

6 September 2005

Report of the Chief Executive
to the Police Authority

HUMBERSIDE POLICE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

INTRODUCTION

1. This report seeks to inform Members of the function of the Humberside Police Youth and Community Centre, the role of Police Authority representation on its management committee and proposals for a proposed survey to be conducted amongst young people who are involved with the community centre.

BACKGROUND

2. The Humberside Police Youth and Community Centre, formerly known as The Boys' Club, was established by the former Hull City Police during World War II. The objective then was the diversion of boys away from crime and anti-social behaviour. It was recognised that they were particularly vulnerable during that period as in many cases their fathers were away from home serving with the armed forces. The primary activity of the club during the early days was boxing.
3. Over the years the club has developed both in membership which is now totally inclusive and the range of activities has increased.
4. The club is a registered charity and has a constitution. The Chief Constable is the president of the club and there are a number of office holders. A position on the management committee for a representative of the Police Authority has always been open but until the appointment of the Consultation & Partnership Manager was seldom taken up.
5. At the Consultation & Partnership Committee meeting on 24 February 2004 the committee appointed the Consultation & Partnership Manager to that committee, with a requirement to report back to the committee in respect of how the Authority is utilising the appointment. The Consultation & Partnership Manager has attended four management meetings since appointment and fully participated in the associated decision making.
6. Also during this financial year the Humberside Police Youth and Community Centre benefited from a grant of £5000 awarded from the Humberside Police Authority Police property Act Fund.
7. The centre is housed at premises on Garden Village in East Hull. This property is owned by one of the James Reckitt Trusts. A number of years ago the trustees expressed a desire to wind the trust up. The principal asset of the trust being the building. For several years now negotiations have been taking place between Humberside Police Legal Services Department, the management committee and the trustees relating to the transfer of the property to the club.

8. Whilst the property is not owned by Humberside Police and therefore does not form part of the Estates Strategy, Humberside Police allocate resources towards the maintenance and upkeep of the premises. In addition Humberside Police fund the wages of one and a half staff which includes a permanent youth worker employed by Humberside Police to run the centre. The other half represents payment made to the caretaker.
9. The principal activities of the club are boxing, various types of martial arts, a football team and a young persons' play club. The management committee has also been active in raising income for the club from a number of sources, the hiring and letting of rooms on the premises being an example.
10. The total membership of the club is around 300 young people.

PROPOSED SURVEY

11. Anecdotal evidence suggests that young people are particularly concerned about the impact of crime on them. Indeed the most likely victims of violent crime are young males. A captive audience of approximately 300 young people from a range of backgrounds who attend the Humberside Police Youth and Community Centre provides fertile ground for a realistic opinion survey in relation to the views and concern of young people in the city.
12. In conjunction with the youth worker assigned to the Humberside Police Youth and Community Centre a survey of the views and opinions of youth people on crime and disorder community safety is being prepared. This may be followed up by a thematic PANel meeting. It is anticipated that the results of this survey will be available to be reported to Members at the next Consultation & Partnership Committee on 6 December 2005.

RECOMMENDATIONS

13. It is recommended that:
 - i) Members discuss the contents of this report;
 - ii) Members approve the concept of a survey as proposed;
 - iii) Members receive further report on the outcome of that survey at the next Consultation & Partnership Committee meeting; and
 - iv) Members receive further reports on a yearly basis as to the activities of the Consultation & Partnership Manager in relation to work with the Humberside Police Youth and Community Centre.

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Background Documents: None