

COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

FORUM – 15 DECEMBER 2010

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 issues raised by children and young people as part of the Council and its community planning partners arrangements in place for engaging with children and young people in East Ayrshire.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In May 2007 East Ayrshire Council agreed that as part of its decision making arrangements, a Children and young People's Representative Forum (C&YPR Forum) would be established alongside the Local Community Planning Forums and the Equalities Forum. The Forum is supported by three Elected Members and officers of East Ayrshire Council.
- 2.2 The C&YPR Forum is made up of young people from the following groups:
- The three members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYPs) for East Ayrshire.
 - Representatives from all Secondary Pupil Council in East Ayrshire.
 - The four Local Youth Forums.
 - The Looked After and Accommodated Forum.
 - Young People with a disability (special schools, and or/representative groups).
 - Representatives from minority ethnic groups.
 - A young employee from East Ayrshire Council.
 - Student representatives from Kilmarnock College and Ayr College.
- 2.3 An Executive Group of eight young people are elected by their peers to meet Elected Members after each Children and Young People's Representative Forum.
- 2.4 In keeping with the practice relating to Community Planning Forums, the key issues relating to topics, outcomes and decisions taking place at the Forum meetings are recorded. The relevant key issues are directed to the Executive Group for their further consideration. Key issues are then passed on to the relevant Community Planning Partners, Council Departments or Local Forums for action and feedback to the young people.
- 2.5 In addition to the C&YPR Forum various other methods for engaging with Children and young people are in place including the Youth Outreach Project, Nightly record Sheets from CLD youth groups, Dialogue Youth Project, Pupil

Councils, Local Youth Forums and the Looked After and Accommodated Children & Young Person's Forum.

There were three C&YPR Forum meetings in 2009/10. They identified three topics for action. These were:

2.6 Drugs & Alcohol Misuse

- This was a joint meeting with the Local Community Planning Forums and was attended by Christina Kinear, one of the Youth Commissioners on Alcohol.
 - One outcome of this was that the views and opinions of the meeting informed the final report of the Youth Commission.

2.7 Transport

- The Forum requested cheaper public and school transport for all young people.
 - One outcome is that SPT, although having no control over the cost of public transport due to the deregulated market, can raise the issue with the operators. This outcome has a medium to long term time scale. In the meantime Dialogue Youth are actively promoting the discounted travel for the 16 – 19 years age range through the Young Scot/NEC.

2.8 Anti-Social Behaviour

- The young people requested the provision of more information on voluntary work opportunities.
 - One outcome is that the Forum was advised that SportsScotland Active Schools East Ayrshire were looking for volunteers to assist with school-based sports and activity clubs. No experience is required for this as full training and support will be given.

2.9 In addition to the business/topic meetings there is an Annual Workshop where the young people review and evaluate the past year.

2.10 In evaluating the process, young people have reported a number of positive outcomes as a result of being consulted through the processes outlined above. These outcomes include that their confidence has grown and that “the Forum is useful as some very important aspects of life as a teenager can definitely be improved by work and perseverance”. Other outcomes include making new friends and a better understanding of how the Forum can help make an impact on decisions made for young people in East Ayrshire.

2.11 Continuous Opportunities for Gathering and Sharing (COGS)

2.11.1 The Continuous Opportunities for Gathering and Sharing (COGS) process is intended to add to the existing process by supporting practitioners and

professionals in the course of their daily interaction with children and young people. 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.

2.12 Since May 2009 awareness raising sessions have been rolled out across agencies, staff groups, partners and networks. In January 2010 copies of COGS were distributed to the Child Protection Committee, Community Health Partnership Forum, Community Health Partnership Officer Locality Group: Children and Young people, CLAD Management Team, Children and Families Management Team and Educational Psychologist Team for further dissemination to practitioners. In April 2010, all who had received either an awareness raising session or the document were contacted requesting submission of children and young people's views. The collated findings:

- In April 2010 practitioners were requested to submit children and young people's views collected over the previous months and these are provided in some detail at Appendix 1.
- 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.
- A number of issues reported on this first occasion could potentially have been resolved more locally. For example, a practitioner reports that a child/ children's view that *"Decisions being made by Social Work about young people without taking their view into account"*. A practitioner could have raised this matter directly with appropriate colleagues or supported the child to do so.
- Further guidance on the submission of views will be provided when requests are next made are to practitioners.

Views expressed:

- The St Xavier's School Assembly reported on issues of playground games and after school activities, the reintroduction of Rafting also featured. On curriculum matters, the school agreed to continue use of EducationCity.com and recognised a wish for more practical activities on Food and Nutrition.
- Children from Montgomery Place Children's House provided a list of desirable attributes for residential staff; the report also indicates the residents would like to change the name of the house.

- Children from Sunnyside Children's House are requesting access to social networking web sites such as Facebook and Bebo.
- 12 children and young people were consulted on the layout of current Have Your Say forms.
- Through the use of circle time children and young people identified bullying as concern for the children and young people.
- Young people feel there is nothing to do and there is a lack of facilities in Kilmarnock Town Centre in the evenings and at weekends. A particular request is made for a Skate Park and attention is drawn to poor relationships with Police. At two MSYP surgeries a request was also made for a Skate Park and for a Street Sport Cage in Bonnyton.
- A young person felt Social Work made decisions without taking their views into account, that Education is against them and that territorialism is an issue. A very specific issue was raised about lack of support for young people who have to give evidence in court.
- Young people report poor relationships with adults in authority including Police and Wardens, that they would like a Youth Cafe, a Skate Park and Quad Track. The cost and frequency of rural public transport was raised as an issue as was access to swimming, gyms and ice skating. A lack of activities for children under 12 years olds was also raised.
- One young person used the EAC Quick Contact to report he feels there is nothing to do in New Cumnock and could they have bike ramps as when they built these they got into bother and the ramps were taken away.

