

Every Child Matters

Children and Young People Responses

Analysis of responses to the consultation document

About this Report

This report has been based on 3137 responses to the consultation paper. Some respondents may have offered a number of options for the same question, so the total percentages listed in this report against each question may exceed 100 per cent. Throughout the report percentages are expressed as a measure of those answering each question, not as a measure of all respondents. All responses were treated as confidential.

The report starts with a breakdown of respondent type and an overview. This is followed by tables and a summary of the top ten issues for each question with supporting comments from respondents.

The Annex to this report breaks down responses by age and gender, and also shows the answers from those who indicated that they have a disability or special needs.

About the Respondents

Respondent Type

Respondent Type (3137)					
	Male	Female	Not Given	Total	
Individual	1165	1532	137	2834	90%
School	3	13	31	47	1%
Young Persons' Organisation	18	46	112	176	6%
Not Given	13	26	15	54	2%
Other	3	11	12	26	1%
Total	1202	1628	307	3137	100%

Gender and Age

1202 Male, 1628 Female, 307 Not Given
 2270 Under 16, 454 16-18, 276 Over 18, 137 Not Given

Gender/Age Data					
	Male	Female	Not Given	Total	
Under 16	984	1115	171	2270	73%
16-18	157	277	20	454	14%
Over 18	46	210	20	276	9%
Not Given	15	26	96	137	4%
Total	1202	1628	307	3137	100%

Disability/Special Needs

235 respondents said they had a disability/special need.

Disability/Special Needs					
	Male	Female	Not Given	Total	
Yes	141	83	11	235	7%
No	977	1396	89	2462	79%
Not Given	84	149	207	440	14%
Total	1202	1628	307	3137	100%

Ethnicity

Ethnicity					
	Male	Female	Not Given	Total	
White - British	989	1366	101	2456	78.3%
White - Irish	25	21	0	46	1.5%
White - Other	32	24	2	58	1.9%
Mixed Heritage - White & Black Caribbean	11	20	1	32	1%
Mixed Heritage - White & Asian	11	8	0	19	0.3%
Mixed Heritage - White & Black African	2	2	1	5	0.2%
Mixed Heritage - Other	11	11	0	22	0.7%
Asian or Asian British - Indian	9	14	0	23	0.8%
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	2	7	0	9	0.3%
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	20	22	0	42	1.3%
Asian or Asian British - Other	4	6	1	11	0.4%
Black or Black British - Caribbean	11	19	0	30	1%
Black or Black British - African	15	4	0	19	0.6%
Black or Black British - Other	6	7	0	13	0.4%
Chinese - Chinese	5	7	1	13	0.4%
Chinese - Other	0	2	0	2	0.1%
Other Ethnic Group	8	11	1	20	0.7%
Not Given	41	77	199	317	10.1%
Total	1202	1628	307	3137	100%

Overview

Overall, respondents were in favour of the proposals in the Green Paper.

Many respondents were supportive of the initiative to allow young people to have a say about local decision making. Suggested mechanisms for this were through the use of consultations, surveys and open forums. They considered school councils to be an appropriate avenue for gathering the views of young people.

Respondents strongly agreed with proposals to keep schools open before and after school hours, at weekends and during holidays. They said that the provision of after school clubs, youth centres and sport activities would be welcomed in helping children and young people develop practical skills and could possibly help reduce crime. Many suggested schools could offer health clinics, provide counselling and advice services. Child centres in rural communities were welcomed due to the problems respondents encountered with transport. Respondents suggested that centres could be used as a community resource to help build and improve relationships in local areas.

The majority of respondents welcomed the additional funding made available from the Young People's Fund and suggested that this could be invested in sports, leisure activities and development of youth clubs. The inclusion of children and young people with disabilities and special needs was considered important. Some respondents suggested the fund could be spent on improving the school facilities and in providing books and equipment.

Respondents agreed that the Government should help families at difficult times. They said practical support, counselling and guidance was needed to aid families who struggled. Many requested help with daily living expenses including money and resources.

Children and Young People acknowledged and appreciated the important, and often demanding, role of foster carers. They said that there was a need for promoting the positive impact that foster carers had on them and to celebrate and award success. Many respondents said effective advertising targeted at key groups of people should help. Young people said foster carers should have an in-depth awareness of their needs. An understanding of gay issues, disability and ethnicity could help in ensuring accurate placements. Improved pay and training was mentioned as key in encouraging people to consider foster care.

They welcomed the proposal to improve communications and information sharing between local services and agencies involved with children and families. Respondents said that any discussion should involve children unless there was an immediate danger or child protection issue. Many said children and young people should never be spoken about without their consent.

Many respondents said children and families should be involved in deciding what extra help they would need when they experienced difficulties. Meetings with organisations and the appointment of a designated key worker would aid the process of identifying the most appropriate support.

Respondents wanted to encourage more people to work with children and young people. Improved pay, promotion of the positive benefits of working with children through advertising and adequate careers advice and work experience could help attract more people to the profession.

Children and Young People welcomed the opportunity of completing the questionnaire though some found the questions difficult to answer and suggested they could have been adapted to help younger children to respond.

Question 1

How do you think you should have a say in what your local council does to make things better for children and young people?

Total Respondent Breakdown

2303 Respondents (73%)		
	Total	
Consultations, Surveys	781	34%
Open Forums, Meetings	745	32%
Youth Councils	414	18%
Through School	290	13%
Youth Representative on Council	245	11%
Votes	225	10%
Letters, Newsletters	160	7%
Website, Email, Phone	140	6%
Suggestion Boxes	125	5%
More Activities/Sports	112	5%

	<p>Consultations, Surveys, Questionnaires</p> <p>781 (34%) welcomed opportunities to voice their opinions and influence local decision making. Many suggested that questionnaires, surveys, consultations and telephone polls could be undertaken to ask what was important to them. Several commented that results should be published so they would know their views had been listened to.</p>
2	<p>Open Forums, Meetings</p> <p>745 (32%) suggested using local youth forums and meetings where local councillors could visit children and young people to discuss their views and listen to their opinions. They suggested these meetings could take place in a local youth centre, school or college.</p>
3	<p>Youth Councils</p> <p>414 (18%) respondents said they were members of Youth, School Councils or Youth Parliament. They welcomed and enjoyed this opportunity for discussion and debate and suggested more youth councils could be created to allow children and young people to voice their opinion.</p>
4	<p>Through School</p> <p>290 (13%) children and young people suggested using existing PHSE and Citizenship lessons to discuss their ideas. The issues raised could then be fed back through the school to the local council. Having guest speakers such as MPs and local councillors to visit school would be welcomed.</p>
5	<p>Youth Representative on Council</p> <p>245 (11%) would have liked to see an improvement in communication between their local council and themselves. They suggested having an elected young person to represent them and speak on their behalf on the local council.</p>
6	<p>Votes</p> <p>225 (10%) commented that councils could reduce the age of voting to encourage participation and interest by young people. Several respondents suggested text voting could be an appropriate mechanism to encourage the inclusion of young people.</p>
7	<p>Letters, Newsletters</p> <p>160 (7%) said they could write to the council with their ideas, suggestions and concerns. They also commented that letters should be answered individually and several said there had been occasions when they had written a letter but not received a reply. Several said newsletters could be produced and sent to the local council to promote young people's ideas and concerns.</p>
8	<p>Website, Email, Phones</p> <p>140 (6%) commented that a facility for direct contact with the local council would be helpful. A website, email address and dedicated telephone line available all day would be welcomed to channel suggestions, comments and ideas.</p>
9	<p>Suggestion Boxes</p> <p>125 (5%) recommended having suggestion boxes in local places, for example, schools, colleges, community/youth centres to seek ideas. Several of the respondents suggested this could help with sharing good practice and exploring ideas from other local communities.</p>
10	<p>More Activities</p> <p>112 (5%) asked for further local activities to encourage community involvement and dialogue. Several suggested that activities may help to reduce crime instigated by boredom. Additional parks and playground facilities would be welcome.</p>

Comments for the top ten issues for all respondents.

(Spelling errors have been corrected though grammar has not)

Open Forums, Meetings

Involve organisations in setting up council meetings (anonymous, Over 18)

Local youth forums. Regular visits by politicians to meet young people (Oliver, 16-18)

Have meetings for young people where the elected young people talk to council reps (Adam, 16-18)

School councils should be a strong feature in school first. When they are strong then they need to debate what the local council does. One day a year a representative from each school council should meet a councillor and they need to listen. This could be cluster or phased base. (Anonymous, Age Not Given)

I think that once a month or twice a month the councillors should meet with young people and hear what the young people have to say from what other young people say. (Kerry, Under 16)

By the council coming to my local club and asking us (Luke, Under 16)

We should be able to tell the council what we need. (Mark, Under 16)

I would like the local council to be more accessible to young children and involve children and young people. Children should have the chance to speak out their views and opinions. (Emma, Under 16)

Go to council meeting (Liam, Under 16)

Consultations, Surveys and Questionnaires

Phone us and ask questions and they could do questionnaires (Anonymous, under 16)

By the local council publicising changes and proposed changes in time for me to respond to them. (Sally, over 18)

I think every 4 months or so a questionnaire should go round to be filled in by young people and their organisations, (Anonymous, Over 18)

We should be consulted on how government money is put into the local community. This should happen by holding local consultation groups and having youth councils. (Claire, Over 18)

Consultation process and more relevant immediate information. Simple questionnaires, more localised meetings to generate responses, not always authorised. (Anonymous, Over 18)

I think they should give us questionnaires for this (Tilly, 16-18)

Questionnaires (Christy, 16-18)

Councils to send questionnaires to young people and review and publish results. (Young People's Organisation)

Youth Councils

We have a youth council which has links to the adult version. So I think I already have a say because I am member. There should be more youth councils. (Jack, Under 16)

More youth councils should be created. (Darryl, Under 16)

We have a youth council and think that it's a good idea (Rebecca, Under 16)

I think that young people should have more say in what happens by youth councils and youth clubs (Karen, Under 16)

Through youth councils and youth projects (Ellie, Under 16)

Tell them more about youth council (Robert, Under 16)

We should have a young peoples committee to talk in front of the government about social issues and the young could put ideas forward. (Charlotte, 16-18)

We should be consulted on how government money is put into the local community. This should happen by holding local consultation groups and having youth councils. (NSPCC Birmingham)

Set up a local body including young people to ask what they need and to discuss issues (Emma, Over 18)

Through School

You should come round to schools (Chelsea, 16-18)

Raise awareness about issues in Citizenship and PHSE lessons in school. Raise awareness about local democracy. Let young people know their constituency MP. (Anonymous, Age Not Given)

Through the school, for them to pass on to the council. (Kathryn, Under 16)

All councillors should link with groups of young people to get a range of views on all issues. E.g. Schools, Colleges, Youth Groups - Citizenship Agenda. Young People democratically elected with real decision making power and a budget within Councils. (County Youth Forum, Ages Not Given)

We should have a councillor coming to school (Samantha, Under 16)

I think having a representative in the school, who we can communicate our ideas to, which can then be put forward to the local council, who can do something about it. (Jessica, Under 16)

The local services that children and young people recognise, that make sure young people are safe were the Police, Fire Services, Social Services, hospitals, GPs, childcare services, schools, fostering services, Connexions, Doorway (local housing support project for young people), The Health store (local information centre for young people), health professionals, NSPCC and Child line. They also mentioned school councils feeding back to services and using the Internet as a forum for discussing improvement and change. They felt the best way was for the services to come into schools and talk to them in the school environment. (Leena, Not Given)

Youth Representatives on Council

I think that young people themselves should have a say in what the local council does to make things better for them. (James, Over 18)

