

# The Sixth Hull Young People's Parliament

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2008

Report to Children and Young People



## The Sixth Hull Young People's Parliament



On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of July 2008 the Hull Young People's Parliament met for the sixth time at The Guildhall. 110 children and young people aged between 10 and 25 from all over Hull took the opportunity to come together to discuss and debate issues that they were concerned about.

Welcomes and introductions were led by Councillor Mike Ross (Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning) and Mike Pinnock (Head of Commissioning and Business Support).

### The Key Question



The key theme of the day was 'Looking Back, Looking Forward'. From the feedback that you have given us we wanted to give you the opportunity to pause and look back at the previous five Parliaments as well as giving your views and ideas on future Parliaments, and issues to look at!

We also asked you to think about how you could become more involved in the Parliament process on four different levels! These were as an individual, within your school/group, within the wider Parliament planning and with support from others!

It didn't stop there either! We also brought together a panel of 'experts' with local knowledge on the issues of health, crime, race, media and young people's issues to answer your questions! The panel included:

- **Maddy Ruff** (West Locality Director and Board Lead, Children and Young People's Services)
- **Inspector Mike Stead** (Northern and North Carr NPTs, Humberside Police)
- **PC 1276 Alistair Kennedy** (Neighbourhood Police Officer, Humberside Police)
- **Judith Harwood** (Head of Learning, Leisure and Achievement, Hull City Council)

- **Adil Khan** (Community and Race Relations Officer, Humberside Police)
- **Peter Brooks** (RAPP Mentoring Programme)
- **Angus Young** (Hull Daily Mail)
- **Nigel Richardson** (Director of Children and Young People's Services, Hull City Council)
- **Mike Pinnock** (Head of Commissioning and Business Support, Hull City Council)
- **Councillor Mike Ross** (Portfolio Holder for Lifelong learning, Hull City Council)

We also sent invites to all of Hull City Council's 25 Assistant Heads of which four attended.

### What Happened Next?



After the introductions, The *Act Now* Drama Group did a short piece to get you all in the mood for some hard work! Everyone was then split up into two groups - 13's and under and over 13's for the first workshop. This workshop gave you the chance to refresh yourselves with all of the resolutions passed at previous Parliaments and see what progress (if any), had been made on them! Hopefully, you were all pleasantly surprised to see that your hard work, debating, resolution making and voting can and did make a difference! This first workshop was also used to put together

questions that you wished to ask the panel of experts (a list of what was asked and what the replies were is available below).

During this time, the four Assistant Heads were also busy being asked what they could personally do to get more involved in the Hull Young People's Parliament using '*Hear by Rights*' *Ladder of Participation* - see notes from the Decision Makers workshop further on in the report.

The layout of the day was slightly different to previous Parliaments as we were focusing more on questions to the panel and how everyone could be more involved in the Parliament. So, after the first workshop, the 13's and under went into their second workshop which was facilitated by *Act Now* and asked how everyone could become more involved in the

Parliament! However, the over 13s went off to the Council Chamber to ask their questions - below is a record of what happened!

### Over 13s - Questions to the Panel



ITEM	QUESTION/COMMENT	ACTION
1. Evie - Pickering High	<b>Could we have more money for staff and volunteers in our parks to make them safer (Particularly Ings Road)?</b>	<b>Mick S.</b> – Supports putting more park rangers (HCC) and wardens in the parks - will definitely have teams spend more patrol time. Also, would like to see more young people to attend the CSAP meetings in their local areas to set local priorities. <b>Mike P.</b> – HCC currently undertaking an audit of all green spaces – there are opportunities for young people to be involved – will make sure they are! <b>Judith</b> – Partners are being brought together to look at the extended use of school facilities with supervision – young people will be involved in the process
2 .a) Lewis – St Mary’s	<b>When there is a stabbing or other violent crime, why do the police immediate suspect teenagers?</b>	<b>Mick S.</b> – The police don’t – they act on evidence provided by witnesses. <b>Adil</b> – Will provide Statistics about knife crime in the city.
2. b) Kimberley – H&ER Christian Fellowship	<b>Why are youths the ones who are stopped and searched?</b>	<b>Adil</b> – The police try to be fair and proportionate – this is more about perception, but if young people feel this is the case there are channels they can use to report it. Will send info on an initiative on stop and search for young people <b>Peter</b> – Need to understand that Hull doesn’t have that much of a problem compared to other cities – up to young people whether Hull will be better or worse in 5 years time
3 a). Monika – Polish School	<b>How are HCC going to build on the success of the Wilberforce project,</b>	<b>Mike R</b> – The Wilberforce campaign will carry on – there is more to be done at a local area level – more multi-cultural events

