



West Berkshire Children
& Young People's Trust

Participation In Practice

ISSUE 3

WINTER 2010

Welcome to the 3rd edition of Participation In Practice.

This newsletter will be shared across services in West Berkshire to highlight good practice and to share information on children & young people's participation.

If you are actively involving children and young people in your organisation then we would love to hear from you. Please send in your articles and photos to:

Tanya.honor@bacyp.co.uk

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West Berkshire's Biggest Ever Paper Chain



On Takeover Day, Friday 12th November, BACYP helped West Berkshire Children & Young People's Trust launch the biggest ever paper chain to highlight & celebrate the importance of involving children & young people in decision making.

As part of the Takeover Day initiative the Trust wanted to give children & young people in West Berkshire the opportunity of getting their voice heard through the Paper Chain project.

Thousands of printed paper chains were delivered to participating schools across West Berkshire asking children & young people what could be done to make their life better.

We are very grateful to the schools that helped to enable thousands of children & young people the chance to tell us from their own perspective how we can improve their lives in West Berkshire.

It is important to understand the issues and the barriers that children & young people experience to help identify any gaps in service provision and allow services to be better targeted and based on real needs rather than perceived needs.

All the views and ideas from the children & young people will be used to feed into the Children & Young People's Plan and The Child Poverty Strategy. They will also be given to relevant organisations and services across West Berkshire who can help to act on what the young people have said.



Due to the overwhelming response to the paper chain project it was decided that something extra special could be done to show the children & young people involved that we value their views and ideas.

The paper chains were linked together and stretched from The Town Hall, through Kennet Shopping Centre, past the Vue Cinema and along to the Council

offices in Market Street.

Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jeff Beck started the paper chain event alongside adult volunteers from various organisations in West Berkshire who were all united on Takeover Day to help hold West Berkshire's biggest ever paper chain!

The Paper Chain made its way to the Council offices where it was handed over to Graham Pask, The Chairman of West Berkshire Council.

Newbury Weekly News captured this event in action and can be seen by visiting:

<http://www.newburytoday.co.uk/News/FlashNewsPlayer.aspx?articleID=15103&CategoryID=>

The Paper Chain event was a huge success and I would like to thank everyone involved for helping on the day with special thanks to Sam Shepherd and Richard Jennings.

If you would like to know more about this project please contact me:

Tanya Honor

Children, Young People & Family Participation Worker for BACYP. 01635 500848



Jeff Beck, Tanya Honor & Graham Pask



Takeover Day is a national event that takes place across the country offering children & young people the chance to work with adults and be involved in decision making.

In its fourth year, Takeover Day is led by The Children's Commissioner of England as a way of demonstrating and highlighting the positive contribution that children & young people can and do make to society.

With over 40,000 children & young people involved this year Takeover Day is a great opportunity for organisations/ services to:

- Find out how they can make their service more young person friendly
- Get fresh ideas on how to solve

a problem that an organisation is facing, or gain a different perspective on things

- Kick start a long term investment by inviting the children and young people involved Takeover Day to join you in future decision making processes such as a Youth forum, consultation work, and Hear By Right.
- Provide evidence to show how you are involving children & young people in decision making

Day, Monday 8th November – Friday 12th November.

We are still collecting feedback to find out how Takeover Day went in West Berkshire but from what we have received so far it has been a positive experience for all involved.

If your organisation/service took part in this event then we would love to hear from you. Please send any feedback, comments or photos to:

Tanya Honor-
Tanya.honor@bacyp.co.uk

Next Takeover Day will take place on : 11/11/11

West Berkshire Children & Young People's Trust invited local organisations to sign up and take part during the week of Takeover

Francis Baily Primary School



"It was a great day and I learnt so much about being a Head Teacher".

Georgina Yr 6

Mr Pilsworth, A Deputy Headteacher at Francis Baily Primary School planned his Takeover Day with the School Council. It was decided that the school council would job shadow key roles within the school to gain a greater insight into how the school is run.

Some of the job roles that were shadowed on the day were the Head Teacher (Mrs Hunter), the Deputy Head Teacher (Mr Pilsworth), the Care Taker (Mr Ong), the Lunch Time Supervisor (Mrs Bathe) and the school Buisness Manager (Mrs Tilbury).

To ensure that other pupils were also given an opportunity to take part in this event, Key stage 2 classes were asked to write their names down on paper . Three –

four names were randomly picked out of each class offering the children the chance to help teach part of lessons that were planned on Takeover Day.

The children were all very excited about their new roles and came to school specifically dressed up for the day.

The day started with an assembly with the 2 new, young ,Head Teachers who talked about the different roles within the school. It was later said by one of them " It was a great day and I learnt so much about being a Head Teacher".

A lady from The Newbury Weekly news came in to take photographs of the school council members in action.

Two young children who took over the Caretakers role for the day said," It was so much fun and Mr Ong made us work so hard!".

The day was a fun and positive experience for everyone involved. The children got to understand the different job roles within the school and how difficult these can be.

Takeover Day Lead: Neil Pilsworth

Francis Baily Primary School

Skillman Drive, Thatcham.

01635 862188



Sovereign Housing

Nicky Mason, The Neighbourhood Investment Manager for Sovereign South & West planned a meticulous Takeover Day that enabled every young person involved to make the most out of their Takeover Day experience.

Nine young people aged between 13—19 years of age were invited to Sovereign's Newbury Offices based in Bartholomew Street to job shadow employees from a variety of different departments and help them to carry out their daily duties.

On the morning of Takeover Day, the young people were given a quiz about Sovereign, a Health &

Safety briefing and introduced to their guardians for the day to help prepare them for their new job roles!

