



## UKYP REPORT 2010

### *Out of Hours*

Promoting and protecting  
out of school activities for young people.

# CONTENTS

Foreword by Becci Goodall and Mitch Brooks	3
Introduction	4
Methodology	4
Interview and survey findings	5 - 7
Conclusions	7
Recommendations	7 - 8
Appendix 1 – Young people’s survey questions	8
Appendix 2 – Young people’s survey feedback	9 - 13
Appendix 3 – Adult interview questions	13
Appendix 4 – Adult interview feedback	14 - 15
Acknowledgements	16
UK Youth Parliament	16

**FOREWORD BY BECCI GOODALL MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT AND MITCH BROOKS DEPUTY MEMBER OF YOUTH PARLIAMENT FOR TELFORD AND WREKIN 2010**

“Being Telford and Wrekin’s member of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament reflects my zest for getting involved in local projects; however I feel many other young people are not aware of the potential these projects hold.

In my opinion, Telford and Wrekin supply a wide variety of activities for young people, but there is not enough publicity to raise awareness of these invaluable opportunities. It has been suggested that these extra curricular activities develop people skills and many other life skills which are vitally important. They also keep young people from becoming bored and engaging in antisocial behaviour.

I am fortunate to live near the centre of a small town (Wellington) and I find activities easier to access than many others. Living where I do ‘word-of-mouth’ works well when a new activity becomes available. I believe that people living in the more rural parts of our community have a disadvantage when it comes to being aware of ‘Out of Hours’ activities.



I believe our campaign to protect and promote things to do for young people in Telford and Wrekin is particularly important at the moment due to the cuts that are being made to our services “

*Becci*

“As a 14 year old young person myself I feel that having things to do outside of education is very important.

Out of hours activities broaden the mind further than the walls of a classroom, they allow young people to gain key skills and most of all they allow us to have fun!



Without social activities, sports, music and other after school clubs life would simply be boring for young people.

I am the Deputy Member of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament for Telford and Wrekin and the theme ‘Things to do’ is close to my heart.

I fully support the claim that young people need more things to do, but personally I think that the issue is advertising. For many of us the facilities are there but many young people are not aware of them.

I use lots of local services in my area and this makes me fortunate as many young people have very little to do.

I think that the campaign to protect and promote things to do for young people is essential at this point as many services are being cut. Often young people say that they don’t use many services but when they are gone I predict that lots of young people will miss them!

Education can be very stressful, relaxation and social time needs to be built into every single young person’s life. Nobody will understand how essential they are until they are gone!”

*Mitch*

## INTRODUCTION

The law states that local authorities **MUST** give 13 -19 year olds activities to do for a minimum of two hours per week and that young people **MUST** be involved in choosing their activities.

This position is supported by the Government's statement: 'positive activities are educational and recreational leisure-time activities improve young people's wellbeing', **yet** previous research in the West Midlands carried out by the UKYP shows that 18,000 11–19 year olds do not believe they have enough to do in their local area.

This is a persistent issue for young people which have been brought to the particular attention of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament recently due to the pressures from the new cuts.

Throughout Telford and Wrekin, we have collected a series of stories and opinions in the form of interviews and surveys to find out where the problem with activities in our local area lies.

### **Is this problem due to the lack of activities or is it a result of limited publicity?**

This report by the Telford and Wrekin representatives of the United Kingdom Youth Parliament aims to find out the answers to these questions. The report will be presented to councillors, positive activity coordinators and young people in order to raise awareness of the need to promote and protect out of school activities for young people.

## METHODOLOGY

In our schools we surveyed 60 young people aged 11 – 18 years to find out their views on things to do in their local area. We also interviewed four key decision making adults in Telford and Wrekin.

Our work contributes to the United Kingdom Youth Parliament's regional campaign ***"Protecting and Promoting Things to do for Young People"***

In a planning meeting we discussed the questions that we thought should be asked. We felt that we needed to ask the adults different questions to the young people so two sets of questions were produced. (See appendix 1 and 3)

The aim was to gather opinions in an informal and relaxed way. Interviews prompted more discussion than the paper based survey. Questions were succinct and clear information was requested. A mixture of unbiased, open and closed questions was asked.

In order to get a fair representation of young people, we approached different year groups in school and made sure we had a good mix of male and females. Most of the young people that took part spent between five and ten minutes completing their surveys.



Our interviews with adults lasted up to 40 minutes. Before the questions were asked there was a brief explanation of why the surveys and interviews were being carried out.