2.13 This is the first time information has been collated in relation to COGS. It gives an invaluable insight into issues raised either by individual or groups of children and young people. Some issues will have been taken forward locally and specific issues should have been dealt with locally. Some issues, such as those relating to access to activities can easily be fed into the Children and Young Persons Forum and used, as appropriate, to plan services.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The Community Health Partnership Forum is requested to:

- (i) note the content of this report.

Kay Gilmour
 Head of Service: Community Support
 (Updated by CHP Facilitator Dec 2010)

APPENDIX 1

Practitioner	Engagement	When	Participants
1) Head Teacher	St Xavier's School Assembly	March 2010	27 primary pupils present on the day
Views: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Pupil Council to audit current playground games as there was a feeling this could be further strengthened. 2) Greater use of practical activities when delivering CfE outcomes relating to Food and Nutrition 3) Extended use of Gym Hall to create After-school Club in new session, particularly in Table Tennis. 4) Re-instate Outdoor Education (Rafting) as annual feature of school life. Due to restricted finances this was not under-taken in the present session. 5) To continue the use of Educationcity.com as a tool to support Out of School Learning. 			
Comment: Locality or establishment specific			

2) Manager, Intensive Support	Planning and Development event with staff and young people	27 th March 2010	4 children and young people resident at Montgomery Place
Views: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Young People felt that when recruiting residential workers new staff should be/have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide you with new experiences. • Someone who listens. • Have a sense of humour. • Caring. • Don't hold grudges. • Don't cast things up. • Don't have favourites. • Give advice. • Gives leeway. • Good to get on with. • Also young people wanted to change the name of the unit. 			
Comment: Locality or establishment specific			

3) Residential Childcare Worker	Sunnyside, Children's House Survey and Circle time	5 th May 2010	Children and young people resident in Sunnyside, number not stated
Views: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People would like to access social networking sites such as Bebo, Facebook and MSN. 			
Comment: Consideration needed across all houses.			

4) Team Manager, Fostering	Social Work (Fostering) Circle time follow up to consultation on Having Your Say forms	August 2009 March 2010	12 children and young people
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on layout and Design of current forms 			
Comment:			
Service improvement influenced by young people			

5) Senior Residential Childcare Worker	Kilmaurs Children's House Survey, Circle time, one to one, Interviews	5 th May 2010	Children and young people resident in Kilmaurs Children's House
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying 			
Comment:			
Local action to address; potential for consideration of potential wider issues of bullying procedures etc			

6) Community Worker Kilmarnock South, Central and Irvine Valley	Youth Outreach	Jan – March 2010	Not stated
Views:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Lack of activities and facilities for young people within the town centre of Kilmarnock at nights and weekends. 2) Poor relationship between young people and the police when young people hang around the streets at night time. 3) Skate Park facilities for young people 			
Comment:			
Useful information for service planning			

7) Community Worker KIL South, Central and Irvine Valley	Youth Outreach	23 rd March 2010	Not stated
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people stated that there is a lack of facilities and nothing to do in the area. 			
Comment:			
See 7			

8) Community Worker KIL South, Central and Irvine Valley	MSYP Surgery	15th April 2010	2
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people would like to have a Sports Cage in Bonnyton and cheaper rates for the Astro turf owned by Bonnyton thistle 			
Comment:			
See 7			

9) Community Worker KIL South, Central and Irvine Valley	MSYP Surgery	15th April 2010	3
Views:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people would like a skate park in the Kilmarnock area. 			
Comment:			
See 7			

10) Community Link Worker, Kilmarnock Learning Community South	Princes Trust XL Group and one to one support with individual pupils.	Various	Not stated
Decisions being made by Social Work about young people without taking their view into account			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Decisions being made by Social Work about young people without taking their view into account 2) Education being against them, subjects too hard and too hard to access for certain young people. 3) Territorialism 4) Not enough support for young people when having to give evidence in court. 5) Nowhere for children to play football in Gargieston area, 			
Comment:			
Need to separate out different issues			

11)Community Work Assistant (Youth Outreach) Kilmarnock South, Central and Irvine Valley	Youth Outreach	October 2009 – March 2010	Not stated
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Views:

1. Police and Community Wardens moving young people on when standing in groups and use of inappropriate (swearing) by Police Officers and
2. Wardens in C&DV and KN&NA.
3. Young People would like a Youth Café where they can safely hang around with their friends without getting hassle from Police, Community
4. Wardens or other Adults.
5. Dogs dirt on pavements
6. Request by young people for a Skate park and quad dirt track
7. Lack of public transport is a problem in rural areas. Buses are few and far between, timetables don't link up and service is too expensive
8. Lack of activities for under 12 year olds
9. Young people request better access to ice skating, gyms and swimming. Costs too high and transport a problem
10. Request by young people for somewhere to practise free running (Parkour)

Comment:

Useful information to support planning. Some comments are without context

12) Quick Contact via EA website	E-mail contact	20th June 2010	1
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Young person in New Cumnock reports nothing to do. They built bike ramps to play on but these were taken away. They want to know if they can have real bike ramps built to stop them getting into bother.

Comment:

Useful for planning services