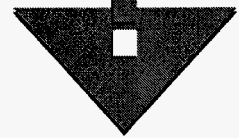


The South Edinburgh **Partnership** ■■



SOUTH EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

YOUTH ISSUES GROUP

Youth related initiatives and developments have since the South Edinburgh Partnership's inception been a key priority of the board. The Youth Issues Group was established in early 2004 as a group in its own right whereby previously youth related items were included within other agendas.

As the title suggests, the role of the group is two fold. Firstly, those involved will discuss and where possible implement initiatives aimed at tackling anti social behaviour in all its guises involving young people, the Youth Action Team is an example of this. Secondly and importantly the group will investigate methods and initiatives that will actively engage young people and promote young people as positive assets to the wider community.

Agendas and the overall purpose of the group have altered over the years and the key intention is that the items for discussion are effectively guided by its members. Another vital aspect is to ensure members of the group are informed of any local, city or national policy changes involving young people. Similarly, local youth service provision agencies are invited to update the wider group with current services, any planned alterations to service and/or any potential implications for young people or their families.

Over the years, many initiatives have stemmed from the group or its predecessor including Fun in the Sun, Open All Hours, Art South Edinburgh, Youth Action Team, The Base, Give Youth a Chance, FABB Scotland, Case Tracking Manager etc.

POLICY AND PRACTICE

National Priorities–	Engaging Young People Enhancing Community Involvement
City Wide	City of Edinburgh Council Youth Strategy Regeneration Outcomes Agreement
South Edinburgh	Regeneration Outcomes Agreement

The Youth Issues Group is chaired and serviced by the Partnership Support Team.

YOUTH ISSUES GROUP

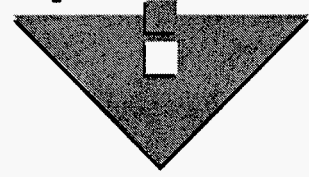
MEMBERSHIP

- ❖ Gracemount Youth & Community
- ❖ The City of Edinburgh Council – Local Councillors
- ❖ The Base
- ❖ Community Representatives
- ❖ City of Edinburgh Council - Children & Families
- ❖ South Edinburgh Echo
- ❖ City of Edinburgh Council - Working Together
- ❖ Lothian & Borders Police - Youth Action Team
- ❖ Lothian & Borders Police – Sector Inspector
- ❖ The City of Edinburgh Council - Community Safety
- ❖ Lothian & Borders Police - Juvenile Liaison Officer
- ❖ The City of Edinburgh Council - Education Welfare Officer
- ❖ Health Opportunities Team
- ❖ The City of Edinburgh Council - Services for Communities
- ❖ Bfriends
- ❖ The City of Edinburgh Council - Youth Services Officer
- ❖ South Edinburgh Healthy Living Initiative
- ❖ Lothian & Borders Fire & Rescue Service - Station Commander
- ❖ Lothian & Borders Police - Crime Prevention
- ❖ City of Edinburgh Council - Neighbourhood Manager
- ❖ South Edinburgh Voluntary Sector Support Project
- ❖ South Edinburgh Volunteers Centre
- ❖ Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme
- ❖ South Edinburgh Partnership Community Directors
- ❖ South Edinburgh Partnership Voluntary Sector Directors

SCOTT DONKIN

Support Team Officer
September 2007

The South Edinburgh Partnership



**YOUTH ISSUES GROUP
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31st OCTOBER 2007
IN SOUTH EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP OFFICES
13 NEWTOFT STREET, EDINBURGH**

PRESENT:

Allan Teesdale	:	SEP Community Director – Inch
PC Leigh Weatherburn	:	Lothian & Borders Police
Andrina Hansen	:	City of Edinburgh Council – Services for Communities
Jane Inglis	:	Local Resident Southhouse/STAR
Douglas Jeffrey	:	City of Edinburgh Council – Children & Families
Gibby Greechan	:	City of Edinburgh Council – Education Welfare Service
Craig Mercer	:	HM Prison – Edinburgh
Philip Ritchie	:	City of Edinburgh Council - Edinburgh Youth Services
Jane Gould	:	BFriends
David Aitcheson	:	Streetwork UK
Scott Donkin	:	South Edinburgh Partnership
Susan Milne	:	South Edinburgh Partnership (Chair)

APOLOGIES:

Cllr Conor Snowdon	:	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Tom Buchanan	:	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Norma Hart	:	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Ian Murray	:	City of Edinburgh Council
Greig Henderson	:	City of Edinburgh Council - Children & Families
Rob Regan	:	SEP Community Director - Moredun
Brian Jennings	:	City of Edinburgh Council - Children & Families

