

# The Doncaster Youth Council Annual Report

**April 2009-March 2010-04-09**

## **Meetings**

In the last year we've had seven Mansion House meetings with an average attendance by the Youth Council of 20. We now invite other guests from voluntary and stat organisations via the chair at the Youth Council's request with a standing invite to Councillor Andrea Milner (Doncaster Cabinet Member for Children's services), Chris Pratt (Director of Children's Services) and to Sue Rawlings (Neighbourhood Manager representative).

Our two weekly meetings at Elmfield House are currently on Tuesday and Thursday nights, 6-8pm, as these were voted by the Youth Council as the best times at the first Mansion House of the newly elected year.

## **Members**

Active Youth Councillors pre-election 2009: 14

Number of Youth Councillors Elected 2009: 35

Number of currently Active Youth Councillors: 30

## **Youth Council Involvement**

### PCT

Project running time: April 09-September 09

PCT asked us as a Youth Council to help them, make a video which would be shown in schools, youth clubs and other children's services, to promote their new project of lift buildings. The filming took place in June with members taking part on set and also doing the voice over's. In September the Youth Council viewed the film and commented on it wasn't clear enough to promote the project. The lift buildings project has been cut however the film will be finished in the next coming weeks, everyone involved in the project will be receiving a copy and the PCT are looking to use it elsewhere in the service.

## **Children's Improvement Plan**

Project running time: May 09

Nick Jarman, visited the Youth Council in May for us to give him a young person's perspective on the Doncaster Children's Improvement Plan in which we gave feedback on and amendments were made.

### **Sustainable Communities Panel**

Project running time: Proposals (June-August), working on the accepted proposals (March and ongoing)

Caroline and Anya went to the meetings, which consulted with other agencies from around Doncaster to create some proposals that would be sent to government. As the Youth Council, we sent two proposals forward from our priorities in lighting and transport.

5 proposals were submitted from Doncaster, 4 were accepted, one of which included our transport proposal of a “universal concessionary pass for young people” similar to the mi card project run in Barnsley. We consulted with Nadeem Murtuja at the March Mansion House Meeting to move the proposal forward. The ideas proposed at the last meeting will be looked at in the coming months.

### **Anti-Bullying Programme**

Running project time: June 09

The anti-bullying programme aimed to create a new policy, which was going to be for all children’s services ie. schools and youth clubs. The Youth Council was going to be part of a shadow group of young people, which would run alongside the adult board. This project is currently on hold due to certain circumstances.

### **Consultation with the over view and scrutiny panel about alcohol and substance misuse**

Running project time: July 09

A survey had been created and put out to the public, the Youth Council were asked to give feedback on the findings from this survey

### **The Constitution**

Running project time: August 09- October 09

The Doncaster Youth Council now has their own constitution that explains the aims, roles and powers, membership, election process, its meetings and the UKYP. Each Youth Councillor signs the constitution once elected and it is reviewed at the AGM.

### **Elections**

Running project time: Sept 09-Nov 09

The 2009 Youth Council Elections, were held at Elmfield House, planned and run by the Youth Council with guests including Councillor Andrea Milner, Carol Dunkerley and Joan Durnford. Overall it was a successful night with a live band and a disco afterwards.

### **Induction training and work**

Running project time: November 09- December 09

Using feedback from the new Youth Councillors in 2008, they said a induction programme would have been helpful, so this year we put a programme together to introduce the new Youth Councillors, including group work nights, basic training and providing some basic knowledge about the Youth Council and agencies we work with.

### **Commissioning (Personalisation and Choice)**

Running project time: October 09- ongoing

The Doncaster Youth Council has been heavily involved in the new initiative to change the way in which money is spent within the youth and children's services.

The Young People of Doncaster aged 13-19 years of age are being given the opportunity to re-shape and influence the Youth Services available to them in the future. The Personalisation and Choice Project aims to give Young People the chance to have the Positive Activities they want available to them when and where they want them. The main focus is to empower and communicate with staff and young people, set up the Business Unit with maximum flexibility, determine the Budget and engage with adults/older residents.

### **Core Induction Training with CWDC**

Running Project time: January 2010 – ongoing

This was a successful project that showed new staff going into children's and young people's services what the young people want from the service. We had great feedback from both workers there and the new staff.

Youth Council have also been involved in interviewing new staff, which included interviewing for the new Director of Children's Services, the head of the Youth Service, and also created questions for the interview of the new head of young offenders in Doncaster.

### **Media**

Running Project time: Feb 2010- ongoing

Dawn Lawrence came and invited young people from the Youth Council to help with any media coverage the Youth Service is involved with and other agencies.

### **E-Safety**

Running project time: March 2010-ongoing

Julie Cook asked for the Youth Council's involvement looking at the training given to adults who work with young people about E-Safety to make it more young person friendly so other young people can access it.

## **Vision**

Damian Greenfield came to promote the Vision magazine, which is sent to the Urban area of Doncaster. He asked for anyone interested in doing any articles for the magazine and the magazine will pay for any expenses.

## **Youth Council Training**

The Youth Council has had the opportunities to undergo the following training:

- Team Building and communication
- Recruitment and selection
- Youth Bank panel
- Core Induction
- Health and Safety
- Sexual Health awareness
- Public Speaking (external)
- First Aid (external)
- Health and hygiene (external)

## **Youth Council Residentials**

### Poland, Celebrating European Union Day- May 09

Three Youth Councillors attended the residential to Poland, which integrated them with other European young people with the Arts & Culture festival.

### London- July 2009

The Youth Council went on a residential to London to visit Parliament and putting forward issues raised by forums and other young people from Doncaster. The two main issues being concessionary bus passes and lighting, these were addressed to our MP's Rosie Winterton MP, Jeff Ennis MP, Caroline Flint MP and Ed Milliband MP. We traveled around London on the tube, went to McDonalds and stayed in premier inn for tea the first day due to torrential rain. We managed to see Buckingham palace, go on the London Eye and have a tour around the Houses of Parliament. This residential was funded by a successful Youth Bank bid and helped many of the Youth Councilors gain their residential award.

### Hatfield Water Park-January 2010

The aim of this residential was to look at the Youth Council priorities, gain Youth Bank training and also to get young people's views on how to engage more young people in the Youth Council and retain them. Overall everyone had a good time and a lot of work was produced to a high standard.

### **Youth Council Awards and Achievements**

The Youth Council helps young people to gain accreditation for all their hard work, these include:

Residential Award

Doncaster Volunteer's Award

Youth Achievement Award

First Aid

Food hygiene certificates

Activities Award

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

The Youth Council was nominated and got through the first round of selection for the Philip Lawrence Award. The award is to recognise young people's involvement in improving their communities. This was an achievement for the group as the first from Doncaster to get this far. The award is to recognise young people's involvement in improving their communities. This was an achievement for the group as the first from Doncaster to get this far.