

London Borough of Bromley

PART 1 - PUBLIC

Briefing for Education Portfolio Holder
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UPDATE ON THE PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BROMLEY DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS PROGRAMME

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1. Summary

1.1 To update Members of the Education Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on the current performance and recent development of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Programme within Bromley.

2. **THE BRIEFING**

2.1 Introduced in 1956, the aim of the Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) Award is to provide an enjoyable, challenging and rewarding programme of activities for young people, which gives young people aged 14-24 the chance to develop skills for work and life, fulfill their potential and have a brighter future.

2.2 Irrespective of interest and ability, background or gender, the Award offers the opportunity to gain nationally recognised certificates of achievement at three levels:

- Bronze Award for those aged 14 and over.
- Silver Award for those aged 15 and over.
- Gold Award for those aged 16 and over.

2.3 To undertake the award young people are required to undertake activity in four different sections which include:

- Volunteering (helping other people in the local community);
- Expeditions (training for, planning and completing a journey on foot, or horseback, by boat or cycle);
- Skills (covering almost any hobby, skill or interest);
- Physical recreation (sport, dance and fitness);
- Residential project - Gold Award only (a purposeful enterprise with people not previously known to the participant).

- 2.4 Bromley Youth Support Programme (BYSP) is responsible for managing the DoE Award Licence held by the Local Authority (LA) which enables young people in the Borough to take part in the Award. As Licence holders, the LA is responsible for maintaining the quality and standards of the award and the health and safety of young people who undertake the Award in the Borough, through direct delivery from the Bromley Youth Support Programme DoE Award Team, or via a group within a school setting. The Bromley Youth Support Programme's DoE Award Team comprises staff (paid and voluntary) who are responsible for developing, offering and supporting the Award to young people who live, work or are educated in Bromley. The operation and development of the Award in Bromley is supported by a DoE Support Committee.
- 2.5 Bromley has a long history and a close association with the Award. The Award is currently delivered via 21 schools and groups within the Borough (Appendix 1). Historically, in a few schools within the borough the DoE Award has always performed well particularly at the Bronze level. Participation from other schools has been variable.
- 2.6 For several years, in its role as Operating Authority, the Council has worked to increase the take up and involvement of more schools with the Award and encouraged groups to value the quality of the Award product they deliver. This has resulted in increased opportunity for young people in the Borough and a 45% increase in the number of Awards achieved in 2011.
- 2.7 Bromley now has 3.2% (1,199 people) of our 14-24 year olds undertaking the Award, compared with a pan London figure of 3% (32,095 people). Similarly the LA's 2011 completion rate was 51% (311 people) compared with a pan London figure of 40% (7,801 people). A summary of enrolments in schools delivering the Award is in Appendix 2.
- 2.8 A condition of operating the Award is that licence holders deliver an Open Award Centre, which provides access to the Award for young people who are unable to access it via their school or other group.
- 2.9 The Open Award Centre has historically worked only with small groups of young people from schools local to the delivery site, mainly at bronze and occasionally silver levels of the award prior to the development of the current staff team in 2009. To enable the development of improved opportunities for young people the Bromley Youth Support Programme (BYSP) DoE Team has developed a network of volunteers which increases the number of young people involved and from the outset there has been a succession plan in place to continue delivery should any of the current team leave post.
- 2.10 In 2010, three priorities were identified for the forward development of the Award. These priorities are increasing opportunities for young people:
- to undertake the Gold Award;
 - from socially excluded and disadvantaged groups;
 - from schools and groups who currently don't undertake the Award.

Increasing opportunities to undertake the Gold Award

- 2.11 For the last two years BYSP has undertaken a schools' gold development project. This has sought to improve the range of opportunity for young people to undertake the Gold Award in the borough. The team recognised that it would not be practical to work with all the young people in the Borough who may want to undertake gold, and so developed a model where they would work in partnership with schools to support and train school staff to deliver the Award at this level, with a view to them undertaking and delivering it themselves in future years. In the first year of operation, Newstead Wood, Langley Park Girls and Bullers Wood Schools worked with the team to implement the project.

2.12 All three schools had young people who were successful at the Gold expedition, and following a year as part of the pilot project, both Newstead Wood and Bullers Wood are now directly delivering the Gold Award to young people in school. The project now supports Ravens Wood School, and this may result in an additional school delivering at gold in future years.

Increasing involvement by young people who are disadvantaged and socially excluded:

2.13 The Award is a framework for young people to undertake positive activities and through volunteering contribute to their communities and are developing opportunities for young people who may be socially excluded or disadvantaged to participate.

2.14 This year the BYSP DoE Team was successful with an application to secure short breaks funding which has enabled us to begin working with Marjorie McClure School. The Team is supporting this initiative whilst working with the school staff with the intention of the school continuing delivery in the future on a self-supported basis.

2.15 Further developments include direct support to young people supported by the BYSP's Targeted Youth Support Programme and a new project which will extend opportunities to young people involved with the Youth Offending Team is in progress.

Increasing opportunity at Schools and groups who do not currently deliver the Award:

2.16 This year intake to the Open Award Centre prioritised young people who were unable to undertake the Award at their school due to non delivery of the Award at their schools.

2.17 The team has also visited and worked with key schools with a view to encourage and support them to offer the Award. Over the last 2 years, 3 new schools have become involved. Work is currently going on to encourage effective development with those schools that deliver to very few young people each year, those schools that have a very poor completion record and to support schools to step up and include Silver/Gold delivery within their offer.

