



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 1 April 2008

Present:

Gill Stanford	-	Children's Commissioner for Staffordshire (Chair)
Laura Hilton	-	Staffordshire Arts & Museums Service
Les Simmons	-	Connexions
Nicky Elmore	-	Cannock Chase District Council
Rachel Taylor	-	Sth Staffs District Council
Sue Bond	-	Consultation Co-ordinator, Children's Fund
Sue Fox	-	Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Jean Coleman	-	Community & Partnership, Lichfield DC (representing Lesley Bovington)
Duncan Whitehouse	-	Scrutiny & Performance Manager, SCC
Liz Rouse	-	Surestart, Tamworth
Michelle Evans	-	Building Schools for the Future
Amanda Torr	-	East Staffordshire Borough Council
Nicola Wilson	-	Health & Consumer Services SC&H (representing Cath Wohlers)
Hilary Moat	-	Staffordshire Youth Service (representing Darren Foley)
Liz Peacock	-	Youth Offending Service
Sue Kent	-	Voice YP (regional manager)
Rona Borland	-	Staffs Acute Trust Children in Hospital
Sue Mulroy	-	Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator Young Parents
Sukey Bek	-	Sth Staffs PCT
Sheila Keeling	-	Children's Commissioner Admin Support

Apologies:

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
Kevin Byrne	-	Newcastle Borough Council
Rachel Munday Crates	-	Acting Manager, Children's Voice Project
Wendy Bailey	-	Public Relations, SCC
Lesley Bovington	-	Community & Partnership Manager, Lichfield DC
Lynn Powis	-	West Midlands Traveller Service
Mandy Davies	-	Advisor of PSHE/Drugs, C&LL
Caroline Escott	-	West Midlands Traveller Service, Travelling Children
Cath Wohlers	-	Health & Consumer Services, SC&H
Darren Foley	-	Youth Service
Dave Bengé	-	Lichfield CVS
Karen Hansford	-	South Staffordshire PCT
Mark Koszak	-	Staffordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services
Pauline Robins	-	Voice YP
Rachel Olley	-	National Alliance Childhood Cancer Patient Organisation
Ildie McIndoe	-	Staff & S Staff Family Support Team
Karen Brophy	-	Parent Partnership Service
Katie White	-	Sth Staffs District Council
Liz Kelay	-	Children With Disabilities Team, C&LL
Pauline McKie	-	Girl Guiding Staffordshire
Wendy Hall	-	Stafford Borough Council

Vicky Leese - Young Persons Drugs and Alcohol Project

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

Gill welcomed everyone to the group and introductions were made.

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 22 January 2008**

Four young persons' version of C&YP plan are

Members of the group were reminded of the benefit of the Children's Trust Website which can be found at

<http://www.staffordshirechildrenstrust.org.uk/acornnewsletter/>

If groups which to include an article, they should contact

staffordshirechildrenstrust@staffordshire.gov.uk or

cate.crawford@staffordshire.gov.uk

Members of the group were also reminded that Gill is in the process of compiling database with details of publications issued by the. To date – no publications have been notified to the office. Please email Kathryn.lowe@staffordshire.gov.uk

Gill confirmed that there were two items outstanding from the minutes, under item 4 – Gill is yet to liaise with Adrian Gough re HBR Standards inclusion into the Workforce Development Strategy.

3. **Building Schools for the Future (BSF)** Michelle Evans C&LL

A presentation was given on BSF at **Appendix A** about this single largest investment procedure into schools for fifty years which is likely to have a huge impact on children and young people.

Some suggestions were giving for some tools that may be useful to ensure meaningful consultation with yp.

- 'Planning for Real' a Neighbourhood Foundation interactive package.
- Consulting with Children Pack – Penny Lancaster – The Coram Trust

There will be a 2 day consultation event - one day for teenagers and one day for younger ones.

The following points were raised in the discussion

- Thought needs to be given to what questions the BSF team want answering eg, case studies and models in advance.
- Question to be answered – How can the children and young people shape the education they receive?
- Government agendas and stakeholders – must deal with what is raised.
- YP must see real change for the consultation not to be tokenistic.
- What about the teacher approaches to children and young people in schools?
- Restorative justice models for conflict resolution should be considered.
- Link to CAMHS in schools, looking at emotional health and well-being in

schools.

- Happy & Health project in Sure Start (11 Million) recommendations to be published – following consultations with a wide range of ages – 2-16 years - results could feed in. Tamsin Anderson at 11 million will have details.
- Have to make sure that there is contact with excluded children – What or what did school not do for them?

A small working group will be formed and the following group members offered their services or were nominated.

Sue Bond/Liz Rouse/Karen Harris/Rachel Evans/Mark Kozack, Les Simmons, Darren Foley, Rachel Munday-Crates

4. **Integrated Youth Support Services** Kim Jones, C&LL

Kim Jones gave a verbal presentation – giving the background the Integrated Youth Support Services More information can be found on the website.

5. **Consulting with young people with learning disabilities.**

Erin Withers, Education Inclusion, C&LL

Erin Withers has been conducting an early evaluation of implementation of the new post-14 transition strategy for young people with learning disabilities and difficulties, special educational needs. Part of this evaluation has involved consultation with young people and parents through visiting user/ support groups and questionnaires.