Students should have a representative on the council that can put across their views – this rep could be reached by email. (Jonathan, Under 16)

Have youth representatives on the council. (Hannah, Under 16)

Some young people said they would like to go along to 'child-friendly' council meetings to put their views across and to be listened to, but the meetings should be more fun and not boring with people using long words and jargon. Some young people thought that councillors and decision makers should go to the places where kids hang out and talk to them 'where they're at'. For example, in schools, youth clubs, forums, as well as in parks and on the streets. (Anonymous, Under 16)

Young representatives on all Council bodies - District and County. Young People democratically elected with real decision making power and a budget within Councils. (County Youth Forum, Ages Not Given)

Set up a children's parliament or kids tenants association. Children can then be involved when decisions are being made which affect their lives. NP Put posters up letting us know what is going on. NP

Children's magazines - in our language. NP Interview and write letters to local councillors. (Bexley Children's Parliament)

Votes

Surveys, votes, forums for young people, student councils. (Heather, Over 18)

Young persons vote via schools. (Devon County Council Youth Service)

Lower local council voting rights. (Amy, Under 16)

Lower the vote age to get young people into politics (Anonymous 1379, Under 16)

I think there should be a vote in local communities to decide things like this as then everyone gets a say (Jordane, Under 16)

I think they should have a special address for us to write to, and then let us vote for whether we agree with what they want or not. (Emma, Under 16)

I think we should have a special young persons vote with choices for improvements and things to do in the area. (James, 16-18)

Text message voting (Minster C of E Comprehensive Year 9, Under 16)

Letters, Newsletters

They can right us a letter and we can say we want and send it back. (Shane, 16-18)

Write a letter and make sure you get a reply (Symon, 16-18)

Letters, petitions (Natalie, Under 16)

Write a letter to the head. (Lorilie, Under 16)

Newsletters. (Anonymous 818, Under 16)

Letters should be answered individually. (Sam, Under 16)

24 / 7 phone line to complain or tell their comments. Letters - respond to them, Phone calls - respond to them. Feedback - someone to feedback to someone's job to receive feedback and listen to people. Advertise this through all media. Them coming to us NOT always us having to go to them. Educate parents to listen to children and young people and to advocate on behalf of children / young people. (Carrick Youth Forum Consultation Group 2)

Website, Email, Phone

Someone who is Gay or Lesbian in Government who I can contact by Letter, email or phone. (Shaun, Over 18)

Because questionnaires can sometimes be long to answer, it would be useful if there was a telephone number which was well known as a number to contact (which is free) for people who have ideas to put forward. It would also be good if there was a representative or a group of representatives who went round to school, colleges and youth centres who was available to listen to ideas and problems that we may have. (Bindya, 16-18)

Access to young person's website. (Hayley, Under 16)

A local phone number which would be confidential/private. (Jodie, Under 16)

Writing letters to the local council. A website dedicated to this issue; targeted at young people, with message boards, etc. (Helen, 16-18)

Telephone email (Michael, Under 16)

Students should have a representative on the council that can put across their views - this rep could be reached by email. (Jonathon, Under 16)

I think that people should be consulted in groups in schools and colleges. The web-site should be more highly publicised as I didn't hear of it before. I think there should be more activities such as climbing wall, and more days out in weekends and during school holidays. (Nicola, 16-18)

I will email (Anthony, Under 16)

Suggestion Boxes

I think there should be suggestion boxes in public places all over the country and school representatives to feed information to the government. Also, I think that democracy week was a great idea for local people to have their say in the government. (Elsbeth, Under 16)

Confidential box so children can put in topics that are affecting them. These could then be addressed in classes or groups. (Sarah, Over 18)

Suggestion boxes in schools or youth halls. (Samantha, Over 18)

More Activities, Sports

There should be more trips for young people to do. More youth groups which do trips to places, for example cinema trips or bigger trips such as paintballing. (Anonymous 711, 16-18)

Having more groups for children to attend to help them have a better understanding of respect of others and their belongings. Also if people can attend clubs there may not be as much boredom which means less crime. (Anonymous 718, 16-18)

There could be more safety measures put in place in outdoor areas for children to play in. (Hannah, Over 18)

Local events, street fairs - to make people areas safe - important for neighbours to see and talk to each other - I guess what I am saying is for the council to create "spaces" where this can happen. (Amynah, Over 18)

In our local area they built a skate park but for it to be built they had to get over 150 signatures all they wanted was somewhere to go, to do what they enjoy. When we suggest things it is generally because it's what a lot of people want. They should listen to what we think we all have an opinion and they should respect that? There are not many places that respect under 16's. (Lauren, Under 16)

There should be more trips for young people to do. More youth groups which do trips to places, for example cinema trips or bigger trips such as paintballing. (Anonymous 711, 16-18)

To stay safe to enjoy life, a better play ground for young kids and teenagers. Ice rink /skate park. (Vikki, Under 16)

A selection of further comments can be found in Annex B

Question 2

Apart from education, what services would you like to see in your school?

Total Respondent Breakdown

2661 Respondents (85%)		
	Total	
Social Events	1056	40%
Sports Activities	973	37%
Counselling, Advice	622	23%
Teen Clinic, Sex and Health Education	554	21%
Food	353	13%
Youth Centres	333	13%
IT Equipment	224	8%
Community/Parental Activities	197	7%
Careers Advice	181	7%
Security/Police	115	4%

1	<p>Social Events</p> <p>1056 (40%) requested before and after school recreational clubs, for example, creative clubs, drama, art, music. Extra curricular activities would be welcomed to develop practical skills such as driving, cycling proficiency, Duke of Edinburgh and basic life skills. Clubs could be subsidised to encourage participation.</p>
2	<p>Sports and Leisure Facilities</p> <p>973 (37%) children and young people asked for development of the sports and leisure facilities at school. The use of school sports facilities by students and the local community outside of school hours would be welcome. Swimming, fitness, exercise classes would be of benefit to children.</p>
3	<p>Counselling, Advice</p> <p>622 (23%) respondents suggested a counselling service facilitated by learning mentors and peer mentors. Someone to talk with to help reduce bullying would be helpful. A school counsellor, independent of the teaching staff, with time to talk about specific needs could be beneficial. Several commented that this could be operated through the Connexions service by offering a drop in centre.</p>
4	<p>Health Clinic</p> <p>554 (21%) children and young people asked for health services within their school and available at weekends. Confidential help, support and advice by nurses and doctors on contraception and sexual health could help in identifying problems earlier and promoting health education.</p>
5	<p>Food</p> <p>353 (13%) would welcome improved facilities for serving food. Several asked for vending machines for use during after school activities. Several respondents asked for a greater variety in food served during the school day.</p>
6	<p>Youth Centres/Common Rooms</p> <p>333 (13%) said schools could open a common room, “chill out” and youth area allowing young people a place to relax. The centres could be used at different times for different ages.</p>
7	<p>IT Equipment</p> <p>224 (8%) asked for enhanced information technology with improved internet access and computer suites. Computer suites for use during and after school hours could help to improve the skills of students and the local community.</p>
8	<p>Community/Parent Activities</p> <p>197 (7%) welcomed the school being open at evenings and weekends to provide community and parent activities. The school was considered by respondents to be the centre of the community and using its facilities could develop and improve relationships within local areas. Crèche and childcare during activities could enable more people to be involved.</p>
9	<p>Careers Advice</p> <p>181 (7%) asked for additional support and advice on career choices and the availability of work experience in school time. Special guest speakers could be helpful in encouraging children and young people by providing information and helping them consider different careers.</p>
10	<p>Security/Police</p> <p>115 (4%) felt unsafe when leaving school late or returning to school for after-school activities. Additional security measures and police presence would be helpful and could encourage additional participation from the community.</p>

Comments

Social Events

Social events without drinks and drugs so that those pupils who do not drink are not marginalized and not feel isolated. Similar events about people who believe in going green, going vegan etc – all healthy forms of life style are not 'advertised' so how will the society become 'good'. (Amynah, Over 18)

After school cafeteria. Maybe facilities at breaks and lunches such as games consoles, (Charlie, Under 16)

Extra –curricular activities or trips to other countries to improve foreign knowledge (Liam, Under 16)

Connexions, health advice and support, more optional extra curricular sports such as martial arts, street safety advice, dance, yoga, palates. (Hampshire Youth LMC, Age Not given)

More creativity, dance, art, drama, music. Being more relaxed within a workspace. Freedom of speech. (S& JL, Under 16)

More fun courses that include an educational side but are more relaxed as that students are learning while having fun for example photography club and art clubs after school . (Daniel, 16-18)

Self defence classes and mechanical courses (John, Under 16)

Discos more often (once a month). School Nurse more available. Drop in centre, after school clubs, common rooms (Emma, Under 16)

More entertainment e.g. discos more places people can socialise – a swimming pool a gym. (Hayley, Under 16)

Creative clubs e.g. arts, drama, music, dance, film making (Whittingham Community Primary School)

Sports Activities

Lots of sport activities, confidence classes (Jenna, 16-18)

Better sports facilities. More recreational clubs – maybe voluntarily run i.e. youth clubs etc. (Alison, Over 18)

Sports and leisure activities for local residents. (Mark, Under 16)

Fitness (Shaun, Under 16)

Sport, food, relax (Karen, Under 16)

More sports (Robert, Under 16)

Sports, snooker clubs, music centre, try to get more children involved, careers and how to pick the right one for you (James, Under 16)

Football clubs run by coaches, netball clubs, school to open earlier and where we can buy breakfast/use computers. ICT at weekends and in holidays. Science club with secondary school. (Holdbrook School Council, Age Not Given)

Basketball and tennis coaching (Anthony, Under 16)

Counselling and Advice

A counsellor who has worked with young people and adults to offer a counselling service. (James, Over 18)

Drop in counselling service, teen line (Kirsty, 16-18)

Counselling, childcare 4 young mothers, fun activities (Amy, Under 16)

Counsellor for children, young people (neutral). More coffee bars for informal social meetings. Good access to schools - open reception areas adequately staffed. Crèche for students who have children. More places to park cars and bicycles. Re-train school caretakers. (GD, Over 18)

Proper counselling for individuals and more supportive learning for children with learning difficulties i.e. dyslexia. (Melanie, Over 18)

Counselling for all children. Support with learning problems for all whether they have learning difficulties i.e. dyslexia or not. I think all school age children should be tested for children (Anonymous, Over 18)

Counselling services that are safe and confidential. (Claire, Over 18)

Child support and counselling. Social services present in schools. Teenage mother support. (Beth, Over 18)

I would like to see a person that students can go to if they were gay, lesbian or bisexual to talk to. (Anonymous, Under 16)

Nominate children who others can talk to about problems if they don't want to talk to adults. (Sinead and Vicki, Over 18)

Teen Clinic

Teenage clinics, one to one support (Anonymous, Over 18)

Sports, games, sexual health, get contraception in schools, doctors, counsellors (Anonymous 16-18)

Sexual health awareness (Oliver, 16-18)

To provide extra funding for specialist school nurses who will spend their time promoting health education. Provide workers (not teachers) to do extra curricular activities for teenagers in school. (Anonymous 534, Over 18)

Doctors regarding health issues. More career advice, Make our areas a safer place – police supervision (Anonymous, Under 16)

Sex education. Free contraception. Careers advice and more times to see a careers adviser. 6th form advice and college advice. (Nicola, 16-18)

Services that help people about any problems e.g. trouble at home, contraception etc. (Tilly, 16-18)

Information, e.g. sex, drugs, pregnancy, someone to talk to about bullying career advice. (Briony, 16-18)

Connexions, health advice and support, more optional extra curricular sports such as martial arts, street safety advice, dance, yoga, palates. (Hampshire Youth LMC, Age Not given)

