



**Report on Consultation**  
**Children and Young People's Plan Review**  
**5<sup>th</sup> December 2008**

## **Report on the consultation with children and young people in Poole between the ages of 5 and 13.**

### **Background**

As part of the review process for the children and young people's plan in Poole, we were asked to consult with 5 – 13 year olds living in the Borough, focusing on these priorities:

1 - Ensure children and young people feel safe in their homes, schools and public areas:

-by reducing harm from bullying, domestic abuse, drugs and alcohol

2 - Increase confident, employable young people who feel valued in our town by:

-encouraging and valuing the positive contribution young people make and increasing school attendance, ambition, achievement and enjoyable activities.

### **Process**

We devised a range of age appropriate, fun activities to engage children and young people so that they were able to express their thoughts and experiences in relation to the above priorities. Consultation was carried out throughout October and November.

<b>Total number of children and young people consulted</b>	<b>158.</b>
<b>Age range</b>	<b>5-13 years old.</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>81 Male</b>
	<b>77 Female</b>

**Majority of young people involved were of white British ethnicity.**

### **Where we consulted:**

#### **First School Council Forum:**

Total number of children consulted= 23

- Springdale BH18 9BW
- Canford Heath BH17 8PJ
- Merley BH21 1SD
- St Josephs Combined BH12 4DZ
- Longfleet Combined BH15 2HF
- Old Town BH15 1QB
- Heatherlands BH12 2BG
- St Aldhems BH12 1PA

#### **Middle and Combined Schhol Council Forum:** Total number of children consulted =21

- Hamworthy BH15 4DG
- St Joseph's Combined BH12 4DZ
- Baden Powell and St Peters BH14 8UL
- Longfleet Combined BH15 2HF
- Manorside Combined BH12 4JG
- Oakdale South Road BH15 3JR
- Longspee BH17 8PJ

Individual visits

		Total number of children consulted
• Branksome Heath Middle	BH12 3DX	21
• Broadstone Middle	BH18 8AE	10
• Longspee	BH17 8PJ	6
• Montacute	BH17 9NG	7
• Old Town First	BH15 1QB	20
• St Mary's	BH15 3QQ	13
• Alderney West Community Centre	BH12 4PR	2
• Bourne Valley Youth Club	BH12 4DY	4
• Limelights	BH17 8PJ	8
• Turlin Moor Youth Club	BH16 5AH	16
• Young Carers - Ted Webster	BH14 0BD	7

**Methodology**

When visiting the mainstream schools, Bourne Valley Youth Club, Young Carers and Limelights, we engaged the children in 8 stimulating activities in order to gauge their views and experiences. Various participatory methods were used including targets, scaling, voting with stickers, questions and an anonymous wishes box.

In order to successfully engage young people at Alderney West Community Centre and Turlin Moor Youth Club we adapted our approach due to numbers and limited space. We spoke informally with children and young people on a one to one level and small groups and worked through the activities as an informal questionnaire.

Due to the level of need of the children at Longspee and on the recommendation of a member of staff, a more projective technique was used with these young people. In small groups but still focusing on the original priorities, young people developed an identity of a young person living in Poole and answered the same set of questions.

It was suggested to us by the Deputy Head of Montacute that we do an initial observational visit to the school to gain an understanding and an insight into the level of need and the abilities of their children within our age range. Through discussion with Ginny, it was decided that sending a questionnaire to parents and carers would be the most suitable way of generating responses. Questionnaires were kept brief and focused on the same priorities and parents were asked to fill them out either with, or on behalf of their child. This was decided as being the most appropriate method as the children and young people within our age range were not able to understand basic concepts nor communicate and express themselves clearly.

**Findings**

**Priority 4 - Bullying**

Have you been bullied?	Yes	84
	No	74
Has it improved?	Yes	64
	No	20
How/ why did it improve or stop?	Told the teacher Told mum Stuck up for themselves	

**Priority 6- Confidence**

See targets in appendices.

How good do you feel about yourself?      10= very good      1= very low

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No. of responses				1	3	5	3		1	5

How much do you believe you are able to achieve something?    10= strongly believe  
1= don't believe

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No. of responses			1			2	5	5	4	1

Priority 4 – Safety

Where do you feel the safest?

Home	109
Classroom	18
Playground	6
Play areas	4
After school club	9

Where do you feel the least safe?

Play areas	89
After school club	17
Playground	22
Classroom	10
Home	2

Where do you think bullying is most likely to happen?

Playground	103
Play areas	21
Classroom	16
After school club	13
Home	1

Where do you think bullying is least likely to happen?

