

## **SUMMARY OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONSULTATION RESEARCH REPORT**

### **KEY THEMES**

"Youth work should promote the social, moral, cultural, emotional and physical development of young people; should involve young people in the governance of relevant service and encourage young people's preparation for the opportunities and expectations of adulthood." (Transforming Youth Work DfES 2002)

#### **1. Introduction**

In recent years - since participation has moved higher up the national agenda, a considerable number of surveys have been carried out with children and young people in B&H. This report brings together the main findings from these pieces of consultation work since 2006 (see bibliography). Most of the data collected for this research did not have primary focus on youth provision. Some surveys included questions that provided useful information; others offered information and opinion that has relevance e.g. bus survey (cost and access).

#### **2. Consistent Themes from Research**

##### **2.1 Location & Access - any provision created by the Myplace bid should:**

- Be easy to access (well served by public transport), open after school into the evenings, at weekends and all day during school holidays
- Be safe to get to and from and be a safe and welcoming space
- Have a number of rooms/areas for different and specific purposes
- Be used by other groups during the day
- Be free or cheap to belong to and attend and food, drink, classes and activities should also be free or cheap
- Have an outside area and be eco friendly
- Access to services across the city – no postcode lottery
- The cost of bus transport into town puts some young people off travelling to access services

##### **2.2 Provision & Staffing - all adults involved in the youth facility created by the Myplace bid need to be:**

- Friendly and welcoming
- Well trained in equalities
- Skilled and able to maintain control but not intrusive
- The notion of a 'trusted adult' is very important

##### **2.3 The Myplace facility should provide:**

- Opportunities for children and young people to develop their skills and talents specifically cooking and all aspects of the arts e.g. music, drama, art, dance including classes, lessons and events. (*This was consistently the area most requested*)
- Opportunities for a range of physical activities indoor and out
- Clinic, advice and information spaces, opportunities for one to one confidential consultations and drop in support groups for particularly vulnerable young people
- Adopters support group – “good to have more youth centres that specialise in provision of arts”
- Youth Café – comes up as a need repeatedly
- Opportunities for improved work experience and vocational opportunities are perceived to be lacking and this is particularly important for those aged 14 and over

## 2.4 Other Key Points

- Young people are keen to be involved in service redesign and development and yet don't often feel listened to
- Young people say it's not so much the building as what happens in it and who runs/staffs it that make a successful youth facility that they want to be part of.
- There is clearly more interest in the arts than sports and more sports opportunities.
- Accessibility and cost are key factors in their willingness to attend or be involved.
- A central venue is the preferred choice for a major development but with access to services and some universal provision in their local area as well
- There should be a commitment to involving children and young people in the management, organisation and day-to-day running of the facility.
- It is difficult to attend a youth centre alone without knowing a familiar face. Youth workers should visit schools and events to promote young opportunities and meet potential service users
- Youth centres have a reputation for being poorly resourced and with too many rules which discourages attendance
- Youth activities and provision need to be better publicised and constantly marketed to young people in school and to those not attending school

## 3. Research Recommendations

- What has emerged very clearly is that most children and young people think asking them what they think and want makes no difference, nothing changes
- Although sports activities are popular, these are currently available across the city and school age pupils in Brighton and Hove are already accessing these and are exercising regularly

- There is also a concern that there is not enough specific services for the most vulnerable groups in the city
- The suggestions for a 'World Class' youth facility are based on their realities and experience and, with one or two exceptions not unrealistic.
- Developing a state of the art, high tech Arts and Culture centre for children and young people in Brighton and Hove would fulfil many of their identified needs. It could also contribute to the government proposal for children and young people to have access to 5 hours per week of high quality arts and cultural activities in their free time
- There is a concern that many young people don't have access to arts opportunities due to the cost of music and dance lessons

**Facilities** could include:

- A number of rooms that could be used for different purposes.
  - A chill out/hang out space.
  - A cafe serving cheap, healthy and appetising food and drinks.
  - Regular clinics and drop ins where children and young people can get information and advice on a range of issues.
  - An outside, grassed space.
  - Some facilities for physical activity
- NB** *these last two points could be developed in a separate place e.g. current youth club or play area*

**Provision** at an arts facility could include lessons, classes and events for developing skills and talents in the following:

- Music - instruments, hip hop, dance, rap, DJ skills, singing, choirs, making cds, organising and managing bands and gigs and could contribute to community cohesion through the involvement of identified groups particularly young people engaged with the YOT.
- Dance - all aspects of dance with opportunities to challenge stereotypes e.g. boys dance groups.
- Drama - opportunities to learn about backstage operations and management as well as drama skills and performance.
- Creative media - a magazine or newsletter, radio station, film and DVD making, marketing and publicity.
- IT - web sites, social networks, games design.
- Focussed talent, dance and drama projects e.g. challenging stereotypes, something during Black History month.
- Cookery - learning about nutrition and balanced diets as well as opportunities to learn how to cook.
- Opportunities to meet the needs of identified vulnerable groups e.g. Looked After Children (LAC), Special Educational Needs (SEN), children and young people from lower socio-economic families, young carers.