Health Services, especially at weekends. Dentist, doctors and nurses (Whittingham Community Primary School)

Food

Food. (Rory, Under 16)

Pick n Mix. Free food. No uniform (Jess, Under 16)

Would like a cookery taster of foods from around the world. (Anonymous, 16-18)

Food in school, the prices are high and some people can't afford to pay that much on a regular basis. (Natalie, Under 16)

Breakfast club - all the pupils could have a breakfast. (Whitehall Primary School)

Youth Centres

Maybe have a youth centre style after school. (James, Over 18)

Career, somewhere to relax, chat to friends (Daniel, 16-18)

As a small school services would need to come with "space" and resources. I'd like to see services for all community especially aged e.g. library, drop in etc (Anonymous, Over 18)

More recreational clubs – maybe voluntarily run i.e. youth clubs etc. (Alison, Over 18)

Youth clubs (Ian, 16-18)

Common room for older people. And more privileges for better behaved children. (Anonymous, Under 16)

I would like to see more clubs. Visits from historians, people from local council (Jamie, Under 16)

A before and after club for children who's parents are unable to collect within school hours. (Andrea, Over 18)

Open rooms for evening/weekend groups (Robert, Under 16)

Drop in centre, after school clubs, common rooms. (Emma, Under 16)

A before and after club for children who's parents are unable to collect within school hours. More opportunities to join different clubs e.g. sports, arts, music, dance. School nurse who regularly sees all children. This enables problems to be identified early. Cycling proficiency testing to be reintroduced. (Andrea, Over 18)

Internet cafes. After school group (like youth club that ends at 6pm) and breakfast clubs. Swipe card entry passes. (Esther, Connexions East Sussex)

IT Equipment

More ITC lessons. (Jamie, Under 16)

Better computer facilities and computer suite. (Edward, Under 16)

Access to internet Email. (Bob, Under 16)

Good internet facilities. (Carrick Youth Forum Consultation Group 2)

More time to use facilities e.g. computer room as they aren't used very much in lessons just when we have spare time which isn't very often. (Kayleigh, 16-18)

Parent/child activities access to IT and sports facilities by committees. (Christine, Over 18)

Community/Parent Activities

I like the idea of schools being open more and used by the whole community, I think the youth and the rest of the community are separated and need to be more involved and know more about what is going on. This applies to the community knowing about what the school is doing and the schools knowing about what is going on in the community. (Debbie, 16-18)

Weekend opening (Anonymous, Under 16)

I think the idea to extend schools so people can just hang out there is a good idea because there will be safe places for people to go and hang out or use facilities that they do not have at home. (Francesca, Under 16)

They should be open to all the community. (Callum, Under 16)

Make activities in these communities more interesting and easy access for all ages & disabilities. (Anonymous, Under 16)

I would like to see our school as the centre of the community. An extended school which is also used by a range of other professionals for the benefit of the community-Speech therapist, health visitor etc. (LA, Over 18)

Open at the weekend so we can use some of the school facilities. (Clare, Under 16)

Careers Advice/Work Experience

Career support, somewhere to relax, chat to friends. (Gosport Youth Council)

Careers advice and more times to see a careers adviser. 6th form advice and college advice. (Nicola, 16-18)

Career Guidance, Personal Advisors. (Tabitha, 16-18)

I would prefer services for students to get involved in such different courses, get involved in joining charities, work experience in different year groups not just in Year 10. (Tarenjeet, 16-18)

Training for jobs - regular work experience. (Becky, Under 16)

Somebody from the army or leisure. (David, Under 16)

Security/Police

Police - levels of crime/around - Issues surrounding drugs - Religious groups/cultural jobs (Amanda Jayne, Under 16)

Community wardens around school corridors. (Kayleigh, Under 16)

More lights (Andrew, Under 16)

Police in schools so fights get stopped quick and school transport. (Lloyd, Under 16)

More guards to make sure that the school site is safe for children to hang around in the evenings. (Lincolnshire Racial Equality Council)

CCTV- stop bullying (Steven, Under 16)

Question 3

How should we spend the Young People's Fund to give young people more and better things to do?

Total Respondent Breakdown

2723 Respondents (87%)		
	Total	
Sports, Activities Leisure	1682	62%
Youth Clubs	938	34%
Education Trips, Outings	387	14%
Books, Equipment	299	11%
Education	232	9%
Ask Children	226	8%
Safe Areas	191	7%
Schools, Activities	185	7%
Transport	170	6%
Community Buildings	86	3%

1	<p>Sports, Leisure and Activities</p> <p>1682 (62%) suggested the fund was spent on developing sports and leisure facilities in local areas, for example, skate and BMX parks. The reduction of costs for leisure activities would be welcomed by young people. Young people suggested discounts for sport and leisure activities to encourage student and family participation.</p>
2	<p>Youth Clubs</p> <p>938 (34%) requested more youth clubs and drop-in centres to keep children off the streets. Safe and secure environments for children and young people to hang out and mix irrespective of beliefs and ability would be beneficial.</p>
3	<p>Educational Trips</p> <p>387 (14%) respondents asked for the funding to be spent on educational trips and events. Coach trips to theme parks and museums were requested.</p>
4	<p>Books, Equipment</p> <p>299 (11%) asked for the fund to be spent on equipment and books for local schools and colleges. Improved sports, musical and information technology equipment would be welcome.</p>
5	<p>Education</p> <p>232 (9%) suggested using money to improve the educational environment and facilities in schools. Each school could be given a standard amount from the fund to spend on children's needs. Several suggested the fund could be spent on encouraging young people to consider further education.</p>
6	<p>Ask Children</p> <p>226 (8%) commented that, prior to any funding being issued, children and young people should be consulted and asked by local councils how it might be spent.</p>
7	<p>Safe Areas</p> <p>191 (7%) suggested using the fund to build safe and secure areas for children and young people for play. Several respondents said that money could be spent on sustaining youth facilities and detached youth workers.</p>
8	<p>School Activities</p> <p>185 (7%) said money could be spent on extended school-based activities, offering free clubs for children. Respondents suggested that any activities planned should ensure inclusion of children with disabilities and special educational needs.</p>
9	<p>Transport</p> <p>170 (6%) asked that money be spent on transport to provide help for people to be more involved in community activities. Transport in rural areas to access sport and recreational facilities would help.</p>
10	<p>Community Buildings</p> <p>86 (3%) were of the view that money could be spent on community buildings. Additional funding to encourage collaborative participation in activities by parents, children, young people, and carers in a neutral environment could be of benefit to local communities. The use of the school as a community building would be especially welcomed in rural environments.</p>

Comments:

Sports, Leisure and Activities

Activities days out i.e. skiing, mountain biking, pioneering, canoeing, rock climbing, obstacle courses/ (Anonymous, Under 16)

By building more swimming pools (public) and leisure centres. By having/maintaining good parks/playground. Reading is very good at this. (Anonymous, Under 16)

Build a skate park. (Alex, Under 16)

Pay for staff to run activities after school and for transport so more people can join in.(George, Under 16)

youth centres, skate parks, cinemas (Amy, Under 16)

I think a free skate park in Portsmouth would be great. Also I know a play scheme run by the YMCA but kids have to pay for it. So if it was a government of free thing then more kids would have more fun because they would have more things to do. (Liam, Under 16)

Make parks and youth club's better all over the country (Hayley, Under 16)

Bowling, cinema, McDonalds (Adam, 16-18)

Cheaper activities for children in care like swimming, cinema, ice skating activities day. (Megan, Under 16)

Youth Centres

You should spend the fund on a centre for children to go instead of hanging around the streets (Anonymous, 16-18)

maybe use it to make better places to hang out with your friends like parks or youth centres (Vicky, Under 16)

It should include integrated projects e.g. Youth clubs so that all young people can mix, whatever their colour, beliefs or ability. (Student Council, Age Not Given)

Trips, clubs, village youth club (Charlie, Under 16)

youth centres, skate parks, cinemas (Amy, Under 16)

Make parks and youth club's better all over the country (Hayley, Under 16)

Places for young people to go and things for them to do. (Tilly, 16-18)

Make youth centre free, give people a chance to have fun, who haven't really got much money, School trips. (Briony, 16-18)

Buy places to make into café's for young people or just somewhere to hang out. (Christy, 16-18)

We are wanting to open a local youth café with IT facilities and information points and funding would be great to achieve this aim as will benefit the local community greatly (Daniel, 16-18)

You should spend the money on a place for young people to hang out (Karen, Under 16)

More youth groups to get the kids off the streets (Ellie, Under 16)

Make a café for young people a place where bands can perform (Jay, Under 16)

Computer centres and clubs (Anonymous, Over 18)

Educational Trips

Fund educational/fun trips. (Aynah, over 18)

We already do plenty, more trips would be nice (Hayley, under 16)

trips, clubs, village youth club (Charlie, Under 16)

Residential, One Day Events, Trips Out (Adam, 16-18)

In buying a mini bus for our youth café so that I can go on trips with my friends to keep us off the streets doing nothing. (S& JL, Under 16)

Coach trips out, theme park, water park, clubs, holidays. (Hayley, Under 16)

I think they should spend this money to pick educated teachers in every school as well as sports. Also better food in schools. And more trips for pupils to take part in. (James, Under 16)

Books and Equipment

I think books and equipment for college could be cheaper so more people can learn. (Joanne,16-18)

We need better school equipment and books (Lucy, Under 16)

Musical Instruments (Sam, Under 16)

More ICT facilities & more special needs facilities. (Ben, 16-18)

Better sports equipment and more freedom on computers, no restrictions apart from offensive material on internet. (Killan, Under 16)

Proper equipment for science lessons. (Georgina, Under 16)

Buying equipment and setting up clubs (Steven, Under 16)

I'd like to have lockers so we can store our things. (Danielle, Under 16)

Lockers = cause things get pinched. (Michael, Under 16)

Education

Paint school bright colours. (Levi, Under 16)

Better teachers (Tom, Under 16)

To be better decorated. (Kelly, Under 16)

I think school should have more class because some class room are crowded (Andrew, Under 16)

More toilets, open toilets (Always). (Jonathon, Under 16)

I think you should get real people say for English you could get J. K. Rowling to come in and tell us about writing and her books. (Laura, Under 16)

I wouldn't mind a few better surrounds, things like, comfier chairs, benches outside, more places to go when it's raining instead of being outside getting wet. (Tiffany, Under 16)

Better resources for education (Ian, Under 16)

Ask Children

Ask us what we want and give it to us. (Joshua, Under 16)

People need more to do. Something that interests us. The council should ask us instead of doing it themselves then nobody uses it. Ask people in skateboarding what a park should be like. People only make trouble in the streets because there is nothing else to do. (Simon, Under 16)

You should go out and ask young people what they want, instead of going to a group of adults and asking them what they think young people would want. (Kerry, Under 16)

Get young people's ideas (Shaun, Under 16)

Consult the YP in the area you intend to spend the money in, take into account the diverse views of the YP there as they'll be able to say what they want (Hampshire Youth LMC, Age Not Given)

Spend it on what the young people want (John, Under 16)

People need more to do. Something that interests us. The council should ask us instead of doing it themselves then nobody uses it. Ask people in skateboarding what a park should be like. People only make trouble in the streets because there is nothing else to do. (Simon, Under 16)

Safe Areas

Young people don't necessarily need organised events or clubs to give them things to do. Most people prefer to just "hang round". I would say the best suggestion is to give them a sheltered paved area, with a few benches, maybe some small rails for skateboarders. This way they have a place to hang round, do as they like, and as its sheltered they will be encouraged to stay there rather than seek shelter else where. (Debbie, 16-18)

Strongly agree that the fund should help towards making facilities for young people aged 13-16. Youth clubs activity centres, social events, or safe areas where they can meet but with supervision. (Graham School)

