

Participation News

Raising the voice of Children and Young People in South Gloucestershire

Special points of interest:

- Young People get involved in designing their play area in Bradley Stoke
- A separate voice given to each area through the launch of locality youth fora.
- 59 groups funded through The Big Stash last year
- Young people run training sessions

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JAR Young People's report 2008 is out

A report for young people telling them about what the JAR inspectors thought about local services has been produced.

Young people were involved in writing and designing the report which is now being sent out to all schools, projects and youth centres.

The inspectors visited south Gloucestershire in 2008 and looked a variety of services involving children and young people. They commented on services provided to children in care, young people with learning difficulties and disabilities and participation opportunities for young people.

They concluded that

the council had a strong leadership and lots of ideas and commitment on how to improve the lives of children and young people.

Areas of improvement included feedback to young people on how their views have influenced decisions making and ensuring parents of LDD children and young people had access to better information on the support they can get.

The full report is available on the South Gloucestershire website [http://www.southglos.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BA0D5A7E-8730-4A61-B3D0-](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BA0D5A7E-8730-4A61-B3D0-96327C99446E/0/CYP090031.pdf)



[96327C99446E/0/CYP090031.pdf](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/BA0D5A7E-8730-4A61-B3D0-96327C99446E/0/CYP090031.pdf) .

There is also a link to the report on www.youthunltd.com

C. Cashley on behalf of the Participation Working Group

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The Youth Board gets to work

The Youth Board is a newly formed group of young people, many of them former members of the South Gloucestershire Youth forum.

They meet once a month and will work with councillors and council officers to influence and shape the council policies for young people.

Currently there are 11 members, representing all three localities. They are working with the UKYP to complete the consultation on concessionary transport

Their other project is an Anti bullying project on which they are working with the Safeguarding Board. Their

overall aim is to ensure that all young people in South Gloucestershire are able to access high quality support and information around bullying.

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Young Carers are making a difference

“Young Carers are meeting up monthly to develop a guide to help new young carers understand what can be done to help them”

A young carer is a person aged between 4 and 18 who helps look after someone in the family at home because they are disabled, have been ill for a long time, have a mental health problem or a problem with alcohol or drugs.

A young carer may spend time doing things like cooking, cleaning and shopping. Some may help their brothers and sisters to get dressed and take them to school. Many of these children and young people continue to be unidentified and are therefore “hidden”. These children may be late for school, find it difficult to concentrate or they can be stressed or worried.



12 young carers from South Gloucestershire are meeting up monthly to develop a guide to help new young carers understand what can be done to help them. They are currently creating a leaflet that will include: Top Tips For Young Carers and Information on how to get support from

South Gloucestershire Young Carers

Chris Cashley – Children’s Fund Participation Officer

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UKYP Elections 2009

During 2008 the United Kingdom Youth Parliament Mps and deputies in South Gloucestershire carried out a survey of young people’s views on access to positive activities.

Transport was identified as a key issue in this survey, as it has been in the past. The MYPs worked with council officers from Transport and Planning to design a consultation around the Council’s plans to introduce a concessionary transport for young people. They designed a questionnaire which they trialled in youth centres and put together workshops to explain the issues to young people. They delivered these workshops at the Use

your Voice event in November and at the Youth Summit.

One of the MYPs, Rob Clews was elected as the SW co-ordinator for project Safe Space, a joint UKYP / ACPO project to involve and inform young people of the issues of extremism and terrorism. Rob and his committee planned a conference for young people on March 21st.

The elections for the United Kingdom Youth Parliament took place during January. There were ballot boxes in schools and youth centres throughout South Gloucestershire and about 8,000 young people voted.

The newly elected MYPs are : Issy Cooke, Fliss Probert, Katie Stokes and George Tanner. They are all going to work on the Concessionary transport for young people project, and an Anti bullying project with the Youth Board.

Francis Churchill has been an MYP for the

past two years and has now been elected to represent the SW region on the procedures group of the UKYP – the group of young people which organises and directs the UKYP nationally.

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Back row from left to right, - Fliss, Francis, Issy, front row, George and Katie.

Ready Steady Change first Training Day

The Ready Steady Change Training materials use a children's rights and participation framework.

It aims to change attitudes and the decision making processes and structures that affect children and young people.

The Training Team consist of 5 young trainers, Children and Young People's Department Training Manager, and two South Gloucestershire Council Participation Workers. They all worked collaboratively to plan, deliver and evalu-

ate the first Ready Steady Change Training in January.

This is the first time that young people have been involved in training staff about involving all children and young people in decision-making. The young people all went on to Training for Trainers course before the training.

They delivered an action packed programme to 21 members of staff. The activities primarily enabled participants to understand the context of children's rights at a national and local level.

