

Newcastle City Council

Neighbourhood Services

Play and Youth Service

INTERNAL MEMORANDUM

To: Jill Bauld, Area Manager,
Play & Youth Service,
Outer West Area

Your Reference:

From: Ed Marley, Youth Worker,
Castle Ward

Our Reference: EM10/hk

Date: 16th January 2007

Extension:

Subject: Youth Work in the Northern Villages

1. Synopsis

1.1 This report seeks to update on the current situation with the Senior Youth Work in the Northern Villages and sets out a proposal for a change in this provision.

2. Recommendation

2.1 That this proposal is discussed and then implemented as soon as possible.

3. Introduction

3.1 This report has been written following a period when Brunswick Senior Youth Club has been closed due to the state of repair of Brunswick Pavilion, which has created an opportunity for an evaluation of the youth work in the Northern Villages. The report will detail what has been done in the interim period to maintain contact with the youth club members, and finishes with a proposal for future provision.

4. The Past

4.1 Youth work in the Northern Villages has been centred in Dinnington Youth Project and Brunswick Pavilion. Historically this has been staffed by volunteers from the community supported by a Youth Worker from the Play & Youth Service, and since March 2005 solely by staff from the Play & Youth Service.

4.2 In the case of Brunswick Senior Club a partnership has been developed between the Play & Youth Service and North Tyneside Youth Service. A Youth Worker from both services run the Youth Club on Wednesday evenings.

4.3 Over the past five years there hasn't been a Senior Youth Club in Hazlerigg, although some young people from Hazlerigg do attend the Youth Club in Brunswick.

5. The Present

5.1 Youth work in Dinnington currently takes place on one evening per week, in the youth project building that is owned by the Play & Youth Service. The Youth Club is settled, with a steady membership, and a good relationship has been developed between the staff and the young people. The members have asked for second youth club night, and this could be an area of development in this club.

5.2 The Youth Club in Brunswick is not operating at present due to the condition of the Pavilion building. Attempts are being made to correct this situation, and thanks must go to Brunswick Parish Council for their support with this.

5.3 The youth work staff have attempted to maintain contact with the Youth Club members via a variety of methods. These have included outreach/detached work in and around Brunswick; telephone contact; and writing to the members. Very little contact has occurred during this period, Youth Club members have failed to attend pre-arranged meetings with the youth work staff. An analysis of the membership shows that over half (55%) are aged 17 years and over, and contact has been lost with these who have probably moved on from the Youth Club.

5.4 In Hazlerigg there has been a number of incidents of anti-social behaviour around the vicinity of the memorial hall when the Junior Club have been in, which has disrupted the sessions. This has been caused by young people who are too old to attend the club. As a result of this and other reports of anti-social behaviour, the detached youth workers have been visiting Hazlerigg to assess the situation in the village.

5.5 The presence of young people has varied. Sometimes there has been no one around, and on other occasions small groups have been "hanging around", either in the park or outside the shops.

6. Proposals

6.1 The work at Dinnington is successful and should continue in its current format. However, there have been a number of programmes over the past two years involving the members in music and dance. The Youth Work Team will

explore opportunities to expand the provision to two nights with the second focussing on this topic.

6.2 The outreach/detached session on Mondays to continue to include Hazlerigg Village with a view to making contact with young people and discuss with them their need for, and likely attendance at, a Senior Youth Club. If the need is identified the proposal is to take the Monday night session out of Brunswick and operate it in Hazlerigg.

6.3 The partnership with North Tyneside to continue in Brunswick on Wednesday evenings.

6.4 This would create a programme of (at least) one youth work session in each village.