

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

16 June 2011



PLYMOUTH
CITY COUNCIL

Resolution: 240311 / 93

Subject: Overview of children and young people's participation

CMT Member: Bronwen Lacey, Director of Services for Children and Young People

The participation of children and young people in decision making across the City has gone from strength to strength in the last five years. The recent Ofsted judgement emphasised that *"The voice and active participation of children and young people in service planning are outstanding. There is a significant body of evidence and examples of the work they have done to influence the council and the work of the Children's Trust."* Inspectors said: *"Opportunities for looked after children and care leavers to make a positive contribution are outstanding... Consultation with care leavers and looked after children is well embedded."*

Routeways were commissioned to provide an overview of participation and engagement of children and young people in their role as strategic participation leads. Their review incorporated the activities of a variety of statutory and voluntary and community organisations, including Equal Voices Routeways, PCC Youth Service, Devon and Cornwall Constabulary and others.

Since 2005 there has been a dramatic increase in the volume and impact of participation work to capture the voice of children and young people. A number of innovative approaches have been taken including DVD, redesigning services, photographic work.

Shaping the strategic direction and oversight of the Children and Young People's Trust

Over 1700 young people from across the City voted in the recent UK Youth Parliament elections – a 280% increase year on year.

Over 7000 children and young people have been involved in making a positive contribution through surveys and young people engage and support the rollout of surveys. The two main citywide surveys are:

1. TellUs Surveys (national annual surveys). An example of how Plymouth has improved and widened engagement is clearly shown in the difference between 2009 survey and 2010 survey take up -

	Pupils	Schools
TellUs 3	757	18 of 101 = 17.8%
TellUs 4	3,491	45 of 101 = 44.5%

Key messages around engagement specific questions from TellUs 4 are:

- 33% had given ideas through the Youth Parliament, School Council, etc; although this figure seems low they are in line with the national figures.
- 31% said their views had been listened to either a lot or a little, which again is in line with national figure.

2. Children's Fund Consultation - In total, 3047 children and young people participated in the 2007/08 consultation. A further 2532 children and young people were consulted in the 2010 consultation aged between 10-18, bringing the total number of children consulted so far to 7579.

- In the 2010 survey 31.4% of children and young people who responded to this question agreed or strongly agreed that their voices had been listened to.

For example 40 children and young people from across the city were invited to attend a session delivered in partnership by Routeways, the PCC Youth Participation Team and Policy and Performance Team to learn more about the benefits of the TellUs survey and how they can take ownership of the survey and embed it in their schools. As a result of this work the survey uptake increased from 18 schools participating in TellUs 3 to 56 schools in TellUs 4.

Young people are standing members of the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board and actively take part in discussions and recommendation setting.

91 different children and young people were involved in meeting with Ofsted inspectors during a recent inspection of Plymouth's Children's Services. The inspectors reported back that 'the voice and active participation of children and young people in service planning is outstanding'.

Plymouth Children and Young People's Trust Participation Network

Routeways have been commissioned as part of the strategic participation contract to develop a citywide participation network, the network continues to work across the Trust and members include: Equal Voices, The Zone, Plymouth Music Zone, Young Women's' Christian Association - Platform 51, Stonehouse Youth Project, Mount Wise Youth Project, Barbican Theatre, Youth Service, City Youth Council.

All participation groups are invited to join the network to get involved in strategic decision making and share information emerging from work they do with children and young people.

Helping to develop the children's workforce

Someone Who Listens- A DVD created by children and young people from Sir John Hunt and Woodlands Special School informing adult practitioners on the things that they need from workers across children's services. This DVD partners the training that was delivered by Workforce Development Team.

Children and young people from the Listen and Care Council would not have been involved in recruitment panels- helping to decide who is best to support them in their time of need

Designing and shaping frontline services through participation support

- Children and young people accessing CAMHS have had the chance to create their mental health five a day in order to start tackling the stigma associated to mental health, which forms part of their work to embed participation across the CAMHS service.
- Children and young people have been empowered to take charge of situations and challenge bullying behaviour under the guide lines of Bully Busters.

Participation is being developed in a variety of ways across all six localities:

North West Locality

- In the North West locality, children and young people worked to create an Evaluation Tool for Speech and Language Services that will be used to judge the service they receive.