## INTERVIEW AND SURVEY FINDINGS

The majority of our surveys (43%) were completed by young people who told us that they lived in Newport and 41% said they lived in Telford. The remaining 16% told us that they lived in Shropshire.

59% of the young people surveyed were aged between 11 and 14 years, 41% were aged 15 to 18 years.

40% of the young people who responded to the survey said that they needed things to do to stop them from getting bored and 26% went on to say that without activities young people could get into crime and commit anti social behaviour.

***'Young people need things to do to keep them from doing things that could affect their lives badly'*** 12 year old young person from Newport.

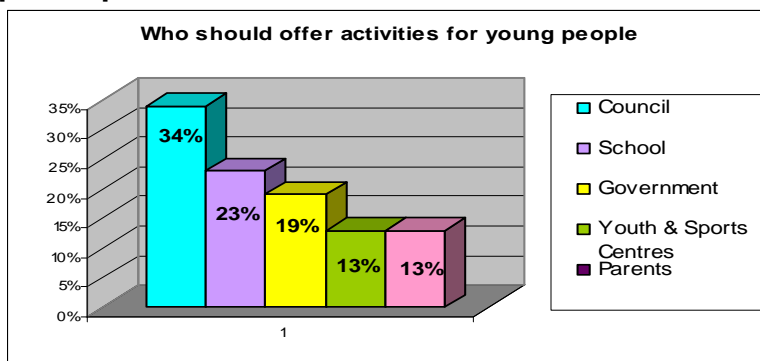
***'Leisure activities outside of school help to broaden minds and give young people opportunities to experience different things'*** Victor Brownlees.



The majority of the young people surveyed (34%) thought that the Council should offer activities for them with 23% stating that schools should also take responsibility. Some of our survey respondents disagreed as the below quote shows, ***'I don't want schools to offer activities because we have been there all day'***.

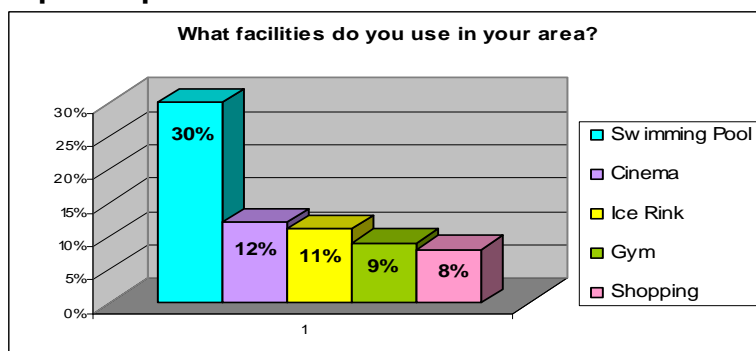
## Who should offer activities for young people?

### Top 5 responses



## What facilities do you use in your area?

### Top 5 responses



Overall we found that lots of young people use sporting facilities in their free time.

39 young people told us that they paid to use facilities in their local area and 61% of them said that they struggled to afford to.

***'I pay for the cinema, swimming and bowling, however I tend not to use these facilities that often as it can be very expensive if you go regularly'***

Some of the young people surveyed took the opportunity to comment on the Flex Card;

***'I have recently got a Flex Card which has given me discounts on many activities, this is a great help'***

***'I use my Flex card to get into swimming free but when this changes I probably won't go'***

29% of the young people surveyed said that they walked to activities in their local areas with 33% telling us that the facilities they accessed were just down the road.

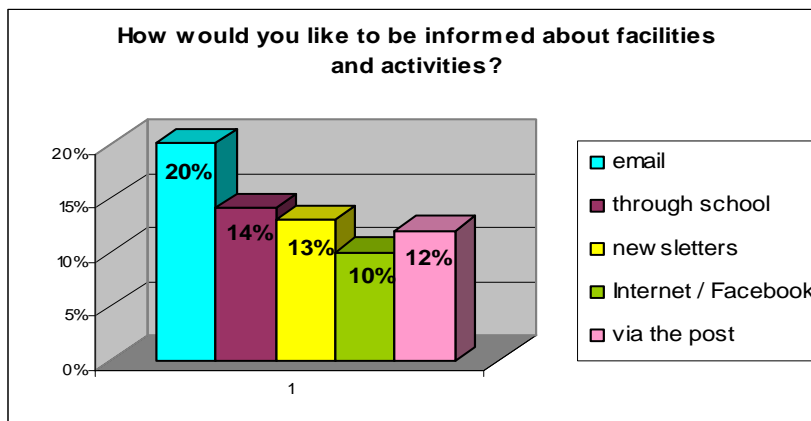
Young people were asked, 'Do you think there are enough facilities for young people?' 49% said yes with 51% said no.