Important to sustain existing youth facilities. More workers on streets where young people hang about. Strong emphasis on open access youth facilities, e.g. shelters, skate and BMX tracks, sports equipment play cages. Reference was made to youth workers visiting these areas and having some contact with young people but not managing or supervising. (Poole Peer Listeners)

Street lighting in towns should be improved, especially in winter months when it gets dark early, there are things to do but I have to rely on my parents to escort me as it seems as being "unsafe" when it is dark. (Gemma, Under 16)

By funding clubs, groups, activities in a secure place with quality staff. (Thornhill J&I School)

School Activities

Use the fund to open the school and offer free/minimal charge activities for children. Things such as self defence classes, computer learning, cycle proficiency lessons, car/bicycle mechanics, sports, free swimming lessons at school that have a pool. (Louise, Over 18)

Better play areas, better public swimming pools, expand leisure opportunities for children with learning disabilities. All these in school. (Anonymous, Over 18)

More School based activities. (Anonymous, Under 16)

More integrated clubs for children with special needs in school after school hours. Schools attempt integration during school hours because they are obliged to, but this stops at the end of the day. (Sara, Over 18)

Build more CLUBS for young people 11-16 17-18 different clubs for different ages! Own age groups doing different activities outdoor fun games; get to know other people without bullying in the city! During school time till 5pm and at weekends. (Anonymous, 16-18)

Have a group doing activities and things to do in the summer holidays such as after school classes (Keeley, Under 16)

Singing club for all people who want to be in a band during school break times. (Lloyd, Under 16)

Transport

Better transportation, better education and more cinemas (Luke, 16-18)

Help with transport costs or maybe a young person free bus pass. More day trips to make people come to college help with dinner prices for students on benefits. (Kirsty, 16-18)

Transport in rural areas to get to sports and recreational facilities. (Abbie, Over 18)

Open days in schools during school holidays, with transport provided for people who normally require it. (Jo, 16-18)

Free transport (Emily, Under 16)

Better busses / trains which go on longer and more frequently and are cheaper, free driving lessons (Anonymous, 16-18)

Community Buildings

Would like a community building for parties and meetings (Anonymous, 16-18)

Have a community centre where they will feel free expressing themselves and meet with other young people. (Cabrinda Community Association)

A community centre where you can hang around and do your homework on computers. (Emma, Over 18)

I would make loads of community centres and make people stay off the street. (Lee, Under 16)

Question 4

How do you think the Government can best help families at difficult times?

Total Respondent Breakdown

2529 Respondents (81%)		
	Total	
Support & Guidance	1143	45%
Money e.g. for food, clothes	995	39%
Counselling	677	27%
Respite Care/Childcare	265	10%
Activity Breaks, holidays	161	6%
Resources	151	6%
Housing	142	6%
More Social Workers	134	5%
Website, Help Line	105	5%
Learning/Jobs	69	3%

1	<p>Support, Guidance</p> <p>1143 (45%) commented that practical support and guidance was needed. Providing time and offering free support to families in crisis in a non-threatening and practical way would be welcomed. Several commented that families need to be aware of where they can access help, support and guidance.</p>
2	<p>Money for Food, Clothes</p> <p>995 (39%) requested help with the costs of daily living. Children and young people said many problems stemmed from lack of money. They said additional funding would help poorer families who were unable to cope with paying bills and the stress associated with this. Temporary benefits to assist families through difficult times would be helpful.</p>
3	<p>Counselling</p> <p>677 (27%) said counselling could help children, young people and families to manage in difficult times. Respondents said using existing organisations such as Connexions and social services could benefit families. Several respondents commented that continuity was important. Having the same support worker was important to young people. A few respondents said family mentors could be made available and examples of the positive experiences of being mentored were mentioned.</p>
4	<p>Respite Care/Childcare</p> <p>265 (10%) commented that respite care and childcare for struggling families could help. Day support and respite activity breaks, depending on the situation, could be beneficial to parents and children. Respondents asked for the provision of nurseries and childcare facilities to assist working parents.</p>
5	<p>Activity Breaks, Holidays</p> <p>161 (6%) suggested that social events and activity breaks for families could be organised. They said this could help families to spend time together in a neutral environment discussing difficulties.</p>
6	<p>Resources</p> <p>151 (6%) stressed the need for resources for families, for example, food and childcare. Respondents believed that the improved provision of resources in times of need, and advice on how to access them, could help in periods of difficulty.</p>
7	<p>Housing</p> <p>142 (6%) commented that affordable housing was a problem. Additional decent housing for families could help them avoid difficult times.</p>
8	<p>More Social Workers</p> <p>134 (6%) asked for more social workers to help families who struggle. Respondents said the Government could support social services by appointing a new social worker post, community liaison officer, who could visit those families who encounter difficult situations.</p>
9	<p>Website/Helpline</p> <p>105 (5%) suggested the Government could establish a website providing help, advice and useful links for support. More free help lines for the use of children, young people and parents, available all day, could be of benefit to families who struggle.</p>
10	<p>Learning/Jobs</p> <p>69 (3%) said additional help should be provided to help unemployed parents find employment. Job Finders and learning classes could be funded to provide the necessary skills and training to aid in employment.</p>

Comments:

Support and Guidance

Meet up then help with what they need help on. (Kali, Under 16)

Offer free support for all the family. And after them money, but only if it is needed. (Ian, 16-18)

Support young people who are having problems. Employ people to go to schools and support them. (Briony 16-18)

Offer more support (as in advice not money) as doesn't given them the initiative to try and do things for themselves). Help should be given in finding jobs and giving the family an aim and showing them the best way to use their money. (Daniel, 16-18)

Support, guidance. Courses, childcare (Anonymous, Over 18)

Give them guidance, a small sum of money, which they could pay back in small amounts. (Daniel, 16-18)

Support, time and advice in simple terms that are non – patronizing and effective, non threatening and practical. (Anonymous, Over 18)

I think family centres (places where families in need can go) are a good idea. (Alison, Under 16)

Better supervision and communication. Help not judgement. (Alison, Over 18)

Need more information and conformation on definition of 'difficult times'. Perhaps make families more aware of services that are available to them. Make family counselling free and maybe do it through schools if young people are having a hard time at home and some teachers know about. They could talk it out at school with teachers or counsellors present etc. (Caradon Consultation)

Money for Food

Help with costs for uniforms and childcare. Support for parents/families with issues such as parenting classes, alcohol, drugs, violence, and illness. (Heather, Over 18)

Give money/ advice/medical care/ lower rent or tax (Craig, 16-18)

Give more money (Rebecca, Under 16)

Send them money (Jay, Under 16)

Food & drink. Home & warm bed. Parent & well treated. (Lewis, Under 16)

Send then loads of sympathy cards/money/support. (Chris, Under 16)

Give them some money and go around and see how they are doing. (Michael, Under 16)

The main problems for families was having little or no money. One of the things that worries us is the fact that the stress of worrying about paying bills affects how parents re with the children. (Whittingham Community Primary School)

Counselling

Children could talk to a counsellor who would guide their opinions (Michael, Under 16)

Provide free counsellors and then help from what they need (Anonymous, Age not given)

Counselling, support (Amy, Under 16)

I wouldn't know – counselling? (Liam, Under 16)

Counselling – one to one advice on how to manage difficult times. Someone as in a foster carer should be with them in their house for at least a week to help the parents with the children. (Naomi, Under 16)

If teenagers are finding things difficult then they could maybe see someone at connexions (Kerry, Under 16)

Making sure families do have some income, counselling (Adam, 16-18)

Counselling and more benefits (Ellie, Under 16)

Give them counselling (Robert, Under 16)

Respite Care

Respite activity breaks, subsidising informal education, making it easier for 16-21 year olds to be housed and supported away from family home (Abbey, Under 16)

They can offer services such as – counselling for adults, play therapy for younger children, respite care. (Claire, Over 18)

Provision of respite facilities already mentioned. Transport provided out of school hours for pupils to have the opportunity for staying at school for extended care – currently transport is only available for beginning and end of school day. (Alison, Over 18)

Take there child for a day out full of fun so the mother can have some time alone. To get better security so that people in school and out are never getting bullied. (James, Under 16)

Free childminders to parents that work or are trying to get back to work. (Anonymous 1315, 16-18)

Emergency childcare/respite - more advertising of resources available to families. Central archive of all children's files. Meetings of professionals to discuss concerns. Intervention when parents and children have extreme problem cases when parents won't accept help. (Tim, Over 18)

Activity Breaks

By providing more social events other than pubs so families can get together and talk. Getting families together providing cheaper activities, difficulties can be discussed and worked through with appropriate professionals whilst having fun. (S& JL, Under 16)

Making sure there are clubs and fun places to go so mum can have a break as a carer at the same time we also have fun. (Luke, Under 16)

Gives there kids something to do so that can take there mind of things (Jordan, Under 16)

Places for families to enjoy themselves (Hayley, Under 16)

Provide children centres - all under one roof. Home help. Provide drop in centres. Sure start should be extended for children who are older. (Clare, Over 18)

Give holidays e.g. a weekend or a week or if the case is like a relative has died pay for funeral expenses. (Jamie, Under 16)

Provide somewhere for the kids to go and get away from home that is cheap and free. (Francesca, Under 16)

Resources

Not giving money BUT buying resources for children to use in schools. Buying food for children (give teaches money) in school. This is very difficult to do but I've seen 14 year olds come to school without food because of genuine difficulties - social workers need to work quickly. (Amynah, Over 18)

By ensuring that support services such as family support, educational welfare, social services, benefits and health and well being services are funded sufficiently for them to be proactive services and not relative services. This way, many families may never reach crisis point which often happens now as resources will be available for them. (Isle of White Options)

Emergency childcare - more advertising of resources available to families. Central archive of all children's files. Meetings of professionals to discuss concerns. Intervention when parents and children have extreme problem cases when parents won't accept help. (Tim, Over 18)

More Resources to help them in times of need and knowing where to find them. (Liam, Under 16)

More resources not just for siblings but families to share together (Anonymous, Under 16)

Housing

Emergency hostels for overnight stays. (Samantha, Under 16)

More homes. (Jonathan, Under 16)

Build more children's homes (Amanda, Under 16)

Home for young people for when they run away. (Adam, Under 16)

More homes for disabled or old people would stop them having problems. (BEST, Wolverhampton)

Housing for people on drugs with stuff to do to take their minds off drugs. (Louise, Under 16)

More children homes be more supportive and help with money problems. (Fern, Under 16)

A hostel (Ryan, Under 16)

More Social Workers

In terms of social services support them by having a new social worker post. Whereby they are a community liaison officer, where families can visit to talk about family problems, or by where families can give suggestions as to how social services can be improved. (James, Over 18)

By employing people (social workers) that are trained to talk to people at difficult times. (Hayley, Under 16)

I think the Government can help families by paying for a social worker, solicitor to go and speak to the family and help try and sort it out. (Jamie, Under 16)

More social workers, more advice. (Christy, 16-18)

By ensuring that support services such as family support, educational welfare, social services, benefits and health and well being services are funded sufficiently for them to be proactive services and not relative services. This way, many families may never reach crisis point which often happens now. (Isle of White Options)

Have more social workers who know all about the grants, benefits. (Hannah, 16-18)

Website/Helpline

The government should make more free phone help lines available for the youth and parents. So the problem won't arise and set up support groups. Another idea is to put advice flyers through letterboxes so people do not need to make an effort. (Jack, Under 16)

Websites to get advice and help. (Anonymous, Under 16)

Promote an advice helpline where a parent can ring 24 hours a day for advice. (Andrea, Over 18)

Phone line 24/7 (Louis, Under 16)

Make a website called Stop Cruelty. (Nauseet, Under 16)

Help should be available but not compulsory. Have support groups and help lines. (Rebecca, Under 16)

Learning/ Jobs

I do believe they cost. The only possible solution is more jobs. (Thomas, Under 16)

Free learning with a crèche to enable parents to go to learn new skills. (Amber, Under 16)

Help them by giving an education for absolutely free. (Kyle, Under 16)

Teach and explain to children about hard times and the people there to help. A sure start for older children. Provide support for the child in the home environment. (Hannah, Over 18)

Internet schooling in times when the children can't go to school. (Faye, 16-18)

Offer employment in specific jobs, (if short of money). (Julia, 16-18)

Ascribe training for families if they want it. (Symon, 16-18)

Job Finders (Crocodile, Under 16)

Question 5

Do you have any suggestions for encouraging people to become foster carers and making sure they feel good about their work?

