

# THE YOUTH SUMMIT

The National Youth Agency

Monday 25th - Tuesday 26th June 2007  
New Connaught Rooms, London WC2



## Wylie Calls for National Youth Board

*The 10 year Plan for Young People* told of the changing landscape within the Youth Sector giving ideas on what needs to happen to make children and young people's lives better. Tom Wylie suggested working in partnership, recognising youth workers and having an annual report on the wellbeing of children and young people.

Wylie, very passionately, stated that we need to 'do more with and for young people'. It was proposed that a National Youth Board be created by Government, chaired by a Minister. Members would include Local Authorities, Community Organisations and young people.

People have been agreeing with the general proposal but it is clear that we need to make sure it is youth led and that young people are involved in the development. There's no point if it's just another "political pressure group" set up without the buy-in of young people that is not going to change anything.

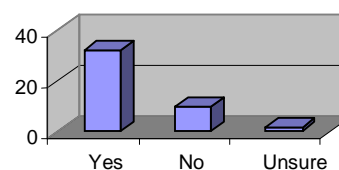
"...it would be unreal to have a government minister chairing a young people's board; this could influence young people's perception," from a blog on [live.youthsummit.co.uk](http://live.youthsummit.co.uk).

Parmjit Dhanda MP agrees to take this idea away and look at it in more detail but believes that just having a Board itself will not affect change – it's the people and the work that they do that creates change.

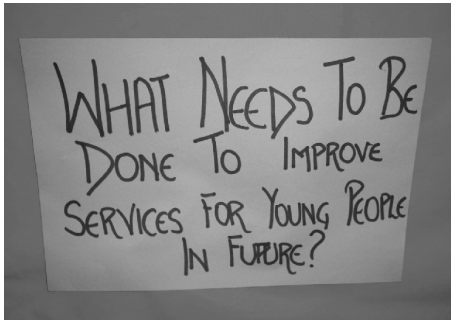


Tom Wylie, the 'conviction politician', will be retiring from The NYA this summer, leaving behind a strong influence and support for children and young people's rights.

**POLL - should there be a youth board chaired by a minister? (Votes from the website and delegates)**



## THE 5 OUTCOMES – WHAT YOU THINK ...



### BEING HEALTHY

Being healthy is an important issue for young people. There is nothing that is challenging McDonalds, Burger King or KFC - there are no alternatives. How can they be healthy when there is only one healthy takeaway in every six?

Being healthy is not just about healthy eating; we need to remember it's also about mental health and creating a safe environment for everyone in the community. We need to make sure that there is more communication between older and young people so that we understand and respect each other and can share our local environment.

There's a lot to be done to improve things. There needs to be enough funding to run different services for long enough. Young people need to believe in themselves. Service providers need to keep asking young people what works and fund it, they need to rise above politics, create consistency and make sure there's a health service which meets young people's needs.



### ENJOYING and ACHIEVING

Have we really got this right? More and more time is spent on trying to get money for short term projects while less is being spent with young people. Targets are on hard outcomes while the skills that young people value are being left out for the sake of targets and getting funding.

It's not fair ... young people are being given money according to their family income (EMA); they don't know what's available or how to access it and need support. NACRO believes that the previous system of training allowances were fairer.

Let's get this right! Listen to young people, what they want and need and make education FUN!

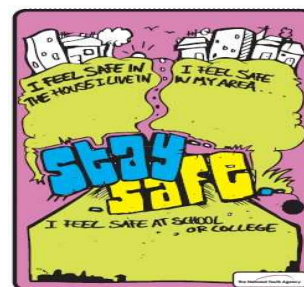


### STAYING SAFE

It is clear that staying safe is a big issue – both for younger and older people. It is against young people's rights to have machines that damage their health without a choice. "Mosquitoes damage our health and should not be allowed."

If we want to form safer communities we need workers who are trained to work with young people. Police Constable Special Officers offer less value than police officers and are not trained to work with young people.

We live in a free country – Dispersal Orders are universally not supported.



## MAKING A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

No matter why you start volunteering it's always a good thing. We need to make sure that young people don't put it down before they've tried it – perhaps making a taster session (one day) compulsory at a certain age?

If people are volunteering it needs to be made clear how to progress and continue with your own self-development. You need to be sure that young people can volunteer in a way that they want to and that opportunities are set up to accommodate this.

For lots of young people having recognition of volunteering can be more valuable than formal qualifications – it says more about you and does more for you. Recognition works best when it is personal and recognised by the community. Incentives can help encourage people to volunteer and be a good thing but they need to start at what the young people want and need.



## ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Issues ranged from missing the 2010 poverty target, affordable housing, to skills for young people in enterprise and financial capability.

Transport was identified as being of major importance as young people in rural areas cannot get to places, which does not maximise their chances of getting a job or going for interviews.

So what needs to be changed? We should create economic conditions that foster enterprise with a strong skills base for young people. It also needs to be recognised that the wider structural and economic factors are wider than children and young people's services can address; policies should be joined up.

## MAKING CHANGE HAPPEN

Much talk is given about children and young people's participation. But what use is it if no change follows? The conference was inspired and motivated through hearing three stories of making change happen. In each case children and young people had a clear vision of what they wanted, showed huge commitment toward achieving their goal and energy and determination to see it through to make a difference.

**At the Maypole Centre in Birmingham,** young people undertook surveys in the community about what young people wanted. They then found funding and negotiated with local decision makers to develop a new park, games area, football pitch and other resources.

**In Barnet the Rolling Base project** explored local concerns which included anti social behaviour, under age drinking, lack of money, feeling unsafe in the neighbourhood and not enough things to do. They wanted somewhere that was easy to get to, cheap, safe, and that would provide them with things to do. They lobbied for and got a mobile youth centre which young people can use.

**In Walsall,** young people were struck by the devastation in Sri Lanka caused by the Tsunami. They wanted to **Make A Difference** and so formed a group called MAD. They raised money through organising three talent shows across the area. In order to follow through the project and find out how the money was being used, MAD raised further funds to go on a visit this summer to Sri Lanka.

### What's Changed?

Have you been involved in a participation project which has improved the lives of children and young people in some way?

Tell us about it!

[participation@nya.org.uk](mailto:participation@nya.org.uk)

## YOUR SHOUT

### What have been government's major achievements?

"Young people's control over funding allocation and the idea of a Children's Commissioner."  
(Adult)

### What would you tell government off about?

"The Children's Commissioner has his own agenda."  
(Young person, 12)





### **What are the 3 things you'd tell government off about?**

"Educational under achievement for bottom 10%. Children in care generally fail. Anti-social behaviour – unreasonably labelled children as criminals."

"Widening of equalities gaps – child poverty a huge issue."

"Government needs to do more about the perception of young people." (Parmjit Dhanda MP)

### **How do we improve things in the future?**

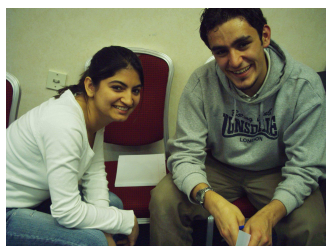
"Take a long, cold, hard look at the way we deal with young people who are in trouble with the police." (John Coughlan)

"Young people know about their lives and we need to take that on board and think carefully about what we're asking them to do and why."

"More young people's involvement. Diversity of young people who are involved – target all different diversities and backgrounds."

"A vision and financial support to create it."

### **MEET THE ROVING REPORTERS**



We've been working hard to report what's been happening at the conference. We're part of the Participation Team at The NYA – Ishita Seth, Talha Ghannan, Melody Hossaini, Tim Davies and Becky Sharp.

Make sure you visit and contribute to [live.youthsummit.co.uk](http://live.youthsummit.co.uk)



### **THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

Many councils often claim to be providing a great service to their young people, but three councils were put in the hot seat to back their claim in the Dragon's Den. Telford, Tower Hamlets and Suffolk described the various opportunities they offer to young people. After a gruelling series of questions from the four dragons, the audience was asked to vote on which council they saw as the best for young people, using a new democratic process involving a "hands up and scream" system where the winner was based on who had the "loudest" support. After two voting rounds, it was decided by an undisputed majority that Tower Hamlets was the winner, crowned as the best council for young people.

#### **Telford**

Activities for children and young people to do  
Street sport and leisure centres

Art and Culture – concerts, gigs, arts team, theatre, culture zone

Celebrate success of young citizens – certificates

Young people's voices are heard – school council and councillor training

Children and young people are at the heart of decision making

#### **Suffolk**

Young people's voices are heard

Youth council working on funds

Activities to do – Go Ape (adventure scheme), Museums, Riding centres

Best crime rates (20 & under/1000, well below average)

Volunteering opportunities

#### **Tower Hamlets**

Best Funded services

Developed with and for young people

Four mobile vehicles to go to area that don't have youth clubs

At least two hours per week of constructive activities (learn knowledge and skills), sporting activities and art activities

850 new projects being developed there

2012 Olympics going on in area

A youth club within every mile