

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

COUNCILLOR DAMIAN TALBOT

**PORTFOLIO CO-ORDINATING
DIRECTOR: MARTIN EDEN
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LEISURE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Partnership with Blackburn Rovers Community Trust

Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council (BwDBC) and Blackburn Rovers Community Trust (BRCT) have entered into a partnership to strengthen sports development opportunities within Blackburn with Darwen. The partnership will seek to develop a new sports offer to schools which will be led by BRCT under the new title of the 'School Sports Partnership – Powered by Blackburn Rovers Community Trust'.

Wellbeing Service

The Wellbeing Service was recently invited to present at the Kings Fund Annual Conference at the end of November 2017 as an example of best practice for its integrated approach for tackling multiple unhealthy lifestyle behaviours. This is a significant national event with system leaders and practitioners attending to discover, learn and celebrate ways of delivering better services with a focus on population health, wellbeing and prevention.

LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

Community Living Rooms

Community Living Rooms are popular, relaxed and friendly groups who meet regularly in the welcoming surroundings of the borough's libraries. They include Blackburn Library Art Group (Thurs 10-12noon), Darwen Library Crafters (Mon 10-12noon), Darwen Library Larks choir (Mon 1.30-3pm) and the Sew & Sow group (Tues 10-12noon alternating between sewing sessions at Mill Hill and gardening sessions at Livesey Library). For more information, please contact Andrew Orr andrew.orr@blackburn.gov.uk or (01254) 587941.

Animals Agents prize winner announced

Last summer the library ran a prize draw for children and young people who read 6 books to complete our Summer Reading Challenge during the school holidays. With 1,382 enrolments and 646 completions we had a lot of entry forms to check through, but the winner was Asmaa Khan who has been presented with an iPad mini, donated by BorrowBox (our ebook supplier).

VENUES

Beauty and the Beast at KGH achieved record breaking attendances of 19,369 / 91% tickets sold (exceeding Aladdin's 18,947 / 88% tickets sold in 2015). The secondary spend on merchandise and confectionary was also consistently high for every performance which will contribute to a positive overall position. KGH also had strong ticket sales for The Darkness and a sell-out show for Shed Seven.

In 2018 KGH have secured a return visit by Jools Holland following his immensely popular Blackburn debut in 2017. The Mersey Beatles: Get Back Tour will play one of their very limited tour dates at KGH promoted by Live Nation who haven't booked KGH for several years.

At DLT the comedy club programming is strengthening and on the back of its growing reputation comedians are returning to DLT as part of their tours; at the end of 2017 there were sell out tour shows by Jeremy Hardy and Tom Allen. The 2018 season begins with two sell out dates for An Audience with Brian Blessed and Mark Steel is well on the way for a sell out for May 2018.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

Annual Youth MP Debate, House of Commons

On Friday 10th November, our Youth MP, Ummaih Shah took part in the annual Youth MP debates in the House of Commons chaired by the speaker Jon Bercow. Youth MP's from across the country debated the following five issues: Votes at 16; A curriculum to prepare us for life; Protect LGBT; Transport and Mental health

All the Youth MP's voted to decide which two issues should become the UK youth parliament's priority campaigns for the year ahead; Votes at 16 and a curriculum to prepare us for life were identified as the two areas of focus. To meet these commitments locally, BwD Youth Forum are continuing to campaign for votes at 16 and have recently met MP Kate Hollern and are awaiting a meeting with MP Jake Berry.

The young people have been working with YPS to develop a youth work curriculum on 'Life skills' to be delivered across all youth clubs in the borough. The young people have developed a Finance curriculum pack to help their peers manage finances and learn valuable budgeting skills and a health curriculum pack to assist young people with the skills to stay healthy, active and improve their wellbeing.

Takeover Challenge:

On November 29th the BwD Youth Forum organised the annual Takeover Challenge event in King Georges Hall. Young people decided to invite three partner agencies to help deliver interactive workshops on three key topics:

- Domestic abuse- supported by the Wish Centre
- Substance misuse- supported by Go2
- Mental health- supported by Lancashire Mind

The above three issues are campaigns BwD Youth Forum and the Youth MPs are currently leading on and felt it was important to raise awareness on the key issues affecting children and young people across the Borough. Over 130 participants from secondary schools, colleges and youth organisations along with key professionals engaged positively in the event. Feedback from young people and professional was overwhelmingly positive.

ARTS AND HERITAGE SERVICES

LEVEL 2

In November, Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery launched a research and study space was launched alongside an international conference in partnership with the University of London and Blackburn College University centre. The events were well attended and included speakers from Princeton University as well as Cambridge, Oxford and London University.

Level 2 is open to the public and alongside an academic study space there are handling boxes and objects which allow the public to get up close to the collections. A series of events and activities are also programmed throughout 2018.