



Minutes of the Children & Young Peoples Participation Sub Group

Tuesday 20th May 2008

Present:

Gill Stanford	-	Children's Commissioner for Staffordshire (Chair)
Lesley Bovington	-	Lichfield District Council
Rachel Taylor	-	South Staffordshire District Council
Diane Brindley	-	South Staffordshire PCT (representing Karen Hansford)
Caroline Forrest	-	South Staffordshire PCT (Student with Diane Brindley)
Rita H Langton	-	Vulnerable Childrens Division (Training)
Duncan Whitehouse	-	Staffordshire County Council - Law & Governance
Liz Peacock	-	Staffordshire Youth Offending Service
Su Bond	-	Children & Young Peoples Participation Team
Michelle Evans	-	Staffordshire County Council, C & LL
Kevin Byrne	-	Newcastle Borough Council
Mark Koszak	-	Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services
Les Simmons	-	Connexions
Darren Foley	-	Youth Service
Darryl Gough	-	Looked After Children Throughcare
Rona Borland	-	Acute Trust Hospital
Judy Goodson	-	Staffordshire Libraries
Jo Williams	-	Vulnerable Childrens Division, P & SD Team
Liz Rouse	-	Tamworth Sure Start/Barnardos
Jan Wakefield	-	School Improvement Division, C & LL
Sue Bardwell	-	School Improvement Division, C & LL (Part of Time)
Roger Emmet	-	School Improvement Division, C & LL (Part of Time)
Mandy Davies	-	School Improvement Division, C & LL
Rachel Munday-Crates	-	Childrens Voice, Vulnerable Childrens Division
Irene Williamson	-	Road Safety Officer (Part of Time)
Martin Latham	-	Learning Skills Council
Kathryn Lowe	-	Support Officer to Children's Commissioner (Minutes)

1. **Apologies**

Received from Karen Harris, Rachel Olley, Nicky Elmore and Katy Warren, Machita Denny

2. **Welcome & Introductions**

Gill welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

3. **Minutes and Matters Arising**

- Four young peoples versions of the plan have been produced :-
One for 16 - 19 year olds, one for 11 - 16 year olds, 1 for the under 11's and one for children with disabilities.
- If anyone has any articles for the database, please send them to Kathryn Lowe.

- Gill has received a National Award for the Big Bruvver Project. She attended a presentation in London to collect the award which was presented by News Reader Dermot Monahan.
- On Page 4 in Sharing Good Practice. Darren Foley's paragraph should read:- 'In the recent UK Youth Parliament, the top issues to come out were bullying with over 3,000 votes and the lack of affordable places to go which can then lead to anti-social behaviour'. Full reports will be circulated to the group.

Also in Darren's update - 4 Members of the Youth Parliament recently visited the House of Lords and took part in a debate around issues or importance. They also selected 3 national priorities for next year. This has recently been screened on BBC Parliament.

4. School Council Plans

Roger Emmett and Sue Bardwell attended for this item.

Sue thanked the group and Gill for letting them present their proposal. Two documents were tabled.

Most Secondary Schools and Special Schools now have School Council and some of the Primary Schools do also, although as there are 354 Primary Schools, this will take more time.

The aim is to set up a District School Council and a County School Council. It is envisaged that every school elect a representative to the District School Council, then every District School Council then elect a representative to the County School Council. These Councils will then be able to focus on school issues rather than Community issues which can be dealt with in other arenas. The outcomes will provide a valuable and qualitative evidence base which can be used to shape Staffordshire's Secondary Strategy and crucially, the Building Schools for the Future programme.

A lot of discussion took place regarding the pros and cons of this and how this will impact on the District Shadow Trust Boards.

Lesley Bovington was concerned that children's voices could get lost at a political level and was struggling to see a role for the District School Councils.

Roger Emmett explained that Kim Jones and Graham Bott from the Youth Service thought that it would be a good way of promoting links to a much higher degree. Roger also explained that this would be a five year process. It has already been piloted in Newcastle which has been very effective.

Sue and Roger stated that they would not be stealing anyone's thunder and that this would be working together as we are all striving to the same goals.

Darryl Gough made the point that not all young people go to school and would there be an opportunity for these young people.

Kevin Byrne was concerned that the District Councils may feel that power is being taken back.

Liz Rouse raised the point of engaging Primary Schools and concern that no-one should be left out.

A training session for 8 teachers will be taking place on 15th July.

A copy of the proposal and teachers names attached to these minutes.

Action: KL to send SB copy of all District Childrens Leads.

5. Participation Framework including Hear by Right Standards and Terms of Reference

Framework

Gill tabled her Draft Framework for the Participation of Children and Young People. The Group were asked to read through up to Page 16 and comment or add or amend. Comments were as follows:-

- a) Page 9 - Add in about benefits, citizenship and responsibilities.
- b) Establish a mechanism to and from VIA to District Trust Boards.
- c) It was agreed to define a timescale in feeding back to the young people and perhaps sending them one or more acknowledgements.
- d) Strengthening networking mechanisms.
- e) Detailing consultation in documents to evidence it has been done.
- f) Using the right terminology and not setting ourselves up for a fall.
- g) A need for Health & Safety Risk Assessments and Child Protection to be included in the Framework.

