



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Council of Ministers Report on The Chief Minister's Young Persons Working Group Report

Hard copies of this Report are available on request to the Chief Secretary's Office, Third floor, Government Offices, Bucks Road, Douglas or tel. 686426

December 2010

Background

1. In the House of Keys on 10 February 2009 in answer to a question from Mr Watterson MHK, the then Minister for Education confirmed that a Chief Minister's Young Persons Working Group was being established which would consult with young people and communities on the availability and need for informal social facilities for young people between 14 and 23 years old and that she had been invited to chair the Working Group and to report by July 2009.
2. The Young Persons Working Group Report was completed in September 2009 and reported to the Chief Minister in October 2009. At its meeting on 21st January 2010 Council agreed the recommendations on the Report and that the Report be incorporated into a Council of Ministers Report for public consultation.
3. Accordingly, a public notice was placed in the press on the 9th March 2010 inviting interested persons or organisations to comment on Council's recommendations on 'The Chief Minister's Young Persons Working Group Report'. The Working Group Report for public consultation and a questionnaire was placed on the Government Consultations website and sent to Government Department's Chief Executive Officers and relevant stakeholders with a closing date of 30 April 2010.
4. Thirty eight responses were received, however of these 4 were not signed (see Appendix 1 for list of respondents). The Council of Ministers Recommendations, the Questions in the public consultation and a summary of the Responses received are attached at Appendix 2. The Chief Minister's Young Persons Working Group Report is attached at Appendix 3.

The Responses to the consultation

5. In overall terms the responses received were in support of the Council of Ministers recommendations of 21 January 2010 with the exception of recommendation (i) regarding changes to bus timetables and buses for disabled persons, recommendation (j) regarding a Youth Discount card, recommendation (m) regarding use of tarmac for practicing motoring skills and recommendation (n) regarding the former Playground Improvement Fund.
6. The Department of Community Culture and Leisure asked for Council of Ministers recommendation (i) to be amended as improvements to the bus timetable and fleet had been made in that 100% of the current fleet is now accessible for people with disabilities.
7. The Department of Community Culture and Leisure did not support recommendation (j) regarding the provision of a Youth Discount card at the NSC, Villa and Gaiety because it considered that there are already substantial discounts for young people and the introduction of a card system would be costly and bureaucratic.
8. The Department of Infrastructure did not support recommendation (m) to investigate the opportunity to use existing tarmac areas for young people under supervision to practice driving and motor skills.
9. The Department of Infrastructure raised concern that recommendation (n) was included. The Department stated that the former Department of Local Government and the Environment's 2005 policy whereby grant assistance of 40% is given to local authorities to assist them with the provision of playground facilities, children's play

areas and skateparks which many local authorities have taken advantage of had no budget allocation for 2010/11.

10. A number of suggestions for improvement to the recommendations were received from the public and from Departments. In particular, recommendation (a) regarding encouraging Departments to use the IOM Newspapers website should be extended to encouraging use of social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter and the Youth website for publicising young people's events; and recommendation (e) that the community use of School sports facilities could be extended to have a centralised booking facility rather than each venue dealing with their bookings and a vetted trustee or School Governor could be key holders.

Conclusion and Next steps

11. The Consultation has provided useful feedback from Departments and the public. The Council of Ministers recommendations of 21 January were revised on 02 December to incorporate feedback where appropriate and to adjust timescales. In regard to recommendation (m) – 'investigating the use of tarmac areas', Council of Ministers considered there is scope for investigation and the recommendation should remain. In regard to recommendation (n) – 'Playground Grants', Council of Ministers considered that notwithstanding the lack of current budget provision; the Playground Grant was agreed by Tynwald and the recommendation should remain. The Council of Ministers revised recommendations are set out in paragraphs 13 to 31.
12. The Council of Ministers revised recommendations on the Chief Minister's Young Persons Working Group will be published on the Government Web site together with the summary report on the consultations received and the Chief Minister's Young Persons Working Group Report. Hard copies of this amalgamated document will be placed in the Tynwald Library, hard copy will be available on request and a press release issued.

Council of Ministers Revised Recommendations:-

13. All Departments arranging events and activities for young people to place these on the IOM Newspaper events website, youth website and on social networking sites in addition to their own web sites.
14. The Department of Education and Children to prepare a Paper regarding the potential for youth cafes in regions outside Douglas. The Department should also consider any opportunities to work with the voluntary and private sectors to provide these types of facilities in partnership in other areas of the Island. The Paper be submitted to the **Department of Education and Children Meeting by April 2011**.
15. The Department of Education and Children to continue to liaise with the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure regarding any proposals to build school sports halls. They should ensure that the community's use of the facilities for sports and arts can be fully investigated and included where appropriate and that they should be affordable and logistically achievable.
16. The Department of Education and Children to consider reviewing its policy to enable greater use of the Glencrutchery Pool during school holidays and any other education facilities which would meet the needs of young people with disabilities. The Department of Community, Culture and Leisure to support the extended opening of the Glencrutchery pool by facilitating access to or training of lifeguards. A joint paper

setting out these considerations be submitted to the **Children's Committee by April 2011.**

17. The Department of Education and Children to consider how best to meet the needs of casual sports users, many of whom will be young people, in its future school at Bemahague which will include a community sports facility. In addition, the Department is requested to investigate whether the after school management of the future Bemahague facility should lie with the Department of Education and Children or another Department or the private sector. The Department to also consider a vetted trustee or School Governor being key holders of school sports facilities to obviate need for caretaker presence. **The Department to report to Council of Ministers by April 2011.**
18. The Department of Education and Children's Youth Service together with the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure's Sports and Arts Development to investigate the possibility of engaging with the private sector and the third sector to investigate and identify where joint working could offer opportunities for additional, casual, social leisure facilities for the 16 to 23 year age group. **The Departments to report to the Children's Committee by end of April 2011.**
19. Support the principle of the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure in seeking to establish a network of regional sports/leisure centres which meet the identified need of young people to book the facility not on 'a block booking basis' but offering more flexible opportunities. **The Department to report to the Children's Committee by end of February 2011.**
20. The Departments of Education and Children and Community, Culture and Leisure to work together to establish annual regional days for sports, arts, music, dance, youth, church, uniformed etc clubs to give information and demonstrate the activities of the clubs from the public, private and voluntary sectors. In addition, the Departments to consider the establishment of regional participation programmes of sports activities for the 14 + age group focussing on opportunities to 'turn up and try' sports and to consider how existing clubs could offer opportunities or further opportunities for new youth members. **A scoping paper be submitted to the Children's Committee by the Departments by end of April 2011 for an event in Autumn 2011.**
21. Support the principle of the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure in seeking to identify central and regional music venues, which are easily accessible by public transport, to enable young people to perform music, act, practise and store musical instruments and arts equipment. The Working Group advises that consideration should be given to whether existing performing arts venues would be suitable before any further facilities are considered. The National Arts Development Strategy, 2005-2014 includes an objective to "Support the creation of a new Department of Education Music Centre, with adequate rehearsal facilities for music ensembles and a music library scheduled for 2014." Support is given by the Working Group to this proposal but requests the Arts Council and the Department of Education and Children to consider whether a Music Centre should provide opportunities for music bands as well as ensembles. **The Departments of Education and Children and Community, Culture and Leisure to report to Council of Ministers by the end of April 2011.**
22. The Department of Community, Culture and Leisure to consider reviewing its policies on:
 - i. Access to the Wild Life Park for unaccompanied young people;
 - ii. Bus pricing policy for young people in education;

iii. Pricing and management of Villa Marina events aimed at young people.

