

## Shadow Board – Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2011

Housekeeping/ground rules/icebreaker game/introductions

### Introduction and plan of the day

- Today's Shadow Board meeting slightly different as a large section will be dedicated to looking at the proposal of merging a number of groups; Young Leaders, Members of Youth Parliament and Shadow Board members.
- Catherine Wills (NCC Senior access, inclusion and equalities officer) – To discuss the 2011-2014 Equalities Strategy.
- Shooting Stars group to update the Shadow Board on current work and activities.
- Big Ideas Primary cluster group to update the Shadow Board on current work and activities.
- Election for two young people to attend the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### Info on proposed new strategy

- Background info was given on the history and responsibilities of the Youth parliament and Young Leaders programmes. 6 Youth Parliament reps were elected in March 2010 for a two year term and 7 Young Leaders were elected for a one year term via a countywide election. The group have a number of key responsibilities; these include attending Full Council meetings, Scrutiny meetings and representing young people in local borough and district forums. The Young Leaders were also responsible for allocating £25,000 to county youth projects and initiatives.
- Although the Young Leaders programme has received the go ahead to continue for another year at least, the funding has been reduced and there will not be any further money available to fund additional projects or groups. However, the core responsibilities of the group remain.
- As a county we are very lucky to have several high profile youth involvement processes running at the same time, however this can sometimes result in duplication of work/activities.
- Due to tighter budgets and the need to work 'smarter' it has been suggested that these three groups may be better served working together. If this was to happen it is important that the young people involved have the opportunity to shape how this happens.
- If the groups were merged together, then an internal election could take place to allocate out specific job roles and responsibilities to individuals. These individuals could be regarded as the 'Executive Committee'.

## Young People's initial feedback and comments

### Positive:

- Having a large, dedicated group may help to reduce the pressure on just a select few young people to carry out all responsibilities.
- More people means wider opinions/ideas.

### Negative:

- Young Leaders have been elected to do a specific job, if they were merged with the Shadow Board there could be a danger that these jobs might be allocated out to others.
- Having an 'Executive Committee' may lead to resentment or bad feeling from those were outside of it.
- The process may become too formal. The current informal nature of the Shadow Board promotes a good level of discussion and interaction, this may be lost if the group has chairperson and other formal roles.
- New members to the group may feel threatened by the established 'Executive Committee'.

### Other comments:

- The 'Executive Committee' could meet more often to build momentum.
- The 'Executive Committee' should be re-elected every 6 months. This allows the chance to share responsibility. It also means that if someone isn't carrying out their role well, they will eventually lose that position.
- Roles should be allocated out at each meeting to avoid forming an 'Executive Committee'.

Following the initial feedback session, YP's were asked to consider ways that the groups could compliment each other if they remained separate. Comments included:

- Young Leaders and MYP's could attend local Area Boards to update on work carried out/achievements.
- A section of the Shadow Board could be dedicated to YL and MYP reps.
- Shadow Board members could be invited to attend selected YL and MYP meetings to update.
- The groups could join to take part in team building and training days.

### Other Shadow Board business

#### NCC Equalities Strategy 2011-2014. Delivered by Catherine Wills (Senior access, inclusion and equalities Officer)

- CW explained that the county council is currently consulting with members of the public over the equalities strategy.
- CW went through a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the map, objectives and actions for the strategy.
- Yp's were given interactive voting pads to register how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the councils proposals.
- Yp's were given the opportunity to write comments, concerns and general thoughts about the strategy on a graffiti wall.

#### Update from members of The Shooting Stars group, supported by Rosie Milburn

- The group introduced themselves and explained the aims of the group and how often they meet.
- Explained that they had also recently worked on the NHS outcomes agenda item that had featured on the Area Board agenda.
- The group talked through a slideshow of pictures taken at a recent residential trip to Grendon Hall.

#### Update from The Big Ideas Primary Group, delivered by Billy and supported by Julie Jordan

- Billy explained that the group have their meetings on Saturday's.
- He has been the chairperson, but this is currently a position held by another member.
- They also worked on the NHS outcomes agenda in their last meeting.

### CYPPB Election

- All members of the Shadow Board were invited to put themselves forward to represent the group at the CYPPB being held at The Guildhall on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

- Abrah, Helen, Belinda, Bethany and Devante stood for election. Each gave a short election speech. Votes were counted and Helen and Abrah were chosen to represent the group.