary for Victory Park</p>
<p>To continue to maintain pitches to standards appropriate for county-standard leagues. In doing so, to invest in quality sports surfaces, adequate drainage and changing facilities appropriate to the level of play</p>	<p>Effective pitch maintenance cannot be funded by hire charges and requires investment and subsidy from the Council's funds and/or external funding.</p> <p>Work taking place with local football clubs to identify the relative demand for junior and adult pitches (for training and matches).</p>
<p>Review suitability of local plan guidance R3 for play areas in small developments. Consider each application individually and weigh benefit of enhancing existing areas against introducing new, isolated areas.</p>	<p>Under review with Local Development Framework process.</p>

Use council facilities, staff and funds to provide recreational activities for young people in the Borough	
Review need for provision of recreational opportunities for children and young people across the Borough as a whole and identify gaps and areas of need.	Community Audit and Schools sports audit planned for January/February 2005.
Investigate demand for and relative costs of additional playschemes in school holidays	<p>Runnymede Active Zone (RAZ) activity piloted in October 2002, focusing on sports activities. RAZ now runs during October and February half terms and Easter holidays. Most successful formula is running two playschemes, although specialist workshops and sports specific activities have been tried.</p> <p>Demand is not even. Some venues have been cancelled due to lack of bookings in one holiday, and been very popular in the next.</p> <p>Three playschemes operated for extended hours during summer 2004, after successful pilots over previous summer and Easter holidays.</p>
Investigate demand for and cost of play provision for under 5's in the Borough	Very successful scheme integrating rising 5's into small scheme at Lyne run in summer 2005 – plan to continue.
Work with all agencies concerned to identify areas of greatest need, target resources to make the best use of facilities and develop diversionary activities for young people	<p>Continuing objective.</p> <p>Graffiti project in October 2004 and Youth Pilot at Jubilee High in November 2004 are examples.</p> <p>Youth Development Service has established a rapid response team to work on Friday and Saturday nights wherever required in the Borough.</p>
Work with local community groups, schools and governing bodies to provide information and support for training and development of activities for young people	<p>Continuing objective.</p> <p>Significant input of SDO and local sports clubs into successful lottery bids for facilities at Salesian, Pycroft Grange and Jubilee High. Funding now confirmed for floodlit astro turf pitch and MUGA and modernisation of changing rooms respectively.</p>
Continue to support national programmes and local groups in sports development policies to increase long-term participation in sport by members of the community.	Active Surrey programmes continue to be supported successfully and form the basis for new junior clubs, subject to demand. Existing clubs are also developed and supported through the programme.

Continue to work with local clubs, Runnymede Sports Council and national initiatives where they facilitate an increase in the participation rates and enable participants to develop to the level they are able in their chosen sport(s)	SDO has worked particularly closely with Ottershaw Girls' Football Club, Runnymede Panthers (athletics), Fullbrook Netball Club, MM Tennis Academy, ACE badminton club. The Council supports the FACS and FANS schemes. Continued in Active Surrey, Surrey Youth Games and in contact with sports clubs through Parks, User Groups and sports development activity. For example revising the Sports Directory.
Work with Runnymede Youth Forum to identify what sorts of drop-in/café facilities young people need	RYAT re-launched in March 2004. This objective has continued to new action plan.
Promote healthy life-styles for young people through sports centres, schools clubs, parks, countryside and waterways facilities	Rambles leaflets published and continue to be popular. Now incorporated into loose-leaf leisure guide. Sports specific development is ongoing, focused around Active Surrey and Surrey Youth Games. Capacity to develop healthy walks programme does not exist at present.
Investigate the feasibility of making tennis free of charge to children at certain times by the end of May 2002	Done – now free for under 16's in all parks in school holidays (** or at all times?)
Give financial support to schemes that offer valuable opportunities, in order to maintain a range of play and sporting activities	
Link grant aid, lease agreements and business rate relief to objectives for community development, whether these be sports clubs or community groups.	This remains a Community and Cultural Strategy target.
Pursue resolution of Meads playing field lease with Surrey County Council, in view of its sporting use by Abbey Rangers.	Achieved – ** 2001
Continue to support local scout, guide, voluntary youth groups and sports clubs through grant aid	
Continue to monitor the local public and private sector sports and recreation market to inform Councillors as to the sustainability of the current service provision at Abbey Fit and Egham Leisure Centre.	Regular trading statements to L&E. Abbey Fit proposals took additional local provision into account in recommending £1.2 million investment in new facilities.

Annex B

The principal aims of the Council are set out in the Council Leader's Position statement:

- 1.1 "To ensure that we play our role to enhance the quality of life of all residents and assist those who conduct their business in the Borough".
- 1.2 "To maintain rigorous financial control of the Council's affairs, to ensure we keep to a minimum any additional call upon Council Taxpayers".