The Department to report on the review of i-iii to Council of Ministers by end of February 2011

23. The Departments of Community, Culture and Leisure and Environment, Food and Agriculture as owners or landlords of café facilities to investigate and support a proposal to extend the opening hours to meet the 'café society' needs of the 16 to 23 year age group and report on the feasibility of the proposal to **the Children's Committee by end of February 2011.**
24. The Departments of Community, Culture and Leisure, Infrastructure and Environment, Food and Agriculture, to establish an officer working group, with the relevant voluntary sectors (led by the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure) to **report to the Children's Committee by end of February 2011** on the potential to develop inland and water sports for children and young people.
25. The Department of Infrastructure to actively investigate the usage of existing tarmac areas for young people, under supervision, to practice driving and motor biking skills including basic skills workshops. The facilities to be available both to young people before undertaking a driving test and for 'R' Plate drivers. **The Department to report to the Children's Committee by end of May 2011.**
26. The Department of Infrastructure to work with Local Authorities to support them in accessing Government grants for the provision of recreational facilities such as youth shelters, skate parks and hard courts in their areas.
27. The Department of Infrastructure to work with Local Authorities to support them in compiling a database of community facilities with booking details and contracts for display on their websites where these exist. Some Local Authorities are already providing information about clubs and activities. The Department to link these into the Government Website. The information also to be linked to the Youth Website.
28. The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture to continue to work with the Manx Mountain Bike Club to further develop mountain bike trails particularly focused at young people **and to report to Council of Ministers by end of February 2011.**
29. The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture to continue to investigate the opportunity to make further use of its forestry areas for high-wire forest adventure facilities such as the 'Go Ape' facilities in other jurisdictions **and to report to Council of Ministers by end of February 2011.**
30. Local Authorities are requested to:
 - i. Review any areas within their authority where ball games are prohibited to ascertain whether the ban could be lifted;
 - ii. Consider, in consultation with the community, the development of leisure plans for the use of their parks so that all sections of the community including young people can use the areas for casual recreation;
 - iii. Consider whether they could provide casual leisure facilities such as volleyball nets, youth shelters or hard court games areas.

Local Authorities are requested to report back to the Department of Infrastructure by end of March 2011 and **the Department to report to Council of Ministers by end of May 2011.**

31. Encourage the Local Regeneration Committees to consider whether the Working Group's recommendations could be incorporated or developed into a bid to the Town and Village Regeneration Fund.

32. Former recommendation (j) is deleted from Council of Ministers revised recommendations:- 'The Department of Community, Culture and Leisure to investigate and provide a business case for 2010-11 submission for the provision of a youth discount card for young people in education and training for use at the National Sports Centre, Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre.

Appendix 1

Consultation Responses received

1. Simon Quirk
2. Muriel Garland
3. Jonathon Whiting Personal response – Chair Manx Hockey Development Committee
4. Tim Larkham
5. Andy Wheeler
6. Gavin Callow – Mountain Biker, member trail building team at SB, responsible for trail guide pages on Government Tourism site
7. Neil Johnson
8. Neil Hockings
9. Chris Blackburn – Soundcheck/Douglas Youth Clubs
10. Richard Kinrade - Soundcheck
11. Andrew Corrie
12. Adrian Beale
13. Nicola Harding - Department of Community, Culture and Leisure
14. Carolyn White
15. Neil Atkinson – Treasurer Douglas Youth Club
16. Tim Norton
17. Amanda Craig – Department of Infrastructure
18. Johanna Burrell
19. Unnamed – IOM Youth Services and DHSS
20. Andy Wint – Energy Radio
21. Mike Doolan – Pulrose Youth Club
22. Rebecca Cunningham
23. Amber Gardner
24. Paul Tonks
25. James Coyle – Soundcheck
26. Rachel Thomas – Soundcheck
27. Scarlett Lillywhite
28. Janette Facey – DOE Youth Worker
29. M J Watson
30. Chris Corlett – Manx Mountain Bike Club, Junior Race Organiser Velda Oldham
31. Velda Oldam – Laxey Youth Club
32. Catherine Clucas – Youth worker
33. Catherine Hicks – MMBC Ladies Representative
34. Juan Watterson MHK

4 further questionnaires were received but no name or organisation on forms

Appendix 2

Consultation Questions and Summary of Responses

Question

Do you agree that all Departments arranging events for young people should let people know by placing information on the IOM Newspaper events website in addition to their own web site?

Responses

The overwhelming response to this question was 'Yes'. Many respondents felt that events should also be advertised on more appropriate social media sites aimed at young people such as, Manx.net, face book, twitter and also on the radio as young people tend not to use the Isle of Man Newspaper website. The Department of Education and Children (DEC) could be used as a central point of reference advertising events through newsletters and the Youth website etc.

The Department of Community, Culture and Leisure (DCCL) have advised that they are happy to contribute, provided that the site remains free but in the event that IOM Newspapers were to charge for the service it would need to consider the option of value for money basis against other advertising options.

Question

Do you agree that Government should investigate the potential for youth cafes in regions outside Douglas?

Responses

The overall response to this question was "Yes" the scheme should be extended outside the Douglas area; however views were expressed that the success of the Douglas scheme should be monitored prior to rolling out the scheme to other areas of the Island.

Question

Do you agree that Government should ensure that any future proposals for schools sports halls are investigated for community use before construction?

Responses

Overall response to this question was 'Yes'. The Department of Community Culture and Leisure advise that this has already started through the Sporting and Health in Schools Partnership. Views were expressed that the scope of this recommendation is too narrow and that it should be expanded to include proposals for any new arts facilities.

Question

Do you agree that Government should review its policy to enable fuller use of the education facilities which would meet the needs of young people with disabilities and the facilitate access to such facilities?

Responses

Overall response to this question was 'Yes'. The Department of Community Culture and Leisure have advised that they would be willing to assist in training or providing trained staff however there would be a cost for this service which would have to be passed on to the Department of Education and Children.

Question

Do you agree that casual users as well as clubs and societies should have adequate opportunity to book community sports facilities?

Responses

The overall response to this question was 'Yes'. There needs to be a balance between block bookings and casual bookings to enable more people to take part in activities. However from an economic standpoint block bookings generate more income. It has been suggested that activities should be targeted at the right venue and that some activities could take place in smaller venues rather than taking up large sports halls. It is suggested that regular users of facilities could be given keys to establishments therefore negating the need for caretakers to be on duty to open and close the facilities.

Question

Do you agree the Government should work with the private and third sector to identify where there are opportunities for additional casual, social facilities for young people?

Responses

The overall response to this question was 'Yes'. Similar Schemes work well in the UK. A good example of this is the HSBC Manx Youth Games where the Department of Community Culture and Leisure through Sports Development and the National Sports Centre SC work closely with the voluntary sector to provide the considerable number of coaches needed to run the games.

Question

Do you agree that Government should seek to establish a network of regional sports facilities?

Responses

The overall response to this question was 'Yes'. There was support for using existing sports facilities within schools and extending opening times to facilitate after school activities. The example of the new Bemahague School which has been designed as a model for dual school/community provision which allows the sports facilities to be used independently of the school was quoted. Any future redevelopment of schools should ensure that the design allows for segregation of school/community use.

If the vision set out in the Isle of Man Sports and Recreation Strategy 2002-2012, which envisaged three "out of town" secondary schools as regional sports centres is to be achieved, then it is suggested that there will need to be a change of focus to allow the facilities to be used after school hours and at the weekend and holiday times.

Question

Do you agree that Government should stage annual regional days for young people to obtain information and provide opportunities to try club activities?

Responses

The overall response to this question was 'Yes'. This was seen as a good opportunity to encourage young people to try out new sports and other activities. The Department of Community Culture and Leisure has advised that it is happy to work with the Department of Education and Children to develop an information "road show". They also advise that the Sports Development Programme currently targeted at the under 14 age group which looks

to feed youngsters into the club structure is successful and cost effective if this was to be expanded to focus on the 14 + age group this would require both money and additional staff .

Question

Do you agree that Government should try to identify central and regional venues for young people to perform music, act, practise and store musical instruments and arts equipment?

Responses

The overall response to this question was 'Yes'. Respondents considered there was a need to identify suitable venues for bands to play gigs. Sessions should be scheduled to avoid clashes with sporting sessions. Soundcheck is run by the Department of Education's Youth Service and has been up and running for 15 years. It provides a forum for young musicians in school Years 9 and above to rehearse and receive tuition and encouragement from existing musicians and youth leaders. It is suggested that there is a need for greater funding.

Question

Do you agree that Government should review?

- i. access to the Wild Life Park for unaccompanied young people;
- ii. bus pricing policy for young people in education;
- iii. the frequency and timing of evening bus services to cater for the identified needs of young people for late night bus services;
- iv. the provision of advance notice for users of buses without facilities for disabled young people (the current bus fleet is 100% accessible for all normal service journeys but there are two non accessible buses used on bespoke school services); and
- v. the pricing and management of Villa Marina events aimed at young people.

Responses

There was overall agreement to these proposals. In particular, the provision of cheap bus fares for young people and persons taking part in sporting activities and a permanent, indoor bus depot in central Douglas. The increase in fares once a person reaches 16 should be reviewed.

