



Working together to reach your goals

Children and Young People's Plan Consultation 2011/14

Consultation Findings and Recommendations Report

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1. Introduction

The Children and Young People's Trust Participation Team, Youth Services, Buckinghamshire County Council carried out a consultation during October 2010 on behalf of Buckinghamshire Children and Young People's Trust.

The aim of the consultation was to gain the views of children and young people on the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-11 so as to review their relevance to children and young people now and inform the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011-14.

The Children and Young People's Plan is a single strategic plan for all services affecting children and young people produced by the main organisations working with children and young people in Buckinghamshire.

The Children and Young People's Plan 2011/14 consultation took place at various events and locations throughout the county, between 25th and 29th October 2010.

The work was funded through the Children and Young People's Trust Participation Plan.

2. Project Overview

Children and young people were asked to consider five priorities which were identified for the Children and Young People's Plan 2009-2011. These had been identified through a variety of methods including the Tell Us Survey 2009, Buckinghamshire County Council Residents Survey 2009 and service provider input.

As in the consultation carried out in 2008, children and young people were asked to consider the below priorities and then asked if they agreed or disagreed with these.

- **Closing the Gap** – working with those children and young people that most need extra support - to improve their learning at school, and their understanding of how to be healthy and where to get help if they need it.
- **Transitions** – children and young people are given extra support at times of change in their lives, such as changing school or moving from primary to secondary school, or when family arrangements change (e.g. parents divorce or a parent dies).
- **Early Intervention and Prevention** – help is provided to children, young people and their families as soon problems begin, to stop things getting worse or out of control.

- **Family Focus** – providing individual help and support to a family to help them provide the best home for their children.
- **Children and young people and decision making** – the opinions and ideas of children and young people are used to make sure the services provided for them are what they really want.

Visits to the following events / locations took place:

- Play Ranger Event – Moor Road, Chesham
- Play Ranger Event – Gerrards Cross Common, Gerrards Cross
- Amersham Skate Park – King George V Road, Amersham
- Eden Shopping Centre – High Wycombe
- Market Square – Aylesbury
- Play Ranger Event – Prestwood Common, Prestwood
- Play Ranger Event – Malthouse Square, Beaconsfield

3. **Method**

Children and young people's views were captured through the following methods of consultation:

- Airspace – a video diary room.
- Face to face / Individual interviews with a staff member from the Participation Team or a young volunteer.

Airspace

Airspace is a mobile unit, it was used at events to ask children and young people their views. The children and young people were asked questions which were recorded on video and then analysed by the Participation Team.

Face to face / Individual interviews

Members of the Trust Participation Team interviewed children and young people at several events/locations. Some interviews were also carried out by young people who have worked on Participation projects in the past. The contribution of these young people was recognised by giving them High Street Gift Vouchers. It was used where setting up Airspace was not possible or the children and young people had a preference for face to face contact.

In both methods, consultation on the priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan took place alongside a consultation on the Child Poverty Needs Assessment. In the latter consultation children and young people were consulted in a similar way on the priorities of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment.

The breakdown of participants engaged via the above methods is given below:

Method	Number of children and young people
Airspace	51
Face to face / Individual interviews	146
Total	197

Incentives

All those who took part in the consultation were given a £5 gift voucher from a range of retailers to thank them for their participation.

The offering of incentives was very important in encouraging children and young people to take part. The incentive was offered to participants for both methods of engagement.

4. Key Findings

Closing the Gap

Children and young people agreed that extra help to support those who most need it is an important priority.

- 97.97% of those consulted agreed that this was an important priority.
- 1.52% of those consulted did not agree that this was an important priority.
- 0.51% of those consulted were not sure whether this was an important priority.

The main theme raised was around giving extra help to disabled children and young people with both health and education which a number of those consulted thought was very important.

Disabled children and young people

“I’ve got a brother who has autism and I want a successful life for him.” (Boy, aged 11)

“Focus on those who have disabilities and those who would find it hard to go through life without being helped by other people.” (Boy, aged 14)

“If someone’s got a disability, make sure they’ve got things that they need.” (Girl, aged 12)

Education:

A number of children and young people also focussed specifically on giving extra help to those who needed it with education.

“Give them tutors; help them in subjects that they don’t really understand” (Girl, aged 10)

Others again focused on meeting the education needs of disabled children and young people and having specialist support available to them.

