

Loudspeaker

In this issue: Children and young people's awards



Meet the Young NCB Advisory Group • Young people shout about climate change

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Welcome...



Hi everyone

Shouting about climate change, dishing out awards, designing leaflets – Young NCBers have certainly been

keeping themselves busy! Welcome to the Spring edition of *Loudspeaker*. I know many of you are busy with school and college work, but I hope you can take a well-earned break to find out all about Young NCB's latest antics.

On this page you can discover what it was like to spend the day on a judging panel, as Young NCBers helped choose the winners of the Children and Young People's Services Awards. On page three Maya shares her experience of spending a day as a designer, hooking up with three fellow members and a professional illustrator to design a cartoon for a leaflet.

Turn to the centre pages to meet the new Advisory Group. You may recognise a few old-timers, but there are plenty of new faces and they're all raring to go. You can find out lots of juicy facts about them – at first glance it appears we have a group of beagle breeders, pizza lovers and Arsenal fans.

Climate change is currently a hot topic and it seems you can't open a newspaper or a magazine these days without seeing an article about it. Well, *Loudspeaker* is no different and on page six you'll discover young people's thoughts on what can be done to look after the environment – they came up with some great energy saving tips.

There's plenty more to read about – turn to page eight to meet one of our longest serving members, Kimberley, and find out what Melanie thinks about Personal, Health and Social Education (PSHE).

Thanks to everyone who helped put this issue of *Loudspeaker* together. Remember, it's written by young people for young people. If you want to feature on these pages get in touch by emailing me at info@youngncb.org.uk or call me on 020 7843 6099. You can send in whatever you like – things you've done, film, music or book reviews, drawings, it really is up to you.

Until next time...

Enjoy!

Adriana Byrne,
Young NCB Participation Officer



And the winner is...

Who better to decide who provides great services to children and young people than children and young people themselves?

Late last year four Young NCB members became judges for the day, helping to decide the deserving winners of the

prestigious Children and Young People's Services Awards. There were 23 categories, including the Children and Young People's Champion, the Growing up Healthy Award and the Youth Work Award.

We started off by looking at the entries for each person/group. We then awarded them a mark out of 100. In some categories it was hard because there were two really good entries, but with most there was one that really stood out from the rest.

We decided the winners by discussing how each entry had helped children and young people over the last few years.

We also considered how seriously they took children and young people.

But it wasn't all hard work. As judges we got to put on our finest clothes, party with the winners at the awards ceremony and watch the fabulous Paul Ross present the awards.

The best bit about the whole night was watching the people we thought deserved to win getting their award – it was such a thrill to see their faces.

It was a great experience and we would love to take part again in the future.

Kimberley Budd and Tunde Olasupo



The big comic adventure

On 20 February 2007 (Pancake Day – yum, yum!) a small group of young people – Jack, Gary, Hamish and I – had the pleasure of working with the lovely editor of *Loudspeaker* (Adriana) and comic book artist Al Davison. We were there to create a short leaflet (including a great comic strip) to show children what care records are and how they can see them. At first we didn't know a sausage about care records, but after a talk with Adriana we soon realised that they are very important.

Care records are a record of all the

injuries, injections, medicines, allergies, illnesses and treatments we have had in our lives. Your doctor keeps your care record and everyone has the right to read his or her own record.

In our meeting we got to design characters and cartoons and do some fun role-play. We all enjoyed it immensely. After a while, to our surprise, we found out that we could actually be the characters in the comic strip and that's what the role-play was all about. We had a great time and I'm so excited about being an actual character in a comic strip.

I can't wait to see the finished product of all our hard work.

Maya Conway (11)



Hot topic: ContactPoint (previously know as the Information Sharing Index)

Have you heard of ContactPoint? Six Young NCB members went on a voyage of discovery to the government's Department for Education and Skills (DfES) to find out what it is and how it is going to affect children and young people. Read on to discover what they found out.

What is ContactPoint?

ContactPoint is a database that the government plans to set up that will hold details of every young person under 18 in England. The details that the database would hold for each young person are:

- their name
- their address
- their gender
- an identification number
- the name and address of their parents or carers
- their school
- their doctor
- contact details of professionals working with them.

It WILL NOT hold details of WHY the child has had contact with certain professionals.

Why does the government think it is needed?

So that professionals working with children can share information about a child that may need protection or help.

By using ContactPoint, professionals working with the same child will find one another quickly and easily so they can provide more effective support to the child and their family.

How would it work?

If a professional is concerned about a child or young person, he/she could look at the child's record and see what other professionals are involved. He/she could then contact the other professionals and they would decide whether information should be shared.

Professionals may feel they need to share information if the child is:

- at risk of harm and abuse
- at risk of offending
- receiving a lot of different services, for example, if they are ill or disabled
- in care
- seriously unhappy.

Who would have access to ContactPoint?

Access to reading or recording the information would be restricted to:

- a member of the local authority ContactPoint management team
- a social worker
- a healthcare worker or administrator
- a member of the police or the British Transport Police

- a member of a probation board
- a member of a youth offending team
- a governor or director of a prison or secure training centre
- a Connexions adviser
- a headteacher, deputy headteacher, school administrator, head of year or teacher with pastoral or child protection responsibilities, a teacher of children with special educational needs, an education welfare officer
- a member of staff in a voluntary and community sector organisation providing services to children and young people
- a social worker employed by the NHS.

