



Youth Issues
Forum (Group)



LIBERTON GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

‘ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE’

FRIDAY 18th JUNE 2010
Valley Park Community Centre

EVENT REPORT



Supported by:



HEALTH OPPORTUNITIES TEAM
SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE IN MAKING INFORMED CHOICES



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
'ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE'
FRIDAY 18th JUNE 2010**

INTRODUCTION

The Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership (LGNP) held a Youth Engagement Event on Friday 18th June in the Valley Park Community Centre.

The purpose of the event was twofold. Firstly, the Neighbourhood Partnership has adopted a Youth Engagement Strategy which highlights innovative methods to engage young people and secondly, the Neighbourhood Partnership seeks to hold two thematic events per year, with this event following an earlier event on the theme of Older People.

The event was organised by members of the Partnership's Youth Issues Group (YIG). The small working group agreed that any event should involve young people as soon as was practical and that young people should be at the heart of the process on the day.

In order that a wide range of issues and ideas could be discussed, it was agreed to engage different groups of young people. This involved the following groups:

- Moredun Library
- Gracemount High School Pupil Council
- Liberton Kirk
- Liberton Gilmerton Youth Forum

The young people involved ranged from 11 – 18 years of age.

WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

This report forms the basis of what came out of the event and what will happen with the suggestions put forward. It also details the outcome from each discussion and where positive action can take place.

The outcomes identified in this report and taken from the event will be developed into an action plan which will be presented to the next Youth Issues Group when it meets in August.

The action plan will be discussed, adapted if necessary and agreed by the Youth Issues Group and will then be included in the Youth Engagement Strategy.

The young people who helped to develop and deliver the Youth Engagement Event will be contacted via email and asked if they would wish to continue their involvement in identifying and taking forward future the proposed actions, initiatives and any further events.



**LIBERTON/GILMERTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP
'ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE'
THE REPORT**

THE 'DEVELOPMENT'

The event was planned by a short life working group of the Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership's Youth Issues Group.

Those involved were:

Scott Donkin	Partnership Development Officer, Services for Communities (SFC)
David Hayden	Team Leader, SFC - Moredun Library
Douglas Jeffrey	Senior Community Learning & Development Worker – CEC
Andy Chittick	Youth Worker, Liberton Kirk
Jade Mooney	Community Learning & Development Worker – CEC (The Base)

A straightforward youth engagement approach was used whereby different groups of young people were invited to participate in the production of a 'presentation'. This allowed the young people to identify and promote issues or activity 'as they see it' using a wide variety of themes as identified through the council's Viewfinder Survey process.

A half day session was identified as being most appropriate both in terms of maintaining an interest from young people and in attracting sufficient adult support. Similarly, it was felt that the date identified was less likely to cause any upheaval for schools as all exams will be finished and the summer break was nearing. This proved to be the case as schools which had pupils participating in the event were very positive and supportive.

THE 'GROUPS'

The four young people's groups involved developed different processes in which to 'present' their views and thoughts of their community.

Moredun Dream – Moredun Library		The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk	
Participants:	Sophie Moran Hannah Wood Amy Reid Laura Turner Iona Mitchell Holly Thomson	Participants:	Claire Dow Lauren Burnett Emma Hall Caitlin Anderson Robert Haas Erin Howieson Lee Kennedy Kate Munro
Supported by:	David Hayden, Emma Smith & Phil Cobley	Supported by:	Andy Chittick/Euan Gordon

<p>Gracemount High School – Pupil Council</p> <p>Participants: Natalie Duncan Beth Gregor Tia Watson Holly Hartley Diane Watson Gemma Hogg Shannon Noon Nico Collaruso Ben Gardner</p> <p>Supported by: Chris Hume</p>	<p>Liberton Gilmerton Youth Forum</p> <p>Participants: Caris Lane Summer Murray Hannah Corrigan Nicola Kelly</p> <p>Supported by: Jade Mooney</p>
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THE ‘EVENT’

The event was led by Mike Stevenson from Thinktastic. Mike has developed Thinktastic as an addition to his highly successful design company. Thinktastic offers a unique and thought provoking experience to any engagement process, in particular, where young people are involved.

Open invitations to attend were circulated throughout the city. On the day, 80 people attended including 27 young people. The participants were split across 8 round tables where young people mingled with other participants from a range of services including council, police and health, voluntary sector groups and organisations, community representatives and the Neighbourhood Partnership. These tables effectively became mini think tanks.

