



Staffordshire Children's Trust

Working together to improve the lives of children and young people

Minutes of the Children & Young Peoples Participation Sub Group

Tuesday 22 January 2008

Present:

Gill Stanford	-	Children's Commissioner for Staffordshire (Chair)
Charne Griffiths	-	Consultation Manager, Children's Fund
Darryl Gough	-	Care Leavers, C&LL
Jo Williams	-	User Survey Officer, Social Care & Health
Hifsa Iqbal	-	Staffordshire University, Muslim Youth
Diane Brindley	-	Sth Staffs PCT
Katy Warren	-	North Staffs PCT
Kevin Byrne	-	Newcastle Borough Council
Laura Hilton	-	Staffordshire Arts & Museums Service
Les Simmons	-	Connexions
Vikki Nancarrow	-	Donna Louise Trust
Nicky Elmore	-	Cannock Chase District Council
Rachel Taylor	-	Sth Staffs District Council
Rachel Munday Crates	-	Acting Manager, Children's Voice Project
Sue Bond	-	Consultation Co-ordinator, Children's Fund
Sue Fox	-	Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Wendy Bailey	-	Public Relations, SCC
Caroline Forrest	-	School Nurse, Perton Clinic
Lesley Bovington	-	Community & Partnership Manager, Lichfield DC
Rebecca Redman	-	Chief Executives Office, SCC
Duncan Whitehouse	-	Scrutiny & Performance Manager, SCC
Jan Wakefield	-	Education Improvement Professional
Liz Rouse	-	Surestart, Tamworth
Michelle Evans	-	Building Schools for the Future
Alan Machin	-	Youth Service
Sheila Keeling	-	Children's Commissioner Admin Support
Cate Crawford	-	Children's Trust Administrator & Meeting's Minute Taker

Apologies:

Amanda Torr	-	East Staffordshire Borough Council
Caroline Escott	-	West Midlands Traveller Service, Travelling Children
Cath Wohlers	-	Health & Consumer Services, SC&H
Darren Foley	-	Youth Service
Dave Bengé	-	Lichfield CVS
Ildie McIndoe	-	Staff & S Staff Family Support Team
Karen Brophy	-	Parent Partnership Service
Karen Hansford	-	South Staffordshire PCT
Katie White	-	Sth Staffs District Council
Liz Kelay	-	Children With Disabilities Team, C&LL
Liz Peacock	-	Youth Offending Service
Lynn Powis	-	West Midlands Traveller Service
Mark Koszak	-	Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Pauline McKie	-	Girl Guiding Staffordshire
Sue Mulroy	-	Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator
Sukey Bek	-	Sth Staffs PCT
Wendy Hall	-	Stafford Borough Council
Vicky Leese	-	Young Persons Drugs and Alcohol Project

- Children and young people feel they are taken seriously, listened to and have an influence on decision.
- Communities think that young people are an asset, not a liability.
- the 4 sub groups were then each was then asked to go and discuss one of the outcomes further. For the results of this discussion, please see [Appendix 2](#).
- the 4 sub groups had discussions and listed forthcoming consultation work that is to take place in 08/09 that would input into the consultation strategy [Appendix 3](#)

3. **Information Sharing Opportunity**

- **And He Brought Me Red Roses...**
 - Kevin Byrne explained that this is a short interactive play giving an insight into what it may be like to live in an abusive relationship. The production is suitable for all agency staff, voluntary organisations, elected members and members of the community.
 - Productions will be held on:
 - 13th February 2008 - 10.30am & 2.30pm @ Leek Salvation Army
 - 14th February 2008 - 10.30am & 2.30pm @ Chesterton Salvation Army
 - Further productions are also being held across the County.
 - For more information the group were advised to please contact their local domestic violence co-ordinator.
- **Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board**
 - SSCB have issued an email of notification of a person who has been identified as presenting a risk or a potential risk to children:
 - Victor Penn Stenyor (DOB 12.11.1942), Dyke House, Ledbury.
 - Mr Stenyor owns the above property which is used as a holiday residential unit for children and young people sometimes from out of the County.
 - In June 2007 Mr Stenyor was convicted of a sexual offence against a child staying at the site. He was given a 3 year Community Rehabilitation Order and is required to be on the Sex Offenders Register for 5 years.
 - For further information contact: Jane Bee, Local Authority Designated Officer, Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board.
- **Children's Trust Website**
 - This is a good site to use to catch up with the latest topics.
 - The Acorn Newsletter is issued on the site and is a good opportunity to catch up with the latest topics.
 - Anyone wishing to view the Acorn, can log onto: <http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/acornnewsletter/>
 - For inclusion of an article, contact staffordshirechildrenstrust@staffordshire.gov.uk
- **Children's Trust Communications Group**
 - It has been proposed that the Children's Trust Communications Group merges with the Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board Communications Group due to overlaps in work.
 - The group are currently looking into establishing a set of Children's Trust guidance and a standard Consent Form with regard to consent from

children & young people on the use of their images in photos, videos, on the web etc. The County Council Legal Department will approve the draft guidelines and consent slip.