ITEM	QUESTION/COMMENT	ACTION
<p>3 b) Abi – St Michaels</p> <p>3 c) Abi – St Michaels</p>	<p><b>increase understanding between communities and challenge racism?</b></p> <p><b>Young people are still learning/ hearing things at home from their parents – can we have classes in school from an early age?</b></p> <p><b>Maybe young people could teach children in schools – they might listen to them more than teachers and other adults</b></p>	<p><b>Adil</b> - We need to be run more widely, rather than just in the communities that are multi-cultural – have we had events where there are no/ few BME groups? Also parents need to be involved – education at all levels is important</p> <p><b>Judith</b> – Multi-cultural education is changing and is becoming much more practical – young people need to be able to express their views in safety, with debate encouraged.</p>
<p>4. Rich – CHYP</p>	<p><b>How can we say we’re a family friendly city where no child is left behind when Young People are living on the streets?</b></p>	<p><b>Mike P</b> – This highlights the difference between rhetoric (every child matters/ no child will be left behind) and reality – there is some joint working with housing and children &amp; young people looking at ways that housing issues can be addressed.</p>
<p>5. Rozh – Hull Free Group</p>	<p><b>Should more council houses be built?</b></p>	<p><b>Mike P.</b> – It comes down to money – the housing team are looking at how more good housing can be created but the government is not providing the funding and so it would mean taking money away from other services</p>
<p>6a. Rozh - Hull Free Group</p> <p>6b) Rozh – Hull Free Group</p>	<p><b>For Hull Daily Mail – Why is so much coverage of Asylum Seekers/ Refugees given so much negative coverage?</b></p> <p><b>There are no stories about what it is like to be an asylum seeker or refugee, or covering deportations – there were nearly 40 arrests for deportation in the last 2 weeks and no coverage</b></p>	<p><b>Angus</b> – This is just perception problem of the readers – it is balanced, Hull Daily Mail needs to be sensitive to local communities</p> <p><b>Angus</b> – Will take this back – if Rozh or anyone he knows wants to contact Angus he will interview them/ run stories</p> <p><b>Adil</b> – Agrees that 5 years ago HDM did have a lot of negative coverage, but that it is better than it was</p>
<p>7a. Axel – HYC Publicity Group</p>	<p><b>Does the use of mosquito alarms do more harm than good?</b></p>	<p><b>Mike R.</b> – This is a big issue and a group of young people met with business leaders about their use – hopes it won’t increase in Hull</p> <p><b>Alistair</b> – Not being installed in the city anymore – other</p>

ITEM	QUESTION/COMMENT	ACTION
7b) Axel	<b>Doesn't dispersal just move the problem to somewhere else?</b>	<p>techniques are being used. Also, going through the European Parliament right now as their use may be a breach of the Human Rights Act</p> <p><b>Mick S</b> – large groups of young people can be intimidating – we need to look at providing more activities for young people</p>
8a. Chris	<b>Why aren't young people more involved in decisions about the use of land or in new buildings?</b>	<p><b>Mike R.</b> – Young people are increasingly being involved in this – if it isn't happening let us know!</p> <p><b>Judith</b> – Have found that Children and young people don't feel that public meetings are for them – we need to know how much use you make of them, and what we can do to make them better</p>
8b Chris	<b>Young people don't read the paper or watch the news – need to go where they go – something in the city centre as a young person's drop-in for consultation would be good</b>	
8c)?	<b>B Why not get young people more involved in the media writing news and stories – young people are more likely to listen to other young people – use them to spread the word</b>	

### Under 13s Workshop - How do we get more involved?



- We could be invited to meetings to plan the events.
- We should be sent questionnaires to ask for our ideas.