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

- 2.1 The minute of the meeting held on 8th August 2007 was accepted as an accurate record.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

3.1 **Page 3: Para, 4.1.6 Licensing**

- 3.1.1 It was noted that Cllr's Hart and Buchanan were to look into the issue of the Council's licensing department becoming tougher with offending retailers in respect of young people and alcohol and the issue of the police not being in the loop for feedback from the Procurator Fiscals office.
- 3.1.2 As neither Cllr Hart nor Buchanan were present, it was agreed that Scott would make contact with the councillors and that this item be continued to the next meeting.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN

3.2 **Page 7: Para, 7.8 Disengaged Young People**

- 3.2.1 Greig Henderson had agreed to begin the process of identifying the reasons young people do not engage with existing activities/facilities and to establish other activities which may prevent young people from becoming involved in anti social activities.
- 3.2.2 As Greig was not in attendance, it was agreed that Scott would contact Greig to ascertain progress on this matter, and to report back to the next meeting.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN

4. **CEC – EDUCATION WELFARE SERVICE**

- 4.1 Susan welcomed Gibby Greechan, Senior Education Welfare Officer to the meeting and highlighted that at the previous meeting, in response to a question, it had been suggested by Brian Jennings, Working Together Manager that it would be appropriate and useful for members of the Youth Issues Group to be more familiar with the role of the Education Welfare Service.
- 4.2 Gibby provided a general background and overview of the Education Welfare Service.
- 4.3 The service has a statutory function as dictated by the education Scotland act which focuses on child welfare through education and parental responsibility.
- 4.4 Previously, the service was centralised and operated on a city wide basis providing support and services to primary schools, high schools and special schools on a welfare related basis. This has more recently changed to a Neighbourhood focus under the Working Together ethos with officers allocated to specific neighbourhoods across the city.
- 4.5 Much of the work used to focus on attendance issues to the wider welfare arena including identifying the needs of children through education, assisting to identify support mechanisms, and potential issues within the home.

- 4.6 It is fair to say that there is a fine line between the service and support offered to children and their families and the potential to make referrals on to social work.
- 4.7 Each Neighbourhood operates an Area Attendance Advisory Group which acts as an arena to tackle specific issues in respect of a child's attendance at school. This can mean a parent is summonsed to appear before the group to explain the child's non attendance at school. Thereafter, depending on the outcomes, different methods or support measures can be implemented. The ultimate sanction is to place the parent on an attendance order which is sanctioned by the Children's Reporter or Fiscal.
- 4.8 Referrals for children can be made by various organisations and individuals including teachers, parents or self referrals from children.
- 4.9 It is important to bear in mind that where a child is not attending school, this normally highlights that there are sometimes complex issues being faced by the child, their family or both. Sometimes it is necessary to work closely with the school to possibly modify timetables and in some instances the parent generally 'requires' the child to be absent for different things.
- 4.10 In the last year across Edinburgh, over 2000 young people were referred to the service. There is no set support level e.g. the officers could engage once or engage with a young person and their family over a number of years.
- 4.11 The officers also participate in and provide a range of informal support initiatives and work closely with local organisations for the benefit of the young person and/or the family. This includes work with police, home visits with social work, transitional work and group work.
- 4.12 A new initiative is currently being developed with local police to tackle truancy as pro actively as possible whereby different strengths are brought together. The police have powers to detain whilst the welfare officers are wholly conversant with education's procedures etc. This in itself will allow both agencies to possibly identify associated risk factors with young people and appropriate actions taken.
- 4.13 In conclusion, Gibby highlighted that in some instances, he and colleagues are supporting the children of parents that he worked with many years ago. Ultimately, he would like to break the cycle of generations of poorly educated children through supporting wherever possible children and their families.
- 4.14 Ultimately, the focus is on ensuring that children can participate effectively in education settings and it is understood that the issues preventing this are invariably complex and difficult and he and his team have flexibility within their roles to identify the most suitable approaches which means that prosecution is the very last thing to be pursued.
- 4.15 It was asked how many attendance orders are in place.
- 4.16 Gibby responded by saying that there were currently approximately 50 in operation across the city but added that even if these are effectively breached, the team will examine all factors associated with the case before contemplating the next step of prosecution.

