



Agenda Item: 5 (b)

REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, YOUNG PEOPLE’S SERVICE

YOUNG PEOPLE’S RESIDENTIAL VISIT TO LE FOSSO, FRANCE

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek approval for seven County Council officers from the Young People’s Service to travel abroad to lead a residential visit with a group of disabled young people to Le Fosso, Brittany in France. The proposed period of travel is 21 – 28 July 2012.

Information and Advice

2. The venue has been used previously and does not require a pre-visit. Five of the staff concerned have visited the venue on other residential opportunities.
3. The Leader of the residential and four of the remaining workers have undergone specific training in accordance with the Youth Service policy for residential visits.
4. The young people involved in the project will pay a contribution to help meet the costs of accessible transport for the visit.
5. The 20 young people who will be involved in the visit come from various parts of Nottinghamshire. The young people attend various units operated by the Disability Support Team and have a range of impairments and disabilities. The specific needs of the group members accounts for the high ratio of staff to young people.
6. The project has been developed in response to requests by the young people involved, who have been instrumental in planning the project and raising funds.
7. The officers seeking approval to travel abroad are:

Name	Post held	Role in the visit
MC	Lead Practitioner – Disability Support Team	Group Leader
RP	Worker in Charge	Assistant Group Leader
MC	Youth Support Worker	Group worker
KF	Youth Support Worker	Group worker
BS	Youth Support Worker	Group worker
VP	Youth Support Worker	Group worker/Driver
SD	Youth Support Worker	Group worker/Driver

8. The young people will produce a report on the visit which will be shared with the Committee

Other Options Considered

9. Other options have already been considered, and rejected in previous years; there is no facility in the UK that provides the appropriate level of adapted equipment. The centre in Le Fosso has been used on numerous occasions by the Disability Support Team, and fully meets the needs of young disabled people by offering a comprehensive and accessible range of activities.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

10. Generally young disabled people do not have the same opportunities as their non-disabled counterparts to undertake residential opportunities away with their peers. This particular venture will help address this issue for those attending.
11. This residential experience will provide an opportunity for disabled young people to be more independent, and be with other young people who have the same needs. This particular issue was specifically expressed by disabled young people.
12. Young people attending will have a unique opportunity to undertake a wide range of accessible fun and exciting activities in a safe environment in another country's culture.
13. This residential will contribute to the Council's statutory duty to provide 'short breaks' for disabled young people.
14. The level of contribution from the Council's budget reflects a number of issues which are pertinent to disabled young people and their families. Many parents and carers are not able to work because their main responsibility is the care of their young person, and therefore they receive a low income through the benefits system. The government has recently reported that many disabled young people live below the poverty line.
15. In addition, the overall cost of residential experiences for disabled young people is higher. The increased cost reflects the need for a higher staffing ratio, specialist transport and the use of residential centres which are able to provide the necessary specialist equipment and activities.

Statutory and Policy Implications

16. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Implications for Service Users

17. The residential visit is for disabled young people aged 14 to 24 years who are resident in Nottinghamshire. The residential will enable the young people to develop their

independence skills, learn basic French, and experience life in a local French community in the heart of Brittany.

Financial implications

18. The total cost of the visit (travel and accommodation) as shown in the following table is £14,457. There are no additional staffing costs as the visit will be undertaken within the scope of the staff's normal contracted working hours.
19. The Disability Support Team's holiday programme budget is £28,607 and it is proposed to meet £6,857 of these costs from that budget. This leaves the disabled young people to make a total contribution of £7,600 (£380 per person). It is anticipated that young people will be able to make their contribution through a weekly savings scheme, and they are being supporting in fund raising activities. The Centre at Le Fosso runs a bursary scheme and young people who would find the amount hard to find will be assisted in applying for financial assistance through the scheme. The residential programme ideas are discussed with Nottinghamshire Pioneers Young Disabled People's Youth Forum which has agreed with this years programme. They were happy with the costings proposed, providing the measures to assist young people who might struggle to make the financial contribution, set out above, were put in place. Already, 15 young people have indicated that they would be interested if this trip was agreed.
20. The table below sets out the overall costs of the residential.

COSTS	(£)
Mini-bus (inc. fuel)	1,277.00
Accommodation (for 27 people – 1 free place)	10,270.00
Insurance	60.00
Ferry	2,850.00
TOTAL	14,457.00
FUNDING	
Contribution by young people (£380.00 x 20 young people)	7,600.00
DST holiday programme budget	6,857.00
TOTAL	14,457.00

RECOMMENDATION

- 1) That approval is given for seven County Council officers from the Young People's Service to participate in the planned residential visit to France from 21 – 28 July 2012.

Chris Warren
Group Manager, Young People's Service

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Nigel Down 0115 9774864
 Margaret Clement 01623 626972

Constitutional Comments (LM 21/02/12)

21. The Administration Committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendation in the report.

Financial Comments (NDR 21/02/12)

22. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 18 to 20 of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

M19C2963