Our research does not therefore clearly indicate either way whether young people think that there are enough facilities and activities for them.

Young people were asked, 'Do you know what facilities are out there?' 41% said yes and 59% said no.

## How would you like to be informed about facilities and activities?

### Top 5 responses



***'A booklet containing the names of the facilities and what you can do there as well as the average price would be a good idea'***

Throughout our interviews with the adults the need for consultation with young people came across as a strong theme. (see appendix 4)

***'We need to make more young people aware of what we offer and involve young people more in deciding what they want'*** Alastair James.

When we asked young people what facilities they would like in their local area 24% said that they did not know.

Many of the young people that we spoke to (83%) said that they did not use their local youth centre, various reasons were given for this (See appendix 4).

***'Sometimes spontaneous activities and activities organised by young people themselves are appreciated more by young people than ones that are organised by adults'***. Victor Brownlees

## **CONCLUSIONS**

- There are a whole range of different reasons why young people need things to do.
- It would be impossible to provide all of the activities that individual young people want.
- Current Government and Local Council cuts will affect young people and the facilities and activities that they receive.
- Where young people travel to activities and facilities many rely on their parents to transport them in a family car.

### **Out of those surveyed, many young people;**

- when directly asked what they would like say that they don't know. (24%)
- think that the Council should provide facilities and activities for them. (34%)
- access facilities and activities that are just down the road from their homes or one to two miles away.
- do not know what activities and facilities are out there for them. (59%)
- do not currently use local youth centres. (83%)

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Telford & Wrekin Council should;**

#### **Communication**

- Develop better ways of informing young people about the activities and facilities available to them.
- Use young people's school email addresses to communicate with them about facilities and activities.
- Work with schools helping them to give pupils up to date information about facilities and activities.
- Consider sending information addressed to young people about facilities and activities direct to their homes.
- Provide young people with clear information about any cuts to council services that directly affect them.

#### **Access**

- Deliver activities for young people close to their homes.
- Reinstate free swimming for young people who use a Flex Card.
- Extend the flex card scheme to cover a range of activities.
- Ensure that not all activities and facilities for young people centre around schools.

## **Engagement**

- Develop a programme of consultation with young people helping them to think about what facilities and activities they would like.
- Actively involve and support young people to design and run their own activities.

## **Youth Centres**

- Target friendship groups and encourage their attendance.
- Advertise more widely the activities and facilities on offer through the centres.
- Encourage young people who use the centres to tell others about the benefits, i.e. case studies

## **APPENDIX 1**

### **UKYP Regional Campaign 2010** **Protecting and promoting things to do for young people.**

#### **Young People's Survey Questions**

This information is going to be used for our campaign about promoting and protecting 'things to do' in our region (West Mids.) Please answer the following questions with as much detail as possible.

Age:

Area from

Why do you think that young people need things to do?

Who should offer opportunities and things to do for young people?

What facilities do you use in your area?

Do you pay for these facilities? If so, can you afford them?

How far do you travel to get there?

What modes of transport do you use to access facilities?

Do you think there are enough facilities?

What facilities would you like in your area?

Do you know what facilities are out there?

How would you like to be informed about information regarding these facilities?

Do you use your local youth centre?

If no, why?

If yes, why?

**UKYP Regional Campaign: 2010**  
**Protecting and promoting things to do for young people.**

**Young People's survey feedback**

This document contains all of the information from surveys with young people. 60 young people took part.

**What is your age?**

11	<b>5 respondents</b>
12	<b>12 respondents</b>
13	<b>8 respondents</b>
14	<b>10 respondents</b>
15	<b>6 respondents</b>
16	<b>2 respondents</b>
17	<b>12 respondents</b>
18	<b>4 respondents</b>

**Which area are you from?**

Telford	<b>23 respondents</b>
Newport	<b>24 respondents</b>
Villages	<b>2 respondents</b>
Shropshire	<b>5 respondents</b>
Staffordshire	<b>2 respondents</b>

**Why do you think that young people need things to do?**

To stop YP getting into crime or anti social behaviour	<b>19 respondents</b>
To stop YP getting bored	<b>29 respondents</b>
More relaxation	<b>1 respondent</b>
To stop YP hanging about on the streets	<b>8 respondents</b>
To help YP to keep fit	<b>2 respondents</b>
To help YP to make friends and meet new people	<b>5 respondents</b>
To keep them mentally and physically fit and healthy	<b>2 respondents</b>
To get away from ordinary surroundings	<b>1 respondent</b>
To keep minds active after school	<b>1 respondent</b>
To build positive attitudes	<b>1 respondent</b>
To learn new skills	<b>2 respondents</b>
To promote hobbies	<b>1 respondent</b>

