
People Scrutiny Committee Project 2018/19



APRIL 2019

People Scrutiny Committee Project

Introduction from the Chair

The People Scrutiny committee decided that it's in depth scrutiny for 2018 - 2019 would review their services and relationships with young people to better understand:-

“In the context of the vision for Southend 2050, what is the vision of young people which improves their lives, and what are the pathways to achieve this ambition”

The project team, of which I am Chair, focused on listening to Children and Professionals working with young people, from our community. The Young people we spoke with had very different experiences of Southend, how we communicate to them the Council services we provide and what we could do to prepare young people to manage the changes that they will face as they transition to adulthood, in a dynamic skills environment, to help them adjust and maximize their opportunities.

We were delighted to hear about the value young people place on their intergenerational relationships. We also listened to the fears and anxiety they experienced, over safety, mental health challenges, or when plans fell down in their education.

I'd like to thank my colleagues who took part in the work of the project, the professionals surrounding and supporting our youth communities and most of all the young people we met and listened to, who gave up their free time at the Forum, the Civic Centre, in their Schools and at Events across Southend for sharing your visions and hopes for your future.

You opened our eyes to the way we communicate, your creative vision and the way we can support you to remove the barriers so that you can reach your ambitions here in Southend.

Cllr Cheryl Nevin

Chair, People Scrutiny Committee

April 2019

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We're not sure why we're on this college course

**Four young people
Engagement Workshop**

22nd November 2018



'Real life' relationships are still as important to us as on line relationships.

Young Person

21st November 2018

1. Recommendations

The recommendations resulting from this project are set in the context of Southend 2050. The working group has therefore agreed a set of outcomes to support the vision of, and for, young people to be clearly articulated within the Southend 2050 ambitions. It is important to recognise that some actions have a longer lead-in time so while they may be completed in the long term they may require work to start in the short to medium term.

There are three **overarching recommendations** to which all others are related:-

Recommendation:-

That all current and future planning for Southend, across all parts of the Council, should take account of the views and the needs of children and young people. That opportunities to include children and young people in the design and review of all activity and services of the Council should be proactively identified.

Recommendation:-

That the recommendations should be shared with Southend Youth Council and other young people's groups.

Recommendation:-

A young person's version of the recommendations should be produced.

REMEMBER!

You should make or be involved to help and create your ideal Southend-on-sea of the future.

| Theme | Specific recommendations | Short | Med - Long |
|----------------------------------|---|-------|------------|
| Active & Involved | The Council and partner agencies to be advised of the benefit of holding participation and engagement events 'where children and young people are' rather than in venues which may be less accessible or intimidating. | ✓ | |
| Active & Involved Pride & Joy | Children's Services participation strategy to incorporate learning from witnesses for 2019/20 and to then feed into Southend 2050 themes of Active and Involved and Pride and Joy. | ✓ | |
| Pride & Joy | The 'Active and Involved' lead to explore possibility of each service areas within the Council having a young person's ambassador to engage with young people and inform service development and planning. This to form part of the one year and five year plan for Outcome 3 – public services are routinely designed, and sometimes delivered, with their users to best meet their needs. | | ✓ |
| Pride & Joy | The 'Pride and Joy' lead to explore how the Council can communicate good news stories and information about what is going on with and for young people. Young People to be involved in developing and reviewing the methods. This to form part of the one year plan for Outcome 1 – There is a tangible sense of pride in the place and local people are actively and knowledgeably talking up Southend. | ✓ | |
| Opportunity & Prosperity | Five year plan for Opportunity and Prosperity theme to include actions relating to the need to ensure young people develop informed choices about the skill set required for future employment with reference to the Skills Strategy work (and World Economic Forum report) (Outcome 3 – Our children are school and life ready and our workforce is skilled and job ready, Outcome 5 – Southend is a place that is renowned for its creative industries, where new businesses thrive and where established employers and others invest for the long term). | | ✓ |
| Connected & Smart | The 'Connected and Smart' lead to identify how young people can be involved in planning for Southend to become a smart city (Outcome 4 – Southend is a leading digital city with world class infrastructure). | | ✓ |
| Safe & Well | Opportunities to develop a young person's hub in the centre of Southend should be explored. Recommendations from this project to be shared with all Scrutiny Committees to support the voice of children and young people being used to inform planning. | ✓ | |
| Active & Involved | Recommendations from this project to be shared with all Scrutiny Committees to support the voice of children and young people being used to inform planning. | ✓ | |

2. Background

The Southend 2050 conversation, which was started in summer of 2018, has sought the views and input of residents, visitors, students and businesses alike to understand what they think Southend-on-Sea should be like in 2050 and what steps are needed now, and in the coming years, to help achieve this. During the conversation at least 600 children and young people shared their views about what Southend-on-Sea should be like in 2050.

