

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 12

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 title: GENERAL REPORT
 submitted by: JOHN C HEAP, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
 principal authors:
 CHRIS HUGHES, HEAD OF CULTURAL & LEISURE SERVICES
 PETER McGEORGE, WASTE MANAGEMENT OFFICER
 COLIN WINTERBOTTOM, LEISURE & SPORTS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
 KATHERINE RODGERS, ARTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

1 PURPOSE

To inform Committee of current arrangements and on-going progress in the Ribble Valley Children's Trust, Waste Management, various Sporting and Arts projects.

2 RIBBLE VALLEY CHILDREN'S TRUST

Since our last report in March last year, the Trust is now well established. It operates through an executive board, comprising of:

- Jane Green (Chair) Longridge High School
- Councillor Brunskill (RVBC)
- Chris Hughes (RVBC) Officer lead
- Councillor Smith (LCC)
- Tony Morrison (LCC) Officer lead
- Chris Fian (CVS) Voluntary Section lead
- Ian Hemmingway (Ribblesdale High School) Secondary School lead
- Fiona Owen (Ribblesdale Children's Centre) Early Years lead
- Sue Collinge (Accrington/Rosendale College) Further Education lead
- Alison Callon (Pendle Primary) Primary Schools lead
- Alison Foster (Hillside School) Special Education lead
- Inspector Saville (police)
- PCT (to be confirmed)

There are also three sub groups:

- Early Intervention
- Finance & Performance
- Engagement

The Trust recently held a partnership event to identify priority areas for the Ribble Valley that will inform the coming work programme and any associated funding.

The philosophy behind the establishment of local trusts is that people working at a district level have the ability to influence priorities and are given more freedom / resources to work together in achieving those agreed goals.

Such a philosophy is beginning to take shape through funding devolved to local trusts for early intervention work. The funding will cover the appointment of an early intervention officer for the Ribble Valley, along with a further investment of £180,000 over two years, to support specific projects that deliver against agreed priorities.

The Trust has also recently commissioned the provision of short breaks and holiday provision for young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

It is hoped that the funding will have a significant impact on the lives of young people and their families living in the Ribble Valley.

The County Council has also recently confirmed that funding will be made available to the Borough Council for the next twelve months, to cover the cost of dedicated support to the Trust. This specifically relates to the time allocated by Chris Hughes and David Ingham.

3 WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Ribble Valley waste management performance figures are continuing to improve with the third quarter recycling rate for 2010/2011 again above 41%, with the overall recycling rate currently at 41.23%. Total waste arisings have also reduced by nearly 4% in comparison with the same period in 2009/2010, with the amount of residual /general waste also reducing by 4.22%.
- Viridor has purchased Swinnerton Environmental Ltd, our waste paper collection contractor, and, from 13th January 2011, took over their contractual responsibilities with no disruption to the service. We are confident that the service will improve and this is evident with the reduction in calls.
- During March 2011, both calendars for the 3 stream refuse and recycling collection service and the waste paper /card collection service are being delivered to all households within the Ribble Valley.
- In an effort to improve public awareness on the types of material that can and cannot be placed into the blue recycling wheeled bin limiting contamination, a programme of initiatives have been planned. These include;
 - a sticker to put on each blue wheeled bin, explaining the material types in more detail.
 - information to be placed on the side of the refuse collection vehicles
 - promotional articles in the Ribble Valley News
- Ribble Valley Arts department and the waste management officer are working with Lancashire Libraries on a novel project to recycle worn and damaged books. An artist has been commissioned to produce an artwork for the public to enjoy within Clitheroe Library. Additionally she will be working with a number of local schools producing similar artworks from books.

4 LEISURE & SPORT DEVELOPMENT

4.1 Ribble Valley Sport And Physical Activity Alliance

The Ribble Valley SPAA was formed in 2007 as a partnership approach towards “increasing levels of sport and physical activity by providing quality experiences for all ages and abilities enabling lifestyle changes and improvements to health and well-being”.

