

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

COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TALBOT

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
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YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Youthforia Event:

On Sunday 3rd September, almost a 150 young people from Youth Councils across the Northwest attended the regional Youthforia event at Blackburn Town Hall. Feedback was extremely positive and young leaders from across the region participated in valuable debates and discussions on key issues affecting young people.

Cllr Damian Talbot, Cllr Maureen Bateson and Cllr Julie Gunn were in attendance, with Cllr Maureen Bateson opening the event. There are 7 Youthforia events a year which take place across the North West. The recent event in Blackburn also hosted the AGM which allowed young people to stand for election to be members of the Youthforia steering group.

Aliyah Shah, Deputy Youth MP for Blackburn with Darwen was successful in being elected as the Lancashire representative. Aliyah will be the single point of contact between Lancashire and BwD Youth Councils and the steering group. Aliyah will be responsible for facilitating sessions at future youthforia events, leading key debates and carrying young people's voice across key regional and national debates and discussions.

Summer Holiday Programme 2017

Young Peoples Service delivered a wide ranging and comprehensive programme of activities for children and young people of all abilities, aged 5-19 years during the four weeks of August. In addition family fun days were delivered throughout the borough every weekend.

Highlights of the OFF programme included:

- Outdoor adventurous activities such as mountain biking, activity days at the Anderton Residential Centre, water sports at Queens Park Water Recreation Centre.
- 2 and 3 day residential delivered throughout the summer.
- MUGA's were delivered every evening across each of the neighbourhoods.
- Play schemes within Leisure Centres and Community Centres every afternoon throughout the four weeks.
- Mobile play schemes throughout the four weeks in the Borough's parks and open spaces.
- Audley holiday play scheme engaged with approximately 130 children every day (Mon – Fri afternoons – 1.30pm – 4.00pm).
- The eight MUGA teams engaged with large groups young people every evening (Mon – Fri, 6.30pm – 8.30pm).

- The weekly barge residentials, Anderton activity days and Anderton residentials were booked to capacity

The family fun days proved to be a great success and included activities such as climbing wall, inflatable obstacle course, bouncy castle, face painting, badge making etc. In total eight fun days were held across the borough, venues included: Blackburn Town Centre, Mill Hill Community Centre and Park, Darwen Knott Street, Bangor Street Community Centre, Audley Centre, Energy Zone, Hereford Road, and Bold Venture park.

The Leisure Inclusion team also offered a 6 week, full day (Monday – Friday) programme for Children with Disabilities at Kaleidoscope Youth Centre. Activities included dance & movement, cooking, arts & crafts, boccia, wake & shake and sensory activities.

In additional to our Summer programme, all youth clubs continued to operate throughout the school holidays across the borough.

LEISURE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Walk in the Park 2017

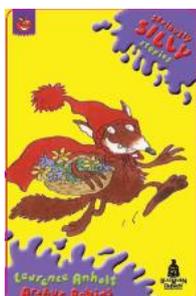
External funding from Tesco's National Charities Partnership was secured to introduce route signage in Bold Venture Park. The launch event, A Walk in The Park was held on 12th August enjoying sunshine and showers. Over 2,000 people attended during the day and over 700 people took part in one of the new trail walks. Awareness of the new walking routes continues to be promoted through social media as well as local leaflets. The Friends of Bold Venture are being supported to access small grants to continue to improve the park's walks and increase active participation.

BSLC Spin Studio

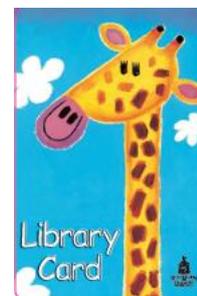
The remodel to extend the existing spin studio and create a new staff welfare room has been completed on time. The new look studio opened on Monday 18th September. State of the art lighting and sound system will offer members an exciting, immersive and entertaining exercise experience to ensure leisure services continues to attract and keep customers, supporting continued financial targets.

Libraries and Archives

New children's library cards



1st August saw the launch of a new range of library cards for children, featuring characters from children's books. There are five different designs to choose from, and not only will the tickets be offered to new library members as they join, but throughout the month of August there was a special promotional offer to replace existing members' tickets free of charge. This proved very popular over the summer with very positive feedback from junior members who love the new designs.



Public WiFi

The first stage of the public access IT upgrade is now complete with 96 new, large screen desk top units installed across the Borough's libraries. The 'cloud' based system offers library members a secure, free solution to data storage whilst providing corporate IT the ability to roll-out software updates automatically across the estate minimising the need for individual site visits. Work continues on the development of a wireless solution to enable remote connectivity and self-served printing and payments. The upgrade supports the Council's 'Digital First' approach to improve online access to citizens and drive efficiencies in service delivery.

Venues

Shows - Kevin Sims, winner of The Voice has been confirmed as the lead for Beauty and the Beast at KGH in December. Ticket sales for both KGH and DLT pantomimes are selling well supported with clear marketing and communications plans.

The Autumn season is proving popular with four sold out shows: That Manchester Night & Jason Manford (Work in Progress) at KGH and at DLT, Blancmange & Brian Blessed (the latter sold out in 4 days so another night has been put in with <40 tickets remaining)

New Ticketing outlet - Tickets for KGH and DLT can now be purchased at Darwen Leisure Centre with the launch of an additional ticket outlet to take advantage of the high footfall in the leisure centre and to increase the choice ticket outlets available. Telephone sales will still be dealt with by the box office in KGH.