All these people will have to have criminal record checks, ContactPoint training and information sharing training.

What else should I know about ContactPoint?

Contact details for mental health, sexual health and substance misuse professionals will only be included on it with the child, young person or parent's consent. However, they can also be included without consent if the child is at risk of harm.

If consent is given, ContactPoint won't say which service the child is receiving, but just that it is a 'sensitive service'.

Meet your new

Here's your chance to find out more about the young Advisory Group. Their job is to guide NCB and Young NCB. Daniel, Emily, Hamza and Melanie were also on the group representing young people's views.



Callum Batchelor

Age: 16

Lives: Kirby Muxlowe, Leicester

- There are no takeaways where he lives – not one!
- Is studying chemistry, biology, psychology and French
- Wants to be a doctor



Richard Graham

Age: 16

Lives: Weston Super Mare

- Favourite band is the Klaxons
- Favourite food is a French all-day breakfast
- Wants to be a doctor



Cheyenne Blair Walker

Age: 11

Lives: Birmingham

- Has three brothers and two sisters
- Absolutely loves pizza
- Favourite animal is an elephant



Helen Harvey

Age: 16

Lives: Leicester

- Doesn't like spiders
- Has been to the Caribbean on holiday
- Is a peer listener



Rowan Boyle

Age: 17

Lives: Worcester

- Has co-hosted a show on Radio 1
- Has just been elected to the UK Youth Parliament for the second year running
- Is a trainee youth worker



Mike Hlavaty

Age: 14

Lives: Southampton

- Is mad about rugby – watching, playing and refereeing
- Family breeds Beagles
- Is into technology and water sports



Tamara Flowers

Age: 15

Lives: Birmingham

- Plays the drums
- Is allergic to pink
- Has zoophobia (irrational fear of non-humans)



Sara Hughes

Age: 16

Lives: Near Blackpool

- Went to India last year
- Favourite food is Sushi
- Favourite band is Cartel

Advisory Group

people who were selected to be part of Young NCB's
ing NCB's work and be involved in decision-making.
chosen to sit on NCB's Board of Management,
ews at the highest level of NCB.



Daniel Jacobs

Age: 15

Lives: Essex

- Enjoys drama and acting
- Likes rock and R'n'B music
- Has appeared in many productions including West Side Story, Hairspray and Chicago at local theatres



Melanie Pope

Age: 15

Lives: London

- Has small hands and feet
- Runs a cookery club for Year 7s
- Met Ken Livingstone (Mayor of London) in the rain outside City Hall



Emily Middleton

Age: 17

Lives: Buxton, Derbyshire

- Is studying English literature, philosophy, history and economics
- Lives in the highest town in England
- Has been trekking in Morocco



Ameera Ramdany

Age: 16

Lives: London

- Is the secretary of Redbridge Youth Council
- Likes dancing and music
- Was part of the UK Youth Parliament



Hamza Modi

Age: 12

Lives: Southend

- Supports Southend and Chelsea
- Has been to Florida and Indiana in the USA
- Hates spiders



Emma Ratcliffe

Age: 10

Lives: Manchester

- Loves pepperoni pizza and Cherry Tango
- Has one younger brother
- Favourite animal is a snow tiger



Tunde Olasupo

Age: 16

Lives: London

- Is a break and street dancer and dances for East London
- Likes speaking his mind and finds it easy to get along with people
- Is very friendly and is always happy



Isaac Storm

Age: 14

Lives: London

- Is a big Arsenal fan
- Favourite thing is going to Arsenal matches
- Has been to the House of Lords with some other members of the group

Your shout

What can we do to help save our planet?

The government should make it simpler to recycle and there should be more collections to actually pick it up.

Walk instead of using cars.

Don't leave water running when it's not in use, for example, when brushing teeth and doing washing up.

Turn off electricity when not in use, for example, computers and light bulbs.

Grow as much of your own food as possible to reduce the travel and pollution caused during transportation of the food.

Only buy food that is necessary.

Our school should get leaflets to inform people about what is happening. Then our school can do something about it.

Buildings should be more eco-friendly like City Hall.

Use light and motion sensors in public buildings so lights aren't on when they don't need to be.

I think that under NO circumstances should London's green spaces be built on.

Renewable sources can be used again and again. It's not expensive in the long run and is effective. It is good for long-term use.

Young people speak out on climate change

Climate change – everybody's talking about it but what are we going to do about it? The Greater London Authority (GLA) asked NCB to find out what the future generation thinks can be done to keep the planet safe. The views that the children and young people shared helped the GLA form its London Plan (a plan for London's development). A big part of the London Plan is how to protect the environment.

NCB ran four consultation sessions that revealed that children and young people feel very passionately about climate change. They felt that recycling should be easier and compulsory and that schools should lead the way by becoming recycling champions. Schools should also

provide cycling proficiency lessons and secure bike sheds so that people cycle to school rather than getting a lift or going by public transport.