It has existed to identify and establish priorities for Ribble Valley based upon local needs and to create a delivery plan focussed on themes, and designed to achieve maximum impact on increasing participation levels.

Initially, the achievement of the Ribble Valley delivery priorities were supported by funding from Sport England, and this will come to an end in October this year. There has been a change in political landscape and the new Government has introduced funding reduction measures that have prompted a refresh of local SPAAs to reassess their strategic positioning within local frameworks and reproduce an option plan.

Current Situation

There have been variations to sporting community, transport, education and public health policy with the new coalition Government. These are comprised of:

- **Community** – devolution of power to local people, phasing out of ring fencing of grants to Local Government, helping Communities save local facilities and services and give public sector workers a new right to form employee owned co-operatives.
- **Training community organisers** and support to creation of neighbourhood groups.
- **Sports Specific** – support major sporting events, support Olympic and Paralympics Games in London 2012, create annual Olympic-style schools sport event and protect playing fields.
- **Transport** – promotion of cycling and walking.
- **Education** – allowing academies to be run by sporting organisations and scale-back CRB and betting and barring regime.
- **Public health** – local communities greater control over budgets. GPs greater incentives to tackle public health problems and promote public health and encourage behavioural change.

Since the intelligence surrounding participation in Sport and Physical activity across the borough was first collected as a basis for production of the original SPAA Vision Plan, there has been continuous measurement over the past three years of;

- Key Health issues as an indicator of health and well being;
- Young People and Adult participation levels in sport through the national Active People Survey;
- Sports facilities information collected and updated as part of Sport England's Active Places diagnostic tool;
- The number spatial availability and membership of sports clubs from a combination of database sources;
- Sports volunteering levels as collated by the Active People Survey.

The key priorities that emerge from the reassessment of the data and set against the political context identified earlier, are;-

- Health issues surrounding inactive young children and an ageing population and concentrate on improving the health of those currently at risk.
- Activity provision in small, often isolated, communities that not only meets target group needs, but is sustainable.
- Extending community delivery through the engagement of other parties/agencies, and particularly the voluntary sector.
- Identification of delivery structures that can address the region wide initiatives aimed at increasing and retaining participation, and embraces the 2012 Olympic Games legacy.

Whilst the SPAA has a reasonable understanding of the local situation the refresh process now needs completing by drawing up a new action plan for the future; a matter for discussion at the next steering group meeting on Monday, 7 March 2011.

The SPAA refresh process will then be concluded by reproducing the Vision document which contains an updated delivery structure and delivery plan.

4.2 **Cycling**

The Active People Survey information indicates that participation levels in cycling are comparatively high against other East Lancashire boroughs and there are opportunities to build upon the it's already apparent popularity across Ribble Valley.

Whilst the SPAA Delivery Plan featured the organisation of cycling events across the Borough, this is perhaps the one aspect in which progress can be made and there are opportunities in the form of;

- Cycling is a 2012 Olympic theme and districts are being encouraged to organise their own events and promote them under the wider 'Skyrides' banner.
- The Bikeability programme is designed to get school children to begin cycling through introductory sessions designed to build up confidence within playground settings and then go out on led cycles when they reach a certain competence level. There is funding support to deliver this across primary schools and the Sports Development Officer is about to embark upon the appropriate training course to run these sessions.
- Bike Trails at Gisburn Forest continue to be well used and events are scheduled as an annual programme of Mountain Biking in this challenging environment.
- Volunteers continue to add to the trails and in January the group completed a new 500 metre section of singletrack bike trail.
- Certain ideas are being explored which include plans for a new visitor hub comprising; new car park, toilets, bike training loops, new trail sections for start and finish of cross country trails, café, open space for events and wildlife and wetland area.

In a wider context Cycle Pennine Lancashire (CPL) is being worked up by Lancashire Sport and it's partners as an integrated cycling offer, comprising of many individual products including routes, venues, some existing and some yet to be developed, supported by a cycle-friendly range of accommodation, catering and information.

