

13-19+ Participation Strategy Project

East Community Assembly Area 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 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 Centre in the Park on 22nd October 2009.

3. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Arshad Hussain	Tinsley Forum
Donna Jones	Manor/East Sheffield Futures
Martin Lawton	Councillor SCC
Jane Wilson	Sheffield Futures
Vicki Bennetts	CYPD
Sally Willoughby	CYPD
Tina Shirazi-Nejad	Shine Health Academy
Emma Fiddler	UK Youth Parliament
Sue Nia	UK Youth Parliament Sheffield Futures
Future Finders	Sheffield Futures
Deborah Palmer	Shine Health Academy
Chelsea Wild	Shine Health Academy
Abid Rahim	Sheffield Futures
Beth Blois	Hallam Volunteering SHU

Judith Coyle	East Area Assembly SCC
Julie Gallagher	Pennine Housing
Alan Barrow	Tinsley Forum
Jo Willis	Activity Sheffield

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 Woodthorpe Detached Group from Sheffield Futures, Shine and UK Youth Parliament.

5. Group Discussions

There were four young peoples and one adult discussion group, 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.

5.1 Adults discussion

- Questions were raised around who was missing, the young people outnumbered the adults and people questioned what value people placed on this.
- Community Assembly – includes lots of different places at different levels of youth provision and participation. Darnell, Arbourthorne, Richmond and Manor
- Good to see young people talking about what they've done and the opportunities they've had
- Need a cultural change – always expect young people to go to adults meetings/groups
- Work needed with adult organisations
- Use other approaches, range of groups
- Bring people together through a shared interest – for example young fire fighters, junior TARA's, Action for Stannington
- Make connections across services and agencies
- Lack of understanding about participation – adult need training
- Young people have been de-politicised – councillors won't listen to them because they don't vote
- Participation is about equality – it's not the young people that are the problem it's the adults we're not prepared to share
- Bureaucracy stops things from happening. They need things to happen straight away
- Valentines Ball for over 50's
- Money comes to the table when young people kick off as a measure for anti-social behaviour. Young people feel disillusioned about going through the right cannels

It was felt that there were a lot of social problems in this area and that different wards within them had there own specific problems to face. Therefore it would be difficult to have a structure in place that covered the whole of the Community Assembly. There are a lot of participation projects within the area yet the wider community don't hear about them and the biggest barrier that some people felt they faced was a clash between adults and young people. A change of culture was needed between the different generations and service providers and one way

to tackle this was to have more positive publicity of young people and for adults to go to the young people instead of expecting young people to sit in formal adult meetings.

5.2 Young Peoples discussions

Donna Jones from Sheffield Futures introduced the concept of Mr and Mrs Angry; these were the adults that weren't young people friendly and blamed a lot of young people for the problems within the area. Young people were asked to break off into small groups to decide what they would like to say to Mr and Mrs Angry and to list the issues they feel they are currently facing.

Mr and Mrs Angry

- Understand young peoples personal problems
- Don't judge all young people (stereotype)
- Work alongside young people
- Less talk more doing something about it
- Help and participate
- Remember you was young once
- Don't judge a book by its cover – don't perceive people by the way they look.
- Have a more positive attitude than negative
- Stop complaining
- Treat them how you would like to be treated (give respect! To get respect!)
- We're not doing anything wrong
- Some young people want to make a difference not a mess
- You have to show respect to earn respect
- Help us to help you make the community a safer, cleaner place
- Give young people a chance to speak
- Not all teens are anti-social
- We want to show you the positive contributions that young people make
- Positive media representation
- Communal work
- Not only OAP's are victims of crime, young people are 5x more likely to be victims
- Get OAP's to see the positive side of young people
- Help everyone and be nice
- Keep your anger down and show nice faces
- Talk to us like crap and you get crap back
- We want to be the same no matter what age we are
- We want to live our life and not be incriminated
- If you give respect you get respect back
- We want to live our life with peace
- Always help Mr and Mrs Angry and they will do the same
- Never judge a book by its cover
- We want to be respected by everyone
- Talk to us properly and not like poo.

What we want

- More funding to pay volunteers
- Free travel or reduced prices
- More funding
- More resources
- Not to be judged

- Offers for young people (cinema, bowling)
- More facilities for young people to keep us off the streets
- Courses for troubled youths so they can make a change in their lifestyle
- Open youth clubs more nights a week
- Open drop ins for troubled youths
- Partnership work – i.e. working with adults who wouldn't normally want to know.
- Put on community events – to bring people closer
- More security for local parks and play areas to keep them maintained
- More surveillance and lighting to make people feel safe
- Get kids off the street
- Help out teens and talk to them
- Stop youths hanging outside shops causing trouble.
- Get people to stop drinking on the street
- Stop knife and gun crime
- Stop arguing and fighting on the street
- Give us more to do than be on the streets
- Keep peace in the world
- Stop smoking cannabis on the streets
- Hope we get treated better

5.3 Actions

- Improved partnership working, work collectively rather than against each other
- Support and socially educate young people to enable them to engage
- Recognise and celebrate the positive work young people do
- Challenge e.g. tenant reps, NAGs, housing providers
- Training and support for adults (and continuation of this with young people)
- Projects that develop community cohesion
- Grow membership of local youth networks
- Certificate for all young people workers.

6. Next steps

Everyone in the group was asked to go away with an action for improving young peoples participation in there community based on the discussions that had taken place. Pledge cards were filled in with there 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 peoples participation.

7. Contacts

If you would like this report in a different format, language, more copies or further information about its 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



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