



Consultation

Young People 11-25 years old

Stage One

In order to consult with the young people of Carmarthenshire it was extremely important that the Play Officer worked closely with the Participation Officers within Carmarthenshire County Council.

As there was no mention of young people within the draft Play Strategy it was suggested by Sarah Powell that we send questionnaires to youth settings within Carmarthenshire. The questionnaires were collated and included within the main body of the final version of the Draft Play Strategy. 281 questionnaires were returned within the timescale and a further 80 were returned after the closing date.

Having received the questionnaires the Play Officer and both Participation officers worked collaboratively in order to devise a plan for the consultation workshops. Sarah Powell piloted the workshops with the Carmarthenshire Youth Council on a residential weekend and they provided their feedback on the consultation format and suggested some changes to the format. Carmarthenshire Youth Council have been invited to judge the logo and title competition.

Stage Two

Where

Pantycelyn Comprehensive School
Maesyryrfa Comprehensive School
Amman Valley Comprehensive School
Trinity College - cancelled
Llanelli SMART
Bryngwyn Comprehensive School
Carmarthenshire Youth Council

Format

15 minutes: Introduction

- Introduce ourselves – Sarah, Nia, Caryl
- Explain why we are here, what we are doing, what will we do with the information gathered
- Handout the summary sheets (explaining about the Play Strategy)

15 minutes: Brain Storming/Paper carousel

- 5 groups, Flipchart, Pens and question card (see below) for discussion
- One member of each group to record responses

20 minutes: Open Discussion regarding the Brain Storming Exercise

10 minutes: Feedback/Questions

Question cards

What play opportunities have you got?
(what would you like to do? What stops you from taking part etc)

What helps you feel safe when playing?
(is park equipment safe, supervision from an adult etc)

What do you think about adults helping you play?
(do adults understand what your needs are, do adults listen to you, do adults do what they want to do or can you have a say)

What do you think about play in your community?
(are there activities/projects available for you to take part in physical activities, leisure centres, sports clubs, parks, what do you do in your spare time)

What do you think about play in schools?
(what activities are on offer, access, times etc)

Responses

What do you think about play in your community?

The young people stated that more clubs were needed such as aerobics and gymnastics. The majority of the young people highlighted that there is a lack of advertising in relation to play opportunities within the community and that the majority of provision is located within the towns. Another barrier towards young people accessing provision within Carmarthenshire is transport. Young people feel that local transport is costly (young people 16 years and older pay adult prices) and that timetables are infrequent and it is unclear where buses and trains stop and pick up. Furthermore, young people feel that accessing facilities such as leisure centres, gyms and clubs is very costly. It was also highlighted that dog fouling, litter and vandalism are a problem within the community along with a lack of adequate lighting and shelter.

What play opportunities have you got?

The young people's responses varied within this section. Many listed football, basketball and leisure centres. However, some young people didn't feel they could access opportunities due to cost, transport, poorly maintained facilities and a lack of age appropriate provision.

Play in schools

Many young people stated that there were opportunities within school to play football, swimming, fencing, rugby, netball and hockey. Several of the young people highlighted that there was a lack of opportunities for year 10, 11, 12 and 13 pupils. They stated that they did not participate in any form of physical activity and would welcome being allowed to attend or arrange an aerobics class or the school gym. Furthermore, some stated that break times were not long enough to allow them to participate in activities and some explained that being kept in at break times was used as a form of punishment.

Adults helping you play

The majority of young people felt that the adults had the overriding power to make decisions regarding provision. Many felt that adults had a role in play provision as long as they weren't too controlling, gave structure and were able to see young people's point of view.

Being safe

Most of the young people stated that police presence and CCTV contributed to making them feel safe. The young people suggested that more speed calming measures were needed along with better lighting in order to make them feel safer.

What next?

The feedback and views received from the consultation workshops will be included within the final version of the Carmarthenshire Play Strategy. The final document will be launched in July 2008 and all primary and secondary schools and youth settings will receive a copy.