



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Parks and Leisure Committee
Subject:	Summer Scheme – Grove Wellbeing Centre
Date:	13 September 2012
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure
Contact Officer:	Adele Faulkner, Leisure Improvement Manager

1	Relevant Background Information
	<p>Each year, summer schemes are organised in leisure centres providing a programme of sporting and play activities to young people over the months of July and August.</p> <p>The summer schemes are extremely popular with almost all places across all centres being filled. All summer scheme users benefit from a subsidised service, funded through the rates.</p> <p>Since opening in 2008 the summer scheme at GWBC has sold all allocated spaces within three hours of tickets being made available. The Grove is particularly popular because of the modern facilities and because the scheme accepts children from five years old. To try to address this demand in 2012 parents and guardians booking for the scheme at GWBC were permitted to book a child for a maximum of any four weeks out of the five. There were 72 places available on the GWBC scheme. The weekly cost for one child is £20 or £6 per day.</p> <p>Also introduced in 2012 was that the first day of summer scheme enrolment was prioritised for Belfast residents only, and the second day onwards was open to both Belfast and non Belfast residents.</p> <p>A full evaluation of all leisure summer schemes will be undertaken during September 2012 and brought to the committee with appropriate recommendations for improvement.</p>

2	Key Issues
	<p>Despite the additional measures that were put into place to deal with the heavy demand at the Grove, yet again the 72 places within the scheme were sold out in a matter of hours.</p> <p>Parents began to queue for places from 8.30pm the evening before the first day of registration and queued outside the centre overnight.</p> <p>There are a number of issues to be considered for the 2013 GWBC summer scheme including,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of places available • Price • Should registration by post be considered? • Who can register a child (how to prove you are parent guardian?) • How many children should each person be permitted to enrol? (One person enrolled 17 children) • How many weeks should each child be allowed to enrol for? • How to prove residence in Belfast? <p>One solution to these issues could be a pre-enrolment exercise which could be carried out earlier in the year. This would involve a parent making an application by post or by hand to the centre. The application would have to be made by a parent or guardian. Supportive documentation showing their relationship with the child, (birth/adoption certificate), and proof of address (utility bill) would be essential. The same parent/guardians name must appear on both documents. The Centre staff would then analyse the information and offer places for two to four weeks.</p> <p>Criteria for this option, and any other solution need to be researched and worked up. If necessary a waiting list could be created for unsuccessful applications and/or these could be referred to other schemes.</p> <p>It is not anticipated that the preregistration would currently be needed in any other centre, however this will be considered further in the evaluation currently underway.</p> <p>A further report will be brought back to committee in due course with firm recommendations once the scheme is worked up.</p>

3	Resource Implications
	<p><u>Financial</u> none</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u> None</p>

	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u> None
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4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
	Any alterations in the registration processes will be subject to the council's existing equality screening process

5	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the contents of the report

6	Decision Tracking
	The Leisure Improvement Manager will update the committee with the full evaluation report and recommendations by November 2012.

7	Key to Abbreviations
	GWBC– Grove Wellbeing Centre

8	Documents Attached
	None