

USE OF MUGAS TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the final report of the Use of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's) Task and Finish Review Group.

Summary

2. At the meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 3rd November, 2009 Members agreed to undertake a Task and Finish Review Group to investigate the Use of Multi Use Games Areas within the Borough.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Members of this Scrutiny Committee give approval to continue investigations into the Use of Multi Use Games Areas by way of a full Review Group.

Cliff Brown
Director of Community Services

Background Papers

There were not background papers used in the preparation of this report.

Allison Carling: Ext. 2291

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues relating to Health and Well Being which this report needs to address
Sustainability	There are no issues relating to Sustainability which this report needs to address.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address.
Wards Affected	The impact of the report on any individual Ward is considered to be minimal.
Groups Affected	The impact of the report on any Group is considered to be minimal.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	This is not a key decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision.
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of local elected members contributing to the Aspiring Darlington Theme Group.

**FINAL REPORT OF THE USE OF MULTI USE GAMES AREAS (MUGAS)
TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP**

Introduction

1. This is the final report of the Task and Finish Review Group, established by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee established to investigate the Use of Multi Use Games Areas.

Background Information

2. At the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Meeting held 3rd November, 2009, it was agreed that a Task and Finish Review Group be established and the scope of the Group was to investigate the Use of Multi Use Games Areas within the Borough.

Methods of Investigation

3. The Review Group have met formally on the 3rd December, 2008 and 14th January, 2009.

Initial Investigations

4. During their initial investigations Members of the Group have found it difficult to ascertain community use for each of the Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAS) and where exactly are they located within the Borough and also the actual definition of a MUGA.
5. The Group have also experienced some difficulties with obtaining a lead officer who has responsibility for MUGAS and also which department has responsibility, Children's Services or Community Services?
6. Following their initial investigations the Group have agreed that there is sufficient evidence to conclude that there is not a wide community use of Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAS) even though there are at least three schools in the Borough that have a condition on the planning approval for use by the Community
7. The Members feel that there is substantial work to be done in investigating each of the MUGAS i.e. how are they being utilised, opening arrangements, maintenance and upkeep of the MUGAS, charging policies etc., arrangements in place with the schools where the MUGAs are attached to the school grounds.
8. At this stage in their investigations, the Members have identified a need for a uniform system to be in place for the use of MUGA's and that this system should include a reporting mechanism, to ensure that each MUGA is complying to the conditions of use.

9. It is also unclear as to how the use of MUGAS link in with the Extended Schools Policy. More investigations are required into this area.

Conclusions

10. From their initial investigations, the Group Members felt that there was sufficient evidence to warrant this Task and Finish Review Group becoming a full Review Group to make more thorough investigations.
11. Initial investigations raised a number of concerns that Members want to explore in more detail by way of Review and the Group Members would also like to meet with various outside person i.e. the Police, Caretakers, users.

Recommendations

That Members of this Scrutiny Committee give approval to continue investigations into the Use of Multi Use Games Areas by way of a full Review Group.

Use of Multi Use Games Areas Task and Finish Review Group