The groups presented their input using video and live presentation. After each presentation, all tables were invited to discuss and identify key items to put forward. This involved using the table cloths as the ‘flipchart’, effectively allowing all present at the table to contribute.

At the end, each participant was invited to ‘pledge’ a commitment to ‘*Make it happen*’ by identifying what they will do in the future to support some of the outcomes identified.

THE ‘OUTCOMES’

Presentation 1: *The Moredun Dream – Moredun Library*

Looking for something to do?

Spare time activities have always been identified as high on young people’s priority list. The group identified issues linked with city wide facilities and how different age groups come together to access such facilities. This was identified as problematic as younger people will often not be allowed to travel into town etc with older young people. The group then attempted to identify how different activities such as mobile roller discos could be established in the area accommodating different age groups. How can other innovative resources be identified that benefit a wide age group?

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/liberton-and-gilmerton/videos/moredun-library---the-dream>

Presentation 2: The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk

Do you see what we see?

Many people are surprised to learn that young people often want the same things and have similar ideas to adults. The group looked at some of the things that affect young people's lives positively and negatively, some general and some local. They went on to show some of the ways they are trying to improve their own quality of life, and the quality of life for those around us ultimately asking; how can we show the wider community that young people contribute positively to the overall quality of life of the area.

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/liberton-and-gilmerton/videos/delta-group---liberton-kirk>

Presentation 3: Liberton Gilmerton Youth Forum

Bet it was the kids that did it...

Is this an all too common phrase within our communities? How often do perceptions lead to misjudgement? The Youth forum highlighted the concerns of how discrimination still affects the lives of young people from the home, school, and leisure activities and in and around the community. The forum asked what can be done to help break down many of the negative perceptions of young people.

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/liberton-and-gilmerton/videos/liberton-gilmerton-youth-forum---we-say-no>

Presentation 4: Gracemount High School Pupil Council

You spent how much?

The Pupil Council suggested that more can be done to promote healthier lifestyles in and around school through healthier eating and reducing the number of available fast food outlets near schools. Another aspect was that of how public money is spent and that more should be done to support schools to better cater for the educational needs of young people. The Pupil Council asked how we can better plan for using resources which might otherwise be used to support possibly less important things.

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/liberton-and-gilmerton/videos/gracemount-high-school-pupil-council>



Presentation 1: The Moredun Dream – Moredun Library

Spare time activities

Table 1 – Team Bob (fix it)	Table 2 – The Actioneers	Table 3 – 2 nd 1 st Impression	Table 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people to fundraise for improved activity; • Improved access to schools, leisure centre and community centres; • Mobile roller disco/skate rink; • Use Society Hall; • Basketball, football, tennis, new parks, better equipment; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify local facilities to bring in external activities e.g. roller skating rink; • More organised trips to venues e.g. Murrayfield; • Investigate ‘hiring’ new facilities e.g. mobile skate rink; • Look into local transport arrangements to allow more trips – cost effective. • Better reward schemes for ‘good’ young people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Facebook account to make contact, ask questions etc; • More face to face contact with the Neighbourhood Partnership and the council; • Youth link on NP website; • Build better links with NP Youth Issues Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a teenage youth group with responsibility to generate ideas, fundraise and increase involvement of young people; • Use Facebook and texts to generate ideas and let people know what is happening; • Get more help with staffing and support for volunteers; • Provide a list of existing venues/services; • More local transport to access other city venues
Table 5 - Inspire	Table 6 – The Achievers	Table 7	Table 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Trips and events between local community centres; • Joint events with local schools to break down territorialism; • More activities in the evening and weekends; • More activities ‘staffed’ by appropriate agencies supporting all age groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean up the skate park; • Find out what facilities can be used and improved; • Young peoples petition highlighting what they want; • Research whether roller blades do damage floors; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get the youth forum to apply for extra funding; • Its not just about recreation, its also about health, social and keeping young people off the streets; • Use existing facilities better e.g. mobile football pitch. Install external power sockets; • Need to use community centres and schools better; • More facilities in the evening, more clubs at Goodtrees; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leave winter wonderland in town all year through; • CCTV at parks to protect them and the users; • More organised trips out of area; • Get young people to fundraise; • Disco in community centres; • Silent Disco’s; • Basketball Hoops;

