

Richmond Youth Forum

Manifesto

2008-2009

Where do you stand...



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Our pledge to young people in Richmond upon Thames

We will:

- Promote and aim for young people to be meaningfully involved in decision making on issues that directly or indirectly affect them (Article 12, United Conventions on the Rights of the Child)
- Promote positive images of young people
- Empower all young people to take part in decision making
- Create opportunities and campaign to get more young people actively involved in decision making
- Challenge all forms of discrimination as we believe that young people have the same rights regardless of race, ethnic group, gender, age, sexual orientation, disability, political or religious beliefs, personal status or health
- Support the Youth Parliament Members and elections to make sure that as many young people as possible have the opportunity to experience a voting system and stand for election



Introduction

What is a youth manifesto?

The Richmond Youth Forum represents young people in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. The Youth Forum, in discussion with various young people, has produced a list of important issues that matter to the young people who live, work, play or are in education in the borough. This manifesto is a guide that sets out work and campaigns for Richmond Youth Forum.

The Richmond Youth Forum Manifesto 2008-2009

Background

This manifesto has been developed through a consultation process involving several groups of young people since April 2007. We consulted young people through:

- A conference for young people held at Heatham House
- Youth Forum members taking questionnaires to schools and student councils
- Focus groups organised and facilitated by Youth Forum
- Reviewing what young people said in previous consultations
- Researching issues that young people have told us that are important to them at national conferences and debates

The manifesto is broken down into the three broad areas that young people highlighted as important:

Crime and safety

Youth facilities and provision

Healthy, body and mind

Professional champions supporting our manifesto

Crime and safety: Dave Henfrey, Chief Inspector Community and Policy, Metropolitan Police

Youth facilities: Robert Henderson, Head of Integrated Youth Support Service, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Health, body and mind: Mary Mullix, Associate Director, Service for Children and Families, Primary Care Trust

Their role will be to promote the youth manifesto, communicate with young people and support their active involvement in creating change.

Crime and safety

Stop and search

Young people feel they are often stopped and searched for no reason.

This could be improved through:

- raising young people's awareness of their stop and search rights
- producing young people friendly publicity about stop and search rights (leaflets, posters, articles in youth magazine Outskirts)
- young people developing an understanding of the job police have to do
- police and community support officers talking to young people through schools and other youth settings, to explain their role in stop and search and why they do it

Fear of crime

Young people often don't feel safe on streets, estates and in parks especially at night.

This could be improved through:

- better police presence, especially at night
- better lighting
- more CCTVs
- creating opportunities for young people to meet with police to discuss safety issues

Staying safe and reporting crime

Young people have told us they don't feel confident to report crime. For instance, lots of young people have said their mobile phones had been stolen, but they never reported it.

This could be improved through:

- encouraging young people to report crime
- information being made available for young people on how and why to report crime
- schools and youth settings encouraging and supporting young people to report crimes
- providing support for young people to stay safe (interactive workshops, leaflets, police property marking) and publicising the results of convictions

"If the people who steal the phones see police involvement, it will act as a better deterrent. We will see reported crime rise as such, but it means young people will feel safer."

(Comment from young person, attending Youth Manifesto Conference, April 2007)

Police priorities

Young people would like to influence and understand how policing priorities are set.

This could be improved through:

- safer neighbourhood teams talking to young people in young people friendly places
- providing more opportunities for young people to feed back to police on issues that matter to them

Bullying

We believe bullying is an issue, not only in schools but, in various settings. More needs to be done to stop the cause of bullying and support the young people who have experienced being bullied.

This could be improved through:

- an anti-bullying strategy
- more programmes or workshops to raise awareness of bullying
- good information and support on how to report bullying
- more information and advice where to get help
- restorative justice programmes available in schools
- widening the role of peer mentors to support and educate bullies

"I don't need a bodyguard - the bullies need a peer mentor, not me!"

