“Where every child’s voice matters”

staying Safe being Healthy enjoying and Achieving making a Positive contribution Economic wellbeing
The SHAPE Programme is an initiative developed in December 2014 by Sandwell Council led by Jyoti Atri, (Director of Public Health and Corporate Child’s Voice Lead) and Councillor Simon Hackett (Cabinet Lead for Children’s Services). Partner agencies include the National Health Service, Police and voluntary sector. Its objective is to listen to children and young people in Sandwell on these five areas:

• Staying Safe
• Being Healthy
• Enjoying & Achieving
• Making a Positive contribution
• Economic wellbeing

The Programme has developed since its inception and now consists of a series of events and opportunities for young people to come together and share their views on services in Sandwell as well as take part in fun and innovative activities.

This Annual Report outlines the findings from the SHAPE Programme over the last 12 months through consultation with young people as well as demonstrating the success and involvement of young people in the programme.
What we’ve done...

SHAPE PROGRAMME
2014 - 15

SHAPE OUR FUTURE CONFERENCE
(1 December 2014)
Child’s Voice Conference

SHAPE PLEDGES
(31 March 2015)
Development of partnership pledges to address conference outcomes.

SHAPE YOUR TALENT AUDITIONS
(18 April 2015)
In conjunction with Sandwell College
A Talent Show for 9 - 19 year olds.

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE SURVEY
(Oct - Dec 2015)

SHAPE YOUR TALENT FINAL
(29 August 2015)
Outdoor event to promote healthy activities.

SHAPE OUR FUTURE CONFERENCE
(23 July 2016)
Child’s Voice Conference

SHAPE Youth Festival
(4 - 18 November 2016)

SHAPED: Your Talent Final
(29 August 2015)

SHAPE YOUTH FESTIVAL
(27 April 2016)
Youth conference

EU Referendum
(May 2016)
SHAPE Youth Forum to take part in debates

Early Years Consultation
(27 June 2016)
Youth takeover of board that ensures the health/wellbeing of families

SHAPE Youth Over Challenge
(16 - 27 November 2015)
Young people take over the role of senior officers and directors.

YOUTH TAKE OVER CHALLENGE
Sandwell Council Cabinet
(16 - 27 November 2015)
Young people take over the cabinet meeting at Sandwell Council

SHAPE OUR FUTURE CONFERENCE
(26 November 2015)

SHAPE Our Future Conference
(December 2016)

Police Youth Takeover Challenge
(22 March 2016)
Youth takeover of Sandwell Local Policing

SHAPE Your Talent Auditions
(6 - 31 April 2016)
With Sandwell College and the Library Service

SHAPE Your Talent Final
(24 June 2016)
SHAPE Youth Forum
(22 March 2016)
Youth takeover of Sandwell Local Policing

Health & Well Being Board Youth Takeover Challenge
(July 2016)
Youth takeover of board that ensures the health/wellbeing of families

SHAPE Youth Forum to take part in debates
(22 March 2016)
Youth takeover of Sandwell Local Policing

Anti-bullying week
(4 - 18 November 2016)

National Youth Takeover Challenge
(18 November - 2 December)
**Staying Safe**

**you said...**

Young people wanted more police presence, CCTV and lighting in parks to feel safer when out in the evenings.

A greater awareness of child sexual exploitation (CSE) and controlling relationships in schools and social media would better educate young people on the subject.

**we did...**

- Sandwell College have installed a metal detector
- Given Neighbourhood Police contact details to all primary/secondary schools
- Delivered activity programme during the summer holidays

**2014**

28% felt safe in their local area - home and school
75.1% turn to parents
8.1% turn to teachers

**2015**

28% worried about crime
46% worried about being bullied
40% worried about being targeted by gangs
10% carry a weapon for protection
95.7% want more internet safety education

**Being Healthy**

**you said...**

Young people wanted more opportunities to get fit and engage in physical activities, especially during the summer, such as football, canoeing, camping, cycling etc.

School nurses should be used more, especially regarding mental health, asthma and weight management.

**we did...**

- Held a SHAPE Youth Festival in 2015 and will continue annually to encourage outdoor activity
- Ensured all students know their school nurse and how to contact them
- Invested in more green gyms in parks
Young people wanted better communication and marketing of activities that were available to them. They also wanted better parks and more of them.

They also expressed that they felt unrecognised for their talents outside of academic achievements, such as art and sports.

