



Young People's Safety Group

Evaluation Report

24th September 2009



1) Introduction

The London Borough of Barking and Dagenham held its third Young People's Safety Group meeting on Thursday 24th September 2009 at Barking Town Hall. The forum's purpose is to provide regular opportunities for young people aged between 11-19 to give their views and opinions on safety and safeguarding issues in the borough.

The meeting was held during the National 'Week of peace'. The agenda reflected this and it also focused on local safety consultation, 'a day in the life' of a social worker, smoking prevention campaign, online youth survey and the youth access card.

The forum was very well supported with young people attending, representing the following institutions;

- All Saints
- Sydney Russell
- Eastbrook
- Lifeline Institute
- Lifeline Young Consultants
- Pupil Referral Unit

Each school was invited to send between 6-8 pupils from their school council, so there would be a direct feedback mechanism to the whole school and school council's. Robyn Keeble, aged 19 who has been involved in the Safeguarding agenda through her role as a Young Consultant chaired the Young People's Safety Group.

1) Delphine Guerin, Sydney Russell – ‘Week of Peace’

This meeting was held during the national ‘Week of Peace’ 20th-26th September 2009. Delphine gave a presentation to the group detailing the role that ‘Peace Ambassadors’ playing within Sydney Russell school and outlined the importance of their work. Peace Ambassadors are recruited from the student body and tasked with creating a peaceful schooling environment. Last year the peace ambassadors were proactive around the school actively promoting an ‘anti-gun, anti-knife crime’ message in the school. The pupils gave a presentation at an assembly and they also designed and wore t-shirts with a logo.

2) Post Code Wars – Kevin Donovan, Child Voice Coordinator

Following on with the ‘Peace’ theme. To make it relevant and current to young people, we identified a subject area that they are familiar with, with the national newspapers and Television coverage of teenage murders. We wanted young people to act as peace makers and identify what they would/could do to bring about a peaceful resolution to a conflict.

The young people were given an actual postcode war case study, with the identity of the two areas concealed. The case study detailed the make-up of the two rival gangs, their ethnicity, the crimes they’ve committed and identified the area of contention. The young people were asked to read the case study and take on the role of public servants and identify what they would do to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict between the two neighbouring areas. To aid their thought process the young people were given a case study of a project that is being used in Hackney to bring rival gang members together.

The young people’s suggestions are detailed below:

Group 1

- Negotiate
- Get two mature people from each gang for a one to one to discuss the situation
- Youth clubs (activities)

Group 2

- Mix both towns and try to make it into one town
- Put white people to do services in Laistow and vice versa
- Get mayor of both towns to meet each other and show on the television for both town to see what’s happening

Group 3

- Arrest the whole gang
- Various crimes
- Murder and drugs
- Put both gangs in a room with police in a safe environment t and let them talk it out

Group 4

- Talk
- Meeting one group at a time
- Facts and figures
- X gang members out of prison to visit schools and give info
- Explain how not to give into peer pressure and be your own person

Group 5

- Introduce more community police
- More youth clubs
- Publicise more YPF
- Get people to go undercover to find out about drug trafficking
- Take gang members into prison so they see that prison life isn't all it seems

Group 6

- Ex gang members out of prison to give talks to people
- More youth clubs and more community police
- Talk
- Create a campaign

Group 7

- Staying out for each other's way
- Youth centre where the gang can talk but in a control area
- Crime stoppers

3) 'A day in the life of a social worker' – Jeff Klein, Barking Care Management Team

As an action from the previous meeting in June 2009, the young people stated that they would welcome a presentation from a social worker. A social worker was duly invited to the meeting and presented on his role as a social worker. Jeff detailed his daily duties and informed the young people that no two days were ever the same and anything can crop up at any time. The ultimate goal of a social worker is to affect and make a positive change in the lives of children and young people.

Jeff invited questions from the young people:

- I) How do you deal with the emotions?

This can be difficult at times, but it is important to have some interests outside of the job, that can allow you to take your mind off the job when you are not at work.

- II) Why do social services keep making mistakes?

Mistakes may happen in a small number of cases. As there has been a number of high profile cases happen recently, it has come to the public's attention via the media and the

media do not help with some inaccurate coverage. Working in London as a social worker; the cases seem to be more high profile when things go wrong. It's true to say mistakes have been made, but the important thing to remember is that nobody deliberately makes mistakes or sets out to endanger a child's life.

