

Final Report of the Youth Provision of School Aged Children Task and Finish Working Group

FOLLOWING ITS INQUIRY INTO:

To examine the extent of information available regarding youth provision of school age children outside of that school/education, and the opportunity for that provision to be adjusted/supported with improvements for mental health and reduced anti-social behaviour.

DATE: 3rd December 2025

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP

To examine the extent of information youth provision of school age children outside of that school/education and the opportunity for that provision to be adjusted/supported with improvements for mental health and reduced prosperity anti-social behaviour.

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INQUIRY

With reference to the Terms of Reference above, this Task & Finish Group supports the Corporate Plan themes of:-

- Championing our local environment
- Pride in our area and services to residents
- Working with partners to improve quality of life
- Raising aspirations and creating opportunities

This work also supports the Council's Sport and Activity Strategy (agreed in Sept 2024), and Health and Wellbeing Strategy (agreed Sept 2025), with the shared vision of improving health outcomes for residents and extending opportunities for wellbeing.

Objectives:-

The focus of the Task & Finish group work was agreed:-

To consider the options to provide/ share up-to-date information on out of school activities for children and young people/families across the district, to support improvements for mental health and reductions in anti-social behaviour.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP

- Cllr Terry Barrett (Chair)
- Cllr Andrea Cossens
- Cllr Bill Davidson
- Cllr Jo Henderson
- Cllr Ann Oxley

OFFICER SUPPORT FOR THE TASK & FINISH WORKING GROUP

Mike Carran, Assistant Director, Sport, Culture & Health
Rebecca Morton, Executive Projects Manager, Sport, Culture & Health
Charlie Colson, Community Sport & Activity Manager, Sport, Culture & Health

INVITEES AND PARTICIPANTS

N/A

EXPECTED OUTCOME(S) OF THE INQUIRY

To consider a number of options to provide information and the promotion of out of school activities for children and young people across the District.

ACTUAL OUTCOME(S) OF THE INQUIRY

As above

RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 1) To provide a platform for children and young people to access information about activity which is taking place in their community,
- 2) To support this recommendation, it is proposed to develop the existing Active Essex, 'Find your Active' database, to enhance the information available to local communities when searching for local activities for children and young people.
- 3) Once updated, the 'Find Your Active' database to be promoted through the Community Sports Partnerships section of the developing 'Active Tendring' website.

Funding for this work is subject to agreement by Cabinet in a separate report (due January 2026), which provides an update on progress on the implementation of the Sport and Activity Strategy, and seeks agreement to a number of budget allocations including development of the 'Find Your Active' webpage.

CHRONOLOGY

Dates of the T & F Group Meetings:

- 13 February 2025
- 18 November 2025

DETAILED FINDINGS OF THE INQUIRY

At the meetings of the Task and Finish group, the following options for the provision of information regarding out of school activities for C&YP were identified:-

- **Utilising TDC's website** - providing the platform for this information – the development of a new C&YP activity webpage.

As part of a separate project, Tendring Leisure's proposed website update was forecast at cost of approximately £25,000 to include an activity finder of local sport and activity sessions. This did not progress due to the cost implications and existing online infrastructure for a sports and activity finder with Active Essex (Find Your Active, see further information below). It had been recognised previously by the Council that commissioning a new platform directly, when one already exists would be counter-productive and significantly more expensive.

- **'Active Tendring'** – involves the Council's Sports & Leisure Services Team working with strategic partners to commission and deliver sports and physical activity programmes/campaigns. Tendring Leisure's website hosts an Active Tendring 'Community Sports Partnerships' webpage to signpost and refer the latest sports and activity projects happening in the district. The work is currently in progress and could include providing further information on local activity for children and young people in the form of a link to the Active Essex, 'Find Your Active' webpage (details below).
- **Active Essex, 'Find Your Active'** – Active Essex is the Sports Development Department commissioned by Essex County Council. A current intervention to prescribe activity involves the 'Find Your Active' webpage. This operates as a digital

noticeboard that publishes activities in Essex onto one webpage, where filters can be applied to localise all sessions available to C&YP in Tendring.

Website: [Activity Finder | Active Essex](#)

- As this platform is currently sparsely populated and does not allow for residents to search by town or ward boundary, a small investment of £3,599 from the Sport and Activity Budget to support this initiative will enable the development of improved functionality. This will be the most efficient platform to achieve this objective and will involve providing this allocation to 'PLAYED Ltd' who already host the site on behalf of Active Essex. This money will also include development of advanced web traffic analysis to demonstrate the level of engagement and demand of activity sessions posted online.

Supporting TDC's Sport & Activity Strategy 2024 – 2028, (Decision - Cabinet Members' Items - Report of the Leisure and Public Realm Portfolio Holder - A.6 - Sport and Activity Strategy for Tendring). the strategic partnership between Active Tendring and Active Essex aims to share a single platform to publish all activities onto one site.

This will be an efficient platform to make local provision in Tendring searchable online.

An important consideration is the strategic commitments above in relation to the development of 'Find Your Active' are proposed, and due to be considered in a separate report to Cabinet in January 2026.

During spring/summer of 2025, work was undertaken by a TDC Officer to map/identify current C&YP activities across the district and whilst this will require ongoing review/updating, it can be utilised as part of the data upload to the agreed site/webpage.

FINANCIAL

Sport and Activity Strategy Budget

Through the approved Sport and Activity Strategy, Cabinet allocated £122,000 to a designated budget towards the action plan. £3,599 of this has been identified towards developing the Tendring activity information provided on the 'Find Your Active' platform.

RESOURCES

Additional staff resources to support this work to develop district wide activity information including the ongoing maintenance of it are yet to be identified.

A dedicated staffing resource would be preferential to ensure the platform is well populated and remains up to date. The Committee requested that consideration could be given to tasking an apprentice with this work.

Subject to future Cabinet approval, Sport England are minded to fund new Active Wellbeing Activator roles, to support a wider Active Wellbeing programme of activity in the district. The total budget for this programme is just over £100,000 and a proportion of this will fund two part time roles.

LEGAL

A funding agreement is in place with Active Essex, who have drawn the funding down from Sport England. The condition of the grant requires that delivery partners have a constitution, equal opportunities statement, safeguarding, relevant training and experience,

appropriate DBS cover in place, insurance, compliance with GDPR and risk management.

As part of the funding agreement the outputs and outcome from each project are agreed between TDC and Active Essex. The funding agreement also requires appropriate monitoring and evaluation processes are in place, (on a quarterly basis and when the project finishes).

IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC

The development of information on C&YP out of school activities supports and actions the feedback provided by the local community (as part of the consultation on the Sport and Activity Strategy).

It will enhance the current information available across the District and provide a hyper local search facility for finding activities.

An increased awareness of the opportunities/activities available within a local area should increase participation levels.

Increase levels of participation in out of school activities will support children and young people's mental health and wellbeing as well as the reduction in incidents of anti-social behaviour across the district.

BACKGROUND PAPERS AND PUBLISHED REFERENCE MATERIAL

Sport and Activity Strategy for Tendring (2024-2028) - Decision - Cabinet Members' Items - Report of the Leisure and Public Realm Portfolio Holder - A.6 - Sport and Activity Strategy for Tendring

APPENDICES

None

REPORT CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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