

# Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee

A meeting of Arts Leisure & Culture Select Committee was held on Wednesday, 19th November, 2014.

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Jean O'Donnell(Chairman), Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr Nigel Cooke, Cllr Gillian Corr, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr Ray McCall, Cllr Andrew Sherris

**Officers:** Sarah Bowman(CESC), Reuben Kench(DNS), Judith Trainer, Sarah Whaley(LD)

**Also in attendance:** Catherine Anderson(The ARC)

**Apologies:** Cllr Eileen Johnson,

## **1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2 Minutes for Signature - 16th July 2014**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting which was held on the 16th July 2014 for signature.

AGREED that the minutes be signed as a correct record.

## **3 Draft Minutes - 15th October 2014**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting which was held on the 15th October 2014 for approval.

AGREED that the minutes be approved.

## **4 Review of the Effects of the Arts, Leisure and Culture on Wellbeing**

Members were invited to a musical performance from a number of the over 60's ukulele and singing class which was part of the Silver Programme held at The Arc at Stockton.

Following the performance, the Committee had the opportunity to meet with members of the group to gain a better understanding of the benefits of 'The Silver Programme' and how it impacted on the wellbeing of each participant.

The Creative Programmes Manager at The Arc addressed the Committee to explain more to members about the Silver Programme and the opportunities it offered the over 60's.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

- Background to the Silver Programme.

- That the Arc had 4 main areas of learning opportunities for the public which were Children and Young People, Older People, Families and those with Disabilities.

- The programme was resourced with a £21,330 grant from the Skills Funding Agency
- 66 older people were involved in leading this positive change for the community by volunteering their time to shape and develop a creative learning programme which was relevant to the needs and interests of older people in Stockton. 102 new arts opportunities including Ballet Pilates, Ukulele, Creative Writing, Arts, Drama and iPad Creativity were delivered at ARC and 199 older learners attended.
- There was 2 ukulele and Silver Singer groups starting with beginners, progressing to intermediate.
- The Creative iPad programme was nearing its end which covered such things as watercolour and photography. Taster sessions in Creative iPad would be shown to other people and then a further programme of Silver Creative iPad would be delivered.
- The Silver Singers were to sing at Gateshead representing the Tees Valley area.
- The Arc was just about to start a CCG funded 12 month programme '3 score years and 10, Staying Out'. This was aimed at the 65's and over who were leaving hospital but were isolated when they returned home. Activities would be held on a Wednesday to try and help people socialise. This could potentially open doors to other events taking place at the Arc such as cinema etc. Members heard that volunteers would be providing transport for those who had difficulty getting to and from the Arc.

The Committee made the following observations about the Silver Programme as follows:

- Core funding for facilities such as the Arc enabled self-sustaining activities such as the Silvers Programme to be delivered
- There was a clear social benefit in the Programme which could significantly help to reduce social isolation and loneliness and in turn improve mental wellbeing in the longer term
- Not only was there a social element to the Programme but many of the activities were challenging and required a high level of concentration and practice followed by a sense of achievement
- Participation in the Programme often lead to those involved taking advantage of other beneficial activities and courses delivered at the venue
- The activities encouraged participants to voluntarily take part on the type of activities that were beneficial to their overall health and wellbeing

The Committee requested feedback to show the benefits of the activities which were included on the Silver Programme including:

- Case studies which had secured the CLIF Funding.

AGREED that the report be noted and the additional information requested be provided as detailed above.

## **5 Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations**

Members were asked to receive and consider the initial Progress Update on the Scrutiny Review of Child Poverty and Progress Updates on previously agreed recommendations.

The main issues discussed were as follows:

### **EIT Review of Marketing of Stockton Borough**

- Since the launch of the new Stockton Heritage website there had been 2242 unique visitors, and 14753 page views.

### **EIT Review of Sport Leisure and Recreation**

- It was highlighted that recommendation 9 was effectively being monitored through Cabinet and normal budget monitoring procedures therefore it was suggested that there were to be no further quarterly reports to the Arts Leisure and Culture Select Committee.

### **Review of Child Poverty**

- In relation to the Family Poverty Framework, parallel workstreams had been set up to combat family poverty and clearer links were needed across the 3 strands.

- 'Early Help Strategy' had been adopted by the Children and Young People Partnership to ensure that there was early intervention for Families with vulnerabilities to stop children coming into the care system.

- An implementation group had been set up to ensure delivery of the strategy.

- A myth busting guide had been produced for use by Councillors and staff to challenge some of the myths and stigmatisation of people experiencing poverty.

- Schools - a jointly commissioned service would reduce the risk of duplication and ensure a comprehensive service offer. This would be discussed through C&YP Health and Wellbeing Joint Commissioning Group.

Discussion took place around the need and availability of language and speech therapists. Members heard that there was a current drive at Teesside University to increase numbers.

In their capacity some members were aware that schools bought in speech therapy, especially where many children could not speak well at all.

The Committee requested further information on take up of free school meals in the borough.

AGREED that the Progress Updates on Previously Agreed Recommendations be noted and that the requested information as detailed above be supplied as soon as practicable.

## **6 Work Programme**

**- To consider the current year's work programme**

**- To consider possible emerging scrutiny topics**

The Work Programme was noted by the Committee.

Members were informed that a visit had been secured from Dr Theo Stickley of Nottingham University who was a specialist on arts and intervention, particularly in relation to mental health issues. The visit was scheduled for the meeting which was to be held on the 19th December 2014.

A meeting was currently scheduled for the 7th January 2015 which would pick up the review of Creative Therapies for Dementia. In addition a further meeting was to be scheduled for the 21st January 2015 to formulate the recommendations from the current Scrutiny Review.

In relation to future reviews Members requested that a piece of work may need to be undertaken regarding Freedom of Information Requests (FOI's) and the cost associated with them in order to inform the public. The Scrutiny Team Leader explained that this had already been raised as a proposed topic for 2015.

AGREED that the Work Programme be noted.