



**Haringey** Council

Agenda item:

**Scrutiny Panel – Preventing Youth Crime**

***on 12 January at 2011***

Report Title: <b>Feedback from meeting with Young People</b>	
Report of: <b>Cllrs Newton and Gibson</b>	
Wards(s) affected: <b>ALL</b>	
<b>1. Purpose</b> 1.1 To report back on the meeting with young people held at Keston Road.	
<b>2. Recommendations</b> 2.1 That the feedback from the meeting with young people be noted.	
<b>Contact Officer:</b> Carolyn Banks Principal Scrutiny Support Officer, Tel 0208 489 2965	
<b>3. Executive Summary</b> 3.1 As set out in the attached report	
<b>4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)</b> 4.1 N/A	
<b>5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</b> None	

- 6.1 Members will recall that it had been agreed that Councillors Newton and Gibson represent the Panel at the meeting with young people at Keston Road on 9 December. The young people The young people were either low level offenders who have been through the court system or those who have been through the Targeted Youth Support Team.

- 6.2 Set out in the Appendix is the feedback from Councillors and the notes taken by the Administrative officer from the Centre.

## **APPENDIX**

### **Meeting with Councillors on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2010 – NOTES FROM ADMIN OFFICER**

Regarding working with the Youth services (Targeted Youth Inclusion, Youth Inclusion Project and Challenge and Support).

#### **Comments from young people :-**

Gives me something to do  
Takes me to Court  
Helps with prevention – helps me doing things  
Gives you a say /personal choice  
Finds us things to do/activities  
Role models – helps me parenting my child  
Organised trips to places like Thorpe Park (now stopped)  
Only got the support when I got into trouble  
The youth project helped me get back into college  
Need more youth clubs  
Makes friendships  
Held a football tournament – kept us off the streets  
Belong to the boxing club

Made me change the way I think  
The workshops changed me  
Asked what I want to do  
Made a music video  
Kept me busy  
Kept me off the street  
Helped me get into college

When you become a bad kid that is when you get help.

Fit for Life works.

Quick activities are good but need to continue for a longer time.  
Substance misuse education gives freedom  
If you bored you turn to criminal activity

#### **Gangs**

Young people belong to gangs because they are bored  
Young people are judged as being in gangs even if they aren't  
Labelling young people is wrong  
Is it a bad thing to be in a gang?  
People leave gangs because they become more mature, because they see no hope, because it is scary and life is for living.

#### **Education**

Get bored easy  
Play truant  
Peer teaching – if you are good at a subject

Respect young teachers  
Authority is needed in the classroom  
Making music helps us to stay out of trouble – say in a song how to stay out of trouble.

### **What helps?**

Youth organisations give a lot of support – they care about us.  
Free transport will help  
Help with motivation and flexibility  
Long term help looking at jobs.  
Mentors  
If you see trouble coming you can stop it  
Families can help with anger  
Anger management courses  
Keeping friends together so they don't get into trouble with others from different areas.

### **Future**

Young people are getting involved in politics – student demonstrations for examples

### **Notes From Cllr Newton**

Meeting with Young People at the Keston Centre on 9th December 2010

We met with a number of young people aged around 16-18 and there was a varied response to questions from just yes/no/no response to a fuller answer from others. In general we talked to a few young people at a time and they appeared to be more responsive to informally chatting and reacting to what others were saying rather than responding to direct questions. The most responsive group came at the end and this was probably helped by having a couple of 'mates' attending as well as the young offenders. There was only one girl attending who requested to talk one-to-one rather than in a group with the boys and Cllr Gibson talked to her separately.

### **A few general points from talking to the young people as follows:**

- Young people saw Youth Workers as someone to help young person who is trusted and gives good advice not just going to court but to go to college and find things to do and help stay out of trouble.
- Support needed sooner as soon as a young person starts to be a problem in class or gets excluded (more support around 12yrs was mentioned).
- If a young person starts to be a problem in class this can lead to teachers picking on some young people and treating differently and can make the problem worse. Once a young person is labelled bad they get no treats and no way of getting back into normal class - needs to be better balance between how young people are treated.

