

PROVIDING FACILITIES/ OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Lack of Facilities / Opportunities for Young People

■ Background

- A lack of social and leisure provision for young people has been identified through all consultation undertaken.
- The existing facility, the Sovereign Centre is valued but considered to have restricted opening hours and insufficient staff.
- The Sovereign Centre is closed in the holidays and recruitment of youth workers is an ongoing problem.
- Young people in the area who do not want to go to the youth centre have no other options.
- Churches including the United Reformed Church, the Baptist Church and St Peter's and St Paul's try to provide youth clubs but also experience difficulty in recruiting volunteers with the appropriate skills.
- Young people do not identify strongly with the area, as a large proportion feel there is nothing there for them.
- Anti social behaviour (ASB) can present itself as a result of this issue.
- ASB takes the form of:
 - Graffiti
 - Verbal abuse
 - General vandalism
 - Intimidation on pavements by young people using scooters
 - Under age drinking with children as young as 11 years and possibly drug taking in older children.

■ Location(s) Places where teenagers gather have been identified on the map overleaf.

■ Actions and Responsible Agency

- Map what services exist and find out from young people how facilities could be improved working in conjunction with the Youth Council at the Sovereign Centre, and local schools.
Responsibility Surrey County Council Youth Development
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council Leisure
- Bid for funds to introduce a half pipe for skaters at the Sovereign Centre BMX track and skateboarding, trampolining and weight training coaches to make better use of the existing facilities.
Responsibility Reigate and Banstead Borough Council, Community Liaison
- Maintain and look after the BMX track area.
Responsibility The Sovereign Centre and young people who use the area
- Educate/help shopkeepers who sell alcohol on the dangers of selling alcohol to underage drinkers in liaison with the police and licensing authorities
Responsibility The local community
Surrey County Council, Trading Standards
Surrey Police

■ Resource

- Reigate and Banstead Borough Council officer time to prepare the funding application.
- Surrey County Council / Reigate and Banstead Borough Council.
- Sovereign Youth Centre Committee Funds.
- Surrey Community Sports Coach Scheme.
- Surrey Police time.

■ Timescale 1 - 3 years

■ Outcome Measure/Reporting

- Increased youth activity places.
- Reductions in youth anti social behaviour and a more positive general impression from young people.

■ Local Community : What you can do

- Listen to the views and opinions of young people.
- Volunteer to help young people through organised groups and activities.
- Encourage your children to use the facilities provided for them.
- Volunteer to be the liaison person for your area to report graffiti etc. to the council, so that it can be removed quickly.

