

BARNSELY School Council CONFERENCE



Interim Report

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Introduction -

**Andrew Loades,
Member of Barnsley Youth Council**

School Councils - 'Making Our Future'

We, in Barnsley, wholeheartedly believe in supporting our young people to achieve their best and work solidly to ensure that they are able to achieve their ultimate, by offering them good quality opportunities - opportunities that they want.

Being a young person myself, I know the difficulties in trying to express a voice in a matter, and standing up for what you believe in. This is why the school council charter matters so much.

The charter will not only include the points of view of young people, but will make way for young people to make changes - real changes - to the world they live in. By creating confidence and self-esteem to stand up and be listened to, the charter will create opportunities for teachers and pupils to work in a partnership, that will only add to the excellent standards we already have in Barnsley today.

Many people talk about what true democracy means. The best thing about Barnsley is that we want people to be able to shape democracy. This charter will go a long way in truly listening to what young people have to say about their wants and needs. For me, this is worth all the effort and commitment - so let's work together to make a real difference!

'Making Our Future'

Barnsley Children and School



Steering Group members

Sue Copeland	Barnsley Healthy Schools
Graham Elliott	Barnsley Arena
Andy Fleming	Barnsley Youth Service
Andrew Loades	Barnsley Youth Councillor
Sue Peirson	Barnsley LEA
Phil Rayner	NSPCC
Jane Webb	Children & Young People's Board

May 2004

Steering group set up and action plan devised.

Young People's Trust

Council Conference 19th November 2004

Aim:

- To highlight the importance of establishing and supporting effective school councils in every school in Barnsley
- To give all Barnsley children and young people the opportunity to participate in school councils and be able to enhance the quality of school life
- To ensure that the voice of children and young people is heard, enabling them to become active citizens who can make a positive contribution to their schools and communities
- To help adults recognise the contribution that children and young people can make to schools and communities.
- To build up the confidence and self esteem of children and young people
- To develop links with the Barnsley Youth Council and Children & Young People's Trust
- To enable children and young people to contribute to the 'Remaking Learning in Barnsley' agenda

The Action Plan:

- Organise a school council conference for all the secondary schools in Barnsley
- Produce a video on school councils for use as a resource for schools and for training purposes
- Organise a Residential for young people to devise a School Council Charter that will set the standard for effective school councils in all Barnsley schools
- School Council Charter will be promoted with endorsement from the Children and Young People's Trust Board, Elected Members, Youth Council, Governors, Heads etc.
- To continue to support the development of effective school councils, rolling out into primary schools across the Borough.



action

School Council Conference for Barnsley Secondary Schools Friday 19th November 2004

Barnsley Town Hall

Do you want to make your school a better place for everyone?

Do you have good ideas that you would like to see being followed up?

Would you like a chance to be listened to and involved more?

You need to be at the Barnsley School Council Conference!

So why do we need school councils?

- It's important to give pupils a voice and a right to be heard
- Involving pupils more in school helps both teaching and learning
- Being part of a school council gives pupils the chance to develop skills and make a positive contribution in their schools and communities

But what would make an effective school council?

- Finding out what students and staff think?
- Involving all students?
- Having regular and well run meetings?
- Being able to make things happen?
- Letting everyone know what is happening?
- If your school has a council what are the good and bad things about it?

- **Bring your comments, experiences and suggestions**
- **Join in workshops with pupils from other Barnsley Schools**
- **Help to write a School Council Charter for Barnsley**
- **Make your School Council effective!**