III) What are the advantages and disadvantages of being a social worker?

There are a number of advantages of working as a social worker and one or two disadvantages. The advantages are that you are in a position to improve a child's situation and help them to overcome difficulties, when you have worked with a young person and you happen to meet them a few year's down the line and you see that they've progressed and gone off and have a career, this is rewarding. The disadvantages are the Press think that you're a waste of time; the hours are long and the money's not great.

IV) How do you deal with a child when they tell you that they have been hit with an implement?

The first thing to say is that is wrong and it shouldn't happen and if it does then you would need to tell an adult. If we became aware of that situation then we would visit the child with the Police. This will enable us to gain a better understanding of what took place. The child would be sent to a paediatrician. In these cases, we are heavily reliant on the Police and Courts for appropriate actions to safeguard children.

V) What happens if a child doesn't want to go into foster care?

Going into care isn't an automatic thing. If a situation occurred like this then negotiation with the young person would take place. We would have to build up a relationship with the child and let them know that being in care may not be perfect, however it may be the best thing for them at that given point in time. It's a fact that half the children in foster care return to their family of origin.

VI) How do you respond when a parent tells you it is their right to beat their child?

Social Services do not have the power to prosecute. It is important to gain an understanding of the situation and any underlying stress factors present. It is not correct for parents to beat their child.

4) Local Safety Consultation – Child Voice Co ordinator

As part of a wider local safety consultation the group were asked to identify their ward on a borough map and then say whether or not that they agreed with the priorities that have been set out for the ward.

West – please tick in which ward you live

ABBEY (5) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (3)

No (2)

- ASB - Barking Town Centre – Begging and Drinking
- ASB - Prostitution in Tanner St/Fanshawe Ave

- Road Safety – Speeding and Driving Offences

Community Priorities

- Activities happening at night
- Have people that works with the night police there so they can keep things under control
- Everyone should have a certain pass to have a knife
- The age limit to buy a sharp object should also be increased and only to buy it at a specific place
- Put some more community support police around the area
- Littering
- Happy with how the priorities are being deal with
- Communication between departments as this can be improved to help deal with the public more effectively
- Police should b more alert about these matters in the borough
- Police should patrol the area more around the afternoon and nights

Gascoigne (10) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes

(4) No (6)

- Theft from Motor vehicle - Highbridge Road
- Road Safety – Speeding and Driving Offences

Community Priorities

- Police should hang around the zebra crossing because people disrespect it
- Put more CCTV cameras around the zebra crossing area
- Noisy people in the area
- How people park their car, they should give out more parking tickets
- Need more police
- Fear of crime and muggings
- Council service to stop beggars and teenagers coming and urinating and leaving food in the blocks
- Security should be number one priorities
- More CCTV
- More protections and security guards
- More community police in the area
- Youth needs to be encouraged to do activities due to them hanging around local area and scaring people
- Want to see more police on Abbey road
- More traffic calming
- New road surface to much noise
- More police
- Increase fines for speeding
- Bins getting emptied more often

**THAMES (2) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (2)
No (0)**

- Road Safety – Parking enforcement School Farr Avenue
- ASB – Off Road Motorcycles Bellway Land Choats Road
- ASB – Youths in Maplestead Road
- Road Safety – Speeding Choats Road

Community Priorities

- Make the kids and teenagers get out of the streets and join youth clubs
- Teens hanging about near the shops and shooting the ball in the glass
- To continue to be vigilant especially during the evening time
- Security especially where the elderly people lives

**Longbridge (5) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live?
Yes (2) No (3)**

- Theft – Theft @ ATM Faircross Parade
- ASB – Youths around Barking Abbey School

Community Priorities

- Need more police presence
- Bradfield drive is used as a race track and danger to local schools
- Would like to see more foot patrol
- Keeping youths in order
- More police on the street
- Stop people drinking all over Barking & Dagenham's streets
- Chip shops owners need to be more aware of rubbish along streets and need to be cleaned up
- Police should be constantly alert and check to make sure it doesn't happen again
- Police Patrolling the area on a daily basis
- More CCTV around the area

**EASTBURY (2) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes
(0) No (2)**

- ASB – Youths taking drugs and causing disorder in Sebastian Court
- Road Safety – Traffic offences across ward

