

## Young People Make Themselves Heard at Club

For once, you could hear what people were saying in a night club! On October 17<sup>th</sup> Crawley Together, in partnership with the Crawley Young Person's Council, held a day conference at the local night club Ikon-Diva. Over ninety young people took part in the event representing five of Crawley's secondary schools, Central Sussex College and a number of young people neither working, nor in full time education.

The aim of the conference was to provide young people with the opportunity to discuss issues that concern them, and make improvement suggestions to the authorities responsible. Participants were provided with information about the issues they were talking about so that they could make reflective decision rather than simply produce a wish list of wants.



Young people discussing issues in night club Ikon-Diva

Big Brother contestant Eugene Sully welcomed the young people to the Conference. Local democracy is in his blood; his mother is local County Councillor Janet Sully.

The conference was organised because young people had not been significantly involved as Crawley Together stakeholders. It was considered important to rectify this by giving them an



Young people at the conference pose with Eugene Sully, Big Brother contestant and son of local County Councillor, Janet Sully

opportunity to exercise their voice and establish a relationship for on-going dialogue. The conference coincided with major government consultation on youth. The issues raised by young people were consequently included in the county council feedback on the *Youth Matters Green Paper*.

In discussion with the Youth Council the following issues were agreed for discussion:

- Things to do and places to go
- Supporting young people - how young people can be best supported with regard to:
  - Career choices
  - Sexual health/teenage pregnancy
  - Rights and responsibilities including crime, anti-social behaviour and relationships with the police
  - Homelessness
  - Domestic violence
  - Any other matter that could be on their mind

- Bullying

- Bringing together the various communities in the town.
- How to involve young people in the decisions that will affect their future (this included things like the Young Person's Council and participation in general as well as some of the key issues affecting the development of the town such as town Centre North, Fastway, Affordable Housing etc).

At the November LSP Board all 24 recommendations from the conference were agreed. Some of the recommendations merely required information to be fed back to young people; others will be taken forward on a project basis.



Those issues to be taken forward as projects include:

- > Setting up a young person's media group to produce a web site and magazine run by and run for young people
- > Involving young people in the design of the new library
- > A partnership approach between CBC and the Youth Service on improving local facilities and activities
- > Organise events to bring old and young people together to encourage a greater mutual understanding
- > Undertake further initiatives to improve the relationship between young people and the police
- > Review non academic support services in schools (sexual relations, bullying, domestic violence etc)

These projects will be monitored by Crawley Together and the Young Person's Council, and are

expected to be implemented over the course of the next year.

If you would like a copy of the conference report or your organisation thinks it can help support any of the initiatives then please do not hesitate in contacting:

Nigel Parnell, Policy Officer, Crawley Borough Council. Tel: 01293 438576  
nigel.parnell@crawley.gov.uk

## Draft Local Area Agreement Agreed

The draft Local Area Agreement (LAA) has been sent to the Government Office of the South East and is close to being signed off. It sets out priorities for West Sussex over the next 3 years, agreed between local partners in West Sussex and with central Government.

The agreement contains 22 priority outcomes, grouped into four blocks:

- Better skills for a better future
- Feeling safer
- Better health for all
- Sustainable communities.

It includes 80 targets, of which 16 are 'reward element' or 'stretch' targets, attracting additional central Government grant if they are successfully delivered.

West Sussex is one of thirteen areas selected by Government for "single pot" status within our LAA. This means that a number of separate Government funding streams will in future be paid as a single block, with local partners able to make decisions about allocating these resources.

In addition, much other funding will be spent by local partners in support of the LAA outcomes. This "aligned" funding will be set out in the detailed project and resource plans to be developed for each outcome.

Outcome 22 is to improve the quality of life in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods; in Crawley, this will include Broadfield, Bewbush and Langley Green. The intention is to have multi-agency interventions to reduce the cause and consequences of multiple deprivation. This will involve tackling issues such as crime and anti-

social behaviour, financial exclusion, school exclusion and educational under-achievement, poor housing, poverty, unemployment, poor health, environmental degradation. 'Pump priming' money will be available to kick start these projects.

The Crawley Together Partnership Board will be focusing on Outcome 22 at its next meeting in April.