Programme of the Day

School Council Conference

9.45am	Welcome and Introduction in the Council Chamber Edna Sutton - Executive Director Education Andrew Loades - Youth Councillor
9.55am	Start the Debate - Andy Fleming and Qdos
10.05am	Workshop One - 'What Makes an Effective School Council?' Adults and young people break into separate workshop groups
11.45am	Feedback to the Panel in the Council Chamber Panel Members - Edna Sutton, Executive Director of Education Dave Webber, Lead Planning and Commissioning Officer Children and Young People's Board Andrew Loades, Youth Councillor Councillor Sharron Brook
12.00pm	Buffet Lunch and Band
12.45pm	Start of the Afternoon - back to the Council Chamber
12.50pm	Workshop Two - 'Barriers and Support'
13.40pm	Workshop Three - 'Next Steps/Actions' Young people and staff work in school groups
14.15pm	Conference Closing Comments and Feedback - Council Chamber
14.30pm	Return to Schools

workshops

Young People - Workshop Groups

ORANGE

Jenna Barlow
Ashley Bentley
Jonathan Dawson
Tyler Ellis
Kerry Garrett
Thomas Gillespie
Vicky Hancock
Jenna Hawkins
Katherine Haywood
Emma Helm
Kelsie Marshall
Robert Powell
Sam Price
Ben Thompson
Phyllis Thornton
Andrew Toth

YELLOW

Katherine Bishop
Amy Green
Jonathan Hartshorn
Charlotte Hunter
Anton Letherland
Taylor Murch
Jessica Parkinson
Ryan Pugh
Charlie Soar
Kirtsy Suffield
Thomas Taylor
Lauren Wogan

GREEN

David Atherton
Lloyd Batty
Joe Biggs
Robert Brown
Amy Butterwood
Ashley Cadman
Laura Campbell
Rebecca Collinge
Lisa Gillott
Brooke-Marie Hodgson
Annie-Leigh Holdsworth
James Lloyd
Ashley Marson
Coralie Sharpe
Mary-Ellen Wagstaff
Jack Wainwright
Casey Whelan

BLUE

Danielle Arnold
Shaun Bettley
Kyle Dawson
Emma Dryden
Nathan Duke
Rebecca Goddard
Ryan Hallsworth
Louisa Holmes
Lee Horsley
Chloe Kelly
William Patten
Kaine Smith
Rebecca Thompson
Sarah Wilson

RED

Kate Beaumont
Lee Braithwaite
Jack Brayford
Christopher Byrnes
Beth Deakin
Lindi-An Edis
Natasha Hirst
Robert Lee
Scott Mackay
Katie Markey
Laura Mythen
Lauren Robinson
Charlie Rushworth
Olivia Stuart
Jack Sylvester

Secondary Schools

that took part in the Barnsley School Council Conference

Darton High School

The Dearne High School

Dinnington Comprehensive School

Edward Sheerien School

Elmhirst School

The Foulstone School

Holgate School

Kingstone School

Kirk Balk School

Penistone Grammar School

Priory School and Sports College

Robert Ogden School

Royston High School

St Michael's Catholic and Church of England High School

Willowgarth High School

Wombwell High School

Key themes

from workshops

Theme	Young People's Suggestions / Comments	Adult / Staff Suggestions / Comments
<p>How can young people be more involved in decision making?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More regular meetings • More responsibilities for Student Councillors • Suggestion boxes in every class room • Being more hands on • Putting ideas forward • Getting feedback on ideas suggested • List each term, what needs doing and changing • Higher status for school council members • Involve students in staff meetings • Listen to students and take notice of suggestions • More good team work • Give pupils more information, choices/more involvement • Team building/fun activities • Giving responsibility • Joint decision making • Confidence to speak your mind 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask them about their curriculum/learning. • What styles of teaching help them learn more effectively • School environment/new building • Discuss healthy eating/diet • Involve them in interviews for new Staff • Involve students in helping staff and other students • Pupil bullying panels • School council meetings • Year group meetings • Student reps on governors • Tutor time • Suggestion boxes • PSHE/citizenship/all lessons • Involvement in policy making • Target setting • Peer assessment • Peer support groups • Parent Teacher Association • Discussions in form time
<p>Barriers to involving young people in decision making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment from staff • Tidy up the system • Confidentiality • Stereotyping • Judgemental attitudes • Not being listened to or taken seriously • Nothing ever happens • Trust and priorities • Budget • Lack of communication, interest, time, space • Lack of confidence in talking to staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidentiality • Worries of Staff • Lack of time, resources, management • Lack of staff expertise • Need to devise protocols • Need to improve exam results • Possible conflicts