Presentation 2: The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk

Quality of Life

<p>Table 1 – Team Bob (fix it)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Police attend youth clubs; • More engagement activities with other adults; • Provide young people with a bigger voice; 	<p>Table 2 - Actioneers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarities to previous generation’s issues. How can this be highlighted; • Improve education across all sectors of community to change mindset; 	<p>Table 3 – 2nd 1st Impressions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve relations between young people and the police; • Hold more intergenerational events; • Supervision at parks could be better; 	<p>Table 4 -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More positive press for young people; • Ask council to support more feedback through Evening News, Herald and Post; • More work with adults, prevent ‘them & us’ • Get a young persons page written by young people in the Link; • Get young people involved in local clean ups, environmental projects and incentive/award based activity; • Get school newsletter into community/residents groups;
<p>Table 5 - Inspire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Facebook more to promote activities and positive involvement of young people; • Use as many outlets as possible to promote positive stories; • Get the ‘Scottish’ news to highlight ‘local’ good things going on 	<p>Table 6 – The Achievers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to find out more young peoples views; • Movies at Goodtrees Centre; • All young people need to be aware of services like HOT and family support; 	<p>Table 7 – Inspiring Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce an annual award run by young people to services that deliver what young people want; • More community events bringing all sectors together, like today; 	<p>Table 8 - Infinity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More facilities at weekends and Friday evenings; • Facilities need to be more 24/7 focussed; • More holiday activities; • Create a street team who engage young people in things like football, basketball etc; • Fix the parks, they have been trashed;

Presentation 3: Liberton Gilmerton Youth Forum

Discrimination

Table 1 – Team Bob (fix it)	Table 2 - Actioneers	Table 3 – 2 nd 1 st Impressions	Table 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More work between age groups, young, teen and adult; • More positive action to change peoples attitudes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discrimination is across all ages and abilities and only joint efforts will prevent it; • Family values need to be reinforced to prevent discrimination; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use school assemblies for adults to consult young people; • Police should engage more positively, take the time to say hello; • More professionals to come into schools to give their expertise on different subjects; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to celebrate young people more and their achievements; • Young people and adults have separate images, we are not all the same and we need to accept that;
Table 5 - Inspire	Table 6 – The Achievers	Table 7 – Inspiring Actions	Table 8 - Infinity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create intergenerational projects; • Develop ‘buddy’ systems, let young people teach older people Facebook; • Create more volunteering opportunities for young people to show adults they can behave responsibly; • Influence the media to be more responsive to positive young people stories; • Make adults more aware of their own behaviour to show there is no difference; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve general communication between young people and adults; • Develop a Facebook site informing both young people and adults of achievements; • More intergenerational work; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop discrimination by bringing in those most discriminated against into schools for talks e.g. people with disabilities; • More information about what discrimination means; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find more positive ways to change peoples minds about discrimination; • Positive celebrations of successes; • Recognition that all people are individuals and not categories;

Presentation 4: Gracemount High School Pupil Council

Healthy Eating & Budgeting

Table 1 – Team Bob (fix it)	Table 2 - Actioneers	Table 3 – 2 nd 1 st Impressions	Table 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involve more young people in setting budgets and identifying gaps; • More healthy options in and around schools; • Different agencies need to share more resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eating has become too healthy with no real education why; • Provide a better balance/choice in the school; • School council should have input to helping identify best way forward for balance; • Improve activities = less vandalism = less wasted money; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy eating is boring all the time –the menu could be less healthy on some days • Young people are told we have to make choices but adults don't like it when we do • Different schools could work together better • There should be more contact between private and council schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix healthy food with less healthy food, create a balance, treats; • Young people driven out of school because it is too healthy; • Healthy choices can be too expensive;
Table 5 - Inspire	Table 6 – The Achievers	Table 7 – Inspiring Actions	Table 8 - Infinity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get schools up to date with electronic books; • Do fund raising in each school for new materials and equipment; • Recycle old books • Young people need more information about how funding works; • Local schools need to share more resources e.g. halls, equipment etc; <p>Schools should seek sponsorship</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lock young people out of school lunch for 2 weeks and see if they are keen to get back in; • More education about healthy eating to young people and parents; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we help schools not to waste money on things they don't need; • Spend a bit more on school dinners to improve taste and appeal; • Improve choice at school dinners; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent councils extend their expertise to access external funding; • Pupils do sponsored events like a plane wash; • Fundraising must be clear, e.g. for a specific goal; • Use existing vouchers schemes more like Tesco, computers for schools;

