

PARENTS' * VIEWS ON WHAT SHOULD BE IN THE NEXT CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN FOR WOLVERHAMPTON 2011-14

The Children and Young People's Plan sets out the important areas of work for those working with children & young people in the city and how families can best be supported. Over the next few months, people across the city are being asked what they think should be included in the next plan and what it should look like. This Plan will be in use in Wolverhampton from 2011– 2014.

The Children and Young People's Plan will explain why certain areas of work are important and tell everyone what differences this work hopes to make to improve the lives of children, young people and families in the city.

A first draft of the new Plan will be based on what everyone tells us between now and the middle of September.

We will make sure that we ask: children and young people; parents and carers; and adults who work with children and young people in the city.

Once this first draft is ready at the end of September 2010, we will make sure that everyone has the chance to say what they think of it. If necessary, it will then be changed so that it is the 'best it can be'.

Finally, copies of this 'best it can be' Plan will be sent round in November 2010 so that everyone has a last chance to suggest any changes before the final Plan is agreed by the Children's Trust in March 2011. This Plan will then be used over the next 3 years to guide our work and to help us show how successful we have been at making the differences we hope to make to the lives of children and young people in Wolverhampton.

The questions we want to ask Parents are:-

In your role as a parent

- What can we do for you as a parent of a child in Wolverhampton to improve the experience of family life?
- What are the most important things that the city needs to provide for children and young people?
- What services or projects or people do you think have made a real difference to you and your family's experience and quality of life ?
- Which groups of children & young people do you think might need extra help and support?
- What do you think could be done to support children and young people, and their families better that is not being done at the moment?
- What would you like to change aboutyour family's life, or school, or being a child or young person in Wolverhampton ... if you could (wave a magic wand)?

* The terms 'parent' and 'parents' refer to mothers, fathers, carers and other adults with parental responsibility for caring for a child or young person.

Whatever you do HAVE FUN!!!

We would like you to use whatever imaginative, fun and interesting ways you can think of to make this an enjoyable experience for the parents you involve in this process. If you want to use the priorities of the existing Children and Young People's Plan as a starting point please do. A copy is available from <http://www.yow.org.uk/cypplan2010>

- You do not have to ask a particular group all the questions.
- You may choose to ask one or more questions as part of another activity
- You might ask the parents to share their ideas through art, or poetry, drama or music (feel free to send us photographs, recordings or video footage of the results)
- You might use the graffiti wall idea in this pack
- You might use electronic voting as part of your session (ask Marie Taylor on 01902 556337)

Each session should include ...

- An introduction – so that the participants know what they are being asked to contribute to
- Activities / discussions based on the 5 main questions (using prompts around themes relevant to the group if necessary to stimulate or focus discussion)
- What happens next - what we will do with their contributions, how we will feedback (see above)

The feedback forms and photos etc should be returned to
Jan Barlow, Parenting Strategy Officer, Wolverhampton City Council, CYP Planning and Project Development, Civic Centre, St Peters Square , Wolverhampton WV1 1RR,
email; jan.barlow@wolverhampton.gov.uk phone 01902 551464

FEEDBACK— Whatever you do, tell us what happened

You can use the attached feedback form if you want or just as you collected the information.

We would like you to complete one for each session you run with parents. The information about who was involved is particularly important as it will give a context to the views and opinions expressed.

Try to summarise in bullet points any broad themes that came across as well as any specific points that were made that you think are particularly relevant. The boxes will expand to be as large as you need.

Return it, wherever possible, by Friday 17th September. If it is received after this date will still be considered in later stages of the plan but may not be reflected in the first draft.

What we will do with what you tell us!

We promise to take what parents have told us into consideration in deciding what should be included in the Plan.

We promise to make sure that the people that make decisions about services for children and young people in Wolverhampton know what services and areas of work parents think are important.

We promise to make sure that there are opportunities for parents to tell us what they think of the first attempt at the plan, and the 'best it can be' Plan.

Feedback can continue to be collected until 11th February 2011.