- 4.17 It was then asked how many are actually facing prosecution.
- 4.18 Gibby highlighted that prosecution is where all efforts have failed and ultimately non attendance of the child is ultimately down to poor parental responsibility however, these cases by their nature are difficult and with this in mind, there are currently three test cases in the hands of the council solicitors.
- 4.19 Susan suggested that because the service can engage with children at a very early age that there must be times when a number of other issues are uncovered and asked if other agencies are also engaged as early.
- 4.20 Gibby agreed that on numerous occasions, a great deal of other issues are uncovered and in some instances the service acts as a trigger for other agencies to become engaged with the family.
- 4.21 David asked if children who are excluded from school are supported.
- 4.22 Children who are excluded are supported and can involve liaison with youth justice, dealing with behavioural issues and often supporting the parents and child to either re-engage with the original school or assist to identify other schools that can provide the levels of support possibly required.
- 4.23 Susan thanked Gibby for the information he provided to the group.

5. **PRISON ME NO WAY**

- 5.1 Susan introduced Craig Mercer from the Scottish Prison Service – Edinburgh as a result of Greig Henderson attending 'Prison Me No Way' at Lasswade High School. Greig had suggested that the session was extremely beneficial and is keen for it to be introduced to both Liberton and Gracemount High Schools.
- 5.2 Craig has worked for the Scottish Prison Service for 19 years and is currently serving in Edinburgh (Saughton) with a specific remit to support Social Inclusion and to tackle re-offending in its widest sense.
- 5.3 Craig informed the group that whilst initial discussions with Greig had been related to the programme - Prison Me No Way, things had moved on somewhat and Craig suggested that it may be useful to provide some background information.
- 5.4 Prison Me No Way was established by three prison officers (now retired) in Hull in 1993 as a means of tackling re-offending as it was becoming more apparent that the same faces were reappearing in the prison. The initiative became a charitable organisation soon after and operated in high schools throughout England. More recently, they have been working in Scotland however this has presented some issues which will be covered later.
- 5.5 The focus of the sessions within the schools is that of providing an opportunity for pupils to examine the consequences of their behaviour within their own community which involves a number of agencies including police, council, fire, voluntary, health and the prison service.

- 5.6 In conjunction with the school, a desired age group is identified (normally a year group) and all within that group participate in a series of workshops conducted by the various partners. Each workshop group is allocated a prison officer who manages the transition from each workshop and also effectively treats the pupils as prisoners for that day. It must be stressed that the Scottish prison service does not utilise boot boy tactics at any time but rather operates a mutual respect methodology and this will be practiced at any events involving young people.
- 5.7 Through discussions locally, key concerns within the community are identified and this forms the backdrop for the day. Similarly, where schools have drama groups etc, these are encouraged to participate through developing scene setting activities e.g. young people have set a fire (controlled), the fire service arrives, the young people begin stoning the fire crews, the police arrive, young people have alcohol, weapons etc. This type of scene can assist then to address the consequences of behaviour and the participants are fully engaged at all times.
- 5.8 Ultimately, the type of workshops normally offered include:
- Drugs/Alcohol – Can also involve first aid in order that young people are aware of how to deal with their friends should things go wrong;
 - Knives/Weapons;
 - Internet Safety;
 - Hoax Calls/Fire Raising
 - Community awareness
 - Prison as a final stage including a workshop with members of a prisoners family in order to ensure that young people are aware of the consequences for everyone.
- 5.9 At this point, Craig highlighted that there had been some concerns with the Prison Me No Way concept operating in Scotland as many of the references and attributes to law are based on the English versions and it was felt that this was potentially confusing some young people.
- 5.10 With this in mind, Craig highlighted that he has created a business plan which will not be dissimilar to the English version but will provide a wholly Scottish theme entitled 'It's No Holiday'.
- 5.11 Craig advised the group that the English version costs schools around £2,245 for the day which in terms of school budgets is a lot of money. In respect of developing the 'It's No Holiday', Craig will be submitting the business plan to the Lothian & Borders Community Justice Authority (LBCJA) in the hope that it will be fully supported and funded.
- 5.12 The LBCJA has been established as part of the 2005 Offenders Act with a remit to reduce offending by 2% across Scotland by 2011 and Craig feels that in order to tackle this issue appropriately, it is wholly necessary to invest in diversionary opportunities wherever possible.

