

Summary of issues for Children and Young People's Plan from Children and Young People and parents via the consultation process

Disabled children:

Older people in the community were concerned about:

- Support for disabled children
- Transition to adulthood
- Recognising the achievements of disabled children
- Equal access to all areas of childhood experience.

Be Healthy:

Healthy Weight:

Children and young people's major priority was healthy weight. This was also reflected by older people in the community.

They have concerns about 'fast and fatty food and the availability of 'healthy food in the community'. There is support for action to ensure that there should be fewer fast food outlets and more healthy food outlets.

Associated with this was the desire for more exercise opportunities to be available and education about what is needed for healthy weight.

Environmental Health:

Young People were concerned about the effect on them of an unhealthy environment. This was expressed in having fewer cars on roads, better public transport, less pollution.

Emotional Health

Older people in the community were concerned about emotional well being of children. It was important that the delivery of proven early interventions, such as counselling, is made a priority.

For children and young people emotional health did not have the same prominence as physical health but there were a number of points raised about the need for supportive friendships.

Sexual Health

Young people wanted:

- Better available guidance on issues such as drugs, sex, alcohol
- Specialist support about sexual health
- Support for young parents.

Alcohol

An expressed concern from young people was about adult drinking and how it made young people feel unsafe. Older people shared this concern but also expressed concern about teenage binge drinking especially in some areas of the city and that there should be work to prevent access.

Children also have concerns about smoking and passive smoking.

Be Safe:

A major concern for children and young people was safety in the community. Children overwhelmingly saw visible policing as a good thing as they did have concerns about community safety and teenage gangs and the issues raised above.

Another major concern for children was road safety – they wanted to see cycle training courses and a reduction in traffic and traffic speed. These concerns were echoed by older members of the community.

There were some concerns raised about bullying, touching on the issue of cyber bullying and also about the potential impact on individuals.

Children and young people did see more support for parents as being important as did older members of the community. There were a number of comments in support of the children's centres but with riders that:

- Areas not covered by the centres also needed support;
- Need to maintain links to health services
- Different methods of engagement (for example the arts) will be beneficial.

Enjoy & Achieve

Important elements for children and young people in learning (and learning was seen as important) were:

- Broad curriculum – not solely based around SATs, exams etc but to include life skills and practical skills;
- Fun and interesting lessons, to include arts based approaches;
- More support either through smaller class sizes or more adult support;
- Improving children and young people's ability to manage school/social demands, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups;
- All the different means by which children can achieve are taken into account.

There was a need to promote as fully as possible home-school relationships. These are a partnership not about school improvement but about needs of child.

Reduction of exclusions from school

Older members of the community asked for more partnership working to take greater responsibility for 'Managed Moves', sorting out alternative provision etc.

Activities

There was a lot of demand for more provision over a whole range of activities. Actual provision was seen as whole community function with much appreciation of voluntary provisions. But the role of the local authority to support the voluntary sector was emphasised.

There was appreciation of the beneficial affects on physical and emotional health. Important to link the children's plan with leisure, sport and the arts as they are integral to health and well-being. Play was seen as an important element in building resilience and learning to cope with assessing and working through difficulties.

It is important that out-of-school activities were accessible to all. This was especially important for disabled children. There was a general call for more out of school activities including homework support.

Information

Overall there is a demand for information to be readily available and accessible. This applies to both services and activities. Often young people expressed surprise at the range of activities and services available but emphasised the difficulty of finding information. Information was requested via a number different methods.

Affordable high quality childcare pre-school places

There was a need to ensure early years provision is evenly distributed city wide, with focus on high quality provision that meets the needs of children.

For parents main issue in choice of childcare is quality of provision (though cost is a significant element). Similarly Family Learning provision needs to remain family focussed and relevant to the needs of parents rather than the workforce.

Positive Contribution

Children and young people wanted to be involved in decision-making in their area, and in their community.

Supporting volunteering by young people

Need for young people to have ownership of projects and to be consulted about things that are targeted at them. Examples given:

- Community arts projects to decrease graffiti and promote community spirit;
- Membership of national youth parliament, with a supporting youth council;
- New ways of communicating with young people e.g. mobile phones, Social Engagement Networks.

Improve the public image of children and young people

Young and older members of the community felt that the image of children and young people was unfairly poor and that there needed to be a pro-active approach to improve that image. A key factor in this would be to celebrate the achievements of children and young people.

Clean, tidy eco-friendly city – the fabric of the city is much appreciated – the history, the museums and green spaces. Children and young people are proud of the city, and there is a clear desire to preserve and enhance a city. Litter was seen as a big issue, by children and young people.

Cross generational activities

Need for promotion of cross-generational activities which will break down barriers.

Community Cohesion

York was seen as a rapidly changing city, with people from all parts of the world contributing to the life of the city. There was a call to celebrate cultures and communities.

Reducing the number of young people in trouble with the law

Children and young people and older members of the community wanted to see more work to ensure that young people were supported to keep out of trouble. This work to be both diversionary activity and enforcement.

Economic well-being:

The likely economic slowdown and the resulting effects on income and employment levels has had an increasing impact on consultation responses. The issues associated with child poverty are seen as increasingly important and will have an impact on all aspects of children's lives.

Employment, Education, Training:

The need to support the transition of young people into adult life was seen as a significant issue for the plan with specific suggestions about:

- Life- skills being a significant and earlier part of the curriculum;
- Work experience being promoted;
- Talks to pupils by their close peers who have just moved on as a way of raising ambition;
- Apprenticeships to encourage all young people;
- Greater support for careers education and advice available within school curriculum, and even beyond the curriculum through community groups and activities;
- Need to work with employers to better meet the needs of this group.