



City of
BRADFORD
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Report of the Area Coordinator to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on Thursday 28th Feb 2019.

AA

Subject:

Bradford South Youth Summit October 2018

Summary statement:

The report covers the Bradford South Youth Summit that explored issues related to young people and social mobility. This work was led by the Young Ambassadors group which supports the work of the Bradford Opportunity Area Fund.

Mick Charlton
Bradford South Area Coordinator

Report Contact: Mena Monnan
Workforce Development Officer
Phone: (01274) 431155
E-mail: mick.charlton@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio:
Safer and Stronger Communities
Abdul Jabar
Overview & Scrutiny Area: Corporate

1. SUMMARY

The report covers the Bradford South Youth Summit that explored issues related to young people and social mobility. This work was led by the Young Ambassadors group which supports the work of the Bradford Opportunity Area Fund.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 What is the Opportunity Area Fund?

The Department for Education identified Bradford as one of the ten cities to pilot the Opportunity Area Fund Plan. The local plan is about young people's education and social mobility. In his message, The Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP Secretary of State for Education says "*Bradford is the definition of an Opportunity Area: a young, diverse city, creating a new generation of home-grown entrepreneurs, working alongside established, national employers to reclaim Bradford's proud history as a great city of industry. In Bradford's most effective schools, and further and higher education institutions, partnerships with employers are producing a workforce with the ambition and skills to make the city a leader in research and new technologies. This plan confirms the commitment of the Department for Education, schools across Bradford, and our partners in the local authority, business and the community, to making that message a reality for every pupil in the city.*"

The Bradford Opportunity Area Fund Local Plan has four main priorities:

- **Priority 1 – Strengthening school leadership and the quality of teaching.**
- **Priority 2 – Parents and Place: literacy and learning.**
- **Priority 3 – Improving access to rewarding careers.**
- **Priority 4 – Using evidence and research to remove barriers to learning.**

At the heart of the plan is the commitment to young people in Bradford. To empower young people to influence and lead its delivery, as well as evaluating and holding us to account on the impact of our work. This will be undertaken by:

Listening to Views ~ Influencing Change~ Co-production ~ Research & Evaluation

The Young Ambassadors group is the mechanism for young people from across the District to have their say and advocate on behalf of young people on education and social mobility. The Young Ambassadors group is supported by

the Youth Service and is facilitated by Youth Work Apprenticeship Team. Five Youth Summits will take place across the District to gather young people's views, experiences and recommendations to take forward. The first Youth Summit to take place was in Bradford South, as outlined below.

2.3 The Health Foundation Inquiry Report 2018

The focus of the first Youth Summit in Bradford South was to consult young people on the findings from *The Health Foundation Inquiry Report, 2018*. The Inquiry Report sought to identify what it is like for young people to grow up and live in Bradford.

The aim of the Summit was to gather information on whether young people from Bradford South had similar needs to the findings of the inquiry and/or whether there were any additional areas of need identified. The inquiry report focused on four key themes detail below and in, Appendix 1:

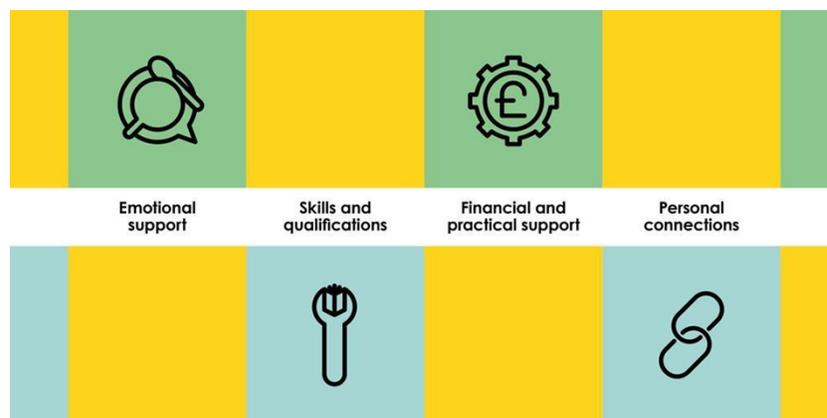


Image 1, 2 & 3: Young People involved in identifying what is like for young people to grow up and live in Bradford,
The Health Foundation Inquiry Report, 2018.



2.4 The Summit in Bradford South

The Bradford South Youth Summit was held on the 24th October 2018 at Richard Dunn Sports Centre. The event was opened by Anne-Marie Canning, Independent Chair from the Bradford Opportunity Fund Board.

