



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	North Belfast Summer Intervention Programme – Concessionary Access to Leisure Centres
<b>Date:</b>	19 June 2008
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Katrina Morgan-Talbot, Acting Leisure Services Manager

### Relevant Background Information

The North Belfast Interface Steering Group was established by North Belfast Community Action Unit to exchange information and good practice in terms of interface work. The Group is made up of a number of community and statutory organisations including Belfast City Council. Over the past three years it has supported a broad range of community groups throughout North Belfast in the development of a summer intervention programme aimed at diverting young people from antisocial behaviour during the summer months.

The Community and Leisure Sub Committee at its meeting of 7 June 2005 and 7 March 2006 and 27 Feb 2007 approved free access to BCC Community and Leisure Centres by the Summer Intervention Programme during the period 1 July – 30 September. This access was subject to availability and the Programme being responsible for any additional staff costs incurred by the Council. The Sub Committee further agreed that requests received from other bona fide interface groups in the City be granted similar use of facilities.

### Key Issues

The evaluation process in respect of the Summer Intervention Programme 2007 confirmed positive feedback from participant community groups regarding free access to Community and Leisure Centres in terms of enhancement of their capacity to deliver the programme.

The Interface Steering Group is currently submitting a paper for consideration to the Community Action Group, a cross departmental Central Government funding group, co-chaired by the Department of Social Development and the Office of the First Minister Deputy First Minister. One of the recommendations of this paper is for the establishment of a Summer Intervention Programme 2008. The

proposal of the North Belfast Community Action Unit will be that funding, if secured for this programme, will be delivered through the Belfast Education & Library Board.

### **Resource Implications**

Under the Summer Intervention Programme 2007 take up at Community Centres was by local groups who were normally users of these facilities. Take up at Leisure Centres was as follows:-

- Shankill Leisure Centre – 68 users
- Grove Leisure Centre – 60 users
- Ballysillan – 20 users

A cost of approximately £250.00 can be allocated against the 2007 usage. This was a decrease of £165.82 on the 2006 figure of £415.82. However as usage was subject to availability this may be considered as being of neutral cost to the Council.

It is not expected that potential take up in 2008 will be significantly greater than that of 2007, as transport costs can be prohibitive to participating community groups.

### **Recommendations**

It is recommended that if a Summer Intervention Programme 2008 is established:

- a. The Programme be granted free use of BCC Community and Leisure Centres during the period 1 July – 30 September 2008, subject to availability
- b. The Summer Intervention Programme meets any additional staff costs incurred by Council as a result of such usage.

### **Key to Abbreviations**

None.

### **Documents Attached**

None.