

## PARTICIPATION SUB-GROUP

### Summary of Key Issues:

- Members are asked to make full use of the findings of the Oxfordshire C&YP Survey 'Your Voice' 2009
- Members are asked to take up the opportunities offered for involving C&YP in the annual national Takeover Day on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009
- Members are asked to note the updates and key dates included in the report

### Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Survey 2009

The second Children and Young People's Survey: *Your Voice* 2009 has completed and key findings will be presented at the CYPT meeting.

### Oxfordshire Youth Parliament

The third meeting of the Oxfordshire Youth Parliament was hosted by Oxford City Council on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2009. 25 young people from Oxfordshire schools (including special schools and the Virtual School) attended the meeting, which was hosted by City Cllr Antonia Bance and also attended by County Cllrs Louise Chapman and Michael Waine. The young people's chosen topic for debate was transport and the host organisation, Oxford City Council, used the opportunity to ask OYP about their perceptions of crime and safety.

### C&YP and Parents/Carers Sounding Board

The C&YP Sounding Board 6 had its first meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009, with a new and very diverse group of C&YP aged 8-21. This year, the C&YP Sounding Board is facilitated with and by trained C&YP. The first meeting focussed on '*Learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*' and will inform and C&YP Plan 2010-13 and the Building Schools for the Future programme.

The forthcoming Parent and Carers Sounding Board will focus on the same topic and inform the CYPP2 and BSF. C&YP, parents and carers will be invited to get involved in the longer-term planning arrangements for BSF.

## OYE!



Oxfordshire Youth Enablers - OYE! (the C&YP Disability Forum), have 2 big events coming up. One in October to find sustainable and real ways to ensure the views and voices of C&YP with profound and multiple disabilities are heard and acted upon. Tony Baldry MP plans to attend this event. The second event in December will be a more celebratory event to mark the success of the first year of the OYE!'s activities. For more information see [www.bigvoiceoxfordshire.com](http://www.bigvoiceoxfordshire.com)

### **Consultation on the Children and Young People's Plan**

A wide consultation on the CYP Plan with children, young people, parents and carers is underway, using the Children and Young People's Involvement Network across Children's Trust partner organisations and the Parents Involvement Network. We are particularly targeting those who have least opportunities to give their views to be involved in this.

### **Involvement of C&YP and parents/carers in the Local Area Trust Boards**

2 young people (one from the Children in Care Council and one from Oxfordshire Youth Parliament) and two parent/carers (one from Oxfordshire Family Voices) have been elected to sit on the 3 Local Area Trust Boards and the County CYP Trust Board. They will be supported by 3 practitioners to make a full contribution at the Boards. We plan to run a joint 'introductory training session' with Chairs of the Boards, children, young people and parent representatives in November to ensure that the meetings are fully inclusive and non-tokenistic.

### **UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) elections**

Planning for the next round of UKYP elections is underway, with an initial information day for interested young people planned for 26<sup>th</sup> September. The City and all District Councils have contributed funding to pilot using an electronic voting system for the 2010 elections.

This should ease the pressure around election time, freeing staff to spend more time promoting UKYP in Oxfordshire. Electronic voting will also increase the number of young people who vote in the elections, as they can use alternate methods including, online voting and text voting.

### **Takeover Day 2009**

Takeover Day this year is on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Oxfordshire has been very pro-active in its involvement in this national initiative. This year we hope to encourage more *takeovers* and are holding a briefing lunch on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009 to inspire and provide some top tips for running Takeover Days.

See [www.bigvoiceoxfordshire.com](http://www.bigvoiceoxfordshire.com) for more information.



### **Equality and Inclusion Award**

The Aiming High for Disabled Children programme has initiated a first Award for equality and inclusion of disabled children and young people. There are 12 award categories and disabled C&YP are being trained and supported to be fully involved in the judging panel. The final Awards ceremony will be held on 3rd December 2009.

### **The Winter Ball**

Following the success of last years celebratory Winter Ball, which involved over 200 young people from very diverse circumstances, a planning group of C&YP have been fundraising and so far raised £8,000 towards the next Winter Ball 2010.

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