Over 100 young people attended the event, supported by children and young people's practitioners. The format for the event, (See Appendix II), was to hold various creative consultations workshops with young people. That were fun to take part in and used youth work young person centred methods of engagement. The Young Ambassadors and Apprentice Youth Work Team delivery were supported by the South Team, Opportunity Area Fund Officers, Bradford South Area Chair, and May McQuade & Shazia Bibi from the Health Inquiry Report in order to deliver the event. After the consultation event young people were offered the opportunity to socialise and take part in team building & sports activities. Access the Richard Dunn Sports Centre facilities of the swimming pool, main sports hall offering team badminton and football.



Bradford South Youth Summit

Image 4: Opening of the event by Anne-Marie Canning, Independent Chair for Bradford Opportunity Area Fund. Image 5&6 consultation activities.

Following completing the youth summit, the young ambassadors group began to compile and prioritise the feedback received from young people. Identifying the key tasks to take forward and to feedback to the Opportunity Area Fund Board. Exploring which organisations and services could support and assist in meeting what young people, have identified supports growing up and living in Bradford.

Youth Service Young Ambassadors Group at Culture Fusion Building, Bradford 1.



2.5 Conclusions from the event

The consultation feedback from the event confirmed that young people from Bradford South had similar needs and were in support of endorsing the findings of *The Health Inquiry Report 2018*.

Where you live in Bradford makes a difference to the opportunities young people get. We need to make sure all young people get opportunities, not just a few.

The Young Ambassadors group identified the following priorities to take forward:

Personal Connections:

1. Students to be offered more work experience opportunities so they will have a better understanding about the world of work and increase awareness of different career options. This needs to be offered throughout secondary education and not only in the final year.

2. Peer support enables young people to develop relationships with other young people of mutual benefit. These can help young people to develop skills in making connections with more people.

Right Skills & Qualifications:

3. Essential life skills should always be on offer in schools, for example, practical skills in budgeting, paying rent, bills, or what jobs to go into.
4. Skills that young people learn at school need to enable students to find a broad range of opportunities, including apprenticeships.

Emotional Support:

5. Increase awareness of mental health and where young people can go for support. Let young people know 'it's ok not to be ok'. Awareness should start in primary school.
6. There should be more opportunities for young people to join groups and activities where they live. These groups should be organised so young people can socialise and get peer support from each other, as well as involvement in the activity itself.

Financial & Practical Support:

7. The cost of public transport restricts many young people from seeking opportunities.
8. Tuition fees, and other costs, stop many young people from choosing university. Bradford University could promote itself better locally and this could be a better option for some young people.

The Young Ambassadors recognise working together with adults who have influence and a stakeholder say, is integral to making a difference in the lives of young people growing up in Bradford. The group have identified the need to work with the following:

- Councillors
- BOA Board/ Schools
- Public sector service providers
- Businesses
- Different routes into employment – for example, apprenticeships.
- Young people themselves
- Education institutions

See Appendix III for young people's ideas on how to take forward.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 How the committee will work with the Young Ambassadors on the key themes

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

4.1 There are no financial implications related directly to this report.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There is no legal requirement for the Council.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

Social mobility varies between different communities within the Bradford District.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

None.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

None.

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from the recommendations below.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no implications for Trade Unions.

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific ward implications.

7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

None

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That the Area Committee notes the priorities from the Young Ambassadors on page 6 of the report and works with the Youth Service to design engagement with young people that enables a dialogue and empowers young people to act.
- 9.2 That Councillors consider which priorities identified by young people they can take action on and involve the right key partners to effect change.

10. APPENDICES

- APPENDIX I Report of the Bradford South Youth Summit
- APPENDIX II South Youth Summit 2018 - Briefing Note & Event Plan
- APPENDIX III Young Ambassadors Group: Bradford South Youth Summit Feedback & Outcomes

11. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

APPENDIX I

The Health Inquiry Report: Key Findings.

Personal connections -



What young people told us and what they think needs to change

- Young people are relying on friends and family, rather than formal or professional support networks.
- Young people follow the crowd too much, rather than making individual choices.
- Schools are too disconnected from businesses, and work experience is too short-lived.
- A lack of inspiration and drive among young people is due to the lack of job opportunities, and too many 'dead-end jobs'.
- Bradford University is not recognised enough, so young people don't necessarily see a future for themselves in Bradford and this needs to change.