THE 'PLEDGES' – LETS MAKE IT HAPPEN

Every participant was asked to provide a pledge outlining what it is they will do to 'make it happen'. Below are some examples:

'Engage more with local youth projects. The Delta Liberton Group has a range of ideas that the L&B Police could work with locally'.	'Not make assumptions. Listen more to young people's opinions. Not look for reasons 'why not' ...	'I will try and spread the word about how the council can help at my other youth groups'
'Make my voice heard and change the views of young people by showing the talent, ambitions and drive we have'	'Help facilitate more and better communication between adults and young people who use Moredun Library'	'Write to the council/government to explain what I want to be done. I will also help others with problems and ideas'.
'Take more positive stories of young people to share with my colleagues and friends'	'Take these ideas and methods to the South West of Edinburgh and see what OUR young people will come back with'	'Not vandalise or be something I am not. I will not discriminate and hopefully I will not be discriminated'
'Spend more time seeking young peoples views and listening to them'	'Do fund raising and do a sponsored walk'	'Listen to young people more and not take them at face value'
'Listen to and support young people in schools, community, as a group or individuals. Provide information on alcohol/substances as early intervention methods to improve quality of life and chances for the future'	'Stay on the pupil council. I shall listen to what friends think about the community and if they come up with ideas, I shall let the pupil council know and put it into action'	'Ensure that the local Safer Neighbourhood Police Team visit all known local youth groups in order to break down barriers between police and young people'
'To be involved in any youth activities that needs staffing'	'Link up more with other community projects/groups'	'Repeat the format of the day with a focus on health'
'Explore ideas on intergenerational work. Bring up youth issues at Neighbourhood Partnership'.	'Make sure young people's views are listened to when working with the community in Southhouse'	'Continue to support and develop the ideas and inspiration of young people'
'Make sure that all of the ideas put forward today will be included in a Partnership Action Plan and to put on similar events in the future'	'Help the public partnership forum in South Edinburgh to involve young people in developing ways to improve health and tackle inequalities in their local communities'	'Look into what more I could do to make parks safer and more inviting for children and more effort on keeping skate parks and play areas glass free'.
'Let people know my ideas and work with the (Gracemount High) pupil council to make them happen'	'Make sure the libraries in the South area consult with young people and work with other local agencies to provide the events and activities that they want'.	'Find out more about how citywide services can offer support to local areas – staff, skill and time. Discuss with management the ideas raised today – some solutions are very easy. All Schools need to be consistent in approach'.

It is evident that many of the pledges made are very practical and these will be used to support the development of the Action Plan. It is also encouraging to see personal pledges relating to changing perceptions or attitudes to both young people and adults alike.

CONCLUSIONS

The feedback received from participants has been very positive with a willingness to make things work and improve services as much as possible at a local level.

This type of event can often lead to many aspirations being identified but often without real support. It is evident through the pledges made that where practical change can happen, it will happen.

Clearly, a number of strategic aspirations will take longer to initiate and develop. Young people involved in all aspects of the event are well aware that change will not take place overnight and some will take significantly longer than others. The young people themselves acknowledge this but want to be kept informed of progress.

The event has proved to be a worthwhile exercise in 'Engaging Young People' and it was encouraging to see so many young people taking time to commit to the process. Those young people have already promoted a key outcome of breaking down negative perceptions of young people and for this alone, they should be commended for all their efforts and input.

It is planned to hold further 'engagement' events however; as yet, no dates, format or scale have been identified. To take this forward, those young people already involved will be invited to help identify and develop the next event.

All young people who provided email details will be kept informed of progress and the actions contained in the action plan to be presented to the Neighbourhood Partnership's Youth Issues Group on 18th August 2010 will identify how to inform the wider community etc.