Question

Do you agree that a Youth Discount card should be provided to young people for discount at the NSC, Villa Marina and Gaiety?

Responses

The overall response was favourable however the Department of Community, Culture and Leisure indicated that there are already substantial discounts for young people and think that the introduction of a card system would be costly and bureaucratic. It has been suggested that discounts should be considered for underutilised facilities and that the NSC is full at peak times.

Question

Do you agree that Government owned Cafes should be open for longer?

Responses

The overall response was favourable although some respondents thought that the private sector would be more suitable providers of such services, however Café Laare operated by Department of Education and Children Youth Service is seen as a positive scheme and there is considerable support for the hours of opening to be extended and for the scheme to be rolled out to other sites.

Question

Do you agree that Government should investigate with the voluntary sector opportunities for more inland water and sea water sports?

Responses

There was a favourable response to this question. The Islands reservoirs could be used, however some reservations were expressed that existing commercial organisations could suffer as a result of competition from Government backed schemes. The DOI has stated that they would welcome the opportunity to work with stakeholders and Government Departments to identify opportunities for more inland water and sea sports, however funding will be an issue. They would be willing to be represented on a working party into this subject but believe that any review should be led by the Department of Community Culture and Leisure.

Question

Do you agree that Government investigate the opportunity to use existing tarmac areas for young people under supervision to practice driving and motor sport skills?

Responses

Overall the responses were favourable. It was thought that such a scheme could help to encourage the responsible use of vehicles and could help reduce the number of accidents amongst young drivers.

Whilst the Department of Infrastructure is fully supportive of the Young Person's Agenda and has actively campaigned for safer driving initiatives and is an active partner in initiatives such as Young People in Care, it is not currently in a position to support this recommendation. The following reasons are provided below:

- As far as the Department's off street car parks are concerned these are used by the public and as such are not suitable for use by others for other purposes at the same time. The cost of providing additional resources to staff the car parks if they were to be available outside of normal operating hours also remains an issue.
- The Highways Division already use what use to be part of the Port Soderick car park for dedicated biker training and feel this area is fully subscribed. The Department would not wish to encourage unsupervised use of the car parks as this has risk and liability issues associated with it.
- The major facility the Department has is Jurby Airfield which comes under the management of a private company Jurby Sports and Leisure Limited; however this facility needs significant investment if it is to remain available. The Highways Division has been in discussion about using Jurby airfield in association with the Manx Pass Plus scheme, however some concerns were raised about its suitability as a location and the travel required to utilise it. Jurby Airfield would provide appropriate space for driver training but the Department would need to invest in the infrastructure in particular the surface of the runway and taxiways. In the current financial climate it is unlikely that the Department could identify additional funding to enhance the facility.

Question

Do you agree that Government should work with Local Authorities to access grants for the provision of recreational facilities for young people?

Responses

There was overall support for this suggestion; however the Department of Community Culture and Leisure state that the General Leisure Strategy for the Isle of Man approved by Tynwald in 2002 says that local facilities should be provided by local authorities. Therefore these facilities should be provided without need for grants. The Department of Infrastructure advises that the former DoLGE approved a scheme to assist local authorities to provide play grounds and areas with a grant up to 40% of the cost, but that due to the current budget cuts there is no provision within the 2010/2011 budget to do so.

Question

Do you agree that Local Authorities should try to provide a database of community facilities in their area?

Responses

There was overall agreement to this proposal although one respondent did not think that this would solve the problem. The Local Government unit of the DOI would encourage Local authorities to supply this information on their websites. They are not aware of any requests by the local authorities to link to their sites as set out in the recommendation however there is a link on the DOI website to the majority of local authority websites.

They advise that further work on this recommendation can be carried out by the Department of Infrastructure through the proposed review of engagement with local authorities being led by the political member responsible for local authorities, Mr Graham Cregeen MHK.

Question

Do you agree that Government should continue to work with the Manx Mountain Bike Club to develop mountain bike trails?

Responses

There was a very positive response to this question. It was stated that the Island has a good track system already but that this could and should be extended. This is a growth area and has potential to attract visitors to the Island. It was suggested that the recommendation be extended to include motorcycle trails. A cautionary note was expressed that there is a need to ensure that procedures are put in place protect the environment. The Manx Mountain Bike Club advise that they are already working with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture building trails and encouraging tourism and are willing to continue doing so.

Question

Do you agree that Government should investigate whether or not some of its forestry areas could be used for forest adventure activities?

Responses

There was broad agreement to this proposal. It was thought by some of the respondents that it could be a good revenue earner although there were concerns raised by others that there may not be enough numbers of participants to make the scheme economically viable.

There was support for opening the forestry areas for other activities such as paintballing and orienteering.

Question

Do you agree that Local Authorities should consider reviewing any bans on ball games and consult and work with the community to develop leisure plans for their parks?

Responses

There was wide support for this recommendation. The Department of Infrastructure advised that they will seek comments from the local authorities but that they feel the decision on whether to amend the rules on ball games in parks etc or to provide leisure plans for their respective parks should remain at local level based on the wishes of the local community.

Question

Do you agree that Local Regeneration Committees should consider whether any of the recommendations can be incorporated or developed into a bid to the Regeneration Fund?

Responses

The overall response to this question was favourable although one respondent felt that there needs to be a central initiative to avoid duplication and to concentrate skills and experience.

Additional comments received:

- Need to support existing organisations to reduce the burden on Government.
- The implementation of a voluntary Community scheme such as beach cleaning etc, entitling young person's to gain vouchers for sports activities (NSC) etc.
- Provision of new cycle lanes.
- Need to develop more music societies for young people.



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin

Report of the Chief Minister's

Young Persons Working Group

Social Leisure Facilities

for 14-23 Year Olds

October 2009

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Annex 4 – 16to23 Survey

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Chief Ministers Young Persons Working Group

The Chief Minister's Young Persons Working Group set up to investigate social leisure facilities for young people 14 – 23 years old

Hon A V Craine MHK (Chairman)

Mr Q B Gill MHK

Mr J R Turner MLC

Mr P Aldridge

Mr S Bevan

Mr A Fife

FOREWORD

In the House of Keys on 10 February 2009, in answering a question from Mr J P Watterson MHK member for Rushen, I confirmed that a Chief Minister's Young Persons Working Group was being established which would consult with young people and communities on the availability and need for informal social leisure facilities for young people 14 to 23 years old and to report back by 31 July 2009.

The Chief Minister had already invited me to Chair the Working Group and I had invited the support of my colleagues Mr Q B Gill MHK, member for Rushen and Mr J R Turner MLC and three members of the public known to have an interest in the social leisure facilities for young people; Mr P Aldridge, Mr S Bevan and Mr A Fife.

The task required of the Working Group entailed a considerable amount of research, consultation and analysis and in July 2009 I alerted the Chief Minister to the fact that the Working Group would be unable to report back in the original timeframe and needed more time to consider the matter.

The Working Group appreciated the advice and assistance of the Departments, Local Authorities, Private and Voluntary sectors and members of the public particularly young people. The Working Group thank the officers who advised and supported the Group and to Ms Helen Whittaker who worked on a temporary basis with the Group.

Hon A V Craine MHK, Chairman

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Working Group has met on seven occasions and undertook its task by firstly reviewing all relevant consultations and information on leisure for the 14 to 23 age group which had been collected by Government, secondly, identifying any gaps in information and consultation and thirdly, to meet the gaps identified the Group carried out new consultation and dialogue with young people and other interested parties.

The Working Group carefully considered the information and made a number of conclusions. The Working Group makes the following recommendations.

Recommendations

All Government Departments

1. All Departments arranging events and activities for young people to place these on the IOM Newspaper events website in addition to their own web sites.

Department of Education

2. The Department of Education is preparing to open a Youth Café in Douglas at Lord Street, Douglas. This facility will provide casual, social leisure facilities which will meet the needs of the 14 to 18 age group. This initiative is supported by the Working Group who recommends that the Department of Education prepare a Paper regarding the potential for youth cafes in other regions. The Department should also consider any opportunities to work with the voluntary and private sectors to provide these types of facilities in partnership. The Paper be submitted to the Department of Education Meeting by March 2010.
3. The Department of Education to continue to liaise with the Department of Tourism and Leisure regarding any proposals to build school sports halls to ensure that the community's use of the facilities for sports and arts can be fully investigated and included where appropriate, affordable and logistically achievable.
4. The Department of Education to consider reviewing its policy to enable fuller use of the Glencrutchery Pool during school holidays and any other education facilities which would meet the needs of young people with disabilities.
5. The Department of Education re-emphasised its policy for the use of playing fields by the community in an announcement in July 2009. Many of the Department's built facilities are available for groups to book and this is welcomed. However, the Group note that the majority of the Departments community facilities are pre booked as block bookings which allows little casual use. The Department of Education is therefore requested to consider how best to meet the needs of casual users, many of whom will be young people, in its future school at Bemahague which will include a community sports facility. Furthermore the Department is requested to investigate whether the after school management of the future Bemahague facility should lie with the Department of Education or another Department or the private sector.