Right skills and qualifications -



What young people told us and what they think needs to change

- There isn't enough focus on life skills at school. Young people aren't taught how to write CVs, cook or manage money.
- Lack of funding for schools is an issue. Schools don't have enough money to provide great practical learning.
- Young people are learning from older friends. This can be positive but also negative.
- Youth organisations are important. They teach practical skills, keep people off the streets, motivate them, and help with job opportunities.
- Young people are concerned about unemployment and lack of jobs. They are not ready to go into the world of work
- There isn't enough focus on life skills at school. Young people aren't taught how to write CVs, cook or manage money.
- Lack of funding for schools is an issue. Schools don't have enough money to provide great practical learning.
- Young people are learning from older friends. This can be positive but also negative.
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- Young people are concerned about unemployment and lack of jobs. They are not ready to go into the world of work.

Emotional support -



What young people told us and what they think needs to change

- Being part of a group of any kind makes young people feel more stable and supported.
- Emotional support from family and friends transforms young people's development. Yet some young people have no-one.
- There is a gap between what young people really need and the reality of mental health services. Waiting times are unacceptable.
- Young people feel there is a strong link between arts activities and emotional well-being.
- Focus on youth groups that bring young people together to work for a shared purpose, rather than just 'chilling'.
- Sessions on mental health in schools should start at primary age, so young people are made aware.
- Young people need to be encouraged to talk openly to family, friends and teachers.
- The arts are not an add-on, it's a way for young people express themselves – there should be more opportunities for arts.
- Advertise the help that is out there – No-one should have no-one by 2020!

Financial and practical support -



What young people told us and what they think needs to change

- Most young people depend on their family for financial support – but some families cannot help out.
- Bradford is well connected internally, with Leeds and surrounding areas – but the cost of transport is a big barrier.
- There may be lots of places to work, but most people feel the money they get isn't enough, as the cost of living is so high.
- Some young people resort to selling drugs to make money. This leads to other issues such as addictions, debt, and criminal records.
- Young people lack financial knowledge. Schools don't teach it. There may be support services that people aren't aware of.
- Free transportation should be a young person's right – it is essential that we are connected and can look for opportunities beyond our post code.

- Students should be taught financial skills, such how to pay bills and taxes. This should be a requirement for all.
- Job opportunities are needed to combat the high levels of young people resorting to selling drugs.
- The support that's available should be advertised more and in places that young people look – people don't know what's there.

Appendix II Youth Summit 2018 - Briefing Note & Event Plan:



Bradford South Youth Summit Event Date: Wednesday 24th October 2018 1pm to 4pm for main session.

Event Comperes: **Mernayha Hodgson**, Apprentice Youth Worker.
2 Young Ambassadors.

Timeline for the day:

1pm to 1.10pm – **Anne- Marie Canning, Independent Chair of Bradford Opportunity Area Partnership Board Welcome introduction and talk:**

1.10pm – 1.15pm **May McQuade and Shazia Bibi:** Health Foundation Report and Leaders Unlocked – What Young people said it is like to grown up and live in Bradford and what needs to happen.

1.15pm – 1.20pm **Mernayha & Young Ambassadors** – House Keeping & Format for the Day.

1.20pm – 1.30pm **Jordenne Birch**, young person her Journey & Performance

1.30pm – 2pm Activity 1: Young people do one of the four themes (30 mins)

2pm – 2.45pm Activity 2: Young people do one of the four themes (15 mins)

2.45pm – 3.15pm Break for food

3.15pm – 3.30pm **HD his Journey** & Performance.

3.30pm – 3.45pm, Activity 3: Young people do one of the four themes (15 mins)

3.45pm – 4.00pm, Activity 4 Young people do one of the four themes (15 mins)

4.00pm – 4.15pm, Q&A and Next steps

4.30pm - 7pm – Free swim. Team building & sports activities. Young Person, **Kirsty Taylor** facilitating performing arts & lyricist workshop.

Appendix III

Young Ambassadors Group: Bradford South Youth Summit – Feedback & Outcomes

The Bradford South Youth Summit was based on The Health Inquiry Report 2018, that identified 4 key themes that affected young people, these are listed below. After looking at each area we found that changes need to be made within each theme and suggestions of action points were made by our Young Ambassadors that will be followed up.

Themes

There were a range of statements from young people in Bradford that felt there were a number of issues they were facing. At the summit we based our workshops around this information and asked young people whether or not they agreed with these statements. Below are the top 2 statements they agreed with.