(Position Paper, Leader's Statement, 2004-2005)

The Leader's Position Paper also sets out the Council's core values:

- Committed to providing community leadership within Runnymede.
- Ensuring we provide a customer-focused quality service delivery to residents and businesses.
- Committed to achieving and maintaining clearly stated service standards.
- Committed to sound financial management, maximising flexibility and achieving value for money.
- Engaging with and being responsive to public opinion through consultation on important issues, ensuring clear communication of our policies.
- Working with other agencies to achieve community benefits while ensuring no dilution of accountability where there is clear responsibility.
- Setting an example in the way we operate both in respecting the environment and in our dealings with our suppliers and customers.
- Exercising policies that are non-discriminatory in our dealings with, and service to, our customers and also in our employment practices.
- Involving, valuing, developing and rewarding our staff in their employment and providing a good, safe working environment.
- Valuing, supporting, encouraging, and acknowledging the many organizations, groups and individuals who voluntarily provide a wide range of services of benefit to our community.

Aims Relating to Young People
Leader's Position Statement – 2004-2005

Key Roles:

i) We will further the interests and facilities for the youth of our Borough, in partnership with other agencies involved in this field.

ii) We will continue to progress the availability of sports activities in our area with a focus on our Sports Centres and with a particular interest in provision in the south of the Borough.

Improve Quality of Life

8.3.2 The growing problem of graffiti throughout the Borough is being addressed. Where graffiti appears on property it will be removed speedily. We will offer a graffiti-removal service to private owners, and we will work with Surrey Police to apprehend those causing graffiti damage and to recover the cost of removal.

Achieve Continuous Improvement

8.5.3 We are committed to working with partners to reduce the growing problem of anti-social behaviour throughout Runnymede. We will investigate funding sources where appropriate and ensure they are directed to the areas of greatest need.

Achieve Quality Services

8.6.3 The popular Play and Splash Schemes operated in our parks and elsewhere will continue and we will work in partnership with sponsors in order to ensure adequate funding is in place. Investigation of extended provision will continue.

8.10 Achieve Continuous Improvement

8.10.1 The aims and objectives of the Cultural Strategy will be kept under review within the Community Strategy in order to ensure it remains up to date and relevant to Runnymede and appropriate in the event of it being required to support any future external funding bids.

8.10.2 We will continue to work with other agencies to widen the range of leisure activities as a contribution to the Surrey Youth Strategy and continue our support of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, the scouts and guides movement and other organised youth groups and the Runnymede Splash scheme.

Youth Development Service Priorities

The four primary measurements for the statutory youth service (run by the County Council) are:

- 25% contact with the resident 13-19 population;
- 15% participation rate of the resident 13-19 population;
- 60% of participants in youth work gaining a recorded outcome;
- 30% of participants in youth work gaining an accredited outcome.

YDS also needs to demonstrate effective alignment with Connexions, making a contribution towards the targets of:

- A reduction in the proportion of 16-18 year olds not in employment, education or training (NEET);
- An increase in 13-19 year-olds participating in learning;
- Improving behaviour/reducing crime by young people;
- Better outcomes for young people from black and ethnic minorities;
- An influence on improving the overall effectiveness of services;
- Support for cross-government strategies.

YDS priorities- page 2-5

Runnymede YDS Targets

Comprehensive programme of youth work available to & accessible by all young people

- Ø Establish & maintain generic youth work evenings at Egham, Addlestone and Englefield Green youth centres
- Ø Establish information points in all Youth Development Service provisions.

Design & deliver youth work programmes addressing the needs of those young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).

- Ø Work with group of young people aged 16+ who are unemployed in North Runnymede Borough Council Deliver "So... what Now?", a pre-employment project
- Ø Deliver NOF Summer Activity Programme for school leavers at risk of unemployment
- Ø Deliver inclusion work at Gogmore Farm Park.

Design & deliver programmes of diversionary activities to reduce the involvement of young people in anti-social behaviour and criminal behaviour.

- Ø Develop the Café project at Gogmore Farm Park
- Ø Financially support young people to access RBC activity schemes during holiday periods
- Ø Work in partnership with other agencies within crime and disorder, where appropriate.

Promote healthy lifestyles by delivering a range of youth work programmes inc. drugs/ sexual health education.

- Ø Provide access to sexual health advice, emergency contraception and pregnancy testing
- Ø Support young people involved in drug misuse
- Ø Provide access to counselling.

Provide a range of accredited programmes enabling young people's achievements to be recognised.

- Ø Increase number of opportunities for young people to gain accreditation for their work
- Ø Ensure that young people involved in café project at Gogmore Farm Park undertake their Food Hygiene Certificates.

