

13-19+ Participation Strategy Project

South East Community Assembly 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 Lodge on 26th October 2009.

3. Attendance

Name	Organisation
April Ellis	Sheffield Futures
Deboroa Rouse	Sheffield Futures
Lynne Edwards	Sheffield Homes
Doreen Walton	S.E.S community forum & SIAG
Jo Willis	Activity Sheffield
Hannah Gormley	Home Group
Mick Fellowes	South East Community Assembly SCC
Kath Wilson	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 the Sweden group from the Lodge.

5. Group Discussions

There was a group discussion 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 Discussion

- Why did young people feel they'd made changes but weren't listened to?
→ this may be because the city wide groups are minority groups who are not engaged in their communities. It depends on how the young people interpret the questions
- It's a shame the schools didn't contribute – Doreen has a foothold in Birley College
- Need feedback on what has been done to demonstrate impact
- Some young people feel very involved in their groups, but not in the local areas/communities
- Need to work more closely with schools, encourage them to focus on local community issues
 - Issues around communicate and relationships
 - Neighbourhood wardens have links with schools
- Identify a champion in each school – Sheffield Futures are working in schools and hope to have champions set up soon.
- Maintain ongoing contact between this group and link with others – 'youth strategy group' – is held at the Lodge,
- Raise profile of young people on adult agendas. E.g. taskforce (Activity Sheffield) – Would like to feed through information to the organisation
- Sheffield Futures exploring development of a youth forum – can everyone link with this rather than set up separate groups?
- Develop partnerships so young people can feed into various agendas e.g. housing and communities. Hannah who does community support in a huge area. She can take on a supporting role – help with funding and resources, they are building 1000 homes in the area and will have a lot of contact with young people who are living in their houses.
- Community Assemblies focused on devolution of power and influence
 - Education
 - Inclusion
- Community plan, participatory budgeting (young people on steering group)
- South East is the only assembly who has young people on their management committee
- Priorities for CA are activities – they want to make sure the activities are what young people want.
- Develop 2 questionnaires (young people and adults) to identify what provision is needed/wanted and when this should be delivered
 - Evidence what young people are saying
- Build on young peoples interest and support their wider engagement
 - Make things fun
 - Project work rather than groups

- Be clear about what is involved
 - Be specific (rather than general)
- Danger of raising expectations that can't be met / delivered
- Involvement strategy is in the community assembly plans – ensuring everyone can feed into the plan
- Advertising needs to be creative and interactive – not a meeting
- Not just a talking shop : ACTION

Apprehensions were raised about the difficulties some people face in getting schools to contribute to outside community agendas. A few of the workers and service providers have started to make footholds within certain schools but it was recognised that stronger relationships need to be formed and working with other organisations that already have this contact maybe an option to explore.

Different organisations are looking to set up taskforces or youth forums to consult with young people about the services they provide and to raise the profile of young people on adult agendas. It was recognised that this would be more effective if the multiple organisations could link up and have one youth forum for the area.

The current priority for the Community Assembly is centred on activities for young people. Currently they are sending out questionnaires to both adults and young people to identify what provision adults think young people want and what the young people identify to note any discrepancies.

There was a general consensus that contact should be maintained throughout the Youth Steering Group that is held at the Lodge for all key decision makers, service providers and community organisations and that the youth forum should feed into this group as well as the Community Assembly.

5.2 Actions

- Sheffield Futures to continue to look onto setting up a champion in each school.
- Sheffield Futures to set up a youth forum to which other organisations can link in with including Activity Sheffield to avoid duplication.
- To feedback the results of the questionnaire regarding young peoples provision and to focus on the outcomes by the young people
- Look into creative ways to promote the opportunities available to young people.

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.