- Young people could be asked to set the agendas for the day.
- Young people should get more involved after the parliaments to make sure things are acted upon.
- We can help to promote the Parliament to young people who might not have heard of it.

- **How can children and young people become more involved in the resolutions and action points?**



- Young people should get together as groups after the Parliament to work on things that have been raised.
- We should get more chances to meet important people who can help us with resolutions and action points.
- Someone could come to our school to help us.
- We could get together to write letters to ask for help and support.
- We need to be more pro-active.
- It would help if we are given more time at school to look at what we can do.
- We could ask our teachers if we could work on these in school.
- **What help do you need from others to become more involved?**
- We need people to visit our school to help us.

- We could ask our teachers if we could do things in school.
- It would be good if we had action from the decision makers to show they are serious and it's not a token gesture why they attend.
- It should be made compulsory for all schools to attend.
- The Parliament needs better promotion in places like schools and youth centres.
- **Do you feel involved in the Parliament - is it too adult led?**



- At the moment it needs to have direction by adults. Possibly this can change in the future.
- Maybe young people could run their own workshops.
- We should not change it as it seems to be working great.
- It would be good if young people could take more responsibility and volunteer to do things on the day.
- We get to choose themes for the event which is important.

### **13s and under - Questions to the Panel**

ITEM	QUESTION/COMMENT	ACTION
1. Matthew – Victoria Dock	<b>Can we have more park rangers to make us feel safer in parks?</b>	<b>Nigel</b> – Will take this forward through the planning process <b>Mick S</b> – Will make sure that the police patrol in the parks as much as possible – also, young people need to

ITEM	QUESTION/COMMENT	ACTION
		<p>get to know their local policing teams</p> <p><b>Judith</b> – Are looking at developing school facilities and extending their use</p>
2. Isabel – Victoria Dock	<b>Could we have more people to pick up rubbish and more bins around the streets?</b>	<b>Mike R</b> – Yes – young people to look around their own areas for where bins are needed and then contact their local councillors to get that done
3. Nathan-Maybury	<b>(for Hull Daily Mail) Is there a reason why you don't report any good news stories?</b>	<p><b>Angus</b> – It's all about a balance between good &amp; bad news. Will do a story about the Youth Parliament</p> <p><b>Nigel</b> – After the children's take over day – some young people went to the HDM and met with the editor John Meehan – this needs to be kept going and there needs to be stories for the young people's page!</p>
4. TJ - Stepney	<b>What is being done to stop violent gangs on the streets?</b>	<b>Mick S</b> – It depends on the police knowing where things are happening – young people can report things to the police and need to!
5. Rubina – Stepney	<b>Teachers and parents tell us to hang around in groups to stay safe, and the police tell us not to: who should we listen to?</b>	<b>Mick S</b> – Police only see the problems that are being caused – listen to your parents and teachers and if a police officer approaches then talk to them and tell them why you are in a group. Will take this back so that police officers are aware.
6. James – Hessle Road Network	<b>Can we have more Cop Shops?</b>	<b>Mick S</b> - OneHull funded these and the money has now run out – there is still one Cop Shop and this will go to each area. There is now more police staff on the streets, and every school has an assigned officer, who all young people should know.
7. Mike – Estcourt	<b>What is being done to stop racism on the streets?</b>	<b>Adil</b> – There are lots of things being done. People need to make sure that they report it wherever they see or hear it.
8. Caitlin - St George's	<b>Can we have special areas for graffiti art and can we have it displayed/ exhibited?</b>	<p><b>Mike R</b> – Will take this back to Cabinet colleagues and discuss – would like thoughts on where it should be and what it should be like</p> <p><b>Adil</b> – When I was young we used pieces of wood we decorated - they were mobile – I would support the Council if it were to do something Tagging is the problem, not art.</p> <p><b>Nigel</b> – Will also take back this idea, particularly keen on the “mobile” art idea – happy that any project will be supported by the police!</p>

