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To: Children, Families and Education Policy Overview Committee - 13 November 2008

Subject: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OF KENT SURVEY (NFER) 2008

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Summary: This report provides CFE Policy Overview Committee with information about the 2008 Children and Young People Survey completed by NFER.

Introduction

1. (1) The 2008 Children and Young People of Kent survey has now been completed. The survey is a key instrument in obtaining the views of a large number of children and young people in the county. The survey reflects the importance attached to hearing from children and young people as demonstrated in the KCC 2010 target 14 "Listen to young people's views and opinions and develop their ideas to improve education and life in Kent".

(2) The National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) was commissioned to conduct the 2008 survey.

(3) In total, 45,531 children and young people completed the survey. This includes:

- 33,056 children aged 7 to 11 from 389 schools
- 11,790 young people aged 11 to 16 from 84 secondary schools
- 685 young people post 16.

(4) This response represents an increase of 6% on the 2007 survey when 42,832 children and young people participated.

(5) To allow comparisons over time, the key themes and questions were the same as the previous survey. These were the Every Child Matters outcomes - Being Healthy, Staying Safe, Enjoying and Achieving, Making a Positive Contribution, and Achieving Economic Well-Being, views were also obtained on children and young people's perceptions of living in Kent.

(6) The survey produced a wealth of information at a county level but also for the Local Children Service Partnerships (LCSP) and for participating schools. Each school and LCSP received its own data report from the survey. As in 2007, NFER considered any significant differences in response from the following groups:

- Looked After Children.
- Children with special educational needs
- Pupils eligible for free school meals
- Speakers of a first language other than English
- Black and Minority Ethnic groups (new in 2008).

Key Findings From the 2008 Children and Young People Survey

2 The full report provides a wealth of information on the perceptions of children and young people. Some of the key findings are summarised below.

Being Healthy

3. (1) Children and young people in Kent have a good understanding of healthy living and are aware of the dangers of drinking alcohol and smoking. Findings from the survey, however, suggest that children and young people are not always leading such healthy lifestyles.

(2) Primary children in 2008 are more likely than children in 2006/07 to think that it is healthy to eat different types of food (67 per cent and 61 per cent respectively). But they are more likely than children in 2006/07 to eat sweets or chocolate on most days (66 per cent and 62 per cent respectively).

(3) Most young people feel they receive enough information about healthy living, however nearly half of 11 –19 years olds say they need more information and advice about relationships and about a quarter feel they need more information about sexual health (24% in 2008 compared to 26% in 2006/07).

(4) Almost all secondary and post -16 young people are aware that smoking causes health problems (93% of 11- 16s and 94% of post 16 young people). Similarly, most young people understand the dangers of getting drunk (83% of 11 to 16s and 85% of post 16 young people). However, around a fifth of post 16 young people (21%) and 6% of 11 to 16 year olds say they get drunk at least once or twice a week with a further 2% of 11-16 years and 3% of post 16 year olds saying they get drunk on most days.. Also, 17% of post 16s and 9% of 11 to 16 year olds say they smoke at least once or twice a week.

Actions

- Improve access to services, support and information to stop smoking, and misuse of drugs/alcohol. (CYPP target 14)
- Encourage healthy eating and an understanding of the role of nutrition in living a healthy life style. (CYPP target 16)
- Promote healthy eating in children and young people by providing nutritious lunches through the “Healthy Schools” programme and launch a range of community based healthy eating pilots aimed at parents and carers. (2010 target).

- Increase access to physical activities. (CYPP target 15)
- Provide support to children and young people who are, or thought to be, at risk of becoming an unhealthy weight. (CYPP target 17)
- Ensure young people have access to information about relationships and sexual health. (CYPP target 13)

Staying Safe

4. (1) The majority of children say they know how to stay safe (92%) and young people say they make choices to help them to stay safe (70%). Young people also report that they feel safe most of the time travelling to and from school (67% most of the time and a further 25% sometimes), whilst at school (70% say most of the time and a further 22% say sometimes), and in the area where they live (68% say most of the time and 23% sometimes). There are, however, particular things in their local area that worry some children and young people:

- Primary children worry most about broken glass on the ground (41%) and groups of people hanging around (37%).
- People carrying knives was the most frequently identified concern for 11-19 year olds (identified as a concern by 37% of secondary young people and a 21% of post –16 young people).

