

The Involvement of Children and Young People

An important part of the production of the Children & Young People's Plan is the involvement of children and young people themselves. Whilst we have been unable in this first edition to do this as effectively as we would have liked an overarching priority for 2006/07 is to ensure that children and young people are directly involved in the production of future updates of the Staffordshire Children & Young People's Plan.

Although children and young people have not been involved in the production of this Plan, a survey was undertaken with a group of 94 young people from Staffordshire asking for their views about the Children and Young People's Plan in general. Basic headline feedback revealed that:

- 15% know there is a plan
- 13% know what it is for
- 72% 'strongly agree/agree' organisations should plan and work together (no-one 'disagreed', the rest answered 'don't mind')
- 93% think it is 'very important/important' that young people are involved in the development of the plan
- 60% think the trust board should make sure that happens, 2% don't, the rest were unsure

From these results, it is recommended that we:

- widely publicise and clearly communicate the plan, and what it is for, to children and young people
- involve young people in the plans implementation
- ensure that those who are interested in getting involved are given the opportunity to so do
- where appropriate, following up any additional comments made and, if applicable, using them to inform the plan.

A children and young people's version of the current Plan is being produced and as well as being circulated widely to children and young people in Staffordshire, it will also be available on the Children's Trust website. For further information please contact gill.stanford@staffordshire.gov.uk.