



Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2008

Report from the Director of Children and Families

For Information only

Wards Affected: Kilburn

North Kilburn Partnership and the Provision of Facilities for Young People

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 In 2005 the Community in North Kilburn raised concerns, through ward councillors, about the lack of youth facilities and activities in the local area. This led to the formation of a North Kilburn Partnership involving young people, parents, residents, residents associations, the youth service and Genesis and Stadium housing associations. The community were concerned that children were at risk of becoming involved with or being affected by rising street crime in their neighbourhood. Approximately 20 children and young people and 15 partners attended a youth forum at the Tricycle organized by the partnership group (May 2005).
- 1.2 In 2006 a petition was sent to local politicians, the police and the Council from residents around Dunster Gardens in North Kilburn. The petition outlined the criminal damage and anti-social behaviour by young people and expressed concern about the lack of services for young people in the area, the lack of neighbourhood wardens and lack of police enforcement against graffiti and criminal damage on cars and property. As a result of the petition a walkabout of the area was organized with the Council, police and residents and an ASB Action plan was created. This led to improvements in the short term but did not address the underlying issue of facilities and activities for young people.
- 1.3 Following a 50-strong community meeting with the ASB team and partners, residents put together a second petition asking the Council to address the lack of youth facilities and activities. A further petition to the Council to remove the No Ball Games signs and to provide children and young people with places to play in the area south of Willesden Lane was drawn up by residents in the Brent Eleven streets (BEST) area.

- 1.4 The petitions were reviewed by Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2007, the Scrutiny Committee supported in principle requests for co-ordinated and accessible youth programmes and community facilities to address the lack of co-ordinated youth services, anti-social behaviour and rising street crime in North Kilburn.
- 1.5 The Locality Co-ordinator for Kilburn mapped the area to identify play and youth activities and found provision was concentrated in the south Kilburn area. This reflects the level of funding focused on South Kilburn as a result of the New Deal for Communities regeneration programme.
- 1.6 A project group was initially set-up comprising of BRAT and BEST residents groups, Children's Partnerships, the Youth Service and local ward Councillors. The partnership has since grown to a collaboration of local service providers and is chaired by the Third Sector. The group acts as a local forum for organisations in North Kilburn developing and promoting services to young people aged 11-18 years old.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the progress report be noted with a focus on the areas for further development.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Since the original petition back in 2006, a partnership of local service providers has been established consisting of residents groups, young people, Youth Service, Sports Service, Children's Partnerships, Police, Ward Councillors, Schools, the College of North West London (CNWL) and other educational providers including the Tricycle and the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance, together with the Community and Third Sector.
- 3.2 The group has set terms of reference and meets every 6 weeks with a main focus to:
- locate and identify a focal point for youth work to take place and secure funding to develop the site which will provide access to information, support and advice;
 - review how information is collated and disseminated to young people to develop better ways of communicating information;
 - review and audit existing resources in the area and to explore ways how these can better meet the local needs of young people.

What has been achieved so far?

- 3.2 Charteris Sports Centre is located in the area and the partnership has been working with the Sports Service to promote the range of activities at the Centre to the local community. As a result of consultation with young people, Basketball was set-up on a Friday evening and has been well attended. There is a still a need to develop and promote this resource further, with an emphasis on more activities taking place during school holiday times and at weekends.
- 3.3 The OK Club was successful in bidding for funding from the Mayors Fund, which is being used to provide outreach and set-up youth activities. A number of Go-Karting sessions have been successful at engaging with the youth. More focused 1-1 work is

underway looking at identifying and breaking down barriers which prevent youth accessing existing facilities and activities in South Kilburn.

- 3.4 The Youth Service provided the Youth Bus for 5 sessions during 2007. The bus has the capacity to hold 32 passengers. On the top deck young people have access to a large plasma screen, which in turn is connected to a state of the art computer suite. Downstairs is a social area including leather seating where young people can chill out, watch videos, discuss issues and play games and develop socially in a young person centred environment. Laptops were available for use if necessary. Due to other commitments the Bus was only available for a short period of time and it was not possible to make the project sustainable.
- 3.5 The Police have been engaging with young people in the area with Community Support Officers (CSOs). The CSOs established a project with young people and the Institute of Contemporary Music Performance.
- 3.6 The partnership have submitted a bid to BIG Lottery Fund (Reaching Communities strand) for capital funding (£50k) and revenue funding (£400k) to develop an intergenerational resource and activities centre, bringing together diverse communities across the generations. The centre will act as a forum and focus to influence local services, build cross cultural understanding, combat social fragmentation, reduce crime and foster community dialogue. The partnership is exploring options to develop the site on the toilet block on Victoria Road which is on the Councils disposal list.
- 3.7 Kimberly Road playground was recently inspected by Brent Housing Partnership (BHP) and is now on the list of Environmental Improvements marked urgent due to Health and Safety issues. It has also been identified for upgrading in the Fair Play - Playbuilder Scheme for which Brent has £1,000,000 government funding to spend over three years. Kimberly Road is one of 20 schemes and is scheduled for upgrade in 2009/10. Streatley Road Open Space will also be developed under the scheme in 2008/09.
- 3.8 The partnership has established links with the Streets for People scheme which has secured funding of £1,325,000 from TfL to improve the environment of the local Brent Eleven Streets (BEST) area. A working party has been set-up to look at projects to address anti-social behaviour by youth; projects may include public art, youth activities and festivals. Travel Plan implementation will also look at promoting activities with local schools such as bike breakfasts, organised rides, walks and explorer days.
- 3.9 The partnership now includes the Neighbourhood Ward Working Officer to ensure that partnership issues are included on the Neighbourhood Working agenda which is to focus on ward issues and to develop small projects to address these.

Areas for further development

- 3.10 Mapping of need to be matched with opportunities promoted in a cohesive way through the partnership and the council services including and addressing gaps in provision;
- Develop further partnership working opportunities with the Youth Service, including stronger links with the PAYP team;
 - Streets for people projects will provide an opportunity for play in BEST area, if parents and children are involved in the planning and delivery;
 - Kimberley Road playground due for modernisation is sizeable and provides opportunities for play and other healthy activities;

- Neighbourhood working is an opportunity to deliver small projects promoting community development, increasing the range and number of activities in the area and to focus on cohesion.

Background Papers

BEST and BRAT petitions submitted to C&FOS committee.

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