

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

2006 - 2010 BY CHRIS FULLBROOK



Chris Fullbrook, KYC member and Young people's Champion.

Learning and Children's Services has produced a plan that lays out their intentions from here to 2010. The content of this plan are naturally quite relevant to young people, we can expect a better service and more chance to feed back. It's broken up into five parts, being healthy, staying safe, enjoy and achieve, making a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being. I can assure none of these has been approached half heartedly the plan itself is a very large document, hopefully representing the weight of their commitment, so in a bid to understand it better we were granted an interview with



Patrick Leeson,
Director of Learning and Children's Services.

This is, in my opinion, a new endeavour that is very healthy for young people, but please read and make the decision for yourself.

CF: The Youth Plan is for the next 4 years - why do it?

PL: This plan is really important because it is the first time that such a plan has been produced that covers the 0-19 age range and it is important to involve yp up to 19 years of age. It is the first time young people have genuinely been consulted and accounted for, and there is a commitment in the plan that young people will continue to be consulted and this is really important.

CF: The Plan covers a massive range of topics - how long did it take to put together?

PL: We have been working on it for quite a bit, I would say for the last 8 - 9 months. We started off with a general consultation to get people's views, we have taken it to different meetings and organisations. It has been given to several different groups of people to look at and several different versions were produced and we have now arrived at the finished plan.

'THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE GENUINELY BEEN CONSULTED AND ACCOUNTED FOR'

'THERE WILL BE MORE CHOICES AND BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 14 - 19 YEAR OLDS'

It is important that lots of different people read it. A children and young people's version is being prepared by young people, similar to the leaflet that went out for consultation. There is also a summary version that we will be circulating.

CF: The plan is broken down into 5 blocks - being healthy, staying safe, enjoying and achieve, making positive contributions and economic well being. Can you prioritise any of them?

PL: Would I say that anyone of those was more important than the other? I started off the process thinking about whether one or more was more important than the others or which needed particular work in the borough. I think now that they all need to hang in together for things to get better. The key thing is that young people can learn and achieve and in order to do this they do need to be healthy and safe themselves, and be helped to make a positive contribution and achieve economic well being.

The most vulnerable young people need to feel stable and safe.

All the five elements are nicely combined together and I think these 5 areas need to pull

together to make it happen. All

these elements need to be nicely combined together in all 5 areas.

CF: At the end of the plan there is a section called "What will be different?". How do you think yp will see a difference at the end of this plan in 2006/2007/2008?

Various bodies who have been working on their own now have a single direction.

What will be the main benefits to yp, 14-19, and how will they see it?

PL: The things that people should notice hopefully in the next 2-3 years, are especially that yp who have particular issues in life get the help, advice and support they need to succeed, and there will be more choices and better opportunities for 14 - 19 year olds as to what they can do in and out of school.