Erin would value any input people have about consulting with young people with ldd/ sen and also any feedback on the attached transition strategy and its implementation- it is subject to ongoing review and change. – Strategy at **Appendix C...**

6. **Sharing good practice**

Gill shared with the group that the Big Bruvver project in partnership with Staffordshire Fire Service has been nominated for a national award. Gill and the Fire Officer responsible for organising the vehicle etc are going to London on 14 May 2008 to receive an award. The project was really successful in capturing the views of yp visiting all districts except Burton on a Friday/Saturday night giving the opportunity for yp to enter a video diary room. A report has been written by Gill which is available for the group to read: Please contact Kathryn Lowe for a copy. It has been agreed that the DVD which many of the group have shown an interest in viewing has confidentiality clauses which prohibit its copying etc. Therefore, it is not openly available for viewing but Gill will consider its viewing in the right setting with appropriate controls. The DVD has a shelf life of two years and then it will be destroyed.

A 'Children in Care Council' has been formed. On 23rd November 2007 11 Million take over day the children who took over the Corporate Parenting Panel are keen to continue meeting. A diverse group aged 13 - 18 years who on the 1st Monday of the month, following Corporate Parenting Panel.

Sue Bond

Children Fund has changed – A Participation worker will soon be appointed and will help set up a younger Children in Care Council. Sue along with Les facilitates the Shadow Trust Board.

Acute Hospital Trust has tried to run focus groups which have been poorly attended – going out to families homes of children with life limiting illnesses – working with those who self-harm – difficulties to get to YP to come back and comment retrospectively. Thought about using a Dictaphone whilst YP are in hospital but the use of this has to go to Ethical Committee – Has set up parents group for YP.

Consultation through Creativity – Arts craft scheme started for individuals/committees for creative projects. Will provide link to be sent with more info.

East Staffs Shadow Trust Board set up in principal.

Codsall - Boxing club set up in Codsall – free leisure facility on Friday night. Complete community involvement.

District Trust Board – to reflect on last 12 months – participation/engagement – Family approach to developing services.

Martin Latham – Learning Skills Council works primarily wit 16-19 and has links with the Equalities and Diversity elements and he reiterated that engagement with communities is integral to the success of any project and he confirmed Learning Skills Organisation would wish to support whenever it could.

Cannock Trust Board is focusing its energies this year on the five 'Every Child Matters' outcomes to help define their priorities for the year and will be shortly running its first participation workshop from 10 am to 3 pm; The results of which will be the foundation of this years District C&YP Plan.

Tamworth Sure Start – Happy and Healthy Project. Sir Al Aynsley Green, England Commissioner for Children is attending the Drayton Manor Event on Tuesday 8 April 2008. There will be a pledge wall at the event.

Burntwood 'INIT' Project Fridays probably sometimes Saturday evenings up to 120 yp gathering at Sankeys Corner – Community Development Learning Partnership (CDLP) Gill)put together project to find out what yp want working with all agencies.

Community Engagement Group - - Consultation/Events to work together better in area to avoid duplication

Scrutiny– working with some Business Students from Rugeley – involving visit to school – using hearing by right standards. YP will be in a position to ask all directorates what level of participation has taken place.

Advised of info from Keele re older YP and Duke of Edinburgh Award

Voice YP campaigned for all Children in Care to have an Advocate –Voice YP offers good training for all participation workers. Will send link to cascade to group.

Burton 14-19 Emotional Health and Well Being transitional service – work with crisis teams – Anger Management/Self Esteem/Self Harming – Drop in – Monday to Friday 9-5.

Young Carers on Thursday evenings
Project – Fashion Show
Trying to get into secondary schools
Support transition into adulthood Support transition into adulthood

Sue Mulroy - teenage involved focus groups feed into Shadow Trust Board – collecting funding for areas.

University Findings (National Youth Parliament) doing well.

At the last election on back of voting papers was a list of issues, the overwhelming top issues were 3 in ten voters stating bullying issues was the over-riding concern including cyber=bullying. Next issue – places to go and anti-social behaviour. Young Members of Parliament going to House of Lords to take part in Debate. Youth Services struggling to get YP, Youth Action Council involved in all areas. Transport a big issue for many YP.

8 YP recently attended summit on substance misuse (YP's attendance was an after-thought) Packed agenda – at the end of the day YP had opportunity to influence the day – one YP reported back from a workshop – it is hoped that this group will form a focus group on these issues.

Project – junior sector voluntary work now looking at 13 plus going to work with Sue Bond on the forming of the junior shadow trust boards.

Project – teenage mothers experiences of antenatal care hoping to write up and will present at this forum on a future date.

Karen Hansford –school nurses are looking at the Hear by Right standards.

Youth Justice - community resolution – YP that fit criteria to receive reprimand (Prevention Team) Held in police station YOS initiative involving parents/YP/police.

Connexions – end of 12 mystery shopping report in the process of being prepared.

Any other business

Liz – YOS has been challenged with by HBR.

Les worked with 32 YP have asked to share suggestion about youth charters – why so many?

He suggest that all charters could be shared at next meeting and result in a Staffordshire Children's Trust Charter.

Agenda Item for Next Meeting

The participation sub group need to spend 30 minutes to one hour on the Hear by Rights Standards as a **standing agenda item**.

5. **Dates of Future Meetings**

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