The group agreed the basic underpinning of the Framework. Once completed this will be sent out to the Group electronically for comment and then taken to the Board.

Gill also tabled two more documents which have been devised by Les Simmons. One was a diagram that Les devised after the training with Paul Muir.

Jan Wakefield commented on the documents and found them really useful as they encapsulated the process, which she has found useful in her daily role.

Gill commented that the network had become a little stale and that she relies on the same 7/8/9 people who help her out but needs the involvement of more of the group.

Gill reiterated that the framework developed by the Children's Commissioner is underpinned by recognised standards for participation (Hear by Right).

The Terms of Reference state that the group have the responsibility to drive the children and young peoples plan and make sure that children and young people know they have a plan and they have involvement in devising it.

Gill stated that we have a lack of celebrating and publicising children's achievements and involvements. A comment was made that 70% of all media coverage of children

and young people is negative.

A suggestion was that a record of all successes and celebrations be kept regarding what children and young people have done.

Michelle Evans from the Communications & Marketing Team volunteered to be the central communications contact within the group and to devise a communications plan.

Action: ME to devise Communications Plan.

Comments were also raised about the consent issue for photographs of children and young people and that some press would not use a photo if a child's name was not given in full.

Gill explained that at the moment the legal department are currently updating their consent process

Action: GS to liaise with Legal

Gill announced that the launch of the Children & Young Peoples Plan will be taking place on Friday 30th May at Alton Towers. 40 young people including VIA, Children in care and children with disabilities will all be attending.

It was agreed after much discussion to change the heading of 'Organisational Principles and Targets' as there was a risk regarding performance management.

There are still a few gaps in the groups, ie, faith groups, BME, Asylum Seekers, CLP's. If anyone knows of any groups or names, contact Kathryn.

It was agreed that Darren Foley, Liz Peacock, Jo Williams and Rachel Munday-Crates would volunteer to help out with VIA. Thanks to them.

6. Building Schools for the Future

Michelle Evans updated the Group on the forthcoming 2 day conferences.

The dates are 8th and 9th July at Drayton Manor Park. Letters have been sent to the schools. There will be 190 children attending over the two days from both Primary and Secondary Schools.

The day will be based around the school day with each activity taking them through a different element of that day. The MiPod will also be there asking questions.

Anyone wishing to volunteer to facilitate a workshop of help to take notes, contact Michelle - michelle.evans@staffordshire.gov.uk, likewise if anyone has any freebies they could spare.

7. Irene Williamson - Road Safety Officer

Irene attended to give a presentation on the Young Drivers Information Programme. This programme is aimed at 16 + who are the greatest cause for concern in the County. Young people are taking their mopeds into schools and the schools are raising concerns as they are not complying with school rules.

The young persons Road Safety Audit reported that the following were the 5 key points:-

Speed, Drink and Drug Driving, Peer Pressure, Inexperience and not wearing seatbelts.

There is also a Crash Investigation Programme that takes place in schools whereby the children take on the role of the Crash Investigation Officer and try to work out what caused the crash.

The training packs can be taken out on loan from the Road Safety Team for 3 months at a time. They contain everything you need to facilitate it.

There has also been extensive marketing and publicity to raise awareness of the campaign.

The Road Safety Team have also been working with an insurance company to secure an incentive plan for newly qualified young drivers, whereby they will get a financial reward for good driving.

If anyone would like any more information regarding the programmes or the insurance incentive, please contact Irene - irene.williamson@staffordshire.gov.uk.

8. Any other Business

- a) Sex Education Forum - Online Survey - The Sex Education has launched an online survey to find out what young people think should be included in sex and relationships education. More information can be found on www.ncb.org.uk/sresurvey or www.ncb.org.uk/sef.
- b) Home-Start Stafford are holding a Big Tea Party on 28th May at 2.00pm at Sandon Hall - any other information, contact: www.home-start.org.uk/bigteaparty.
- c) Flourish 08 - Help for those who want to apply and application form - Flourish are looking for submissions for a brand new exhibition to be held in Liverpool in October 2008. This will be the third annual exhibition of artwork by looked after children and young people across the County. All other information, contact: infor@flourish-art.org. or www.flourish-art.org
- d) Youth Work News - Multi-Million pound investment for youth centres. Local authorities in England are to be given 190m over the next three years to build youth centres.

9. Sharing Good Practice

Liz Rouse - Tamworth Sure Start /Barnardos - Liz updated the group on the Teenage & Young Parents' consultation Feedback and the Happy & Healthy Report. Anyone wishing to have copies, please contact Kathryn Lowe.

Darryl Gough - Looked After Children Throughcare - Annual Report now available, anyone wishing to receive a copy contact Darryl.gough@staffordshire.gov.uk or Kathryn Lowe. Also, the £25K from Aim Higher has now been pulled and put towards something else.

Darren Foley, Youth Services - Two young people have received the Seen and Heard Award. Darren recently attended a meeting at Government Officer organized by Participation Works. There are now voting handsets available to use - these are free to borrow and can be booked out.

Rachel Munday-Crates, Children's Voice - Nominations now being taken for the young

people in care awards. Nominations to Rachel.

Judy Goodman, Staffordshire Libraries - 2008 is National Year of Reading. Judy to attend next meeting and give presentation.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday 29th July 2008, Rooms 9 & 10, Corporate Reception, Stafford