

report



meeting      **COUNTY COUNCIL**

date            **31<sup>st</sup> July 2003**

agenda item number

## **REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE**

### **REPORT FOR THE PERIOD TO JULY 2003**

The following are summaries of work relating to my portfolio since my last report to Council.

#### **Youth, Community & Play**

##### Youth Service Plan

The Youth Service Plan was launched at County Hall on 2nd July to an audience of partners, elected members and young people.

The Plan - required by Government Office as part of the Transforming Youth Work initiative, lists all the Service priorities for the current year, plus a comprehensive overview of structure, policies, funding and curriculum developments.

The Plan was also presented to 80 full time staff at a specially convened meeting to discuss the Action Plan arising from the recently completed inspection of the Service; further consultations on the Plan, and the Inspection aftermath, will take place with a range of partners, part time staff and young people up to the end of September, before finalisation by Cabinet Member, Councillor Colin Bromfield.

##### "GET REAL" Summer 2003

This summer the DfES initiated a pilot project "GET REAL" on behalf of the Mr David Milliband MP to provided structured residential and daytime holiday opportunities for young people aged 11-17 years. The programme offers a wide range of activities including Outdoor Activities, Sports, Arts, Drama and Music.

Due to the national acclaim received by the Nottinghamshire's Youth Service in the running of the "Uproject" scheme , Our Youth Service was only one of three organisations approached to pilot "Get Real", the others being the "Brathay Trust" and "Connexions" Devon and Cornwall, with ours being the only local authority Youth Service invited.

The Pilot went live on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> July with 500 places available exclusively to Nottinghamshire's Young People, within four days of the start all the regional and national residential places were allocated, with only a few local day courses being available in the following week.

The success of this has resulted in Mr Milliband writing personally to the Authority, thanking us for our involvement and for the hard work undertaken by the staff to make the project so successful despite a short lead up time.

He has also expressed his wish to visit the Authority during the summer to see some of the work in progress "first hand".

### **Libraries, Archives and Information**

#### **Summer programme for children - 2003**

Summer 2003 sees the development and strengthening of partnership working with Education and other bodies to promote reading as a fun activity under the campaign banner "Reading can change your life". The campaign leaflet and specially commissioned posters encourage youngsters to take time out to read during the summer holidays and beyond.

To whet children's appetites the Library Service has bought in to 'The Reading Maze' a national programme involving the Reading Agency. Although open to all children, certain areas of the County have been specially targeted for promotional work to encourage non-users to join their local library. This summer we aim to attract a minimum of 4,500 children aged between 4 and 12 to take part in a voyage of discovery which offers reading ideas and incentives to hook children in to books and libraries.

The Reading Maze fronts the traditional summer holiday activities programme, which this year includes events and activities as diverse as stories, art and puppets to visits by authors, illustrators and book fairs, all peppered with puzzles from the Maze and access to The Reading Maze web site via NEWLiNC computers.

Staff will be listening to children share their enthusiasm for the books they have read, and children will find other ideas and titles on display which have been recommended by their peers.

### **Leisure**

#### **Arts**

Over this relatively quiet period, the Service was involved in approximately 90 performances, exhibition and participation events.

These events include a record-breaking season of Music in Quiet places, with capacity audiences at many churches. In addition, the Earth and Fire festival at

Rufford was very popular, successful film events in rural areas as part of the new Film Out Here festival, and a special theatre commission for Rufford Park.

### Next Stage

The arts development team have been active in a number of areas of the County, including: Warsop; Rampton Hospital; Shireoaks; Eastwood; Mansfield Woodhouse; Scrooby; Manton; Sherwood Forest; and others.

### Next Stage Coalfields Area Programme

Groups such as the women from Manton Creative Storytelling collective used their local gala to showcase their unique storytelling quilt. A series of arts taster workshops, under the banner **Artsnet**, toured community galas right across the ERDF area, offering local people the chance to try art forms such as Batik, jewellery making, drumming, glass painting, mosaic. Additionally, sessions with a European flavour were programmed to enhance the activities at Thoresby's World in One County Festival.

Support continues for festivals and galas in the former Coalfield area, through the ERDF funded programme. Professional Samba musicians worked with community groups to create carnival processions in Manton and Shireoaks, while willow artists and theatrical designers worked with communities in Warsop and Stanton Hill to create bespoke carnival processions with school children.

Ladybrook Carnival received a return visit from street painters, Urban Canvas, as well as willow sculptors who worked with visitors to the event to liven up the adjacent shopping parade.

Five ERDF communities (Ladybrook, Shireoaks, Warsop, Manton and Hucknall) hosted "Mrs Macbeth's Hostile Bid" – a street theatre performance by The Common Players. Professional artists were in residence at primary schools in Mansfield Woodhouse (Robin Hood) and Warsop (Birklands) as part of the national Big Arts Week with a mosaic for a community garden on the Northfields estate and a mural for the school being developed respectively by the children. Meantime members of the Costhorpe Vintage Club have completed a mosaic for the external wall of their meeting place in Carlton-in-Lindrick.

In the Miners Welfares, artists have been working with members of ladies groups creating a rag rug panel (Ollerton and Bevercotes), a Textile panel (Newstead) and a photographic/watercolour panel (Thoresby), while at Clipstone, a stained glass panel project began in preparation for the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of the welfare in the village.

## **Sport**

### Nottinghamshire Youth Games 2003

The finals of the 2003 Nottinghamshire Youth Games were completed, with over a thousand Nottinghamshire young sportsmen and women taking part in 9 sports on Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> of July.

The 9 sports were played at 4 different venues with District and Boroughs providing boys and girls teams. Three other sports finals had already been completed before the 12<sup>th</sup>, i.e. Orienteering, Boccia and Indoor Athletics.

The games are the culmination of a range of development activity at district level and are a key part of the overall “active sport” project hosted and managed by the County Council.

The 2003 games had a new sponsor, East Midlands Airport, replacing HSBC bank who had supported the event for the previous three years. The sponsors were delighted with the press profile for the event which was most evident with a 2 page special on the games in the Nottingham Evening Post.

**Councillor Colin Bromfield**  
**Cabinet Member for Culture**

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