Community Priorities

- More patrols
- More police around to confiscate alcohol
- Keeping an eye on what's going on and keeping it under control

North – please tick in which ward you live

CHADWELL HEATH (13) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (3) No (10)

- ASB – Youths using drugs
- Robbery – Youths in A12 Underpass

Community Priorities

- Policing the area and more police at school time
- Parking outside schools
- More Police presence
- More CCTV's
- Parents looking out for one another's kids
- More police in parks because of fighting
- More youth clubs
- More wardens in the area
- More support for parents to help discipline their children

BECONTREE (12) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (4) No (8)

- Burglary – Increase across ward
- ASB – Youths in Fieldway

Community Priorities

- There isn't much they can do to further what they are already doing
- Educating young people about the dangers of gangs
- Make sure they don't get out of hand
- Have community police so gangs have to where to cause trouble
- Children are coming a bit of trouble which makes shops keepers uncomfortable
- Have night watch guards watching the streets
- They should also do it in the day
- Make sure that they are trustworthy and responsible officers
- More police around the area
- CCTV cameras around
- More youth clubs
- More security for homes
- Cleaner streets
- More police in early hours of morning
- Provide activities for the youth
- Educate parents how to keep their children busy
- Harder sentences, fines and community services
- More wardens patrolling the area at least twice a day
- More serious fines for dog owners that don't pick up their dog's foul

- Closer relationship with SNT and Children's Centre
- More police around the area especially on the holiday time (half terms)
- More educational class for teenagers on decent behaviour

MAYESBROOK (2) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live?

Yes (2) No (0)

- ASB – Adults drinking in street at Martins Corner
- ASB – Youths in Gale Street
- Burglary – Across ward

Community Priorities

- Patrol regularly the roads near Martin's corner

WHALEBONE (4) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live?

Yes (1) No (3)

- ASB – Youths in the High Road
- ASB – Youths in Limbourne Avenue
- Road Safety – Chadwell Heath High Road
- Fly tipping – Selinas Lane

Community Priorities

- Traffic lights too slow so there's too much traffic and its hard to cross the road
- Litter because its messy
- Kids should have places to go after school
- Driving motorbikes
- Traffic congestion in area of Chadwell Heath
- Lights coordinated with Wangey road
- More CCTVs
- More lights around the area

VALANCE (2) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes

(2) No (0)

- Road Safety – Valence Primary School
- ASB – Youths in Warrington Square
- ASB – Youths at Valence Avenue Pizza Hut
- ASB – Neighbour Dispute Manor Square
- Traffic – Parking obstructions Valance Primary School

Community Priorities

- More wardens
- More policemen

PARSLOES (7) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (2) No (5)

- Road Safety – Speeding
- Fear of Crime – Youth commuting to/from Sydney Russell School.

Community Priorities

- Don't think there's much fear of crime but we need a few more speed bumps in some areas (e.g. valence avenue cross section)
- Traffic lights need to be updated on a monthly basis (the wood lane traffic lights are wrong)
- To tell everyone and give information to people that everyone isn't violent
- Litter there's too much of it
- Think that they need to have more police officers at Parsloes park at night
- They should close it at a certain time and more CCTV
- Police keep sirens off at night due to other people gets woken up
- Children going to school throwing rubbish in gardens and on the streets
- Bust stops rubbish bins are being filled with residents rubbish
- Police needs to be more friendly with the community's members
- More harsh sentences for people that is carrying knives and guns around

East - please tick in which ward you live

EASTBROOK (3) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (1) No (2)

- Burglary - Whole Ward
- ASB - Youths in Dagenham Road
- ASB/Drugs – Youths in Parkside House

Community Priorities

- Try to do more youth clubs
- Bringing community together
- More police and wardens
- Harder penalties
- Hold parents more responsible for their children
- Parental responsibility

**HEATH (2) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (0)
No (2)**

- ASB – Youths in Wythenshaw Road
- Disorder – Youths in Althorne Way
- Burglary – Stour Road / Gosfield Road

Community Priorities

- More clubs, lights and police in the area
- Think about why its happening and try to resolve it
- ASBOS, GANGS and RAPISTS

**ALIBON (7) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (3)
No (4)**

- Road Safety – Speeding and Driving Offences in Reed Rd and Easfield Road
- ASB – Youth Diversionary Activity