6. The Department of Education Youth Service together with the Department of Tourism and Leisure's Sports and Arts Development to investigate the possibility of engaging with the private sector, the voluntary sector and the third sector to investigate and identify where joint working could offer opportunities for additional, casual, social leisure facilities for the 16 to 23 year age group and report to the Children's Committee by March 2010.
7. The Departments of Education and Tourism and Leisure to work together to establish an annual regional day for sports, arts, music, dance, youth, church, uniformed etc clubs to give information and demonstrate the activities of the clubs from the public, private and voluntary sectors. A scoping paper be submitted to the Children's Committee by the Departments by January 2010 for an event in Autumn 2010.

Department of Tourism and Leisure

8. The Department of Tourism and Leisure to consider the establishment of regional participation programmes of sports activities for the 14 + age group focussing on opportunities to 'turn up and try' sports and to consider how existing clubs could offer opportunities or further opportunities for new youth members.
9. The Department of Tourism and Leisure to support the extended opening of the Glencrutchery pool by facilitating access to or training of lifeguards.
10. Support is given to the Department of Tourism and Leisure in seeking to identify central and regional music venues, which are easily accessible by public transport, to enable young people to perform music, act, practise and store music and arts equipment. The Working Group advises that consideration should be given as to whether existing performing arts venues would be suitable before any further facilities are considered. The National Arts Development Strategy 2005-2014 'Supports the creation of a new Department of Education Music Centre, with adequate rehearsal facilities for music ensembles and a music library' scheduled for 2014. Support is given by the Working Group to this proposal but requests the Arts Council and the Department of Education to consider whether a Music Centre should provide opportunities for music bands as well as ensembles.
11. Support is given to the Department of Tourism and Leisure in seeking to establish a network of regional sports/leisure centres which meet the identified need of young people to book the facility not on a regular basis or block book but offering 'turn up and play' opportunities.
12. The Department of Tourism and Leisure to consider reviewing their policies on:
 - 12.1 access to the Wild Life Park to unaccompanied young people;
 - 12.2 bus pricing policy for young people in education;
 - 12.3 the frequency and timing of evening bus services to cater for the identified needs of young people for late night bus services;
 - 12.4 the provision of advance notice for users of buses without facilities for disabled young people (the current bus fleet is 100% accessible for all normal service journeys but there are two non accessible buses used on bespoke school services); and
 - 12.5 the pricing and management of Villa Marina events aimed at young people.
13. The Department of Tourism and Leisure to investigate and provide a business case for 2010-11 submission for the provision of a youth discount card for young people in

education and training for use at the National Sports Centre, Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre.

14. The Department of Tourism and Leisure and the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry as owners or landlords of café facilities to investigate and support a proposal to extend the opening hours to meet the 'café society' needs of the 16 to 23 year age group and report on the feasibility of the proposal to the Children's Committee by January 2010.
15. The Department Tourism and Leisure, Transport and Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to establish an officer working group, with the relevant voluntary sectors (led by the Department of Tourism and Leisure) to report to the Children's Committee by March 2010 on the potential to develop inland and water sports for children and young people.

Department of Transport

16. The Department of Transport to actively investigate the usage of existing tarmac areas for young people, under supervision, to practice driving and motor biking skills including basic skills workshops. The facilities to be available both to young people before undertaking a driving test and for 'R' Plate drivers. The Department to report to the Children's Committee by April 2010.

Department of Local Government and the Environment

17. The Department of Local Government and the Environment to work with Local Authorities to support them in accessing Government grants for the provision of recreational facilities such as youth shelters, skate parks and hard courts in their areas.
18. The Department of Local Government and the Environment to work with Local Authorities to support them in compiling a database of community facilities with booking details and contracts for display on their websites where these exist. Some Local Authorities are already providing information about clubs and activities.

Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry

19. The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry to continue to work with the Manx Mountain Bike Club to further develop mountain bike trails particularly focused at young people.
20. The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry to investigate the opportunity to make further use of its forestry areas for high-wire forest adventure such as the 'Go Ape' facilities in other jurisdictions.

Local Authorities

21. Local Authorities are requested to review any areas within their authority where ball games are prohibited to ascertain whether the ban could be lifted.

22. Local Authorities are requested to consider, in consultation with the community, the development of leisure plans for the use of their parks so that all sections of the community including young people use the areas for casual recreation.
23. Local Authorities are requested to consider whether they could provide casual leisure facilities such as volleyball nets, youth shelters or hard court games areas.

Local Regeneration Committees

24. The Working Group encourages the Local Regeneration Committees to consider whether the Working Group's recommendations could be incorporated or developed into a bid to the Town and Village Regeneration Fund.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 This report outlines the work undertaken by the Working Group. The Group undertook its tasks through consideration of existing information on facilities and consultations which had been undertaken by Government and also undertook new consultations/dialogue with young people, Local Authorities the public, private and voluntary sectors and churches. The Report identifies the Group's conclusions and recommendations.

2.2 The Committee

The Committee comprised:

Hon A V Craine MHK, Chairman

Mr Q B Gill MHK

Mr J R Turner MLC

Mr P Aldridge

Mr S Bevan

Mr A Fife

The political members were supported by officers representing the Department of Education's Youth Service. The Chief Secretary's Office provided advice and administrative support to the Committee.

2.3 Terms of Reference

The terms of reference and remit of the Working Group were:

- Review the present availability of social and recreational facilities for young people within each community to ascertain whether such facilities are adequate to meet the needs of our young people.
- Consult directly with each community, including young people especially those within the age group 14 to 23 years (inc), and with Departments of Government, Local Authorities, Churches, the Police and any relevant persons, or organisations.
- Examine how Government may be able to develop and improve such facilities working in partnership with the private and voluntary sectors to address gaps in such provision.
- Propose an overall strategy for Government for the development and provision of facilities for young people.

2.5 The Working Group focused on the age group 14 - 23 year olds and considered the leisure facilities, particularly those with a social bias, where young people could meet informally. At the outset the Working Group agreed a Project plan and timetable for its work which defined the work of the Group and divided it into four parts:

- 1) Review the information already collected
- 2) Consult widely for new information
- 3) Analyse the information to identify gaps in provision and opportunities for improvements to existing facilities
- 4) Make recommendations as to how Government on its own or in partnership with the private and voluntary sectors or Local Authorities could improve the range of social leisure facilities available to this age group.

2.6 **Definitions and Understandings**

The Working Group was tasked with considering the leisure facilities for the age range 14 to 23 years. The Group appreciated immediately that young people within this age range vary enormously in their needs, maturity and in their ability to go to different social venues such as public houses. This presented a challenge for the Group which it has sought to address through its consultations and its recommendations.

The Working Group agreed that social leisure facilities were defined for the purpose of this Report as informal leisure places which are available to those within the age group 14 to 23 year olds to socialise on a 'turn up' or casual basis such as cafes, pubs, night clubs, drop-in centres, outdoor youth shelters, skate parks, hard court games areas and recreation grounds suitable for 14+ year olds.

Whilst the main focus of the Group was on facilities of an informal nature, the Group also considered more formal recreational facilities such as sports clubs, dance, music, uniformed youth organisations, sports and arts clubs and youth clubs.

The Working Group were cognisant that there are a vast amount of activities being undertaken in local communities across the Island which young people could and did join, such as, Young Farmers, rowing and dancing. The Working Group acknowledge that there is no database for these activities but the Working Group hope that these Groups will take the opportunity to promote their events through the electronic means available.

2.6 Meetings and Discussions

The Working Group held seven meetings and exchanged ideas and issues with a large number of persons or groups either invited to the Working Group or through exchange of correspondence. In addition, the Working Group consulted with young people through an on-line survey 16 to 23 and through a public Youth Forum.

