

BCEF YOUTH CONFERENCE – FRIDAY 23 MARCH 2012

The BCEFs 4th annual Youth Conference was held on Friday 23 March 2012, to which all LBB Secondary Schools were invited to send six of their Year 8 students to attend. The event was held at the Education Development Centre in Princes Plain, Bromley. 12 Schools attended - 72 students.

On the agenda for the young people and their teachers were three workshops focussing on Mutual Respect, Cyber Bullying and Alcohol Awareness, along with an opportunity for attendees to question the Boroughs top leaders from Policing, Fire and the Council on a variety of issues and gain an understanding about how decisions are made.

The subjects raised in the question and answer session ranged from reasons/causes for police arrests; body piercing legislation in the borough; affordable or free activities for young people to keep them off the streets such as a skate park; better street lighting; youth involvement in decision making by getting involved in youth panels. Students also queried why when schools finish early for half day security staff prohibit them entering some of Bromley's shops.

Our thanks to the following people for their help on the day: Ian Smith, Brenda Thompson, Mahmood, Nell Riehl, Michael and Joy Lever, Alf and Linda Kennedy, Jennie Clark, Julian Hurst, Amanda Evans and everyone mentioned below:

The **facilitators** were:

Mutual Respect workgroup - Danie Gordon and Charles Fisher from Bromley Youth Support

Alcohol Awareness Workshop - Jason Carty from KCA Bromley Young Persons' Alcohol and Substance Service

Cyber Bullying workshop - PS Ian Mann's Team (Bromley Youth Partnership Unit) – PC Dean Stanhope, PC Julia Carter, PC Sophia Walker

The Conference is dependent on the part the facilitators play in encouraging the students to fully engage in the activities and we thank them for their help and support. They are key to the success of the day.

The **VIP Panel** for youths to ask questions were: Cllr Stephen Carr (leader of the council), Chief Superintendent Steph Roberts (Police), Cllr Tim Stephens (Portfolio Holder for Community Safety), Graham Elder (Fire Brigade), Ray Bell (Street Pastors), Elaine Beadle (Road Safety), Laurie Grasty (Environmental Health), Dave Prebble (Police - Borough Partnership Manager)

Our thanks to everyone involved in making this event so successful.

Borough Commander Steph Roberts: Our young people are enthusiastic, energetic and care about their future and the Youth Conference was a fantastic opportunity to ensure that their voice is heard. The question and answer session at the end of the day was a chance for our young residents to discuss the issues that they feel impacts on their every day lives with leaders from across the borough. It was an absolute delight to be able to do this with them.

Ian Smith, BCEF Chairman: All the students were an absolute credit to their schools and fully participated in all the workgroups – we were all very impressed with their involvement. The students took the opportunity to ask questions to some of Bromley's leaders at the end of the day and we will ensure their questions will be followed up. Thank you to everyone who participated.

The Aim of the Youth Conference:

- Workgroup topics reflect student/school concerns and through an open question session with partner representatives further issues are addressed.
- To raise awareness amongst young people of important community safety issues
- To encourage young people to pass on the day's messages to their peers.

Feedback:

Glebe School:

The students that represented Glebe school at the conference on Friday, have just finished presenting their issues, that they raised, and the feed back that they received from the VIP panel to the whole school.

It was extremely encouraging for the students and staff to learn of the upcoming activities booked for the summer and the various initiatives throughout the borough that were being addressed.

One student was gratified that his issues in his road were acted upon so promptly.

The students ended the assembly with a message that outlined the whole day ,which was that the concerns and the voice of the young people in the borough of Bromley were listened too and acted upon by Bromley council.

Best regards

Anne Woolsey

Transition Coordinator

Bullerswood School:

One of our students has written a diary entry of the day and it is going to be put with a photo of the students in the Bullers Bulletin which will be available in hard copy and online.

A student ended the day by saying "I definitely agree that I had a great time there and I wanted to come there for next year".

I gave the students certificates in assembly to recognise their involvement and excellent behaviour and spoke about the day.

Thank you for including us.

Karen Lubbock

PTO for the day's questionnaire findings

BROMLEY YOUTH CONFERENCE 23 MARCH 2012
QUESTIONNAIRE (71 questionnaires completed)

1. Did you find today useful	Yes	No
	71	0

2. Were you happy with the 3 workgroups:		
Cyber Bullying	61	8
Mutual Respect	69	2
Drug Awareness	57	7

3. Are there any other workgroups you would have liked us to include?	Yes	No
	15	52

(if yes, please specify):

Peer pressure (12)

Abuse in the home (2)

Road safety (3)

4. If you could change anything about today, what would it be?

More interaction in the workgroups (17)

Make the day longer (6)

Half day rather than full day (4)

5. Do you feel drunk and rowdy behaviour is a problem in Bromley?	Yes	No
	45	22

6. If you had a choice, what problem area would you like the Police or Council to deal with?

Anti social behaviour (55);

trouble on buses (18); 7 specified Saturdays & after school ; 3 specified route 358; 1 specified 227;

Police and Glades security guards to be more approachable to young people (6)

Better street lighting (3)