Home	95
Classroom	28
Play areas	6
After school club	12
Playground	2

Priority 6- Enjoyable Activities

Type of Activity	Number of children who said they had done it in the last year.	Number of children who said they would like to try it in the future.
Visiting local attractions	105	43
Youth forums/ meetings out of school	18	36
Youth club/ group	70	31
Parks, playgrounds, open spaces	104	17
School breakfast club	27	47
Brownies/scouts	45	43
After school club	100	30
Music lesson	58	59
Sports centre	79	52
Church/ Faith group	36	12
Sports activity	108	39

Priority 6- Enjoyable activities

What do you think of the range of activities in Poole for you to do?

10= very good

1= really poor

Scale	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
No. of responses	9	3	6	2	12	15	18	16	18	40

Priority 6- Positive Contribution

Do children and young people in Poole have a say about decisions which affect them?

<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>DON'T KNOW</b>
<b>31</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>41</b>

Priority 6- Valued in Poole-

How well do you get on with other children and young people who are different to you?

10= really well

1=not well

<b>Scale</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>No. of responses</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>45</b>

Priority 6- Valued In Poole-

What one thing would you change to make Poole a better place for children and young people?

School

Free school lunches

Free school trips

More school trips for children

Give more money to schools for fun stuff and supplies

To have a say in what we learn at school. Learn maths, English, science but then maybe not subjects like R.E.

Cheaper transport

More safety on roads

Children cops  
More police so children feel safer  
No more bullying  
Stop violence  
Kidnapping  
Racism  
Child abuse

All need to be thought as equals  
For everyone to get along teenagers and elders  
Getting to speak to important people  
Give children more rights  
Children should be able to vote  
Give children a say in things  
Children speak to other children to express their emotions  
Friendlier community  
More money for people who struggle  
Cleaner environment

More open spaces/ play parks  
Not vandalise and wreck play parks  
Safer parks  
Less rubbish, cleaner parks, cleaner beach  
More things for younger children to do  
Inside play area for over 10's  
Better activities for older children  
Cheaper activities  
Free activities

### **Analysis of findings**

Just over half the children and young people consulted with, said they had experienced bullying at some point in their life. For the majority of these children, the situation had improved or stopped however there are still 20 children suffering from bullying. Strategies for dealing with this included, telling the teacher, parent or sticking up for themselves. The majority of young people felt that bullying occurs most often in playgrounds, but does also occur in play areas, classrooms and after school clubs. It is least likely to occur at home and in adult supervised areas like classrooms and after school clubs.

The overwhelming majority claimed to feel safest when at home and in the classroom and the least safe in the play ground and in play areas. The children from Longspee felt the least safe whilst out at night, in the town and on the Bourne Valley estate.

The majority of children and young people felt that they are able to achieve something and feel confident. They also feel they get on well with people who are different to them.

Most children and young people in Poole between the ages of 5 and 13 either don't feel they are able to have a say about things that affect them or don't know. The minority that responded positively were councillors within their schools and felt that this process enabled them to have their say and be listened to.

Within the age range of 5 - 13, the most popular activities for children and young people are visiting local attractions, parks, playgrounds and open spaces, doing sports activities and attending after school clubs. The least attended were youth forums and school breakfast clubs. Most were unaware that youth forums existed and were very unclear as to what they involved. Most children and young people were keen to try music lessons. Young people feel there is a good range of activities in Poole for them to get involved in.

In response to improving the lives of children and young people, several themes were identified including issues around school, transport, personal safety, having a say, parks and open spaces and activities.

### **Conclusion**

When taking a holistic view, it is clear that children and young people aged 5-13 may find accessing some of the activities available to them difficult and consequently not attend although they would like to. This can be attributed to the cost of activities and accessibility for children with disabilities or additional needs. Children and young people feel the school council forum provides an opportunity for them to have their voice heard, however this needs to be more representative to include those with additional needs.

The breadth of consultation allowed us to identify particular issues relating to specific areas within the Borough. For example issues raised at Turlin Moor included more extreme elements of child safety, where as responses from children at Broadstone Middle and St Mary's were based around environmental issues and their health and well being. Young people from Alderney and Longspee referred to dealing with problems in a negative, anti social manner however at the school council forums, all councillors stated pro active strategies as a means to resolving conflict.

It is important that all children and young people aged 5-13 are regularly able to access free/low cost, supervised, age appropriate activities both in term time and holidays. This is crucial to enable them to make a positive contribution and assist them in the development of their self esteem and confidence.

### **Appendices available from the Action for Children Participation Team on request**