## Who should offer activities for YP?

Council	<b>18 respondents</b>
Town Council	<b>2 respondents</b>
School	<b>12 respondents</b>
Government	<b>10 respondents</b>
Adults In Power	<b>2 respondents</b>
NOT Schools	<b>5 respondents</b>
Specialist people	<b>1 respondent</b>
Parents	<b>7 respondents</b>
Youth Centres/ Sports Centres	<b>7 respondents</b>
Volunteers	<b>1 respondent</b>
Children's Charities	<b>1 respondent</b>
Everyone	<b>2 respondents</b>
Private Companies	<b>1 respondent</b>
Community Workers	<b>1 respondent</b>
CSO's	<b>1 respondent</b>
Other young people	<b>1 respondent</b>

## What facilities do you use in your area?

Cinema	<b>12 respondents</b>	Athletics Club	<b>1 respondent</b>
Bowling	<b>7 respondents</b>	Hockey Club	<b>1 respondent</b>
Ice Rink	<b>11 respondents</b>	None	<b>11 respondents</b>
Youth Cafe/ Youth Centre	<b>6 respondents</b>	Climbing centre	<b>1 respondent</b>
Football Club	<b>4 respondents</b>	BMX Track	<b>3 respondents</b>
Tennis Courts	<b>7 respondents</b>	Martial Arts	<b>1 respondent</b>
Swimming Pool	<b>30 respondents</b>	Rugby Club	<b>1 respondent</b>
Parks	<b>4 respondents</b>	Sport Centre	<b>5 respondents</b>
Library	<b>2 respondents</b>	Cadets	<b>2 respondents</b>
Shopping Centre	<b>8 respondents</b>	Gym	<b>9 respondents</b>
Theatre	<b>1 respondent</b>	Dance and Drama	<b>3 respondents</b>
Skate Park	<b>3 respondents</b>	Basket ball and net ball courts	<b>3 respondents</b>

## Do you pay for these facilities? If so, can you afford them?

Do you pay?	<b>Yes 39 respondents</b>	<b>No 10 respondents</b>	Can you afford them?	<b>Yes 23 respondents</b>	<b>No 24 respondents</b>
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**How far do you travel to get there?**

1 - 2 miles	<b>12 respondents</b>
2 - 5 miles	<b>4 respondents</b>
5 - 7 miles	<b>5 respondents</b>
7 - 14 mile	<b>6 respondents</b>
14 - 20 miles	<b>3 respondents</b>
Over 20 miles	<b>3 respondents</b>
Down the road	<b>16 respondents</b>

**What modes of transport do you use to access facilities?**

Bus	<b>17 respondents</b>	Train	<b>3 respondents</b>
Car	<b>34 respondents</b>	Bike	<b>7 respondents</b>
Walk	<b>26 respondents</b>	Taxi	<b>2 respondents</b>

**Do you think there are enough facilities?**

Yes	<b>26 respondents</b>	No	<b>27 respondents</b>
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**What facilities would you like in your area?**

Ice Skating	<b>3 respondents</b>	More social areas	<b>4 respondents</b>
More Parks	<b>3 respondents</b>	Youth centre	<b>1 respondent</b>
Cinema	<b>4 respondents</b>	Paint ball	<b>3 respondents</b>
Gym	<b>7 respondents</b>	Indoor skate park	<b>1 respondent</b>
More Shops	<b>4 respondents</b>	Athletics centre	<b>1 respondent</b>
Laser Quest	<b>2 respondents</b>	Martial Arts	<b>1 respondent</b>
Art Gallery	<b>2 respondents</b>	Swimming Pool	<b>5 respondents</b>
Music Venues	<b>1 respondent</b>	More sports facilities	<b>8 respondents</b>
Fast Food Shops	<b>1 respondent</b>	Don't know	<b>16 respondents</b>

**Do you know what facilities are out there?**

Yes	<b>21 respondents</b>	No	<b>30 respondents</b>
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**How would you like to be informed about information regarding these facilities?**

Through School	<b>12 respondents</b>	Local newspapers	<b>5 respondents</b>
In the post	<b>10 respondents</b>	Local radio stations	<b>3 respondents</b>
Internet/ face book	<b>8 respondents</b>	Newsletters	<b>11 respondents</b>
Text	<b>4 respondents</b>	Posters	<b>6 respondents</b>
Billboards	<b>4 respondents</b>	Booklet	<b>3 respondents</b>
Bus Stop notices	<b>2 respondents</b>	TV ads	<b>1 respondent</b>
Emails	<b>17 respondents</b>		