- Young person's Versions of the Children & Young People's Plan
 - There are to be 4 versions: 16-19 years, 11-16 years (both already available), under 11's version and a Makaton version
 - They are due to be formally launched in March/April 2008, and will be available on the Trust Website:
<http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/cypp/youngpeoplesversions/>
- Publications
 - Gill Stanford is hoping to build a database with details of all publications available from the various organisations, and asks that professionals send useful details
- Consultation on Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS)
 - The closing date for this consultation is 14.02.08 and all members of the group were encouraged to ensure they take part and have their say.
 - The papers can be found at:
<http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/StrategiesFrameworks/YSSStrategy/>
- Children's Services Directory
 - This is now up and running and is an excellent source of information on services for children & young people.
 - It can be found at:
<http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/csd/search.aspx>
- Funding Opportunity
 - Details of an opportunity to apply for funds via the High Sheriffs Competition 2008 has come through.
 - The closing dates for bids is 28.02.08
 - Sheila Keeling will email the details out ahead of the meeting's Minutes.
- Group Membership
 - To be discussed at next meeting
- Consultation Strategy
 - Volunteers to join Gill Stanford on a small 'task to finish' sub group to develop the Consultation Strategy.
 - Those who volunteered at the meeting are:
 - Wendy Bailey
 - Jan Wakefield
 - Les Simmons

4. Actions Raised from Meeting

- **Sheila Keeling** to circulate the workshop slides with Minutes.
- **Gill Stanford** to liaise with Adrian Gough re HBR Standards inclusion into the Workforce Development Strategy
- **Cate Crawford** to add C&YP Participation group to Acorn distribution list.

- **All** to ensure regular log onto Children's Trust Website for latest news & information: <http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/>
- **Gill Stanford** to liaise with **Jo Williams** re back page to young people's version of C&YPP for their feedback
- **All** to forward details of any publications issued by their agency/organisation to sheila.keeling@staffordshire.gov.uk for compilation into database.
- **All** to log onto <http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/StrategiesFrameworks/YSSStrategy/> and take part in IYSS consultation.
- **All** to log onto the Children's Services Directory: <http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/csd/search.aspx> and register their organisation
- **Sheila Keeling** to circulate information re High Sheriffs Competition 2008 ahead of Minutes to the group.
- **Sheila Keeling** to include C&YP Participation Group membership on Agenda for next meeting.
- **All** volunteers to join Gill Stanford on a small 'task to finish' sub group to develop the Consultation Strategy forward their interest to sheila.keeling@staffordshire.gov.uk.

5. Dates of Future Meetings

Tuesday 1 st April	10am - 1.00pm	The Annexe Staff Development Centre Tillington Centre Centre 2 nd Avenue Holmcroft. Stafford
Tuesday 20 th May	10am - 1.00pm	Rooms 9 & 10, Corporate Reception, St Chad's Place, Stafford
Tuesday 29 th July	10am - 1.00pm	Rooms 9 & 10, Corporate Reception, St Chad's Place, Stafford
Tuesday 23 rd September	10am - 1.00pm	Rooms 9 & 10, Corporate Reception, St Chad's Place, Stafford
Tuesday 25 th November	10am - 1.00pm	Rooms 9 & 10, Corporate Reception, St Chad's Place, Stafford

First exercise**Group 1**

- All C&YP feel they have had the opportunity to influence decisions and services that affect them.
- C&YP will be involved at all stages, ie from very first stage.
- Retrospective consultation has stopped
- ,managers and heads of service are “in-touch” with C&YP – through direct work
- Managers believe involving C&YP improves their service – through shared ownership and power.
- Services feedback to the yp involved about changes/outcomes.
- Organisations understand that C&YP’s involvement is “fluid” and changeable.
- Organisations properly resource C&YP’s involvement.
- C&YP have trust in organisations and that they will act on their involvement/consultation.

