

The Safeguarding Summit – listening to children and young people

Stay Safe, Feel Safe, Be Safe

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Board members with information on the planning, delivery and outcomes of its' work on participation.
- 1.2 The Leicester Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) had within its' 2012/13 Business Plan a business project priority to increase children and young people's participation. One of the Board's business purpose is to ensure that children and young people are listened to and consulted on safeguarding issues and that their views and opinions are taken into account.
- 1.3 A task and finish group was established, chaired by the Head of Service, Children's Safeguarding and Quality Assurance in the city council. The group was given the business brief with the following outcome measures:
 - That children and young people are able to tell us whether they feel safe and are safe
 - That children and young people's views and experiences are embedded into services quality assurance
 - That children and young people help to shape service development and delivery
- 1.4 Participation leads from across the children's workforce joined the group and/or have been consulted about how best to take this agenda forward.

2. The Federation

- 2.1 When invited to come together on the theme of safeguarding, the various consultation and participation groups chose to form "federation" of children and young people's forums and councils. This included representatives from:
 - the Young People's Council,
 - the Young Advisors,
 - the Big Mouth Forum,
 - the Children's Council,
 - the Children in Care Council and
 - the School Councils.

2.2 More detail on each of these groups is available at Appendix A. The Federation has been supported by officers from the City Council, the School Development Support Agency (SDSA) and the LSCB.

3. The task

3.1 In preliminary discussions, the LSCB asked the Federation for its advice on how best to consult with children and young people about their experience of being safe.

3.2 In essence, the LSCB wanted to ask the following questions directly to children and young people:

1. How safe do you feel?
2. Who or what do you think is most likely to harm you?
3. How do you avoid or deal with risk?
4. What would make you feel safer?

4. The planning process

4.1 The Federation decided to organise an all-day event for children and young people of all ages. The aim of the event was to facilitate consultation with children and young people about feeling safe, being safe and staying safe.

4.2 To focus discussions, the LSCB's four key questions were asked in relation to four common aspects of young people's lives:

- School and college
- Out and about
- Home
- Leisure and transport

4.3 This structure added a context to the subject of risks and encouraged an awareness of the different risks associated with different situations. These four aspects were to become areas or "zones" on the day of the event.

4.4 The Federation titled the event "The Safeguarding Summit".

4.5 The day was organised by young people for young people. School Councils were asked to come representing views from their fellow pupils about the four questions and four areas. Invitations were sent to schools in the summer term of 2013.

4.6 Each zone had workshops that were led by one of the participation groups (assisted by professionals from agencies within the LSCB) as follows:

- School and college – led by the Young Peoples Council
- Out and about – led by the Big Mouth Forum
- Home – led by the Children's Council
- Leisure and transport – led by the Children in Care Council

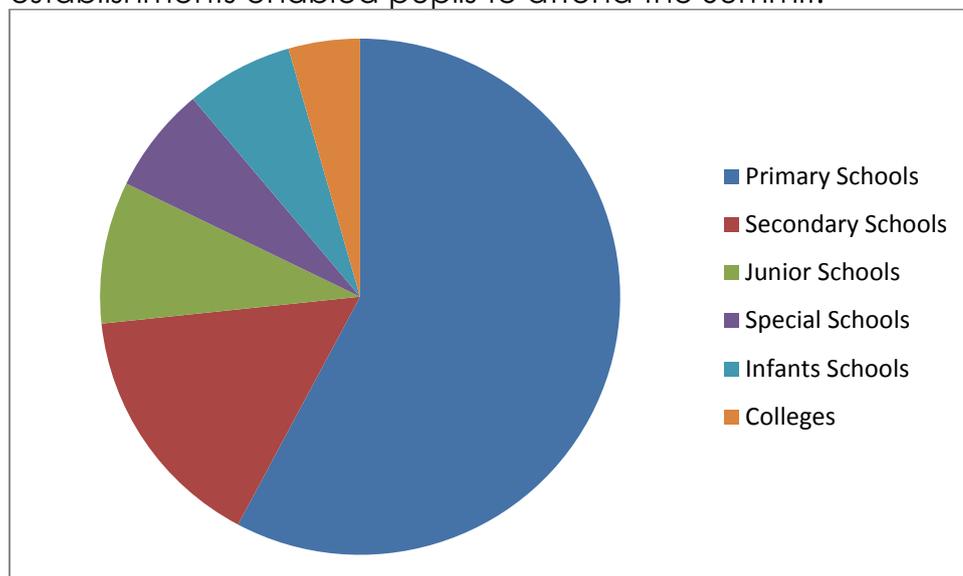
4.7 The “zones” were split into two age categories under 11's and 11 plus. This recognised the age related issues that might be discussed under the topics. Children and young people attending took part in workshops in each of the zones.

