

Pupil Voice Conference Tuesday 21st March 2017



Pupil Voice Conference 2017

Introduction

The Vale of Glamorgan Children & Young People's Partnership together with the Vale Youth Service invited secondary school councils/parliaments to take part in a training and consultation event on Tuesday 21st March 2017 at the Barry Memorial Hall. The overall aim of the event was to support the development of school councils and school parliaments in the Vale of Glamorgan and to provide feedback from the results from the bi-annual school council audit that took place in 2016.

In total forty-two pupils from five comprehensive schools attended the event. They took part in three workshops on the topics of Pupil Voice & audit; the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC); and Participation Structures & Q&A with the Youth Mayor. Throughout the workshops the school councils also had an opportunity to share good practice with each other. Teachers were provided with resources to support the development of pupil voice in their schools. The pupils also contributed to a consultation workshop on the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Well-being Plan as set out by the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015).

Workshops

Pupil Voice

Pupils were informed of the statutory requirements of the School Council (Wales) Regulations 2005 through an interactive quiz. They were also given feedback on their contributions to the school council audit in 2016. All pupils received an infographic explaining the main results of the audit (Appendix 1). The workshop also included an activity to make pledges on how to improve their school councils (Appendix 2).

UNCRC

This workshop was delivered by the Vale Rights Ambassadors. The Rights Ambassadors designed their own workshop and led the workshop with some support from youth workers. Pupils were asked to define a right and developed an understanding of the differences between a right and a privilege. They received an overview of children's rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its purpose. Those school council members who participated in

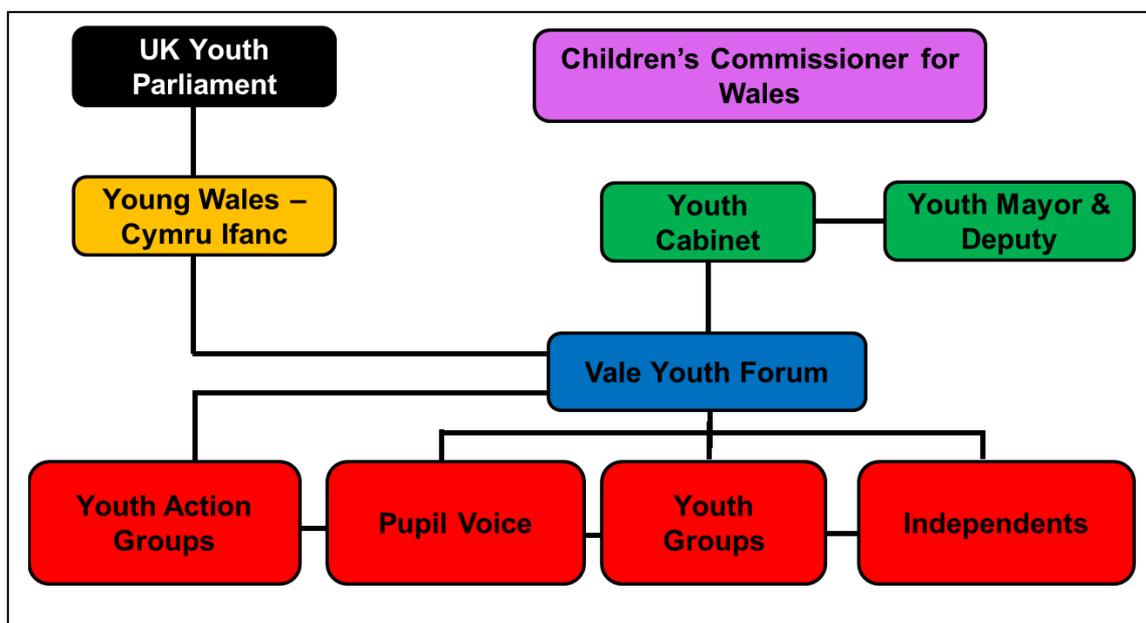
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UNCRC training last year participated in a different rights workshop to discuss in detail those rights they felt were important to them in school.



Participation

The Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor delivered a presentation about the different participation groups in the Vale that young people can get involved in locally to have their say. Pupils developed an understanding of the various local and national participation structures and had an opportunity to question the Youth Mayor and Deputy Youth Mayor about their role and work. They also took part in an activity to learn about the Children and Young People's National Participation Standards and how they could be implemented in school.



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Wellbeing

Officers from the Vale of Glamorgan Council ran a workshop to develop the understanding of Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) and the Council's Well-being Plan. Pupils took part in activities to establish what is important for their future; and to discuss and prioritise their aspirations (Appendix 3).