It is envisaged that CPL will be 'owned' by its participants, stakeholders and partners, in that the offer will be fundamentally linked through an accreditation scheme. The accreditation scheme will enable 'owners' to buy into CPL at a number of different membership levels.

Once CPL has been established the management is expected to be in the form of an independent company (social enterprise).

Efforts to develop local cycling opportunities across the Borough will continue to be steered by the SPAA and there is recognition that focus needs to be on delivering and sustaining cycling at local level whilst potentially being part of the wider CPL aim of creating;

'A cycle friendly environment and a premier location for competition and leisure cycling'

4.3 **Sport Unlimited**

We are entering the final month of Sport Unlimited in the Ribble Valley. SU has been a three year project and has primarily been aimed at engaging 5-19 year olds in sporting activity. The project has worked with many different sports such as canoeing, basketball, orienteering, rugby, high 5 netball, streetdance, cheerleading and multi skills to name but a few. The project has also engaged with many organisations also such as Hyndburn & Ribble Valley School Sports Partnership, Preston Pride Basketball Club, South Ribble Orienteering Club, Clitheroe Canoe Club and Longridge Sports and Arts Centre.

The figures for Sport Unlimited are impressive: In year 1 121 people were engaged with 75 people being retained (attending over 60% of the sessions), year 2 444 people were engaged with 365 retained whilst year 3 to date 555 have been engaged with 471 people being retained. Over the three years 1220 young people have been engaged in sport with over 900 people being retained in that particular activity (74.6% retention rate). The funding has also 'kick-started' junior clubs in areas such as Longridge where there is now a regular junior basketball club/session on a Saturday morning. Junior squash and badminton clubs are also likely to continue in Longridge as a result of Sport Unlimited funding.

Sportivate

This is a new funded project from Sport England that begins in early May and which will target 14-25 year olds. The RV has just under £5000 available to spend in order to retain 65 people – all Sportivate plans are to be delivered through the RV SPAA. All year 1 plans to be submitted to Lancashire Sport by 2nd May.

4.4 **School Sport Competitions**

Tag Rugby

17 schools entered the annual Ribble Valley Tag Rugby competition held at Clitheroe Rugby Club in conjunction with Martin Powell (Community Rugby Coach) and the Rugby Football Union (RFU). Over 150 children attended the competition on the 17th February which was the borough's largest ever junior sporting competition since sport development was created in the borough.

The final was won by Belthorn Primary (invited as a guest from Hyndburn) who beat Waddington and West Bradford Primary and they will both now progress through to the county final which will be held at Preston Grasshoppers on Wednesday 9th March.

The competition showed how popular tag rugby is now in the borough and is testament to the work of Martin Powell throughout the Ribble Valley. Clitheroe Rugby Club are now officially a 'Clubmark' club as they gained the RFU's 'Seal of Approval'. The award demonstrates that the club is well run and a is a suitable environment for juniors to learn and play their rugby.

'Talented in Sport' Weekend

In association with Hyndburn & Ribble Valley School Sports Partnership, RVBC will be hosting a Ribble Valley 'Talented in Sport' day at Edisford Sports Complex, Clitheroe on 25th June. The event will be the second time this has taken place with last years event taking place at Ribblesdale School. All G & T (gifted and talented) pupils in Years 7 and 8 from local secondary schools are to be invited to the event, where they will be engaged in sport from local deliverers/clubs. It is planned that the pupils will be taking part in a 'competition-style' event in tennis, rugby, cricket and hockey. The pupils will then be signposted to the relevant clubs upon completion of the day.

Football and Cricket Development Groups

Both the cricket and football development groups are still in existence and functioning well. The cricket development group is a formally constituted group that, amongst other things, manages and administers Ribble Valley district cricket. The football group, albeit not constituted, still meets on a quarterly basis and provides a platform for local football clubs to come along and discuss any issues they have with grassroots football. The LFA attend as a governing body, and the group is also used for networking among clubs.

