

# CABINET REPORT

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Peter Dowd	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	October 2009

- The new Strategic Director, Peter Morgan, took up position on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009
- The new Children's Social Care Director, Colin Pettigrew, took up position on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009
- A recent unannounced OFSTED inspection took place in regard to Safeguarding. Updates will be announced when the official letter is received.
- BSF – refreshed document now submitted.

## School Admissions

- There has been an increase in the take up of on-line admission applications for school places for 2011. This is due to the marketing campaign undertaken this year and the newly designed information booklet.
- The Admissions team is currently undertaking a test/trial period of processing in-year admission applications for Sefton Secondary Schools. This process is the new statutory duty that will have to be implemented by the Admissions Team before September 2010. The number of in-year admissions applications currently being processed is greater than originally expected but has given the team some insight as to the workload that will be envisaged for next year.
- Consultation has now taken place with the staff and relevant Unions in relation to the proposed new structure, which will support the section in fulfilling this new statutory duty from next year.

## Student Support

- There has been a significant increase in Free School Meals and Clothing Allowance applications before the start of the 2009 academic year as follows:  
Applications received before the start of the 2008 Academic year – 3383  
Applications received before the start of the 2009 Academic year – 3942  
This shows an additional 559 applications compared to this time last year.
- All the Free School Meals applications have now been prioritised and processed to ensure families and schools are informed of free meal allocations before the start of the 2009 academic year.
- Due to the nationally recognised difficulties being encountered by the Student Loans Company (national press articles and news reports). The Student Support Section is receiving many complaints and telephone calls requesting help for first year students, which had impacted adversely on the processing of our own returning students applications. This, and the increase in free school meals applications have meant that we are slightly behind schedule with the processing our own 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year student loan applications.

## Office Services

- Internal confidential shredding service now embedded within Bootle Town Hall.
- Office Services Team have also made a substantial contribution to the administration of Free School Meals and Student Loan applications.

## School Organisation & Capital Programme Team

- Building Schools for the Future – The amended Readiness to Deliver document was approved by the Project Board and resubmitted to DCSF/PfS by the due date with the outcome expected in the autumn. The interim Project Director, Richard Coates, and Project Manager Alison Roberts, are working on the Project Initiation Document and liaising with other officers and stakeholders in moving forward. A meeting with senior personnel and officers from Wirral MBC is arranged for 16 October to continue to explore the possibility of a joint LEP.
- Primary Capital Programme – All nine schemes are progressing well with St Elizabeth's, St Robert Bellarmine and St Luke's Halsall on site. Other schemes that will be on site early in the New Year include Lander Rd, Aintree Davenhill (phase 1), St Oswald's, Christ Church and St Philip's. The scheme at Our Lady of Walsingham has been delayed due to ongoing discussions with the school and Archdiocese about the capacity of the school once single-siting has been achieved.
- Other capital schemes are progressing well and the newly completed Rimrose Hope and All Saint's Catholic Schools plus the extended and refurbished Thomas Gray building have proved extremely successful with staff, pupils and parents.

## Leisure Services

### Sound Waves

- Sound Waves events have continued to run successfully at Dunes Splash World on a Saturday evening for children and young people across Sefton. Witnessing hundreds of teenagers enjoying music, sports, coaching, swimming and other activities the events have proven successful amongst their young audience.
- Running once a month the events have continued to attract large audiences and are set to continue organised and run by the Positive Futures team in partnership with Sefton leisure services.
- During the Summer period, Sound Waves events have been running each weekend with a notable decrease in "youth causing annoyance calls" to the police and decrease in vandalism on the nights of the events, which, it is hoped, with the support of Merseyside Police, will continue. Figures for the summer period illustrate that there has been a reduction in anti social behaviour levels within each area of:

Area	July	August
Crosby	21.7% reduction	27.6% reduction
Linacre Derby	27.6% reduction	1.6% reduction
Litherland Ford	13.5% reduction	35.6% reduction
Maghull	22.3% reduction	27.1% reduction
Southport	43.4% reduction	41.3% reduction

(Figures obtained from the Analysis & Intelligence Management Team of Community Safety)

- Utilising Bluetooth technologies to communicate with children and young people (as research has indicated that this is their preferred method of communication) there has been a 63% return on requests for information about the MOVE IT website designed for children and young people during one two week campaign run by the Leisure Services sport & recreation and Positive Futures teams.

### Free & Active

- Free & Active has been running throughout Summer at a range of Sefton leisure venues providing free access to a number of sports and leisure activities for children and young people aged 8-18.
- Partnering with the Sefton Youth Service, the summer programme of activities is the largest range of activities that have been offered since the programme

commenced this year offering a range of activities from Family Fun Days, Sport Specific Camps and Sport Specific sessions, led by expert coaches, ranging from Tae Kwon Do, and Water Polo, to Golf and Dance, whilst also keeping the more traditional aspects of the programme alive. Numerous special events were also scheduled in leisure centres within the borough, providing Lazer Quest and 'It's a Knockout' style competitions.

- Throughout the summer programme, more than 40,000 visits were recorded with an estimated 160,000 hours of physical activity undertaken by children and young people, saving residents an estimated £340,000.
- While providing summer activities the programme has witnessed a total reduction in incidents of anti social behaviour of an estimated 20.5% during the five weeks the programme ran resulting in an overall decrease of anti social behaviour incidents this year of 14%.
- For the 2009 Free & Active summer programme, Leisure Services have developed the partnership with local sports clubs, to provide high quality sessions for the children and young people participating on scheme with links now developed with Aintree Golf Centre, Blundellsands Archers, Champion Tennis Club, Formby Football Club, Formby Ravens Fencing Club, North Meols Lawn Tennis Club, Marshside School of Dance, Southport Tae Kwon Do, Southport Water Polo, and Waterloo Judo Club, and all activities have been extremely popular.
- Also new for summer 2009, is the Free & Active Boot Camp for the 7-16 age groups. This programme primarily targets children and young people who are above their ideal weight, to get involved in more sport and physical activities. The demand for this programme went above and beyond our own expectations, with 25 participants currently involved on the two-week camp.
- Free and Active has also helped to support the 2009 Street Games Festival, by highlighting talented participants from the Street Cheer and Athletics camps, to represent Sefton.
- While providing summer activities the programme has witnessed a total reduction in incidents of anti social behaviour of an estimated 20.5% during the five weeks the programme ran in addition to 14% achieved this year so far.

### **5 X 30 Olympic Weekend**

- Celebrating the Olympics coming to the UK, Sefton Leisure Services hosted an Olympic weekend at Litherland Sports Park, identified as an Olympic training venue, to show residents how easy it is to access sport and physical activity and successfully complete 5 sets of thirty minute exercise each week as recommended by the Department for Health.
- Providing all ages and abilities with a range of activities to participate in, the event attracted families from across the borough to participate in the 5 x 30 programme of activities on offer and start their "Move More" journey.