Work closely with schools, colleges and Pus to reduce exclusions and drop outs.

- Ø Maintain and develop contact with young people in all Borough secondary schools
- Ø Establish and develop a regular liaison with secondary head teachers
- Ø Provide alternative personal development opportunities for the students at Strode's College to reduce drop-out rates
- Ø Provide study support out of school time
- Ø Establish and implement a borough wide inclusion project.

Work towards the YDS being fully inclusive, targeting specific groups of young people, i.e. Young parents, travellers ethnic groups and young disabled people.

- Ø Continue to support and develop work with young parents in Runnymede Borough Council Continue to provide and develop an activity programme for young disabled people
- Ø Develop a music and expressive arts resource in Egham
- Ø Formalise a partnership with Surrey Young Carers.

Ensure young people are given opportunities for their views to be expressed and to be involved in the democratic decision making processes that affect them.

- Ø Establish young people's involvement in the planning of their programmes
- Ø Continue to develop the Borough Youth Forum
- Ø Increase participation in UK Youth Parliament
- Ø Develop a Youth website.

Ensure adequate infrastructure to deliver against the above

- Ø Develop the facilities available to young people at Addlestone Water Sports Centre.

Annex D

The Government's Children and Young People's Unit has set out the following vision for all children and young people:

- The opportunity to grow up in a loving, stable environment
- Real opportunities to achieve their full potential and contribute to a fast moving, changing and interdependent world
- Opportunities to experience the benefits of living in a diverse multi-cultural society, where all experiences are valued and racism is not tolerated
- The prospect of living in a safe and secure community where they are protected from harm, abuse, harassment, exploitation or neglect and have the chance to enjoy the opportunity to grow up with their peer groups and friends
- Chances to contribute to their local communities – feeling heard and being valued as citizens – shaping their lives and their futures
- The opportunity to appreciate their environment and participate in sport, music, art, drama and a variety of cultural activities of the society and community in which they live
- Focused support as they pass through the various transitions from birth to adulthood, expanding their capacity to make decisions about their identity, relationships, education, future, careers and financial affairs
- Excellent joined-up public services, which strive to meet the individual needs of children and young people and their families
- Our commitment to work across Government to end child poverty, child deprivation and social exclusion.⁷

⁷ "Building a Strategy for Children and Young People" – children and young people's unit consultation document, 2001

LEGAL BACKGROUND AND PARAMETERS

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: 1989

- ◇ Providers should recognise the rights of the child to rest and to leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.
- ◇ Providers should respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and should encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activities.⁸

The Children Act, 1989

The Children Act introduced registration and minimum standards for child care. The minimum standards for day-care, which are observed by this authority for all holiday playschemes, are most relevant.

Disability Discrimination Act 1995

People who provide goods and services have to take reasonable measures to make sure that they are not discriminating against disabled people. However, if the health or safety of the disabled person or other people would be in danger, it would not be against the law to refuse to provide the service to a disabled person or to provide it on different terms.⁹ All Borough Council services strive to be accessible for people with disabilities, including services and facilities for leisure.

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974¹⁰

The Management of Health & Safety at Work regulations 1992
The reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) 1995
The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
The Construction (Design and management) Regulations 1994

Children Bill 2004

⁸ 101 Ways to manage a Children's Activity Programme – ILAM, 2001

⁹ Legislation and children's play – The essential Guide – NPFA 1998

¹⁰ *ibid*, pages 17-22

Principles for Development of Play Facilities and Services

The Council recognises the importance of play in children's development especially its role in improving social understanding, exploring creativity, developing confidence and learning about the world. The Council also recognises the roles of play and sport in tackling broader issues such as developing and sustaining healthy and safe communities, combating social exclusion and improving people's living environments.

- 2.1 All service and facility developments must demonstrate identification and assessment of need, evaluation and improvement. Need is identified from correspondence with Council members or local residents about the provision of new or additional services. These may be unsolicited (eg. requests for skating facilities), or in response to questionnaires sent out to evaluate summer schemes or courses. Once proposals are formulated they are submitted both for council approval and to consultation with local residents. Planning permission is also sought where necessary for capital projects.
- 2.2 When possible, pilot schemes are initiated and evaluated before further development of a project (e.g. Multi-use games areas – Gogmore Farm Park).
- 2.3 Local young people and residents are involved in the development of play projects and evaluation of proposals, where appropriate. *(E.g. local schools involved in developing design proposals for Marnham Place, Sussex Place, Wendover Place and for Frank Muir Field, local residents consulted about the designs received for both these areas, the development of use of MUGA at Kings Lane, Englefield Green, Aviator Park & Heathervale).*
- 2.4 The provision of new activities for young people are planned in conjunction with the local Youth Development Worker and local groups of young people. The basis is that these will then complement youth services programmes.