Both groups hold workshops and courses for coaches with both an Emergency First Aid course and a Safeguarding & Protecting Children workshop planned for April and May (see www.rvbc.gov.uk).

4.5 SSCO Update

Multi-skills Festival

All the Bowland cluster primary schools (for which I am responsible for) attended the Hyndburn & RV School Sports Partnership Multi Skills festival in late January. All Year 6 children were invited to attend, and they took part in different activities that covered coordination, balance, cognitive and agility skills. All the children were tested in these disciplines, as well as taking part in some fun activities.

The top 25 scoring pupils have been invited to a Bowland Talent Academy which I am coordinating to run during the first week of Easter. The academy is part-funded by the partnership and achieves many objectives, such as aiding KS2/3 transition, enabling the pupils to familiarise themselves with their future high school, provides high quality sport sessions by engaging with local community clubs and strengthens school-club links. Amongst the sports that the pupils will be sampling will be trampolining, table tennis, hockey as well as a full day at a local athletics track and a session with RVBC's Healthy Lifestyles team.

The following initiatives are still ongoing with Bowland cluster primary schools:

- developing intra and inter school competitions
- staging festivals for primary schools
- delivering sessions within schools in order to help and assist existing teachers

It is likely that the one day secondment to perform the SSCO role will come to an end in August with Bowland High School releasing their PE teacher to perform the role one day a week.

4.6 Targeted Sport Development Programmes

The Civic Hall Coordinator role, externally funded as a Ribble Valley SPAA service delivery function, contributes towards the development of opportunities for those with specific needs and, whilst focusing on the Longridge area, also links closely with sports development across the borough.

Half Term activities for teenagers

Funding has been obtained from Young People's services to provide a quality sports based half term scheme targeting youths at risk of offending. The sessions comprised of Multi-sports (Baseball, Football, Dodgeball, Boxing, Swimming at venues in Longridge and Clitheroe.

The evaluated data taken from sessions indicates that 60 youths attended (43 Male and 17 Female) and there was excellent retention level throughout the week.

Under 16s activities

Longridge at present is running 3 free activity sessions for the children aged 5-16years. These sessions are funded through the sports unlimited project and are half

way through the 10-week scheme. No data is available as yet, but all indications from the registers show that the classes are well attended, with high retention rates.

Over 70s activities

The seated dance classes are soon to be replaced by Zumba gold sessions from the end of March. The sessions are funded through Healthy Valley with 2 new venues that will receive the free sessions. Currently, over 75 over-70s have attended blocks of seated exercise in Longridge/Chipping and area.

Over 45+ activities

There are many classes available for the over 45s to include keep fit, tai chi, zumba, aerobics, self defence, rock and roll, ballroom etc with new session of 'nifty fiftys' short tennis starting in April.

Youth gym

This takes place once every two weeks on a Friday night, and is currently at capacity every session. The long term aim is to run it every Friday night, with the aim of reducing anti-social behaviour on a Friday evening.

Youth Disco and Family disco

Starting in April with the opportunity for families and youths to enjoy some leisure time on their doorstep. Local volunteers from a local Football club, all with CRB clearance, will be providing the help and support in providing this activity at the Civic Hall.

4.7 Longridge Gym and Service Level Agreement with Willows Park Children's Centre

An agreement has been in place with Lancashire County Council when the Gym and Children's Centre services commenced over two years ago, and served to set up an arrangement by which Ribble Valley would provide clerical assistance for the duration of the Children Centre opening hours; (24 hours per week). For providing this admin/clerical support, the council received £12,483 this financial year 2010/11.

The Children's Centre Manager has informed the Council of their intention to terminate this agreement at the end of this year and undertake their own arrangements in connection with service delivery from this site. In order to allow time for the Children's Centre to make internal reorganisation, they propose an extension of one month to the arrangement so the Council will receive a further reimbursement pro rata for the period up to the end of April 2011.

