

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR LEISURE, CULTURE AND YOUNG PEOPLE

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YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Leisure Inclusion

The YPS Leisure inclusion project delivered a comprehensive summer programme of activities for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The programme operated for 6 weeks from 25th July – 2nd September 2016 and offered full and half day provision based at Kaleidoscope Youth Centre. Activities at Kaleidoscope included dance & movement, cooking, arts & crafts, sports and games as well as sensory activities. Young people also participated in various trips and visits as well as outdoor and adventurous activities including water sports, climbing and mountain biking. Young people also had the opportunity to take part in a two night residential stay where they took part in a range of outdoor activities.

Investing in Children Award

Recently we were assessed, and successfully received the accreditation of 'Investing in Children' award. The assessor spent time speaking to young people and parents as well as reviewing the evidence we put forward. The assessor was impressed and extremely pleased, both parents and young people advocated for the service and felt we deserved the award. Evidence suggested we actively listen and act upon the views and choices of young people and shape the delivery of our service to meet the needs and desires of the young people we work with.

NCS

Young People's Services delivered, in partnership with SLYNCS, a five week NCS programme at Kentmere Residential Centre. The NCS programme included a variety of activities for young people age 15 -17 years, activities included orienteering, wild camping, raft building, problem solving and team building activities.

Cedars Primary School

The Positive Activities Team recently delivered an inset day for 75 teaching and support staff from Cedars Primary School. The day consisted of many problem solving activities including - build a structure, nightline and low ropes. The day was hugely successful and the school are interested in organising further activity days for their pupils.

ARTS SERVICES

Leeds & Liverpool Canal 200 years celebration - There are 2 arts events happening in mid October to mark the 200th anniversary of the canal:

- **Super Slow Way: A Rhapsody to the Leeds & Liverpool Canal** - King George's Hall 16th October 2016 4pm. This will be a unique celebration of the history, people and stories of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal through music and song, featuring a series of poems specially written by poet Ian McMillan and hundreds of Blackburn's voices! Come with us on a journey along the waterway that fuelled the Industrial Revolution and is now a place where time slows down. Featuring special performances from children from Blackburn's primary schools and the Blackburn People's Choir, alongside the award-winning Brighthouse and Rastrick Band. Audiences can expect stunning solo performances from the internationally recognised soprano Amanda Roocroft, cellist Jonathan Aasgaard and tabla player Kuljit Bhamra. Created by celebrated composer Ian Stephens, this is a truly unique combination of talent from across the region, marking the bicentenary of our beautiful waterway.

MUSEUM

Blackburn Museum has been offered a grant of £58,500 from Arts Council England Resilience Fund to explore ways to make better use of the building and its spaces plus increase public access to the collections held by the Museum. The money will be put towards making architectural drawings for a connection between the Museum and the new Making Rooms building. Also the money will go towards redeveloping the Explorers Gallery into a study area for the Hart collection. This redevelopment is a response to the growing demand to research and display this important collection. As well as improving physical access to this collection the museum will work on making the information it contains more accessible to all interest levels. We are working with the University of London and Blackburn College and a group of other partners on this exciting project that will start from 1 October and last for 18 months.

A new regular event will be taking place at the museum. If you have ever found something or dug up an interesting object you can bring your discovery to the Museum and Art Gallery on Wednesday 21st September where Portable Antiquities Finds Officer, Stuart Noon, will be on hand to identify your finds and record the really old ones into the National database. The Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) is a national programme co-ordinated by the British Museum. It assists with the identification and recording of archaeological finds discovered by members of the public.

Leisure

National Fitness Awards – Witton Park Arena has been shortlisted in the category of Best Rehabilitation Facility of The Year 2016, with the Awards Ceremony being held in December. The nomination recognises the successful, integrated rehabilitation and wellbeing work that is delivered within leisure. Through commissioned services from Public Health and the CCG specialist staff and training instructors deliver a range of targeted exercise sessions to support individuals who are referred for weight management

interventions; stroke, falls and cardiac rehabilitation programmes as well as the more recently introduced MacMillan Cancer exercise classes. Good luck to the team

Memberships - The summer promotion performed strongly contributing to a growth in membership numbers after a dip in July; 6935 in September vs 6482 in July. Retaining (and even growing) these levels will be crucial with the budget pressures and saving requirements for 2016-17 and therefore identified investment in the 3 sites as previously discussed will be critical ahead of the key New Year campaigns. Staff memberships are at their highest level with 735 supporting employee health and wellbeing. Focusing on our USP and differentiating ourselves from other local gyms a direct mail campaign for 50+ went out last week to c2000 people who have used us or been members. We'll monitor the effectiveness to inform future targeted promotions.

The summer events programme in Witton Park was a big success with many thousands of visitors attending the range of events and shows that took place. In July the family orientated "A Walk in the Park" fun day launched new information lecterns and marked walking/running routes in the park; over 4000 people enjoyed a fun, filled afternoon of activities and entertainment. August saw the return of the Royal Lancashire Show to the borough. The new committee of volunteers worked hard organising the 3 day event which saw significant infrastructure installed across the park. Despite the weather the show was successful with learning and feedback ready to be taken forward to plan for next year. The borough's parks hosted two popular Eid festivals; one at Witton and the most recent at Corporation Park. Organisers were pleased with both events and are already talking with officers for next year.

Venues

KGH - The summer is usually quieter across the Venues however there were still a variety of events and shows taking place. Blakeys hosted a number of local charity and community events including a Blackburn Rovers Action Group meeting and a Folk Night in aid of the Corporation Park Supporters Group. KGH welcomed the return of TV cameras to film episodes of 'Dickinson's Real Deal' due to be broadcast late 2016/early 2017. A social media video was also shot for the 'S2S Festival' promoting their Oct 1st Dance night. Classics Subscriptions are still available with sales already higher than last year's total figure. There have also been a number of weddings in the main concert hall including 4 Asian weddings; bookings are already in the diary for next summer. Two strong shows are now on sale: Frank Bruno and Jools Holland.

Darwen Library Theatre's wide ranging summer programme has included four events as part of the Somme Commemorations with the wartime plays 'Talbot House' and 'Meet Tommy Atkins', the WW1-themed 'Afternoon Variety Show' and a concert by the Blackburn Peoples Choir. The summer season of live Glyndebourne Opera screenings continued with Wagner's 'Die Meistersinger' and Berlioz' 'Beatrice et Benedict' and The National Theatre's new season saw their productions of Deep Blue Sea and 3-Penny Opera beamed direct to

the DLT big screen. The monthly acoustic nights, the Film society, Afternoon Variety Shows and Comedy Club all presented well-received summer seasons. The high profile comedian Justin Moorhouse has just gone on sale.