3. REVIEW OF EXISTING INFORMATION AND CONSULTATIONS

3.1 The Working Group was aware of a number of previous surveys on facilities and consultations with young people. The Group did not wish to duplicate the work undertaken or to further impose on responders to provide information and therefore decided to firstly review relevant existing information on facilities and consultations.

3.2 Youth Clubs, Church Youth Clubs and other Clubs and Societies

In 2009 the Youth and Community Division of the Department of Education collected information on general clubs and societies across the Island including Government run youth clubs, church youth clubs, societies, scouting and guiding and uniformed groups, dance and music groups. The information was not intended to provide a complete picture of all leisure activities that are available but rather as an indication of the range of activities (Annex 1 contains the information). An analysis of the information shows that:

- Youth Clubs for up to 18 year olds are available in the four regions,
- a wide variety and number of sports clubs are open to all age groups,
- there are dance and music groups available across the Island,
- there are drama/theatre groups in Douglas, Ramsey and Peel,
- a range of Uniformed groups are available,
- Church Youth Groups are active in four regional centres providing clubs for young people,
- the majority of the church youth groups are for below the age of the 14 years, and
- sports clubs are numerous in most areas.

3.3 Community Facilities e.g. Southern Area Local Plan

In 2008, the Planning and Building Control Division of the Department of Local Government and the Environment undertook a survey of community facilities as part of the preparation work for the drafting of the Southern Area Local Plan (Annex 2 contains the information).

The information covered only the southern region however, it was useful as an indicator of the amount and range of community facilities which can provide potential venues for social and leisure facilities. The Working Group noted that there

was a variety of formal and informal open space, 25 places of worship, five youth clubs and a variety of sports facilities. The Group also noted that it had no way of assessing whether these community facilities were meeting the needs of the 14 to 23 year age or if they were already at capacity for booking.

3.4 **'Youth Provision on the Isle of Man' Youth Task Force Report**

In 2008, a Youth Task Force comprising Mr Juan Watterson MHK, Mr Bill Malarkey MHK and six Councillors and Commissioners compiled a Report on Youth Provision on the Isle of Man. The focus of the Report was on the under 18 age group. With regard to facilities for the relevant age group, the Task Force recommended that:

- The Department of Education give greater public encouragement to use school playing fields and premises.
- Local Authorities should coordinate a register of public and private buildings that could be used by young people to gather in the evenings and at weekends.
- Government should consider the benefits of opening the old prison and parts of the former hospital site as a place for young people to gather.

The Working Group invited Mr Watterson and Mr Malarkey to meet with them and discuss the Report. The Group noted that the Task Force had concluded that:-

- 'There was a lot of information regarding available activities but these were not necessarily known to parents.'
- There had been some successful events held in conjunction with private businesses.
- In locations where there were youth activities there were fewer anti social behaviour problems.'

3.5 **The Youth Service Survey 2008 and 2009**

In 2008 and again in early 2009 the Youth and Community Service of the Department of Education undertook a Youth Survey to review the effectiveness of Government youth clubs. The Survey was on line (Annex 3 contains the information). The majority of young people who responded were in the age group 11 to 18. Youth clubs and special projects cater for 11- 18 year olds. The results of the Survey have been filtered into various categories. The Working Group considered the categories of results for:

- young people who had never been to youth clubs,
- young people aged 14+, and
- all young people who responded.

Young people who had never been to Youth Clubs

There were 149 responses in 2009 in this category (29%) and 187 in 2008 (26%) who said they had never been to a youth club. In the 2008 survey, 402 (56%) of the respondents were 14 and over and the results show that a little less than a half were not involved in any organised activities through clubs and other groups. When asked what activities they would like to do more of, the response from those that attend organised groups was very similar to those who do not, with more sports and outdoor activities coming top followed by arts and trips to the UK. The main reasons given for not going to a Department of Education Youth club were, not knowing about it (38%), not having the time (35%) and their friends not going (23%).

Young People 14 to 18 years

There were 227 respondents in this category (09) and 382 (08). About one third of young people attend Department of Education Youth Clubs and a similar number attend activities run by other organisations including Scouts and Guides (11%), uniformed organisation (5%) the majority attending various sports, arts and hobby based clubs. Sports, outdoor activities, arts, trips to the UK and holiday activities (in that order), were what the respondents would like to see more of. When asked why they attend a youth club (09 survey) the top answer was, to have fun (73%), because of the people that run it (72%) and the chance to be taken seriously (61%), the activities and the chance to be with friends was also important (50%). The answers were very similar in the 08 survey. They stopped going to Youth Club because they didn't have the time (44%), grew out of it (26%) or became bored (22%).

All Young People

There were 513 respondents in 2009 and 709 in 2008. Similar proportions to those above belong to various clubs and organisations. Equally a similar proportion wanted to do more activities such as sports, arts or outdoor activities. Most young people responded that they went to youth club to meet or make friends and have fun.

In conclusion the Youth Survey is a tick box questionnaire so for example the question, 'What would you like to do more of?' the answer was limited to organised activities. However, there was an 'Other' box where respondents could add suggestions and this resulted in over 90 suggestions. Of these 32 were looking for sports, mainly as recreational activities such as skating and bowling, and 21 were looking for art activities, mostly to do with music.

3.6 **Report on Public consultations for the Children and Young People's Strategy 2005-2010**

In 2004, consultation on the Children and Young People's Strategy 2005-2010 involved talking to nine focus groups of young people across the Island. The main findings on facilities were the need:-

- for more affordable and accessible things to do in sports,
- for more drop-in centres, skateparks, cinema in Ramsey and Castletown, ice rink and more shops,
- to ask young people what they want in parks, and
- to address the difficulties of getting to and from facilities by public transport.

3.7 **The Children's Plan**

In May 2009 the Government published, 'The Isle of Man Children's Plan 2009-2012' which set out the strategic direction for services for children and young people on the Island. The choice of priorities in the Plan was informed by what local children and young people told Government what they understood by the five outcomes (Be Healthy, Stay Safe, Enjoy and Achieve, Make a Positive Contribution and Prosper) and their views as to what would help them to achieve them.

The consultation with children and young people included focus groups with the older age group of 16 -18 year olds. The consultation identified a number of social leisure facilities where young people considered there were problems or gaps. These were:-

- discount at the NSC would be appreciated,
- a facility for young people to have one or two drinks in a supervised way which is safer than drinking on the streets,
- make better use of outdoor centres and open spaces,
- better publicity is needed of places to go and things to do,
- more places like the NSC but free at certain times,
- places for young people to go such as a night club,
- many suggestions were made regarding new places to go and things to do that could be set up, and
- Buses to the South need to go at better times

4. INFORMATION AND CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN BY THE WORKING GROUP

The Working Group agreed that there was insufficient information on informal social leisure facilities and there had been little consultation on these types of facilities with the 14+ age group. The Working Group therefore agreed to undertake further work which was:-

- 1) Consultation with Young People 16 to 23,
- 2) Public Consultation with Communities,
- 3) Survey of informal social leisure facilities within communities through Local Authorities,
- 4) Seek information from church groups as to social and recreation facilities,
- 5) Seek information/dialogue with the Private Sector,
- 6) Seek information/dialogue with the voluntary sector, and
- 7) Seek information/dialogue from relevant Government Departments.

4.1 Consultation with Young People 16 to 23 Years

The Working Group agreed that in order to have a meaningful consultation with the 16 to 23 age group the consultation needed to be easily accessible and widely publicised with questions of a more mature nature. Accordingly, an online questionnaire called 16to23 was designed with significant design input from a group of older teenagers. The questionnaire sought information on age, area of residence, income, what sort of activities they wanted to do when they went out, destinations on a night out, how much do they spend and what form of transport they use to go out. (Annex 4 contains the information).

Business sized cards were printed to advertise the survey together with media releases on Energy FM and in the press. There were 260 completed surveys. The majority of respondents were in the 16-18 age group with an even split between male and female and a geographical distribution which reflected the national population distribution.

The most popular reason for going out was to socialise and be with friends. Popular destinations included for meals, cinema, for a drink, night clubs or to see bands. On a 'proper' night out over half spent £11 to £30 and 25% spent up to £60.

The respondents to a facilities wish list identified a bowling alley and live music venues as top choices closely followed by a cinema and music clubs. An ice rink also

featured. Most young people travelled to social facilities in their own or a friend's vehicle or on the bus.