This development means that the staff operating the Gym at Longridge will no longer be involved in any aspect of service support to the Children's Centre, and this reduction in funding will necessitate a fresh look at how the staff can be utilised more efficiently in helping to improve the operational subsidy situation for next year. It is proposed to explore the options available and report to the next Committee meeting.

5 ARTS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE - ROUNDUP OF ACTIVITY MARCH 2011 **Creativity Works – Pennine Lancashire Arts Development Network North West** **Sound Archive – Engagement programme**

Leading international artists and designers are to work with Pennine Lancashire heritage venues. Commissioned by Creativity Works through its Arts Engagement programme, each artist is partnered with a venue and will use their own distinctive approach to create a piece of work aimed at encouraging more visitors to the venue.

Heritage venues taking part are Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Haworth Art Gallery (Accrington), North West Sound Archive (Clitheroe), Rossendale Museum (Rawtenstall) and Towneley Hall (Burnley).

Steve Manthorp and Shanaz Gulzar's co-practice ADEPT creates interactive and light-based installation artworks, drawing upon a range of technologies including digital, video, computer games, animation and social media. Working with the North West Sound Archive they will develop an online project that will open up the collection to a wider audience. The North West Sound Archive, housed at Clitheroe Castle in the Ribble Valley, is the largest collection of sound recordings in the UK outside of London.

Manthorp and Gulzar explain their involvement *"As we explored the North West Sound Archive we discovered many 'gems' in the collections. That metaphor has informed our approach to this commission. As well as sharing the 'gems' with wider audiences, we are working with local groups to create new gems and place them in their locations of origin. We hope that our work will help to promote awareness and use of this invaluable resource."*

Timorous Beasties (Alistair McAuley and Paul Simmons) are known for their surreal and provocative textiles and wallpapers and created the controversial Glasgow Toile. They will be working with Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery to create work through exploring the vast collections of print housed at the museum.

Stuart Haygarth works on design projects which revolve around the collection of often overlooked objects and gives them new meaning. Recent projects include 'Framed' (London Design Festival) V&A, which used cut off pieces of frames and a staircase at the V&A to create a dramatic feature for visitors to walk through. Haygarth will be working with the Haworth Art Gallery to create a contemporary piece of work that responds to the Haworth's Tiffany glass collection that is the largest collection of its kind in Europe.

Kaspar Wimberley and Susanne Kudielka (also known as Treacle Theatre) explore experimental structures for performance, engage in new forms of artistic collaboration and develop new strategies for audience interaction. They will be working with Rossendale Museum to research and reinterpret the collection of natural history. Their work is already underway and includes x-raying the taxidermy collection to investigate the historical influences on the practice and provide an unusual temporary display alongside.

Laura Rodgers, Creativity Works Arts Engagement Officer adds *'It is fantastic that artists of this calibre and renown are coming to work with Pennine Lancashire heritage venues in this way. We want to breath new life into the important but often overlooked collections in the museums and galleries and encourage more people to visit and enjoy what is on offer.'*

This project is the first of its kind in the Pennine Lancashire region and follows the successful Creativity Works' Open Shop Project that took museums out to town centres and explored how collaborations with artists could re-engage the public with the venues. Now Creativity Works' objective is to bring people back into the museums by offering new and exciting ways to get involved with projects from leading national and international artists.

The work is currently in development and will be on public display during April/May/June 2011.

This project is funded by Arts Council England and Renaissance North West.

Recycling Books Project - Lancashire libraries and RVBC Recycling department
Lancashire Libraries have worked with the Ribble Valley Borough Council's Recycling and Arts departments to develop a recycled book project.

Every year lots of books are withdrawn from the shelves of the libraries as they are worn and damaged. They are sometimes salvaged through book sales; if not, they are

disposed of. Inspired by many artists that now use second hand books to create art works, the artist Justine Cook was commissioned to create an artwork for the public to enjoy in Clitheroe Library, which will be installed later this month. Justine's inspiring previous work has been displayed at the RHS Tatton Flower Show, Liverpool's Bluecoat Art Centre, and the Clitheroe Castle Well Commission based in the Atrium Café.

