

# Getting It Right

*'I hate it when people think they know what young people want. How can you know what we want if you don't ask? Involve us in stuff that's meant for us. Ask for our ideas. Then you're more likely to get it right'*

**A Consultation to inform the Cambridgeshire Children  
and Young People's Plan**

**A summary of what children and young people said**

## December 2005

### Background:

In October this year we asked children and young people to tell us what they thought about different services and facilities that affect their lives so that their views could be included in the development of the Cambridgeshire Children and Young People's Plan.

1 853 children and young people aged between 4 and 25 years participated.

They were also asked what they would expect to be different in a year's time if we were to make changes. This paper provides a summary of what they said. A full report on the consultation and its findings will be available in January 2006.

If you would like a copy please contact Allan Whyte on 01223 717885.

### What would children and young people expect to be different in a year's time?

#### **Transport for Children And Young People**

There would be

- Cheaper or free fares for children and young people on public transport
- Transport running at more regular and appropriate times
- Children and young people are able to access entertainment, learning and work opportunities and services
- Improved access to independent travel eg lower driving age, independent travel schemes for young people with disabilities

#### **Affordable and Appropriate Accommodation**

There would be

- Easier access to affordable housing for young people
- Improved quality and security of housing available for young people
- Easier access to housing for young mothers
- Support with housing is available for young people who don't have 'problems' but want to leave home

### **Reducing Alcohol and Drug Use by Children and Young People**

There would be

- Education focuses on effects and consequences rather than 'don't do it'
- Alcohol is not so easily accessible
- Stricter penalties for adults and young people for the provision and consumption of drugs and alcohol
- There will be people to talk to about drugs and alcohol
- There will be alternative activities
- There will be more police and security on the streets

### **Reducing Stress for Children and Young People**

There would be

- Help available to deal with stress
- More manageable workloads at school
- Practical help with school work
- More places to go, things to do
- Safer school and community environments

### **Involving Children and Young People in Decision-Making**

There would be

- More opportunities for children and young people to participate in decision-making in a supported way
- Adults develop a more positive attitude towards children and young people
- Adults value children and young people's input – feedback results, act upon decisions and make changes
- There are opportunities for all children and young people to participate not just those who are more able
- Adults will have appropriate skills to support children and young people

### **Accessible, Trustworthy and Confidential services that can offer Help and Advice to Children and Young People**

There would be

- More help based services that young people trust and that are easily accessible
- Services that can be accessed in variety of ways

### **Opportunities for Children and Young People to Enjoy Leisure and Recreation**

There would be

- More things to do for all ages
- More things for families to do together
- Improved access to existing or nearby facilities eg cost and transport

### **Local Jobs for Young People**

There would be

- Better access to local part-time jobs for young people particularly in rural areas
- Skills programmes a with small weekly wage to help young people gain experience to get a job
- Less anti-social behaviour as young people are leading a more ordered life

### **Safe Local Environments**

There would be

- More security precautions eg CCTV, better street lights
- More adults around (eg adult helpers in playgrounds for younger children and police or volunteers for teenagers)
- Controlled traffic
- Cleaner environments – eg school and communities
- Training for adults on communicating with children young people eg Police

### **Changing Peoples' Negative Attitudes to Specific Places and Groups of People**

There would be

- Increased awareness of the positive things children and young people do
- Older people, children and young people respect each other and make time to find out about each other
- Adult service providers do not discriminate against children and young people for being young

### **Supportive and Bully-free Schools**

There would be

- Support available for young people who are being bullied
- Effective procedures for dealing with bullies
- Broad approach to the development of children and young people in schools not just academic achievement
- Improved school environment (physical)
- More and better equipment in schools
- More activities and things to do that aren't school work
- Help with school work
- School environment is safe

Information collected through the consultation has already been used to inform the Cambridgeshire Children and Young People's Plan and will be used to develop a check list to monitor progress on actions included in the plan. A sub group are currently working on developing this and will be recruiting children and young people to help them develop the check list and later to join a monitoring and evaluation team who will review progress against the check list.

Information from the consultation will also be used to inform Area Plans in East Cambs & Fenland; Cambridge City & South Cambs and Huntingdonshire.

A children and young people friendly version of the plan will be available in the New Year, a group are also working on this and plan to involve children and young people at all stages.

For further information contact: Allan Whyte on 01223 717885