

Pro Forma for Participation Works Network for England regional case studies

Region: East of England	
Submitted by: Julia Kett Date of submission: 23 March 2009	
The sector this case study is an example of:	
Voluntary sector activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
Statutory sector activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Corporate sector activity	<input type="checkbox"/>
The themes this case study can be used to support (<i>tick all that apply</i>):	
Arts & creativity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Commissioning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Early Years	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faith	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funding	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hard to reach groups	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusive practice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Learning & research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Measuring change	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online tools	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rights/citizenship	<input type="checkbox"/>
Safeguarding	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Standards	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Workforce development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth-led project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Name of project: Voice 4 Change Conference	
Name of lead person on project: Julia Kett	
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Aims of the project: To bring looked after children and young people, and care leavers together from across Suffolk to meet with Senior Officers and front line staff to discuss issues and agree plans to address them. The instrument for this work being Suffolk's 'Promise'.	
Timeline for the project (expected start and finish date, if known): 18 February 2009– 30 April 2009	
Please name any other organisations involved if this was a project developed as a partnership: First Question – Co-op Education	
Who funded this project? Suffolk County Council	

<p>How many young people were involved?</p> <p>42</p>
<p>How were children & young people involved in decision-making?</p> <p>3 preparation evenings were held leading up to the Conference where young people helped to plan and organise the event, making decisions on what should be included and how.</p> <p>On the day of the conference there was a question time debate with a panel of representatives from Suffolk children and young people's services, including the Lead Member, Assistant Director, and other Senior managers as well as some front line staff. The children and young people then posed questions to the panel. All answers were recorded and each panel member had to make one commitment, agreed with the young people, to take away and do. Young people have been monitoring these commitments.</p>
<p>What changes has children & young people's involvement led to?</p> <p>An agreed final version of 'Suffolk's Promise' with some firm commitments from Senior Management. An agreed action plan to take it forward throughout the service, with an agreed monitoring process.</p>
<p>What did children and young people involved in this work achieve from this experience?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had lots of fun! They were able to express themselves through art, drama and music. They performed to an audience who were extremely praising of them. • They developed self confidence/self esteem. They made friends and worked as a team. • As above, they achieved some firm results around Suffolk's Promise and its delivery. • All children attending received a certificate.
<p>What next for the project?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from the conference is being collated and put together to give to young people and staff. • As above, all commitments and decisions are being monitored to ensure they happen. The young people are instrumental in this. • Another conference type event for younger children as Voices 4 Change was for 11+ year olds. • An annual conference will be held.
<p>What next for the participants?</p> <p>Monitoring outcomes as above. Continuing to be involved through Brighter Futures groups and 'Young Voices' (Suffolk's children in care council).</p>

Participation Works wants to share your good practice to a wider audience to enable others to learn from your experience and develop their own participation practice.