ITEM	QUESTION/COMMENT	ACTION
9. Eleasha - Southcoates	<b>What is being done about illegal drugs on the street?</b>	<p><b>Mick S</b> - Lots of things are being done across the city and there have been a lot of arrests in the city. If anyone is aware of drugs anywhere they need to report it to the police</p> <p><b>Peter</b> – RAPP is going into schools with ex-addicts to talk about drugs – young people need to be aware that the people who will get them into using drugs are family and friends, not strangers.</p> <p><b>Maddy</b> - Health staff can go into schools to help young people to understand the dangers</p>
10a). Keegan-Bethune	<b>(For Police) How will you improve security in schools and making kids feel safe?</b>	<b>Mick S</b> – Local police are coming into schools regularly – if you have concerns ask teachers to arrange a chat with your school officer.
10b) Keegan – Bethune	<b>Our school has been burgled a few times recently – what can be done about that</b>	<b>Mick S</b> – The Crime Prevention team can help – will arrange for an officer to attend the school
11. Melina?	<b>We had a resolution to have an international market – what’s happening with this?</b>	<p><b>Mark Tomlinson.</b> Unfortunately, this was never a resolution and as such was never formally passed by the Parliament. However, some events have happened such as ‘Love Music, Hate Racism’ and ‘Coolture’. Many more will hopefully be planned in the coming months!</p> <p><b>Adil</b> – I think there is going to be an international market in the city centre next month.</p>
12. Harrison - Southcoates	<b>Why do some pubs and shops sell alcohol to over-18s and some only to over-21s?</b>	<p><b>Mick S</b> – It is the choice of the licensee – over-18s are allowed to drink alcohol</p> <p><b>Alastair</b> – This is about how old people look – some people who are under 18 look older, so the extra 3 years means that licensees are more sure they are selling to over-18s</p>
13. Ryan – Longhill	<b>Some schools have buddy and friendship groups – can other schools have these?</b>	<p><b>Judith</b> – It is up to schools to do things like this. If schools want to share these ideas – will take this back and make sure other schools know about it</p> <p><b>Mike R</b> – Heads from schools across the city meet regularly – if you think something works really well in your schools, ask the Head to share it at these meetings.</p>
14. Lewis - Longhill	<b>Would like counsellors, who help children to express their feelings, like they have at other schools</b>	<b>Judith (refer to 13 above)</b> - Let Heads know and ask them.
15. Jessica – Hall Road	<b>Can we link across schools to share behaviour and</b>	<b>Judith (refer to 13 above)</b>

ITEM	QUESTION/COMMENT	ACTION
	<b>reward systems</b>	
16. Kane - St Charles	<b>We have a star of the day where we vote for someone – I would like to share this with the Youth Parliament who can have that idea</b>	



As you can see from above, the questions asked were hard hitting and straight to the point. A couple of the panel members even said that these were some of the most interesting and probing questions that they had ever been asked! It is now up to

everyone and the panel members to make sure that what was promised, pledged and agreed on is now followed through with some real action!

Unfortunately, not all of the questions that you put together were able to be asked during the sessions as we had run out of time. However, these have now been forwarded to the panel members and we await their responses. We hope to be able to give you their responses at the next meeting of Hull Young People's Parliament when we meet again at The Guildhall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2008 - make sure you put that date in your diaries!! Below is a list of those questions:

***Has anti-racism improved in Hull? (Has it got better?)***

Tyrone (Trinity House School) and Sihle (Hull & ER Christian Fellowship)

***How could young people be involved in the Hull Daily Mail/Look North to promote positive images of young people?***

Felicia and Kimberly (Hull & ER Christian Fellowship)

***Could we have more CCTV cameras down places such as alleys and not just on main streets?***

Kyola (St Michael's Youth Project)

