

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Report

Panel	Corporate Parenting Board
Date:	21 October 2021
Title:	The Big Activity Week 2021
Report From:	Director of Children's Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Corporate Parenting Board with an overview of The Big Activity Week 2021

Recommendation(s)

2. That the Corporate Parenting Board continue to support The Big Activity Week

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3. Context

After a successful residential experience for 76 young people aged 9-13 in 2019 and the well attended 'adventure' days that took place during COVID restrictions in the summer of 2020, the Big Activity Week 2021 was planned to be bigger and better!

The week was extended to accommodate a larger age range across six residential centres. The young people in the eldest age range even ventured to our Hampshire County Council-run Mountain Centre in Wales!

In total 105 young people aged between 8 and 14 attended the week which took place between 2-6 August 2021.

Funding was secured from The National Lottery, Public Health England, Hampshire

Children's Services, The Hendy Foundation, Hampshire Fostering Network, HIWCF and the Lions Club. The centres that the young people visited were also very supportive with costs.

Each group of young people was accompanied by a team of professionals including teachers, social workers and a registered foster carers. It was a real benefit to the project to pull resources and expertise from across the Hampshire County Council departments.

4. Why is The Big Activity Week so important?

Prior to The Big Activity Week 2019, evidence of the benefits of outdoor and adventurous activities was well documented. Our aim had been to support looked after children to build resilience, confidence and skills and enable them to form relationships with children in similar circumstances. It was felt that starting this at an early age would help these young people to overcome some of the barriers in education and socially that they faced.

After the residential in 2019, we sought feedback from carers and young people, to see what the experience had meant to them.

Carers reported that the week had helped hugely with confidence, that mixing with children 'in the same boat' had normalised the situation for the young people. Friendships were made and a sense of achievement and pride was felt as the young people took part in activities they were not accustomed to.

The young people were asked to sum up their week using 3 words. The most popular choices were fun, amazing, exciting, challenging and awesome. This sense of enjoyment was very apparent at the celebration event we held with children, carers, social workers and senior staff.

The restricted nature of the week in 2020 still produced very positive feedback and results with carers commenting on new friendships, positive attitudes, improved sense of self-worth and an increase in resilience and confidence. With the continued disruption of COVID-19 and the impact it has had on the mental well-being of all young people, The Big Activity Week 2021 was very much needed.

5. The Big Activity Week 2021

The ever-changing COVID restrictions meant that planning for the Big Activity Week 2021 was a challenge but we were ultimately able to take 105 young people on residential between 2-6 August 2021.

Activity Centre	Year group (Age)	Number of young people
Minstead Study Centre	4 (8-9)	13
Stubbington Study Centre	5 (9-10)	19
Avon Tyrell Activity Centre	6 (10-11)	17
Peter Ashley Activity Centre	7 (11-12)	18
Calshot Activity Centre	8 (12-13)	19
Hampshire Mountain Centre	9 (13-14)	19

Activities included:

- Sports – volleyball, petanque, lacrosse, netball,
- Nature – trees, minibeasts, mammals, pond dipping, woodland walks
- Survival – firelighting, shelter building, mapping, orienteering
- Challenge – raft building, problem solving,
- Art – clay, natural art, willow sculptures, leaf printing
- Archery
- Snowsports – Ringos, skiing
- Climbing, abseiling, crate stacking
- Watersports – kayaking, sailing, canoeing
- High ropes
- Low ropes
- Rifle shooting
- Caving

In addition to the activities, the young people were able to socialise and build friendships with others and fast friendships were formed.

6. Did it work?

The smiling faces and constant chatter when the young people were picked up and the promises to 'stay in touch' with new friends were enough to prove that this was a successful week.

We obviously can't measure the impact long term but feedback from carers and young people has been overwhelmingly positive. A selection of feedback is below.

'... my girl hasn't stopped talking about it and took part in something that I never thought she would! She also asked me if she could go next year.

'... our lad had the week of his life. Made new friends and took part in new experiences.'

'... I've loved being part of the BAW again this year after we missed out last year due to covid. I'm already looking forward to next year and hope we get the opportunity to go to Wales like my older brother did as he had an amazing time.' *'... this is an opportunity like no other. Our children get to spend time with other children in a similar situation. it makes them feel like they are not alone. What an*

amazing project this is, it's impacted by 2 boys in so many ways, giving them memories that will last a lifetime.'

' ... I've pencilled the date in for next year already and the children still talk about it all the time. I am so pleased this has been set up for our children. One of my boys has never had a successful residential experience with school because they cannot manage his behaviour. The staff are well trained and understand the needs of our children which is reassuring knowing they are in safe hands.'

7. What's next?

We hope to provide a programme of activities throughout the year for children and carers to get outdoors, engaged in exciting and accessible activities. This will of course depend on funding.

The Big Activity Week 2022 is in the process of being booked and venues secured.

Contact

For more information about the Big Activity Week please contact the Outdoor Participation team via outdoor.education@hants.gov.uk

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes
OR	
<p>This proposal does not link to the Strategic Plan but, nevertheless, requires a decision because:</p> <p><i>NB: Only complete this section if you have not completed any of the Strategic Plan tick boxes above. Whichever section is not applicable, please delete.</i></p>	

NB: If the 'Other significant links' section below is not applicable, please delete it.

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

See guidance at <https://hants.sharepoint.com/sites/ID/SitePages/Equality-ImpactAssessments.aspx?web=1>

Insert in full your **Equality Statement** which will either state:

- why you consider that the project/proposal will have a low or no impact on groups with protected characteristics or*
- will give details of the identified impacts and potential mitigating actions*