

Preparing the Children and Young People's Plan 2010-25

Consulting Children and Young People on the Priorities

Feedback for Schools

September 2009

Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide feedback to schools on the responses received from the consultation exercise,

Children and Young People's Plan 2010-25 Questionnaire for Children and Young People

a consultation exercise where children and young people were asked to consider and prioritise issues that were important to them.

This document sets out the findings of the consultation exercise and how the exercise links with the development of the CYPP 2010-25.

Background information

In recognising the importance of gaining the views of children and young people, the consultation exercise was set up as part of the development of the Children and Young People's Plan 2010-25 (CYPP).

The purpose of the consultation was to ask children and young people what are priorities to. A questionnaire, based around the five Every Child Matters outcomes, was and a number of potential priorities were suggested. Respondents were asked . An open text box was available giving respondents the opportunity to offer their own ideas and suggestions.

Schools received a copy of the questionnaire in June 2009 and were asked to return completed questionnaires before the beginning of the school holidays.

Analysis of the responses

Of the 40,000 questionnaires that were printed and distributed to all schools in Sunderland, almost 5,000 responses were received, giving a 12% return.

The following is a breakdown and analysis of the priorities of children and young people, linked to the five Every Child Matters outcomes.

It is noted that 6% of those who completed the questionnaire put a tick in every box. This could suggest that for a small proportion of children and young people, all of the options given were of equal importance to them.

Emerging priorities – from the tick boxes

Respondents were asked to put a tick in the box next to issues important to them.

Some of the issues only relate to certain age groups and so it is likely different percentage points would be attached if we had broken the respondents down by age group.

Being Healthy

- Keeping Fit (78%)
- Healthy Eating (74%)
- Tackling Drugs and Alcohol (42%)
- Obesity (42%)
- Emotional and Mental Health (35%)
- Smoking (31%)
- Sexual Health (29%)
- Teenage Pregnancy (25%)

Staying Safe

- Feeling Safe in your Home, at School and in your Community (71%)
- Having a Stable, Loving Home (63%)
- Bullying (42%)
- Road Traffic Accidents (39%)

Enjoying and Achieving

- Achieving at School (70%)
- Enjoy School (60%)
- Play and Leisure Activities (59%)

Making a Positive Contribution

- Having Your Say (68%)
- The Environment (56%)
- Public and Media Perceptions of Young People (37%)
- Crime (35%)

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

- Going to College/University (74%)
- Having a job (72%)
- Going on Training Courses (45%)

Emerging Priorities - from the free text

Respondents were given the option to provide comments on any other issues not listed in the questionnaire. Approximately 30% of respondents chose to do this. Many of the comments related to some of the issues that the respondent had already ticked.

Being Healthy

As indicated previously, **keeping fit** continued to be mentioned as a priority for pupils, some mentioned increasing the amount of physical activities, increasing the use of gyms and more PE lessons in school:

"I think that gyms should be cheaper for younger people"

"...For children to try and exercise for 60 minutes a day"

Eating healthily was also often included in the comments:

"I think healthy eating and keeping fit are important because lots of children at a young age are becoming obese and it can cause them a lot of health problems when they grow up"

"All children need to have loads of fruit and veg"

Also mentioned regularly were the issues around **drugs and alcohol**. Many pupils mentioned addressing the issue of **smoking** (this was sometimes linked to them wanting their own family members to stop), whilst many highlighted the need to stop teenagers drinking alcohol. With regard to drugs, it was often highlighted that the use of drugs should be prevented, particularly stopping young people taking drugs, one or two pupils specified this should be done through lessons in school, others felt it was the job of the police.

Staying Safe

It is apparent that children are concerned about **teenagers** hanging around the streets. It is likely this relates to younger children rather than older children. This theme is linked closely with **crime**, as often, there is a perception that many of the crimes in local areas, such as vandalism and graffiti are closely linked (if not one and the same thing).