“Make better schools for disabilities” (Girl, aged 11)

“Maybe some special schools for people who have a few more needs.” (Girl, aged 9)

“If someone’s got a disability you could maybe have a teacher... so they could help them more easily and they can understand.” (Girl, aged 10)

Children and young people disagreeing with this priority did so for differing reasons.

“People should put their own effort in, not get help.” (Boy, aged 10)

Another disagreed due to the practicality of giving this extra help.

"I disagree because disabled children would need more facilities than others." (Girl, aged 12)

Transitions

A high percentage of children and young people agreed that extra support at times of change in their lives was a priority.

- 91.37% of those consulted agreed that this was an important priority.
- 6.6% of those consulted did not agree that this was an important priority.
- 2.03% of those consulted were not sure whether this was an important priority.

Children and young people's agreement was based around extra help both in moving between schools (particularly the transition to secondary school from primary school) and when there are changes within the family life.

One 5 year old boy said it was important because *"you might be sad when there's a change."*

There are also situations where one big change might lead to another, when extra support would be needed. An 11 year old boy said:

"The saddest bit when parents divorce is changing schools."

Those who disagreed with this priority generally did so because these are changes that everyone goes through and it is up to the individual to cope with it. Some cited the fact that they had gone through these kinds of transitions and coped fine without extra support.

"Children are always going through changes." (Girl, aged 14)

"I've gone through it myself and can do it by myself." (Boy, aged 11)

"It would be nice for that help but not if it's really impossible, it's not quite as high a priority as some other things." (Boy, aged 14)

Others disagreed because they saw it as the responsibility of families to provide support at these times.

"Family should deal and help with this, not a big problem" (Girl, aged 11)

"They should be left to sort out problems themselves." (Young person, aged 17)

Early Intervention and Prevention

Children and young people also agreed that this was an important priority, to tackle problems as soon as they begin.

- 95.43% of those consulted agreed that this was an important priority.
- 3.55% of those consulted did not agree that this was an important priority.
- 1.02% of those consulted were not sure whether this was an important priority.

Some of those who agreed with this priority did so with the caveat that families should get help *“if they want help – don’t force them.”* (Girl, aged 12)

Disagreement about this priority again stemmed from the thought that families should be left to sort out problems themselves.

“Problems can be worked out between the family.” (Boy, aged 15)

“It’s the family’s problem, not theirs.” (Girl, aged 14)

Others thought that when problems do occur it might not be people from the Council who are best placed to interject.

“Bucks CC don’t know what the problems are so how can they help?” (Boy, aged 12)

“... better from peers, people who’ve had the experience.” (Girl, aged 14)

Another issue with early intervention which was highlighted by some young people was that it wouldn’t give people a chance to sort out the problems themselves first.

Family Focus

A high percentage of children and young people agreed that supporting parents and carers to provide the best home for their children was important.

- 94.92% of those consulted agreed that this was an important priority.
- 3.55% of those consulted did not agree that this was an important priority.
- 1.52% of those consulted were not sure whether this was an important priority.

Those who did not agree or who were unsure based this view on the fact that families should be responsible for this.

“It’s the parents’ fault if they don’t get organised. They need to get on with it and get organised, take responsibility.” (Boy, aged 11)

They should *“come up with solutions for themselves.”* (Girl, aged 11)

Children and Young People and Decision Making

A large majority of those who took part in this consultation agreed that children and young people's views should be listened to to provide services that they really want.

- 97.46% of those consulted agreed that this was an important priority.
- 2.54% of those consulted did not agree that this was an important priority.

Those who disagreed thought it was too much responsibility for children and young people and that "too much money" was involved. They also thought it was risky to always listen to what children want.

