

## Youth Action Report January 2015



### What Happened?

Between June and December we involved around 80 young people. This includes 4 Youth Action meetings and a Rayners Lane 'Fun Day' in August, where young people helped run the event and also gave us feedback about the Rayners Lane Estate.

**Rayners Lane Fun Day:** Young people organised the event, they facilitated activities designed to bring the community together and they also gathered customer feedback about Rayners Lane and what improvements should be made to make the neighbourhood feel safer. Young people suggested more activities that are of interest to all generations e.g. sports coaching and mentoring. Youth involvement in the Fun Day created a real sense of community, and helped bridge the gap between different generations as people of all ages were making it happen. Home Group have partnered with a local youth organisation to develop a lottery funded project called 'In the Mix'. One of the objectives is the creation of community cohesion, with people of different ages working together. The Fun Day was a brilliant demonstration of this.

Youth Action have also been shortlisted for a TPAS award; 'Excellence in Youth Involvement.'

## Consulting Youth Action...

We consulted Youth Action on a **toolkit to bring older and younger generations together**. Their feedback has helped shape the project.



We asked them: **What are your views on the younger generation in your community? Are these views based on first hand experiences or via media/other people's views?**

- We like hearing their stories
- They provide us with an education and impart wisdom and knowledge
- Youth Action had respect towards older generations
- Youth Action also feel they aren't given respect by many older people and this is informed by a stereotype of young people being 'hoodies' or out to mug them
- Older people can be rude and uninformed
- Older people can resist change
- Youth Action don't like that older people are scared of them
- Most of Youth Action had personally experienced an older person being afraid of them/crossing the road/making a comment about what they wear etc. Youth Action didn't think this was informed by the media
- Youth Action thought that older people believed what the media told them about younger people and that they gossip more and tell stories about younger people behaving inappropriately

**What are your views on the older generation in your community? Are these views based on first hand experiences or via media/other people's views?**

- 'We are the greatest generation, we use the technologies we have to make change'

- Young people grow up too quickly, they abuse the technology they have and use it to call the shots with their parents e.g. young children crying because their iPad has been taken away
- Young people can be lazy with their parenting style e.g. put a child in front of the TV
- There is a lack of communication between the generations, young people don't feel like they have a voice e.g. in politics, in schooling
- Some young people are spoilt and have been given everything while others are totally cut off from society
- Young people are disrespectful
- Young people use the technologies available to them in a cruel manner; cyber bullying is on the rise
- This generation are the next leaders
- We all contribute to build society
- Young people have been left behind; if you're poor you have less of a chance. Society/politics doesn't consider these people



We consulted young people on the **Outcomes Star**. This was a national consultation and 70% of people we asked wanted to keep the model. Youth Action's feedback has shaped future improvements.

**Do you like and understand this method of monitoring and showcasing progress?**

- It's a good way of seeing how you're progressing
- No I don't like it because you feel obliged to put better and it's not always accurate
- Sometimes you can play the system to keep workers off your back and overestimate the score

**Is there anything about this method that you would like to change?**

- Having just client input would be better as how can a staff member truly judge how a client is doing?
- It's just a paper exercise and not much thought is put into it
- It's not memorable and doesn't make me feel confident, it needs to be more than a piece of paper

## Would you be glad to see the back of it or have you any ideas for an alternative method?

- Scrap it, it's too simple and seen as a paper exercise
- Use video progress where you can to record client's progress
- It's a good way to reflect on progress; promote this but make it less like a tick box exercise

## Impact on young people....

*'Clients that came to the last meeting said they love the atmosphere and they didn't feel pressured into saying something, they all wanted to say their minds which for some of them that don't engage well here is massive.' Ex-client Apprentice*

*'I witnessed my client get involved and she was comfortable with everyone in the group. She felt welcome, included and as a result she got involved. Today I've seen her feeling part of something & overcoming anxiety. When she came to the service she was really unwell. She still has a long way to go but witnessing her input today at Youth Action I believe will contribute massively in boosting her confidence in moving forward.'*

*'My client has come on leaps and bounds. When he first came here in March he was quite shy and not very chatty but with Youth Action he has really come out of his shell and is extremely confident now. He is the house rep and is doing an amazing job; in a few months he has come so, so far and it's thanks to Youth Action and of course, himself.'*

## Next Step....

**On 26<sup>th</sup> March we are going to hold a Nationwide Youth Action!**

The idea is that on the same day, at the same time, using the same agenda, colleagues **across the country** will run their own **local Youth Action**, involving their own clients who otherwise might not be able to get involved.

This is a brilliant opportunity for colleagues to do some involvement at a local level, increase their confidence and develop their skills.

If you would like to be involved in this, or would like some more information please contact me:

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