Although 64% pupils selected Having a Stable, Loving Family as a priority it is apparent that it is also important for school aged children to have good friendships, often, having healthy relationships with friends was mentioned as a priority.

Whilst bullying was an option within the questionnaire, some pupils chose to mention it again in the free text. A more specific issue to emerge was that of **peer pressure**. Tackling **racism** was also mentioned as a priority, as was **child abuse**:

"Stop child abuse"

"I strongly think child abuse is a strong priority in everyone's life, it must be very awful for people having to go through a horrible thing like that"

Enjoying and Achieving

Many pupils felt that improving **local facilities** was a priority, particularly in certain communities. Some of the facilities they wish to see are swimming pools, youth clubs and other out of school activities:

"Improved facilities for young people in Washington"

“Having good entertainment in the smaller towns such as Hetton and Houghton”

Pupils also often felt that **issues in their school** were a priority, examples of which include, teaching, suggestions on improvements to lessons, more equipment and more facilities in school (such as a swimming pool):

“I would like a swimming pool at our school and to stop Yr 6 SATs, can we leave school at 16 and go to college”

“More swimming baths, better sporting facilities in primary schools, stop year 6 SATs, less home work”

Making a Positive Contribution

Although lower numbers of pupils selected **crime** in the options for priorities, it is a very prevalent issue for them. A wide range of crimes were included, but many were based around **gun and knife crime. Gangs, graffiti and vandalism** were often talked about and often a definite link was made between these crimes and **young people hanging around on the streets**. Presumably, this was particularly pertinent with younger children.:

“Too many teenagers drinking on street corners”

“Not having teenagers or kids hanging around shops until late and drinking and even drugs”

Changing **the perceptions adults have of young people** was a priority, presumably for young people rather than children

“Teenagers are treated badly. Old people think we are annoying and abusive”

“Teenagers never get their say, we are always told how to run our life, old people think negative of us at first sight”

Specific issues regarding **the environment** were very common in the free text, these ranged from **more parks** in the local area, through to keeping the **community clean** by reducing litter, graffiti and other forms of vandalism. It was also apparent that pupils had an understanding of, and wished to focus on **wider environmental issues** as many mentioned issues such as recycling, green house gases, pollution and endangered species:

“Keep the environment clean”

“...stop pollution in the environment”

Achieving Economic Wellbeing

Several young people mentioned the economic climate, and specifically worries about getting a **good job** when they leave school, often this could be linked to the outcome of Enjoy and Achieve as many pupils linked getting a good job with **achieving at school**, and being taught the skills necessary to survive in the ‘adult’ world:

“Getting a good grade, therefore getting a good job”

“What options we need to take to get a good job”

"I will achieve keeping my work tidy and getting a good education so I could get a brilliant job to have a happy life"

How these views are being used

The responses to the consultation exercise are being used to:

1. Contribute towards the Children's Trust's written Assessment of Need – views from this report have already been incorporated into the draft assessment of need, from which a number of priority outcome areas have been identified. Any issue with over a 60% response rate was proposed as a priority. The Children's Trust is going to consider each of these outcome areas and agree a set of priorities, which will appear in the CYPP 2010-25.

Priorities emerging from the consultation include:

- Keeping fit and eating healthily
 - Feeling safe and having a stable home
 - Achieving at school, going to college and having a good job
 - Enjoying play and leisure
 - Having the opportunity to have a say
 - Anti-social behaviour
 - The environment
 - Adult perceptions of young people
2. Help the Children's Trust identify a theme for Citizenship Week 2009 – a planning group will be meeting to plan Citizenship Week and the views gained from this consultation exercise will be used to help identify a theme or themes for Citizenship Week

Respondents who gave their name and address will be entered into a free prize draw, where two winners will receive a £25 voucher for WH Smith. This prize draw will take place in August.

A review of the consultation exercise has already taken place. Any lessons learnt have been recorded and any future exercises will take these into account. This review has taken into account any comments, queries and questions that Headteachers brought to our attention.