(Comment from a Year 7 Shene pupil attending a Youth Forum Meeting 2008)

Youth facilities and provision

Informing and advertising

We believe that the young people of Richmond upon Thames do not have enough information on youth centres in the borough.

This could be improved through:

- a poster competition involving young people in the borough to advertise youth clubs
- information on clubs advertised in all schools, Pupil Referral Services, private and special needs schools, shop windows, and the Youth Magazine
- better web and social networking sites advertising events and activities

Improvement and accessibility

We believe our youth clubs are in need of improvement, mainly in areas like disabled access, opening times and the services they provide. Existing youth clubs need funding for better facilities and areas like Whitton and Teddington are in need of a youth facility.

This could be improved through:

- running a youth mystery shopper project
- more money given for youth facilities and clubs
- more youth clubs need to provide better disabled access - for example Heatham only has disabled access in certain areas

Public toilets

Many young people in Richmond upon Thames are unaware of the Council's policy on public toilets.

This could be improved through:

- presentations made in school assemblies by Council officers about the scheme
- more young people friendly information made available to inform young people of the scheme
- a system put in place for young people to access a public toilet on a Friday and Saturday evening when only pubs and restaurants are available to over-18s

"On a Friday or Saturday night the only public toilets are in pubs and they won't allow under-18s in to use them. Where else are we meant to go?"

(Comment from a Teddington pupil attending a Youth Forum meeting, 2008)

Outdoor fitness and gyms

Young people in Richmond upon Thames feel that more and cheaper access to gyms and outdoor sports facilities are needed.

We believe this could be improved through:

- local sport centres, such as gyms and fitness centres offering cheaper or free sessions for young people;
- more and improved outdoor facilities including basketball courts, skate parks, 5-a-side football pitches, youth shelters in parks and multi-sports areas; and
- Young people consulted on best times and days for planned activities.



Health, mind and body

Sex and relationship advice

The teenage pregnancy rate in the borough has risen in 2007-2008 and sexually transmitted diseases are rising on the whole, especially with under-25s.

This could be improved through:

- a review of the sex and relationship education syllabus in schools
- standard health talks to all young people
- closer links between clinics and schools
- peer educators - training young people delivering SRE and distributing information, advice and condoms with professional supervision
- more local campaigns around areas of SRE including: types of sexual activity and infections you may pick up

"I never knew I could get a sexually transmitted infection from oral sex."

(Comment from Richmond young person attending SRE Conference, Leeds, 2008)

We believe better sex and relationship education (SRE) is needed in the borough.

Many young people we consulted were unaware of who or where their school nurse was and how much you can tell them confidentially.

We would like to see:

- better advertising of school nurses, the services they offer and their confidentiality statement
- a review of the local understanding and use of the Frazer Competency Guidelines to help young people access services more easily
- GPs based in young people friendly settings like youth centres

Healthy lifestyle

Young people in Richmond upon Thames need more and better information on eating and staying healthy.

This could be achieved through:

- more information and advice in schools and youth settings about healthy eating and diseases that can occur from an unhealthy diet, including mental health issues;
- young healthy school meal inspector programme rolled out across the borough; and
- trained workers on hand at youth centres and fitness or activity areas for young people to talk to ask advice about healthy lifestyles.

Drugs, alcohol and smoking

This is an ongoing issue for all generations, however we feel young people today should have more access to help, support and information on these topics.

Things could be improved through:

- stop smoking support groups in schools and youth clubs; and
- more trained workers in schools for young people to go to confidentially and get advice and information on drugs, alcohol and smoking with a strong focus on how to stay safe.

How do we know we've made a difference?

We want to be involved in discussion and the shaping of services for young people. We recognise that it is the professionals and services that need to listen and respond to young people. We hope that we can represent young people and their views in discussions with professionals and adults and that we can instigate changes on issues identified as important to young people.