Total Respondent Breakdown

1866 Respondents (59%)		
	Total	
Promote Positive Benefits	889	48%
Advertise	648	35%
Better Pay	386	21%
Support for Foster Carers	386	21%
Have a party	118	6%
Target Key Groups	91	5%
Trial Days	58	3%
Should be a Vocation	52	3%
Reduce bureaucracy	47	3%
Respite Care/Childcare	17	1%

1	<p>Promote the Positive Benefits</p> <p>889 (48%) suggested promoting the positive impact that foster carers have on children and young people as this may encourage people to enquire about the work. They said that highlighting the fact that foster carers will be helping vulnerable children in need by the provision of a safe environment could be key in encouraging people to become foster carers.</p>
2	<p>Advertise</p> <p>648 (35%) said effective advertising of foster care via television, radio, and leaflets may be helpful. Raising the awareness of fostering and making information available in accessible formats and languages would be welcomed. Positive public relations were considered important by young people. They felt that many people had a negative image of young people in care and advertising may help to celebrate the success of foster caring.</p>
3	<p>Support, Training</p> <p>386 (21%) recognised the important and occasionally difficult role of being a foster carer. Ongoing support, advice and training with foster carer networks could be helpful in assisting carers through difficult times. Respondents said the knowledge of ongoing support may encourage the recruitment of additional foster carers.</p>
4	<p>Better Pay</p> <p>386 (21%) suggested improving the pay for foster carers. They said this could encourage more people to be involved.</p>
5	<p>Have a Party/Rewards</p> <p>118 (6%) acknowledged the positive work of foster carers and suggested having local and national awards and celebration events to share success stories. This would promote the positive impact of carers on children. Ongoing recognition and encouragement for foster carers was considered important by respondents and could help foster carers feel appreciated by children and also by society in general.</p>
6	<p>Target Key Groups</p> <p>91 (5%) suggested targeting key groups of people to ask them to consider foster care. Making it easier for single people, homosexual couples, childless couples and families from mixed religious backgrounds was considered to be important.</p>
7	<p>Trial Days</p> <p>58 (3%) recommended trial days to allow potential carers the opportunity to spend time with children in order to assist them in making informed decisions. Experience through placements could provide the encouragement required to help people offer themselves as foster carers.</p>
8	<p>Should be a Vocation</p> <p>52 (3%) questioned the promotion of foster caring and said fostering should be considered a vocation. Financial benefits could not replace a person's natural inclination and flair for working with children and young people.</p>
9	<p>Reduce Bureaucracy</p> <p>47 (3%) said the selection process for foster caring was bureaucratic and could prevent people from applying. A reduction in the length of time to process applications would be welcomed.</p>
10	<p>Respite Care/Childcare</p> <p>17 (1%) respondents suggested more respite care and childcare would be helpful in providing support to foster carers. They recognised that foster carers could at times be stressed and respite periods involving support and rest could be of benefit to them and encourage others to consider such a career.</p>

Comments:

Promote the positive benefits

Telling them how rewarding it is to be carers. (Kirsty, Under 16)

Show them how beneficial it is to care for children who need help and are not at fault (Emma, Under 16)

Making sure that if someone is looking into becoming foster carers that they know that they will change someone's life for the better. (Tilly, 16-18)

Employ people to talk to foster carers to support them, so they don't feel alone at times. (Briony, 16-18)

I know a foster carer and they are great, they do things and go places with the kids. And more and more people could do this to help. (Emma, Under 16)

If they are taught more, if what it is for children that are going through abuse and other problems (Hayley, Under 16)

I would say to people that you get a lot from being a foster carer. (Kerry, Under 16)

Because I love them. They love me. (Anthony, Under 16)

Because you will not forget the person (Liam, Under 16)

Advertise

Advertise more in the local area, in the local press etc (Daniel, 16-18)

Advertise foster caring more, making it show how people can make a difference in a child's life. (Pauline, Over 18)

Improve the image of the job - advertising. Show how they can make a difference. (Natalie, 16-18)

Advertise (Darryl, Under 16)

Better PR needed, TV Ads, Radio Ads, and leaflets. (Ian, 16-18)

Advertise using real people, and celebrate their successes. (Student Council, Age Not Given)

Adverts and show how to get into fostering. (Gemma, 16-18)

Stop the stereotypical view that foster children are troublemakers. (Poole Peer Listeners)

Adverts, TV (Kirsty, Under 16)

Better Pay

Give the support with money (Sarah-Ann, 16-18)

Better support, financial help, raise profile. (Heather, Over 18)

Lots of support when trouble and more money (Craig, 16-18)

More money (Adam, 16-18)

Pay them. Match children with families getting to know more information about different children. (Anonymous, Under 16)

You would have to make sure that the foster carers are financially rewarded for giving up their job. Set up foster carer support groups. (Naomi, Under 16)

Increase their pay to a national minimum as a proper job with bonuses for hard work and keeping to plan. Have a choice about who they want with better information about the children. My fosters felt like they didn't have choices. (Steven, 16-18)

Support, training

Better support for foster carers via other means not social services that are overworked. Better incentives, more respite. More social services input to move on programmes/ young persons development. (Abbey, Age Not Given)

Special training courses (Luke, 16-18)

Give good sound support and achievement awards (Anonymous, Over 18)

Effective network for foster parents (Emma, Over 18)

By helping kids when they have a rough time. (Jake, Under 16)

Recognise the work they do in the first place. More support and training. Peer educators (mentors) (Jackie Over 18)

Follow up people's interests in becoming foster carers. Look at guidelines which excludes so many. Training, support and advice for foster carers. (Alison, Over 18)

Organise training so that the foster carers know what to do in difficult times. Get foster carers to go around the country with their child and talk to others about fostering. (Jamie, Under 16)

Offer courses for potential foster families. Offer a weeks work experience where a potential family can go and live in a foster home and see what it is like and gain 1st hand experience. TV advertising/Media advertising. (Andrea, Over 18)

Just provide them some where to go and get help (but maybe not have to give personal details) (Francesca, Under 16)

Have a Party/Rewards

Rewards.(Helen, Under 16)

Use the diary awards. (Michelle, Under 16)

Local awards and ceremonies to promote good work. (Anonymous 619, Under 16)

You should give awards to good foster parents (Hillyfield Primary School)

Recognition – certificates (Hannah/Donna, 16-18)

A medal or free bills for a month. (David, Under 16)

Have a party in council for children and families. (Scunthorpe Youth Centre)

Pay them more. Reward them for training to look after children. Treat them like heroes. (Sam, Under 16)

Thanks and appreciation (North Tawton Youth Centre, Devon)

Give a certificate a reward for the help they have given (Southwark Connexions)

Target Key Groups

Make the money more attractive- Provide support- Don't be discriminative e.g. it doesn't matter what race you are it doesn't matter if you smoke. (Amanda, Age Not Given)

We feel that a good and motivated single parent is good as a foster parent. (Centre North West Youth Group, Ages Not Given)

If you can't have children for any reason and you really want kids. (Melanie, Under 16)

Making it easier for Homosexual couples to foster. (Alan, 16-18)

Possibly aim at more mature adults who have successfully raised families-they will have considerable knowledge and experience of a wide range of issues that could be successfully be developed in the role of fostering. Raise the status of parenting/fostering to make a more professional level. (LA, Over 18)

Provide more details about religious and ethnic background and how both mixed religious background and single works within a foster home. (Tahir, Over 18)

They need gay needs so they understand. Need common gay foster carers. (Symon, 16-18)

Trial Days

Let people have a trial week. (Charlotte, Over 18)

Well let them meet the children so they feel comfortable with each other, and give them background info on the child so they feel sorry for them. (Lucie, Under 16)

Show them other foster carers. Have trial runs (Richard, Under 16)

Meet new foster parents first (Anonymous, Age Not Given)

Trial periods. Try and put the child with foster carers of a similar background to their own. (Sinead and Vicki, Over 18)

People could do a trial period (Deborah and Carolyn, Age Not Given)

Trial period to let them shadow current foster parents. Give children a choice to an extent on where they want to be. (Pia, Over 18)

Should be a Vocation

No not really as not everyone wants to work with or for young people, just as some people don't want to work in Law or with animals. I also feel that in this area of work just working with the young people should make them feel good in their work. (Kim, 16-18)

I think if people want to foster they will if they don't they wont. I don't see why I should encourage them if they are to do it of their own will. (Georgina, Under 16)

You cannot force people to look after children/young people if they don't want to. (Priestwood Youth Centre)

You can't encourage someone to make such as big decision as it is a whole persons life. But it is a good thing to do for someone who has no family. (Julia, Under 16)

I think that foster parents should only foster if they want (Matt, Under 16)

Reduce Bureaucracy

I feel that people don't want to become foster carers for two reasons: 1)too long a bureaucratic process 2) if the child does not adopt and if the foster child creates an unhealthy environment (when there are other kids in the picture) the removal process is not quick - so that is an issue! (Amynah, Over 18)

Make it less complicated to become a foster carer and promote the benefits for YP being in foster care so they'll feel more likely to foster a child. (Hampshire Youth LMC Connexions)

Cut down on unnecessary red tape. Have a system which actually encourages foster care. (Oliver, 16-18)

The selection process for foster carers shouldn't be as long as it is currently (Katie, Over 18)

Speed up the time it takes to become a foster carer (North Tawton Youth Centre, Devon)

Respite Care/Childcare

Better support for foster carers via other means not social services who are overworked. Better incentives, more respite. (Devon County Council Youth Service)

Childcare facilities (Tom, Under 16)

Respite (Liam, Under 16)

Question 6

When do you think services should talk together about a child without the child knowing or saying it is OK?