Interestingly, 73% of girls and 61% of boys rate the Island as OK or an excellent place to live. In addition, there were no significant differences between the responses of young people living in Douglas and surrounding districts and those in other parts of the Island.

4.2 **Consultation with the Community – Youth Forum**

The Working Group agreed to hold a Youth Forum between the hours of 5.00pm to 9.00pm on Tuesday 5 May 2009 at the Isle of Man College. The Forum was arranged to allow an informal venue for the exchange of issues and ideas.

Awareness of the Youth Forum was promoted through a wide ranging press and media campaign. The campaign included: public notices on two consecutive weeks in two newspapers inviting persons and young people to attend, press articles and a radio interview with the Chairman.

Invitations to the Forum were sent to Local Authorities, Church contacts, Licensed Victuallers, Sports and Arts Development Officers and Voluntary organisations known to provide social/recreational opportunities for young people.

The Forum was located in the restaurant at the Isle of Man College and tables were arranged hosted by one or two members of the Working Group.

Over 46 persons including young people attended the Forum. The attendees came from a variety of organisations including young people, Local Authorities, Sports Development Officers, Voluntary Groups, Service Providers and Church Groups. The majority of attendees stayed for one hour or more.

The attendees and the Working Group members exchanged a variety of ideas, opinions and discussed issues. The Forum was buzzing with discussions for the duration of the four hours.

The members of the Working Group noted the issues and ideas raised at the Forum. The issues and ideas have been arranged into four categories: Facilities suggested; suggestions for what and how these facilities could be provided; problems with existing facilities and other miscellaneous comments.

Facilities suggested

- A warm place to meet, casually
- A music venue for young bands to practice and perform
- A leisure facility like Summerland where it was possible to enjoy an evening without spending lots of money
- Multi-use activities centre(s)
- 'What's On' list – internet or newspaper - but not a 'gov.im site'
- More Coffee shops and youth cafes
- Ice Skating Rink, Bowling alley
- Under the Stars' film evenings, music nights,
- Activities in the school holidays
- Outdoor education facilities for the disabled
- Roller Skating
- Fresher's exhibition of youth activities like those held at the early part of new academic years at universities
- Facilities accessible to those with restricted mobility e.g Palace Cinema and events/activities aimed at people who have a disability
- Tennis facilities needed indoor and outdoor ones to be improved
- Indoor climbing wall
- More grass and astro pitches particularly in the north and west
- Water sports
- Girls pampering evenings
- Scooter and bike tarmac tracks in all regions supervised for learning experience and Motorbike workshops

- Counselling/Listening Forums

Problems with Existing Facilities

- Access to sports clubs and hiring sports facilities is too expensive
- Young people not welcomed at Villa Marina, Museum, Douglas parks
- Not all young people want organised activities
- Poor choice of films at Cinemas
- Clubs can be repetitive, boring
- Buses too expensive and not frequent enough - (go to cinema and return home costs circa £10)
- Transport - disabled access - wheelchairs users knowing in advance if a bus they are intending to catch is accessible
- Public transport does not run late enough in the evening – even if it was only available on one or two weekend nights this would be helpful
- Government support for planning applications for recreation and leisure facilities
- Villa Marina drinks and events too expensive.
- Repair concrete public slipway at Gansey to promote water activity

Suggestions for how facilities could be provided or improved

- Schools to open in the evening and school holidays
- Utilise Government and Local Authority owned empty property e.g. Use the old Prison, Douglas Library
- Student type discount card for events
- Braddan Commissioners looking for ideas for use of Strang corner field

- Planning gain' should be used more often on large developments such as housing or leisure having facilities for young people - substantial buildings, not just a play area for young children
- Better use of Silverdale Glen
 - Feasibility study on use of the building is being undertaken
 - Mini adventure centre
- Better use of Glencrutchery Pool - closed in at 4pm and in summer holidays – hirers need own lifeguard
- Convert Barfour building in Peel to Summerland style facility
- Ardwhallan courses should be better advertised
- Ensure new facilities being built at IOM college are available to young people with additional needs during the evening
- Raise temperature of the NSC pool
- Allow access to Wild Life Park for unaccompanied young people
- Significant discount to young people at NSC to encourage teenagers, prices go up at 3.30pm which is considered unfair to young people
- Student discount schemes for leisure facilities e.g. Cinema and Lazerblast
- Vending machines for drinks and lighting provision in recreational areas

Other miscellaneous comments

- Villa Marina requires bags to be searched and handed in at U18 events – where do we keep our money for the very expensive drinks?
- Adult fare for buses start at age 15
- Lawn Tennis Association claimed too much paperwork involved in booking Department of Education facilities for young people – names, addresses, contacts etc. to be listed each time
- Football Development Officer hopes to have 2 'disabled' teams playing by end of next season.
- Prohibitive cost of taking groups away

- Encourage communities to identify youth leisure needs and raise funds to provide them
- Special sports events can prevent regular sports participants using facilities
- Manx Mountain Bike Club have a trail development plan and is actively working to encourage young people to participate

4.3 **Consultation with the Community - Survey of Local Authorities regarding informal social leisure facilities within communities**

All Local Authorities were sent a letter in March 2009 outlining the background to the Young Persons Working Group and seeking information on informal social leisure places in their areas which were available to those within the age group 14 to 23. The letter gave examples of informal facilities such as:

- Cafes/coffee shops
- Drop in centres
- Outdoor Youth Shelters
- Skate Parks
- BMX/Mountain Bike Tracks
- Outdoor hard court play areas
- Kick about areas for informal use such as playing fields
- Recreation grounds with equipment suitable for 14+ years

18 of the Local Authorities responded. The Working Group extends its grateful thanks to these Local Authorities for their helpful information and comments. 15 of the Local Authorities responded with information about their facilities and three Local Authorities responded that there were no facilities of the type described in their areas. Annex 5 contains a table of information on facilities received.

An analysis of the information from the Authorities with facilities shows the following features:-

- The vast majority of informal leisure facilities are outdoor and sports based.
- The larger urban areas have a greater number of facilities.
- There are very few casual playing facilities such as hard surface ballgames courts which are provided at Onchan and Ramsey.
- There are very few casual drop-in centres such as the ones provided at Peel, Ramsey and Onchan.
- There is only one youth shelter in Braddan.

Several of the Local Authorities included additional feedback in their responses such as Lonan Commissioners reported that they had no facilities but regretted that this was so because facilities were needed. Braddan Commissioners reported an

initiative aimed at involving young people in the development of the community. Douglas reported that many of its play areas such as Nobles Park, whilst not falling into the age range being considered actually attracted young people to gather there. Douglas further reported on the contribution that the Henry Bloom Noble Library can make and their policy on youth.

4.4 Community Consultation/Information Churches/Voluntary Groups

The leaders or youth leaders of some of the main denominational churches were sent a letter in March 2009 outlining the background to the Young Persons Working Group and seeking information on leisure facilities provided by the churches for young people in the 14-23 age group. The churches were also asked for information on any consultations it had undertaken with young people.

Regrettably no responses were received on this matter although representatives of the Baptist Church participated in the Youth Forum. However, the Working Group reviewed information collected by the Youth and Community Division of the Department of Education regarding church related social leisure facilities for 14+ age group. Annex 6 is a table of the information.

An analysis of the information shows that Church Youth Groups:

- are active in four regional centres providing clubs for young people;
- were mainly for the under 14 years age group

4.5 Information and Dialogue with the Private Sector

The Working Group wrote to the Chairman of the Licensed Victuallers Association (LVA) seeking information on the venues used by the 14-23 age group. The LVA responded but were unable to provide the Working Group with the information.

The Working Group met with representatives of the Sefton Group which is the largest provider of private sector facilities for 14 to 23 age group. The Group was heartened to hear of the work undertaken by the Sefton Group in already opening some facilities and encouraged to learn of the company's willingness to work further with Government on future events for the older age groups. The Working Group would welcome proposals for the for developments which included casual, social, leisure facilities for young people.

The Working Group also welcomed the offer of the Group to use the company's facilities in partnership with Youth and Community Division.

4.5 Information and Dialogue with Government Departments

The Working Group identified that the most relevant Government Departments involved with leisure activities for this age group were Departments of Education, Tourism and Leisure, Transport and the Constabulary. The Working Group was attended by two officers from the Department of Education' Youth Service who contributed to ongoing discussions on availability of social leisure facilities. The Working Group met with the Arts and Sports Development Managers, the Road Safety Manager and a Chief Inspector from the Constabulary with responsibility for leading the 'Link Programme' and the 'Link Champions' which is a concept for engaging with young people to provide effective and consistent law enforcement.

