

Children's Services Review Committee

Integrated Youth Strategy 2008-2011 Consultation Feedback and Presentation

9 October 2008

KEY FEATURES:

1. Extensive consultation held from May to September 2008.
2. Methods included questionnaires, presentations to senior managers, strategic partnerships, Area Committees and practitioners.
3. Responses ranged from individual returns, recorded verbal feedback and written responses from several different services, Voluntary Sector and Elected Members.
4. The young person's summary/questionnaire resulted in 119 responses and 271 young people participated in peer-led events and workshops.
5. National and Regional agencies consultation.

CONSULTATION TIME LINE

MAY	Youth Board CSLT	Youthinc 3
JUNE	EMT Children's Trust Review Committee	
JULY	Voluntary Sector Youth Forum Youth Development Group Connexions Youth Offending Service Community & Cultural Services East, West & Washington Schools, Colleges & Training Providers	Castle View Houghton Kepier Hetton Youth base Sunderland Youth Parliament Young Person's Inspection Team Youth Matters Team
AUGUST	Training Development Agency (TDA) Department of Children, Schools & Families. Government Office North East Regional Youth Work Unit	Change Day Youth Information Shop
SEPTEMBER	North, South & Coalfields	City Equals Youth Drugs & Alcohol Project

OVERVIEW OF KEY POINTS

Young people's views were extremely positive and welcoming and that implementation would:

- Increase availability and access to services.
- Lead to increased opportunities.
- Lead to better ways of sharing resources.
- Maximise youth participation and empowerment.
- Save money

YOUNG PEOPLE

Of those surveyed:

- 72% thought the principles of the plan were positive and 'a good way to solve problems in one place'.
- 74% thought the strategy was clear and well presented.
- 86% think it's a good idea for young people to get involved in voluntary activities.
- 38% felt that volunteering looked good on their CV's and would improve their job prospects for the future.
- 83% think taking part in 'positive activities' is a good idea and 'help's making friends', 'makes life more enjoyable' and provides 'experience for life'.
- 89% agree that having access to good quality information, advice and guidance supports them to make choices about their future careers.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

“I like this way of asking us our opinion. It's cool using this technology. It helps us concentrate and feel involved”

“I think that the situation is really confusing at the moment with all the different support services. I think the new IYSS will make it better”

“I like the website. It is clear and precise and easy to use. The pictures help us know that it is about young people”

FEEDBACK FROM INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS

BENEFITS OF IMPLEMENTATION – KEY POINTS:

- Value for money – maximising opportunities to pool resources and secure funding.
- Clarity and focus to the youth offer across the four different strands.
- Positive and holistic approach to meet needs.
- One coherent structure.
- Direction and vision for all levels of the service under one brand.
- New opportunities for young people.
- Young people as sources of potential.
- Strategic connection with projects at ground level.

KEY RESULTS

Of those surveyed:

- 92% agreed with the purpose of the plan, 80% thought the principles were positively captured and 81% agreed with the framework of the core youth offer across the four key strands.
- 82% thought the strategy captures the impact positive activities has on young people's lives and 91% agreed with the plan to involve young people in governance arrangements.
- 78% agree the plan is well presented with the right strategic priorities identified.

KEY CHALLENGES

- To be clear about the role and contribution different agencies and professionals have to bring to the strategy.
- Ensuring all those involved, including young people assist in the marketing, branding and communication of the change to an integrated service.
- Capturing and including views of parents in balance with these held by young people.
- Delivering the integrated service across the city within each locality that meets need.
- Creating a truly innovative approach to delivering youth services that engages with the hardest to reach.

NEXT STEPS

- To inform those who participated in the consultation the outcomes of their feedback.
- To outline the proposed changes to the strategy in response to the consultation.
- To highlight issues and key challenges raised during the consultation process and how these may be resolved.
- To ensure the strategy reflects and links to key priorities in related plans and partnerships including the developing Local Area Plans.