

## **Summary of Area Board discussions**

### **August 2011**

The area board meetings generated much discussion on a range of topics.

#### **Promotional DVD**

In order to raise awareness of the area and shadow board process, a dvd will be produced. This will explain the process, benefits for young people and advise on how to get involved. Area board members were asked for ideas on what to include, what to avoid, style etc.

- Group of 7 people, one person representing each area. The film should flick between each person as they give a piece of info eg each person gives name, then it goes round again, age, where from etc. Then move on to info about getting involved, benefits etc. Ends "If you think you're like these guys then go to .... for more info."
- Have two videos. One for 11-13/14 year olds –highlights the meeting new friends, having fun aspect. Second film aimed at 15+ highlighting benefits such as cv building, personal statements on Uni apps, job refs etc.
- Film should have a mix of yp's and adults.
- Show the film in assemblies with a young person to introduce and take questions.
- Short and sharp pieces of info.
- Use humour.
- Indoor and outdoor locations.
- Mention volunteering hours.
- Use music.
- Different age groups.
- Show footage of meetings –set context
- Highlight what has been achieved.
- Two sides, the for and against. Have some yp's saying it's a waste of time, what's the point vs a group who highlight the benefits.
- Highlight other events you can get involved in.
- Don't talk down to yp.
- Flashing images catches and holds attention.
- Happy atmosphere.
- Use black and white
- Interview yp's that have been involved.

- Slide show of pics with a voice over.
- Show yp from all areas. No one person/area should get too much 'screen time'.
- Show positive working between yp and adults.
- Show yp from different backgrounds.
- Dont make it too cluttered/busy.

### Forming an inspection group

A group of young people will be trained to inspect local young persons services. Area board members were asked to think about what an inspection would involve and which services to inspect.

#### Things to consider

- Does the service meet the yp's needs
- Cleanliness
- Use of appropriate language
- Attitude of staff
- Welcoming
- Interviewing service users and staff
- First impressions
- Facilities adequate
- Relevant leaflets/material
- Confidentiality
- Health and safety
- Attitude of managers
- Helpfulness/approachable
- User friendly/young people friendly
- Use of building space
- Appearance of staff
- Location – Yp friendly?
- Tailor each inspection to specific service

- Skills to suit what they deliver
- Affordable
- Does the service deliver what it sets out to do.

#### Places to inspect

- Police
- Service 6
- GP
- Swimming pool
- Youth clubs
- YOS
- Leisure centres/sports clubs
- Care homes
- Shops
- Job centre
- Fire service
- Dentist
- Library
- Cinema
- Connexions
- School/college
- Bus service
- Church
- Youth works CIC
- Sports centres
- Community centres

## Youth Vision

The Government is working with young people to produce a vision and policy statement on young people and services for young people. The vision is for a society that is 'Positive for Youth'. This society will have young people with; strong ambitions, good opportunities and supportive relationships.

Area board members were asked to comment on this vision and suggest amendments and additions.

Comments on existing headings: Strong Ambitions, Good opportunities, Supportive Relationships.

- Extra support needed for young people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- More emphasis on other opportunities for young people, not just pushing everyone towards the academic/uni route. Eg apprenticeships.
- Should be wider inclusion of all yp. Currently it seems that only a select few yp's are involved in opportunities.
- Greater emphasis on yp getting work experience opportunities. Work progression is second to academic achievement. Not every yp is academically driven.
- Young people should be introduced to mentors and positive role models at an earlier age.
- Smaller classes to raise the standard of education.

Additional areas to include:

- Housing – Young people have access to suitable and appropriate housing.
- Social development of yp's should be included. A positive society needs well developed and confident yp's.
- Modernisation of services to meet the needs of yp.
- Better use of facilities for yp. Too many places are under used or are closing down.
- Preparing yp for the real world.
- Positive image of yp should be promoted more. Currently it seems that yp's are stereotyped as being negative.