## County Local Committees

The County Council has established two new County Local Committees for Crawley - East and West. The aim is to bring County Councillors closer to local people.

The meeting of the East Crawley County Local Committee scheduled for 8 February was abandoned and rescheduled for 7 March at the Civic Hall after too many people turned out for Three Bridges School Hall to accommodate. Those that attended were keen to discuss parking in Three Bridges, as this was on the agenda. Details of County Local Committees are available on the West Sussex County Council web site.

## Consultation and Community Engagement

Crawley Together partners have worked well in the past at coordinating consultation and community engagement activities, such as at the successful Community Conferences held last summer. Now Crawley Borough Council is working on a new consultation and community engagement strategy, to update the previous strategy and bring in more activities undertaken by partner agencies. They will be looking for opportunities to pool resources and make the most of consultation events and methods such as surveys both to save money and to avoid asking the same people similar questions. Officers from partner agencies meet regularly in a working group and will be working together on community engagement events being planned for later in the year. If you would like to get involved, contact Nora Davies at Crawley Borough Council on 01293 438225 ([nora.davies@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:nora.davies@crawley.gov.uk)).

## Services for Older People

The Borough Council has just completed a Best Value Review of Services for Older People. One of the aims of the review was to paint a picture of what it is like to be an older person living in Crawley. Although there are statistics which provide high level information about this group, it doesn't tell us about the needs, wants, anxieties and frustrations that people experience on a day to day basis. An extensive consultation programme was planned and delivered between August 2005 and January 2006.



From the start there was a need for consultation with older people to be as diverse as the group themselves. Older people from the BME communities, older people with learning difficulties, older men, carers and older people who are mentally unwell participated in the consultation. Consultation highlighted the following:

- Social interaction is important to older people and has an effect on their overall health and well being.
- Older people would like to be able to access local groups.
- Groups specifically for older people are more attractive to women than to men.
- Getting older can sometimes limit people's ability to socially interact; this was particularly evident amongst men. Trigger points such as becoming ill, becoming a carer or the loss of a partner can suddenly make it difficult to get out and about.
- Transport has an impact on services and groups that can be accessed by older people.
- Older people in the BME community have extremely diverse needs and aspirations; gender and faith being key determinants.
- Older people find it confusing understanding what services and benefits are available to them and how they can access them.

- Older people would welcome more opportunities to interact with younger age groups to develop a better understanding.
- Having sufficient resources to buy in supplementary help around the home can make a difference to people's lives.
- The GP is an important and trusted point of contact for older people.



- Men want to play a more active role in organised groups rather than just being receivers of a service.
- Older carers may overlook their own health needs in order to continue to care for another person.
- Older people with learning difficulties are often overlooked in terms of service provision. Many services being aimed at younger individuals.
- Older people from the BME community generally find it more comfortable to meet in groups based around their community or to access other groups alongside people they know.
- The reliance and subsequent loss of a car makes the transition to public transport much harder. This can be a particular problem for older men.
- Older people from the BME community use public transport less because of concerns about understanding the system or asking for directions when English is not their first language.
- Older people who need care may not accept the care readily because of the loss of independence it entails.

For a full copy of the report, please contact Nora Davies, Policy Officer, Crawley Borough Council on 01293 438225 (nora.davies@crawley.gov.uk.).

## Crawley Together Database

We are updating our database and we will be grateful for your assistance in making sure we have the right people on the database with the correct contact details. You should have received a letter with this newsletter explaining how to amend your entry if necessary. If someone has passed this newsletter to you, and you would like to be included on our database, then please contact Paul Buxton on 01293 438593 or email [paul.buxton@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:paul.buxton@crawley.gov.uk).

## Diary Dates for 2006

### Stakeholder Conference

There will be a stakeholder conference in July focusing on the Voluntary and Community Sector - details to follow.

### Partnership Board

23 May	09.30-17.00 (Broadfield Stadium)
20 July	13.00-16.30 (Hawth)
27 September	10.00-13.30 (Hawth)
29 November	10.00-13.30 (Hawth)

If you would like any further information, please contact:

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 ☎ 01293 438473  
[carrie.burton@crawley.gov.uk](mailto:carrie.burton@crawley.gov.uk)

Web site  
[www.crawleytogether.org.uk](http://www.crawleytogether.org.uk)