- 5.13 Craig will present the business plan to the LBCJA on the 6th December 2007 where if approved, it is hoped that the initiative can be piloted as soon as possible thereafter and with this in mind, there is already an interest in the Scottish Borders.
- 5.14 In conclusion, Craig suggested that if interested, the Youth Issues Group can go either way e.g. there is nothing to prevent the 'Prison Me No Way' being bought for the high schools locally or holding off until the outcome of the 'it's No Holiday' proposals are known. Craig suggested that he will learn an outcome one way or another on the 6th December.
- 5.15 Susan thanked Craig for his informative input and suggested that the overall concept sounded like something that should be encouraged in the high schools and asked for any thoughts from the group.
- 5.16 There was an overall consensus that this initiative should be introduced to Gracemount and Liberton as soon as possible however, Andrina agreed with Craig in respect of the reservations about 'Prison Me No Way' as her daughter had attended the Lasswade High School session and whilst she was 'raving' about the day itself, she was confused by some of the terminology used.
- 5.17 Susan reminded the group that what there was potentially now a catch 22 situation whereby Greig has a budget which will allow for the 'Prison Me No Way' to be introduced quickly however, there appears to be more willingness to adopt the Scottish version but this is wholly reliant on a positive outcome on the 6th December.
- 5.18 Douglas added that he would be fully supportive of the Scottish version as the methodology suggested sounds more child/user friendly than its English counterpart.
- 5.19 This was generally the feeling of all in attendance.
- 5.20 Douglas asked if Craig had been in discussion with senior personnel within the Council's Children and Families department as a situation had arisen previously in respect of the Cooldown Crew and the need for local officers to provide support with no knowledge of the initiatives at senior level.
- 5.21 Craig intimated that previously discussions were held with head teachers as they controlled their own budgets but acknowledged that if the Scottish version comes on stream then there will need to be more detailed discussions however, at this stage he felt senior officers in different agencies should be aware of the initiative.
- 5.22 In order to move on, Susan suggested that there appeared to be a consensus to adopt the Scottish version and asked Craig if there was anything that could be done in order to provide support to the proposals and to 'request' that Liberton and Gracemount could be used as the pilot schools.
- 5.23 Craig suggested that Susan write to Chris Hawkes at the LBCJA.

ACTION: SUSAN MILNE

- 5.24 In the meantime, Susan thanked Craig again and suggested that future discussions involve Craig, Scott and Greig in order that this is driven as quickly as possible locally.

ACTION: CRAIG MERCER/SCOTT DONKIN/GREIG HENDERSON

6. **CASE TRACKING APPROACHES**

- 6.1 In the absence of Greig, Susan informed those present that whilst there is no detailed report available, reports from other agencies suggest that the role Greig has is proving to be vitally important and that a full evaluation will be carried out in the next couple of months as the funding for his post expires at the end of March 2008.
- 6.2 Jane asked what will happen to the post beyond March 2008 if no other funding is identified and that surely if the post is proving to be as successful as all are saying, it should be continued.
- 6.3 Susan highlighted that as agreed, the South Edinburgh Partnership had funded the post for the 2 year pilot period and that following the review, it is hoped that the post will be retained however, if the funds are not identified, this will need to be looked at when this is known.
- 6.4 Andrina informed the group that when administering the last 15/15 Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABC's), officers have attempted to identify why young people engage in anti social activity and what could be offered to assist with the prevention of their involvement. The vast majority have indicated that they would like to be more involved in sports based activities.
- 6.5 Scott informed the group that it looks more and more likely that the YAT will become removed from diversionary activities and that he had held initial discussions with Fernieside Football Club with a view to coaches taking over the YAT football initiative.
- 6.6 Jane asked if young people could be introduced into more army based initiatives.
- 6.7 Scott highlighted that a few young people were introduced to this previously through the YAT and did not prove to be very successful.
- 6.8 Susan suggested that Scott meets with Greig to discuss the potential of developing more sports based initiatives.
- 6.9 This was agreed.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN/GREIG HENDERSON

7. **FUTURE OF YOUTH ISSUES GROUP**

- 7.1 In addition to the report previously circulated, Susan informed those present that in line with the legislative process of developing Community Planning, the council have developed Neighbourhood Partnerships across Edinburgh with this area known as Liberton/Gilmerton which closely aligns with the existing South Edinburgh Partnership boundary.

- 7.2 The South Edinburgh Partnership Board held an away day to examine how aspects of the current South Edinburgh Partnership could become integrated with the new Neighbourhood Partnership and as a result of this, the sub structure which includes the Youth Issues Group will now report to the new Liberton/Gilmerton Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 7.3 Susan assured the group that in general there will be no noticeable difference in respect of how the group functions and for the foreseeable future, all meetings will continue to be convened and supported by Scott Donkin.
- 7.4 The report circulated was noted.

