

Report title	ACE Youth Project Update (formally Friday Night Project)
Report author	Anthony Jones
Department	Community Services
Exempt	No

Purpose of report:
For Information

Synopsis of report:
Community Services approved for a Friday Night Project scheme to be piloted in Runnymede, providing access to free or low cost sport and leisure opportunities to young people. The pilot was funded through the Youth Development Fund held by Community Services and was approved by Officers in 2023/2024.
The report sets out the work undertaken to date and the initial pilot schemes that will be delivered across the borough.

Recommendation(s):
None. This report is for information.

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 Friday Night Projects (FNP) has been delivered across Surrey since 2019, case studies and learnings from other Boroughs and District Councils have shown that diversionary activities based around sport and physical activity has been a successful tool to engage with young people.
- 1.2 FNPs are aimed at young people 11-18 years of age and use sport alongside other enrichment activities such as training workshops and entry level CPDs.
- 1.3 Funding was made available through Active Surrey in 2019, but no sessions were set up in Runnymede either through the Council or community organisations.
- 1.4 Officers proposed for three FNPs to be set up in the borough with a budget of £29,000 from the Youth Development Fund, this was approved by Community Services Committee in June 2023.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

- 2.1 As sessions will take place in Addlestone, Chertsey and Egham across the week, it was felt that FNP would not be a suitable name for the project. Officers have decided

to rename the project 'ACE' which is the acronym from the above locations. This report provides an update on the ACE Youth Project which is scheduled to launch in February 2024.

- 2.2 Selecting the ideal location with the appropriate facilities to deliver sport, physical activity, and a social space was important. Areas selected were identified as priority areas according to Runnymede's indices of deprivation statistics; Addlestone North & South, Chertsey St Ann's and Egham Hythe.
- 2.3 Egham Orbit was chosen because of its great facilities; young people will be able to access the sports hall, café area, outdoor sports pitches and fitness rooms. Gogmore Farm Park's social space coupled with the outdoor Multi Use Games Area and Tennis courts is also a great delivery location, and the Kick-X arena in Addlestone with 7 unique hybrid football activities is also an excellent venue.
- 2.4 Initial discussions with Achieve Lifestyle and the youth club at Gogmore Farm Park to provide their own staffing highlighted a staffing shortage concern to run the project.
- 2.5 Officers approached a range of organisations that work with children and young people to deliver the project as it was felt that the ideal provider would need to understand the nuances of working with young people and have the skillset to build a rapport with users.
- 2.6 Sports4 Kids (S4K) was approached to deliver ACE at Gogmore Farm Park and the Egham Orbit. SK4 currently delivers PE lessons in schools and holiday camps in the borough and is also working with another local authority to deliver an FNP provision.
- 2.7 Kick-X was also approached to deliver the project in Addlestone. Their unique selling point of being the only hybrid football facility in the country was seen to be an attractive offer to young people. Kick-X has staff members with a history of working with young people which was also advantageous.
- 2.8 In terms of programming, each ACE session will be 2 hours per week during term time, with enrichment activities taking place throughout the term. Providers have been asked to engage with service users to direct the types of activities, workshops and introductory CPDs young people would like to do. Each provision will have capacity of 20 young people aged 11-18 years old. The proposed timetable can be found on the leaflet design in Appendix 'A'.
- 2.9 To keep marketing consistent across all providers, marketing material will be developed by Runnymede Borough Council's Communications team, and will include physical flyers and social media assets. A marketing budget has been allocated for this from the overall budget.
- 2.10 Providers and the Community Development team will work collaboratively to engage young people through the school's network, community safety teams and other referral agencies.
- 2.11 Payment to providers will be made via the Council's grants process, to cover the cost of venue hire, staffing, equipment and enrichment activities with some capacity to grow to 30 spaces per venue. Providers will also be asked to produce quarterly reports on usage and case studies on young people.

2.12 A start date for each site will be confirmed in January 2024 once the initial marketing is in place. This will give all parties sufficient lead up time to promote the project for a target launch in February 2024.

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 This project aligns with the Council's Corporate Plan and Health and Wellbeing strategy:

- **Healthy Communities:** For all residents to be able to engage and participate in their community, access services, facilities, amenities, leisure, and recreational opportunities locally.
- **Working in partnership to tackle health inequality:** To work with statutory agencies, voluntary, community and faith sector organisations, communities, and residents to identify and tackle health inequalities and deprivation.

4. Resource implications/Value for Money

4.1 The Friday Night Project pilot was funded from the 2023/2024 Youth Development Fund budget, with a one off allocation of £29,000 approved by Community Services Committee in June 2023.

4.2 The available funding was for the pilot only. Should the pilot prove successful, as per the information in the report of June 2023, any future funding requirements would require a future committee report with a full business case and a request setting out how the financing will be achieved. Given the current financial position of the Council and the ongoing service and budget efficiency reviews being undertaken, it is unlikely that there will be the resources available to finance this scheme in-house over the medium term.

5. Legal implications

5.1 None identified.

6. Equality implications

6.1 The ACE has a positive impact on the protected characteristics of age and gender.

7. Background papers

None Stated.

8. Appendices

Appendix 'A' – leaflet for project