

PARTICIPATION SUB-GROUP FEEDBACK

Summary of Key Issues:

CYPT members are asked to:

- Support the recommendation in 1 below which ensure robust involvement in the Local Area Partnerships.
- Support the recommendation in 3 below which aims to enable the C&YPs Sounding Board to become increasingly C&YP-led.
- Note the other updates included in the paper.

Local Area Partnerships

The Participation Sub-Group discussed the involvement of parents/carers and C&YP in the new Local Area Partnerships. It proposed that, to ensure robust involvement, the Participation Team are invited to the initial set-up meetings of all partnerships to support local involvement, drawing on existing networks.

Oxfordshire Youth Parliament

OYP met for the first time on 16th March 2009. Representatives from 31 schools, including independent school and the Virtual School, participated. The formal meeting focussed on 2 topics chosen by OYP members (transport and age inconsistencies), and 2 chosen by CYPFD (school engagement and attainment and sexual health):

The debates were chaired by a Member and Deputy Member of the UK Youth Parliament. An evaluation followed which suggested the initiative was welcomed as a very positive young people led forum, offering opportunities for a sophisticated level of debate:

"I found the meeting very informative and interesting the level of debate was very high with some very interesting points raised. I was impressed with the ideas and proposals put forward by members and am keen to see how we can move forward on some of them"

Alan Webb PCT

"I thought the meeting on Monday was really useful; it was a good introduction to the structure of a meeting. And I thought it was brilliant that everyone clearly felt comfortable expressing their opinions on some of the key issues that affect young people. I also felt pleased that our views were listened to and that this was obvious by the direct responses to issues and questions we raised by the adult 'councillors'. **Member of OYP**

The next dates for meetings are:

13th July 2009	hosted by health
10 th September 2009	hosted by either City or West Oxfordshire District Council
10 th December 2009	hosted by South Oxfordshire District Council

Sounding Board 6

The C&YP's Sounding Board is proposing to develop its model by enabling C&YP to facilitate it from September 2009. This will involve training experienced C&YP and some of the vtalent year young people to take on this role. There will additionally be a slot at every meeting for their own issues to be raised.

C&YP Survey: 'Your Voice 2009'

The C&YP Survey: 'Your Voice' is now running live online. 72 schools have signed up to participate (compared to 34 in 2007) and over 2,000 pupils have completed the survey so far. Over 100 disabled C&YP and a further 100 through the additional stream of the survey (e.g. those educated at home, not in mainstream schools etc) are participating. The spread of schools/colleges participating has improved on 2007 and further targeted work is planned to ensure a statistically sound cohort, guaranteeing robust data for analysis. Full results will be available in July 2009.

Vtalent Year Programme

Oxfordshire's 15 young **vtalent** volunteers have started in full time volunteering placements in services across CYPFD, including disability, children's social care, participation, Meadowbrook College, mentoring, youth centres, children's centres and Connexions service. A very mixed cohort of YP applied, with over 50% NEET on the programme. There are 3 elements within the programme:

- Work based placements
- NVQ in Community Volunteering (delivered through OCVA)
- Grant on completion of the above of £1,500 for further education and training

Parents Carers Sounding Board meeting

A Parents/Carers Sounding Board meeting was held on 3rd April 2009 on Safeguarding. 10 parents who had all had experience of child protection processes were invited to the meeting, which also involved Members, colleagues from police, health and senior OCC officers. Very sensitive and confidential issues were shared and discussed and will be collated to inform the OSCB Safeguarding Review. An initial evaluation of the meeting suggests that both parents and professional felt it was very useful and informative. Professionals particularly respected parents openness in sharing their experiences and assured them that their ideas will be acted upon, and their future involvement sought.

A Parent/Carers involvement Strategy has been written and agreed by the Parent Carers Steering Group. This is available from toni.bremble@oxfordshire.gov.uk .

Youth Offending Forum

A new Forum has been established for young people within the Youth Offending Service, and held its first meeting in March 2009. It will offer young people within the Youth Justice system a stronger voice for their views on services which support them. A representative of this group will join the next Sounding Board.

ChYPIN 6

The next ChYPIN meeting is on 12th June 2009 at the Riverside Centre. It will focus on getting the views of C&YP about being 'outside' to inform Oxfordshire Outside and a wider research study planned.

ChYPIN SB Review

A review of outcomes of all Sounding Boards and ChYPIN meetings over the last 5 years has been completed. This demonstrates that C&YP's views have impacted on service development in some areas, e.g. in the emphasis placed on anti-bullying, in the increased

opportunities for voices to be heard. However, whether these changes are significant enough, fast enough, reach widely to all C&YP, will be better gauged through Your Voice, the C&YP Survey 2009.

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