***Could we have more multi-cultural events and cultural awareness sessions to make people more aware of different cultures?***

Toni (Preston Road NDC)

***In response to lack of funding for Copshops – Where does the money go?***

Tommy and Tyrone (Hull Trinity House School)

***Why don't the people who write the stories make young people more aware of the help available to them? Is it possible to have a young people section in the paper or their own newspaper?*** Lily (Tilbury Primary School)

***What support could you give the Gypsy and Traveller community in developing a mystery shopping project on local services?***

Gypsy and Traveller Project

***Would it be possible to have more play equipment for young people aged over 12 on Pearson Park and Fisher Park, e.g. bigger climbing frames, swings and a little shelter for young people to chill out in?***

Yong Ming (Hull & East Yorkshire Chinese School)

***Why hasn't the camera outside our school ever worked?***

Daniel (Tilbury Primary School)

***Around lack of halal food in schools - Who decides on religious food requirements and how can we have an impact on that?***

Darren (Education and Dialogue Charity) and Ugur (Hull Anatolian Society)

***How can we organise more walking buses or other safer/healthier ways to travel to school?***

Bethany (Stepney Primary School)



## 13's and over Workshop: HOW CAN WE GET MORE INVOLVED?



### As an individual?

- Stand up for yourself.
- Stand up for your friends.
- Help each other.
- Let your feelings rise.
- Say what you think/speak out.
- Try to be independent.
- Take risks.
- Stand up for what you believe in.
- Go online.
- Find out what people want/are interested in.
- Ask questions.
- Talk more and express your ideas.
- Share your ideas.
- Put up posters about our concerns.
- Have more clubs.
- Listen to others.
- Organise petitions and talk to people about your ideas/concerns.
- Make an effort to do something.
- Join in/be interactive.
- Talk to a teacher about your views.
- Have fun.
- Don't be afraid to speak out against others/voice your opinions.

## With the support of adults?



- Raise money.
- Get them to listen to you more.
- Tell them what you want to happen.
- Ask them to help you tidy up the parks.
- Let them know how you feel.
- Do Lifestyle 200.
- Share ideas with them.
- Working together and helping each other.
- Tell them what's wrong.
- Help each other.
- Let young people organise things/help with the planning.
- Listen to each other and get advice.
- Use each other's ideas.
- Help the environment.

## As a Parliament?



- More workshops.
- Listen to everyone without being biased.
- Talking to more people.
- All say something and make sure you get heard.
- Work as a team.
- More information from schools and Youth Forums.

- Express yourself.,
- Talk with other people.
- Discuss problems and issues.
- Bring in people from Houses of Parliament/Buckingham Palace, e.g. Queen, Gordon Brown.
- Share ideas to make it better.
- Discuss with class/groups.
- Talk to decision-makers.
- Listen to each other's ideas.
- More attention in the media.
- More promotion, e.g. young people's page in Hull Daily Mail.
- Representatives should be split up during workshops.
- Questionnaires.
- Arrange a time for people who want to do something to talk to Councillors about their ideas.
- Smaller workshop groups.
- Having days to meet and discuss the resolutions.
- Have ambassadors who meet occasionally.

### As a group?



- Share ideas with each other/adults.
- Do more/different activities.
- Do more questionnaires.
- Interact with others.
- Join a club/youth group.
- Work as a team.
- Talk to each other.
- Help each other.
- Co-operation.
- Information sent to schools.
- Get more involved.

- Voice your opinions.
- Express your ideas to a group and work together to make it happen.
- Talk more to the group - don't spend the whole time in silence.
- Tell your School Council what you what to change.
- Divide people into smaller groups and split up reps into different rooms during workshops (spread our more ideas etc).
- Get together every once in a while and talk about your views.
- Don't be shy.
- Ask people what they think.
- Stick together.
- Express your feelings.
- Questionnaires.
- Decide what everyone likes.
- Ask for help.
- Meet new people.
- Groups from 16-25 for some of the events.
- Ask your friends what they think.