Total Respondent Breakdown

2204 Respondents (70%)		
	Total	
Danger for Child/ Child Protection Issues	853	39%
Never	536	24%
Involve Children / Children's Consent	415	19%
Depends on Age	255	12%
Depends on Subject/Situation	135	6%
When Child is Not Around	122	6%
If Child is Worried	76	3%
As Soon as Issue identified	72	3%
All the Time	71	3%
Where There is Change	55	2%

1	<p>Danger for Child</p> <p>853 (39%) commented that if the opinion of local services was that the individual could be in extreme danger at risk or if there were child protection issues then they should talk to one another and share information to assist them. Respondents said children's needs should be paramount and their welfare and protection should be of primary consideration when deciding their level of involvement in decision-making.</p>
2	<p>Never</p> <p>536 (24%) said they should always be consulted. They said they should never be talked about without them knowing. Children should be spoken to and not about.</p>
3	<p>Involve Children</p> <p>415 (19%) respondents commented that children and young people should always be involved in discussions. No decision should be made without the child knowing and giving consent.</p>
4	<p>Depends on Age</p> <p>255 (12%) agreed that where possible children and young people should be involved in decision making but said the child should be old enough to understand the implications of discussions. Several said a child needs to feel in control of their own lives, when they are too young, they could with help, appoint their own support worker to be an advocate for them.</p>
5	<p>Depends on Subject and Situation</p> <p>135 (6%) suggested that each case should be treated individually. The child's best interest should be paramount. Involving the child would depend on the subject and situation. If there were concerns of risk then confidentiality was considered secondary to the child's safety.</p>
6	<p>When Child is not Around</p> <p>122 (6%) believed that discussions should take place when the child is not available, for example when they are at school. This may avoid any unnecessary worry for the child or young person involved.</p>
7	<p>If Child is Worried</p> <p>76 (3%) suggested that in certain situations it may be appropriate for the child not to be aware of what is being discussed. When children are worried, upset or distressed care should be taken not to exasperate any given situation. Each case should be treated individually.</p>
8	<p>As Soon As Possible</p> <p>72 (3%) commented that dialogue between services should take place as soon as an issue is recognised. Early identification, intervention and help was needed.</p>
9	<p>All the Time</p> <p>71 (3%) stated that services should discuss continually the needs of the child or young person. Several respondents said at times there was a lack of consistency between organisations and any measure to aid this would be welcomed. If discussions were in the best interest of the child or young person and confidentiality was maintained then services should talk together all the time.</p>
10	<p>Where There Is a Change</p> <p>55 (2%) believed that where there was a physical or behavioural change in the child or young person then services should intervene without the individual knowing.</p>

Comments: Danger for Child

If the child is in danger (Luke & Joshua, Under 16)

If there is a strong feeling amongst the different services that a child is being abused or that a child is in danger. (James, Over 18)

When they feel the young people is at risk and it is for the young people's benefit. No professional should discuss and young persons problems without consent unless it is life threatening. (Kim, Age Not Given)

When the Childs life is in danger. When the child is too young mentally to understand or be able to make a decision. Anonymous, Over 18)

Only when services know that a child is in extreme danger. I think the current thresholds of confidentiality especially in social services should be revised. (Claire, Over 18)

If in their opinion the child is at extreme risk, but be very careful of facts. (Alison, Over 18)

when she is in danger or endangering others. (Amy, Under 16)

When the child is at risk/potential risk. When the child's health is at risk or safety of the child is under threat. (Andrea, Over 18)

This is a hard question. I think that when a child is in big danger of some sort and services think they can help by talking without them is when it should happen. (Tilly, 16-18)

When the child is in danger or will cause harm to himself (Dalijuit, Over 18)

Never

They should always talk in front of the child (Joanne, 16-18)

Meet up then talk to him about his problems. (Kali , Under 16)

Never. (Student Council, Age Not Given)

Never (Megan, Under 16)

Children should always be talked to not about. (S& JL, Under 16)

I don't think it is ever Ok without the child knowing or saying it is OK as if the worst happens then he or she wouldn't be very happy. But if the child knew then it may not be as bad. (Jamie, Under 16)

Involve children

No decision being made without the child's consent can lead to confusion and upset on the child's part, the child should be involved as much as possible. (Cindy ,Over 18)

Children need to know and have confidence in that someone cares, and can offer appropriate support. (Alison, Over 18)

I don't think that services should ever talk to each other about a child without the child's say so. (Kerry, Under 16)

To begin with children don't need to be told but they should know before any decisions are made about them. (Holdbrook School Council, Age Not Given)

I don't think it is ever Ok without the child knowing or saying it is OK as if the worst happens then he or she wouldn't be very happy. But if the child knew then it may not be as bad. (Jamie, Under 16)

Permission should be asked or the child should be present. (Southwark Connexions)

I don't think they should it is up to the children if they want people to talk about them. (Karen, Under 16)

I don't think they should talk about the child without them knowing unless the child is getting hurt badly. (Claire, Under 16)

They should ask for the child's permission and if he disagrees then take charge. (James, Under 16)

Depends on Age

When the child is under the age of six (Kirsty, 16-18)

When the child is old enough to understand (Sarah-Ann, 16-18)

It depends on the issues and the age of the child. A child needs to be able to feel in control of their own life so each child/ young person could be assigned their own support worker to be an advocate for them. (Heather, Over 18)

If it is in the best interests of the child and a good reason they should start asking age 13 onward they should be OK. (Craig, 16-18)

I think the child should get to hear about things from the age of 9+ and if it is serious and could affect their future lives (Charlie, Under 16)

When a child is very young or immature. Some facts are not appropriate for youngsters. (Thornhill J&I School)

Depends on subject and situation

Each case looked at individually (Lyndsey, Over 18)

The child's best interests should be paramount. Cases to be treated individually. A child should be dealt with in a child friendly way at all times and shouldn't be introduced to the adult world. (Bella, Over 18)

It depends on subject/problem. I think if you talk about a person you might as well tell them face to face, why talk behind someone's back when they will find out anyway.

Only if concerned and only to relevant parties that will not aggravate the situation. (Helena, 16-18)

In some cases the child is in a greater risk in a current situation. In this case, the confidentiality of information is less important than the safety of the child. Conflicting ethical situations. (Gemma, 16-18)

Depends on what they're talking about specifically. If there is suspected abuse or violence surrounding the case then services should talk to one another. Each case should be treated individually though. (Anonymous, Under 16)

When Child Is Not Around

When the child isn't around or is sleeping. (Emily, Under 16)

In school hours (Rory, Under 16)

When the child has gone out (Chelsea, 16-18)

When the child's at school or at a friend's house. (Tina, Under 16)

In Bed. (Natalie, Under 16)

I don't always like people talking about my disability but I know that sometimes it has to happen. Sometimes I would prefer to just not be there. (Jesse, Under 16)

In the day when the child is @ school. (Chelsea, Under 16)

If Child Is Worried

If the child would worry about it. (Luke, 16-18)

When the child is in not fit state to make any decisions. (Catherine, Over 18)

If you talk about it with the child he/she might get upset so I don't think the child should know until later. (Emma, Under 16)

If you think the child or adult might get upset. (Cassie, Under 16)

If the child gets worried about what will happen then No (Kevin, Under 16)

As Soon As Possible

As soon as a problem has been highlighted. (Graham School)

At the earliest possible time, if services were video linked a meeting could be set up extremely quickly...cost... is this important? Early recognition = early intervention = decrease in difficulty and increase in support. (Dunton Bassett Primary School)

At an early stage it is important that all services involved liaise with each other. (Jack, Under 16)

If the signs are showing they should fully investigate all cases and make regular checks for up to a year later. There should be an action line which you can ring and discuss things and give information if you think a child needs help. It should be done straight away so that if something is wrong it will be found sooner rather than later. (Nicola, 16-18)

All the Time

All the time but only for the child's interest. (UK Youth Parliament & The Derbyshire Youth Forum)

They can talk about me all the time if they are going to help me. I'd feel stupid if I was sat there listening to strangers talking about me. (Anonymous, Under 16)

Anytime as long as the information / discussion is kept confidential (Anonymous, 16-18)

I think it is a good idea and should do it all the time and at least once a month. (Gary, Under 16)

The services need to talk to one another all the time as they have responsibility for a child. As a result the child will be cared for and kept safe from harm. (Anonymous, Over 18)

Where there is a Change

If a child is bruised and lost alot of weight and is eating alot of free school dinners (Matthew, Under 16)

When the child is acting out of character. (Lincolnshire Racial Equality Council)

When a child starts to change emotionally and becomes a difference person and when they make threats to commit suicide. (Kirsty, Under 16)

I think services should talk about a child when he/she have behavioural problems or refuse to try talking to services for ages. No other time should this happen! You should always know when you are being discussed about. (Lauren, Under 16)

When a child is needing more help and is getting out of hand. (Melanie, Under 16)

When a child's behaviour changes alot, e.g. if they're acting weird, angry and fighting all the time, but not if they're just naughty. (Oxfordshire Young People)

Question 7

How do you think children and families should have a say in deciding what extra help they need?

Total Respondent Breakdown

1794 Respondents (57%)		
	Total	
Ask them/Suggestion Boxes	630	35%
Meetings with Organisations	416	23%
Advice and Support Available	290	16%
When they know all the options	276	15%
Have Designated Person	221	12%
Help line	154	9%
Letter	75	4%
Share Good Practice	61	3%
Organisation Help	52	3%
Through School/Mentors/Art Therapy	46	3%

1	<p>Ask Them</p> <p>630 (35%) suggested asking children and families through questionnaires, interviews and suggestion boxes how they can be helped as this would be the best way to identify individual needs. Respondents said permission should be asked of the child for them to be present at discussions.</p>
2	<p>Meetings with Organisations</p> <p>416 (23%) commented that having informal meetings with various agencies to discuss requirements would be helpful. Several commented that in these meetings, where necessary, children could be separated from parents to aid discussion.</p>
3	<p>Advice and Support Available</p> <p>290 (16%) suggested having practical advice sessions where families would be listened to by trained professionals. Respondents said advice sessions could take place in the home and should be available immediately the need is identified.</p>
4	<p>When they Know All The Options</p> <p>276 (15%) said families needed to know what the available options were for them prior to making any decisions. They said all assistance offered should be unbiased and should stress the options available. Families should have the choice of the type of help needed by working with trained professionals.</p>
5	<p>Have a Designated Person</p> <p>221 (12%) commented that having one key designated person to help would be welcomed. Families should be allowed to decide who their support worker should be and this person should remain the same for consistency. Several said the child's social worker could be involved to act as liaison officer with other professionals.</p>
6	<p>Helpline</p> <p>154 (9%) were of the view that a national helpline for children and families would be a useful service and could provide advice and guidance, assisting the families in deciding what extra help to ask for.</p>
7	<p>Letter</p> <p>75 (4%) suggested families could write a letter informing local services of the help they needed and required.</p>
8	<p>Share Good Practice</p> <p>61 (3%) suggested families should be able to network and talk to other families who have experienced similar problems. They said there was a wealth of current best practice which could be utilised in providing help.</p>
9	<p>Organisation Help</p> <p>52 (3%) considered that known organisations used by children and young people such as Connexions and Sure Start could provide the necessary support and advice.</p>
10	<p>Through School / Mentors/ Art Therapy</p> <p>46 (3%) believed that schools could be central in assisting children and families. Respondents said that staff and mentors within schools could be identified to provide the support needed. Several commented on the benefits of art therapy and its ability in helping children to indicate their thoughts and feelings.</p>

Comments: Ask them

just by questionnaires on what each individual family needs most (Kirsty, 16-18)

They should be asked what would work for them instead of "local authority" deciding. (Claire, Over 18)

I think they should fill in a survey about in (Vicky, Under 16)

Definitely. We waste a lot of money providing services we say they need (Anonymous, Under 16)

They should be asked they should talk to who they want to. (Hayley, Under 16)

Through consultation with the families, advising what services are available, and how soon those services will be available to the families. (Alison, Over 18)

Yes as the child knows them self (Darryl, Under 16)

Children and families should always have a say in deciding what extra help they need so they don't feel bossed about. (S& JL, Under 16)

Listen to YP and their families and act quicker if necessary. (Abi, Under 16)

I think that they should have a full say in what extra help they need. (Kerry, Under 16)

Meetings with Organisations

Both of the child's parent/s and the services should have an informal meeting to talk about what kind of help is needed. (Jenna, Age Not Given)

Regular meetings with councillors and MPs (Luke, 16-18)

By having meetings and everybody being able to have their say about what they feel they need and what they feel they don't need. (Anonymous, Over 18)

By someone from the council to see them, and talking about what they need. (Daniel, 16-18)

Arranging meeting (Craig, 16-18)

Go along to a council meeting and say. (Kali, Under 16)

in meetings (Charlie, Under 16)

Ask them have meetings (Megan, Under 16)

