

13-19+ Participation Strategy Project

South West 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 Ecclesall Parish Church on 21st October.

3. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Lynne Hilson	Sheffield Futures
Nicola Doolan	South Yorkshire Police
James Milovanovic-Firth	Activity Sheffield
Katherine Terrington	Sheffield Futures
Sue Mia	Sheffield Futures
Janice Sidebottom	Councillor SCC
Mathew Rush	South West Community Assembly
Tammy Barress	South West Community Assembly

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 UK Youth Parliament.

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 Initial thoughts

- Sharing thoughts/findings discussions
 - Limited structures within the assembly – less young people participation
 - Disappointing response from practitioner audit
17% of youth groups are in South West
- Discussion around why low response:
 - Existing networks are limited
 - Funding/re-generation money has effected practitioner engagement
 - Lack of understanding of money available, but this also includes groups access to funding
- Promote YOF/YCF/small grants pot
- Send out information about participation groups
- Promote 'deliverers' of youth work services
- Youth Providers meetings incorporating practitioners
- Access School buildings – Cost?
 - Access?
 - Young people may want to be away from schools
- Consultation – how to communicate with young people, Facebook?
- Access 'News, school mail' to promote activities – blue tooth/texts. Primary – secondary school
- Transition between 8-13 –13-19
- How to access services?
- Young People live here in the South West but educate elsewhere
- Young People don't live here but educated here (isolation)

A lot of the discussion happened around the disappointing response to the audit and why that could have occurred. It was agreed that there were school councils, faith groups and sports/leisure provision in the area yet there weren't any youth forums or groups. In addition networks in the area of limited and it was felt that this could be one reason why access to funding has been limited.

It was agreed that more promotion of the networks is needed to increase membership and providers needed to be made aware that there is money available for their groups.

There was a lot of discussion based around the secondary schools as the young people that attend them may or may not live within the same Community Assembly. Questions were raised how best to engage and if setting up groups within the secondary schools would be the best option.

5.2 Gaps in provision

- Funding – Community development is lacking
- Building – there are not any young people owned premises
- Publicity – young peoples magazine, linking into website
- Opportunities to link adults and young people

- Tolerance of young people, they lack opportunities to 'show positives'

5.3 Actions

- Sheffield Futures: building services
- Youth Providers priority : Publicity
 : Good news stories
 : Young people lead stories
 : Funding opportunities and support
 : Distribution logistics of info

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



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