



Belfast City Council

Report to: Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject: Grove Wellbeing Centre Update
Date: 15 April 2010
Reporting Officer: Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer: Katrina Morgan, Acting Leisure Services Manager

Relevant Background Information

To give an update on the Grove Well Being Centre (GWBC), for the period January – March 2010.

Key issues

At the Parks and Leisure Committee in January 2009 Members agreed that progress reports in relation to the GWBC be submitted for its consideration at regular intervals.

Performance Report

The following is the key performance information for the Centre for the period January – March 2009 together with comparative information, where available from the same period last year.

Belfast City Council (BCC) Leisure Services

Area	Jan – March 2009	Jan – March 2010.	Variance
General Throughput	45153	52599	+ 7,446
Fitness Suite	10158	13377	+ 3,219
Casual Swimming	11138	15146	+ 4,008
Clubs / School swimming	4441	4303	- 138
Make a Splash	1400	2032	+ 632
Total Members	3367	4223	+ 856
Total Direct Debit Members	304	487	+ 183
Birthday Parties	102	139	+ 37

The research report (November 2009) developed by Strategic Leisure in relation to the Strategic Review of Leisure identified the GWBC as the most expensive in terms of 'staffing costs per visit' and 'subsidy per visit'. However, it must be

noted that the figures used in these calculations did not take into account the fact that during the selected period various facilities at GWBC were closed for several months because of the fire at the centre in July 2008 and the flooding incident in August 2008. These closures had a negative impact on usage and income.

The centre has now had a 'normal' twelve months operation and staffing costs per visit and subsidy per visit have decreased, and are in line with the associated costs of the other leisure centres.

Synergy Services January – March

- Ongoing success of the GP referral scheme
- BCC Fitness staff involved in the Belfast Health & Social Care Trusts (BHSCT) 'arthritis care day' event
- BCC & BHSCT involved in Men's health day in conjunction with Voluntary Services Belfast.
- Libraries NI & BCC organised the 'All our Saturday's' event with Lord Sebastian Coe in attendance alongside Dame Mary Peters and Malcolm Brodie.
- BCC hosting a Tai chi class every Friday morning targeting the BHSCT day care facility users.

Recent Visitors

Tour of the centre in September 2009 by the Nine permanent under secretaries. Michael McKillop, Paralympic & World champion 800m athlete visited the leisure centre, in October 2009.

In December 2009 James Galway, musician unveiled an artwork within day care centre.

In December 2009, Janet Gray, world champion blind water skier visited the library,

Lord Sebastian Coe visited the centre as part of the 'Ireland Saturday night event' in February 2010.

Planned synergistic activities April 2010

- BCC commencing "hung drawn and plastered". This is a new arts / crafts class targeted at senior citizens and day care facility users.
- Libraries NI, BCC & BHSCT involved in planning a teenage health fair.

Libraries NI Performance information from March 2009 to February 2010-04-01

New borrowers added:	718
Total registered borrowers:	3,342
Total active borrowers:	1,619 (48.4%)
Total loans including renewals:	32,626

Recent Library events

- Adult Christmas crafts
- Poetry in motion children's workshop
- Valentines story time and crafts
- Children's world book event
- North Belfast historical society monthly meeting.

Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

- Parkside and Grove surgeries involved in planning for teenage health day.
- Planning cardiac rehabilitation for synergy development in leisure centre.

Resource Implications

None.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.

Decision Tracking

N/A

Key to Abbreviations

BCC – Belfast City Council
GWBC – Grove Wellbeing Centre
BHSCT – Belfast Health & Social Care Trust.

Documents Attached

None.