Group 2

- C&YP influence policies directly
- YP are employed in their own right.
- More children’s forums
- Integrated structure on consultation to every child in Staffordshire
- Dedicated staff, budges & therefore valued.
- C&YP seen as people with voices, rights and responsibilities.
- Inclusive services for all children
- Celebration of success based on recorded evidence.

Group 3

In five years time



- Children and Young PEOPLE FEEL THEIR OPINIONS ARE LISTENED TO
- Organisations demonstrate “listening “ and communicate with each other
- End of professional “preciousness” (TARGET PRESSURES)
- Recognising C&YP are one of the communities we need to reach – stakeholder
- A “LISTENING” CULTURE EXISTS! (FOR ALL!)

C&YP feel...

VALUED INVOLVED LISTENED TO HAVE RAISED ESTEEM

EQUAL RESPECTED/TRUSTED

Group 4

- Highlight the benefits for the children to the children
- Effective and efficient services that children want ie, more places to go and things to do (and can afford to do!) and won't be hassled (moved on)
- Listened to and not just heard
- Improved public perception of YP
- Drop in café/shop
- Actual 'sign up' sheet to commitment by service providers.

C&YP have

Positive images through media

Intergenerational respect

C&YP valued in communities

YP believe they have the same opportunities

Organisations are sharing resources/intelligence/responsibility

Facilitator – in 2013 – re what success may look like

paul@msbconsultancy.co.uk

You have been successful in implementing change in terms of participation – describe the differences you have created – think about :

- Young people and children
- Organisations
- How they are : feeling; acting; thinking.

APPENDIX 2

Second exercise – the following were themes coming from the first exercise and were given to each group to further discuss to identify what small results could be reached to contribute to these identified outcomes as part of the longer strategy.

Managers and decision makers are touch with C&YP and are skilled at listening to them

Results

- Shared and individual training programme
- Positive publicity
- Awareness raising – opportunities
- Accessible venues for training/services/consultation
- Examples of engagement from managers and members
- Balance in environment
- YP going to meetings/members going to YP meetings (timing of meetings)
- Clear guidance developed on accessing and engaging YP in consultation/listening processes (YP to influence from the start.)
- Work with forums, including school councils/youth groups.
- Achieving a balanced approach
- Identifying individuals within organisations who can take things forward “Champion”

*Training (all parties)

- young people, managers and DM
- awareness raising

Managing expectations – how to do it without limiting thought process to start with

- Training for managers on how to manage process
- Awareness raising for YP on processes.

*Action and Feedback

*Publicity

*Resources & time

*Process and protocol.

Do YP know who they ought to talk to get influence?

How are the needs of the young people met by the consultation venues – how do they want to access services?

Organisations are sharing resources, responsibility and intelligence.

- To know this – we need to have performance management systems – and sanctions (name and shame) CTB
- What needs to be in place to enable organisations to be involved – Resources/Capacity/Funding etc.
- A shared theme that all agree is important and therefore will pool resources, then working it through and learning the lessons (a pilot)
- Identify areas of good practice and move forward and selling the benefits
- A good system of information sharing – including marketing etc (knowing your audience)
- Show benefits of sharing intelligence – remind professionals of five outcomes and that we are here for the C&YP (moral obligation)
- Replication/duplication is costly, time consuming
- Don't re-invent the wheel.
- Learning!!

C&YP feel they are taken seriously, listened to and have influence.

- Resources have been made available to train C&YP to feel comfortable when they take an active role in the decision making process. This training is a permanent resource to cater for the active C&YP group which is constantly changing.
- C&YP are given training and support to fulfil roles in planning, delivery and evaluation functions of services and is used.
- Peer training/mentoring eg, ex panel or forum members could, with training and support speak to others about how being involved made a difference – Case students.
- Ask C&YP how they would like to be involved, don't make assumptions. Ie, the Local Authority does not automatically build playgrounds with Section 108 money – that they ask C&YP what they want.
- C&YP are involved at the very first stage – and throughout the decision making or planning process.
- Be clear and explicit when NOT to consult eg, when a decision has already been made.
- C&YP can see the result of their suggestions and ideas. Action is taken, not more words, and it is advertised
- Publicity materials eg,
“you said.....”
”we did.....”
- Young people are rewarded in a financial or an accredited way (Money or certificates).
- C&YP are treated with respect through their involvement.
- Information/documents are written in young people friendly versions
- Provide clear user friendly info about how to contact us so they can be heard/listened - use a variety of different mediums, eg, web, email, phone etc.
- When sending things to be consulted upon (eg C&YP plan) include how consultation changed the previous version so in 08/09 tell how in 06/07 C&YP influenced them (or not).
- C&YP have an opportunity to join the Shadow Trust Board and to influence the C&YP plan.