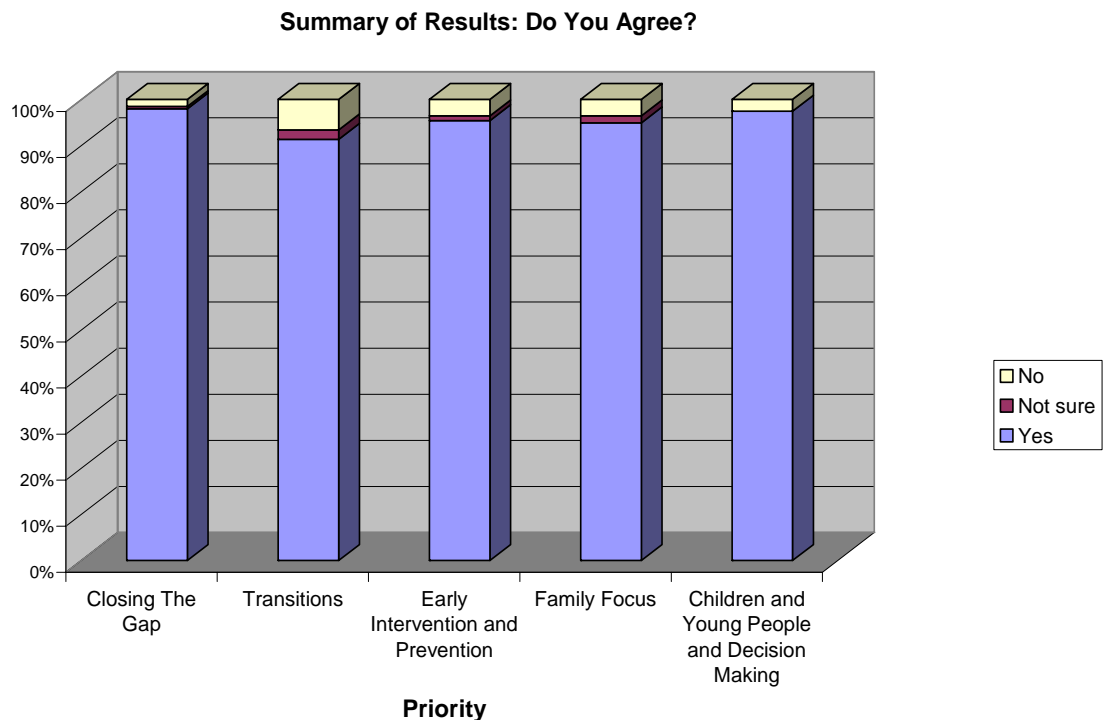
Others, who thought this was important, said:

"I agree because I don't ever get what I want." (Boy, aged 8)

"You're not allowed to have your say." (Boy, aged 9)

"More surveys I reckon." (Boy, aged 13)

An overview of the results is given in the chart below:



Other Priorities for children and young people

Children and young people who were consulted using Airspace were also asked to identify areas or gaps that were not covered in the priorities. We asked them the following question:

‘What other things do you think we should do that are important for children and young people?’

These are some of the issues identified by children and young people.

Improvements to play, youth and leisure facilities

Many of the children and young people consulted commented on the need for more leisure and play activities and facilities.

“More activities... sports like football and tennis.” (Boy, aged 11)

“so you can meet people you don’t normally meet – like youth clubs” (Boy, aged 11)

“more fun for children, more excitement, more clubs.” (Girl, aged 7)

“more clubs for children, colouring, painting, building things.” (Girl, aged 6)

“we should organise more activities and special days and maybe days out.” (Girl, aged 14)

Some young people also mentioned how this lack of leisure facilities could impact on their lives and the wider community.

“More fun parks because some of them get vandalised and the little kids can’t really play on it.”

“The teens have nowhere to hang out so they just hang around at the parks so they get vandalised.” (Girl, aged 14)

“More facilities for young people and places for young people to go like youth clubs, skate parks and stuff like that. Some teenagers, if they’ve got nothing to do, they might cause trouble and if they’ve got something to do, that takes away the chance of them getting in to any trouble.” (Boy, aged 14)

Education

Getting a good education and the subsequent importance of this in later life was also identified as a priority amongst those consulted.

“Just do the best we can to help them get a good education so they can get a better job and life.” (Boy, aged 12)

“Make sure they get a better education for when they’re older.” (Boy, aged 17)

“Help them out with their education, try to give them a nice job.” (Boy, aged 14)

“more people to come in and teach us how to do different things we haven’t been taught in school.” (Boy, aged 10)

“In schools teachers really focus on behaviour and not really on learning.” (Boy, aged 13)

Health

Maintaining children and young people’s health was also something highlighted by those consulted as being of importance.

“Make more doctor’s places and doctors.” (Boy, aged 8)

“Give them... more food to eat, because in some places people don’t eat that much and they’re not very well.” (Boy, aged 9)

Community and Local Environment

Some of the children and young people interviewed felt that some areas needed to be made safer for them, and that people should be helping each other within communities and promoting community cohesion.

