

EAST AYRSHIRE**COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP FORUM – 19 OCTOBER 2011****ENGAGING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN EAST AYRSHIRE****Report by Head of Service: Community Support****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1** To inform the Community Health Partnership Forum of the range of consultations undertaken since November 2010, the issues raised and outcomes, where relevant.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** East Ayrshire is committed to ongoing consultation and engagement with children and young people and strives to ensure this reflects the broad range of topics and issues relevant to young people's lives. This report summarises the range, issues and outcomes of the consultations.

- 2.2** The report details the findings of the following consultations and engagements.

- East Ayrshire Children & Young People's Representative Forum
- Youth Conference
- Scottish Youth Parliament Elections
- Budget Consultation
- Children & Young Person's Service Plan
- C.O.G.S.
- Flowerbank Nursery and Family Centre Consultation
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran Maternity Strategy
- NHS Ayrshire & Arran Oral Health Strategy
- Kilmarnock Town Planning Consultation.

2.3 East Ayrshire Children & Young People's Representative Forum.

The Forum has completed its fourth year of operation during which it had a training/induction day, three business meetings and an annual evaluation workshop. The topics discussed at the business meetings were, health, exploration of funding of public services and EAC budget consultation, territorialism, bullying and gang culture.

The Forum selected eight members to form an Executive Group which met with three Elected Members after each Business Meeting.

A total of 59 attendances were recorded at the three meetings.

- 2.4** Health – the young people identified sexual, physical & mental health issues for discussion in workshops. The outcome of this meeting was that Lead Officers from NHS Ayrshire & Arran and EAC Leisure Development

responded to the Forum with detailed information. The evaluation indicated that young people gained in knowledge and information and would share this with other young people.

- 2.5** The second meeting comprised wholly of a specific consultation to inform the council's budget setting. Evaluation indicated young people gained much from the information provided, would share this with others and welcomed the opportunity to exchange views in a "friendly environment".
- 2.6** The topic for discussion at the third meeting of the Forum was Territorialism, Bullying and Gang Culture. Evaluation comments indicated young people learned of the historic aspect of gang culture and the discussion stressing the seriousness of bullying "was really beneficial".
- 2.7** Following all meetings the key issues were reported to the Executive Group and passed to Lead officers, relevant Community Planning Partners and Council departments.
- 2.8** During a review the young people identified the following as Forum achievements:
- New information on school nurses will enable young people to be aware of how to access the service;
 - Action points being passed to Lead Officers and replies received;
 - Opportunity to have our say and being listened to;
 - Information being passed through pupil councils;
 - Information being put on plasma screens;
 - Report passed to head teacher from C&YPRF;
 - Increased knowledge of young people;
 - Builds sense of solidarity between young people in different areas in East Ayrshire;
 - Good partner agency input;
 - Being consulted on the Budget, 'A Right Blether' and the Children & Young People's Services Plan.
- 2.9** Overall the feedback from Forum members was positive, however other issues were raised in relation to schools, e.g., "not enough opportunity for representatives to discuss up-coming issues with their peers", it's important that schools advertise the school nurse service." Young people would like to rename the Forum.
- 2.10 Annual Youth Conference**
The 15th Annual Youth Conference took place in April 2011. Sixty-eight young people attended and participated in this year's topic of Internet Safety. The format of short film, drama and workshop was evaluated very positively. It is particularly noteworthy that 70% said that they would change their on-line behaviour as a result of the day, in a follow up with 12% of attendees all reported changing their on line behaviour.
- 2.11** A further outcome from the Conference was the production of an Internet Safety poster designed by young people on the day and judged by all attendees to be the best. Plans are underway for printing and distribution of

the poster across East Ayrshire to continue to raise awareness of staying safe when using the internet.

2.12 Scottish Youth Parliament elections

Just over 2700 young people took part in the Scottish Youth Parliament Elections in March 2011, more than a 20% increase on the previous elections. Three young people were elected to represent the area.

2.13 Budget Consultation

In late November /early December 2010, the Council, as part of its broader Budget Consultation, consulted with 4 focus groups of young people. In total 87 took part ranging from around 11 years to 19 years old. The collated results showed that each of the four groups had a different top priority, these were:

- Taking families out of poverty by helping to create jobs.
- Tackling poverty and homelessness.
- Good housing for everyone.
- Making sure young people have the skills for work.

The outcome of this consultation was that the findings helped inform the Council budget setting.