(2) However, overall the proportion of children and young people who worry about glass on the ground, groups of young people hanging around and people carrying knives, has declined slightly since 2006/07.

(3) Around half of primary children said they have experienced being pushed or hit by other children (55%) or called names or talked about by other children (54%). As children get older, reports of bullying decrease, 29% of 11-16 year olds say they have been bullied in the past year, with verbal bullying the most common form of bullying experienced by young people in this age group. (Of those that said they'd been bullied, 77% said it was verbal bullying).

Whether children (aged 7 to 11) have been bullied.

Type of Bullying	2007	2008
Pushed or hit by other children	55%	55%
Called names or talked about by other children.	54%	54%
Left out or stopped from joining in.	49%	49%
Picked on or bullied at school	38%	37%
Had their possessions broken or stolen on purpose	33%	32%
Picked on in the area where they live	27%	25%
Picked on going to or from school	13%	12%

Whether secondary young people (11 to 16) have been bullied in the last year

	2007	2008
Bullied in the last year	31%	29%

(4) Younger children and those from specific groups like young carers and SEN are more likely to report being bullied (43% of young carers and 42% of secondary young people with SEN).

Actions

- Identify and target specific areas to reduce crime and disorder. (CYPP target 71)
- Reduce anti social behaviour involving young people – particularly where it is alcohol and drug related. (CYPP target 70)
- Promote safe environments for children and young people. (CYPP targets 48 and 49).
- Improve access for children and young people needing help or advice about dealing with bullying or discriminatory behaviour.
- Provide advice to children and young people and their families about using the internet safely. (CYPP target 73)

Enjoying and Achieving

5. (1) A significant proportion of primary children enjoy going to school (44%), a further 38% report they sometimes enjoy going to school and 16 % of primary children said they do not like going to school. Most secondary young people either agree or strongly agree with the statement “I like being at school” (54%). Slightly more post 16 young people agree or strongly agree that they enjoy being at school/college (58%). Young people were asked what aspects of school they enjoy, in response to specific questions, 78% of young people said they enjoy seeing friends, 36% said they enjoy sports and 23% said they enjoy drama/music productions. However, 52% of secondary and 42% of post –16 young people said that the disruptive behaviour of other pupils makes it difficult for them to learn.

(2) Overall, most children (66%) think they are doing well at school and 80% of 11 to 16 young people feel that they are doing well or quite well at school.

(3) Slightly more primary children (49 per cent) reported using the internet after school in 2008 compared to those who used it in 2006/07 (46 per cent)

(4) Children and young people participate in a range of activities after school and at the weekends. Around a third of young people aged 11 to 19 would like to do more activities in their spare time. Some of the barriers for young people age 11 to 16, not doing more activities include cost (31%), lack of time (27%) and activities not being available locally (24%).

Actions

- Ensure that young people have safe places to meet and things to do. (CYPP target 48)
- Make sure that children have safe, accessible and exciting places to play. (CYPP target 49)
- Work with Headteachers to encourage a zero tolerance approach towards disruptive behaviour, bullying and vandalism in our schools (2010 target).
- Attendance and Behaviour Service, Kent Safe Schools and Advisory Service addressing disruptive behaviour through a range of actions.
- Use the opportunity represented by the 2012 Olympics to inspire children and young people to participate in sports. (CYPP target 50)
- Encourage and promote opportunities for children and young people to volunteer. (CYPP target 51).

Making a Positive Contribution

6. (1) Around 69% of secondary and 72% of post 16 young people feel they have the opportunity to have their say about school issues. However only approximately a third of secondary young people (36%) and post 16 young people (30%) feel they can have a say on issues affecting the area where they live at least sometimes.

(2) Around 60 per cent of secondary and post- 16 young people said they would not be interested in joining a school council and just over 40 % would not vote in a school or college election.

(3) Looked After Children are more likely to be a member of a school council or college council than other secondary pupils (37% compared to 21%).

(4) Many children (81%) aged 7 –11 say they help other people and 46% raised money for charity.

(5) 75% of primary children recycle compared to 67% in 2006/07 and 66% of 11 to 16 year olds say they recycle compared to 56% in 2006/07.

