

**CF:** Kingston Youth Council are mentioned several times in the plan. Could I hear your vision of the role they will play in the plan?

**PL:** KYC is mentioned quite a few times in the plan because it is the absolute key forum for young people and we want to build up the work of the Youth Council. We need to build stronger links to other forums, for example schools' councils and we want to support specific groups of young people and children, such as looked after children. We want the youth council to have greater standing in Council overall. Young people, through the Youth Council, will have a greater say in local policies and decisions about local issues across the Borough.

**'YOUNG PEOPLE WILL HAVE A GREATER SAY IN LOCAL ISSUES'**

**CF:** I know that the Mayor, Mary Reid, is behind this.

**PL:** She is also making this a priority in her mayoral spotlight and charity throughout her Mayoral Year.

**CF:** That's good news. I think the facilities for young people in Kingston, such as the theatre, are very impressive.

**Could you use the theatre for drama clubs?**

**PL:** Our intention is that when the theatre is open and we are hopeful that this is still going to happen - the council is committed to that - we will have a very strong community, education and youth link. There should be an opportunity for drama for schools, youth groups, drama clubs and other community groups to use the theatre - it will be a really good community resource.

**CF:** I have some concerns about the consultation which I have personally done regarding enjoying and achieving. There seems to be a lot of focus on achieving for more vulnerable young people. There is a group of yp achieving high results academically and some achieving middle to moderately high results. How are you going to target them in the plan to give them a better opportunity to improve their academic achievements?

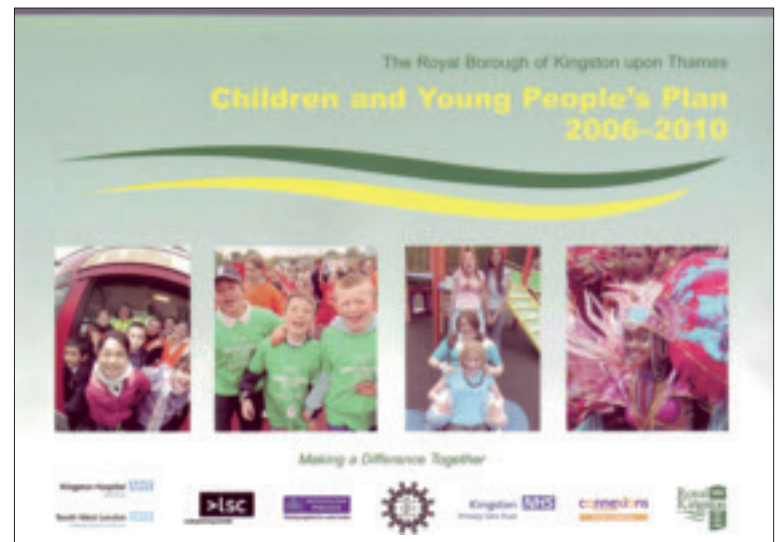
**PL:** We are targeting the achievements of all yp. The Plan is just as much about supporting able and gifted yp as much as doing more to support under-achieving groups. Clearly some groups of young people are a particular priority because they need more support to succeed in life.

**CF:** You mentioned how important it is to get feedback from yp. I've got my hands on a yp's version of the plan - who should I go to give feedback and how should I do it?

**PL:** We will produce enough copies so that as many you as possible can get a copy. The children and young people's version will be circulated through schools, the youth service and youth forum, and other youth groups. The summary actually contains information as to how respond and we shall feed comments into the participation strategy, and that will be the main focus for gaining young people's feedback.

**CF:** Thank you very much - that was very interesting.

*As you can see our youth service is quite excited about the prospects of the plan. One thing about administration in politics is that it often goes unnoticed when such an effort is made. However the Children and Young People's plan offers some quite significant changes that hopefully everyone will feel as a benefit to them, and if it doesn't, let them know, constructive criticism never hurt anyone.*



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN, OR TO SEE THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S VERSION GO TO**  
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