Theme	Young People's Suggestions / Comments	Adult / Staff Suggestions / Comments
Solutions to involving young people in decision making	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up a school council • Democratic elections of reps • Draw up a code of conduct and rules • Make badges for council reps • Feedback to forms and year groups • Senior staff attend meetings • Keeping records of meetings • Mutual respect • Hold workshops • School buddies or peer guides • Fundraising • Raise profile of youth council members • School council conference/meeting room • Presentation/display board • More sharing of information about plans between students and Staff • Get help to set up school council from youth worker • More staff and support staff • Links between school council and senior manager/governors • Making ideas happen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fund raising - money/resources • Training for staff and students • Allocating dedicated time • Senior staff lead and link • Rewards for staff/students



Post Conference

**Andy Fleming,
Participation and Inclusion Manager for
Barnsley Youth Service**

"The event was fantastic and the young people did themselves, and the young people they represent proud. This is the second school council conference that has taken place at the Town Hall, and each time the event gets bigger and better. It is crucial that this work continues until all students feel that they have an avenue to ensure their voices are heard within their secondary school".

**Sue Copeland,
Healthy Schools Co-ordinator for
Barnsley Primary Care Trust**

"The day came as a result of partnership working in its true sense, where an idea around developing effective school councils, was transformed into a participative, interactive conference. The process of empowering young people to work in partnership with staff from their school was supported in a stimulating and engaging environment".



Quotes

from adults attending:

**Councillor Sharron Brook
(Panel Member at the Conference)**

"The only time that young people are noticed and spoken about in this twenty first century, is when people see the minority misbehaving. Why can't the so-called adults look beyond this small minority, and see the majority of wonderful, talented young adults in all our schools and villages? To add to this, how I would love to see more older adults, especially Councillors, get on board alongside these young people and help them through the river of bureaucracy, to help them reach their ultimate goal and let their voices be heard along the way".

**Edna Sutton,
Executive Director Education
(Panel Member at the Conference)**

"The conference confirmed the importance we place on ensuring that all children and young people are encouraged to participate in decision making, as well as to develop personally and socially".

**Dave Webber,
Lead Planning and Commissioning Officer,
Children and Young People's Board
(Panel Member at the Conference)**

"It was a great day. The enthusiasm and commitment of young people and staff generated very good ideas and proposals. School Councils provide opportunities for children and young people of all ages and abilities to participate and make positive contributions. I hope the School Council Charter is adopted in all Barnsley Schools and the voices of children and young people influence all of us.