“Make it more safer, sometimes it can be a bit dangerous around some places.” (Boy, aged 11)

“Make it a safer place so they’re not scared of stuff.” (Boy, aged 11)

“Bring communities together, stop racism, and how people help others.” (Boy, aged 13)

“Make sure we’ve got good role models and growing up in a good place where there’s a lot of good stuff happening.” (Boy, aged 14)

“Important to care about other children with their lives... some people need help and people just think ‘oh well, it’s not me’.” (Girl, aged 10)

5. Evaluation

The views of 197 children and young people aged from 4 to 25 years were collected.

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Number of children / young people	%
White		
White British	152	77.16%
White Irish	3	1.52%
Other White Group	10	5.08%
Mixed Heritage		
White & Black Caribbean	6	3.05%
White & Black African	1	0.51%
White & Asian	1	0.51%
Other Mixed Group	4	2.03%
Asian or Asian British		
Indian	2	1.02%
Pakistani	13	6.6%
Bangladeshi	0	0%
Other Asian Group	1	0.51%
Black or Black British		
Caribbean	2	1.02%
African	0	0%
Other Black Group	1	0.51%
Chinese or Other		
Chinese	1	0.51%
Other	0	0%
not specified	0	0%
Total	197	100%

Gender

Gender	Number of children / young people	%
Female	99	50.25%
Male	98	49.75%
Unspecified	0	0%
Total	197	100%

Age range

Age	Number of children / young people	%
4 yrs	1	0.51%
5 yrs	5	2.54%
6 yrs	10	5.08%
7 yrs	12	6.09%
8 yrs	12	6.09%
9 yrs	11	5.58%
10 yrs	11	5.58%
11 yrs	30	15.23%
12 yrs	28	14.21%
13 yrs	15	7.61%
14 yrs	24	12.18%
15 yrs	17	8.63%
16 yrs	13	6.6%
17 yrs	6	3.05%
25 yrs*	1	0.51%
Unspecified	1	0.51%
Total	197	100%

- In receipt of aftercare services

Disabled children and young people:	16	(8.12%)
Non-disabled children and young people:	178	(90.36%)
Not specified:	3	(1.52%)

Disabilities declared included:

- Learning Difficulties
- Dyslexia
- ADHD
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Postcode information

Participants were asked to provide their post code or the village/estate/area they lived in if they did not know this. As can be seen by the events list on page 4 a wide geographic area was covered.

Respondents breakdown by Local Children and Young People's Trust Partnership Board Area

Local CYP's Trust Partnership Board Area	Number of children / young people	%
Aylesbury	46	23.35%
Buckingham	9	4.57%
Chiltern	41	20.81%
High Wycombe	23	11.68%
Marlow	10	5.08%
Ridgeway	9	4.57%
South Bucks	48	24.37%
Wendover & Wing	2	1.02%
Unknown	9	4.57%
Total	197	100%

This information has been used to map in detail specific areas where the participants are from and relate this to other relevant data such as ACORN (A Classification of Regional Neighbourhoods).

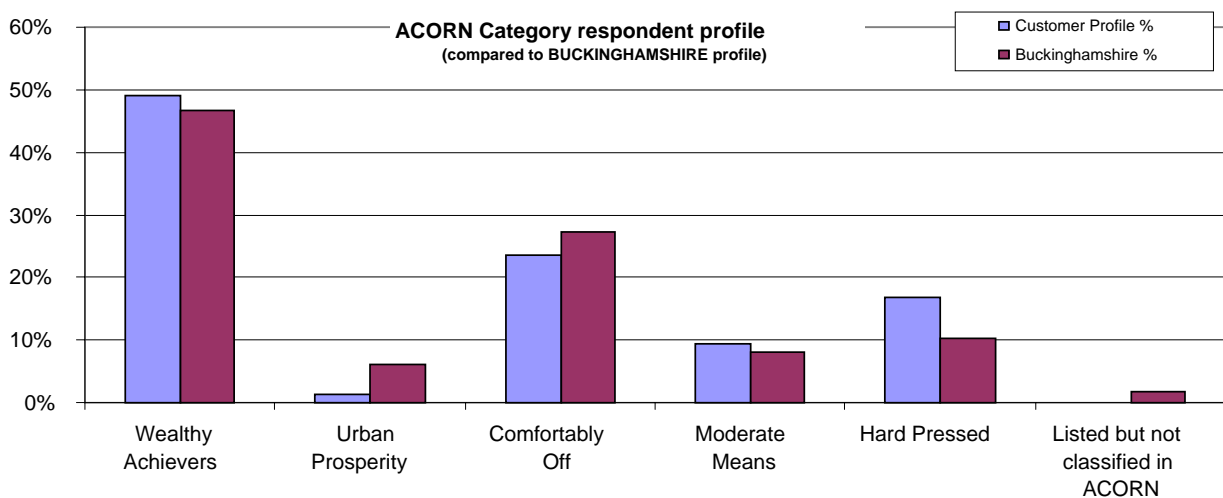
ACORN Category (Name)	Number of children / young people	%
Wealthy Achievers	73	37.06%
Urban Prosperity	2	1.02%
Comfortably Off	35	17.77%
Moderate Means	14	7.11%
Hard Pressed	25	12.69%
Listed but not classified on ACORN	0	0%
Unknown	48	24.37%
Total	197	100%

