

Social & Community Development Sub-Group – Bassetlaw District Youth Assembly

Since January 2003, the Council has been working alongside NCC Youth Engagement Team to set up, and support the on-going running of a Youth Assembly for the District. This is a countywide initiative across all 7 Nottinghamshire Districts. The creation and support of a Youth Assembly for the district is also an objective of the Social & Community Development Sub-Group of Bassetlaw LSP.

The recruitment to and creation of Bassetlaw's Assembly was planned by young people from the District with the support of NCC Youth Workers and Citizenship Co-ordinators within local schools, and the NCC Personal Social Development Initiative Team. This is the only Assembly in the County that has been planned in this way i.e. led by young people.

There are approximately 20 members of the Youth Assembly that have attended regularly since its formation on 4th July.



Welcoming local young people to the Consultation Day in July 2003, when the Youth Assembly was formed.

At their Introduction meeting on 29th August 2003, they took part in a taster consultation exercise with Craig Jordan, Planning Services, Bassetlaw District Council. This focussed on the Worksop Town Centre Masterplan and their ideas have been passed on to Craig for inclusion in the consultation process. Further opportunities to be involved in the project either through additional consultation or as part of public exhibitions will be assessed as they arise.

At their first official meeting on 30th September 2003, the members requested a presentation from Social Services on provision for children and young people. This linked in to their general wish to be more knowledgeable of services provided by the different sections of the Council – and to be more aware of the division in service provision between County and District level. In the second half the meeting, members present took part in a discussion exercise to decide on campaign areas for the Assembly to work on. These included Education, Sports & Leisure, Health, Crime, Young People's Services, and Engaging with the Council.

At the November meeting, the Assembly combined discussion workshops on their campaign areas with group team-building activities. The meeting was held at the Mill Adventure Base in Sutton-in-Ashfield, one of the Youth Service's Activity Centres.

At the meeting in January 2004 members were involved in consultation with Bassetlaw District Council, Economic Development & Tourism, on Leisure developments in the PFI Initiative. In addition the National Trust attended to consult with members on developments at Clumber Park, and the involvement of young people in environmental projects.

The Youth Assembly underwent a restructure during early 2004 and members now work in project/ campaign groups based on the area they live in. This follows the structure of the Nottinghamshire County Council Youth Service provision for Bassetlaw covering Worksop, Retford, Tuxford, Harworth & Bircotes, and Rural. The campaign areas were distributed as follows:

Workshop Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PFI Initiative – involvement with design and development of schools and improved leisure provision.
Retford Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Provision for Young People, including promotion/marketing of provision.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health – Service provision within schools i.e. school nurses, counselling services • Crime – Vandalism (tackle the issues related to vandalism and encouraging better prevention of it.) • The Council's relationship with Bassetlaw residents, and engaging young people.

There were no campaign areas specifically allocated to Tuxford, Harworth & Bircotes, and Rural areas, as the number of young people involved from these areas is not sufficient to run an extra Forum. Instead they merge with the Forum most accessible to them.

In April 2004 the Retford Forum were involved in the event at Bassetlaw Centre, organised by Focus on Young People in Bassetlaw (FOYPIB), aimed at both service providers and staff in local agencies, as well as young people/ school children. The aim was to highlight the wealth of service provision for young people in Bassetlaw.

In the summer of 2004, Retford Forum were involved in a consultation exercise on the proposed development of the Kings Park play areas, with Bassetlaw District Council, Sports Development Team. The Retford have also been working on developing a marketing/ publicity strategy for youth provision across the area.

The Workshop Forum have continued to liaise with District and County officers on implications for schools and pupils of the Bassetlaw PFI bid.

More recently, all members involved have been looking at ways of fund-raising as a response to the Tsunami disaster. Any funds raised will be donated to the Bassetlaw appeal, which will provide educational material for a new school in that region.

A number of assembly members also took part in the highly successful "Citizenship Day" at County Hall Nottingham, organised by the young people in conjunction with local NCC youth workers and the County Council Youth Engagement Team. Two members of the Assembly (Cheryl Buffrey and Laura Dunstan) were elected as UK Youth MP's for 2005.

The Assembly is available for consultation on issues affecting young people in Bassetlaw. This involves the District and County Council, local public authorities, and agencies dealing with young people. In addition there are representatives from Bassetlaw on a County Youth Assembly, and the Local Management Committee for the Connexions Team. The Assembly is non-political and sets its own agenda with the help of youth workers.

For more information contact:

Eddie Burgess, Senior Youth Worker (Retford) on 01777 869003.

or

Jo Lindley, Policy Officer, Bassetlaw District Council on 01909 533189.