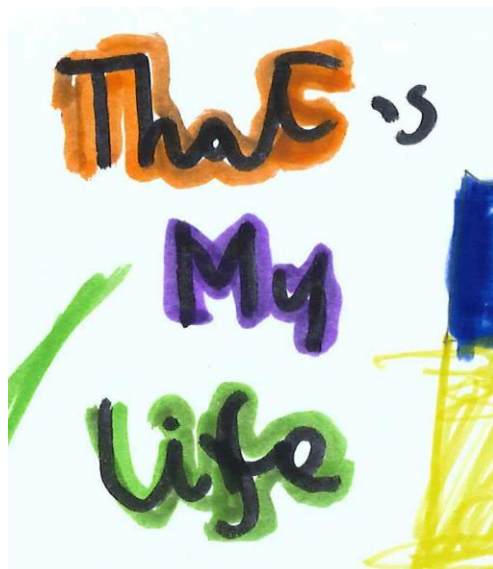
We don't spend time in the town centre, there is nothing for us to do and it doesn't feel safe

Engagement Workshop
22nd November 2018

We know that it is the children and young people of 2018 who will be the residents, the decision makers, the business leaders, the educators and the employees of 2050. They will be the ones who are raising families and engaging in leisure activities in Southend. Due to this the People Scrutiny Committee project team agreed to focus on children and young people for their in depth project of 2018/19.

The agreed scope and framework for the project is as follows:-

1. *Working towards Southend 2050, what ambitions do Children and Young People aspire towards in order to improve their lives?*
2. *Can this be expressed in a simple Southend 2050 "vision"?*
3. *What do they (and we) think will help them (and us) reach this vision, and what will get in their (and our) way?*
4. *Can this be set out in a roadmap, with clear milestones between now and 2050 in order to make it happen? (What would we need to have achieved by 2020, 2050 for example?)*
5. *What is it that the Council should do to achieve this?*
6. *Collectively what part should Children and Young People and other players take to achieve their part in this?*



Young people's aspirations are fairly modest – their own home, their own family, a job and a little dog

Witness Session
6th December 2018

3. Contextual Information

Working to make
lives better
www.southend.gov.uk



Southend Context

Creating a better
Southend
www.southend.gov.uk



Population

Southend is the 3rd most densely populated local authority in the East of England. Southend has some of the most deprived small areas in the country. 48.2% of our 0-18 year olds live in an area of deprivation.

Projected population growth of over 12% to 2031.

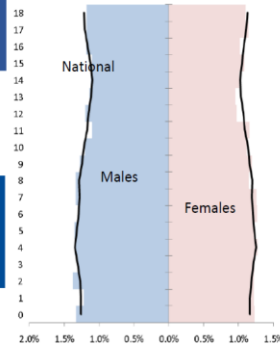
Southend is home to 41,137 children aged 0-18.

Ethnic minority groups make up 7.1% of the population.

Population pyramid, mid-2016, shows Southend has a higher proportion of younger children which is also slightly higher than national.

Homeless young people age 16-24 sits at a rate of 0.72.

Southend's rate of Adults with learning disabilities accessing long term support is the highest in the region (3.96).



Health & Wellbeing

Life expectancy at birth is worse in Southend compared to much of the rest of the region. Life expectancy is 11.1 years lower for men and 9.7 years lower for women in the most deprived areas of Southend-on-Sea than in the least deprived areas.

In Southend the under 18 conceptions rate is significantly worse than England at 27.1 per 1,000.

Proportion of people in employment has been rising in Southend 78.5% in 2018 vs 70.4% in 2012.

Prevalence of overweight children in Reception is similar to the National at 14.1%

The rate of violent offences is 30.2, the second highest in the region.

Breastfeeding initiation significantly better than England at 83.1%

By the age of 5, 1 in 5 children have dental decay, missing or filled teeth, slightly lower than national.

First time entrants to the youth justice system are low at a rate of 182.4 compared to 292.5 nationally.

4. Activity undertaken during the review

In order to develop a greater understanding of the vision of young people and to consider potential pathways to achieve their ambitions for improvements in their lives this Scrutiny Project has taken evidence from a number of witnesses - in person and in writing - who have been in the position of representing the views of many children and young people. While it is not possible, nor practical, to gain the views of all children and young people we have been able to identify when we have heard similar evidence from more than one source and so are able to use this evidence with a degree of confidence. In addition reports from the Children's Commissioner for England and a draft Southend 2050 children and young people engagement overview report were shared with the project team.

