Children’s Select Committee Session

Summary

• Young people in our Borough and Children’s Trust vision and aims
• A tiny bit of theory and research
• Student Voice in our schools
• Student Councils
• Issues and the future
• Top Tips Focus for future recommendations
Our Children’s Trust aims to ensure:

• Every child is valued, supported and challenged so that they develop the ambition, skills and resilience to succeed.

• Every child knows that they are a part of and have a responsibility to contribute to, building a strong, empowered and cohesive community.
Sherry Arnstein, writing in 1969 about citizen involvement in planning processes in the United States, described a ladder of participation.
How far will you go…

Skinner (1995) looked at how individuals and communities were actually involved in within participative partnerships as a tool to categorise participation. Skinner suggests that a community will adopt five roles if fully participating.

With in these five roles community members will act;
1. as beneficiaries of the programme and users of services
2. as consultees and representatives of local opinion
3. as the support source for general community activity
4. as the source for the delivery of new community activity
5. as potential long term planners in future development for the community.

*Which roles are we supporting parents and young people to take on?*
Roger Hart’s Ladder of Young People’s Participation

Rung 8: Young people & adults share decision-making
Rung 7: Young people lead & initiate action
Rung 6: Adult-initiated, shared decisions with young people
Rung 5: Young people consulted and informed
Rung 4: Young people assigned and informed
Rung 3: Young people tokenized*
Rung 2: Young people are decoration*
Rung 1: Young people are manipulated*

Note: Hart explains that the last three rungs are non-participation

Student Voice - national picture

- Rudduck research, insufficient attention to student voice
- OFSTED focus on student voice
  - Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural aspects of learning
  - Citizenship curriculum
Student voice in Barking and Dagenham Schools

Match back to ladder

• Thomas Arnold App
• Eastbury United nations
• Sydney Russell student voice system
• Schools Councils (including Infants)
• Lesson planning and organisation
• Student self-evaluation and target setting
School examples

At Eastbury Sixth Form we take the opinions and input of our students seriously and understand that a thriving student council is essential to a well-balanced community which meets the needs of its students.
Being on the student council is “hard work” but rewarding, the pupils say. Most have been on the council since Year 7. It was consistently oversubscribed, so the democratic youngsters set up sub-committees for those who were not elected.

“We feel like our voice is heard,” Meghan says. They even interview teachers, recently helping to choose the head of the English department.
Select Committee Focus

Variability in School Councils

Ways forward
Analyse....Schools Forum funding additional project on quality of schools councils, visit
Consult.... Members, BAD Youth Forum, All Saints Sumit
Prioritise...Select Committee , Officer and Young People
Recommend...
Review
What next?

Schools Review
Schools Council UK, Top Tips
United nations participation
Build on All Saints summit and good practice examples
Discuss with BAD Youth Forum
Recommendations....