2.18 Other activities undertaken in support of Award development include the continued development of the work of the volunteer staff within the team, who regularly give up weekends and evenings to support young people achieving Awards. With a vision to increase the team of volunteers, the team has developed a network of young people who have previously undertaken the Gold Award with the Open Award Centre to become the next group of volunteers. The team sought funding to create a Basic Expedition Leader course for these young people so they could learn the skills necessary to work as a volunteer and be part of the staff team in the future.

2.19 The Duke of Edinburgh Award team aims to continue this careful and planned expansion of the work. In the year ahead delivery will focus on increasing silver award opportunities, encouraging voluntary sector youth groups to be involved, and recruiting voluntary sector groups to offer volunteering opportunities within their organisations to young people.

Summary of Performance

2.20 In the last year, the DoE Team has facilitated the achievement of:

- a 30% increase in the numbers of young people signing up for the Award. (Representing 668 new starters in 2010/2011, compared with 891 new starters in 2011/2012);
- a 100% increase in the numbers of young people signing up at Gold level. (Representing 51 new Gold starters in 2010/2011, compared with 103 new Gold starters in 2011/2012);
- an 18% increase in the numbers of young people completing the Award. (Representing 251 completions in 2010/2011, compared with 311 completions in 2011/2012).

Pricing Structure:

- 2.21 This year a revised pricing structure has been introduced for young people to undertake the Award within the Open Award Centre, with charges near to market cost for young people to access the expedition training elements. This pricing structure operates effectively at Bronze and Gold levels. However a drop off in uptake at silver level suggests that pricing may need to be reviewed to support silver delivery next year.
- 2.22 This year an administrative charge of £5 per enrolment of young person to the Award was introduced, to supplement the income to cover the considerable amount of administrative work required. We are in the process of implementing a Service Level Agreement with schools and groups for the 2012 academic year.
- 2.23 The DoE Support Committee holds a fund of money which is available for young people to apply to should the cost of undertaking the Award prove restrictive to young people. This year Bromley Youth Support Programme also intends to organise an event which will act as an opportunity for young people to gain sponsorship to support the costs of involvement with the Award.

3. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Children and Young People's Plan 2011/12 and Building a Better Bromley Plan set out the Council's aspirations and objectives for Integrated Children's Services, working with partners to improve outcomes for the Borough's children and young people.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Bromley Youth Support Programme budget allocation for delivery of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in 2012/13 is £96,852. The budget funds the employment of a 2.1FTE staff team. These are a full-time Team Leader, a half-time Operations Officer and a range of sessional Youth Support Workers who support front line delivery of the Award. A Programme Manager is responsible for the line management of the team.
- 4.2 Revenue for the Award is generated in two ways. Firstly a £5 administration charge has been implemented for every enrolment to the Award. In a full year, using this year's enrolment figures this will generate £4,375. Secondly a higher level of charging for access to the Open Award Centre expedition training courses has been implemented. This brings the income closer to the actual cost of the services. Having considered current market rates, a costing structure was identified that charges £100 at bronze level, £300 at silver and £750 at gold level. In the 2011/12 academic year, this will generate an annual income to the Open Award Centre of £21,350.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 507B Education Act 1996 states (1) A Local Authority in England must, so far as reasonably practicable secure for qualifying young persons in the authority's area access to:
- (a) sufficient educational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities; and
 - (b) sufficient recreational leisure-time activities which are for the improvement of their well-being, and sufficient facilities for such activities.
- 5.2 Statutory guidance on the requirements for such is published. However, the Council does have a discretion in how it meets this duty as is expressed by the wording in the Act 'so far as reasonably practicable'.

**LIST OF SCHOOLS AND GROUPS CURRENTLY DELIVERING THE
DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD IN BROMLEY:**

School/Group	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Beaverwood School for Girls	X	X	
Bishop Justus School	X	X	
Bishop Challoner School	X		
Bromley High School	X	X	
Bromley Youth Support Programme Open Award Centre	X	X	X
Bromley Youth Support Programme M2 Group	X	X	
Bullers Wood School	X	X	X
Charles Darwin School	X		
Coopers Technology College	X		
Darrick Wood School	X	X	X
Farringtons School	X	X	X
Glebe School	X		
Hayes School	X		
Kemnal Technology College	X		
Langley Park School for Boys	X		
Langley Park School for Girls	X	X	
Marjorie McClure School	X		
Newstead Wood School for Girls	X	X	X
Ravens Wood School	X	X	X
The Priory School	X		X
The Ravensbourne School	X		

**NUMBER OF DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD ENROLMENTS PER SCHOOL
AND GROUP FOR THE 2011/12 ACADEMIC YEAR:**

School/Group	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Beaverwood School for Girls	44	28	
Bishop Justus School	52	4	
Bishop Challonor School		16	
Bromley High School	63	12	
Bromley Youth Support Programme Open Award Centre	62	16	20
Bromley Youth Support Programme M2 Group		6	
Bullers Wood School	55	22	15
Charles Darwin School	26		
Coopers Technology College	29		
Darrick Wood School	2	5	11
Farringtons School	20	27	30
Glebe School	No new enrolments this period		
Hayes School	36		
Kemnal Technology College	8		
Langley Park School for Boys	56		
Langley Park School for Girls	28	14	
Marjorie McClure School	4		
Newstead Wood School for Girls	52	20	12
Ravens Wood School	29	20	6
The Priory School	19		6
The Ravensbourne School	No new enrolments this period		