Changes we hope to achieve: (these are not exhaustive and may change)

Manifesto area	Change we want to make	By when
Crime and safety	Support launch of an anti-bullying strategy	October 2008
	Consultation of young people to find out how safe they feel and present findings to police and the Council	TBA
	Stop and search leaflets campaign	March 2009
	Regular meeting with champion for crime and safety	Quarterly
	Young person friendly leaflet on stop and search produced	September 2009
Youth facilities	Youth poster campaign to advertise youth service facilities in the borough with accurate information	December 2008
	Mystery shopper programme of youth clubs tested and rolled out, making positive impact on youth facilities or provision	Tested December 2008 Rolled out 2009/10
	Young people friendly website offering accurate information on youth activities, social networking	April 2009
	Public toilet policy and information leaflets easily accessible to young people in schools and youth clubs	April 2009
	Regular meeting with youth facilities champion	Quarterly
	Access to health advice and information from all youth facilities	April 2009
Healthy body and mind	Healthy School Meals Inspector programme tested	TBA
	Sexual health peer education programme	October 2008
	Review of SRE education in schools	TBA
	Two stop smoking groups to support young people giving up	TBA
	GP in youth-friendly setting	September 2009
	Regular meeting with champion for body and mind	Quarterly

The end

We would like to thank:

Young people in Richmond upon Thames for openly communicating their issues with us and attending our events, Heatham House for allowing us to use their facilities and offering support, and all councillors, officers, workers and services that have met, supported and helped us to put this together.

Review

We shall review this document in September 2009.

- We will keep an up-to-date project table monitoring change throughout the year and in September 2009 we will be able to assess how far we have come
- We hope to run focus groups and questionnaires with young people to note if they have seen or felt any changes to the input into local service delivery and design, as well as the services and information they have received

The Youth Forum shall continue to support other young people and groups (partner projects) to widen participation, raising 'quality of life' for the youth of Richmond Borough, London, the UK, the EU, the Commonwealth, the World!

Some of the campaigns and organisations we support include: votes at 16, Tuition fees (not lowering the value of education and 'marketising' education), Blood for all, UK Youth Parliament; British Youth Council and UNICEF.

For further information on the Youth Forum, its structures, our latest campaigns and election process, please visit

www.richmondyouthforum.org.uk or

Email: richmondyouthforum@hotmail.com

The Richmond Youth Forum:



A collection of handwritten signatures in black ink. The names are: Thornley, Rosie, Lucie, E. Shaw, FAUWIGHT, Hasler-Young, and several other illegible signatures.

Additional members of the Youth Forum are:

Laurence Ashton, Harriet Barman, Laura Brackenbury, Daniel Burraway, Joanne Clark, Ricard Foster, Kate Haseler-Young, Lucy Heartland, Jade Hunt, Srdjan Miletic, Cassie Mitchell, Ese Okperin, Ashlyn Ridley, Lucy Voller, Cole Walsh and Anna Wilde

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Translation advice

If you have difficulty understanding this publication, please visit reception at the address below where we can arrange a telephone interpreting service.

Arabic

إذا كانت لديك صعوبة في فهم هذا المنشور، فنرجو زيارة الإستقبال في العنوان المعطى أدناه حيث بإمكاننا أن نرتب لخدمة ترجمة شفوية هاتفية.

Farsi

اگر در فهمیدن این نشریه مشکلی دارید لطفاً به مین پذیرش در آدرس قید شده در زیر مراجعه نمایید تا ترتیب ترجمه تلفنی برایتان فراهم آورده شود:

Punjabi

ਜੇਕਰ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝਣ ਵਿਚ ਮੁਸ਼ਕਲ ਪੇਸ਼ ਆਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਪਤੇ ਉੱਪਰ ਰਿਸੈਪਸ਼ਨ 'ਤੇ ਆਓ ਜਿੱਥੇ ਅਸੀਂ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਤੇ ਗੱਲਬਾਤ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਇੰਟਰਪ੍ਰਿਟਰ ਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

Please contact us if you need this leaflet in Braille, large print, on audio tape or in another language. Phone: 020 8891 7500 or Minicom: 020 8891 7539.

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