- Mentoring could help but it was felt that there was insufficient provision.
- Younger teachers could help as young people can relate to them but they also need to be able to show some authority.
- There appeared to be a fairly common problem with anger that could lead to getting into trouble ... anger management had helped ... walking out of class before anger explodes better than staying and getting excluded.
- Programmes like 'Fit for Life' were initially thought of by young person as not worth going to but once encouraged to go they really enjoyed things like potholing and canoeing and other challenges. Activities may only be provided once a week but may help young people keep out of trouble for longer period.
- More youth clubs.
- Problem of young people going to clubs and not getting on with other groups. Needs to be things that different groups of young people can do together at different places ... their own friends.
- Help young people stay out of trouble by telling them through something they relate to - make a record.
- Football course helped (Connections?) and made new friends ... one friend suggested to go to it and then I suggested others.
- Young people are not encouraged to believe in themselves and that they can do anything.
- Ambitions included army, mechanic, entrepreneur or rapper. Found it difficult to aspire to jobs like solicitor.
- Army Cadets suited one person but others did not like cadets and being ordered around.
- Boxing was helping a couple of young people.

### **Notes from Cllr Gibson**

### **Perception of teachers/education**

- a) Young people feel that children that behave badly get more attention on the classroom.
- b) Sometimes the teachers frustrate children into doing things that they don't want to do
- c) Sometimes teachers allow some unacceptable stands just to keep the peace.
- d) They relate to younger teachers better as they feel they have a better understanding of young Minds.
- e) Many saw that discipline was necessary but should not be excessive.
- f) They didn't think that older teachers be strict and relaxed at times.
- g) Some did not find their educational environment stimulating and found the pace of the teaching and slow and tiring This contributes to boredom.
- h) Peer Teaching/learning was a good practice in the classroom if the student is good at the subject,

### **Perception of Youth Offending Team:**

- a) Gives them something to do
- b) Takes them to court
- c) Saw the youth offending officers as authority figures as well as mentors.
- d) Quite a few youth officers have dipped into their pockets to provide goods and services for  
The young people.
- e) They believed that the officers genuinely cared about their wellbeing.
- f) They valued the fact that it was their personal choice to attend the programme.
- g) They enjoy the activities that they do there such as Thorpe Park.
- h) Some of them who are now parents stated it helped to prepare them for parenthood.
- i) They only got support when they get into trouble. Had they not had contact when they would  
Have got into worst trouble.
- j) Offered guidance on College courses which helps many to get back on track.
- k) More youth clubs is needed to engage young people.
- l) Helped them to make new friends. Activities such as the tournament not only kept them off  
The street, but helped to engage them.
- o) Some of the young people who had issues with depression were able to be encouraged to  
the house and get onto College courses as well rebuilding the relationship between child and  
mother.

### **The Impact the service has had on young people:-**

- a) Changed the way they think
- b) Questioned future direction

- c) They made a music video
- d) Kept me off the streets
- e) Helped me get into College

### **Gangs**

- a) Young people belong to gangs because they are bored.
- b) Young people are judged as being in gangs when they aren't
- c) Labelling young people is wrong.
- d) Is it a bad thing to be in a gang? The definition of a gang was under debate.  
They concluded  
That a gang could be any group.
- e) People leave gang when they become more mature.

### **What helps:**

- a) They would appreciate free transport.
- b) They need more help with motivation and enjoy flexibility.
- c) They need long term help looking for jobs.
- d) They would like to see more mentors in the early stages to avoid them getting into trouble.
- e) Anger management should help

### **Future:**

- a) Young people are getting involved in politics for the first time this year.
- b) This is because this is an issue that affects them –student demonstration.
- c) They feel they can go further but, the limited in terms of finances etc.