Now that you have told us how you can become more involved in making the Hull Young People's Parliament even bigger and better, with your help and the help of others, we now hope that you do everything you can to make it happen! The Hull Young People's Parliament can only work when the children and young people of Hull get really involved and tell us what needs to be done so that things are better for everyone. So, make sure that you keep working with each other, your Teachers, Youth Workers, Community Workers and anyone else who wants to make a difference. Remember, you can and do make a difference!

### **Decision Makers Workshop - Hear by Right's Ladder of Participation**



As was mentioned earlier four Assistant Heads from Hull City Council got together in a short workshop looking at what they could do regarding involving children and young people in decision making. This workshop also wanted to ask the Assistant Heads how good they thought their own departments were at involving children and young people in

decision making! Here is a brief summary of the conversations that took place:

- There is not enough involvement of children and young people in decision making and that children and young people also need to be asked about what issues they want to be consulted about.
- More work has to be done with adults about raising awareness of the need to involve children and young people more and the benefits of this.
- Adults need to be more aware of communication issues when working with young people such as language, jargon and relationship building with groups of children and young people.
- More 'quality' contact time needs to be made available so that children and young people and decision makers can work more and better with each other.
- Adults need to be educated better in order for them to see the many benefits that involving children and young people can bring.

If you would like more information about the *Ladder of Participation* visit the *National Youth Association* website at [www.nya.org.uk](http://www.nya.org.uk)

### What you thought of the day!



how the day went!

As usual we are always interested in what you have to say about your experiences at the Hull Young People's Parliament. We always listen to what you tell us and this is important in order for us to get it right so- it's really useful when you give us your feedback. Below is a list of your thoughts and ideas on

## Young People:



### Have you enjoyed the day?

No

It was okay                      1

Yes                                      20

### What have/haven't you enjoyed?

#### Enjoyed

- I enjoyed everything x 4
- Games.
- Act Now x 7.
- Food/drinks x 3
- The voting
- Council Chamber x 2.
- Looking back/forward at things that need to be sorted.
- It was a good experience and different from the last one x 3.
- The groups - they were much more organised.
- Missing school.
- It was okay because it was the first time I had been to the Parliament.

### Have you learned anything today?

No                                      3

Yes                                      17

### What have you learned today?

- How to change my opinion and respect other's views.
- Everything.
- Haven't learned anything but I still enjoyed it x 2.
- That 18's look like they are over 21.

- Stuff about the community.
- What other people do in their schools x 2.
- Not to turn out like a nothing.
- That everyone's opinion counts.
- What changes have been made x 2.
- About Hull's concerns/issues x 2.
- How to express our feelings x 2.
- That it doesn't matter where you live.
- About CHYP and other groups of young people.

**Is there anything you would like to see changed at the next Hull Young People's Parliament?**



- No nut bars - lots of people are allergic x 2.
- No x 13.
- No, if it's like this it will be okay and I hope I can come next time.
- I would talk about health and stuff.
- Better sandwiches.

**Adults:**

**Have you enjoyed the day?**

No

It was okay                      1

Yes                                      2

**Could we do anything to make it better next time?**

No                                      1

Yes                                      1

What could we do?

- You need to put some more issues about different cultures/different ethnic backgrounds.

Is there anything you would like to say about the next Hull Young People's Parliament?

- We would like to see something about Muslim or other different ethnic groups problems - as we are Muslim, we felt alone.
- If crime is picked again maybe we need to spend longer on discussion and feeding back

Thank You



As usual, a lot of planning and help goes into making the Hull Young People's Parliament a successful and enjoyable day. So, a big Thank You to everyone for attending.

Also, thanks to the many facilitators, helpers, funders, Panel members and Assistant Heads who helped out in the workshops and question and answer sessions, the staff and caterers at The Guildhall, Act Now Entertainment, the Young Advisors, Kevin Greene of Kevin Greene Photography and everyone else who helped in making the day a great success.

A Date for your Diary Please note that the next Hull Young People's Parliament will be held at The Guildhall on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October and will be themed on Crime. Invites will be sent out soon - hope to see you all there!