

# **WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**TO: LEISURE COMMITTEE - 21 SEPTEMBER 1999**

**SUBJECT: BETTER GOVERNMENT FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES BUSINESS UNIT**

**FROM: COMMISSIONING TEAM**

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide Members with an update of Leisure's involvement in the Better Government for Older People (BGOP) pilot initiative.

## **2 BACKGROUND**

2.1 Warwick District Council is one of 28 UK BGOP pilot projects. The initiative started on 1 April 1998 and is due to conclude 31 March 2000.

2.2 A Strategy and an Action Plan formulated by Members, Officers and Older People have been published.

2.3 A framework has been established to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate many actions. This includes:

Member Steering Group

Member Evaluation Group

Officer Group

Senior People's Forum

Warwick District Action for Older People (forum of housing, health and social care officers).

2.4 The programme has been extremely successful. Indeed, although targeted at older people, the pilot is benefiting the wider community. For example, the launch of the cross-town bus shuttle service.

## **3 LEISURE'S INVOLVEMENT**

### **3.1 (a) Member and Officer Involvement**

Councillor Christine Hodgetts and Roger Copping are members of the four strong evaluation team. WDC is the only pilot which is being evaluated by Members.

3.2 Peter Rourke, Sports, Leisure and Community Manager, and Amanda Poon-Jones, Supervisor - Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre, are active members of the

Officer

Group.

### 3.3 (b) Achievements

- Information Leaflet: Peter Rourke and Vera Vasilijevic-(Kenilworth Connection)
- Senior Citizens' Talent Contest: Peter Nicholson and David Phillips (Spa Centre)
- Development of and ongoing support with the Senior People's Forum: Peter Rourke, Amanda Poon-Jones and staff at the Royal Spa Centre
- Crosstown Bus Shuttle Service to Leisure Centres: Rose Winship and staff from other Business Units
- Production of Leisure leaflet aimed at people aged over 50: Amanda Poon-Jones in partnership with Activ-Age, South Warwickshire Health Promotion Service and Stratford -On-Avon District Council
- GP Referral Scheme: Rose Winship

## 4 FUTURE ACTIONS

- 4.1 Warwick District Council participated in a United Nations Conference concerning sport and older people. Following this, an officer group has been investigating the possibility of a sports activities co-ordinator. The post holder would encourage the development of volunteer groups for people aged 50+ in sheltered housing schemes, residential and nursing homes, etc. The officer's role would be similar to that of the Youth Sports Development Officer. Some funding has been awarded by the Home Office. Dale Best, Derrick Dyas (Housing), Rose Winship and Peter Rourke are progressing this initiative.

## 5 CONCLUSION

Members and Officers have contributed immensely to Better Government for Older People. It is extremely difficult to reflect the huge level of support and enthusiasm offered by the Members and staff of Leisure and Amenities. As with many corporate initiatives, we have been extremely dependent upon the goodwill of frontline staff and Members.

## 6 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members' views are requested.

Jeanette McGarry  
Commissioning Director

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

Warwick District Council Better Government for Older People Strategy and Action Plan

**For further information about this report please contact:**

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**Areas in District**C:\NEW\REPORTS\Leisure\21999bgop.wpd

**Affected:** All