The Sports and Arts Managers outlined their work with this age group and identified problems with a shortage of four badminton court sized regional sports halls and a central venue for performance, rehearsal and storage of music related activities.

Sports Development has prioritised work with children and young people up to 15 years and has built a strong development programme. After the age of 15 years, it is hoped that young people become established members of sports clubs rather than requiring the provision of further organised programmes.

Arts Development is still in its early stages of development. However it has been active in producing a strategy which outlines the focus of its work. A number of programmes have been launched directed at involving children and young people in schools and after school. The Arts Council make significant grants to various arts bodies.

The Working Group carefully considered the discussion and concluded that in principle it concurred with the need for additional facilities identified, subject to a robust identification of the demand for the facility and a management plan for usage.

The Road Safety Manager outlined his work on Young Driver 2008, the use made of Jurby Runway, the proposed post driving test training (Manx R+), the availability of mechanical training at the Isle of Man College and the development of Manx Pass Plus scheme for newly qualified car drivers. The Working Group welcomed the initiatives but considered there was a shortage of tarmac areas on which to practice car, motor bike and scooter driving skills.

The Chief Inspector outlined the work of the Constabulary with children and young people through 'The Link' programme and 'Link Champions'. The Constabulary considered that some young people wanted to be on the streets rather than in clubs and it would be helpful for them to have somewhere to congregate such as drop-in centres or youth shelters. These types of facilities could possibly be provided through the Town and Village Regeneration Fund Scheme.

The Working Group considered that areas where young people gather might indicate a lack of alternative leisure activities and may therefore be possible locations where a youth facility such as a youth shelter could usefully be located. The Working Group therefore sought information from the Constabulary regarding locations across the island where young people were known to gather.

The Constabulary provided comprehensive information from across the Island. The Working Group carefully considered the information and noticed that schools, parks, and shopping parades were common areas for "gatherings". In particular:

- gatherings often occurred at the close of youth clubs,
- bus shelters and public toilets were common areas for gatherings,
- there was positive work being undertaken by Community Teams such as Special Constables and detached youth workers.

The Group concluded that locations such as bus shelters, public toilets, schools and parks may indicate the need for somewhere with shelter and that youth shelters may provide some solution.

5 ANALYSIS OF INFORMATION AND FINDINGS

The Working Group carefully analysed the information and consultations that had been collected.

- 5.1. There is a good range of Government Youth clubs across the Island which cater for up to 18 year olds but are mainly attended by the under 15 age group. The youth clubs are aimed at those who wish to join a club rather than the casual turn up basis. The majority of young people who had attended Government Youth Clubs no longer did so because they did not have the time.
- 5.2 The Working Group concluded that Government provision is not targeted at those over 18 years and there is little Government provision for casual, informal social leisure facilities. The Working Group noted and congratulated the Department of Education in addressing this issue through its provision of a Youth drop-in cafe in Douglas, however the Working Group considered there was scope for further drop-in café type centres in the other regional centres.
- 5.3 If the Southern Area Plan findings on Community Facilities in the south region of the Island are reflected in other regions of the Island, then it would appear that there were a wide range of community facilities which are available for booking or could provide venues. However the facilities may already be at capacity.
- 5.4 Community facilities are owned and operated by a variety of bodies; they are rarely available for individuals to casually ring up and book them. Village Halls and Community centres usually require the filling in of forms and deposits to book. It would be difficult for a group of young people such as those wanting to practice music or play badminton to organise and book such facilities.
- 5.5 The Working Group concluded that Local Authorities could assist in having information on community facilities in an easily accessible format.
- 5.6 The Working Group noted the consultations received regarding the potential to make better use of Government owned property such as schools. The Group agreed that there are opportunities for Government owned School playing fields and school premises to be used more extensively by the community including children and young people and the Government could give more encouragement for their community use.
- 5.7 The Working Group noted the feedback from young people about their knowledge of what clubs and societies are available and what events are on offer. There is no central website for information about events, clubs and activities which is widely advertised and known about by young people.
- 5.8 The Working Group concluded that Departments could make much better use of the Internet to advertise Government events in one place which was not necessarily the

Government web site. The Group noted that the soon to be launched Children's Services Youth website might provide this platform.

- 5.9 A high proportion of young people wanted to do more activities such as sport, outdoor activities, arts and music but these needed to be at affordable prices and easily accessible.
- 5.10 The Working Group considered the information about the prices charged at the National Sports Centre for young people and for events for young people at the Villa Marina. The information about prices is difficult to access through the Internet requiring a number of page searches; alternatively there are a series of leaflets available at the NSC. There are discounts on the price of using the facilities such as the Gym but these require young people to purchase 10 tickets which cost £35+, a considerable amount for a young person in education. The Working Group concluded there was a need for easily accessible information about prices. It also concluded that whilst one-off visits to the gym or the swimming pool were affordable if encouragement was required for young people to regularly use the facilities (2 or 3 times per week) then more affordable prices should be offered to young people who were still in education.
- 5.11 There were a lot of requests from young people for further social leisure facilities but the most common theme was requests for a warm place to meet friends and meet new friends casually. Many young people pointed out that Summerland used to provide that sort of facility.
- 5.12 The Working Group had great sympathy with the request expressed above. It carefully considered how Government could provide such a facility in the current economic climate and concluded that it could not provide a stand alone facility such as Summerland. The Group welcomed the proposals for private sector facilities which could provide such a stand alone casual social facility.
- 5.13 The consultations showed that most young people went out to meet or make friends, have fun and perhaps do an activity such as have a meal, go to the cinema or the pub.
- 5.14 The Working Group noted that there were a range of informal social facilities from cinemas, cafés, lazer blast, pubs, night clubs and restaurants. The Group recognised that these commercial facilities might not always meet everyone's needs. The Group appreciated that the type and location of facilities provided by the private sector were led by market forces. However, the Group also recognised that there may be opportunities for Government to work with the private sector to consider the potential for more informal, social leisure facilities which appealed to young people.
- 5.15 The cost of undertaking activities and getting to activities was a major concern for young people. Many young people questioned the cost of Government owned facilities such as the NSC, the Villa, the buses and other leisure facilities particularly for young people who were still in education.
- 5.16 The Working Group noted that the Department of Tourism and Leisure were consulting on buses and the Working Group consultations carried out with young people would be forwarded to the Department so that they could be taken into

account in any changes that may result from the Review. The Working Group was concerned that the Department of Tourism and Leisure's consultation on buses did not take the opportunity to actively seek the views of young people who account for a very high proportion of their customers.

- 5.17 The Working Group analysed the consultations regarding existing facilities owned by Central Government and Local Authorities. The Group considered that better use of outdoor and indoor facilities such as Glencrutchery pool for those with disabilities, community use of schools and their performing venues such as Scoill Ree Gorree and school sports venues, the Wild Life Park, Government owned Cafés, the Villa Marina and the Villa Marina arcade, parks and open spaces for casual use (such as riding bicycles, skateboarding, having a chat, outdoor gym, kicking a ball, basketball) and the use of tarmac areas for scooters and motor bikes.
- 5.16 The Arts Development reported a shortage of a central, easily accessible venue for young people to practice music, perhaps store music equipment and perform music. There were a number of consultations from young people supporting this view.
- 5.17 Manx Sport and Recreation have created a good participation programme for the under 15 age group with a wide range of activities. However, the feedback for the 14+ age group was that they wanted more sports activities for their age group and these should be accessible. The Sport Development Manager reported the need for more regional sports halls to meet this demand.
- 5.18 The Working Group considered there was a need to engage with the 14+ age group in sports activities but recognised that this would require a different approach from the Sports Development Division and may involve a less traditional range of sports such as climbing walls, canoeing, diving, body boarding and free running. However, the Working Group also considered that where regional sports facilities were provided they should be supported in the most cost effective manner and preferably jointly with the Departments of Education and Tourism and Leisure and the community.
- 5.19 The surveys showed that some parts of the voluntary sector are very active in providing opportunities for young people such as uniformed clubs, music, dance and drama clubs, Out to Play and Mobex however these normally catered for either a younger age group or were not a casual 'turn up' social leisure facility.
- 5.20 The surveys also showed that some parts of the Church sector are very active in working with young people providing youth clubs and activities such as an informal bus in the South of the Island.
- 5.21 The Working Group concluded that the Voluntary sector and some parts of the Church sector were providing great support to young people. The Group considered that there were more opportunities for Government to work with voluntary and church sectors and that Government should consider the potential of further partnership provision.
- 5.22 The survey of Local Authority provision of social, leisure facilities showed that there were many active Authorities providing play equipment and outdoor activities for

children and young people. However, the Group concluded that there was scope for Local Authorities to do more particularly for the 14+ age group. The Group noted that Local Authorities have powers to provide recreation facilities and the Government gives grants of up to 40% of the cost of equipment. Local Authorities should be encouraged to consider the provision of youth shelters and youth recreational equipment such as basketball rings and skate parks and outdoor fitness equipment.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Working Group was concerned that children and young people had consistently raised similar concerns about facilities over a number of years in various consultations and very few tangible changes had resulted. In consulting children and young people, the Government was raising expectations that changes may be made.