Next Steps

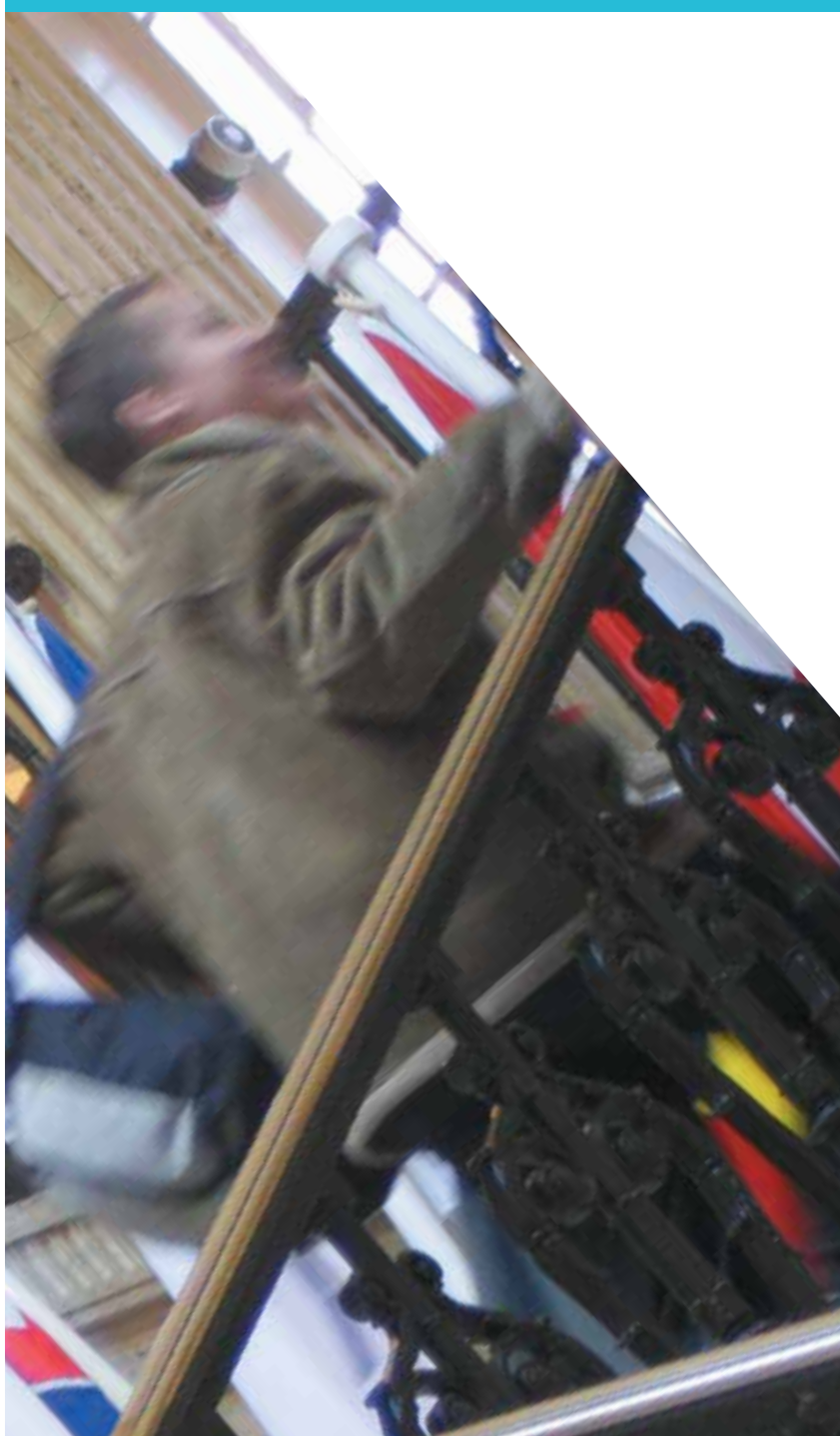
towards a Barnsley School Council Charter

- The steering group is now organising a one night residential for some of the students who attended the conference.
- This will involve looking at the action points recorded at the conference and using these to develop a School Council Charter that will set the standard for effective school councils in all Barnsley Schools.
- The Charter will then be presented to the Barnsley Children and Young People's Board, Elected Members of BMBC, Barnsley Youth Council, School Governing Bodies and Senior Management Teams etc. for their endorsement.
- The School Council Steering Group will continue to promote and support the development of effective school councils, encouraging the roll out of the programme into Barnsley Primary schools.
- Barnsley Youth Council will develop links with school councils and help to create opportunities for young people to get their voices heard.
- A video will be produced for use as a training resource for teachers and pupils across Barnsley. This will be available to other areas as an example of good practice.

action points

Adult Workshop

Group Activity



Useful Definitions

Citizenship

- Communicating with others on issues which concern everyone
- Taking into consideration each other's opinions

Consultation

- Being involved by seeking advice
- Asking for and providing opinions
- Taking part in the decision-making process

Participation

- Active involvement by individuals/groups in activity
- Having the opportunity to voice own opinion/view to influence outcomes/actions

Involvement

- Taking part
- Liaising together - range of participants
- Having opportunities to take part
- Clear outcomes/benefits from taking part

Empowerment

- Students' views have been listened to and taken seriously
- Students are given money, time and support
- Students see their ideas come to fruition

Opinions



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council



Healthy Schools



NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. **FULL STOP.**