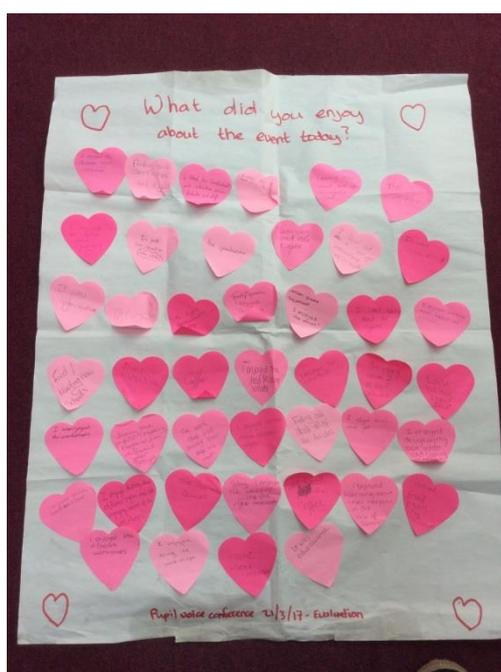
Evaluation

Pupils and teachers attending the event were asked to give feedback on the following questions:

- What did you enjoy about the event today?
- What is one thing you have learnt during this event?
- What is one thing we could improve about this event?
- Any other comments about today's event?

Overall the pupils enjoyed the event and the workshops and stated they learnt some interesting facts about the Vale and their rights. Most pupils highlighted that they would have liked all secondary schools to take part in the conference and commented that similar events should be organised more often.

Following the event, some pupils expressed an interest in joining some of the Youth Action groups. We endeavour to run a similar event during the next academic year.



Appendices

Appendix 1: School Council Audit results



The School Councils (Wales) Regulations 2005 made it a requirement for all schools in Wales to have a school council.

ARTICLE 12



Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) highlights the need for all children and young people to be able to express their views on matters that affect them.

WHAT SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS TOLD US

Members of 7 school councils: Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg, Barry Comprehensive, Bryn Hafren, St Richard Gwyn, Llantwit Major, Cowbridge Comprehensive and St Cyres shared their views and own experiences through an interactive workshop.

THE SCHOOL COUNCIL ...



- Knows what issues it can deal with.
- Members feel respected and listen to each other.
- Is involved in decisions about the whole school environment .

EXAMPLES OF WORK



Sporting activities for all abilities
More food choice in the canteen
More bins in school
Design of new building
Sample lessons for KS3
New toilets
Anti-bullying mentors
First Aid training for Yr10 & 11
Barry Schools Transformation
Phone policy

WE WOULD LIKE ...



- To be trained for our role
- To know more about the UNCRC
- To get involved in staff appointments
- More meetings to get our work done
- More support from teachers and SMT

FOR SCHOOL COUNCIL RESOURCES VISIT WWW.PUPILVOICEWALES.ORG.UK

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Appendix 2: School Council pledges

Stanwell School

- To ensure that my peers feel that their ideas are represented.
- Promote my school council and what they do to improve our school.
- Listen to the pupils ideas and bring them to the meetings.
- Improve food quality and what students want.
- Listen and carry forward issues that have been pitched by my peers.
- Promote youth rights.
- Carry forward issues my fellow school pupils care about.
- Give more regular feedback to other pupils on what the council discusses.
- Promote youth rights and raise awareness of these rights within my school.
- Make myself more known around others as a school council member.

Llantwit Major School

- Improve awareness of children's rights.
- Update the noticeboard.
- Make sure students are aware of the UNCRC.
- Make sure that the pupils in my school know about the UNCRC and purpose.
- Our school council will have ambassadors to make UNCRC more known.
- Make sure pupils are aware of the UNCRC and some of our rights as children.
- Make sure all pupils know I'm on the school council.
- Make sure people know who I am around school.

Barry Comprehensive School

- Advertise the school council.
- Get to know my council.
- Advertise the school council.
- Get more meetings.
- Feedback to other pupils on the work the school council does.
- More student parliament meetings.
- Advertise the school council more.
- Make more people aware of the UNCRC.

Bryn Hafren

- Make a good standard to younger students.
- Get everyone's view on one matter in each year group.
- Meet more regularly.
- Make our school more safe.
- Speak in assemblies more about what we could do.
- Help develop digital competency and meet more regularly/get to know members more.
- Meet more often.
- To be a good role model for others.
- Have more assemblies to talk about the council to other pupils.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School

- Improve the efficiency of the school council.
- Help arrange a UNCRC lesson during EP or PSE so people can learn their rights as a child.

Appendix 3: Well-being priorities