Adult participants also took part in activities that reminded them of their responsibility to familiarise themselves with how children and young people communicate and want to be listened to on their own terms.

The Training helped staff to develop a participation action plan to take back to their teams/ departments. Most felt they gained a greater understanding of how



children and young people's participation is crucial for effective service development.

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Community Day— Jubilee Green Bradley Stoke

A very successful day of community activities took place in February half term to mark the construction of the new play park on Jubilee Green.

A large number of families and residents attended the day and as well as planting trees they also participated in a number of arts and

crafts activities. Children as young as four were involved in giving their ideas on the local play space through drawing. They also expressed their wishes for the future of the park and the areas they live in.

The Youth Space will be designed and built by young people working

alongside specialists in sustainable build-



ing. Ideas on the day included a grass roof and building with straw bales and cob. The sketches will be developed into a final scheme that young people will help to construct.

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Youth Fora

Locality fora are being developed in South Gloucestershire to give young people a greater voice and influence. The meetings are a mix of group building, locality issues, fun and social time and are open to young people aged 12-19 years old.

In the Kingswood locality 10 young people have got together since Janu-

ary to think about what they would do to improve their area and what are the issues for young people. Street Safety and Things to do Places to go have been voiced as priorities. The group is for young people living and accessing services in the Kingswood Locality. For further information contact Vicki Houselander Youth

Participation Worker, 01454 865252.

The Severnvale Youth forum met for the second time recently and the 6 young people who attended looked at ways to publicise themselves and attract more members. For more information contact Julia Leary on 01454 865252 or email youthforum@southglos.gov.uk

for the kingswood and severnvale fora.

In the Yate Locality, young people will be looking at the street scene-eco projects, graffiti and street care animation, newsletter articles and event planning. For more information contact Charlotte Williams on charlotte.williams@southglos.gov.uk 07826 908 165.

New YPIP In Bradley Stoke Community School

Connexions have been working hard to meet the needs of young people in schools who told us in our annual evaluation that they don't always know where to get information from in school about the issues that are relevant to them in their lives.

This has been part of an ongoing project to promote Young People's Information Points (YPIPs) in places where young people visit. One school where it has been particularly exciting to set up a YPIP has been Bradley Stoke Community School who identified a group of pupils to work with us on its development. This included surveying

the views of their peers, creating a welcoming environment, designing an information poster. The group also decided that rather than be a Young People's Information Point they just wanted it to be called a People's Information point – so PIP is what it is now known as!

The PIP was launched to pupils and parents by the Head at an open evening with. The pupils involved also did presentations to other pupils in the school. It has now become established as a well known and well used resource area. We thank Jess, Amy, Ella, Ed and Ahmed for all their work on this. Similar work

has also been undertaken in other South Gloucestershire schools in the past few months and we are now in the process of checking that all mainstream secondary schools have the resources they need from us to meet the requirements of the DCSF Information Advice and Guidance Quality Standards. To this end we will be providing all of them with, as a minimum, a Resource

Pack/Maintenance Manual and guide to setting up their own YPIP.

For further information contact Dee Mooney at Connexions at Filton, Tel: 0117 9698101 or e mail dmooney@connexionswest.org.uk



Our willing volunteers; Jess Toghill, Amy Corcoran, Ella Brown, Ed Franklin and Ahmed Hussein

Big Stash Annual Report

The Big Stash is the Youth Opportunity fund, a government funding initiative for young people. Young people between the ages of 13 to 19 or older if LDD can apply. The process starts with the young people putting their ideas into an application, then continues with the applications being considered by a panel of young people. Bids fitting both the 'Every Child Matters' and The YOF criteria will be either given the money or will be invited

to come along and discuss their bids.

In the financial year 2008/9, 59 groups of young people had successful bids; 30 from the voluntary sector. These provided young people in South Gloucestershire with:

- 17 new projects including a group for young carers and a project to support young people who self harm
- 8 new activities and or equipment including up to date ICT equipment

- 10 refurbishments such as a recording studio, a photography suit and a digital suite A new project has now opened as a young people's café in Staple Hill after a building was renovated.
- 4 new sporting activities e.g. a new boxing club, the hire of a pitch for an under 15 football club and tumbling mats have provided a gym club
- 6 trips
- 2 residentials e.g. A

group of young women involved in clothing design spent a week end away during this time they visited the clothes show.

- 9 training courses aimed to give the young people new skills not offered in the mainstream
- 2 publicity resources

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This Newsletter was produced by the Participation Working Group. The next issue of Participation News will be published in November 2009. Please submit your articles by Wednesday October 14th to emmanuelle.claverie@southglos.gov.uk

This information can be made available in other languages, in large print, Braille or on audio tape. Please call 01454 868009 if you need any of these or any other help to access council services.