SCOTT DONKIN

Partnership Development Officer
June 2010



All Videos 'presented' at the event can be viewed at:

<http://www.edinburghnp.org.uk/neighbourhood-partnerships/liberton-and-gilmerton>

APPENDIX 1:**ATTENDEES**

NAME	ORGANISATION
FACILITATORS	
Mike Stevenson	Thinktank - Managing Director
Scott Donkin	SFC – Partnership Development Officer - South
TABLE PROMPTS	
Donald Burgess	SFC – Partnership Development Officer - South
Andy Chittick	South Edinburgh Churches – Youth Development
Vanessa Ferguson	CEC – SFC - Library Development Officer
David Hayden	CEC – SFC – Team Leader Moredun Library
Douglas Jeffrey	CEC Community Learning & Development
Evelyn Kilmurry	CEC – SFC Partnership & Information Manager (South)
Jade Mooney	CEC – Community Learning & Development
Madelaine Traynor	CEC – SFC – Partnership Development Officer
ATTENDEES	
Caitlin Anderson	The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk
Hannah Axon	Volunteer Centre
Lesley Baxter	NHS Lothian
Gillian Binnie	HOME Scotland
Ian Bristow	CEC – Community Learning & Development
Sgt Simon Broadhurst	L&B Police – Safer Neighbourhood Team
Ian Brooke	EVOC – South Edinburgh
Susan Bruce	CEC – SFC –Neighbourhood Manager (South)
Councillor Tom Buchanan	City of Edinburgh Council - LGNP
Graham Budd	SFC - Partnership Development Officer – South West
Lauren Burnett	The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk
PC Craig Cairns	L & B Police Safer Neighbourhood Team
Gilbert Clark	Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum
Rhona Coats	Services For Communities Customer Services South
Nico Collarusso	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
PC Dom Cox	L & B Police Safer Neighbourhood Team
Hannah Corrigan	Liberton Gilmerton Youth Forum
Gavin Crosbie	CEC Community Learning & Development
Gemma Devlin	Tactical & Coordination (TAC) Analyst South
Claire Dow	The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk
Natalie Duncan	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
Liz Ersoy	Supporting Parents & Carers in Edinburgh (SPACE)
Kathy Evans	CEC – South Community Safety Manager
David Fleming	West Edinburgh Action
Ben Gardner	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
Alison George	CEC Libraries
Euan Gordon	Liberton Kirk
Jane Gould	Children 1 st - Bfriends
Beth Gregor	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
Angus Gunn	Deputy Community Health Partnership Rep SEPPF
Robert Haas	The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk
Emma Hall	The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk
Chris Hampton	Liberton Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership

ATTENDEES CONTINUED/.....	
NAME	ORGANISATION
Holly Hartley	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
Gail Henderson	West Edinburgh Action
Gemma Hogg	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
Lucy Howie	CEC Community Learning & Development
Erin Howieson	The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk
Kirsty Hughes	HYPE (Helping Young People in Edinburgh) South
Christopher Hume	Gracemount High School
Jane Inglis	Southhouse Tenants and Residents (STAR)
Nicola Kelly	Liberton Gilmerton Youth Forum
Lee Kennedy	The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk
Caris Lane	Liberton Gilmerton Youth Forum
Stewart Laird	SFC Partnership Support Worker
Jason Lee	LIBERTUS
Heather Levy	Chair South Edinburgh Public Patient Forum (SEPPF)
Stuart Macfarlane	CEC – Working for Families
George MacKenzie	CEC – SFC – Team Leader Gilmerton Library
Margaret McIver	Local Resident – Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum
Iona Mitchell	The Moredun Dream
Susan Mooney	CEC Head of Community Safety
Sophie Moran	The Moredun Dream
Kate Munro	The Delta Group – Liberton Kirk
Helen Munro	Princes Trust
Summer Murray	Liberton Gilmerton Youth Forum
Wilma Nelson	Voluntary Sector Rep – Liberton Gilmerton NP
Liz Neilson	Kaimes Neighbourhood Forum
Shannon Noon	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
Nike Oruh	Health Opportunities Team
Niki Powers	Health Opportunities Team
Michael Rae	Liberton Community Council
Amy Reid	The Moredun Dream
Agnes Renton	SFC – Business Manager - South
Debbie Ritchie	CEC – Housing Officer
Graham Samuel	Liberton Community Council
Mike Shields	Community Parks Officer
Emma Smith	CEC Libraries
Paul Swan	CEC – South Housing & Regeneration Manager
Holly Thomson	The Moredun Dream
Laura Turner	The Moredun Dream
Louise Vittery	Services for Communities - Community Safety Officer
Tia Watson	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
Diane Watson	Gracemount High School Pupil Council
Hannah Wood	The Moredun Dream