8. **JET PROGRAMME**

- 8.1 Susan Milne provided a verbal update in respect of the Jet Programme.
- 8.2 Overall the programme is operating well with a total of 70 pupils still participating. Of the 17/18 that are no longer participating, this is for a variety of reasons including; moved house, school exclusion, pregnant, school behaviour or employer concerns.
- 8.3 As part of the ongoing development, all 23 mainstream high schools are aware of the Jet programme and were invited to attend a seminar outlining the Jet programme, its aims and goals for participants. 18 schools attended and from this, 16 schools have signed up for the 2008-2009 school term which is likely to involve around 240 pupils.
- 8.4 Susan added that she was currently preparing a report which will outline how the programme expansion can be managed and she suggested that at the next youth issues meeting she will be in a better position to provide a more detailed report.

ACTION: SUSAN MILNE

- 8.5 Jane asked if those young people mentioned had been removed because of employer concerns, and if so, asked if this has deterred employers from continuing their involvement in the programme in the future.
- 8.6 Susan responded by saying the majority of employers are very supportive and responsive to the needs of young people and whilst it is fair to say that we are likely to lose a couple, the vast majority are fully supportive of the Jet Programme and its aims.

9. **ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE - CLDP**

- 9.1 In addition to the report circulated previously, Susan reminded the group that the Engaging Young People element of the Community Learning and Development Plan was effectively under the ownership of the Youth Issues Group in respect of ensuring that the outcomes mentioned are monitored and where possible met.
- 9.2 Susan added that whilst the outcomes are not overly complicated, the layout as it stands is difficult to measure and Scott has suggested that rather than becoming over burdened with trying to develop this at this meeting that a separate seminar event is held in December.

9.3 This was agreed by the group.

ACTION: SCOTT DONKIN

9.4 Susan thanked Scott for his report.

9.5 Jane took the opportunity to inform the group that the proposed new build Community Centre for Burdiehouse has effectively halted. Jane explained that the money was in place, the builders identified and on site. Then the builders upped and left which now leaves a very difficult position with what now means more money required to go to the next bidder.

9.6 Since this time those involved in the community centre have held a deputation at full council, established a petition which has been signed by 600 people in 1 week and are seeking letters of support.

9.7 Jane concluded that this is a huge issue for local people as this has been on the go now for over 10 years and the current facility is literally falling apart.

9.8 Susan fully sympathised with those involved and added that she knew the centre issue was on the go before the South Edinburgh Partnership came on stream in 1999 however, the Youth Issues Group has never been established as a campaigning group but suggested that this may be an ideal issue for the new Neighbourhood Partnership and Susan offered to suggest that this be included on the agenda for its December meeting.

9.9 This was welcomed by Jane.

ACTION: SUSAN MILNE

10. **YOUNG PEOPLE & ALCOHOL**

- 10.1 Scott pointed out that at the time of circulating the papers, updated information was not available in respect of how many young people had been referred to the HYPE project as part of the pilot initiative between HYPE and the police. Scott was now however in a position to provide this information.
- 10.2 Since July 2007, a total of 49 referrals have been received which when calculated with the previous year of 0 is a massive increase. Whilst these are not attracting a great deal of take up, Scott added that HYPE have since visited a similar project in the Scottish Borders and now have some suggestions as to how the take up aspect could possibly improve. This will be discussed at a meeting next week with all partners.

11. **AOCB**

- 11.1 **Children & Families:** Douglas informed the group that it had been agreed the day before by the Children & Families Committee to approve a management structure review which is now effectively underway. This comes on the back of the departments £14m shortfall in budget and will have implications locally.
- 11.1.1 It is likely that the immediate management structure below David Wright will be affected and the community centre management arrangements will also be looked into. Furthermore, Community Learning & Development have to manage an £850,000 saving which translates to approximately 22/23 posts across the city.
- 11.1.2 Susan thanked Douglas for his update but added that she hoped the outcome would be more positive.
- 11.2 **Skate Park:** Jane informed those present that the skate park appears to be attracting a lot of negative behaviour recently and that there is a great deal of broken glass in and around the facility with children and dogs receiving cuts in the past few days.
- 11.2.1 Andrina agreed to pass on the information and to look into the number of calls received for the area.
- 11.3 Susan thanked everyone for attending and their input to the meeting.

12. **DATE, TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 12.1 **Wednesday 6th February 2008 at 2.00pm in the offices of the South Edinburgh Partnership, 13 Newtoft Street.**