ACORN Category (Name)	Number of children / young people	Respondent Profile	Buckinghamshire Profile	Index
Wealthy Achievers	73	49%	46.7%	1.05
Urban Prosperity	2	1%	6.2%	0.22
Comfortably Off	35	23%	27.2%	0.86
Moderate Means	14	9%	8.0%	1.18
Hard Pressed	25	17%	10.2%	1.65
Listed but not classified on ACORN	0	0%	1.7%	N/A
Total	149	100%	100%	1.00

Respondent profile based on 149 children / young people. Those whose postcode was unknown were not included.

Buckinghamshire profile is based on all households in the county.

The index compares the proportion of respondents from each ACORN category to the actual proportion of households in each ACORN category. An index of 1 shows an equal proportion of respondents and households in the ACORN category, an index of 0.5 shows that there is half the proportion of respondents than in the county, and an index of 2.0 shows that there is twice the proportion of respondents than in the county.



6. Recommendations

- The children and young people continued to support the five priorities of the Children and Young People's Plan 2009/11 and these should continue to be priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan 2011/14.
- The additional issues they contributed under the Other Priorities section in this report should be cross referenced with the children and young people's section of the JSNA to ensure they are addressed.
- The outcomes from this consultation should be fed back to children and young people.
- Information and feedback should be presented to the Children and Young People's Trust Board, the Local Children and Young People's Trust Partnership Boards, and the Children and Young People's Trust Participation Group.

7. Conclusion

The consultation was a valuable opportunity for children and young people to express their opinions and concerns on the priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan 2009/11.

They confirmed the proposed priorities and suggested ways in which other improvements can be made.

These views will have real impact and influence on what is provided for them across Buckinghamshire through informing the development of the Children and Young People's Plan 2011/14.

8. For further information

Please contact Ben Roy, Participation Worker, Children and Young People's Trust Participation Team, Youth Services, Children and Young People's Services, Buckinghamshire County Council.

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The Children and Young People's Trust would like to thank all those children and young people that took part in this valuable consultation.

9. Definition of Terms

Consultation

'The process of seeking the views of a range children in order to inform and improve decision making.' (*Children as Partners in Planning – Save the Children*)

Participation

'Participation is a term increasingly used by those working with children and young people to mean children and young people thinking for themselves, expressing their views effectively, and interacting in a positive way with other people; it means involving children in the decisions which affect their lives, the lives of their community and the larger society in which they live.'

(*Introduction to Policy on Children's Participation – Save the Children*)

Disability

The Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) defines a person with a disability as someone who has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.'

Physical or mental impairment includes sensory impairments and also hidden impairments. In the DDA 'substantial' means 'more than minor or trivial'. 'Long-term' means has lasted or is likely to last more than 12 months.

Children and Young People's Trust Board

Led by local authorities, in Buckinghamshire the County Council (BCC), their function is to commission, plan, fund and deliver a significant number of children and young people's services. Underpinning their role should be a joint commissioning function which is expected to enhance integration in service delivery and thereby provide better services for children, young people and their families.

Children and Young People's Plan

This is the main delivery mechanism for most multi-agency children and young people's projects. The outcomes are grouped by key priority and have leads from across a number of organisations. They report to the Children and Young People's Trust Board.