The young people also thought better education on the causes of climate change should be provided for all adults, children and young people, and under no circumstances should green spaces be built on. They also felt strongly that transport and buildings should be more energy efficient.

To find out what you can do to help check out these websites

<http://www.climatechallenge.gov.uk>

<http://www.foe.co.uk>

<http://www.greenpeace.org.uk>



Bridget Prentice Visits St Ann's CoE Primary School

On 6 February 2007, Bridget Prentice MP visited my school – St Ann's CoE Primary School in Haringey, London. Bridget Prentice is the Member of Parliament for Lewisham East and also the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

In the morning our headteacher, Mrs Sarr, did an assembly about Bridget Prentice and as part of it we spoke about what democracy means.

Bridget Prentice came to my school along with Liz Santry, who is a Haringey Councillor responsible for Education. They had a tour of the school, accompanied by Mrs Sarr and the

deputy headteacher, Mr Lancaster.

Then Bridget came to visit my class, Year 6. We had an interview with her and my class asked her lots of questions. We were talking about the democratic process, lowering the age of voting to 16 and what inspires people to become MPs.

Bridget also asked us questions such as:

- Would you like to vote at the age of 16 or 18?
- Who in this class has an interest in politics and why?
- If you were a councillor for this borough what would you add or change and why?

My class will be visiting the Houses of Parliament later on in the year. This will be a good experience for us as we are starting secondary school in September where we'll learn about Citizenship, MPs, the Houses of Parliament, and what MPs do there in more detail.

I really enjoyed meeting Bridget Prentice and finding out about what ministers do and the work of the government. I hope that I will be able to meet more MPs in the future.

Rakhee Haria
Year 6

St Ann's CoE Primary School, Haringey



Member views

The importance of PSHE according to Melanie



Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) is a powerful tool in encouraging young people to take control of the world around them and has the potential to reach all young people in the UK and positively impact on their lives. It can be used to encourage citizenship

and social awareness by looking at issues such as racism and bullying, which have recently been highlighted on Celebrity Big Brother, and encourage acceptance of everybody regardless of race or sexual orientation. But to make a difference, PSHE needs to be more organised with measurable goals.

Recent years have seen many developments in PSHE and it is becoming increasingly recognised as an important subject, although there is still a long way to go. One of the main problems is the inconsistency between schools, and even within schools. I think students need to have at least one hour of PSHE a week that covers issues such as sex, drugs and alcohol education, as well as citizenship and anti-social behaviour. However, whilst there should be a basic level of consistency, PSHE may still benefit from variation as schools could then cover the topics they feel are most relevant to their pupils.

Some of the resources used currently can make PSHE difficult to teach, out-dated materials just seem funny to students and can undermine an important issue. Modern resources that are designed by young people would be really effective in engaging students and make topics more interesting.

Teachers have a big role to play and need training in how to tackle the issues that arise and how to approach the tasks to make them interesting and relevant. Formal training and modern resources would give them the confidence to lead free discussion. Some issues discussed in PSHE are difficult or sensitive and teachers need to be in control and have the ability to put the students at ease, by being open-minded and clear.

Melanie Pope (15)

Member profile...



Meet Kimberley Budd, age 16, from East London. Kimberley certainly keeps herself busy juggling Young NCB, air cadets and graphic design.

How long have you been involved with Young NCB and what sorts of things have you done since joining?

I think I have been a member for about three to four years. In that time I have gone from being a quiet and nervous person taking part in my first workshop, which was the BBC consultation near London zoo, to being able to stand in front of and talk to group of young people running a workshop on transport in Manchester.

I think the two best things I have done with Young NCB are the most recent things I helped with: judging for the Children and Young People's Services Awards and editing pages of Children Now magazine.

What are you other interests?

I am really interested in music and can play the keyboard and guitar. I have only just started to learn the guitar so I'm not too great at it yet. Right now the main thing I do in my spare time is going to air cadets (282 TOP CREW). I have only just recently passed my 1st Class exam with 21/24, which I'm really pleased

If you would like to feature on this page let Adriana know by calling 020 7843 6099 or emailing abyrne@ncb.org.uk

about. Cadets is a really great place to meet new people and its always fun. I have made so many good friends and even met my boyfriend Jon there.

What are you studying?

I'm currently studying graphic design at Havering College.

What are you plans for the future?

I'm not too sure yet. I want to see where the course I'm doing takes me. My current idea is maybe teaching graphics at GCSE level.

What qualities do you like in other people?

I like honest people who say what they feel and aren't scared of a challenge.

And what do you dislike in people?

I don't like people that lie and people who give up too easily.

Who do you most admire in life and why?

I think it's going to have to be my mum. She is the best ever and I just can't imagine what my life would be like if she wasn't in it. She cares for me a lot and I'm really thankful for it. I hope that when I'm older I'll be like her.

What's your favourite food in the world?

Cake! I can eat a whole birthday cake by myself, even the icing (if its not too thick) but I hate wedding cake.

Do you have any words of wisdom for your fellow Young NCBers?

If you TRY you can achieve anything. It doesn't matter what life is like now, its only going to become what you make it later.