Actions

- Increase engagement and participation by young people in education, employment and society. (CYPP priority 7).
- Increase opportunities for children and young people to have a say in their local community through participation and consultation by the Local Children Service Partnerships.
- Provide opportunities for children and young people who are seldom heard to express their views. For example, a children in care council and focus groups with particularly vulnerable groups e.g. disabled children.

Achieving Economic Well-Being

7. (1) Most children (65%) say they know what job they want to do when they are grown up. Also most secondary young people (65%) and post 16 young people (62%) know what sort of job they want to do in the future and think they will be able to get it (67% and 61% respectively).

(2) Just under two thirds of secondary young people (64%) and post 16 young people (65%) think that their school or college is giving them useful skills and knowledge for work. However, only 43% of 11 to 16 year olds and 38% of post 16s agree that they are receiving good careers advice.

(3) About 67% secondary and 65% of post –16 feel positive about their future but about 20% are unsure.

Actions

- Reduce the impact of poverty on children's lives by tackling the underlying causes and by mitigating the effects of poverty. (CYPP priority 1).
- Increase the proportion of young people who participate in education, training and employment post –16. (CYPP target 64).
- Plan and deliver a broad and inclusive 14 to 19-curriculum and qualifications framework with clear and accessible pathways for progression. (CYPP target 61)
- Improve careers advice for young people. Provide careers education, work related learning and enterprise within the curriculum. (CYPP target 66)
- Reduce the number of people dependent on welfare benefits through strategies such as the Supporting Independence Programme. (CYPP target 9),

Living in Kent

8. Just over 80 per cent of primary children in Kent like the area they live in (a slightly higher proportion than in 2006/07). 11 – 19 year old young people are slightly less positive, with 44% reporting that their area is a good place to live and a further 41% think that it is an "okay" place to live.

Actions

- Provide opportunities through the Local Children Service Partnerships for young people to influence their local communities.
- Ensure that young people have safe places to meet and things to do. (CYPP target 48).
- Provide the Select Committee on young people's leisure activities with findings from the survey.

Ethnicity

9. (1) The 2006/07 survey included some analysis of the results by various groupings one of which was children and young people with a first language other than English. However it was thought it would be more informative if the 2008 survey could identify key differences for children and young people from different ethnic backgrounds.

(2) Appendix B to the main report provides data and commentary on the responses for the various topics in the questionnaire. A few examples of the findings include:

Primary children with an Asian or Asian British background are most likely to agree with the statement “I like going to school” than children from other ethnic backgrounds (67% compared with 43% for White British children).

Primary children from a Black or Black British ethnic background are the most likely to say that they like after-school clubs (67%). Whereas children from a Gypsy, Roma or Traveller background are the most likely to say that they do *not* like after school clubs (27%)

Secondary young people from an Asian or Asian British ethnic background are less likely to exercise for an hour or more on most days (44%) compared to young people of dual heritage or mixed ethnic background (59%).

Using and Communicating the Results of the 2008 Survey

10. (1) Results from the survey will be put to good use to inform the commissioning and delivery of services.

(2) Early results from the survey were used to reinforce themes in the development of the Kent Children and Young People’s Plan (2008-2011), and will be useful for confirming Local Children Service Plans, and local School Plans. It is also expected to inform the Children and Young People needs assessments 2009.

(3) The results should also be of value for CFE staff in their business plans and for partner agencies in the Kent Children’s Trust. It should also be of use to any KCC select committees concerning young people including the current one addressing provision of activities for young people.

(4) The previous survey findings were used to inform various forums, policy and strategy developments. For example it was used by the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Connexions and KDAAT and helped to inform the development of policies re transport, PSHE, bullying etc. It is anticipated that the 2008 survey will also be useful for a similar range of children and young people services in the county.

(5) It is important that the survey results are communicated widely. It is proposed that:

- Summary findings be considered within the CFE divisional management teams to establish that relevant actions are being taken in all areas.
- Local Children Service Partnerships make use of the main survey findings in planning and developing children and young people’s services at a local level.
- Presentations are made to a wider group of Members, to relevant staff groups, teams, and partnership and project groups.
- A summary report is put on the KCC website and Kent Trust website and reported to the Kent Children’s Trust Board.

Recommendations

11. Members of the CFE Policy Overview Committee are asked to:

Note the summary findings from the 2008 children and young people survey.

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Background Documents:

None

Other Useful Information:

None