

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

**FROM: PROJECT AND PROGRAMME
EXECUTIVE**

REPORT NUMBER **G58**

**TO: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE (COMMUNITY SERVICES)**

DATE OF MEETING: 24 JULY 2007

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – PROGRESS REPORT

1. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide Members with an update on the Council’s contribution to the agenda for delivering better outcomes for children and young people.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the report be noted.

2.2 That Members determine whether they wish for a further progress report in 12 months’ time.

The Committee is able to resolve these matters.

3. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this paper.

4. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

Risk Description	Likelihood	Seriousness or Impact	Mitigation Measures
The Council fails to fulfil its duties of co-operation and fully involve itself in this agenda	Very Low	Critical	Council continues with existing inputs and measures with identified senior officer taking a lead role in ensuring delivery of Council responsibilities.

5. **KEY INFORMATION**

5.1 This is the third report Members have received (29 November 2005, and 28 March being the previous ones).

- 5.2 Below is a summary of issues dealt with over the last 12 months and ongoing, both internally and with external partners:-
- i) The Children's Lead Network of senior officers from the district/borough councils, the county council and other partners continues to meet on a regular basis. Areas of work include housing for young people, safe recruitment, safeguarding generally (currently looking at a licensing protocol) and positive activities for young people. A Members network has also been created which has now met three times and will be meeting every four months in the future. Rex Thake represents Babergh, as the Children and Young people's Champion, on the network.
 - ii) The Suffolk Children's Trust Partnership has been created. There is a Trust Partnership Board which is the lead group. The principal purposes of the Board are to provide strategic direction and co-ordination for commissioning, joint planning and integration of services for children and young people. It also acts as the Board for the children and young people's block of the Local Area Agreement (LAA). The Board membership includes two district/borough Councillors nominated by the Suffolk Local Government Association. The two Councillors are from Suffolk Coastal District Council and Ipswich Borough Council. The Board is supported and advised by an Executive Group. This Group includes the lead officers within the district/borough councils. Tim Mutum, Project and Programme Executive, is Babergh's representative.
 - iii) Support has been given in monitoring delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan and also in the annual refresh of the Plan.
 - iv) The Government inspection of Suffolk's Children and Young People's Services has just been completed (called a Joint Area Review or JAR). District/borough councils supported the preparation for the inspection and also met the lead inspector on 25 June. The inspectors focussed on partnership working and also took a keen interest in our housing role and the work done with young people with disabilities. The Council's Be Active project was highlighted to the inspection team.
 - v) All district and borough councils have completed a safeguarding audit as required by Section 11 of the Children Act 2004. Babergh met 39 of the 40 standards and was working towards achieving the remaining standard. Under the Safeguarding Policy three records of concern have been submitted to Suffolk County Council. These arose where officers undertaking normal duties were advised of something that raised concerns about the well being of a child.
 - vi) Members and staff have undertaken where necessary basic safeguarding training (Level 1) and those staff who may have to make a referral have done Level 2 training.
 - vii) A number of Babergh based projects have been successful under the Youth Opportunities Fund (YOF) and Youth Capital Fund (YCF). These two funds were set up by the Government and young people in Suffolk have the central role as decision makers, grant givers, project leaders and participants. The Government allocation to Suffolk in 2006/07 was £342,283 (YOF) which was centred around "Things To Do/Places To Go" and £269,515 (YCF) which was for capital projects. Both funds are to provide additional, not replacement funding. Allocation and administration of funding is on a district level with multi-agency youth groupings established. Babergh offers a reference/opinion on capital funded projects. Projects funded in Babergh to date are:-

Project Title	Aim of Project	Total Award
Sudbury and Great Cornard Young Parents project	To encourage young parents to meet in a non-judgemental environment for support, socialising and developing life and social skills.	£4,281
Eden project, Sudbury	Refurbishment and capital equipment project	£10,901
Eden XTRA Café project, Sudbury	To establish an extra weekly evening session for young people to access provision at the project	£4,371
Music for Life, Sudbury	To set up and run rock and pop music workshops and gigs	£8,847
Sensations Majorettes, Sudbury	To enable young people to teach their peers to UK twirling standards	£2,580
Shotley Youth Club	To provide activities over the summer for young people in rural communities in and around Shotley	£6,575

- 5.3 In addition to working with partner agencies the Council continues to contribute directly to the delivery of this important agenda. Members will be aware that at this meeting a summary of actions achieved in 2006/07 under the Youth Strategy are reported and an Action Plan for 2007/08 is being considered.
- 5.4 The Council's new Corporate Plan for 2007/11 will make reference to the Children Act 2004 and the children and young people agenda. The Council needs to ensure that, where relevant, service delivery continues to take into account the views and needs of children and young people. This is already strong in some services areas, especially leisure, and continues to be further embedded across the Council.

6. **APPENDICES**

None.

7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS REFERRED TO:**

None.

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