Community Priorities

- More Zebra crossings
- More community service for crime such as graffiti
- More graffiti walls to graffiti on
- More community services
- Littering
- Organise places for young people to go to instead of staying on the streets
- Protection of young people
- Get more people to help out in their community
- Find out what happened and try to resolve it
- ASBO and more police at Oxlow Lane
- Publicise the information more
- More police in the area
- More wardens
- More youth clubs to help taking youth off the streets

**GORESBROOK (17) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live?
Yes (4) No (13)**

- Burglary – Across ward
- ASB – Street Drinking – Chequers Parade / Goresbrook Road.
- Dangerous Article (Weapons/Needles) – Goresbrook Park
- Traffic – Drivers using mobile phones
- ASB – Youths around Gale Street shops

Community Priorities

- Become a bit more stricter about the crimes going on and have more police around
- Become better streets and try to stop these events from happening
- More police and wardens to show their presence
- Be tougher with individuals
- Young and elderly people not wearing seatbelts whilst driving
- Penalty for crimes to be increased
- Young people on bikes riding fast and noisily around area
- More security late at night
- Have more police in the area
- Make sentences fit crimes
- Do rounds in Goresbrook Park
- Rubbish being thrown as children go to Jo Richardson's School
- Should fine people who drinks alcohol on the streets
- Wardens in the park to watch kids area
- Fine dog litters who do not pick up their dog's poo
- More youth clubs and activities for young people
- Better safety at Flex nightclub

**RIVER (6) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (1)
No (5)**

- Burglary – Crime Prevention Broad Street
- Burglary – Perception of Burglary Broad Street
- Youth – Perception of knife crime Dagenham Park School

Community Priorities

- Go on more usual patrols
- Patrol crime hotspots like the park or just around streets
- Activities for youths in the area to keep people off the streets and turn to a life of crime
- Street lights being obstructed due to large trees
- More wardens and police

**VILLAGE (3) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (0)
No (3)**

- Burglary – Increase across ward
- ASB / Gangs – Gangs in the Heathway
- ASB – Youths on the Leys Estate

Community Priorities

- More police presence
- More patrols around the area
- Fine kids for littering
- Punish parents if their children are always involve in them incidents

Borough Priorities - please tick in which ward you live

1. BARKING TOWN CENTRE (0) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (0) No (0)

- Main public transport hub within the Borough BR/LUL/BUS
- Borough Street Crime hotspot
- ASB by Youths between 3pm and 5.30pm weekdays
- ASB by drunks and enforcement of no drinking zone

Community Priorities

2. HARTS LANE ESTATE (1) Were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (0) No (1)

- Public Reassurance and prevention of violence.
- Gang Violence and ASB during the evenings

Community priorities

- Need psychological help and special attention

3. Route 5 (0) were you aware that these were the priorities for where you live? Yes (0) No (0)

- Public and Bus Driver Reassurance -
- Driver Incident Reports.
- ASB during School transit times (0700-0900, 1445-1630hrs) and evenings (1800-2300)

A full copy of the report will be available on www.lbbd.gov.uk/uyouth4us at the start of December 2009.

5) Smoking Prevention Campaign – Vicki Evans

Tobacco co-ordinators attended the group to ascertain the views of young people about smoking and the aim is that the information received will inform a wider smoking prevention strategy that they are complying. Below is a list of the questions the young people were asked and how they responded.

Question 1

What do you think are some of the main reasons young people smoke?

Group 1

Because they see their parents doing it then friends copy their parents eventually they are all smoking. In a way I think they think it makes them look good if they do.

Group 2

Some people think it makes look 'hard'

Peer pressure

Depression

Group 3

To make them look hard

Cos it tastes nice

Group 4

Look 'cool'

Influenced by parents

Under stress

Peer pressure

Question 2

Why do you think some young people think smoking is cool?

What do you think makes young people want to try smoking or start smoking?

Group 1

Friends do it / media / advertising / stress / weight loss / peer pressure / addiction

Group 2

Media

Group 3

Because their friends do it

Their family do it

Group 4

Everyone else is doing it

To rebel

See what it's like

Question 3

What are the things about smoking that make it uncool?

For example...

- Appearance...
- Giving in to peer pressure...
- Health...
- How much it costs...
- Seeing the effect it has on your parents/ family...