2.14 Large scale consultation to inform the Children and Young People's Service Plan 2011-15

Over the autumn of 2010 a large scale consultation was undertaken to inform the priorities of the Children and Young People's Service Plan 2011-15 and a report was provided to the Officer Locality Group: Children and Young People on 25 January 2011.

To secure the views of a large number of children aged 2-21 years a number of consultation and engagement tools were used including;

- An online questionnaire
- Focus groups
- VOXUR Unit (a mobile video unit)
- Postcard Survey
- Simplified questionnaire
- Worker supported age appropriate activities' for children under 8 years including scribed drawings and mindmaps

In total, the views of 903 children and young people were submitted.

The consultation was based on the priorities of the previous Plan with children and young people being asked to rate these as very important, important, fairly important or not important.

Specific questions were also included to inform the work of East Ayrshire Child Protection Committee.

Below is a summary of the ratings for very important or important;

- Being safe and protected – 99%
- Additional help for children and young people who need it – 98%
- Being able to get help from Health services like the School Nurse, Doctor or Dentist when you need it.-98%
- Crime and anti social behaviour being tackled- 97 %
- Children and families getting help with their problems before these become big problems – 97%
- Having safe roads- 97%
- Being able to take part in activities such as play , recreation and sport - 92%
- Having a say in your community and decisions that affect you – 85%

The findings are reflected in the values and guiding principles of both the Children and Young People' Services Plan and the Child Protection Committee Business Plan both 2011-15:

- **Access, equality and quality** – a range of high quality services should be available to children, young people and their families at the time they need them and in the places that make sense to them. Children and young people should be supported in the context of their own families and local communities / services, unless it is not safe or appropriate to do so.
- **Prevention and early intervention** - intervening early, particularly in the early stages of a child's life, where appropriate.
- **Active participation and partnership** - children, young people and their families should be active participants in designing, planning and reviewing the services they receive. Agencies will work in partnership with them and each other to promote self reliance.
- **Protection:** Agencies will work with each other and with families to ensure that children and young people are kept safe.
- **Rights and Responsibilities:** Agencies will work with children, young people and their families in a way which ensures that their rights and responsibilities are clearly recognised and promoted.

2.15 Continuous Opportunities for Gathering and Sharing

The Continuous Opportunities for Gathering and Sharing (COGS) process is intended to add to the existing consultation mechanisms by supporting practitioners and professionals to secure the views of children and young peoples in the course of their daily interaction. The aims are:

- To identify what is of importance to children and young people and to gather their views on these matters.
- To develop clear processes for recording issues of importance to children and young people.
- To establish mechanisms for reporting children and young people's views into the planning processes and feeding back the outcomes.

2.16 The intention was that practitioners would report those issues which could not be resolved through local actions. The reporting template does not ask if or

indeed how issues have been addressed. This would not be feasible or desirable.

In April 2011 practitioners were requested to submit the views of children and young people collected over the previous months.

Children in The Dads 'n Kids Healthy Living Course , Family Learning Programme in New Cumnock Primary School reported that they enjoyed coming to the activities and particularly liked the fitness fun games and healthy cooking with dad sessions. They reported that learning things with an adult was good.

Fenwick Pre-5's Nursery reported children's concerns about the broken glass in the swing-park and the broken climbing frame. They would also like to have a fence put round the garden so that they can play outside, have toys out and locked gates to make them feel safe.

Mauchline Primary school P7's expressed concerns on community safety issues, better transport links and need for maintenance of roads and park facilities.

The CLD Youth Outreach Team received concerns from young people about dog dirt on the streets, the lack of pavement maintenance and being continually stopped, searched or moved on by police. Territorialism was reported to cause fights and stop young people using facilities/provision in other areas.

Leisure Development Services reported that there were no issues raised by children and young people which required reporting onwards.

2.17 Flowerbank Consultation

Flowerbank Nursery and family Centre is being relocated to the Woodstock School site, as part of the statutory consultation, a specific consultation was undertaken on 15.6.11 with the children currently attending the Nursery and Family Centre.

A puppet called Mr Crow whose nest overlooks the new nursery helped the children make a mind map of their thoughts on the relocation. A photograph of the existing Woodstock was also used and elicited comment from one child who commented that it looked like a hospital.

The majority of the comments concerned the outdoor area, possibly because Flowerbank has recently developed the outdoor area. Children particularly want trees and flowers at the new nursery and also had preferences for particular colours of paint to be used on the building.

One child was concerned his aunt would not know where to pick him up. The mind map is at appendix 2

2.18 NHS Ayrshire & Arran Maternity Strategy

Thirty young women aged between 15 – 17 years from Loudoun Academy and Kilmarnock Academy were consulted during the development of the above strategy. The Board commented that they were “particularly encouraged that senior school pupils had not only taken part in the consultation but made a valuable contribution through their questions and responses”.