5. The event

5.1 On 17th October 2013, children and young people from all over Leicester city gathered at De Montfort Hall to take part in the Safeguarding Summit.

6. Attendance

6.1 The Summit was well attended. The following educational establishments enabled pupils to attend the Summit:



Educational Setting	Number of establishments represented	Number of children and young people attending
Infants	3	10
Primary	26	61
Junior	4	9
Secondary	7	18
Special	3	4
Colleges	2	4
	45	106

7. The voices of the children and young people

How safe do children and young people feel in Leicester?

- 7.1 The LSCB and the Federation did not set out to measure or grade how safe children and young people felt. Instead, the intent was to engage them in a structured dialogue that encouraged them to reflect on the risks as they saw them, the potential solutions and the strengths that they themselves possessed to avoid and deal with risks.
- 7.2 The work produced in each of the zones demonstrated a keen understanding of various risks in various settings. The workshop leaders found that children and young people found it easy to articulate what could harm themselves and others.

Who or what do you think is most likely to harm you?

7.3 The main responses across both of the age groups were as follows;

<h3>School & College</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ from peers ○ intimidation by older students ○ carrying of weapons ○ fear of violence from gangs and in fights • Peer pressure • Strangers on the school grounds/intruders • Smoking on school grounds • Being alone 	<h3>Out and about</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stranger danger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Fear of abduction ○ Being followed on foot and in cars ○ Being abducted by car ○ Gangs • Threat of violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Robbery (for money or possessions) ○ Sexual attack • Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dark streets ○ Alleys ○ Parks ○ Isolated places • Risk from vehicles • Drunk people • Risk from dogs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Strays ○ Dogs not on a lead ○ Dog mess
<h3>Leisure and transport</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk of collision <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In cars, buses and on bikes • Getting lost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not taking a safe and/or known route • Crossing or playing near railways • Feeling unsafe in taxis • Stanger danger <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Risks posed by fellow passengers 	<h3>Home</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Going online <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cyberbullying • Unhealthy relationships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ With or between siblings, parents and partners • Being left alone • Household hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Associated with unsupervised use of gas, water and electricity

How do you avoid or deal with risk?

- 7.4 After identifying the risks in a number of contexts the children and young people were asked to consider how those risks could be minimised.
- 7.5 Across all of the zones and in both age groups, the children and young people were good at identifying different means of dealing with the risks they did or might encounter.
- 7.6 Examples of this were:
- Phone for support
 - Emergency and non-emergency numbers were known
 - Don't get involved
 - Ignore the situation
 - Walk on by
 - Don't respond to provocation
 - Talk to or seek help from an adult
 - Stay with a friend
 - Safety in numbers
 - Be clear about your route
 - Know where you are going

What would make you feel safer?

- 7.7 There were a number of protective factors identified by the participants. Among them were:
- Being part of a community
 - Friendship group, church, school, mosque
 - Knowing who to trust
 - Being comfortable with the people you are with
 - Security measures
 - Good lighting
 - CCTV
 - Locks
 - Identity badges
 - Importance of a healthy family environment
 - Staying alert
 - Not daydreaming
 - Not concentrating
 - Distracted by music through headphones
 - Under the influence of substances

8. Analysis

- 8.1 It was clear from the workshop content and outcomes that children and young people were aware of the importance of being and feeling safe.
- 8.2 Even the young children were able to reflect on the types of feelings associated with feeling unsafe (eg. "scared", "anxious", "nervous", "not able to concentrate").
- 8.3 The negative effects of risk and harm were also clearly articulated (eg. psychological and emotional health, absence from school, isolation).

9. Feedback about the event

- 9.1 Children and young people were invited to provide feedback on how they found the event and were asked to suggest ideas for ways in which it could have been improved. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive and is available for workshop leaders to inform their sessions in future.

10. Conclusions

- 10.1 This was an innovative, ambitious and exciting event and one that will hopefully lay the foundation for other areas of consultation with children and young people into the future.
- 10.2 The Summit was the first time in Leicester that the LSCB consulted with children and young people, on this scale about their experience of feeling safe. The feedback from the Summit will provide valuable information for all those providing services to children and young people. The LSCB will ensure that those findings are shared widely.
- 10.3 The event was funded through the LSCB, however it is largely being organised through the time and efforts of the young people and those officers supporting them, from the SDSA. Schools were supported to allow participation of pupil representation on the day.
- 10.4 This event demonstrated that the Federation is a valuable resource and great opportunity to consult with children and young people from across the city.

