Southwark’s Participation Model

Jonathan Slater
Policy Officer – Children Services
Why are we doing this?

- Southwark’s Enhanced Youth Inspection by Ofsted published on 16 December 2008 recommended the youth service should fully implement the Young Southwark participation framework.
- As a result a Joint Action Plan was drawn up for the youth service, building on existing good practice, to implement this proposed participation model.
- The participation model being proposed recognises that young people need to advise decision making at the highest level in the borough. It also recognises that a participation model without a democratic mandate has no accountability and cannot truly represent young people in Southwark.
What are we proposing?

- There will be eight youth community councils (YCCs) established through building on current best practice on the participation and engagement in the shape of our existing community councils.
- YCCs will represent the following eight local areas in the borough:
  - Bermondsey
  - Borough and Bankside
  - Camberwell
  - Dulwich
  - Nunhead and Peckham Rye
  - Peckham
  - Rotherhithe
  - Walworth
Who is eligible to stand?

- Representation will be drawn from schools in years 10 to 13 and young people from youth provision sites aged 13 to 19. We are flexible though on schools who would want to submit representatives from Year 9.

- There will also be one elected representative from other youth activity sites, including youth clubs and organisations representing hard to reach groups, in their respective community area.
Youth Community Councils

- Have regular meaningful consultation, engagement and exchange of ideas between the respective YCCs and community councils.
- Actively engage with young people across the borough in participative activities.
- Create opportunities for young people to meet councillors to discuss their concerns and interests.
- Get involved in inter-generational projects
- Represent and reinforce the views of young people in the wider community
- Undertake appropriate training to develop the skills to effectively influence decision making and represent the voices of other young people
- Advise service providers and council officers on matters relating to the delivery of the local offer of more things to do for children and young people
- Contribute to the monitoring and evaluation of the quality of the services offered in the local area
- Influence the allocation of the Youth Capital and Opportunity Fund
The role of Youth Community Councils

Responsibilities of members

• Undertake appropriate training and induction
• Influence the decisions made by community councils
• Represent the views of other young people at community councils
• Feedback relevant information, both to their constituent groups and SYC
• Follow the established code of behaviour established by the membership
• Provide agreed contributions such as information, reports or other actions by agreed
Southwark Youth Council

- Southwark Youth Council (SYC) is for this body to act as the voice of young people and interface with leadership of the council.
- Membership of SYC will comprise 16 young people, two drawn from each of the eight youth community councils (YCCs).
- Co-opted members including young people from hard to reach groups determined by the group
Southwark Youth Council

The objectives of the SYC will be to

• Work with the political and executive officer leadership of the council
• Represent young people’s voices across the borough
• Challenge and advise decision makers on key issues affecting children and young people across the borough
• Advise and assist in the development of other youth groups in the borough by linking with other networks, mentoring and providing training
• Educate adults and other young people and be a consultative body on the needs and experiences of children and young people
Southwark Youth Council

Responsibilities of members

• To effectively represent the views of all young people in Southwark and contribute to the decision making process
• Be trained to an accredited standard to facilitate the above
• Follow established code of behaviour as defined by the membership
• Seek input from and report back to their respective YCCs
• Take a full role in task groups, where appropriate
• Work collaboratively with council officers, elected members and interested stakeholders
• Provide agreed contributions such as information, reports or other actions by agreed deadlines
What we would like you to do

• We hope that your respective Youth Community Council will be up and running by mid November following the elections.

• Formally ask that you nominate among the Chair and Ward councillors a young person champion who will go to the meetings of your respective YCC when necessary.
Who is your point of contact

Dee Lewis – Youth Area Manager for Dulwich and Camberwell

Tel no: 020 7525 1589

Email: dee.lewis@southwark.gov.uk
ANY QUESTIONS?