

13-19+ Participation Strategy Project

Central Community Assembly Area Event Evaluation

1. Introduction

This report is a follow up of the seven events that happened in each Community Assembly to present the results of the Consultation and Participation report by the 13-19+ Participation Strategy Project carried out by The Children and Young People's Empowerment Project in partnership with Sheffield Futures. The project was commissioned by Sheffield City Council's Children and Young People's Department on behalf of the Sheffield 0 to 19+ Partnership Board (Sheffield's Children's Trust) as part of the delivery of Sheffield's 0 to 19+ Consultation and Participation Strategy, and has been overseen by the Multi Agency Participation Group, MAP (a sub-group of the 0 to 19+ Partnership Board).

Please refer to the previous report for further information on the project.

2. Agenda

The events were designed to present the work that has been carried out since August 2008 including the mapping of provision, audit of participation from both adults and young people and the launch of the Participation Toolkit. Young people were invited to present the findings from this work to key decision makers, service providers and community organisations. Presentations were delivered by youth people from Action for Stannington, C.A.S.T, Sheffield Youth Council and the NSPCC who met for seven weeks to build a team, prepare the presentations and plan the events. From this group discussions took place for people to discuss these results, consider how the involvement of young people could be increased and improved across the Community Assembly area and identify how everyone could contribute to this.

2.1 Location

The event took place at the Broomhall Centre on 28th October 2009.

3. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Phil Ashford	SCC – Safer Neighbourhoods
Tessa Harrison	Sheffield Futures
Denise Anderson	Sheffield Youth Carers
Liz Church	Sheffield Youth Carers
Shauna Acaster	Roundabout
Lin O'Mahoney	Riverlin to Sheaf MAST
Cath Brown	Eventus
Jane Bullimore	SCC – Community Assembly
John Wright	SHED
Patrick Moran	Point Blank Theatre
Zain Abdulla	Sheffield Futures
Abdiruphed Haslan	Sheffield Futures

Farhan Ahmed	Young Advisors
Andrew Mellor	Sheffield Futures
Carl Kennedy	Sheffield Futures
Ellen Buckley	Sheffield Futures
R Pollard	S.Y.P.C
S Marshall	S.Y.P.C
Rebecca Maddox	SCC

4. Presentations

Young people also had the chance to present to the group an overview of the groups they are involved in and share what they have achieved. Presentations were provided by young people from Kaw Too Lei, Young Advisors, and the NSPCC.

5. Group Discussions

There were two group discussions each headed by a facilitator. Participants were asked to share their initial thoughts on the presentation and identify any gaps in the structures and methods of youth participation. From these action points were created to take the strategy forward. These thoughts have been noted below as they were recorded in the meeting.

5.1 Initial thoughts

- Slight discrepancies against the adults feedback and young peoples
- Staff competence for working in participation
- Community assemblies delivered road show events, have an email network and quarterly newsletter
- Youth forums have fed reports up to community assemblies
- Idea of young person PACT from adults but not wanted by young people (Broomhall) – suggested using youth workers to do the liaison
- Community Assembly participation working group?
 - Hillsborough/Walkley
 - Broomhill/Central
- Youth Providers meeting set up – need to develop best practice
- Young people train police officers in London – Advised police on hoodies
- There’s already a youth NAG being set up

The initial discussion was based around the structures that were already in place, it was felt that these structures should be supported so duplication is avoided and stronger partnerships form as a result. The Community Assemblies do a lot of promotion but it seems a more creative approach is needed for it to reach a younger audience.

5.2 Gaps in provision

- Influence national and local policy
- Under 18 stop smoking service (16-18)
- ‘One campaign’/youth summit
- Dealing with bereavement of close friendships etc
- Young mothers/opportunities to be actively involved in things that affect their lives
- Politicisations of young people
- Training on participation for workers

- School councils link to community politics
- Staff confidence – need training for workers and decision makers (CA's are new, learning curve for everyone).
- TARA's – older generation
- Lack of feedback – need it for people to understand changes/process.
- Consulting with young people who don't attend structures – gap in engaging young people who are not engaged
- Creative approach to deliver information (e.g. create your own monopoly).
- Need to find young people i.e. adults go to the young people – feedback in a real way to young people
- Tell young people how they are shaping change
- Better communication – more networking, feeding information to other organisations/youth workers
- Central place for consultation
- Changes don't happen quick enough for young people

Although they are some structures in place not everyone is aware of them, it was felt that better communication and publicity was needed to reach more service providers and improve networking services. Therefore the hope was that these structures could become the central place for service providers to access previous information such as consultation and evaluation reports to avoid duplication as it was felt the Sheffield City Council website wasn't being used effectively.

The group recognised that the structures in place aren't always appropriate for young people to get involved with, for example TARA groups disproportionately represent the older generation and may not be young people friendly. The group discussed more creative ways to get young people involved and felt one of the best ways to achieve this was to go to them instead of always expecting young people to sit in on formal adult meetings.

Furthermore the group looked at the gaps in support for young people and the issues they currently faced and decided that a positive image campaign could start this work. Many felt that training of staff and Community Assembly members on participation was needed to better equip them taking the actions forward.

5.3 Actions

- 'Youth summit' campaign (change name!)
- More organisations sharing/attending play and youth theme groups
- Police working with youth workers to better communicate with young people about their issues
- Feedback to police regarding intimidating uniform for young people
- Young people need better park provision
- Somewhere to go – lack of youth clubs
- Afterhours learning resource centre LRC + youth club
- Wisewood → bringing in youth provision?
- Activities.

6. Next steps

Everyone in the group was asked to go away with an action for improving young peoples participation in their community based on the discussions that had taken place. Pledge cards were filled in with their action point and these will get posted back to the individual in a couple of months after the event to remind and prompt them of their commitment to young people's participation.

7. Contacts

If you would like this report in a different format, language, more copies or further information about it and the findings please contact:

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For more information about the Strategy for the Participation & Consultation of Children & Young People in Sheffield and its supporting documents please contact:

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See www.sheffield0to19.org.uk/participation website for any of these documents.

For more information about specific Community Assemblies and City Wide findings please see the separate reports mentioned in the Introduction, available at www.sheffield0to19.org.uk/participation .

For more information about your Community Assembly Area contact:

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This work has been carried out by the Children and Young People's Empowerment Project in partnership with Sheffield Futures and has been commissioned by Sheffield City Council on behalf of the Sheffield 0-19+ Partnership.