**Do you use your local youth centre? Why?**

Yes <b>10 respondents</b>	<b>3 respondents</b>	Lots of my friends go
	<b>1 respondent</b>	To see my friends and socialise
	<b>4 respondents</b>	Something to do
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Church group meets there
	<b>1 respondent</b>	To keep fit

No <b>50 respondents</b>	<b>7 respondents</b>	Too many other things to do
	<b>4 respondents</b>	Wasn't aware that there was one
	<b>10 respondents</b>	Don't know anyone that goes
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Too repetitive
	<b>6 respondents</b>	Boring
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Can't commit to a specific time of the week
	<b>2 respondents</b>	Fear of crime
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Don't think that I would like it
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Has a bad reputation
	<b>4 respondents</b>	Don't know what happens there
<b>3 respondents</b>	Can do all of the activities that it provides at home	

	<b>1 respondent</b>	Not enough sport is offered
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Grew out of it
	<b>2 respondents</b>	Don't have one
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Terrible building
	<b>2 respondents</b>	Been there and no longer like it
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Too far away
	<b>1 respondent</b>	Don't know when it is on
	<b>2 respondents</b>	Don't know where it is

## APPENDIX 3

### UKYP Regional campaign:2010

#### Protecting and Promoting Things to do for Young People.

Interviews were carried out with the following decision making adults;

- Councillor Stephen Burrell, Lead Member for Children and Young People
- Victor Brownlees, Chief Executive of Telford & Wrekin Council
- Alistair James, Principal Youth Strategy & Development Manager
- Rachel Phillips, Youth Offer Development / Participation Worker

#### Adult Interview Questions

Why do you think that young people need things to do?

Do you believe there is enough for young people to do in Telford and Wrekin?

What are you aware of that is available for young people in Telford and Wrekin?

How popular do you think these are with young people?

What type of activities would you like to see young people being involved in?

What age range of young people needs things to do?

What free provision should Telford and Wrekin offer young people?

Who should offer opportunities and things to do for young people?

To what extent do you believe the cuts will affect provision for young people?

Adult interview feedback

**Why do you think that young people need things to do?**

Broadens minds

Experience different things

Develop social skills

Useful outlet for energy

Gives a different perspective on life

Stops boredom

Educational

New experiences and new skills

Teaches life skills

Supports the transition from dependant to independent

Builds confidence

**Do you believe there is enough for young people to do in Telford and Wrekin?**

Don't know, need to ask YP

No matter how much we provide YP would probably say no...Council could and should do more involvement work with YP

Yes but not well published

**What are you aware of that is available for young people in Telford and Wrekin?**

Not sure about everything ...need to develop YP's confidence to be able to speak out and shout about their interests

Range of Council run activities and centres as well as commercial activities cinema etc.

**How popular do you think these are with young people?**

Youth centres need updating

It varies

**What type of activities would you like to see young people being involved in?**

Music and drama, sporting activities

Events to encourage them to take part in the democratic process

Activities that young people tell us they want.

Anything that is positive and gives young people confidence

**What age range of young people needs things to do?**

14 - 19 year olds

12+

All ages of people need things to do

**What free provision should Telford and Wrekin offer young people?**

In an ideal world most things

Would attendance be increased if young people had to pay?

Developmental and educational activities

Free or low cost sports

**Who should offer opportunities and things to do for young people?**

Young people themselves

Parents

Schools

Council

Churches

Sports Clubs

Voluntary organisations

Everyone in the community

**To what extent do you believe the cuts will affect provision for young people?**

Inevitably they will the extent is unclear at the moment

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### We would like to thank:

- The young people who completed surveys
- The decision making adults who we interviewed
- Members of Telford & Wrekin Council Community Engagement Team and local UKYP support workers
- Members of Telford & Wrekin Council's Delivery and Planning Team



**Cllr Stephen Burrell, Becci and Mitch**



**Victor Brownlees, Becci and Mitch**

## UK YOUTH PARLIAMENT

The UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) enables young people to use their energy and passion to change the world for the better. Run by young people for young people, UKYP provides opportunities for 11 – 18 year olds to use their voice in creative ways to bring about social change.

For more information about the work of the UK Youth Parliament Nationally, go to: [www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk](http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk) or for local information contact the Community Engagement Team on 01952 382131 or email [yourviewsmatter@telford.gov.uk](mailto:yourviewsmatter@telford.gov.uk)

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