**2014**
- 57% like to go to parks in their free time
- 58.5% watch TV and 51.3% play games in the evenings and weekends

**2015**
- 43% worry about schoolwork and exams
- 20% felt stressed and 35% felt school could help them achieve more
- 66% use internet for social media

**2014**
- 47% want to take part in inspecting the quality of local activities/services
- 54% want to help decide how money is spent on activities

2015
- 28.9% haven't given their ideas to their school council or youth parliament
- 11.6% said their ideas haven't been listened to and 20% didn't know if their ideas had been listened to

**2015**
- 20% felt stressed and 35% felt school could help them achieve more
- 66% use internet for social media

**Which of these things would you say about your school...?**

- I am able to give my views about how to improve things in school
- I get enough help with making choices and decisions
- We have enough chance to learn something that is not in a classroom (learning outdoors or going on visits)
- I get enough help with learning at school
- Other people often disrupt my lessons
- Most of my teachers tell me how I am doing with my work
- Most of my teachers make my lessons fun and interesting
- My school has lots of activities like sport and drama to take part in during lunchtime and after school
- My school is giving me useful skills and knowledge

**you said...**
Young people felt adults should consider their opinions more. They stated there should be more consultation with young people through social media.

**we did...**
- Introduced a SHAPE Youth Forum consisting of Youth Parliament, Looked After Children's Board, Sandwell College and school council representatives
- Promoted all Sandwell youth events through social media
- Hold an annual SHAPE Our Future event
- Increased active participation in National Takeover Day
2014
66% found money was most important when looking for a job as well as finding one you enjoy

2015
38% worry about what to do after year 11
41% want to go to college
38% do more studying
30.4% get a job with training
70% want to go to university
39.7% don't want to stay in Sandwell

Young people expressed a need for more information on apprenticeships and more support in making better career choices.

They feel Sandwell is unclean due to increase in litter and unsafe due to crime and an increase in gang culture. They expressed a wish for the negative stigma and reputation of Sandwell to change.

we did...
• Collated case studies from apprentices to be shared with young people

In recognition of the work we have done in involving young people the Children's Commissioner has awarded us a gold commendation, this is the highest level that can be achieved in the new ‘Up for the Challenge’ accreditation scheme introduced by the Commissioner this year to recognise the organisations that take part in National Takeover Challenge.

In November Sandwell took part in National Youth Takeover Challenge, which is a national event that gives children and young people the chance to be involved in decision-making and work with adults for the day. Children benefit from the opportunity to experience the world of work and make their voices heard, while adults and organisations gain a fresh perspective on what they do.

In November, I took part in the Youth Takeover Challenge with Jyoti Attri, Director of Public Health within Sandwell Council. At the beginning of the day, I received an informative talk about the issues within Sandwell related to weight management and what the department does to decrease obesity rates within Sandwell. Once this was complete, I joined some of the Community Activity Network Development Officers (CANDOs) testing out the new rock climbing facilities at the Portway Lifestyle Centre.

Jyoti informed me about the current issues with public health in Sandwell, the causes of these issues and what she is doing to overcome these problems. We spoke about the structure of public health within Sandwell and the different aspects of the department.

Personally, I wanted to participate in the Youth Takeover Challenge as it is an amazing and educating opportunity. Once completing my university degree, I would like to go into a profession involving health and this experience allowed me to see if this would be a suitable career path for myself.

This experience has been very rewarding as it has allowed me to gain new skills which could then relate to my future career.

Moreover, the Takeover Challenge has allowed me to build relationships within the hierarchy of the Sandwell Council and also opened up a very large amount of opportunities which will benefit me currently, when applying to universities and when applying for jobs.
When young people were asked what would make them stay in Sandwell and what improvements needed to be made, this is what they said:

**Football pitch**
- Parks

**Camping area**
- Internet cafe
- Cadbury’s
- Healthy food outlets
- Parks
- Theme park

**Waterfall**
- Parks
- Chocolate factory
- Farm
- Sports clubs
- Ice rink
- Drama school
- Circus
- Prison

**Circus**
- Outdoor swimming
- Parks
- Indoor play area
- Waterpark
- Trampoline arena

**Walk of fame**
- Motor race park
- More police

**More police**
- Light display
- Shopping mall
- Dance studio

**Contact Information**
- email: SHAPE_Events@sandwell.gov.uk
- web: www.sandwell.gov.uk/SHAPEevents