

CYP participation: proposals for CPB to consider

Aim

To provide an update on the progress made in the last year to engage CYP and to propose some further actions and seek commitment from partners to support them and get involved.

Brief Background

Engaging Children and Young People in the Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire Children's partnership board is a priority within our current 2016/17 action plan.

The aim of the partnership is to ensure that all partners are working together in Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire to improve outcomes for children, young people and families, and participation with CYP is key to getting first-hand information from CYP about what really matters to them.

High level proposals for CYP participation were discussed at the partnership board meeting last September. They included:

- Promotion and involvement in Takeover Month
- Provide a district based event for children and young people
- Involve young people in developing action plan priorities
- Supporting youth councils and pupil parliament

It was proposed that we could hold an event which could look at our priorities with the focus on one priority: a suggestion was 'feel safe'. This would involve inviting CYP to a face to face event with a range of partners to understand more about CYP's feelings of safety in their local area. Such an event would ideally need to be based in one of the district areas, inviting CYP from that local area. There would also need to be commitment from partners to help organise and participate in the event, as well as finding a suitable location for the event.

A face to face event was positively received and it was suggested that we could link up with an existing event, activities, groups or services such as the Young Peoples Service, school parliaments, or job fairs and also that we take turns to hold participation events in each of the three districts over a period of time.

Members of the board were then asked to feedback with any other opportunities they were aware of that we may be able to link into, to enable draft proposals for CYP to be developed.

Progress update

Meeting with the MYP's

On the 12th May 2016 members of the Chorley, South Ribble and West Lancashire CPB met with two Members of the Lancashire Youth Parliament, Chris and Ellie.

The meeting was to:

- understand more about MYPs and meet Chorley and South Ribble's newly elective representatives;
- discuss the board's draft action plan and to get their feedback on it;
- To talk to the MYPs about the CPBs and explain what the board's role is; and
- to develop relationships between the MYPs and the board so that we can engage with them more regularly.

The meeting was very positive and Chris and Ellie had lots of questions and suggestions. They outlined the priorities for their area as:

Current priorities in South Ribble

- Transport – bus service, day rider ticket, contacted Stagecoach to help with advertising/promoting
- CSE – Internet safety, raising awareness
- Curriculum for life skills – producing lesson plans around things outside of education curriculum, e.g. finance skills, cultural awareness, etc.

Current priorities in Chorley

- Mental Health
- E-safety
- Racism and prejudice

They also made some suggestions for additional actions which they thought we should include in our action plan including:

- Understanding of mental health issues affecting young people
- Ensure that participation events are held in all district areas
- Promote the Don't Hate, Educate! campaign
- Encourage schools, colleges and youth groups to get involved in the Make Your Mark campaign

Pupil Voice

The pupil attitude survey results 2014/15, for each of the district areas have been circulated to CPB members.

Further actions

Chorley local democracy event – 30th November 2016

Around 80 pupils from local primary schools will be attending a half day event at Chorley town hall to promote local democracy and public services. The pupils are split into groups, and then take part in various activities lasting 20 minutes each. Plans are still being developed but it is expected that there will be between six and eight groups.

It is proposed the partnerships take over one of the activity tables and focus on a priority area such as 'feel safe' as suggested last September. An alternative which was suggested last year was to discuss holiday activity programmes.

Volunteers are required to help to plan and organise the activities and then three to five people attend and run the sessions.

Promote Takeover Month (November)

Takeover is a fun, hugely successful and exciting engagement project which sees organisations across England opening their doors to children and young people to take over adult roles.

It puts children and young people in decision-making positions and encourages organisations and businesses to hear their views. Children gain an insight into the adult world and organisations benefit from a fresh perspective about their work.

This year young people in Lancashire have expressed particular interest in the following sectors/roles:

- Schools and colleges
- Health (e.g. hospitals and clinics)
- Sports and leisure (e.g. district council provisions, sports and football clubs)
- Shadowing middle managers
- Private sector businesses

Further details can be found here:

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/learn-more/takeover-challenge>

The CPB members are asked to:

- Note the progress made so far in engaging CYP
- Discuss and agree a topic for the local democracy event
- Put forward volunteers to help organise and run the sessions
- Agree to holding future events in South Ribble and West Lancashire and to suggest some timescales and/or existing events to link in with
- Arrange regular meetings with the MYPs every six to nine months
- Consider any further ways to engage with CYP such as via an online survey
- Contact Hanne Peake (LCC strategy lead for CYP participation) if your organisation is able to get involved in takeover month.

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Date: 15 September 2016