- Your own ideas...

Group 1

Smell / lung cancer / heart disease / bad breath / health issues / yellow teeth

Group 2

Ages your skin / smells / addictive / expensive / don't be a social smoker / use money for other things / anger

Group 3

Cancer

Group 4

Smell / cost / dental (yellow teeth) / cancer / ageing (wrinkles) / addiction

Question 4

What could make young people stop smoking or not want to do it?

- Emphasise the effects on the health
- Making smoking seem NOT cool
- Have substitute cigarettes
- Tablets
- Electric fags
- Publicising the contents of a cigarette
- Patches
- Make cigarettes ILLEGAL and stop making them altogether

6) Youth Access Card – Lorraine Shaw

The young people were informed of the council's plans to introduce a youth access card. As part of this exercise the young people were asked their views and opinions via voting mechanism. The results of the consultation are below:

StreetBase - Engagement with young people

Objectives

Barking and Dagenham are introducing a new card as part of the StreetBase offering of services for children and young people in the Borough. Consultation is being undertaken to find out the following:

- A name for the card
- Which activities might young people be willing to take part in to collect points?
- Which rewards would young people like to spend their points on?

Process

This was the first time the concept of a card has been tested with young people. As part of a larger consultation session, Matthew Upton from TCC led a 15 minute session with children and young people from a number of different schools across Barking and Dagenham. Thirty-three young people took part in the consultation.

This was split as follows:

Are you... Total/Average Total %

Male 17 51.52%

Female 16 48.48%

How old are you? Total/Average Total %

13 5 15.62%

14 13 40.62%

15 7 21.87%

16 1 3.13%

17 1 3.13%

18 3 9.38%

Other 2 6.25%

The card will be another 'tag' to add to the six that exist under the StreetBase umbrella. Before starting, we asked participants about their awareness of the StreetBase brand:

Have you heard of 'StreetBase'? Total/Average Total %

Yes 13 39.40%

No 14 42.42%

Rings a bell 6 18.18%

values first

Some of those who had not heard of StreetBase, did recognise the logo when displayed.

Testing the name

We first asked participants to instinctively select up to three names that they liked:

Which name do you prefer? Total/Average Total %

Connect 15 48.39%

Access 14 45.16%

Rewards 17 54.84%

Perks 12 38.71%

Bonus 19 61.29%

As opinion was fairly split, attendees were split into seven groups and had to become advocates for each. This left two groups able to come up with their own suggestions. The seven names taken forward were:

1. Connect
2. Access
3. Rewards
4. Perks
5. Bonus
6. Free4me
7. Point

8. BADY (Barking and Dagenham Youth)

Connect

Comments: "It's quite a good name because it sounds like it's connecting young people together."

Access

Comments: "It sounds like it will give you access to a world just for you where you can find out what you can do."

Rewards

Comments: "The name comes across as meaning we would have to do something to get the rewards."

Perks

Comments: "It sounds catchy." "Sounds good." "Looks fresh." "Groovy."
values first

Bonus

Comments: "

Free4me

Comments:

Point

Comments: "Simple." "Catchy."

After each group gave a brief presentation, participants voted again:

Which name do you prefer? Total/Average Total %

Connect 5 16.13%

Access 7 22.58%

Rewards 7 22.58%

Perks 3 9.68%

Bonus 7 22.58%

BADY 10 32.26%

Free4me 20 64.52%

Point 8 25.81%

Free4me was the most popular with nearly two-thirds of those taking part, allocating one of their votes to it.

Incentives

In the time remaining, we asked participants to suggest possible incentives that might encourage them to use the card. Some of these included:

- Clothes
- Vouchers (Asda etc)
- Computer Games
- Mobile phones

Next steps

As only 15 minutes were allocated, it was difficult to go into any depth about the name; what it should encapsulate and the message it should send to young people in the borough. There was also little time to explore the rewards young people might be tempted by and the activities they would be willing to undertake to collect points.

7) Online Youth Survey

Inspector Ivan Hayes briefly informed the group about a month long consultation the Metropolitan Police were conducting the survey to seek the views of young people about what they think the concerns are for their local area. It is being widely publicised across schools. The survey can be accessed via <http://www.met.police.uk/youngpeople/>

The next meeting of the Young People's Safety Group will be 26 November 2009.