Communities think that YP are not a liability

- Change in family culture
- Family time provide opportunities for family events – family activities ie, Activity Wall at Leisure centre
- Local facilities
- Case studies/evidence
- Marketing strategy
- YP contacting the media about events; revisiting the media role –
- Possible newspaper partner for some projects to get better coverage.
- Intergenerational work
- Get links with commercial industries – dispelling myths around C&YP eg, Wetherspoons and their rule of only two drinks for a family.
- Community Learning Partnerships (C&YP genuinely engaged)

You can't do it all at once

- Critical mass
- Cool kids

What's coming up?

Next 18 months

- Big changes
- Planned consultations
- Things bubbling under

Group 1

Identify/establish formal mechanism for consultation with C&YP
 LPSA Alcohol target completing in April 2008 planning for next stage (Martin Wilcock)
 Consultation on C&YP local district delivery plan
 Children to be consulted on redesign of Sure Start Garden (Spring 2008)
 Sure Start, Tamworth
 Children to be involved in planning for sessions at Sure Start Tamworth (Jan – Dec 2008)
 Close It – Scheme – evaluation & consultation
 Building Schools for the Future – Michelle Evans – Marketing and Communications Officer
 Picket Study
 One Day Conference?
 Web Survey
 Celebration event at Tamworth culmination of Happy and Health Eating March '08 (Sir Al Aynsley Green to attend)
 Children to design logos for staff and volunteers for Children's Centres across Tamworth
 Spring 08
 Budget consultation and Strategic Plan– Sep/Oct 2008
 Setting the priorities that feed into strategic plan and inform MTFS Nov/Dec 08
 Development of a County Council Staffordshire Community Engagement Strategy, March 08 – Dec 08 – Wendy Bailey CXO
 Children's Workforce Development Strategy
 Organise District C&YP conference

Ongoing

Community Partnership
 Training staff and colleagues at Sure Staff Tamworth and across the area "Listening to Children"
 Spreading the word and concrete action in participation at Barnado's
 Burtonwood 'Init' Project on-going (Julie Aleksink)

Group 2

Jan /Feb 2008

Scrutiny Dev Programme (Annual)

Hype Up What Life is like in South Staffs (Annual)

Jan – end March 2008

Homeless Strategy
 District Youth Council
 How YP are dealt with when visiting councils

Activity w/e – Muslim Youth Project
 (Format of Service Delivery)
 Leading to Programme

Spring 2008
 Specific dates?
 Consultation on programme Junior Youth Clubs SCVYS

Mar 2008

Draft CYP Engagement strategy

CT Partnerships ongoing review (performance manage)

District Youth Councils (consult on results (Hype Up)

Summer 2008

Bollywood Exhibition
 (Publicity & Awareness)

Sep/Oct 2008
 Development Forum – Self Evaluation
 [Revised Budget for Local Authority (LA)]

Group 3

April 2008 → Input into consultation process and events .

June 2008

Integrated Youth Services Strategy (IYSS)

SUMMER 2008

Feedback to C&YP & Orgs –? Date to be agreed
 Building Schools for the Future (BSF)
 Common Assessment Framework (CAF) information)

Dec 08

May 2009
 CC Elections

June '09

Mechanism for consultation with evidence/stats/recording

Hear for Right Standards underpin this worth.

Forthcoming consultations 08 and beyond

IYS

BSF

CAF

Workforce Development (HbyR)

Ed to → 18 years

2012 Games

CAMHS

Safeguarding

Sexual Health

C&YP LA

Compact (contact Lesley Bovington for more information on this (01543 308170 or lesley.bovington@lichfield.dc.gov.uk)

How LAs, Ind Sector work effectively together – code of practice – eg, 12 week minimum consultation period.

Group 4

- Integrated Youth Support Service (IYSS) [next 12 months]
- District Children's Trust Board [next 12 months]
- Placements Strategy (Residential Homes and Level 5 Foster Carers] - - next 6-9 months
- Community Learning Partnerships [next 6 months]
- Youth Service Restructure – re closure of buildings – (need to consult asap) [next 2-3 months]
- Emergency Duty Service Review [next 2-3 months]
- Consultate plus – developing involvement of Through Care – aged 15+ [next 6 months]
- New Health Promotion dept in North Staffs – will be setting priorities [April – June 2008]