Justine is creating a flock of origami birds made from the pages of the books that were destined to be recycled. Hundreds of birds will be created to be suspended within the library to form the flock. The main inspiration for the piece is the flight of fantasy a person takes when reading a book.

Ribble Valley high schools were invited to work with Justine in March to create their own flock of birds within their own schools and libraries, creating inspiring 'flights of fantasy' around the borough. Justine is to visit Hillside School and St Cecilia's in Longridge, Ribblesdale Technology College and Clitheroe Grammar School in Clitheroe, and Bowland High School in Grindleton. Working with the pupils she will introduce them to her practice, and the new commission within the Clitheroe Library, followed by a practical session creating the origami birds from a pre-designed pattern. The class will then create their own flock of birds that can be installed within the school.

The public are being encouraged to create their own flock by picking up a pattern and using it for their own community group/space.

Contemporary Heritage – Art within the castle grounds

Mid Pennine Arts initiated and are managing a collaboration with Lancashire Museum Service and RVBC on a project called Contemporary Heritage, a programme of site specific commissions sited at heritage venues across Pennine Lancashire. The programme launched at Towneley Hall in September 2010 and is scheduled for Clitheroe Castle in summer 2011. The partnership project draws on the uniqueness of each site by commissioning artists of national and international standing to create new works in response to the history, architecture, collections or landscape of each site.

The aim of the commissions is to stimulate a response from current visitors and entice existing audiences to revisit the museum. Through the commissioning of contemporary art work we aim to attract a new audience to Clitheroe Castle Museum and bring Clitheroe to the attention of audiences who will travel to destinations offering interesting and unusual contemporary art experiences.

Please see:

<http://www.midpenninearts.org.uk/contemporary-heritage-notforgotten> for the first commission based at Towneley Hall, Burnley which demonstrates the quality of work and the vision and ambition of the project.

The composer Aliis Ni Riain from Lancashire has been offered the commission for Clitheroe: her previous work has included pieces for the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, Maryport Lighthouse - West Coast Cumbria, Liverpool Biennial, and the Cornerhouse in Manchester. We will not be publicly announcing this commission until the first phase of development has been completed. Please contact Mid Pennine Arts 01282 421986 ext 205 for more information.

If you would like to know more information on future arts development projects please contact Katherine Rodgers on 01200 443071 or arts.development@ribblevalley.gov.uk

Other Ongoing Arts Development projects:

Arts Active Ageing Project

Ribble Valley Art Alliance

Ribble Valley Arts Alliance Website www.ribblevalleyarts.org

Ribble Valley Arts Festival 2011
Ribble Valley Art What's On Emailout
Creative Skills Database
Youth Arts Emailout
The Ribble Valley Sculpture Trail
Ribble Valley Public Art Maintenance 10/11

Castle Museum Steward's Gallery Programming 2011/12

LET – Arts Regenerating Ribble Valley Town Centres
Spot on Rural Touring – bringing professional theatre, music and comedy to village halls within the Ribble Valley
Kicking Leaves Children's Literature Festival – Pennine Lancashire
Arts Funding / Development Advice Sessions
Ribble Valley Borough Council Website, Arts Section
Arts Development Forward Planning 2011/12
The Platform Gallery - Development and Programming 2011/12
Community Rail Festival 2011
POPL - Perspectives of Pennine Lancashire Visual Arts Network
Arts Excellence Awards – Grant Scheme
Volunteer development – work placements & volunteers

7 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE

Notes the contents of this report.

JOHN C HEAP
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

For further information please ring:

Ribble Valley Children's Trust: Chris Hughes 414479
Waste Management: Peter McGeorge 414467
Leisure & Sport Development: Colin Winterbottom 414588
Arts Development Service: Katherine Rodgers 414456