A lunch buffet was provided for the young people in the afternoon. Once refreshed, everyone involved went to view some of Sovereign's local neighbourhoods. The young people were asked for their views and ideas on what they thought Sovereign could do to help improve the lives of people living in the area.

Late in the afternoon a video link was set up across South West to enable all the young participants

taking part in Takeover Day at other Sovereign venues the chance to talk to each other about their day. The link also gave them the opportunity to "meet the Directors" and ask them any questions that they had.

The day closed with a feedback session. One young person said that they had enjoyed the whole day and the department that they worked in. "Especially doing surveys and comparing percentages of residents, to do with complaints, the service and what they think Sovereign could do to improve their housing association".

The Managing Director of South & West, Heather Bowman was impressed with what the young people had to say and said, "From my perspective it was great to have young people in the business and they certainly brought a buzz to Berkshire House. It was useful to hear their views and we will be acting on some of the suggestions".



Takeover Day Lead:
Nicky Mason

Nicky.Mason@sovereign.org.uk

Newbury Weekly News



Tina Chaplin the PA to Adrian Martin, Managing Director of Newbury Weekly News invited students from Kennet School to job shadow Senior Management roles for their Takeover Day.

Four young people got the opportunity to access the boardroom and work with key figures at NWN; The Managing

Director, the Finance Director, the Editorial Director & the Advertisement Sales Manager.

The young people enjoyed meeting the Team, being shown around the printing press and being involved in the day to day running of the NWN.

One young person said about, "Having a chance to see the inner workings of the newspaper allowed me really to gain a sense of how much work goes into

producing the NWN."

Adrian Martin said that he was pleased the newspaper took part in this initiative and that it was very useful for the Newbury Weekly News management team to receive feedback from a younger group.

Takeover Day was a great success and the Newbury Weekly News will be taking part again this year.



Takeover Day Lead:
Tina Chaplin

Tina.chaplin@newburynews.co.uk

West Berkshire Council

Jessica Broom, the Takeover Day Lead from West Berkshire Council gave two young people the opportunity to shadow top jobs and find out how decisions are made within the Council.

Nick Carter, The Chief Executive of West Berkshire Council and Andy Day, Head of Policy and Communication both took part in this event by giving the young people a valuable insight into

how decisions are made locally and what their job entails on a day to day basis.

The young people also got the opportunity to meet with the Head of Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Environment giving them the chance to ask any questions that they may have.

Nick Carter said "Takeover Day highlights the importance of listen-

ing to young people and gives us the opportunity to show the Council's commitment to improving the lives of young people in West Berkshire. The young people were genuinely interested in finding out how decisions were made and how they could be a valuable part of that process."



Takeover Day Lead:

Jessica Broom

JBroom@westberks.gov.uk

Student Voice: Little Heath School

EDUCATION



On the 25th November, the Childrens' Commissioner for England visited Little Heath School because she was interested in how effective Student Voice is here. Dr Maggie Atkinson's job is to make sure that young peoples' voices are heard all over the country and we were really privileged to have her visit our school.

We talked to Dr Atkinson about our key Student Voice projects and activities and we let her know how important Student Voice is to any school, and why we take such an interest in it. Firstly Student Voice Leaders discussed the roles taken by students in school and also what other roles could be held by students. We told her about the Student Voice Conference that is held each year

and she was fascinated by how much we value it! Then the Sixth Form Committee came and showed what great projects they had been undertaking this year and talked about their future projects.

After that, a large number of students come and spoke to Dr Atkinson about all the great Student Voice projects we have at Little Heath, like Smile, School Council, and STARS (our Student researchers). The Duke of Edinburgh participants, the Malawi Team and Sports Ambassadors also spoke to the Commissioner about what they are, and have been, involved in. In addition, our representatives on the West Berkshire Youth Cabinet told Dr Atkinson about their

wider role within the local authority and the work that the Youth Cabinet are involved in on behalf of all the young people of West Berkshire.

Dr Atkinson was very impressed by the range and depth of Student Voice at Little Heath and by the variety of different activities. She was also impressed with how so many students, from every year, actually volunteer to help with Student Voice. Dr Atkinson told us that we should feel like a benchmark for other schools.

By Jack Williams (Year 13), Chair of Student Voice Leaders, Little Heath School .

Spurcroft Pupil Voice

Spurcroft Primary School has a strong pupil voice which is effective in ensuring children are listened to and involved in whole school decision making.

The two main vehicles for managing this process are the school council which is made up of representatives from each class from Y1-6 and the Pupil Leadership Team, which is made up of Y6 and Y2 children in leadership roles i.e., Head Boy/ Girl, House Captains etc.

The School Council meets once a fortnight and last year focused very much on what it means to feel safe in school. They took part in the first Thatcham School Council conference and as a result undertook several surveys in school linked to being safe and what it means to be part of the wider Thatcham community. As a result site security was further improved and feedback to staff led to better responses to children's needs and

the children developed a wider understanding of what it means to live in Thatcham.

The Pupil Leadership Team have looked at the roles of Buddies and Play leaders in the playground and how these key children support others. This continues to be a work in progress but the children are very committed to ensuring children feel well supported and know where to go when they have concerns. As part of team building the PLT have organised a number of school events from inter-house competitions to our very own "S" Factor. All of these have illustrated the lead role children have at Spurcroft School and the positive influence they exert within this in celebrating strengths.

This year we are also involved in the Sports Ambassadors programme and I know the children will benefit from all of these ave-

nues and the part they play in contributing to school improvement year on year. We are very grateful to the many pupils' who willingly give their time and energy in supporting their school and local community.

Debbie Grimsey
Headteacher

