

PARTICIPATION SUB GROUP: JANUARY 2010

Summary of Key Issues:

- Members are asked to note the updates included in the report
- Members are asked to note the upcoming UKYP elections and support schools and candidates locally

1. C&YP and Parents/Carers Sounding Board

The C&YP and the Parent/Carers Sounding Boards held in December 2009, focused on the issue of e-safety. They were run in collaboration with the OSCB and the Oxfordshire Healthy Schools Team.

C&YP Sounding Board: 35 C&YP attended, including some expert 'young e-safety champions' from Stockham Primary and Didcot 6th Form. The discussion focussed on 4 core areas: reporting concerns; knowing more than adults; having enough knowledge; ideas for improvement. A report will be tabled at the CYPT of the findings.

Parents/Carers Sounding Board: 40 parents/carers attended, and were joined by 14 professionals/ members. Concerns about safe use and adult lack of knowledge were acute; and there was a recognition that for vulnerable groups of C&YP, internet friendships provided a safe zone and access to friends who they cannot always have in 'realtime'. A report will be tabled at the CYPT of the findings.

2. Celebrating Inclusion Awards: December 2009

8 disabled young people from Oxfordshire Youth Enablers (OYE!) were involved as Young Judges for the Celebrating Inclusion Awards, making all final decisions for winners from a shortlisted application. They drew up the criteria for the final judging round and presented the winners with their awards.



"Having a judging panel encompassing disabled young people as well as OCC staff was really good and added credibility to the awards. It was good to actively involve the people who experience these services."

"Loved the excitement/pride of the Young Judges"

"Great to see the young people involved with this which was very well organised and seem to be pitched at the right level for them."

3. Oxfordshire Youth Parliament

Following the OCC announcement of the proposed abolition of OYP, members mounted a very active campaign to evidence the core role that OYP plays for young people and the CYP Trust in Oxfordshire. They received support from local MP's, national organisations and very many local colleagues, schools and services.

Prior to Cllr Louise Chapman's announcement at the OYP meeting that it would *not* now be abolished and that the required savings had been secured through other measures, members led a very powerful and lively debate on the contribution that OYP made to life in Oxfordshire. Some of their key points were:

- It's fun and informative *"It's awesome"*
- It's democratically important as we have no vote *"We are conveying the voice of young people in Oxfordshire, if we go you lose that voice"*
- It's politically important: *"We might not be of voting age now, but you'll hear about it when we are if you cut us now" "We are the future – it's not fair to silence us"*
- It's educative: *"This provides us with a political education. We were voted into place and through that everyone in my School now knows what 'first pass the post' really means"... "My School does not offer politics so this is my only chance to be involved in a democratic process"*

- It's popular, even for younger students: *"In my School Year 7's fighting over being a MyView rep"*
- It's representative: *"The Head Teacher takes it really seriously" ... "it's on all school council agendas" ... "I had to speak at a big assembly" "it's on the Governors agendas"*
- It challenges negative images of young people: *"it shows other YP you care, and shows us that we can effect change"*
- It will help improve services for C&YP: *"We can help you – why would you want to silence us"*
- It's cost-effective: *"If you get rid of us – Councillors will have to come to us – which'll cost much more and be less efficient in the long run"*
- It's important for your CV: *"MyView is great to put on your UCAS form!"*



4. UK Youth Parliament

The campaign for the election for our next 3 UK Youth Parliament members and their 3 deputies is well underway, with elections in February 2010. 22 YP are standing for election this year (from 11 in 2008/9).

Our current members and deputies of the UKYP have worked hard during their year in post and taken part in the historic first UKYP sitting in the House of Commons in October. Their achievements include:

- A continued campaign for better Transport services for young people, especially in rural areas
- Sex Education became a compulsory subject on the National Curriculum in 2008 and in November 2009 the Government announced that the parental right to withdraw a child from SRE lessons will be removed from the age of 15. This has been a major campaign nationally, which our local D/MYP's actively supported, as some are in religious schools where peers are excluded from sex education

- D/MYP's are on local town/district/NAG development groups and have consulted with their peers on local issues. A notable success was the reversal of a decision to purchase Mosquito alarms by Bicester Town Council following wide consultation of YP locally.



A big thankyou to our 2009 Members and Deputy Members of the UKYP, for their energy and enthusiasm and for making such a positive contribution in their schools and communities

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