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| <b>REPORT TO:</b>              | <b>Housing and Community Services Committee</b> | <b>AGENDA ITEM: 10</b>           |
| <b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>        | <b>15 March 2007</b>                            | <b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED/</b>      |
| <b>REPORT FROM:</b>            | <b>Director of Community Services</b>           | <b>OPEN:</b>                     |
| <b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b> | <b>Hannah Barradell-Smith (5973)</b>            | <b>DOC:</b>                      |
| <b>SUBJECT:</b>                | <b>South Derbyshire Community Dance Project</b> | <b>REF:</b>                      |
| <b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>       | <b>All</b>                                      | <b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS07</b> |

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### **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That members note the report on the South Derbyshire Community Dance Project and authorise officers to progress funding applications to extend and develop the project within a larger Young Peoples Cultural Project.

### **2.0 Purpose of Report**

- 2.1 To inform members about the outcomes of the sixth month pilot of the South Derbyshire Community Dance Project and gain their approval for the further development of this area of work.

### **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The 2004 Youth Needs Survey undertaken by the Sports Development Team indicated that girls were specifically interested in dance as a new leisure opportunity in the district.
- 3.2 As a result of these findings, the SDDC Sports Development Team developed a six-month pilot dance project in partnership with the School Sports Partnership and the Primary Care Trust (PCT), which was launched in September 2006.
- 3.3 The aims of the project were: to increase physical activity levels through dance for young people (with an emphasis on girls aged 11–16), to increase self esteem and self confidence of young people through dance, to increase the number of girls participating in Out of School Hours Learning and clubs outside of school, and to increase the number of qualified dance leaders from Burton College and Local Schools.
- 3.4 In order for these aims to be achieved, a Community Dance Coach (Nadia Asamoah) was appointed on a part-time basis (20hrs per week). She quickly established a programme of dance across the four secondary schools with the support of a local steering group, which consisted of the key partners.

- 3.5 To date, after school clubs have been run at all four secondary schools for free with up to 30 girls in attendance at each session each week; waiting lists were necessary at Granville School and The Pingle School due to the popularity of the classes.
- 3.6 A community session was launched at Green Bank Leisure Centre, which had in excess of 70 girls each week during the first month. A nominal charge of £2 per session was levied and Green Bank is now sustaining this club whilst the steering group identifies a new venue for a future community session.
- 3.7 The Community Dance Coach has also supported curriculum dance delivery within the schools; providing expert tuition during classes for both the students and teachers.
- 3.8 One of the objectives of the PCT was for the project to target “at risk” young people and also to actively refer young people into the dance clubs via School Nurses and School Teachers.
- 3.9 The PCT objectives have been achieved; case studies from each school report the positive effect that the dance sessions have had on several young people who were not originally engaged in school sports activities. The lunchtime club at John Port School included referred girls only.
- 3.10 The success of the project has led to the extension of the Community Dance Coach post for a further three months from the end of March with continued funding from both the School Sports Partnership and the Council.
- 3.11 Officers from the Leisure and Community Development team have made contact with Arts Council East Midlands to develop a wider Young Peoples Cultural Project which will enhance the dance provision and widen services into performing arts, entertainment events and possibly mobile cinema. A formal meeting has been requested using the proposal as a basis for discussion about a potential Grants for the Arts supported dance based project.
- 3.12 On Thursday 3rd May, a showcase event will be held in the evening at the Burton Brewhouse. In advance of this event, a Dance Leaders Course will be held for Year 11 girls at Easter who are keen to work with the younger age groups to prepare them for the show.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 Short term costs regarding continued activity provision and staffing will be met through the current budgets of SDDC and key partners. Longer term costs will need to be met through successful funding applications and additional Council funding arising from the budget process.

#### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

- 5.1 The key objectives of the dance project represent significant improvements in service delivery, contributing primarily to increasing the physical health and mental well being of young people across the district.

#### **6.0 Community Implications**

6.1 The Young Peoples Cultural Project will continue to increase the numbers of young people participating in physical activity across the district. The subsequent positive impact upon the health of these young people is also a notable implication.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

7.1 The pilot dance project has been a major success and has provided the evidence of need for the expansion of the service. The proposed Young Peoples Cultural Project will make a significant impact on the involvement of young people in physical and creative activity.

## **8.0 Background Papers**

8.1 South Derbyshire Dance Project: Monitoring and Evaluation 2006-07.