Central and North East Locality

- In the Central and North East locality, Services for Children and Young People came together to review the current Relationship and Sex Education curriculum that is delivered in secondary school.
- 2008: Consultation across the Central and North East area, primarily in Schools and youthwork sessions with young people in the locality. This gained information around young people's likes, dislikes, availability and details to develop the youthwork programme (120 young people).
- 2010: Community Fun Day development in Eggbuckland (20 young people).
- 2010: School Consultation Day: Consultation across the Central and North East area, primarily in schools and youthwork sessions with young people in the locality. This gained information around young people's likes, dislikes, availability and details to develop the youthwork programme (53 young people).

Plympton Locality

- In Plympton locality, children and young people continue to develop the Bully Buster concept out to primary schools and are moving into secondary schools ensuring that tackling bullying remains high on the agenda for children and young people.

Plymstock Locality

- In Plymstock locality, there are lots of opportunities for children and young people to engage with services such as Plymouth Youth Sailing and the Mountbatten Centre.

South East Locality

- In the South East locality, Efford Youth Forum and the Young Carers continue to raise the voice of children and young people.
- **The Efford/Laira Youth Development Forum**
 - Has been running for over 6 years on a weekly basis and supported by PCC Youth Service. The young people are involved with various community groups such as 'The Heart of Efford Community Partnership' that makes a positive contribution to the local community by setting up community days and fundraising events. They have played a key role in the Efford Regeneration Project creating varied and creative ways to improve the green spaces and make the environment of Efford a richer place. This group also managed to source funding for a Multi-Use-Games-Area (MUGA) and a youth shelter used by local young people. This group is well established and decisions and actions are initiated by young people. This group hopes to empower young people who live in the Efford/Laira area to have a voice in their community, whilst at the same time enable them to access and learn from life experience.
 - The Greenbank/Mount Gould Forum is a new PCC Youth Service project which is still in its development phase. Youth workers are currently involved in building trusting relationships with young people on the streets of Greenbank and Mount Gould using the 'URBIE' bus. At this stage youth workers are consulting with local young people to discover how they can best meet their needs within this locality. Youth workers are currently using needs assessments to draw out key information and young people are involved with action planning for the future of this project.

South West Locality

- In the South West locality, there is a vast array of participative opportunities for children and young people including the Shadow Trust Young Representatives, Youth Cabinet, City Youth Council and Summer Mix many of which are opportunities that are open to children

and young people from across the city and that although are based in the centre of the city operate city wide.

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- PCC Youth Service Streetwise Team consulted with a group of targeted young people in the Stonehouse area as to the types of positive activities that they would participate in within their locality. The young people decided that football was an activity that the majority of them enjoyed and worked in partnership with the Streetwise team and the Stonehouse Mazda team to apply for a PAYP bid to create football opportunities for all young people in the neighbourhood.

Citywide

- **Plymouth City Youth Council**
Plymouth City Youth Council has met five times since it's creation in 2008. An average of 40 children and young people (aged 7-18) per meeting from across the city (see *Appendix 1, spreadsheet showing neighbourhoods represented*) have at different times consulted and given views on city wide issues including: outdoor education, transport, the media, NHS and the Blue Mile event and the Eco Schools Award to name just a few.
- **Plymouth Music Zone**
 - The Plymouth Music Zone has engaged an estimated 16,500 children and young people in the last 10 years delivering around 20,300 music workshops.
 - Plymouth Music Zone has worked with 86% of the primary schools in Plymouth, 63% of the secondary schools and all of the special schools as well as in a huge variety of other places.
 - Plymouth Music Zone is one of the most successful of 22 so called 'Youth Music Action Zones' nationwide set up in areas of social and economic deprivation.
- 2009: Consultation with young people at One Big Saturday event about URBIE-The 1st mobile youth provision. Young people told us what they did/didn't want (100 young people).
- 2010: Central Park Skatepark development. Young people designed the new skate park with the designer and project management group; Chose the design for the 'keepsake' from the old skate park and were equally represented on the interview panel to choose the specialist contractor to build the new park (37 young people).
- 2008-2010: Feedback and evaluation from formerly NEET young people attending the YMCA Pre-services course have supported the ongoing development of the Risk Reduction 3 weekly course. 17 courses have run to date (approx 170 young people).