

Report to: Community Services Scrutiny Committee
Date: 30th October 2007
Report of: Senior Cultural Development Officer
Subject: Leisure Centre Partnership Arrangements
Ward: All

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members with a position statement on the operation of the Leisure Centres under the partnership arrangements with Leisure Connection Limited.

2.0 Consultation

2.1 In preparing this report I have consulted with the Executive Member for Social Inclusion and Culture and Head of Neighbourhood Initiatives.

3.0 Background

3.1 Members will be aware that the Council agreed to enter into a partnership agreement with Leisure Connection Limited to operate and manage its Leisure Centres.

4.0 Position Statement and Option Appraisal

4.1 Monthly Monitoring Meetings are held with Leisure Connection Staff and the Senior Cultural Development Officer to ensure smooth operation of the partnership. In addition quarterly inspections are undertaken by the Health and Safety Manager to ensure the centres are managed in accordance with health and safety legislation.

4.2 As part of the Councils summer "schools out" programme a comprehensive range of swimming opportunities were developed in partnership with Leisure Connection, Everyday Swim and County Durham Primary Care Trust. The programme provided a mix of free swimming sessions and structured classes including snorkelling, aqua circuits, minipolo and junior lifesaving

4.3 I am pleased to inform members that a total of 5,671 young people attended the sessions and as part of the evaluation of the scheme, positive comments were received from both parents and children attending the sessions. Comments include:

break

"Excellent value for money, give the children something to do during a very long from school",

"I thought it was great to get something free in the school holidays without having to be on benefits, makes it even better, my son really enjoyed it",

you"

"Fantastic – well organised, great fun, really good for working parents – thank

4.4 The Council continues to work with Leisure Connection to promote usage of the Leisure Saver Card to increase access to the leisure centres by targeted groups. To date a total of 4,371 cards have been issued attracting a total of 12,304 visits

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to the centres. A breakdown of the age categories of the cards issued is shown in the table below;

Age Group	Cards Sold	Age Group	Cards Sold
0 - 5	269	22 - 39	234
6 - 12	2,188	40 - 50	129
13 - 17	1,157	51 +	341
18 - 21	53	Total	4,371

The card allows both the council and Leisure Connection to monitor usage by target groups and develop specific programmes of activity.

4.5 The Council continues to work with the company to attract major sporting events into the District and I am pleased to advise that on the 12th October 2007 a live Sky boxing championship event was held at Peterlee Leisure Centre. Following the success of the promotion it is intended to work in partnership to attract further events of regional/national significance to the district

4.6 The six monthly review of the Performance Indicators developed with Leisure Connection are shown in Appendix 1 together with complaint summary shown in Appendix 2.

5.0 Factors Affecting Service Delivery

5.1 There are no factors affecting Service Delivery

6 Implications

6.1 Financial

There are no financial implications arising out of the report

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising out of the report

6.3 Policy

There are no policy implications arising out of the report

6.4 Risk

A risk assessment has been carried out and actions to manage the risks have been implemented.

6.5 Communications

There are no communication implications arising out of the report

7.0 Corporate Implications

7.1 Corporate Plan and Priorities

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The introduction of the “Leisure Saver Card” will help meet the councils objective of providing “Quality Services for our people” and “Building a healthy Community”

7.2 Equality and Diversity

The introduction of the “Saver card” will benefit those disadvantaged in the community

7.3 E-Government

E- The “on-line “ booking system ensure the centres comply with the requirements of Government

7.3 Procurement

There are no procurement implications arising from the report

8.0 Recommendations

8.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Background Papers/Documents Referred to

Leisure Centre Working Files/Annual Plan