They should be able to talk to the government council in meetings about what help they need. (Mark, Under 16)

They should have a say and go to every meeting. (Christy, 16-18)

Advice, Help and Support Available

Have ability to negotiate any plans or support programmes "suggested" for them. Should have a strong say in what type of support they think is suitable. Also for how long it should be sustained – quick fix or long term. Do not raise expectations if they cannot be met. (Anonymous, Over 18)

Through practical/ advice session with professionals in a non threatening atmosphere. Very dependent on situation and family. (Anonymous, Over 18)

Discussion nor pressure, advice, support. Opportunities for parents to discuss what their needs are. (Heather, Over 18)

Someone to come and visit the families house to talk to you as a whole family and then may advise you on what to do. (Briony, 16-18)

They should be given help if they need this and even if they don't need it. (James, Under 16)

They should be told they need help by those around them. You need experienced listeners and a good system in place to provide any help they need. (Jack, Under 16)

When they know all the options

They need firstly to know what the options are and possibly unbiased assistance in accessing support for this decision. (Abbey, Age Not Given)

By services giving the options of the best possible help they need instead of them saying only one option. (Melanie, Over 18)

They should be advised on what is available for them and where appropriate given the chance to stress their opinions on what services they would like to take up. (Pauline, Over 18)

They should be spoke to all the way though while in talks with certain agencies who can help. (Ian, 16-18)

Any help should be offered as an option. Sit down and asking what family needs (Adam, 16-18)

Have a designated person

A designated person(s) in each school who was responsible for child and family welfare. (Luke & Joshua, Under 16)

The children should be able to access information and a community officer within their school. SO that if they need help they can get it. Similarly with families information could be provided in doctors surgeries. Also the families should be able to have contact with a community officer if they want it. Ultimately if the child is not being harmed then they should decide if they personally need any extra help. (James Over 18)

Identify the person most qualified to respond to their needs (Alison, Over 18)

They should have a choice if it is male/female. what association it is (Anonymous, 16-18)

Children and families should be able to correspond with a person who can then relay their request for help to someone with the appropriate power to carry out their request (Michael, Under 16)

The family in need should be able to consult their own lead professional who should give all the options available to them. An action plan should be drawn up in partnership and reviewed regularly. (Andrea, Over 18)

They should have a social worker or a youth worker to help and be a consistent point of contact. (Hampshire Youth LMC, Age Not Given)

Help Line

Talk to social services. Special phone line like children line. (Anonymous, Under 16)

More Child lines, cheaper phone calls - or free calls. (Oliver, Under 16)

An adult and child helpline (Lauren, Under 16)

Family and Child helpline. (Jade, Under 16)

There should be a phone line and an email if families feel there is a problem and have a suggestion. (Elizabeth, Under 16)

There should be a phone number, one for kids and one for adults about the same things. Then you know the problems and fix them. (Liam, Under 16)

Letter

People in the community should be encouraged more to write in with their opinions (Joanne, 16-18)

Send a formal letter to council telling them what extra help they need. If a child wants to spend time away from his or her family they can get the chance to speak to the right people about why they want to do this. (Jamie, Under 16)

Give us a letter so we can say. (Jack, 16-18)

By a letter. (James, Under 16)

Free post (Connexions West Yorkshire)

Families and children should write down how they feel and their problems. (Southwark Connexions)

Share Good Practice

Feedback from families would be vital to share ideas. So after something has happened and been sorted out, ask people how they appreciated the help and support or where more was needed. This also helps to find out what kind of support they required for the different situations, financial, emotional or just help with general day to day life. When something bad happens to a family, you should ask them to create a sort of list of things they would like e.g. a savings plan to help save money, or counselling, or organised taxis to a place they need to go to get the help they need. (Debbie, 16-18)

Use the experience of those who have been fostered to encourage foster parents to come forward. (Oxfordshire Young People)

Talk to existing foster carers. (Scunthorpe Youth Centre)

Meetings with current foster carers to find out what it is like hands on. They are probably in the best position to encourage others as they are aware of pitfalls and rewards, (Emma, Over 18)

People who are considering going into foster care should be able to talk to other foster carers for advice and information. (Southwark Connexions)

Organisation Help

Youth forums. Connexions (Oliver, 16-18)

Every family should have a social worker. (Sharon, 16-18)

Professionals should do it not families. (Jonathon, Under 16)

Use Connexions. (Lee, Under 16)

Through School/Mentors/Art Therapy

Talking to their teachers (Melissa, Under 16)

Identified staff in schools for people to just go and talk to. Mentor system, someone in each year group. (Lisa, Over 18)

Creating awareness. Mentoring system (Emma, Over 18)

Play and art therapy - for child to relate what they need. (Sinead & Vicki, Over 18)
Their views should be paramount. Children can indicate through drawings and role play to convey what they want. (Sarwat, Under 18)

Funding for peer counsellors (Arun Youth Council)

Parents decide with teachers. (Stacy, Under 16)

Question 8

What ideas do you have for encouraging people to consider careers that involve working with children and families, such as social work or childcare?

Total Respondent Breakdown

1726 Respondents (55%)		
	Total	
Promote the Benefits	625	36%
Pay More	545	32%
Advertise/Open Day	519	30%
Careers Advice in School/ Work Experience	345	20%
More Courses	96	6%
Vocation	90	5%
Ongoing Job Training	89	5%
Decent Career Progression	63	4%
Childminders/ Babysitters	48	3%
Cheaper Courses	45	3%

1	<p>Promote Benefits</p> <p>625 (36%) considered positive promotion of the benefits of working with children to be important. Celebrating the life-changing aspect of helping children may encourage more people to consider a career in childcare. Young people felt that the image of looked after children had historically been negative. More work was considered necessary to raise the profile of youth and children workers.</p>
2	<p>Pay More</p> <p>545 (32%) commented that the salary would need to be improved to encourage new workers. Better pay would encourage the recruitment and retention of foster carers.</p>
3	<p>Advertise, Open Days</p> <p>519 (30%) recommended advertising, possibly with celebrities, through the press and media as a good way of encouraging career choices and changes.</p>
4	<p>Careers Advice in School</p> <p>345 (20%) suggested improved careers advice and work experience through schools and colleges could encourage more young people to consider childcare as a career option. Talks and presentations by carers and social workers would also be welcome.</p>
5	<p>More Courses</p> <p>96 (6%) recommended the introduction of specialised and accessible training courses as an incentive to encourage social work or childcare as a career.</p>
6	<p>Vocation</p> <p>90 (5%) stressed the key skill for any person working with children and young people was the motivation and willingness to help children who are disadvantaged. Respondents said this work should be considered vocational.</p>
7	<p>Ongoing Job Training</p> <p>89 (5%) questioned the current availability of consistent ongoing job training. Any training provided should have an element of practical application, be specific to roles and responsibilities and include home visits.</p>
8	<p>Decent Career Progression</p> <p>63 (4%) believed that the way forward was to retain experienced staff by providing adequate opportunities for career progression. They said this could reduce the high turnover of staff and encourage new people to consider this career.</p>
9	<p>Childminders/Babysitters</p> <p>48 (3%) said that work experience in childminding or babysitting should be actively encouraged as a mechanism for raising the profile of childcare.</p>
10	<p>Cheaper Courses</p> <p>45 (3%) believed additional funding should be made available to reduce the cost of childcare courses. Incentives of financial assistance to help with accommodation, childcare and university fees could be positive ways in highlighting the importance of childcare and social work and may attract more people.</p>

Comments: Promote Benefits

Talking about the advantage of working with children. (Hayley, Under 16)

The feeling you get when you know you have put a smile on someone's face is such a great feeling and being able to do that within your job makes it worth while. There should be more aid for these who need support within the job. (Daniel, 16-18)

Giving a family a second chance is a great thing to do. (Crocodile, Under 16)

That by doing the job they're helping many people, and they should be proud that they care for others so much. (Kathryn, Under 16)

Because children are fun to work and you could find out if they have any problems at school or at home and do something about it before something serious happens. (Vicki, Under 16)

By making it sound really interesting and appealing. I love helping others. I think it's so satisfactory and I wouldn't want to do anything else. (Sara, 16-18)

Pay More

The pay needs to be improved in all areas of this type of work. (James, Over 18)

Increase rewards, increase status, decrease bureaucracy, "Why do people want to go into a profession that has high stress, high antagonism and low rewards" (Anonymous, Over 18)

Better pay, raised profile, more progression in career. (Heather, Over 18)

To get more money and more skills and a good background (Craig, 16-18)

Good salary, good support. Advertise to a wider audience. Broaden the criteria and let experience count. (Student Council)

Make the pay higher. (George, Under 16)

pay them more money, make it a job worth doing (Charlie, Under 16)

An increased pay structure for social workers, quality standard for social services and childcare institutions. (Alison, Over 18)

Sort out decent pay. Run introductory courses for people to get a feel for different professions first. Within school, have lessons to learn, social skills like listening, problem sharing and solving – how to react to dysfunctional family situations etc. (Abi, Under 16)

Pay them more. Provide food for lunch staff. Advertise about how important the job is. (Holdbrook School Council, Age Not given)

Advertise, Open Days

Advertising with celebrities in why it would be a good career documentary with soap stars about the good it achieves. (Donna, Over 18)

Adverts and cartoons. Maybe 16-18 year olds should be encouraged into some kind of work experience involving young people. A good time for this maybe between end of exams in June for yr 11s and the beginning of the A levels in Yr 12. (Jack, Under 16)

More ads, basically better press. (Ian, 16-18)

Open days in school and nurseries (Megan, Under 16)

Send out leaflets (Anonymous, Over 18)

Portray youth in a better light (Joel, Under 16)

advertisement (Hayley, Under 16)

Posters, Web pages, chats with other youth and community workers - television advertisements. (Julia, 16-18)

Careers Advice in Schools/Work Experience

Encourage work experience, give talks (Anonymous, Over 18)

Make the subject more accessible, mention it in SPE (Social, Personal Education) lessons at school. (Daniel 16-18)

Give advice on college and training also to work with young people and older people (Anonymous, 16-18)

People coming in to schools discussing their careers with students. (Kirsty, Under 16)

I wish to be a social worker and I am going to uni next year to do a social work course. I think more information should be available in school, college etc. (Cindy, Over 18)

Promote it in school careers interviews (Robert, Under 16)

I do feel that work experience is essential before choosing a career in childcare. (Sarah, Over 18)

More Courses

Introduce more specialized courses (Joanne, 16-18)

Special courses that are interesting and accessible (Luke, 16-18)

More skills and must have a good background (Adam, 16-18)

They should consider courses that involve working with children (Jordan, Under 16)

Better training and support to help them do their job. (Simon, Under 16)

Access to training other than college - apprentice type training. (Anonymous, Not Given)

Vocation

I think that the most important key skill for working with young people is passion. Without this you cannot achieve the goals you would like from this job. Money shouldn't be too much of a problem, yes staff should be paid adequately but when they apply for the job, they are aware of the pay, so once accepting the job there should be no concerns. This job is more about personal goals and not academic ones in my opinion. People need to really want to work with young people before anyone attempts to encourage them and then really it shouldn't take much encouragement. (Kim, 16-18)

I think all carers should be chosen by people, not by pointless leaflets. (Stuart, Under 16)

I think they should be young people because children will get on with them more. They should be people who like to work with children. (Heena, Under 16)

Encourage candidates that have a strong sense of social fairness and justice. (Highfield Nursery School)

Everyone has a choice. My advice is to go for what you believe is right for you and go for it. (Adrian, 16-18)

Motivation and a vocation (Dale, 16-18)

Ongoing Job Training

Training should involve direct contact with children and families not just coursework at college. (Laura, Under 16)

