

## **13-19+ Participation Strategy Project**

### **South 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 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 Salvation Army, Psalter Lane on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

#### **3. Attendance**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Katie Hammerton	Sheffield Futures
Helen Wright	Activity Sheffield
Laura Haxton	Activity Sheffield
Andrea Naylor	Sheffield Information Link
Cate McDonald	14 Moncrieffe Road S7 1HR
Lorraine Jones	Sheffield Futures
John Moloughriey	Sheffield Futures
Connor Frawley	A.F.S
Iain Siddall	Sheffield Futures
Leighton Collins	KC Youth
Emma Hayes	SCC
Cheryl Plant	SCC
Patricia A White	Councillor SCC
Monty Cuthbert	Visitor
Louise Ellison	Sheffield Futures

## **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 Hoods Up to my Youth from Sheffield Futures.

## **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.

### **5.1 Initial thoughts**

- Good to have young people doing the presentations
- Encouraging to see what is happening and to hear from Low Edges group
- Need to get people talking – young people and others → vehicle (bus) to go out into areas
- Consultation/participation isn't always approached from young peoples agenda
- Important to ask young people what they think/want
  - Ask all young people, not just usual few
  - Not just mirroring adult structures
  - Respond to what they say (even if it isn't what others want).
- Lack of premises/facilities for young people
  - Not just about buildings: training courses, drama projects, street work, parks...need a range of things
  - Ask young people what they want, learn from them
- Barriers not a surprise which is disappointing
- Concerned about gap in provision and access to wider groups of young people
- Hard to get schools involved, hard to find out information regarding school councils (secondary).
- Schools not giving information on to young people about activities (Activity Sheffield and Church groups) → not wanting to be seen to endorse.
- Schools focused on education not 'whole'
- Aware of the different groups in the mapping → good work, but if not able to communicate...
- City wide groups (specialised) feel more able to influence than at a local event
- Gaps – facilities, engaging, organisations: Capacity – resource
- Socially/culturally/stylistically different within the area
- What can volunteers do? How much volunteering is happening?

There are different groups throughout the area including secondary schools, yet they don't seem to communicate with each other. This causes a barrier when trying to consult with young people about what they want. It was noted that sometimes adults will only consult with young people when they need to know something and participation doesn't occur as a bottom up approach. It was felt more work needs to be done to better communicate with each other and young people.

### **5.2 Gaps**

- We need a single point of entry
- How do we cross boundaries? – These are not relevant to young people
- Important that young people know they will get to have a say and be listened to
- Need to move from activity to influence
- Community members need to get involved – not just down to youth workers
- Winter provision

### **5.3 Structures**

- Is this an adult agenda?
- Use how young people communicate e.g. text, internet, websites/hub
- Can be/become 'elitist', not inclusive or representative
- Surveys to engage a wider number
- Need to be meaningful, action-focused
- Connect all of the different things that are happening: UKYP, SYC, schools, youth groups
- Start local, but needs to be connected e.g. Young peoples version of the Sheffield Forum →young peoples project to develop website?
- South Community Activities Provider group – bring different organisations together (plan what is delivered).

Young people's structures need to be in place on a local level and it is important that they are delivered in a creative way and not just formal meetings. It was discussed that one way to achieve this could be to use more interactive methods of communication and surveys may be needed first to look into how to best to engage the most young people.

The South Community Activities Provider group meet regularly to discuss youth provision in the area and this needs to be supported to pool all the information concerning young people's consultation and participation together. More providers and community organisations need to come together in this meeting to coordinate the plan of what should delivered within the area.

### **5.4 Community Assemblies**

- Not just through meetings
- Engage with community through events/festivals
- Encourage young people to talk to their councillors
- Different young people will want different things – not just majority view.

### **5.5 Actions**

- Use SCAP group for communication and planning
- Consider developing youth forums in different areas (across South) – neighbourhood level e.g. Low Edges, Gleadless
- Develop website/hub for young people
- Make sure everyone is responding to what young people are saying
- Links between different 'levels' local/neighbourhood to community assemble to city (and back again).
- Role of workers as advocates for what is important to young people – identify key issues for action.
- Engage faith groups more
- Funding version of ask sid for better connections to funding

- Find out what is happening within other organisations, share info.
- Improved partnership working
- Mapping – share / connect / not reinventing
- Linking the assemblies...who will oversee – city wide
- South Community Activities – is creating an overview for area
- Political leadership

## 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](http://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](http://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.

