**Meaningful Homework**

**Task:** You are setting up a new sports club in Kidsgrove for local teenagers and want to attract as many participants as possible. There are a number of barriers which may prevent this age group from attending your sports club. Write a letter to your local MP describing in detail three barriers which are preventing teenagers from attending the club.

**Guidance:**

- Use your notes from the lesson on barriers to help you to identify three key barriers facing teenagers in Kidsgrove in terms of participating in sport

- Use the model answer and the sentence starters to help you to structure your letter

**Success criteria:**

- I can identify three barriers which prevent teenagers in Kidsgrove from participating in sport

- I can use specific examples from Kidsgrove to support the reasons behind choosing these three barriers

- I can explain why these barriers will prevent teenagers from participating in sport in Kidsgrove.

Example:

Dear Local MP,

I am writing to you in relation to the current unsatisfactory provision for sport and physical activity in our local area for teenagers. As a 15 year old female who is very interested in keeping fit and healthy, I find myself unable to achieve this goal due to the lack of facilities, opportunities and provision within Kidsgrove. I would like you to read the barriers which we are currently facing in relation to this and strive to improve physical activity and sporting opportunities within the local area for teenagers.

One barrier which affect’s teenagers participation in physical activity and sport is time. This is a barrier because we have a lack of time due to other commitments. I leave for school at 8am and finish at 3pm. In the evenings I find that all of the fitness classes in the local area and those provided by Kidsgrove Leisure Centre are aimed at adults only which means they are not accessible for teenagers. There is a gym club which allows teenagers to visit the gym until 4pm, however due to my GCSE commitments this is when I am involved in further study at school. As preparation for GCSE’s is currently our greatest priority, the restrictions imposed on attending the gym by the local leisure centre mean that we are unable to exercise at this facility. This will then impede upon progress and achievement within our GCSE examinations as it has been proven that participating in exercise is also linked to improved attainment as it helps to increase concentration and focus. You may also suggest that there is gym equipment which is free to use in Clough Hall Park, however with the exception of the summer months, it is dark by 5pm which means there is very little time to safely use this equipment for teenagers.

Another barrier which affects our participation in sport and physical activity is accessibility. This is a barrier because any activities which are appropriate for teenagers such as those provided by Fenton Manor Leisure Centre or Stoke City FC and Port Vale FC are too far away. This is because we are too young to drive and the public transport options in Kidsgrove are very limited. This has recently been made worse by some of the bus routes being removed from Kidsgrove to the other local towns meaning it is very difficult for us to get to physical activity providers safely and easily. Also, as we are of school age, it is also not possible for us to purchase taxis as this is too expensive for any teenagers who want to regularly engage in sport and physical activity. From living in a low socio economic area, for most teenagers in Kidsgrove, parents and carers can also not afford to transport us regularly to other areas outside of Kidsgrove particularly with the rise in the cost of petrol and living.

A final barrier which affects teenagers participation in sport and physical activity is a lack of provision. Currently the only sporting facilities in Kidsgrove are Kidsgrove Leisure Centre, Kidsgrove Athletic FC, Ground Zero Fitness and Kidsgrove Cricket Club. The main issue with these four providers is membership fees have to be paid to use any of these facilities. As already mentioned, this is an immediate barrier for teenagers who do not have a regular income. Secondly, the types of activities which are provided by Kidsgrove Leisure Centre are not appealing to teenagers as they mainly provide the gym, which has restricted times for teenagers, swimming; which not all teenagers can swim and sports hall activities such as badminton and pickle ball which are mainly attended by the over 60s population of the community. This is a barrier for teenagers because they want to participate in competitive, often team game activities which provide opportunities for teenagers to socialise with others of a similar age group and interest. In terms of Kidsgrove Athletic FC and Kidsgrove Cricket Club these only provide sport for those teenagers who have been scouted for their cricket and football teams and therefore are only appropriate for those talented teenagers and not the general teenager population of Kidsgrove. This means that only a minority of teenagers in Kidsgrove are being provided for in terms of supplying them with sport and physical activity opportunities. Ground Zero is also an adult only gym which again limits opportunities for teenagers to engage in sport and physical activity.

Please can you take into consideration the current barriers which the teenagers of Kidsgrove face and propose some possible solutions. It would also be greatly appreciated if the sport and physical activity provision for teenagers in this area was considered in any of your upcoming plans for expenditure within Kidsgrove.