Young people think they will leave Southend as they don't see opportunities for interesting jobs here

Engagement Workshop
22nd November 2018

We have taken account of guidance from 'Using evidence in scrutiny, A practice guide for local government scrutiny'. The guidance refers to making decisions which are informed by evidence rather than being 'evidence-based' due to the resources available and the costs of obtaining formal evidence. The guidance notes that decisions are rarely based on formal evidence alone. The guidance is helpful in explaining that, when using the views of the public, it is not solely the method of collection which is key but how it is analysed and how it is determining how much weight to give the views.

An additional challenge for the project is that it is not possible to know what Southend, and the world, will look and feel like in 2050 with confidence due to the pace of change in the areas of technology, physical environment, learning and employment.

Most of the young people who attended witness sessions did not know what the Council does and did not feel connected to the Council

Engagement Workshop
22nd November 2018

Two workshop sessions were held involving young people. 17 young people attended the sessions ranging in age from 13 years old to 22 years old. The majority of the young people were aged 16 to 18 years. The sessions took the form of facilitated workshops to support free flowing conversation with young people. The themes of the first workshop, held on 21st November 2018, were connected and smart and, opportunity and prosperity. The themes of the second workshop, held on 22nd November 2018, were opportunity and prosperity and, active and involved.

One workshop was held in the Civic Centre¹ and one at the Forum. It proved to be easier to engage with young people at the Forum than by inviting them to the Civic Centre as the Forum is a place where young people spend time after school and college.

Some young people spoke about inspirational teachers who have encouraged them to be aspirational

Engagement Workshop

22nd November 2018

A witness session was then held on 6th December 2018. Witnesses in attendance were: Syrie Cox, Chief Executive Southend YMCA, Roxie Curry, Bridge Programme Royal Opera House, Sabina Kerr, SBC Public Health, Margaret Wall, SBC Transitions Manager and Marilyn Adams, Team Manager Youth Offending Service.

We received written responses from witnesses who were unable to attend the witness session; Southend Youth Council, Family Action and Murray Foster, responding as chair of the Digital Exploration Centre (DECT).

The key skills needed in the future are problem solving, critical thinking and creativity. We are not confident that children and young people have the opportunity to develop these skills within the current educational curriculum

Witness session

6th December 2018

¹ The use of the Council Chamber during the witness session did not support discussion and discussion was improved when we moved to a committee room. Pepper the robot was used during the workshop held at the Civic Centre and it was noted that Pepper's communication was not accessible for those who lip read.

Voices of young people:-



me and my
dream
job

I am writing this letter because I Love Southend but i would also love to see it improve, and also for our whole cominty to grow together. I just think that Southend has way more to other with all the amazing features.

Figure 1 Love Southend and Community

Dear past self ,
If there was anything, just anything that i would wish to change it would be to not be so extraordinarily stupid! Dont do anything you will regret. Think before you act. Because before you can whisper a ^{sorrowful} cry for help you will be stuck, helpless in a pit only you yourself can get out of. I learnt from the worst.

Figure 2 Self Awareness

Now my life is great I graduated with top grades and continued to university where I studied archeology and now im like the new David Attenborough. I get paid a lot of money and live a great life. But be

Figure 3 Aspirations

I wish that my childhood could have lasted longer but, lets talk about something else but when I was 11 I can remember all of the arcades on beach and how much I loved them.

Figure 4 - On the Beach

My second idea is that I think you should put more youth clubs on because people will meet more people and then become friends and they will enjoy it. Also it gets people off the street if they aren't doing anything and it will keep them out of trouble. Also you could put clubs on like looking after nature or growing plants and vegetables like tomatoes or do something like that.

Lastly I would change more places for children my age to hang out at to stop more gangs happening. What I mean by this is youth clubs or community events for the future that young children can go to.

Figure 5 - Hanging out in safety

5. Summary of themes from witness sessions and engagement events

Notes from the witness sessions give additional detail on the feedback received by the project team. The following messages from witnesses are those which were heard during more than one witness session and/or written response. As such we can have confidence that these themes are representative of young people in Southend when taken in conjunction with the engagement with 600 children and young people during 2018 as part of the Southend 2050 engagement activities. The summary themes are not included in order of importance but are aligned to the Southend 2050 ambitions:-

| Theme | 2050 Conversation feedback |
|----------------------------|---|
| Pride and Joy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Everyone working with young people must show they believe they can achieve. • Young people's aspirations have close alignment with those of older people – to be listened to, to be self-determining, to be respected, to have their own home, to have trusting relationships with friends, to have a job they enjoy and to have a family. |
| Safe and Well | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people are not confident that adults in Southend care about them (Southend as a whole not within their families). • The Council needs to improve how it communicates what is going on in Southend, e.g. the variety of services to support emotional wellbeing. |
| Active and Involved | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We must involve those who will be most impacted in planning for Southend in 2050 – children and young people. • Young people were clear that intergenerational relationships are important to them. |
| Opportunity and Prosperity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current education system is not preparing young people for the realities of the future in terms of changes in working and changes in technology. • We do not know what the future will hold however certain key skills will be required – critical thinking, creativity and complex problem solving.² |
| Connected and Smart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We should ask young people what is the best way to communicate with them • We need to be ahead of the curve in relation to technology and be ambitious e.g. develop Southend as a digital hub. |