Most social workers should have in their training time spent as a foster carer or children's home worker. They would then be better at talking to the young people in their care. (North Yorkshire Social Services)

Good facilities for workers (nice environment). On the job training specific to role. (Luke/Joshua, Under 16)

Better pay - yes. Training on the job to learn alongside someone else who is good professional already. (Anonymous, Over 18)

Better training and support to help them do their job. (Simon, Under 16)

Decent Career Progression

More money. It's one thing going into a job because you enjoy it, but people also want a stable family life for themselves. I know a few people who want to become social workers and would probably be very good, but don't feel they would be economically stable or be able to provide for their own children. They need to be able to progress in their career. (Bindya 16-18)

Show more respect to workers in these professions by Government/press and help them move up the ladder in the job. (Anonymous, Over 18)

Offer incentives for those who are undertaking further training/education to better their prospects. Offer incentives within the workplace and a career path to enable one person to benefit from staying in that role. (Andrea, Over 18)

More and better job prospects (Lee, Under 16)

Increase rewards, increase status- "Why do people want to go into a profession that has high stress, high antagonism and low rewards" Help them progress in job. (Dunton Bassett Primary School)

Childminders/Babysitters

Work experience and volunteering to help out in a local nursery. Advertising yourself as a baby sitter (Coby, 16-18)

Bringing them into the environment for child minding work experience or showing video's at school. (Donna, Over 18)

Offer to Baby-sit or child mind. (Chinead, Under 16)

Work experience in baby sitting. (William, Under 16)

Childcare (Connexions Sheffield)

Cheaper Courses

I'm currently studying childcare at college and I'm really enjoying it. If you think that the services have done something wrong then get out there and show them your views and ideas. Courses should be a small price so that anyone can afford to go on them. (Jenna, 16-18)

Help in paying for uni courses, helping with accommodation. (Bethan, Under 16)

Free University Education. (Alan, 16-18)

Make it easier for graduates who have accrued much debt by offering them more money to cover the cost of social work degree. (MENCAP, Harrow)

No University Fees (Jane, Under 16)

Additional Comments

Total Respondent Breakdown

560 Respondents (18%)		
	Total	
Difficult Questions in Questionnaire	96	17%
Welcomed the Consultation	84	15%
Finance	81	14%
More Support Needed	67	12%
More Consultations	63	11%
Leisure Activities	57	10%
Parenting Skills	36	6%
Safer Environments	27	5%
Have Right People in Jobs	25	4%
Provide Help	19	3%

1	<p>Difficult Questions</p> <p>96 (17%) said they found the questionnaire difficult to understand and complete and needed support from workers and teachers to assist them. Young people commented that the use of the word “child” seemed to exclude them. They suggested the theme “Every Young Person Matters” would be more inclusive to teenagers and young adults.</p>
2	<p>Welcomed Consultation</p> <p>84 (15%) welcomed the opportunity to comment on the Green Paper. They said the paper was well written and easy to understand, several commented that they particularly liked the illustrations.</p>
3	<p>Finance</p> <p>81 (14%) highlighted the need for additional funding to provide childcare, support social workers and retain current staff. Additional funding to help in the extension of education, youth and social services was also needed.</p>
4	<p>More Support Needed</p> <p>67 (12%) said that children and young people needed more support to cope with the pressures of life. Childcare needed attention and respondents said that childcare workers needed support in reducing work caseloads. They said there should be more support services in place for carers to prevent them feeling isolated and unsupported.</p>
5	<p>More Consultations</p> <p>63 (11%) commented they would like to be consulted more in the future concerning local services and needs. They said that if children and young people were asked for their advice and given the opportunity to voice their opinions, working together with the local council, services could change for the better.</p>
6	<p>Leisure Activities</p> <p>57 (10%) asked for additional leisure facilities for young people. Local centres provide a variety of supervised activities and could encourage inclusion for children of all backgrounds, ages and abilities.</p>
7	<p>Parenting Skills</p> <p>36 (6%) suggested skills training for parents, prior to crisis point, to help them identify and cope with difficult times. Respondents believed that such training could be available for all parents and could cover such aspects as childcare, development and behavioural issues.</p>
8	<p>Safer Environments</p> <p>27 (5%) said the Government could help in providing safe environments for children to live and play.</p>
9	<p>Have Right People in Jobs</p> <p>25 (4%) respondents said there was a need for more high calibre people in the right jobs. Respondents said retaining good, experienced social workers and youth workers with appropriate communication skills would help children and young people to build effective relationships and support structures.</p>
10	<p>Provide Help</p> <p>19 (3%) asked the Government to do all they can to support children and adults. The provision of ongoing help, guidance and encouragement would be appreciated.</p>

Comments:

Difficult Questionnaire

This booklet isn't easy to understand. I feel as though the questions should be explained more so young people can understand them easier. (Shaun, 16-18)

I struggled to understand the questions and needed staff to support me. (Andrew, Under 16)

Most of the questions asked were confusing. Questions should be more clear and if you give choices it would make it easier to answer. The questions are more for adults than for children. (Anonymous, Over 18)

Don't send us boring questionnaires. Don't make the questions long and complicated. (Elise, Under 16)

Doing this questionnaire feels like school. It's good that government cares but a questionnaire really isn't the way. (Christian, Under 16)

I didn't think the booklet was very good because kids would never pick it up and read it but I do think the story about the girl was a good thing to put in and some people would find it hard to fill out and understand the questions. (Kirstin, Under 16)

Name is wrong - child = young kids need to acknowledge older respondents. (Lea, Over 18)

The title 'every child matters' and then the picture of a teenager it should be 'every young person matters' as child and teenagers are different. (Mark, Over 18)

Young people felt that any consultation was tokenistic and that their views were not respected. (Anonymous, Not Given)

Welcomed Consultation

I think the green paper is a very good move and there are so many things that need to be changed but I feel we are slowly getting there. Involving young people in consultation is an extremely good way for them to voice their opinions and for government to see what we want. (Claire, Over 18)

I think the questionnaire was really interesting and well written. (Cindy, Over 18)

We are happy to see this document and hope it can make a difference, saving the tragedies of the past from repetition. (Hampshire Youth LMC, Age Not Given)

I like the illustrations in this booklet also how the writing is set out ! (Louise, Under 16)

I do like the layout of the booklet it struck me as soon as I saw it the pictures kept me interested and the writing was easy to understand and made me want to read on. (Rebecca, Age Not given 16)

I think that it is extremely useful to fill this out. It is a good idea to get people's ideas and views in order to make the most out of proposals. (Mark, Under 16)

I think that something really needs to be done for the children today. This questionnaire is very good. (Natasha, 16-18)

Finance

More money for families on low income. (Anonymous 193, 16-18)

I believe before this is implemented a proper funding appraisal needs to be done. I hope rural communities have as high a profile as inner city. They may be richer but the middle classes are the child minders set of society and children have less time as a consequence. The teaching profession is already inundated with initiatives, if they become lead professionals do they do this whilst teaching, planning to teach, thinking around their work/school balance, assessing being assessed...time? This paper, if it is not to fail must be built on very firm foundations and not said as it seems at present. (Anonymous, Over 18)

I think the government should help with family expense e.g. family allowance/good school uniforms and things for children to do. (Jamie, Under 16)

All people need to change their attitudes towards young people. We need to realise that they are our parents, doctors, teachers of the future. We need to fund support and learning for all social skills from as early age as possible and especially when they are having difficulties. (Heather, Over 18)

I have been in care now for over a year and more needs to be done to give the chance for young people in care to do more activities and eat good food also make more money available. (Sam, 16-18)

Young people who decide to go to college at the ages of 18. Who live independently who have choice can't support there living or college funds due to income support being stop as they turn 19. Some who is 16 gets less money than someone who is 25 but gets the same money. If you want young people access work base learning and college and any bonus or bus fare reimbursement etc should be means tested (Anonymous, 16-18)

I am a speech and language therapist and qualified teacher with 20 years experience in special needs. Until you provide better pay structures you may manage to train professionals, but not retain them. The number of SHTS who leave for other jobs is ridiculous; apart from anything it is NHS training money lost (Anonymous, Under 16).

More Support Needed

Young people are the future. Look after them more better (Ian, 16 -18)

Children need care and attention please help to provide us some (Anonymous, Age Not Given)

Give more support and realise children are drug taking alcoholics (Darryl, Under 16)

The majority of professionals working with children and young people have too many on their caseloads to be able to deliver the personalised care alot of young people need. Intensively working specialist PAs with small caseloads have more time to make all the difference and show their young people that they do have time for them and they are worth it. (Tamara, Over 18)

I think there is a big bullying problem in schools and it really is time there was something done to help the victims and the bullies (Emma, Under 16)

One contact - not passed down conveyor belt. More support and events for LGBTU young people. (Katrina, 16-18)

I think I would like more help from social workers. (Anthony, Under 16)

More Consultations

Local government should be compelled to fully involve young people in areas pf planning those facilities so as to develop a sense of ownership (Oliver, 16-18)

I think that it's good that young people are actually going to start getting a say in thing's and now there done. (Hayley, Under 16)

Young people felt that any consultation was tokenistic and that there views where not respected. (Anonymous 2227, Age Not Given)

Throwing money at a situation is not always the best option. You need to look at the key issues and see how best to deal with them with dedication and though as the long term benefits will be alot more worth while. The government need to ask and take advice from the youth a lot more seriously in order to help as it is only us that know what we want and so working together will achieve successful results. (Daniel, 16-18)

Spend more time listening to different communities when trying to solve problems. Have community reps to highlight their own problems. This includes children's groups. Come and talk to us in person as some YP are less able to fill in questionnaires. Activities for families of young children to help bond and would lessen violence etc. (Abi, Under 16)

I would like to have more say in what the Government does - after all we are the future. (Freya, Under 16)

Leisure Activities

I think that all football clubs should give student discounts for watching a game so that students can save their money to do something educational. (Jenna, 16-18)

Decent leisure centre (Jess, Under 16)

We want a cinema and a theme park like Lego Land, McDonalds, decent shops. (Thomas, Under 16)

Decent leisure centre and shopping centre. (Anonymous, Age Not Given)

Also more playgrounds and activity centres should be built. (F.R.E.S.H Hartlepool Carers Group)

Try to get more people into one or more sports activity groups. (Freddie, Under 16)

Parenting Skills

Parenting skills. (Lisa, Over 18)

Parenting classes for all. (Bella, Over 18)

More classes for mums and dads to learn (Emma, Under 16)

Offering parenting classes (Anonymous, Under 16)

Safer Environments

I think that the government can help families at difficult time by making sure that they are in a safe environment and that the children can continue with their education so that they will not fall behind and have a good career when they are older.(Laura, Under 16)

Make parks safer/ better to be in park and neighbourhood wardens so we feel safe outdoors. (Luke/Joshua, Under 16)

Stay safe and keep out of trouble. (Anonymous, Under 16)

One stop shops are good as they offer a safe environment but should be open later and on Saturday! People into YP can relate to and make you feel safe. (Anonymous, 16-18)

Have Right People in Jobs

You should have better social workers (Nicole, Under 16)

In this line of work I think the workers should be closer to the age of the young people that need help because I think its easier to talk to young people. (Christy, 16-18)

We need right the people going into the right jobs. (Zoe, Under 16)

Provide Help

Do what you can, when you can for adults ad children no matter what. (Craig, 16-18)

Just do your best to help and encourage people to do better (Nathan, Under 16)

Bullying is a big problem. More help for children. (Joshua/Jessie, Under 16)

More counselling places, with more councillors. A lot of YP have problems and can't get appointments. One stop shops are good as they offer a safe environment but should be open later and on Saturday! People into YP can relate to and make you feel safe. (Anonymous, 16-18)