

**Community Learning & Development
Youth Engagement
Abridged Version
Stonehaven Network
2013**



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This youth consultation was carried out by Stonehaven Community Learning and Development (CLD) to identify what need there is for youth work activities/opportunities and highlight any gaps in provision in the areas of Stonehaven and the Coastal Strip down to Johnshaven.

During the process 940 young people between 10 and 20 years old were surveyed and given the chance to have their say.

Methodology

In order to ensure we reached as many young people possible it was decided the consultation would be split into three groups: **Primary 7s**, **Mackie Academy pupils**, and **Young Adults**.
(Colour coded so hereafter for identification.)

Primary 7s

CLD staff made contact with each school in the cluster associated with Mackie Academy and met with the Head Teachers to find out which was the best method of reaching the young people.

CLD staff spoke with the young people about what activities/youth opportunities are available in their area then the young people completed the online or paper questionnaire.

Mackie Academy Pupils

Mackie Academy organised the distribution and collection of the surveys for S1-S5 within the school's PSE classes. However, as it was coming towards the end of this school year and due to the exam period it was very difficult to consult all of the 6th year pupils.

Young Adults

CLD staff visited local businesses and organisations to gather information from their employees within this age range. Although only fifty young adults were surveyed, it was a very useful process. The method of visiting work places and using partner organisations, such as Aberdeen Foyer, SDS and Working for Families to hand out questionnaires worked well but other means should be explored for future consultations.

Conclusion

This has been an extensive survey and many conclusions can be drawn from the large number of statistics it has generated. The findings will inform and support the development of CLD activities as well as being able to provide information to partner organisations which may enable their future development or create opportunities for shared or partnership working. Throughout this process it has been encouraging that our local young people have been keen to voice their opinions and be involved in the consultation. It has also highlighted the excellent partnership working that is already taking place in the area. Overall, the consultation provides evidence to show that there is a need for increased youth work in general in the Stonehaven area.

Primary 7s

- The primary 7 age group are very keen to get involved and it is vital to have these young people involved as early as possible to keep their enthusiasm.
- The current CLD transitional work for those going to Mackie Academy is definitely having a positive effect as indicated by young people, teachers, parents and partners. Yet the survey makes it clear there is a desire for more. Therefore it is important that this continues, also it provides an opportunity through this engagement with P7s to provide a progression route into youth clubs not only in areas such as Stonehaven and Inverbervie but also in rural areas such as Johnshaven, Gourdon and Drumlithie. The graphs and statistics in the full report show a need for youth work in these areas with young people showing an interest in; art, sport, cooking and accredited learning such as Sports Leadership and Duke of Edinburgh.
- The young people have said that most evenings are suitable but Monday and Friday are particularly good.
- It is also clear that young people would like further information on gang culture, crime and drugs.

Mackie Pupils

- Mackie pupils are particularly keen to get involved in activities such as sports activities, trips and chill out space.
- They are also keen to get more support in areas such as leaving Mackie, Money Management, Exam pressure and Employment opportunities. This highlights the need to build on the solid work already being done by CLD in the MCMC work delivered. Here partnership working, specifically with the Academy and Skills Development Scotland as well as others, would be beneficial to enable quality experiences and the provision of necessary information and advice to young people.

- In addition, pupils were interested in accredited learning including the Duke of Edinburgh and Sports Leadership Award.
- The young people are free most evenings according to the results and would be willing to pay between 1 and 2 pounds towards the cost.

16 to 20s

- The young adult age range is particularly keen to get involved in health & fitness, art or cooking opportunities.
- To satisfy this need it may be useful to have an employment or life skills café for young adults where they can try out arts, cooking and health and well being courses whilst being provided with information about employment opportunities and skills.
- This age group are keen to have support with money management.
- There was also an interest in car maintenance and alcohol, drugs and mental health awareness.
- Thursday evenings were most popular amongst most young adults with their preferred venue being Stonehaven's Leisure or Community Centres.
- While some young adults were willing to pay towards costs, it is clear that there are a significant number of young people in this category who may not be able to afford fees. To enable these young people to participate and access opportunities this barrier would need to be considered and removed for some groups.

Overall, although there are a high number of youth work activities being provided in the Stonehaven network, there are gaps highlighted by this consultation. Through working closely in partnership it would enable increased youth work opportunities for the young people of Stonehaven.

Recommendations

The recommendations listed below are based on the workshops, survey and meetings with various Head teachers within the Stonehaven network.

The recommendations are as follows:

- To provide youth activities for P7, primarily in rural areas.
- Increase youth transitional work.
- Develop opportunities with partners around the key areas highlighted: Sports activities, trips, chill out space, money management, exam pressures and employment opportunities for S1-6 pupils.
- Work in partnership and utilise skills to provide improved learning opportunities within the network. In particular, improved links between CLD and Mackie Academy.
- Improve opportunities and awareness of accredited learning.
- Increasing MCMC and early intervention work.
- Consider initiatives such as 360 programme in partnership with Mackie academy and incorporated into the school timetable.
- Provide health & fitness, art, cooking, money management, employment opportunities & car maintenance for young adults on a Thursday evening.

Do you think there is enough for young people to do in your area?

P7 Yes - 53% No - 47%

This graph shows an overall picture that although a small majority of young people believe there is enough to do there are a significant number clearly not feeling there is enough to do in their area. However, if you filter Stonehaven young people's responses out of the graph then the trend is that 68% believe that there is not enough to do. This is partly due to the number of clubs, organisations and facilities that Stonehaven has. This may also be due to Stonehaven's rail links to Aberdeen. The coastal and rural areas of Stonehaven have fewer activities for young people and more limited access to Aberdeen.

Mackie Pupils Yes – 36% No – 64%.

Young Adults Yes – 26% No – 74%

There was an overwhelming response for this age range indicating there is not enough to do. Nearly everyone from the coastal towns agreed on this and over half of the people surveyed in Stonehaven agreed

Interest was expressed in a number of activities such as sports activities and trips. However, cooking, chill out space, arts and music were seen as important to young people. During the workshops at schools young people specified activities such as badminton, cooking, dodgeball, paintballing, karaoke, music, painting, mountain biking, games consoles & rock climbing. This age range appears keen to get involved in most activities.

There is an encouraging demand for accreditation in particular Sports Leadership and Duke of Edinburgh Award Schemes. There is also some interest in First Aid, Food Hygiene and Youth Achievement Awards. There is very little demand in the survey for the John Muir Award. However, some schools already work towards awards, such as the Green Flag, and once young people were told during the workshops what the John Muir Awards was about, they were keen to learn more about it.

It's positive that so many local young people feel satisfied with what's on offer, however there are still 400 young people interested in attending an activity/project

Findings show a high number of young people want support in leaving the academy as 40% of those surveyed wanted more information or help with issues connected with leaving school. This finding along with the high number indicating that they would like support with employment opportunities reinforces the need for more youth work addressed by CLD through MCMC groups.

First Aid and Sports Leadership awards are highly sought after too with over 200 young people interested in such courses.

Findings show a need for youth accreditation within Stonehaven and although there already are various accredited courses available, this opportunity could be increased.

Of those who said 'no' there wasn't enough to do, 71.9% said they would attend training or a course if offered.

The majority of those who are interested in courses or training opportunities were keen to get involved in many types of activities but were mostly interested in health and fitness, art and awards/certification.

Only half of the people who said they were volunteering are gaining certification, for example the Saltire Award.

Awards and certification is increasingly more sought after in this age group and specifically Duke of Edinburgh, First Aid and Sports Leadership are very popular with a large proportion of people surveyed being keen to obtain certification in these.