Theme 1 – **Personal Connections**

1. Students to be offered more work experience opportunities so they will have a better understanding about the world of work and increase awareness of different career options. 74 young people agreed.
2. Peer support enables young people to develop relationships with other young people of mutual benefit. These can help young people to develop skills in making connections with more people. 39 young people agreed.

Ambassadors suggested Action Points:

1. NHS Careers, explore with Sasha Bhatt opportunities for young people.
2. Local communities to promote through social media etc. the Duke of Edinburgh award – D of E to come in and talk to young people in schools and in local communities.
3. Contact the Chief Executive through letter or email to push for more young people to get experience in council-based jobs.
4. Links with banks such as Barclays to gain experience through short term apprenticeships.
5. Linking with local home-grown businesses such as Seabrook and Morrisons for work experience.
6. Encourage Councillors to have a Councillor Takeover Day Challenge.
7. Young Ambassadors to promote and verbally communicate to youth groups and other local activities.

8. BOA Board of head teachers to promote local youth groups back to their schools.
9. Businesses can have an event where they can organise workshops for young people to participate in.

Theme 2 – Right Skills & Qualifications

1. Essential life skills should always be on offer in schools, for example, practical skills in budgeting, paying rent, bills, or what jobs to go into. What is actually available?
22 young people agreed.

Ambassadors suggested Action Points:

1. Promote essential life skills in schools as part of the normal school day – speak and meet with head teachers through the BOA Board.
 2. Duke of Edinburgh – more publicity.
 3. Meetings with BOA Board to discuss curriculum.
 4. Wider knowledge of the range of apprenticeships = better qualifications from them.
 5. More covering of different skills - speak to head of education and liaise with local businesses, contact local councillors about it, sign post.
 6. Face to face meeting with Portfolio Holder for Education.
2. Skills that young people learn at school need to enable students to find a broad range of opportunities, including apprenticeships.

Ambassadors suggested Action Points:

1. Mix in with financial lessons – professionals in finance to educate on financial skills.
2. Better job opportunities for younger people - more focused education to support this – again liaise with local finance companies and education boards etc.
3. Lessons on paying bills and mortgages – get into contact with local banks/building societies to see what training/work experience they could offer for young people - head of branch/branch manager.
4. Petition to bring to the Council.
5. Meet with governor of local schools/colleges
6. Contact local councillors.
7. Meet with BOA Board see what links they have.
8. Offer in terms of change in curriculum.
9. Hold a consultation where feedback on curriculum is given – feed this back to school boards/governors.

10. During PSHCE lessons - mandatory. Consistent throughout schools, speak to heads.
11. How to pay tax lessons – workshops, bring in externals.
12. Start a campaign.

Theme 3 – **Emotional Support**

1. Increase **awareness of mental health** and where young people can go for support. Let young people know 'it's ok not to be ok'. Awareness should start in primary school. 18 young people agreed
2. There should be more opportunities for young people to join **groups and activities where they live**. These groups should be organised so young people can socialise and get peer support from each other, as well as involvement in the activity itself

Ambassadors suggested Action Points:

1. Primary schools to make posters.
2. Assemblies in schools
3. Talk to Sasha Bhatt - Mental Health Commissioner.
4. Go to BOA Board.
5. YouTube videos.
6. Get the NHS involved.
7. Promote it on social media, schools online.
8. Dr Natalie Jewitt – project, lead/ clinical psychologist “Jenby’s In School” – promoting and improving child mental health in schools.
9. Raising awareness on primary and secondary schools through interactive awareness like games and colours, not overloading children - giving them safe spaces, letting them know its ok or cry.
10. Community mingling.
11. More signposting from organisations in local communities.
12. Primary school teachers should be trained in mental health.
13. Workshops for parents to educate them on mental health.
14. Support from elder children in school – peer supports, training for how to deal with issue.

Theme 4 – **Financial & Practical Support:**

1. The cost of public transport restricts many young people from seeking opportunities. 10 young people agreed with this statement.

2. Tuition fees, and other costs, stop many young people from choosing university. Bradford University could promote itself better locally and this could be a better option for some young people.

Ambassadors suggested Action Points:

1. Making public transport cheaper – speaking with bus companies, starting a petition to get prices low, support offered by Cllr Ruth Wood.
2. Getting someone from University to come and talk to students about student finance.
 - a. Better link between schools and universities.
 - b. Having trips to universities.
 - c. Promoting open days more.
 - d. Kids not knowing about how to go university.