10.5 In Leicester we are quite privileged to have a number of participation groups that represent all children and young people within the city. These groups are committed in representing the views and opinions of the children and young people in their specific area of work to policy makers and getting their voices heard.

11. Recommendations

11.1 The Board is asked to:

- endorse the work of the Federation
- thank the SDSA for supporting the work of the Federation
- consider how best to support the Federation to continue its good work
- commission the Federation to quality assure partnership work on safeguarding in the future

11.2 Partner agencies are asked to:

- receive, take note and act on the messages contained in this report
- seek to address the concerns of children and young people where they can
- establish a dialogue with the Federation for the purposes of exploring how it can assist agencies with their own requirements to consult with children and young people
- take account of and incorporate these findings into their service planning and commissioning processes where appropriate

12. Acknowledgements

12.1 The LSCB would like to acknowledge the efforts of all of the individuals, organisations and schools and colleges that took part in the event. Our thanks go to:

Big Mouth Forum
Leicester College
Café Brunch
Children's Council
SDSA

Children in Care Council
Young Advisors
De Montfort Hall
Young Peoples Council

Professional leads

Feroza Ladd
Luka Moscetano
Sara Barson-Hayes

Educational establishments

Abbey Primary
Alderman Richard Hallam Primary
Ash Field Academy
Beaumont Leys School
Braunstone Frith Primary
Caldecote Primary
Coleman Primary
Ellesmere College
Folville Junior
Forest Lodge Primary
Granby Primary
Highfields Primary
Humberstone Infants
Inglehurst Junior
Judgemeanow Community College
King Richard III Infants
Knighton Fields Primary
Leicester College
Linden Primary
Marriott Primary
Medway Primary
Mellor Primary
Moat Community College
Montrose Primary
Overdale Junior
Queensmead Primary Academy
Rolleston Primary

Rowlatts Hill Primary
Rushey Mead School
Sacred Heart Primary
Samworth Enterprise Academy
Sandfield Close Primary
Shaftesbury Junior
Sir Jonathon North Community
College
Slater Primary
Sparkenhoe Primary
St John the Baptist Primary
St Joseph's Primary
St Thomas More Primary
Stokes Wood Primary
The Lancaster School
Uplands Infants
West Gate School
Willowbrook Primary
Wyggeston & Queen Elizabeth I
College

Appendix A

– the groups that make up the Federation

The Children's Council

The Children's Council was formed in 2009 to give 7 – 13 year olds in Leicester a voice and the opportunity to make a difference in their communities. Council members come from all over the city and all bring different strengths to the group. The group meets on the last Thursday of every month and the agenda concentrates on issues that affect children and young people. Guests are invited to the meetings who have a link to the work the council is doing. They are consulted for their advice and guidance. The work of the council is supported by four mentors who support the group in developing its' targets and strategies.

Young People's Council

Leicester City Young People's Council are an elected group of young people aged 13 - 19 years who represent young people at a neighbourhood level. They engage with elected members, decision makers and champion the issues of the needs of young people. Their work is varied and has included involvement in budget meetings as well as engaging in scrutiny meetings considering issues as diverse as children, young people and schools to economic development, transport and tourism.

Young Advisors

Leicester Young Advisors are a small group of trained consultants aged 15 - 21 years. They are trained to support organisations to "youth-proof" policies as well as deliver training, plan events and carry out "mystery shopper" programmes.

Big Mouth Forum

The forum has two sessions a month. The older members meet on the third Thursday and the 5 – 12 year olds meet on the fourth Wednesday. The purpose of the forum is to let disabled children and young people speak out for themselves without being judged and to make recommendations on how services can be improved. The

forum has been asked to be involved in many different types of projects, programmes, initiatives and activities, including auditing the accessibility of Leicester City Council's leisure centres.

Children in Care Council

The Children in Care Council (known as "450+ voices") is a group of young people ranging from 13 to 21 year olds who have had experience of the care system. The council offers them a chance to have their voices heard to raise issues and give recommendations to decision makers within the City Council.

These groups collectively came together to work as one federation and one voice to plan and run the Stay Safe, Feel Safe, Be Safe event to gather the vital and important information that will enable LSCB member organisations to improve their service to children and young people.