2.19 NHS Ayrshire & Arran Oral Health Strategy

Twelve young people took part in a survey via the Dialogue Youth Website on their knowledge regarding good dental health and practise. The information gathered informed the above Strategy.

2.20 Kilmarnock Town Planning Consultation

Seventy nine young people between the ages of 11 – 25 years took part in a consultation to inform the Integrated Urban Development Plan for Kilmarnock. The young people were asked for their ‘Likes’ and ‘Dislikes’ about Kilmarnock. Nine young people liked the good size and easy access to the town while another nine thought the town was a friendly place to visit. Forty five young people disliked the “junkies and undesirables” hanging about the town while 27 thought that there was not a big enough variety of shops. This survey was carried out in partnership with CLD, Young Scot and Kevin Murray Associates.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Community Health Partnership Forum is requested to:

- (i) note the content of this report.

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Head of Service: Community Support

APPENDIX 1

Practitioner	Engagement	When	Participants
1) Forge Ahead Project	Family learning session- Dads and Kids Healthy living Course	Feb – May 2011	Unknown
Views: 1) Children reported through evaluation that they enjoyed attending the activities. They particularly liked the fitness fun games and the healthy cooking with Dad sessions. They said that learning things with an adult was good and made some suggestions for future events.			
Comment: Locality or establishment specific			
2) Early Education and Childcare Practitioner	Circle time session in pre-school partner service	30 th March 2011	5 Pre –school children, children and young people resident at Montgomery Place
Views: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In discussion on the local swing park , children made the following comments; • “I was scared I would get hurt” Aged 4 • I want to know how the glass got there” Aged 4 • We need to stop the bad boys putting glass in the swing park Age 4 • We need to fix the broken climbing frame – Age 3 • In discussion on the Nursery garden the following comments were made; • We need a fence so we can out some toys in the garden – age 3 • We need the gates to lock to stay safe – age 4 • No strangers – age 3 • We want to go outside in the nice weather and play – age 3 			
Comment: Locality or establishment specific			
3) P7 Teacher Mauchline Primary Worker	Class discussion	19 April 2011	Whole primary 7 class
Views: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater Police presence in the village , not just Friday night • Would like to see the train station opened again. • Greater number of bins for litter and dog waste • Pot holes in road need mending properly • New swing park needed in Beachgrove Park • Burn’s Monument open more regularly • Alexander Terrace Park needs new , safe equipment • Cycle lanes for safe cycling • More phone boxes • A new bypass 			
Comment: Locality specific			

4) Youth Outreach Team	Street engagement with young people	Auchinleck Oct 2010-March 2011	unknown
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people complaining about amount of dog dirt on streets 			
Comment:			
Locality specific			
5) Youth Outreach	Street engagement with young people	New Cumnock Dec 2010	Unknown
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken pavements due to icy weather 			
Comment:			
Locality specific			
6) Youth Outreach	Street engagement with young people	Nov 2010 Shortlees, Riccarton, Bellfield	unknown
Views:			
1) Territorialism is a big issue in these areas as it causes fights and stops young people using services in other areas.			
Comment:			
Locality specific			
7) Youth Outreach	Street engagement with young people	Cumnock Nov 2010	Not stated
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No public toilets open in the evening . 			
Comment:			
Locality specific			
8) Youth Outreach	Street engagement with young people	Catrine Nov 2010	Unknown
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people fed up with being stopped on the street by Police for nothing. 			
Comment:			
Locality specific area			
9) Youth Outreach	Street engagement with young people	New Farm Loch Dec 2010	Unknown
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people not happy about being stopped and searched by police 			
Comment:			
Locality specific			
10) Youth	Princes Trust XL	Catrine Jan	Unknown

Outreach	Group and one to one support with individual pupils.	2011	
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog dirt on pavements in the schemes is really bad 			
Comment:			
Locality specific but raised in a number of areas.			

11) Youth Outreach	Youth Outreach	Cumnock Feb 2011	Not stated
Views:			
1. Lots of dog dirt on the pavement.			
Comment:			
Locality specific but raised in a number of areas.			

12) Youth Outreach	Street engagement.	March 2011 Shortlees, Bellfield and Riccarton	Unknown
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young person stated they are regularly stopped by the Police for no reason (stop and search) and they have never committed a serious crime. 			
Comment:			
Locality specific but raised in a number of areas.			

