

The Breeze Youth Promise

The young people who led on the development of the Breeze Youth Promise are confident that that the Promise does take into account the key findings. The current Breeze Youth Promise group (a Leeds Youth Council task group) are working on a range of promotion ideas that will further development the development of the Breeze Youth Promise against the findings. Another focus for this group is the young people's scrutiny of services and what they are delivering against the BYP.

The work of the young people is supported by an outreach programme and specific participation work on Information, Advice and Guidance services.

Specific area that meet the Recommendations:

1.1 The need for more equal distribution of universal youth services on offer across the city.

The young people in both the BYP development group and the current LYC group are keen to embed the "local" aspect of the Breeze Youth Promise. The entitlement for all young people in Leeds to have access to local provision has proved to be the essential issue at every stage of development of the BYP. It is referenced repeatedly in both "Somewhere to Go" and "Something to Do".

In terms of promotion and scrutiny, the BYP group are seeing this as their initial focus:

As they have identified that the first step is to make sure that young people know about the Breeze Youth Promise. They are working with the Breeze team and the Project, West Yorkshire Youth Association to produce an up to date advert (film) that will promote the Promise widely across the city in schools and community settings both to young people and their parents. For schools and youth groups they are developing an activity pack that will not only promote the promise but also gather feedback from young people on whether the Promise is working for them and what can be done to improve both their access to and the quality of their universal services.

Following the success of "Catching the Bus", this feedback will form the basis of a scrutiny process that the young people will develop, ending in a young delegates event next summer, where they will share their findings with elected members and the IYSS Board. They will also use data and feedback from the localisation of the Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund through LS£ash.

1.2 The need to include advice and signposting within universal provision.

The young people thought that the emphasis for advice and signposting should be that this service should “be free and easy to find.” And that they should be able to access them at school in the community or from home.

Alongside the IAG and health entitlements, the section on “Some one to talk to” states that staff who work with young people will always be prepared to listen and there should be easy access to specialist help.

Young people will not only look at these services through the BYP Scrutiny process, they will also look at the work of other young people on the Advice, Information and Guidance Standards and the results of the young people led quality assurance process.

1.3 The need to recognise that some groups of young people (for example carers, looked after children and young people with disabilities) may need a different approach or extra assistance to enable them to access the types of opportunities included in the universal offer.

The Children and Young People’s Participation unit is currently delivering an outreach programme with groups of young people to promote the BYP and look at what else needs to be taken into account to meet their specific needs. The programme also encourages the young people in these groups to engage with a wide range of participation initiatives to further develop their influence on the design and delivery of services.

The programme has so far engaged with:

Looked after young people in a variety of settings

Young people at the Market Place

Disabled young people with People in Action

Young people with specific needs through local provision

Young people who don’t attend youth services provision, via mobile units on the streets.

Future sessions include:

Young carers

Disabled young people in a variety of sessions

Young travellers

This dialogue with young people will continue to influence the future development of the Breeze Youth Promise.

1.4 The need to recognise young people's expressed desire for venues and spaces to undertake their own (unstructured) activity.

Whilst this is not explicit in the BYP, the young people developing the promise thought it was included the sections 1 and 2 of "Somewhere to go", with youth clubs, youth shelters and access to venues like swimming pools etc. and out door spaces like parks, skate parks, multi use games areas.

This did cause a great deal of debate about what were appropriate unstructured activities and what should be provided by services. The young people would like to include this issue in their activity pack.

1.5 The important role of intergeneration/all age activities as well as specific young people's activities.

All age activities are referenced in "Something to do" in both regular opportunities and special events such as Party in the Park, Family Fun Run and are implicit in "Somewhere to go" with Museums, Art Galleries etc. The young people were interested in the role of specific intergenerational activities as was not an area raised by young people in the consultations about the Breeze Youth Promise. It is an area they would like to explore in their activity packs and through the Outreach programme to see how many young people engage in intergenerational activities and how that should be represented in the BYP.

Young people are keen to continue working with service providers and decision makers on the Breeze Youth Promise alongside promoting and developing the "Someone to talk to, Somewhere to go, Something to do" as laid out nationally in the Youth Offer but also our local addition to the offer; Something to say.