

PARTICIPATION SUB-GROUP

Summary of Key Issues:

- Members are asked to note the updates included in the report
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1. Oxfordshire Children and Young People's Survey 2009

The CYP Survey findings have been widely circulated and are all available on www.bigvoiceoxfordshire.com. The needs assessment of the draft C&YP Plan 2010-13 is informed by the findings and an Action Plan is underway to address specific service issues.

2. C&YP and Parents/Carers Sounding Board

The last Parents/Carers Sounding Board, echoed the C&YP's Sounding Board focussing on Learning in the 21st Century to inform both the new C&YP Plan and the Building Schools for the Future programme. 30 parents/carers took part from a very wide range of circumstances. The report from the meeting will be tabled at the CYP Trust meeting.

3. OYE! (Oxfordshire Youth Enablers)



OYE! (the C&YP Disability Forum), held a major event in October to explore ways that the views and voices of C&YP with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities can be heard and acted upon. Tony Baldry MP, Andrew Smith MP and Cllr Michael Waine spoke at the event, which was chaired by a disabled young person. One of the immediate outcomes of the event is to support the *Changing Places* campaign for accessible toilets for people with PMLD (which are large enough for full changing facilities). Oxford City and District Councils are hoping to have mobile Changing Places available in the pre-Christmas shopping weeks this year.

Disabled young people from OYE! have also been involved as Young Judges for the Aiming High for Disabled Children Capital Grants panel making awards of £300k to a range of organisations; and choosing winners for the Celebrating Inclusion Awards.

4. Consultation on the Children and Young People's Plan

Over 150 children and young people and a similar number of parents/carers have been involved in giving their views on the draft CYP Plan. While largely positive about the plan, there were some strong and common voices about gaps or areas which were not given sufficient focus, in particular: preventing bullying; things to do and access to them for C&YP in rural areas; over-emphasis on targets and academic results over other achievements; too little priority given to play and leisure; utilisation of local spaces across schools and communities; communication with parents; appropriate levels of support to achieve real inclusion; and flexible learning.

5. UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) elections

21 young people are standing for the 3 UK Youth Parliament seats in Oxfordshire for 2010/11. Elections take place in February 2010 and between now and then we will be supporting them to develop their manifestos and campaign in their areas.

6. Takeover week

This year in Oxfordshire we held a Takeover week from 2nd – 6th November, as opposed to a Takeover Day. It was 'kicked off' by our three Oxfordshire Members of the National Youth Parliament, Rachel Howe (South), Sam Haztigeorgio (North) and Tyrone Steele(City), who took part in an historic event, joining others from across the Country to attend the UKYP Annual Sitting in the House of Commons. This was the first time ever that anyone other than elected MPs sat and debated in the Chamber. The sitting was chaired by the Speaker, John Bercow MP, who throughout the proceedings, commented on the passion, enthusiasm and quality of the young people's contributions. There were five areas of debate: transport, university tuition fees, crime, lowering the voting age to 16 and employment for young people. The MYP's voted on their top issue to take forward as the main National UKYP campaign for the year and Votes for 16s won.

Other **Takeover** highlights this year include:

- YP 'takeover' at the full County Council Meeting
- YP attend Oxford City Council to campaign for an Oxford City Youth Parliament

- A total takeover of Helen and Douglas House
- A takeover of the Speech and language service budget!
- Takeover of Grimsbury youth centre
- A Transport summit with Oxfordshire bus companies
- School and After-School Club takeovers
- A total takeover of Pegasus Theatre, including YP taking tours round the new building site
- Children in Care Council designing a newsletter
- 6 young people taking over GOSE for the day
- A takeover lunch with the High Sherriff of Oxfordshire County Council
- YP from the Vale and South train up local councillors in Children's Rights
- The Children's Hospital Advisory group, YiPpEe plan a health promotion campaign
- A takeover of the Thames Valley Police HQ
- A slot on Bill Heines' show on BBC Oxford to tell the Oxfordshire 2009 Takeover tale!