The Working Group caution against further consultation until there is a specific Government commitment to address the concerns of young people and to work towards changes where these are appropriate, affordable and logistically achievable.

The Working Group takes very seriously its responsibility to only make recommendations which are appropriate, affordable and logistically achievable. The Working Group makes the following recommendations.

All Departments

1. All Departments arranging events and activities for young people to place these on the IOM Newspaper events website in addition to their own web sites.

Department of Education

2. The Department of Education is preparing to open a Youth Café in Douglas at Lord Street, Douglas. This facility will provide casual, social leisure facilities which will meet the needs of the 14 to 18 age group. This initiative is supported by the Working Group who recommends that the Department of Education prepare a Paper regarding the potential for youth cafes in other regions. The Department should also consider any opportunities to work with the voluntary and private sectors to provide these types of facilities in partnership. The Paper be submitted to the Department of Education Meeting by March 2010.
3. The Department of Education to continue to liaise with the Department of Tourism and Leisure regarding any proposals to build school sports halls to ensure that the community's use of the facilities for sports and arts can be fully investigated and included where appropriate, affordable and logistically achievable.
4. The Department of Education to consider reviewing its policy to enable fuller use of the Glencrutchery Pool during school holidays and any other education facilities which would meet the needs of young people with disabilities.
5. The Department of Education re-emphasised its policy for the use of playing fields by the community in an announcement in July 2009. Many of the Department's built facilities are available for groups to book and this is welcomed. However, the Group note that the majority of the Departments community facilities are pre booked as block bookings which allows little casual use. The Department of Education is therefore requested to consider how best to meet the needs of casual users, many of whom will be young people, in its future school at Bemahague which will include a community sports facility. Furthermore the Department is requested to investigate

whether the after school management of the future Bemahague facility should lie with the Department of Education or another Department or the private sector.

6. The Department of Education Youth Service together with the Department of Tourism and Leisure's Sports and Arts Development to investigate the possibility of engaging with the private sector, the voluntary sector and the third sector to investigate and identify where joint working could offer opportunities for additional, casual, social leisure facilities for the 16 to 23 year age group and report to the Children's Committee by March 2010.
7. The Departments of Education and Tourism and Leisure to work together to establish an annual regional day for sports, arts, music, dance, youth, church, uniformed etc clubs to give information and demonstrate the activities of the clubs from the public, private and voluntary sectors. A scoping paper be submitted to the Children's Committee by the Departments by January 2010 for an event in Autumn 2010.

Department of Tourism and Leisure

8. The Department of Tourism and Leisure to consider the establishment of regional participation programmes of sports activities for the 14 + age group focussing on opportunities to 'turn up and try' sports and to consider how existing clubs could offer opportunities or further opportunities for new youth members.
9. The Department of Tourism and Leisure to support the extended opening of the Glencrutchery pool by facilitating access to or training of lifeguards.
10. Support is given to the Department of Tourism and Leisure in seeking to identify central and regional music venues, which are easily accessible by public transport, to enable young people to perform music, act, practise and store music and arts equipment. The Working Group advises that consideration should be given as to whether existing performing arts venues would be suitable before any further facilities are considered. The National Arts Development Strategy 2005-2014 'Supports the creation of a new Department of Education Music Centre, with adequate rehearsal facilities for music ensembles and a music library' scheduled for 2014. Support is given by the Working Group to this proposal but requests the Arts Council and the Department of Education to consider whether a Music Centre should provide opportunities for music bands as well as ensembles.
11. Support is given to the Department of Tourism and Leisure in seeking to establish a network of regional sports/leisure centres which meet the identified need of young people to book the facility not on a regular basis or block book but offering 'turn up and play' opportunities.
12. The Department of Tourism and Leisure to consider reviewing their policies on:
 - a. access to the Wild Life Park to unaccompanied young people;
 - b. bus pricing policy for young people in education;
 - c. the frequency and timing of evening bus services to cater for the identified needs of young people for late night bus services;
 - d. the provision of advance notice for users of buses without facilities for disabled young people (the current bus fleet is 100% accessible for all normal service journeys but there are two non accessible buses used on bespoke school services); and
 - e. the pricing and management of Villa Marina events aimed at young people.

13. The Department of Tourism and Leisure to investigate and provide a business case for 2010-11 submission for the provision of a youth discount card for young people in education and training for use at the National Sports Centre, Villa Marina and Gaiety Theatre.
14. The Department of Tourism and Leisure and the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry as owners or landlords of café facilities to investigate and support a proposal to extend the opening hours to meet the 'café society' needs of the 16 to 23 year age group and report on the feasibility of the proposal to the Children's Committee by January 2010.
15. The Department Tourism and Leisure, Transport and Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry to establish an officer working group, with the relevant voluntary sectors (led by the Department of Tourism and Leisure) to report to the Children's Committee by March 2010 on the potential to develop inland and water sports for children and young people.

Department of Transport

16. The Department of Transport to actively investigate the usage of existing tarmac areas for young people, under supervision, to practice driving and motor biking skills including basic skills workshops. The facilities to be available both to young people before undertaking a driving test and for 'R' Plate drivers. The Department to report to the Children's Committee by April 2010.

Department of Local Government and the Environment

17. The Department of Local Government and the Environment to work with Local Authorities to support them in accessing Government grants for the provision of recreational facilities such as youth shelters, skate parks and hard courts in their areas.
18. The Department of Local Government and the Environment to work with Local Authorities to support them in compiling a database of community facilities with booking details and contracts for display on their websites where these exist. Some Local Authorities are already providing information about clubs and activities.

Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry

19. The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry to continue to work with the Manx Mountain Bike Club to further develop mountain bike trails particularly focused at young people.
20. The Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Forestry to investigate the opportunity to make further use of its forestry areas for high-wire forest adventure such as the 'Go Ape' facilities in other jurisdictions.

Local Authorities

21. Local Authorities are requested to review any areas within their authority where ball games are prohibited to ascertain whether the ban could be lifted.
22. Local Authorities are requested to consider, in consultation with the community, the development of leisure plans for the use of their parks so that all sections of the community including young people use the areas for casual recreation.
23. Local Authorities are requested to consider whether they could provide casual leisure facilities such as volleyball nets, youth shelters or hard court games areas.

Local Regeneration Committees

24. The Working Group encourages the Local Regeneration Committees to consider whether the Working Group's recommendations could be incorporated or developed into a bid to the Town and Village Regeneration Fund.

7. CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 7.1 The Working Group is grateful to the young people, groups, organisations, members of Tynwald, private, voluntary and faith sector organisations and Local Authorities who gave their time and thoughts to the matters which the Working Group considered.
- 7.2 In addition, the Working Group acknowledges the considerable effort and time that volunteers give to young people through clubs, groups and societies. It recognises the valuable work that is undertaken and the contribution that volunteers make to the lives of these young people.
- 7.3 An over arching focus of the Working Group's recommendations has been on encouraging Departments, Local Authorities and the private and voluntary sectors to use existing resources in more imaginative ways with a 'can do' approach. That is not to say that all the recommendations are cost neutral but the Working Group has focused its recommendations on making more of what we have.
- 7.4 Finally, the Working Group is mindful of the previous consultations with young people and wishes to ensure that its recommendations are acted upon. To this end, the Working Group requests that the Children's Committee annually review (each September/October) a Progress Report on the recommendations of the Young Persons Working Group. The Report to be coordinated by the Head of Children's Services, Department of Education.