² 'Envisaging the Future of Education and Jobs' report from OECD the UK-based charity Education and Employers launched during the World Economic Forum - January 2019.



Annex – summary of evidence

| Evidence | Date | Attendees |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| Project Team meeting | 8 th November 2018 | Councillors Nevin, Borton, Buckley, McMahon, Stafford and Walker Officers - Brin Martin, Fiona Abbott, Ruth Baker, Sonia Jenkins, Kelly Redston |
| Documents shared / referenced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emerging messages from Southend 2050 engagement programme Demographic information Children’s Commissioner for England – Year in Review 2017-2018 Children’s Commissioner Business Plan 2017-18 Digital Strategy | 8 th November 2018 | |
| Engagement Overview Report – additional information | 13 th November 2018 | To project team |
| Witness & Engagement event Workshop 1 @ Civic Centre The event focused on two themes: connected & smart and opportunity & prosperity . | 21 st November 2018 | Councillors Nevin, Borton, Buckley, McMahon, Stafford Officers – Fiona Abbott, Ruth Baker, Kelly Redston, Kelly Wingfield, Sonia Jenkins, Phil Webster, David Cummings, Mark Churchill |
| Introduction to ‘Pepper’ | 21 st November 2018 | |
| Witness & Engagement event Workshop 2 @ The Forum The event focused on two themes: opportunity & prosperity and active & involved . | 22 nd November 2018 | Councillors Nevin, Borton, McMahon & Walker Officers – Fiona Abbott, Ruth Baker, Kelly Wingfield, Sonia Jenkins |
| Project Team meeting | 3 rd December 2018 | Councillors Nevin, Borton and McMahon Officers – Fiona Abbott, Rob Walters and Kelly Wingfield |
| Documents shared / referenced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from structured workshops Demographic information Media release <i>Southend’s youth make their mark</i> Itinerary for witness session | 3 rd December 2018 | |
| Witness & Engagement event | 6 th December 2018 | Councillors Nevin, Borton, McMahon and Walker |

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Witness session @ Civic Centre | | <p>Officers – Brin Martin (for start of meeting), Fiona Abbott, Ruth Baker, Rob Walters, Suzanne Newman and Kelly Wingfield</p> <p>Syrie Cox – Southend YMCA Margaret Wall – Transition Manager Roxie Curry – Royal Opera House Sabrina Kerr – Public Health Marilyn Adams – Youth Offending Service</p> <p>(Apologies – Sally Manzoni (Family Action), Lucy Bissell & Justine Shipp (Youth Council), Maurice Sweeting (Southend Education Board), Angela O’Donoghue (South Essex College), Sharon Houlden (Adult Services), Glyn Halksworth (Housing & Social Inclusion, YOT), Hannah Bucke (Southend Interfaith Group) and Murray Foster (DECT))</p> |
| <p>Written evidence received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Action • Youth Council • Public Health • Digital Exploration Centre Trust (Chair) also <i>Chair of Southend Business Partnership, Chair of South East Essex Academy Trust (comprising 4 schools) and Chair South Essex Teaching School Alliance (50 local schools engaged)</i> | | |
| Project Team meeting | 6 th February 2019 | <p>Councillors Nevin, Borton, Buckley, Dear, Garne and Walker</p> <p>Officers – Fiona Abbott, Rob Walters, Brin Martin and Ruth Baker</p> |
| <p>Documents shared / referenced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interim scrutiny report • ‘Know Your Place’ Survey • World Economic Forum – The Future of Jobs Report 2018 • Southend 2050 – ambition, themes and outcomes | 6 th February 2019 | |
| Project Team meeting | 13 th March 2019 | <p>Councillors Nevin, Garne and Walker</p> <p>Officers - Fiona Abbott, Rob Walters, Brin Martin and Ruth Baker</p> |

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|
| Presentation by Tom Dowler - demographic information | 13 th March 2019 | |
| Documents shared / referenced: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised draft scrutiny report | 13 th March 2019 | |

