



Report to the Health, Wellbeing & Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Monday 3rd December 2018

SPACE 2018 Evaluation



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Introduction

SPACE 2018 is a programme of activities for young people between the ages of 8 and 17 during the school holidays across Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent. Newcastle Borough Council on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner coordinated this program for Newcastle under Lyme.

Background

Core funding is provided by the Staffordshire Police & Crime Commissioner across Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.

SPACE 2018 in Newcastle was co-ordinated by a partnership working group facilitated by the Borough Council's Partnerships Locality Officer with involvement from JOG partners:-

- Staffordshire County Council – Local Support Team (LST) & Youth Offending Service (YOS).
- Staffordshire Police.
- Newcastle Borough Council Leisure section.
- Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS).
- Aspire.

Activities have been delivered over the 6-week summer holiday and the October half-term. Activities will be run over the February 2019 half-term.



Provision was split into 3 elements:-

- a. The Core Offer – a special Jubilee 2 membership offer for 11 – 17 year olds, funded by the OPCC with 600 available for the Universal Offer and 100 allocated for the Targeted Offer.
- All available memberships were used.
 - Gym attendances = 2,185; Pool attendances = 2,513; Climbing attendances = 342. Total attendances 5,040.
 - Attendances were split almost exactly 50/50 between male & female.
 - All of the ages attended, with the peak between 12 & 14.
 - Generally positive feedback from young people and parents.
 - Promotion through schools and social media seemed to attract most responses; parents seemed to be key in getting many young people signing up.

- b. Detached Youth Service – targeted provision funded by the OPCC.

The Detached Youth Service provided a number of activities during the 6 weeks – a total of 59 sessions. These included:-

- Multi-sport sessions in target locations;
- Fishing sessions.
- Outings that required booking, such as a fishing trip to Cudmore Fisheries in Whitmore and a trip to Alton Towers.

Feedback from attendees was broadly very positive.

- c. Additional targeted activities commissioned/spot purchased by Newcastle Partnership.

Seven providers were commissioned or spot-purchased to provide a wide range of activities across the age range:-

- Bee Active.
- Gifted Workshop.
- Jude Theatre Company.
- Port Vale Community Foundation Trust.
- Staffordshire Clubs for Young People.
- Streetgames.



- Time4Sport.

Constraints and Restrictions

There is only 1 week remaining of the programme to be delivered for this financial year, February 2019 half-term, with the majority of funding already allocated.

The level of OPCC funding for next year, 2019/10, is unknown at this stage, and it is unlikely that we will know until February 2019.

Other issues for consideration when planning future activities

- Due to the way in which the programme was promoted on the SPACE website information about targeted activities was widely available. This led to instances of parents trying to book their children on activities that were intended to be closed to referrals. It is recommended that, in future, targeted activities are not openly promoted on the SPACE website.
- Some providers were more proactive in promoting their activities than others – the former tended to get better attendance figures.
- There were queries about out-of-area referrals. It was decided that we would only accept referrals for children & young people residing in Newcastle-under-Lyme with a ST5, ST7, CW3 or TF9 postcode. The only exception would be looked after children from the Borough currently living out of area.
- It may be beneficial to have invited Partners/Stakeholders including Police & F&RS (Fire & Rescue Service) come along to some of the activities to do some community safety advice also.

Conclusions and Outcomes

- Outcomes exceeded expectations with Newcastle achieving the highest year-on-year reduction in youth ASB figures across Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.
- The additional activities commissioned by Newcastle Partnership were a key factor in these achievements.
- The partnership approach to the co-ordination of SPACE activities in Newcastle ensured that we were able to best utilise the knowledge and skills of partners across sectors.
- Over the 6 weeks there was a reported drop of 41% in reported youth ASB incidents across Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent.



- The most significant drop was in Newcastle-under-Lyme - 69 reported youth ASB incidents compared to 147 during same period last year, a 53.1% decrease.
- Figures from the October half-term are not available at the time of writing.
- Most of the activities met, or exceeded targets for attendance and received positive feedback from attendees and agencies involved. With figures received to date from all but 1 of the providers a total of 1,106 attendances have been recorded.
- Generally speaking activities that required no booking were easier to manage, but the nature of such activities meant that levels of attendance did fluctuate. For those activities that required booking, referrals from targeted cohorts were made by relevant agencies including the LST & YOS.
- Drop-in activities were focused on target hotspot areas as identified through the JOG: these being Audley, Bradwell, Kidsgrove, Knutton, Cross Heath, Chesterton, Silverdale and Park Site.

Questions to be Addressed

- Does the Committee feel that the SPACE Programme for Newcastle to date has been an effective way of addressing issues of youth ASB?
- Are there any improvements to the way that the programme was co-ordinated and delivered that should be considered to the 2019/20 programme?

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)

Portfolio Holder - Corporate and Service Improvement, People and Partnerships, Cllr. S. Tagg.

Portfolio Holder - Community Safety and Wellbeing, Cllr. Jill Waring

Local Ward Member (if applicable)

- Not applicable.

Background Materials

- OPCC, Police & Crime Plan, 2016 – 2020.

Appendices



- SPACE 2018 Summer Holiday Programme.
- SPACE 2018 October half-term Programme.

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